



Pleasanton Mayor-elect Jack Balch takes office in January and will immediately be faced with addressing the city's budget crisis. He is shown above at a Diwali celebration back in November 2022. (File Photo — Doug Jorgensen)

LARPD

\$110M Paid to East Bay Parks for LARPD Property Upkeep, But Only \$6M of It Spent

LARPD Attempting to Track Funds Through Regional Commission

By David Jen

REGIONAL — The Livermore Area Recreation and Park District (LARPD) is attempting to track down \$110 million sent to the East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) over the past three decades.

While a 1992 agreement between the two park districts outlined a share of LARPD property tax revenues going to EBRPD, LARPD began raising questions this summer about where the money had been spent. The funds were intended for the maintenance and operation of regional parks, open space and trails in the portion of Alameda County east of Pleasanton Ridge, formerly known as Murray Township. But reviews of available EBRPD records, conducted

by LARPD, showed as little as \$6 million invested in the area over the years.

At a meeting last month of the Alameda Local Area Formation Commission (LAFCo), Carol Ieromonimon of advisory firm RSG Inc., which LAFCo had retained to create the municipal review, confirmed with the county auditor that EBRPD received \$110 million through the agreement since 1993, with \$7.7 million in the most recent year.

LAFCo is a standalone public agency mandated by the state that oversees boundary changes, incorporations and consolidations of public agencies and districts.

LARPD Board Chair David Furst repeated at the meeting a request for LAFCo's help in facilitating discussions with EBRPD.

"We've already reached out to

East Bay and (they) have refused to talk with us," he said.

Furst also requested a special study from LAFCo to look deeper into the tax-sharing agreement "if our negotiations with East Bay, with the assistance of LAFCo, are not productive and in the best interest of our taxpayers."

LAFCo unanimously voted to exclude both LARPD and EBRPD service areas from its municipal services review, adopted last month, until the two park districts met to share financial details about the tax-sharing agreement with each other and LAFCo. A report of the discussions is due back to LAFCo before its January 2025 meeting.

LAFCo also appointed its alternate commissioner Bob Wornert to participate in the park district meetings.

(See PARKS, page 7)

Dublin

New Council to Tackle Contentious Issues

City Faces Choices on Breaking Urban Limit Line, Building Dublin Commons

By Ruth Roberts

DUBLIN — Dublin's Vice Mayor Sherry Hu will take the mayor's seat on the city council next month, but she is already making plans to address the city's several lingering issues. Those will include the controversy surrounding the fate of the Crosby property and accompanying urban limit line, and creating a new city center around Dublin Commons.

Dublin's Vice Mayor Sherry Hu won the race for mayor, with

approximately 36% of the votes in a four-way race. Businessman John Morada has also won his council seat with 51% of the vote.

The controversial passage of Measure II, which amends the city's 2013 Open Space Initiative and allows the council to annex land east of the city's urban limit line, is still an unsettled issue, as both sides in a legal dispute await a judge's ruling on whether or not the measure should have been included on the ballot. Two community groups had requested

a restraining order on the grounds that the measure had not undergone an environmental review. Alameda County Superior Court Judge Michael Markman denied the motion on Aug. 21 without comment.

The measure says 100 acres of the Crosby property would be preserved as open space, and 80 acres would be open to light commercial development. Dublin Boulevard would be extended 1.5 miles to the east to connect with Livermore.

(See DUBLIN, page 7)

Pleasanton

\$13 to \$22M Annual City Deficit Expected After Tax Hike Failure

City Expects Difficult Cuts to Programs, Services

By David Jen

PLEASANTON — The city's budget deficit is now the focus of new city leadership. Last week, the Pleasanton City Council received a preview of the difficult discussions in store for its new councilmembers as it unanimously accepted the city's year-end operating budget report for fiscal year 2023-2024.

Come Jan. 1, two of the five councilmembers will be new faces, and councilmember Jack Balch, frequently an opposing vote against past spending measures, will be viewing the city's issues from the mayor's office.

The report highlighted, among

other items, a projected annual deficit ranging from \$13 million to \$22 million per year, a \$900 million infrastructure funding gap and over \$200 million in unfunded retiree medical and pension liabilities.

While city staff had hoped to secure an additional \$10 million in annual revenue through a sales tax measure, that option no longer seems viable. Pleasanton's Measure PP, which proposed to increase the city's sales tax from 10.25% to 10.75%, secured only about 46% of votes in the Nov. 5 election, according to the latest results from the Alameda County registrar. The county is scheduled to report all election results to

(See BUDGET, page 6)



Champions: Foothill High's girls volleyball team won the NorCal Regional championship match over Redwood on Nov. 19. The team hadn't won a regional championship since 2006. (See story on page 10.) (Photo — Doug Jorgensen)

Livermore

Livermore Council Approves Garaventa Hills Project

Opponents Threaten to File Another Lawsuit

By Larry Altman

LIVERMORE — Following years of opposition from open space advocates who took their case to one of California's highest courts, the City Council on Monday approved the development of 44 residential units — including 38 single-family homes — at Garaventa Hills.

One citizen stated he would pursue additional litigation against the project.

The 4-1 decision, with City Council member Ben Barrientos lodging the lone "no" vote, included an "aye" vote from Councilmember Brittni Kiick, who said she opposed the project. Kiick said the council's quasi-judicial review authority allowed them to only legally confirm whether the proposed project complied with city codes

and standards, and not whether it should exist.

Kiick, in her final meeting before leaving office, said she opposed building any more single-family homes and decisions should instead focus on climate change, wildfire risk and flooding as the city writes its new general plan.

"The decision being made tonight is not a decision I'm excited about," Kiick said. "It's a decision that I'm legally obligated to do — to do my job, which is to look at the current laws as they are and make an assessment. I'm not happy with what the current laws are, and I'm disappointed that I'm spending my last meeting voting on something that's been voted on over and over and over again, instead of staff having time to finish our general plan."

(See GARAVENTA, page 9)



Lucas Peterson was among the volunteers on Nov. 23 packing boxes of food and other essentials to send to deployed servicemembers. Pleasanton Military Families has organized the annual Pleasanton Packout event since 2003. (Photo — Doug Jorgensen)

Sending Holiday Cheer to Servicemembers

Pleasanton Military Families Serves Those Who Serve for More Than 20 Years

By Christina Cavallaro

PLEASANTON — Rainy conditions did not deter the crowd of volunteers who showed up at the Pleasanton Veterans Hall on Saturday, Nov. 23 at 8:30 a.m. where Pleasanton Military Families (PMF) held their Holiday Packout. For the past 21 years the support group for families of service members has been sending care packages at the holidays to men and women serving in the armed forces.

Former PMF President Pat Frizzell guided the effort from a microphone on stage. "It's going to be like the DMV," she said about the order of the packing. "This is different for those of you who have packed before, you know how it always gets backlogged and there's boxes piled up to the ceiling waiting to be double checked."

The group runs a tight ship: It takes a lot of organization and donations to pack and send care packages to service people sta-

tioned in Okinawa, South Korea, Poland, Germany, Iraq, Syria, Romania, and this year, to one sailor aboard the aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln.

The room at Veterans Hall was lined with long folding tables laden with neatly organized and labeled baskets filled with everything from tiny wrapped presents, sparkly tinsel trees, stacks of crosswords puzzles, playing cards, dice and holiday-themed Rubik's cubes, to comfort items like cozy socks, beef jerky, Top

(See PACKOUT, page 7)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Classifieds	10
Editorial	4
Mailbox	4
Obituaries	9
Sports	10

Meadowlark Dairy to Open in Livermore	2
Planning Commission Approves Purchase of 209 Acres	2
Dublin Iron Horse Trail Bridge Opens	3
Livermore Committee Advocates for Economy of Innovation	3
Farmers Union Restaurant Opening Delayed by Renovations	8

PET OF THE WEEK



BENGAL

You'll score big by adopting Bengal, an adorable little puppy whose personality is more "cuddly kitten" than "temperamental tiger." Like any puppy, she loves to play and chase balls, though a football is a bit out of her league, size-wise. Just wait until she's grown — two-month-old Bengal is expected to be a large dog eventually. Touch down at Valley Humane to meet Bengal; visit valleyhumane.org to learn more or email info@valleyhumane.org to start the adoption process. (Photo courtesy of Valley Humane)

New Sunol Glen District Trustee Hopes to Reduce Division

By Ruth Roberts

Erin Choin, who is joining the Sunol Glen Unified School District (SGUSD) board of trustees, will assume her seat in December with a mandate to help reduce division and dysfunction. Choin won the race against previously recalled board president Ryan Jergensen with approximately 58% of the vote, although Alameda County has until Dec. 6 to submit the final tally of votes to the California Secretary of State’s office. The state must certify the results by Dec. 13.

With the election largely behind her, Choin is hoping the animosity within the district of the past year will dissipate and a new era of collaboration will begin.

“By electing me, the Sunol community is communicating that they want new leadership on our school board and a fresh start,” said Choin in an inter-

view with The Independent. “They want an end to the division and dysfunction the past school board fueled because it was ultimately ineffective at its only purpose, which is serving the students and families of Sunol Glen. Sunol wants to put the school in new hands and extends to me their trust to focus on more important issues for Sunol Glen.”

Choin said that she understands there will always be differences of opinion on the board of trustees but added that she has worked with the current two trustees, Ted Romo and Chris Boberts, and believes they will all uphold their responsibilities to the district and school professionally and respectfully.

“The community is rightfully allowed to have, and express, their opinions about policies that are made at the school as well as how they think their elected officials are

performing on the job,” said Choin about the past board in general and Jergensen in particular. “I will be receptive to people’s opinions about my work on the board, but I will keep it professional and understand that criticism is part of the role.”



Erin Choin

Looking ahead, Choin said the board needs to focus on policies that strengthen the school’s current levels of excellence and vows to ensure that teachers will have top-quality continuing education opportunities and access to resources

that will make them the most successful in the classroom.

New SGUSD Superintendent Shay Galletti agrees.

“One of my roles as superintendent is promoting collaboration with all board members to support students and staff,” said Galletti in an email to The Independent. “Ms. Choin has been an active member of our school community, and I believe she will be a positive addition to the Board. I am excited for our school to move forward and continue making progress together.”

Choin’s seat was left open by former Trustee Linda Hurley, who was ousted from the board last summer along with Jergensen. Choin’s term of service begins immediately to complete the remainder of Hurley’s term through December.

Jergensen and Hurley were elected in 2020 and 2022, respectively, but recalled in a special election in July over

their votes to prohibit the Pride flag from flying on campus. After the recall, the Alameda County Board of Education temporarily replaced Jergensen and Hurley with two of their board members. The new trustees implemented a fresh policy allowing only the U.S. and state flags to fly on the school’s flagpole, but permitting other banners, including the Pride flag, to be placed along fences or other locations in the district.

Jergensen said that despite his loss, he wishes the best for the district and the community and remains cautiously optimistic the board will support the students and their teachers going forward.

“Let us all strive to come together to develop the best Sunol possible, where all are valued and all are heard fairly and

kindly,” he wrote in an email to The Independent. “(But) this is by no means a win for our town ... Unfortunately, our town is divided and only we can work to bring people together. It will take actual dialogue — not infighting. Hopefully, we can come together for our town, for our school, for the kids and for the families.”



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Meadowlark Dairy Is Coming to Livermore in 2025

By Ruth Roberts

Lovers of Pleasanton’s Meadowlark Dairy will soon have another location to satisfy their ice cream cravings. The iconic company has announced plans to open a second branch in Livermore in the spring of 2025.

The dairy, established in

1919, has been a staple in Pleasanton for generations. It’s known for its soft-serve ice cream and drive-through service, in addition to selling other dairy products. Last year, Yelp ranked the popular location eighth out of the nation’s top 100 ice cream shops.

According to Stephanie

Egidio, assistant to Livermore’s city manager, the city staff has been in discussions with the dairy owners to occupy the old Bank of the West building at 2287 Second St.

“Their short-term objective is to focus on interior demolition and tenant improvement work to open for walk-in business as

soon as possible,” said Egidio.

Although the Livermore building has a drive-through component, the owners do not intend to utilize it at this time, although they may reassess it going forward, Egidio added.

Owner Jesse Takens confirmed the news in a recent Rants and Raves Livermore online post.

“So cool to see a bunch of excitement for our second store in Livermore,” Takens wrote. “We expect to open around April and hope that timeline works as we continue through the process ... we hope to see you all soon.”

Meadowlark’s potential new address calls back to Livermore’s own farming roots: Another dairy was once located just a couple blocks away at 112 Maple St. It’s now the site of the Maple Street Eatery & Drinkery.

“Meadowlark Dairy’s arrival in Livermore is great news for our downtown,” said Livermore City Manager Marianna Marysheva. “Their presence will add to the variety of experiences available to residents and visitors, and we’re eager to see their plans take shape.”



Customers enjoy soft-serve cones at Pleasanton’s Meadowlark Dairy. The iconic establishment has announced it will open a second location in downtown Livermore. (File photo — Doug Jorgensen)

Livermore Planning Commission OKs Purchase of 209 Acres for Open Space and Habitat Protection

By Jesse Watson

Last week, the Livermore Planning Commission unanimously approved the city’s proposed purchase of three land parcels totaling 209 acres to be preserved as open space, finding the acquisition to be consistent with the city’s General Plan.

This decision follows the approval of \$2.65 million in grant funding from the Altamont Landfill Open Space Committee earlier this month to assist the city in purchasing the acreage, for a total of \$5.98 million.

The Livermore City Council also must authorize the purchases and appropriation of funds, which it plans to finance from its Open Space Fund. Planning Commission staff anticipate presenting a purchase and sale agreement for each property to the City Council in December.

“I just want to commend the city and staff for jumping on these opportunities,” said Commissioner Tracy Kronzac. “These are going to make some incredibly important and connected areas that will be great to have in our city.”

Just one of the three parcels, known as the Quint Property, lies within city limits and the city’s urban growth boundary (UGB). The 41-acre Quint Property, priced at \$1.63 million, is located in the northeast of Springtown between Vasco and Laughlin Roads, adjacent to the Garaventa Wetlands Preserve.

The Quint Property has been identified as a critical habitat for several threatened species, including the red legged frog and vernal pool fairy shrimp. Currently, the property is zoned “Urban Low Residential,” a classification for land that may be “developed at a higher density with compensable open space.” The city, however,

plans to make zoning updates to preserve the property as open space in perpetuity.

“If purchased, staff would recommend amending the land use designation and zoning (of the Quint Property), as part of a General Plan update, to open space,” said Livermore Associate Planner Kam Purewal.

The two other parcels, known as the Collier Canyon Property and the Goecken Road Property, are both located

outside of Livermore’s urban growth boundary.

A report by the city’s planning department maintains that, although the parcels are outside the UGB, “preserving the Collier Canyon and Goecken properties as open space in perpetuity would reinforce the UGB, permanently preclude suburban expansion, and preserve natural lands in these areas.”

The Collier Canyon Property, priced at \$3 million, consists

of 86 acres of upland hillsides west of Las Positas College and adjacent to the city’s northernmost city limit line. The 82-acre Goecken Road Property, priced at \$1.32 million, is situated north of Interstate 580, bordering Altamont Pass Road to the south and Brushy Peak Regional Preserve to the west. Both properties are also critical habitats for several threatened species, and the city intends to protect them as open space.

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After 7 Years, Dublin’s Iron Horse Trail Bridge Opens to the Public

By Christina Cavallaro

An excited group of walkers, bikers, community members and local officials huddled in the rain beneath a large white tent at Don Biddle Community Park at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Nov. 23. The group was gathered to set foot for the first time on the new 230-foot-long Iron Horse Trail Bridge that spans the width of Dublin Boulevard at the intersection with Scarlett Drive.

The bridge itself was hoisted and set in place in October 2023, but until now has not been accessible to the public. Dublin Mayor Michael McCorriston addressed the crowd at the dedication. “This transformative addition to our city strengthens the trail system and provides a safer path across Dublin Boulevard, benefiting both trail users and motorists. We are grateful to the many agencies and organizations

that contributed to this truly collaborative effort.” The \$14 million project was paid for with voter-approved funds from Alameda County Measure BB in 2014, BART Measure RR in 2016, and the Bay Area Air Quality Management District Transportation Fund for Clean Air. “I’m proud to support this project,” BART Director and former Dublin Mayor and City Councilmember Melissa Hernandez said.

“In 2017, my first year on the city council, we completed the Iron Horse Trail feasibility study with a goal to better connect the trail to BART, bikeways and businesses. The Iron Horse Trail Bridge at Dublin seamlessly connects users traveling throughout Alameda and Contra Costa County to the Dublin and Pleasanton BART stations.” John Bauters, chair of the Alameda County Transportation Commission, was present at the opening ceremony and remarked, “Alameda County is really focused on several priorities, all of which are embodied in this project behind you.” He said safety, sustainability and investment in transportation topped the list. “You’ve got a beautiful asset here in the Iron Horse Trail and the gap that you have at a crossing like this really changes the minds as to who’s going to use it and (who is) not,” Bauters said. “And when you close that gap with something like this (bridge). What you do is you take car trips off the road. You clean your air, you reduce noise pollution, and you actually invest in the health of people and your community.” Pleasanton resident Sharon Piekarski rode across the

new bridge on her bicycle and was happy to see it finally accessible. She said she agreed with a lot of the things Bauters said. “Some people don’t see the benefit of bicycling, but I keep preaching,” she said. “Even if you don’t get on a bike, it’s a benefit to you. It reduces congestion, reduces the demand for parking, and cleans the air.” Robert Prinz, advocacy director with Bike East Bay, was also on the bridge with his bike. “This was the third bike bridge we opened this year. We’ve got more in the works for 2025,” he said. “One of the interesting things about these bridges is not just the

connectivity factor. But they’re just also very visible as a marker, and indicator of the city’s commitment.” “So we definitely want people to use it, but people who aren’t using it, we want them to see it and think about trying it out.”



Walkers and riders enjoyed their first opportunity to cross the new Iron Horse Trail bridge, which curves above busy Dublin Boulevard near Don Biddle Community Park. (Photo — Doug Jorgensen)

Livermore Leans Toward an Economy of Innovation

By David Jen

Over the next 20 years, Livermore is likely to focus its economic development efforts on building a broader “innovation economy” than before. The Livermore General Plan Advisory Committee (GPAC) believes that attracting more research activities to the area could help build a nexus of technology, advanced manufacturing,

biotech and energy jobs in the city. The committee’s focus is more on bringing in jobs, drawing on the city’s existing economic advantages, such as its proximity to the two national laboratories and a well-regarded community college. More far-reaching goals, such as recruiting a research university, as one of the options suggested by the city’s consultants, aren’t seen as feasible in the near

term. The GPAC has been drafting guidelines for the city staff to update Livermore’s general plan, a framework for setting policy on key issues of community interest. The city’s next general plan is intended to serve the city through 2045. Policy options presented to the committee by Placeworks Inc., the city’s lead consultant on the general plan update, included the

idea “to attract a research university to educate and retain future leaders.” While Joanna Jansen, principal in charge at Placeworks, described Livermore as a “logical destination” for California’s next university because of its proximity to several national labs, Las Positas Community College, and some research already in

(See GPAC, page 6)

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EDITORIAL

Pleasanton Council Has Its Budgetary Work Cut Out for It

With the 2024 election all over but for the certification, it’s clear that Pleasanton is going to see a change in its leadership direction. Incoming Mayor Jack Balch and Councilmembers-elect Craig Eicher and Matthew Gaidos are joining just as the city confronts a serious budget crisis: projected annual deficits of \$13 million-\$22 million, \$200 million in unfunded pension obligations, and \$900 million in deferred infrastructure maintenance. Voters chose this new leadership team, and rejected a half-cent sales tax bump that could have helped offset some of those deficits. As they say, elections have consequences. Now comes the hard part. There were a number of promises made on the campaign trail by the incoming members of the council. It’s time to see if they can be kept. The biggest challenge will be ensuring the city maintains its current level of emergency services, as they’ve committed to do. Measure PP had been advocated as a way of staving off the worst possible outcomes, such as the closure of a fire station. If Pleasanton wants to keep its stations open, and not cut other police and fire services, cuts will have to be made elsewhere. In past years, the city deferred maintenance on its infrastructure to keep paying for more immediate needs out of the general fund. Outgoing Mayor Karla Brown has said these financial issues didn’t start coming to light until the current city manager was hired last year. Postponing of the inevitable has led to effects — and not just visible signs, such as roads, side-

walks and park facilities in need of repairs. There are bigger issues that the public can’t see involving the sewers and of course, the contaminated wells. Looking beyond the physical assets that can be cut, we recognize that a city government is largely a service organization, and those services are provided by people. Brown and outgoing Councilmember Valerie Arkin had warned that we should expect lost jobs in addition to degraded services going forward, whether reduced hours at parks or libraries, less landscaping, and even longer response times for emergency services. On the campaign trail, Balch said he wanted to look at developer impact fees, bulking up the tax rolls with the expected conversion of school district property to housing, revisiting architectural

standards to encourage development and other measures to bring in more revenue. Perhaps these budget improvements will be enough. And perhaps the budget crisis isn’t as bad as it looks, as some anti-Measure PP advocates stated. We hope that’s true, but are concerned that it isn’t. The new council will have to make hard decisions, and it’s going to be doubly important that they listen to the community before they make those choices. Measure PP failed because it didn’t have the public’s support. The new council has an opportunity to bring a divided city together if it builds that public support for all the actions it needs to take — whether cuts to services or increased fees — to keep the city afloat.

MAILBOX

Mailbox Guidelines: *Opinions voiced in letters published in Mailbox are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of The Independent. Anonymous letters will not be published. All letters are required to have the name(s) of the person(s) submitting them, city of residence and phone number, for verification purposes. Letters may not contain advertising. Abusive letters and letters containing ad hominem attacks may be rejected or edited. Letters are subject to verification and may be edited for clarity at the discretion of the editor. We reserve the right to decide whether or not the letter will be published. Headings for all letters may be edited at the discretion of the editor to properly reflect their content. A headline will be added to letters received without one. Frequent letter writers may have publication of their letters delayed or not run at all. Letters should be limited to 400 words or less and should be sent by email to letters@independentnews.com or submitted using the form below. The letters to the editor deadline is Monday at 8 a.m. If you wish to submit a letter pertaining to a special event or meeting taking place on a Monday before any given Thursday print edition — and you would like your letter to run that week — please contact the editor (editor@independentnews.com) as soon as possible on Monday to discuss the content and publication options. Otherwise, all letters submitted after 8 a.m. on Monday must hold until the following week.*

Open Letter to the LVJUSD School Board Cate Sarraile, Livermore

As a resident of Livermore with long involvement in the school district, I must bring to your attention my significant concerns with the action and methodology LVJUSD is using to convert from an at-large trustee election process to district elections.

The first and most significant concern is the lack

of public input in this process. The first I heard of the switch in the voting process was at the school board meeting, where, without discussion or public presentation, the Board passed a resolution authorizing the change. There were no written materials or any explanation on why 80% of the voters were disenfranchised.

State statutes require that before maps are drafted, a workshop where the public can comment on the locations of communities of interest are located, for purposes of inclusion or exclusion from a voting district, should be held. The statute envisions that such a meeting would last two hours. I am not aware of any pre-map workshop taking place prior to the creation of the maps.

The public outreach is clearly inadequate. If you want evidence, check out the number of comments (19), or the attendance at the two special school board meetings (approximately 10). This is an issue for all Livermore residents, not just the ones who have kids in Livermore schools. The district needs to hold a true workshop, preferably at the Community Center, where the Superintendent, the District’s attorney, and the demographer are present to answer questions and elicit feedback. Without this, the district will almost certainly fail to represent communities of interest under its duty to adopt a new map.

I anticipate the district will move forward on the schedule they adopted. If so, I prefer the green map which contains both Marilyn Avenue and Junction TK-8 in the same district — a clearly underserved community of interest.

While I appreciate the work done by Superintendent Gibson, the school board and the consultant, more work is required before a map is adopted for use through 2032. Either the process should be ex-

tended, or a true workshop should be held.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Move the Eden Project Owen Brovont, Livermore

The Independent’s November 21st edition contained the latest article on the status of the Eden Project in the center of town. The story, by Larry Altman, discloses that Alameda County Superior Court judge, Michael Markman, ruled that the Livermore City Council violated the law when it approved a minor change in its revision of the “Disposition, Development, and Loan Agreement” in favor of continuing the development of the Eden Project, but without its associated green space which Eden described as a park. The CEO of Eden Housing, Linda Mandolini, said, “It is unfortunate that a well-funded, small group of individuals, Move Eden Housing, continues to pursue legal actions designed solely to delay and stall projects aimed at addressing our region’s critical housing crisis.”

However, the residents with whom I have worked would like the project moved to a MORE APPROPRIATE LOCATION IN LIVERMORE, maybe just across Livermore Avenue to the north. We do not and have not supported the idea of disallowing the construction of housing for low-and-moderate income families. We have consistently argued that the location on which Eden and the Council want to construct the project is not appropriate for any housing. We believe that Livermore would be far better served for now and for the future, if it used that last available central location in town for an official Livermore City Park, which we do not presently have, and it would closely adjoin the small lovely .42-acre green grass of the Stockmen’s memorial Park commemorating Livermore’s contribution of rancher-soldiers who have fought for our democracy.

In short, the many residents with whom I have worked on this issue have directly addressed the city council to no avail. The council has been locked into its decision regarding the location of the Eden Project. Maybe the new council will seriously entertain moving it to a more

suitable location in Livermore. We believe that the center of town is an inappropriate location for any housing project.

Giving Tuesday: An Exercise in Gratitude Patricia Munro, Livermore

Thanksgiving—regardless of its problematic origin story — is the moment we, as a country, set aside to express gratitude for what is here and now, regardless of how challenging the past has been or the future will be. It can be a moment taken out of time — as rituals are — to simply appreciate what is.

My own gratitude comes with a hefty dollop of guilt — I am beyond fortunate in the life I’ve had so far and have done little to deserve that good fortune. Which brings me to Giving Tuesday. First there was Black Friday — an exercise in in-person consumption. Then there was Cyber-Monday — an exercise in online consumption. Giving Tuesday is the way to enact the gratitude — giving to places that make the world, or more specifically, Livermore and the Tri-Valley a better place for everyone.

Do you have enough of the basic necessities? Give to places that provide those necessities for others: Tri-Valley Haven, Goodness Village, Axis Community Health, Open Heart Kitchen, and City Serve of the Tri-Valley all are stalwart organizations that help with these basic needs.

Are you healthy — enough? Give to organizations that support research in the disease or condition of your choice. Highlighting even a few is impossible — but that doesn’t make supporting this kind of research and treatment less important.

How about those areas of life that feed the mind and soul? There is SPARC, Livermore Valley Arts, Livermore Valley Opera, Del Valle Fine Arts, the Livermore-Amador Symphony, and Pacific Chamber Orchestra to name a few performance-based organizations. Livermore Art Association is, supports the Visual Arts, while Friends of the Livermore Library is responsible for sponsoring (among other things) library programs. And then there is QUEST, providing opportunities for learning about STEM related subjects.

This is hardly a complete list of the very long list of local non-profit organizations that bring sustenance to our community. But it’s a start. Here’s to Giving Tuesday and gratitude for what we have!

Election Day ICBM Launch Met with Protest Raiza Marciscano, Livermore

In Southern California (11:45 p.m. on Election Day), a joint team of Air Force Global Strike Command Airmen and Navy aircrew launched an unarmed Minuteman III intercontinental ballistic missile equipped with multiple targetable re-entry vehicles from aboard the Airborne Launch Control System (ALCS) at the Vandenberg Space Force Base.

Activists from around California, including Tri-Valley CAREs Executive Director, Scott Yundt, gathered at the gates of the Space Force Base to witness and protest the tests with signs and microphones. Following the launch, two protesters were moved to cross the property line into the base as a protest and were promptly detained, cited and released by the Military Police.

At these tests, which occur several times a year, the weapons are launched from the Vandenberg base near Lompoc, California, and aimed at Kwajalein Atoll in the Marshall Islands, nearly 4,800 miles away, damaging human communities and ecosystems. The Marshall Islands are forced to bear the overwhelming environmental costs of U.S. nuclear weapons testing.

Maintaining these weapons is a huge waste of resources. The U.S. has committed to spending hundreds of billions of dollars to “modernize” its ICBM force, which in practice means replacing the entire system. The ICBM program is now an astonishing 81% over budget and years behind schedule, not including the expense for its new W87-1 nuclear warhead development being done at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory or the new plutonium pits that will be built at Los Alamos National Laboratory and/or the Savannah River Site in South Carolina.

The plutonium pits for the W87-1 are the subject

of Tri-Valley CAREs’ recent litigation victory with colleague groups against the National Nuclear Security Administration.

Today, nuclear tensions and the risk of nuclear use are considered to be at their highest in decades. Introducing these tests is a risk of nuclear escalation and the possibility of misinterpretation of a test into the mix.

The use of nuclear weapons would have catastrophic consequences for humanity, the environment, and future generations. The only way to prevent this is through complete nuclear disarmament.

To learn more visit <https://trivalleycares.org/>.

Mandate Given David Ott, Pleasanton

The American people sent a clear and decisive mandate on Nov. 5 that they no longer want insecure borders, high taxes, over-regulation, lawlessness and world wars in the Middle East and Europe. President Trump won the popular vote and the electoral college, and the Republican party retained the House of Representative and took back the Senate. President Trump won all seven swing states and the only states that Harris won were the democrat-controlled states that do not require voter ID. Was that a coincidence? I think not. A clear and overwhelming mandate was given.

The American people want to get back to law and order and for the Middle East and Europe to be at peace once again. The majority of the American people ignored the lies from the Biden / Harris administration, the democratic party and from the very toxic, divisive and untruthful mainstream media (CNN, MSNBC, ABC, CBS, NBC, NY Times, LA Times and Washington Post) regarding President Trump and his safe, lawful and prosperous policies. The Marxist doctrine is to spew lies against your opponent and to create chaos and division to gain power and control. The lies from the Marxist democrats and the mainstream media must stop. America deserves to be safe, secure and to benefit from low taxes and a thriving economy, and President Trump will deliver that once again.

It will also be very exciting to see the positive steps

(See MAILBOX, page 5)

THE Independent

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Streaks of red, purple and gold mark the sunrise over the old Springtown Golf Course in Livermore on Wednesday, Nov. 20. (Photo — Doug Jorgensen)

MAILBOX

(Continued from page 4)

that Elon Musk and Vivek Ramaswamy will do to shrink the size of the Federal government that has ballooned in size and cost over the past four years to a record massive size under Biden and Harris. The size and cost of the federal government has been a drain on the American people and the number one cause of the inflation and the poor GDP.

I thank God for delivering President Trump and an administration that will clean up the illegal and unconstitutional DOJ, FBI, EPA and the rest of the three-letter non-elected bureaucrats that have ruined our country over the past four years. I am looking forward to the DC swamp being cleaned up once and for all.

I hope you enjoy low taxes, stimulated economy, more money in your wallet, safe and secure border and no more wars in the Middle East and Europe. Happy, safe and prosperous days are here again.

Mandate given, mandate received!

Stop Endorsing Candidates

David Jonas, Livermore

Dear Independent, I urge The Independent to stop endorsing candidates for Livermore City Council elections.

Newspapers can provide a valuable service by making endorsements, and it's understood that every paper's endorsements reflect its editorial bias. However, the direct ties between Independent publisher Joan Seppala and the candidates the paper endorses corrupts its endorsement process.

Each election cycle, Ms. Seppala handpicks council candidates who support her personal agenda for shaping our city. For the past few election cycles, her agenda has focused on downtown Livermore: Move Eden Housing, move the downtown hotel across the street, and build a parking garage for the Bankhead Theatre.

In addition to recruiting loyalists to run for council, Ms. Seppala and an associate contribute massive sums to support their campaigns, e.g. in 2022, they contributed \$328,000 to their three candidates.

To give the illusion that everyone running for council has a chance to secure The Independent's endorsement, the paper gives each candidate an endorsement questionnaire. It's a sham process, though, as the endorsement outcomes are foregone conclusions. Without exception, The Independent picks Ms. Seppala's candidates, even when their opponents have far superior credentials.

Moreover, The Independent often distorts facts to justify its endorsements. For example, in the last election, The Independent described Soules as an "open space advocate" and "strong supporter of the UGB." However, Soules' own words indicate he would entertain breaking the UGB "if there's some overriding reason to it, at least in the case of Greenville, which has huge amounts of land." The Independent also suggested Dunbar was softer on the UGB, despite his stating that "The city should work to meet its obligations ... within the existing city limit, because it protects valuable open space."

Soules rightfully complained that Tri-Valley Democrats should not have endorsed his opponent, since council elections are nonpartisan. Any candidate not registered as a Democrat has no chance to get a Democratic club's endorsement.

The Independent shouldn't endorse council candidates either, since any candidate not recruited by, aligned with, driven by and funded by Ms. Seppala has no chance of getting the paper's endorsement, and since The Independent often distorts the facts about Ms. Seppala's candidates and their opponents.

The Independent might

also want to stop making council endorsements because, frankly, Livermore voters aren't buying the endorsements. The Independent is selling. With one extremely lamentable exception, the results over the past few election cycles speak for themselves.

Legal Defeats Piling Up

Doug Mann, Livermore

On November 15, Livermore lost another highly publicized case in Superior Court involving Livermore City Council's voter suppression activities. It was completely avoidable.

Citizens for Balanced Growth, a community organization, has a long history of witnessing poor decisions by elected officials, even when they are fully apprised of exposure to legal defeat. Our first experience was in 1998, when the Zone 7 Water Board considered serving customers outside its legal boundary. A long line of respected officials and CBG members told them they were about to break the law. They ignored us; we sued them; and they lost.

More recently there was the case of the Garaventa Hill plan, where city officials obscured the existence of funding after they were asked if there was money that could be used to buy it instead of developing it. Livermore was sued, lost on the merits at trial court, lost again on appeal, and failed in its final act of desperation to erase the result at the Supreme Court.

Remember the Livermore Wine Country Inn? Residents told the council over and over that they were breaking the rules. The city was sued, and lost.

The act of voter suppression in 2022 by city staff and aided by the council was a new level of hubristic malfeasance. Against a backdrop of abundant case law and constitutional precedent, the city attorney recommended that the city

clerk hold on to referendum petitions instead of sending them to the county in the usual manner. He instructed that the clerk could act as judge, jury and executioner of a perfectly valid referendum. Many residents cautioned the council against their illegal activity, including citing obvious case law. The city was sued, and Livermore was defeated in a scathing rebuke.

Apparently, that wasn't enough. The council had the gall to declare that the judge's order in the voter suppression case above wasn't really the judge's order. We lined up to tell the council they were breaking the law. So, another lawsuit. The result was predictable in last week's decision.

This is no way to run a government, and these self-inflicted legal defeats have cost Livermore hundreds of thousands of dollars. We are hopeful that the newly elected council representatives will be able to add some degree of rationality and prudence going forward.

Independent Newspaper Helps Strengthen Democracy

Kelly Cousins, Pleasanton

Thank you to the staff and publisher of The Independent newspaper for their excellent reporting and many informative articles on the local, regional and statewide elections. Many of us in the Tri-Valley area depend on The Independent's journalistic integrity to help provide us with essential information that is vital to our understanding of the governmental decision-making process and provides us with shared facts and information outside of the influence of the social media algorithms filters and tabloid news that are unfortunately relied upon by more and more voters. Informed voters help hold

local officials accountable and can better counter the misinformation and sound bites which have often been used to undermine the trust in the democratic process resulting in a decline in voter turnout. I encourage the public to help support The Independent's continued efforts to keep the voting public informed and engaged.

Light Up The Town

Glenn Stewart, Livermore

Now that the elections are behind us, inflation is down, and gas is \$3.49 at ACRO on Stanley and Murrieta... putting up holidays lights has traditionally symbolizes warmth

and unity, encouraging connections with neighbors and celebrating the season... a time-honored way to brighten up long winter nights and spread happiness.

This year, let's light up Livermore for the holidays.

Happy Thanksgiving

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The annual Earlier Than the Bird pajama shopping spree, held on Nov. 23, helps inaugurate the holiday season in downtown Livermore. (Photo — Doug Jorgensen)

Park District, Livermore Public Library Join Forces For Story Walk

The Livermore Area Recreation and Park District (LARPD) and the Livermore Public Library have created a Story Walk at Sycamore Grove Park that combines the joy of reading with an interactive outdoor experience.

The idea for the Story Walk began in 2022 when Christine Cardosi, an open space interpreter for the park district, contacted the library, which had organized pop-up Story Walk events throughout the community.

Cardosi and librarian Caitlyn Lung collaborated on a temporary Story Walk near the park’s Wetmore Road entrance for a joint LARPD and Livermore Library “Field Trip to Sycamore Grove Park,” which led to LARPD suggesting a permanent Story Walk as

a possible Eagle Scout project. Over the next two years, LARPD said, three Eagle Scouts helped design and install durable display boards along the Magpie Nature Loop trail.

The Livermore Library held a poster contest this summer that encouraged youths to create artwork focusing on nature and conservation. The top 18 entries were displayed along the Story Walk in August, marking the grand opening of the permanent installation.

The Story Walk currently features a book about acorns, culminating with an educational poster highlighting the importance of oaks and acorns in the park’s ecosystem. LARPD said the content will change throughout the

year to offer new stories tied to seasonal themes and encourage visitors to return regularly. “We’re thrilled to see this project come to life and offer a unique way to connect literacy, art, and nature,” Cardosi said.



A young participant enjoys the current Acorn Story Walk (Photo courtesy of LARPD).

BUDGET

(Continued from front page)

the California Secretary of State by Dec. 6, and the state must certify results by Dec. 13.

“Given our financial challenges, hard conversations and difficult decisions will be inevitable in (the) upcoming two-year budget development,” said Pleasanton Director of Finance Susan Hsieh at the Nov. 19 city council meeting.

In May, city staff shared with the city council a General Fund Citywide Contingency Menu of Potential Service Reductions, a list of potential budget cuts across city departments. In addition to the reductions in police and fire services highlighted by supporters of Measure PP, the options also included reductions to library services, landscaping, and defunding the school crossing guard program.

Councilmember Jack Balch, who continues to hold a lead over incumbent Mayor Karla Brown for the mayoral seat in election results, told The Independent, “Addressing the city’s budget challenges while maintaining core services remains a top priority. The Contingency Menu presented earlier this year by staff serves as one tool for discussion, while the year-end results for 2023-2024, which reflect expense savings beyond budgeted, albeit challenging to sustain, provide another valuable data point. At this time, no decisions have been made.”

Balch, the only current council member to oppose the Measure PP tax increase, stressed the importance of the city’s emergency services.

“I remain firmly committed to safeguarding essential services, including public safety and critical community programs,” he said. “As we navigate these budget decisions, transparency and community input will remain at the forefront to ensure our collective priorities are reflected in the outcomes.”

With the failure of Measure PP in mind, City Manager Gerry Beaudin at the meeting reiterated the magnitude of the problems facing the city.

“We are not in a good place financially as a city,” said Beaudin. “We tried to articulate that in different ways. It hasn’t landed yet, but we will continue to work on that. There is a need for us to reduce programs and services at a time when our revenues are flat and our expenses continue to go up.”

As one new revenue action, the city will soon begin passing through credit-card processing fees, according to Balch. He also looked forward to sales tax from Pleasanton’s new Costco, which was scheduled to open this week.

The outgoing councilmembers cast a cautionary view of the future. “You’ll start seeing things worn down; you’ll start seeing grass not cut; you’ll start seeing responses from your emergency responders extending,” said Brown. “It won’t be the same Pleasanton it (is) now, but it will still be Pleasanton, and we’ll still be proud to live here.”

Council member Valerie Arkin warned that city layoffs were likely.

“It does involve people’s jobs,” she said. “In a service organization, if you cut library, you’re cutting library staff. If you cut public safety, you’re cutting officers or firefighters (or) first responders. That is what is at stake here.”

In the city’s second council district, retired police captain Craig Eicher remained ahead of Arkin by 8%, while deputy district attorney Matt Gaidos maintained a narrower 3.4% lead over business executive Vivek Mohan for the District 4 seat.

The city’s budget development for the next two fiscal years will begin in January with staff creating a budget proposal based on city council and community feedback. Reviews and revisions will continue throughout the first half of the year, with final adoption expected in June 2025.

Test Groundwater Wells Receive Extra Funding

Two residents also addressed the council in opposition to three test wells the city is planning for southwest Pleasanton.

The city council, with Arkin opposed, approved at the meeting an increase to the spending limit of its Regional Groundwater Facility Project from \$2 million to \$2.7 million. The project, a partnership between the City of Pleasanton and the Zone 7 Water Agency, plans to explore pumping groundwater at Del Prado Park, the Pleasanton Tennis and Community Park, and Hansen Park.

One resident, Michael Grossman, said the project

should be left to Zone 7 to conduct.

Resident, geologist and hydrogeologist Jim Lehrman objected to the cost the city would have to bear and characterized the project’s dependence on a groundwater barrier between southwest Pleasanton and contamination under west Livermore as a “flawed assumption.”

“The estimated cost of the new test wells is going up,” he continued. “Now (it’s) \$2.7 million for three test wells. I don’t think that should be considered trivial to a city that’s got a deficit budget.”

Councilmember Jeff Nibert said the test wells were necessary for the region.

“The data from the feasibility study is what is needed to make that determination, and the test wells provide that data,” said Nibert. “Zone 7, I’m sure, will be pushing to complete the feasibility study even if for some reason Pleasanton may decide they want to slow down. Zone 7 needs the additional water resources themselves because they are obviously concerned with PFAS contamination as well.”

The results of the test wells are expected next spring, continued Nibert, after which a recommendation for whether full-sized production wells will be made.

Symphony to Present Two Concerts on Dec. 7

The Livermore-Amador Symphony (LAS) will offer two concerts at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore on Saturday, Dec. 7, including its ninth annual free-admission Family Concert at 3 p.m. and “Festive Fairy Tales,” its first regular season concert, at 8 p.m.

The Family Concert will include popular holiday carols and songs from the “Sound of Music.”

The symphony will be joined by members of the Valley Dance Theatre who will perform selections from their upcoming production of “The Nutcracker.”

“We are so delighted to once again present our fun-filled free family concert,” said LAS Music Director Lara Webber. “This short festive program is for all ages and it’s the perfect way to kick off your holiday season.”

The audience will be invited to sing along with the symphony performance. The concert will conclude with a hands-on instrument “petting zoo” for children in the lobby and an opportunity for the audience to meet the dancers and musicians.

Although admission is free, tickets are required.

To request tickets, go to livermorearts.org or call 925-373-6800.

Later that evening, LAS will present “Festive Fairy Tales,” opening with selections from George Bizet’s L’Arlesienne Suite No. 1, including “March of the Kings” and a jubilant ringing of the bells.

LAS will also perform American composer Samuel Barber’s “Die Natali,” which Webber describes as “a gorgeous and inventive set of variations on several Christmas carols” including “O Come O Come Emmanuel,” “Joy to the World,” and “Silent Night.”

The concert will close with French composer Maurice Ravel’s “Mother Goose” suite.

Webber will provide brief commentary during the concert instead of a preconcert talk, and the teen jazz band Element 116 will perform in the lobby during intermission.

There will also be a complimentary wine and sparkling cider reception in the lobby following the performance. Tickets start at \$30, with free admission for anyone 21 and under.

Tickets are available online at livermorearts.org, at the Bankhead Theater ticket office, 2400 First St., or by calling 925-373-6800.

GPAC

(Continued from page 3)

the local economy, some GPAC members disagreed.

“The act of recruiting is very presumptuous,” said GPAC Chair Stephanie Shang, who added that too many unknowns remained around the city’s East of Greenville property, which had in the past been considered a possible site for a research or educational facility.

The parcel is part of unincorporated Alameda County and lies outside Livermore’s eastern urban growth boundary, so in order to make use of it, the city would have to annex the property and voters would have to approve moving the boundary. The city has also considered the parcel as the site of future light industrial development.

Earlier in the year, the committee and city Planning Commission determined that more study was required before the East of Greenville parcel could be considered in the general plan. In June, the City Council removed the 1,100-acre East of Greenville parcel from consideration in the update.

On Nov. 8, GPAC instead agreed to future prospects

for research under another goal: facilitating an “innovation economy.” Those jobs in the energy, biotech and advanced manufacturing sectors tend to offer higher revenues and wages, said Jansen.

“Livermore is a natural home for these kinds of businesses because of the labs and because of the amount of industrial real estate that’s available here in Livermore,” she continued.

Brandon Cardwell, Livermore’s innovation and economic development director, emphasized the need for turnkey spaces zoned within the city that would invite startups looking to gather data and prove concepts under tight deadlines.

GPAC member Alan Burnham added that the nascent green-hydrogen industry at Livermore Municipal Airport serves as an example of companies in search of zoning and development standards flexible enough to meet their timelines.

Other economic policy goals include the promotion of tourism and the maintenance of commercial and industrial capacity.

Burnham urged the city to consider tourism beyond

just wineries.

“If you want someone to come here and stay a few days, you want more than wineries,” he said. “You want a more holistic view of what brings in people.”

Committee member David Kent said the obstacles facing the hotel industry stemmed from two sources: a lack of infrastructure in wine country, and repeated litigation standing in the way of building new hotels in the city.

“My wife sat on the committee in the ‘90s that placed the wine country hotel next to the Bankhead before the Bankhead was built,” said Kent. “Why it hasn’t been built is really not the fault of the city, but it’s the fault of special interests.”

GPAC has now completed its policy discussions for the general plan update. Over the next year, city staff are expected to compile the draft general plan for planning commission and city council review, while simultaneously completing the general plan’s environmental impact report. City staff expect the city council to adopt the new general plan around the beginning of 2026.

THE *Independent*

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The Independent is hiring a part-time (approximately 20 hours/week) photojournalist to be our primary shooter, someone who also is able to step in as needed to write extended cutlines or possibly short stories. The ideal candidate will be a self-starter plugged into community events in the Tri-Valley, and open to seizing opportunities for attention-grabbing imagery as they encounter them. The person filling this staff position will be able to maintain an ongoing photography calendar, work with and provide input to the editor and writers to determine priorities and image selection, and produce a variety of photography for print and online every week, including news, features and sports. Night and weekend work will be required to cover events. The staff photojournalist also will be responsible for guiding and/or training freelance photographers or interns.

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To apply, please send a resumé and link to your portfolio to chris@independentnews.com

Kids Collect Food for Tri-Valley Haven

By Ruth Roberts

Thanksgiving came a little early for the residents of Tri-Valley Haven recently, thanks to the efforts of students at Lawrence Elementary School in Livermore. It all began after Marren Groesbeck, Lawrence’s li-

brary media specialist, read the book “Maddi’s Fridge” to the students. The story addresses food inequities and poverty through the eyes of two young girls who are friends but live in different socio-economic households. Many students were so moved by the story that they

organized a food drive to support local families during the holidays. The students reached out to Tri-Valley Haven to offer their support, and the staff provided a list of their most needed items. Tri-Valley Haven is a non-profit organization in Livermore that provides shelter and support for women and children suffering from domestic violence.

Fifth graders Sahasra and Riya, along with fourth grader Margot played key roles in the effort. (The Independent is withholding their last names at the school’s request.) Beginning in October, the girls reviewed the list and assigned items to each grade level based on what students could easily carry, said Lawrence Principal Kristie Starkovich. For example, fifth graders brought 2.5-pound bags of sugar and flour.

A total of 724 items were collected and later delivered to Tri-Valley Haven with the help of the girls’ families and school staff.

For the girls, the drive was a transformative experience. “We wanted to do this because we know people out there might not have any food or anything for Thanksgiving, so we put together a little project to make other people happy,” said Margot. And they succeeded. “This food drive is a testament to Lawrence Elementary’s leadership focus in which students are dedicated to making a difference,” Starkovich added. Christine Dillman, executive director of Tri-Valley Haven, praised the girls’ efforts and the school’s support. “These amazing girls have poured their hearts into collecting Thanksgiving items to help families in need,” Dillman said. “Their compassion and generosity are truly inspiring and embody the spirit of community. Together, we’re making a difference for so many families this holiday season.”



From left; Lawrence Elementary students Sahasra, Margot and Riya, stand among the items they and their classmates collected for the school’s holiday food drive. The donations were delivered to the residents of Tri-Valley Haven in Livermore. (Photo courtesy of Lawrence Elementary School)

DUBLIN

(Continued from front page)

Hu agrees the issue surrounding Measure II is a complicated one, adding that given the election results the council will have to take another look at the proposed project.

“The council will reconvene to discuss the implications of annexing the property into Dublin,” said Hu. “This includes considering limited commercial development to help fund the construction and maintenance of the road extension. Preserving open space remains a priority for us, and we plan to actively engage with our neighboring communities and ensure transparency in our decision-making process.”

Hu added that if the property is annexed into Dublin, the city council can explore limited commercial development, as provided for in the approved ballot measure, along the road extension. Such a development would generate one-time impact fee revenues, she said, to help fund construction, and provide ongoing property and sales tax revenue to support road maintenance. Additionally, the city will continue to seek grant funding to offset road construction costs.

The City of Livermore has previously stated that it will not share the cost of the road if Dublin annexes the property. Hu says annexation is critical to the construction of the road regardless of whether

Livermore helps with the cost or not.

Livermore officials and residents prefer to keep the land undeveloped.



Sherry Hu

enhancing communication and engagement with residents. Hu said this includes celebrating and recognizing cultural diversity by



John Morada

promoting events such as Diwali, Chinese New Year, and Eid, the Muslim celebration marking the end of Ramadan, as well as providing space and other support to interested groups.

“Additionally, I aim to utilize modern media tools to ensure communication and public engagement are efficient, trustworthy, and transparent,” she said.

Moreover, Hu has pledged to strengthen the city’s relationship with the local school district, which has faced challenges in recent years. As a small business owner, Hu said she will also strive to foster an environment in Dublin where local businesses feel supported and can thrive.

During his election campaign, Morada had said he envisioned Dublin becoming similar to the

layout of Santa Barbara’s downtown.

“The downtown of Santa Barbara has a comforting look and feel that make it attractive to visit,” said Morada. “What I like about downtown Santa Barbara are the galleries, museums, restaurants, shops and the Spanish colonial feel. There is a true sense of a town center.”

He added that he still had a lot to catch up on as far as council authority and reach, so did not feel he could outline specifically how he would implement plans for a new downtown, including Dublin Commons.

“But what I can do is deliberate when listening to my neighbors on their opinions,” Morada said. “For the several city council meetings I’ve attended when designs were proposed, I felt public opinion was not in favor of the urban design style.” The initial proposal envisions redeveloping a 12-block tract west of I-680 into multiple residential and commercial buildings, with some as high as eight stories.

During his campaign, Morada stressed public safety, paired with economic growth.

“We cannot forego public safety over uncontrolled commercialization,” Morada said. “When people feel secure, it naturally draws in well-known enterprises, supporting the sustainable infill efforts outlined in the City’s new economic development strategy.”

PARKS

(Continued from front page)

“There’s been a clear reluctance to provide information (from EBRPD),” said Woerner, adding that he sought to answer why there has been no response, how much each district has spent in Murray Township, and the total amount of taxes collected.

LAFCo Executive Officer Rachel Jones told The Independent last week, “We have received analyses from the two agencies regarding mapping, services and revenues. We are aiming to schedule a meeting within the next two weeks.”

At the LAFCo meeting, EBRPD Ward 5 Director Olivia Sanwong, speaking for herself, said, “This wasn’t brought to my attention until August of this year. No one from LARPD has reached out to me personally, even though I am the elected representative for this area.” Ward 5 encompasses the Tri-Valley and the southwestern portion of Alameda County, including Fremont and Newark.

Sanwong listed EBRPD’s recent investments in its air support unit, which better equip the district to fight fires and conduct search and rescue operations, as one example of the district’s spending in the eastern part of the county.

But Woerner called the firefighting developments a “red herring.”

“Frankly, this thing about, ‘Oh, we do a lot of stuff in a lot of places,’ is not sufficient,” said Woerner. “We need to have the numbers; they should be available.”

LARPD Director James Boswell, also speaking for himself, dismissed the firefighting improvements as “another issue altogether,” adding that, considering the effects of inflation and potential returns, EBRPD’s share of the tax revenues were closer to \$200 million.

LAFCo has not yet released the agenda for its January meeting.



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PACKOUT

(Continued from front page)

Ramen and chocolate chip cookies.

Before setting the packers loose to start assembling, Frizzell said, “Please think of the box as a gift. This may be their only Christmas present this year. So take your time. Enjoy what you’re doing.”

And with that the room came alive and packers started snaking their way through the rows of tables. Boy Scouts ran with empty boxes to their favorite items as moms shouted in unison, “no running!”

Azadeh “Azi” Aryana, who has been PMF’s shipping and handling coordinator for the past 20 years, looked around at the tables of donated supplies and said, “All that work takes a couple of months and then in like half an hour, everybody’s done. I always think, ‘Okay, that was fast.’”

Aryana, who crocheted 200 beanies in camouflage colors said, “As of today, I start crocheting for next Christmas.” Her son Afshin “Af,” who is career Army Special Forces, has helped the organization over the years find service people to

send to. “I get names from my son. Special Forces who are in Iraq and Syria, they have nothing there in the middle of nowhere.”

The group was started by local veteran Chris Miller during the Persian Gulf War, then disbanded when that conflict ended. When the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq began, he and Frizzell started up a support network for deployed servicemembers, which evolved into the current form of PMF by 2003.

Retired U.S. Army Sergeant Major Erwin Ricafrente was present as a volunteer but had been a recipient of the care packages for many years during deployments to Iraq, Afghanistan and Poland. “Words cannot describe the feeling, the elation, when we get these care packages,” he said, “especially at this time of the year when you’re away from family. It’s really indescribable.”

Past President Denise Harper and current President Sydne Benson Roth spoke about the benefits of the PMF group to the community.

“I love this group,” Harper said. “They were my life-savers.” While her daughter wasn’t in combat zones, Harper found comfort in the community who understood how she was feeling and what she was talking about in ways that her civilian friends couldn’t.

Roth, whose husband is stationed in Texas and will be retiring in June, said, “He’s a very military person.” She agreed with Harper, that there is a common understanding of military life among the families who live it. “It’s a different language, not in a negative way.”

“That’s the thing,” said Harper, referring to civilian life. “I was that person until I became a Marine Mama. And it’s like, now we can actually speak to people who share the lingo. That’s huge.”

Roth added, “I mean, there’s not a lot of action right now in the whole world but just having this support, I just think it’s such an important group for the community.”

If anyone knows troops deployed overseas (or

someone whose own child is deployed) who could use a holiday package, email PMF at pmfsg.ca@gmail.com (Pleasanton Military Family Support Group) to get care packages out to them for future holidays. Visit www.pleasantonmilitaryfamilies.org for more information.

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Thanks for Giving

By Christina Cavallaro

New York is known as the city that never sleeps, but after nearly two years writing for The Independent (including this column) and interviewing all kinds of people, I can say without question, the Tri-Valley is the community that never stops giving.

The Livermore Lions Club celebrated 100 years of service this past September and the dining room at Cattlemen’s restaurant in Livermore was packed.

Bill Ridle, a former district governor for the organization, admitted even he didn’t know everyone there. The luncheon guests hailed from Alameda and Contra Costa Counties, representing 43 clubs and about 1,076 members, many of whom were present.

“But the common denominator in the room is service,” Ridle said.

Service is the common denominator throughout the Tri-Valley. Specific examples of generosity, selflessness and service sometimes seem like isolated events, but when stitched together, they make a big quirky colorful quilt that somehow all fits together as the tapestry of our shared lives.

Service also takes the form of organized giving across robust public platforms, as with the esteemed recipients at the recent Tri-Valley Non-profit Alliance Annual Power of Giving award ceremony. The event recognized impact-makers whose efforts have supported some of the most vulnerable among us.

I’ve also been moved by small acts of service by individuals that add to the collective whole.

Andy Wang, an engineer at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, goes out on his own and picks up trash at illegal dumping sites all over the Bay Area. Pleasanton Army mom Azadeh “Azi” Aryana, whose volunteerism with the Pleasanton Military Families support group caught the attention of the U.S. Army, was inducted as an honorary member of the Special Forces Regiment by the United States Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School.

There’s Dublin High School senior Presha Dutt whose impulse to help led to a collaboration with the Shepherd’s Gate shelter for women and

children. Dutt worked to mentor women much older than her in a “return-to-work” program, updating their skills for reentry.

The list of names goes on and on of the people I’ve met whose acts of service inspire me daily.

I am sure the list of the unnamed giving neighbors among us is equally long, like the whole retired teaching community as Bill Britton recently pointed out this month in a Letter to the Editor.

“They never stop caring,” he said. Last year the California Retired Teachers Association logged more than one million volunteer hours. “Anywhere you go in the Tri-Valley you are likely to find retired teacher volunteers. They tutor in the local schools, distribute food to those in need, drive seniors to appointments, and work at hospitals,” said Britton.

Recently, Livermore resident Sue Koopman clued me into a low-key, beautiful act of giving that a friend of hers told her about. There is a couple who live at the condominiums on Chateau Way (by South Livermore Avenue and Robertson Park) who have been observed for the past 20 years collecting oak acorns in the fall. The couple plants the acorns and tends to the oak sprouts. Koopman’s friend has seen the couple dragging pails of water to the park to keep the sprouts alive. Over the years, the park has gained a number of small oak trees out of these acorns.

Nobody seems to know the couple’s names, but many have noticed their impact, including the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District, because when the area is fenced off in the late spring to allow goats to munch on the grass as a way of preventing brush fires, these oak plants are always protected from the omnivorous animals.

Like quilts that get passed on from generation to generation, so too do these acts of service that become legacies, engendering their continuation across eras and organizations.

Thank you, Tri-Valley, for being the gift that keeps on giving.

Do you have tidbits about the Tri-Valley or know of interesting people, places, events or unique perspectives that should be featured in the Heart of the Valley monthly column? If so, we want to hear from you. Please email me at christina@independentnews.com

Farmers Union Opening Delayed By Renovations to Historic Building

By Vivien Wenneker

The opening of the Farmers Union restaurant at 2324 Second St. in downtown Livermore has been pushed back to the fall of 2025, more than a year later than anticipated. The San Jose restaurant is known for its seasonal, locally sourced farm-to-table, American-themed menu. Livermore would be the restaurant’s second location.

The building, known as the SBC Building, was built in 1928 and was the first local switching office for Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Co., later Pacific Bell, which was acquired by SBC Communications in 1997. The building has been under renovation since earlier in the year.

According to Jennifer Ackerman, the project planner at the City of Livermore, the delay is due to trying to make the restaurant’s design comply with downtown development standards while still integrating and preserving the building’s historic portion.

“It was a very long process and went through multiple iterations of design to ensure the new portion and the historic portion were compatible and met the design standards,” Ackerman said.

The SBC Building consists of the original portion, as well as several non-historic additions. The largest addition faces the corner of South Livermore Avenue and Second Street, while the other parts are at the rear of the building. The original portion is noted for its historical significance as the “first purpose-built building for telephone service in Livermore and thus made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of local and regional history,” according to a Livermore Planning Commission report from 2022.

In 2004, the building was purchased by the Livermore Redevelopment Agency (RDA) with funds provided by the City of Livermore, and later in 2012, when the RDA was dissolved, ownership was transferred to the city. In 2012, a proposal to reconstruct the site into a restaurant was approved by the City. However, its developers postponed purchasing the building and implementing the project, until in 2022, a new application was submitted and that same year, the City Council approved the property sale to Mike Messenger, part-owner of the Farmers Union restaurant in San Jose.

Included in the application was the proposal for a building with three levels, with the lowest being semi-underground for storage, with the rooftop level having both an upper and lower deck to create three distinct levels inside. Externally, the building would have the appearance of being just one and a half stories tall, according to the Planning Commission report. The project would include a new elevator tower, two external stairwells, a raised patio deck along

the Livermore Avenue and Second Street sides, a rooftop deck, and associated landscaping, lighting, and bicycle parking.

The project site also has a Downtown Area zoning designation, and therefore, must adhere to development standards that “are targeted towards re-establishing Downtown’s identity... and is in line with Downtown’s traditions and preserves its historic heritage.”

Meeting the development standards of the city’s Downtown Specific Plan, while simultaneously keeping the historic integrity of the original building intact, has created a unique challenge for the building process, Ackerman said.

Nonetheless, according to city spokesperson Stephanie Egidio, significant progress has been made already. “Preserving the 1928 building’s historical character while creating a vibrant new space is no small feat, and it’s exciting to see the vision come to life,” Egidio said. “Standing on the future rooftop deck and taking in the stunning views is a reminder of the unique charm this project will bring to downtown Livermore.”



The former SBC Building at 2324 Second St. in downtown Livermore remains under renovation, delaying the opening of the Farmers Union restaurant by more than a year. The building was constructed in 1928 as the city’s first purpose-built telephone exchange. (Photo — Doug Jorgensen)

Chart-Topping Saxophonist To Play at the Wine Lounge

Award-winning saxophonist Jeff Ryan will appear at the Almost Famous Wine Lounge in Livermore at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 30.

A Bay Area native, Ryan’s debut album, “Embrace,” paired him with songwriter and keyboardist Greg Manning earned him honors as JazzTrax’s Breakout Artist of the Year and Smooth Jazz Network’s Debut Artist of the Year in 2018.

Since then, he has topped the Billboard Jazz chart five times, including with the single “Sentimental Soul,” which was named Billboard’s Jazz Song of the Year in 2021. He was also Billboard’s Jazz Artist of the Year in 2020. Ryan has also become a featured artist at jazz festivals across the nation. His latest album, “Into Focus,” was released in September.

For tickets, go to almostfamous.wine.

Dublin Tree Lighting Ceremony

Dublin will hold its annual holiday tree lighting at the Dublin Civic Center, 100 Civic Plaza, at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 5.

Santa’s elves will turn the Civic Center parking lot into a winter wonderland, including arts and

crafts, hot chocolate and cookies, and a booth where children can write a letter to Santa Claus. Santa is also expected to make an appearance.

Local choral groups and bands will perform prior to the lighting ceremony.

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TRI-VALLEY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Thursday, Nov. 28 11th ANNUAL TRI-VALLEY THANKSGIVING DINNER

Come on Thanksgiving Day for this Community Outreach Dinner, serving from 12-4 p.m. A coalition of businesses, churches, and community organizations are hosting the event at St. Raymond Catholic Church in Moran Hall, 11555 Shannon Ave., Dublin. The event is free and no reservations are needed. Light entertainment will be included. No animals other than service animals. For more information, call 925-829-8956.

Wednesday, Dec. 4 YOUTH VIDEO CONTEST SCREENING

Tri-Valley CAREs, the hosting organization for this youth video contest, will be showing the winning videos on local environmental issues on Dec. 4, at the Livermore Main Library, 1188 S. Livermore Ave., from 5:30 to 8 p.m. The contest is currently open for submissions of short, informative videos by those under the age of 24. See more information about the video contest at trivalleycares.org.

Saturday, Dec. 7 HOLIDAY BOOK SALE

The Friends of the Dublin Library, Inc. will present a Holiday Book Sale on Dec. 7, from noon to 3 p.m. at the Dublin Library, 200 Civic Plaza. There will be a great selection of gently used children’s books, cookbooks, and beautiful hardcover books ideal for gift giving. For more information, visit dublinfriends.org.

Saturday, Dec. 7 BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

Come to Shannon Community Center on Dec. 7 for “Breakfast with Santa”. Families are invited to enjoy a hot pancake breakfast served with sausage, fruit, coffee, and juice, followed by the arrival of Santa Claus! Santa will pose for holiday photos following each session. There are three sessions available: 8:30 a.m., 9:45 a.m., and 11 a.m. Tickets are \$15/residents; \$18/non-residents, per person, all ages. Register at www.dublinrecguide.com.

Saturday/Sunday, Dec. 7 and 8 VALLEY CONCERT CHORALE HOLIDAY CONCERTS

The Valley Concert Choral celebrates the holiday season with traditional favorites in a variety of arrangements inspired by music from around the world. The show will begin with Vivaldi’s choral masterpiece Gloria, led by Jerome Lenk and accompanied by concert pianist, Daniel Glover, and will include familiar carols and new arrangements for the choir. The audience is invited to sing-along for a selection of carols. Dec. 7, 7:30 p.m., at Asbury United Methodist Church, 4743 East Ave., Livermore, and Dec. 8, 4:00 p.m., at Trinity Lutheran Church, 1225 Hopyard Rd., Pleasanton. Tickets are \$30. College students are \$10. Children K-12 are free. Advance tickets are available at www.valleyconcertchorale.org, or 925-866-4003.

Friday, Dec. 8 FREE HOLIDAY CONCERT

A Star in the East, a free concert of festive holiday music, will be held Dec. 8 at 4 p.m., at Sanctuary of First Presbyterian Church of Livermore, 2020 Fifth St. The concert will be featuring the First Presbyterian Church of Livermore Sanctuary and Bell Choirs, with Jo Ann Fosselman, guest conductor, Janet Holmes, Music Director and organist, Cathryn Griggs, Handbell Director, with the Cold Water Brass Quintet and percussion. Highlights include Gwyneth Walker’s “A Star in the East” and John Ferguson’s arrangement of “Night of Silence.” 925-447-2078 or www.fpcl.us for more info.

Monday, Dec. 9 GENEALOGY PRESENTATION

Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society presents J. Mark Lowe with

“Comparing Plats of Land with Deeds and Grants”. Learn how Land Plats of an ancestor’s land will likely include his surrounding neighbors, and gain an understanding of their lives. No charge. From 7 to 8:30 p.m. at Congregation Beth Emek, 3400 Nevada Ct., Pleasanton. (Zoom call begins at 6:45.)

Friday, Dec. 13 ANNUAL SING-IT-YOURSELF “MESSIAH”

Join Valley Concert Choral, talented concert pianists and professional soloists for the annual Sing-It-Yourself Messiah. After a warm-up with the Artistic Director, part one of the Messiah and the Hallelujah Chorus will be sung. Bring your voices and scores if you have one. The event is also open to anyone who would just come to listen and enjoy the Messiah. Tickets are \$15. Students K-12 are free. Advance tickets may be purchased by visiting the Choral’s website at www.valleyconcertchorale.org, or by calling 925-866-4003. On Dec. 13 at 7:30 p.m. at Asbury United Methodist Church, 4743 East Ave., Livermore

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 EVENTS SATURDAY PLEASANTON FARMERS MARKET

Open Saturdays, from 10 a.m. 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.

SUNDAY LIVERMORE DOWNTOWN FARMERS MARKET

Open year-round on Sundays 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in downtown Livermore, on Second St. between J St. and L St.

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

The Unitarian Universalist Church is welcoming to all. Join in on Sundays at 10:30 a.m. for music, singing, and conversation. The church is located at 1893 North Vasco Rd. in Livermore. For more information, visit uucil.org.

DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION (DAR) CHAPTER MEETING

The local Josefa Higuera Livermore Chapter meets on the first Saturday of the month from Sept. to May. The DAR is a non-profit, non-political volunteer women’s service organization dedicated to promoting patriotism, preserving American history, and securing America’s future through better education for children. For more information, visit jhl.californiadar.org or email jane.everett@sbcglobal.net.

ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Asbury United Methodist Church invites the community to join for worship at 10 a.m. on Sunday mornings. This community practices loving neighbors in daily life. The church has Sunday School and nursery care, and worship is followed by a fellowship time. The church is located at 4743 East Ave., in Livermore. For more information, visit asburylive.org.

WINGS - WOMEN IN GOD’S SPIRIT

WINGS is a faith enrichment group of multi-generational Catholic women who meet October thru May on Thursday mornings at 9:30 a.m. at St. Charles Borromeo, 1315 Lomitas Ave., Livermore. Attendees can enjoy a variety of speaker presentations and topics, small group discussion, fellowship and more. All are welcome! See www.stcharleslivermore.org/wings for more information.

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

GARAVENTA

(Continued from front page)

Proposed in 2011, the Livermore Lt Ventures I Group LLC Garaventa Hills plan originally suggested building 76 homes on the 32-acre site north of Altamont Creek Drive between North Vasco Road and Laughlin Road. The land was zoned for residential development in 1976, but project opponents wanted it kept as an open space habitat for native plants and endangered frogs and other species. They convinced the developer to pare the project to 44 units, and the City Council certified an environmental impact report (EIR) and approved the project in 2019.

The community organization, Save the Hill Group (SHG), filed suit, claiming the EIR failed to include the fact that Livermore had \$19.5 million available in conservation funds that could be offered to the landowners as an alternative to developing the site. Although SHG lost in Alameda County Superior Court, the residents found support with its appeal to California's 1st District Court of Appeal in 2022. The Justices ruled that the EIR should have disclosed the conservation money's availability. As a result, the City Council revoked its approval of the project.

In August this year, the developer reapplied to the city with an EIR updated to include the city's funding options. The Garaventa

family landowners wanted to stick with their developer and were unwilling to sell to the city, however. The city doubled its initial offer for the site in February to \$1.7 million but was shut down and told to "please stop."

Some opponents have said the amount the city wanted to pay was too small, but the city has insisted their purchase offer reflected the market value of the land.

During Monday's meeting, no members of the public spoke in favor of the project. Five people spoke against it, each focusing on naturally occurring oil seepages in the surrounding area. The EIR noted the seepages, but said none were found at the project site.

SHG leader Bianca Covarelli urged the council to delay its vote and hire scientists to assess the potential health risks.

"These are very serious concerns," Covarelli said. "The health and safety of Livermore residents... should be your number one concern."

Steve Stewart, Livermore's special projects coordinator, said the developer agreed to take action should it discover seepages on the land.

Resident Vladimir Pavlushkin suggested the hydrocarbons might be why nothing had ever been built there.

"I don't put faith in the developer's good will,"

Pavlushkin said. "So we're going to proceed with these litigations. Because that's the only language you speak."

During council discussion before the vote, City Council member Evan Branning said he would vote in favor because the project adhered to the rules.

"We are judging the project, actually, not on the rules of today. We are judging the project on the rules of the day when the project began," Branning said. "I believe that the legal system has affirmed the EIR. I believe that we have updated the no project alternative to meet the standards required for this project. It is legally compliant, and my job is to decide if I believe it is legally compliant or not."

Barrientos, who represents the district that includes Garaventa Hills, said some rules are wrong.

"I think we should start thinking more about the people that it impacts... and not the money that it brings in," Barrientos said. "That's maybe the biggest thing here. Why would (the owners) take \$1.7 million or even \$2 million (when) it could make 10 times more (with) those houses. That's what it comes down to. I think just money."

The meeting also served as the last for Council member Bob Carling, who did not run for reelection because of term limits.

Dublin to Honor Fallen Officer

Dublin will hold its annual memorial Christmas tree lighting in honor of fallen officer John Monego at 6 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 7, in the lobby of Dublin Police Services, 6361 Clark Ave.

Monego, an Alameda County sheriff's deputy assigned to Dublin, was killed

on Dec. 12, 1998, when he responded to a 911 robbery-in-progress call from a local steakhouse.

Monego was shot as he entered the lobby of the restaurant and then shot five more times as he lay on the floor, according to the California Police Officer's

Memorial Association.

The shooter was later caught, convicted of murder, and sentenced to life in prison.

Monego, 33, had been assigned to the city for eight months. He remains the only Dublin police officer to have been killed in the line of duty.

Wine Auction Raises \$375K for Nonprofits Supporting Children

The 30th annual Livermore Valley Wine Auction raised more than \$375,000 in October for nonprofit organizations that provide support services for children and youth, according to an announcement from the Livermore Valley Winegrowers Foundation, which sponsors the event.

The annual gala, held this year at the Wente Vineyards in Livermore, has raised more than \$6 million since the first auction in 1995, according to the foundation.

Proceeds this year will go to Teem Esteem in Danville,

Agape Villages Foster Family Agency in San Ramon,

Boys and Girls Club of Tracy, Down Syndrome Connection of the Bay Area, Livermore Valley Arts, and the Alameda County chapter of Sleep in Heavenly Peace, a nationwide organization whose goal is to ensure that all children have a bed to sleep in.

"On behalf of the Livermore Valley Winegrowers Foundation, we feel incredible gratitude for the generosity of the auction attendees and sponsors along with the Livermore Valley wine com-

munity," said Brandi Lombardi, executive director of the Livermore Valley Wine Community, a marketing organization.

"The funds raised will greatly impact the lives of so many children and families in our close-knit community," Lombardi added.

The foundation said more than 270 people attended this year's gala, with 21 Livermore Valley winemakers on hand. In addition to wines, the auction included such items as a Tuscany vacation and a private party in the cave at Wente Vineyards.

LPD Sponsors Annual Holiday Gifting Tree

The Livermore Police Department (LPD) is encouraging members of the community to share the spirit of the holidays by purchasing a gift for a local family, senior citizen, or veteran in need.

The department is hosting its 22nd annual Holiday Giving Tree, set up in the LPD lobby at 1110 S. Livermore Ave. Residents can choose a tag from the tree, purchase the suggested gift, and then

drop off their donations at the police department by Friday, Dec. 6, or they can participate online at tinyurl.com/35v75whv.

LPD volunteers will deliver the gifts.

Dublin to Host Annual "Deck the Homes" Decorating Contest

The deadline to enter Dublin's annual Deck the Homes holiday decorating contest is 4 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 6.

The city will award \$50 gift certificates to the winners in six categories, including a People's Choice Award for the best use of lights and vibrant colors.

The categories also in-

clude a Winter Wonderland Award for best holiday show with music, movement, and technology; an Overinflated Award for the most whimsical and fun use of inflatables; a Deck the Halls Award for apartments and condo balconies; and a Dashing Debut Award for first-time entrants.

The Dublin Parks and

Community Services Commission will serve as contest judges and also select its favorite display for a Spotlight Award.

Judging will take place between Monday, Dec. 9, and Friday, Dec. 13. Winners will be announced on Monday, Dec. 16.

For more information, go to tinyurl.com/mtum3ufb.

OBITUARIES

Celebration of Life

Edward August Heuer III
Feb. 26, 1951 — Oct. 14, 2024



Edward August Heuer III passed away on Oct. 14, 2024, in Pleasanton, California, after a long battle with cancer. He was born on Feb. 26, 1951, in Yankton, South Dakota. His family moved to Downey, California, in 1961, where he grew up, met and married his high school sweetheart. He is survived by his loving wife of 55 years, Holly, three children, Jennifer (Srouji), Paul and Christopher, and eight grandchildren, Mason, Gianna and Hudson Heuer, Aidan, Ella, Ashley Srouji and Sierra and Hunter Heuer. He also leaves behind his brother Kurt and sisters Karen and Karyl, a large extended family and countless friends.

Ed joined the National Guard in 1971 and fulfilled his duties in 1976. He then started his career in Los Angeles County, in wastewater treatment. In 1980, he moved his family to Pleasanton, California, along with a new job. During the next several years, he worked for Contra Costa Sanitary District, South Bayside System Authority and then retired from Oro

Loma Sanitary District as Director of Water Quality Services in 2006. Upon retirement, Ed continued in his chosen field as a consultant for the Dublin San Ramon Services District and The City of Pleasanton Operation Services and Water Utilities. He also enjoyed a part-time job at Pleasanton's Callippe Preserve Golf Course, as a marshal, for 15 years.

Ed was a man of deep faith and cherished his family and friends. He touched the lives of many with his zest for life, great sense of humor, kindness and desire to help others through volunteer work. He loved golf, travel, camping, Bible study (also taught Bible

study), all sports (watching, coaching and participating) and tending to his yardwork. His favorite pastime was hanging out with his family. He was also very proud of his German heritage and would, on occasion, proudly don his lederhosen. Ed was fun to be around, telling a joke or just spreading cheer. It all came easy to him. He will be deeply missed by all who know him. He made a difference in the world.

A celebration of life for Ed will be held on Saturday, Jan. 4, 2025, 1 p.m., at Our Savior Lutheran Ministries, 1385 S. Livermore Ave., Livermore, CA 94550

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests that donations in loving memory of Ed be made to:

Our Savior Lutheran Ministries (address above)

Open Heart Kitchen, 1141 Catalina Dr. # 137, Livermore CA 94550.

Online donations: openheartkitchen.org.

The family wishes to thank everyone for all the heartfelt condolences and prayers.

Estelle Pabis Miller
Sept. 9, 1948 — Nov. 16, 2024



Estelle Pabis Miller, born Sept. 9, 1948, in Meadville, Pennsylvania, to Adam and Stasia Pabis, spent her childhood in Ontario, California. During high school, she managed bookkeeping at her father's Jimmie's Gas Station, fondly recalling when gas was 19 cents a gallon.

A graduate of Chaffey High School and UC Santa Barbara with a degree in English, Estelle built a respected career at UC Davis, dedicating 25 years to the Department of Applied Science, including work at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory.

In 1972, she married Albert Miller, raising three wonderful children: Jeanne, Sara, and Daniel. In 2000, Estelle met George Coelho, her soulmate, with whom she fulfilled her

dream of traveling across the U.S. in their RV, exploring places from California to Alaska and the Gulf of Mexico.

After a brave fight with glioblastoma, Estelle passed away on Nov. 16, surrounded by her loved ones and in the arms of George. She is survived by her children Jeanne Peterson (Jason), Sara Rogers (Jeremy),

and Daniel Miller (Alexz); her grandchildren Maxamillion, Alex, Aurora, Hudson, Nicholas, Calliope, and MacKenzie; and her siblings Edward Pabis (Marcia Malecki), David Pabis (Shawn), Janet Hopkins (James, Jessica, Jared), and John Pabis (Kimberley, Brittany, Brendon).

Estelle will be remembered for her kindness, generosity, and devotion to family and friends. Her warmth and love leave a lasting legacy.

A memorial service will be held on Dec. 1 at 1 p.m. at the Robert Livermore Community Center, 4444 East Ave. Food and beverages will be provided.

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

Thomas Donald Anderson
Sept. 10, 1953 — Oct. 21, 2024



Thomas Donald Anderson, age 71, passed away unexpectedly on Monday, Oct. 21, 2024. Born on Sept. 10, 1953, in Hayward, California, Tom moved to Livermore before high school, where he would meet his future wife, Deborah Ann Peterson, and build a life filled with friendship, family, and a love for community.

Tom graduated from Granada High School in Livermore, California, and spent most of his career in the grocery industry. Known for his hardworking spirit and commitment, he also earned the affectionate nickname "Tommy Tuna" early in his career. Outside of work, Tom was an avid trap shooter and a proud member of the Livermore Rod and Gun Club where he was awarded a lifetime membership. He dedicated over ten years volunteering with the Livermore Police Department, an endeavor close to his heart. Tom loved the outdoors, especially

camping and spending time on the lake. He had a rare talent for making friends wherever he went, and his outgoing nature and warmth left a lasting impression on everyone who knew him.

Throughout his life, Tom went by many affectionate nicknames. He was "Tommy" to his aunts, uncles, and cousins, "Old Fart" to his son, "Dad" or "Daddy" to his

daughter, "Paw" to his cherished grandchildren, "Uncle Tom" to his nieces and nephews, and simply "Me" to his beloved wife, Debbie. Those who knew Tom will forever remember his humor, generous spirit, and the friendships he formed effortlessly.

Tom is survived by his devoted wife of 44 years, Debbie; his daughter Kristy "Kid" Brabec; his son David "Guido" Anderson; and his grandchildren, Liam Brabec, Sarah Anderson, Katie Rhodes, and Nick Rhodes. He also leaves behind his sister Janet Judd and his brother Robert Anderson. He is preceded in death by his parents, Charles and Virginia Anderson, and his brother Ralph Anderson.

Tom's legacy of kindness, humor, and dedication to family and community will live on in the hearts of all who had the privilege of knowing him. A celebration of life was held on Nov. 9, 2024.

Patricia "Tish" Ann Fletcher (née Jewell)
Sept. 28, 1951 — Nov. 17, 2024



Patricia "Tish" Ann Fletcher (née Jewell), 73, of Livermore, California, passed away on Nov. 17, 2024, at Kaiser Hospital in Walnut Creek after a long battle with congestive heart failure. She was born on Sept. 28, 1951, in Oakland, California, to Paul and Jane Jewell.

Tish is survived by her devoted husband of 48 years, Rob Fletcher; her brother Jim Jewell and his wife Destini; her nephew Max, niece Betsy, her sweet chocolate lab Sammie, and many cherished cousins, grandnieces, and grandnephews. She was predeceased by her parents, Paul and Jane Jewell.

Tish grew up in Oakland and graduated from Skyline High School in 1969. After graduating from Cal State Hayward in 1973, Tish went on to build a successful career as a loan officer at Bank of America. She married Rob in 1976, beginning a life filled with love, family, and community.

special way of connecting with them. Tish never met a child she didn't adore and lovingly referred to many as her "grandkids" over the years. She also dearly loved all of the five dogs she helped to make a warm home for over the years.

Visitation will be held on Wednesday, Dec. 4, from 5-7 p.m. at Callaghan Mortuary, 3833 East Ave., Livermore. A memorial service will take place on Thursday, Dec. 5, at 11 a.m. at the First Presbyterian Church in Livermore with a lunch reception to follow.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to Livermore Downtown Inc., a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that was close to Tish's heart.

Tish will be deeply missed by all who knew her, but her legacy of kindness, love, and friendship will live on in the lives she touched.

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

Foothill Girls Volleyball Team Wins NorCal Championship

By Phil Jensen

Before the California Interscholastic Federation NorCal Girls Volleyball Regionals started, Foothill High School coach Dusty Collins showed a picture of the Falcons’ 2006 team — the last Foothill volleyball team to advance to a state championship game — to this year’s squad.

“I was trying to tell them that these moments don’t come around all that often,” Collins said. “I had this framed picture of (the 2006 team) with a letter that the team wrote me that year. ... I showed them, and they were all making fun of how young I looked or how old everybody else looked and the uniforms and all that, and I’m like, ‘Exactly. That’s how long ago this has happened, and so you’ve got an opportunity out in front of you that hasn’t happened since 2006. Most of you weren’t born. So let’s see what we can do.’ I was trying to show them that, why not us?”

Foothill experienced another one of those moments on Nov. 19, as it won the CIF NorCal Division I title 25-18, 25-19, 14-25, 25-17 victory over visiting Redwood-Larkspur.

“Just super happy. Super proud of this team,” said Foothill’s Kaycie Burdick about how she felt after the match. “It means a lot for this program.”

The Falcons went on to the Division I state championship match on Nov. 22 in Orange, where they fell to Palos Verdes 25-11, 25-14, and 25-23. Foothill finished

the season with an impressive 30-11 record.

Foothill’s run to the NorCal title included upsetting higher seeds in the quarterfinals and semifinals, including No. 1 seed Folsom on Nov. 16. Foothill was the No. 5 seed.

“We’ve kind of just found a way,” said Collins about the Falcons’ postseason run. “It’s always been some different things. We’ve had some really balanced attacks at times, we’ve had one player carry us at other times. ... It’s mostly our defense and our passing. Just our general ball control keeps us around.”

In the final against No. 6 Redwood, Foothill was outstanding.

With the first set tied at 13, a block for a point by senior Lulu Hoenninger started a 10-2 Foothill run. Kaitlyn Vogel and Paige Nelson both had three service points in that run. Foothill scored the last points of the set on an ace by Burdick.

The second set was tied at eight before a four-point service run by Foothill’s Sophia Zhang. The Falcons’ lead grew to 22-14 on a kill by Burdick, and a kill by Hoenninger off a set by Nelson later ended the set.

Redwood led 13-12 in the third set before scoring eight of the next nine points in its eventual set win. Then Foothill took a 5-0 lead in the fourth set on five service points by Vogel, and the Falcons didn’t trail the rest of the match.

Kaycie Burdick had a team-high 25 kills and 18 digs. Sophia Burdick added nine kills for the Falcons, and Hoenninger had seven

kills and a team-high 14 blocks. Nelson added 11 service points and a team-high 32 assists, and Vogel had a team-best 12 service points.

Foothill was one set away from elimination twice in the NorCal tournament, including in the quarterfinals against James Logan-Union City on Nov. 14, a team that had defeated the Falcons twice this season. After falling behind 0-2, Foothill won the third set 25-5 and eventually topped the fourth-seeded Colts 19-25, 21-25, 25-5, 25-22, 15-11.

“I feel like this team has been through so much,” said Hoenninger. “After (the win over James Logan), I felt like we as a team knew that we could do anything together.”

Following the victory over Logan, Foothill traveled to Folsom and upset the top-seeded Bulldogs 25-19, 23-25, 25-18, 25-13 on Nov. 16 in the NorCal Division I semifinals.

Cross Country

The Dublin boys team won its second straight North Coast Section Division I title in rainy and muddy conditions at Hayward High School on Nov. 23.

Dublin took first with an outstanding score of 31 on the three-mile course. Its scorers in the 55-runner race were Justin Feng (third in 16 minutes, 9.5 seconds), Lucas Lipman (fourth, 16:13.2), Daniel Santhiapillai (seventh, 16:19.9), Zayaan Lalani (eighth, 16:36.4) and Tristan Gan (ninth, 16:46.2).

The Gaels qualified for the CIF State Championships on Nov. 30 at Woodward Park in Fresno.

In the NCS Division II boys race, both Amador Valley and Granada’s teams qualified for the state championships. Amador Valley placed third with a score of 76, and Granada placed fourth with 96.

The Dons were led by Sattvik Raju (seventh place, 16:18.1). Other Amador Valley scorers in the 153-runner race included Arran Gill Gulati (ninth, 16:22.3), Everett Wogsland (13th, 16:36.8), Aiden Versteeg (20th, 16:53.9) and Thomas Hekl (27th, 17:04.7).

Granada was paced by George Mikhael (third, 16:11.7). Other Granada scorers included Nicolai Barron (fifth, 16:15.5), Matthew Bertrand (24th, 17:00.9), Lucas Holbak (29th, 17:05.1) and Hastin

Chen (35th, 17:20.3).

In addition, Foothill’s Connor Buscho qualified for the state championships as an individual in the Division II boys race with an eighth-place finish in 16:19.5.

In the NCS Division I girls championship race, three Dublin runners qualified for the state championships as individuals. Melia Prenton led the way with an eighth-place finish (19:16.9), followed by Laasya Balupari (11th, 19:39.9) and Kiran Nayyar (14th, 19:49.6).

There were also a number of local individual state qualifiers in the NCS Division II girls championship race. Granada’s Sade Bumpus placed second in 17:56.7, followed by other state qualifiers Macy Mullins of Foothill (ninth,

18:50.5), Granada’s Abby Stein (12th, 19:01.1) and teammate Susie Beamon (14th, 19:09.9).

At the state championships on Nov. 30, the Division I girls race will start at 8:30 a.m., followed by the Division II girls (9 a.m.), Division I boys (9:30 a.m.) and Division II boys (10 a.m.) as part of the 10-race championships.

Girls tennis

The CIF NorCal Tournament was originally scheduled for Nov. 22-23, but was postponed until Dec. 3-4 at Broadstone Sports Club in Folsom. Dublin is scheduled to face Chico in the first round, with the winner facing the winner of Davis-Menlo in a semifinal, also on Dec. 3. The final is on Dec. 4.



Foothill outside hitter Kaitlyn Vogel (above) scored a team-best 12 service points during the NorCal Volleyball Regional championship on Nov. 19. Foothill won over visiting Redwood High and advanced to the state finals. [See photo gallery at independentnews.com/multimedia] (Photo — Doug Jorgensen)

Amador Valley Rushes to NCS Football Semifinal Victory

By Phil Jensen

An Amador Valley High School football team was led by a performance for the ages in a 38-29 victory over visiting Windsor in rainy and windy conditions on Nov. 22.

The Dons are headed to their first North Coast Section football championship game since 2004, and junior running back Ismael Duenas was a big part of the win over

Windsor. Duenas rushed for a game-high 249 yards for the second-seeded Dons.

“I can’t be happier,” said Duenas after the game. “I’m so happy for our seniors. We’re not done.”

The Dons (8-4) will face fourth-seeded Bishop O’Dowd Oakland (10-2) in the NCS Division II championship game at Dublin High School on Nov. 29 at 7 p.m. Bishop O’Dowd upset No.

1 seed Liberty-Brentwood 23-15 on Nov. 22.

In Amador Valley’s semifinal victory, Duenas scored two touchdowns, including the game-clincher with 1 minute, 50 seconds to play. He carried the ball 30 times, including 20 times in the second half.

“He was running through guys. He was a warrior tonight,” said Amador Valley coach Danny Jones. “We

always have confidence in our offensive line and Duenas. Duenas has been running really, really hard the last three, four weeks.”

It was apparent early last week that the semifinal game might be played in wet and windy conditions. The Dons were prepared, as they attempted only one pass attempt in the first half, on a two-point conversion, and led 24-21.

“We kind of talked all week that this might be one of those games that we need to run the football,” said Jones. Besides a single two-point conversion pass, Amador Valley ran the ball 21 straight times to start the game, including 18 plays in the first half. “It was working and I didn’t want to call anything else,” Jones said.

Amador Valley scored first in the opening quarter on a 1-yard run by quarterback Tristan Tia and a two-point conversion run by Tia for an 8-0 lead. But Windsor, as it did consistently in the game, answered back with a touchdown of its own on a 3-yard run by Wyatt Morris to cut the lead to 8-6.

The Dons, who produced touchdowns on their first three drives, took a 16-6 first-quarter lead on a 37-yard run by Duenas and a two-point conversion pass from Tia to Aidan Foley.

Windsor (8-4) cut the lead to single digits on a one-yard run by Joran Herrugth, but the Dons boosted their lead to 24-13 on a 40-yard touchdown run up the middle by Vince Maiorana and a two-point conversion run by Duenas. Maiorana, a junior, finished with 70 rushing yards on five carries.

Windsor cut Amador Valley’s advantage to 24-21 with 3:13 left in the first half on a 34-yard pass from Carter Vose III to Blayke Ferronato and a two-point conversion pass by Vose. That remained the score until near the final two minutes of the third quarter.

Amador Valley then moved 82 yards in just seven plays to score on a 4-yard run by Maiorana and a two-point conversion run by

Anthony Harrington. Windsor answered again with a 31-yard touchdown run by Herrugth and a two-point conversion run by Morris, and Amador Valley held a slim 32-29 lead entering the fourth quarter.

The Dons got some breathing room on their final drive of the game. The team moved the ball 60 yards, with Duenas carrying the ball six straight times, including a 7-yard touchdown burst with 1:50 remaining. Windsor threw four straight incomplete passes from the Amador Valley 44 to end the game.

In an NCS Division IV semifinal game on Nov. 22, No. 3 seed Granada fell to No. 2 American Canyon 45-12. Granada finished its season with a 7-5 record.



Amador Valley junior Ismael Duenas rushed for 249 yards and scored two touchdowns in the NCS semifinal win over visiting Windsor on Nov. 22. The Dons advance to the Division II final on Nov. 29, facing Bishop O’Dowd at Dublin High School. [See photo gallery at independentnews.com/multimedia] (Photo — Doug Jorgensen)

Bankhead to Host Premiere of Kathak Dance Program

The Leela Dance Collective, a Los Angeles-based touring kathak dance company, will premier its “Encounters with Beauty” program at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore on April 19.

The program pairs traditional kathak dance and classical Hindustani vocals with a contemporary chamber

music score by Indian American composer Reena Esmail. Kathak is an Indian dance form with dancers using hand and body movements and facial expressions to tell a story.

“The creative process (for “Encounters with Beauty”) has pushed us outside of our comfort zone and fueled experimentation and innovation

within our form of kathak dance,” said Rukhmani Mehta, co-artistic director for the Leela Dance Collective.

“This production combines and celebrates contemporary and classical genres of dance and music, bringing together artists and audiences across cultures and communities,” Mehta

added. “My hope is that together we create a transcendent experience that demonstrates the universality of music and dance.”

Tickets for the 8 p.m. performance start at \$45, with discounts for students and active members of the military, and are available online at livermorearts.org.



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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 610232 The following person(s) doing business as: Lily Skin Care Studio, 4230 Rosewood Dr, Suite 117, Pleasanton, CA 94588 is	hereby registered by the following owner(s): Lilya Bendjedid, 4230 Rose Dr, Suite 117, 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: 10/23/2024. Signature of Registrant/s/:	trans/s/: Lilya Bendjedid, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 24, 2024. Expires October 23, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6178. Published November 7, 14, 21, 28, 2024.	FILE NO. 610122 The following person(s) doing business as: Binge Coffee House, 2199 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, CA 94720 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Boba Binge, 1004 Webster St, Oakland, CA 94607. 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/: Minh Nguyen, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 21, 2024. Expires October 20, 2029. The Independent, Legal	No. 6179. Published November 7, 14, 21, 28, 2024. FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 610133 The following person(s) doing business as: New Water Labs, 1130 65th Street Unit 301, Oakland, CA 94608 is hereby
registered by the following owner(s): Very Good Technology Inc., 1130 65th Street Unit 301, Oakland CA 94608. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 10/21/2024. Signature of Reg-	istrant/s/: Bradley S. Roan, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 22, 2024. Expires October 21, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6180. Published November 7, 14, 21, 28, 2024.	FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 610133 The following person(s) doing business as: New Water Labs, 1130 65th Street Unit 301, Oakland, CA 94608 is hereby	registered by the following owner(s): Very Good Technology Inc., 1130 65th Street Unit 301, Oakland CA 94608. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 10/21/2024. Signature of Reg-		

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FILE NO. 610273

The following person(s) doing business as: Weslo's, 2825 McArthur Blvd, Oakland, CA 94602 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): W Food Co LLC, 2807 MacArthur Blvd, Oakland, CA 94602. 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: Willis Yu, Manager. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 25, 2024. Expires October 24, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6181. Published November 7, 14, 21, 28, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 610341

The following person(s) doing business as: Pressure Bright, 31338 Santa Elena Way, Union City, CA 94587 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Benjamin G. Brillo, 31338 Santa Elena Way, Union City, CA 94587. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s: Benjamin G. Brillo, Owner/Operator. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 29, 2024. Expires October 28, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6182. Published November 7, 14, 21, 28, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 610265

The following person(s) doing business as: Blown Away, 516 Jayar Place, Hayward, CA 94544 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Ryan Hartsinck, 516 Jayar Place, Hayward, CA 94544. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s: Ryan Hartsinck, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 25, 2024. Expires October 24, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6183. Published November 7, 14, 21, 28, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 610390

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Nueva, 2. Xolo; 3. New Vintage Beverage, 2553 6th St, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): New Vintage Beverage LLC, 2553 6th St, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 5/2024. Signature of Registrant/s: Mario Rubio, Manager. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 31, 2024. Expires October 30, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6184. Published November 7, 14, 21, 28, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 610325

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Imperial Star Empire; 2. Empiror; 3. Empress; 4. Emprix; 5. Emprix, 4075 Compton CT, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): John Marques Jr., 4075 Compton CT, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s: John Marques Jr., Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 28, 2029. Expires October 28, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6185. Published November 7, 14, 21, 28, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 609747

The following person(s) doing business as: Kosmetica, 2150 Portola Ave, D214, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Reveca Pareda, 2150 Portola Ave D214, 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: Reveca Pareda, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 4, 2024. Expires October 3, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6186. Published November 7, 14, 21, 28, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 608842

The following person(s) doing business as: JC Skye HR Consulting, 5690 W Cog Hill Terr, Dublin, CA 94568 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Judy Wu, 5690 W Cog Hill Terr, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 8/22/2024. Signature of Registrant/s: Judy Wu, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 22, 2024. Expires August 21, 2029. with legal No. 6098. Published September 5, 12, 19, 26, 2024. Alameda County letter# 289306. Corrected on The Independent with Legal No. 6187. Published November 7, 14, 21, 28, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS

NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 610114

The following person(s) doing business as: Pharmacy Shop, 3809 Boulder Canyon Dr., Castro Valley, CA 94552 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Mark John-Yung Lin, 3809 Boulder Canyon Dr., Castro Valley, CA 94552. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 9/2/2024. Signature of Registrant/s: Mark Lin, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 21, 2024. Expires October 20, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6188. Published November 14, 21, 28, December 5, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 610446

The following person(s) doing business as: Rocca Audiovisual, 45274 Industrial Dr., Fremont, CA 94538 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): The Rocca Group LLC, 45274 Industrial Dr., Fremont, CA 94538. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 7/26/2019. Signature of Registrant/s: Jessica Rocca, Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 4, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6189. Published November 14, 21, 28, December 5, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 610433

The following person(s) doing business as: Takimori Collections, 24842 Sinclair St, Hayward, CA 94545 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Huang Hua, P.O. Box 12, Hayward, CA 94557. 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: Huang Hua, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 4, 2024. Expires November 3, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6190. Published November 14, 21, 28, December 5, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 610296

The following person(s) doing business as: Bella Roma Pizzeria, 853 E. Stanley Blvd, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Nijjar Family LLC, 853 E. Stanley Blvd, 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: 10/25/2024. Signature of Registrant/s: Palwinder Singh, Manager. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 25, 2024. Expires October 24, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6191. Published November 14, 21, 28, December 5, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 610450

The following person(s) doing business as: Elevate Property Management Professionals, 22253 N 6th St, Castro Valley, CA 94546 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Good Doge LLC, 22253 N 6th St, Castro Valley, CA 94546. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 11/1/2024. Signature of Registrant/s: Frank Lee, Principal. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 4, 2024. Expires November 3, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6192. Published November 14, 21, 28, December 5, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 610400

The following person(s) doing business as: Professional Integrity Taxes, 301 Earhart Way, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Julie Ann Rost, 301 Earhart 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: Julie Ann Rost, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 4, 2024. Expires October 3, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6193. Published November 14, 21, 28, December 5, 2024.

date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 2/14/2024. Signature of Registrant/s: Julie Ann Rost, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 1, 2024. Expires October 31, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6193. Published November 14, 21, 28, December 5, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 610475

The following person(s) doing business as: Vargas Mechanical Services, Inc., 3573 First St, Suite A, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Vargas Mechanical Services, Inc., 3573 First St, Suite A, 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: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s: Taurino Vargas, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 5, 2024. Expires November 4, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6194. Published November 14, 21, 28, December 5, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 610307

The following person(s) doing business as: Amador Cleaners, 1787 Santa Rita Rd, Pleasanton, CA 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Prime Cleaners, 1739 W. San Carlos St, Pleasanton, CA 94566. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s: Yongjae Ham, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 28, 2024. Expires October 27, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6195. Published November 14, 21, 28, December 5, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 610337

The following person(s) doing business as: BGG Publications LLC, 4971 Hollice Court, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): BGG Publications LLC, 4971 Hollice Court, 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: 10/29/2024. Signature of Registrant/s: Electra Gentry, Principal. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 29, 2024. Expires October 28, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6196. Published November 14, 21, 28, December 5, 2024.

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME ORIGINAL FILE NO. 609616

The person(s) listed below have abandoned the use of the following fictitious business name(s). 1. Imperial Star Empire, Incorporated; 2. Incorporated; 3. Empress; 4. Emprix; 5. Emprix, 4075 Compton CT, Livermore, CA 94550. Registered by the following owner(s): Imperial Star Empire, Inc., 4075 Compton CT, Livermore, CA 94550. The fictitious business name statement was filed on 09/30/2024 in the County of Alameda. This business was conducted by a Corporation. Signature of Registrants: /s/ John Marques, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 29, 2024. The Independent, Legal No. 6197. Published November 14, 21, 28, December 5, 2024.

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF:

CASEY JOSEPH GRADWOHL
Case No. 24PR198447
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of **CASEY JOSEPH GRADWOHL**. A Petition for Probate has been filed by: **Cynthia Gradwohl**, in the Superior Court of California, County of Santa Clara. The petition for probate requests that **Cynthia Gradwohl** be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. The petition requests

authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority. A hearing on the petition will be held in this court as follows:

December 18, 2024
9:01 am in Dept. 1
Superior Court of California, County of Santa Clara
191 N First Street
San Jose, CA 95113

If you object to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney. If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California Law. You may examine the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (Form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

Attorney for Petitioner:
Jennifer E. Ramirez, Esq.
2021 The Alameda, Suite 225
San Jose, California 95126
The Independent, Legal No. 6198. Published November 21, 28, December 5, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 610006

The following person(s) doing business as: Suite Ladies, 4326 Las Positas Rd, Suite 101, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Brooke Cowens, 4326 Las Positas Rd, Suite 101, 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: Brooke Cowens, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 17, 2024. Expires October 16, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6199. Published November 21, 28, December 5, 12, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 610640

The following person(s) doing business as: PMI All Bay, 7026 Koll Center Parkway #211, Pleasanton, CA 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Reliance Property Management LLC, 7026 Koll Center Parkway #211, 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: 11/14/2024. Signature of Registrant/s: Najib Rahmati, Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 14, 2024. Expires November 13, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6200. Published November 21, 28, December 5, 12, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 610526

The following person(s) doing business as: Vending Merchant Trade Inc, 1151 Saddleview CT, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Vending Merchant Trade Inc, 1151 Saddleview CT, 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: 8/26/2024. Signature of Registrant/s: Darshan Dixit, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 7, 2024. Expires November 6, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6201. Published November 21, 28, December 5, 12, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 610443

The following person(s) doing business as: Bloom's n Such, 638 Dover Wy, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Nicole Campiotti, 638 Dover Wy, 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: Nicole Campiotti, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 4, 2024. Expires November 3, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6202. Published November 21, 28, December 5, 12, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 602088

The following person(s) doing business as: Commercial Maintenance Management Services, 4261 Moreland Drive, Castro Valley, CA 94546 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Alberto Giannecchini, 4261 Moreland Drive, Castro Valley, CA 94546. 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: 9/15/2024. Signature of Registrant/s: Elle McDougald, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 18, 2024. Expires October 17, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6207. Published November 28, December 5, 12, 19, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 610554

The following person(s) doing business as: Skin Evolution Esthetics and Body Bar, 30 W Neal St, Suite 200, Pleasanton, CA 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Lindsey Sauter, 2150 Portola Avenue Ste D #2048, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 11/1/2024. Signature of Registrant/s: Lindsey Sauter, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 8, 2024. Expires November 7, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6204. Published November 21, 28, December 5, 12, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 610566

The following person(s) doing business as: Becky's Blooming Buds Daycare, 779 William Drive, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Jinhua Nie, 779 William Drive, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s: Jinhua Nie, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 14, 2024. Expires November 13, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6209. Published November 21, 28, December 5, 12, 2024.

ment was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 12, 2024. Expires November 11, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6205. Published November 21, 28, December 5, 12, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 610577

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Replenish; 2. Replenish Marketplace; 3. Replenish Refill; 4. Replenish grocery; 5. Replenish Goods; 6. Replenish Market, 1503 Webster Street, Alameda, CA 94501 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Nursing The Planet LLC, 3030 Fernside Blvd, Alameda, CA 94501. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 4/12/2024. Signature of Registrant/s: Laria Phippen, Owner, Principal. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 12, 2024. Expires November 11, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6206. Published November 21, 28, December 5, 12, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 610045

The following person(s) doing business as: Jell Design Studio, 1077 Cragmont Ave, Berkeley, CA 94708 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Elle McDougald, 1079 Cragmont Ave, Berkeley, CA 94708. 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: 9/15/2024. Signature of Registrant/s: Elle McDougald, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 18, 2024. Expires October 17, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6207. Published November 28, December 5, 12, 19, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 610654

The following person(s) doing business as: The Space Between Counseling Services, 2150 Portola Avenue Ste D #2048, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Lindsey Sauter, 2150 Portola Avenue Ste D #2048, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 11/1/2024. Signature of Registrant/s: Lindsey Sauter, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 15, 2024. Expires November 14, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6208. Published November 28, December 5, 12, 19, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 610674

The following person(s) doing business as: Guns Unlimited Repair, 8035 Iglesia Dr, Dublin, CA 94568 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Mike Grant, 8035 Iglesia Dr, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 9/15/1977. Signature of Registrant/s: Mike Grant, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 18, 2024. Expires November 17, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6209. Published November 21, 28, December 5, 12, 2024.

November 28, December 5, 12, 19, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 610427

The following person(s) doing business as: Kaashi Bazaar, 4225 Garibaldi PL, Pleasanton, CA 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Mishita Anil, 4225 Garibaldi PL, Pleasanton, CA 94566. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s: Mishita Anil, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 4, 2024. Expires November 3, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6210. Published November 28, December 5, 12, 19, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 610684

The following person(s) doing business as: Omegachiro Heals, 1474 Buena Vista Ave, Livermore, CA 94550-9630 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Christina Danskin, 1474 Buena Vista Ave, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s: Christina Omega Danskin, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 18, 2024. Expires November 17, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6211. Published November 28, December 5, 12, 19, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 610688

The following person(s) doing business as: Level Up Wellness and Physical Therapy, Inc., 3645 Grand Ave, Suite 203, Oakland, CA 94610 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Level Up Wellness and Physical Therapy, Inc., 3645 Grand Ave, Suite 203, Oakland, CA 94610. 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: 4/2021. Signature of Registrant/s: Hilary Nakao, Owner/Secretary. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 18, 2024. Expires November 17, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6212. Published November 28, December 5, 12, 19, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 610744

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Ms. Livermore; 2. Ms. Livermore Real Estate, 1772 5th Street, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Ikonn Inc., 1772 5th Street, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 12/1/23. Signature of Registrant/s: Bella Martinez, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 20, 2024. Expires November 19, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6213. Published November 28, December 5, 12, 19, 2024.

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