

Board Trustee Conflict Leads To Special School Meeting

District's Attorney Set to Weigh In

By Larry Altman

DUBLIN — Following calls for three trustees to resign, the Dublin Unified School District (DUSD) board scheduled a special meeting for July 12 to discuss whether the three board members committed Brown Act violations during the recent election redistricting process.

While some believed there had indeed been a violation, others alleged the uproar had more to do with a desire to unseat the three in question. The school district's attorney will address the matter during the mid-July meeting.

The June 28 decision followed rancorous public comment reacting to a Facebook post that revealed Dublin resident Bill Carey sent numerous emails and text messages to DUSD trustees Dan Cherrier, Gabi Blackman and William Kuo prior to the board's redistricting vote. Mary Garvey Washington, a parent and DUSD employee, had obtained the communications through a California Public Records Act (PRA) request and posted them on social media. In the emails and texts, Carey encouraged the trustees to vote for a map that placed the board's two other trustees, Megan Rouse and Kristin Pelham, within the same district.

During a Feb. 22 meeting, Cherrier, Kuo and Blackman had voted for that map, known as "Scenario 1" — one of two final maps selected. Rouse and Pelham voted against the map, which shifts Pelham's home address from her own district into Rouse's district. Should both women decide to run for re-election in November, they would face

(See MEETING, page 9)



The skies were alight with fireworks at the Alameda County Fairgrounds on July 1. The annual pyrotechnic display drew crowds of Independence Day celebrants to the county fair's popular event. [See photo gallery at www.independentnews.com/multimedia] (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)

Commission Approves Continuation Of Outdoor Dining Through 2023

By David Jen

DUBLIN — Outdoor restaurant seating will continue in Dublin until at least September 2023 if the city council follows the planning commission's recommendation, passed unanimously on June 28.

In addition to the time extension, the proposed ordinance changes also define a minimum outdoor seating area constructed in

parking lots, at either 20% of the restaurant's required parking or as two parking spaces, whichever is greater; a change that may entice participation from smaller restaurants that might have had less than two parking spaces to work with previously.

"I appreciate that the city has granted this sort of flexibility and recognized that even in a close-to-post CO-

VID-19 world, or whatever we're in, we're fundamentally doing things differently (in) the way we work ... and I think the way we dine," said Chair Catheryn Grier.

Alternate Commissioner Kashef Qaadri added, "It's just wonderful to hear that (there's a desire) to not only preserve the businesses, but make sure that they have a solid footing and hopefully

(See DINING, page 7)

Grand Jury Report Outlines Issues At Santa Rita Jail

By Larry Altman

REGIONAL — An Alameda County Grand Jury investigation of the Santa Rita Jail in Dublin found the facility riddled with problems ranging from electrical and safety hazards to an inability to keep drugs and weapons from getting inside.

The scathing report issued last week followed a four-month investigation into the county's jail, which has been plagued with problems that recently placed it under a federal consent decree to improve conditions, primarily mental health care and recreation opportunities for inmates.

The investigation also found problems with the facility's safety, detainment conditions, COVID-19 management, health care and the process for inmates to file complaints.

"The Grand Jury acknowledges that Santa Rita represents a challenging environment to manage, especially in the context of a global pandemic, and that employees strive to meet rigorous expectations amid competing demands and limited resources," the report said. "Nonetheless, the concerns identified in this report represent material health, safety, and financial

(See JAIL, page 6)

Van Schaack Appointed New Superintendent of Schools

LIVERMORE — Chris Van Schaack has been named the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District's (LVJUSD) new superintendent of schools. Effective Aug. 1, Van Schaack will replace retiring Superintendent Kelly Bowers.

"I recognize the level of trust that goes with assigning responsibility for 13,000 students and 1,500 employees, and I commit to our board and community that not a day will go by when I do not appreciate that in my leadership and decision making," said Van Schaack.

Van Schaack has been the district's deputy superintendent since 2017 and was unanimously approved for the new position on June 28 by the LVJUSD board. Board President Craig Bueno said the past appointment to deputy superintendent was part of the succession planning process the school board



Chris Van Schaack

and Bowers put in place.

"Today, we confirm that our board's priorities and vision for the future are aligned with Mr. Van Schaack's priorities and vision," Bueno noted. "We have every confidence he will continue to lead LVJUSD forward into what we plan to be a very promising tomorrow for Livermore students."

Van Schaack began his career with LVJUSD in 1994 as a high school teacher

(See VAN SCHAACK, page 7)

Mayor Brown Announces Bid For Second Term

PLEASANTON — Mayor Karla Brown recently announced her candidacy to serve a second term.

She has served as mayor since her win in 2020. Prior



Karla Brown

to that, she was on the council for eight years, including two years as vice mayor.

"Pleasanton is a beautiful and safe community with expansive parks, upscale amenities, and a historic picture-perfect downtown," Brown said. "I am proud to serve as mayor to our friendly community, and I vow to continue to use my skills and expertise to better our city, preserve our historic features and keep our community safe."

A recent city-sponsored

(See BROWN, page 7)

Barrientos to Run for City Council Seat

LIVERMORE — Ben Barrientos recently announced his candidacy for the Livermore City Council District 2 seat.

According to a campaign



Ben Barrientos

press release, Barrientos's primary purpose will be to listen to the interests and concerns of the residents of District 2 and to represent his constituents in the best way possible.

Born in the Bay Area, Barrientos has lived in Livermore with his wife for 24 years. He is a former teacher (K-9) and school administrator. He still coaches high school wrestling and occasionally works as a substitute teacher. Barrientos is an

(See BARRIENTOS, page 7)

County Measure Would Expand Ag, Equestrian Spaces

By Larry Altman

REGIONAL — The Alameda County Planning Commission on Tuesday recommended that the Board of Supervisors place a measure on the November ballot asking voters to increase the size of agricultural and equestrian buildings allowed on farmland.

The measure, written over the last year by various county commissioners and staff, would make amendments to Measure D, a voter-approved initiative passed 22 years ago to place restrictions on development to protect farmland and open space.

If passed by voters, the

changes would enable wine growers and other farmers to build agricultural structures on their properties of up to 2.5% of the square-footage of their parcels. A 40-acre property, for example, could have a building of up to 43,560-square feet. Currently, that building can be 1% of what's known as "Floor Area Ratio," FAR, or about 17,400-square feet. Wine growers say 1% FARs are too small to store their necessary equipment. The larger size would equal what is currently allowed for greenhouses.

Under the ordinance, equestrian business owners could erect covered arenas of at least 20,000-square-

feet on smaller farms up to 2.5% of the square footage of a larger parcel. Arenas would be capped at 60,000-square-feet regardless of whether the parcel size would allow for a larger building.

Horse ranchers believe the changes will enable them to hold equestrian competitions and riding events that, for now, are held in other Northern California counties because they are too large to hold under Alameda County's restrictions.

Following its passage in 2000, Measure D, the "Save Agriculture and Open Space Lands Initiative," amended portions of

the East County Area Plan (ECAP) and Castro Valley General Plan (CVGP) to create limitations on development on parcels with general plan designations of Large Parcel Agriculture (LPA) or Resource Management (RM).

Dick Schneider, a co-author of Measure D, told the planning commission on Tuesday that he supported taking the equestrian issue to voters, a different approach that failed nearly a decade ago with only the Board of Supervisors involved.

"A ballot measure is the only way to do this,"

(See SPACES, page 6)

East Bay Community Energy Announces Discounted Rates

By David Jen

REGIONAL — A \$162.8 million budget surplus at East Bay Community Energy (EBCE) has allowed for an improved discount over Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) rates. EBCE projects the increased benefit will continue to rise with inflation over the coming months.

The new pricing, part of the annual budget

unanimously approved at EBCE's June 15 board meeting, gives Bright Choice customers a 3% discount on PG&E's rates, compared to a 1% discount last fiscal year. Renewable 100 customers will receive a three-quarter cent per kilowatt-hour premium over PG&E, compared to one cent previously. Those enrolled in the Renewable 100 plan receive 100% California solar and wind

energy. EBCE provides renewable energy at competitive rates to those who choose to enter the program in Livermore, Pleasanton and Dublin, along with other jurisdictions in Alameda County.

U.S. energy prices soared 34.6% over the past year, the largest 12-month increase in almost 17 years, according to the Bureau of Labor and Statistics. EBCE

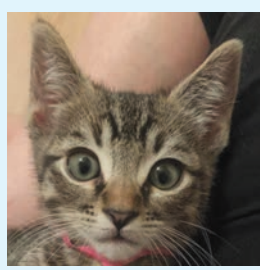
forecasts energy costs to approximately double the historical 12-year average in the new fiscal year.

The budget surplus will also fund local infrastructure investments and a possible one-time \$50 credit to customers.

"We're increasing our budget for what we've referred to as local development, our local programs

(See RATES, page 7)

PET OF THE WEEK



FOOTHILL

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Classifieds	11	Special Needs Film Camp Comes to Livermore	2
Editorial	4	Livermore Commission Unveils New Art, Culture Plan	2
Mailbox	4	Tuesday Tunes Presents Blues House Band	2
Obituaries	9	Pleasanton's Bernal Park Gets New Name	3
Sports	10	Dublin City Council Filing Period Opens	8
		Stanford Blood Center Needs Donations	11

Joey Travolta, Futures Explored Film Camp Comes to Livermore

By Dawnmarie Fehr

Joey Travolta and Futures Explored (FE) are bringing Hollywood to Livermore this month with an inclusive film camp for those with developmental disabilities.

The camp runs June 27 to July 8, with a second session smaller session July 11-15, and is a collaboration between Travolta's organization, Inclusion Films and FE. Though it started out as a way to give children and young adults with autism, the camp has since expanded to include developmental disabilities of all kinds.

"This is an inclusive film camp," said Camp Director Hester Wagner. "The goal is to take all the campers through the process of making a film, and in doing so, help with social skills, flexibility, communication, etcetera. This year, we are back in full swing ... the campers are in three groups, and each group works together to make a film."

The film camp provides participants an opportunity to work creatively in small groups and learn how to write scripts, act, film



Burgeoning filmmakers prepare for a scene during last week's Joey Travolta and Futures Explored Film Camp. The annual forum offers participants with autism and developmental disabilities the opportunity to work on the filmmaking process in a collaborative and inclusive environment. (Photo courtesy of Hester Wagner)

and edit. This year's camp welcomed 51 participants whose completed films will be screened at the Vine Cinema in Livermore in the fall.

Travolta, brother of superstar John, is very hands on, conducting interviews

with campers himself, hearing the film pitches and starting each day off with the campers. His passion for supporting the nonneural normal population stems from his childhood, when his two best friends had special needs. He earned his

degree in special education and taught for years before starting his film company. He now works to open employment opportunities for those with special needs.

He said this year's camp is going well. "With COVID, we have

to be real careful with everything, but the interviews were great, the pitches were great and we started shooting the movies on Friday," Travolta said. "Here's the cool thing about the camp: a lot of the people who are working on it, who I've hired, are former campers who have gone through the adult program."

The adult program is FE, a nonprofit organization working to create equal access to relevant programs, support and advocacy for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. They have partnered with Travolta for more than a decade to bring the camp to multiple locations.

Wagner noted this camp is important because of its inclusiveness.

"I think camp services often don't exist for individuals with disabilities, or they are not included in other camps that exist, because staffing-wise, they don't know what to do to support folks with disabilities," Wagner said, noting she didn't believe the lack of inclusion was ill intended. "I think it's great for kids to be accepted as they are and not have to fit

in a certain mold and find people who can connect with them where they are. Film making has lots of different roles, and they can all find their niche."

Berkeley resident Derethia DuVal has been driving her grandson, Trysten DuVal, to Livermore to participate in the camp. She also spent the week working as a volunteer and said she was impressed with the staff and how they worked with the campers.

"The patience of the teachers and the creativity of the teachers and their ability to communicate that to the students and get them to start from a story board and develop a whole script and implement that script is really phenomenal," DuVal said. "I am really impressed with the varying abilities of the students and everyone is able to function at their best capacity and have fun." Once the movies are all complete, they will be screened at The Vine Cinema this fall.

To learn more about Futures Explored, visit www.futures-explored.org.

To learn more about Inclusion Films, visit www.inclusionfilms.com.

Commission Recommends Council Adopt New Arts and Cultural Plan

By David Jen

Affordable spaces for artists and opportunities for youths and families ranked high among resident requests for advancing arts and culture in the city, according to a new arts and cultural plan.

The Commission for the Arts unanimously agreed on June 28 to recommend that the council adopt the plan called "Creative Livermore," the plan includes a variety of artistic goals for the city over the next decade.

According to the plan's community vision, "Livermore is a regional destination for the arts with a flourishing cultural ecosystem that encourages participa-

tion and inspires diverse thought, conversation, and connection."

Created by a consultant team in conjunction with a Commission for the Arts ad hoc committee, the plan built upon "artsALIVE!", the city's previous arts and cultural plan adopted in 2007. "artsALIVE!" saw the creation of the Bankhead Theater and the development of First Street into a dining, shopping, arts and entertainment destination for the last 15 years.

"Creative Livermore," if adopted, will guide commission investment decisions during upcoming two-year budget cycles and also help community partners align their arts and culture

priorities with the city's.

"What we wanted to do here was identify what mattered to people — identify what that shared vision was for the future," said Brandon Cardwell, Livermore Innovation and Economic Development director.

Arts Commissioner Robert Gausman stressed the importance of baseline data for gauging the plan's execution.

"In one or two years, we'll want to know how many free events were offered to the public at the beginning and how many now, in 2024, we've offered," he said. "How many reduced price events? How many family events? How many that reach out to the

larger community?"

Despite praise for the plan's reflection of the community, Commissioner Cher Wollard raised the need for ongoing communication with the residents.

"We need to find lots of different ways to get the word out about everything," she said. "I've been to the Bankhead a couple times in the last month and sat in wonderful programs that were not completely full. I've been to some of the concerts around town that are free that don't bring in as many people as might enjoy that, the same with some of the art shows that mostly are free. ... You talk about it later and they go, 'I would have loved that.

I wish I'd known. My kid would've loved that. I wish I'd known.'"

Wollard's reference to empty seats echoed a report from Vice Chair Elizabeth McWhorter, who shared ideas for marketing the program, which included leveraging the public com-

ments and staff reports of city council meetings.

As the commissioners agreed to explore the city council option, Wollard added, "A lot of folks, sadly, in our community don't even know there's a Commission for the Arts."

Tuesday Tunes Presents the Blues House Band

The Blues House Band comes to Livermore July 12 for the Tuesday Tunes event at the Shea Home Stage in front of the Bankhead Theater. The family-friendly

free concert kicks off at 6:45 p.m.

Their styles are honed from their experiences as founding members of various Bay Area bands. Marl-

ies de Veer (guitar/vocals) and Amy Beasley (bass/vocals) combine a rocker's attitude and close-knit harmonies with a unique folksier acoustic/electric

approach. Blue House performs throughout the Bay Area playing a mind-boggling eclectic mix of both original and cover material with an emphasis on FUN. They are joined by their good friend Shelley Hoefler on percussion/drums.

The event is produced by the Livermore Cultural Arts Council with additional funding made available from Fremont Bank, Las Positas College Foundation, Uncle Credit Union, Uncle Yu's at the Vineyard, The Independent and Joan and Lynn Seppala. Shea Homes is also the major sponsor of "Tuesday Tunes."

Next up is the Dust Bowl Travelers on July 19. City Municipal Codes restricts alcohol consumption in public places.



The Blues House Band, above, performs July 12 in Livermore as part of the Tuesday Tunes concert series. (Photo courtesy of Blues House Band)

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Cool weather and clear skies made for a spectacular fireworks display in downtown Livermore on Monday, July 4. [See photo gallery at www.independentnews.com/multimedia] (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)

Pleasanton Police Investigation Continues in Attempted Auto Theft

The Pleasanton Police Department (PPD) continues to investigate an attempted auto theft last week that resulted in gunfire.

On June 28, 2022, at approximately 4:50 a.m., the PPD received multiple reports of gunshots in the parking lot of Canyon Meadows neighborhood.

When officers arrived on scene, they learned a victim had confronted two suspects inside and around his vehicle. The victim was pepper sprayed by a suspect and heard a shot fired towards him. The victim, who was legally in possession of a firearm and able to carry, fired multiple rounds

towards the suspects. Two vehicles in the parking lot were struck by bullets. The suspects fled in a pickup truck out of the complex in an unknown direction.

Currently, the suspects are still at large and the PPD is asking anyone with information to contact the department at 925-931-5100.

Supervisors Earmark \$50M for Mental Health Programs at Santa Rita Jail

By Larry Altman

A \$50 million allocation approved last week in the 2022-23 Alameda County budget to fund mental health and substance abuse programs was described as a “small but substantial victory” in the battle to prevent people with behavioral health problems from incarceration at the Santa Rita Jail in Dublin.

The allocation proposed by Supervisor Nate Miley was part of a \$3.8 billion budget adopted July 1.

The Care First Community Coalition (CFCC), a group of Alameda County organizations that had pushed for \$173 million, called the funding an incremental step toward its goal.

“If the county follows through on identifying these mental health investments, it will provide some critical and overdue relief for more than 60% of people incarcerated in Santa Rita Jail with behavioral health needs,” Tash Nguyen, director of programs at Restore Oakland, said.

Miley’s request for the funding followed meetings and discussions over problems in the jail, which last year resulted in a lawsuit settlement that requires a federal judge to monitor improvements in mental care at the facility.

In his written proposal for the money, Miley said he had met with dozens of mental health advocates to discuss the county’s increasing behavioral health needs. He described them as especially prevalent in East Oakland, the unincorporated area, and cities including Pleasanton.

“Far too many individuals with serious, debilitating

and chronic mental health needs continue to live without appropriate care,” Miley wrote.

In addition to the funding for the Alameda County Behavioral Health Care Services Department, Miley requested a report on the costs and feasibility of increasing the number of beds available for patients at Villa Fairmont Mental Health Rehabilitation Center in San Leandro. Villa Fairmont provides intensive mental health and psychiatric treatment services.

CFCC said the funding and services are vital. The coalition reported that at least 63 people, many of whom suffered from mental illness, died at Santa Rita Jail in the last nine years. The county’s Office of Homeless Care and Coordination identified a need for nearly 4,200 units of supportive housing units, far more than the current inventory of 3,215; and the U.S. Justice Department cited a need for a plan to provide services to 4,000 to 6,000 people in the county with

severe mental illness.

“Our county budget is a moral document. This is a matter of life and death for thousands of residents in a mental health crisis,” said Peggy Rahman, president of National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Alameda County.

The coalition said the county’s commitment for mental health “deserves applause,” but noted that the county committed to spending \$344 million on the jail, including \$100 million for more than 450 new jail staff in response to lawsuits over the jail conditions.

“Alameda County can permanently end our reliance on jail and policing as responses to our social and health needs by fully funding scalable and intentional projects that prioritize stability, housing, and community-based mental health care,” said Jason Toro, chief program officer at La Familia, a community mental health service provider.

Bernal Park Gets New Name

The City of Pleasanton Library and Recreation Department has announced a new multi-year sponsorship agreement with Stanford Medicine, Construction Testing Services, and 4Leaf, Inc. (4LEAF) for the naming rights of Bernal Community Park. The sponsorship package will collectively contribute \$630,000 over seven years to fund ongoing facility construction costs at the park.

“The City of Pleasanton is strongly committed to providing our community expansive access to quality parks and outdoor recreation areas,” said Heidi Murphy, director of the City of Pleasanton Library and Recreation Department. “Upholding the high standards of excellence that have become the hallmark of our city’s parks and recreation amenities requires support from organizations that share our love for this community. Through their generous support and continued partnership, each of our new sponsors has demonstrated a desire to invest in the betterment of this community.”

Stanford Medicine, which includes Stanford Children’s Health and Stanford Health Care, will become the new complex sponsor. Under this agreement, the complex will be renamed “Stanford Medicine Sports Complex.” Stanford Medicine will also secure naming rights for the newly rebranded “Stanford Medicine Stadium Field.” Both organizations have locations in Pleasanton which serve the community.

Pleasanton-based engineering firm, 4LEAF, has also joined the city as a new park sponsor. The construction management provider will receive naming rights to Bernal Community Park’s East Field, which will be renamed “4Leaf, Inc.”

The existing sponsor,

Construction Testing Services, will continue its sponsorship of the West Field for the next seven years. As such, the field will continue to be named the “CTS Field.” For the last

of ‘integrity, collaboration, customer service, inclusiveness and innovation.’ We are pleased to be partnering with sponsors that share in our vision and values, and we thank the sports user

“Through their generous support and continued partnership, each of our new sponsors has demonstrated a desire to invest in the betterment of this community.”

— Heidi Murphy,
Director of Library and Recreation Department

27 years, Pleasanton-based Construction Testing Services has held its position as a pre-eminent special inspection and material testing company providing clients with exceptional customer service, knowledgeable engineers and qualified inspectors.

Murphy added, “The Library and Recreation Department has a vision of ‘Inspiring a Vibrant Community,’ which we continuously strive to achieve through an adherence to the organizational values

groups and the sponsors for their support of Bernal Community Park.”

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EDITORIAL A Step in the Right Direction

Thanks to Supervisor Nate Miley's proposal, a \$50 million allocation will fund mental health and substance abuse programs, which will be significant in helping those who are going without care in Alameda County.

The funding for resources comes at a time when psychiatric care beds are dangerously limited, and homelessness is on the rise following the onset of the pandemic. According to an applied research survey published by EveryOne Home, which is leading a movement to end homelessness in Alameda County, "rates of homelessness among those

that self-identify as having mental health or substance use problems in Alameda County are 3-5 times higher than their prevalence in the general population."

The EveryOne Home report also showed that incarceration or law enforcement involvement contributed to housing barriers. Yet all too often, jail time is our answer to mental health and substance abuse crises. County data cited by Care First Community Coalition (CFCC) showed that in 2021, more than 60% of people in Santa Rita Jail had a behavioral health issue, and more than 30% had a documented serious and persistent

mental illness (compared to only 5.6% of the nation's general population).

This cyclical and complicated issue won't be solved with \$50 million alone. As CFCC points out, we would need more than \$170 million to properly fund housing, behavioral health care, crisis response teams, among others. But it's certainly a step in the right direction.

We commend Miley for taking the time to meet with community leaders and advocate for this funding. We hope to see it grow substantially to address the tremendous need in Alameda County.

MAILBOX

Mailbox Guidelines:

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Minority Rule

Van Rainey, Livermore

Eighteen states passed restrictions to voting rights immediately following the 2021 elections, even though some of those states voted for Biden and Democratic Senators but while whole legislatures remain in Republican control. The Supreme Court has ruled that states cannot restrict the right to carry weapons in public, even after the mass shootings across the country that have too frequently populated the news. The Supreme Court has struck down Roe vs. Wade, even though 60 percent of people think it should be legal and many "red" states have passed legislation that makes it illegal. The Supreme Court has allowed for unlimited, hidden financial support for candidates with the Citizens United decision. We have a Supreme Court which consistently allows for the most egregious gerrymandering, even when it restricts the full rights of minorities. We have a Senate where half the number of Senators (Republicans) represent less than 20 percent of the population. With that lopsided power and the cooperation of two Democratic Senators, they obstruct nearly all legislation, except for the defense budget.

We had a former President plan, conspire and attempt to overthrow a duly elected, succeeding candidate for President who won a substantial majority of voters nationally. We have Republican candidates and

existing office holders who continue to support the Big Lie that falsely undergirds the justification for a coup.

What all this adds up to is minority rule. The Constitution was designed to safeguard against the "tyranny" of the majority in the design of our bicameral legislature. Still, this initial design was fostered to protect the privileges of slaveholders in Southern States. The danger, now, is that the minority party in this country is concentrated with the Evangelical right and the populations that support unlimited gun rights. The Venn diagram that encompasses looks more like a single circle and not two distinct but overlapping populations.

I think it is time we had another Constitutional Convention, but it seems unlikely, unless we can limit the powers of the privileged few. We are on a slippery slope of minority rule and sliding toward autocracy. We have less and less faith in our institutions, especially the national government and the Supreme Court that oversees it. We need to chart a course back to assuring that our government returns to being of the people, by the people and for the people, or surely, we shall perish from the Earth.

Livermore Deserves A Vote

Marcus Libkind, Livermore

The Livermore City Council has never given the citizens an opportunity to vote on the currently proposed Eden Project downtown, although it became extremely controversial when the city allowed changes to footprint, parking and more.

The November election for Mayor and two district council members was going to be a referendum on the Council's actions. Then, in what appears to be an attempt to stop a new Council from looking at the Eden issues and alternatives, the current Council has accelerated the transfer of the property in question to Eden. Why? Clearly to shackle the hands of a new Council. The current Council does not want to give the citizens of Livermore the opportunity to voice an opinion.

It is for this reason that I support the referendum that would halt the current Council from moving forward with the transfer of the downtown property to Eden.

The citizens of Livermore deserve to be heard. If legal action is the only way for that to happen, then so be it. The legal action is the fault of a Livermore City Council that continues to refuse to give the citizens

a chance to voice their opinion.

Report From the Field

Tom Ramos, Livermore

About a month ago, twenty fellow Livermore citizens met and we volunteered to collect signatures to negate that arrogant and seemingly unethical resolution by the city council to forbid future councils from reversing their decisions regarding their placement of Eden Housing, you know, that's the four-story apartment structure they're sticking in the heart of our downtown. We're hoping to reverse that action by calling for a Livermore referendum to allow citizens to vote down the council's resolution.

For a few afternoons, I went near the Lucky's supermarket on Holmes Street and asked passersby to sign our petition and I was able to secure about seventy-five signatures. I identified myself as a Livermore resident and volunteer, and then I quickly explained why I was holding a petition. I hoped they would sign. Most people I met said they were too busy, or they were not interested, or they needed to study the issues more. A few made it clear they opposed the petition. One man said he knew me, he had watched my lectures about Livermore in the 1950s on YouTube, and he wasn't going to sign the petition. I missed asking him if he had at least read my book, From Berkeley to Berlin.

I made a mental note that for each person who said they opposed the petition, I met three citizens who told me they would be happy to sign the petition. Many said they couldn't stand seeing the Legacy four-story structure that was approved by Marchand being built, and they didn't like the city council's plans to build more four-story structures in our downtown. They would be overjoyed, they said, to reverse the council's actions. I couldn't help but feel that my volunteering was doing something important for our city.

Let's Pull Together

Victoria Whyte Ball

I was born in San Francisco and raised in Twain Harte. When I was a child and before the freeway complex existed, my family frequently drove through Livermore on our way to visit the relatives in Redwood City and San Francisco. I always said I would never live in Livermore. Well, it turns out I have lived in Livermore now for 36 years and raised all our kids here. Some of our grown kids live here still. Never Say Never. I love this city. When the old Lucky store was removed, we were given a golden opportunity to re-engineer the downtown space. I hoped to see it expanded as a gathering place for art, food, culture, music, and the sciences! Now, I hope we can pull together and move the needed housing to a more appropriate location and keep more of our unique city's center for everyone

to enjoy!

Federalist Society Supreme Court Justices Decree Humanity's Death

Greg Scott, Livermore

The right-wing majority of the U.S. Supreme Court has recently ruled to redefine the Clean Air Act, section 111, through its decision on West Virginia versus Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). This judgment will be a profound detriment to humanity in its effects on the regulating of radiative reflective gases — misnamed "greenhouse gases" — and precedent for rulings on governance by regulations bearing on the environment, health, consumer protections, finances and other aspects of our lives. The right-wing tribe has won a major decision in its long attack on the "administrative state." (Metzger, "1930s Redux: The Administrative State Under Siege," Harvard Law Review, 11/2017).

This court decision does not stop the regulation of radiative reactive gases; however, it makes it exceedingly more difficult and expensive. West Virginia vs. EPA affects the Clean Power Act, which was not yet in place or enforced. The EPA has to now regulate on an individual site basis and cannot regulate via a statewide platform. This eliminates the cap-and-trade approach and is ironic, because this would be a solution through 'market' means, which falls into right-wing-tribe spectrum.

This effectively makes the goals for radiative — reactive gas emissions even more of a fantasy. Given the inept, duplicitous and disingenuous Biden Administration's actions on climate disruption, these objectives were delusions anyway.

Atmospheric carbon dioxide concentrations are recorded along the Keeling Curve. This curve has an annual minimum and maximum, both of which are increasing. The daily averages of the maxima this last May were just over 420 parts-per-million (ppm). This was 50% above maximum averages at the start of the Industrial Revolution in the mid to late 1700s, which had been stable at those concentrations for the previous 6,000 years of human history.

The climate-disruption-effects are, and will be, brutal. Climate disruption has accentuated the drought in Somalia. It is estimated that 365,000 children will be dead there by October. The Western U.S. is poised to explode in wildfires, perpetuated by climate disruption and inept forest management. "...[T]he conservative justices have installed a powerful and — for public health and the environment — dangerous new approach to statutory interpretation." (Heinzerling, "Climate Change in the Supreme Court," New England Journal of Medicine, 6/16/2022).

"America, where are you now? / Don't you care about your sons and your daughters?" (Steppenwolf,

"Monster"). It is time for us to wake up and address the nightmare children.

We Citizens Have Been Ignored

Richard Andrews, Livermore

I hear that the supporters of the return of the former ringmaster of Livermore's Clown Circus are whining about the cost and alleged futility of the referendum. The reason it is happening seems to have escaped them.

Mayor Bob Woerner's current City Council followed, like Pavlov's dog, the bell ringing of their puppeteer, former mayor John Marchand. They voted against the people (in excess of a 2/3 majority shown in polls) and modified the Eden project to suit the needs of the developer.

The complainers also don't discuss the proposed loan of city money to Eden (\$7.8 million), funds they should have gotten from a legitimate lender. Our taxpayers' money is being loaned to Eden so that they can acquire the city-owned site in the center of our downtown in late September, just six weeks before the next council election. Then, a newly elected council majority would not be able to relocate the Eden Housing project.

Now, we citizens are forced to turn to the last defense against this usurpation of power: The Referendum. It is the last resort to block the Circus, which has ignored us. Perhaps, the council members should put up their personal money so that the City Attorney could handle the case for his keepers. Maybe, if they spent some of their own money and not Livermore taxpayers' money, they might feel differently.

The referendum is not "An Exercise in Futility". It is the citizenry telling Hizhonor and Pavlov's puppies that we have had enough of their nonsense, that WE want representatives who will listen, and not hide their agendas.

Unjust SCOTUS

Alan Marling, Livermore

If you're angry or fearful about the recent SCOTUS rulings, your feelings are justified. I suggest channeling that emotion into positive action.

Should you want a recommendation of what to do, look into Indivisible. They have a local chapter in Livermore Indivisible. Please join them this Sunday, July 10, 2022, from 4 to 6 p.m. at Big Trees Park, 5470 Kathy Way. You can also find them online at:

<https://livermoreindivisible.org/>

<https://indivisible.org/>
Indivisible has groups across the nation, and together they have a plan to meet this moment.

A 4th of July Celebration In Pleasanton

Owen Brovont, Livermore

Jan and I, with some friends, enjoyed celebrating the 4th of July with an afternoon of music presented by a local orchestra in the middle of Pleasanton's wonderful Lions Wayside

Park. One of our friends from out of town contributed his musical talent as part of the orchestra. There was a large appreciative audience of residents and visitors to listen as the musicians played tunes selected mostly from the 20s. The day demonstrated the joys of having gatherings of local citizens and friends celebrating a traditional special occasion in their town that all Americans look forward to every year to commemorate and rejoice over the birth of their nation.

Livermore, just a few miles down the road to the east, still has an opportunity to create a similar central park in which to hold its joyous community celebrations. However, Livermore's city council is adamant about constructing a four-story concrete behemoth instead. Rather than select a more appropriate site from those available, the council prefers to construct a huge apartment complex in the middle of town that will, for all practical purposes, permanently foreclose the possibility of a community park which the absence of foresight by its city leaders failed to create. Our enjoyment of the celebration of the 4th of July was especially enjoyed in Pleasanton's Wayside Park this afternoon.

After the concert, attendees dispersed to the many fine restaurants on Main Street, and overflowing crowds congregated at the Meadowlark Dairy just around the corner from the Wayside Park to indulge in their wonderful ice creams, a 4th of July tradition. Livermore residents must be content with personal chairs and stools or sitting on hard concrete curbs to watch celebratory fireworks blossom in the sky over buildings in the center of town instead of from a cool central park! But that is another tragedy authored by the lack of foresight in the past.

A July Grab-bag Of Goodies

Trish Munro, Livermore

Taking care of our most vulnerable children

Great news! The State of California awarded Livermore, in collaboration with the Livermore Housing Authority, a Family Homelessness Challenge Grant of more than half a million dollars--\$581,000 to be exact! This grant will provide homeless students in LVJUSD and their families with bridge housing, supportive services, and housing navigation. Livermore is one of only ten communities across California to receive this award.

While Livermore has long been committed to caring for people without homes, families with children who are homeless face unique challenges. This program and the resulting grant will enable the school district, nonprofit service providers, and the Livermore Housing Authority to help participating families permanently exit homelessness. More information here:

(See MAILBOX, page 5)

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)243-8000. Mailed at Periodical 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.

Advertising and subscription rates may be obtained by calling (925)243-8000 during regular business hours or by emailing info@independentnews.com. Editorial information may be submitted by emailing editor@independentnews.com

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MAILBOX

(Continued from page 4)

<https://www.LivermoreCA.gov/news>

Be a voice for youth in Livermore!

The future—by definition—belongs to the young. If you are between 12 and 20 years old, start making a difference in Livermore NOW. Apply for the Livermore Area Youth Advisory Commission and be the voice for your peers now. Learn about local government, build on past programs, and advocate for change. Applications due by 5:00 p.m. on August 12. Here's the link: www.LivermoreCA.gov/ab

Happy Birthday to Rincon Library!

On Saturday, July 9, from 12:30 to 3:00 pm, everyone is invited to celebrate Rincon Library's 30th birthday. Over the past several decades, Rincon Branch has developed programs for people of all ages to learn, to enjoy, pursue their goals, and build relationships with each other and the community. Now join other Livermore residents to celebrate this birthday with music, treats, and fun activities. With any luck, you'll even get to see the library blow out the candles on its cake.

Jazz in July returns to the Civic Center Library!

On Saturday, July 9, at 2 PM, come and listen to Jazz Caliente, guitarist and composer Lee Waterman's Latin jazz ensemble, as they play music that percolates with infectious Afro Cuban and Brazilian rhythms.

Then, on Saturday, July

16, at 2 PM, enjoy a very different kind of jazz music, as guitar virtuoso Mimi Fox plays an eclectic spectrum of music that includes The Beatles, Cole Porter, Wes Montgomery, and original compositions, all performed with Fox's signature lightning fast playing and soaring passion.

It may not cool you down, but this music is a kind of hot everyone enjoys!

I Support Mony for Mayor
Ajay Saini, Livermore

I am very excited that Mony is a Livermore Mayor candidate. The reason for the excitement is that even if you are meeting him for the first time, it becomes immediately clear that he is one of us. He is a local small business owner, has served as a Livermore police officer for 17 years and is a very trustworthy person. He is a man with a big heart and has promised to donate his full first term salary to four non-profit organizations - Culinary Angels, Tri-Valley Haven Food Pantry, Tri-Valley Nonprofit Alliance, and Eden Housing.

Mony represents diversity and inclusion. He would protect the beauty, skyline and character of downtown Livermore, while enhancing the small town feel of Livermore. He is a giver who loves giving back to the community. Some of the priorities for Mony are as follows:

- Relocate Eden Housing

- Bring High Paying Jobs to Livermore
- Increase Public Safety
- Address Homelessness
- Increase Access to Affordable Housing

Mony understands the challenges of a common man because of his own humble beginnings. He would work hard to increase our public safety and his experience as a police officer will be a big bonus. He leads by example, and we need a leader who can serve us now and into the future, too. Mony is that leader and he has my full support.

Letter to the Editor
Kelly Baalman, Dublin

According to the California Fair Political Practices Commission webpage, "Public service is a public trust, requiring officials and employees to place loyalty to the citizens, the laws and ethical principles above private gain. Following ethical guidelines and eliminating any improprieties, or even the appearance of potential corruption, is imperative to safeguarding the public's trust in government. To help accomplish this goal, laws exist to aid public officials in avoiding conflicts between an official's public duties and the official's personal interests."

The Brown Act is a California law requiring that meetings and discussions of public agencies, such as school boards, occur in front of a public audience and provide the public with

an opportunity to attend and participate. This is why a school board must provide public notice of their meetings, post agendas of the subjects to be discussed at those meetings and provide public access to those meetings. These rules and others are clearly outlined in the Brown Act.

For example, a majority of the school board (or 3 of 5 members) is prohibited from meeting on their own to discuss official matters either in person or via digital communication, AND they also cannot meet individually with a common intermediary to discuss those matters. Such a series of meetings are called "serial meetings," and they are specifically defined and prohibited in the Brown Act.

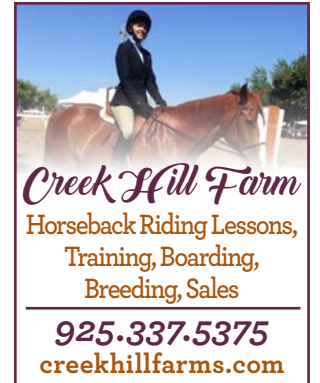
Through a series of texts proctored by an individual community member, three Dublin School Board Trustees — Cherrier, Blackman and Kuo — appear to have done exactly that: discussed school board matters in a serial meeting outside of public view, curtailing the public's ability to monitor and contribute to the decision-making process. The people of Dublin could not know (nor weigh in on) the comments in these private texts, but only the comments the trustees shared during the public school board meetings. We now know that there were two very different conversations going on. While they were supposed to be modifying the trustee area map

to balance population and demographics, and they purported to do so publicly, they were actually discussing plans for their own political gain (and the demise of others) outside of the public eye. This is exactly the sort of back-room deal that the Brown Act was written to prevent.

Thank You
Carol Silva, Livermore

I oppose the authorization of the execution of an Amended and Restated Disposition, Development and Loan Agreement (DDL) with Eden Housing, Inc. for development of the Downtown Multi-family Housing Site, which the City approved for the transfer of property to Eden Housing in advance of the expected date for the property transfer. The City Council passed this resolution at their May 23, 2022 meeting to prevent a future City Council from moving the location of Eden Housing.

I want to thank all the people who signed the referendum against the resolution. This referendum is needed so that the City Council's resolution can be reversed, which would allow a new Council majority to move Eden Housing's massive 4-story buildings from across L Street's 4-story Legacy apartments to a nearby location, but off the city center. Also, a big thank you goes to all the people who gathered signatures for the referendum against this resolution.



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LET VOTERS DECIDE

In just 4 weeks, about 6,000 Livermore residents signed petitions demanding a vote on Eden Housing. We call on the City Council to let voters decide this issue on November 8th.

When the City Council tried to permanently block any future changes to their flawed Eden Housing plan (Resolution 2022-085), Livermore residents fought back.

Dozens of volunteers mobilized and about 6,000 Livermore residents quickly signed the referendum to allow Livermore voters, not just politicians, to decide the issue.

Now, the City Council must act to place this issue before voters on November 8. Any attempts to block or delay a vote would be a slap in the face of democracy.

The flawed Eden Housing plan, with its massive 4-story buildings in the downtown center, insufficient parking, and no promised workforce housing, needs to change. The City Council has refused. Now, it's our turn.

Thank You To the Volunteers Who Helped



and the Thousands of Livermore Voters Who Signed the Petition!



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JAIL

(Continued from first page)

risks and as such warrant urgent attention.”

The report made 28 recommendations to fix the identified problems. The county has three months to respond.

The Grand Jury opened its four-month investigation in October 2021 following years of in-custody deaths, lawsuits over conditions, and a high COVID-19 infection rate among staff and inmates. In addition, the U.S. Justice Department in 2021 said the jail's mental health treatment protocols violated the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The report also follows an election where the jail's conditions played a role in voters' decision to replace long-time Sheriff Gregory Ahern with Division Commander Yesenia Sanchez, who defeated Ahern on June 7 without the need for a runoff in November. She takes over in January.

Tya Modeste, a public information officer for the Sheriff's Office, said the Sheriff's Office will respond to the Grand Jury's comments within the 90-day period.

“We continue to combat drugs getting into the Santa Rita Jail,” Modeste wrote in an email to The Independent. “Two years ago, we developed and imple-

mented a Special Investigative Unit (SIU) and a K9 program to address this issue more aggressively. It was our SIU that developed information, which led to the investigation, arrest and ultimate termination of the former employee who brought drugs and other contraband into the facility. Our SIU and K9s continue to intercept drugs headed into the jail. The safety and security of the Santa Rita Jail is and has always been a priority. When the Grand Jury visited, they were escorted and closely monitored in every area of the facility and were always supervised.”

Seven Grand Jury members conducted four on-site jail inspections, reviewed 1,375 detainee grievances, interviewed staff and reviewed jail records to identify dozens of problems and make recommendations to fix them.

“The Grand Jury learned that Santa Rita staff view the entry of contraband, especially illicit drugs, as perhaps the most serious and persistent challenge faced by the jail,” the report said.

Seven jurors, the report said, entered the facility 13 times and walked into secure areas, including detainees housing units,

where they were able to talk to inmates. Only once, the report said, was any juror required to show identification.

Santa Rita's own internal reports found drugs and weapons entering the jail to be a “persistent problem,” but jurors found a “near absence” of controls. Not once, the report said, was a juror required to pass through a metal detector, have bags X-rayed or undergo a physical search.

Jurors who reviewed grievances found detainees most concerned about delays in medical services and staff conduct. Other concerns included cleanliness, jail-issued tablets, the food, mail and where they were housed.

“The Grand Jury confirmed that demand for medical services exceeded available capacity, often causing long wait times for appointments,” the report said.

The Alameda County Sheriff's Office contract with Wellpath for medical care includes provisions for monetary penalties for understaffed shifts and each

occurrence of below-quality delivery, but no penalties had been levied against the health care provider.

The county's contract with Wellpath, the Grand Jury noted, requires a drug-free workplace, but Wellpath's medical director for the jail, in fact, had been fired in August 2020 for self-prescribing medication.

The report said, “Despite the extended time frame of the substance abuse by a senior medical provider at the jail, the use of jail resources to obtain fraudulent prescriptions, and Wellpath's concerns that its employee had been practicing medicine while impaired, a timely and transparent communication between Wellpath and Santa Rita on this issue did not take place.”

In other findings:

- The Grand Jury members noticed empty outdoor mini-yards and found that inmates were being allowed just one-hour a week outdoors. Jail staff said the time was offered daily, but the Grand Jury found that to be inac-

curate.

- Jury members found foul odors and evidence of feces smeared on walls in several temporary holding cells, and that while many areas of the

The Grand Jury gave credit to ACSO for a COVID-19 response plan that included on-site testing and vaccinations behind bars, but noted that vaccination rates among inmates were

“The Grand Jury learned that Santa Rita staff view the entry of contraband, especially illicit drugs, as perhaps the most serious and persistent challenge faced by the jail.”

jail, including housing areas, appeared freshly cleaned, some housing units were dirty.

- Although jail officials took temperatures of incoming detainees, they failed to ask questions about symptoms and potential exposures to COVID-19. Detainees received soap, hand sanitizer and masks, but the jury members observed most were not wearing the masks.

between 25% and 30%. Testing rates were lower.

It also found that the grievance process for inmates fell short, including leaving many complaints open for lengthy periods of time.

The investigation also found high-risk safety code violations throughout the jail, including electrical wiring not installed to code and out-of-date emergency safety equipment.

SPACES

(Continued from first page)

Schneider said. “Changing the FAR is a substantive change to Measure D, not a technical modification that the Board of Supervisors is authorized to make. I support the ballot measure approach, which is not the way it was attempted the first time around.”

social events.”

Schneider added that smaller parcels will have “proportionately smaller covered arenas so that neighboring property owners will not be unduly impacted by too many excessively large-roofed structures nearby.”

“I would say that Friends of Livermore has been very helpful in adopting this and working with us on the language that was acceptable to this community. I think it's very important to get this passed.”

— Chuck Moore, county AAC member

The measure will be forwarded to the supervisors in July for their approval to send to voters. The move comes following about three years of discussions about potential amendments to Measure D. Friends of Livermore (FOL), a community grassroots organization that supports provisions of Measure D to protect natural lands, said previously that the size of equestrian facilities was the only issue identified for potential change during 18 meetings.

The group last year announced its support for changes as long as the ballot measure limited the increase to 2.5% FAR for all agricultural buildings on LPA. That limit is the same as allowed for greenhouses.

In addition, following numerous meetings of the AAC, planning commission and board of supervisors, the ballot measure added the 20,000-square-foot minimum arena size for smaller horse farms and a maximum limit of 2.5% on larger farms, but no bigger than 60,000-square-foot no matter the parcel size.

“The ballot measure will allow larger agricultural buildings in LPA-designated areas, and it enacts a new square footage allowance for covered equestrian riding arenas in both the LPA and Resource Management designations, including in the Castro Valley and Palomares Canyonlands,” Schneider said. “Importantly, the larger agricultural buildings are for agricultural purposes only. They cannot be used to serve the public or for

“To the extent that current building square footage limits have prevented agricultural and equestrian businesses from being successful, these changes should make a significant difference,” Schneider said.

With minimal discussion, the planning commission approved sending the ordinance to the board of supervisors with a 7-0 vote.

Besides Schneider, the planning commission heard from two community members in support of the measure. Jean King, a representative of FOL, said the group took part in the year of public meetings with concerns about the need for larger agricultural buildings and covered equestrian buildings.

“This measure addresses those concerns with practical limits,” King said. “Therefore, Friends of Livermore supports this Measure D initiative.”

Chuck Moore, a county AAC member who helped to formulate the language of the measure last year, said the change will enable horse ranchers like himself to hold equestrian events.

“I would say that Friends of Livermore has been very helpful in adopting this and working with us on the language that was acceptable to this community,” said Moore, who took part in the earlier failed effort. “I think it's very important to get this passed.”

The board of supervisors will conduct a first reading of the ordinance at its July 19 meeting with official approval expected on Aug. 2. It must be passed by Aug. 12 to be eligible for the Nov. 8 election.

OUR LOCAL NONPROFITS NEED YOUR SUPPORT, PLEASE DONATE IF YOU ARE ABLE!

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Pal-art.com

Pleasanton Community Concert Band
P.O. Box 135
Pleasanton, CA 94566
info@pleasantonband.org
PleasantonBand.org

Quest Science Center
P.O. Box 2129
Livermore, CA 94551
925-292-8099
Quest-Science.org

Reins In Motion
Therapeutic Riding Program
P.O. Box 1001
Livermore, CA 94551
reinsinmotionca.com

Rotarian Foundation of Livermore
P.O. Box 2181
Livermore, CA 94551-2181
http://www.rotarianfoundationlivermore.org

Sandra J. Wing Healing Therapies Foundation
5890 Stoneridge Dr., Suite 104
Pleasanton, CA 94588
866-862-7270
HealingTherapiesFoundation.org

School Of Imagination & Happy Talkers
9801 Dublin Blvd.
Dublin, CA 94568
925-829-9555
Schoolofimagination.org

Senior Support Program of The Tri-Valley
5353 Sunol Blvd.
Pleasanton, CA 94566
925-931-5378
SSPTV.org

Shakespeare's Associates, dba Livermore Shakespeare Festival
P.O. Box 2616
Livermore, CA 94551
(925) 443-2273
LivermoreShakes.org

Shepherds Gate
1660 Portola Ave.
Livermore, CA 94550
925-443-4283
ShepherdsGate.org

Sleep In Heavenly Peace Alameda Co.
Daniel.curtis@shpbeds.org
510-827-7033
Shpbeds.org

SPECTRUM Community Services, Inc./Meals on Wheels
2621 Barrington Ct.
Hayward, CA 94545
510-881-0300
SpectrumCS.org

Sunflower Hill
info@sunflowerhill.org
925-800-1042
SunFlowerhill.org

The Taylor Family Foundation
P.O. Box 2450
Livermore CA, 94551
925-455-5118
TTF.org

Tri-Valley Animal Rescue
P.O. Box 11143
Pleasanton, CA 94588
TVAR.org

Tri-Valley Conservancy
1457 First St.
Livermore, CA 94550
925-449-8706
TriValleyconservancy.org

Tri-Valley Haven
3663 Pacific Ave.
Livermore, CA 94551
925-449-5842
TriValleyHaven.org

Tri-Valley Nonprofit Alliance
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Livermore, CA 94550
TVNPA.org

Tri Valley Reach
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Pleasanton, CA 94566
TriVallyReach.org

Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre
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Pleasanton, CA 94566
info@trivalleyrep.com
Trivalleyrep.org

ValleyCare Charitable Foundation/Stanford Health Care-ValleyCare
1111 E. Stanley Blvd.
Livermore, CA 94550
925-373-4560
GiveValleyCare.org

Valley Concert Chorale
P.O. Box 286
Livermore, CA 94551
Valleyconcertchorale.org

Valley Dance Theatre
2247-B Second St.
Livermore, CA 94550
925-243-0925
Valleydancetheatre.com

Valley Humane Society
3670 Nevada St.
Pleasanton, CA 94566
925-426-8656
ValleyHumane.org

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The unseasonably cool weather attracted plenty of fairgoers over the July 4th weekend at the Alameda County Fairgrounds in Pleasanton. The fair runs through July 10. [See photo gallery at www.independentnews.com/multimedia] (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)



Pleasanton celebrated the holiday weekend on July 1 with music in the downtown park. [See photo gallery at www.independentnews.com/multimedia] (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)

VAN SCHAACK

(Continued from first page)

and coach, and served as an elementary and high school principal and director of student services and special education before becoming assistant superintendent of administrative services in 2011 and deputy superintendent in 2017. Among his many responsibilities, he has led the district's negotiations team for the past 12 years and played a pivotal role in the district's management of and response to the COVID-19 pandemic over the past two and a half years. Van Schaack and his wife, Leslie, are longtime

Livermore residents; all their children attended and graduated from Livermore schools.

On behalf of the Livermore Education Association (LEA), which represents LVJUSD's teachers, LEA President Aimee Thompson expressed support for Van Schaack's promotion.

"We believe this consistency in leadership will be of benefit to our students," said Thompson.

Bowers stated that Van Schaack is the perfect choice for the district.

"Chris is more than prepared to take on the role of superintendent," said Bowers. "He understands the needs of our district and has great vision for propelling it forward. He has the full endorsement of our board and the enthusiastic support of our colleagues to take our district to even greater heights. It is with great pride that I pass the baton to him."

Van Schaack will address district staff and share his vision for the future at LVJUSD's annual kick-off event on Aug. 22.

DINING

(Continued from first page)

thrive and prosper in the future."

The city initially established a COVID-19 Relief Temporary Use Permit ap-

overwhelming desire for the city to continue to facilitate outdoor seating on both a long-term temporary and permanent basis through

walking tour and roundtable meeting with restaurant owners in April again revealed strong support for the outdoor dining.

The permit program has received 47 applications since its inception.

Commissioner Stephen Wright suggested staff consider ordinance changes that extend beyond a year to encourage restaurants, especially new ones, to consider more permanent investments in their outdoor spaces.

But Associate Planner Gaspar Annibale disagreed.

"I think one year just gives us that time to assess and understand impacts," he said. "Once the one year mark comes closer around, we can do that outreach with businesses, see where they're at, and see how we can assist them during this COVID-19 environment."

plication for "long-term temporary" land uses in June 2020, which the city council intended to remain in effect until June 2021.

However, restaurant owner feedback received in April 2021 "expressed an

relaxed regulations," according to the staff report, and the city council adopted an ordinance in August 2021 permitting outdoor seating until Sept. 30, 2022.

Further outreach in the form of a business survey,

RATES

(Continued from first page)

to help increase the conversion to electric vehicles, and electrifying buildings and getting solar and storage on critical facilities," said Annie Henderson, EBCE Vice President of marketing and account services.

The budget allocates \$1 million to a pilot program designed to electrify goods movement at the Port of Oakland, \$2 million to municipal fleet electrification, and \$3 million to public fast-charging hubs near high-density multifamily housing.

"Unlike single family homes that typically have parking and thus ability to charge at home, multifamily housing very often does not have dedicated park-

ing, or if there's dedicated parking, it's not owned by the resident and so there's very limited ability to invest in charging for a vehicle," explained EBCE Chief Executive Officer Nick Chaset. "So you end up in a situation where if you live in multifamily, your ability to charge at home overnight is significantly diminished relative to single family."

Public speakers also commented last month on whether EBCE — a not-for-profit public agency — should spend \$15 million of the surplus to create an EBCE pediatric asthma program at the UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital in Oakland.

Supporters of the hospi-

tal grant shared the need for increased asthma resources in the East Bay, while opponents argued that asthma care fell outside EBCE's purview of low-cost electricity and greenhouse gas emission reductions.

"Let the rich billionaires that don't know what to do with their money throw it at hospitals," said Berkeley resident Chris Gilbert. "Let's have EBCE invest in something it knows."

Although EBCE previously presented the hospital grant as part of its fiscal year 2022-23 budget, it deferred discussion on the grant at its June 15 board meeting, when the board approved the budget without the hospital grant.

BARRIENTOS

(Continued from first page)

active member of the Lions Club, where he serves as president.

Barrientos supports more affordable housing in Livermore for teachers, nurses, police, firemen, and other employees who want to live near their workplace.

He is in favor of a large downtown park, where families and visitors can come to relax and enjoy the open space.

Barrientos plans to address the homeless problem

in Livermore by working with churches, other nonprofits and the local police to find a viable solution. He also wants to focus on the future energy needs of the city and explore possible collaborations with the local labs and colleges in the area to secure microgrids.

Barrientos is a strong supporter of music and the performing arts and will strive to secure Livermore as a mecca for the arts.

Congestion on N. Vasco Road near Garaventa

Ranch Road is a top priority for him and he is committed to alleviating traffic congestion on that busy stretch of road, especially when school children are crossing to go home.

He supports the environmental protection of the Garaventa Hill site for future generations. He would also work to bring a big-name local supermarket to the residents of Springtown, so they don't have to cross I580 to buy groceries for their families.

BROWN

(Continued from first page)

survey stated 94% of residents consider Pleasanton an Excellent or Good place to live.

"My motto has been 'We are in this together', so when the pandemic created financial hardships for many of our residents and small businesses, I supported the city's approval of using Alameda County Grants, and city sponsored zero interest rate loans, as a lifeline to recovery," said Brown.

Brown said she has maintained extensive outreach to both the residents, youth members and business professionals in her role as Pleasanton's mayor. She also reported frequently meeting with community groups and business leaders to share data, to listen and help resolve problems.

Brown represents Pleasanton on many regional boards and subcommittees; she currently serves as the board chair for Wheels Bus. As an advocate for ensuring the community's water quality and supply, she sits on the Tri-Valley Water Roundtable and as a liaison to the Zone 7 Water Board.

In addition, Brown was elected to chair the city/school district liaison committee. This committee helped to form new policies for school resource officers. She also serves on the Alameda County Mayors' Conference for regional influence and has a seat on many transportation boards to support transportation funding for Pleasanton and the Tri-Valley.

Vice Mayor Valerie Arkin has endorsed Brown for a second term.

"Karla is collaborative and respectful to residents and her colleagues on the city council," Arkin said. "As a mayor, Karla is always prepared, respectful, and she works hard to find a common ground where all five of us (on the council) can offer our support."

Brown said she understands the city must meet state mandates for future housing.

"Reasonable and smart growth policies helped to shape Pleasanton into the award-winning community we have today," said Brown, who also supports a balanced approach for local jobs offering a work/life balance to residents.

Just as in 2020, Brown said she will refuse any campaign donations from builders and developers.

She said she offers independent decision making for the betterment of the community.

Brown is a local businesswoman who has resided in Pleasanton for more than 20 years. Her background includes a long career in the semiconductor industry. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree from San Jose State University.

For more information, visit www.Vote4Karla.com or email Karla@Vote4Karla.com.

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LLNL to Research Purifying Rare Earth Elements With Grant From the DARPA

Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) and collaborating agencies have received a \$4 million grant from the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) to develop ways to separate and purify rare-earth elements using both naturally occurring and engineered proteins and bacteria.

Rare-earth elements (REE) are used in many electrical and electronic devices, from computers to microwave ovens and electric vehicles, and are considered essential to a high-tech economy. In the defense sector, they are used for lasers, precision-guided weapons, and high-performance magnets.

Although the U.S. has adequate domestic REE resources, LLNL scientist Yongqin Jiao, principal investigator for the project, said the supply chain is vulnerable because the nation depends on foreign entities to separate and purify the elements.

“To date, the chemical processes required to extract and purify REEs have been complex and harmful to the environment,” Jiao said. “Extracting or recycling REE from new sources, like low-grade ores and tailings, while using natural products could be a game changer for the REE supply chain.”

The LLNL team will research new biomining methods, using environmental

microbiology, synthetic biology, and protein-engineering, to convert REEs into manufacturing-ready forms.

“By cultivating new and translating existing bio-engineered REE-converting bacteria and proteins, we will deliver platform biotechnologies for REE separation and purification with high commercialization potential,” said LLNL scientist Dan Park, one of the technical leads for the project.

Penn State, Columbia University, Tufts University, University of Kentucky, Purdue University, and industry partner Western Rare Earths are collaborating with LLNL.



The Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory has received a grant from the Defense Advanced Research Project Agency to develop ways to separate and purify rare-earth elements like those pictured above. (Photo courtesy of Lawrence Livermore Lab)

FEMA Updates Mobile Emergency App

FEMA has announced an updated mobile app – in English and Spanish – to give users increased personalization options and help them take charge of disasters. Downloading the app now is especially important as we enter peak hurricane and wildfire seasons.

Driven by critical customer feedback, this is the mobile app’s largest update in the last 10 years and demonstrates FEMA’s continued commitment to meeting people where they are by providing the resources they need in a user-friendly way.

“FEMA is committed to providing families with the tools and information they need to keep themselves and their loved ones safe from disasters,” said FEMA Administrator Deanne Criswell. “By advancing our mobile app technology, we are better helping communities plan, protect and recover from disasters through clear, effective and reliable communication.”

The original FEMA app gave users a reference guide of information to pull from and basic alert features. The new app will allow users to customize what they see in the app in order to receive information most relevant to their user preferences and

location. Another innovative feature of this revamp is a Recover section that helps disaster survivors understand federal disaster declarations in their area and get answers to common questions about the assistance application process. Together, these new features help users better prepare for, protect against and recover from disasters.

The app’s redesign has been rooted in the customer experience and user feedback, with increased accessibility integrated into the development process to ensure this new version was also user friendly for people with disabilities.

“At FEMA, we’re constantly striving to make our information as approachable as possible,” said FEMA Digital Engagement & Analytics Branch Chief Gloria Huang. “This latest update is a big step forward, but not the end of our progress. We’ll continue taking user feedback and technological advances to improve app functionality. This information empowers people to make informed decisions about their preparedness and response to disasters.”

In addition to all-new features like disaster declaration notifications and frequently asked questions on assistance applications,

popular features such as weather alerts, emergency shelter locations and disaster recovery center information will be included in this update but with an entirely new, user-friendly look and feel. Preparedness information on the FEMA app has also been completely reworked to make it easier to understand, and this latest version will present interactive preparedness information grouped by topic.

The app is available for download on iOS or Android. Current users will need to update their app and enter profile information but will not need to re-download it to access new features. Watch FEMA App video and visit the FEMA App webpage for additional information.

Pleasanton Adds Two Police Officers

The Pleasanton Police Department last week announced the hiring of two new officers, Austin Dement and Robert Palma.

Dement, who has an associate degree in criminal justice from San Joaquin

Delta College, previously spent four years with the Santa Cruz Police Department.

Palma, who earned an associate degree in liberal arts and science from Cerritos Community College,

previously worked for the San Leandro Police Department and as a campus safety officer at Biola University in La Mirada, California. He is also a graduate of the Alameda County Sheriff’s Office’s Regional Training Center.



The Pleasanton Police Department has announced the hiring of two new officers, Austin Dement, left and Robert Palma, right. (Photo courtesy of the Pleasanton Police Department)

BART Increases Average Rates by 3.4%

Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) increased fares an average of 3.4% last week, or about 15 cents per ride.

The agency generally increases rates at the start of every other year, based

on inflation, but delayed this year’s increase until July 1. The last increase was Jan. 1, 2020.

BART said the increase to the average fare of \$3.78 would depend on the length of the ride,

with a short trip from downtown Berkeley to 19th Street in Oakland going up by 5 cents, while a longer ride from Antioch to Montgomery Street in San Francisco increased by 30 cents.

Filing Period to Run for Dublin City Council And Mayor Opens July 18, Closes Aug. 12

The period for potential Dublin City Council and Mayoral candidates to pull papers for nomination in the November 8 General Election opens on Monday, July 18, and runs through Friday, Aug. 12, 2022, at 5 p.m. If an incumbent for either of these offices does not file during this period, the nomination period extends to Aug. 17, 2022.

The City Clerk’s Office

will be taking in-person appointments during this period, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. (with the last appointment starting at 4:30 p.m.), to process nomination papers for those seeking elective office. An appointment is required, and 24-hour notice is preferred.

The Mayoral position is a two-year term, while the two open city councilmem-

ber positions are four-year terms.

Call the Dublin City Clerk’s Office at 925-833-6644 or email city.clerk@dublin.ca.gov to make an appointment. More information is available at <https://www.dublin.ca.gov/elections>, or by contacting City Clerk Marsha Moore at 925-833-6644 or marsha.moore@dublin.ca.gov.

Snowflake Expanding Dublin Operation

Snowflake Inc., a cloud-based data storage and analytics company based in Bozeman, Montana, has signed a long-term lease at the Dublin Corporate Center campus, increasing its local presence from 40,000 square feet to 153,000 square feet.

The company will occupy the building at 4140 Dublin Boulevard. Snowflake said the expansion would potentially add more than 500 new jobs.

Founded in 2012, Snowflake now has 4,550 employees in 20 locations globally.



TRI-VALLEY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Now to Tuesday, July 19 Draft 2023-2031 Housing Element

Pleasanton has published the Draft 2023-2031 Housing Element Update and invites the community to provide feedback on the plan. The comment period for public review is through July 19. To view the draft plan and provide comments, or to check out any upcoming events related to the Draft Housing Element, visit bit.ly/30mtfto.

Now to Wednesday, July 20 Pleasanton Library Systems Upgrade

Over the next few weeks, the Pleasanton Library will be upgrading its computer systems. The upgrade is anticipated to be completed by July 20, during which time some services will be limited while the work is completed. During the upgrade period, the library will maintain normal hours of operation, visitors can sign up for a new library card, and items can continue to be checked out. The library asks that users return checked out items either before June 20 or after July 20. For a full list of impacted services and new features, visit bit.ly/3y1teWt.

Now to Thursday, July 28 Catholics of Pleasanton Grief Ministry

The death of a loved one is unlike any other loss. Please join in for bi-monthly meetings at St. Elizabeth Seton, 4001 Stoneridge Drive, in Pleasanton. The schedule is June 9 and 23, and July 14 and 28. Meetings will start at 7 p.m., and although there is no advance registration, attendees are asked to arrive a little early to check in. The meetings are open to all, regardless of religious affiliation. For a short video visit catholicsofpleasanton.org, scroll to Grief Ministry, and tap on the video box. For more information, call 925-846-3904.

Now to Wednesday, Aug. 17 Livermore Scavenger Hunt

Play the Livermore Scavenger Hunt from June 1 to Aug. 17 for a chance to win prizes. No registration is required to participate in this free event. Participants may print a Livermore Scavenger Hunt form at home or pick up the form at any Livermore Public Library branch. Completed Livermore Scavenger Hunt forms must be submitted by 9 p.m., on Wednesday, Aug. 17. The 10 winners will be randomly selected from among the correct entries in a drawing held during the week of Aug. 22.

Saturday, July 9 Livermore High School Reunion

Calling all graduates of Livermore High’s Class of 1992 to come celebrate their 30-year reunion! The reunion starts at 11:30 a.m., on the lawn at Concannon Winery, located at 4590 Tesla Road, in Livermore. For more information, email erinkundert@yahoo.com.

Monday, July 11 Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society Presents Gena Philibert-Ortega

The Works Progress Administration left behind a legacy that is used by family historians today. In this presentation from 7 to 8:30 p.m., they will discuss the WPA projects under the WPA relevant to genealogy, and how you can research some of those records today. Gena Philibert-Ortega is an author, researcher, and instructor whose focus is genealogy, social and women’s history. To register, visit bit.ly/3QP1YJY.

Wednesday, July 13 Interfaith Interconnect Religion Chat

From 7 to 8 p.m., this month’s featured speakers are from Asbury United Methodist and St. Charles Borromeo Catholic churches, and the event will be followed by time for audience questions. Optional

breakout discussion groups take place from 8 to 8:30 p.m. The in-person venue is located at St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church, 1315 Lomitas Ave., in Livermore. The Zoom link is bit.ly/3y1aZiy. For more information, email interfaith.interconnect@gmail.com or visit facebook.com/InterfaithInterconnect.

Sunday, Aug. 21 Lamplighters Music Theatre presents “Iolanthe”

Lamplighters is overjoyed to open the company’s 70th anniversary season with chorus, leads and orchestra in “Iolanthe,” or “The Peer and the Peri.” Performances will take place at 2 and 7 p.m., at the Bankhead Theatre, 2400 First St., in Livermore. Tickets are \$31 to \$78. For more information, call 925-373-6800 or 415-227-4797, visit livermorearts.org or lamplighters.org, or email info@lamplighters.org.

ONGOING WEEKLY EVENTS

Pleasanton Farmers Market Open for the Season

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

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

Livermore Receives State Grant to Assist With District's Homeless Students, Families

Livermore has received \$581,000 through the state's Family Homelessness Challenge Grant program to provide homeless students in the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District (LVJUSD) and their families with bridge housing and other support services.

Livermore was one of 10 communities across California to receive grants through the competitive program.

"I am thankful for this opportunity," said Mayor Bob Woerner. "This project builds upon years of partnership between the city, the Livermore Housing

Authority, and the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District to serve our low-income families. These partnerships ... are essential to ensuring we provide our most vulnerable community members with the services and resources they need."

The program is expected

to stabilize temporary housing for students and their families, while also providing the support they need to navigate the multi-year process of obtaining permanent housing.

"In order to access learning in a meaningful and successful way, students require their basic needs

to be met," said LVJUSD Student Services Director Darrel Avilla. "Stable and secure housing is one of those needs."

By collaborating with the Livermore Housing Authority (LHA), the program will also have access to additional resources, such as the Section 8 Housing

Choice Voucher program, according to LHA Executive Director D'Jon Paul Scott-Miller.

Livermore expects the funds, provided through the California Interagency Council on Homelessness, will be available this fall and the program to launch soon after.

MEETING

(Continued from first page)

each other.

In an interview, Cherrier said he voted for Scenario 1 in February over the other finalist, Scenario 4, because he believed it was the best choice, creating a large percentage of Latino voters while resulting in the least impact for voters. He recalled pausing before casting his vote because he knew of its political implications for Rouse and Pelham.

According to redistricting laws, politicians are not supposed to consider whether elected officials might lose their seats when new maps are drawn and they no longer live in the area they represent.

Kuo said in an email that he also believed Scenario 1 was the best choice. The other finalist, he said, diluted the Latino vote and was not in voters' best interest. He said "protecting trustees is a nice to have item, but not in the general requirement as set forth by this district map redraw."

"Many constituents who participated in the public comment periods of the map have also relayed to me their preference for map #1," he said.

Cherrier, the board's president, denied that he did anything improper before the vote. He said he never took part in any joint conversations with Kuo and Blackman, which would violate quorum rules for the five-member panel, and never revealed which map he favored to his counterparts until he voted during the public meeting. He also said he never had Carey or anyone else tell his colleagues how he planned to vote. Known as a "serial meeting," the act of conveying how an elected official plans to vote through an intermediary is also a violation of public meeting rules.

"I didn't make my mind up until the final night," Cherrier said. "There's not an email that says, 'I'm going to vote this way.'"

Although copies of the emails and texts posted online showed Kuo, Cherrier and Blackman communicated with Carey and other residents, it did not appear that they took part in a group text. Such communication would be a violation of the state's Brown Act, which sets rules for what elected bodies must do in public. It is not illegal, nor uncommon, for elected officials to receive correspondence from members of the public, as long as neither quorum nor serial meeting rules are violated.

In an email, Kuo also denied wrongdoing, saying he was "confident no serial meeting had taken place and no Brown Act violations had occurred."

"I also did not have any texts, emails, or calls with Trustee Blackman and Trustee Cherrier regarding the trustee map redraw topic," Kuo wrote.

Blackman declined to comment.

In an interview with The Independent, Washington said she filed the PRA after watching the Feb. 22 vote and becoming uncomfortable about the process.

"I don't feel that they're behaving ethically," Washington said. "Whether there's illegality, I don't know; I'm not a lawyer ... There's a lot of behind-the-scenes communication that isn't open to the public. It should be a public process. This is an elected school board, and we should know what's going on. We should know how they're making their decisions."

The PRA documents, which were also shared with The Independent, show that Carey, a certified public accountant and corporate controller at a Santa Clara database company, wrote numerous texts and emails to the board members to express his opinions on the various map proposals.

In one of his messages, Carey wrote: "Your decision is clear, reject scenarios 2, 3, 4 and 4a and vote yes for scenario 1. With scenario 1, current incumbents will serve out their terms and will have the same opportunity as anyone else in their new area to run in future elections (specifically Kristin will be treated equal as all other voters in revised area 2)."

In another, Carey wrote: "Whatever path, we can have support lined up. Need to decide. Is it more important to get Megan or Kristin out or strengthen three east areas?"

In commentary with her Facebook post, Washington alleged that a "single unelected resident of Dublin is pulling the strings of a majority of the DUSD Trustees." She accused Carey of spending "considerable time and energy convincing Trustees Cherrier, Blackman, and Kuo to vote in favor of a map that drew Trustees Rouse and Pelham into the same district."

Reached by email, Carey said he was on vacation in Central Europe and unaware of the controversy with his name on it.

"Interesting," Carey said. "That is really mean and divisive. Why didn't they just ask me?"

Cherrier described Carey as a Dublin resident who attended the redistricting meetings and offered his opinions to the panel on which map they should choose.

"He was very interested in the first round of maps," Cherrier said. "He came up with his own map. He was very involved. He's a concerned person that wants the best. I don't see anything wrong with that."

Carey said he offered his opinions because "the by-trustee boundaries are about giving newer communities in Dublin, including those in the west, like Schaefer Ranch and the east like Wallis Ranch, the ability to choose their elected officials."

"To me that is very important, and Scenario 1 was the only one that met the intent of the legal process and put voters first, versus gerrymandering to protect incumbents," Carey said.

Carey said he had no idea how the trustees would vote, never took part in a group text with them and did not relay any trustee's decisions to another.

The process to redraw the area boundary lines began weeks earlier to comply with state and federal law following the latest Census.

DUSD had moved from at-large elections — where the five board members represent the entire district — to district elections in 2017 after an attorney began suing elected bodies throughout the state. The attorney alleged at-large elections violated the California Voting Rights Act (CVRA) by reducing the power of minorities to elect representation. Numerous entities, including the city of Livermore and Pleasanton, along with the Pleasanton Unified School District, moved to district elections instead of fighting the attorney.

Following the 2020 Census, the board was required to adjust the five districts because of population increases. Area 4's population nearly doubled to 17,500 people, creating an imbalance in the districts, which were required by law to be similar in numbers. During a series of public meetings and working with a demographer, the board created six different maps with districts containing about 14,000 people. In addition to population size, the CVRA required the panel to create areas where minorities — in this case Asians and Latinos — could maintain a large enough voting block to potentially elect a representative to the board.

Laurie Sargent, who will serve as co-president of the Dublin Teachers Association next year, was among several teachers who spoke during the board's June 28 meeting. Sargent told The Independent that an investigation should be conducted to "bring light to the gerrymandering, violations of (California School Boards Association) bylaws and rules, (Fair Political Practices Commission) non-compliance, and collusion."

Kelly Baalman, a parent and teacher at Frederiksen Elementary School, accused Cherrier, Kuo and Blackman of violating the Brown Act.

"The people of Dublin could not know nor weigh in on the comments in these private texts, but only the comments the trustees shared during the public school board meetings," Baalman said. "We now know that there were two very different conversations going on. While they were supposed to be modifying the trustee area map to balance population and demographics, and they purported to do so publicly, they were actually discussing plans for their own political gain and the demise of others outside of the public eye. This is exactly the sort of backroom deals that the Brown Act was written to prevent."

Supporting Cherrier, Kuo and Blackman, Ramya Ramakrishnan, a resident whose texts advocating her position on redistricting were among those found in Washington's PRA request, raised DUSD's west side versus east side conflict that exists among the city's residents as the city grows. Ramakrishnan said every year "there is a well-orchestrated attempt to unseat the elected trustees in the east side." Cherrier and Blackman currently represent the east side.

Ramakrishnan said Cherrier, Blackman and Kuo could not be manipulated because they had a "clear sense of what's right and wrong." Residents accusing them of Brown Act violations were "making stuff up to confuse the public" to try to oust them from the board.

"Make no mistake, this is about a handful of white people in one part of town trying to intimidate and silence the trustees who represent the Asian and Indian population and have done a great job with key positions that have a districtwide impact," she said.

While Cherrier continued to assert that he did not believe any Brown Act violations occurred, he supported holding a special meeting to address the allegations with the district's counsel. Kuo agreed, saying he wanted to hear from the lawyer if any mistakes were made.

OBITUARIES

Emiko Aaron
Oct. 24, 1931 — June 1, 2022



Our beloved Emiko passed away at age 90. She is survived by her husband of 69 years, Carl Aaron Jr.; her children, James Aaron, Virginia Kalagorgevich and Amy Van Emmerik; daughter-in-law, Tomomi Aaron; sons-in-law Mark Kalagorgevich and Douglas Van Emmerik; grandchildren Ryan (Yvette) Van Emmerik and Leah Van Emmerik, Jon; Max, Carl and Milena (Anne) Kalagorgevich, Katy (Jesse) Armstrong-Aaron, Kristopher Aaron; great-

grandsons Desmond and Rafferty, and Rhett Van Em-

merik; sister-in-law Virginia McDoniel; siblings Kazuo, Yukiko, Eiji, Yasuchika and their families in Japan.

Yukiko Berg, her best friend of over 50 years, misses Emiko's fun sense of humor and their shared laughter. We dearly miss seeing Emiko's genuine delight every time she saw us walk through the door. Loving, nurturing, loyal, generous, culinary expert, excellent seamstress — she was all of these and more!

Janice Eileen (Brenton) Ammendolia
1946 — June 24, 2022

In the early hours of June 24, 2022, Janice Eileen Ammendolia died peacefully at the age of 75. Janice was born to Robert and Marie Brenton in 1946. In 1967, she married Anthony Ammendolia, and together they raised two children, Tony and Tina.

From a young age, Janice showed her artistic ability,

which flourished throughout her life. She won many ribbons and sold many paintings. When she wasn't painting, she would throw elegant dinners to the delight of her family and friends. She planned every detail right down to the crystalized violets that adorned her chocolate mousse.

Janie is preceded in death

by her parents, her sister Connie and her brother-in-law Ray. She is survived by her husband, Anthony; her two children Tony and Tina; her grandchildren, Isabel, Jakob, Sasha and Olive; and her sister Pat.

A public memorial service will be held at Quantico National Cemetery on July 14, 2022, at 10 a.m.

Steven Keeler

07/29/1964 - 06/20/2022



Steven Alan Keeler Jr passed away Monday, June 20, 2022, in Pioneer, California at the age of 57. He was born in Concord, California on July 29, 1964, a son of Steven Alan Keeler Sr. and the late Patricia Wood. Steve is survived by his wife, Susan Keeler of Pioneer, California; daughter, Sarah (Derrick) Engkvist of Livermore, California; son, Ryan (Tina) Keeler of Anderson, California; sister, Danielle (David) Rodrigues of Oakdale, California; and brother, Richard (Laura) Keeler of Livermore, California. He is also survived by his grandchildren, Daniel, Desiree, Mikey, Brice and Persayis; nephews, Noah, Aiden, Jacob and Joey.

Steve grew up in the Hayward area graduating from James Logan High School Union City in 1983. After high school, he worked as a final line repairman for NUMMI for 26 years and then as an HVAC technician for 10 years. He was always hands-on and could fix anything.

Steve moved to Livermore, California in 1990 where he met and married his wife, Susan. He helped her start her dream business: Livermore Valley Florist. For over 20 years, they created a thriving, family-run floral business. Together they raised their children and had a beautiful 30 years of marriage filled with love, laughter and wagging tails. Steve enjoyed riding; he was the vice president of the Limited Iron Motorcycle Club in Oakland. He loved being outdoors — fishing,

hunting, four-wheel driving and camping — but mostly spending time with his friends and family. Steve's dream was to always retire in the mountains and live out his life surrounded by pine trees and loved ones. Although only living in Pioneer for a brief time, his life goal was accomplished.

Steve can be remembered for always bringing a smile into any room, having the best stories, and being a family man. He was a thoughtful and generous person filled with integrity and love. He lived a life that was well respected by all who knew him. Steve was a devoted husband, father, brother and friend to all. A celebration of life will be announced by the family and be held at a later date. Contributions can be made in Steven's name to STARS at P.O. Box 208 Jackson, California 95642. Condolences may be sent to the family by visiting www.danerimortuary.com and signing the guest book.

Hells Angels Founder Ralph "Sonny" Barger Dead at 83

By Katy St. Clair
Bay City News

Flowers were laid in front of the Sonoma County Hells Angels chapter on Thursday after news of the death of Ralph "Sonny" Barger on Sunday came out.

"Sonny -- you're free like butterflies," read a note attached to one bouquet and posted on the chapter's Facebook page. "Keep the wind in your face and the stink off your back."

Barger died at the age of 83 of cancer in Livermore and was the founding member of the Oakland branch of the Hells Angels motorcycle club, known for its outlaw reputation and the scrapes with law enforcement that resulted.

Perhaps the most infamous was the Rolling Stones concert at Altamont in 1969, where Hells Angels had been hired to provide security, documented in the rock documentary "Gimme Shelter." Hells Angel Alan Passaro stabbed and beat a man to death

at the show but was later found not guilty from a jury that accepted his claim of self-defense.

Barger started the Oakland Hells Angels club in 1957. Originally from Modesto, Barger grew up in Oakland and gravitated toward biker culture, which he outlined in his 2009 best-seller "Hell's Angel" -- perhaps the only time a person from the club opted to use an apostrophe.

When the motorcycle club the Oakland Panthers disbanded in 1956, he took up the helm and renamed the crew the Hells Angels. Being "outlaws" of course meant that the authorities were always in their rearview mirrors. Barger was acquitted of murder in 1972 and acquitted again for racketeering in 1980 but did time for possession with intent to sell in 1973 and conspiracy in 1988.

Though known these days mostly for their toy drives and lucrative merchandizing, the motorcycle

club at large still finds itself in the crosshairs of authorities. Earlier this month, two members of the Hells Angels Motorcycle Club in Sonoma County were convicted in federal court of murder in aid of racketeering.

Barger left a final message to people on his Facebook page on Sunday.

"If you are reading this message, you'll know that I'm gone," he wrote. "I've lived a long and good life filled with adventure. And I've had the privilege to be part of an amazing club. Although I've had a public persona for decades, I've mostly enjoyed special time with my club brothers, my family, my friends. Please know that I passed peacefully... But also know that in the end, I was surrounded by what really matters: My wife, Zorana, as well as my loved ones. Keep your head up high, stay loyal, remain free, and always value honor."



The Harrington Gallery at the Firehouse Arts Center in Pleasanton is hosting a solo exhibit, "Reservoir of Life," of works by Oakland artist Mario Navasero now through Aug. 6. The gallery at 4444 Railroad Ave. is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays, and from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturdays. (Photo courtesy of Firehouse Arts Center)

Pleasanton to Join in National Night Out

Pleasanton police officers and elected officials will be available to visit community gatherings from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 2, for National Night Out, an annual event sponsored by

the National Association of Town Watch that encourages police-community partnerships.

Pleasanton neighborhoods planning National Night Out activities can request visits from police,

city officials, and members of the Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department. Pleasanton has been participating in National Night Out for more than 20 years.

To register with the city, visit tinyurl.com/3jzpu55.

Library to Host Lumberjanes Book Club

The Livermore Public Library will host a meeting on Thursday, July 21, for students in grades six through 12 to discuss "Beware the Kitten Holy," the first book in the Lumberjanes series of graphic novels.

Students who register with the library will receive their own copies of the book to read before the meeting.

The Lumberjanes series follows a group of girls at a summer camp plagued by strange creatures and supernatural phenomena. The first volume series won two Eisner Awards in 2015 for Best New Series and Best Publication for Teens. Introduced in 2015 and originally planned as an eight-book series, the Lumberjanes graphic novels eventually had a six-year run and ended in 2021 after 75 issues.

To register for the book club, call 925-373-5505 or visit the information desk at any Livermore Public Library.

Fair Concert to Feature Singer, Songwriter Lambert

Singer and songwriter Michelle Lambert, a Bay Area native, will perform on the Grandstand Stage at the Alameda County Fair on Thursday, July 7.

Lambert was born in Covelo and raised in Northern California before moving to Boston, where she attended the Berklee College of Music and was a member of the Captain Wolf Band. She released her first album, "Warrior," in 2015, after returning to California. "Angel," her second album, was released in 2017.

Earlier this year, she released a single, "Come to Me," which reached No. 1 on the indie charts out of New York. The music

video for "Come to Me" was filmed at McGrail Vineyards in Livermore.

Her performance at the Alameda County Fair begins at 7:30 p.m.



Bay Area native Michelle Lambert takes the stage at the Alameda County Fair on Thursday, July 7. (Photo courtesy of Michelle Lambert)

Reservations Remain for Outdoor Opera until July 13

The Livermore Valley Opera (LVO) said last week that seating is still available for its "Opera in the Vineyard," at Retzlaff Vineyards, 1356 S. Livermore Ave., on Sunday, July 17.

Tenor Alex Boyer, soprano Liisa Dávila, bass Kirk

Eichelberger, and mezzo soprano Kathleen Moss, making her debut with LVO, will sing arias and ensembles from various operas and Broadway shows, accompanied by pianist Varvara Milinder. The outdoor performance is a bring-your-own-

picnic-dinner event, with wine available for purchase. Gates will open at 5 p.m., with the three-hour program beginning at 5:30. Tickets are \$80.

To purchase tickets, visit lvoopera.com. Reservations close July 13.

Author to Discuss History of Livermore Railroads

Alan Frank, author of "Depot: A History of the Railroad in Livermore," will give a local history lecture at the Livermore Public Library's Civic Center Library, 1188 S. Livermore Ave., on Wednesday, July 27.

The presentation, "Parallel Paths: A Railroad History of Livermore," is part of the Then & Now: Livermore Stories program sponsored by the library and the Livermore Heritage Guild. It will explore how Livermore and the railroads

both emerged in the late 1860s and how their interests developed in parallel over the next 50 years.

The presentation is free and will begin at 7 p.m. in the Storytime Room. No registration is required.

Association of University Women Awards Scholarships

The Livermore-Pleasanton-Dublin Chapter of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) has awarded scholarships to three local college students for the 2022 to 2023 school year.

Livermore's Sadie Eldredge received a \$3,000 scholarship. She will be a

senior at California State University, Northridge, and plans to pursue a medical degree.

Dublin's Aditi Jagannathan also received a \$3,000 scholarship. Jagannathan will be a junior at the University of Southern California, where she is majoring in computation neuroscience.

Livermore's Elham Mausumi received a \$500 scholarship from the AAUW chapter and Las Positas College. Elham, who has been attending Las Positas, will transfer to the University of California, Berkeley, this fall and plans to major in psychology and public health.

Local Students Receive Degrees from Georgia Tech

Several students from Livermore and Pleasanton recently received degrees from the Georgia Institute of Technology during the school's spring commencement in Atlanta. Nicolas Fritter, from Livermore, received a master's degree in analytics, while Kyle Renburg, also from Livermore, received a master's degree in mechanical engineering. From Pleasanton, Ananth Kumar received a bachelor's degree in computer engineering, Siddharth Seth received a master's degree in computer science, Kaavya Singhal received a master's degree in human-computer interaction, and Winnie Zhang received a master's degree in analytics.

Living History Performer to Portray Humorist Erma Bombeck at Pleasanton's Firehouse Arts Center

Living history reenactor Susan Marie Frontczak will portray the late American humorist Erma Bombeck in two performances at the Firehouse Arts Center in Pleasanton on Tuesday, July 19.

The performances are sponsored by the Museum on Main as part of its "An Afternoon or Evening With ..." Ed Kinney Lecture series.

Born in 1927, Bombeck was a columnist whose humorous commentary on the life of a suburban housewife in the Midwest was eventually carried in more than 900 newspapers in the U.S. and Canada.

Between 1965 and 1996, Bombeck wrote more than 4,000 biweekly newspaper columns, reaching an estimated 30 million readers at the height of her popularity. She also wrote more than a dozen books, including "At Wits End," a compilation of her columns, "Just Wait Until You Have Children of Your Own," "The Grass is Always Greener Over the Septic Tank," and "If Life Is a Bowl of Cherries, What Am I Doing in the Pits?"

Frontczak, known professionally as Storysmith, will portray Bombeck at 2 p.m. and at 7 p.m. Each performance will include a 40-minute monologue, followed by 20-minutes of in-character answers to questions from the audience.

Frontczak previously appeared on stage in Pleasanton as Eleanor Roosevelt, and in a virtually performance during the pandemic as Marie Curie. She had been scheduled to portray Bombeck in 2020, but the performance was cancelled because of COVID-19.

Tickets are \$15 for Mu-

seum on Main members, \$20 for general admission, and \$20 for seniors and students. The museum will also offer a virtual viewing one week after the in-person performance. For more information or tickets, visit museumonmain.org; stop by Museum on Main, located at 603 Main St.; or call 925-462-2766.



Susan Marie Frontczak, as the late Erma Bombeck, will perform at the Firehouse Arts Center in Pleasanton on Tuesday, July 19. (Photo courtesy of Firehouse Arts Center)

Encore Players to Play Ball for the Livermore Library

The Encore Players, a community theater group, and employees from the Sandia and Lawrence Livermore national laboratories will present "Take Me Out to the Ballgame: Baseball Over the Years," for the Livermore Public Library's

Adult Reading Program on Monday, July 25.

In addition to baseball in the U.S., including the Negro and women's leagues, the educational program will cover baseball's rise in Japan. Actors will portray such legendary players as Hank

Greenberg, Yogi Berra, and Jackie Robinson.

The hour-long program, sponsored by Friends of the Livermore Public Library, is free and will begin at 7:30 p.m. at the Civic Center Library, 1188 S. Livermore Ave.

Applications Open for Dublin's 2022 Leadership Academy

Inside Dublin, an annual leadership academy which provides community members with advanced knowledge of municipal operations and activities, will begin this fall. Residents interested in the program are encouraged to apply now to be part of the 2022 class.

The goal of the academy is to inform the participants about City services and the issues (present and future) facing the community, and to encourage community involvement at all levels. The program will include presentations on topics such as public safety, infrastructure, education, local government, and community services.

Inside Dublin is a seven-week program (six Thursday evenings, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., and one Saturday field trip) beginning Saturday, October 1, 2022. Class size is limited to the first 25 candidates. Candidates must be 18 years or older,

and currently live or work in Dublin.

Interested parties may contact Cierra Fabrigas, Executive Aide, at 925-

833-6650, or complete the online application available on the City's website at <https://www.dublin.ca.gov/insidedublin>.

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Stanford Blood Center Urges Summer Donations

The Stanford Blood Center (SBC) last week said it faces an immediate need for all blood types, especially O negative, during the summer months and is asking Bay Area residents to donate to help local patients.

"Summer is always a difficult time to collect blood donations," said Donor Services Director Renee Gipson. "We typically see a decline in donors this time of year, which can impact patient care. Before heading out for summer activities or that family vaca-

tion, we're urging the community to please consider making an appointment to donate to help maintain a stable blood supply in the coming months."

SBC, an independent, community blood center that supplies blood products and testing services to multiple Bay Area hospitals, operates donation centers seven days a week in Campbell, Menlo Park, and Mountain View. SBC will also hold mobile blood drives at the Rose Pavilion, 4255 Rosewood Dr., in

Pleasanton, on Friday, July 15; at Emerald Glen Park, 4201 Central Parkway, in Dublin, on Monday, July 18; and the Sanford Health Care - Valley Care basketball court, 1119 E. Stanley Boulevard, in Livermore, on Friday, July 29.

To schedule a donation at any SBC site or mobile blood drive, visit stanfordbloodcenter.org or call 888-723-7831. Blood donors will receive a Grateful for Life tie-dyed t-shirt now through July 31.

LEGAL NOTICES/CLASSIFIEDS

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LEGAL NOTICES

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 589495

The following person(s) doing business as: Otis Design, 184 Santa Clara Ave, Oakland, CA 94610, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Howard Tu, 184 Santa Clara Ave, Oakland, CA 94610. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s: Howard Tu, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 3, 2022. Expires June 2, 2027. The Independent, Legal No. 5187 Published June 16, 23, 30, July 7, 2022.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 589557

The following person(s) doing business as: The Burgandy Rose tearoom, 732 Laurel Dr, Livermore, CA 94551, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Georgette Christopher, 732 Laurel Dr, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s: Georgette Christopher, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 7, 2022. Expires June 6, 2027. The Independent, Legal No. 5188 Published June 16, 23, 30, July 7, 2022.

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME ORIGINAL FILE NO. 579218

The person(s) listed below have abandoned the use of the following fictitious business name(s): Hospice360, 42808 Christy Street, Suite 124, Fremont, CA 94538. Registered Owner(s): Spectrum Pharmacy Solutions LLC, 42808 Christy Street, Suite 124, Fremont, CA 94538. The fictitious business name statement was filed on 5/18/2021 in the County of Alameda. This business was conducted by a Limited Liability Company. Signature of Registrants: /s/ Kashif Rana, Secretary. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 2, 2022. The Independent Legal No. 5189. Published June 16, 23, 30, July 7, 2022.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 588321

The following person(s) doing business as: Above the Bar, 219 Blackstone Cmn, Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): W.G.G.L. LLC, 219 Blackstone Cmn, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s: Jeremy Vadurro, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 17, 2022. Expires June 16, 2027. The Independent, Legal No. 5190 Published June 23, 30, July 7, 14, 2022.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 589817

The following person(s) doing business as: Premier Home Financing, 673 Sandalwood Dr. Unit 4, Livermore, CA 94551, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Vasile Ciubancan, 673 Sandalwood Dr. Unit 4, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s: Vasile Ciubancan, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 16, 2022. Expires June 15, 2027. The Independent, Legal No. 5191 Published June 23, 30, July 7, 14, 2022.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 589363

The following person(s) doing business as: Livermore Grocery Outlet, 1320 Railroad Ave, Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): S Corp, 5151 Northway Road, Pleasanton CA 94566. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 7/1/22. Signature of Registrant/s: Suppiyah Gajendran, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on May 26,

2022. Expires May 25, 2027. The Independent, Legal No. 5192 Published June 23, 30, July 7, 14, 2022.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 589738

The following person(s) doing business as: Magnificent Construction Company, 39372 Wilford St., Fremont CA 94538, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): David Lau, 39372 Wilford St., Fremont CA 94538. 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: 6/3/2006. Signature of Registrant/s: David Lau, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 14, 2022. Expires June 13, 2027. The Independent, Legal No. 5193 Published June 23, 30, July 7, 14, 2022.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 589723

The following person(s) doing business as: Praus Gifts, 8232 Brittany Drive, Dublin, CA 94568, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Lavon Malone Ribera, 8232 Brittany Drive, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 5/30/2022. Signature of Registrant/s: Lavon Malone Ribera, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 13, 2022. Expires June 12, 2027. The Independent, Legal No. 5194 Published June 23, 30, July 7, 14, 2022.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 589700

The following person(s) doing business as: Sweet Hope Soap Co., 1948 Railroad Ave, Unit 106, Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Dulce Reyes, 1948 Railroad Ave, Unit 106, 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: 2/1/2019. Signature of Registrant/s: Dulce Reyes, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 13, 2022. Expires June 12, 2027. The Independent, Legal No. 5195 Published June 23, 30, July 7, 14, 2022.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 589811

The following person(s) doing business as: JCK Window Cleaning, 884 Herman Ave, Apt# 203, Livermore, CA 94551, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Jose David Angel, 884 Herman Ave, Apt# 203, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by a Married Couple. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s: Jose David Angel, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 16, 2022. Expires June 15, 2027. The Independent, Legal No. 5196 Published June 23, 30, July 7, 14, 2022.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 589559

The following person(s) doing business as: The Habit Burger Grill #189, 3650 Village Dr., Castro Valley, CA 94546, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): The Habit Restaurants, LLC, 17320 Red Hill Ave., #140, Irvine, CA 92614. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 7/9/2007. Signature of Registrant/s: Jason Oviatt, Chief Legal Officer. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 7, 2022. Expires June 6, 2027. The Independent, Legal No. 5197 Published June 30, July 7, 14, 21, 2022.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 589489

The following person(s) doing business as: FRENCO Construction, 33446 Western Ave, Union City, CA 94587, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Jalala Masih Almulk, 3290000 Regents Blvd, Union City, CA 94587; Safi Naqibullah, 3819 Vineyard Ave, Apt 49, Pleasanton, CA 94566; Ayaan Ajmal, 4882 Bernal Ave Apt B, Pleasanton, CA 94566; Salarzai Abdullah,

202 Carnation Ct, Pleasanton, CA 94566. This business is conducted by a General Partnership. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s: Safi Naqibullah, General Partner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 3, 2022. Expires June 2, 2027. The Independent, Legal No. 5198 Published June 30, July 7, 14, 21, 2022.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 589940

The following person(s) doing business as: Family Wellness Center, 1439 Cedarwood Lane, Suite C, Pleasanton, CA 94566, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Anna Yan Liu, 1429 Oasis Lane, Patterson, CA 95363. 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: Anna Yan Liu, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 22, 2022. Expires June 21, 2027. The Independent, Legal No. 5199 Published June 30, July 7, 14, 21, 2022.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 589919

The following person(s) doing business as: Pacific States Title Services, 4657 Sandalwood Drive, Pleasanton, CA 94588, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): William Edwin Le Roy, 4657 Sandalwood Drive, Pleasanton, CA 94588. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 6/11/1992. Signature of Registrant/s: William Edwin Le Roy, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 22, 2022. Expires June 21, 2027. The Independent, Legal No. 5200 Published June 30, July 7, 14, 21, 2022.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 589890

The following person(s) doing business as: Medi Simplified, 9 Castledown Rd, Pleasanton, CA 94566, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Aladina Capaccioli, 9 Castledown Rd, Pleasanton, CA 94566. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s: Aladina Capaccioli, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 20, 2022. Expires June 19, 2027. The Independent, Legal No. 5201 Published June 30, July 7, 14, 21, 2022.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 589762

The following person(s) doing business as: Bateman Physical Therapy, 3848 Madeira Way, Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): James Bateman, 3848 Madeira Way, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 6/5/2022. Signature of Registrant/s: James Bateman, Owner/Manager. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 15, 2022. Expires June 14, 2027. The Independent, Legal No. 5202 Published June 30, July 7, 14, 21, 2022.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 589860

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Bebo Engineering LLC; 2. Fourty Adventures; 3. Glennjo, 7506 Larkdale Ave, Dublin, CA 94568, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Bebo Engineering LLC, 7506 Larkdale Ave, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s: Glenn Rustia, Manager. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 17, 2022. Expires June 16, 2027. The Independent, Legal No. 5203 Published June 30, July 7, 14, 21, 2022.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 589992

The following person(s) doing business as: Sunkissed Bath and Body, LLC, 5595 Sonoma Dr, Apt-B, Pleasanton, CA 94566, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Sunkissed Bath and Body, LLC, 5595 Sonoma Dr, Apt-B, Pleasanton, CA 94566. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s: Rachel Solis, Owner/Manager. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 24, 2022. Expires June 23, 2027. The Independent, Legal No. 5204 Published June 30, July 7, 14, 21, 2022.

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Loyal Towing; 2. Angelos Towing; 3. ASAP Towing; 4. Advantage Towing; 5. Expedite Towing; 6. Quality Towing, 7573 National Drive, Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Quds Holdings LLC, 2815 Andora Ave, San Diego, CA 92123. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s: Kevin Mansour, Manager. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 23, 2022. Expires June 22, 2027. The Independent, Legal No. 5205 Published July 7, 14, 21, 28, 2022.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 589978

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Loyal Towing; 2. Angelos Towing; 3. ASAP Towing; 4. Advantage Towing; 5. Expedite Towing; 6. Quality Towing, 7573 National Drive, Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Quds Holdings LLC, 2815 Andora Ave, San Diego, CA 92123. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s: Kevin Mansour, Manager. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 23, 2022. Expires June 22, 2027. The Independent, Legal No. 5205 Published July 7, 14, 21, 28, 2022.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 590005

The following person(s) doing business as: STS, Inc., 2476 Armstrong Street, Livermore, CA 94551-7617, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Special Tactics Solutions, Inc., 2476 Armstrong Street, Livermore, CA 94551-7617. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 7/6/2011. Signature of Registrant/s: Shaun M. Rice, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 27, 2022. Expires June 26, 2027. The Independent, Legal No. 5206 Published July 7, 14, 21, 28, 2022.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 589854

The following person(s) doing business as: BLV Insurance Services, 39812 Mission Blvd, Ste 107, Fremont, CA 94539, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Roberta Jean Severson, Tee of The Walter Reed Severson & Roberta Jean Severson 1993 Trust, 4077 Red Hill Road, Angels Camp, CA 95222; Laura Lilly, 34280 Tupelo Street, Fremont, CA 94555; Jessica T. Hum, 38712 Blacow Road, Fremont, CA 94536. This business is conducted by a General Partnership. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 1993. Signature of Registrant/s: Laura Lilly, General Partner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 17, 2022. Expires June 16, 2027. The Independent, Legal No. 5207 Published July 7, 14, 21, 28, 2022.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 590118

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Green Remodeling; 2. Green coffee; 3. Green Drone; 4. Rhyme Investing, 3168 Paseo Granada, Pleasanton, CA 94566, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Stephen Ng, 3168 Paseo Granada, Pleasanton, CA 94566. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s: Stephen Ng, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 1, 2022. Expires June 30, 2027. The Independent, Legal No. 5208 Published July 7, 14, 21, 28, 2022.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 589796

The following person(s) doing business as: Asian Pacific Janitorial Service, 2188 Rosedale Ave, Oakland, CA 94601, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Kao Saele, 2188 Rosedale Ave, Oakland, CA 94601. 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: 5/1/22. Signature of Registrant/s: Kao Chigwue

Saele, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 16, 2022. Expires June 15, 2027. The Independent, Legal No. 5209 Published July 7, 14, 21, 28, 2022.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 590096

The following person(s) doing business as: His & Hers - Tite 24 Raters, 18941 Stanton Ave, Castro Valley, CA 94546, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Nes Desk, 18941 Stanton Ave, Castro Valley, CA 94546. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 4/1/22. Signature of Registrant/s: Seli Kisos, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 30, 2022. Expires June 29, 2027. The Independent, Legal No. 5210 Published July 7, 14, 21, 28, 2022.

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Independent Watchdog Committee reviews Alameda County Transportation Commission 2000 Measure B expenditures and 2014 Measure BB expenditures and performance measures. The IWC invites the public to comment on its Draft 20th Annual Report to the Public at a public hearing on Monday, July 11, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. Check the Alameda CTC website using the link listed below for the location of the public hearing. The draft report is available on the Alameda CTC website at <https://www.alamedactc.org/all-meetings/>. For more information, please call 510.208.7400.

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Happy 104th Birthday to Mary D. Benitez!

Born in Utopia, Texas on June 23, 1918, Mary has seen a lot of changes in this world. She amazes her family with the way she adjusts and continues to stay positive

and alert. The Livermore resident has eight kids; three girls and five boys; 22 grandchildren; 35 great-grandchildren, with another one to arrive in August, and 13 great-

great-grandchildren.

According to her family, Mary is a true believer of "Worrying about tomorrow's troubles, only takes away today's peace." She believes in working hard and staying busy. She's thankful for each day she has been blessed with, and her family believes this has kept her healthy and strong.

She has attended Golden Circle for 19 years. Recently, her best friend, Leona Brush, managed to get the ladies from Golden Circle together and surprised her with a birthday cake and a sweet celebration. She was completely taken by surprise and is still talking about it with a big smile. She has made some wonderful memories and will continue to make even more. The family is so proud of her and hope they can live a long and healthy life like she has.



Livermore's Sandia Research Paves Way For Sustainable Aviation Fuel

Scientists at Sandia National Laboratories have released data that could play an important role in the future development of cleaner and more sustainable aviation fuel.

In collaboration with researchers at Los Alamos National Laboratory, the team explored the physical properties of cycloalkanes, or molecules composed of hydrogen and carbon atoms arranged in a ring structure using only single bonds. When used in jet fuel, cycloalkanes may reduce condensation trail formation and soot emissions as compared to current fuels.

The team detailed their findings in an article recently published in Frontiers in Energy Research.

As the global demand for aviation fuel remains high and is expected to grow, the combustion of petroleum fuel will continue to emit more carbon dioxide into the atmosphere and with it comes growing impacts on climate change, said Sandia chemist Alexander Landera.

"Unlike other forms of travel, such as cars and trucks, there is currently no foreseeable path to electrify the aviation sector," Landera said. "Therefore, mitigation efforts are necessary to decarbonize the aviation industry."

Minimizing aromatics

One of the team's key objectives has been to minimize the aromatic content of aviation fuel and replace it with cycloalkanes.

Aromatics are substances derived from refining crude oil and are used as a source of octane, which increases the engine's power and fuel efficiency. Aromatics have traditionally been

beneficial in fuel because they cause the O-rings in the engine to swell, an important function in maintaining engine seals and preventing fuel leaks.

However, aromatics are problematic because they produce soot during combustion, which, like carbon dioxide, has a greenhouse effect and contributes to the heating of Earth's climate system, Landera said.

"Ideally, we would wish to remove all aromatics from fuel," he said. "But if we can even replace a large portion of the aromatics with cycloalkanes, we find they make good candidates as far as their ability to cause O-ring swelling and their strong fuel properties."

Cycloalkanes can also be produced from feedstock or renewable biological material, Landera added, potentially making their production more carbon sustainable.

Physical properties of cycloalkanes

The research data examines physical properties of cycloalkanes that would influence the aircraft's operability, performance and safety. Landera hopes that by building a database of these properties, their research will help clear the way for cycloalkane's inclusion in future aviation fuels.

"We've looked at various families of cycloalkanes to identify which ones have the strongest fuel properties, and which have higher energy content," Landera said.

Addressing global climate security

Sandia is engaged in work to decrease the cost,

increase the sustainability and expand the production and use of sustainable aviation fuels.

Funded by the Department of Energy's Bioenergy Technologies Office, this research is part of Sandia's overall mission to address the national and global security threats associated with the climate crisis, said Anthe George, senior manager of the Labs' applied biosciences and engineering group.

"Climate change poses a threat to national and global security," George said.

"Sandia has a long heritage of providing the nation with climate-related innovations that have already made an impact in mitigating emissions, including combustion research, solar thermal testing and wind farm technology," George said. "Developing sustainable aviation fuel, with decreased carbon dioxide and soot emissions, will be pivotal to ongoing mitigation efforts against global warming."

Sandia National Laboratories is a multimission laboratory operated by National Technology and Engineering Solutions of Sandia LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Honeywell International Inc., for the U.S. Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration. Sandia Labs has major research and development responsibilities in nuclear deterrence, global security, defense, energy technologies and economic competitiveness, with main facilities in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and Livermore, California.

Hively Appoints CEO and Director of Community Services & Education

Pleasanton-based Hively has announced Mary Hekl as the new Chief Executive Officer and Candida "Candy" Duperroir as the new Director of Community Services & Education.

Hekl, appointed to the permanent role after five months as Interim CEO, brings with her 20 years of experience leading people-focused HR teams, primarily at Google, then at Ellie Mae and Zymergen. She also served on the Hively Board of Directors for four years and served for one year as its board chair.

"After an extensive search, I have the pleasure to announce Mary Hekl as the new CEO of Hively," said current Hively Board Chairman, Ryan Duncan Anderson. "Mary brings a unique set of skills as an expert in HR from her days at Google and familiarity with the organization from her previous term as Board Chair. As interim CEO these past months, she has exhibited creativity and a strategic orientation that we believe will help us expand Hively's mission into the future. We look forward to her leadership and determination as we continue to provide resources and support to ensure that everyone in the community can thrive."

Recently, Hekl began a Master of Public Health at Johns Hopkins University with a focus on mental health. She also holds an MBA from the University of Michigan and a BA from Tulane University.

"I am thrilled to lead the Hively team as we work to expand our core services in three distinct areas," said Hekl. "First - greatly increase the number of families and providers that we help with services such as childcare subsidies, educational programs and referrals to essential services that allow families to thrive. Second - continue to support Tri-Valley residents with food, clothing, housewares and other items through our Hively Family Resource Center in Dublin. Third - become a leading provider of mental health services beyond our current San Leandro location by adding Tri-Valley and Oakland as well as pilot creative ways to improve mental health. The ultimate goal is to increase access, availability and affordability of mental health services and resources."

Starting July 1st, Candida "Candy" Duperroir officially joins the Hively team as the new Director of Community Services & Education. She brings with her 23 years of experience at sister organization CoCoKids, which offers Child Care Resource & Referral services in Contra Costa County. In addition, Duperroir worked as the county organizer for the national grassroots organization, Parent Voices, becoming a leading advocate for access

to childcare, housing, and employment services.

"Hively is thrilled to welcome Candy to the team!" said Hekl. "She brings vast experience in childcare resource and referral for parents searching for childcare and other needed services. She is an active parent advocate and an educator for childcare providers and the Early Learning Education system. Candy's impact will be felt immediately by Alameda County parents and providers."

Hively, derived from 'lively' and 'hive', is a thriving community full of life and energy. Hively's mission is to strengthen Alameda County families so that everyone in our community can thrive. Hively supports local families through childcare stipends and referrals, parent education classes, and family classes, in addition to clinical mental health services and daily essentials such as food, diapers, and clothing. This past year, we served over 2,000 local families and children seeking childcare referrals and served 975 childcare providers. We are fueled by our passion for strengthening thousands of families, regardless of ability to pay. While the pandemic threatened the very existence of many childcare businesses, we were ready to answer this challenge by offering extra support to childcare providers and local families, from masks and gloves to additional subsidies. California Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan recognized our outstanding work during the pandemic and awarded Hively with a California Nonprofit-of-the-Year Award in 2020.

Headquartered in Pleasanton, California, Hively provides holistic support



Mary Hekl



Candida Duperroir

and services to strengthen families by providing childcare subsidies for CalWORKs recipients; parent education classes to support healthy home environments; and family-strengthening classes to support the parent-child bond. In addition, Hively has affordable mental health services on a sliding-fee scale; and provides economic support through the Hively Family Resource Center, which provides free food, diapers, clothing, shoes, and other basic necessities to families in need.

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Community Leaders Respond to Rise in Anti-Asian Hate Crimes

By Olivia Wynkoop Bay City News

Backed by community leaders, Assemblymember Matt Haney and representatives from California Attorney General Rob Bonta's Office highlighted the 177.5 percent increase in reported anti-Asian hate crimes at a recent press conference.

Bonta released the 2021 Hate Crime in California Report, which revealed that reported hate crimes statewide increased by 32.6 percent from 2020 to 2021 -- the highest reported level since 2001. Bonta said the report shows that the "epidemic of hate" seen in the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic "remains a clear and present threat."

"As our state's top law enforcement officer,

I will continue to use the full authority of my office to fight back. We will keep working with our local law enforcement partners and community organizations to make sure every Californian feels seen, heard, and protected," Bonta said in a statement. "While there is no single solution, it's up to all of us to heed the call, because when our communities feel empowered, they come forward. Now, more than ever, it is critical that we stand united -- there is no place for hate in California."

Sponsored by the Stop AAPI Hate Coalition, Haney has co-authored two bills in response to the rise in hate crimes. First, the Public Transit Ridership Safety bill, which would train transportation staff on how to legally address

harassment cases, included hate crimes. Second, the Expanding Civil Rights Protections and Businesses bill, which would train employees at large establishments on how to respond to hate crimes.

"The California Department of Justice report only confirms what we've been hearing from API communities all over San Francisco," said Haney. "And it's not just violent hate crimes that are on the rise. For every crime that's reported to the police there are hundreds of incidents of hate based harassment and even violence that go unreported--often targeted at women and seniors."

More information and resources on hate crimes on a state level can be found at <https://oag.ca.gov/hate-crimes>.

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