

New Suspect Considered In Mischeloff Disappearance

By Larry Altman

DUBLIN — Police are looking into whether a man charged recently with killing 9-year-old Michaela Garecht in Hayward in 1988 is linked to the unsolved disappearance of Ilene Beth Mischeloff, a Dublin teenager believed abducted on her way home from school and never seen again.

Although so far nothing directly ties David Emery Misch to the 13-year-old's disappearance, both kidnappings occurred in the Bay Area within a few months and no bodies were ever found. The disclosure that police are investigating the 59-year-old convicted murderer already in prison for killing a woman in Hayward in 1989 comes as the 32nd anniversary of Ilene's abduction approaches.

"This is one of the ones I take personally," said Dublin Police Capt. Nate Schmidt, who worked the cold case investigation in 2004 and 2005.

Ilene, a Wells Intermediate School student, was last seen in 1989.

(See MISHELOFF, page 7)

David Haubert Sworn Into County Office

By Aly Brown

REGIONAL — Alameda County recently welcomed a new supervisor just days after welcoming a new year.

Held in a virtual setting Jan. 3, the new District 1 Supervisor David Haubert took his oath of office with his wife, Michele, at his side.

Tim Sbranti, a former Dublin mayor, introduced the ceremony and noted that Haubert's success showed not only in his business endeavors, but also in his commitment to his family, his faith and his community.

"We're here to honor all three of those today, particularly his service as we swear him in as supervisor," Sbranti continued.

Sbranti went on to note that one of Haubert's first experiences with public service in the Tri-Valley dealt with a county issue. In the early 2000s, Alameda County was looking to build a large juvenile detention center in Dublin. Haubert worked with other leaders and organizations throughout the region to discuss restorative justice and the importance of deterrence programs and rehabilitation.

"Fast forward 20 years later, it's exciting that he'll have the opportunity to work on so many of those issues as a county supervisor," Sbranti said.

Haubert also served the Dublin Unified School District Board of Trustees for 10 years beginning in 2002. The California School Boards Association (CSBA) recognized his leadership, and to this day, he continues to lead seminars and forums on behalf of CSBA.

Haubert was then elected to the Dublin City Council in 2012, where he served for two years before securing the mayoral seat in 2014.

During the ceremony, the pastor from Cornerstone Church, Steve Madsen, spoke about Haubert and issued a prayer.

(See HAUBERT, page 8)



Dublin observed a candlelight walk and prayer service in honor of Ilene Mischeloff on Thursday, Jan. 30, 2020. The event marked 31 years since Ilene disappeared Jan. 30, 1989. She was 13 years old at the time. Investigators are now looking into a new suspect regarding this cold case. (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)

Performing Arts Center Bids Farewell To Staunch Advocate Scott Haggerty

By Heather Brewer

REGIONAL — Since it opened in 2007, the Bankhead Theater has welcomed a diverse range of artists and audiences, bringing them together to share the rich experience of live music and performance.

Alameda County Supervisor Scott Haggerty. Without him and many others, the theater and the Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center (LVPAC) might not be the cultural hub it is today. As he leaves office, Haggerty will be forever remembered and

have another term, but before he leaves, we wanted to get the chance to talk to him and say thank you so much for everything that he's done for us and for the arts," said Chris Carter, the executive director of the LVPAC, during an interview.

"I think in government, when you can do something like build the Bankhead, that's really something to celebrate. It's really not something you run from — it's providing for the community."

Along the way, they have had countless supporters, volunteers, donors and backers, including Al-

ameda County Supervisor Scott Haggerty. Without him and many others, the theater and the Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center (LVPAC) might not be the cultural hub it is today. As he leaves office, Haggerty will be forever remembered and

In getting to the reasons for Haggerty's motivation (See HAGGERTY, page 8)

To Balance Budget, Districts Offer Meals For All Families Regardless of Income

By David Chircop

REGIONAL — Costs are up, revenue is down. A massive budget deficit looms over the food service program at the Dublin Unified School District (DUSD).

DUSD officials are trying to solve this conundrum caused by the sudden unexpected closure of schools in a way you might not expect: by offering free breakfast, lunch and dinner seven days a week to every student in the district, regardless of financial status.

"It might feel weird to take advantage of that, because you might be thinking

you're costing the district money," said Chris Hobbs, Dublin school's interim assistant superintendent of business services. "The reality is, we get reimbursed by the federal government for every meal we serve."

The additional volume of paid meals helps to cover the overhead expenses, including the fixed labor costs for cafeteria workers.

The free meal program expansion is part of the federal government's coronavirus response.

To ensure school nutrition programs stay afloat and students continue to have

access to nutritious meals during the public health emergency, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) in October extended emergency waivers for income eligibility and other requirements for participants of its national free school lunch program through at least the end of the 2020-2021 school year.

The federal program aims to remove regulatory hurdles and to provide flexibility for school food programs undergoing funding challenges and uncertainty brought about by the coronavirus. The free grab-and-go

(See MEALS, page 12)

Community Mourns the Loss of Orchestra Manager

By Ruth Roberts

LIVERMORE — Orchestra aficionados, friends and colleagues are mourning the loss of a longtime resident and kindred spirit.

Virginia McFann, 88, died on Dec. 26 following a brief illness.

Serving as one of the longest-running members of the Livermore-Amador Symphony (LAS) — playing in its first concert in 1963 — McFann was a violinist and the symphony's orchestra manager. She also was hired as a teacher with a degree in history from UCLA, a special education

aid in Livermore, a proud member of the American Association of University Women and a founding member of the LA Sym-

phony and the Association of California Symphony orchestras.

But it was McFann's spirit, spunk and independence that her loved ones remember most.

"She was a great companion and a real firecracker," said longtime friend and fellow symphony member Judy Eckart. "When I first became involved with the LAS, I was told, 'If you have any questions, ask Virginia McFann. She has all the answers.' And she did."

Alan Frank, president of the LAS Association, agreed that McFann's trademark grin and no-nonsense approach to symphony protocols, won her the enduring support and admiration of her colleagues.

(See FOUNDER, page 11)

Valley Schools Await Details on Newsom's Plan

By David Chircop

REGIONAL — Gov. Gavin Newsom's \$2 billion plan to spur the return to in-person instruction could see the doors of Tri-Valley elementary school classrooms open to students this spring, but the devil is in the details, and those details have yet to take shape.

The "Safe Schools for All" plan announced over the winter break aims for a phased-in return to physical learning for the youngest students in February. If approved and funded by state lawmakers, it will provide participating districts with money to pay for uniform COVID-19 testing for all school staff and students

and contact tracing; it will also give vaccine priority to teachers.

As remote instruction resumed Monday, district officials and local teachers unions were measured in their responses to the Dec. 30 legislative proposal. Philomena Rambo, director of community engagement for the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District (LVJUSD), said in a statement that the district is waiting for the governor's proposal to become reality.

"In the meantime, we continue to implement and plan for a phased-in return to in-person learning," Rambo continued. "We currently have some small group co-

(See PLAN, page 2)

Rep. Eric Swalwell Celebrates Likely Democratic Senate Win

REGIONAL — Rep. Eric Swalwell weighed in Tuesday night as the results from the Georgia Senate runoff election rolled out.

Early reports at press time indicated both Georgian Democrats Raphael Warnock and Jon Ossoff were in the lead over Republican opponents Kelly Loeffler and David Perdue.

"The Rev. Raphael Warnock and Jon Ossoff ran strong, principled campaigns, and it looks like they've defeated the radical

right-wing incumbents," Swalwell said. "I'm proud that our Remedy PAC's United for Georgia program helped get out the vote to support them. A Democrat-led Senate will work with our House majority and the Biden administration to get us out of this pandemic as soon as possible and build back better to benefit working families across the nation."

A win by Warnock and Ossoff would secure Democratic control of the Senate.

ACE Selected to Operate New Valley Link Service

REGIONAL — The Tri-Valley-San Joaquin Valley Regional Rail Authority Board recently voted to enter into an arrangement with the San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission (SJRRRC).

The SJRRRC will now manage the operation of future Valley Link commuter rail service connecting the Tri-Valley with the San Joaquin Valley.

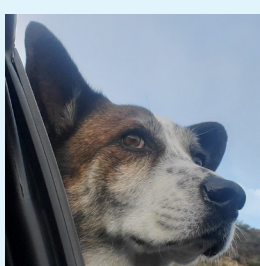
The SJRRRC has served as the policy-making body for the Altamont Corridor Express (ACE) service for more than 20 years and took a similar action at their December Board meeting.

"One of the reasons that I am excited about this, having served on the ACE Board for 24 years, is that there is a trust factor knowing that ACE is one of the premier rail lines in the State of California if not the entire United States," said Scott Haggerty, Rail Authority Board chair. "Entering into the agreement at this early point in the project enables SJRRRC to provide input into project development and achieve safe, efficient and cost-effective operations."

The Regional Rail (See VALLEY LINK, page 10)



From left, Emilio Tiscareno and John Preston, along with several others, embarked on a hike Jan. 3 in honor of firefighters, Ed Smith and Erick Michael, who lost their lives to suicide. The walk aimed to bring awareness to the issue. It began in Livermore and ended in the City of Alameda. See additional photo on page 10. (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)



CHANCE

PET OF THE WEEK

Give an old boy a second chance! Chance is a senior large breed mix who enjoys short walks and plenty of naps. He's polite, well-mannered and looking for a comfy place to spend his twilight years. While Valley Humane Society remains closed during shelter-in-place, adoptions are coordinated by appointment. Contact info@valleyhumane.org for more information.

(Photo - Valley Humane Society / J. Beacham)

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Novel By Livermore Fifth-Grader Promises to Be a Good Read

By Dawnmarie Fehr

Sarina Summers may only be in fifth grade, but the



"Fedora's Secret" by Sarina Summers

11-year-old Livermore resident used the extra time the COVID-19 pandemic gave her to write her first novel.

"Fedora's Secret" chronicles the journey of a middle school girl and the hurdles she encounters in pandemic life and her relationships with her family and friends. In the end, she finds answers and even a little magic.

"I started writing 'Fedora's Secret' because I have seen all these books and none of them were about pandemics," Sarina said. "So I decided I would write my own book about the pandemic."

With her decision made, Sarina picked up her pen and turned out the first chap-

ters easily. Then she discovered writer's block.

She put it down for a few months until a friend motivated her to continue writing.

Though she initially envisioned writing a book about living during a pandemic, Sarina said a deeper plot began to develop during the summer. By August, she had a finished product with a twist at the end and several subplots.

During the creative process, her mother, Denise Taylor, cheered her on. Taylor said it was a joy to watch her daughter work through the story and develop interesting characters along the way.

"A strong component of the book is (the protagonist's) relationship with her aunt and finding out the real story about her aunt," Taylor said. "In the end, you find out about the magic and the secret."

Together, Sarina and Taylor worked through Amazon's self-publishing program, learning the ins and outs of formatting. They took pictures for the cover, built a website and began selling copies of the book.

Taylor said one of Sarina's strong points is her ability to capture the voice of a middle school child. A lack of books that portray children her age accurately was one of the reasons

Sarina felt inspired to put pen to paper in the first place.

"Sometimes I'm annoyed that adult authors don't get kids right," she said. "They talk about school and stuff, and it's inaccurate. So I thought it would be good to get a kid's perspective."

Taylor noted she had a relatively small role in creating the book, saying Sarina wrote and edited it herself, as well as creating content for the website and styling the cover of the book. With this project finished, Sarina said she does have plans for a sequel sometime in the future.

One thing Sarina noted that she learned through the

process of writing this book is not to let obstacles stand in her way.

"I just want to say that if you feel like there might be something burdening you and stopping you from doing what you want to do, you have to push through and do it anyway, if that's what you want to do," Sarina said. "If I had let things get in my way, I might never have finished my book. I know people think 11-year-olds can't write, but there are some of us, who if they really want to, they can."

For more information, or to purchase a copy of "Fedora's Secret," visit <https://sarinasummers.wordpress.com>.

PLAN

(Continued from first page)

horts learning on campus, which we began phasing in at the end of October 2020 to serve our students with highest needs for in-person support."

High Community Spread Could Still Delay a Return to School

Whether Tri-Valley schools will reopen on the proposed timeline depends on a number of factors. Chief among them is Alameda County's COVID-19 community transmission rate in the weeks ahead.

"I am mindful that during this difficult time of surging COVID-19 cases across the state and in Alameda County, we must continue to prioritize the safety of our students, families and staff," Alameda County Office of Education Superintendent L. Karen Monroe said. "Nothing is more important. We must also use this time wisely, because we do not want to lose one minute of the opportunity to take the necessary steps to give students the in-person instruction they need and deserve."

The reopening proposal calls for initially starting with transitional kindergarten through second grade in February, and progressing into higher grades later into the spring.

Before the upsurge in COVID-19 cases, LVJUSD and Pleasanton United School District (PUSD) both approved Reopening Plans filed with the Alameda County Office of Education that called for resuming in-person instruction as early as this month.

The LVJUSD voted in November to move to a hybrid schedule of in-person and distance learning, beginning with elementary students. The district's plan sought to start with grades one and two; followed in two weeks by students in grades pre-kindergarten, transitional-kindergarten, kindergarten, and third grade; and then by students in grades four and five in a phased-in approach over a 4-week period.

PUSD's plan would start with pre-kindergarten through the second grade. At its meeting Dec. 15, the Pleasanton school board said elementary schools would complete their reopening for grades three through five a week later.

The Dublin Unified School District (DUSD) has not announced plans for a return to in-person instruction.

The PUSD board is

scheduled to discuss a return to in-person classes for Pleasanton's middle and high school students at its meeting on Jan. 14, according to district communications coordinator Patrick Gannon.

Both the LVUSD and the DUSD boards are scheduled to hold their first meetings of the new calendar year on Jan. 12.

"Livermore Education Association continues to work with the District to prepare for the eventual return of students, including safe reopening scenarios," Aimee Thompson, president of the Livermore Education Association, said in a statement issued by the union's executive committee late Monday.

The association is the local affiliate of the California Teachers Association, and represents Livermore teachers and certificated nonmanagement staff.

Aiming to Strike Delicate Risk-Reward Balancing Act

The state's proposal is based on the premise that in-person is the best setting to meet the learning, mental health and social-emotional needs of students. It relies on emerging studies of school reopenings around the world that demonstrate relatively low risks and high benefits of educating students in classrooms — especially for elementary grades.

It also emphasizes the continued use of mitigation measures — masks, distancing, hand-washing, ventilation and screening — to reduce transmission. Teachers are expected to be prioritized for coronavirus vaccinations, which Bay Area lawmakers, doctors and education advocates have pleaded for in recent weeks, as the vaccine rolled out to health care workers and residents in long-term care facilities.

California Teachers Association (CTA) President E. Toby Boyd expressed appreciation for the state taking educators' concerns into account when drafting the plan, but suggested it is not yet airtight.

"In all our conversations and letters sent, we have been calling for tougher safety standards, rigorous and consistent testing, data collection and transparency ... We look forward to hearing more information and hope the new guidelines ... will create a coherent statewide plan rather than creating more confusion for par-

ents and school districts," Boyd said in a statement.

He added that the CTA continues to support distance learning for schools in the highest purple tier of transmission rates.

The reopening plan would allow schools with approved safety plans to reopen even in areas in the purple tier — the most restrictive in the state's four-tiered pandemic reopening plan — provided its county has a seven day average rate of infections of no more than 28 per 100,000, according to a California Department of Public Health slide presentation published by EdSource. The adjusted rate for Alameda County is 22.5 per 100,000, according to the most recent data available. To view the full EdSource document, visit http://bit.ly/Indy_EdSource.

Young Children Not the Super-spreaders Once Feared

The state's rationale for this shift is based on an increasing body of scientific evidence that appears to show that young children are not a major source of transmission. The greatest risk in school settings comes from adults transmitting it to other adults, often in settings like breakrooms, according to studies cited by the state. Originally, it was thought that children might be less frequently diagnosed due to less testing because they are often asymptomatic, but it is now believed children get COVID-19 less often than adults, and when they do get sick, they get less sick.

In the fall, many schools across the state, including LVJUSD, resumed in-person classes in some form or for certain groups like special needs students.

The state allowed schools to resume in-person classes once their county had been out of the purple tier for at least two weeks. In the Tri-Valley, the PUSD gained Alameda County Office of Education approval for its Reopening Oct. 29, followed by LVJUSD, which was approved on Nov. 16.

The Pleasanton plan anticipated reopening in-person instruction as early as Jan. 4 and Livermore's by Jan. 19. To review the plans, visit http://bit.ly/Indy_PUSDplan and http://bit.ly/Indy_LVJUSDplan.

Lockdowns Hindering Reopening Efforts, Creating Disparate Impacts

But days after county approval of Livermore's plan, efforts to further expand

the reopening of Livermore schools were suspended when Newsom and state health officials pulled the "emergency brake" on school and business reopenings amid a sharp increase in COVID-19 cases across the country and California.

After Bay Area intensive care unit (ICU) beds fell below 15% last month, the strict shelter-in-place order was extended and will remain in place at least until Jan. 7.

Schools that started to hold in-person classes were allowed to continue even after the state issued its regional stay-at-home order for roughly 80% of California's counties. As of November, schools in 41 counties including Alameda were holding in-person classes to some extent, according to Newsom, while schools in the remaining 17 were mostly holding classes online.

"Kids are learning," Newsom said in a press briefing on the proposal last week. "They're just not learning all equally, particularly our youngest children."

The proposal pledges roughly \$450 per student for participating elementary schools, with up to an additional \$250 per student, depending on how many students considered high-needs are enrolled.

Newsom and State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond said the new plan is intended to address the disparities from county to county, school district to school district and campus to campus by ensuring testing and protective equipment are readily available to students

and staff.

"We know that many families — foster families, homeless families, English learners, free- and reduced-lunch families — have been impacted in different ways," Thurmond said. "So we'll be continuing our work ...

to make sure that kids are connected to their schools, that they have access to the resources that they need to be successful."

Eli Walsh with Bay City News Foundation contributed to this report.

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Public Notice

The Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority (LAVTA) is seeking public input on emergency service changes that were implemented as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Full details of LAVTA's response to the pandemic, including the emergency service changes and the public input process are available at www.wheelsbus.com/covid/.

Comments will be summarized and provided to the Wheels Board of Directors. The deadline for submitting input is January 20, 2021 at 5 pm.

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Some Tri-Valley farmers observed the New Year by planting their fields on Jan. 1, before the rains came pouring down. (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)

Two People Wounded In Pleasanton Shooting

By Larry Altman

Investigators believe a car-to-car shooting that wounded two people Jan. 2 in Pleasanton was a targeted attack, police said.

called the California Highway Patrol. The victims told officers they were parked on the eastbound 580 freeway at Hacienda Drive, were shot and needed help.

Anyone with information is asked to call the Pleasanton Police Department at 925-931-5100.

The victims, an 18-year-old Oakland man and an 18-year-old woman from Richmond, were expected to recover from their injuries suffered in the late night shooting, police said.

The shooting occurred shortly after 11 p.m. as the victims drove west on Stoneridge Drive, just after they exited the 580 freeway, Pleasanton police Lt. Brandon Stocking said.

Pleasanton police responded to the area of Stoneridge and Gibraltar drives following reports of gunshots and were searching the area when the victims

Police found three people in the car.

"The victims reported they exited the freeway and were driving westbound on Stoneridge Drive when at least one occupant of another vehicle began shooting at them," Stocking said. "This is believed to be a targeted shooting and not a random act of violence."

Police did not release a motive for the shooting or a description of the vehicle involved.

Anyone with information is asked to call the Pleasanton Police Department at 925-931-5100.

LLNL Researchers Increase Global Warming Estimate

Enough carbon dioxide has already entered the atmosphere to cause global warming in excess of 2 degrees Celsius regardless of future efforts to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions, according to scientists from the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and two research universities.

Researchers from LLNL, Nanjing University, and Texas A&M University used observations and climate model simulations to evaluate how much warming is "in the pipeline" from past CO2 emissions. Their estimate,

published in Nature Climate Change, takes into account changes in the geographic pattern of surface warming and is higher than previous estimates.

"Typically, committed warming is estimated assuming that changes in the future will pretty much follow changes in the past," said LLNL atmospheric scientist Mark Zelinka. "But we now know that this is a bad assumption."

While most of the planet's surface has warmed, several important regions, like the Southern Ocean, have not,

Zelinka said. The lack of surface warming in those regions favors the buildup of low-level clouds, which reflect sunlight back to space and cool the planet. But eventually those regions will warm up, and when they do, the low clouds will decrease, which will allow more sunlight to be absorbed by Earth.

Specifically, the team found that future warming has a most likely value of +2.3°C above pre-industrial levels.

"The bad news is that our results suggest that we have most likely already emitted

enough carbon dioxide to exceed 2°C," the goal set in the Paris Agreement, said Andrew Dessler, Texas A&M researcher and co-author of the study.

But Dessler pointed out that there is good news. Once net emissions get to near zero, the rate of continued, committed warming will be very slow. "So if we can get net emissions to near zero soon, it may take centuries to exceed 2°C."

The LLNL portion of the research was funded by the Department of Energy's Office of Science.

Tracy City Council Member Vargas to Lead Valley Link Board

Tracy City Council Member Veronica Vargas will head the Tri-Valley-San Joaquin Valley Regional Rail Authority board of directors through 2021.

The regional authority is responsible for planning and implementation of the Valley Link commuter rail

service that will connect the Central Valley with the Dublin/Pleasanton BART Station. Valley Link is projected to carry 33,000 passengers a day by 2040.

Each of the 15 member agencies is represented on the board, including Danville, San Ramon, Dublin, Pleasanton, Livermore,

Tracy, Manteca, Lathrop, Stockton, the Mountain House Community Services District, Alameda and San Joaquin counties, the Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority, San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit, and the Altamont Corridor Express.

Vargas, who had served

as vice chair since the rail authority board was created in 2018, was named by the board to succeed former Alameda County Supervisor Scott Haggerty as chair.

Vargas is also vice chair of the League of Cities Transportation, Communications and Public Works Policy Committee for 2021.

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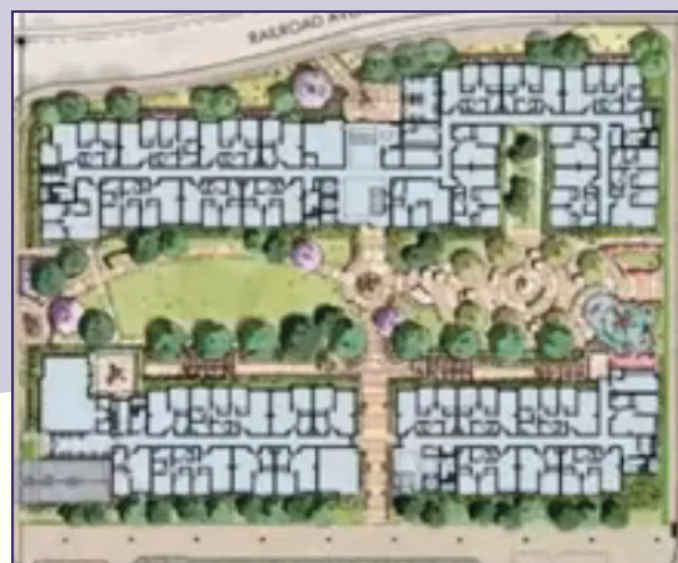
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EDITORIAL Thank You, Supervisor Scott Haggerty

As new leaders step into office and we say goodbye to 2020, it's time to reflect on those who served in the years leading up to this transition of elected officials.

In Alameda County, our outgoing District 1 Supervisor Scott Haggerty leaves behind a legacy that began when he first took the supervisory seat in 1996. He has tremendously helped to improve transportation in the region. He led the county in agriculture, energy and public safety, among other important issues.

One of his projects particularly will enrich the Tri-Valley for years to come. Through his work in securing a community impact

fee after a dump was approved in the Altamont, the performing arts center in Livermore gained its needed funding. The Bankhead Theater and Bothwell Arts Center enhance the community's culture tremendously, pulling in visitors from diverse regions to the city and sparking life in the downtown.

While Haggerty's contribution to the arts is one of many achievements, it's one that has transformed the heart of Livermore.

Thank you, Haggerty, for your service to the residents of Alameda.

MAILBOX

Mailbox Guidelines: Opinions voiced in letters published in Mailbox are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of The Independent. Anonymous letters will not be published. All letters are required to have the name(s) of the person(s) submitting them, city of residence and phone number, for verification purposes. Abusive letters may be rejected or edited. Letters are subject to verification and may be edited for clarity at the discretion of the editor. We reserve the right to decide whether or not the letter will be published. Headings for all letters may be edited at the discretion of the editor to properly reflect their content. A headline will be added to letters received without one. Frequent letter writers may have publication of their letters delayed. Letters must be submitted by someone living in or from the Tri-Valley; they must not offer medical advice from unconfirmed professional sources or contain libelous or inappropriate content. Letters should be limited to 400 words or less and should be sent by email to letters@independentnews.com or submitted using the form below. To be considered, letters must be received by 10 a.m. on the Tuesday before publication.

The Unintended Consequences Project

Richard Hughes, Livermore

Regarding the East Avenue 'road diet,' here is another 'unintended consequence' for Councilmember Patricia Munro to ponder over, if she cares ... I thought it was important to re-post this comment in the main thread, even though we are discussing it with Beverly Bull, in her comment sub-thread.

If we go with alternative #2 or #3, there are going to be 'flex spaces' painted white with hatched lines across them, warning everybody that those are 'no man's lands.' So, on trash pickup day, all the folk who live along East Avenue have to place their trash cans in those 'flex spaces!' Reason (is) they can't put them in the bike lane, so where else can they put them?

So then, along comes a trash truck to do the pickup, and guess what, it can't park in that same 'flex space,' because guess what - there are trash cans in the way. So, those poor trash truck drivers are going to have to stop their trucks - you guessed it - in the only space available, which is, you guessed it, in the one and only traffic lane!

So, all the vehicles driving along East Avenue on trash pickup day are going to now have to stop behind the trash truck! Are you kidding us? We will have created bottleneck heaven guys, plain and simple! As

I said before, this is not just ridiculous! It is insane!

Here is one more vital question or issue that throws yet another wrench into everything and has me scratching my head in dismay!

So, for alternative #2 and #3, they are expecting emergency vehicles to drive down the two-way center turn lane, when the one and only available traffic lane is gridlocked bumper to bumper, yes?

Well, at Hillcrest Avenue and from Mines going east right until Vasco, the median strip is raised six inches above the road surface with concrete curb border (and) infilled with concrete or tiles. So, are we expecting a fire truck, police SUV or EMS ambulance to go barreling down East Avenue at 60 mph, rushing to an emergency call, while driving on a raised median strip?

I wonder how the emergency-response guys feel about that?! I don't think city officials or TJKM have even thought about that!

As I said before, the devil is in the details, guys! This is just plain ol' crazy! Insanity on steroids!

Livermore Central Park - It's Not Too Late

Gayla and Richard Langlois, Livermore

What towns do you enjoy visiting?

We love to visit Sonoma and Healdsburg because of their beautiful old central city parks. They invite strolling, photography, wine tasting, dining and public events. This is what we want for our downtown.

A well-planned, family-friendly central park would attract locals and tourists to our numerous wineries, restaurants and local events. We can still accomplish this if we move the Eden Housing Project across the street.

Look at what is going up on the old Groth Brothers property. Do you really want more of that? Take a look at downtown Walnut Creek and Dublin. Let's not become another unfriendly city.

It's not too late.

Support for Swalwell

Mary Davis, Livermore

Reading the Independent on Christmas Eve, I was appalled to read the incredibly vicious attacks on Eric Swalwell.

None of these attackers offered any real evidence whatsoever. A photo standing next to a Chinese woman? Come on!

Having known Eric since he was first running for Congress in 2012, we respect his integrity and his desire to help the nation. Eric would never succumb to any attempt to compromise him. Why would he? He is happily married to a lovely young woman.

How many of you accusers have met Eric? Ever

listened to him talk about the important issues facing the nation? He is known by his peers for doing a great job in Congress, often reaching across the aisle to form a more productive and bipartisan Congress. How many Republicans can you name who are doing this?

It sounds to me like, for many of you, Eric's greatest crime is that he is a Democrat.

The Genius Loci of Livermore

Deborah McQueen, Livermore

The beautiful downtown Veterans Park, promised to the citizens of Livermore, may be sidelined due to an 'oversight' by Eden Housing Inc.

In an apparent miscalculation of their own building plans, Eden Housing appeared before the city council in a recent Dec. 7, 2020, workshop to discuss their need for increasing building size and capacity of the Eden Affordable Housing project, which will result in a substantial loss of public park land. These changes must be implemented if Eden Housing is to receive necessary tax credits for securing their financing.

Eden Housing failed to notify the citizens of Livermore that there were issues with the original proposed square footage, in spite of knowing these limitations since January 2020 - if not earlier.

Additionally, Eden Housing wishes to increase unit sizes to include larger two- (and) three-bedroom units, further increasing the size of the buildings. Larger units might be desirable, but they simply won't fit into the original design plans.

The end result includes the loss of promised park land, replaced by grass strips, hardscape, and two super-sized buildings standing three (to) four stories, which include a 58-foot tunnel through them. The public was not informed of these proposed changes until Dec. 7, 2020.

The proposed new buildings are certain to be both physically imposing and a permanent eyesore to the downtown, thereby destroying the festive, community-oriented nature of Livermore. The beauty and character of the downtown is not a trivial or merely skin-deep issue. Preserving the downtown's Genius Loci is central to protecting Livermore's distinctive atmosphere, and the spirit and importance of community.

The City of Livermore stated in their downtown plan, adopted in January 2018, that their top priorities "identified by the community through an extensive public engagement process" rates parking #1, community character #2, and open space #3. The community and the city noted that the "historic character of Downtown is a key part of Livermore's identity. The city council shares this perspective and directed that new development reflect Livermore's historic character in terms of design and building materials."

Allowing Eden Housing to change the originally proposed four buildings into two structures that conflict with Livermore's historic character, is a violation of

the city's downtown plan.

The people of Livermore should think carefully about allowing this revised plan to proceed, before ugly urbanization, congested traffic, and reduced parking become the new Genius Loci of Livermore.

Open Letter to Congressman Swalwell on B.1.1.7 SARS-CoV-2 Variant

Greg Scott, Livermore

Congressman Swalwell, you are probably aware there is a new mutant variant of SARS-CoV-2 discovered in Southeast England.

Its name is SARS-CoV-2 VUI 202012/01 (Variant Under Investigation, 2020, Dec./ Dec. Variant #1) or "B.1.1.7." It was first detected on Sept. 20, 2020, and led to a large active infection increase in Kent in early October through early December and is continuing to spread relentlessly in Great Britain. This variant was reported by the United Kingdom (U.K.) to the WHO (World Health Organization) last Dec. 14.

B.1.1.7 is now found in California.

The reason we have not detected this variant here earlier is our lack of sequencing. The United Kingdom has done 125,000 sequences out of just over 2.1 active infections - less than what California now has - and the U.S. has done 55,000 sequences in over 18 million active infections. This is unacceptable and dangerous.

B.1.1.7 has a 40% to 70% greater transmissivity rate than previous SARS-CoV-2 variants. B.1.1.7 presents no evidence of greater hospitalizations or virus fatalities; however, please recognize that transmissivity rates are exponential and that virus fatality rates are linear. A higher transmissivity rate will lead to more deaths than would an equivalent higher virus fatality rate alone.

There are 17 simultaneous amino acid residue mutations - 14 substitutions and three deletions - that have occurred in B.1.1.7. This is extraordinary from a genetic evolutionary biology standpoint. Eight of these mutations have occurred in the spike (S) protein, which is the target focus of most all vaccines.

The S protein is what attaches primarily to the host cell receptor ACE2 (Angiotensin Converting Enzyme 2). It does so with greater 'strength' with B.1.1.7 mutation "N501Y". (Asparagine, "N", is replaced with tyrosine, "Y", at the 501th position in the amino acid sequence of the S protein).

We need immediate political pressure for more vaccinations with the Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna mRNA (messenger Ribo Nucleic Acid with nanoparticle lipid technology) vaccines to expedite the lowering of the transmission rates. We also need to prioritize an emergency use authorization (EUA) from the FDA (Food and Drug Administration) for the AstraZeneca/Oxford University Adenovirus vectored vaccine that has already been approved in the U.K.

Though B.1.1.7 is not a 'mutant-ninja' variant, the danger is that if we do not make vaccinations and EUA's a priority imperative, we may yet get a 'vaccine escape variant.'

Eden Housing's Bait and Switch

James Hutchins, Livermore

Eden Housing Inc. was approved by the city council in November 2018 to build 130 units of studio and one-bedroom apartments at the old Lucky site.

However, in the December 2020 workshop, Eden Housing stated they could not meet the tax credit standards' minimum unit size unless they increased the size of the buildings.

Now here we are, two years later, and Eden Housing comes back at the last minute, against the deadlines, saying they need to increase the building sizes by 42%, and they want to include apartments of up to three bedrooms. Another consequence of this increase is the reduction of the park size by 32%, much of which will be delegated to hardscape, thereby reducing the greenspace by more than half.

Additionally, Eden Housing has promised that workforce housing would be a part of the project. Eden Housing used the term 'workforce housing' again in last month's workshop. However, we have subsequently learned there will be no workforce housing. HUD defines workforce housing as 80 to 120% of the area's median income. However, all the units are committed to homeless and low income only.

This leaves no housing available for teachers, police officers, or nurses, etc. Livermore's citizens were promised one plan and are now being handed something quite different.

Eden Housing failed to accurately represent the three-dimensional context of the four-story buildings on both sides of L Street, thus concealing the resultant 'canyon effect.' Entrance and egress to the project's underground parking garage is located on L Street, which will cause traffic jams. The city council ranked traffic #4 in their January 2018 list of priorities.

The project's parking does not meet Livermore's standards of 1.1 spaces per unit. Overflow parking will then, out of necessity, consume nearby spaces needed for downtown restaurants, businesses, and special events. This fails to meet the city council's #1 priority in Livermore - to improve parking.

The revised Eden Housing project is no longer an acceptable plan for our downtown. They changed what was promised and agreed to by the people. These changes are inherently unfair to the people of Livermore, who deserve full clarity and transparency in all issues that relate to the downtown planning.

Eden Housing must determine how to achieve their goals without compromising the city's stated values and priorities. An alternate location across Railroad Avenue would alleviate these problems.

Swalwell is SIP

Tom Murphy, Pleasanton

It appears the Congressman Eric Swalwell is sheltering in place.

However, it is not due to the Covid-19 virus, but the revelation of his alli-

ance with the Chinese spy, Christine Fang.

Prior to the story being published, Swalwell was one of the biggest photo opportunist in Washington when it came to investigating President Trump for alleged Russian conspiracy and the impeachment effort, both failed efforts. Now, it would appear that he has possibly been instructed to 'shut up' by Nancy Pelosi and others in the hope that he does not further implicate himself with his own possible Chinese compromise or conspiracy.

The strategy may very well be that they hope the story sinks into the ever-deepening Washington swamp following the new administration taking over. The fact that Swalwell has not resigned from the House Intelligence Committee should be a concern to all citizens as a matter of national security. Members of that committee have unrestricted access to the highest classified information.

In January 2015, Pelosi placed Swalwell on the House intelligence Committee and later also named him the ranking Democrat on the CIA oversight subcommittee, when he had only been a one-term congressman. At the very least, we should question her judgement of allowing him to remain in these positions when she had been briefed by the FBI in the spring of 2015 on his being compromised by a Chinese spy.

Ms. Fang fled the country in 2015 and returned to China after Swalwell had been informed by the FBI of their investigation of Ms. Fang. She was likely tipped off regarding their investigation by Swalwell. He reportedly ceased relations with her, but it is reported his father and brother remained 'friends' with her on Facebook until two weeks after the story was published.

Ms. Fang had influenced Swalwell to place an intern on his staff who could have also been a spy. Swalwell does not have the integrity to resign from the intelligence committee himself, so he should be removed by Pelosi. It is evident that his end goal is to be a life-time member of Congress, and it appears that he will remain on the 'grave train' unless the voters realize that he has delivered no actual results that benefit them during his tenure. He has been elected on political rhetoric vs. results, and he is now a national security risk.

Cast your votes wisely.

Eden Comes to Livermore

Owen Brovont, Livermore

Welcome to the future - Livermore's downtown Eden tenement as depicted in the Dec. 17 edition of the Livermore Independent!

Another case of bait and switch foisted on a milk toast (sic) public. A clever attempt to euphemize the project, evocative of the biblical 'Garden of Eden,' from which a chastened humanity spread into the world - and here we are, soon to be graced with a new Eden, right here in little ole (sic) Livermore.

At best, it is a superficial representation of what the residents made clear they

(See MAILBOX, page 5)

THE Independent

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MAILBOX

(Continued from page 4)

would settle for, not what they wanted, but what they could wrest from the entrenched 'leadership' and their behind-the-scenes support at the time!

The only similarities with the proposed 2018 design, which was not popular with many residents anyway, are that the residence buildings depicted are on the old Lucky site, and that they are buildings. Dissimulation and betrayal seem to be the current modus operandi of these pathetic little local potentate wannabes – it has become common in many cities in America today; it is not what the people want, but what the bosses say you will get.

In the Eden Downtown Plan, they have the chutzpah to disappear what was to be a 'Veteran's Park.' The area now will be the backyard playground for the residents of the larger, socialistically branded 'workforce housing,' which will doubtlessly evolve into downtown tenements. The proposed area (no longer labeled Veteran's Park) will offer a path from Stockman's Park to L Street, but who will feel comfortable walking through someone's backyard?

These monolithic, three- and four-story structures will deny direct sunshine to the area shortly after noon in the summer, and practically all day during the fall, winter, and into the spring, owing to the sun's lower elevation above the horizon. They account for the gross changes in the increase size of the buildings by 42% and the shrinkage of what was to be park land by 32%. Is this not deceit, betrayal, or something else behind the scenes?

The "Win-win" Solution Raquel Holt, Livermore

The scenario: a friend is visiting his new girlfriend who lives in Livermore.

It is his first time to come to Livermore, and they agreed to meet at the downtown central park on L and Railroad.

The visiting friend is talking to himself, "She said for us to meet at the central park downtown, but I don't see the park. What I see are these tall buildings. Hmm, I'll drive around. Ah, there it is! Since she said Livermore Central Park, I imagined it to be larger, with more plants and trees, and easy to see. Interesting. And now, to find where to park."

I join the clamor of many Livermore residents, and that is to have a large open-space park with its lovely trees and plants, longer pathways for strolling, and benches, too. One that is not hidden, congested, and hemmed-in by tall, three- and four-story housing structures.

I understand that the Eden plan for 130 dwellings can be located nearby. Livermore residents desire and hope that the city leaders seriously consider relocating the housing buildings which, if done, could even have the possibility of adding more affordable housing. Then, we can have the vision of a central, large, open-space, easily accessible, delightful, and lovely park for everyone to enjoy become a reality.

Let us listen to the many residents who have convincingly - because it is a good idea - suggested that this plan is a 'win-win' solution.

Paging Our New Supervisor David Haubert Tyler O'Brien, Livermore

We need you to deliver on your campaign promise that the county should develop a comprehensive solar policy for its rural areas before any individual solar projects are approved.

This issue is coming to a head before the Alameda County Board of Supervisors in February.

North Livermore Valley is one of the few unspoiled, scenic corridors and agricultural areas remaining in Alameda County. The valley has been used for cattle grazing and the growing of hay to feed horses, cows and other animals for centuries. We should not destroy this legacy.

That is what is at stake. If the proposed Aramis and Sunwalker solar plants are approved, the northern portion of the valley will become a sea of 320,000 plus eight-foot-tall solar arrays, with miles of new internal access roads, security fences, and overhead transmission lines, some on towers 10 stories high.

In the case of the gigantic Aramis facility, it will truly be an industrial power plant. On five acres, concrete will be poured to serve as the foundation for a new electrical subpower plant, water tanks and scores of trailer-truck size lithium-ion battery stations.

Alameda County would like to see more renewable energy produced to address the climate change crisis. That's a laudable goal. But the county must first undertake a mapping project to determine suitable locations for utility scale solar power plants. This work has been done in neighboring counties, but not here in Alameda County. That is like taking off on a plane headed to the mountains without radar.

Alameda County planners want to authorize utility-scale solar plants in North Livermore Valley, where they do not belong. The Aramis and Sunwalker solar projects will destroy agricultural land, open space, wildlife habitat, and the scenic corridor of North Livermore Avenue - all in violation of Measure D.

We have the power to prevent this from occurring. Please email Supervisor Haubert at David.Haubert@acgov.org, and ask him to put a stop to the destruction of North Livermore Valley.

A Mona Lisa or an Escher? Vic Avila, Livermore

The Livermore downtown park being discussed is being built for the next 100 years ... it's not being built for the 2020's only, but for generations to come.

If it's a gem, like the Mona Lisa, people will appreciate it for a very long time. Wine tourists will enjoy it, our visiting friends and relatives also, and families with children who live in the local apartments, of course. Spacious and timeless like Carnegie Park.

If it's an Escher, people won't even notice it or wonder why the area is so densely developed.

Save Downtown Livermore Dan Moore, Livermore

As a 48-year resident of Livermore, I am supporting the effort to move the 130 housing units to an alternative site across Railroad Avenue. Here are my reasons:

1. The revised plan leaves too little room for a central park, which will ultimately benefit all Livermore residents, not just the

few who would reside there.

2. Moving the housing to a different location will eliminate the 'canyon' that would be formed with four-story buildings on both sides of L Street.

3. If moved, there could be room for more housing. The alternative plan is for up to 194 units, instead of 130 under the current proposal.

4. There would be more room for residents to park.

5. The alternative plan appears to be affordable, based on the assessment that uncommitted Livermore Affordable Housing Fees Fund totals \$6 to \$7 million.

Betrayed Again Nancy Mulligan, Livermore

My experience with our city council is that they will say anything to get elected, and then let their backers down.

It happened again with the downtown plan. Bob Woerner suggested cutting down the size of the housing in the prime area and moving it to the other side of Railroad Avenue, which would have given us some additional community space. It seems he had no intention of doing so.

In fact, they added more housing and reduced the park area. I was parked behind First Street and looked over to see the veteran's statue. The tiny park there is so small, and the new plan has no additional space for community gatherings.

I'm sorry that, again, we have been let down by our city council.

It's Hard to Fight City Hall Ben Barrientos, Livermore

Let's see, the folks who took time to register their preference on the design of downtown were ignored.

Then, some of us put forward a proposition. The city council folks misled by minimizing the sizes of buildings. Now, it seems that what the citizens of Livermore are going to get is a tiny patch of grass that may creep up through the cracks of cement that will cover the area, where some of us saw a grassy field.

Oh, they need the cement, so an underground garage can be built. A nice park is over the Union Square garage in San Francisco.

I guess it's hard to fight city hall, since they know what is good for us.

Downtown Priorities Jean King, Livermore

The city did a very extensive outreach in 2017 to Livermore citizens to get their input on the Livermore downtown.

One exercise was the Downtown Prioritization Worksheet, which asked the citizens to prioritize 10 downtown issues. More

than 1,332 worksheets were submitted. You can find the results at yourlivermore.org.

#1 Priority - Parking - "Already at capacity," "New housing will exacerbate that."

New proposed Eden plan for the Lucky site, which is presently a parking lot, has less parking than the city's standard. Not only does it take away the present parking, but (it also) increases the need for parking.

#2 Priority - Community Character - "Maintain the small town, small-scale, historic character," "Buildings should be low-rise, no more than two to three stories."

New proposed Eden plan has three- and four-story housing across L Street from the already under-construction three- and four-story housing west of L Street on the Groth site. Let's not 'Dublinize' our town.

#3 Priority - Open Space - "Downtown Livermore needs a central green space," "Open space that comes along with new development should not be privatized, it should be usable by the public."

New proposed Eden plan has no real open space, public or private. It is a walkway between the three- and four-story housing units. This is not the kind of public open space that Livermore residents value.

And lastly:
#10 Priority - Housing - "Housing is not appropriate in the center of downtown and will exacerbate the parking shortage in downtown or worsen traffic in downtown," "Housing should be limited to make space for downtown destinations."

New Proposed Eden plan adds 130 housing units on the Lucky site, in addition to the already 222 housing units directly across L Street.

Is the proposed Eden plan what the citizens want-

ed for the priorities for the downtown Lucky site?

What we want is parking, community character and open space, not housing.

Double-win Proposition Alan Hindmarsh, Livermore

I have been reading with dismay about how the Eden Housing plan for downtown Livermore has been altered, out of public view, in size and appearance.

The size increase would make the 'canyon' effect on that block even worse. The resulting reduction in the size of the central park represents a retreat on earlier promises made by the city. So, I urge the City Council to consider the alternative location, north of Railroad Ave., while keeping the low-income house mix that Livermore also badly needs.

It is indeed a double-win proposition.

Much Cause for Regret Jan Daum, Livermore

At present, Livermore downtown has its own individual 'personality' - a

personality that is worth visitors experiencing and enjoying when they visit Livermore for wine, family, or work.

If the proposals for the Eden project come to fruition, Livermore will have a one-size-fits-all, cookie-cutter downtown. Clearly, one size does not fit all.

The size of the buildings will be overbearingly tall and, may I say, ugly. The city's parking requirement will not be met. We will be left with a postage stamp-size park.

The land for this project was assigned many years ago, and at that time, had it been redeveloped, it would have been on a much smaller scale than is now threatening us. Times change and needs change. Populations change. This so-called improved downtown will be a case of misplaced improvement that does not meet the needs or aesthetics to which we aspire.

If it goes ahead, we will all have much cause for regret.

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Livermore School District Hosts New Student Enrollment Webinar

Community members whose children will be enrolling in the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District (LVJUSD) for the first time in the fall of 2021 are invited to participate in an informational webinar on Thursday, Jan. 14, at 6 p.m.

Director of Student Services Scott Vernoy will present information about the district and the enrollment process. Participants will be able to ask questions during the live webinar. The link is at livermoreschools.org. The webinar will be recorded and translated

into Spanish for those who prefer to view the presentation at an alternate time.

Enrolling a new student begins by completing an online pre-enrollment form that will be posted on Friday, Jan. 15, the day following the webinar. Attending the webinar will prepare parents and guardians for successful completion of the enrollment process. Once the online pre-enrollment process is completed, families will be contacted by their child's new school to collect required paperwork. Because

of the current stay at home regional order, collection of paperwork will be scheduled at a later date.

The priority transfer period for students requesting a transfer to a school other than their designated school based on home address is Jan. 15 to March 1. Please visit livermoreschools.org/2021enrollment for complete information about enrollment and transfers.

For more information about the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District, visit livermoreschools.org.



Construction recently began on the new Livermore High School gymnasium. The structure will be two stories, including an auxiliary gym and team rooms. A new swimming pool will be built, along with a new weight room, wrestling area and dance and exercise room. The existing small gym will be demolished, creating land area for future use, perhaps for classrooms. (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)



Soccer team FC Uyghur played a pick-up game on Sunday, Jan. 3, at the Bernal Community Park Sports Field. Players come from throughout the Bay Area and are ethnically Uyghur. (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)

PG&E Pays \$32 Million in Property Taxes

Pacific Gas and Electric paid more than \$32 million in property taxes to Alameda County for the second half of 2020.

The \$32,404,709 paid to Alameda was part of more than \$268 million paid in total to the 50 counties where the company owns property as part of its gas and electric service.

"This year's payments reflect the substantial local investments we continue to make in our gas and electric

infrastructure to create a safer and more reliable system and to better mitigate against wildfires," said PG&E Chief Financial Officer David Thomason.

PG&E serves nearly 16 million customers in Northern and Central California. The property tax payments cover the period from July 1 to Dec. 31.

Balance Boxes Provide Goodies To Underserved Youth

Balance Boxes is a youth-led program that provides students in low-income communities with educational and enjoyable activities.

Each box is created with a designated theme. This is done to ensure the boxes can be made to the child's liking. Boxes always include books (picture or chapter books), educational games, or school supplies. Along with the educational factors, each child will receive either a theme-related toy, art project, sports ball, or game.

Each box is also equipped with an easy-to-make meal and kid-friendly snacks to keep the child engaged in the activity. One of the unique factors of Balance Boxes is that each of the families is provided with information to register their child for

free, one-to-one virtual tutoring. Balance Boxes finds the perfect balance between enjoyable and educational activities and will put a smile on a child's face.

Balance Boxes started during the beginning of lockdown due to COVID-19, because many kids are less fortunate and do not have the available resources at home. In the nine months of operation, the organization has delivered more than 4,750 boxes and are preparing more in the Bay Area. Balance Boxes has expanded to many other cities in the U.S. and a few overseas.

The local chapter has delivered boxes to shelters such as Shepherd's Gate in the past and will be delivering more in late January. They have three Foothill

High School students involved, and have received more than \$6,500 in in-kind contributions from various

companies, as well as grants. For more information, visit www.balanceboxes.org.

Zutshi Earns Rank of Eagle Scout

Kunsh Zutshi, a member of Boy Scout Troop 905 in Dublin, has earned the rank of Eagle.

To achieve the rank of Eagle, a Scout must earn at least 21 merit badges and complete a community service project.

For his project, Zutshi, a senior at Dublin High School, designed and supervised construction of an agility structure consisting of jumps, weave poles, and a horizontal ladder for the East Bay SPCA.

Only 4% of all Boy Scouts earn the rank of Eagle.

In addition to Scouting, Zutshi, the son of Swati Bakshi and Rahul Zutshi, has been a volunteer for Tri-Valley Animal Rescue for the past five years. He also takes part in martial arts and 4H speech competitions, and is a long-distance runner.

Zutshi plans to major in biology in college with the goal of working with animals as a career.



Kunsh Zutshi

Ogawa Captures Two Wrestling Titles

Kekoa Ogawa, representing the Livermore Elite Wrestling Club, captured two tournament titles last weekend at the "Who's Bad? National Classic" in Bullhead, Arizona, and fell just one win short of placing in a third.

Ogawa, an eighth grader at Junction Avenue School, won three matches

by pins on Friday to take the title in the 13-and-under 116-pound division.

On Saturday, he wrestled in two 15U tournaments.

He won four matches to win a 15U division limited to high school freshmen and younger and went 2-2 in a 15U division that included sophomores.

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cudaridgewines.com
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danterobere.com
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Longevity Wines

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925-443-9463
longevitywines.com
Pickup, Shipping & Outdoor Wine Tasting Reservations Available

Darcie Kent Vineyards

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925-464-2557
delvallewinery.com
Curbside Pickup & Outdoor Wine Tasting Available

Eagle Ridge Vineyard

10017 Tesla Rd., Livermore
925-447-4328
eagleridgevineyard.com
Curbside Pickup, Delivery, Shipping and Outdoor Tasting Reservations Available

el Sol Winery

8626 Lupin Way, Livermore
925-606-1827
elsolwine.com
Curbside Pickup & Shipping Available

Embodied Wines

2271 S. Vasco Rd. #D, Livermore
925-292-8625
embodiedwines.com
Delivery Available

Enoteca Five Tasting Room & Cellars

2111 Research Drive #6, Livermore
925-852-1861
enoteca5.com
Pickup & Complementary Shipping Available

Entropy Cellars

2720 Marina Ave., Livermore
925-200-0849
entropycellars.com
Curbside Pickup, Delivery & Shipping Available

Fenestra Winery

83 Vallecitos Rd., Livermore
925-447-5246
fenestrawinery.com
Curbside Pickup, Shipping & Outdoor Tasting Reservations Available

Garré Vineyard & Winery

7986 Tesla Rd., Livermore
925-371-8200
garrewinery.com
Curbside Pickup & Shipping Available

Las Positas Vineyards

1828 Wetmore Rd., Livermore
925-449-9463
laspositasvineyards.com
Curbside Pickup, Shipping and Outdoor Wine Tasting Reservations Available

Leisure Street Winery

8953 Tesla Rd., Livermore
925-337-5463
leisurestreetwinery.com
Curbside Pickup & Delivery Available

Longevity Wines

2271 S. Vasco Rd., Livermore
925-443-9463
longevitywines.com
Pickup, Shipping & Outdoor Wine Tasting Reservations Available

McGrail Vineyards and Winery

5600 Greenville Rd., Livermore
925-215-0717
mcgrailvineyards.com
Curbside Pickup, Delivery, Shipping & Outdoor Wine Tasting Reservations Available

Mitchell Katz Winery

New Location
2915 S. Vasco Rd., Livermore
925-454-9463
mitchellkatzwinery.com
Pickup, Curbside, Shipping & Outdoor Tasting Reservations Available

Murrieta's Well

3005 Mines Rd., Livermore
925-456-2395
murrietawell.com
Shipping Available

Nottingham Cellars

2245 S. Vasco Rd. # C, Livermore
925-294-8647
nottinghamcellars.com
Curbside Pickup, Delivery & Outdoor Wine Tasting Reservations Available

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925-371-1987
occasiowinery.com
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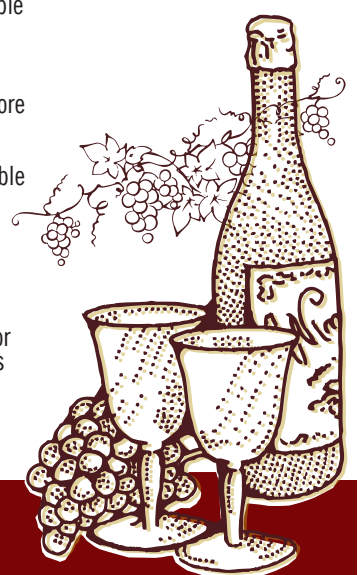
5565 Tesla Rd., Livermore
925-456-2305
wentevineyards.com
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Wente Vineyards Tasting Lounge

5050 Arroyo Rd., Livermore
925-456-2405
wentevineyards.com
Shipping Available

Wood Family Vineyards

2407 Research Dr., Livermore
925-606-7411
woodfamilyvineyards.com
Delivery, Pickup & Shipping Available



If you are a local winery and would like to be added to this list at no charge please email kim@independentnews.com

MISHELOFF

(Continued from first page)

seen Jan. 30, 1989, walking home alone about 3 p.m. on Amador Valley Boulevard near Village Parkway. Her

You just never get away from it."

A freckle-faced teen who had recently celebrated her

der charges in the deaths of two women in Fremont in 1986. Now charged with Michaela's death as well,

"I just recognize what's the odds of her being found after 32 years. It's possible but it's not very likely."

key fob was found at the entrance to John Mape Park.

Ilene's father, Michael Misheloff, remembered the call from his wife, Maddi Misheloff, about 6 that evening. Ilene was not home when Maddi returned from work. Maddi learned Ilene never showed up at the ice rink where she liked to practice.

"The words she used are, 'Ilene, she's gone,'" Michael recalled. "I said, 'What are you talking about?' She said, 'She's gone.'"

As Michael made his way home from work in Silicon Valley, his wife called the police.

Bat Mitzvah with her twin brother, Brian, Ilene loved to ice skate. After school, she would hurry over to the rink, the same place where champions Brian Boitano and Kristi Yamaguchi practiced.

"She was a very determined girl," her father said. "Once she decided to do something, she would pursue it until she did it."

Ilene loved skating, but knew she did not have the talent that might take her to the Olympics. Still, she worked with her coaches to become as good as she could be.

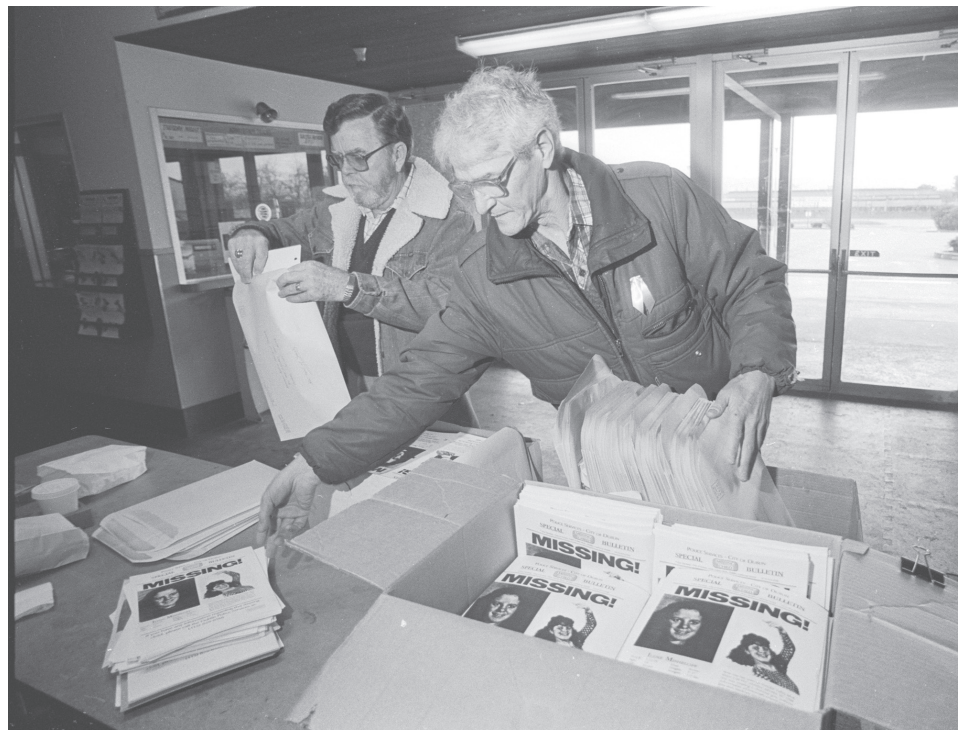
"She really wanted to

he is housed at the Santa Rita Jail in Dublin awaiting court proceedings. Although Michaela's remains were never found, prosecutors filed a murder charge with the presumption she is dead.

Michael said he knew Dublin police would look at Misch when he heard about Michaela's case.

Schmidt said Dublin police have never stopped investigating Ilene's disappearance, investigating leads whenever they come to light.

"You see these individuals that are vicious monsters come through every now



Michael Misheloff (left) works with a volunteer in 1989 to distribute fliers for his missing daughter, Ilene. (File photo)

Care. The pandemic had already begun and hospital restrictions were underway.

Michael dropped them off and parked the car. His wife had already gone inside when he walked to the door. He was not allowed inside and could not visit her.

"I never saw her again," Michael said. "I spoke to her while she was able to talk on the phone. She couldn't talk for very long, because she was very weak."

He wasn't at her side when she died. COVID-19 restrictions prevented him from holding a service. Having to act quickly, he cremated his wife's remains and kept the ashes at home.

Michael said his wife never gave up hope of finding her daughter. He wondered what he would tell Ilene about her mother if she ever suddenly appeared.

He doubts Ilene is still alive and said it's unlikely her remains can be located.

"I just recognize what's the odds of her being found after 32 years," he said. "It's possible but it's not very likely."

Schmidt said there's not much evidence, but Dublin

detectives will work with counterparts in Hayward and Fremont to see if they can connect their cases. Dublin detectives have not spoken to Misch, Schmidt said.

Michael said it is important to "close the books" and know who took his

daughter.

"I won't be totally as healed as I would be as long as the case is open and the perpetrator is still around," he said. "I think the most important thing is to put him in a place where he can no longer get out and hurt somebody."



Michael and Maddi Mischeloff speak to reporters during the January 2020 candlelight vigil walk for their daughter, who disappeared in 1989. (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)

"I kept thinking there must be some other thing that happened," Michael said. "I drove to the rink and there was this crowd and police, and I realized how serious the situation was ... After that, the next couple of days are very confused."

For years, the Misheloffs and their two sons never knew if Ilene would mysteriously walk in the door, or if some day her remains would be found. Maddi died in April of cancer, never finding the answer to what happened to her daughter. For all of the last three decades, she kept Ilene's bedroom just as it was when she vanished. Michael never moved and only eliminated his landline phone in the last couple of years.

"It's there all the time," Michael said. "Something will remind me of Ilene. It's so difficult to go through.

have fun and pursue being a coach when she got older," her father said. "She did very well."

Shortly before Christmas, Michael saw the news reports that police in Hayward had finally solved the Michaela Garecht case; prosecutors had charged Misch with kidnapping and murder. Detectives using advanced fingerprinting techniques not available in 1989, tied Misch to Michaela's death with a fingerprint left behind on her scooter.

Michaela and a friend rode to a neighborhood market on Nov. 19, 1988, to buy some snacks. They left their scooters outside. When they returned, Michaela's had been moved behind a car. When she went to get it, the driver grabbed her and forced her inside. She was never seen again.

Misch also is facing mur-

and then," he said.

Many officers on the Dublin force knew Maddi, who served on the Dublin San Ramon Services District Board of Directors, including as its president. Officers on the force, and many who retired, took part every year in an annual candlelight vigil and walk to mark the Jan. 30 anniversary of the date Ilene was last seen.

Michael said he won't be holding the event this year, not because of the pandemic, but because it will be too emotional in the first year without his wife.

"For me to do it," Michael said, "it will be too difficult."

Michael said good-bye to his wife on the phone. A month before Maddi died, Michael and his son, Brian, took her to the emergency room at Stanford Health

Livermore Insurance Agency Helps Local Nonprofits

Five local nonprofit organizations have each received \$2,000 from the Gene Morgan Insurance Agency in Livermore.

The agency said it was grateful that it was able to continue operating during the COVID-19 pandemic while so many small businesses were forced to close, and it wanted to help those

in need.

The agency asked its customers to vote on deserving local organizations, with the top 5 receiving donations:

Open Heart Kitchen, Valley Humane Society, Tri-Valley Haven, Shepherd's Gate, and Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center.

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 5143 Tesla Ave., Livermore.

Delicious seafood stew chock-full of shellfish cooked with tomatoes, wine, spice, and herbs. Each 64 oz container of cioppino also comes with a Casse Croute bread round.

Order The Singing Wine Maker wines to complete your dinner for four.
 Proceeds support The Livermore Lions Club.

Tickets (805) 405-8742

Livermore Amador Valley Garden Club Hosts Speaker

Tired of those dull, poor performing garden tools? Tune in to the Livermore Amador Valley Garden Club (LAVGC) Zoom meeting, on Thursday, Jan. 14, at 7 p.m. Guest speaker Phil Stob will tell you everything you need to know to keep garden tools in tip-top shape.

Stob has been a gardener for 50 years, working as a landscaper in the summer throughout school years. He is now an engineer by profession, but uses his spare time to grow and plant trees all over his community. He is a 'gear head' of kinds, and he likes and collects tools, picking up many from garage sales and Craigslist. He has learned that an old sharp tool will outperform most of the new tools you can buy.

He also is a firm believer that well-maintained garden tools make a job easier and more enjoyable, with clean cuts resulting in healthier plants. His talk will focus on tool sharpening. Now is the time to get those garden tools ready for spring.

The garden club is meeting via Zoom to attend to club matters and enjoy monthly speakers. Because of the pandemic, work parties practice social distancing and wear masks as they service the community gardens, Sensory Garden in Pleasanton, Hansen Park Rose Garden and Eden Garden in Livermore.

To attend, email president@lavgc.org for the Zoom meeting details. For information regarding the club, visit www.lavgc.org.

HAGBERTY

(Continued from first page)

to support the local arts programs, Carter called up fond memories for the long-time supervisor.

"You just (brought up) a couple memories real quick that I wasn't even planning on talking about," said Haggerty. "I remember as a young boy going to Madison Elementary over in Fremont. I was young Scrooge in the play 'Scrooge' for the school. The reason I remember that so much is the newspaper did a big article about it, and my picture was there. So, that was my foray into the arts."

Besides having an innate love of the theater, another reason Haggerty worked so hard for the LVPAC and the Bankhead Theater was his love for his father and a desire to see his legacy come to life.

"My father ran for city council in 1974 in the City of Fremont and lost," he said. "It was a pretty tragic thing for the family, when you work so hard and you don't get something. But one of his main platforms was to build a performing arts center, and he wanted to build it in Fremont. It's kind of funny, because as I look back at those articles, there were people that were actually criticizing him for wanting to do that, and I never understood why. You look around this venue, you walk around it, and you see the people on the back wall that have touched the stage — their names and posters — and there's a lot of enjoyment that comes out of this building. It probably reduces a lot of people stress level on a Friday or Saturday night."

Although getting the LVPAC built was not his top priority when he ran for county supervisor, the accomplishment is one of his proudest, and it comes from surrounding himself with good people.

"When I was running for office, a very large issue was that the county had approved

this huge dump out in the Altamont," said Haggerty. "When I got elected, I decided that's not what I wanted for Livermore, even though it was in the unincorporated area. One of the things we negotiated was a community impact fee ... (and I met with some people about) this grand idea to build this performing arts center in Livermore, and I thought, 'Wow, that's really cool. I want to be a part of that.'"

Due to his belief that the City of Livermore was going to be severely impacted by the landfill, those involved were able to require a fee that would be paid to the City of Livermore for community benefit projects. As it turned out, the community wanted to support local arts.

"There was a lot of pushing and a lot of arm twisting, but when it got down to the end, the Livermore City Council graciously accepted the money coming in and continued to put money toward the Bankhead Theater," said Haggerty.

At the time, additional money for the project was slated to come through the redevelopment agencies. But then that money went away, and the Bankhead Theater found itself in a bit of trouble.

"Again, I had to go to my board and ask them to put some money toward this project, which we happily did," said Haggerty. "I think in government, when you can do something like build the Bankhead, that's really something to celebrate. It's really not something you run from — it's providing for the community. That's how I've always viewed my job. I mean, there are some pretty unpopular things I have to do, but any time you can do something like this, it's a good day. You walk out of the building a little taller, with your chest out a little bit further."

Looking back over the years since he first became

HAUBERT

(Continued from first page)

"Can I say what a joy it is when you meet public servants who are truly servants," Madsen said. "A lot of that has to do with how they're serving at home, even in their own church or faith community. As David's pastor, it's such an honor to pray this prayer over him."

Haubert's daughter Katelyn shared a letter written for her father, before outgoing District 1 Supervisor Scott Haggerty took to the podium, noting that he was happy to see Haubert had support from his family. Haggerty stated that while he's been proud of the things accomplished in the county during his tenure, he would leave Haubert with plenty of work to do. He pointed out that COVID-19 and homelessness would present ongoing challenges, but also noted such projects as Valley Link to be "teed up" and ready for Haubert to "hit it out of the park."

"I leave you with a lot of work, David, and I know you can do it, because I understand your heart and



Outgoing District 1 Supervisor Scott Haggerty (left) swears in newly elected Supervisor David Haubert, standing beside his wife, Michele. (Photo - Marshall Kamena)

your drive," Haggerty said. "You're one of the most driven men I've ever met in my life. You don't lose. You're a winner."

Haggerty joked that he would remain the supervisor until 12 o'clock the next day, Jan. 4, before leading Haubert in the oath taken

by the new District 1 leader.

Haubert participated in his first meeting as a county supervisor on Tuesday this week.

involved with the LVPAC and the Bankhead Theater, Haggerty said that having community support for the project is what really got it off the ground. He named LVPAC's Chair Phil Wentz,

child or your grandchild performing a play or playing the flute, or the trumpet, or the drums; or whether you're going to get to see some show that you've been dying to see in a very intimate

run the theater hope that this part of Haggerty's legacy will continue forever.

"I certainly didn't do this alone," said Haggerty. "If you're going to have a political legacy, the fact that you

inner being of half a million people ... It makes me feel good. I'll take this as a legacy."

For more information about the LVPAC and the Bankhead Theater, visit livermorearts.org.

"I certainly didn't do this alone. If you're going to have a political legacy, the fact that you worked with the city and helped build a performing arts center that satisfies the inner being of half a million people ... It makes me feel good. I'll take this as a legacy."

— Scott Haggerty

President Joan Seppala, Treasurer/Secretary Phil Dean and the nonprofit's attorney Ed Willig as prominent figures who helped make the funding a reality.

"(The Bankhead has) fine donors that donate anything from money to equipment, and those people are the heart of the community — those are the people that get it," he said. "I think when you look at why you should support this, (it's because) you never know when you're going to wind up in this seat, looking up here and watching your

setting. This is why you support the arts. It allows you to recreate your mind. People want to become a part of the Bankhead, and it's so very easy to do."

According to Carter, an average of about 60,000 people come through the doors of the Bankhead Theater every year. Thanks to everyone who had a part in the building of the theater, over the last 12 years, more than half a million individuals have been able to experience the arts in an intimate way. As such, those who help

worked with the city and helped build a performing arts center that satisfies the

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TRI-VALLEY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Thursday, Jan. 7 Oneness Devotional

Join the Dublin Diversity and Inclusion Alliance for a virtual New Year Oneness Devotional Inspiration, from 7 to 8 p.m. Attendees will be welcome to pray, hear poetic expressions, and share spiritual inspirations to welcome 2021. For more information, visit facebook.com/DIAdublin.

Now Through Thursday, Feb. 11 Lions Club Seafood Fundraiser

Livermore Lions Club is now taking orders for its annual seafood fundraiser. This year's event will feature cioppino, a delicious Italian stew, brimming with shellfish, tomatoes, wine, spices and herbs. Each 64-ounce container of cioppino serves four and comes with a casse croute bread round. The cost is \$65 per order. Deadline to place orders is Thursday, Feb. 11. Take out service will be Tuesday and Wednesday, Feb. 16 and 17, from 9 to 11:30 a.m., at The Singing Wine Maker, 5143 Tesla Ave., in Livermore. To order, contact Ben at ben_barrientos1121@att.net or call 805-405-8743.

Now Until Saturday, March 6 Give the Gift of Swim

American Swim Academy is offering its 2021 Winter Camps for age 6 months to 15 years. Camps run weekly for 30 minutes with class ratios as low as 2:1. Gift certificates are now available. The academy is also hiring for positions in Dublin, Livermore and Walnut Creek. For more information, visit americanswimacademy.com.

Wednesday, Jan. 13 to Wednesday, May 19 Coffee Hour for Seniors

Zoom "Coffee Hour for Seniors" will resume once a month, on Wednesday mornings, beginning in January. The Zoom get-togethers will take place from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. on Jan. 13, Feb. 17, March 17, April 14 and May 19. For more information, visit dublin.ca.gov/380/Special-Events.

ONGOING WEEKLY EVENTS

Livermore Downtown Farmers Market Open for the Season

Open Sundays, from 9:00 a.m. to 1 p.m., at Carnegie Town Square (South K Street between Third and Fourth St.) 2155 Third St.

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.

Six Feet Apart Productions Shares Art From a Distance

Sunday Night Stories is an online show with people sharing true stories, poetry, comedy, music and more, featuring an eclectic mix of entertainment to feel connected in times of social distancing and self-isolation, live every week, on Sundays, at 7:30 p.m. For more information, visit facebook.com/pg/Six-Feet-Apart-Productions or eventbrite.com/e/sunday-night-stories.

Stress Relief Recovery International

A confidential, peer-led, self-help group for stress relief will take place Sundays, at 2 p.m., via conference call. Get guidance on practicing a method developed 80 years ago by psychiatrist Abraham A. Low to replace the 'defeatist babble of the brain, with secure thinking to help cope with the stressful events in our everyday lives. Call 925-515-604-9094, ID 192451547#.

VIRTUAL ONLINE EVENTS -AVAILABLE ANYTIME

Register for Virtual and Outdoor Activities

Do you want to learn a new skill, dabble in a new art form, get into shape, or finally take up that new hobby you've pushed back for so long? The Pleasanton Library and Recreation Department is now offering a wide variety of virtual and outdoor in-person courses this fall. Registration is open for everything from coding, web design and engineering courses to art, public speaking, and outdoor group exercise. There are even courses on LEGO and Minecraft. Sign up now at <https://bit.ly/33BNAoU>.

EBRPD Brings "Parks to People"

East Bay Regional Park District is committed to the idea of lifelong learning and helping people make their own discoveries about local parks. The resources they have compiled are designed to be used at home, in

a classroom or part of any online learning. For more information, visit www.ebparks.org/activities/digital_learning/default.htm.

LARP Now on YouTube

Livermore Area Recreation & Park District is featuring videos for all ages with virtual activities, including Basketball Academy, Mystery Craft Making Activities and many more to come. Visit www.larpd.org to subscribe and receive notifications as new videos are available.

Music Together Tri-Valley Supports Early Childhood Development

This international, award-winning, early-childhood music program supports parents with songs and musical activities to enjoy with their children through play-based learning curriculum, designed to help everyone learn to sing in tune and keep a beat. For more information, visit www.musictogether.com.

Pacific Chamber Orchestra Offers Musical Podcast

During this time of challenge, PCO continues to bring everyone beautiful music made insightful. Conductor Lawrence Kohl is pleased to announce the launch of a series of podcasts of musician interviews and conversations about the music. Subscribe to listen at www.pacificchamberorchestra.org.

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OBITUARIES

Virginia McFann

April 16, 1932 – Dec. 26, 2020



Virginia E. McFann, wife and mother, passed away on Saturday, Dec. 26, 2020, at the age of 88, due to complications from a fall at home.

Virginia was born on April 16, 1932, in Seattle, Washington, to Otis and Elizabeth (McCuag) Lassiter. She graduated high school from Venice High in 1949, received an AA from Santa Monica college and a BA in history from UCLA. After receiving her BA, she returned to UCLA to earn a teaching credential.

She taught for a few years in the Los Angeles School system before leaving to start a family. On June 26, 1955, Virginia married Charles B. McFann, Jr. They raised four sons, Gregory, Brian, Garret, and Kent. They settled in Livermore in 1962 and were active in the community.

After raising her sons, Virginia returned to education, becoming a special

education paraprofessional for Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District, where she served for 20 years.

A violinist, Virginia was a founding member of the Livermore-Amador Symphony. For 52 years, her passion for supporting music in the Livermore Valley was demonstrated through holding almost every leadership position within the Symphony Guild. After retiring from LVJUSD, she helped young musicians by volunteering with the Junction Avenue

Middle School string program. She also played in the orchestra for hundreds of community theater productions and was proud of her part in helping students obtain scholarships to study music.

Virginia is survived by her husband, Charles; her four sons and their wives, Gregory and Josephine, Brian, Garret and Julie-Ann, and Kent and April; as well as five grandchildren, Steven, Caitlin, Donovan, Aidan, and Mark; and her long-time caregiver and friend, Zakia Hazrati.

Due to concerns about Covid-19, the memorial service has been postponed until it is safe to gather again. A virtual service is pending. Donations may be made in Virginia's honor to the Livermore-Amador Symphony Association at livermoreamadorsymphony.org/donations.html.

Virgina Agapay Abaya Advincula

May 17, 1936 – Sept. 2, 2020



Virginia A. Advincula, former resident of Livermore, passed away Sept. 2, 2020, in Corona, California. She was 84 years old.

Born in Moncada, Tarlac, Philippines, on May 17, 1936, she was one of 12 children. She married her husband, Dr. Ricardo Advincula, in 1955 and had five children. They moved to the U.S. in 1985.

Ricardo preceded her in death on July 13, 2013. Virginia loved her Lord and her conversations professed that love and witness. She enjoyed spending time with family, reminiscing about growing up in the Philip-

ppines, and reading her Bible.

Virginia spent the last few years traveling between the homes of her children. Wherever she was visiting, it was a great treat to enjoy authentic Filipino food! Many stories and laughs were exchanged over adobo,

pancitan, lumpia and bibinka.

She is survived by her five children, Richard (Emerlita) Advincula, Tom Joshua (Ruth) Advincula, Joel (Jennifer) Advincula, Nettie-Ann (Arthur) Lee and Joseph Advincula. She leaves behind eight grandchildren, Joshua, Jacob, Daniel, Noah, Evangelyne, Natalie, Gabriel and Christopher.

Services were held at Holy Cross Catholic Cemetery and Funeral Home in Avondale, Arizona, on Sept. 19, 2020. Burial followed at Holy Cross Catholic Cemetery (Avondale) where she was laid beside her husband.

Barbara Cecelia Kaifer

Sept. 9, 1930 – Dec. 21, 2020



Barbara Cecelia Kaifer, 90, passed away on Dec. 21, 2020, in Pleasanton.

Barbara was born in Alameda, on Sept. 9, 1930, the only child of Joseph Arthur Ghiselli and Dominica Angela Bianco. Barbara graduated from Alameda High School in 1948 and received an Associate of Arts degree from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1950.

Barbara married Robert Kaifer of San Leandro, on April 12, 1953. Barbara and Bob settled in Livermore, where they raised their three daughters. While raising her children, Barbara volunteered at St. Michael School, serving on the St. Michael School Board and managing the school library.

Barbara also volunteered for 40 years at the Valley-

Care hospital thrift shop. She cherished the friends she made at the thrift shop over the years.

Family was everything to Barbara. She enjoyed getting together with her aunts, uncles, and cousins for holidays and parties, and she particularly loved having her children and grandchildren visit. Barbara was an accomplished seamstress and sewed and knitted beautiful sweaters and clothes for her family.

Barbara was also an avid football fan, and she and Robert were longtime Cal Bear football season ticket holders through good seasons and less good seasons.

Barbara's beloved husband, Robert, died four weeks prior to Barbara's passing. Barbara is survived by her three daughters and their husbands, Roberta Bandy (Tom) of Livermore, Margo Miller (Bradley) of Woodland, California, and Alison Peterson (Steven) of Arlington, Massachusetts; and eight grandchildren, Joe Bandy (Michelle), Melissa Bandy, Amy Bandy, Brandon Miller (Maritza), Holly Miller, Heidi Miller, Lauren Peterson and Andrew Peterson.

Donations in her memory may be made to Valley-Care Charitable Foundation or to your favorite charity.

Ellen Powers Gully

Nov. 24, 1932 – Dec. 11, 2020



Ellen Powers Gully passed away peacefully on Dec. 11, 2020, after a decade-long battle with Parkinson's Disease.

Ellen was born in Tucson, Arizona, on Nov. 24, 1932, to Maurice and Evelyn Powers. She was the third of four children, with brother Don and sisters Diana and Marion. The family moved to Richmond during World War II and then to Fort Bragg in 1945. Ellen went to Fort Bragg High School and graduated in 1950.

She also met her sweetheart, Art, at Fort Bragg High, and they married on Jan. 5, 1951. Shortly thereafter, Art joined the Air Force and served for four years in Germany and stateside during the Korean War. Daughter Stephanie was born in 1954, followed by sons Brian in 1956 and Kelly in 1958.

Ellen and Art moved the family to San Luis Obispo in the fall of 1958, while Art attended school at Cal Poly. After receiving her PHT (Pushing Hubby Through) award at Cal Poly in 1961, Ellen and family moved to

the Campbell and Saratoga area. In 1968, the family moved to Pleasanton and remained there for 44 years, where Ellen made many friends.

Ellen truly enjoyed cooking and entertaining friends and family. Throughout her life, she continuously worked as a bookkeeper, receptionist, and retail manager, while meticulously maintaining a household and being active in her children's lives. Ellen attended the First Presbyterian Church for many years and was active in a local chapter of Beta Sigma Phi for over 50 years, as well as volunteering for the Open Heart Kitchen.

She enjoyed crafting of all kinds, including scrapbooking, needlework, and

making greeting cards for everyone for all occasions. She even learned calligraphy to master her card-making skills. She was known for never forgetting a birthday, anniversary or holiday, and prided herself on being the first Christmas card that her friends and family received after Thanksgiving.

Ellen had many friends across the U.S. that she stayed in contact with throughout her life. Once she was your friend, she stayed your friend for life. Ellen enjoyed traveling and traveled to Alaska, Hawaii, many national parks, and visited friends all across the country.

Ellen is survived by her husband, Arthur; sister, Diana Fuentes; daughter, Stephanie Osbrink; and sons, Brian and Kelly. Ellen treasured visiting her seven grandkids and four great grandkids.

She was a thoughtful, kind, loving wife, mother, friend, and grandmother, and all were blessed to have her in their lives. She was loved and respected deeply and will forever live on in our hearts.

Mary Fotos

Aug. 20, 1927 – Dec. 27, 2020

Mary Fotos, a life-long resident of Livermore, died on Dec. 27, 2020, at the age of 93.

Born on Aug. 20, 1927, to the late Christopher and Matina (Rovatsos) Chakires, Mary was a 1946 graduate of Livermore High School and married Frank Fotos of San Francisco on Sept. 11, 1955.

Mary is lovingly remembered by her son, Perry Fotos; daughter-in-law, Annette (Paradiso) Fotos; grandchildren, Courtney (Fotos) Zinke-Zagarella, Frank Fotos, and Nicholas Fotos great grandsons, Jaxon and Brayden Zinke-Zagarella; and her brother, Sam Chakires. She was preceded in

death by her husband, Frank; brother, Kyriakos Chakires; and sister, Julia (Chakires) Lembesis.

Mary was a beautiful person, devoted daughter, loving wife, caring mother, doting grandmother and one of the kindest people you could ever meet. She will be deeply missed.

Gail Stuart Preston

July 3, 1928 – Nov. 21, 2020



Gail Stuart Preston passed away peacefully in Woodland, California, on Nov. 21, 2020, at the age of 92.

Gail was born on July 3, 1928, in Taft, California. His parents, Harold Melville Preston and Lolita Blanche Pemberton Preston, were happy to have a son, Gail, and a daughter, the late Nancy Lolita Preston. Gail was a third-generation Californian on his mother's side and fourth generation on his father's.

Gail served in the U.S. Army at the close of WWII in the Philippines as a corporal and later in the Korean conflict as a 1st Lt. Good in school, Gail graduated with a degree in civil engineering from UC Berkeley in 1954.

His early career was at US Steel Corporation, where he was a senior engineer for the American Bridge Division and later with the State of California as a staff engineer. Holding three licenses with the State of California – civil, structural, and mechanical, he was a lifelong member of the American Society of

Civil Engineers.

Gail had one son, Joseph, with his first wife, Joy Scott Preston, both of whom predeceased him. His daughter-in-law survives him, June Jeanette Heichman Preston. He has three stepsons with his second wife, Ada Holloway Preston – William Martz Holloway (Patricia), his namesake, Jeffrey Gail Holloway (Randie) and James Carl Holloway. His niece, Kathleen Ann Wilhoite Hanson, and nephews, William Cave Wilhoite and John Welch Wilhoite, also survive him.

Gail's later years were spent first in Sacramento and then in Dixon, California. Along with his wife Ada, he

spearheaded the special election blocking the construction of a new racetrack casino in the town of Dixon in 2007 and 2008. The "Dump the Downs" campaign succeeded in preserving the rural farming character of Dixon – something that made Gail very proud.

Gail was grateful of his good fortune and donated to over 50 charities. An avid bridge player, Gail enjoyed weekly games and kept up with periodic bridge classes. He also square danced, gardened and was an excellent correspondent to friends, sending frequent cards and notes.

Always interested in new things, he was also a voracious reader, took Spanish classes and tutored English as a second language. Although an engineer by trade, Gail was also sensitive to the beauty of nature and the arts. He pursued watercolor painting, producing numerous beautiful works, as well as enjoying the guitar.

Gail's final resting place is Memory Gardens in Livermore.

Mardono Micheletti

July 17, 1982 – Dec. 10, 2020

Mardono was born in Woodland, California, on July 17, 1982, and passed away on Dec. 10, 2020, in San Francisco, California.

He is survived by his son, Trey Micheletti; his father, Mike Micheletti; his mother, Ophelia D. Butler; his sisters, Darcy Wills (Donald), Landi Micheletti, Veronica Micheletti, and Jaymee Micheletti (Jason); his niece, Andrea Wills; and his nephews, Derek Wills, Robert Lignell and Romeo Lignell.

MJ spent his first four years in Woodland before

moving to San Ramon in 1986. In 1990, he moved to Danville and attended Greenbrook Elementary School, Charlotte Wood Middle School and San Ramon Valley High School.

MJ spent most of his time working as an electrician with his father and joined the Army in 2005 before returning to his trade. MJ's passion for life came through with his contagious laugh, love for Mustangs whether they were old or new and care for others. He had an uncanny ability to try to calm those around him

and bring joy in the middle of a storm.

MJ spent his life living with the simple pleasures; drinking coffee with too much sugar, dancing like no one was watching, and trying to make his sisters laugh. MJ is loved dearly and is the link that will forever be missed.

In lieu of flowers, the family has requested that remembrances be made in the form of contributions to Glide Memorial Church in San Francisco. A private service was held at Queen of Heaven.

Viktor Erwin Hampel

May 20, 1930 – Dec. 26, 2020



Viktor Erwin Hampel passed away on Dec. 26, 2020, at the age of 90.

He was born in Vilnius, Lithuania, to Richard and Edith Hampel of German descent. His only sister, Gisela, was seven years older. The family faithfully attended the German Evangelical Lutheran Church and school.

In 1940, at the age of 10, Viktor's life changed dramatically with the start of WWII. His family was forced to flee twice in the middle of the night, moving westward as refugees toward safety. As a young boy of 14 years of age, he experienced the Nazi propaganda and witnessed firsthand the destruction of Dresden. These experiences affected him deeply and he spoke of them often in his later years with a fuller understanding of the incredible tragedies experienced by him and others.

In spite of these events, he held onto his dream of becoming a scientist and inventor. He had a workshop, in which he would take things apart to see how they worked and run his experiments. This led to side jobs with which he earned money to help the family.

In 1950, at the age of 20, he received a one-year, full scholarship to study at the University of Mississippi. In America, he found hope and peace, and in 1952, immigrated as a refugee. His first job was at Sciaky Bros. in Chicago as a research technician in their development laboratory.

In Oak Park, Chicago, he met his lifelong love, An-

nelies, who also had recently immigrated from Germany. They were married in 1954, and shortly thereafter, Viktor was drafted into the Army during the Korean war. They were stationed at Dugway Proving Grounds, Utah. Through the GI bill, Viktor was able to continue his education at UCLA and graduated with a B.S. in physics.

Soon after, he read in Reader's Digest of the work being done at Lawrence Radiation Laboratory (now LLNL). He applied and was hired as a physicist, and in 1960, the young family moved up to Livermore.

Viktor's career at the LLNL was filled with creation, innovation and achievements. Through the lab, he continued his education and received his master's degree in nuclear engineering from UC Berkeley.

In the early 1960s, Vic worked as group leader for the PLUTO Nuclear Propulsion Program for nuclear cruise missiles. Later, he founded the Technology Information Systems Program, which developed and commercialized software to connect computers and allow dissimilar computers to talk to each other worldwide and in networks.

In 1987, he began a two-

year assignment to the Pentagon, establishing a program for the protection of sensitive data using public key cryptography. After retiring from the lab in 1990, he continued consulting in Washington D.C. with USAID and private firms in computer security before retiring in San Ramon.

Viktor's faith in Jesus Christ became the cornerstone of his life, and his greatest joy was helping his family and friends live out their faith. He did this through encouraging letters, long conversations and financial support. He always had a heart to help the down trodden, as he remembered those who had helped him when he was in need.

In his later years, he enjoyed spending time with his grandchildren, teaching them to think creatively and pursue their dreams.

Viktor is survived by his loving wife of 66 years, Annelies; his three daughters and their spouses, Angelica and George Gonzalez of Fresno, California, Karine and Andy Villeggiante of Santa Rosa, California, and Tania and Darryl Smith of Pleasanton, California; and by his seven grandchildren, David, Vanessa, Daniel, Michael, Bradley, Davis and Marcus; and great-granddaughter, Cecily.

We will always carry his loving memory in our hearts and will celebrate his life at a future date when COVID-19 restrictions are lifted. Memorial donations may be made in Viktor Hampel's name to Kaiser Martinez Hospice, 200 Muir Road, Martinez, CA, 94553.



Firefighters walked from Livermore to the City of Alameda on Jan. 3 to honor firefighters who lost their lives to suicide. (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)

ACE

(Continued from first page)

Authority Board noted a number of reasons why the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with SJRRC was advantageous for the Valley Link project. One of them includes ACE's exemplary safety record in managing the operations of both the ACE commuter rail service for over 20 years and the Amtrak San Joaquins for over

Link service and is responsible for all governance and project funding, policies, planning, development, implementation and service decisions.

The Tri-Valley-San Joaquin Valley Regional Rail Authority was created by the California Legislature in 2017 with the passage of Assembly Bill 758, co-authored by Assembly-

San Joaquin; the Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority (LAVTA); the San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART); and ACE.

The Valley Link project would include seven stations along 42 miles of track, connecting the existing Dublin/Pleasanton BART Station to the proposed ACE North Lathrop Station. Trains would be scheduled to allow for convenient transfers to BART. The first Valley Link trains could be placed into service in 2028.

The total cost of the Tri-Valley portion of Valley Link is estimated at \$1.2 billion. Of that, about \$708 million in funding for the project has been secured, including an allocation of \$400 million in Measure BB funds. The Alameda County Transportation Commission (ACTC) in September voted to reallocate those funds originally earmarked for the proposed BART to Livermore extension.

When built, Valley Link will carry 33,000 passengers a day in 2040, reducing vehicle miles traveled by 99.3 million each year and eliminating between 33,000 to 42,000 metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) per year, depending on the vehicle technology selected. Currently, the Regional Rail Authority is considering three technologies that include two zero-emission technologies: battery/electric and hydrogen.

A recent Economic Impact Study performed by PGH Wong found that during construction, Valley Link will create 22,000 jobs with an economic impact on the region of \$3.5 billion. During service, Valley Link will create 400 jobs and an economic impact of \$69 million per year.

For more information, visit www.valleylinkrail.com.



The San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission was selected to manage the operation of the future Valley Link commuter rail service. (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)

seven years.

"A key Valley Link goal is project implementation that is fast, cost-effective and responsive to the goals and objectives of the communities it will serve," said Veronica Vargas, current Rail Authority vice chair. "Valley Link is essential to our post-pandemic economic recovery, and I believe this partnership with ACE will help us to meet our goals and support our communities and struggling workforce."

Under the terms of the MOU, the Regional Rail Authority Board remains the owner of the Valley

woman Catharine Baker, R-San Ramon and Assemblywoman Susan Eggman, D-Stockton. The authority's primary purpose is to plan, develop and deliver cost-effective transit connectivity between the San Joaquin Valley and the Bay Area.

The Authority is governed by a Board of Directors appointed by its 15-member agencies, including: the Town of Danville; the cities of San Ramon, Dublin, Pleasanton, Livermore, Tracy, Manteca, Lathrop and Stockton; the Mountain House Community Services District; the counties of Alameda and

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

Amador Questers

1089 Geneva Street
Livermore, CA 94550-5661
925-292-8123
www.CalQuest.org
www.questers1944.org

Amador Valley Lions Club

P. O. Box 1764
Pleasanton, CA 94566
(925) 290-7592
Amador.valley.lions@gmail.com

Assistance League Amador Valley

P.O. Box 11843
Pleasanton, CA 94588
925-461-6401
Assistanceleague.org/Amador-valley/

Axis Community Health

5925 W. Las Positas Blvd., Suite 100
Pleasanton, CA 94588
925-201-6068
Axishealth.org

Big Bay Ray, Inc.

Bigbayray16@gmail.com
925-523-3133
Bigbayray.com

Blankets For Kids

7580 Driftwood Way
Pleasanton, CA 94588
925-846-6155

Cantabella Children's Chorus

P.O. Box 131
Pleasanton, CA 94566
925-292-2663
Cantabella.org

Cheza Nami

5424 Sunol Blvd. Suite 10-15
Pleasanton, CA 94566
chezanami.org

Christian Youth Theater Tri-Valley

P.O. Box 1586
Pleasanton, CA 94566
925-421-1351
cyttrivalley.org

CityServe of Tri-Valley

P.O. Box 1613
Pleasanton, CA 94566
925-223-6947
cityservetrivalley.org

Community Health Education Fund

CHEF/TVNF
C/O Maria Mancini
P.O. Box is 420
Livermore, CA 94551

Culinary Angels

4435 First St., #142
Livermore, CA 94550
CulinaryAngels.org

Drivers For Survivors

39270 Paseo Padre Pkwy #335
Fremont, CA 94536
510-369-5770
driversforsurvivors.org

Exceptional Needs Network

P.O. Box 3149
Livermore, CA 94551
925-215-2281
ennetwork.org

Fertile GroundWorks

4743 East Avenue
Livermore, CA 94550
925-344-9090
Fertilegroundworks.org

Friends of the Livermore Library

P.O. Box 2483
Livermore, CA 94551
www.friendsoflivermorelibrary.org

Friends of Open Space and Vineyards

P.O. Box 1191
Livermore, CA 94551
fov.org

Goodness Village

1660 Freisman Rd.
Livermore, Ca 94551
Goodnessvillage.community

Hively

6601 Owens Drive, Suite 100
Pleasanton, CA 94588
925-417-8733
BeHively.org

Hope Hospice

6377 Clark Ave.
Dublin, CA 94568
925-829-8770
HopeHospice.com/donate

Interfaith Sharing Inc.

678 Enos Way
Livermore, CA 94551
925-366-5567
saintbartslivermore.com

Livermore-Amador Symphony Guild

P.O. Box 1049
Livermore, CA 94551
925-447-6454
Livermoreamadorsymphony.org/guild

Livermore Area Recreation and Park District Foundation

P.O. Box 3403
Livermore, CA 94551
925-373-5730
Larpd.org/larpd-foundation

Livermore Art Association

P.O. Box 216
Livermore, CA 94551
925-449-9927
Livermoreartassociation.org

Livermore Filipino-American Organization, Inc.

P.O. Box 172
Livermore, CA 94551
Livermorefilam.org

Livermore Heritage Guild

P.O. Box 961
Livermore, CA 94551
925-449-9927
Lhg.org

Livermore Homeless Refuge

4743 East Ave.
Livermore, CA 94550
925-895-4167
HomelessRefugeLivermore.com

Livermore Lab Foundation

c/o UC Office of National Labs
1111 Broadway, Suite 2130
Oakland, CA 94607
925-453-9382
Livermorelabfoundation.org

Livermore Lions Club

P.O. Box 975
Livermore, CA 94551
805-405-8743

Livermore Pleasanton Fire Fighters Foundation

4847 Hopyard Road
Suite 4, PMB 303
Pleasanton, CA 94588

Livermore Valley Education Foundation

849 East Stanley Boulevard
PMB Box 143
Livermore, CA 94550
LVEForg

Livermore Valley Opera

P.O. Box 1002
Livermore, CA 94551
925-321-6964
Livermorevalleyopera.com

Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center

2400 First St.
Livermore, CA 94550
925-373-6100
LivermoreArts.com

Museum on Main

603 Main Street
Pleasanton, CA 94566
902-462-2766
Museumonmain.org

NAMI Tri-Valley

P.O. Box 5563
Pleasanton CA 94566
925-980-5331
www.nami-trivalley.org

Open Heart Kitchen

1141 Catalina Dr. # 137,
Livermore CA 9 4550
(mailing address only)
925-580-1616
OpenHeartKitchen.org

Pacific Locomotive Assoc., Inc. Operators of Niles Canyon Railway

P.O. Box 515
Sunol, CA 94586-0515
(510) 996-8420
NCRY.ORG

Partners for Change Tri-Valley

4743 East Ave.
Livermore, CA 94550
650-474-9962
pfctv.org

Paws In Need

Info@Paws-In-Need.org
925-551-1877
Paws-In-Need.org

Pleasanton Art League

P.O. Box 23
Pleasanton, CA 94566
Pal-art.com

Pleasanton Community Concert Band

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

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

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
TTIF.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

P.O. Box 2467
Livermore, CA 94550
TVNPA.org

Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre

P.O. Box 1445
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

Partner for Change Tri-Valley Poverty Alleviation Program

During COVID-19 restrictions - PFCTV is hosting ZOOM weekly meetings! Send a text, call or email 650-474-9962, director@pfctv.org and you will get sent the Zoom Link



Are you or someone you know facing continuous financial hardship, and feel like the constant cycle of poverty is endless?

Looking for a long-term solution to lift you out of your current situation so that you and your family can be less stressed? Partner for Change is a long-term effort to create community, support, encouragement, empowerment, and most importantly, education around poverty. We are committed to helping every individual and family we work with a wraparound support system that improved lives, income and stability.

For more information visit: www.pfctv.org or Call/Text or Email Annie Corbett, Executive Director, Partners for Change Tri-Valley
650-474-9962 - director@pfctv.org

FREE NONPROFIT LISTING FOR LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS.
If you would like to be added please email kim@independentnews.com

Volunteers Needed at Tri-Valley Haven

Tri-Valley Haven, a non-profit, crisis intervention agency, has been serving survivors of sexual assault, domestic violence, homelessness and poverty within the Tri-Valley area for over 40 years. Last year alone, the Haven answered 2,345 crisis calls, provided 1,274 counseling and support sessions, and sheltered over 230 individuals and families.

According to data from the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, 32.9% of California women and 27.3% of California men experience intimate partner physical violence, intimate partner sexual violence and/or intimate partner stalking in their lifetimes. 1 in 3 women and 1 in 4 men in the United States have experienced some form of physical violence by an intimate partner. Tri-Valley Haven offers a listening and supportive presence, helping local survivors understand their options and the resources available to them.

The Haven is looking for dedicated, enthusiastic individuals who are interested in training to be domestic violence, sexual assault, or legal clinic advocates. The 70-hour training course will begin on Tuesday, Jan. 26. Classes will be held every Tuesday and Thursday evening, from 6:30 to 10 p.m., over Zoom, for approximately 10 weeks. Volunteers who successfully complete the training will be certified to volunteer and assist clients that need help and resources.

Important training topics covered include active listening, domestic violence and sexual assault overview, cultural competency, legal advocacy and many more. Volunteers must be 18 years of age or older. Volunteer applications and role descriptions can be found at trivalleyhaven.org. For more information, contact Shadab at 925-667-2711 or shadab@trivalleyhaven.org.

FOUNDER

(Continued from first page)

"When I first joined the orchestra in 1975, Virginia was a violinist in the orchestra and officially the orchestra manager," said Frank. "She welcomed me into the orchestra with a big smile and everyone else, too. At every dress rehearsal, she would give instructions on proper concert dress and admonish us not to wear red socks."

Committed to the growing City of Livermore, McFann was strong and determined in her vision for the community and the future of its arts culture.

"I can only express how much I loved spend-

ing time with her; how important she was to the formation and growth of the Livermore Amador Symphony Orchestra," said Lara Webber, music director and conductor for LAS. "She was such a catalyst for good in our community, beloved by all."

She was such a popular force in the orchestra that many of her relationships, which began on the symphony stage, extended beyond the limelight and remained strong throughout the years.

"Virginia was such a good friend. To strike up a friendship, I invited her out to Chinese lunch

in Dublin, 25 plus years ago. That was before I knew she was terrible with driving directions," longtime friend Denise Leddon said, while laughing. "For years as night owls, Virginia and I would meet after orchestra rehearsal for ice cream at the old Buttercup Pantry in Livermore. Virginia would go out of her way to find me at my Saturday volunteer commitment for another group to help deliver symphony mail. All my friends at that volunteer post got to know Virginia very well."

It has been a particularly challenging season

for members of the LAS, who have suffered the loss of several colleagues including Walt Davies, Marie Ruzicka and most recently, McFann.

"It has been a difficult year for the symphony," said Frank. "We have now lost three old-timers who strongly supported the symphony from the earliest days up to their deaths ... Virginia was the heart and soul of this orchestra for most of the existence of this symphony. I will miss her dearly."

McFann is survived by her husband Charles and four sons: Greg, Brian, Gary and Kent.

LEGAL NOTICES/CLASSIFIEDS

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LEGAL NOTICES

FOR INFORMATION PLACING LEGAL NOTICES Call 925-243-8000

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No. RG 20076346

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF ALAMEDA

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner:

Senait M. Abraha 1250 Lakeland Dr. Livermore, CA 94551 (408) 786-4336, filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Present Name: Senait Mesfin Abraha Proposed Name: Senait Mesfin Piccigallo THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.

NOTICE OF HEARING Date: 1/22/2021 Time: 11:00 AM Dept: 17

The address of the court is: Alameda County Administration Building 1221 Oak Street Oakland, CA 94612

A copy of this Order To Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation printed in this county: The Independent Newspaper 2250 First Street, Livermore, CA 94550

Dated: September 23, 2020 /s/: Judge Desautels, The Independent Legal No. 4803 Published December 17, 24, 31, January 7, 2020.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 574355

The following person(s) doing business as: Elenita's Coffee, 7054 Dublin Meadows ST. APT C, Dublin CA 94568, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Enrique Rojas. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first com-

menced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Enrique Rojas, Founder/ CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 3, 2020. Expires December 3, 2025. The Independent Legal No. 4804 Published December 17, 24, 31, January 7, 2020.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 574784

The following person(s) doing business as: Nguyen Solutions, 3029 Leger CT, Pleasanton, CA 94588, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Ricky Nguyen, 3029 Leger CT, 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: 01/01/2020. Signature of Registrant/s/: Ricky Nguyen, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 24, 2020. Expires November 24, 2025. The Independent Legal No. 4805 Published December 17, 24, 31, January 7, 2020.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 575211

The following person(s) doing business as: Little Sugar Sapes, 360 Quartz Circle, Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Shelley O'Brien and Andrew Miller, 360 Quartz Circle, Livermore, CA 94550. 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/: Shelley O'Brien, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 14, 2020. Expires December 14, 2025. The Independent Legal No. 4806 Published December 24, 31, January 7, 2020.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 574877

The following person(s) doing business as: Hodge Podge, 1941 Chestnut St, 1, Oakland, CA 94607, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Jeri Lynn Snyder, 1941 Chestnut St, 1, Oakland CA 94607. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 11/1/20. Signature of Registrant/s/: Jeri Lynn Snyder, Owner. This statement was filed with

the County Clerk of Alameda on December 1, 2020. Expires December 1, 2025. The Independent Legal No. 4807 Published December 24, 31, January 7, 14, 2020.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 575384

The following person(s) doing business as: Art's Heating & Cooling, 1048 Serpentine Lane, Suite 314, Pleasanton, CA 94566, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): David A. Ghahramany, 4500 The Woods Dr. Apt#2233, San Jose, CA 95136. 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: 2/29/16. Signature of Registrant/s/: David A. Ghahramany, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 18, 2020. Expires December 18, 2025. The Independent Legal No. 4808 Published December 31, January 7, 14, 21, 2020.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 575027

The following person(s) doing business as: ASA Communications, 1515 Third Street, Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Stacey Kenison, 1515 Third Street, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 11/5/20. Signature of Registrant/s/: Stacey Kenison, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 4, 2020. Expires December 4, 2025. The Independent Legal No. 4809 Published December 31, January 7, 14, 21, 2020.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 575467

The following person(s) doing business as: The UPS Store #3714, 4000 Pimlico Dr., Pleasanton, CA 94588, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Kharbanda Services LLC 5771 Kingsmill Terrace, Dublin, CA 94588. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Kush Kharbanda, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 24, 2020. Expires December 24, 2025. The Independent

Legal No. 4810 Published January 7, 14, 21, 28, 2020.

CLASSIFIEDS

ANIMALS

2) CATS/ DOGS

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



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

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65) HELP WANTED

57) SERVICES

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MERCHANDISE

114) FOR SALE

115) ESTATE/ GARAGE/ YARD SALES

18) FREE SECTION

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127) LOST/ FOUND

NOTICES/ ANNOUNCEMENTS

155) NOTICES

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REAL ESTATE

170) LAND FOR RENT

157) OFFICE/HOUSE/CONDO/ DUPLEX / APT RENTAL

165) HOUSE/ROOMS/RENTALS TO SHARE

160) BOAT / RV / RENTAL

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HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF LIVERMORE NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS RFP NO. P20003 PROJECT-BASED VOUCHER PROGRAM PARTNERSHIP

AGENCY CONTACT PERSON: DJON PAUL SCOTT-MILLER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TELEPHONE: (925)447-3600X208 E-MAIL: DJON@LIVERMOREHA.ORG 3203 LEAHY WAY, LIVERMORE, CA 94550 TDD/TTY: (800)545-1833X917

HOW TO OBTAIN THE RFP DOCUMENTS ON THE LHA WEBSITE

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3. CLICK "BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES"
4. DOWNLOAD RFP PACKET

PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE: NONE SCHEDULED DEADLINE TO SUBMIT QUESTIONS: FRIDAY, JANUARY 15, 2021, 3:00 PM PT PROPOSAL SUBMITTAL RETURN EMAIL: DJON@LIVERMOREHA.ORG PROPOSAL SUBMITTAL DEADLINE: FRIDAY, JANUARY 22, 2021, 3:00 PM PT

[SECTION 3, MINORITY- AND/OR WOMEN-OWNED BUSINESSES ARE ENCOURAGED TO RESPOND]

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In Livermore Valley Joint Unified (LVJUSD), all children 18 and under can get free meal pick-up service at East Avenue Middle School, Junction Avenue K-8 School, and Marilyn Avenue Elementary School, from noon to 1 p.m., Mondays through Fridays. Each child will receive a breakfast and lunch. (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)

MEALS

(Continued from first page)

meals for students also provide some relief for parents juggling day jobs with the added role of helping to teach children at home engaged in distance learning.

The program is not without critics, and was described this fall in a scathing Wall Street Journal commentary by Julie Gunlock as a “welfare loophole” under the headline “Government Cheese for Wealthy Moms: How to have lunch at taxpayer expense and feel virtuous about it.”

Even so, hard-hit school food programs nationwide, including those in the Tri-Valley, are responding by expanding free meal programs.

The Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District (LVJUSD) now offers to all students under 18 three free meals a day and a snack at eight school sites. Pleasanton Unified School District (PUSD) has made its drive-thru meal service at seven locations “free for all families in need” and has added weekend meals. Pleasanton will also waive its application requirement for no-cost meals.

Aside from periodic meal price hikes, the Nutrition Services Department is sel-

dom on the Dublin school board’s radar because it is ordinarily a self-sufficient part of the district’s operations, Hobbs told the Board of Trustees at its Dec. 15. This year is different.

Schools shuttering in March upended the entire business model for many nutrition programs.

For every dollar DUSD usually receives in reimbursement for free or reduced-price lunches, cash sales at its cafeterias traditionally account for an additional \$4 in revenue, Hobbs said.

The closure of cafeterias meant the food program’s main funding source was vaporized.

Complicating matters was an obligation to keep kitchens open to serve students who depend on free school meals, and an agreement to retain food worker positions under a labor agreement between DUSD and the California School Employees Association.

While the number of meals served steadily increased during the fall semester, the number of meals served now is just a fraction of what is normally served when students are in school. The gap between expenses

and revenue for the DUSD nutrition program has continued to grow. The deficit is on pace to reach \$1.7 million by October 2021, based on current numbers.

However, Hobbs said he remains optimistic that expanding the free meal program will help balance the budget and avoid the need to dip into reserves.

The topic came up around five and a half hours into a seven and a half hour Board of Trustees meeting Dec. 15 and appeared to deliver unexpected news.

“I wanted to make sure that I was clear. You had mentioned that any meal that students pick up now for free actually helps us to bridge that gap,” Trustee Catherine Kuo asked Hobbs, before adding that she planned to spread the word to her friends in the community.

Hobbs confirmed and said he has also been informing his neighbors.

Trustee Gabbi Blackman said she was similarly surprised.

“We got messages about ‘go pick up some breakfast or some lunch,’” Blackman said, “but I actually think that we really need to do a big campaign to explain why it’s so important.”

Businesses Receive Alameda CARES Grants

More than 1,900 small local businesses have received \$5,000 each from the Alameda County CARES grant program, according to the board of supervisors.

The board agreed in November to redirect up to \$8 million in federal

CARES Act funds to small and emerging businesses affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The cities of Alameda, Berkeley, the Dublin, Emeryville, Fremont, Hayward, Livermore, Newark, Pleasanton, and San Leandro contributed another \$1.8 million

in grants.

The county said it received more than 7,700 applications for the program, four times the number of grants available.

The program was administered by the East Bay Economic Development Alliance.

Students Organize Virtual Policing Forum

By Ruth Roberts

Community members interested in the role of student resource officers (SRO) and policing practices

SROs to bring weapons on campus.”

Organizers said that Pleasanton police officers were not invited to the event in order to encourage

dialog.

“Our goal is to have people on all sides of the issue (call in) so that everyone can learn from each other and gain new perspectives,” said Rehman. “Our group will consider this forum a success if we see students and community members concerned about this issue and wanting to make change.”

The event will be facilitated through Zoom, and community members wishing to view and/or speak during the forum can sign up at http://bit.ly/Indy_Forum.

For additional questions or information, contact Nadia Rehman at avhsglp@gmail.com.

“Our goal is to have people on all sides of the issue (call in) so that everyone can learn from each other and gain new perspectives.”

in Pleasanton are invited to participate in an open, online forum Saturday, Jan. 16, at 3 p.m.

Hosted by the Grassroots Law Project — a student-led Amador Valley High School club that focuses on battling systemic racism in the community — along with the non-profit organization Genesis, the Pleasanton Action Network and Students for Social Change, the forum is designed to facilitate discussions and address law enforcement concerns.

“The catalyst for creating this forum was both the events that occurred locally and a general view of the world right now,” said Nadia Rehman, Amador student and Grassroots Law Project president. “We hope to stimulate conversation about potential solutions to problems posed by SROs and want to see action taken by both administrators and community members to implement these solutions. We hope to also see schools starting to take action by not allowing

a more open and free conversation. They did however, stress that the virtual discussion is a forum, not a debate, and participants will be asked to maintain a peaceful and respectful

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