

Settlement Reached

Suit Aims To Prevent Suicides at Dublin Jail

REGIONAL — Attorneys who sued Alameda County to improve conditions for inmates at the Santa Rita Jail in Dublin have reached a settlement that could bring mental health, suicide prevention and other reforms to the troubled institution.

If approved by a U.S. District Court judge, the "consent decree" would be implemented in the next two years and remain in effect for six years, attorneys with Rosen Bien Galvan & Grunfeld (RBGG) said.

The consent decree would require Alameda County officials to improve the delivery of mental health care, expand out-of-cell time for inmates, and provide Americans with Disabilities Act accommodations for inmates with mental

(See SETTLEMENT, page 8)

15% Water Conservation Likely in Fall

By Ron McNicoll

REGIONAL — The Zone 7 board recently voted in favor of a 15% water conservation mandate for customers this fall, but directors quickly added that enforcement of such a demand lies with the water retailers.

In a recent meeting of the Zone 7 board, President Angela Ramirez Holmes and General Manager Valerie Pryor explained that it is important for the public to know the agency does not have the power to invoke a mandatory

(See WATER, page 8)

SFPD Officer Running for County Sheriff

By Larry Altman

REGIONAL — A veteran San Francisco Police Department officer running for sheriff says recent deaths at Dublin's Santa Rita Jail made



JoAnn Walker

her decide to run to unseat Alameda County Sheriff Gregory Ahern, who has held the post for 14 years.

JoAnn Walker, a Hayward resident who has lived in Alameda County for more than 40 years, said she wants to bring "balanced leadership" to the Alameda County Sheriff's Office (ASCO).

"It's very important, when a decision needs to be made, it is not made out of emotion, hatred or anger — that it is made with an understanding of the issue, where time is taken to do the research that's needed to find out the best practices so that when the decision is finally made, the outcome is positive," Walker said.

Walker, who would become the first Black person

(See SHERIFF, page 8)



Sawsan Wolski, owner of the Frame Company & Art Gallery, sits beside a wall of watercolor paintings created by local artists. In collaboration with the Dublin Arts Collective, the Frame Company will display the gallery of artwork for sale through Aug. 27. Organizers aim to raise funds for the nonprofit organization and enhance the art scene in Dublin. To read more, see page 2. (Photo — Doug Jorgensen) [See photo gallery at www.independentnews.com/multimedia]

Teenager Mourned Following Crash

By Larry Altman

LIVERMORE — A Livermore High School student was killed, and five classmates were hurt when a pickup truck they were riding in crashed 200 feet down an embankment in an unincorporated area near Livermore, authorities said Saturday.

Hunter Diemert, who would have turned 16 next month, was a popular wrestling team member. He enjoyed fishing, riding dirt bikes, hiking, camping and swimming.

"No words can express our collective sadness and grief at this tragic news," Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District (LVJUSD) Superintendent Kelly Bowers said. "Our hearts go out to this young man's loved ones and our entire school community."

Conditions and names of the other injured teenagers were not released. The Livermore Wrestling Club Facebook page and a family GoFundMe page, however, identified one teen as Salvatore Barbalinardo. "Sal" was reportedly in a coma and intubated at Eden Medical Center in Castro Valley.

"More than anything, we ask for your prayers," his sister, Giuliana Zetterlund, wrote. "Prayers for Sal, his doctors and our family. Prayers for the families of the children involved."

Hundreds of people held a candlelight vigil Saturday night at Livermore High to remember Hunter and pray for the recovery of the other victims.

The crash occurred just

before 11:30 p.m. Friday, on Del Valle Road, between Mines and Mendenhall roads. Alameda County firefighters said first responders from several agencies responded to the crash. Four of the victims were taken to hospitals in ambulances. Two were flown by helicopter. Rescuers had to remove one of the teens from the mangled truck.

The victims were taken to Eden Medical Center in Castro Valley and John Muir Health Walnut Creek Medical Center. Their injuries



The community built a memorial with flowers, candles as well as shoes at the site of a crash that killed one Livermore High School student and injured five others. (Photo — Doug Jorgensen)

ranged from minor to major, California Highway Patrol Officer Tyler Hahn said.

The cause of the crash was under investigation, but Hahn said speed might have been a factor.

"For an unknown reason, the vehicle left the roadway and rolled multiple times down a steep embankment," Hahn said. "Seat belt use is still under investigation, as multiple passengers were

ejected from the vehicle."

Hahn said investigators are looking into whether the driver swerved to avoid a deer. The age and name of the driver was not released because he is a minor.

"We haven't even had a chance to talk to all the parties involved because of injuries," Hahn said Monday. "All around sad situation."

Anyone who witnessed the crash was asked to call the CHP's Dublin office at 925-828-0466.

In her email, Bowers said the district was mobilizing

crisis support teams for staff and students.

"We are all understandably grieving this tragic loss of young life," Bowers said. "In this difficult aftermath, we are sending hope and strength for a full recovery to our other injured students involved and their families. As always, during periods of crisis and trauma, our school district and entire

(See CRASH, page 8)

Strike Likely Avoided

Park District and Workers Reach 'Fair Pay' Contract

By Larry Altman

REGIONAL — The East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) and the union representing 600 of its employees announced Tuesday that they have reached a tentative three-year contract agreement that will ensure workers are paid the prevailing median wage in the Bay Area.

The agreement with the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) Local 2428 ended eight months of negotiations and avoided a strike that potentially could have begun before the Labor Day holiday weekend, one of the district's busiest times of

the year.

Union members — park rangers, naturalists, administrative staff, maintenance workers, scientists, carpenters, educators, firefighters, lifeguards and others — were scheduled to vote Wednesday this week on whether to ratify the agreement.

"By coming together, we've won an historic agreement to bring respect and fair pay to 600 hardworking people who proudly keep East Bay Parks clean, safe and open for all to enjoy," said Chris Newey, the union president who works as a supervisor at Kennedy Grove Regional Recreation Area in Oakland. "We look forward

(See AGREEMENT, page 7)

Officials Call for the Community's Input at Redistricting Hearings

By Aly Brown

REGIONAL — As the Alameda County Board of Supervisors considers how to redraw supervisorial districts this year, both elected officials and constituents alike have called for the public to offer input during hearings set from September through December.

The process — called redistricting — occurs every 10 years alongside the completion of the U.S. Census data. Alameda County expects to

receive this data by Sept. 23 and complete its redistricting by Dec. 15.

"I am committed to an open, transparent and fair process for redistricting that fully complies with state law as best as possible," Alameda County District 1 Supervisor David Haubert said. "The county has laid out a plan for numerous public meetings; we have a plan to make all data available and even provide a tool so that anyone

(See REDISTRICTING, page 7)

Swalwell Signs Letter Supporting Evacuees

REGIONAL — U.S. Rep. Eric Swalwell (CA-15) joined 24 other members of the California congressional delegation last week in sending a letter to President Joe Biden, voicing the state's willingness to accept refugees evacuated during the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan. The welcome also applies to Afghan nationals who worked with U.S. forces and now hold Special Immigrant Visas.

"As concerned members of the California congressional delegation, we write to express our urgent concern for the safe relocation of Afghan refugees and Special Immigrant Visa

(SIV) applicants and voice our strong support for the placement of these vulnerable individuals fleeing Afghanistan in our state," according to the letter.

The letter adds, "We are indebted to our Afghan partners, many of whom aided the U.S. military and diplomatic efforts as translators, drivers, contractors, and allies in the region. They saved American lives, and it is of the utmost importance that we utilize every tool at our disposal to protect them and provide them safe harbor."

Also signing the letter were Reps. Adam Schiff, (See SWALWELL, page 8)

DUSD Secures More Funding To Build Emerald High School

By Ruth Roberts

DUBLIN — The Dublin Unified School District (DUSD) board has approved an additional \$115 million to fund the district's long-planned second high school — the third such increase in as many years.

Funding for Phase 1 of Emerald High School was increased by \$115.17 million, bringing the current total for the project to \$282.17 million.

The breakdown in funds includes an increase of Measure H funds by \$11,250,460 for a total of \$170,050,460; and developer fees by \$6,815,000 for a total of \$15,015,000. Measure J funding also increased to \$97,104,540.

The increase was presented and approved during

the board's regular meeting on Aug. 24, when Superintendent Chris Funk outlined a checklist of district priorities.

"The hope is that we take the approach that we may not be able to get every single priority done, but that each priority gets something done," said Funk during the meeting. "We want to make sure we complete phase one and two, and so tonight we are asking for increased funding."

This marks the third time the district has asked for an increase to get the high school built. In August 2017, the initial budget was \$100 million; it later increased to \$135 million. In June 2020, the budget increased again to over \$166 million.

(See FUNDING, page 6)



Cuda Ridge Wines held its annual blessing of the grapes on Wednesday, Aug. 25. From left are Father Kwame of St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church, owner and winemaker Steven Mirassou, Pastor Steve Wilde of First Presbyterian Church, and Rabbi Larry Milder of Pleasanton's Congregation Beth Emek. (Photo — Doug Jorgensen) [See photo gallery at www.independentnews.com/multimedia]



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(Photo — Valley Humane Society / J. Kim)

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Dublin Arts Collective Puts on Gallery of Local Artists' Work

By Aly Brown

In an effort to enhance the cultural scene in their city, leaders at the helm of Dublin Arts Collective (DAC) recently hosted a gallery exhibit of local artists.

Located at 7038 Village Parkway, the Frame Company & Art Gallery now boasts the colorful masterpieces of 12 different watercolor artists for a show that will run through Aug. 27. All artwork is for sale.

Participating artists include Meghana Mitragotri, Lorraine Wells, Alka Vaidya, Jennifer Huber, Usha Shukla, Rekha Joshi, Wendy McDermott, Michelle Meng, Yinghua Wang, Robert Bennett, Deepthi Saraswat and Sawsan Wolski.

"We're so proud that it's Dublin Art Collective's

first members' show," said Mitragotri, the show chair. "When we asked the members what they wanted to accomplish in the next six months, the one common ask was to have a show in Dublin."

Wolski, who owns the Frame Company and serves as the DAC president, commended her business's landlord — another supporter of the arts — for paying for the remodel to make the gallery a possibility.

"We have no gallery space in Dublin — this was the closest thing that we have," Wolski continued. "We still need support for space in the city. This has been our only space, so we figured let's use it, and let's show the city and the residents that having an

art gallery is possible and to generate an excitement toward the arts."

There was no entry fee for the artists to enter the show, but 10% of the proceeds will go toward the DAC, a nonprofit organization, to support behind-the-scenes expenses, such as supplies, venue rentals and insurance. The City of Dublin paid for the group's Zoom fees during the pandemic to support continued virtual art lessons, said Wolski.

Vanessa Thomas, DAC co-founder, saw the show not only as a means to raise funds for the organization and support local artists, but also a way to encourage creators to step outside their comfort zones.

"The watercolor art show has built some momentum,

and it's also expanded the kind of genres that artists are being exposed to," she explained. "There were artists who participated who don't typically use that (watercolor) medium."

Mitragotri expressed her appreciation that the gallery was able to come together for her fellow artists.

"For a city to be able to have something as local and cozy and nice as this, we are very lucky," she said.

DAC has more exhibits and events slated for fall, including a Guest Artist Show, Sept. 16, and a Scary Art Show, Oct. 14.

For more information, visit <https://dacarts.org>. To view Wolski's president message on YouTube, visit <https://bit.ly/3zDzwdi>.

Teen Bikers Return to Livermore Following Fundraiser Ride

By Ruth Roberts

Livermore teens Danny Knight, Aiden Habiger and Malachi Schallitz recently completed their 1,930-mile charity trek from San Francisco to Oklahoma, arriving home happy, satisfied and exhausted.

"It was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, and I am so grateful and blessed to

have been able to do it," said Danny, the unicycle-riding third of the 3Guys5Wheels gang that rode to raise funds for Tri-Valley Young Life and the East Bay Prayer Furnace.

The idea for the ride was born two years ago when Danny, who was just learning to ride a unicycle, felt inspired to see if he could make it to Oklahoma where

his brother, Josiah, attends college. While working at Wendy's in Livermore to raise some money for the trip, Danny met Malachi, who quickly signed on for the adventure, as did Danny's longtime friend Aiden. With Dan Knight, Danny's dad, on board to drive the support vehicle for the journey, the adventure began.

The riders mapped approximately 50 miles a day, navigating down the California coast and battling crazy drivers, dehydration, boredom and the occasional chafing. They mostly stayed at campgrounds but took weekly rest days to luxuriate in a local motel, sleep, eat and see the sights.

The group arrived in Tulsa on Aug. 16 with a welcome party awaiting them at Oral Roberts University. Local media turned out as well to welcome and interview the boys.

The trip was not without

some marked highlights and a treasure trove of trivia, they said. Among the highlights: states with the most lakes, Oklahoma; most outstanding rock formations, New Mexico; worst flies, West Texas panhandle; number of dead armadillos found along the way, 30; number of times chased by dogs, 3; number of flat tires, 20 to 25, but none on the unicycle.

For the boys, the adventure gave them a variety of experiences and a lifetime of memories.

"We learned to be strong and never give up," said Malachi.

Aiden added, "Perseverance and power overcame the environment for us."

Dan Knight agreed that the journey offered many life lessons.

"I don't know how they could help but learn that really big things are possible one mile at a time," he said.



Three Livermore teens generated media attention when they rode bikes and a unicycle cross-country to raise funds. The finish line was at the 60-foot "Praying Hands" statue at Oral Roberts University in Oklahoma. (Photo — Danny Knight)

Dublin to Hold Creek Cleanup Day

Dublin will hold its annual Creek Cleanup Day from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Sept. 18.

This year's event, which coincides with California Coastal Cleanup Day, will focus on the Alamo Canal Trail at Dublin Boulevard, South San Ramon Creek behind Dublin High School, and Alamo Creek Trail between Iron Horse

Parkway and Amador Valley Boulevard.

Registration with the city is required. Volunteers should wear closed-toe shoes and bring water and sunscreen. Tools will be provided.

For more information, go to <https://dublin.ca.gov/993/Creek-Cleanup-Day> or call 925-833-6630.

Hagemann Ranch to Reopen Sept. 5

The Hagemann Ranch Historic District will reopen to the public from 1-4 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 5.

Last weekend's Aug. 29 reopening was postponed due to heat and smoke advisories.

The historic farmhouse and ranch at 455 Olivina Ave. in Livermore, is owned by the city and operated by the Livermore Heritage Guild. Admission is free.

In addition to the usual tour of historic building, the reopening will include and antique car and truck show, an exhibit of "hit and miss" internal combustion flywheel engines, 4-H riding demonstrations, water games, local artists, and a herd of pygmy goats.

Former Livermore High Teacher Bequeaths Funds for Scholarships

Isabelle Mary Henriques, a former Spanish teacher at Livermore High School who died in June, has left \$100,000 to the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District (LVJUSD) to establish scholarships for the school's future valedictorians.

"We couldn't be more thrilled that the highest achieving Livermore High

students of this generation and beyond will be the beneficiaries." of Henriques' generosity, said Helen Gladden, Livermore High School principal. "Her legacy as an alumna and distinguished teacher will live on through her support of future generations."

Henriques was a 1950 graduate of Livermore High School and spent 34 years

as a Spanish teacher, most of that time with Livermore High School. She retired in 1991.

The LVJUSD Board of Directors approved creating an Isabelle Henriques Valedictorian Award scholarship account with the LVJUSD Foundation Fund on Aug. 17.

"Mary Henriques truly valued public education and was an inspiration to many,"

said LVJUSD Superintendent Kelly Bowers. "Establishing a scholarship was a lifelong dream of hers, and we are so fortunate that she chose to support the students from her alma mater."

Jewish Center to Hold Indoor Worship Services

Congregation Beth Emek, 3400 Nevada Court in Pleasanton, will observe the Jewish High Holy Days of Rosh Hashanah, Sept. 6-8, and Yom Kippur, Sept. 15-16, with indoor worship services.

"Congregation Beth Emek has put a priority on the health of its members,

adhering to the strictest recommendations of Alameda County," said Rabbi Dr. Laurence Elis Milder. "After a long time of holding worship exclusively online, and then introducing outdoor worship, these High Holy Days will include indoor, fully-masked worship for our members."

The services will also be

streamed on the congregation website at www.bethemek.org/live.

"We are all praying for a year of healing," said Milder. "At this season, especially, Jews are called to lives of personal responsibility. In this New Year, defeating the pandemic will be at the top of that list of sacred duties."

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Harvest Park Middle School Student Creates Alexa Skill

By Dawnmarie Fehr

A Harvest Park Middle School (HPMS) student has created a new campus-based app, and all participants have to do to access it is say, "Hey Alexa!"

Seventh-grader Maya Tout implemented the Amazon Alexa Skill, an app that allows users, through their voices, to perform everyday tasks like checking the news, listening to music and more.



Maya Tout, a seventh-grader from Harvest Park Middle School in Pleasanton, recently developed an app that allows Alexa users to ask for information about her school. (Photo – Doug Jorgensen)

In her spare time during the last weeks of summer break, Maya developed the Skill and tailored it for Harvest Park. She said Alexa can answer questions about the school's calendar and location.

"The Alexa Skill is to tell information about the school," she said. "If you want to know when a break is, the Alexa can get something from a website, no matter what the year is, and return it back and give you the date of, say, the last day of school ... Because I recently started coding, I decided I wanted to make an Alexa Skill. I thought it

would be cool."

Maya used her newly acquired coding knowledge and many YouTube videos to help her. She also drew on her parents and the internet for answers when she hit a stumbling block. In the end, she said it did not take long to create the Skill, and she enjoyed the process.

"I didn't know how to do it straight off the bat, so I started learning," she said, adding that she was inspired to create the Skill by her father who used to work for Amazon. "Then I started trying to make it on my own. And after two weeks or so, it was complete. It wasn't that long."

Maya did not create the Skill at her school's request but did notify them once it was complete.

"Maya's project is amazing, and we are so proud of her innovative use of technology to help others learn about Harvest Park Middle School," said HPMS Principal Russell Campisi. "Keep up the great work, Maya!"

A lifelong Pleasanton resident, Maya looks forward to attending Amador Valley High School in two years. She will likely focus her studies on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) subjects, such as computer science.

For now, she is enjoying middle school and hopes to continue to work on her coding skills.

"I just found coding one day and thought it would be a nice hobby I would like," she said. "I started coding about a year ago. I used to do a program called Scratch then I advanced from that and actually started coding. It's something I just do on my own at home."

To add the Harvest Park Information Skill to any Alexa, log into the managing account, search for the Skill, and enable it. The Skill cannot be added by simply speaking to the Alexa device.

Ag Committee Forms Subcommittee on Green Waste Disposal

By Larry Altman

The Agricultural Advisory Committee (AAC) decided on Tuesday this week to form a subcommittee to examine the issues that rural landowners will face under the county ordinance that's being created pursuant to state law regarding green waste.

Senate Bill 1383 — The Short-Lived Climate Pollutants Reduction Act — centers around how to dispose properly of green waste. AAC's Karl Wente will chair the subcommittee.

Also during the meeting, two controversial issues affecting the eastern part of Alameda County were discussed, with no action taken on either matter.

The AAC board members discussed updates on how a possible ballot measure to regulate the size of equestrian arenas and policies for solar panels could be written for approval by the Board of Supervisors.

On equestrian arenas, Liz McElligott, the county's assistant planner, told the panel the proposed ballot

measure based on a Friends of Livermore recommendation was making its way through presentations at Citizens Advisory Councils in Sunol, Fairview and Castro Valley for public input before a report will be made to the Board of Supervisors. Supervisors would then decide whether the finalized measure would be placed on the November 2022 ballot.

The advisory panel in June, following suggestions from the community organization, suggested a ballot measure that would allow horse arenas to be as large as 60,000-square-feet, with agricultural buildings allowed to be up to 2.5% of a farm.

The issue involves a continuing controversy over the sizes of nonresidential buildings on farmlands in the unincorporated area near Livermore. For many, the goal is to comply with Measure D, passed by voters in 2000 to preserve the area's open space and scenic beauty.

During the discussion, Board Member Dick Schneider explained to the

panel that the committee might want to come up with alternative arena sizes for consultants to consider, should the proposed measure reach the point of requiring environmental assessment.

On the issue of solar policies, Albert Lopez, the county's planning director, told the committee that proposals sent to the board's Transportation and Planning Committee in June had been repeatedly bumped from meeting agendas, but was up for discussion again on Sept. 13.

He said he hoped Supervisors David Haubert and Nate Miley, who serve on the committee, would provide the AAC's solar subcommittee with a vetting of what they liked and what more they want.

The AAC has worked for months to develop policies for where large solar panel farms — such as the approved Aramis site in North

Livermore along Cayetano Creek — can be built. The members have engaged in several discussions at meetings on the policy that would govern agrivoltaics, which combines solar farms with agriculture.

Committee member Larry Gosselin is a proponent of agrivoltaics, while others on the panel are not.

Resident Jean King said a public workshop would be a good way to present solar proposals, instead of in snippets at AAC meetings. She said residents should see proposed maps where solar farms would be allowed, and discuss where solar panels could be constructed, such as at industrial sites.

She also suggested a better explanation of agrivoltaics at a public forum.

"Maybe what we need to do is get everything together," King said. "I think it needs to be studied a bit more."

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EDITORIAL Vaccinations on the Rise in Livermore

With Livermore's vaccination rates far behind not only Dublin and Pleasanton, but also most communities in the county, city officials are working to address two problems: understanding who has yet to be vaccinated and why they haven't.

To address the issue, the city created a COVID-19 task force and reviewed Alameda County Public Health Department's (ACPHD) data to tailor outreach.

In a report from ACPHD — with data from the California Immunization Registry (CAIR) — the city was able to learn more about its population and neighborhoods that were reluctant to receive a vaccine. The report showed that 95% of Asians in Livermore had received at least one dose. The next highest was Black residents, with 78%, then Native Americans with 73%. White and Hispanic residents had the lowest, with 65% and 51%, respectively. The neighborhood near May Nissan Park had a particularly low vaccination rate.

Strategic messaging in Spanish and English paired with recent vaccination clinics — such as the one held at May Nissan Park — are just two examples of how the city helped bring the (one dose) vaccination rate from 77.8% on Aug. 10 to 80.1% as of Tuesday this week.

On its website, the city states it will continue to collaborate with local health care providers and the county and ask community partners to share information. The Independent commends the city's effort to ensure a better vaccination rate for its residents.

Stanford Health Care-ValleyCare offers walk-ins and appointments, Mondays and Thursday, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.; and Saturdays, 3 to 7 p.m. Location: 1133 E. Stanley Blvd., Suite 151, Livermore.

Axis Community Health also provides walk-ins and appointments on Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., at the Civic Center Library, 1188 S. Livermore Ave.

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.

On the Threshold of Fusion

Susan Putnam, Livermore

Omar Hurrucane, chief scientist for the Inertial Confinement Fusion Program at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, and his team, reached an important milestone on the road to nuclear fusion in an Aug. 8 experiment, when, for a brief moment, they were able to produce 1.3 megajoules of energy, which is roughly 70% of the laser energy.

In order to achieve ignition, they must produce more than the 1.9 MJ emitted by the laser. Their achievement is a significant step towards reaching fusion ignition. Deep gratitude for their achievement and what it holds for the future.

Save Livermore Downtown

Dennis Elchese, Livermore

A survey conducted earlier this year by Save Livermore Downtown found that most residents who responded are opposed to the Eden Housing project as currently proposed. Most letters to The Independent on this topic have also expressed disapproval of the Livermore City Council's stance on this project. I share their concerns.

Many Livermore residents, including myself, have sent letters and e-mails to the members of the Livermore City Council, have attended meetings with city

officials on the topic, have written letters to the editor, and have discussed the project with friends and neighbors. These are all worthwhile activities and should continue.

However, these efforts are not enough. The Livermore City Council has consistently ignored our pleas and has refused to seriously consider any of the alternative plans for affordable housing that have been suggested. Seeing no other option, and in view of the City Council's continued obstinance, Save Livermore Downtown reluctantly filed a lawsuit intended to resolve the impasse.

Lawsuits are expensive. Skilled mediators and attorneys need to be adequately compensated for their services. Those who oppose the huge Eden Housing project in the heart of downtown Livermore should contribute, as I have, to the significant legal fees being incurred by Save Livermore Downtown.

I retired from Lawrence Livermore National Security while it was still being solely managed by the University of California. Shortly thereafter, UC terminated the health benefits that had been promised to retirees in my situation. When repeated attempts at mediation failed, I joined and contributed to a class action lawsuit against the University to regain our health benefits. Our legal fees were substantial, and although not every retiree contributed to them, enough money was raised to pursue our efforts. Eventually, because of the lawsuit, UC relented and both sides reached a fair and equitable settlement.

I mention this to show that without financial contributions from retirees, there would have been no lawsuit. Without a lawsuit there would have been no settlement. Without a settlement, we retirees would not have received our entitled health benefits.

My point is that the time has come for those who oppose the Eden Housing project, as currently proposed, to financially contribute to the lawsuit filed by Save Livermore Downtown. Contributions of any amount are needed and would be most welcome. To help, please go to savelivermoredowntown.com/donate-page and follow the instructions.

Celebrating Plant-Based Options

Lex Manwill, Livermore

Labor Day offers a powerful reminder of the crucial gains experienced by American workers in the past century.

In 1894, when President Grover Cleveland proclaimed the first Monday in September as Labor Day,

Americans worked 12-hour days and seven-day weeks in abysmal conditions to eke out a living. They were treated as animals.

A century later, animals in factory farms still are.

Mother pigs suffer a lifetime in tight metal stalls. Their babies are torn away, mutilated without anesthesia, crammed into crowded pens for six months, then slaughtered in the dawn of their lives.

Dairy cows spend their lives chained on a concrete floor. Each year, they are artificially impregnated to keep the milk flowing. Their babies are torn from their grieving mothers at birth and slaughtered for veal, so we can drink their milk.

As it did for American workers, relief for these sentient beings is in sight.

Our supermarkets offer a rich variety of convenient, healthful, delicious plant-based burgers, veggie dogs and meat-free nuggets along with nut-based cheeses, ice creams and other dairy-free desserts.

This Labor Day let's all celebrate these plant-based options.

It's a Rare Gem

Vic Avila, Livermore

How many cities in the Bay Area have a thriving, historical downtown? Livermore, Pleasanton, Novato, Sonoma, Albany, San Mateo ... let's throw in Pescadero just because it's Pescadero.

Can you legitimately name any more? A SMALL, thriving, historical, downtown is even a more exceptional commodity. Then add to it a city that feels like a small town and you have Livermore.

Its sense of spaciousness, its open land on all four sides makes Livermore unique in the Bay Area.

It is something worth preserving, because it is so seldom seen in the 21st century.

City government and Livermore citizens have worked tirelessly for decades to preserve the qualities that contribute to a small-town feel. The opportunity to extend this effort exists in the downtown Central Park development. Rather than a high-density plot of land, by moving the Eden Housing conveniently across the street, Livermore adds to its legacy of appeal and attractiveness. Only get one chance!

Stop the Rodeo

Theodore Schaefer, Livermore

The city council and the mayor need to prohibit the annual Livermore Rodeo from usage of harmless-looking straps across bulls' and horses' groins/genitals, which are actually hiding very sharp straps inside to make them buck when the gate is open for 'bronco riding'. It's a cruel torture of the animals and must stop.

Think of how you might like this done to you.

Caution on the Recall

Eloise Hamann, Livermore

Democrats who don't bother to vote risk the future of our state by handing it over to the party of Trump.

Polls indicate a close call. Our governor has been handed a spate of problems: the pandemic, fires, water shortage and more. Cali-

fornia ranks high on vaccinations, minimizing COVID-19 cases and deaths, enabled financial support for citizens suffering during the pandemic, authorized spending on forest cleanups and 1300+ new firefighters, and in general supported Democratic values.

I wish he could change wine into water.

The erratic course of the pandemic has been hard on us all, and Newsom's honest efforts to balance safety and protecting business may not have kept up. It's easy to be a Monday morning quarterback. I don't know of any leader anywhere who is flawless.

Remember that the governor makes many appointments to boards and agencies that affect our lives. The California Public Utilities Commission board governs PG&E and energy policy. Justices administer justice. Boards of our enviable systems of universities determine tuition and policy.

Choices of replacement of California congress members who leave before an election are made by our governor. Do we want someone who believes women would be wise to be silent over crude behavior in the workplace and/or someone who garnered a scant plurality of the vote making these choices? A replacement to Newsom won't be in office long, but his or her appointments likely will.

If you don't like the governor, the time to choose someone you like better is in our next primary in June.

Eden Housing Parking

Glenn Stewart, Livermore

In October 2015, Assembly Bill (AB) 744, Planning and Zoning: Density Bonus, was signed into law to help create more affordable housing by easing parking requirements for developers.

It allows developers to request reduced minimum parking requirements within affordable housing projects. The City Council and Eden Housing would like to build 130 units on the SE corner of Railroad and L Street. Past affordable housing projects have always been built with surface parking spaces. A review of the city's architectural renderings for Eden Housing shows that there isn't enough land area for surface parking. As a result, Eden is providing only 117 stalls in its two costly underground parking garages, and 16 private spaces in the proposed public L Street Garage. The city's standards for market rate housing would have required 230 stalls.

Take a look at parking around the large housing projects in Dublin and Pleasanton. Good luck finding a parking space on the street. This is exactly what will happen in Livermore, where residents of Eden Housing, built on the downtown development site, will park on Veterans Way.

Why is the city hell-bent on building only 130 affordable Eden Housing units? We have a housing crisis in the Bay Area, and Livermore should be doing its part to build twice that number.

City Council, let's think outside of the box. Build 250 Eden housing units with a separate 450 car robotic

parking garage north of Railroad Ave., bordered on the left by L Street and on the right by N. K Street.

Disappointed in Woerner

Ruth Ann Hunt, Livermore

(Editor's note: Due to an editorial error, The Independent is running this letter a second time.)

Let me add my name to the list of Livermore voters who are disappointed in Mayor Bob Woerner because of his broken promise to consider a different location for the Eden Housing Project. I do not know Mayor Woerner but voted for him based on his pre-election offer of a win-win possibility, which raised my hope that the area could be used for an inviting park and Eden Housing placed somewhere else, across Railroad Avenue being a popularly-proposed alternative location. Like other Livermore citizens who have addressed this issue, I am in favor of affordable housing but not in the currently approved location. A more favorable location could still be possible if the Mayor and Council Members would choose to revisit the issue, listen to Livermore citizens, and do some creative problem solving—actions that would be preferable to having the City involved in a costly and time-consuming lawsuit.

Veggie Gardens, Critters and Agua

Bill Stevens, Livermore

Years ago, I built a raised garden about 15 x 4 x 30. The garden was raised high enough so there would be no more backbreaking gardening. It was backbreaking to build it though. Due to the drought, we only planted half a garden this year, zucchini, squash, heirloom tomato, cucumbers and peppers. We were trying to save water. We have not harvested any tomatoes; the green ones have disappeared. We just found an 18-inch zucchini with a third of it hogged out like a quarter moon, still on the stalk. There are no remnant pieces of tomato or zucchini anywhere.

I read an article about some botanists trying to save desert plants due to the 22-year drought. They went out onto perennial dried lakebeds (playas) in the desert east of Death Valley to collect seeds for storage. The biologists noticed a lot of scrapes and holes dug in the ground. The animals were trying to find water.

I believe the half-garden only saved about a quarter of the water compared to a full-raised garden.

When you water half a garden, the water seeps down and outwards. You lose the water that migrates outwards, it evaporates. So, you only get half the veggies and only save a quarter of the water.

Critters are thirsty and likely dying of thirst due to the drought. The zucchini and tomatoes are providing critters with sustenance and water. I am now putting a pan of water out every night. The pan has to be no more than 2-inches high; lizards will drown (I know from experience). It has to be changed every night, or the water will go foul.

And maybe we can har-

vest more zucchini and tomatoes and help the critters.

Time for a Change

Jim Huebner, Pleasanton

Afghanistan debacle while the military are more worried about equity, woke and critical race theory than fighting.

DA's and judges letting criminals out the same day so they can rob you again.

Letting in thousands of illegals with COVID-19.

Higher gas prices when last year we were energy independent.

Transgender boys competing against girls.

People making more on unemployment than working.

Eliminating all gender references in our speech and writing. You will have to stop speaking Spanish.

The highest taxes in the country.

Defunding the police in black areas where they are needed and wanted.

If you agree, we can start with the Governor Newsom recall, and in my congressional district by voting out Eric Swalwell. The Chinese spy enabler.

Assessment of Eden Housing

Carol Silva, Livermore

A lot has been said about the location of Eden Housing and the focus of Livermore's City Council to not review other locations for this affordable housing. I assume that at this point in time that the level of soil contamination is being evaluated. Although there are plenty of unknowns, I don't understand why the City of Livermore has not begun an assessment of the costs of various options. These options include Eden Housing undertaking the partially-built Legacy project, or having Eden Housing located north of Railroad Avenue or at another location so that Livermore can have a decent-sized central park.

There would be costs to installing and maintaining a central park, but those costs could be mitigated by eliminating a portion of landscaped street medians that are located throughout the city. The importance, significance and value of having a central park is almost immeasurable for downtown businesses and for park visitors.

At present, especially if the contamination is significant, and at a time when Livermore citizens are pushed up against a wall to file a lawsuit so that their voices can be considered, I think that it is prudent that the city begins an honest assessment of the estimated costs and timelines of options, and the costs of working "now" with Livermore citizens and Save Livermore Downtown versus fighting citizens in court.

The longer that the city chooses not to review and evaluate options and work with Livermore citizens, the more costly it will be for Livermore. Livermore taxpayers deserve to know the costs and benefits of possible options to Eden Housing locations before costs get out-of-hand.

(See MAILBOX, page 5)

THE Independent

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MAILBOX

(Continued from page 4)

Epidemic of the Unvaccinated
Ann Britton, Livermore

The counties that have the highest Delta COVID-19 cases are in the south and are heavily Republican and voted for Trump. That is a reality. Mississippi, under a Republican governor, has a very low vaccination rate, and is hit the hardest right now. Under the lack of caring that marks the GOP leadership in the state, they are heavily uninsured. They did not accept expanding Medicaid and this resulted in many of their hospitals closed or closing. They have the worst healthcare in the country and have only a 47% vaccination rate in the state and 37% in the hardest hit counties.

Mississippi, and Florida, under GOP leadership and their NO mask mandates, have a positivity rate of 103 and 106 per 100,000.

By contrast our state, under Governor Newsom and our PRO-mask, PRO-safety mandates and high vaccination rates, has a positivity rate of 33. In Alameda County, it's 25. In California we have a 66.6% fully vaccinated rate for 18-years-old and up and 81.9% with at least one shot. I have not worried there would be a hospital bed for me if I needed it under the leadership of Governor Newsom.

Given the track record of the Republican governors, I'll stick with the Democratic governor we have! We could get a crazy Republican replacement, who will down play or forbid measures that keep us safe. The Republicans only need a tiny fraction of the vote to overturn a majority who vote no on the recall! Please VOTE NO on the recall!!

Where are the Retail Stores?
Rose O'Brien, Livermore

As I walked along the heart of our downtown, I saw our new bakery on Livermore Avenue and was glad. I also saw that our town's excellent shoe store, along with our men's clothing store, were open and had survived the pandemic. Along with our ladies' apparel store around the cor-

ner, what a blessing it is not to have to go outside Livermore to do some basic shopping.

Why is it so necessary to place a housing complex into space that ought to be providing we citizens of Livermore with retail stores? Is downtown the only space in the city that the city council will consider for affordable housing? Is dense housing really compatible being co-located with a vibrant commercial area?

Why is the city council so stuck on one single site for an apartment complex? There have been construction holdups due to environmental concerns and other issues with their selection for a site, yet the council steadfastly ignores scores of citizens pleading to change the location of a large apartment complex. Instead of considering alternate sites that have been suggested, they chomp down and arrogantly go on with their plans to build four story buildings in the heart of our downtown. There are other viable options; why won't they consider other sites?

Why is it that we in Livermore cannot enjoy shopping at retail stores in our own downtown?

Our World
Ron Sadler, Livermore

I would like to thank The Independent for publishing last week's editorial "Climate Change is Here and Now."

This piece clearly articulated the consequences of our warming planet and correctly placed the responsibility on those who have caused it, us.

So, what can we do about it? The good news is that there is a lot that each of us can do. From the food we choose to eat, the cars we choose to drive, how we choose to heat and light our homes and how we choose to travel, each of us has opportunities, every day, to choose to make a difference.

And in addition to the choices we can make to reduce our carbon emissions, we can use our voices to demand that Senators Feinstein and Padilla and

Representative Swalwell make addressing the climate crisis their top priority, and to enact legislation that will put a price on carbon emissions.

A nationwide price on carbon emissions that reflects the true cost to our environment of burning carbon emitting fossil fuels would rapidly accelerate the transition of our economy, and the world, to non-polluting, clean sources of energy. It would also incentivize the development of new technologies in our county, giving us a competitive advantage as the rest of the world wakes up to the realities of a warming planet.

As members of the species that has caused this problem, each of us has a moral obligation to try and fix it. Please, choose to make a difference, learn what you can do to reduce your carbon emissions and tell our elected leaders, at all levels of government, to take bold and decisive actions to address this crisis. "The quality of life of the earth's future inhabitants (including my grandchildren and yours) depends on it."

Change the Plan, Save Downtown
Kathy Pedrini, Livermore

I think the current bankruptcy-stalled Legacy housing project downtown is an absolute eyesore. I wonder how much money will be wasted because of this project delay? Construction is stalled and materials remain exposed to the elements. How much of this construction will need to be torn down and replaced?

How about if Eden Housing is built on this site? Since the City Council approved the Eden project in May, new information has surfaced, like this Legacy project contractor bankruptcy and toxic soil contamination on the planned Eden site. Scope change is inevitable on big projects.

Can the City Council look at this new information and shift their thinking? The approved Eden Housing plan is NOT the plan promised to Livermore voters. Please change the plan and

save our downtown.

Vote Yes on Recall
Rajinder Ghatooura, Pleasanton

California right now is a one-party state where every level of government is Democrats.

Thus, the Democrats will and have been doing whatever with your hard-earned taxes without recourse.

There are no checks and balances.

You and I have no say into how they will spend the money. On top of that, we have a millionaire elitist socialist Governor Newsom who will make whatever rules he wants rather than help the majority of Californians.

He will dine at exclusive restaurants where a tab can be \$500 per plate while he asks the Californians to stay at home. The results of his stay-at-home orders were no different from states that had no such orders. Arrogance at the best. He sends his children to private schools while public schools were closed.

In order to put a stop to this fleecing of the Californians, we need a change at the top with a moderate governor who will not allow for laws that do not benefit the Californians.

Hence, Vote YES on Recall.

The only person on the ballot who is a moderate and has government experience is the ex-Mayor of San Diego Kevin Faulconer. He has great record for moderation.

Some other candidates are right wing and left wing extremists. Majority of Americans are moderates and centrists and there is no need for extremism.

More Solar, Less Lawsuits
Alan Marling, Livermore

The wildfire smoke this week reminded me that the UN secretary general said the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report is 'code red for humanity.'

The toxic air also reminded me of the urgent need of local green energy, such as the Aramis Solar Project. This solar farm is being delayed by lawsuits from Friends of Livermore and Friends of Open Space

and Vineyards. Not only would this solar farm reduce the need for burning fossil fuels in Hayward, but also its battery storage would make its power available during peak hours.

The governor called for exactly this sort of solar farm in his July proclamation, asking for "Particularly battery storage projects to capture abundant renewable generation available during the day. This rapid procurement and deployment of clean energy production will help end the vicious cycle in which generating energy contributes to the very climate-impact emergencies that threaten energy supply."

The governor made no mention of the pressing need for more spurious lawsuits. The ones against Aramis Solar were funded in part through misleading information published in The

Independent by Joan Sepala. I call for her to do the right thing for Californians and recant her position.

The lawsuits must be dropped by Friends of Open Space and Vineyards and Friends of Livermore, or they are no friends of ours.

Downtown Housing Plan
Betty Maranville, Livermore

I'm 95 years old and have lived in the same Livermore home since 1962. I've seen a lot of changes to downtown Livermore in the last 60 years, most of them positive, but I am very unhappy about the plans for the old Lucky Store lot downtown.

Building housing on a spot that cries out to be open space is a terrible mistake. You will be turning what could be a lovely, inviting

(See MAILBOX, page 6)

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DOWNTOWN IN-DEPTH

Focusing on issues that make a difference for the future of Livermore's downtown

The Legalities of Housing Relocation



Polling conducted by a respected national firm shows that a strong majority of Livermore residents oppose Eden Housing's plan to put massive, 4-story buildings directly in the center of our downtown. But some have said that moving the housing as desired would be "illegal."

In fact, the City of Livermore does have the tools to be able to move the housing to a different location. The Notice of Affordability Restriction recorded in January 2009 in connection with the CalHFA RDLP loan enables the City to allow a land use change under certain conditions. It states,

"Change of Use. Owner may propose a change of use only in the event that the Property is no longer needed for the purpose specified in this Notice & Declaration and the Property will be used to benefit individuals or families whose incomes do not exceed 120 percent of median income for the area. Owner must obtain written approval from the City prior to changing use."

If the City decided to take necessary actions to move the housing units north of Railroad Avenue, where properties could accommodate 230 units (100 more than currently proposed), the City could determine that the current site is no longer needed for affordable housing. The City could also create a park where the housing is planned to go now, which would serve Eden residents as well as the whole community.

Under these conditions, it would be unlikely for the State to assert a claim against the City under the agreement that provided Residential Development Loan Program (RDLP) funds to the City to acquire the Lucky site.

Save
Livermore
Downtown!



Find Out More at SaveLivermoreDowntown.com

MAILBOX

(Continued from page 5)

park area into a congested space. The planned affordable housing belongs further away, north of Railroad Avenue. Livermore City Council, please open your minds and reconsider the downtown plan; move the affordable housing and let there be a park on the Lucky Store lot.

The Advent of Climate-Disruption Global Famine

Greg Scott, Livermore

When those around us and we ourselves are hungry will we change our minds? I mean really, desperately hungry. When we are persistently famished personally will our thinking change? We are smug about hunger. It could not possibly happen here in America or to us, after all the food is in the grocery store, food bank or food pantry. And it must be plentiful in the United States, for 31% of our post-harvest food is thrown out.

Consider that presently millions of acres of crop lands in California are receiving 5% of their surface water allotments. Farmers then rely on groundwater. The Central Valley Aquifer, under one of the most productive agricultural regions in the world, is collapsing - literally. So much water is being pumped out of this aquifer that the land is subsiding and crushing the steel casings of wells, rendering them useless. Additionally, well after well is going dry in the San Joaquin Valley even when at a depth of 1,100 feet. (Arax, "The Well Fixer's Warning", The Atlantic).

There are 35 major aquifers on earth, including the Central Valley Aquifer 17 of them are in trouble. We know this by data and its analysis from GRACE (Gravity Recovery and Climate Experiment) satellites. Much of this depletion has to do with withdrawals. It also has to do with enhanced droughts from human-induced climate disruption reducing groundwater replenishment.

Human emissions of radiative reactive gases ("greenhouse" is another phenomenon entirely - convection) are causing more prolonged droughts in many parts of the world. (Contractor, et al., Journal of Climate, 2021). Over one million individuals are in famine in Madagascar, mostly in the drought-stricken southern part of the island. This is billed as the first human-induced climate disruption famine.

At the current rate of drying in California, how long can we use one gallon of water to grow one almond? How long can we continue to use 275 gallons of water to produce a 750 milliliter (1/5 of a gallon) bottle of wine?

We are not going to meet President Biden's goal of a 50% emissions reduction from the 2005 peak year by 2030. Not realistic and not happening. We will have to deal with the resultant insufficiency of water. Perhaps, with the consequence of less food produced, in our hunger we can just get drunk on wine and keep our water-food-climate-disruption fantasies.

Too Big to Succeed

Asa Stout, CEO, Unify Livermore

We have all heard the term "Too big to fail," where an organization becomes too

big that its failure would have rippling effects far beyond itself. We saw this term used during the 2008 financial crisis that crippled the U.S. economy because our bankers got too greedy. There is another term that is often overlooked but applies far more often — "Too big to succeed."

Today, we see this phrase applying to our current downtown plan. We have a group of individuals who say moving the housing across the street is easy and can be done, when in reality moving the housing across the street is extremely expensive. They know it, but will not talk about it.

There are six lots where housing is being suggested with one lot currently for sale for \$2.8 million. We can infer the total cost to purchase all six lots to be around \$16.8 million (give or take).

They also suggest using land across North K Street for parking (instead of underground), which will increase the cost by an estimated \$5 million. Then there is the \$5.5 million used to purchase the original land. This is never mentioned, but Livermore would be on the hook for this cost back to the state. An additional cost of over \$25 million just to get all of the land rights in order when keeping with the current Downtown Plan will cost the City of Livermore nothing to build the housing.

The changes proposed by the Save Livermore Downtown group are too big to succeed and will put a burden on those starting families today and be passed to their kids as they grow up to cover these costs.

The simple act of moving the housing will kill a decade's worth of work on the Livermore Downtown Plan. It will result in the housing becoming too expensive to build and, just like BART to Livermore, will become unlikely in our lifetimes, and they know it.

Vote in the Recall

Tamara Reus, Livermore

Thinking of not voting in the gubernatorial recall election? That would be a mistake. No leader is perfect. However, the recall process is meant for egregious misconduct in office. Nothing of the sort has occurred under Newsom's leadership. A group of disgruntled Californians who don't believe in science and reject Newsom's pandemic protections, backed by out-of-state Republican interests who want to undermine California's successful policies, are trying to get rid of him.

Newsom is up for reelection next year in November, barely a year from now. He has done a lot for California, for schools, the economy, public health, the environment and more. He should have the opportunity to complete his term and be judged on his achievements then.

If the recall is successful all the progress made by Newsom will be a thing of the past. The leading Republican candidate is a right-wing extremist who will undo the pandemic protections adopted by Newsom and calls climate change "a crock."

Do we want a Trump wannabe as our next governor? Do we want our state to experience the COVID-19

rates of Florida, Texas, and other anti-vaxxing, anti-masking states? That could happen if Newsom is recalled.

If you're worried about you or a loved not being able to get a hospital bed because the hospitals are full due to COVID-19 (and you should be), VOTE NO on the recall.

If you're worried about an immunocompromised loved one who is unable to leave their home because of the COVID risk (and you should be), VOTE NO on the recall.

If you're worried about your child catching COVID-19 in school because an anti-masking governor is in charge (and you should be), VOTE NO on the recall.

If you're worried about a climate change denier being in charge of California (and you should be), VOTE NO on the recall.

Newsom has taken bold action to protect all Californians from these threats. The mark of a true leader is making decisions, even unpopular ones, during times of crisis.

If you care about the future of California during this unprecedented pandemic and era of rampant fires due to climate change (and you should be), VOTE NO on the recall to retain Governor Newsom. Your NO vote matters!

Downtown at a Stalemate

Richard Ryan, Livermore

It is my understanding that discussion between the City of Livermore and the citizens' group Save Downtown Livermore is stalemated due to the entrenched position of some Council members.

Unless there is some movement toward reasoned debate and compromise, it looks like any project in downtown Livermore could be delayed for years.

Such an impasse benefits no one. The path that allows everyone to win is to move the housing north of Railroad Avenue.

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Such an impasse benefits no one. The path that allows everyone to win is to move the housing north of Railroad Avenue.

Irony and Ideology

Paul Stone, Dublin

How ironic it is that radical environmentalists have decimated the timber industry in California and have been suppressing forest floor management for years — two things that had helped tamp down potential wildfires in the past, and as a result, thousands and thousands of acres of trees are burning down and we have unhealthy smoke-laden skies. Their utopian ideology has yielded a dystopian reality.

Part of the blame can be laid squarely at the Florsheim's of Gavin Newsom. He is great at blowing smoke but not so much at preventing or managing wildfires. And if you want

to blame PG&E, fine, but just remember, PG&E contributed well over \$200,000 to Newsom's election campaign.

Standoff is Useless

Maryann Brent, Livermore

It appears that the Livermore City Council (LCC) and Eden Housing (EH) stand together as a committed coalition — eyes, ears and mouths closed to alternatives to the four-story, large-bloc housing on the old Lucky site. Considering that 75% of polled Livermore residents reject LCC-EH's current plan, how will this standoff play out?

Possible scenarios: 1. LCC and EH follow through with large-bloc housing downtown. Such an action could create a trend that irreversibly damages Livermore as we know it today. Housing overbuilding causes housing prices to slip to under-market rates. Instead of a bustling suburban community, Livermore becomes a retirement-bedroom community. Business fades.

2. LCC and EH acknowledge the results of the poll that rejected large-bloc housing in the city center. Residents and LCC and EH hammer out a smart strategy for balanced growth while maintaining Livermore's character and also create a plan for adequate parking.

The Council's actions will greatly impact future generations.

America's Longest War: Afghanistan, America is Less Safe

Jan Brovont, Livermore

Aug. 30, 2021, General Frank McKenzie, head of U.S. Central Command, announced the end of the war in Afghanistan.

The last C-17 aircraft has left Afghanistan and there are still American's, and Afghan translators left behind.

Equipment left behind: 22,174 Humvee's; 634 M117 armored vehicles; 155 Mxx Pro — mine proof vehicles; 169 M113 armored personnel carriers (looks similar to a tank); 42,000 pick-up trucks and SUV's; 64,363 machine guns; 8,000 trucks; 162,035-night vision goggles/devices; 176 artillery pieces; helicopters; 33 M1-17; 33 UH060 Blackhawk; 43 MD530; aircraft; four C-130 transports; 23 EmbraerEMB 314/A29 Super Tucano; 28 Cessna 208; 10 Cessna AC-208 strike aircraft.

Source: U.S. Govern-

ment Accounting Office (GAO).

About 2,000 fleeing Afghans are being brought to Fort McCoy in Wisconsin; without translators to help, visas and some or all have not been vetted and are free to leave the base when they want to.

What is wrong with this besides everything? China, Russia and North Korea's leaders are surely watching this. What do our allies who we help protect think of us? America is less safe.

Community Care and Condolences

Tania Panarello, Livermore

First, my deepest condolences and reverence for the families of our 13 fallen soldiers in Kabul. We thank you and honor you for your sacrifice, and we seek justice for this heinous crime. Second, my utmost sympathy to my cousin Sheila and family, who said their final goodbyes on earth to her son Cody last week. Thank you to Callaghan Mortuary's staff and to all who filled their chapel with love and fond memories. Thanks especially to my Aunt Dianne and Uncle Winston for opening their home to fill our bellies and soothe our souls.

Last but definitely not least, my heart weighs so heavily after last Friday's horrible, horrible accident. My deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Hunter Diemert, the Livermore High student who died in the crash. May God carry you through your grief, strengthen you and give you the peace you so desperately need now.

We lift up Sal Barbalardo, William Fuller, their families and friends in prayer for complete, miraculous healing, recovery and strength.

Our family does not know most of the students involved (we homeschooled), but my husband and I watched Sal and his younger siblings, along with our two boys, at Cornerstone Fellowship years ago. We also traded laughs about our Italian families at a church date night with Felicia and Joe Sr.

We reconnected recently with various family members through Strava and Trader Joe's. Despite social distancing, we hugged and chatted with Felicia (masks on) when we saw her at Target a while ago. Felicia, if you are reading this, we love you and your family, so we are sending you all virtual hugs as you keep vigil at Sal's bedside.

It was heartwarming to see Livermore show up at Saturday night's prayer vigil and feel the immense love and support for these boys, their families, friends, coaches and teachers. Let us remember to pray for the other students who survived, and their families, because they will forever remember this tragedy. As a Class of '89 graduate of LHS, my heart breaks for what these kids are going through: I lost a friend in an accident in 1989. On a Wednesday evening, my friend and I sat on my porch, joking around; by Friday, he was dead. So please, be there for each other; you are NOT alone. Reach out: @tanpanontherun. Love to all.

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FUNDING

(Continued from first page)

The second high school will accommodate overflow from Dublin High School.

Public speakers at the meeting expressed support for the completion of the high school, along with frustration at the ongoing delays. Several described the traffic around Dublin High as "horrendous" and "dreadful," while others beseeched the board to finally make good on their pledges to get Emerald High School built.

"As a DUSD parent, it is beyond disappointing that we are still waiting on the second high school," said one speaker, who did not provide a name. "It's been nine years, and we are still without a second high school, and issues with Dub-

lin High are continuing."

Located on the east side of Dublin, phase one of the project (supported by Measure H) is designed to accommodate 1,300 students. It includes academic towers, a gymnasium, visual and performing arts classrooms, administrative and counseling space, a football field, a track, and tennis courts. Phase two of the project (supported by Measure J) will feature an additional academic tower, theater, aquatic complex and stadium bleachers. When finished, the new high school will accommodate approximately 2,500 students. It is possible phase one could be completed by 2023.

For more information, visit www.dublinusd.org.

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AGREEMENT

(Continued from first page)

to enjoying Labor Day week-end with thousands of park visitors."

The agreement follows an impasse in negotiations last week and a threatened strike vote that was postponed Friday after the district offered a new contract proposal. That proposal, which followed an emotional special EBRPD board meeting last week, brought the union and district representatives back to the negotiating table and the agreement.

"I cannot think of better news," said EBRPD board member Ayn Wieskamp, who represents the Tri-Valley. "It's good to have everybody in agreement and moving forward in a positive manner. I respect our employees. It's been a tough year."

The union said positions will receive different increases according to the median wages offered in the Bay Area. Park rangers, for example, will receive 5.75% raises each year — more than 17% during the three-year pact.

The total value of the agreement is more than \$29

million covering the contract period. The pact also adds Juneteenth as a paid holiday.

"This is not only good news for our park works, it's also good for our communities," said Ross Mitchell, a union vice president who works with underserved youth at Reinhardt Redwood Regional Park in Oakland. "More money in the pockets of workers means more spending at small businesses, lifting up our local economies."

On Aug. 26, Wieskamp and her fellow board members listened for about 2.5 hours as more than 50 workers spoke during the special meeting. Workers encouraged the directors to spur management to increase wages they said had forced many of them to take on second jobs or leave the district for higher paying agencies to afford the high cost of living in the Bay Area. Others described watching valued colleagues move on for financial reasons and becoming overburdened with the work left behind because of unfilled positions.

"The workers have been asking to be brought up to what other people have been making for many years," said Heather Weiner, spokeswoman for People for East Bay Park Workers. "Meanwhile, the cost of living has increased, so some of these folks are making 20% below what their peers are at other municipal agencies."

Despite that, workers who spoke described their love for the district, which includes 125,000 acres of parklands in Alameda and Contra Costa counties, 1,250 miles of trails, and 55 miles of shoreline. Residents make more than 25 million visits to the district's 73 parks each year.

"The service we provide to the public — it can't happen without us," said life-guard Justin Irwin. "A lot of people don't want to strike. I don't want to strike. We love the jobs we do. We love serving the public. And unfortunately, we have to kind of stick to our guns. We need to stand up for ourselves and stand by what's right. We need to be able to support ourselves and our families."

A study commissioned by EBRPD three years ago through Ralph Andersen & Associates to address AFSCME job classifications and compensation found the district paid its workers 10% below what other people in similar jobs made in the region. The union said more than 40 positions were unfilled, overburdening the current staff, and the district in 2020 had built a \$26 million surplus and had \$140 million in reserves.

During the meeting, Newey accused the board of preferring to pay for projects and accumulating slush funds "while your workforce struggles to pay their bills, pay their rents or their mortgages and put food on the table."

"It has become abundantly clear that this debate is not about if the East Bay Regional Park District can afford the union's wage proposal," Newey said during the meeting. "It's about, 'Are we important enough to?' It's about (whether) AFSCME employees are a big enough priority."

Newey said he was barely able to send his son to community college and drove a 20-year-old car.

"We keep the parks operating," Newey said. "We keep the folks safe. We steward the land. It's not good enough anymore. We have waited patiently for too long. We will no longer allow you to prioritize everything else above the majority of your workforce."

Throughout the meeting, workers addressing the board did not request pay above what counterparts made in other agencies; they asked

for the region's median for their positions, while accusing board members of underpaying them and overpaying management.

"We are not asking for the moon," said Constance Taylor, an EBRPD naturalist. "We are asking to be brought up to average, so we can continue living and working in the Bay Area."

In the last few weeks, workers sent more than 5,000 emails to EBRPD board members asking them to avoid a strike.

REDISTRICTING

(Continued from first page)

can draft their own solutions and maps."

Retired mathematician Joseph Grcar, who once worked for government labs in Livermore and Berkeley, said the community's voice will be critical in this process. According to Grcar, the current lines have created gerrymandered districts; the supervisors will need to do more than make subtle adjustments in order to comply with California Elections Code laws. He said he approaches research like a scientist. When exploring the topic of redistricting, he produced an 18-page white paper, which he shared with the county supervisors.

"I think the major finding of my white paper is that there really are some communities that are disadvantaged by the current district lines," Grcar said. "Just looking at it from an altruistic standpoint, I'd say that the Hispanic communities in Oakland and then down to the Hayward area — the fact that those are cut up is really a travesty."

Grcar noted that districts should be contiguous, and communities of interest and cities should not be divided. A "community of interest" is a population that shares common social or economic interests that should be included within a single supervisorial district for purposes of fair representation. According to the Elections Code, "Supervisorial districts shall be geographically contiguous. Areas that meet only at the points of adjoining corners are not contiguous." At present, the southern appendage of District 5 connects to the remainder of the district at the corner of Park Boulevard and Trestle Glenn Road in Oakland. To review the current supervisorial map, visit <https://bit.ly/3BtWXWZ>.

The Elections Code further states, "The geographic integrity of any local neighborhood or local community of interest shall be respected in a manner that minimizes its division. Communities of interest do not include relationships with political parties, incumbents, or political candidates."

"Among the greatest injustices of the current supervisorial districts are the division of the two, main areas of

Hispanic populations in the county," wrote Grcar in the white paper that highlighted a large Hispanic population divided into Districts 3 and 4.

This division, he pointed out, extends to the Tri-Valley, covered by Districts 1 and 4.

"For the east county, a lot of people will say, 'Well, it's a good thing that Pleasanton is in another district, because that means we have two supervisors representing us.' But that's not the way it works," Grcar said.

In addition to poor representation, Grcar said that dividing a district requires two separate staffs and two supervisors to coordinate on a single issue typically handled by one supervisor and one staff.

"That is a real awful way to run a government," he added. "Normally, the supervisors have complete control over county government within their own districts. And the fact that the Tri-Valley is haphazardly cut in two really works to the disadvantage of the Tri-Valley."

Haubert said that while he didn't disagree with Grcar's white paper, it isn't true that splitting cities is prohibited.

"Oakland, for example, must be split, because its population is larger than any one district can be," Haubert said.

In Pleasanton, Councilmember Valerie Arkin — a member of the Alameda County Coalition for Fair Redistricting — said it's important that the county process is fair and transparent.

"Drawing maps that pri-

oritize communities and their people is what we are advocating for," Arkin explained.

According to Arkin, some of the points the Coalition is advancing are: 1) The process should be accessible and equitable to all residents 2) Translation services should be available in applicable languages regarding information/hearings/workshops, etc. 3) A 'wide net' should be cast for public outreach. There needs to be a broad and diverse range of people and groups that have input into the redrawing of the lines 4) There should be at least four public hearings with flexible options (nights, weekends) to allow for greater input 5) Advance notice of hearings and workshops and recordings should be made and available 6) Public feedback can be submitted electronically or in writing.

Arkin concluded, "The bottom line is that all voices should be well-represented as we proceed with the drawing of the maps."

Livermore Councilmember Bob Carling said that when his city went through the redistricting process in previous years, officials had to look closely for natural boundaries, all while maintaining roughly an equal number of people in each district.

"I agree that the public needs to have their voices heard," Carling said.

In Dublin, Councilmember Sherry Hu said she believes that restricting is necessary because the population that each county supervisor represents has grown over

10% over the past decade, with unbalanced among different districts.

"In addition, redistricting can improve the current situation regarding contiguous geography, connected community, and easily identifiable boundaries," Hu said. "According to my understanding, the current districting process has been planned well, and it includes many efforts to engage public comments, intending to complete the draft at the end of the year. I am looking forward to seeing the updated and improved district map."

For complete meeting details, visit <https://redistricting2021.acgov.org/meetings>.

Haubert concluded, "I look forward to hearing all the public input and also (from) my colleagues before drawing any conclusions."

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SWALWELL

(Continued from first page)

Ted Lieu, Pete Aguilar, Nannette Diaz Barragan, Karen Bass, Julia Brownley, Tony Cárdenas, Judy Chu, Lou Correa, Mark DeSaulnier, Anna G. Eshoo, Jimmy Gomez, Jared Huffman, Ro Khanna, Barbara Lee,

Mike Levin, Zoe Lofgren, Alan Lowenthal, Jerry McNerney, Grace Napolitano, Scott Peters, Lucille Roybal-Allard, Linda T. Sánchez, and Juan Vargas.

Last Friday, Swalwell — who represents the 15th

congressional district, which includes Dublin, Pleasanton, and Livermore — further spoke on the U.S. evacuation topic during his first in-person townhall at the Castro Valley High School football

stadium. He told reporters that he has personally been in “constant contact with a number of Afghan interpreters” who have helped the U.S.

“I just met with a family in Castro Valley who has

a student at Castro Valley High School, and they have grandparents over in Kabul right now, who are in hiding because of their fear,” Swalwell said. “This has touched us in a unique way. The best thing we can

do as a community, once they get here, is to show them the open hearts, the open minds, and the open arms that they will need, because they will have left everything, and they will be coming here with nothing.”

CRASH

(Continued from first page)

Livermore community will pull together, comfort and support each other.”

LVJUSD Deputy Superintendent Chris Van Schaack described the mood at school on Monday as “somber.”

“Students were working through their emotions, providing support to one another in many cases,” Van Schaack said. “The Livermore High counselors and District Crisis Team were there for support as well. A tragedy like this is shocking and takes time to process.”

The scenic area where the crash occurred is popular among young people. Residents complained in June about hundreds of cars pouring into the area for a weekend “sideshow.” Some drivers performed driving stunts like “doughnuts” and some raced. There was at least one crash.

Before July 4, Alameda County sheriff’s deputies increased their presence in the area and issued tickets to drivers. They admitted the county needed to fund

more officers to increase the number of patrol cars assigned to the roads.

Authorities did not immediately identify the student who was killed, but family and friends identified Hunter during the vigil.

“Great teammate, and a great kid,” stated Livermore Wrestling Club on Facebook. “He was always fun to be around.”

AGoFundMe site (<https://tinyurl.com/twb7ab4n>) had raised more than \$35,000 through Monday for Hunt-

er’s funeral expenses. He leaves behind his parents, Steve and Amy, and sister, Anna.

Hunter, the site said, spent the last year working weekends and the summer to earn money to buy and fix up a vintage pickup truck. Hunter and his dad worked on it together.

Hunter wrestled in middle and high school, earning a letter as a sophomore.

“Hunter touched so many lives and still had so much to do in life,” the site stated.

“The words that come to mind when thinking about this loss are ‘not fair’ and ‘this can’t be real.’ His loss will be felt heavily, for a long time to come by his family, friends and all who loved him.”

The GoFundMe page for Sal (<https://tinyurl.com/2s3b9ve3>) had raised more than \$117,000 through Monday. His sister said his family was decorating his room for him to see when he wakes up.

“Salvatore is in criti-

cal condition, but he is a fighter!” his sister wrote. “I know he is feeling each and every one of your prayers so please don’t stop. We need them. He is continuing to fight, and we are so hopeful.

Bowers called the crash “a somber reminder of just how precious life is.”

“We take this time to ask for your continued assistance and commitment to keeping our young people safe and sound, in our schools as well as throughout our city,” Bowers wrote.

SHERIFF

(Continued from first page)

and first woman to run the Sheriff’s Office, is one of two women vying for Ahern’s job. Livermore resident Cmdr. Yesenia Sanchez, a Latina and the highest-ranking woman in the ACSO, is the other candidate. Ahern, who has run the department since 2006, is seeking a fifth term.

Walker has held a variety of assignments during 26 years on the San Francisco force, including her current job as a patrol officer. Her assignments have included community relations, terrorism liaison, academy instructor, field training officer, peer support counselor and problem-solving for team members. She developed training procedures and taught officers in hate crimes, tactical communication, crisis support and suicide prevention.

“It makes me a more rounded candidate,” Walker said. “I don’t see it from one

perspective. It’s not just arresting people.”

Walker said law enforcement must collaborate with the community to improve how deputies conduct themselves. She said she has devoted her career to finding better ways for first responders to deal with mentally ill and emotionally disturbed people, so situations do not escalate into tragedies.

“I go to extra training for that every year, so that I can understand with a little more detail why people who are mentally ill respond (as they do),” Walker said.

Walker said she stresses the importance of training dispatchers to get as much information as they can about a situation, so that officers know whether someone is having a psychotic break.

“I’ve been telling community members, ‘Tell us as much as possible, so we can develop a plan of de-escalation while we are enroute,’

Walker said. “That seems to be the most logical way to handle the situation.”

If elected, Walker would be responsible for running a department with about 1,500 employees and a \$523 million budget, as well as the coroner’s office. Walker said she has not run a station or division with the San Francisco force but has a passion for working with teams.

“That’s what the team is for,” Walker said. “No sheriff is going to be responsible for doing everything by him or herself.”

The election primary is June 7, 2022. Whoever wins would be responsible for implementing a “consent decree” resulting from the county’s settlement last week with attorneys who sued to improve conditions for inmates at the Santa Rita Jail.

During the next two years, the consent decree would require Alameda County officials to put programs in

place to improve the delivery of mental health care and suicide prevention, expand out-of-cell time for inmates, and create provisions for use-of-force.

Walker said the high suicide rate was among the reasons she decided to run for sheriff.

Walker said protocols are necessary to assess a person’s mental health before they are taken to Santa Rita Jail to determine whether they should be taken to a hospital instead.

“I say that because we know one of three things will happen if that person is not assessed,” she said. “Either they become victims or become a victimizer, or they are going to become injured or killed ... Without that clearance they should not come into the county jail, because that’s going to be a problem.”

Asked if Ahern allowed the problems that resulted in the lawsuit and consent decree, Walker said, “The

person who is at the helm sets the culture.”

“The question everyone should ask is, ‘Why is this happening, and how can it be prevented?’ People are looking for solutions,” Walker said. “That is the job of the person who is at the helm. In this case, it is Ahern. My question is, ‘What did he do to prevent these fatalities from occurring? ... People in Alameda County will look to me to be transparent and to be responsible for caring for people who are housed within Alameda County. Santa Rita Jail is my No.1 responsibility, and I take it seriously.”

Walker explained that her platform focuses on transparency; building relationships with residents and other law enforcement agencies; demilitarizing the agency’s approach to policing; promoting diversity; reviewing policies and training procedures, including use

of force and dealing with the mentally ill; establishing programs to assist deputies under emotional and financial stress; and completing investigations, including examining more than 1,200 untested rape kits — packages used by medical personnel for preserving evidence following sexual assault.

Walker said she has heard that morale is poor within the agency, and deputies in Alameda “don’t feel like they can make any suggestions.”

“They don’t feel like the current structure will enable them to do that,” she said, noting that the culture is due for a change. “I think I have a unique perspective because I am African American and a woman. It opens up the conversation to discuss how we want to implement change a little differently. I’m not someone who was selected by the incumbent, so I come in with some new and fresh ideas.”

WATER

(Continued from first page)

rationing policy — it is up to the water retailers that serve each city in the Tri-Valley. The retailers include the City of Pleasanton Operations Services; City of Livermore Water Resources Division; California Water Service Company; and Dublin San Ramon Services District (DSRSD). As the Tri-Valley region’s water wholesaler, the Zone 7 board can only report on water supply availability and the amount of water each retailer orders.

A dry year is forecast for 2023, and the prospect of consecutive years of severe drought weighed heavily on the board’s decision to back the 15% mandatory conservation. This year, the state has assigned Zone 7 only 5% of its normal capacity. It looks as if that will be repeated in 2022, said Pryor.

Mandatory conservation will be a distinct switch from the voluntary policy that retailers declared in March 2021. At that time, they asked for 10% conservation. They later boosted it to 15% to match Gov. Gavin Newsom’s statewide request in July 2021.

But Tri-Valley residents responded to the voluntary

policy with only 7% conservation, which directors cited as a motivator to require the 15% mandate as soon as possible.

Zone 7 Director Sandy Figueroa said that for the previous 10 years, many residents made their homes and lawns more water efficient. Now, she said, there is not much more they can do other than to simply use less water.

During the meeting, representatives from two of the retailers spoke to the board.

DSRSD Assistant General Manager Jan Lee said DSRSD opposed one of the five alternatives outlined in a Zone 7 staff report. Lee noted that alternative would limit irrigation to three times per week during the current irrigation season — a move that violates her agency’s policy. Lee added that she wanted specific numbers from Zone 7 about predictions on water availability and demand.

Kathleen Yurchak, director of operations and water utilities in Pleasanton, said that in the 2014-16 drought, people achieved 25% conservation.

“It’s important to talk to (other) retailers,” said Yurchak. “A coordinated

community (in dealing with water conservation) is the most effective approach.”

Zone 7 Director Olivia Sanwong said she appreciated DSRSD and Pleasanton’s calls for specific data, which she noted amounted to quantifying the shortage.

“However, I don’t want to wait for Gov. Newsom in September before we start our conservation here,” Sanwong added.

Zone 7 directors each expressed which options they liked from a list of five presented by staff. All favored Option 3, which was to start mandatory conservation as soon as possible.

Director Dennis Gambs said he is giving “qualified support” for Option 3, but stated that Option 4 might be better, as it calls for starting in 2022, when more data can be available.

Board Lines Up Los Vaqueros JPA

The board did not take any action, but unanimously supported continuation of Zone 7 efforts to be a part of the expansion of the Los Vaqueros Reservoir.

The Contra Costa Water District (CCWD), which owns Los Vaqueros, will join

Zone 7 and six other Local Agency Partners (LAPS) that can benefit from water storage there to pay \$202 million, or 22% of the total \$895 million in cost. The remainder will come from the state (52%) and federal government (25%). The percentage totals 99% because the dollar amounts are rounded off.

Zone 7 wants 10,000-acre feet from the project. An acre foot (AF) is the area covered by an acre of water 1 foot deep. Some 10,000 AF is enough to annually meet demands of 20,000 households.

Los Vaqueros storage is one of the tools that Zone 7 has listed to meet future water demands. Others include potable reuse of treated wastewater, desalination projects linked via pipelines from brackish water in the Carquinez Strait, the single diversionary tunnel bypass-

ing the Delta and possible creation of Sites Reservoir northeast of Sacramento.

Zone 7 has participated in the Los Vaqueros planning effort since 2016. Since then, the agency has invested \$1.2 million in planning, design and environmental review. Now CCWD is asking for another \$900,000 to move ahead on planning, design

and environmental approvals through Dec. 31, 2022.

Zone 7 directors said at the Aug. 18 meeting that they will back the expenditure of \$900,000. However, since Zone 7 hopes to secure a lower price, the agency authorized Pryor to negotiate cost amounts with CCWD once they take action at another regular board meeting.



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SETTLEMENT

(Continued from first page)

health disabilities.

It also has provisions for use-of-force, discharge planning, coordinating emergency mental health care with John George Psychiatric Hospital, and suicide prevention.

Jeffrey Bornstein, a partner at RBGG, said the consent decree resulted from lawyers from Rosen Bien working closely with lawyers representing the sheriff and the county.

“The decree requires fundamental and transformative changes at the jail,” Bornstein said in a statement. “The hope is that the cooperative foundation we have built with the county’s lawyers will bring about the cultural change necessary to end the use of punitive measures, such as isolation and lack of out of cell time, and to ensure that there are vigorous mental health care, educational and other treatment program opportunities

throughout the jail.”

Filed in 2018 on behalf of inmates, the lawsuit alleged Santa Rita Jail required increased staff and mental health programs to address a high suicide rate.

“There has been no meaningful mental health care treatment in the jail for many years,” said RBGG attorney Kara Janssen. “The consent decree mandates comprehensive mental health services, including regular mental health rounds, electronic tracking of referrals, prompt delivery of medication, group therapy, treatment planning teams, creation of confidential spaces for services, and discharge planning, including coordinating with community-based mental health services.”

U.S. District Court Judge Nathanael Cousins, who has overseen the lawsuit, is set to hear a preliminary motion to approve the consent decree

on Sept. 22. If approved, Cousins would set a date for a hearing on final approval.

If approved, the settlement includes provisions that:

- Require that jail inmates receive adequate mental care by increasing staffing, establishing levels of care, creating treatment plans, providing treatment, implementing an electronic system to track referrals, and requiring deputies to make daily mental health rounds to provide additional mental health support to those who need it;
- Require 14 to 35 hours a week out-of-cell time for inmates, depending on their housing location, including at least 28 hours a week for people in general population;
- Retire measures prevent suicide and self-harm in the jail;
- Require programs and services for inmates with mental health disabilities.

TRI-VALLEY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Saturday, Sept. 4
Josefa Higuera Livermore Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution Monthly Meeting

Josefa Higuera Livermore Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) will host its first in person meeting for the 2021-2022 year. Chapter meets September through May on the first Saturday of each month at 9:30 a.m. DAR was founded in 1890 to promote education, historic preservation, and patriotism. Any woman 18 years or older, regardless of race, religion or ethnic background, who can prove lineal descent from a patriot of the American Revolution is eligible to join. For additional information on joining our meeting or becoming a member, visit <http://jhl.californiaadard.org> or contact jhlchapter@yahoo.com.

Saturday, Sept. 11 to Sunday, Sept. 12
Dublin Library Fall Used Book and Media Sale

Get ready for great bargains on books and audio-visual materials, hosted by Friends of Dublin Library, Inc. Most books are \$1 or less, and CDs and DVDs are \$1 per disc or set. Members only on Saturday, from 9 to 11 a.m. You may purchase a membership starting at 8:30 a.m. Sale is open to all 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday and 1 to 4 p.m. on Sunday. Sunday is “Bag Day” - buy a bag (provided) for \$5 and fill it up! The Dublin Library is located at 200 Civic

Plaza. For more information, call 925-803-7252.

Monday, Sep. 13 and Oct. 11
Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society Presents Gena Philibert-Ortega

Solving Your Brick Wall (two-part workshop) begins part one with some tips for solving brick wall problems. Types of brick walls to be covered include pre-1850 ancestors and common surnames, and same name individuals, as well as resources every researcher should know. Gena Philibert-Ortega is an author, researcher, and instructor whose focus is genealogy, social and women’s history. She holds a master’s degree in interdisciplinary studies and a master’s degree in religion. Her current research includes women’s repatriation and citizenship in the 20th century, foodways and community in fundraising cookbooks, and women’s material culture. Zoom registration information is forthcoming.

Wednesday, Sept. 15
Visit Tri-Valley Hosts Luncheon of Champions

With cautious optimism and hope, the Visit Tri-Valley annual luncheon returns, better than ever. This year’s theme, “Luncheon of Champions,” takes a look back at the past year, all the organization has accomplished in spite of a global pandemic, and what Tri-Valley tourism will look like moving forward. Join in as organizers recognize local heroes, present the new board of directors, intro-

duce exciting new initiatives, and of course - the reason everyone attends - screen the annual video report, debuting the new Mayors of the Tri-Valley. RSVP by Monday, Aug. 30, at <https://bit.ly/3jqkDp6>.

Friday, Sept. 17
Constitution Day Bell Ringing

Commemorate the 234th anniversary of the signing of the Constitution in unison with the official bell ringing at 4 p.m. in Philadelphia, where the Constitution was written and first read to the public on Sept. 17, 1787. Attendees will meet at Asbury Church at 12:45 to ring the church bell at precisely 1 p.m., Livermore time. Organizers ask those unable to attend to ring a bell wherever they may be at the time. Remember to bring a mask and dress patriotically. A patriotic mask is even better. We will provide individual bells to ring, but you may also bring your own. For more information, email lauraraekohn@gmail.com.

ONGOING WEEKLY EVENTS

Dublin Farmers Market Open for the Season

Open Thursdays, 4 to 8 p.m., at Emerald Glen Community Park, 4201 Central Parkway.

Livermore Downtown Farmers Market Open for the Season

Open Sundays, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., on Second Street between J Street and L Street. Open Thurs-

days, April 15 to Nov. 18, from 4 to 8 p.m., at Carnegie Park, 2155 Third St., between J Street and K Street.

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.

VIRTUAL ONLINE EVENTS -AVAILABLE ANYTIME

Pacific Chamber Orchestra Offers Musical Podcast

During this time of challenge, PCO continues to bring every-one a 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.

Sunflower Hill Online Activities

Sunflower Hill posts new Online Activity videos created for people with developmental disabilities each week. Our archive includes over 140 free videos on yoga & meditation, movement exercises, cooking activities, scavenger hunts, arts & crafts activities, and more! Visit www.sunflowerhill.org/onlineactivities

Enter events online at www.independentnews.com/calendar or email calendar@independentnews.com for print.

OBITUARIES

Dominic "Don" Mazzone

Aug. 29, 1944 – Sept. 10, 2020



Dominic L. Mazzone, Jr. "Don" to family and friends was born in South Bend, Indiana.

Don can't be described using just one word, he was so much more than that. He was gentle, loving, caring, romantic, sincere, curious, dependable, hardworking, humorous, ambitious and trusting. He was a lovable man, who had a great smile and laugh. That's who he was!

Don was loved by family/friends and pretty much everyone he met. He was a great son/brother/husband/father but most of all an awesome grandpa (his favorite role)!

Don grew up in Indiana, was an altar boy, Boy Scout, attended Purdue College and studied chemistry! Don was a chemist at O'Brien Paints in Indiana. He eventually ended up working at Fuller-O'Brien Paints in San Francisco, California as a manager.

Don and Birdie met at Fuller (she worked there since 1969). Don and Birdie started dating (both were divorced and had kids). Don had two daughters and Birdie one daughter.

Don and Birdie were together for three years before Don proposed to her in Hawaii. Birdie said YES of course! Don also asked Birdie's dad for his blessing to marry Birdie and he said YES! Don was a true romantic. They ended up getting married Valentine's Day 1981. It was a beautiful and romantic wedding with family, friends; many from Fuller. They loved each other so much and their love, grew stronger. Don was a loving, caring husband to Birdie. Don and Birdie were married 39 years and were together for 43 years. He was now part of a big family.

Birdie was the eldest of eight kids in her family. Don looked forward to the family gatherings. The family loved Don as he was always lots of fun at parties for birthdays, graduations, etc. He loved hosting parties and also loved spending time at our Lake Berryessa home with friends there.

Don loved working in his garage on cars (especially his 1966 Red Mustang, which he worked on it for 25 years). He also had a '66 Mustang GT coup that he bought from a

friend (literally all in parts and in baggies)! It took Don years to put it back together with the help from grandson Justin and son-in-law Milton.

Don restored many mustangs, but loved to drive his Model A and HEMI Dodge Ram truck too. The grandkids would ask him "What's under your Hood?" He would say "It's a HEMI," like the commercial and they all laughed!

We took his '66 Mustang to car shows in Reno, Livermore and the Alameda County Fair. He even won a 1st place trophy for the Model A and got plaques for the '66 Mustang!

He enjoyed working in his garden (he definitely had a green thumb). He had a big garden full of vegetables, fruit and herbs, which he shared with family, friends and neighbors!

Don had a great sense of humor! Always kidding around and did silly things that made us all laugh (including himself). His laugh was infectious! Had silly sayings too. (Hell of deal or You don't know Jack. His favorite was \$1.99 are you out of your mind?)

He was very animated. He was a very respected man (anyone who met and knew Don knew he was an honest man). Don truly loved life and he loved his wife Birdie Ann and she loved him. The love they shared grew stronger through the years. He loved traveling. Don and Birdie traveled a lot as he was a very adventurous guy. He loved sports and going to games. Don loved spending time with the grandkids and taking them to games, car shows, etc.

He was a good dad to Gina, Michelle and Shari, and was a loving grandpa to Jessica, Justin, Shelby, Courtney, Mariah, and Colten, and they loved him too.

Don will truly be missed by all of us! No words can describe how big a presence Don was in our lives and how

he touched the hearts of so many. Don was a strong man and fought his Parkinson's disease to the end — never giving up or quitting. He was amazing that way, wanting to do whatever it took to live a longer life. However, in the end it was the Lord who made the decision for Don. He came to Don that early morning and whispered "Don, take my hand and come with me to a better place, as it's time for you to rest."

Don had a great sense of humor and many of you I'm sure remember his quick comebacks which made you smile or laugh. Don will never be gone as he will live on in our hearts with all the great memories he brought to every one of us.

We will all miss Don, but Birdie misses Don the most as he was the love of her life. All the pictures and things they shared in their life together reminds her every day of Don and how much they enjoyed each other. Birdie does believe they will be together again and until then she has all the beautiful memories of him and their great life together to comfort her.

I'm sure Don is happy and smiling down right now to see all his family, friends and neighbors all here today to celebrate his life. It is us who are sad and missing him because he was taken from us too soon, but we know in our hearts he is now without pain, in the heavens above until we all meet again in the glory of heaven with Christ our lord.

Don you will be missed!! Don is survived by his wife Birdie Ann; sister Nancy Mazzone; daughters and spouses; Gina (Milton) Wood; Michelle (Bryan) Offill, Shari (John) Morlan. Grandchildren: Jessica Wood, Justin Wood, Shelby Offill, Courtney Offill, Mariah Morlan and Colten Morlan. He is also survived by: Jeanette, Brian Voigt, Sharon, Chip Steeves, Mary, Danny Looney, James Abeyta, Lori Abeyta and Diann Abeyta.

Preceded in death by his parents Dominic and Catherine Mazzone; uncles and aunts in South Bend and San Diego, as well as Birdie's parents; James and Ann Abeyta, and younger sister Debbie Abeyta.

They have all passed but still in our hearts!

Dr. Henry Aboud passed on Aug. 25, 2021 at the age of 87.

Originally from Arizona he resided in Pleasanton for 56 years. He was a veteran of the Korean War where he served as a corpsman. Dr. Aboud worked as a dentist

Dr. Henry Aboud

Sept. 2, 1933 – Aug. 25, 2021

in the Tri-Valley for more than 45 years.

Dr. Aboud cherished his family and friends. He was preceded in death by his wife Elsie Aboud. He is survived by his daughter Sharon and husband Bruce; son Ray and wife Chevelle;

daughter Elena and husband Ted; and son Hank and wife Migle, along with 13 grandchildren many great-grandchildren. Services will be held at Graham-Hitch Mortuary in Pleasanton on Sept. 18, 2021 at 10 a.m.

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Mary Lu Bonetti (Tunison)

Join us on Sunday, September 12 from 12 to 4 for an Open House Garden Party at Ravenswood in Livermore

After a year's time, we're finally able to gather to share in our love and loss of our mom, Mary Lu.

As you may have guessed, mom did not want a proper funeral or memorial. She insisted we have a party to honor her! We know she'll be there, as she was never one to miss a good party.

Please honor her wishes and do not wear black! She was bright and bold and so shall we be! Please do bring your wonderful stories, smiles and photos. (Tears are allowed)!

Members of Mary Lu's family will be wearing gardenias.



Luis Bernardez II

Jan. 17, 1962 – July 20, 2021



Following a courageous two-and-a-half-year battle with brain cancer, Luis Bernardez II passed peacefully at his home in Bozeman, Montana, at the age of 59, surrounded by his family.

Luis (Lucho) was born in Harlan, Kentucky, to Pat Cahill Bernardez and Luis Bernardez.

Growing up in Santa Fe with his sister, Pita, and brother, Juan, Luis attended St. Francis Elementary School and St. Michael's High School. While at the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology for his undergraduate work, Luis enjoyed his studies and met friends that remained an important part of his life. After college, as a student employee at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, Luis earned his master's degree in physics from UC Davis. Luis then worked at Sandia National Laboratory "the other lab" for the rest of his career. He also contributed at Los Alamos National Laboratory. Not surprisingly, Luis made additional lifelong friends during this time.

Luis knew from an early age that he wanted to be a scientist, and thoroughly enjoyed his career as a physicist, earning patents for his inventions. Luis's lust for life expanded when he met Kellie, 27 years ago, as Luis found a true partner and gained a son, Harrison.

Following their marriage, Luis, Kellie, and Harrison moved to Livermore into a house that, naturally, Luis purchased from a friend at work. They lived in that house until they retired. After a few years of searching for the perfect spot to retire, they landed in Bozeman, Montana.

Luis was just as passionate about his hobbies as he was about his work, and was always up for outdoor adventures, whether it be cycling, shooting, camping or hunting. Luis frequently competed in shooting competitions, and was a state champion of marksmanship in multiple states. He served on the boards of the Sunnyvale Rod and Gun Club and the California Rifle and Pistol Association. He also was a member at the Avenal Gun Club and was responsible for starting the Long-Range Precision Rifle Match in Avenal. Cycling was also a large part of his life and he

rode most days and many miles on his bike.

In 2013 Luis and Kellie traveled to France so he could ride several of the previous stages in the Tour de France. The Alp d'Huez was his favorite. In 2019, having just completed his cycle of chemotherapy, Luis completed his fourth Ride the Rockies event in Colorado. This ride totaled 434 miles over eight days and raised money for Team Samaritan. Luis was in training and hopeful to complete another Ride the Rockies this year.

Luis was often the life of the party, flashing his contagious smile, teaching a scientific trick or just making others laugh. Luis' happiness and upbeat attitude was admired by many. Even with a terminal diagnosis, he was an inspiration of resilience; always moving forward, living the best life he could. Luis was a beloved husband, father, son, brother, brother-in-law, uncle, nephew and friend. Lucho will be missed by his family and many friends. Given Luis' enthusiasm for others, his memory may be honored by contributions to the any of the shooting or cycling names listed above or to the donor's favorite charity.

Arrangements are in the care of Dokken-Nelson Funeral Service, www.dokken-nelson.com.

Karl Pemper

July 27, 1935 – July 2, 2021



Karl Pemper, a long time Livermore resident, died July 2, 2021, in his home. Karl was very independent and strong willed and his life was guided by the love of learning and achievement of goals.

Karl is survived by Eleanor, his wife of 57 years, and his son, Eric Michael Pemper. Karl was preceded in death by his parents, David and Paula Pemper.

Karl was born July 27, 1935, in Poland. In 1939, when the Germans invaded Poland, Karl's parents left Krakow and fled to a town that was not yet under German control, where his father accepted an offer to "work" in the Soviet Union. Karl's parents left everything they had, including their watchmaker shop and, with their 4-year-old son, were transported by box-car for many days to what they thought was safety in Siberia.

Karl's early years in the Soviet Union were very difficult. The Soviet authorities did not allow the small family to remain anywhere very long, reportedly because the authorities feared they might be German spies. Karl had little to eat, no comforts of life, no formal schooling, and lacked the benefits of a stable home and lasting relationships. It was amazing that Karl and his parents survived the harsh conditions they endured.

Karl's paternal grandfather had a watchmaker's shop in Krakow and had trained Karl's father in this craft. Because of this valuable training, Karl's father had acquired skills to fabricate small watch parts and occasionally had an oppor-

tunity to repair a soldier's watch. This work brought in a little money that was used to buy food.

Karl became independent and self-reliant at an early age. He taught himself Russian. He found that reading was his solace and it allowed him to escape to other, better places and times. Books were his friends. Wherever the family was sent, Karl tried to find a source of books to read. After the war, the family returned to Poland, again by box-car. They eventually went to Germany, where they lived in displaced persons camps for a few years. During that period, Karl learned German. In 1950, the family was sponsored by a relative to start a new life in the United States, and they settled in Chicago.

Karl viewed the United States as a wonderful land of opportunity. He quickly learned English well and became a naturalized citizen. Karl wanted to help others and turned to the professions of social work and psychology. He obtained an MSW degree from the University of Illinois and later a Ph.D. in psychology from Ohio State University.

Karl met Eleanor Handler in Chicago and they married in 1964. Karl and Eleanor took turns working and at-

tending school until both of them obtained a Ph.D. in psychology. Their only child, Eric Michael, was born in 1973. Karl was very proud of his son for obtaining a B.S. degree in computer engineering from UC San Diego and for his son's discipline and motivation to continue to learn new skills.

Karl's interests were many and varied. They ranged from medicine and physics to statistics, hypnosis and biofeedback. He loved animals and rescued many small creatures in need of help. Karl also loved violin music and had an exceptional ear for both music and language. Karl worked for many years as a licensed psychologist and enjoyed helping people improve their lives.

Later in life, Karl became interested in computer science and taught himself basic programming and the skills needed to build computers. Faulty parts did not deter him, since he would devise a work-around or fabricate a needed replacement part. When Karl's vision became impaired, he used magnifiers to help him painstakingly and successfully build two computers that have been working well since they were put into service. Karl was building his third computer when, unfortunately, he became too weak to finish it.

Karl's strong work ethic and love of learning were an inspiration to those who knew him. He will be greatly missed.

Special thanks to the Hope Hospice staff for the exceptional and compassionate care they provided during the last few weeks of Karl's life.

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Barbara G. Richards

Sept. 27, 1925 – May 13, 2021

There will be a Celebration of Life service for Barbara on Friday, September 10, 2021 at 2 p.m. It will be held at Livermore First Presbyterian Church, with light refreshments to follow in their fellowship hall after the service. Masks required.

Kathleen (Kathi) Barbera Gilmour

April 12, 1945 – Aug. 11, 2021



Kathi passed away unexpectedly on August 11.

She was the oldest of three children born in Livermore to Siberio and Eleanor Barbera. Kathi attended St Michael's School briefly before transferring to 5th Street School. She graduated from Livermore High in 1963 where she was active in many extra-curricular activities and had a 'mean' arm in girls' softball. After high school, Kathi attended the San Jose State University where she was studying to be a journalist.

Circumstances brought her to the beautiful islands of Puerto Rico and Virgin Islands where she ultimately met her husband-to-be, Bruce. They eventually moved to Houston, Texas and later Kathi returned to Livermore as a single mother.

She made her career as a fire dispatcher at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) where she oftentimes worked long additional hours to support her daughter. Kathi was a soul with a generous heart who loved her family very deeply. She also adopted the role as companion for the elderly periodically, whom she considered her second family.

Kathi was an excellent cook whose proudest specialty was paella, a Spanish dish, surprisingly not Italian. She was so happy to reinitiate monthly Sunday family dinners which were stopped after the death of her father. At Christmastime she traditionally made delicious beef jerky along with homemade cookies and packaged them as gifts to family and friends. In the last few years, this was an activity she loved sharing with her niece, Meghan, and her grandchildren.

She enjoyed all the different gatherings with her loved ones, be they holidays, birthdays, weddings, graduations or simply just because. She enjoyed playing board games and cards, often making a night of it with her friends over dessert and coffee. Kathi was an entertaining presence, comical, with a crazy sense of wonderfully wild humor.

Despite her limited mobility, she was always game to explore. She traveled the Mediterranean countries of Italy and Greece but mainly took day-long drives and road trips to destinations like The Junction on Mines, 'the cabin in the hills' in Clayton, via Morgan Territory Road, Big Sur, Hearst Castle, Pismo Beach, and Mendocino.

Her love of tennis brought her to Indian Wells with her BFFs often. For six years, they would travel together to the tennis tournaments, where there she could see her beloved Rafa!

Kathi was preceded in death by her parents, Sib and Eleanor and her brother Joe. She leaves behind a daughter; Christine (Bob), two grandchildren; Elliana and Dane; a sister, Susanne (Philip); and nieces, nephews, and cousins.

A celebration of life will take place on Sept. 18, 2021. For details, please contact kbg0918@yahoo.com.

Donations, should one choose, can be made to Sandra J. Wing Healing Therapies Foundation, 5890 Stoneridge Drive, Ste 104, Pleasanton, California, 94588; American Heart Association 426 17th St. #300, Oakland, California, 94612, or the charity of your choice.

Hawks Prevail in Men's, Women's Contests

By Matt Schwab

The Las Positas College men's and women's soccer teams christened the 2021 season with a shutout sweep of district-rival Chabot in Hayward.

The Hawks prevailed 12-0 in the men's match and 3-0 in the women's contest.

"Both our men's and women's teams had strong performances," said Las Positas head coach Andy Cumbo, who guides both Hawks teams. "They were physically and mentally prepared to compete."

The Hawks women broke open a scoreless

match with three goals in the second half, courtesy of its Livermore High connection. Freshman forward Caitlyn Garrison, a Livermore graduate, scored twice, and freshman midfielder Isabel Mello, another former Cowboy, had one goal.

Las Positas is a women's soccer powerhouse in the Bay Area. The Hawks were 2-1 in 2020 — a campaign cut short due to the COVID-19 pandemic — a year after winning the 2019 Coast Conference-North Division title with a 9-0-2 mark.

On Garrison's goals,

Marisa Marquez (Granada) and Sofia Jimenez (Tracy) had solo assists. Mello opened the scoring unassisted in the 50th minute.

Las Positas goalkeeper Dariana Mihalache (College Park) worked her first shutout.

In the men's match, Las Positas dominated. Sophomore forward Adolfo Trujillo (Livermore) led the way with four goals and four assists, and Christian Neves (West-Tracy) added a hat trick. Sual Gutierrez added two assists.

Chabot was playing its first official matches since 2019 due to the pandemic.



Black Bear Diner to Become Official CIF Family Diner

Playfly Sports Properties and Black Bear Diner announce the signing of a three-year strategic partnership through 2024. Under terms of the partnership, Black Bear Diner will serve as the official family diner of the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF), the governing body for high school sports in the state of California. Playfly Sports is a sports marketing and media company.

"We are honored to partner with Black Bear Diner, a California headquartered company that values our community as much as we do," stated Brian Sandy, General Manager of CIF Sports Properties. "We look forward to having Black Bear Diner serve as a destination for team gatherings, post-game meals, and championship celebrations for our student-athletes, teams, and their families. We truly appreciate their support of education-based athletics."

Anita Adams, CEO of Black Bear Diner noted that the company serves communities across 14 states.



After their Friday night game was canceled due to poor air quality index (AQI), the Livermore High Cowboys returned to the field Saturday morning to defeat the Livingston Wolf Pack 20-13. On Friday, the AQI was as high as 184 due to wildfires in the northern and eastern parts of the states. The games were canceled last minute as Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District sent out emails at the top of each hour to keep parents and students up to date. (Photo – Doug Jorgensen)



As seen above, the Foothill High School girls' volleyball team hosted the Livermore High School Cowboys for a Thursday, Aug. 26, game. Foothill won three matches, scoring 25-9, 25-6 and 25-14. (Photos – Doug Jorgensen)



The Foothill Falcons' Kenny Olson catches a pass in the end zone for a touchdown during Monday night's game at Foothill High this week. The game originally set for Friday night was rescheduled to Monday due to poor air quality. (Photo – Doug Jorgensen)

Fundraiser Targets Mental Health Needs of Students

The Real Estate Alliance of Livermore is sponsoring a fundraiser to help pay for student mental health programs identified by the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District.

With a goal of \$30,000, the Brighter Days Fundraiser will help pay for mental health "first aid" training for students and adults, emotional Calming Kits for seven middle and high schools, and a makeover for the Livermore High School Wellness Center.

The school district said it hopes to train 300 adults — parents, school staff, and community leaders — to recognize and respond to mental health challenges in students using a Department of Health & Human Services (HHS) program called Youth Mental Health First Aid.

The district also hopes to offer a teen version of the HHS program — teen Mental Health First Aid — to sophomores and juniors at Livermore High School, and sophomores at Granada, Vineyard, and Del Valle high schools, for a total of 500 students.

Calming Kits contain

a variety of stress balls, journals, colored pencils, and Wikki Stix to help students control their emotions. Each school would receive 20.

Lastly, the district hopes to enhance the décor of the Wellness Center at Livermore High School, which offers free, confidential

counseling and puts students and families in touch with community mental health resources.

The fundraiser will run through Sept. 23. Donations can be made to support the specific Fund a Need projects by going to <https://bit.ly/brighterdays2021>. The Real Estate Alliance is also

holding a silent auction at <https://bit.ly/brighterday-sauction>.

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Tri-Valley Writers to Discuss Minority Characters with Ex-Punk Rocker

Michelle Cruz Gonzales, a self-described “punk writer” and a member of the Las Positas College faculty, will discuss “the delicate balance of including diverse minority characters in writing with respect and artistry, and for the right reasons” in a pre-

sentation to the Tri-Valley Writers on Saturday, Sept. 18. The Tri-Valley Writers will meet at 2 p.m. at the Four Points Sheraton in Pleasanton. Gonzales, who played drums in all-female punk rock bands in the 1990s, including Spitboy, writes about the

punk subculture and the intersections of race, class, and gender. She is the author of “The Spitboy Rule: Tales of a Xicana in a Female Punk Band,” published in 2016, and is currently working on a “linguistic justice textbook,” in collaboration with

her Las Positas College colleagues, Kisha Quesada Turner and Karin Spirn. Her presentation, “Inclusive Characterization: Writing ‘the Other’ Without Stereotypes or Appropriation,” is open to the public. Tickets are \$14 for California Writers Club members (\$6

for student members) and \$18 for nonmembers (\$10 for nonmember students). To reserve a seat, email reservations@trivalleywriters.org by Thursday, Sept. 16. Tickets must be purchased in advance at www.trivalleywriters.org.

Livermore Library Seeks Literacy Tutors

The Livermore Public Library is recruiting volunteer tutors for its adult literacy program. Volunteers work with adults to improve their basic reading and writing skills and achieve literacy-related goals, such as filling out job applications, studying for the driver’s license exam, or writing letters. No experience is required. After receiving tutor training provided by the library, volunteers will be paired one-on-one with adult learners. The next three-part tutor training, taught online via Zoom, will be from 6-8 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 14, Thursday, Sept. 16, and Tuesday, Sept. 21. Volunteers are expected to attend all three sessions. For sign up or for more information, call 925-373-5507 or email literacy@livermore.lib.ca.us.

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 580839

The following person(s) doing business as: Ink Mobile Notary LLC, 1195 Holmes CT, Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Ink Mobile Notary LLC, 1195 Holmes CT, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 4/25/21. Signature of Registrant/s: Olanike Butler, Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 16, 2021. Expires July 16, 2026. The Independent, Legal No. 4934. Published August 12, 19, 26, September 2, 2021.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 580855

The following person(s) doing business as: Bobby Arte, 1300 7th Street, Oakland, CA 94607, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Robert Grant, 1300 7th Street, 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: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s: Robert Grant, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 19, 2021. Expires July 19, 2026. The Independent, Legal No. 4935. Published August 12, 19, 26, September 2, 2021.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 581060

The following person(s) doing business as: Prime Interiors, 1744 5th St, Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Frank Monasteri, 1744 5th St, 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: 9/4/2001. Signature of Registrant/s: Frank Monasteri, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 28, 2021. Expires July 28, 2026. The Independent, Legal No. 4936. Published August 19, 26, September 2, 9, 2021.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 581437

The following person(s) doing business as: Stoneridge Chrysler Jeep Dodge Ram, 2700 Stoneridge Dr, Pleasanton, CA 94588, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Mathew Enterprise Inc, 4100 Stevens Creek Blvd, San Jose, CA 95129. This business is conducted by a corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 2008. Signature of Registrant/s: Mathew Zaheri, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 12, 2021. Expires August 12, 2026. The Independent, Legal No. 4937. Published August 19, 26, September 2, 9, 2021.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 580933

The following person(s) doing business as: N&A Designs Group, 4222 Oak Knoll Dr, Dublin, CA 94568, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Samah Nasser and Ahmed Abou-Alfotouh, 4222 Oak Knoll Dr, Dublin, CA 94568. 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: 7/2017. Signature of Registrant/s: Samah Nasser, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 22, 2021. Expires July 22, 2026. The Independent, Legal No. 4938. Published August 19, 26, September 2, 9, 2021.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 581370

The following person(s) doing business as: Sunday Collective LLC, 540 39th St APT 511, Oakland, CA 94609, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Sunday Collective LLC, 540 39th St APT 511, Oakland, CA 94609. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The

date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 7/15/21. Signature of Registrant/s: Alexandra Rix, Principal. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 10, 2021. Expires August 10, 2026. The Independent, Legal No. 4939. Published August 19, 26, September 2, 9, 2021.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 581456

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Fired Up Lawyer, 2. High Rise Law, 2031 Shoreline Drive #201, Alameda, CA 94501 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Lauren Vazquez, 2031 Shoreline Drive #201, Alameda, CA 94501. 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: 1. 7/19/11, 2. N/A. Signature of Registrant/s: Lauren Vazquez. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 13, 2021. Expires August 13, 2026. The Independent, Legal No. 4940. Published August 26, September 2, 9, 16, 2021.

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No. HG21108124 SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF ALAMEDA TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

Petitioner: Carl Fredrick Ibsen 948 Acacia Way Livermore, CA 94550 (925) 337-1487 ibsenfredrik@gmail.com filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: **Present Name:** Carl Fredrick Ibsen **Proposed Name:** Fredrick Carl Ibsen **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: 10/22/2021 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: June 18, 2021 /s/ Judge Tara M. Desautels. The Independent Legal No. 4940. Published August 26, September 2, 9, 16, 2021.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 581512

The following person(s) doing business as: Assured Notary

and Loan Signing Services, 2905 Calle de la Mesa, Pleasanton, CA 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Cathy Butera, 2905 Calle de la Mesa, Pleasanton, CA 94566. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s: Cathy Butera, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 16, 2021. Expires August 16, 2026. The Independent, Legal No. 4942. Published August 26, September 2, 9, 16, 2021.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 581678

The following person(s) doing business as: Studio Twenty-Two, 272 Rose Ave, Suite B, Pleasanton, CA 94566, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Teresa Rocha, 2403 Santa Rita Rd #40, Pleasanton, CA 94566. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 7/1/2021. Signature of Registrant/s: Teresa Rocha, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 19, 2021. Expires August 19, 2026. The Independent, Legal No. 4948. Published August 26, September 2, 9, 16, 23, 2021.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 581719

The following person(s) doing business as: Bay Area Kitchen Rental, 49103 Milmont Drive, Fremont, CA 94538, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Freaking Sweet Bakery, LLC, 3467 Malibu Terrace, Fremont, CA 94539. 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: 8/17/2013. Signature of Registrant/s: Katherine H. Rodriguez, Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 20, 2021. Expires August 20, 2026. The Independent, Legal No. 4949. Published August 26, September 2, 9, 16, 23, 2021.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 581776

The following person(s) doing business as: Haircraft II, 22151 Redwood Rd, Castro Valley, CA 94546, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Christina Linhares, 20420 Park Way, Castro Valley, CA 94546. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 8/4/2011. Signature of Registrant/s: Christina Linhares, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 23, 2021. Expires August 23, 2026. The Independent, Legal No. 4950. Published August 26, September 2, 9, 16, 23, 2021.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 581763

The following person(s) doing business as: The Fox & the Hare’s Family Daycare, 1798 Mount Diablo Way, Livermore, CA 94551, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Sonia Grant, 1798 Mount Diablo Way, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 8/6/2021. Signature of Registrant/s: Jesse O’Con Jr., Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 23, 2021. Expires August 23, 2026. The Independent, Legal No. 4946. Published August 26, September 2, 9, 16, 23, 2021.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 581455

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. The Golden Squirrel, 2. Golden Squirrel Pub, 5940 College Ave, Ste J, Oakland, CA 94618, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Ohmaya, LLC, 5940

College Ave, Ste J, Oakland, CA 94618. 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: 8/15/2016. Signature of Registrant/s: Chris Foott, Managing Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 12, 2021. Expires August 12, 2026. The Independent, Legal No. 4947. Published August 26, September 2, 9, 16, 23, 2021.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 581678

The following person(s) doing business as: Studio Twenty-Two, 272 Rose Ave, Suite B, Pleasanton, CA 94566, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Teresa Rocha, 2403 Santa Rita Rd #40, Pleasanton, CA 94566. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 7/1/2021. Signature of Registrant/s: Teresa Rocha, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 19, 2021. Expires August 19, 2026. The Independent, Legal No. 4948. Published August 26, September 2, 9, 16, 23, 2021.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 581719

The following person(s) doing business as: Bay Area Kitchen Rental, 49103 Milmont Drive, Fremont, CA 94538, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Freaking Sweet Bakery, LLC, 3467 Malibu Terrace, Fremont, CA 94539. 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: 8/17/2013. Signature of Registrant/s: Katherine H. Rodriguez, Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 20, 2021. Expires August 20, 2026. The Independent, Legal No. 4949. Published August 26, September 2, 9, 16, 23, 2021.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 581776

The following person(s) doing business as: Haircraft II, 22151 Redwood Rd, Castro Valley, CA 94546, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Christina Linhares, 20420 Park Way, Castro Valley, CA 94546. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 8/4/2011. Signature of Registrant/s: Christina Linhares, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 23, 2021. Expires August 23, 2026. The Independent, Legal No. 4950. Published August 26, September 2, 9, 16, 23, 2021.

listed above: 8/25/2011. Signature of Registrant/s: Sonia Grant, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 23, 2021. Expires August 23, 2026. The Independent, Legal No. 4951. Published August 26, September 2, 9, 16, 23, 2021.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 581403

The following person(s) doing business as: Majia Gaviola, 457 Andrews St., Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Hortencia Barrios-Gutierrez, 457 Andrews St, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 8/11/2011. Signature of Registrant/s: Hortencia Barrios-Gutierrez, Sole Proprietorship. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 11, 2021. Expires August 11, 2026. The Independent, Legal No. 4952. Published August 26, September 2, 9, 16, 23, 2021.

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Chip Redemption Program Parkwest Casino 580 is removing all previously issued \$500 and \$1000 gaming chips from circulation. These chips may be redeemed 7 days a week during business hours at the main casino cage from July 11, 2021 - August 31, 2021. Parkwest Casino 580 will not honor or redeem any previously issued chips starting September 1, 2021.

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Encore Shifts Performance to Outdoor Venue in Livermore

Encore Players of Livermore will present its first in-person stage production since last December on the weekend of Sept. 17-19 in the courtyard of Asbury United Methodist Church, 4743 East Ave, Livermore.

The community theater group initially planned to perform "The Dining Room," a comedy by A.R. Gurney, indoors, but recently decided on an outdoor venue instead because of continuing concerns over COVID-19.

"There have been several news stories recently about theater companies falling short in their rush to return to live theater," said director Martie Muldoon. We wanted to make sure we took the time to present live theater as safely as possible. That's why I only cast actors who were fully vaccinated, and why we're rehearsing outdoors as much as possible.

"It's also one of the reasons we chose this play," Muldoon added. "It's a series of short vignettes, so we could keep rehearsals to a few people at a time"

As the show dates ap-

proached, Muldoon said it became clear that the group felt uncomfortable performing indoors.

"We were discussing requiring masks and vaccinations for audience members," Muldoon said, "and even with those requirements we were reluctant to have that large a group indoors for two hours. We're very grateful to Asbury for allowing us to move our production to their courtyard."

"The Dining Room" is a series of overlapping scenes set in a traditional American dining room at different periods of the 20th century. Each scene introduces a new set of people and events.

Performances are scheduled for 7:30 p.m., Friday, Sept. 17, and 3 p.m., on both Saturday, Sept. 18, and Sunday, Sept. 19. State and county COVID-19 safety protocols will be in effect.

Tickets are \$20 for general admission and \$15 for seniors and students, and are available at www.encoreplayers.net. For more information, email encoreplayersoflivermore@gmail.com.



Cast members for the Encore Players of Livermore's production of "The Dining Room" include (front row, L-R) Lesleyann Coker, Judy Fenton, Sandi Bohner, Diann McCannon, and Marsha Howard; and (back row, L-R) Steven McCloud, Melissa McCloud, Bob Cowgill, Martie Muldoon, Donna Blevins, and Lea Blevins. Not pictured are cast members Tim Ackerman, Maya Allwardt, Don Faul, Pat Goard, Bill Leach, Martha Losch, Joyce Rocha, and Meredith Sarboraria. (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)

Bankhead Theater, Bothwell Arts to Require Vaccines, Face Masks

Livermore Arts, the non-profit organization that operates the Bankhead Theater and Bothwell Arts Center, will require all patrons 12 and older to be fully vaccinated for COVID-19 and wear facemasks for all indoor activities beginning Friday, Oct. 1.

"Our number one priority is to share the arts safely with the Tri-Valley community," said Denise Watkins,

chair of the Livermore Arts board of directors, which approved the new policy.

Watkins said the decision to require both vaccinations and facemasks for all indoor performances and exhibits was the result of a "listening campaign" involving performers, patrons, staff, and volunteers.

"Returning to the stage for live entertainment and providing a safe place to

gather in community together to experience the arts has been our goal since the pandemic began," Watkins said.

"Livermore Arts accepts the responsibility of not only keeping our community safe and stopping the spread of the virus, but also returning to a sense of normalcy," Watkins added. "It is incumbent upon us to make sure we institute multiple layers

of safety protocols to ensure that we are able to continue to bring live music, theatre, dance, opera, and comedy back to Livermore and the surrounding areas."

Livermore Arts Executive Director Chris Carter said all volunteers and staff members are also required to be vaccinated and wear facemasks unless they have a documented medical exemption.

Artists Still Have Time to Enter the September "Late Spring Art Show"

Livermore Art Association's biggest show has been revived as the "Late Spring Art Show," set for Sept. 11 and 12. Artists still have time to enter before the Sept. 1 deadline. Enter online by going to www.livermoreartassociation.org/late-spring-art-show. Nonmembers are welcome.

This is the 65th annual

show, and is supported by the City of Livermore Commission for the Arts. The Late Spring Art Show accepts works in various mediums, and artists are not bound by any themes. Paintings, carvings, photographs, handmade jewelry, textiles, quilts, and a lot more are all welcome.

The show is free and

open to the public. It will be at the Bothwell Arts Center, 2466 8th Street, on Sept. 11 and 12, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. There will be a reception with awards, food, and live music from 2:30 - 4:00 p.m., on Sunday, Sept. 12.

Come and see the beautiful and interesting art made by our local artists. For more information, contact christine@christinemccall.com.

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Pleasanton Ghost Walk Returns for In-Person Tours

The Museum on Main will host its 15th annual Ghost Walk, a two-hour guided tour of Pleasanton's "most haunted sites" in the downtown area, the weekends of Oct. 15-16 and Oct. 22-23.

"Ghost Walk has successfully brought the haunted side of Pleasanton to life through the stories and experiences collected from psychics, ghost hunters, and shop workers over the years," said museum education director and Ghost Walk coordinator Sarah Schaefer. "It is a unique experience that is more spooky than it is scary."

Last year, the museum offered an online Ghost Walk for the Halloween season, with more than 400 viewers, because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Schaefer said the museum will again offer a virtual tour this year, at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 30, in addition to the in-person tours.

"We are thrilled to be bringing back both in-person and virtual options to our community," Schaefer said.

The in-person tours will begin at the museum, 603

Main St., and leave every 30 minutes from 6-8 p.m. Groups, led by museum "ghost hosts," will visit 10 downtown locations where they will be met by actors playing the roles of departed souls, bringing their stories and Pleasanton history to life.

After missing last year, the Creatures of Impulse, a teen improvisation group sponsored by the city's Parks and Recreation Department, will again participate in the Ghost Walk.

Because of continuing pandemic concerns, the museum is limiting in-person groups to 20 people, for a total of 800 spaces. Facemasks will be required for anyone who is not vaccinated and encouraged for all participants.

Tickets are on sale for both the in-person and online Ghost Walks at www.museumonmain.org, by phone at 925-462-2766, or in-person at the Museum on Main. Tickets for both the in-person and virtual tours are \$20 for adults and \$15 for children 12 and younger.

Ghost Walk tours, both in-person and online, will take place rain or shine. On-

line tours will be hosted on BigMarker, a browser-based internet platform.

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