

Dublin School District Secures Teacher Raises

By Ron McNicoll

After an on-again, off-again delay, Dublin teachers welcomed the raise that the district ratified on May 11, thanks to an agreement between Gov. Gavin Newsom and the Legislature.

The school board passed it with unanimous approval at its June 30 virtual meeting. Effective July 1, 2020, the salary schedule shall be improved by 3.125%, the major pay raise in the contract.

Some of the teachers’ pay boost is retroactive to earlier dates. For example, teachers will get a 0.5% salary schedule improvement, and there will be a one-time, off schedule payment — a bonus — equal to 0.5% of that person’s base salary for the 2019/20 school year.

The raise agreement, however, saw a shaky start. Back in January, Newsom’s initial budget message looked like it would have enough money to cover a pay increase in the district. But after COVID-19 struck in March, plummeting state revenues forced Newsom to cut so much from the state’s school budget that Dublin’s promised raises were rejected 3-2 by the board.

The majority board members — President Dan Cherrier and trustees Gabi Blackman and Catherine Kuo — stated the new state budget reality was too challenging to support a raise at

(See DUBLIN, page 9)

Remembering A Local Icon



Barry Schrader

A newspaper icon and longtime Livermore resident Barry Schrader recently died at the age of 79, leaving behind the memory of a man who helped shape the Tri-Valley.

An editor role at Floyd Sparks’s Herald & News first brought the Illinois native to the area in 1967. His back-and-forth printed word spars with The Independent only fueled what he called the “newspaper wars.”. He later referred to it as the “best time of my career, facing head-to-head competition both with the Indy and with the Times” — as Schrader wrote in a piece published for The Independent’s 50th anniversary magazine. (Read his full article at https://bit.ly/Indy_50th.)

Those at The Independent recalled how Schrader first came in as an opponent, and later transformed into a mentor and ally.

Joan Seppala, Publisher of The Independent, met with Schrader regularly on his visits back to the Tri-Valley after he retired.

“His willingness to review the history of the Tri-Valley in the context of his underlying values, rather than just a defense

(See ICON, page 6)



A vegetation fire south of I-580 between the Portola overpass and North Livermore burned on Thursday morning, July 2. The fire was contained to mostly grassland, but damaged a majestic Valley Oak tree in the pasture where it raged. For more on recent fires, see page 3. (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)

Bauer-Kahan Takes Position on State Bills

By Dawnmarie Fehr

Approximately 300 bills are currently pending on the state’s legislative floor. Bauer-Kahan has taken a strong position on many, including her own bill, AB 2626, aimed at closing the digital divide.

“One in five California students, which is approximately 1.2 million kids, lack broadband or a computer to access distance learning,” said Bauer-Kahan. “We must do everything in our power to end the unjust inequity of the digital divide and ensure we support all of our students.”

Bauer-Kahan’s bill will create the “Bridging the Digital Divide Grant Program.”

Dr. Kelly Bowers, superintendent of the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District (LVJUSD), said she fully supports a plan to bring computers and wifi access to students.

“As a district, when we moved to remote learning, we were able to loan 3,023 Chromebooks to our students in greatest need,” Bowers said. “Even with these efforts, we know of many families who are still struggling with internet access, and sit in cars and parking lots near schools, Starbucks or libraries in order to log on and access curriculum and essential learning opportunities.”

Bauer-Kahan also authored AB 2559, which creates oversight for non-bank, online lenders to protect consumers. She said due to

economic pressure, families dealing with unemployment often seek new lines of credit to stay afloat. This bill will provide quick access to restitution for losses.

“What’s alarming is that currently, there are few to no protections for consumers harmed by non-bank online lenders,” Bauer-Kahan noted. “My AB 2559 authorizes the Department of Business Oversight to recover money for consumers harmed by these non-bank lenders. It is imperative, especially during the COVID-19 crisis, that we are protecting consumers from bad acting lenders.”

This year’s ballot will contain 12 initiatives for which Californians can vote. Bauer-Kahan took

(See BAUER-KAHAN, page 10)

COVID-19 Infections and Death at Livermore VA

By Heather Brewer

A spokesperson for the Department of Veterans Affairs Sierra Pacific Network recently confirmed that the Livermore Community Living Center (CLC) is experiencing an outbreak of COVID-19.

“The Livermore Community Living Center (CLC) is investigating 16 residents and 15 employees who have recently tested positive for COVID-19,” said Armenthis Lester, the network’s chief communication manager. “The veterans who tested positive have been transferred to the Palo Alto VA hospital for care. To date, one Livermore CLC veteran has died due to COVID-19 complications.

According to Lester, employees exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms are immediately isolated to prevent potential spread to others, per CDC guidance and VA protocols.

“Currently, all Livermore CLC residents and staff are tested for COVID-19 every three to four days,” Lester said. “Our employee occupational health team is assisting in tracking employee movements within the CLC to prevent further spread of the disease. This ‘track and trace’ approach is an infection control and prevention standard operating procedure any time we identify a staff member who tests positive.”

In the statement from the VA, Lester said the Livermore CLC continues to use personal protection equipment (PPE) in accordance with CDC guidelines; all employees have the appropriate PPE.

“Per CDC guidance and VA protocols, anyone who enters the Livermore CLC is screened for COVID-19,” Lester said. “Additionally, the CLC has implemented a universal masking policy for staff and residents. Those who do not have a mask are provided one.”

However, an employee who would only speak on the condition of anonymity said that more could have been done to prevent the outbreak.

“We got no personal protective equipment (PPE) until the end of April, and even now, the hospital is not providing anyone with N95 masks at all,” said the employee. “I was at work very recently, and I saw at least one employee and three patients without masks. This spread of infection could have been prevented if they had required masks sooner and at least tried to

(See VA, page 7)

Lawrence Livermore Lab Director Goldstein to Retire

Bill Goldstein announced his retirement as director of Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) on Tuesday.

Goldstein, who also serves as president of Lawrence Livermore National Security, LLC, has held the lab’s top position since he became the lab’s 12th director in March 2014.

“It is an immense honor to serve as director of this unique, exceptional institution,” said Goldstein, who will step down after a successor is selected. “I have been privileged throughout my career to work alongside great scientists, engineers, technicians and administrators who have devoted their estimable talents to our critical missions. The lab has demonstrated again and again its ability to contribute to solving the biggest problems, and I am confident it will continue to serve the nation with new ideas.”

Goldstein’s career at LLNL spans more than 36 years. He started in the Physics Directorate working on diverse national security and science programs before taking on roles of increasing responsibility in senior management.

Goldstein’s announcement comes at a time of increasingly strained international affairs and renewed interest in nuclear deterrence. It also comes at a time of tremendous growth at LLNL.

At the time Goldstein was appointed director six years ago, the lab stood at approximately 6,000 employees with a \$1.5 billion budget. Today, the lab’s workforce numbers 7,400 employees and a \$2.3 billion budget.

“Bill always has approached everything he does at the lab with diligence and intelligence,” said Lisa Gordon-Hagerty, U.S. Department of Energy’s Under Secretary for Nuclear Security and NNSA Administrator.

Also a former colleague of Goldstein’s, Gordon-Hagerty worked at LLNL prior to joining the federal government.

“Bill’s passion for the Lab’s missions and his dedication to the work-force are unquestionable,” she continued. “We thank him for his service to this nation.”

Under his tenure, the

(See GOLDSTEIN, page 3)

On COVID-19
Tri-Valley’s Confirmed Cases Below County Average

By Tony Kukulich

While health officials tapped the brakes last week on Alameda County’s reopening schedule, the Tri-Valley’s cities show rates well below the county average.

Alameda County is reporting a COVID-19 case rate of 408.5 confirmed cases per 100,000 residents. However, the case rates reported by city vary widely. Rates in the Tri-Valley are below the county average. Livermore’s rate of 231.7 is the highest in the Tri-Valley followed by Pleasanton at 162.4 and Dublin at 101.2. There are no cases reported in Sunol. Hayward has the highest case rate in the county at 693.1 infections per 100,000 residents.

Currently, the county is reporting 6,887 confirmed COVID-19 infections and 140 related deaths. The county ranks sixth in the state based on the total number of cases. Only one other Bay Area county, Santa Clara, is in the top 10. The county ranks seventh in the state for deaths related to COVID-19 behind Santa Clara, which has reported 161.

Last week’s paused reopening announcement came amid souring trends in the indicators used to track

progress toward slowing the spread of COVID-19 infections in the county.

“Given recent increases in COVID-19 cases and hospitalization rates in our county and region, we are temporarily pausing our reopening plans,” wrote Neetu Balram, public information manager for Alameda County Public Health Department (ACPHD). “This means extending the timeline for the next phase of reopening in Alameda County and pulling back our request for the board of supervisors to support a variance attestation on June 30.”

Indoor dining, barber

(See COVID-19, page 7)

Property Owners Continue Pushback Over Wall Construction Expenses in Livermore

By Aly Brown

When it comes to a wall in Livermore, a handful of residents and the city remain quite divided.

At least seven property owners impacted by the Holmes Street wall replacement program have refused to sign the city lien and right-of-entry documents presented by city staff, according to attorney Peter MacDonald. The City of Livermore issued a compliance order May 27, which a group of residents appealed in the following weeks. But MacDonald — working with Pam and Kirk Pope,

MacDonald said. “The difference is, if you wait until there’s an abatement order, which staff says you have to do, at that point the appellant is subject to \$100 per day in accumulating fines while the appeal is pending; (the appellant is not entitled to an impartial hearing officer. And if he loses, he pays the entire city cost of the appeal.”

In response, City Attorney Jason Alcalá pointed to current city Ordinance No. 2096, an ordinance regarding neighborhood nuisance abatement in the Livermore

(See WALL, page 6)



William Goldstein, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory director, announced his retirement Tuesday, July 7, after a career of more than 36 years at the Lab. (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)



PET OF THE WEEK

Max is a spry senior Cocker Spaniel mix. While aged 9 years and completely deaf, he still delights in a good walk, a good scratch and chewing on his beloved tennis ball. Valley Humane Society remains closed during shelter-in-place, but it is coordinating adoptions by appointment with approved adopters. If you are interested in adopting Max, email info@valleyhumane.org. (Photo - Valley Humane Society / E. Scholz)

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Livermore Wine Country Finding Ways to Thrive Through COVID-19

By Dawnmarie Fehr

The wine industry’s roots run deep in the Livermore Valley – hopefully deep enough to weather the current economic storm.

Despite the challenges of staying in business through COVID-19, the area’s wineries remain optimistic for the future. Chris Chandler, executive director of the Livermore Valley Winegrowers Association (LVWA), reported that while things may be tough now, the area wineries will pull through.

“We have too much agricultural and viticulture history and have survived prohibition and economic downturn in the past,” Chandler said when speaking of the challenges facing wineries and all small businesses now. “I think the people of this valley will push forward. I’m optimistic. Things are beyond challenging right now, but I think there’s too much history and too much dedication and heart in this valley to not believe that all of that will certainly carry us forward.”

Though indoor tasting rooms remain closed, some wineries have pivoted their offerings by adding a food option, which allows them to open for outdoor dining. Cuda Ridge Wines has partnered with local food trucks to offer a meal with a pour.

“We are doing by-the-bottle service on our patio by reservation,” said proprietor and winemaker Larry Dino. “We have been totally booked, so business has been really good since we

have been able to reopen.”

Diners are seated at spaced-out tables on the patio, and facemasks are required until customers reach their seats. The process is somewhat controlled to minimize risk created by extra people walking around. Waiters only bring bottles to avoid return trips for refills, and tables are sanitized between seatings.

At Las Positas Vineyards, winemaker Brent Amos has rebooted on-site food preparation to create a charcuterie plate with a flight of five wines. He said his tables are filled with smiling faces.

“Things are going well,” said Amos. “We have had good feedback from the customers and a good turnout. We are taking every precaution we can take with spacing and sanitation and so forth, but so far, a lot of people are just happy to be out.”

For wineries with the ability to create an outdoor dining space, or those who had one already, things have begun to look up. But not all wineries have that capability.

Heather McGrail of McGrail Vineyards noted she continues to offer curbside pickup, deliveries to SIP club members and virtual tasting events.

“We are running different specials right now, but our staff is slim, and we are doing everything we can to get our wines into the homes of our customers,” she said. “We are about 40% down in sales. Our costs are down as well, but we are really hop-

ing that we will be open by August.”

McGrail added the requirements for offering outdoor dining are not feasible for her business at the time.

“We are still going to pull through on the other side of this 100%; now is just when we really get to sink our teeth in and get more creative,” McGrail said. “That is the silver lining of this, the creativity all the local businesses have come up with.”

At Big White House Winery and John Evan Cellars, Jessica Carrol said business is also down. While they do not currently have a plan to offer dining options, that may change in the future.

“We are doing ok, June was a little rough, but we are surviving for now,” Carroll said. “We are reevaluating every four to six weeks to see how we can change and adapt and survive.”

She said the business is focusing on preparations to reopen as soon as they are allowed by the county. They currently offer curbside pickup and delivery of their wines, as well as virtual tasting events.

At Wente Vineyards, senior brand manager and fifth-generation winegrower Aly Wente reported her family’s business now focuses on getting wine to customers for virtual events. Both the Wente tasting locations are closed, but the golf course is open.

“We have several virtual tasting experiences that are going really well,” Wente said. “We invite wine-lovers to try our Virtual Tasting



Grapes hang at the Ghielmetti Vineyard in East Livermore Valley. (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)

Experience through Alexa Echo and Google Home ... the tasting walks you through the history of the brand and family, and taste through Wente Vineyards Morning Fog Chardonnay, Riva Ranch Chardonnay and Southern Hills Cabernet Sauvignon.”

As the number of positive coronavirus cases fluctuates and Alameda County continues to revise its reopening strategy, Livermore Valley wineries will work to keep their customers safe and stocked from a distance.

“I think everyone is having to make very difficult decisions right now,” Chandler said. “No one is untouched by the pandemic, but if history is any indicator, this valley still has a big, long history in front of it.”

LVWA is located at 3585 Greenville Road, Suite 4, in Livermore. For more information, call 925-447-

9463 or visit <https://www.lvwine.org/>.

Cuda Ridge Wines is located at 2400 Arroyo Road in Livermore. For more information, call 510-304-0914 or visit www.cudaridgewines.com.

Las Positas Winery is located at 1828 Wetmore Road in Livermore. For more information, call 925-449-9463 or visit www.laspositasvineyards.com.

McGrail Vineyards is located at 5600 Greenville Road in Livermore. For

more information, call 925-215-0717 or visit www.mcgrailvineyards.com.

Big White House Winery and John Evan Cellars is located at 6800 Greenville Road in Livermore. For more information, call 925-449-1976 or visit www.bigwhitehouse.com.

Wente Vineyards’ golf course is located at 5040 Arroyo Road in Livermore. For more information, call 925-456-2305 or visit www.wentevineyards.com.

Local Democrats Support Criminal Penalties for Corporate Execs

The TriValley Democratic Club has adopted a resolution calling for state and federal legislation to “hold corporate individuals criminally responsible for decisions that endanger the public whether they be deliberate or through negligence.”

The resolution, adopted last month, accuses corporations of producing “un-

safe products and services ... that harm the physical, mental and financial health of our society.”

As evidence, it cites opioid abuse, price gouging on personal protective equipment during the COVID-19 pandemic, unsafe airplanes, vaping marketed to children, private information “sold to those who rig our elections,” defective airbags in automo-

biles, California wildfires that were blamed on PG&E and killed 84 people, and banks committing “mortgage fraud” and “leaving kids to live in cars.”

Although it acknowledges that corporations have been fined, the resolution claims that no corporate executives have gone to jail for their misconduct. The resolution adds that

“corporate fines have not been sufficient in changing the criminal behavior of corporate decision makers because they have not been held personally and criminally responsible for their actions.”

In a news release, the Democratic Club said it supports state legislation that would apply to “all those doing business” in California, and federal legislation that would apply to “all corporations and executives doing business in this country.”

“The only real deterrent to corporate criminality is real jail time for those who put profit before safety, health, privacy and the environment,” according to the news release. “Those who knowingly do harm because of a financial incentive must face justice and let a jury decide if what they did is deserving of prison time.”



Seen here at J & R Sports Supply, a gun shop in downtown Livermore, the sign instructs patrons to not wear a mask upon entry. When contacted by a reporter, the sales associate who answered the phone hung up. (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)

Clarification

A story about the June 30 meeting of the Dublin Unified School District (DUSD) board said that Daniel Moirao was offered the title of superintendent, replacing Dave Marken, who announced his resignation on June 23. Marken is still the district’s superintendent, but he gave a 60-day notice, and his term will expire Aug. 22.

Moirao was offered the title of “acting superintendent,” provided that both the board and Moirao agree to the contract. That decision was to be made at the board’s meeting July 7, after The Independent’s deadline.

The board reorganization meeting that elected Megan Rouse as board vice president was held Dec. 17, 2019.

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HOUSING AUTHORITY ANNOUNCES AN OPPORTUNITY TO BE PLACED ON THE PROJECT BASED WAIT LIST FOR FAMILIES WHO ARE HOMELESS

Livermore Housing Authority announces an opportunity to be placed on the Chestnut Square Family Project Based Voucher Waiting List for families who are homeless. A maximum of 200 applicants that qualify for this preference will be placed on Wait List.

Homeless criteria applies to applicants who:

Lacks fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, meaning:

- I. Has a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not meant for human habitation;
- II. Is living in a publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangements (including congregate shelters, transitional housing, and hotels/motels paid for by charitable organizations or by federal, state and local government programs); or
- III. Is exiting an institution where (s)he has resided for 90 days or less and who resided in an emergency shelter or place not meant for human habitation immediately before entering that institution.

Beginning July 15, 2020 you may download the Pre-Application and Referral form from our website at www.livermoreha.org, or pick up an application referral packet at the Livermore Housing Authority, 3203 Leahy Way, Livermore, CA 94550, between 8:30am and 4:30pm, Monday thru Friday.

APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED STARTING MONDAY JULY 20, 2020 8:30AM UNTIL THURSDAY JULY 23, 2020 4:30PM.

Applications should be mailed or dropped off to Livermore Housing Authority Attn: Chestnut Waitlist 3203 Leahy Way Livermore, CA 94550
Email to: apply@livermoreha.org
Application packet must include, Verification/Referral Form from Homeless Referral Agency.

APPLICATIONS/REFERRALS SUBMITTED WITHOUT THIS INFORMATION WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

TDD 1-800-545-1833 x917



A grass fire on the south side of I-580, between the Greenville and North Flynn exits, burned on Sunday, July 5. Two eastbound lanes were blocked and westbound traffic slowed. Many agencies arrived to help, including Alameda County Fire Department, Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department, Camp Parks Fire and Emergency Services, and Cal Fire. (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)

Historic Preservation Commission to Hold Public Hearings

Livermore’s Historic Preservation Commission will hold a special meeting this week, July 9, for public hearings relating to an historic remodel and land-use regulations.

One hearing will consider a Certificate of Appropriateness to allow a remodel and 5,153-square-foot expansion of an existing congregation building on the St. Charles Borromeo Church campus.

Since the structure is over 50 years old, modifications to the congregation building require approval of a Certificate of Appropriateness.

The second hearing will consider establishing land-use regulations for the development of a complete transit-oriented neighborhood in the area surrounding the proposed Valley Link station in the median of Interstate 580, east of

Isabel Avenue. The plan would allow up to 4,095 new multifamily housing units and approximately 2.1 million square-feet of net new nonresidential uses. The plan also includes three new neighborhood parks, multiuse trails, and pedestrian and bike facilities.

The Historic Preservation Commission will provide advisory comments on the plan’s im-

pacts to potential historic resources, including but not limited to, the Gandolfo Ranch described below, and any plan policies related to historic resource preservation.

The meeting will take place virtually at 7 p.m., via Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89620247859>. Zoom dial in phone number: 669-900-9128; Meeting ID: 896 2024 7859

GOLDSTEIN

(Continued from first page)



William Goldstein

lab acquired several of the world’s fastest supercomputers. It became a leader in additive manufacturing and developed and constructed the High-Repetition-Rate Advanced Petawatt Laser System (HAPLS), the world’s most advanced and highest average power diode-pumped laser. During his time, the lab also provided the optical assemblies — one of them the world’s largest optical lens ever assembled — for the Large Synoptic Survey Telescope. Furthermore, it published “Getting to Neutral,” a groundbreaking study on how California could achieve carbon neutrality.

Research on the National Ignition Facility, the world’s most energetic

laser, also made significant progress toward fusion ignition, while providing insight into stockpile science that could not be achieved through previous weapons testing.

Improvements were made to safety and security across the main site, as well as Site 300. On-site, the lab saw construction of new facilities as well as improvements to infrastructure.

Goldstein steered the lab through the workforce challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, with nearly three-quarters of the workforce telecommuting.

The lab has also made key contributions in the fight against the disease, including emergency ven-

tilators fabricated from off-the-shelf parts; using additive manufacturing as a viable option for fabricating nasal swabs; studying ways to reuse protective masks and face coverings; developing diagnostics for COVID-19 testing; and providing predicted structures of a key COVID-19 viral protein to help the research community accelerate development of potential medical treatments.

Goldstein began his career as a postdoctoral research associate with the Theoretical Physics Group at the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center. He received his doctorate in theoretical physics from Columbia University in New York and a bachelor’s degree in physics from Swarthmore College in Pennsylvania.

He is a fellow of the American Physical Society and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He’s received numerous awards and authored or co-authored more than 70 papers in the fields of elementary particle theory, nuclear physics, atomic physics, X-ray physics and plasma spectroscopy.

A national search for the next laboratory director will be led by the University of California for the LLNS partnership.

New Parks Hours Linked To Rising, Setting Sun

The Livermore Area Recreation and Park District has adopted an ordinance that links the open hours for parks and other districts facilities to the rising and setting sun, rather than the clock.

The new ordinance, which goes into effect July

24, set the hours of operation for all district facilities, parklands and trails from sunrise to a half hour after sunset, except for lighted sports facilities that are open 10:30 p.m.

Under the current ordinance, parks and trails are closed from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m.

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EDITORIAL

County Health Officer's Virus Response Met the Moment

Dr. Erica Pan resigned as Alameda County's interim health officer last week and will head to Sacramento. She was tapped by Gov. Gavin Newsom to help lead the state health department's COVID-19 response.

We applaud the appointment of Pan to the post of State Epidemiologist and Deputy Director for the Center for Infectious Diseases at the California Department of Public Health.

We are confident the physician's expertise and principled dedication to public health will go far to help protect the citizens of our state from the threat of COVID-19 and other preventable infectious diseases.

As interim health officer for Alameda County's health department, Pan's swift response likely saved thousands of lives. With a steady hand in the face of tremendous pressure and uncertainty, she helped the state's seventh most populous county avoid a public health catastrophe in the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The 49-year-old pediatric infectious disease specialist was part of a coordinated effort with the heads of six other Bay Area public health departments to issue the nation's first shelter-in-place order.

Pan continued to refine orders over time, mandating face coverings in public, introducing the concept of social bubbles, and adjusting reopening timelines relying on data indicators to measure

progress against the pandemic.

Pan earned the public's trust. In plain language, she effectively conveyed the gravity of the emergency to the county's diverse population of more than 1.6 million people.

With few exceptions the people abided health orders voluntarily with little in the way of enforcement.

The social-distancing rules, lockdowns of nonessential businesses, and face covering requirements are widely credited with "flattening the curve" giving the state time to expand its hospital capacity for additional waves of infections that could come.

Understandably, Alameda County's slow reopening caused some to debate the wisdom of continuing the lockdown here while neighboring counties moved more quickly to get their economies going again.

Halting commerce caused record-breaking job losses, widespread financial pain and hit hardest those who can least afford it, low-wage workers and small businesses.

Pan acknowledged the sacrifices, but insisted a safe reopening was critical for both public health and economic recovery.

Around the country, this spring anti-lockdown activism fueled by online conspiracy theories took on extreme and menacing forms. In Michigan, armed demonstrators in bulletproof vests and fatigues stormed the capitol building while the

legislature was in session carrying assault weapons in protest to that state's shelter-at-home order.

Back home, a vocal minority vilified Pan. County health officers in California have faced fierce backlash for lockdown orders, including death threats and protests outside their homes.

In a Twitter tantrum in early May, carmaker Tesla's mercurial CEO Elon Musk called Pan an "unelected and ignorant interim health officer." He threatened to move his headquarters and manufacturing from California if not allowed to immediately resume stalled operations at his company's Fremont car plant.

He called the health orders fascist, because the county health department wanted to verify it was safe for workers to return. The company's track record for workplace safety is notoriously spotty.

Musk's attempt to diminish Pan is despicable. The medical doctor is an expert in infectious disease and public health with more than two decades of experience. We are facing the most serious public health crisis in the last century. Much is being learned on the go. Pan charted a course for the county that was well-informed, decisive and science-based.

It is our collective responsibility to stop the pathogen. In the absence of a cure or vaccine, we must remain patient and nimble, and do what is reasonably possible to protect ourselves, our community and the most vulnerable among us.

MAILBOX

Opinions voiced in letters published in Mailbox are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of The Independent. Anonymous letters will not be published. All letters are required to have the name(s) of the person(s) submitting them, city of residence and phone number, for verification purposes. Abusive letters may be rejected or edited. Letters are subject to verification and may be edited for clarity at the discretion of the editor. We reserve the right to decide whether or not the letter will be published. Headings for all letters may be edited at the discretion of the editor to properly reflect their content. A headline will be added to letters received without one. Frequent letter writers may have publication of their letters delayed. Letters should be limited to 400 words or less and should be sent by email to letters@independentnews.com. To be considered, letters must be received by 6 pm on the Monday before publication. Changes to them can be made until 4 pm -Tuesday.

Racial Justice Subcommittee

Barbara Jean, Livermore

A broad public outreach is essential to the success of forming an effective racial justice committee. I'd like to see a website set up to facilitate an ongoing dialogue between the public, our police officers, public health workers, and panel members, where the public can present questions and concerns and be informed of any committee findings and possible actions. This ongoing dialogue could bring about a more familiar relationship between the public and police officers to help foster mutual trust and cooperation.

Has the number of panel members been determined? It should include diverse members representing the Black, Latino, Asian, White and all races living in the community, especially those who have had personal experience with the Livermore Police Department.

I applaud the mayor and council for seeing the need to form a racial justice subcommittee. I have a lot of questions I'd like to pose and expect many others have questions as well. Our police officers and city officials operate on our behalf. It is our responsibility to be as informed as possible to ensure they represent our values.

Community Debate Needed on Policing

Ward Kanowsky, Pleasanton

A June 14 online forum on Racial Inequity in City Governance and Policing provided an opportunity for an important community debate. The event, organized by Unify Livermore and moderated by Shana Peete from the Tri-Valley Non-Profit Alliance, was intended to encompass all of the Tri-Valley and include the mayors and police chiefs of Dublin, Livermore, and Pleasanton. Indeed, the Dublin and Livermore mayors and chiefs of police, as well as Alameda County Supervisor Scott Haggerty, participated in the forum. Pleasanton Councilwoman Julie Testa was also able to join.

However, Pleasanton's mayor and police chief missed a valuable opportunity to be part of this dialogue, and this presented very poor optics for our city. In addition, I came away with less information because of their absence.

For example, there was a very robust discussion regarding how social services can support the police department. This led to the sensitive topic of defunding police departments. I would have had some sense of where Pleasanton stands on this issue if our mayor and police chief had been present. As a board member on the Tri-Valley chapter of National Alliance on Mental Illness, Testa was able to speak extensively to how we address mental illness as a personal priority, but it was not a complete picture.

There will be more opportunities to have this discussion openly, with the citizens of Pleasanton present and engaged. At its June meeting, the Pleasanton City Council discussed conducting a town hall-style listening session on July 14 that would include a draft action plan on policing being developed by the city manager. I say, let us do it then!

Time to Cleanse Stain of Racism

Rick Edson, Livermore

I support the Black Lives Matter movement working to undo systemic racism in our country. Martin Luther King, Jr., in his famous "I

Have a Dream" speech, said "one day this nation will rise up, and live out the true meaning of its creed...that all men are created equal" and should be treated as such. The movement is now progressing to achieve this dream.

To deny that systemic racism is real is purposely to ignore our full history. We must consider more than the standard feel-good patriotic history we were taught in public school that celebrates America's many achievements, but overlooks our national failure: systemic racism.

One need only to take a cursory survey from our earliest history forward to see racism has been foundational in America. Consider the sequence from slavery, to abandoned Reconstruction, to sharecropping, to Jim Crow, to 4,000 lynchings (almost none of them investigated), to the separate-but-equal Supreme Court decision that legitimized racial segregation, to bombings of black houses of worship, to voting rights repressions (that persist to this day), to discriminatory lending practices in housing and red-lining neighborhoods, to disparate harsh disciplinary practices for students of color, to the routine practice of placing students of color in remedial classes, to the egregious public murder of George Floyd. (An unbroken string of atrocities committed against Black Americans and not even a complete listing.)

Throughout our history, America has tolerated systemic racism as normal. Only reflexive denial could keep one from recognizing the depth, degree and persistence of racism in America.

I want this current time of turmoil to lead America into the long-delayed conversation on race; and most importantly, reconciliation. At this moment it appears the nation is starting to face up to the problem. We should work in this moment to correct the stain of racism on our national conscience.

Livermore's Totem Pole

Sally Brown, Livermore

Recently, a young retired couple was examining the "famous" Livermore totem pole in Centennial Park, near my home. The woman had read about its history and was interested in actually seeing it. Our conversation produced a question that our city might choose to address. What is our plan to protect this wooden icon from simply rotting away?

I note that Livermore does have a Beautification Committee. Perhaps this group might entice a local big box hardware to donate the wood preservative and a local service club to provide

the labor to properly care of the totem that honors the native peoples on whose land our homes and businesses are located.

Backflow Prevention Protects Water Supply

John Freeman, District Manager California Water Service

We would like to clear up some misinformation in a recent letter by Jason Bezis regarding the importance of backflow prevention.

California Water Service's highest priority is protecting the public water supply and the health and safety of our customers. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 50% of disease outbreaks from water supply contamination are caused by cross-connection backflow events. This is why cross-connection control programs are so important, and are in fact required by every public water system.

Cal Water determines which water users need a backflow prevention assembly based on the potential risk of backflow from a customer's water system contaminating the public water supply delivered to all customers. Our program meets the requirements of the California Water Resources Control Board's Division of Drinking Water, which is responsible for enforcing water quality standards and protecting public health for all Californians.

Moreover, Cal Water has no financial interest in requiring backflow prevention devices, and we do not require customers to use testers on our resource list. Any tester may be used as long as the tester meets minimum requirements. Annual testing protects the health and safety of all customers by verifying that cross-connection devices are functioning properly.

Finally, Cal Water has requested that the California Public Utilities Commission defer any changes in water rates until 2021.

As a regulated utility, we are required to file an application every three years to the CPUC that details our costs, infrastructure needs, service, and more, to ensure that water rates accurately reflect the costs to provide water utility service in an area. The current application, which was filed in July 2018, reflects our expected needs for 2020-2022. Even though CPUC is expected to issue a decision on our application this year, we've requested that it defer any approved rate change until 2021, because we recognize that many of our customers are facing financial difficulties during this challenging time.

We hope this helps readers better understand the importance of protecting the

Subverting the Constitution and the Equality it Promises

Ginger Iglesias, Livermore

This is not my usual style of writing, but is in tribute to someone who submits to The Independent frequently. I read Owen Brovont's overweening letter assiduously, and have concluded that it is nothing more than a pedantic and illiberal screed in favor of white supremacy. Perhaps Mr. Brovont might cogitate on compressing his views into an unambiguous missive in the future, as it's quite tiresome to try and deduce the meaning of his pontificating and disparaging harangues.

For Mr. Brovont's edification, here are some examples of short and pithy:

"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." Martin Luther King, Jr.

"To be free is not merely to cast off one's chains, but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others." Nelson Mandela

"First they ignore you, then they laugh at you, then they fight you, then you win." Mahatma Gandhi

"Whoever controls work and wages, controls morals." Susan B. Anthony

"My fellow Americans, we are and always will be a nation of immigrants. We were strangers once, too." Barack Obama

"I prefer someone who burns the flag and then wraps themselves up in the Constitution over someone who burns the Constitution and then wraps themselves up in the flag." Molly Ivins

Black lives matter.

Wrong "Moral Structure"

Werner Schlappfer, Livermore

I was intrigued by the exchange of letters between Owen Brovont and John Cameron on "White Privilege" and "Moral Structure" in The Independent issues of June 25 and July 2.

John Cameron is right and Owen Brovont is totally and factually wrong. Brovont does not seem to understand the recent developments in neurobiology that clearly show that people's behavior is totally dependent on their genetic makeup and their environment from conception to the present. Nature and nurture. Neither is of their own making.

Brovont (as do most conservatives) subscribes to the discredited view of the "self-made man" (or woman) who is successful because of his/her own effort, willpower, hard work and a good education. This view claims that the poor are lazy, lack ambition, and did not get the education necessary, so their

place in society must be their own fault.

A recent Pew Research Center survey found that conservatives are more likely to subscribe to the false belief that good things happen to good people and that individuals who suffer disadvantages in life that are out of their control are somehow responsible for their own situations. This view has been called the "Just World Hypothesis" and it is a total fallacy that has been scientifically discredited. It represents blaming the victim in its worst form.

Neurobiological and psychological and sociological research has long shown that we are the product of our circumstances. As an example, I recommend reading the book "Behave: The Biology of Humans at Our Best and Worst," by Robert M. Sapolsky. We exist in a society where the life trajectories are largely determined by impersonal social and political systems. For example, we can get a good education if we have the right genes and were born into the right environment. It's a question of luck, not effort or accomplishment. For example, recent research has shown that children born to the top 10% of earners are typically on track to make three times more income as adults than the children of the bottom 10%. The psychological and sociological literature is full of similar examples.

To quote Nassim N. Taleb from "Fooled by Randomness:" "Lucky fools do not bear the slightest suspicion that they may be lucky fools – by definition, they do not know that they belong to such a category. They will act as if they deserved the money."

Columbus

Balazs Rozsnyai, Livermore

I read with total disgust that a statue of Christopher Columbus was torn down in Baltimore. The alleged reason is his responsibility for the injustices inflicted upon Native Americans.

Christopher Columbus did not know too much about Native Americans; he thought he had reached India; hence, he called the local inhabitants Indians. Nevertheless, his navigational ability at the time was remarkable and his achievements in expanding knowledge of the world should be revered.

His discovery of the New World is comparable with the present achievements of astronauts. All the above is ignored by the demonstrators who just follow their insane frenzy without the slightest effort to be reasonable.

When will the people of reason from all races halt this insane nonsense?

(See MAILBOX, page 9)

THE Independent

INLAND VALLEY PUBLISHING CO.
PUBLISHER: Joan Kinney Seppala
EDITOR: Aly Brown

ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER: David T. Lowell (In Memoriam)
EDITOR: Janet Armantrout (In Memoriam)

THE INDEPENDENT (USPS 300) is published every Thursday by Inland Valley Publishing Company, 2250 First St., Livermore, CA 94550. (925)243-8200. Mailer Periodicals Postage Prices at the Livermore Post Office and additional entry office: Pleasanton, CA 94566-9998. THE INDEPENDENT is mailed upon request. For more information or to sign up visit www.independentnews.com. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Independent, 2250 First St., Livermore, CA 94550.

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Livermore Schools Weigh Hybrid School, Home Learning Options

By Deborah Finestone

Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District (LVJUSD) fleshed out multiple options for resuming school in late August.

The district is working with county and state officials, as well as considering the needs of families and staff, in deciding how to best serve students while keeping everyone safe and healthy.

Much like district officials and many teachers, more than half of families who responded to a survey said they would prefer having students in school as usual, full time. Close to 40% prefer a hybrid model that has students coming to their school sites for part of the week and learning from home part of the week. That would maintain social-distancing and hygiene requirements.

“We continue to be ac-

tively engaged in collaboration with our staff and the community on plans for possibilities for fall 2020,” Michael Biondi, assistant superintendent of educational services, told the board of education at their meeting last month. “Our planning emphasizes the social-emotional connection, as we miss our students, and they miss us.”

Potential Hybrid Schedule

Under the hybrid model, students would likely come to campus on alternating days to limit the number of people on campus at any time, said LVJUSD Superintendent Kelly Bowers. That will be more likely than having morning and afternoon shifts, because of the logistical complications of cleaning the school between shifts.

Other health and safety concerns expressed in the survey include a preference for following health expert guidance rather than public opinion, according to a district press release. That would include social distancing, mask wearing and enhanced cleaning and hand-washing. However, many respondents valued returning to campus to support children’s mental health and social-emotional welfare.

In terms of alternate-day scheduling, board member Anne White noted, “Parents may also appreciate full-day schedules for planning and logistics.”

In the survey, families said having students attend school fewer than five days a week poses challenges for child care.

Many families also said it’s challenging to work at home or away if their student must learn from home. A smaller number of survey respondents indicated it’s not a challenge while working. Still fewer said it’s not a challenge because someone was available to supervise the children.

A task force including teachers, office staff, administrators and parent representatives will continue meeting through July to discuss options. No plan will be finalized until the first week of August to allow for updated information from the Alameda County Public Health Department, the California Department of Education and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

“We realize everyone is eager to know, but we want to wait until the information evolves more,” Biondi said.

Instructional Concerns

If distance learning were required, either part-time or full-time, the district is establishing clearer, common daily expectations for students and teachers. LVJUSD will

also enhance teaching and learning resources, which will be organized in a new learning management system platform called Schoology.

In the survey, families requested consistent teacher interaction, structured on-line instruction and teaching consistency, and a defined schedule. Parents appreciated communication, but asked for comments and assignments to come through one platform. They also wanted teachers to be required to use technology for enhanced student connection and academic understanding.

In the survey, parents admitted that their understanding of what was expected of their child academically became worse during distance learning.

Having experienced the for several months already, the majority of teachers surveyed — 63% — said they were relatively comfortable if distance learning were required again. Nonetheless, 42% would prefer returning to teaching in person. Half were equally comfortable returning to campus or continuing distance learning, while just 7% preferred to continue distance learning.

Biondi also noted the district works closely with teachers, so that if a hybrid model were needed, they wouldn’t have to create double the curriculum materials for both in-class instruction and at-home learning.

Health on Campus

A return to school in any capacity will likely require several changes to ensure the health and safety of students and staff.

“We’re committed to the health of our employees,” Biondi said.

Under consideration are passive and active screening measures — such as checking body temperature — at entry points to campus. Schools may also limit non-essential visitors, and emphasize more robust hygiene measures, such as washing hands when entering or leaving school, restrooms and classrooms, and after sneezing and coughing. The task force is developing ways to maintain physical distancing, and masks or face shields will likely be required.

In the survey, some families preferred for children to return to school without masks. The district noted that current public health guidance requires face coverings at all times.

Logistics, Technology

To address operational, technological and logistical concerns, LVJUSD will revise procedures for desk placements and custodial training. The wireless systems will be updated.

The district is also looking for help in purchasing 2,100 Chromebooks, which will provide one machine for each student in need. To replace obsolete computers, a total of 225 laptops are needed for teacher use.

Mealtime at school will also look very different. Breakfasts and lunches would be pre-packaged. When and where the children eat is also subject to change.

District officials acknowledge that families would like to know as soon as possible what the academic setting will look like come the first day of school, Aug. 25. However, officials pointed to a recent increase in the number

of COVID-19 cases and the potential for legislative action that impacts schools. They will provide updates during the summer as options get solidified, and as the public health environment changes. Still, they will share

a plan with the community by the first week of August.

“I like that we’re waiting before making a decision,” said Emily Prusso, board member. “We’re attempting to be flexible even after the school year starts.”

Pleasanton, Dublin Provide Information On School Reopenings

Alongside the Livermore Joint Unified School District, the Pleasanton Unified School District (PUSD) and the Dublin Unified School District (DUSD) presented surveys to families with a variety of options for returning to school. While those options have not been solidified, answers will soon be underway.

Pleasanton Unified School District

The options outlined for a return in the PUSD were: a hybrid model where students would receive a combination of in-person, on-campus education blended with distance learning; full-time distance learning for elementary school students; long-term independent study for all students; or a FLEX Academy option, which will offer full-time distance learning for middle and high school students.

PUSD Communications Coordinator Patrick Gannon said his district is refining plans for each. A final presentation to the board will be held July 14, at 6 p.m. on the district’s new FLEX Academy.

Dublin Unified School District

The Dublin Unified School District (DUSD) currently plans a return to school in August, but its options have yet to be cemented as well. The options offered and surveyed by the DUSD included full-time school, hybrid, full-time distance learning or an independent study program.

“Three of the four options were popular, each totaling about a third of the respondent’s preference, making it clear that our community needed various options based on their particular circumstance,” wrote DUSD Superintendent Dave Marken in a letter to families in regard to the first three options listed above.

In a July 3 letter, the DUSD further noted it is working with partners, the Dublin Teachers Association and the California School Employees Association while monitoring legislation in an effort to establish plans.

“It’s important to understand that health and safety guidelines are constantly evolving and we are working diligently to develop an action plan,” wrote the July 3 letter. “We expect to be able to share more details on our back-to-school plans by the end of next week. Stay tuned.”

Education News

Patel, David Graduate Emerson College

Two students from the Tri-Valley area have received degrees from Emerson College in Boston, Massachusetts. Sahil Patel, from Livermore, received a bachelor’s degree in Interdisciplinary Studies, and Elizabeth David, from Dublin, received a bachelor’s degree in Media Arts Production.

Thomson Admitted to Phi Kappa Phi

Patrick Thomson, from Livermore, has been admitted to the national honor society Phi Kappa Phi at Eastern Oregon University in La Grande, Oregon.



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ICON

(Continued from first page)

of his past newspaper roles, was remarkable,” she said. “Among other issues, he was known for his work to protect the vineyards and open space near Livermore, an interest that we shared.

“Bob Several, our editor when Barry worked at Sandia, used to have lunch with him. In the story that Barry wrote for The Independent’s 50th anniversary magazine, he said, ‘We would reminisce about the good old days of heated competition and how we skewered

each other in columns.’ For several years, he wrote a column on local history for all three papers, the Herald, Times and Independent. Not so long ago, Barry connected with us again on a meaningful personal basis, as he had so many times before.”

Doug Jorgensen, Independent photographer for 38 years, recalled that his first encounters with Schrader took place at Sandia Laboratories while covering events for the paper. By that time,

Schrader had moved on from the newspaper realm to work in public affairs for the lab.

“He was very energetic and effusive in personality,” Jorgensen said.

The two bonded over photography and Schrader’s enthusiasm for vintage printing presses. Schrader would show them at the Alameda County Fair in one of the historical buildings. But Jorgensen’s recollection of Schrader centered around the mentorship and



Schrader showing a vintage printing press to visitors at the Alameda County Fair. (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)



Seen from left "duking it out" are Al Fisher of the Pleasanton/Valley Times, Barry Schrader of the Herald, and Bob Several of the Independent. (Photo - Independent archives)

WALL

(Continued from first page)

municipal code.

“It appears that Mr. MacDonald’s grievance is that the hearing officer is a neutral third party rather than the city council,” Alcalá said. “However, the law does not require the city council to be the hearing officer. While the ordinance includes protections to ensure equal treatment, it appears Mr. MacDonald is seeking an audience before the city council to advocate for special treatment. That is inappropriate. It is also why the law supports a review by a neutral third-party hearing officer.”

Alcalá went on to state MacDonald’s focus on the Urgency Measure, Ordinance 2094, was misplaced, as that ordinance expired when it was superseded by Ordinance 2096, which enacted Chapter 8.15 Procedure for Abatement of Public Nuisances and includes a comprehensive hearing process before a neutral third-party administrative hearing officer.

The reason for the replacement program is that the wall, which backs up to the properties of homes

with Lomitas Avenue addresses, is in disrepair. The sidewalk facing Holmes remains closed to public foot traffic. Alcalá listed reasons the wall is failing to be: age, eroding soil, damage by private and public trees and the fact that property owners had affixed things such as trellises, rabbit hutches and other personal items that required drilling into the wall.

Alcalá explained the conversation about the wall started in 2014, when the city began working with residents to address soil loading and deterioration of the public right-of-way due to insufficient private property care. He noted a number of other property owners in that area had installed retaining walls on their side of the property over the years to prevent the slope from creeping into the public right of way. Alcalá stated the matter to be a public nuisance, which the city has worked to help address with a variety of options to the property owners.

But MacDonald is certain rabbit hutches couldn’t destroy a concrete wall, nor could incidental accumula-

tion of soil. A redwood fence is set to replace the original wall.

“The wall needs replacing, because it’s 50 years old. It’s been hit by probably 100 cars over the years. The city trees and tree roots are bending the wall in every direction,” MacDonald said. “This program was undertaken because staff informed the council that they could build a flimsy wood fence at the property line and tell the property owners, ‘this is yours to maintain in perpetuity.’ That is simply false and incorrect; it’s just not the law.”

Livermore Mayor John Marchand has been in discussion with MacDonald on the matter, but asserts it’s not merely an “incidental accumulation of soil.”

“If you drive past where the wall has failed, you will see that homeowners had piled dirt three to four feet deep against the wall, which is only a decorative wall and not built to hold back such a significant soil surcharge,” Livermore Mayor John Marchand said. “The city has tried to negotiate with members of the neighbor-

hood to remove and contain the soil, which has adversely impacted the wall for over seven years without resolution. The city has received many complaints about the condition of the wall and the sidewalk has been closed. This has been an eyesore and a hazard for years, and the time has come to get it fixed. Even a cursory look will demonstrate that this is a substantial fence, and not flimsy, as Mr. MacDonald claims. It is a vast improvement over the existing ugly and crumbling wall.”

One of the residents, Pam Pope, said she and her husband, Kirk Pope, have tried working with the city. Kirk owns a fence company and was prepared to abate the issue, until they saw the price tag of \$67,000.

“My husband said they’re way over engineering it,” Pam said. “They’re calling for the posts to be placed 13 feet deep; you don’t need them 13 feet deep. When we asked the city why, they said because they know it will work, but so will posts 6 feet deep.”

Pam added that, in their 27 years of living on Lomitas Avenue, the retaining wall has been hit by cars four times.

“It’s the city’s responsibility to maintain this wall because it’s an arterial thoroughfare,” she said, adding the city’s plans for grading run into her property. “We have a small sidewalk between the fence and our pool, and (the city) wanted to grade all the way in there; we don’t want them to come in and ruin our property ... That sidewalk has been closed for six, seven years, and now all of a sudden, it’s an emergency to get this done? ... They haven’t

listened to us at all.”

The residents continue to urge the city to reconsider its approach on how to rebuild the wall.

Added Pam’s neighbor, Bolanos, “What we feel is disappointment, and the big thing to swallow is changing the responsibility from the city to the homeowners for this fence.”

Alcalá noted he’s not typically involved in the informal compliance process, but believes enforcement staff in the Neighborhood Preservation Division is nearing the conclusion of the information enforcement process for some of the properties.

of the Vineyards — a group that was pivotal in cultivating a thriving wine industry when the small handful of vineyards in the 1980s faced development. Now, over 50 vineyards have carved out a niche in wine country; many will say that this is in part thanks to Schrader’s work.

Jorgensen concluded, “He lived a very full life and his impact on this community was big — both as an editor and an activist.”

To read his obituary, see page 9.



Rita Harper and Annette Burnquist spend the morning crocheting afghans and sweaters. They used to meet at Starbucks, but now stay safely distanced at Kottinger Park in Pleasanton. (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)



This memorial park bench located on a curving pathway within a grove of trees in Kottinger Park is made of ceramic tile. "Pat's Bench" was created by artist Laurel True in 2000. (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)

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VA

(Continued from first page)

adhere to social distancing measures, especially in the building housing the elderly veterans. Lots of employees have felt unsafe and that the patients weren't safe for a while now, and I have no doubt that (the administrators) didn't do everything they could have done to keep this from happening."

According to the CDC, given their congregate nature and resident population served (e.g., older adults often with underlying chronic medical conditions), populations like those at the CLC are at high risk of being affected by respiratory pathogens like COVID-19 and other pathogens, including multidrug-resistant organisms (e.g., Carbapenemase-producing organisms, Candida auris). As demonstrated by the COVID-19 pandemic, a

strong infection prevention and control (IPC) program is critical to protect both residents and health care personnel (HCP).

"Facilities should assign at least one individual with training in IPC to provide on-site management of their COVID-19 prevention and response activities because of the breadth of activities for which an IPC program is responsible, including developing IPC policies and procedures, performing infection surveillance, providing competency-based training of HCP, and auditing adherence to recommended IPC practices," states their website, at cdc.gov.

Representatives for the American Federation of Government Employees Local 2110 had no comment at the time of publication.



The Livermore Community Center, which sits on the Livermore VA hospital campus (seen here), experienced an outbreak of COVID-19 cases. (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)

COVID-19

(Continued from first page)

shops, salons, pools and pro sports without fans were all slated to resume in the next phase of the county's effort to reopen the economy. All those industries have now been placed on hold by last week's decision. The county has not given any indication as to when these businesses and activities will again be considered for reopening.

"We recognize the multifaceted challenges presented by a slow reopening and are grateful for the sustained effort and sacrifices made by our residents and businesses," Balram said. "As the pandemic evolves, we will need to remain flexible and nimble in our response. We all play a part in safely reopening our communities and protecting people at high risk for COVID-19 infection and death."

Scott Haggerty, Alameda County Supervisor, District

I, addressed the matter of a deferred reopening prior to the Fourth of July holiday in a press release issued July 2.

"While this development may represent a small hurdle in our largely successful efforts to safely reopen the county," Haggerty said, "it is important to note that the county health officer has not reintroduced any new restrictions at this time."

Driving ACPHD's decision to pause its reopening plan is the number of hospitalized COVID-19 patients in the county, which began to grow dramatically toward the end of June. There were 78 patients on June 22, and by July 3, that number had doubled to 157, far higher than the county has experienced since the beginning of the pandemic in March. That number dropped slightly to 146 on July 4, the last date reported

as of this writing.

The number of ICU patients grew by 53% during that period, slightly more than half the growth rate seen in hospitalizations. Admissions to the ICU tend to lag hospitalizations, so it remains to be seen if this indicator will continue to climb over the coming weeks. The total number of confirmed COVID-19 patients in Alameda County has increased 30% since June 22.

"While variance attestation offers a path to greater alignment with the state's pace for reopening, it requires counties to attest only when the data show that it is safe to do so," Balram said. "We are concerned by the increase in local cases, disproportionate impact on communities of color, local impact of the outbreak at San Quentin State Prison,

and the alarming disease trends we see in counties that have opened at a faster rate."

Health officials continue to urge residents to help minimize the spread of the coronavirus in the community by wearing face coverings when in public; staying 6 feet away from others; staying home as much as possible and washing their hands frequently.

For more information, visit the Alameda County Public Health Department at <http://www.acphd.org>.



A technicians swabs a drive-thru patient at the Alameda County Fairground testing site. While cases are on the rise, the percentage of cases in the Tri-Valley remains lower than the county average. (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)

Alameda County to Release Eligible Inmates to Quarantine at Home

As published by Alameda County Public Health Department in an emergency health release dated July 3, the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) is releasing eligible inmates with 180 days or less remaining on their sentence to parole or probation supervision prior to their original release date.

These expedited releases from state prison are effectuated by the Secretary's authority under Government Code section 8658, which allows alternative confinement or release in any case in which an emergency endangering the lives of inmates has occurred or is imminent.

These Alameda County residents are returning home from facilities where COVID-19 has spread widely, including several facilities that are reporting significant outbreaks. The

officials responsible for supporting the return of individuals from state prisons to the community are taking steps to protect the safety and welfare of all involved – the community at large and the individuals who are granted early release. Each returning individual will have increased monitoring by probation or parole including more frequent contacts.

The Alameda County Health Officer issued a Public Health Order that requires all individuals being released early from a facility with positive cases to isolate/quarantine in one of the operation comfort facilities in order to protect the individuals returning, their families and the public. The order requires individuals to isolate or quarantine for 14 days, whether they test negative or positive.

"We now know that the COVID-19 test can re-

turn a negative result even while an individual is incubating the virus," wrote the release. "We have a responsibility to support these returning residents in protecting their own health as well as that of their loved ones and the community."

Multiple county agencies are involved in the return of these individuals to their community including health care services, social services, probation, and the Office of Emergency Services. Many community-based organizations are collaborating to ensure wrap-around care, education and communication for the people who are being released early, their families, service providers and the community.

The release concluded, "The collaboration across all of these providers ensures a safe and successful reentry for the individuals returning home."

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925-833-3999
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Able To Plumbing
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925-606-0990
abletoplumbing.com

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Pleasanton
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925-447-7281
livermoreautoandtire.com

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livermorept.com
Open Mon. - Thurs. 8am - 6pm

Machado's Auto Care
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925-606-8194
machadosautocare.com
Open Mon. - Fri. 7:30am - 5:30pm
Auto Service & Repair

Miller's Air Conditioning & Heating
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millersacandheating.com

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Bill Would Allow Certain New Businesses to Defer Payment of Payroll Taxes

Reps. Eric Swalwell (D-CA) and John Katko (R-NY) have introduced a bill in Congress that would allow certain start-up businesses to defer their first-year payroll taxes to be paid over the next four years of operation.

The bill would apply

to new businesses expecting to hire fewer than 25 employees and located in areas identified by the Small Business Administration as Historically Underutilized Business Zones, also known as HUB Zones.

The bill, known as the Main Street Revival Act,

was originally introduced by Swalwell and former Rep. Chris Collins (R-NY) in 2017, but died after being assigned to the House Ways and Means Committee.

“Small businesses are at the heart of our economy,” Swalwell said, “and as we work to solve the [corona-

virus] public health crisis, we must also be looking out for those who keep our communities up and running.”

Swalwell said the bill would alleviate a “significant source of financial stress” for new small-business owners “while freeing up cash that can be critical

in the first year.”

“As businesses begin to navigate new health and safety protocols, this cash could be a necessary lifeline for many,” Swalwell said.

The \$2 trillion Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act passed by Congress in

March allows all businesses to defer payroll taxes for the period ending Dec. 31, 2020, but those taxes must be paid in two installments – half by December 2021, and half by December 2022 – instead of over the four-year timeframe in the Mainstreet Revival Act.

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Rigatoni's Restaurant
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livermorebigapplepizza.com
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espressorosetta.com
Curbside Available

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925-371-6588
firststreetalehouse.com
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Fratello's Restaurant
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925-294-9771
Takeout and Delivery Available

French Dips and More
2181 First St, Livermore
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Garré Vineyard Restaurant
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HDV2Go.com
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newthaibistro.com
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Nonnisbistro.net
Takeout Available

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Pleasanton
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925-425-0795
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925-846-6108
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Takeout Available

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MAILBOX

(Continued from first page)

Thanks for the Fireworks Alex Dourou, Livermore

In these dark, secluded and troubling times, it's great to know we have a wonderful community that is willing to step in and fill a void. Instead of finding a way to have a fireworks show from another location, shot higher into the sky so that all could see the show from anywhere in the city (and thus maintain social distancing), Livermore chose to cancel its annual fireworks show. Gilroy, Tracy and other cities in the region did, but Livermore chose to ignore our patriotic and even human needs.

Thankfully, we had hundreds of great neighbors all across the city willing to spend their own hard-earned money and bring joy and delight to the rest of us by providing smaller, although at times very spectacular, fireworks shows. From our home at an elevation above the valley floor, we were able to see many of the mortar-type launches and aerial displays from both our front and back yards.

Some of our fun and joy was trying to guess from which direction the next set of explosions would come, as you could never tell. The loud and deep concussive booms were wonderful, too; gave you a warm feeling deep down in the gut. Some of the bursts we saw rivaled those that we have been used to seeing from Robertson Park or from the top of the downtown garage. Bravo!

Thank you, Livermore police, for allowing all of this to occur with minimal intervention. It appears that police responded to very few calls about fireworks, and initial reports indicate there were no citations written or fireworks-related arrests. From what I read online, people who wanted to complain were not even able to get through to the police, as the phone lines were not being answered.

Thank you, Livermore Pleasanton Fire Department for your response to a few vegetation fires in the city that occurred because of some misguided souls playing with fireworks in dry areas. This might be a great time for Livermore to bring back the special safe zones we used to have so that everyone could bring their fireworks to a non-flammable area and set them off.

Thank you all for sharing your patriotism, display of freedom, and love of America. Thank you especially for your love of our great community and helping all of us - your neighbors - have the celebration that we enjoy and deserve each year.

Trash Laws Garbage Patricia Davis, Livermore

I have lived in an eightplex in Livermore since 2016. When I called for the trash pick-up rate, I was told 70-something. When the housing authority learned I had not started service, I was penalized and lost my utility allowance. I went to the sanitation company to start service and was again given the low-income rate of 70-something with a deposit of the same. I was told that it was the law in Livermore that every address must have service.

Soon after, I received a bill for 80-something. When I called Livermore Sanitation, I said this must be an error; I came in two weeks ago and started service at the low-income rate. I was

told 80-something is the low-income rate, but I could choose a larger can with that. I wasn't pleased, but what could I do?

Soon after I learned that only seven units in my building currently pay for trash service, and a couple of months after that, only six units were paying for service. I called and complained. A year later, I complained again. This was in 2017 and 2018. It is still the same.

I'm 65 years old; my income at this time is \$360 a month. I have a lot of problems, depression and anxiety are just the tips of the iceberg. This does add to that. Finding out from a friend that this company got the contract by insisting that the city pass this law and by promising a substantial, yearly kick-back to the city. After a little investigation, I was told it is illegal for the city pass a law forcing us to pay for a service that it will profit from. Shame on you!

I'm way behind on my trash bill. Sorry, but I can't help that my \$360 is gone before I see it. The way I see it, if the sanitation company can do without the revenue from two units for four years, then it can do without the revenue from three.

I have been cautioned about writing this letter for fear that someone may come to shut me up. So, everyone reading this, remember that! Laws should apply to all or none. And getting a bigger can is not a low-income rate!

Swalwell and Election Turmoil Caroline and Peter Jacobson, Livermore

We read your front-page story on July 2 about Rep. Eric Swalwell with interest, because it broke new ground.

During the Kavanaugh, Mueller, and impeachment hearings, we became used to seeing Mr. Swalwell make accusations on the basis of what he called "overwhelming evidence in plain sight," which he didn't actually disclose. We saw more of the same in your story, where he accused unnamed individuals of "misinformation, voter suppression and welcoming of foreign interference," without offering a shred of evidence.

But wait, there was something new. Instead of making accusations about things that may or may not have happened in the past, Mr. Swalwell has moved on to making accusations about things that haven't even had a chance to occur. "We have to win overwhelmingly," Mr. Swalwell said. "I think that's the only way this guy [our president] is going to leave and have a peaceful transfer of power." Again, a strong accusation with no evidence provided.

We can't speak for the American people, but speaking for ourselves, as citizens in his district, we feel uncomfortable paying our congressman for broadcasting his opinions, and it's especially hard to watch him attack someone's integrity as a person because he disagrees with them politically.

If Mr. Swalwell cares about the integrity of our elected leaders, there must be a more constructive way for him to direct his energy.

Here's a place to start: Mr. Swalwell, please sponsor a bill to make it a federal crime for any person holding or seeking a federal elected office to accept a contribution of more than \$1,000 in a single year from any

individual or organization, domestic or foreign, in cash or in services. That prohibition should also apply to their immediate families and any foundations they control.

We feel that initiative would have overwhelming support from American citizens and would go a long way toward getting leaders to act in the public interest. It would take a great leader to push this through, and we hope this guy, our congressman, will step up.

Healthy Changes and the COVID-19 Lottery Greg Scott, Livermore

"Horror grips us as we watch you die. All we can do is echo your anguished cries.

Stare as all human feelings die" (From "Wooden Ships", by David Crosby, Stephen Stills, and Paul Kantner)

Who gets to die in the COVID-19 lottery? Mostly the fatalities are the elderly and the infirm with diabetes, hypertension, respiratory or cardiovascular problems, or other health vulnerabilities. Increasingly, fatalities are infected and afflicted younger people and/or

the lower socio-economic strata skewed toward non-Caucasian.

It is reminiscent of the American classic short story, "The Lottery," by Shirley Jackson, where the person who draws the short straw in the village gets stoned to death.

Why should we dare infringe on the freedom of not wearing a mask in public, or on the lack of hand washing hygiene, or inadequate social-distancing practices, or eschewing gathering in large groups? So what if people die or get seriously ill from such manners and acts?

"[A]ny man's [or woman's] death diminishes me, because I am involved in mankind, and therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for thee." ("Meditation XVII," John Donne, 1623).

Why present an affront to Narcissus when President Trump does not? We can castigate and recriminate the president; however, this is not going to solve our COVID-19 pandemic.

To limit the spread of COVID-19, we need to implement the recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for social distancing, wearing masks in public and close proximity, hand washing hygiene, and not associating in sizeable groups.

By delusions, we are greatly forsaking these practices for some miraculous techno-optimistic solution, such as an anti-viral drug, or an anti-viral vaccine, or by thinking we are otherwise invincible and/or immune. Such is the selfishness by vanity of Narcissus. There is always the hope, though in the meantime, how many are to get infected, seriously ill or die?

Are we to learn from this? The changes from SARS-CoV-2 are and have been indelibly stamped on all humans and our world, our country and our communities: socioeconomically, politically, racially, ecologically and technologically for a long time now. We must do better. "We are cruelly trapped between what we would like to be and what we actually are." (James Baldwin). Let's realize the need to be socially responsible, just and healthy, and make it so.

that position, after the board met in closed session.

Dave Marken, who announced his retirement from the district at the board's June 23 meeting, is still the district's superintendent, said Rouse, who chaired the early portion of the June 30 board meeting.

Marken gave the board his 60-day notice at that June 23 meeting. His last day will be Aug. 22. He began a vacation July 1, but will be available to help with the transition, if requested.

Moirao previously was an administrator in the Dublin district.

OBITUARIES

Barry L. Schrader

Dec. 27, 1940 – June 30, 2020
Longtime Livermore resident



the antique printing press display at the Alameda County Fair and visiting his favorite place on earth, Yosemite National Park.

He was born Dec. 27, 1940, the son of Vernon and Margaret (Stryker) Schrader of Waterman, Illinois. He graduated from Genoa-Kingston High School in 1958 and then earned a journalism degree from Northern Illinois University. He married Kay Wirsing of Sycamore in September of 1963.

His career included being editor of the Byron Tribune, publisher of three weeklies—the Genoa Republican, the DeKalb County Journal in Kirkland and Sycamore Sun. He was editor of the DeKalb Daily Chronicle from 1969-1972, and much later in retirement wrote a weekly column for the DeKalb County Life paper from 2008-2020. The columns can be seen on his website (<https://dekalb-countylife.com/>). During that time, he published two books of his favorite Chronicle columns "Hybrid Corn & Purebred People." He also contributed chapters on the news media for two DeKalb County history books over a 50-year span, and videotaped oral histories for the Joiner History Room in Sycamore, Illinois, and the Livermore Heritage Guild.

While in California, he wrote a column on local history for the Herald, Times and Livermore Independent

for a few years. He also published a book of local trivia: "Will the Last Person Leaving Livermore Please Unscrew the Bulb in Fire Station One." The light bulb is in the Guinness Book of World Records as the longest burning bulb in history since it was installed in 1901. It was later moved to Fire Station 6.

He also helped form the Livermore Heritage Guild, helped organize the Tri-Valley Exchange Club, belonged to the Society of Professional Journalists NIU chapter, the DeKalb County Historical-Genealogical Society, and American Amateur Press Association where he pursued his hobby of antique letterpress printing. He had many other hobbies as well.

He cofounded the DeKalb County Citizens for Better Mental Health Care. He was active in Scouting, serving as a District Chairman in the San Francisco Bay Area Council and organized the Tri-Valley Royallaires Drum & Bugle Corps as an Explorer post.

He received the Donald R. Grubb Outstanding Journalism Alumni Award from NIU and the McNish Advocacy Award from the National Alliance on Mental Illness, among other honors.

Barry is survived by his beloved wife of 57 years, Kay, and their two sons, Todd Vernon of DeKalb and Darrin Wayne of Arlington, Virginia. Barry was preceded in death by his parents.

A memorial service is pending at Sycamore United Methodist Church, 160 Jackson Ave., Sycamore, and later at Oak Crest. His ashes will be interred at Elmwood Cemetery in Sycamore and also near Yosemite National Park, his favorite vacation destination.

Condolences may be mailed to Darrin and Todd Schrader at P.O. Box 851, DeKalb, IL 60115.

Cheryl Hope Smith

April 18, 1944 – June 25, 2020



Smith; her parents; her sisters, June Campbell and Barbara Thomisee; and her brothers, Fred J. Campbell, Jack Gamble and Bob Gamble.

Cheryl is survived by her children, Tammy Strout (Rob), Tracy Smith (Claudia), Brandy Mattimore (Scott), Michael Smith (Sheila); sisters, Beatrice Duncan and Darlene Richards (Ray); as well as nine grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Burial services will be held Saturday, July 25, at 11 a.m., at Rose Memorial Park in Fort Bragg, California. A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date when we can provide a safer environment.

"Forever in our hearts, we love you Mom."

children play soccer. Besides spoiling her grandchildren, her favorite thing to do was to go to Reno. She didn't spend a lot, but she loved her slot machines. She was a lifelong member of the Sherwood Valley Band of Pomo Indians.

She is preceded in death by her husband, Albert B.

Carol Jean Pasch

Nov. 2, 1940 – June 11, 2020



Carol Jean Pasch, age 79, of Astoria, Oregon, passed away June 11, 2020, at Oregon Health and Science University Hospital in Portland, Oregon. Carol was born on Nov. 2, 1940, to Roy and Verna Chesnut in Table Rock, Nebraska. She graduated from Lake Worth High School in Fort Worth, Texas, and married the love of her life, Robert Pasch, on April 2, 1958. She is survived by her four children, Robert (Sharene) Pasch Jr., Jim (Leslie) Pasch, Laura (Ken) Sims, and Linda (Dave) Messerli; nine grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren. She is pre-deceased by her husband of 38 years, Robert Pasch, as well as their son William Pasch.

Carol passed away very peacefully surrounded by the love of her family, after a very aggressive intestinal infection. She was active until the end, busy making cards at her senior center, monthly lunches with friends, and knitting and crocheting baby blankets for her friends' babies and

her great-grandbabies. Her family is struggling with the suddenness of her passing and is heartbroken at the loss. A burial and Celebration of Life will be planned for the spring of 2021 in Chico, California, when she will be interred at the Chico Cemetery alongside her husband and son. Should family members and friends desire, a financial donation or sympathy gift in memory of Carol can be made to her favorite charity, "Knots of Love," in lieu of flowers (<https://knotsoflove.givingfuel.com/donations>). A more personal obituary can be viewed, and condolences left, on the riverviewabbey.com website.

Timothy Edward Head Sr.

Timothy Head Sr. passed on June 25, 2020. He was a husband, father and friend. He was also a lover of

cats, comic books, music, planes, trains and automobiles. Former owner of Fact Fiction and Fantasy, a

comic bookstore in Livermore, he retired and moved to Tracy in 2000. He was 75 years old.

DUBLIN

(Continued from first page)

that time. But Board Vice President Megan Rouse and Trustee Amy Miller stuck to the teacher agreement as a commitment that was important to teacher morale. Dublin Teachers Association President Robbie Kreitz further added that a failure to remain financially competitive with nearby districts could mean losing teachers.

But working with the Legislature, Newsom agreed on June 22 to take money from the state's rainy day fund, which will result in offsetting much of Dublin's projected \$28 million shortfall created by the COVID economy.

However, Dublin still will have to find a way to shrink the remaining \$6 million shortfall, said the district's director of fiscal services, Chris Hobbs. Decisions on how to balance the budget are still underway.

Upcoming Board Meetings

The board was scheduled to meet in closed session at 4:30 p.m., and at 6:30 p.m. in open session on July 7. The only action item on the agenda was whether or not to approve a contract for an acting superintendent, Daniel Moirao, who was announced at the June 30 meeting as the candidate for

Pleasanton Chamber Of Commerce Cancels Annual Golf Tournament

The Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce has cancelled its annual golf tournament, which had been scheduled for Aug. 7 at the Callippe Preserve Golf Course.

The chamber said it decided to cancel the annual golf tournament, normally its biggest fundraising event of the year, because

of ongoing concerns about the COVID-19 pandemic and the Alameda County Public Health Department mandates on social distancing and limited attendance at public events.

The chamber has also cancelled two tradeshow mixers because of the pandemic, including one set for Nov. 4 at the Alameda

County Fairgrounds. The second tradeshow mixer, originally scheduled for May 13 at The Club at Ruby Hill, had been postponed, but has now been cancelled.

The chamber said the tradeshow mixers generally attracted more than 200 people and around 40 vendors, with food,

drinks, networking and prizes. Historically, the golf outing attracted about 115 golfers, plus dozens of sponsors and volunteers.

In addition to ongoing health concerns, the chamber said the cancelled events were traditionally funded through sponsorships and participation from the business commu-

nity, which has been hard hit by the pandemic and mandated closures. In a news release, the chamber said it decided “to hold off at this time and focus on coming back strong.”

“The safety of our members, businesses and community is our top priority,” said Pleasanton Chamber President/CEO Steve Van Dorn. “The chamber is currently focused on the overall health of our members and the recovery of the Pleasanton business community.”

Individuals who reg-

istered and may have paid for any of the canceled events in advance will be contacted by chamber staff.



10-year-old Chloe Botrous of Livermore decided to make her voice heard after seeing George Floyd’s arrest on the internet, so she created chalk art statements. Shown above is her chalk art reminding people to be safe over the July 4th weekend. (Photo - Claudia Berrios)

Dublin City Council to Hold Special Meeting on Policing

The Dublin City Council will hold a special meeting on Thursday, July 9, at 7:00 p.m., via Zoom, to discuss policing.

The lone item on the agenda will be a study session to discuss policing and services in the City of Dublin. As part of the item, Dublin Police Chief Garrett Holmes will make a presentation including facts

about the department and its policies and services to the community.

Following a presentation by Police Chief Holmes and a Q & A period with the city council, there will be an opportunity for public comment, during which members of the public can address the council for up to three minutes each.

BAUER-KAHAN

(Continued from first page)

an early position on several, including Proposition 18, which would allow 17-year-old U.S. citizens to vote in a primary and special election if they will turn 18 by the subsequent general election.

“This is an important mechanism to engage our youth in the electoral process, and this ballot initiative would bring California in line with 18 other states who already allow these individuals to participate meaningfully in our democracy,” Bauer-Kahan said.

Although some agree, Anthony Flores of Livermore feels differently.

“Why blur the lines with something like this?” Flores asked. “So they miss the primary – pay attention and use that knowledge in the general election like the rest of us did...turning 18 makes you a legal adult. That is when your civic rights and responsibilities change.”

Bauer-Kahan also supports Proposition 17, restoring the right to vote to convicted felons on parole.

“Prop. 17 would allow for these parolees to re-engage with society and participate in our elections,” she said. “Studies conducted on the topic of recidivism consistently finds that the harsher the voting restrictions, the higher the rates of recidivism are in that state.”

Bauer-Kahan’s constituents can comment on these and other pending legislative matters during the virtual office hours she holds every other week. Her office began hosting the hours in March.

Chief of staff Jordan Curley said hundreds of people have utilized them, asking questions and seeking help on a variety of topics.

“People come in for all different reasons,” Curley said. “(They include) a

lot of EDD (Employment Development Department) cases or those who need help with resources as a result of COVID-19, people who would like to share their thoughts on pending legislation, issues with the DMV, etc. On average, we’re seeing roughly 30 or so folks now per session.”

Bauer-Kahan said she realizes the importance of staying connected with residents. Her office is doing everything in its power to remain accessible.

To attend the virtual office hours, interested parties can RSVP and will receive instructions detailing how and when to enter the Zoom chat. Once in, they are connected with a member of Bauer-Kahan’s staff, who discerns the issue they wish to discuss and directs them to the appropriate person for help. The idea is to be able to help those in need in real time. Curley said constituents come in with issues both inside and outside her office’s sphere; the staff does its best to help everyone.

“We want to make sure we are figuring out the most effective way possible to continue to provide these services to constituents,” Curley said. “We came up with this, and we are very happy with how they are going.”

Since mid-March, Kahan’s office has also hosted webinars and online chats with experts from around the state on a variety of topics, including parenting during COVID-19, updates on the county’s health orders, and prevention of senior scams. Many of these are available on her website.

For more information on how to join virtual office hours, call 925-328-1515, email Assemblymember.Bauer-Kahan@assembly.ca.gov or visit <https://a16.asmdc.org/>.

TRI-VALLEY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Thursday, July 9, 6 p.m.
Shakespeare Virtual Trivia Night
Join Livermore Shakes for a fun night of Shakespeare and General Knowledge Trivia! Sign up as an individual and you will be partnered with a virtual team or sign up as a team. With purchase of ticket you will receive an event Zoom Link prior to the event. To purchase your ticket visit https://bit.ly/Lindy_Tickets.

Friday, Saturday, Sunday through July 26, 2:45 p.m.
Watch Live Horse Racing at Trackside Terrace Outdoor Patio Dining
Fantastic view of the track. Watch live racing while you dine. Each guest must purchase a meal to enter the Alameda County Fairgrounds and Trackside Terrace. For more information, visit www.alamedacountyfair.com.

Saturday, July 11, 10 a.m.
Cattail Pond Venture at Sycamore Grove Park
Join Ranger Seth on a hike to one of the coolest parts of the park – the Cattail Pond. Be ready for a 3.5-mile roundtrip stroll. Along the way, there will be a discussion on some of the wonders of Sycamore Grove Park. Bring plenty of water and snacks. RSVP by calling 925-960-2400 or email seedings@larpd.org.

Saturday, July 11, 4 – 7 p.m.
John Rybak Friends Evening of Music
Join John Rybak and Dawn Ellerbeck at First Street Wine Company in Livermore as they kick off an evening of fun and music. No Cover Charge. First Street Wine Company is located at 2211 First St., Livermore.

Sunday, July 12, 2 p.m.
Reptiles at Sycamore Grove Park
Warm weather brings out the reptiles, including rattlesnakes. Learn how to tell the dangerous reptiles from the harmless. Please RSVP by calling 925- 960-3400 or email veggert@larpd.org.

Tuesday, July 14, 7 p.m.
CounterPoint – Faith-Based Support Group
For families or individuals who are impacted by their loved ones’ addiction or alcoholism. Meetings during COVID-19 are through Zoom. Call Rachael at 510-501-1411, leave your email address and you will be invited to the meeting.

Thursday, July 16, 5 p.m.
StarsDay Open Mic Returns to Livermore Valley Performing Arts
Second annual Dreamcatcher competition by performing online from your home or studio. Any local musician, vocalist or spoken word artist can enter for \$10. (must register by July 13). Or tune in to watch a wealth of talent in our community. For more information or to sign up, visit www.livermorearts.org.

Sunday, July 19, 2 p.m.
Cool Off In The Creek at Sycamore Grove Park
What will we find lurking in the shallows of the creek? Wear clothes and shoes that can get wet and join Ranger Amy to explore! Our walk to the creek will be less than a quarter mile, so adults may want to bring a camping chair to sit comfortably on the shore while the little ones play in the creek. All ages welcome. Please RSVP by calling 925-960-2400 or emailing awolitzer@larpd.org.

Thursday, July 23, to Sunday, July 26 Livermore Valley Wine Foundation Auction
Benefiting Livermore Schools Lunch Program, the auction will run concurrently with virtual events in place of traditional Taste of Terroir. For more information, visit www.lwvf.org.

Wednesday, July 28, 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. How to Eliminate Fossil Fuels from your Home, Webinar
The next frontier in energy and home performance is electrification. Appliances that run on all electric technologies have been popular in other parts of the world for decades and are now becoming widely available in California and there are huge incentives available for early adopters. Join this webinar hosted by Stop Waste and the Bay Area Regional Energy Network to learn about what sets these products apart, whether or not they are right for your home and how to take advantage of various rebate and incentive programs. Webinar link provided upon registration. For more information, visit <https://dublin.ca.gov/Calendar>.

ONGOING WEEKLY EVENTS
Dublin Farmers Market Open for the Season
Open Thursdays, noon to 4 p.m., at Emerald Glen Community Park, 4201 Central Parkway.

Livermore Downtown Farmers Market Open for the Season
Open Sundays, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., at Carnegie Park, 2152 Second St. Open Thursdays, 4 p.m. to 8 p.m., at Carnegie Park in Downtown Livermore.

Pleasanton Farmers Market Open for the Season
Open Saturdays, at Main Street and West Angela Street. Hours are 9 to 10 a.m. for seniors 60 and over, and 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. for the general public.

Livermore Valley Opera Airs Friday Episodes
Need a dose of opera while on lock-down? Check out LV Opera on YouTube. New releases every Friday at 7 p.m. Pacific Time. To subscribe, visit <https://www.livermorevalleyopera.com/>.

Six Feet Apart Productions Shares Art From a Distance
Sunday Night Stories is an online show with people telling true stories, poetry, comedy, music and more. An eclectic mix of entertainment to feel connected in times of social distancing and self-isolation, live every week. Sundays, 7:30 p.m. Visit facebook.com/pg/Six-Feet-Apart-Productions eventbrite.com/e/sunday-night-stories.

Stress Relief Recovery International
A confidential peer-led self-help group for stress relief will take place Sundays, at 2 p.m. via conference call. Practicing a method developed 80 years ago by psychiatrist Abraham A. Low to replace the “defeatist babble of the brain” with secure thinking that helps us cope with the stressful events in our everyday lives. Call 515-604-9094 ID 192451547#.

VIRTUAL ONLINE EVENTS -AVAILABLE ANYTIME
Bringing Back the Natives Garden Virtual Tour
Looking to break away from traditional “mow and blow” yards? For beautiful ideas on how to create a sustainable yard, visit https://bit.ly/Lindy_Native_Gardens. Or visit <https://www.bringingbackthenatives.net/>.

EBRPD Brings “Parks to People”
East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) is committed to the idea of lifelong learning and helping people make their own discoveries about local parks. These resources are designed to be used at home, in a classroom or part of any online learning. For more information visit https://www.ebparks.org/activities/digital_learning/default.htm.

LARPD Features Stay & Play
Livermore Area Recreation & Park District virtual recreation program “Stay & Play” is loaded with opportunities for learning, exploration and fun while you shelter-at-home. This site will be updated weekly with new educational, activities to do at home, social media challenges and special events, check in often for new activities visit <https://www.larpd.org/Stay-n-Play>.

LARPD Now on YouTube
Livermore Area Recreation & Park District is featuring videos for all ages with virtual activities; Basketball Academy, Mystery Craft Making Activities and many more to come. Visit <https://www.larpd.org/> to subscribe and receive notifications as new videos are available.

Livermore Public Library Summer Reading
2020 Summer reading program has four program levels all free of charge. From June 1 to Aug. 12, pre-readers, independent readers, teens and adults may register for their summer reading game boards on the library’s website at www.LivermoreLibrary.net. For more information, call 925-373-5500.

Livermore Shakespeare Festival Launches Video Series
Explore Shakespeare’s “A Midsummer Night’s Dream” Video Series for second to fourth grade. New lessons added weekly. Visit <http://livermoreshakes.org/educates/>.

Music Together Tri-Valley Supports Early Childhood Development
This international award-winning early childhood music program supports parents with songs and musical activities to enjoy with their children through play-based learning curriculum, designed to help everyone learn to sing in tune and keep a beat. For more information, visit <https://www.musictogether.com/>.

Online Yoga with Lakshmi Sajith
Find free online yoga live sessions or recorded on Lakshmi Sajith’s blog. Specifically designed for those who are going through stress and anxiety, yoga practice creates a sense of well-being. For more information, email lakshmi2sajith@gmail.com.

Pacific Chamber Orchestra Offers Musical Podcast
During this time of challenge, PCO continues to bring you beautiful music made insightful. Conductor Lawrence Kohl is pleased to announce the launch of a series of podcast of musician interview and talks about the music. Subscribe to listen at <https://www.pacificchamberorchestra.org/>

Sandra J Wing Healing Therapies Foundation Hosts Virtual Meditation
During these unprecedented times, SJWHTF continues to look to therapies for hope and healing. Ira Stein offers 30-minute meditation, entitled: Concentric Circles. Visit <https://www.healingtherapiesfoundation.org/concentric-circles/>.

Valley Children’s Museum Online Programming
VCM has put together some fun, self-led, open-ended STEAM learning projects for kids. Check out the do-it-yourself science videos created and presented by local high school students of the Teen Leadership Council. Subscribe to the mailing list, the Valley Children’s Museum YouTube channel and follow on facebook.com/ValleyChildrensMuseum, <https://www.valleychildrensmuseum.org/programs>, <https://www.valleychildrensmuseum.org/teen-council>.

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LEGAL NOTICES/CLASSIFIEDS

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LEGAL NOTICES

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 570688

The following person(s) doing business as: Passion-4Skin Esthetics, 1550 Cielo CT., Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Road Intelligence, Inc. 1970 Chalon Glen 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: Jennifer Martinez, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 11, 2020. Expires June 11, 2025. The Independent, Legal No. 4717. Published June 25, July, 2, 9, 16, 2020.

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF:

DARELL RANDY GOTT
Case No. RP20061091

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of: **DARELL RANDY GOTT**, A Petition for Probate has been filed by: **KERRY NORMAN GOTT**, in the Superior Court of California, County of ALAMEDA. 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. THE COURT REQUIRES ALL PARTIES WHO WISH TO ATTEND THE HEARING ON THE BELOW DATE AND TIME, INCLUDING THOSE WHO WISH TO STATE OBJECTIONS, TO APPEAR BY AUDIO OR VIDEO TECHNOLOGY. THE PARTIES SHOULD CONSULT THE COURT'S WEBSITE FOR THE SPECIFIC TELEPHONIC AND VIDEO APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE. THE PARTIES MAY ALSO CONTACT THE PROBATE CLERK AT probateclerk2@alameda.courts.ca.gov. PARTIES MUST BE PRESENT AT LEAST FIVE (5) MINUTES BEFORE THE SCHEDULED HEARING TIME. A hearing on the petition will be held in this court as follows: **Date: August 3, 2020, TIME: 2:00 p.m.** at: SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, Dept. 201 County of Alameda 2120 Martin Luther King, Jr. Way Berkeley, CA 94704 Berkeley BHC. 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.

(X) Petitioner: **KERRY NORMAN GOTT, PRO PER**
6023 Hellman Ave
ALTA LOMA, CA 91737
(909) 268-5645.
The Independent, Legal No. 4742 Published July 9, 16, 23, 2020.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 570976

The following person(s) doing business as: Seeds of Music Academy, 1620 Arroyo Road, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by the following owner(s): Christopher Ansuini, 1620 Arroyo Road, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s: Christopher Ansuini, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 24, 2020. Expires June 24, 2025. The Independent, Legal No. 4743. Published 9, 16, 23, 30, 2020.

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF:

MARIA FATIMA SILVA
Case No. RP20065143

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of: **MARIA FATIMA SILVA**, A Petition for Probate has been filed by: **JOE GUALBERTO SILVA**, in the Superior Court of California, County of ALAMEDA. 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. THE COURT REQUIRES ALL PARTIES

WHO WISH TO ATTEND THE HEARING ON THE BELOW DATE AND TIME, INCLUDING THOSE WHO WISH TO STATE OBJECTIONS, TO APPEAR BY AUDIO OR VIDEO TECHNOLOGY. THE PARTIES SHOULD CONSULT THE COURT'S WEBSITE FOR THE SPECIFIC TELEPHONIC AND VIDEO APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE. THE PARTIES MAY ALSO CONTACT THE PROBATE CLERK AT probateclerk2@alameda.courts.ca.gov. PARTIES MUST BE PRESENT AT LEAST FIVE (5) MINUTES BEFORE THE SCHEDULED HEARING TIME. A hearing on the petition will be held in this court as follows: **Date: August 3, 2020, TIME: 2:00 p.m.** at: SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, Dept. 201 County of Alameda 2120 Martin Luther King, Jr. Way Berkeley, CA 94704 Berkeley BHC.

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. (X) Petitioner: **JOE GUALBERTO SILVA**
Michelle S. Domingo, Attorney for Petitioner
1501 N. Broadway, Suite 260 Walnut Creek, CA 94596 925-891-5006
The Independent, Legal No. 4744 Published July 9, 16, 23, 2020.

CLASSIFIEDS

ANIMALS

2) CATS/ DOGS

ADOPT A DOG OR CAT, for adoption information contact Valley Humane Society at (925) 426-8656



TVAR Tri-Valley Animal Rescue

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Saturdays & Sundays - Kittens at Dublin PetSmart, 6960 Amarador Plaza Rd. Hours: 11am to 3pm.
Visit our website, WWW.TVAR.ORG, to see adoptable animals, volunteer opportunities, and how to donate.

Follow TRI-VALLEY ANIMAL RESCUE on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

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Cat & kitten adoptions now at the new Livermore Petco on Saturdays from 10:00AM to 2:30PM. We have many adorable, tame kittens that have been tested for FIV & FELV, altered & vaccinated. We also have adult cats & ranch cats for adoption.

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65) HELP WANTED

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155) NOTICES

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less than \$500 must state in their advertisements that they are not licensed by the Contractors State License Board."

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170) LAND FOR RENT

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165) HOUSE/ROOMS/RENTALS TO SHARE

160) BOAT / RV RENTAL SPACE

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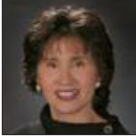
Leslie Faight
leslie@lesliefaight.com
lesliefaight.com
DRE 00971395



Linda Futral
925.980.3561
linda.futral@compass.com
linda.futral.com
DRE 01257605



Kat Gaskins
925.963.7940
kat@katgaskins.com
katgaskins.com
DRE 01137199



Gail Henneberry
925.980.1900
gail.henneberry@compass.com
compass.com
DRE 00693908



Eva Tia
510.847.4310
eva.tia@compass.com
compass.com
DRE 02072764



Linda Traurig
925.382.9746
linda.traurig@compass.com
lindatraurig.com
DRE 01078773



Jo Ann Luisi
925.321.6104
joann.luisi@compass.com
joannluisi.com
DRE 01399250



Lily McClanahan
925.209.9328
lily.mcclanahan@compass.com
compass.com
DRE 01975835



Kris Moxley
925.519.9080
kris.moxley@compass.com
moxleyrealestate.com
DRE 00790463



Maureen Nokes
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Visit Tri-Valley is providing 38 local hotels with facemasks, hand sanitizer and a free, one-year membership to the California Hotel & Lodging Association. (Photo - Visit Tri-Valley)

Critter Camp Goes Virtual

Critter Camp, the Valley Humane Society's summer program for children 9-14, has gone virtual this year because of health concerns and Alameda County restrictions on in-person gatherings.

Much like the traditional Critter Camp, those enrolled in the on-line version will learn about the proper care of pets, pet safety, and careers working with animals. The weeklong sessions will run through July.

Each session will include two daily blocks – 10 a.m. - noon and 1-2 p.m. –

with some group activities conducted live via the video-conferencing software Zoom. Other lessons will involve pre-recorded videos, online worksheets, and activities for independent work. Access to a printer is recommended.

The cost for Virtual Critter Camp is \$150 per child, half the usual cost for the onsite camp, and includes a camp t-shirt and a take-home kit with all the necessary supplies. Registration for Virtual Critter Camp is ongoing at valleyhumane.org.



Valley Humane Society's summer program Critter Camp teaches children the proper care of pets, pet safety and careers working with animals. The weeklong sessions will run through July. (Photo - Valley Humane Society)

LARPD Seeks Two Candidates To Fill Vacant Board Seats

The Livermore Area Recreation and Park District's (LARPD) Board of Directors is seeking candidates to fill two seats.

Those currently occupied by Chair Jan Palajac and Director Beth Wilson are up for reelection on Nov. 3, 2020. The two seats to be filled are for four-year terms from December 2020 to December 2024. The nomination period for persons wishing to declare candidacy is from July 13 to Aug. 7, at 5 p.m. Potential candidates

should visit the Oakland Registrar of Voters website to check eligibility and filing requirements. All candidates must make an appointment for either an in-person or an online video conference with the Oakland Registrar of Voters office. No walk-ins will be accepted.

To make an appointment, call the Candidate Services Department at 510-272-6960. For more information, call Linda VanBuskirk with LARPD at 925-373-5725 or visit www.LARPD.org.



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Visit Tri-Valley Brings Facemasks and Hand Sanitizer to Hotels to Help Ease Burden

To help out the hospitality sector hardest hit by business closures due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Visit Tri-Valley is providing 38 local hotels with facemasks, hand sanitizer and a free, one-year membership to the California Hotel & Lodging Association.

The hand sanitizer and up to 4,000 facemasks, based on the number of rooms in each hotel, are included in the CHLA membership, and were delivered to the DoubleTree by Hilton in Pleasanton last week and picked up by the other hotels.

"The outpouring of gratitude from the hotels was overwhelming," said Susan Bolt of Visit Tri-Valley, who oversaw the distribution. "It really felt like we

were back as a community, with plenty of laughter and tears. It was a huge success."

Tracy Farhad, president of the tourism marketing organization, said Visit Tri-Valley wanted to provide area hotels free membership in the CHLA to ease

the burden when the time comes for them to reopen.

The CHLA has also initiated a "Clean & Safe Certification Program" For a list of hotels in the Tri-Valley that have met the CHLA Clean & Safe checklist, go to <https://visitrivalley.com/cleansafehotels/>.



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