

East Ranch Infrastructure Costs May Fall On Residents

By David Jen

DUBLIN — The question of who will pay for shared services in the upcoming East Ranch development has risen as a point of negotiation between the city and project applicant Trumark Homes in recent months, splitting the city council on the best way to fund services, such as streets and parks in that project.

Trumark proposed in April the creation of two community facilities districts (CFDs) that would shift some infrastructure costs from Trumark onto the future residents of East Ranch — the 573-unit de-

(See INFRASTRUCTURE, page 7)

Charles Crohare, Olivina Oil Patriarch Dies at 91



LIVERMORE — Charles F. Crohare, the patriarch of the Tri-Valley's largest olive operation, died this month of cancer at age 91. After inheriting the Olivina orchard of historic olive trees dating back to 1882, Crohare oversaw the business for 71 years.

Crohare's son, Charles T. Crohare, said his father was a third-generation Livermore resident and very proud of his heritage, family and community.

"He was a good man, always wanting to get to know people and always enjoyed talking about the Olivina," Charles T. continued. "He will be missed by so many in our community, family and, of course, myself. But he is now with our mother, his dogs, horses and cows."

To read Crohare's obituary, see page 9.



Melaney Walker, above center, enjoys a soft-serve cone at Pleasanton's Meadowlark Dairy. The iconic dairy was recently named one of the top ten ice cream shops in the nation by the online review company Yelp. [See photo gallery at www.independentnews.com/multimedia] (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)

Meadowlark Dairy Ranked Top Ten in Nation

By Christina Cavallaro

PLEASANTON — The nostalgic Meadowlark Dairy drive-thru in Pleasanton has been in business for over 100 years and has always been a favorite of Tri-Valley locals. Now, it's been officially recognized as a darling of the nation by popular food review service Yelp, which recently ranked it number eight out of 100 ice cream shops in the U.S. for 2023, and the only Tri-Valley spot to make the cut.

"We're lucky we have a good following, and we get the Yelp reviews," said owner Jesse Takens, who runs the dairy with his wife,

Kelsey. "I think there are a lot of good ice cream shops that don't necessarily get the traffic like we do."

As lines of cars snake in both directions to make their way into the drive-up line one block off First Street in Pleasanton, Takens says the drive-thru store front is popular because they soft-serve ice cream.

"It's always been a drive-thru," Takens said. "It's so weird, but that used to be normal in the '60s. Drive-thrus were normal, especially drive-thru dairies. They were just everywhere."

Patrons who are on foot can also get into the action

by way of a line that forms beneath a creative canopy of colorful parasols that hang from rows of bistro lights to shield people and ice cream from the sun.

The epitome of a family-run business, Takens' grandparents Jannes and Janna Takens immigrated to the U.S. from Holland in the 1950s and soon after found their way to Meadowlark dairy as milkers.

"I mean," he said laughing, "dairy is everything there. So it was just normal for them."

They went on to manage the 153-acre farm, which is

(See DAIRY, page 7)

Pleasanton Council Considers Raising Water Rates

By David Jen

PLEASANTON — The cost of water will likely rise this fall as the city attempts to steer its water enterprise fund away from insolvency.

City staff proposed at the July 18 city council meeting to increase water rates by 30% starting Nov. 1, followed by a 20% increase on Jan. 1, 2025, and another 12% increase on Jan. 1, 2026. The first adjustment translates to an additional \$16.59 per-month cost for the average single-family home using 20 centum cubic feet of water per month.

"The reality is we got

behind with rates relative to the financial needs to operate the system," said City Manager Gerry Beaudin, who cited forever-chemical treatment, pipe replacements and a temporary booster pump as upcoming large expenses on top of the system's operational costs.

The changes would end a three-year, rate-increase holiday, during which the COVID-19 pandemic and forever-chemical issues delayed a rate study originally planned for 2019, according to the staff report. The stagnant rates have driven the city to use reserve funds to

both operate and make infrastructure improvements to Pleasanton's water system.

"This city — and I was a part of it — made a mistake by not instituting (rate increases) back a few years ago," said Mayor Karla Brown. "Three years with no rate increases is exactly how we've created this problem."

The city council voted 4-1, with Vice Mayor Jack Balch against, to mail a notice to ratepayers detailing the proposal and to schedule a public hearing for the de-

(See WATER, page 12)

City Council Furthers Its Study of Development Outside Livermore's UGB

UGB Supporters Oppose the Vote

By Larry Altman

LIVERMORE — In order to look at the possible expansion of uses beyond the Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) into the "East of Greenville Focus Area," the city council on Monday engaged a consulting firm to study the environmental impacts of development options.

The 4-1 vote, with Councilmember Ben Barrientos voting no, approved an 18-month contract for nearly \$308,000 with Rincon Consultants, Inc. to prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) on the area.

The approval followed repeated calls from residents for council members to vote against the EIR plan. Community speakers

accused the council and city staff of intending to push through the UGB without resident input.

"It's obvious what you're doing here," resident Greg Scott said at the meeting. "You want to blow through the eastern urban services boundary. You want to extend the city limits. Why else would you be spending 300 and some odd thousand dollars to do this?"

Mayor John Marchand and other council members denied the charge, saying they were acting on a request from the volunteer members of the city's General Plan Advisory Committee (GPAC). The GPAC, composed of residents and business owners, reviewed

(See UGB, page 5)

Local Winery Owner Killed in Crash

By Larry Altman

LIVERMORE — Friends, patrons and family this week mourned the loss of respected Livermore Valley winemaker Mitchell Katz, who died following a traffic collision in Livermore on July 21.

Recalled as an exceptional vintner, proud father and gracious host, Katz was 59 years old.

"We have suffered a tragic loss," his sons, Jackson and

Wes, wrote on the Mitchell Katz Winery's Facebook page. "Our dad was unexpectedly taken from us this past Friday evening ... we, his family and extended family, are all devastated and saddened by this tragedy."

Katz died at a local hospital shortly after the 3:20 p.m. crash. Livermore police released limited information about the crash, but said Katz's white GMC sport

(See WINERY, page 6)



Mitchell Katz, far right, died July 21 following a traffic collision in Livermore. Katz was the owner of Mitchell Katz Winery in Livermore. (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)



Some enthusiasts of comics, science fiction and fantasy genres, above, dressed up for the ComicCon event at the Bankhead Theater on July 22. The event, hosted by Livermore Valley Arts, featured toy anime, facepainting, costume contests and comic books. The day celebrated the ongoing contribution of comics to art and culture. [See photo gallery at www.independentnews.com/multimedia] (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)

District Rethinking New Grading Policies

By Dawnmarie Fehr

DUBLIN — The Dublin Unified School District (DUSD) recently pulled back on a plan to implement standards-based grading in two years.

Traditional grading systems provide students with a single numerical or letter grade, while the standards-based system requires teachers to provide their stu-

dents with meaningful and appropriate feedback that will accelerate the mastery of learning standards.

The board decision came during the July 18 special meeting held to discuss standards or equity-based grading. The meeting lasted more than four hours and was well attended by the public, who have thus far vociferously decried this type of change in grading

procedures.

The meeting ended with two board votes. The first vote called for an end to statements the district will implement standards-based grading in two years, allows teachers to drop out of cohorts testing the new policies at any time and insists on clarifying new practices and expectations with teachers, parents and

(See GRADING, page 7)

LLNL Greenland Study Points to Dangers of Continued Warming

By Jeff Garberson

A large international study that included Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory shows that parts of Greenland were ice-free more recently than commonly believed, adding strength to already urgent warnings about the risks of a warming world. The study, published

last week in the journal Science, made use of ice cores drilled in the 1960s at a U.S. Army base called Camp Century in north-west Greenland.

It concluded that about 400,000 years ago, major parts of the huge Greenland ice sheet have melted, adding at least 5 feet to ocean levels around the

world.

That's alarming, because the Greenland ice sheet today consists of so much frozen water that it could raise ocean levels about 23 feet if fully melted.

Today's heat-trapping greenhouse gases — especially carbon dioxide

(See GREENLAND, page 5)

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PET OF THE WEEK



BRITTLEBUSH

Meet the positively radiant Brittlebush! This sun-kissed flower of a cat is just like his namesake — vibrant and full of life! Brittlebush is a perfect companion, always right by your side as you breeze through your day. Ready to make his sunshine part of your life? Visit valleyhumane.org to learn more about Brittlebush; email info@valleyhumane.org to start the adoption application process.

(Photo - Valley Humane Society)

Dublin Names New Deputy City Manager



Hazel Weatherford

Hazel Weatherford has been appointed as the City of Dublin's new deputy city manager. Wetherford, who is currently serving as the city's economic development director, will take over in her new role on July 31.

"I am delighted to announce the appointment of Hazel Wetherford to the position of deputy city manager," said City Manager Linda Smith in a recent press

release. "Hazel has proven to be an invaluable asset to the city over the years and has led much of the city's economic recovery efforts during the pandemic. She's an innovative thinker and has the drive to bring two of the city's top priorities to the forefront – Downtown Dublin and the extension of Dublin Boulevard to Livermore."

Wetherford has worked

for the City of Dublin for over 12 years. Prior to her appointment as economic development director, she served as the city's assistant to the city manager, the Parks and Community Services business manager and a senior economic development analyst. Before joining Dublin, she worked for the City of Brentwood, California, and at the California State Legislature.

Dublin Passport Office Schedules Saturday Hours

In addition to its regular Monday through Thursday schedule, the Dublin Passport Services office will be open from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 5. Passport services are provided by appointment only. Dublin will begin accepting applications for Saturday on Tuesday, Aug. 1. To schedule an appointment, go to dublin.ca.gov/passports. Persons who are applying for a passport should bring proof of U.S. citizenship, photo identification, two passport photos, and means of payment. All applicants, including children, must be present during the process, and both parents must be present for children under 16. The federal government has designated Dublin as an authorized Passport Acceptance Office.

Friends Leave Man to Die on Freeway After Livermore Crash

By Larry Altman

Traffic investigators are working to identify the occupants of two vehicles that sped away from a fatal crash July 16 during a possible street race on the I-580 freeway in Livermore.

The victim, a man in his 30s, was left behind to die on the highway. His name was not immediately released.

The crash occurred

about 5:30 p.m. in the westbound lanes west of North Livermore Avenue. Emergency calls to the CHP from other motorists reported a burgundy Toyota Camry had overturned while racing a tan-colored Chevrolet Camaro, the CHP said.

Officers who responded to the crash found a passenger from the Camry lying in the road. He was pronounced dead.

According to the CHP,

after the Camry crashed, its driver and another passenger pulled themselves out of the Camry and walked to the shoulder. A white Chevrolet Suburban or similar sport utility vehicle picked them up. The SUV drove away, leaving the man to die in the road.

Officers believe both men who escaped suffered serious head injuries in the crash.

CHP officers are trying to identify them, as well

as the driver of the white SUV. The tan Camaro in the possible race also vanished.

CHP Officer Robert Purl said investigators checked local hospitals to see if anyone sought help, but found nothing, and had no other leads.

The crash is considered a hit-and-run. Detectives asked anyone with information about the crash to call the CHP's Dublin office at 925-828-0466.

Fair Group Reports Increased Attendance for 2023

More than 445,000 people attended the Alameda County Fair this year, a 6% increase over 2022, according to the Alameda County Agricultural Fair Association.

"We were thrilled that so many people came out to enjoy the 'Summer Vibes' at the fair this year," said Angel Moore, chief operating officer for the nonprofit association, which produces the annual fair and manages the Alameda County Fairgrounds in Pleasanton.

"Every year, we look forward to bringing the community together to have fun and make memories that will last for years to come."

Here is a look at the 2023 county fair, by the numbers.

Fairgoers enjoyed 73,778 corndogs and 22,500 funnel cakes during the fair's 20-day run, according to the fair association. They also gobbled down 10,700 barbecued turkey legs, 6,714 hamburgers, 4,937 candy apples, and 608 deep fried

Twinkies.

Attendance for the weekend horse racing, including the Pleasanton Mile, topped 60,600, up 2% from 2022.

Both the number of exhibitors and the number of exhibits in the youth and adult crafts, livestock, and wine making competitions were up this year. There was a total of 3,354 exhibitors, up 51%, and 10,224 exhibits, up 29%.

The Junior Livestock Auction brought in \$915,062, up 3%, while

small animal sales reached \$40,728 and fine art sales topped \$13,000.

The fair also hosted several charity events, including a Red Cross Blood Drive that collected 7,071 pints of blood and a food drive for the Alameda County Community Food Bank that netted 44,824 pounds of donated items, up 76% from a year ago. More than 13,000 pounds of pet food was also donated to the Tri Valley Humane Society.

Darin Winton Credits Former Day Job for New Career at Cellar 13

By Laura Ness

What makes a good winemaker? An appreciation of chemistry, a steadfast devotion to cleanliness, and humility, all traits Winemaker Darin Winton has in abundance. The self-described

both soccer and competitive skate dancing until he had to choose between the two. Preferring the rigor of the two-person dance medium to the vagaries of a team sport, he opted for skating. At age 19, while training in LA, he

San Francisco, where he fondly recalls the captivating aroma of the coffee roasting place across the street from his office near the airport. By this time, at age 23, he had suffered a serious leg injury while playing soccer with some buddies. His skating career was over, but he was already on to the next life chapter, taking a job with the Dublin San Ramon Water District, where he finished out a 30-year career.

"The first 10 years in wastewater treatment taught me everything I needed to know about wine chemistry, as long as you can bridge the terminology gap," he said. "I'll never forget that the definition of pH is the measurement of negative hydrogen ions."

Winton eventually started taking winemaking classes at Las Positas College. His first Enology class was with John Kinney (Occasio) and he found an instant home at 3 Steves, where he joined their wine club and started hanging out on Fridays. He loved the way he and Burman could identify flavors and create a brain map that helped them tune blends. Pretty soon, he was helping with bottling, and cleaning equipment. His chance to make his own wine came with some Saini Dry Creek Zinfandel, then some Cabernet. The game was on.

"Burman got in my ear about starting my own label,"

recalls Winton. In 2017, Winton retired and after a time became assistant winemaker at 3 Steves; he also got busy making Cellar 13's first original vintage.

Asked the source of the Cellar 13 moniker, Winton says, "It was always my lucky number."

Winton, a registered member of the Cherokee tribe on his mother's side, is grateful for the opportunity he's been granted to do what he loves. Two of the Cellar 13 wines bear artwork created by his uncle, John Balloue, a famous Cherokee artist. "Aliheliga" is a silky, sensual blend of Merlot and Cab Franc, and means "Grateful" in Cherokee, while "Tsogadu" is a Left Bank Bordeaux Style Cabernet Sauvignon-leaning blend with dark blueberries and chocolate that is Cherokee for 13. Both have been medal winners. In fact, Winton's wines have been winning medals from his first vintage.

Darin and his fiancée, Gail Henderson, proudly share their Cellar 13 wines at Pairings Wine Bar Restaurant, in Pleasanton on Sundays, from noon to 5 p.m.



Gail Henderson, left, and Darin Winton, right, are the owners of Cellar 13 in Livermore. Cellar 13 has won several medals for its wines. (Photo courtesy of Susan Sherrill)

cellar rat got his start in winemaking at 3 Steves Winery 10 years ago when he met the man who would become his mentor and best friend, Steve Burman.

Winton was born in Hayward, moved to Fremont, and graduated from Washington High School. Although his father had a career in wastewater operations, young Darin preferred sports, pursuing

also worked in the oil fields off Terminal Island, doing general maintenance.

"I saw these older guys reading the sports pages in between checking the gauges on tanks," said Winton. "They were making good money. That's when I decided to check out wastewater."

He studied hard, passed the state exam and was initially hired by the City of

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Ballet Roots Dance Company of Pleasanton will perform "Mystery, Mystique and Magic" on Saturday, Aug. 6 at the Livermore High School Theater. Performances are at 3 and 6 p.m. For more information, visit www.balletroots.org. (Photo courtesy of Ballet Roots Dance Company)

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Pleasanton Downtown Association's Concerts in the Park events continued on Friday, July 21 with the band Diablo Fugitives (above). [See photo gallery at www.independentnews.com/multimedia] (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)

City of Dublin Appoints New Finance Director

Jay Baksa has been named finance director for the City of Dublin, effective July 1, following the retirement of Lisa Hisatomi.



Jay Baksa

Baksa has worked for the city since 2015, serving as assistant director of administrative services since 2020. During his time with Dublin, he has overseen the day-to-day financial operations of the city, including payroll, general accounting, annual audits, cash-flow needs, and investment management. As a financial analyst, he coordinated the city's Fiscal Sustainability Task Force and managed the User Fee Study/Cost Allocation Plan. He also developed a 10-

year forecast model for executive management and developed an interactive Cost Recovery Model for Parks and Community Services programs. He also led the city's investment strategy, which includes a \$300 million portfolio. He previously spent eight years as a financial analyst for Fresno County. Baksa received a bachelor's degree in political science and a master's degree in public administration from San Diego State University.

Draft Report on S. Livermore Valley Posted Online

A draft report on South Livermore Valley, prepared by the Alameda Local Agency Formation Commission, is now available for public review and comment.

The commission is a state-mandated local agency that oversees changes to city and special district boundaries, including the formation of any new cities and government

agencies, with the goal of discouraging urban sprawl and preserving open space and agricultural land.

The South Livermore Valley Special Study is expected to guide government agencies in policy decisions affecting the South Livermore Valley.

The 70-page draft report on can be viewed on the commission's website, al-

medalafco.org.

Comments can be submitted online, by email to rachel.jones@acgov.org, or by mail to 224 West Winton Ave., Suite 110, Oakland, CA 94544.

Comments must be submitted by Aug. 11.

The commission will hold a public hearing this fall to consider adoption of the final report.

Library Lecture Series to Cover Navigating the News

Robert H. Rogers, a former journalist and lecturer at the University of California, Berkeley will give a series of talks at the Livermore Public Library in August on how to navigate news and information in an age of complex digital media.

On Wednesday, Aug. 16, Rogers, who worked for the Bay Area News Group and

was a digital news fellow at the Ford Foundation, will provide an overview of the "History and Context of U.S. Mass Communications."

The following Wednesday, Aug. 23, he will discuss "The Brave New World of Information."

The third lecture, on Wednesday, Aug. 30, will

cover "Restoring Truth and Democracy."

Each of the lectures will run from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Civic Center Library, 1188 S. Livermore Ave., Livermore.

The lectures are free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served.

For more information, call 925-373-5505.

Correction:

The article "City Eyes Acreage Outside of UGB for New Development" published July 13 incorrectly reported that two properties identified on the July 10 City Council agenda and listed for sale on public websites are within the East of Greenville Focus Area. Although the properties are located east of Greenville Road and outside the city's Urban Growth Boundary, they are not within the boundaries of the East of Greenville Focus Area being discussed in recent General Plan Advisory Committee (GPAC) meetings – south of I-580, west of the aqueduct, north of Tesla Road, and mostly east of Greenville Road. They are located outside the Focus Area.

The article also reported the number of acres in the East of Greenville Focus Area. The article utilized 1,636 acres from a staff report for the May 10 GPAC meeting, but that number was revised to 1,139 acres on a staff report for a June 14 GPAC meeting.

The article also stated the city would have to buy private property in any annexation of unincorporated land currently under Alameda County. That is not the case.

Habitat for Humanity Shifts its Cycling Fundraiser to Dublin

After hosting its Cycle of Hope fundraiser in Silicon Valley the last five years, the East Bay/Silicon Valley chapter of Habitat for Humanity will introduce new routes for 2023 that start in Dublin and wind through the Tri-Valley area.

Riders will push off from Patelco Credit Union's Dublin headquarters campus at 3 Park Place on nine, 33, and 62-mile routes. There will also be a Kids' Course.

"Patelco Credit Union is thrilled to host this year's Cycle of Hope," said Vince Salinas, vice president of home loans. "Though it's our sixth year as the event's presenting sponsor, it's our first as its host. We are eager to welcome all the amazing cyclists and spectators."

Salinas is also chair of the nonprofit Habitat for Humanity East Bay/Silicon Valley board of directors.

The fundraiser will be held Sunday, Oct. 22, with long course "metric century" cyclists getting started at 7:30 a.m.

"This year's Cycle of Hope is going to be bigger and better than ever," said Janice Jensen, president and CEO of the Habitat for Humanity chapter. "With such an amazing venue we're going to be able to offer an outstanding experience, complete with a finish line festival worthy of our athletes' accomplishments."

Music, food, beer, refreshments, games, and exhibitor booths will await the cyclists on their return to the finish line.

In addition to the in-person ride, cyclists can sign up for a virtual ride and begin logging their miles as early as Sunday, Oct. 1.

The nonprofit Habitat for Humanity East Bay/Silicon Valley helps build

and renovate affordable housing and provides home ownership counseling. It also operates ReStore stores in Oakland, San Jose, and Concord, selling donated new and used construction materials and furniture.

For more information, or to register for the Cycle of Hope event, go to habitatebsv.org.

Early registration is \$50, \$60, or \$85, depending on the route, and \$15 for the Kids' Course. The cost of

registration will go up on Aug. 1.

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EDITORIAL

Greenville Study Should Also Explore Options Inside Livermore's UGB

This week, the Livermore City Council voted 4-1 — with Councilmember Ben Barrientos opposed — to engage a consultant to prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the East of Greenville Focus Area. The EIR will evaluate how the unincorporated land beyond the city's Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) might be used in the future.

Mayor John Marchand stated, "This study is to identify what benefits and what costs there would be to give the voters the opportunity to make an informed decision. Right now, they don't have the information. They don't know what the costs or the benefits would be."

We agree with the mayor that residents will

need information before plans are pursued. However, we also stand with residents who have said this study should explore how to provide more industrial and commercial land within the city's UGB in order to keep our surrounding open space. If the UGB were punctured once for increased development, it would be punctured again and again.

Residents have made clear in the past that they are not interested in extending the UGB. Many would object to the creep of industrial and commercial sprawl into the open space and farmlands that make Livermore a unique place to live.

Development East of Greenville became a public issue in April when the council advised

city staff to work with the volunteer General Plan Advisory Committee (GPAC) to take a look at the area. The council ruled out residential use, but commercial and industrial uses got the green light.

GPAC members examined different ideas for the area at their May and June meetings. Proponents believe annexation and commercial development could aid the city's economy and generate thousands of jobs, while preserving open space and providing a gateway to the Livermore wine country.

The city should redirect the consultant. Expansion of industrial and commercial space to create more jobs should be thoroughly explored within the UGB as well as outside of it.

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 Monday before publication.

Xfinity Mid-Split Upgrades Causing Issues with Customer-Owned Modems

Thomas Gray, Livermore

If you're an Xfinity internet customer and using your own modem, you should be aware that Xfinity has been doing something called "mid split" upgrades in the Livermore area. These mid split upgrades appear to be causing issues with customer-owned modems, and maybe specifically Arris-brand modems.

We had issues with our Xfinity internet for several weeks starting in late June. The issue(s) we would see is my wife's outgoing voice and video would freeze and then drop altogether, in my son's video games their latency would skyrocket (from ~40ms to over 200ms) and they'd get kicked off the internet. My sons would have their issues even if they were connected via hardwire. These issues would occur almost exclusively during the day, but they would persist all day long to the point my wife could not reliably work from home. Throughout all the issues, our "numbers" were always within spec: no obvious power or signal issues at the modem, 500-600 Mbps download via WiFi at our laptops, and 40-50 Mbps upload.

We tried various solutions - a new modem, a new router, and a new power strip - and none of them worked. Xfinity checked our lines

and our connectors and all were fine (they changed the connectors as a precaution). Our problem was not fixed until we swapped out our Arris modem for an Xfinity xFi gateway. Now our issues are resolved but we're having to rent a modem from Xfinity.

There's emerging evidence that these mid split upgrades are causing issues with non-Xfinity modems, and maybe specifically with Arris-brand modems.

Xfinity should fix this problem ASAP and not charge customers for modems they're only renting because of Xfinity's mid split upgrades.

City Needs to Work Within Our UGB

Jeff Kaskey, Livermore

Monday night, the council authorized a study of how to break through Livermore's Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) on the east side. Their claim was they were just doing a study so the public would be educated when the Council brings this to a public vote (which they must do by law). What they did not do is commission a study specifically on how Livermore could stay within its UGB. The approved study notes that it will also look at alternatives including "No Project", but that content may simply be submitted by the City and they specifically said it would be "in less detail than that of the proposed project" (page 6 of the proposal in agenda Exhibit A). So the public will be given a false choice: here is our extensive review of how and why to break the UGB, and some notes on alternatives.

Given Livermore residents' consistent preference for a meaningful UGB, City Council should be studying the ways we can support it and the benefits that we get from it, including more centralized traffic, less area for policing, less infrastructure to support, and most critically, preservation of our surrounding natural and agricultural lands.

It is also worth noting that the study is a Program EIR, not a Project EIR. The difference sounds small, but the implications are huge. An approved Program EIR would allow them to make many subsequent changes within the area without additional EIR work. As the published proposal states, it "will assist in streamlining and possibly exempting future projects from CEQA." (Page 2 of the proposal in Exhibit A). A more typical (and less expensive) Project EIR would make it much more likely that any future projects would get their own review. Given the implications, it is surprising that this item was put on the Council Consent calendar.

The City needs to be studying how best to work within our UGB. Otherwise, we will simply continue to look for, and find, excuses to violate it.

Need to Test Children Living Near Livermore Airport

Donna Cabanne, Livermore

It is time for the Livermore City Council to hire an independent, outside medical organization to test blood levels of children living within 1 1/2 miles of the Livermore Airport. If it's found that children living near the airport have blood lead levels above normal, then the city must take immediate action. In the meantime, the city should require fixed based operators (FBOs) to start selling unleaded aviation fuel as an option.

A study of lead poisoning surrounding San Jose's Reid-Hillview Airport (a similar sized airport) was released in 2021.

Livermore Airport (LVK) operations and lead fuel sales are comparable to Reid-Hillview Airport's (RHV). Both airports have flight schools that land, take-off and circle the airports.

The Reid-Hillview study concluded the risk of elevated blood lead levels depended on the direction of prevailing winds, and the child's residential distance from the airport. The CDC states: "No safe blood lead level in children has been identified. Even low levels of lead in blood affect IQ, ability to pay attention, and academic achievement."

One family living approximately 0.82 miles (straight line distance) from the Livermore Airport heard about the Reid-Hillview Airport lead study results and were worried. They had their child's blood tested last week; their child's blood tested positive for lead. They had previously replaced all of their faucets, and their child only drinks filtered water. It's, therefore, unlikely that lead-containing water is the cause of the blood lead level.

There are too many children living in neighborhoods within 1 1/2 miles of Livermore Airport to trivialize, minimize, or ignore this issue. Current or planned residential areas within 1 1/2 aeronautical miles of the airport include the Sage and Montage neighborhoods, and Isabel Neighborhood Specific Plan locations (all are downwind of the airport). The distance between the airport and the Denova Homes at North Canyons Parkway and Triad Dr. is 1 mile. Rancho Las Positas Elementary & New Horizons on Jack London Blvd. are within 1 1/2 miles of the airport. A new preschool serving children from age 6 weeks to kindergarten is only 0.88 miles from the airport, at 348 N. Canyons Parkway in Livermore.

If the city doesn't immediately require FBOs to sell unleaded aviation fuel, then the city needs to perform blood lead level tests of children living within 1 1/2 miles of the airport.

Create Pollinator Pathways!

Carol Garberson, Livermore

Populations of birds, but-

terflies and other pollinators are plummeting for several reasons.

Most important are the widespread use of blanket pesticide spraying and the lack of native plants in landscaping. Butterflies need nectar plants for the adults, but their caterpillars require specific native plants with which they evolved. Typical residential and municipal landscaping includes few, if any, native plants and, as a result, are sterile deserts for caterpillars. No native plants, no caterpillars and no butterflies -- and also no birds! Baby birds require thousands of soft bodied, nutritious caterpillars in just the 2 weeks before leaving the nest. All too often, our gardens and lawns offer none.

Here's a fun fall activity: work with friends and neighbors to create "pollinator pathways" throughout our neighborhoods by planting at least some native plants. You don't have to replace your entire yard with natives. Replace plants you aren't fond of, remove sections of lawn, plant natives in pots and window boxes. This fall will be a great time to start planting more natives, which use less water and require no fertilizers or insecticide sprays.

Calscape.org is an excellent source of information on native plants, including size, water and sun requirements, nurseries that carry them and the number of caterpillars supported by each. Bringingbackthenatives.net has virtual tours of and talks about native plant use in landscaping.

I'd also like to challenge folks to try taking a year off from having pest control companies spray their yards with pesticides which sterilize your yard, killing all insects in it, as well as any bees and butterflies hit by drift or unfortunate enough to feed from the sprayed plants. Pesticides deprive birds of essential parts of their diets. Instead, spot-spray if you have a serious problem.

You can use cockroach traps, sweep down cobwebs, use organic methods of controlling earwigs and snails and save money!

Enjoy watching nature prosper in your yards. Watching caterpillars eat their host plants, form cocoons (many of which drop to the ground to pupate in the soil and leaf litter so less raking please!) and knowing that you are helping to restore bird and butterfly populations is rewarding at many levels. The result will be less maintenance and raking, lower water use, fewer toxic chemicals in the environment, lower water runoff -- and more butterflies and birds.

We can each make choices that matter! Help create Pollinator Pathways!

August 1 is National Night Out

Trish Munro, Livermore

National Night Out began 39 years ago as a way to build local community, as neighbors to meet neighbors, to develop neighborhood camaraderie and proactively build positive relationships with local police and fire departments. NNO takes place on the first Tuesday in

August, which happens to be August 1 this year.

Nationally, thousands of communities in all fifty states, as well as US territories take part in NNO, with 440 California cities participating. In Livermore, over 40 neighborhoods have registered to participate, with events taking place from 5-8 p.m. Neighborhoods have planned many activities—food (of course!), games, safety demonstrations, and more—all with the intent of getting to know each other, catch up with friends and neighbors, build community, and meet local police, fire, and governmental officials.

Want to attend a NNO block party? Contact Officer Burris of the Livermore Police Department's Community Outreach Team at crimeprevention@livermoreca.gov. Have fun and stay cool!

Addressing the UGB

Doug Mann, Livermore

By virtue of the fact that 5.3 even made it to an agenda, the likelihood is fading that we can find anyone left on the Council majority or staff that can claim to be dedicated to the principle of environmental protection. This item is part of a strategic effort to break Livermore's Urban Growth Boundary.

The residents of Livermore fought hard for our UGB, and this attempt to expand the size of the City by over 1,000 acres (10%) will fail. The last time this sort of thing was tried was Weyerhaeuser, with their thousand-acre unwelcome project. We handily chased them away, 72% to 28%. You can expect a similar outcome if this advances as far as the ballot box.

A third of a million dollars will be committed tonight to a company we know very little about. This is only a small portion of the costs to be paid toward this counterproductive development scheme. Inestimable sums will follow, only to be wasted.

Instead, you should apply any excess money you have toward our 30-million-dollar, annual asset maintenance deficit. That time bomb is still ticking, and Livermore residents will expect you to find a solution without raising taxes. It will only get worse the longer you ignore it.

Can't Deliberate More On Livermore Airport's Forever Chemicals?

Greg Scott, Livermore

"Livermore approved an airport policy that doesn't go far enough to reduce noise, increase public outreach, and protect public health." (Donna Cabanne, "Enforceable Airport Standards," Mailbox, 7/20/2023)

Huge understatement! On public health: PFAS are commonly called "forever" chemicals, because they are highly resistant to chemical, physical, and biological degradation. In a process called "bioaccumulation," PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) remain in organisms like humans for years. Most Americans have PFAS concentrations in their blood because PFAS are just about everywhere, including in 45% of the pri-

vate and public sources of drinking water in the United States (USGS sampling survey). PFAS are implicated in causing liver damage, kidney damage, thyroid disease, obesity, fertility issues, cancer, and other issues.

We know PFAS were stored at the Livermore Airport. PFAS are commonly used as a surfactant to break the surface tension of water in firefighting foams. We are assured by Mayor Marchand that these PFAS were "stored and not used." Do we have chain-of-custody documentation to tell us when and how much of these PFAS were received at Livermore Airport? Does that chain-of-custody documentation tell us when and how much of these PFAS were removed from Livermore Airport? Did Livermore Airport personnel never practice fighting an aircraft fire or aircraft crash fire with PFAS firefighting foams? Why did the Livermore Airport have PFAS?

Was there no contamination from the storage of PFAS at the Livermore Airport? What PFAS testing has been done? Of the thousands of types of PFAS that are in existence, no more than 32 types of PFAS are tested for, which is a fraction of one percent of the PFAS types. Has the blood serum of those who have been in proximity of the PFAS at the Livermore Airport been tested for PFAS? How does this compare to the blood serum PFAS concentrations in the general population of Livermore and surrounding areas? PFAS do genetic damage. Has there been testing for this?

We know very little about the extent of PFAS contamination in the United States. The threshold concentrations of PFAS are in parts per trillion, an extremely low concentration for the best technologies of high-resolution mass spectroscopy and gas chromatography.

Why the urgency for ramrodding the Livermore Airport Development and Lease Agreement through the Livermore City Council above concerns for community health and citizens' long-term well-being? This dreadful, myopic Livermore Airport Development and Lease Agreement needs to be rescinded!

DA Pamela Price

Richard Andrews, Livermore

I do suppose we have had a less competent DA at some time in our history but cannot recall a worse one than Ms. Pamela Price. As we look across the Bay and see San Francisco getting tougher and making a strong effort to reclaim their streets from criminals, we can see that Alameda is now creating a "poop"-storm of acceptance for these criminals here. Welcome to Wokeland.

All I see tells me that Ms. Price cares more about protecting the rights of the criminally charged than the victims. She attacks prosecutors and ignores victims, as she charges headlong into protecting the miscreants. Her most recent act shows she has thin skin when her ego is assaulted. I guess the only victim she wants to protect is the one she sees in the mirror. She HAS TO GO.

THE Independent

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Tyler Timm, 19, has been promoted from Livermore Police Explorer to Cadet. Tyler joined the Livermore Police Department in 2018 as an Explorer. He was an Explorer Sergeant and Explorer of the Year in 2022. The Granada High School graduate is currently attending Las Positas College majoring in Administration of Justice. (Photo courtesy of Livermore Police Department)

UGB

(Continued from first page)

potential land use alternatives for East of Greenville at its May and June meetings. Members asked for an EIR to help formulate their decisions as they work to write a new General Plan to manage the city's growth through 2045.

During its June 14 meeting, the GPAC committee recommended that a thorough analysis of the area be completed to "better inform the community of tradeoffs, costs and benefits associated with development of the area and possible municipal and UGB changes," a city report said. An EIR will provide an analysis of potential environmental consequences of development on the land.

Councilmember Bob Carling said those who expressed concerns should have joined the General Plan Advisory Committee (GPAC).

"Whoever spoke against this had an opportunity of being on GPAC," he continued. "If you're so concerned about it, you might have considered volunteering for that and spending your time there and trying to influence whether or not we looked at this property or not."

The East of Greenville Focus Area "consists of approximately 1,140 acres of land, mostly located east of Greenville Road, west of I-580," city documents stated. It is unincorporated and under the jurisdiction of the Alameda County Board of Supervisors. Any governmental takeover of the land by Livermore would require an annexation plan. A ballot measure would be required to enable commercial and industrial development because the land is outside Livermore's UGB.

According to the city staff report, only non-residential uses would be allowed. They include "industrial, commercial, parks, open space, and agriculture."

The city council focused on the Greenville area in April when they directed the city staff meeting with the GPAC committee to address plans for the land. Proponents of acquiring the so-called East of Greenville Focus Area believe commercial development could aid the city's economy; increase sales, property and business license tax revenue; create a way to permanently protect the Altamont Range; expand parks and protect open space; connect trails; lead to educational facilities with degree programs; and provide a more attractive entry to eastern Livermore and south Livermore wine country. According to city documents, commercial development could lead to more than 5,000 new jobs by 2045.

On July 10, the city council met in closed session to discuss purchasing

parcels for sale that are outside the area bound by Greenville Road, the aqueduct and I-580.

The move to proceed with an EIR without gauging whether residents want to expand the UGB rankled some residents, who accused the council during the public comment period of acting too quickly, wasting money and ignoring the public's opinion.

Resident Carol Silva said polls have shown overwhelming support for protecting the UGB.

"Why not have an agreement to study on how to live, work and grow within our existing UGB, instead of having a study involving moving the UGB?" Silva said. "Many people enjoy much of our downtown development. They also enjoy the land, the cattle and the vineyards that surround Livermore. This is what makes Livermore unique and pleasant."

Doug Mann said approval of an EIR was "part of a strategic effort to break Livermore's Urban Growth Boundary."

"The residents of Livermore fought hard for our UGB, and this attempt to expand the size of the city by over 1,000 acres — 10% — will fail," Mann said. "This was dropped on us. We knew nothing about environmental impact report."

Barrientos, who pulled the item off the consent calendar for discussion, said he agreed that spending money on an EIR was not necessary until residents showed they wanted to expand the city. He accused the city of "sneaking around" to get an EIR approved on the consent calendar, which is a string of agenda items considered routine for a quick cumulative vote.

"We should be going to the people first before

we say we have \$300,000 to study on it, because I think that opens the gates to more development beyond the boundary," Barrientos said. "You should go to the people first and say, 'Do you agree that we should expand?'"

Marchand said Barrientos made a good point but said the study will "identify exactly the things that you're talking about," including the land's benefit to the community, whether acquiring it would lead to more open space, agricultural opportunities, or a partnership with the Tri-Valley Conservancy.

"This study is to identify what benefits and what costs there would be to give the voters the opportunity to make an informed decision," Marchand said. "Right now, they don't have the information. They don't know what the costs or the benefits would be."

Councilmember Evan Branning agreed, saying the study would provide residents with information for a public vote.

"What should we use the land for? Open space? Do we want to preserve a greenbelt around our city to prevent any future growth?" Branning said. "Do we want to have agricultural uses for

that space? This idea that some people suggested that we vote first — what are we voting on? ... Without us first studying, we don't know the question."

Councilmember Brittni Kiick took issue with commenters who said the city was spending too much money on the study. She said it was "disingenuous" to complain about the price "when similar public commenters have participated in lawsuits that have cost a lot more city money than \$300,000."

"Disagreement is fine," Kiick said. "I just would appreciate it if the disagreement was honest. I really don't think it's the \$300,000. I think it's because you're mad about the direction we gave."

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GREENLAND

(Continued from first page)

are at much higher concentrations than they were 400,000 years ago, suggesting we are headed for a future with melting ice sheets and rising oceans inundating cities around the globe.

That's the conclusion of one of the study's leaders, Paul Bierman of the University of Vermont.

In a non-technical article published by The Conversation at the same time the Science article appeared, he and co-author Tammy Rittenour of Utah State University envisioned "a warm Earth, shrinking ice sheets, rising sea level, and waves rolling over" the world's coastal cities if society fails to get greenhouse gas emissions under control.

Starting in 1966, Army engineers and scientists at Camp Century spent six years drilling down through 4,560 feet of ice and then 12 more feet of the frozen, rocky ground that underlays the ice.

The cores they extracted were largely forgotten for decades before being rediscovered in a freezer in Copenhagen in 2017. After that, a large international investigative team was formed to apply modern analytical methods that were unavailable in the 1960s.

LLNL's contribution came from scientist Alan Hidy using the Laboratory's uniquely sensitive Center for Mass Spectrometry to make ultra-trace beryllium measurements.

Other challenging analyses included measurements of rare isotopes in the rocks and of ultra faint luminescence signals that revealed the last time certain minerals were exposed to sunlight.

Simpler, if more dra-

matic, was the observation that the uppermost sample from the 12 feet of frozen earth contained "perfectly preserved fossil plants," Vermont's Bierman said.

The studies revealed that sediments underlying the ice sheet in the 1960s had been deposited roughly 400,000 years ago by flowing water during a moderate warming period known as the Marine Isotope Stage 11.

Conventional scientific wisdom had been that the ice sheet, which is nearly two miles thick in places, has been largely stable for at least 2.5 million years.

The new study has forced a reassessment of that belief and recognition that Greenland's loss of ice 400,000 years ago can happen again, Bierman said.

In The Conversation, he and Rittenour noted that, 400,000 years ago, atmospheric levels of the greenhouse gas carbon dioxide ranged from about 265 parts per million to about 280 parts per million.

By comparison, he said, CO2 levels today are about 1.5 times higher, at 422 parts per million, and rising every year.

"Over the past decade, as greenhouse gas emissions continued to rise, humans experienced the eight warmest years on record. (This month) saw the hottest week on record...."

"Unless people dramatically lower the concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, evidence we found of Greenland's past suggests a largely ice-free future for the island... a warm Earth, shrinking ice sheets, rising sea level, and waves rolling over Miami, Mumbai, India and Venice, Italy."



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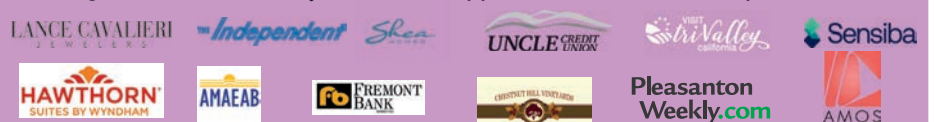
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Tri-Valley Writers Club to Host Historical Fiction Author

A. L. Kucherenko, the Bay Area author of the Turnabout series of historical fiction, will be the guest speaker at the Tri-Valley Writers meeting at Las Positas College on Saturday, Sept. 16.

Kucherenko's presentation, "Crotches, Cruks, and Crutches," will use examples from her books, set in 11th century England, to illustrate the balance between authenticity and accuracy and how to create an environment for her characters that her readers can embrace.

The writers' club will meet in Room 2470 at 3000 Campus Hill Dr. in Livermore. Check-in will begin at 1:30 p.m.

There is a two-step registration and payment process.

To register, email treasurer@trivalleywriters.org by Thursday, Sept. 14. Payment can be made online at trivalleywriters.org.

The cost is \$10 for members and \$12 for nonmembers, with discounts for students.



A. L. Kucherenko

WINERY

(Continued from first page)

utility vehicle collided with a black Subaru when he changed lanes as they headed east on East Avenue at Mitra Street. The vehicles came to rest on the median, where Katz's SUV hit a tree.

The Subaru driver's name was not released. He was described as a Westley resident in his 20s. He was apparently uninjured and cooperating with the police.

"It's very early in the investigation," Livermore police spokesperson Azenith Smith said Monday. "We are investigating what factors could have played a role, gathering evidence and interviewing witnesses."

Police released a photograph on social media that showed the vehicles coming to rest off the roadway.

Monday night, Livermore Mayor John Marchand opened the city council meeting with a moment of silence.

"The Livermore wine industry has lost one of our giants," Marchand said. "Mitchell Katz sadly passed away over the weekend ... Condolences to the Katz family and the industry they supported."

Hundreds of people reacted to Katz' death with comments on Facebook, wishing his sons their condolences and offering prayers.

Gina Garre, the president of the Livermore Valley Winegrowers Association (LVWA), said Katz worked at the Garre Vineyard & Winery when he began his career 25 years ago, before setting out on his own.

"What made him a great winemaker? His attention to what he made, the varieties he used. He named them great names," Garre said. "He paid attention to his wine. He enjoyed the wine-making."

According to his company's website, Katz started his winery in 1998 in memory of his grandfather, Reginald Lord, a home winemaker who influenced him as a teenager when he spent summers helping make handcrafted wines.

"Inspired to carry on the family heritage, Mitch produced a bounty of award-winning wines," the website says. "He prides himself on using only the most pristine Livermore Valley grapes."

An article on the Livermore Valley Wine Country (LVWC) website said Katz built an impressive portfolio of vineyards, using the "finest, most intensely flavored grapes" that he personally selected to create wines of "extraordinary flavor, richness and intensity."

"My favorite food and wine pairing is a glass of Cabernet Sauvignon and filet mignon on my birthday," Katz told the LVWC.

Asked about his wine-making philosophy, Katz said, "Can't make good wine from bad grapes."

"I wanted to honor my grandpa and what he taught me," Katz said, adding he hoped to retire and have his sons take over.

Two of his blended wines are named for his boys, who thanked "all who have reached out with your sincere condolences."

"We ask for your con-

tinued support and respect of our privacy during this time," the sons said. "Your patience is appreciated as we gather more information and begin to heal."

Mitchell Katz Winery wines were not only popular, but they also won numerous awards. The website, tourismmandtasting.com, said Katz wines won seven medals at the 2013 San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition, including gold for the 2005 Falling Star Tawny Port. Katz's 2011 Grimes Vines Sangiovese won Best in Class under \$40 and the 2011 Crackerbox Sangiovese won Best of Class over \$40 at the 2014 California State Fair in Sacramento.

Wine journalist Laura Ness, a contributor to The Independent since 2002, said Katz — "at 6 feet 4 inches and built like a linebacker" — was larger than life.

"His wines reflected his gigantic heart, big ambitions and enormous energy," Ness said. "He even had a wine in the SF Chronicle's Top 100 in 2006 for his 2003 Mitchell Katz Ruby Hill Vineyard Petite Sirah. As much as his wine gave him satisfaction, though, nothing made him prouder than his sons, Jackson and Wesley. My heart aches for them."

Connie Vandervanter, former manager at the Retzlaff Vineyards in Livermore, called Katz's death a "big jolt to the community." Vandervanter said she first knew Katz when he was a garage winemaker and would bring his wines to Retzlaff for testing.

About a year ago, Katz told Vandervanter it was becoming time to slow down and pass his vineyard to his sons.

"He started doing a bit more with skiing and enjoying life a little bit more because he finally got to where I think he felt like he had succeeded," she said. "He was known. His wines were very well-received. A lot of accolades."

Michelle Boss, who received city council approval in May to build a 30-room Wine Country Inn in South Livermore, said Katz will be dearly missed.

"He was very dedicated to the Livermore community and a great winemaker," Boss said. "Easy to talk to and very encouraging and supportive when my husband and I reached out to him regarding our development."

Holger Hornisch, former Director of Winery with the LVWA and now membership director at the Amador Vintners Association, said Katz was "always happy to help whenever I needed something."

"It went both ways, of course, but his joy for life was very apparent," Hornisch said, recalling a day when Katz gave him an old vine from his vineyard.

"He saw me struggling with it and promptly offered to drive it over to my house," Hornisch said. "That's the kind of guy he was. Happy, helpful and always up for shenanigans."

"I'm just heartbroken," Hornisch said. "It's so sad that he left us this early."

Nickleodeon Children's Show Host to Help Celebrate Reading

DJ Lance Rock, host of the hit Nickleodeon children's show "Yo Gabba Gabba" from 2007 to 2015, will help the Pleasanton Public Library celebrate the end of its 2023 Summer Reading Program at the Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Road, from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 2.

The Los Angeles-based singer and musician, whose real name is Lance Robertson, will read from his children's book, "The ABCs of Awesomeness," while he encourages his audience to sing and dance.

The book, published in 2022, introduces children to the alphabet using creative

letters and backgrounds to create interest.

Based on his work with Nickleodeon, Robertson also received NAACP Image Awards in 2011 and 2012.

The library's Summer Reading Program encourages readers of all ages to track the time they spend reading to win prizes. The theme this year was "Find Your Voice."

The program, for children 3 and older and their families, is free.

Seating will be first come, first served and the doors will open at 12:50 p.m. The program is sponsored in part by Friends of the Pleasanton Library.



DJ Lance Rock, host of the Nickleodeon children's show "Yo Gabba Gabba" from 2007 to 2015, will be at the Pleasanton Public Library on Aug. 2 to celebrate the end of its 2023 Summer Reading Program.

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

Friends of Open Space and Vineyards
P.O. Box 1191
Livermore, CA 94551
fov.org

Friends of Pleasanton Senior Center
5353 Sunol Blvd.
Pleasanton, CA 94566
925-931-5365
seniorcenterfriends.org

Girls Soccer Worldwide
P.O. Box 219
Livermore, CA 94551
925-200-4457
GirlsSoccerWorldWide.com

Goodness Village
1660 Freisman Rd.
Livermore, CA 94551
GVLivermore.org

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

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

Interfaith Sharing Inc.
678 Enos Way
Livermore, CA 94551
925-366-5567
saintbartsilivermore.com

Las Positas College Foundation
3000 Campus Hill Drive
Livermore, CA 94551
925-424-1010
LPCFoundation.org

Little Miracles Inc.
5424 Sunol Blvd. 10-184
Pleasanton, CA 94566
925-623-5407
Littlemiraclespleasanton.org

Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society
P.O. Box 901
Livermore, CA 94551
l-ags.org

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

Livermore Area Recreation & Park District Foundation
P.O. Box 3403
Livermore, CA 94551
925-373-5730
Larpd.org/larpd-foundation

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

Livermore Filipino-American Organization, Inc.
P.O. Box 172
Livermore, CA 94551
Livermorefilam.org

Livermore-Granad Boosters
2117 Fourth St.
Livermore, CA 94550
livermoregranadaboosters.org

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

Livermore Homeless Refuge
4743 East Ave.
Livermore, CA 94550
925-895-4167
livermorehomelessrefuge.org

Livermore Jazz Society
info@livermorejazzsociety.org
503-459-2530
livermorejazzsociety.org

Livermore K9 Foundation
PO Box 1064
Livermore, CA. 94551
(925) 209-1029
livermorek9.org

Livermore Lab Foundation
c/o UC Office of National Labs
7000 East Avenue, B661/L-794
Livermore, CA 94550
925-453-9382
Livermorelabfoundation.org

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

Livermore Pleasanton Fire Fighters Foundation
4847 Hopyard Road
Suite 4, PMB 303
Pleasanton, CA 94588

Livermore Valley Education Foundation
849 East Stanley Boulevard
PMB Box 143
Livermore, CA 94550
LVEF.org

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

Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center
2400 First St.
Livermore, CA 94550
925-373-6100
LivermoreArts.com

Monthly Miracles
5211 Demarcus Blvd
Dublin, CA 94568
Monthlymiracles.org

Movements For The Mind
MovementsForTheMind.com
movementsforthemind@gmail.com

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

NAMI Tri-Valley
164 N. L St., Suite 104,
Livermore, CA 94550
925-344-4480
nami-trivalley.org

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

Pacific Chamber Orchestra
PO Box 3134
Livermore, CA 94551
925-324-2775
www.pacificchamberorchestra.org

Pacific Locomotive Assoc., Inc. Operators of Niles Canyon Railway
P.O. Box 515
Sunol, CA 94586-0515
510-996-8420
NCRY.ORG

Parkinson's Network of Mount Diablo / Tri Valley PD Support
PNMD.net
trivalley@pnmd.net

Partners for Change Tri-Valley
4743 East Ave.
Livermore, CA 94550
510-773-6356
pctv.org

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

Pedrozzi Foundation
1141 Catalina Drive, #170
Livermore, CA 94550
925-456-3700
Pedrozzi.org

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

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

Pleasanton Military Families
3111 Half Dome Dr.
Pleasanton, CA 94566
PleasantonMilitaryFamilies.org

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

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

Robot Garden Makerspace
700 Terminal Circle
Livermore, CA 94551
RobotGarden.org

Rotarian Foundation of Livermore
P.O. Box 2181
Livermore, CA 94551-2181
rotarianfoundationlivermore.org

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

St. Vincent de Paul Society
c/o St. Michael Church
458 Maple St.
Livermore, CA 94550
925-758-0126

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

The Blankenship Program - AEMTAC
1863 Altair Ave.
Livermore, CA.
925-895-7059
mtac-alamedaast.org/blankenship-project

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

Three Valleys Community Foundation
5960 Inglewood Drive, Suite 201
Pleasanton, CA 94588
info@3vcf.org
www.3vcf.org

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

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

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

Tri-Valley Nonprofit Alliance
P.O. Box 2467
Livermore, CA 94550
TVNPA.org

Tri Valley Reach
P.O. Box 5564
Pleasanton, CA 94566
TriValleyReach.org

Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre
P.O. Box 1445
Pleasanton, CA 94566
info@trivalleyrep.com
Trivalleyrep.org

Tri-Valley Seek and Save
P.O. Box 701
Livermore, CA 94551-0701
(925) 895-1041
TriValleySeekandSave.org

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

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

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

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

FREE NONPROFIT LISTING FOR LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS.

If you would like to be added please email kim@independentnews.com



Anita Gandolfo turned 100 on Saturday, July 15, 2023. She has been a resident of Livermore her entire life. Anita has spent her years working hard and has accomplished many achievements. She is currently an active member of St. Michael's church, a local business owner, supporter of the community, a mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother. Anita spent her 100th birthday celebrating with her family, friends and loved ones. (Photo courtesy of Krista Gandolfo)



Bess Jost celebrated her 105th birthday on July 10 at her home in Livermore. She has lived in this home since the 60s and until a few months ago was living independently. Bess, who grew up in Iowa, has five children, 17 grandchildren, 50 great-grandchildren and three great-great-grandchildren, many of whom attended her birthday celebration. (Photo courtesy of Randy Jost)

DAIRY

(Continued from first page)

now Alviso Adobe Community Park, and eventually took it over upon the death of founder Walter Briggs Sr.

Takens explained, "They were building the 680 freeway and so with eminent domain, they took the land for that. My grandparents didn't own any land or anything, so they ended up selling their cows and moved to Tracy and then bought this place."

In July 1969 that place became what is now the present-day location of the Meadowlark Dairy at 57 W Neal Street.

"And then my parents took over in the '80s. And that's how the ice cream started," Takens said. He explained that business had been providing schools with deliveries of little boxed milks, until one day his parents ended up with an ice cream machine after purchasing items from an auction. From there, ice cream sales took off.

While the business is now less about dairy pro-

ceries and more about ice cream, Takens said milk will continue to be on sale.

"It's not what it used to be. But I don't think there will ever be a day where we don't have it. It's the history, right? It's my childhood too. I wouldn't want to get rid of it," he said.

Takens chuckled as he admitted that the dairy's popularity now means it's harder to keep the lines moving.

"We can't sit there and talk, and I just want to sit and talk to people all day," he continued, laughing. "(My staff) always tell me, 'Get out! You're slowing us down.'"

Despite the hustle, the fleet of Meadowlark runners who help customers in the covered drive-up line still find time to cater to their customers — even the furry ones. For instance, one staff member hand-fed a rapidly melting cone to a golden retriever in the rear passenger seat of a patron's vehicle.

INFRASTRUCTURE

(Continued from first page)

velopment slated for construction in east Dublin.

A services CFD would fund the public streets, two neighborhood parks and storm-drain systems within the development, while a facilities CFD would fund infrastructure, such as grading and street improvements, according to the April proposal.

"I know that this is not the model that we want to set for Dublin, by adding all these CFDs and so on," said Mayor Melissa Hernandez at the June 20 city council meeting. "But things have changed from so many years to what they are now."

Hernandez went on to cite the housing crisis and current need to attract developers as reasons to support the CFDs' creation.

CFDs, allowed under California's Mello-Roos Facilities Act of 1982, provide local governments a mechanism with which to levy residents for public facilities independent of property taxes.

Trumark's latest proposal amounts to an annual special tax ranging from \$1,395 to \$5,543 per unit, depending

on the unit type and lot size in East Ranch. Combined with other expected taxes and assessments, the total tax rate for those residents would average about 1.58% of the estimated home price, according to the staff report.

Pamela Salas Neiting, Trumark's director of community development, explained that the special tax districts would allow for East Ranch housing and amenities to be completed sooner.

"What is being proposed today ... is this combined CFD with a well thought-out total tax rate that provides the capital not only to support the city's maintenance obligations, but also to carry the heavy financial burden and infrastructure cost that would otherwise be required in sales, as stated in the ESP (Eastern Dublin Specific Plan), and result in a longer buildout time to create that much needed housing," said Neiting.

While the city council made no approval decisions last month, feedback at the meeting revealed varied opinions.

"I don't think we should

obligate by contract the future residents of that development," said Vice Mayor Michael McCorriston. "I think it'll be detrimental to our city and to this development in the long run."

Councilmember Kashef Qaadri also disliked the idea of CFDs in general, expressing discomfort with taxing some Dublin residents more than others. The remaining council members expressed support for the districts but explored options for Trumark to include more services with minimal tax rate increases.

And resident Tom Evans added, "Everybody that's in the development business knows about the costs upfront. There's no reason why (Trumark) can't be responsible for their own costs."

Regarding East Ranch's two neighborhood parks, the staff report noted that Trumark, while obligated to contribute \$4.7 million to the parks, bears no obligation to make improvements to those parks, estimated to cost over \$11 million.

"In summary, if the city council approves a Facilities CFD, the applicant will

commit to making park improvements," wrote the staff report. "Without the Facilities CFD, the two park sites will likely sit undeveloped for several years."

And once developed, the burden of park maintenance would fall on the city, as Trumark's latest proposal removed maintenance of the two parks from its Services CFD.

At Councilmember Jean Josey's questioning, the average total tax rate for East Ranch residents would increase to 1.61% if park maintenance were added back in.

Hernandez also asked Trumark to increase its 18 moderate-income units to 22, to which Neiting responded that such a change would require modifying already-approved lot lines — a prohibitive proposal.

Neiting did, however, offer an additional \$500,000 toward affordable housing elsewhere in the city as an alternative.

Councilmembers Sherry Hu and Jean Josey supported the CFDs, although not at a total tax rate beyond 1.60%.

GRADING

(Continued from first page)

students. The motion passed unanimously.

The second vote discontinues cohorts and standards-based grading in grades 7-12 and passed 3-2. Trustees Kristin Pelham and Kristin Speck voted against the motion.

Pelham expressed distress that the cohorts will not be taking place in higher grades.

"I am disappointed the cohorts are not moving forward," she said. "I think our teachers were doing great work together in these cohorts in support of student learning."

During the 2022-23 school year, 28 teachers across all grades and schools in the district participated in cohorts to test out standards-based grading practices. These practices included allowing test retakes, eliminating graded homework, flexible — or no — deadlines and moving from a percentage and letter grade scale to a 0-4 scale intended to better show whether students have learned a concept or not.

The district had scheduled 80 teachers to participate in similar cohorts in the 2023-24 school year, but since the board's vote, that number has dropped dramatically. District spokesperson Chip Dehnert said there are now approximately 21 teachers slated to participate, but it was too early to say for sure how many would.

Board President Gabi Blackman said changing grading practices is a challenging topic deserving a continued conversation. For now, the board and administrative policies regarding grading are still in place and remain unchanged.

"As trustees, we are elected to represent the voice of

our community and families, and especially the children who don't have the right to vote," she said, noting the passion of the Dublin community is gratifying. "Hearing from our community is one of the most important responsibilities we have, and it was very clear the community was passionate and adamant that this work for their children. To be clear, message received ... I will vote for (the two motions) ..."

She said she voted for the first motion to remove the goal of changing grading practices in two years because the district "shouldn't be making statements we are not going to do." As for allowing teachers to drop out of cohorts, she said it was clear some were struggling with standards-based grading and needed the option to drop out.

"This creates an equity problem in my view and the option to allow a teacher to drop out is a fair one," she said. "If it's not working for their students, they shouldn't keep using it."

She said her reason for voting in favor of stopping cohorts in the upper grades was to avoid negative impacts on middle school students who would suffer in high school.

"There are classes students can take in middle school that are precursors to their high school classes," she said. "So, is it ethically right to study this (new grading practice) while the students are having to earn grades impacting their way forward and that affect their high school classes?"

Trustee William Kuo said this meeting was informative and he appreciated data presented by staff in the form of

surveys from students and teachers who had participated in cohorts this past year, but would like to see more.

"I had hoped we would get more data regarding the actual grades given out by each of the cohorts and compare them with past years," Kuo said. "One of the concerns raised by parents was that fewer were being given out ... More data points, more feedback from all stakeholders would have been useful."

Kuo said he appreciated all the points brought up during the public comment periods and hopes to see similar discussions amongst stakeholders on this complex topic in future.

DUSD Superintendent Chris Funk was unable to attend the meeting in person but did make a virtual appearance. He still hopes to implement some of the changes he suggested to the

board at their regular meeting in June but noted he does not expect to make all the changes. He noted the district's work is still not finished.

"Staff will work with all teachers on developing a grading system that is fair, accurate, uniformed, bias-resistant and reflects the student's mastery of content standards per current district board policy," Funk said after the meeting.

For more information, visit www.dublin.k12.ca.us.

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TRI-VALLEY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Now to Aug. 22

TUESDAY TUNES

The Livermore Cultural Arts Council will host concerts on the Shea Homes Stage in Livermore Plaza by the Bankhead Theater, from 6:45 pm to 8:15 p.m., on Tuesdays from June 13 to Aug. 22, with no 4th of July concert. The family-friendly series continues June 20 with "Dirty Cello," and "Frankie Bones Project" on June 27. Restarting July 11, the lineup is "LunaFish," "John and Lynn Take 2," "Chris Bradley Band," "The Hurricane Band," folk singer songwriter "Michael McNevin," "Sacred Fire," and "Jeff Bordes & Friends w/ Matt Axton." For more information, visit lcac.org.

Thursday, July 27, Aug. 10 and Aug. 24

DEALING WITH LOSS

The death of a loved one is unlike any other loss. Whether the death was sudden and tragic or one with warning and preparations, the reality of death leaves most of us in a state of shock, confusion, and sadness. Grieving people need time and space to honor their grief and figure out how to keep on living when our loved one is gone. Join in at St Elizabeth Seton, 4001 Stoneridge Drive, in Pleasanton, on Thursday evenings, July 27, Aug. 10 and Aug. 24, at 7 p.m. All are welcome regardless of religious affiliation. For more information, call 925-846-3904.

Sunday, July 30 and Sunday, Aug. 27

TOUR HAGEMANN RANCH

Take a self-guided walking tour of historic Hagemann Ranch at your own pace, without the crowds, and view the renovated buildings dating from 1869. During the tour, attendees can speak with knowledgeable docents and learn the history of this unique historic site. The horses and goats will be available for visits from 2 to 5 p.m.

Saturday, Aug. 5, Aug. 12, and Aug. 19

YOUNGWONKS CALIFORNIA CODING CHALLENGE

Join the YoungWonks California Coding Challenge and test your coding skills with challenging questions written in Python. This is a virtual event that will be split into three rounds. All participants who complete the first round will get a coding assessment report to evaluate their coding concepts. Those who advance to the following rounds can win free YoungWonks coding classes and other cool prizes. To register, parents or guardians should visit youngwonks.com/challenge. For more information, email support@youngwonks.com or call +1-855-966-5756.

Saturday, August 12

PROGRESSIVE DINNER

The Livermore Heritage Guild is hosting a Progressive Dinner beginning with appetizers at the former Carnegie Library in Carnegie Park. From there it will be a quick drive to Hagemann Ranch for the main course, and on to the Duarte Garage and Lincoln Highway Museum for a fun dessert. At each stop, attendees will have an opportunity to explore the site, as well as enjoy some really good food. This is a rare opportunity to visit all of the Livermore Heritage Guild's museums in one evening. Tickets are \$30 to \$35 and are available until Aug. 6. For more information, visit lhg.org. For tickets, visit lhg.org/ProgressiveDinner.html.

Monday, Aug. 7 to Tuesday, Sept. 26

HOPE HOSPICE SUPPORT GROUPS

Hope Hospice's grief support services help adults and youth learn to process these feelings and find ways to move forward in a positive direction. The services are offered at no charge to the local community, even if your loved one was not on the hospice service. Hope's grief support services are free of charge, but registration in advance is suggested by phone at 925-829-8770 on weekdays, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. A brief assessment is required. Support groups are currently being conducted online by Zoom video conference. Services for young children are temporarily paused until in-person group gatherings can be resumed. General Grief runs from Aug. 7 to Sept. 25, on Mondays from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Spousal and Partner Loss runs from Aug. 8 to Sept. 26, on Tuesdays from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Single-Day Class takes place on Monday, July 10, from 2 to 3 p.m. Introduction to Grief and Loss is a short program open to both the bereaved and friends of a grieving person who want to learn about the grief process. Loss of a Child support group runs from Aug. 8 to Sept. 26, on Tuesdays from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Teens Group attendees are asked to call for dates. These groups are offered once per quarter. For those who cannot make these dates, call 925) 829-8770 to be placed on the interest list for the following quarter.

Thursday, August 10

AMADOR VALLEY LIONS CLUB'S PIZZA, PASTA, WINE AND TRIVIA EVENT

The Amador Valley Lions Club is hosting a fundraising trivia event at 6 p.m., at the Dante Robere Winery, in Livermore. Join in with adult friends and family members for teams comprising of no more than six adults. The event will feature a pasta and pizza buffet, trivia contest, silent auction, and a heads and tails raffle. The cost for this event is \$150 per couple, which includes a buffet from Melo's Pizza in Livermore and one bottle of Dante Robere wine per couple. Proceeds from this event will benefit local nonprofit charities located and serving the Tri-Valley area. For reservations and information, 925-968-4800.

Thursday, Aug. 10

LIVERMORE PUBLIC LIBRARY PRESENTS

ARMCHAIR TRAVELERS: BIRDING IN PANAMA

Armchair Travelers will take place at 1:30 p.m. in the Civic Center Library Storytime Room, 1188 S. Livermore Ave. Dave Yeaman will present a slideshow entitled "Birding in Panama." Yeaman will share stories of his recent trip to Panama and show 100 photos of the incredible birds and animals he saw there. Registration is not necessary to attend this free program.

Saturday, Aug. 19 and 26, and Sunday, Aug. 20 and 27

BRIGHT STAR

Castro Valley Arts Foundation is happy to partner with TMC Arts to bring Bright Star to Castro Valley. Bright Star, set in the 1920s and 1940s, tells a sweeping tale of love and redemption. Inspired by a true story and featuring the Tony-nominated score by Steve Martin and Edie Brickell, the Bluegrass music soars. Performances are at Castro Valley Center for the Arts, 19501 Redwood Road, in Castro Valley. Saturday performances take place at 7:30 p.m., and Sunday performances at 2 p.m. For tickets, visit cvartsfoundation.org/shows.

Saturday, Aug. 19 to Oct. 6

JOYFUL CANVAS SHOW

Together with the John Muir Auxiliary and the Livermore Art Association present Joyful Canvas, a juried show open to all. Art will be on show at the gallery at John Muir Health Auxiliary, Aspen Gallery, Walnut Creek. For more information or to register, visit livermoreartassociation.org. Participants are asked to register by Aug. 1.

Sunday, Aug. 20

ART IN THE PARK

Art in the Park takes places from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., at Carnegie Park, 2155 Third St., in Livermore. Registration and information are available at livermoreartassociation.org. Attendees are asked to register by Aug. 12. For more information, contact Peggy Kervin at gallery@livermoreart.org.

Saturday, Sept. 16

AMADOR CLASS OF '73 REUNION

Amador's Class of '73 will celebrate their 50th reunion from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., at the Amador Recreation Center, behind the Aquatic Center, at 4333 Black Ave., in Pleasanton. There will be an all-you-can-eat authentic taco-bar picnic, games, music and more. Cost is \$55 per person via Venmo to [lordidavis](https://venmo.com/lordidavis), or write and mail checks to Lori Pavich ~ '73 Reunion, 640 Ruth Way, Livermore, CA, 94550. Include maiden name and guest's name if applicable. This event is limited to classmates only and one guest per classmate. For more information, contact Lori Davis Pavich at lpavich@aol.com; Maureen Morley at mbmcllover@aol.com; or Monica Mitchell at Monsub@yahoo.com.

Saturday, Sept. 16

TRI-VALLEY WRITERS CHAPTER OF THE CALIFORNIA WRITERS CLUB

A. L. Kucherenko will present "Crotches, Crucks, and Crutches" at the Tri-Valley Writers meeting. Learn how to entice readers to linger in your fictional world with your imaginary characters. Kucherenko will use examples from her work to illustrate the delicate balance between authenticity and accuracy and how character and reader worldviews mesh to create an environment for her characters that her readers embrace. At 2 p.m., the Tri-Valley Writers will meet in room 2470 at Las Positas College, 3000 Campus Hill Drive, in Livermore. Check-in begins at 1:30 p.m. To RSVP, email treasurer@trivalleywriters.org by Sept. 14, then register at trivalleywriters.org/speaker-meeting-registration-and-payment. Price for CWC adult members is \$10; for nonmembers is \$12; for CWC student members ages 14 to 22 is \$5; and for student nonmembers is \$8.

Tuesday, Sept. 21 and Tuesday, Sept. 28

CACTUS CORNERS SQUARE-DANCING LESSONS

Cactus Corners is a local nonprofit offering free square-dancing lessons on Sept. 21 and 28 to new dancers. Then, they continue with learning new steps through the rest of the year. Anyone age 8 and up is invited to this great activity for the entire family, where they can have fun and make new friends. The meets take place from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at 2253 5th St., in Livermore. For more information or to be placed on the class notification list, email mmiller1435@gmail.com or call 925-447-6980.

ONGOING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

TOPSCIENCE

TOPScience is a group that partners with elementary school science teachers to enhance learning for both students and teachers. It is an opportunity to pass on skills and knowledge while having fun and contributing to schools in Livermore. For more information or to volunteer, contact Art Krakowsky at artkr@sbcglobal.net or 925-455-0486.

ONGOING WEEKLY EVENTS

PLEASANTON FARMERS MARKET

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.

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

The Unitarian Universalist Church is welcoming to all. Join in on Sundays at 10:30 a.m. for music, singing, and conversation. The church is located at 1893 North Vasco Road, Livermore CA 94551. For more information, visit uucil.org.

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

OBITUARIES

Herlinda Orozco

Feb. 7, 1937 – July 16, 2023

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of our beloved mother and matriarch of the Orozco family. Herlinda was born in Los Angeles, California but her family was originally from Tepetitlan, Jalisco Mexico. At six months old, her family bought a dairy farm in Durango, Mexico where she lived and worked until she married our father at 23.

In 1960 she married the love of her life Luis G. Orozco who passed away in 2020. The newlyweds made their way to Fremont, California where they raised their five children; Luis Jr, Maricela, Jesus, Carlos and Nancy. In 1984, our parents, along with their now adult children opened our first Casa Orozco Mexican restaurant in Dublin, California and two years later another one in Livermore.

In 1990 the family moved to Livermore in order to be closer to our businesses. Tita, as she was affectionately known by her ten grandchildren, was so appreciative of all the support that the community has given our family businesses throughout the years and always viewed our



guests and staff as part of her 'Familia.' Tita loved the Tri Valley area; the rolling hills, lush vineyards and welcoming people.

Our mother was surrounded by all of her children, grandchildren and in-laws when she passed, just as she would have wanted because she was all about her family.

Herlinda leaves behind a legacy that was built with a lot of hard work and love.

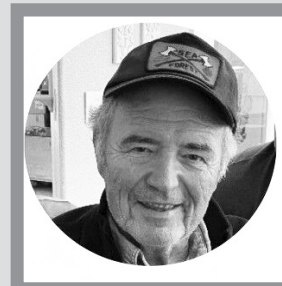
She was extremely proud of her children, grandchildren and our two Casa Orozco restaurants.

She has now joined our father in heaven. May she rest in peace. Descanse en paz mama.

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Eugene Ralph Fisher

Oct. 15, 1940 – July 11, 2023



Sixty-one and a half years I had a wonderful marriage to Gene Fisher. Sixty-one and a half years we lived in Livermore.

Eugene was born on Oct. 15, 1940, to Ralph and Lacassa Fisher in Los Angeles, California. He migrated to Winston, Oregon with his family.

He graduated from Douglas High School in Winston, Oregon. He attended Oregon State and graduated from OTI in Klamath Falls.

I first met Gene at the A&W Root Beer in Roseburg, Oregon. He was a handsome, polite, kind man. We married on Jan. 27, 1962, and honeymooned on the road to Livermore.

We were blessed with our son Randolph in 1964. Randy married Jeanne Motta who gave us two grandchildren, Amanda and Eric. Amanda married James Reks and they have two children, Autumn (3) and Lily (1).

In 1966 we greeted our fantastic daughter Christine. She married Mark Belmessieri and they had two girls, Ashley (20) and Audrey (17).

Over the years, my husband and I welcomed many others into our family circle. Nita Ohlhauser and Jeni Thompson became our "daughters." We have loved watching them grow into wonderful strong women with families of their own.

Gene originally worked at the Sandia Labs in Livermore for two years. He then moved to Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) for 28 years. He started as an Electronic Supportive Chemistry Technician and quickly moved into the management ranks. He regularly traveled, gave lectures and talks throughout his career. He was a mentor to many and a great advocate for everyone he worked with.

Gene was a co-author of the "PET/CBM and the IEEE 488 Bus (GPIB)" book. This book can still be found on Amazon!

Gene was also a business owner. He and his associate Stan Nielson owned two computer stores originally called the Educational Computer Exchange which they later named ECX. He also owned apartment complexes in Chico and a Mini storage in Winston, Oregon.

After retiring in 1983, he contracted with Quentin Johnson at MDI - Material Data Instruments where he designed interfaces for his longtime friend to help with his business.

Time was spent each year at Greentrees in Florence, Oregon where fabulous friendships were formed. Gene was involved with the computer club and helped the community there to learn about the latest in technology. He was also a member of Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks.

He was very active with GMC motor home clubs - Western States, Pacific Cruisers, and the 49er's. When Gene purchased his first GMC there was no stopping him. He developed a true passion for these classic motorhomes. He developed web pages and "How To" tips for improvement on these vintage machines. Everything he discovered and learned, he made available for anyone to use. He was always up for a call to give advice or support.

He had numerous hobbies which included building his own computers, Hamm Radio operator, working on electronics, Koi and Koi ponds. He enjoyed commuting to work on his Vespa and later owned a Harley Davidson. He liked all kinds of music, dancing and played a variety of instruments. Every year Gene would make his own Christmas gifts for family and friends, from picture frames to wooden hammers to license plate dustpans. These are true treasures.

Most of all Gene loved being with his family. Camping trips, hiking, backpacking, cruises, or simple family gatherings. He was always in and always had a smile.

Anyone who met Gene knew what an intelligent, generous, great man he was. He is dearly missed, but my heart is full of joy when I think of him. I am so pleased I was able to share my life with him.

The family is having a celebration of life on Aug. 10, 2023, 3 p.m. at the Elks Lodge, 940 Larkspur Drive Livermore, California, 94551. All are welcome.

~ Melissa Fisher

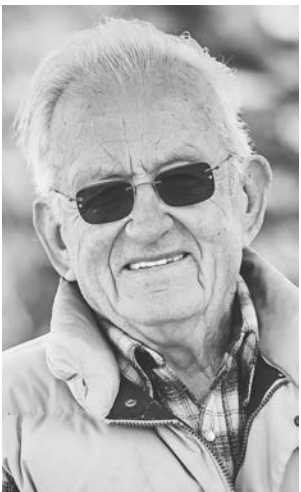
OBITUARIES

Charles F. Crohare
April 22, 1932 – July 16, 2023
Livermore, California



Charles F. Crohare, 91, of Livermore, California, died on July 16, 2023, following a short battle with cancer. He passed peacefully at home surrounded by family on his beloved property in South Livermore. He is preceded in death by his wife, Alice, and his parents Charles D. Crohare and Eleanor Martin (Berg). He is survived by his daughter Alyce (Henry) Englehardt and son Charles T. (Patty) Crohare; grandchildren Adam (Victoria) Englehardt, Lauren (Mike) Jennings, and Brandon (Travis) Crohare; step grandchildren Fallon Groth and Cortney (Kevin) Brazil; great-grandchildren Haley, Carly, Charlotte, Jack, and Mason; and step great-grandchildren Hudson and Madison.

With deep roots in the Livermore Valley, Charles oversaw the Tri-Valley's largest olive operation,



Olivina, for 71 years. Born in 1932, Charles was a third generation Livermore resident, and he inherited the historic property in 1952 following the passing of his father. Featuring historic olive trees dating back to 1882, orchard operations were expanded in 1999, and the Crohare family has produced extra virgin olive oil for the past 25 years.

Charles could always be found at Olivina with his trusted dogs by his side (German Shepherds and Border Collies). A friendly face at local farmers markets for two decades, he was a beloved family man and friend whose upbeat spirit and enthusiasm for farming and ranching touched the lives of many. He will be deeply missed.

In lieu of flowers, please send donations to Hope Hospice of Dublin, California.

Joann Felker
Jan. 1, 1956 – June 18, 2023



A Very Brief History
Joann passed away on June 18 from a pulmonary embolism caused by a blood clot in her leg. She passed very quickly home after a family dinner. Many of you know Joann had been responding very well to gene therapies for stage IV lung cancer. Her passing was sudden and not directly related to her lung cancer.

Joann was born on Jan. 1, in Jacksonville Illinois hospital and lived in Virginia, Illinois until 1974. Joann's parents were James Ray Fox and Katherine Ann Toussaint. James taught agriculture for a few years then farmed with his father. Kay taught art until becoming a farmer's wife. Both had master's degrees in agriculture and art respectively.

Joann lived in the country on the farm enjoying the wide-open spaces of rural Illinois. In the family farmhouse, which was ¼ mile through the front pasture to the "oil" road (gravel), she and her siblings could see the bus from a mile away and they frequently had to run to catch it as it came by every school morning. One of her favorite pastimes was spent on the long swing in the front pasture trees enjoying the pleasant warm afternoons and summer breezes. Her upper bedroom window looked out across the broad farmland and the view allowed her to see the flashing lights of the radio towers 30 miles away or the Midwest thunderstorms rolling in. Summer nights allowed for the mystical witnessing of the luminescence from fireflies as far as the eye could see. On those same clear night skies, the stars were unending in the darkness far from city lights.

From the early age of junior high, she began to believe a very personal relationship with God was possible through Jesus as her savior. Her Methodist minister at that time brought a clear picture of the need for forgiveness of sin and reconciliation to God. She began her lifelong walk with Jesus then.

In high school she was one of four valedictorians from her rural graduating class of 42 students. She spent noontimes perfecting her ping pong skills beating out all the boys to remain as

the champion on the table. Rumor has it her youngest son and his friend defeated her ... one time.

She learned to play piano and eventually enjoyed playing hymns, modern choruses, and Christmas carols at home and for a while the organ at church.

Joann got her bachelor's degree in social work from the University of Illinois where she met her husband, Brian, in her freshman year and they dated for the rest of college. Brian and Joann got married in 1979 at Virginia United Methodist Church. Two days later, Brian and Joann moved to Livermore, California after Brian took a job with Livermore Labs where he spent the rest of his career.

Joann also worked at the Lab for four years, but her favorite position was raising her four beloved boys. Not a day goes by that her loved ones are not amazed by the compassion and grace with which she parented and cared for those around her. She made her home a welcoming place and a haven for others. Many will remember her Christmas caramel corn, her disappearing marshmallow brownies and her amazing Midwestern meals.

Joann fully walked with Jesus throughout her life. She showed a clear love of others, studied the Bible to learn more, and shared her knowledge with grace. Joann loved everyone. Over the years, Joann opened her home to many women and a few men for various reasons: financial hardship, marital problems, family problems or simple housing needs. Her home was a magnet for boys, having four boys of her own, tolerating the male mayhem (up to a point) and always having snacks available. Several grown men still claim to be the

fifth Felker boy and each are considered family.

Joann and husband traveled with several close friends to many far and wonderful places. Switzerland, Italy, Scotland, Ireland, New Zealand, Tasmania, Australia, Belize, Guatemala, Croatia, Austria, Germany, Czechia, Kenya, a safari in Masai Mara, and Uganda. Joann also traveled throughout the United States visiting 49 of the 50 states and many National parks.

Close to Joann's heart was the need to care for the children, born and unborn. She had years of pro-life activity and cared for those who were less fortunate. Caring for the children throughout the world she directly supported orphans in Romania and Thailand through Assist International. She traveled to Guatemala to build a home for a single mother of four boys (close to Joann's heart) and provide this mother with a sustaining business. She supported an orphanage in Kasese, Uganda which housed and educated many orphaned by war or by AIDS.

Caring to eliminate the devastating illnesses caused by waterborne diseases she was a longtime supporter of Project 41, <https://p41.org/>, which sets up long lasting filters in underserved communities in Kenya, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia so they gain access to safe water.

Joann is survived by her husband of 44 years, Brian Felker, sons Sean (Melissa), Andrew (Allie), Matthew (Lisa) and Jeffrey, her grandchildren Caleb, Evangeline (Evie), Seth, Boaz (Bo), Saylor, Hudson (Huddie), Octavia (Tavie), and Maximus (Max); her older sister Jana Raymond, younger brother James Mark Fox and younger sister Joyce Patterson. Joann was preceded in death by her parents James and Katherine, and grandson Henry Justice.

She rests in peace. To view a 10 min memorial video, follow this link: <https://www.facebook.com/503642410/videos/166909339711121/>

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

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Judith Arlene Seilhymer
Aug. 6, 1938 – July 13, 2023



Judith "Judy" Arlene (Derbin) Seilhymer, 84, passed away peacefully at home on July 13, 2023, in Goodyear, Arizona, with her husband of 65 years, Donald, at her side.

Judy was born Aug. 6, 1938, in Detroit, Michigan to her beloved parents Charles and Vera (Baz) Derbin. She grew up in Detroit but also lived abroad in Athens, Greece and Paris, France due to her father's service in the Army.

She graduated from American High School in Paris, France and met her future husband Donald Lew Seilhymer in 1956 while he was stationed in Paris as a U.S. Army Military Policeman. They were engaged in 1957 upon his return stateside in Oakland, California and married on May 29, 1958, in San Francisco, California. Not long afterward they purchased a home in Dublin, California in 1960 and raised four children. They moved from Dublin to Goodyear, Arizona in 2021.

Judy had a rewarding career as a secretary and administrative assistant for Southern Pacific Railroad and Pacific Motor Trucking, in addition to working for a time with General Motors and Chevron Oil. She retired in 2000.

She was active in the Dublin community through Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Junior Achievement, Little League Baseball as a scorekeeper, and served for many years as a prominent member of The Friends of the Dublin Library. She was an avid bowler at Earl Anthony's Dublin Bowl from the 1970s through the 1990s and enjoyed participation in Bridge and Mahjong clubs.

She was a skilled seamstress who made many Halloween costumes and other clothing for family and friends. She was also an exceptional cake baker and decorator who created beautiful, elaborate cakes for many weddings and birthdays. She was always giving of her time and energy, and her home on Cavalier Lane was always open for the neighborhood kids to hang out, hold mass sleepovers and enjoy epic French toast breakfasts.

In addition to her husband Donald, she is also survived by her four children: Pete Seilhymer and wife Sharon of Buckeye, Arizona, Julie Laughery and husband Gene of Mesa, Arizona, Steve Seilhymer and wife Carol of Bigfork, Montana and James Seilhymer and wife Julie of Sparks Nevada, as well as eight grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren.

There will be a celebration of life on Aug. 6, 2023, in Mesa, Arizona. Donations to the Friends of the Dublin Library would be appreciated.

Carol Brooks Thorsness
April 11, 1946 – May 13, 2023



After a long battle with metastatic melanoma, Carol Brooks Thorsness passed away May 13, 2023, at her home in Livermore, California with her loving family by her side.

A teacher, author, artist, and builder, Carol will be remembered for her kindness, strength, and ability to tackle any project, small or large. She was a loving grandmother, mother, wife, sister, and friend. We will miss her warm smile, practical advice, can-do attitude, and talent for providing the right kind of caring support for any situation.

Carol was born on April 11, 1946, in Seattle, Washington to Violet Isabel "Betty" (Watson) and Frank Brooks. She grew up in Santa Barbara, California before attending Oregon State University where she earned her BA in Psychology. While in college, Carol met her future husband, Charles "Chuck" Thorsness. The two were married after their graduation in 1968. Lifelong friends who provided loving support for one another, they just missed celebrating their 55th wedding anniversary.

Soon after their wedding, Carol and Chuck moved to Houston, Texas where Carol taught elementary school. In 1969 they moved to Champaign-Urbana, Illinois for Chuck to attend graduate school, and Carol continued to teach. In March 1973, they had their first son, Adam Thorsness. Later that year, with their baby in the backseat, Chuck and Carol drove across the country to Livermore, California where Chuck took a position at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. They had their second son, Jeremy Thorsness, in November 1974. The family continued to live in Livermore, moving from the Springtown area to Windsor Way before settling into their current home on Orion Court in the late 1970s.

Carol earned a master's degree in special education at California State University at Hayward (now CSU East Bay) while raising two sons born just 18 months apart. She went on to apply this expertise, paired with her teaching credentials in both elementary and middle school education, through-

Lives in the Woods"; and "You Can't Always Get What You Want", a novel for young adults. She gardened, painted colorful murals, and created quilts for friends and family.

Carol loved to play cards with her friends and granddaughters. She could often be found playing canasta or bridge, and she competed in the North American Bridge Championships.

Also, an avid home-improver, Carol renovated and tiled at least four bathrooms, two kitchens, and an entire basement for various family members. She painted countless house interiors, and even in the midst of fighting cancer, she rebuilt a patio deck at her house in Livermore just last October.

Over the past several years, Carol and Chuck split their time between Livermore and Kona, Hawai'i. Carol often spoke of Hawai'i as her happy place, where she would snorkel and swim at the Kona pier several mornings a week; play cards with her friends; and enjoy the rolling waves and sunset views from their condo on the beach.

Carol was preceded in death by her parents, Violet Isabel "Betty" Watson and Frank Brooks, and her brother, Glenn Brooks.

She leaves behind many close friends, as well as her husband, Charles Thorsness; sister, Arline Brooks and her family; two sons and daughter-in-laws, Adam Thorsness (Ashley Simons) and Jeremy Thorsness (Tina Wistrom); and four granddaughters, Evelyn Thorsness, Isabel Thorsness, Sierra Simons Thorsness, and Charly Thorsness Simons, who will forever miss their Tu-tu.

In lieu of flowers, we ask that friends take on (and finish – in Carol style!) a new home improvement project or other challenge that might feel a little intimidating, plant a new flower garden, or take extra joy in a weekly card game.

Donations in Carol's honor to Kahalu'u Education Center (a coral reef protection and education organization in Kona, HI) or Culinary Angels (a local organization that provides meals for families struggling with cancer) are also appreciated.

Pleasanton Chamber Announces Golf Outing

The Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce will hold its annual golf outing at Callippe Preserve Golf Course on Friday, Sept. 29. The outing is the chamber's primary fundraising event. "We always look forward to our golf tournament because it is such a fun day from start to finish," said Susie Weiss, events and

communications manager for the chamber. "From the putting contest at the beginning to all the theme hole sponsors throughout the day [and] giving away prizes at the end, it's just a fun way to spend the day on a beautiful golf course." The chamber also announced that this year's sponsors include Big O Tires

of Pleasanton, 1st United Credit Union, Insperty HR Solutions, Jersey Mike's Subs, and SafeAmerica Credit Union. The cost is \$300 per golfer, or \$900 for a foursome, and includes an 18-hole scramble, lunch, dinner, and drinks. For more information, go to pleasanton.org.



The Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce will host its annual event at Callippe Preserve Golf Course on Friday, Sept. 29. The fundraiser, seen above at a past event, raises money for local charities. (Photo courtesy of Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce)

Triad Chamber Event Showcases New Open Access Offices at UC Collaboration Center

The Livermore Valley Chamber of Commerce July mixer brought together more than 90 community, business and city and lab officials to the new University of California Collaboration Center, located near Lawrence Livermore National Lab's (LLNL) East Gate Drive.

The triad chamber event, sponsored in conjunction with LLNL and the Livermore Lab Foundation (LLF) showcased the foundation's new open access offices

at the UC Collaboration Center. Featured guests included approximately 18 undergrad and graduate LLF Fellows, who are part of more than 600 summer students working at the Lab this summer from universities across the nation.

Lab Director Kim Budil acknowledged the City of Livermore and the chamber for their strong support, as well as all attendees for their public investment in science. She also highlighted the foundation for

serving "as a bridge to help support and sustain students." "We are delighted to serve as a philanthropic and community partner to the Lab," said Sally Allen, LLF's executive director. "The fellows here today represent the next generation of scientists and engineers who will soon make their mark on the world. We are inspired and believe you will be as well. Our thanks to the Chamber for this event."



From left: Kim Budil, director of Lawrence Livermore National Lab, with Livermore Mayor John Marchand, Sherri Souza, interim director of the Livermore Valley Chamber of Commerce and Sally Allen, executive director of the Livermore Lab Foundation at a recent event at the University of California Collaboration Center in Livermore. (Photo courtesy of Susan Houghton)

Blues-Rock Guitarist Coco Montoya Playing at Almost Famous Wine Company on Aug. 25

Legendary blues-rock guitarist and vocalist Coco Montoya will perform live at the Almost Famous Wine Company in Livermore on Friday, Aug. 25 at 7:30 p.m. His latest Alligator Records release is "Coming in Hot". Taught by the "Master

of the Telecaster," Albert Collins, and schooled for a decade on the road with John Mayall, Montoya has a hard-edged sound and style all his own. On Sept. 1, Montoya will release "Writing on the Wall", his sixth album for Alligator Records and his

first release in four years. Tickets for the event range from \$30-\$75. The Almost Famous Wine Lounge is located at 2271 S. Vasco Road. For additional information, visit www.almostfamouswine.com or call 925-344-5870.



Kickball enthusiasts, above, enjoyed a day of friendly competition during the City of Dublin's Backyard Block Party on Saturday July 22, at Don Biddle Park in Dublin. The event also featured a petting zoo, bounce houses, food trucks and other activities. [See photo gallery at www.independentnews.com/multimedia] (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)

Livermore Soccer Club to Hold Golf, Gala Fundraiser

The Livermore Fusion Soccer Club, which offers competitive and recreational youth soccer programs, will hold its annual Fusion Frenzy Golf Scramble fundraiser at The Course at Wente Vineyards on Arroyo Road in Livermore on Friday, Aug. 18.

The day will begin at 9:30 a.m. with golfers playing four par 3 holes. The 18-hole scramble will then tee off at noon.

The cost to play the par 3 holes is \$50 per twosome. The cost to play in the scramble is \$225 per golfer and includes a box lunch, beverages on the course, awards dinner, and a raffle.

The nonprofit soccer organization will also hold its annual gala, Fusion Night Out, at Murrieta's Well Winery, 3005 Mines Road, Livermore, at 7 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 16.

Proceeds from the gala go to the Fusion Foundation, which provides financial assistance to soccer player families in need, scholarships for graduating

high school seniors, and supports the Top Soccer program for young athletes with disabilities.

Tickets to the gala are \$175 per person and in-

clude dinner and drinks. The Bay Area band Vybe Society will provide entertainment.

For more information, go to fusionsc.org.

A FUNDRAISING EVENT BENEFITING
THE FUSION FOUNDATION

FUSION Night OUT

MURRIETA'S WELL WINERY
FOOD-WINE-MUSIC-RAFFLE

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16 | 6PM-11PM

BOOK YOUR TICKET:
WWW.FUSIONSC.ORG/NIGHTOUT

Tri-Valley Nonprofit Organizations Plan Health Fiesta

Five Tri-Valley nonprofit organizations will host a "health fiesta" at May Nissen Community Park in Livermore from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 12.

In addition to food and entertainment, the Salud Y Sol End of Summer Health Fiesta will include health-focused information and activities, a backpack giveaway for students, and a hands-on rocketry program presented by the Quest Science Center.

The four-hour event is sponsored by the Tri-Valley Nonprofit Alliance, Axis Community Health, City Serve of the Tri-Valley, Tri-Valley Haven, and Open Heart Kitchen under the banner "Livermore Connects," with funding from Alameda County.

Other organizations will also be participating, including CAPE Headstart, Spectrum Community Services, Partners for Change, city of Livermore, and the Tri-Valley Air Quality Community Alliance.

The backpack giveaway is being sponsored by Tri-Valley Haven, which provides services for victims of domestic and sexual

abuse and homelessness. The backpacks and other school supplies will be available at the Tri-Valley Haven booth.

Community members will also have a chance to win a gift certificate by visiting booths and filling out a Health Passport.

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 598961

The following person(s) doing business as: Tri Valley Fiduciary Services, 849 E. Stanley Blvd #183, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Paul Randi, 546 Tyler Ave, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 6/19/2023. Signature of Registrant/s/: Paul Randi, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 26, 2023. Expires June 25, 2028.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 599026

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Drum Innovation LLC, 2. Livermore Drum Circle, 1401 21st St, Ste R, Sacramento, CA 95811 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Drum Innovation LLC, 1401 21st St, Ste R, Sacramento, CA 95811. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 6/26/2023. Signature of Registrant/s/: Philip Didlake, Manager. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 28, 2023. Expires June 27, 2028.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 598412

The following person(s) doing business as: Brooklyn Peddler, 6678 Sierra Lane, Ste A, Dublin, CA 94568 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): TP Breaker, LLC, 6678 Sierra Lane, Ste A, Dublin CA 94568. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 12/1/2013. Signature of Registrant/s/: Philip Didlake, Manager. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 28, 2023. Expires June 27, 2028.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 598447

The following person(s) doing business as: Breakaway Summer Camps, 1671 Frankfurt Way Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Thomas Fletcher, 1101 Farmington Way, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Thomas Fletcher. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 6, 2023. Expires June 5, 2028.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 599059

The following person(s) doing business as: Cith Soap, 750 Daisyfield Dr., Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Cierra Dragonetti, 750 Daisyfield Dr., Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Cierra Dragonetti. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 29, 2023. Expires June 28, 2028.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 598230

The following person(s) doing business as: Bookink Services, 34588 11th St #203, Union City, CA 94587 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Taylor Wyatt, 34588 11th St #203, Union City, CA 94587. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 5/25/2023. Signature of Registrant/s/: Taylor Wyatt, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on May 25, 2023. Expires May 24, 2028.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 599171

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Esencia Gemela, 261 Fennel Way, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Andrew Ismael Urista, 261 Fennel Way Livermore, CA 94551; Ana Reynoso, 261 Fennel Way Livermore, CA 94551; Jullian Alexander Urista, 261 Fennel Way, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by a Joint Venture. The date on

Thomas Fletcher. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 6, 2023. Expires June 5, 2028.

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME ORIGINAL FILE NO. 589251

The person(s) listed below have abandoned the use of the following fictitious business name(s): 1. Rhythmic Innovation LLC; 2. Drum Innovation; 3. Livermore Drum Circle, 3073 Taliga Dr., CA 94550. The fictitious business name statement was filed on 5/20/2022 in the County of Alameda. This business was conducted by a Limited Liability Company. Signature of Registrants: /s/ Philip Didlake, Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 28, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 599059

The following person(s) doing business as: Cith Soap, 750 Daisyfield Dr., Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Cierra Dragonetti, 750 Daisyfield Dr., Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Cierra Dragonetti. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 29, 2023. Expires June 28, 2028.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 598230

The following person(s) doing business as: Bookink Services, 34588 11th St #203, Union City, CA 94587 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Taylor Wyatt, 34588 11th St #203, Union City, CA 94587. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 5/25/2023. Signature of Registrant/s/: Taylor Wyatt, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on May 25, 2023. Expires May 24, 2028.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 599171

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which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Ana Reynoso, General Partner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 6, 2023. Expires July 5, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5535. Published July 13, 20, 27, August 3, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 598300

The following person(s) doing business as: Hearth Pottery, 737 59th ST>, Oakland, CA 94609 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Megan Pera Pottery, 737 59th ST, 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: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Megan Pera, Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on May 31, 2023. Expires May 30, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5536. Published July 13, 20, 27, August 3, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 599124

The following person(s) doing business as: Pcooley Entertainment Group, 220 S. Livermore Ave, Unit 2907, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): CHS Legacy Group LLC, 220 S. Livermore, Ave, Unit 2907 Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Paul Cooley, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 3, 2023. Expires July 2, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5537. Published July 13, 20, 27, August 3, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 599149

The following person(s) doing business as: First Edison, 4695 Chabot Dr., Suite 200, Pleasanton, CA 94588 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): 1st Edison, Inc., 4695 Chabot Dr., Suite 200 Pleasanton, CA 94588. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 7/5/2023 Signature of Registrant/s/: Bobby Chaudhuri, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 5, 2023. Expires July 4, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5538. Published July 13, 20, 27, August 3, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 598532

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Lowbrow Studio; 2. Only a King, Clothing, 1561 105th Ave #B, Oakland, CA 94607 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Robert M. Guillory Jr., 360 Saddlehorn Dr., Pittsburg, CA 94565. 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 M. Guillory Jr., Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 8, 2023. Expires June 7, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5539. Published July 13, 20, 27, August 3, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 599113

The following person(s) doing business as: Techgenius, 3100 Finnian Way Apt 482, Dublin, CA 94568 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Ramy Fekry, 3100 Finnian Way Apt 482, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Ramy Fekry, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 3, 2023. Expires July 2, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5540. Published July 13, 20, 27, August 3, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 599118

The following person(s) doing

business as: Boba Nation, 1 Stoneridge Mall, Pleasanton, CA 94583 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Baltej Sra, 2626 Yerba Vista Court, Sann Jose, CA 95121. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 4/10/2023. Signature of Registrant/s/: Baltej Sra, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 3, 2023. Expires July 2, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5541. Published July 13, 20, 27, August 3, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 599013

The following person(s) doing business as: Feasible, 437 Kentucky Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94707 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Hamid Tehrani, 437 Kentucky Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94707. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 6/27/2023. Signature of Registrant/s/: Hamid Tehrani, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 28, 2023. Expires June 27, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5542. Published July 13, 20, 27, August 3, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 599038

The following person(s) doing business as: Wick Enterprise, LLC, 628 Woodmont Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94708 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Wick Enterprise, LLC, 625 Woodmont Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94708. This business is conducted by a Limited Partnership Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 12/16/2013. Signature of Registrant/s/: Dr. Donald Herbert Toomer, Principal. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 29, 2028. Expires June 28, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5543. Published July 13, 20, 27, August 3, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 599022

The following person(s) doing business as: Roast3d, 1255 Spring Valley CMN, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Poliart LLC, 1255 Spring Valley CMN, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 5/29/23. Signature of Registrant/s/: Dino Mesanovic, Manager. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 28, 2023. Expires June 27, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5544. Published July 13, 20, 27, August 3, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 598443

The following person(s) doing business as: Sweet Maui's Shave Ice, 516 Ontario Dr., Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Stephanie Kucek, 516 Ontario Dr., 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: 5/29/2023. Signature of Registrant/s/: Stephanie Kucek, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 6, 2023. Expires June 4, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5545. Published July 13, 20, 27, August 3, 2023.

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF

HÉLÈNE BOVET HANNEKEN CASE NO. RP23144367

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of: **HÉLÈNE BOVET HANNEKEN** aka **HÉLÈNE BOVET OLDS**. A Petition for Probate has been filed by **CHRIS HANNEKEN & RENÉE HANNEKEN** in the Superior Court of California, County of Alameda. The Petition for Probate requests that **CHRIS HANNEKEN & RENÉE HANNEKEN** be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. The Petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority. A hearing on the petition will be held in this court on **July 31, 2023 at 9:45 A.M. in Probate Dept. 201 located at 2120 Martin Luther King, Jr. Way, Berkeley, CA 94704.** If you object to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney. If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law. You may examine the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

Attorney for Petitioner: REID H. HARADA,

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 599161

The following person(s) doing business as: Strategic Automotive Partners, 8040 Mtn. View Dr., Unit# A, Pleasanton, CA 94588 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): John, J. Schiavo Jr., 8040 Mtn. View Dr., Unit# A, Pleasanton, CA 94588. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: John J. Schiavo Jr., President, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 5, 2023. Expires July 4, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5549. Published July 20, 27, August 3, 10 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 599294

The following person(s) doing business as: The Stone Queens, 648 Division Street, Pleasanton, CA 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Yvette Helmers, 648 Division Street, 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/: Yvette Helmers, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 12, 2023. Expires July 11, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5550. Published July 20, 27, August 3, 10 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 599268

The following person(s) doing business as: Agave Uptown, 2135 Franklin ST., Oakland, CA 94612 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Kely R. Bautista Lopez, 332 Chester St., 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/: Kely R. Bautista Lopez, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 11, 2023. Expires July 10, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5551. Published July 20, 27, August 3, 10 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 599135

The following person(s) doing business as: The Golden State Research Company, 2025 Dahlia CMN, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Vladimir Kozin, 2025 Dahlia CMN, 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: 7/3/2018. Signature of Registrant/s/: Vladimir Kozin, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 5, 2023. Expires July 4, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5552. Published July 20, 27, August 3, 10 2023.

The following person(s) doing business as: Bodhi Montessori, 1320 Carlton Place, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Bodhi Montessori, 1320 Carlton Place, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 4/15/2021. Signature of Registrant/s/: Varshini Kannan, Director. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 11, 2023. Expires July 10, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5555. Published July 20, 27, August 3, 10 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 599256

The following person(s) doing business as: Bodhi Montessori, 1320 Carlton Place, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Bodhi Montessori, 1320 Carlton Place, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 4/15/2021. Signature of Registrant/s/: Varshini Kannan, Director. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 11, 2023. Expires July 10, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5555. Published July 20, 27, August 3, 10 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 599135

The following person(s) doing business as: Myers Custom Woodworking Unlimited, 318 D Street, Fremont, CA 94536 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Chris Myers, 318 D Street, Fremont, CA 94536. 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: 7/3/2018. Signature of Registrant/s/: Vladimir Kozin, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 5, 2023. Expires July 4, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5552. Published July 20, 27, August 3, 10 2023.

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME ORIGINAL FILE NO. 590277

The person(s) listed below have abandoned the use of the following fictitious business name(s): 1. Rhythmic Innovation LLC; 2. Drum Innovation; 3. Livermore Drum Circle, 3073 Talinga Dr., CA 94550. The fictitious business name statement was filed on July 8, 2023 in the County of Alameda. This business was conducted by a Limited Liability Company. Signature of Registrant/s/: Jennifer Madrigal, Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 13, 2023. The Independent, Legal No. 5553. Published July 20, 27, August 3, 10 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 599161

The following person(s) doing business as: Pacific Construction, 871 Del Norte Drive, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Jared Vick, 871 Del Norte Drive, 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: 2/8/2023. Signature of Registrant/s/: Ana Soto, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 10, 2023. Expires July 9, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5557. Published July 27, August 3, 10, 17, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 599442

The following person(s) doing business as: Johnny's Handy-

man Service, 4604 Kimberley COMM, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Jonathan Mora, 4604 Kimberley COMM, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Jonathan Mora, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 19, 2023. Expires July 18, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5558. Published July 27, August 3, 10, 17, 2023.

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The Hurricane Band takes the Shea Home Stage in front of the Bankhead Theater on Aug. 1 at 6:45 p.m. for "Tuesday Tunes." Known for their classic Rock, R&B, dance tunes and a touch of country from the past 50 years, The Hurricane Band plays a mix of music from Santana to Tom Petty. Singer Joanie Davis is backed up by guitarists Dave Gamble and Greg Johnston, bassist Corey Norton, and drummer Patrick Alvarez. Shea Homes is the major sponsor with additional funding from Fremont Bank, Uncle Credit Union, Uncle Yu's at the Vineyard, and The Independent. (Photo courtesy of Lynn Seppala)

Livermore Girl Scout Scores Silver Award

Kaitlyn Zoerhoff, of Girl Scout Troop 33428, earned her Silver Award by helping Leo Croce Elementary School in Livermore, CA. The Girl Scout Silver Award requires 50 hours of community service where they develop a plan for a project and implement it. Kaitlyn worked with Prin-

icipal Angelo at Leo Croce Elementary and came up with a design for an exercise path for the preschool there that the preschoolers could use without having to worry about having equipment and that looked inviting and fun for the younger students. She designed the exercise path, created the stencils to

create the path, and worked hard painting everything so that it looked professional and beautiful. The students have loved hopping, skipping, and running on the new exercise path during their recess, which will help them with their motor skills, spatial awareness, and social skills.



Kaitlyn Zoerhoff, above, of Livermore Girl Scout Troop 33428, has earned her Silver Award by volunteering 50 community service hours to Leo Croce Elementary School in Livermore. (Photo courtesy of Kaitlyn Zoerhoff)

Former Mayor to Discuss Russian Sister City

Former Mayor Cathie Brown will present a program about Livermore's Russian sister city, Snezhinsk, at the Civic Center Library, 1188 S. Livermore Ave., on Sunday, Aug. 20.

is home to a major nuclear weapons research laboratory.

The existence of the city, known as Chelyabinsk-70, and laboratory were kept secret from its founding in

Livermore incorporated Snezhinsk as part of its Sister City Program in 1998.

Brown's presentation, "From Livermore to Snezhinsk, Our Russian Sister City," is part of the history lecture series, "Then & Now: Livermore Stories," sponsored by the Livermore Public Library and the Livermore Heritage Guild.

The program is free and begins at 2 p.m.

Livermore's Sister City relationship with Snezhinsk is sponsored by the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. Last year, the Livermore City Council sent a letter to Snezhinsk asking the city to oppose the Russian war against Ukraine.

Livermore also has Sister City relationships with Quetzaltenango, Guatemala, and Yotsukaido, Japan.



Located in the Ural Mountains, which form a natural boundary between Europe and Asia, Snezhinsk

1957 until after the Cold War in 1991, when it was renamed. Snezhinsk is translated as Snow City.

WATER

(Continued from first page)

cision on Sept. 19.

While Balch supported a rate increase in general, he questioned the city's ability to forecast funding needs past the current year, given the city's Water Supply Alternatives study currently underway and expected to be completed in September. "If we don't know what years two and three are because we haven't chosen the water alternative, can we look at what we need to do for year one now, and really look at trying to sharpen the pencil?" asked Balch.

Last November, the city decided not to use its 3,500-acre-foot groundwater allotment due to fore- ever-chemical contamination in the area's aquifer and the city's inability to treat the water. The city instead currently buys all of its water from the regional water supplier, the Zone 7 Water Agency, which enjoys a wider selection of water sources, such as snowmelt through the State Water Project.

But the city intends for the Zone 7 purchases to only serve as a temporary stopgap, and its Water Alternatives Study will present options for a more permanent solution to make up for the missing 3,500-acre feet of water — about 20% of the city's supply.

Balch also argued that the specifics around a \$6 million capital-improvement loan, which the city plans to take out next year, could significantly alter the bottom-line burden on ratepayers.

While the water-rate study, prepared by local government and utility management consultants Raftelis, assumes a 5% interest rate over a five-year repayment period on the open market for the loan, Director of Finance Susan Hsieh said that internal bor-

rowing — at a 1.4% interest rate — was also an option.

A loan repaid over 10 or 15 years at the lower rate, reasoned Balch, could lessen the increase seen by ratepayers.

Staff responded that the loan details could be decided later.

Other councilmembers reluctantly agreed that the state of the water enterprise fund, which will turn negative in 2025 given no action, necessitated the large increases.

"I get the impact (of) the increase," said Councilmember Valerie Arkin. "I do think the recommendation is justified, but internally, I am still struggling a little bit with it, and I understand the impact."

Beaudin stressed the

need to bring the fund back to "the starting line" and avoid insolvency.

"This is not a great position for all of us to be in tonight, but there's a rip-the-Band-Aid-off approach here that really does truly reset our water program and puts us on a totally different path than we're on currently," he continued.

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