

Airport Policy Comments Close April 24

By David Jen

LIVERMORE — The difficulties involved with moving development projects forward at Livermore Municipal Airport occupied most of the Airport Commission’s discussion at its March 6 meeting, when Airport Manager Michael Musca presented the airport’s new development policy.

The policy, later described by City Manager Marianna Marysheva as the airport’s first comprehensive airport development policy, opened for public comment on March 6, along with a revised hangar waitlist policy. Both policies will accept written comments until April 24.

The development policy intends to improve how the city evaluates airport development proposals, while the waitlist policy intends to better align Livermore’s practices with industry standards for those waiting for aircraft hangar space, according to a report prepared by Musca.

While nothing requires that the city adopt the two policies together, “Both policies are being presented at the same time because both policies affect airport tenants, whether current tenants, (See AIRPORT, page 7)

Annual Tri-Valley Mayors’ Summit Addresses Local Goals and Needs

REGIONAL — Tri-Valley leaders recently held a town forum to discuss such topics as the state of the cities and how government can work with local nonprofits to better meet community needs.

Tri-Valley Nonprofit Alliance and Sandia National Laboratories hosted “A Conversation with Tri-Valley Mayors,” which was held on March 9 at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore.

Participating officials were Dublin Mayor Melissa Hernandez, Livermore Mayor John Marchand, Pleasanton Mayor Karla Brown, Danville Mayor Robert Storer and San Ramon Vice Mayor Mark Armstrong.

TVNPA Board Chair Marti Sutton led the discussion.

“Throughout the pandemic we learned how important nonprofits are,” said Sutton. “They provided food and health care and even entertainment in our own homes. And it reinforced the importance of the relationships between our cities and the nonprofits.”

Prior to the event, each mayor received a list of questions and was allowed to pick which ones they wanted to address. All the mayors spoke of the role of nonprofits within their respective cities, as well as other topics, such as growth, development and key issues facing their cities.

DUBLIN

Hernandez talked about her city’s role in supporting nonprofit organizations.

“I truly believe the nonprofits — whether (addressing) homelessness, domestic violence or food insecurities — they are on the front lines of our community every single day,” said Hernandez. “And this is something we

(See SUMMIT, page 6)



Members of the Dublin Gale’s Color Guard participate in the City of Dublin’s 39th annual St. Patrick’s Day Parade on Saturday, March 18. The event featured more than 80 entries, including bands and floats, Irish bagpipers, local dance troupes and equestrians. [See photo gallery at www.independentnews.com/multimedia] (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)

Supervisors Adopt Changes to Measure D

By Larry Altman

REGIONAL — The Alameda County Board of Supervisors on March 9 formally adopted voter-approved changes to the East County Area Plan (ECAP) that South Livermore Valley winegrowers believe will help to energize their businesses.

The supervisors, with a 3-0 vote, adopted changes that increase the square-footage allowed for agricultural buildings on Large Parcel Agriculture (LPA) sites, making a change to the county’s Measure D that opens the door to entice mid-size winegrowers to the Tri-Valley.

The three supervisors, with Supervisor Keith Carson excused and deceased Supervisor Richard Valle’s seat unfilled, also adopted a new definition for “agricul-

tural building.” The change will enable winegrowers and other farmers to store their agricultural and horticultural products in the larger agricultural buildings now permitted, but not allow

“Measure D 2022 allows for ag to be more beneficial and protected and enhances ag as Measure D originally wanted to do.”

– Supervisor Nate Miley

the buildings to be used for human habitation or social events.

Supervisor Nate Miley noted it took a decade to pass what became known as Measure D 2022 to alter its predecessor, now known as Measure D 2000, a law that protects agricultural

land and open space from development.

“The fact that the voters approved the amendment to Measure D last November was monumental, to have the support of Friends of Livermore (FOL) ... and to recognize that this amendment doesn’t do anything to jeopardize open space and jeopardize the restrictions that we have on growth,” Miley said.

Miley said Measure D 2022 “allows for ag to be more beneficial and protected and enhances ag as Measure D originally wanted to do.”

Besides enabling winegrowers and farmers to erect larger buildings on their land, the Measure D amendments also will allow equestrian enthusiasts to construct larger covered

(See MEASURE D, page 6)

District Considers Shifting Grade School Model

By Dawnmarie Fehr

DUBLIN — The Dublin Unified School District (DUSD) Board of Trustees ratified a contract with the Donovan Group for \$20,000 to conduct a community survey on shifting some of its schools from a transitional kindergarten (TK) through fifth grade model to a TK through sixth grade model.

The move is meant to address overcrowding at Fallon Middle School, said Board President Gabi Blackman. She, along with trustees Dan Cherrier and William Kuo, voted in favor of the motion, which was pulled from the consent calendar by Trustee Kristin Speck for further discussion. Speck and Trustee Kristin Pelham voted

against ratification.

Pelham said she voted against ratification of the contract because she felt the survey could be done internally.

“I wasn’t against a survey, I just felt we didn’t need to hire someone for the survey,” Pelham said. “We will get the information and see what it says and go from there.”

The survey is meant to gauge the community’s opinion on different middle school configurations and whether there is support for the district to move sixth grade from middle schools to elementary schools on some campuses.

The board was first authorized to hire and enter into a contract with the Donovan Group during its January

meeting.

“That authority was assigned to myself as the board president and Trustee Cherrier as the second trustee,” Blackman said. “We are a subcommittee of the board ... ratifying allows the board to accept that we are moving forward with the contract.”

Blackman added there is no presumption of how families in the district feel about moving sixth grade, the board simply wants to ask the question.

A demography report released in February shows Fallon Middle School is beyond its capacity by approximately 500 students. While portable classrooms have been added, Blackman explained, base facilities (See SCHOOL, page 7)

In Livermore

Two Applications Submitted for Rogue Housing Projects

Dublin, Pleasanton Report no ‘Builder’s Remedy’ Proposals

By Larry Altman

REGIONAL — Livermore’s failure to meet the state’s Jan. 31 deadline to submit its mandated Housing Element allowed two developers to file applications for projects that would not have to conform to the city’s zoning and design standards.

Although the Housing Elements for Dublin and Pleasanton also did not meet the Jan. 31 deadline, no developers hoping to take advantage of the cities’ current non-compliance status have filed applications at this time.

The two “rogue” developers — as they’re called — who applied in Livermore cited the Builder’s Remedy. This is the term for a 1990 rarely used law that takes away the local authority to reject affordable housing

projects based on city zoning and design standards, making it easier for developers to construct affordable housing. Out-of-compliance status could make each city susceptible to the Builder’s Remedy law.

Builder’s Remedy requires projects to be completely residential, two-thirds residential with one-third mixed-use, or transitional/supportive housing. It also demands projects to be 20% for lower-income households, or 100% for moderate income.

In a statement to The Independent, City Attorney Jason Alcala wrote that the city staff and legal team are examining the applications.

“Those reviews and research are ongoing, and city staff will continue to work

(See HOUSING, page 6)

City-Run Leadership Program is Launched

PLEASANTON — While the need to develop community leaders served as common ground for councilmembers on March 7, just who would provide the development programs, and in what time frame, split opinions.

The council voted 4-1, with Vice Mayor Jack Balch opposed, to discontinue support to Leadership Pleasanton — a Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce-run program — and to start up a new city-run leadership program that will cover topics complementary to the chamber’s.

The new city-run program will cover government-focused topics, such as city commissions, committees, and how to run for office.

Balch, although supportive of both programs, voted against the motion because he felt the timeline for the city’s program, currently set to launch by spring 2024, was too accelerated.

The council’s decision went against staff’s recommendation to provide Leadership Pleasanton — “designed to share information, build relationships, and develop community leaders,” according to the staff report

— a \$10,000 annual sponsorship for the program over the next two years.

Although the city has sponsored the Chamber of Commerce-run program in the past, it has not provided funds since the COVID-19 pandemic in fiscal year 2020-21.

Despite its benefits, the Chamber program costs the city about \$24,000 per year in staff time, as some city staff use working hours to share city operations with participants, said Assistant City Manager Pamela Ott. It also charges participants \$950 and holds sessions during daytime work hours, barring some residents from joining.

Once started, the city program will be free to residents.

Councilmember Julie Testa recalled a previous decision to put Leadership Pleasanton on pause.

“I think what was said a year and a half to two years ago was that the city should not be putting so much resource into something that costs our residents a thousand dollars,” said Testa.

Still, residents with program experience praised their outcomes.

(See LEADERSHIP, page 7)



An oak tree fell on the historic Lighthouse Baptist Church on Neal and Second streets in Pleasanton during one of the recent wind storms in the Bay Area. The tree landed on a portion of the church that is used as a nursery, but was empty at the time. The rest of the church is untouched and able to be used for services. (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)

PETS OF THE WEEK



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(Photo - Valley Humane Society)

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Esteemed Research Scientist Discusses History and Dangers of Radioactivity

By Jeff Garberson

An eminent research scientist last week called for a better public understanding of radioactivity and its biological effects.

The scientist, Joe Gray, spoke to an online Livermore audience as part of the Livermore Public Library’s public book group program, “Livermore Reads Together.”

The Library’s March program included reading and discussing a best-selling nonfiction book about grossly unsafe radiation handling practices in the years following World War I.

The book, Kate Moore’s *The Radium Girls: The Dark Story of America’s Shining Women*, describes the horrific illnesses and deaths of women who painted ra-

dioactive, glow-in-the-dark radium on watch dials and died because they followed company instructions to keep radium-coated brushes pointed by licking them.

The book represents the central problem as corporate greed interfering with sensible health measures.

Speaking to a Livermore group that was already familiar with the book, Gray’s role was to put a modern scientific perspective on a dark story from a century ago.

He is highly qualified after a distinguished research career examining issues related to radiation exposure, genetics and cancer.

He began work at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in the 1970s and continued at Lawrence Berkeley National Lab, UC-San Francisco and Oregon

Health Sciences University (OHSU) in Portland.

He is a member of the National Academies of Science. He recently served as chair of a National Academies panel that was assembled at the request of Congress to revitalize a quiescent national research program on the health effects of low-dose radiation.

As he pointed out in his online remarks last week to “Livermore Reads,” the dangers of radiation exposure were well enough understood by the end of World War I that knowledgeable scientists could, if asked, have advised strongly against licking radium-covered paint brushes.

“But somehow,” he said, “the public, the media, had portrayed radiation as being good for you.

“If there was better communication between the scientists who were knowledgeable and the public consuming materials, that wouldn’t have happened.”

Radium is chemically similar to calcium, so when workers licked it from the brushes, it became incorporated in their teeth and jaws, irradiating surrounding tissue and causing irreparable medical damage and in some cases death.

Gray said that while radiation safety standards are vastly more protective today, the communication challenge “probably persists.”

“We continue to have a (knowledge) barrier between people who are subject matter experts in some aspect of radiation and members of the com-

munity.”

He wants people making “informed decisions” about the “merits and demerits of radiation exposure.”

Patients facing medical radiation “should certainly ask” whether an exposure is justified, although “by and large the medical community has carefully made the assessment that the gain is far greater than the risk.”

Asked where members of the public can get helpful and scientifically valid information about radiation and its health effects, he recommended the website of a Japanese American organization that studies the consequences of the World War II bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Gray is executive councilor for the organization,

which is called the Radiation Effects Research Foundation. The part of its website dedicated to radiation effects on cells is, https://www.rerf.or.jp/en/about_radiation/

In a subsequent interview, he suggested two other sites for learning about radiation. One is the Environmental Protection Agency’s website, <https://www.epa.gov/radiation>

The other is the website of the National Academies of Sciences committee that he chaired on revitalizing U.S. low dose radiation research, <https://nap.nationalacademies.org/catalog/26434/leveraging-advances-in-modern-science-to-revitalize-low-dose-radiation-research-in-the-united-states>



Livermore High School students Asmitha Aluri, left and Tyler Forgatsch, right, were recently recognized by the Livermore Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution for their winning essays in the Good Citizen contest. The focus question was: “Our American Heritage and our Responsibility for Preserving it.” Asmitha won first place and Tyler was the second-place winner. (Photo courtesy of the Daughters of the American Revolution)

Artist to Teach Teen Camp on Creating Inflatable Sculptures

Visiting artist Catherine Judge will conduct a camp workshop at the Bothwell Arts Center in Livermore over spring break for teens to design and build a large-scale inflatable sculpture.

Livermore Valley Arts (LVA), which is sponsoring the workshop, said the sculpture, made from plastic sheeting and duct tape and inflated with box fans, would be “large enough to walk through.”

The workshop will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Wednesday, April 5, through Friday, April 7. The sculpture will be unveiled at the Bankhead Plaza, 2400 First St., on Saturday, April 8.

The program is limited to 15 students and open to teens from 13 to 18. The cost is \$300 per student, but LVA said scholarships are available.

LVA said the workshop would “integrate art with earth sciences, social studies, and advanced technologies” and students would be “encouraged to investigate the creative process as it

relates to their life experiences.”

The students will also learn about public art, enhanced model-building skills, and presentation skills, along with gaining a basic understanding of pneumatic principles.

The artist leading the workshop holds a master’s degree in visual studies from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and specializes in programs that “examine the intersection of culture and nature.”

Trained as a traditional painter, Judge now takes a multidisciplinary approach and has taught courses in two-dimensional and three-dimensional art for museums, colleges, and universities in New England. She is a visiting artist for the New Hampshire Council for the Arts and the Massachusetts Cultural Council, and was co-founder of the Central Massachusetts Women’s Caucus for Art.

For more information, call 925-373-6800 or go to livermorearts.org.



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Tri-Valley Artist Studio Tour Showcases a Variety of Local Talent

By Dawnmarie Fehr

The Tri-Valley is widely recognized for its excellent wines, but residents of this suburban haven may be unaware of another talent pool: local artists.

been working tirelessly to create beautiful works of art that they can share with the public.”

Livermore resident Mike D’Amelio is one of over 60 artists taking the opportunity to showcase their work

“There is an incredible community here of artists,” he said. “Super talented, creating a wide range of stuff, and they have something to say ... there’s a real sense of community here and I think something special is brew-

Baker will show his art in his home, along with works by four female artists. Larger groups will show in spaces like the Bothwell Arts Center and the Firehouse Arts Center. Baker said a large space in Dublin has been secured for 30 high school students to showcase their work, as well.

“The whole idea behind the Alliance for the Visual Arts, our mission, is to support the arts in the Tri-Valley,” said Baker. “We bring artists together and create a space for them to show their work ... creators need to be around others who are working on the same media, so we will get together and we will talk and create opportunities for them.”

Baker and his team collaborate with local arts organizations to spread the word, and TVAST has made it free for artists to show their work and for viewers to attend. Funding for marketing and for the event comes from grants and donations. Artist Linda Ryan heads the grant writing committee and said funding an event like this without charging the artists or public is difficult.

“Volunteers handle most of the tasks,” she said. “We really have to get more people to know about the tour and make it a thing. The more people that know about and the more people that come, they bring their friends, they bring their families, and that’s how the word spreads. At first it will feel like a little day out but in a couple years it would be excellent if it was a big turnout to help support the arts in the community.”

Ryan started Livermore’s Art Walk in 2002 and the Bothwell Arts Center in 2006 because she believes supporting arts is beneficial to the local community. Seeing artists at work, she said, can inspire their neighbors to create and promotes the idea that creativity and art are accessible to anyone.

“If you have any interest in doing it yourself, it can really spur you on to help express yourself that way,” she said. “This is a possibility, even if you have a nine to five job. There’s ways to do it without starving, and that kind of life style doesn’t always seem accessible so it’s good to inspire the community and have that conversation.”

Ryan said she didn’t start her art career until the age of 40. She works in acrylic with pouring medium, and mostly creates coastal scenes inspired by her time in Mendocino in an artist in residence program. Her work will be on display at the Bothwell during TVAST.

Baker said he encourages the public to come out and enjoy TVAST. Many of the sites will have refreshment and there will be demonstrations and kids’ activities. A full list of artists, locations, demonstrations and other information will be posted on the TVAST website, along with an interactive GPS map. He said the online catalogue is updated often.

“We an extremely inclusive organization,” Baker said. “Our event is inclusive, and we encourage everyone to bring small children all the way up, every venue is wheel chair accessible and we are opening our arms wide to the public to say, ‘come and look at the art and talk to us about creativity.’ It’s so import to mental health. If you are a creative person, you are a happy person, so everyone is invited to come and learn about creativity.”

TVAST will run from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on May 6 and 7 at various locations. For more information, visit www.allianceforthevisualarts.org.



Livermore resident Mike D’Amelio is one of over 60 artists taking part in the Tri-Valley Artist Studio Tour, May 6-7. The tour brings artists, art and the public together by highlighting hundreds of pieces from a variety of disciplines in locations from Danville to Livermore. (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)

The Alliance for the Visual Arts (AVA) hopes to highlight those artists with a unique event May 6-7 called the Tri-Valley Artist Studio Tour (TVAST). Designed to make the local art scene more accessible to the public, the tour brings artists, art and the public together, showcasing hundreds of pieces from a variety of disciplines in locations from Danville to Livermore.

“This event provides an opportunity for everyone to come out and spend a creative weekend immersed in the world of art,” said TVAST spokesperson Shweta Agrawal. “It’s a chance to discover new artists, see unique artwork and support the local art community. For many months leading up to the event, these talented artists have

during TVAST. D’Amelio’s paintings will be in the Firehouse Arts Center in Pleasanton. A dabbler in mixed media including acrylic and ink, he describes his work as a place where abstract expressionism meets surrealism, with a little dada-ism mixed in.

“I’m one of the different ones in the local scene, my stuff is a little edgier,” D’Amelio said. “It comes from a personal, psychological place, but also focuses on things that are happening around us.”

D’Amelio was a visitor during the first TVAST and will officially participate as an artist this year. He said the event will show art enthusiasts they don’t need to travel to see “cool” art being made.

ing and I feel so honored to be readily accepted. My stuff is a little wild and they love it, because they want people to push the envelope and you just don’t have to go to Oakland to see something really cool, it’s here, right in your backyard.”

TVAST began in November 2021 when AVA President Dennis Baker knew artists needed a reason to get creative after the COVID-19 pandemic had shuttered most of their opportunities. Nearly 60 artists showed their work in 19 venues across the Tri-Valley. This year’s event will be the second TVAST and is shaping up to be even bigger than the first. Venues range from studios and galleries to private homes, where viewers can see art in realistic spaces.

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Blood Donors to Receive \$10 Gift Card

The American Red Cross will be accepting donations at the Pleasanton Blood Donation Center, 5880 W. Las Positas Boulevard, every day the rest of the month, except for Thursday, March 30. Martin Gagliano, regional communications manager, said the blood drive is necessary for the Red Cross to ensure that blood is available for hospitals this spring. Donors who give blood this month will

receive a \$10 Visa gift card. They will also be entered in a drawing to win one of five \$3,000 Visa gift cards. To schedule a blood donation, go to RedCrossBlood.org or call 800-733-2767. Donors must show a donor card, driver's license, or two other forms of identification at check-in. The donation schedule is:

Friday, March 24,
7:45 a.m. to 2:45 p.m.

Saturday, March 25,
7:45 a.m. to 2:45 p.m.

Sunday, March 26,
7:45 a.m. to 2:45 p.m.

Monday, March 27,
11:45 a.m. to 6:45 p.m.

Tuesday, March 28,
11:45 a.m. to 6:45 p.m.

Wednesday, March 29,
11:45 a.m. to 6:45 p.m.

Friday, March 31,
7:45 a.m. to 2:45 p.m.

Dublin Accepting Applications for LEAD Program

Dublin is now accepting applications from students entering seventh grade or higher for this summer’s Leadership, Experience, and Development (LEAD) program.

Teens accepted into the program will receive training in job-related skills,

including resume writing, job search techniques, and interviewing skills for recreation professionals, according to the city. They will also learn how to lead an activity, how to supervise and interact with young campers, and the basics of water, playground, and park

safety.

They will also have an opportunity to assist staff during city-sponsored youth camps and swimming lessons.

To apply, go to tinyurl.com/5n8pm228. Applications are due by Friday, April 21.

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EDITORIAL

Residents Should Get Involved in Tri-Valley Needs Assessment Survey

Now through the end of November, the cities of Dublin, Livermore and Pleasanton will participate in a human services needs assessment. Conducted every 10 years following the U.S. Census, the assessment addresses current Tri-Valley human services gap areas as they pertain to both services and infrastructure.

Human services are described as anything from providing basic needs, such as food and shelter, to offering guidance, counseling and substance abuse treatment to those in need.

According to the National Organization for Human Services, conducting

the assessments every 10 years provides a valuable research tool for identifying the strengths and resources available in a community as its population changes. For instance, what are the areas of growth within the Tri-Valley and how do they impact the services and infrastructure needed?

The Tri-Valley boasts a wide range of organizations that address various aspects of human services, but there is always room for improvement. The Independent urges residents to get involved in this important process by reaching out to their individual city councils, attending sched-

uled informational meetings and offering suggestions for improving, creating or eliminating programs.

Those who would like to be interviewed or participate in a focus group can learn more at the following upcoming city council meetings:

Dublin City Council Meeting - April 4, 2023, at 7 p.m. (100 Civic Plaza, Dublin)

Pleasanton City Council Meeting - April 18, 2023, at 7 p.m. (200 Old Bernal Avenue, Pleasanton)

Livermore City Council Meeting - May 8, 2023, at 7 p.m. (1016 S. Livermore Avenue, Livermore)

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.

5G Small Cells

Glenn Stewart, Livermore

Livermore is on course for developing a dynamic downtown, but I feel the city has not kept pace with today's wireless infrastructure.

The general population is more dependent on their smart phones than ever before.

A smart phone can provide directions to local businesses, restaurants, coffee shops, downtown events, take pictures, play music, engage on social media, advertise, keep track of appointments and contacts, and much more.

Phones are used inside stores and shops, but the experience is less than desirable due to building construction, building heights, and location of surrounding cell towers.

The smartphone experience is frustrating when there's a bad signal or no signal while downtown.

Having a reliable wireless infrastructure network would help to serve the communication needs of residents, first responders, local businesses, weekend visitors, and greatly enhance a user's experience when in downtown Livermore.

It's about implementing 5G small cell technology.

5G small cells are base stations that cater to a small segment of a cell tower cov-

erage area. These small base stations are found in dense areas such as downtowns, stadiums, train stations, and shopping areas.

5G small cells in downtown areas are installed at street level typically on light posts or the side of a building.

We are working on Imagine Livermore 2045... how about Livermore Downtown 5G in 2025?

E-Bike Hostility is Unwarranted

John Ehler, Pleasanton

The March 9 article by Altman/Fehr and your March 16 editorial on E-Bikes, both present many unwarranted concerns (erosion, vibrations, noise, wildlife endangerment, "negative environmental effects", etc.) about the use of E-Bikes on our local trails.

All of these somewhat questionable concerns would be present for any trail that provides access to our natural surroundings. However, it is my opinion that our wonderful Bay Area trail systems provide access to nature in a manner that minimizes the negative impacts associated with the responsible use of these areas.

The concerns listed have more to do with the capacity of our trails to accommodate more use by our citizens. Excluding responsible use by one class of user is unwarranted.

Much like the explosion in popularity of snowboards on ski slopes, E-bikes are providing a new way to enjoy our trails. Responsible use and enjoyment of our trails by hikers, mountain bikers, and E-bikers should be encouraged.

Honor The Golden Rule

Grace Clark, Livermore

GOP Christian Nationalist hardliners flaunt their weakness, cruelty, and staggering ignorance daily - as they stigmatize, demonize, and criminalize people born transgendered. These "tough guys" dissolve into little puddles of fear at the thought of trans people living among them. They scream that trans people are grooming our children, engaging in sin, and making them feel "uncomfortable." Oh, the victimhood! Trans people make us feel icky - we must eradicate them!

Hardliners actually believe the preposterous notion that trans people are mentally ill, and are simply making a "perverted lifestyle choice." With a straight face, they say, "I follow my Judeo-Christian values. People are born either a man or a woman. Transgendered people do not exist."

The problem is that serious responsible medical, psychological and biological scientists have long known that trans people

are born trans. LGBTQIA+ people are part of the natural biological order. It is not a choice, and scientists know that trying to convert trans people to "normal" people is like trying to teach a fish to play baseball.

Nonetheless, hardliners insist on believing that trans people wake up one day and say to themselves, "I think today I would like to risk losing my spouse, my job, my family, my friends, my religious standing, and my life. I want to bankrupt myself by paying for necessary medical care not covered by insurance. I can't wait to be reviled by our society, and surgically neutered. I'm eager to live under countless laws that eradicate my citizenship by denying me my civil rights. I look forward to being the subject of social abuse and hate crimes, while having to justify my existence every day. I want to suffer anxiety, depression, and suicidal ideation. I think I'll choose to become transgendered. That looks like something fun to do." Really?

Prejudice is caused by fear, and fear is caused by ignorance. Please grow up and educate yourself. Spend some time reading the recommendations of actual scientific experts on the websites of the American Medical Association, the American Psychological Association, the American Psychiatric Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, and the Endocrine Society.

Stop murdering trans people with your words and votes. Stop supporting power-hungry, fear-mongering, unethical politicians and clergy. Invite a transgendered person to lunch and let her or him answer your questions. Honor the biblical Golden Rule you claim to revere.

National Ag Day

Karen Sweet, Rancher, Livermore

National Ag Day this week is reason to note that the cattle industry is the second largest agricultural commodity in Alameda County, based on sales and reported in the county Crop Report. Ranching is agriculture, and ranching is the largest land use in the county.

The hills in Alameda County are finally green from the recent rainfall and warm sunny days. These hills are primarily rangeland, defined by science and the State of California as vegetated land where plants are suitable for grazing or foraging animals for some portion of the year. Rangeland in Alameda County, whether privately or publicly owned, is primarily populated with cattle and cared for by cattle ranching. There are nearly 250,000 acres of rangeland in the county, per East Bay Green Print. These are the open spaces viewed from roadways.

"California ranches provide high ecosystem services values because they retain many of the characteristics of California's historical landscape, with largely intact plant and wildlife communities. Ecosystem services, also referred to as nature's benefits, are the goods and services that

ecosystems provide to people and the land." These include environmental quality management, such as clean water and air and biological controls; food, pollination, water and other raw materials; habitat and biodiversity; and cultural benefits such as recreation and aesthetics. California Rangeland Trust (CRT) Ecosystem Service Study

UC Berkeley scientists and CRT in a recent study identified specific values for the ecosystem services provided by rangelands conserved with conservation easements by CRT and managed by ranching. The study included 56 of the ranches conserved by CRT throughout the state, totaling 306,781 acres. Researchers discovered that these ranches together provide up to \$1.44 billion in ecosystem services every year. The peer-reviewed study also found that conservation easements return \$3.47 for every dollar invested to establish them. To learn more: <https://rangelandtrust.org/ecosystem-service-study/>

If we do the math for Alameda County, the 250,000 acres of rangeland managed by ranchers provide nearly \$1 billion in ecosystem services that benefit our region - every year.

If Not Here, Where? If Not Now, When?

Leila Epperson, Asbury UMC member, Livermore resident

As a Filipina American, I am not inclined to put myself front & center in public and social issues. At the height of the COVID19 pandemic, Asians have been assaulted, including elderly Filipina-Americans, such as 65-year-old Vilma Kari. I find myself inspired at the response of Vilma's daughter, Elizabeth, who started an advocacy online community sharing stories against anti-Asian hate "AAP (I Belong). Here is the link: <https://www.theverge.com/2021/5/21/22447553/anti-asian-american-hate-story-aapi-belong>

The opposition to the proposed Tiny Homes community at Asbury UMC, talk about the Homeless as violent and criminal persons. I acknowledge that the experience of some individuals with the homeless may not be benign. However, during the time I volunteered with Partners for Change, a local nonprofit that helps individuals out of poverty into self-sufficiency, I met some of the shelter challenged. Among them are 3 people who really affected me and struck my heart to the core of my psyche. All were female. The 1st is a female veteran, the 2nd an unemployed female bus driver with medical issues, and the 3rd a mother with her son sleeping in their car. Through Partners for Change, other community agencies, churches, and volunteers, these women received assistance. Can we agree that not all unsheltered are bad, and some are deserving of our assistance?

I am disappointed that some of the neighbors of Asbury UMC may lack the understanding and compassion to be supportive of Asbury providing shelter for those in need. My father was born in 1933 during the De-

pression in the Philippines. He suffered through WW2 and survived post-war Manila. He has always welcomed and opened his home to family & friends. Maybe because of his own experience with suffering, he has always offered assistance to those who need it. May we in the Livermore community, who have not experienced this kind of suffering, show kindness and compassion to those who need it. I urge the neighbors of Asbury to allow this church to fulfill its mission "centered in Jesus Christ, to grow in faith, celebrate community, and serve others with love," by working with the Asbury UMC tiny home team.

In Defense of Asbury Church

Greg Scott, Livermore

"Why are the homeless still homeless?" (Joanne Berven, "Is This How We Want Our City to Be Known?", Mailbox, 3/16)

This is a perplexing question on a complex socioeconomic and psychological phenomenon that is a subset of the poverty issue. It is a moral and ethical travesty where "we are in a broader sense all being immiserated by poverty." (Alec MacGillis, "Down and Out in Paradise", The New York Times Book Review, 3/19/2023). The insidiousness of homelessness is included.

"For every complex problem, there's a solution that is simple, neat, and wrong." (H.L. Mencklen).

Most do not want, or seem to need, the imperative of understanding homelessness. "Poverty infringes on American prosperity, making it a barricaded, stingy, frightened kind of affluence." (Matthew Desmond, "Poverty, By America", 2023). Homelessness is a part of these fears.

I in no way discount any individual's, extended and nuclear families', or anyone else's personal safety and protection, or respect for their property. The story of an experience with a homeless man in Laura Sylvan's letter, "Livermore Council, Protect Your Residents" (Mailbox, 3/16), is a tragedy. What I take exception to is Ms. Sylvan's phrasing of her statements.

"While I highly doubt that this man was sent by the church to break into our home or burglarize our belongings," introduces, by Ms. Sylvan - through innuendo, inference, aspersion, and suspicion - that there is some slight possibility that Asbury Church did send the man to do such deeds. This is not possible, nor is there a shred of truth to it. Ms. Sylvan continues, "I do believe that he was brought to my neighborhood due to the homeless outreach services offered by Asbury today." Is there any evidence of this?

Asbury Church's service of good to Livermore and the broader communities, and to its congregation, the hungry, homeless, and others, is exemplary. Asbury Church practices Christian principles, such as the quote in Ms. Berven's letter: "Whatever you do for one of these least brothers of mine, you did it for me." (Matthew 25:40)

Because of the concentration of resources serving the few homeless - like Gover-

nor Newsom's 15% plan - versus the needs of the many homeless, and with consideration of community acrimony, I am opposed to Asbury Church's tiny houses project. Asbury Church tiny houses proponents disagree. None of these arguments casts an insult to the outstanding character and qualities of Asbury Church and its adherents.

California Shiv'rin'

Paul Stone, Dublin

During the windstorm on Pi Day last week, a large area of south Pleasanton where I work lost power for some 18 hours. Schools, apartments, houses, and businesses in the area were affected.

I wondered how the many residents who owned Teslas would fare with no go-juice. We seem to be determined to go all electric. This past week BAAQMD, an unelected group of regulators, banned the sale of natural gas appliances, ovens, furnaces, water heaters, etc.

But what happens when we're all forced to use these things and the electricity goes out at an increasingly frequent rate which seems likely as demand increases and production does not? Shiver and starve, I guess.

God furnished this planet with centuries worth of abundant fossil fuels that are increasingly burned cleanly and efficiently thus providing relatively inexpensive energy for us and developing nations. He must just shake His head at how foolish we are to be shutting down what He has provided for our good.

Do we think China, India, Russia etc. are going to follow suit and cut back their fossil fuel usage and production because California is so woke? Seriously?

How many trillions of dollars are being wasted on the green energy schemes that end up enriching fat cats like Al Gore. And billions of those trillions are going to Communist China to export their Uyghur slave labor solar panels to us.

When your electricity goes out in the future and you have no heat, nor ability to cook, nor charge your car, nor take a hot shower, don't even think about getting a portable generator--our governor has banned them as of 2028.

"Hey, Maude, brrr, it's cold--turn on the heat will ya?" "No can do, Claude, power's out again." "Well, Maude, let's light a fire then." "Can't Claude, this is BAAQMD's 46th consecutive no burn day." "Then come here and give me a hug to keep me warm, Maude." "Nope, Claude, we haven't showered for 10 days--no hot water. Strike three." "Ya mean I'm out, Maude?" "Yep, out in the cold, Claude." "Maude, how about this: we move to Florida?" "Deal, Claude."

BART R.I.P.?

Dennis Vied, Livermore

Last week's article on the early resignation of the BART IG highlighted, once again, the disaster that is our bay area rail transit system. It is obvious that BART cannot govern itself despite the enormous bureaucracy it encompasses. Have you ridden BART lately? The

(See MAILBOX, page 5)

THE Independent

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Livermore Police Accepting Applications for Summer Youth Academy

The Livermore Police Department is accepting applications for its summer Police Youth Academy, a two-week program for Livermore teens to meet the officers who serve the city and learn about policing as patrol, dispatch, crime scene investigations, and other police procedures. The program will run from Monday, June 19, to Thursday, June 29, and is open to Livermore residents from 13 to 17. For more information, contact Officer Rich Hill, rhill@livermoreca.gov e information, contact Nathan Brumley at 925-373-5572 or njbrumley@livermoreca.gov.

Pleasanton Seeks Resident Input on City Budget

Pleasanton is asking residents to take a short online survey as it prepares to develop a two-year budget plan for fiscal years 2023 to 2025.

The survey is available at surveymonkey.com/r/pleasanton_budget.

The city will also hold a virtual community budget meeting from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, March

30. To RSVP for the online meeting, go to tinyurl.com/b9t4pf.

In addition, the city will have a table at the Pleasanton Farmers' Market, 46 W. Angela St., from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, April 15, and Saturday, April 22, for residents to learn more about the budgeting process and provide feedback.

The budget will guide

how the city spends taxpayer money, based on operational needs, strategic goals, and the values and priorities of the City Council and the community.

Pleasanton is also transitioning from a two-year work plan to a five-year strategic planning process to identify longer-term goals and priorities for the city.

Tri-Valley Conducting Service Needs Assessment

Dublin, Livermore, and Pleasanton are conducting a human-services needs assessment for the Tri-Valley and are inviting input from residents.

The assessment will determine which services are already provided in the community and what gaps need to be filled. It will look at who lives and works in the Tri-Valley, what their human-services needs are, how businesses and nonprofit organizations work together to meet those needs, and how growth has affected the infrastructure and the delivery of ser-

vices.

The Eastern Alameda Human Services Needs Assessment was last updated in 2011.

Residents who work for nonprofit or faith-based organizations can get involved in the assessment by going to tinyurl.com/3z-bjjd2s and signing up to participate in two-hour focus groups.

In addition, the cities are also in the process of forming an Eastern Alameda Power and Action Committee (EAPAC), which will assist in the qualitative data collection and analysis.

Members of the committee will be paid up to \$780 for approximately 15 hours between now and October.

Residents can apply to serve on the committee by going to tinyurl.com/bp5n64vw.

The cities have hired JSI Research & Training Institute to serve as consultant on the project.

Each of the cities will also discuss the needs assessment at upcoming city council meetings: Dublin on Tuesday, April 4; Pleasanton on Tuesday, April 18; and Livermore on Monday, May 8.

MAILBOX

(Continued from page 4)

noise levels at the stations which abut the freeway, and on board the cars, would be illegal if they were present anywhere else. The fact that BART is about to run out of money is just icing on the cake. BART problems, in my opinion, are deeply engineered into the system. BART may be ungovernable and may have to be shut down and be completely reorganized before any improvement is realized. Only the active involvement of Bay Area local governments can rectify this situation. Apparently, the people who were interested and capable of making a difference have resigned out of frustration.

Father of Lies Glenn White, Dublin

The Bible never mentions abortion. It says fully formed humans don't live until they breathe (Genesis 2:7, Ezekiel 37:1-10, Job 33:4). Living people breathe until death (Genesis 7:21-22). There are three progressive states for humans: "never been" or non-existence, life, and death (Ecclesiastes 4:1-3). Nonexistence is the unborn state (Job 10:19). Murder cannot be committed against the unborn because they're non-existent, "not been... carried from womb to tomb" as Job 10:19 says, never to live and die (Ecclesiastes 6:3-5). The Bible is creationist, not evolutionist, so life is created with the first breath. John the Baptist is the only unborn living child of God born with Holy Spirit in the womb (Luke 1:15) because he will baptize Jesus. All others must be born again with Holy Spirit to become children of God (John 3:1-22). Jesus says it would be good for Judas to never

be born; to be aborted (Mark 14:21). Some abortions are good, and none are murder.

Jesus calls those who believe him (John 8:31) but continuously spread murderous lies: children of the Devil (John 8:44). Perhaps because some believe life begins at conception rather than the Miracle of Birth, they are conceived again with murderous lies as children of Satan rather than being born again with Holy Spirit as children of God.

These false prophets already injected Satan into our Pledge by adding "under God" to divide our once indivisible nation. That causes Americans to unknowingly pledge allegiance under Satan the Devil, the God of This World (2 Corinthians 4:4), who owns all the World's kingdoms and nations (Matthew 4:8-11) including the USA. By supporting public prayer, they defy Christ (Matthew 6:5-6) to deceitfully coerce people to hypocritically pray to Satan, the god of deceit (Revelation 12:9). Satanically tempting God, some faithlessly lobby Israel to rebuild Solomon's Temple on the Dome of the Rock attempting to initiate The Tribula-

tion where Satan's children fulfill their prophesied role: worshipping a beast spewing the Anti-Christ Lie that forgiveness is unnecessary (Revelation 14:9-11). Children of God view Revelation as a sign. Children of the Devil use it as a guidebook.

This explains why MAGA churches, hypocritically giving Trump mulligans to demonstrate contempt for Jesus' prime teaching against hypocrisy (Luke 12:1), rarely behave like God's children; encouraging hatred, lies, deceit, violence, blasphemy and Tea Party selfishness, which is the real reason God destroyed Sodom (Ezekiel 16:48-50). It's why MAGA must lie.

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Esto es para informar que el Consejo Municipal de Livermore llevará a cabo una audiencia pública en su junta del 24 de abril de 2023 comenzando a las 7:00 p.m. para considerar el asunto que se enumera a continuación:

Audiencia para considerar la primera enmienda sustancial al Plan de Acción del Año Fiscal 2022-23 aprobado por el Departamento de Vivienda y Desarrollo Urbano de los EE. UU. de la Ciudad de Livermore para de Subvención en Bloque de Desarrollo Comunitario (CDBG). El período de comentarios públicos comenzará el 25 de marzo de 2023 y finalizará el 24 de abril de 2023 para solicitar comentarios públicos.

La primera enmienda sustancial al Plan de Acción del Año Fiscal (FY) 2022-23 están disponibles para revisión pública en la página de inicio de Servicios Humanos en el sitio web de la Ciudad de Livermore, www.livermoreca.gov/humanservices, en el Multi Service Center en 3311 Pacific Avenue, de lunes a viernes de 9:00 a.m. a 5:00 p.m., y se puede solicitar por correo electrónico a humanservices@livermoreca.gov.

Consulte la agenda de la reunión del Concejo Municipal del 24 de abril de 2023 para conocer la ubicación y las opciones de participación publicadas la noche del 18 de abril de 2023 en www.livermoreca.gov/agenda o en la Oficina de la Secretaria Municipal, 1052 South Livermore Avenue Livermore, CA 94550.

La Ciudad invita a los comentarios públicos sobre el asunto con los siguientes formatos disponibles:

1. Los comentarios por escrito deben enviarse antes de la junta enviando por e-comment (en el sitio web) hasta las 4:00 p.m., por correo electrónico a cityclerk@livermoreca.gov antes de las 12:00 p.m., o entregándolo al Secretaria Municipal en 1052 S Livermore Ave antes de las 12:00 p.m. del día de la junta.
2. Los comentarios verbales remotos se pueden proporcionar a través de Zoom mediante la aplicación en su dispositivo o llamando por teléfono.
3. Se pueden proporcionar comentarios en persona en la cámara del Civic Center Meeting Hall.

Los comentarios públicos están limitados a 3 minutos; y el Alcalde puede reducir la cantidad de tiempo basado en el número de personas que deseen hablar.

El informe y la recomendación del personal estarán disponibles para su revisión en el paquete de la agenda del Concejo Municipal a partir de la noche del 18 de abril de 2023, que se puede encontrar en el sitio web de la Ciudad de Livermore en www.livermoreca.gov. Si desea una copia de la agenda, comuníquese con la Oficina de la Secretaria Municipal por correo electrónico a cityclerk@livermoreca.gov, por teléfono al (925) 960-4200 o por correo, 1052 South Livermore Avenue Livermore, CA 94550. La información escrita sobre estos puntos de la agenda debe recibirse en la Oficina de la Secretaria Municipal antes de las 5:00 p.m. el 17 de abril de 2023, para ser incluido en el paquete de agenda. Materiales presentados después de las 5:00 p.m. de la fecha límite del lunes se le dará al Concejo Municipal la noche de la junta, siempre que los materiales se reciban en la Oficina de la Secretaria Municipal antes de las 12:00 p.m. el día de la junta del Consejo.

Si impugna estos elementos en el tribunal, es posible que se limite a plantear solo los problemas que usted u otra persona plantearon en la audiencia pública, o en la correspondencia escrita entregada en la audiencia pública o antes de ella. Nota: si estas acciones están sujetas al Código de Procedimiento Civil, Sección 1094.5, y usted elige impugnar estas acciones ante un tribunal, debe buscar una revisión judicial dentro del tiempo especificado en el Código de Procedimiento Civil, Sección 1094.6.

Todas las personas interesadas están invitadas a asistir.

Si alguna persona interesada en participar en la audiencia y es una persona con una discapacidad según se define en la Sección 504 de la Ley de Rehabilitación de 1974 que requiere una adaptación para participar, esa persona puede hacer los arreglos comunicándose con el Coordinador de ADA en adacoordinator@livermoreca.gov o llamando al (925) 960-4170 (voz) o (925) 960-4104 (TDD) al menos tres días hábiles antes de la junta. La Ciudad de Livermore tiene una red de empleados multilingües que pueden actuar como intérpretes para los residentes que buscan información sobre los programas CDBG. Si se notifica con tres días hábiles de anticipación, la Ciudad se encargará de tener un intérprete disponible. Comuníquese con la Ciudad al (925) 960-4590 (voz) o (925) 960-4104 (TDD) o envíe un correo electrónico a humanservices@livermoreca.gov.

Fecha: 16 de marzo de 2023
Publicado: 23 de marzo de 2023

Marie Weber, Secretaria Municipal

LIVERMORE
CALIFORNIA

AVISO PÚBLICO

Esto es para informar que el Consejo Municipal de Livermore llevará a cabo una audiencia pública en su junta del 24 de abril de 2023 comenzando a las 7:00 p.m. para considerar el asunto que se enumera a continuación:

Audiencia para considerar el plan de acción del año fiscal (FY) 2023-24 del Departamento de Vivienda y Desarrollo Urbano de los EE. UU. de la ciudad de Livermore para los programas HOME Investment Partnership y Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), y otros fondos del Programa de Subsidios para Vivienda y Servicios Humanos. El período de comentarios públicos comenzará el 25 de marzo de 2023 y finalizará el 24 de abril de 2023 para solicitar comentarios públicos.

El plan de acción del año fiscal (FY) 2023-24 están disponibles para revisión pública en la página de inicio de Servicios Humanos en el sitio web de la Ciudad de Livermore, www.livermoreca.gov/humanservices, en el Multi Service Center en 3311 Pacific Avenue, de lunes a viernes de 9:00 a.m. a 5:00 p.m., y se puede solicitar por correo electrónico a humanservices@livermoreca.gov.

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Marie Weber, Secretaria Municipal

SUMMIT

(Continued from first page)
learned during COVID. It was all the nonprofits that stuck around ... and the City of Dublin has been proud to provide support through the general fund to provide nonprofits with what they need. We are working in concert with them to ensure they get their needs.”

Hernandez added that funding to support the nonprofits has come from a variety of sources, including state grants, the city’s affordable housing fund and the federal American Rescue Plan.

“It is our job to make nonprofits aware that there is money out there,” said Hernandez. “And I truly feel it is our job as elected officials to not only work side by side with nonprofits, but to work with them to get those grants and that help.”

LIVERMORE

Marchand said Livermore is preparing for some major changes in the future, and the city is looking to ramp up its community engagement.

“There are some big decisions coming up, and we need to have an informed populace,” said Marchand. “We have started things like the

‘Livermore 101’ video series that tells people how the city operates. We have also started rotating town halls as a way to inform the public about what is happening.”

Marchand added that one of the city’s biggest issues is the climate action plan, currently under development.

“It’s a big deal,” he said.

Other items included the specific plan that will provide over 1,000 units of affordable housing to the community, and Valley Link, which could have three or four trains coming in and out of Livermore. “All of this must be done with an informed populace,” he said.

PLEASANTON

Brown said she is also proud of Pleasanton’s involvement when it comes to community support and advocacy.

She explained, “There are many things I am proud of, such as people calling me and saying ‘Hey, we are having an event,’ and I love that. It means that we are open and available.”

Brown commended the regional effort to get residents tested and vaccinated during

the height of the pandemic, thanks to the partnership among the city, the Alameda Fairgrounds, the Alameda County Board of Supervisors and Stanford Health Care and Sutter Health.

“Together, we were able to provide something so much bigger than any of our other cities,” she said.

DANVILLE

In Danville, Storer explained that the state legislature has required a lot of the town, as it has of all cities, and there is some concern about local authority.

“A lot of us feel we are losing some local control,” said Storer. “And so we are educating our community about what is happening. We are also looking at what the needs of the community are post-pandemic. Things that were working in the past just aren’t working now. We want to drive people downtown and make sure that businesses and nonprofits are all working together. Nonprofits are a bridge to helping people that we might not otherwise touch, and we are very proud of that.”

SAN RAMON

Armstrong said the most important items for him was the message of fiscal sustainability and growth.

“In this post-COVID environment, we are really just starting to recover to pre-COVID levels,” said Armstrong. “And unfortunately, the cost of services are going up and that has us concerned that we might be starting to get out of balance. So, one of our challenges is to make sure we are going to be able to keep up with the cost of services in the future. Another challenge is growth. We have requirements from the state to zone and plan for development, and it’s pretty significant. With Chevron gone, although they are still maintaining their headquarters here, there is that large property that is going to be available for someone.”

Armstrong added that the city is working with a development company on a plan that could include 1,200 units of housing.

“We are talking about the area around the Bishop Ranch Center,” he said. “So, that’s a couple of things we are taking a look at.”

Livermore Named as Finalist in IDC Government Insight’s Smart Cities North America Awards

International Data Corporation (IDC) announced the City of Livermore’s Cyber Safe Livermore Initiative as a finalist in IDC Government Insights’ sixth annual Smart Cities North America Awards (SCNAA) in the category of Economic Development, Tourism, Arts, Libraries, Culture, Open Spaces. The awards recognize the progress North American municipalities have made in executing Smart Cities projects, as well as provide a forum for sharing best practices to help accelerate Smart City development in the region.

Finalists in the SCNAA illustrate best practice examples of how forward-thinking municipalities are effectively leveraging technology and innovation to offer new services and economic opportunities and to meet the needs and expectations of community members.

Livermore’s Cyber Safe initiative is dedicated to fostering a secure and inclusive cyber environment within the community. As part of

this effort, the city provides valuable resources for promoting cyber safety, features important messages on its social media and actively participates in national events like Cybersecurity Awareness Month and Data Privacy Week, with the City Council issuing formal proclamations. The city also offers a range of Cyber Safety resources on its website, which are accessible at cybersafe.livermoreca.gov. Additionally, the city provides a complimentary cybersecurity application to community members to help encourage the adoption of best cyber hygiene practices. “This initiative is an important part of the City of Livermore’s mission to create a safe, healthy and welcoming city, and to provide safe, accessible public amenities,” said Livermore Mayor John Marchand.

For additional information or to speak with Ruthbea Yesner, contact Sarah Murray at 781-378-2674 or sarah@attunecommunications.com.

MEASURE D

(Continued from first page)

arenas on their properties for competitions that currently eschew Alameda County for other counties.

Supported by the Friends of Livermore (FOL), Friends of Open Space and Vineyards, the Tri-Valley Conservancy and Livermore Wine Growers Association, the changes made their way slowly through the County’s Agricultural Advisory Committee (AAC), Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors during the last two years before being placed on the Nov. 7, 2022 ballot. Seventy percent of voters across the county approved it.

Specifically, the measure and its required changes to the ECAP will allow winegrowers and farmers to erect agricultural buildings up to 2.5% of their parcel square-footage, in addition to the previous floor area ratio (FAR) of 1% for other non-residential buildings

that remain in place. Tri-Valley winegrowers said the 1% limit under the original Measure D was too small to attract mid-size wine growing businesses to the region.

Equestrian business owners also can now build covered arenas of at least 20,000-square-feet on smaller farms, up to 2.5% of mid-size farms and up to 60,000-square-feet on large farms. Horse ranchers had sought the increased sizes because the original Measure D’s restrictions on building size prevented them from hosting larger equestrian events.

“This will allow Alameda County to be more attractive and competitive when it comes to the ag industry and equestrian industry here in our county,” Miley said. “I’m just so, so thankful that we’re finally to this point.”

The supervisors’ adoption of the voters’ Measure D 2022 action concludes two

intense years of local efforts from the equestrian and wine communities to rewrite the measure and to gain areawide approval of its language.

To get to this point, the county board’s Transportation and Planning Committee held nine public meetings on the subject. The county’s Community Development Agency provided 17 meetings at the AAC, Castro Valley Municipal Advisory Council, Fairview Municipal Advisory Council and the Sunol Citizens’ Advisory Council. The Supervisors also held an additional meeting to discuss the ballot measure.

Dick Schneider, a co-author of the original Measure D, helped shepherd the new measure through committees. Schneider told the board he was pleased with the result of the 2022 vote.

“It took a long time to get it done,” Schneider said. “I hope this will make the

improvements that will allow agriculture and equestrian operations to improve and make some more money.”

In a separate vote, the board enacted a new definition for “agricultural building” in the county’s zoning ordinance. If approved in a second reading, the definition would call such a building a “structure designed and constructed or used to house farm implements or farm equipment; poultry, livestock or similar arm or ranch animals; or hay grain, olive, nuts hops, wine or other horticultural products in bins, tanks, barrels, case goods or other storage vessels.”

The definition continued: “This structure shall allow for the processing, treatment, packaging, and storage of agricultural and/or horticultural products.”

One line, however, nearly derailed the approval at the last minute when Supervisor David Haubert questioned

whether the verbiage “This structure shall not be a place of human habitation, nor shall it be a place used by the public or for social events,” meant property owners could not hold private social events, such as a family wine tasting or wedding in their own buildings.

However, all businesses and families were able to hold social events under the pre-existing Measure D 2000 rules. The new agricultural building definition doesn’t affect these uses; they just cannot occur in the 2.5% FAR buildings used strictly for agricultural purposes.

Assured by county staff and Schneider that the definition, which went through numerous changes as it bounced back and forth from the AAC, Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors, was meant to prohibit commercial activities, and that last-minute changes might send the whole pro-

cess back for an environmental review, Haubert voted to approve it.

“If we had in the future a problem, we could always bring this definition back for changes,” he said. “I don’t want to create a solution to a problem that we might not have. A solution looking for a problem is never good.”

The ballot measure and supervisors’ vote to adopt its zoning ordinance changes also affect the Castro Valley General Plan.

The voter approved Measure D 2022 changes went into effect March 9 when the Board of Supervisors adopted it into the County General Plan. The zoning ordinance change adopted by the supervisors at the first reading on March 9 will be placed on the board’s April 13 agenda for a second reading, and if approved, will take effect 30 days later on May 13.

HOUSING

(Continued from first page)

with both applicants,” Alcalá explained.

According to Alcalá’s statement, “Prior to March 13, 2023, the city received two applications seeking to utilize the so-called Builder’s Remedy. City staff has determined that one of the applications is incomplete, and is in the process of evaluating whether the second application is complete and will qualify for the Builder’s Remedy.”

Alcalá did not identify the developers attempting to take advantage of the Builder’s Remedy, which is affecting cities throughout California that failed to meet deadlines for submitting Housing Element plans. Cities in Southern California were required to submit theirs in October 2022, and the Bay Area was given until Jan. 31, 2023. At the moment, 252 cities across the state are listed as out of compliance.

“Under the ‘Builder’s Remedy,’ California cities and counties out of compliance with Housing Element law have forfeited their authority to deny affordable housing projects on the grounds the project is inconsistent with zoning and/or General Plan standards,” San Francisco law firm, Hanson Bridgett, which represents developers, writes on its website.

The Housing Element plans provide guidelines for how the Tri-Valley cities intend to meet their shares of the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) Regional Housing Needs Allocation. ABAG last year identified the need for 441,176 housing units during the next eight years to deal with the state’s housing crisis.

Livermore was assigned 4,570 units, Pleasanton 5,965 units, and Dublin’s 3,719. Each allocation sets percentages for how many new units are required for income levels ranging from very low and low income to above moderate.

Although cities are not required to build the units, they must maintain land properly zoned to accommodate residential development or issue building permits.

Nur Kausar, a spokesperson for the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD), said her office received Livermore’s Housing Element plan on March 14, and it was under review. The submission occurred the day after Livermore’s City Council adopted the 342-page document.

When asked why the city did not submit the Housing Element before the deadline, Livermore City Manager Marianna Marysheva wrote in an email to The Independent that the city worked diligently with the HCD to review the draft Housing Element.

“HCD’s review took months, and the earliest they could provide their determination that our document met the statutory requirements was Feb. 23,” Marysheva stated. “Staff promptly presented the Housing Element to the planning commission at their next scheduled meeting on Feb. 28, followed by the city council’s next scheduled regular meeting on March 13.”

Marysheva went on to say that Livermore is ahead of many other cities in the state, whose Housing Elements are still being reviewed by HCD; Livermore’s plan “will likely require amendments, delaying HCD’s certification.”

Despite meeting statutory requirements, the plan is not certified. Language is unclear as to whether or not the city can avoid the Builder’s Remedy before certification is attained.

During the March 13 Livermore City Council meeting, former Planning Commissioner John Stein encouraged the council to adopt the plan because of the Builder’s Remedy law.

“The alternative is dreadful,” Stein said. “The (Builder’s) Remedy would allow a halfway house to be built next to a school, a condominium project be built on public-protected open space or a six-story apartment be built in a single-family neighborhood.”

“Housing is no longer the discretion of the local agency,” Stein added. “It’s

been moved to Sacramento and to the courts. And the decisions being made there are not optimal either for the state or for the local agency.”

Dublin, Pleasanton So Far Not Facing Builder’s Remedy Applications

The City of Dublin, which adopted its Housing Element on Nov. 15, more than two months before the state’s deadline, maintains it is in compliance with state law despite being placed on the out-of-compliance list.

After a 60-day review, state officials returned Dublin’s Housing Element to the city on Jan. 17 with instructions to make revisions necessary to fully comply with State Housing Element Law, said Shari Jackman, city spokesperson. Staff worked with the HCD to make minor changes and sent the report back for review.

“The City of Dublin is substantially in compliance with state law,” Jackman said. “We just needed to make some minor adjustments to comply fully with the law.”

Jackman reported that no developers have attempted to use Builder’s Remedy in the city.

“We understand how cities could be taken advantage of, but we are fully committed to complying with state law,” Jackman said. “The issue of Builder’s Remedy would not pertain to the City of Dublin.”

Heather Tiernan, a spokesperson for Pleasanton, said the city sent its adopted Housing Element to the state in mid-February and its staff had a meeting scheduled with the HCD this week to discuss initial feedback on the revised draft Housing Element.

“The City of Pleasanton has not received any Builder’s Remedy applications,” Tiernan said. “All projects submitted on Housing Element sites, and other sites where multi-family residential is permitted, are subject to Objective Design Standards that were adopted by the City Council concurrently with the Housing Element.”

Examples of Rogue Housing Developments Throughout the State

The threat of rogue housing developers taking advantage of the Builder’s Remedy has been a concern for municipalities throughout California. In the state’s southern region, which had an earlier deadline than the Bay Area, developers have filed applications for projects in non-compliant cities including Mountain View, Santa Monica and Orange.

In Mountain View, a developer utilizing Builder’s Remedy, is attempting to build a six-story, 85-unit housing project on a half-acre site, despite the city’s zoning laws prohibiting it.

The Southern California News Group reported that nine cities received 26 Builder’s Remedy applications during the last several months to build more than 8,500 new residences, including a six-story apartment building in the City of Orange and a 2,000-unit, 20-story complex in Santa Monica.

The Hanson Bridgett

website and those of other firms that represent developers map out how developers could take advantage.

The Hanson Bridgett site reads, “This may provide key opportunities for developers to entitle housing projects throughout California, including in jurisdictions that have typically placed strict limits on the size, density, or location of housing projects.”

Hanson Bridgett advised developers that “in order to ensure that the benefit of the Builder’s Remedy applies to a project throughout the entirety of the entitlement process,” developers should submit their applications for projects as soon as possible while a jurisdiction is deemed out of compliance with the Housing Element rule.

“The Builder’s Remedy seems poised to afford developers throughout the state a golden opportunity to get traction on projects which may have been non-starters with local jurisdictions even

a year ago,” the website said.

Attaining Compliance

Kausar said that although it is critical for cities to work with urgency toward Housing Element compliance, “it is not uncommon for jurisdictions to need to make revisions before achieving compliance and that can stretch past the statutory due date.

“As such, consequences for housing element non-compliance escalate over time,” Kausar said. “Getting HCD’s finding of compliance on an adopted housing element is particularly important within the 120-day period following the statutory due date to avoid rezone consequences. Jurisdictions that remain out of compliance long past their due dates face additional consequences, including loss of access to certain funding, legal action and potentially subsequent court-imposed penalties.”

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LEADERSHIP

(Continued from first page)

“(The program) was invaluable to my success as a business person and to my community service,” said Randy Brown, a Leadership Pleasanton graduate. “Pleasanton is uniquely powerful because of how it connects residents that may not have otherwise met and created relationships, which may not have been created.”

Chamber of Commerce

TRACTOR

(Continued from first page)

recent press release. “This expansion will open the possibilities for new job creation, workforce development, and investment in high-value businesses within our city. It’s work we’re proud to support and continue to help flourish for Livermore.”

Californians in low-income agricultural areas are subject to some of the worst air quality conditions in the nation, driven by the necessity of agricultural operators producing the food we need to survive. The criticality of these operations, combined with farmers’ limited ability to adopt new technologies while operating under slim margins, have left off-road emissions reductions in this sector out of reach for decades. Monarch Tractor aims to provide value to farmers while supporting the transition to zero emission precision agriculture with its combination of fully electric and driver-optional equipment, like the 40 horsepower Monarch MK-V.

Wente Vineyards in Livermore became the first to welcome the tractor in April

Chief Executive Officer James Cooper, who had hoped to receive sponsorship funds, spoke during public comment on the item before the vote, “Far more valuable (than the funds) is the staff time, and the staff input, and the staff collaboration. It’s the content that makes the program, and it’s the program that makes the people happy.”

2021.

“We’ve seen firsthand the benefits of the Monarch Tractor in our vineyards,” Niki Wente of Wente Vineyards said at the time. “Monarch Tractor represents the future of tractors and to be the first customer deployment is especially exciting as we kick off this new era of sustainable farming.”

CEC Commissioner Patty Monahan noted that California farmers are “at the front lines of climate change, experiencing extreme heat, water stress, and smoke from wildfires.”

“I’m excited that Monarch Tractor can give farmers a zero-emission alternative to diesel tractors, and help advance more sustainable practices,” Monahan continued. “This grant program was designed with innovators like Monarch Tractor in mind, and we are excited to partner with them on their journey.”

The resulting 600 vehicles estimated to be manufactured through this award will abate emissions of approximately 13,100 metric tons of carbon dioxide equiv-

alent and 105 metric tons of nitrogen oxides, according to Monarch Tractor officials. Utilizing a Monarch MK-V in place of a comparable diesel tractor is the equivalent emission reduction of removing 10 passenger vehicles from the road. The flexible manufacturing line developed under this grant will be capable of producing up to 120 vehicles per month with these emission reductions, while directly creating over 50 jobs and providing more than 700 hours of technical training to new hires.

Mayor Karla Brown looked forward to the lower-barrier city program. Brown noted that this is a wonderful opportunity to relook at the leadership plan to educate residents, many of whom are unclear of the level of commitment involved with a committee or commission.

“The Monarch team is incredibly grateful for the support and opportunity to work alongside the California Energy Commission and the City of Livermore as we accelerate our sustainability movements in the city and across the entire state,” said Praveen Penmetta, Co-Founder & CEO of Monarch Tractor. “We see Livermore and this manufacturing facility as the next epicenter for regenerative ag-tech.”

SCHOOL

(Continued from first page)

like the gym and cafeteria, were not designed for current numbers. Moving sixth grade to another campus is one possible solution to the overcrowding.

This is not the first time DUSD has discussed moving its sixth-grade students. During a September 2021 meeting, staff gave a review of the TK-6 model, listing higher test scores, protection from the negative influence of older students and the opportunity for teachers to form deeper relationships with their students as reasons for keeping sixth graders in elementary school an extra year.

A survey taken of district families in August 2021 to receive input on remaining a TK-5 model or moving to a TK-6 model received 3,250 responses with 61% in favor of remaining a TK-5 model. The board hopes to gather more current information with this new survey.

The board is not alone in anticipating the results of the coming survey. Members of the Dublin Teachers Association (DTA) are also awaiting results and a decision on the question of moving to a TK-6 model. DTA Bargaining Chair Katina Lewis said teacher voices need to be “at the center of any decision.”

“As always, Dublin Teachers Association members are focused on securing the best for Dublin students,” Lewis said. “We know that it is possible when management partners with its employees and the community to put the best supports in place for our students ...

Obviously the best grade configuration will help all of our students thrive, and DTA members are glad that community input is being sought.”

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prospective tenants or those desiring to develop/lease at the airport,” wrote city manager assistant Stephanie Egidio in an email.

Aviation Management Consulting Group consultant Bob Trimborn, who authored the new development policy, described it as “a process-driven policy that goes through multiple iterations of review, comments and analysis before it comes into play. It’s a fair and equal-opportunity process.”

But Vice Chair Darin Bishop expressed hesitation around introducing more process to an airport that has seen little development in recent decades when, at the same time, it has remained beholden to a mandate of financial self-sufficiency.

Bishop said the fact that there is so much free land around the airport is attri- butal to the city’s current process and “friction to development.”

Pete Sandhu, owner of the airport’s fixed-based operator Five Rivers Aviation, commented at a recent city council meeting, “There’s been dozens and dozens of developers for the last few decades that have come in and proposed doing all kinds of different projects that haven’t executed.”

Sandhu went on to urge the council to expedite projects held back by a development moratorium, in place since last September, that awaits the new development policy’s adoption.

Trimborn believed that the well-defined expectations set forth in the new policy will help move applications through.

“There’s deadlines on both sides of the fence that drives it forward to a con-

cess, Bishop also urged staff to include the commission earlier on in the development timeline, offering recent plans from Oakland-based charter company KaiserAir as an example of process inefficiencies.

“I’m not alone in thinking that that whole process that was followed, for that Kaiser thing, did not turn out well,” said Bishop.

He went on to recall early attempts by airport commissioners to learn more about the proposal that met resistance from then Airport Manager David Decoteau.

“We heard rumors there’s some big proposal coming from a large operator,” said Bishop. “(But Decoteau) could not provide details because of non-disclosure agreements.”

Originally described by KaiserAir as a plan to service empty aircraft at Livermore, project plans eventually revealed an area designated as a “customs facility,” an area to process international travelers.

“I’ll tell you, if former Chair Shezifi, or I, or Adam (Bertsch), had gotten a chance to see all those detailed drawings and blueprints and all that stuff about 737s, I could have told him in 20 seconds, you might as well go self-immolate in the square with this, because that’s what’s going to happen; the town’s going to go nuts,” he continued.

Following public opposition over noise and the customs facility, KaiserAir quietly let its application reservation expire last July after placing 45 acres of airport land on hold for about two and a half years.

Revisions to the Hangar Waitlist Policy, meanwhile, responded to criticisms of

applicants on the waitlist. The airport’s soon-to-be-updated policy specifies a three-hangar limit per one applicant. However, Sam Rivinius was previously allowed to lease as many as seven hangars for the businesses he owned. The city’s reasoning was that they were not “affiliated.” When previously asked why an owner of multiple companies wouldn’t be considered an affiliate of all them, City Attorney Jason Alcala said “the determination whether the businesses are affiliated is an administrative decision.” He further noted that as part of the policy update process city staff will evaluate ordinance revisions “to more clearly reflect staff’s consistent interpretation and implementation of that language, as well as opportunities to establish new expectations for application(s) in the future.”

While the current policy relies on a point system that involves airport-manager discretion and has stretched some wait times into decades, the new policy will order applicants solely by application date, in line with other waitlists at similar airports.

But the city will transfer applicants waiting for executive or corporate hangars — the airport’s larger hangars — in the same order as the old list, said Egidio.

Once the public comment period closes, city staff will incorporate the feedback to produce a set of policy updates that will again go before Airport Commission review. The Airport Development policy will also go on to the City Council for adoption.

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clusion,” said Trimborn.

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Fairgrounds Set to Host Cats, Horses and Fighting Robots

The Alameda County Fairgrounds in Pleasanton will host a cat adoption, equestrian show, robot fighting, spring home show, the Tri-Valley Innovation Fair, and a fun run for education during a busy April.

The month will kick off with the Pleasanton Cat Extravaganza and Adoption Event, sponsored by Loving Cats World Wide, on Saturday and Sunday, April 1-2.

The weekend will include a cat-judging contest, speakers, an opportunity to connect with local charities, and adopt homeless cats and kittens.

General admission is \$20 for adults, \$15 for children, and \$18 for senior citizens.

The same weekend, the Golden Gate Arabian Horse Association will hold its 66th annual show on the fairgrounds at the Pleasanton Equestrian Center.

The two-day event will include a variety of demonstrations and competitions in Western, English, Hunter, and Working Western divisions.

Admission to the horse show, which will run from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days, is free. Parking at Gates 8 and

12 off Valley Avenue is \$15.

The annual RoboGames competition will be coming to the Alameda County Fairgrounds for the first time from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Thursday, April 6, through Sunday, April 9.

Created in 2004 as the RoboOlympics, this will be the first RoboGames since 2017. Much like the human Olympics, robots will compete in a variety of events demonstrating their skill, strength, speed, and dexterity. But combat robotics is consistently the biggest crowd attraction.

Daily tickets are \$45 and are available at RoboGames.net. Admission is free for active-duty military and their dependents. For more information and a list of daily events, go to robogames.net.

It's also back to the Pleasanton Equestrian Center on Saturday, April 8, for a Gymkhana Play Day and Tack Swap, with classes in timed events for \$20.

There is a \$10 admission fee for spectators, with free parking at Gate 12. For more information, go to alamedacountyfair.com.

The Alameda Spring Home Show is also back

at the fairgrounds this year.

The home show will run from Friday, April 14, through Sunday, April 16, with dozens of vendors showcasing ideas in building, remodeling, or redecorating home and outdoor living areas.

The home show will run from noon to 5 p.m. on Friday, and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. Admission is free. Parking is \$15 at Gates 8 and 12.

The fairgrounds will host the fifth annual Tri-Valley Innovation Fair, presented by the Quest Science Center, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, April 15.

More than 80 exhibitors are scheduled to highlight the region's focus on science, engineering, and technology, including interactive and hands-on displays.

Admission is free. Parking is \$15 at Gate 8.

On Saturday, April 22, the Alameda County Fairgrounds will host the San Francisco Rugged Maniac Race, organized by Ventures Endurance, with a 3.1-mile course, the "world's biggest

mud pit," and more than 25 obstacles.

To register for the race, which includes a three-story waterslide and "all the mud one could possibly want," go to ruggedmaniac.com.

The last day of the month, Sunday, April 30, Workday, a Pleasanton-based financial management and human resources software company, will sponsor the Pleasanton Run for Education.

The annual event, with 5K, 10K, and two-mile courses, is a fundraiser for Pleasanton Partnerships in Education, a nonprofit that helps support teachers and students in the Pleasanton Unified School District.

There is also a quarter-mile Kids Challenge course for children 3 to 10, although all the courses are considered stroller and walker-friendly events.

The 10K will begin at 7:50 a.m., with the Kids Challenge the last to leave at 9:15 a.m.

Entry fees range from \$10 to \$55, depending on a runner's age and course. To register, go to ppierun.com.

The Pacific Chamber Orchestra To Perform "Passionate"

The Pacific Chamber Orchestra's upcoming "Passionate" concert on March 25-26 features a tango piece by Piazzolla, virtuoso violinists playing Vivaldi's music and pieces by Baroque masters Corelli and Telemann. Performances are Saturday, March 25 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Stephens Episcopal Church, 66 St. Stephens Drive, Orinda, and Sunday, March 26 at 3 p.m. at the Bankhead Theater, 2400 First Street, Livermore. For tickets and additional information, visit <https://pacificchamberorchestra.org/>

Volunteers Needed For Special Needs Skateboarding Camp

Dragon Skate Camp, which offers free skateboarding instruction for youths with special needs, is seeking volunteers for its summer sessions.

"Volunteer instructors don't need special training," said James Young, who founded the program in 2017 with his brother, Thomas, when they were students at Granada High School. "They just need basic skateboarding skills, an interest in introducing the activity to others, and be ready to have some fun. Ideally, volunteers are between

the ages of 14 and 20 but we are open to volunteers of all ages."

The skate camps, supported by the Taylor Family Foundation and Street Science Skate Shop in Livermore, take place at the Livermore Skatepark, 3800 Pacific Ave. Each session includes an hour of instruction for two days in a row. There is no cost for participants.

To volunteer, contact Young at jay@jamesyoungskateboardcoaching.com. For more information, go to the Dragon Skate Camp Facebook page.

Jeremy Meier to Portray Robert F. Kennedy at Firehouse Arts Center

Veteran Chautauqua performer Jeremy Meier will portray Robert F. Kennedy (RFK) for an Ed Kinney Series program at the Firehouse Arts Center in Pleasanton on Tuesday, March 28.



Veteran Chautauqua performer Jeremy Meier will portray Robert F. Kennedy during a performance at the Firehouse Arts Center in Pleasanton on Tuesday, March 28. The event is part of the Ed Kinney Speaker Series program. (Photo courtesy of Firehouse Arts Center)

Meier, chair of the Fine and Performing Arts Department at Owens Community College in Ohio, will focus on Kennedy's campaign for

the Democratic nomination for president in the spring of 1968.

RFK was the brother of former President John F. Kennedy, who was killed by a sniper in 1963. RFK would also be assassinated in June 1968, during a campaign stop at the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles in June 1968.

"Kennedy's campaign was particularly active in California in the spring of 1968," noted Rachel Brickell, director of education for the Museum on Main, which sponsors the monthly speaker series. "It will be fascinating to hear his views on promoting racial equality and economic justice in the late 1960s while knowing the sad outcome of his assassination."

Chautauqua scholars remain in character throughout their performance.

Meier will portray RFK during a 2p.m. matinee performance at the Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., and during an evening performance at 7 p.m. This will be Meier's first appearance in Pleasanton.

General admission tickets are \$25, with discounts for students, senior citizens, and museum members. Tickets are available online at museumonmain.org, by calling 925-462-2766, or at the museum, 603 Main Street, during normal operating hours.

Camera Club to Give Away Photographs

The Livermore Valley Camera Club (LVCC) is offering free matted photographs for display. The photographs include color and black and white images taken by club members, encompassing travel, landscape, wildlife, journalism, and other genres. Stacks of photographs, matted up to 16-inches by 20-inches in size, will be available for review at the Livermore Civic Center Library, 1188 S. Livermore Ave., from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., on Saturday, March 25. Founded in 1958, LVCC sponsors photography classes and field trips through the Livermore Area Recreation and Parks Department. For more information, go to LivermoreValleyCameraClub.net.

Lions Club Holds Crab Feed Fundraiser

The Livermore Lions Club recently held its annual crab feed fundraiser at the Bothwell Arts Center.

This year the number of tickets were limited to 100, thus providing the patrons with a roomier venue and friendlier ambiance. Dinner was served by the high school Girl Scouts from Troop 33266 of Pleasanton and their leader, as well as club members. The fundraiser provided a number of raffle and silent auction prizes, all donated by local restaurants, supermarkets, businesses, wineries, a dentist, a chiropractor, and club members.

All proceeds from the fundraiser will be used to support local community projects and charitable organizations, like Shepherd's Gate, Tri-Valley Haven, Fertile Ground Works, Heritage Guild, Girl Scouts, Las Pos-

itas Community College, and others. Our club takes pride in serving the community by: cooking pancakes and sausages for seniors at the Granada High School Grad Night, sponsoring and funding the Leos Club at Livermore High School, preparing breakfasts for the eighth graders of East Avenue Middle School, serving meals at Special Kids Day in Brentwood, and painting the paddock fence at Hagemann Ranch in Livermore.

The Livermore Lions Club also donates to state, national, and international charities, such as California Lions Student Speakers Contest for college scholarships, Canine Companions, Eye of the Lion, Ear of the Lion, City of Hope, and disaster relief funds for the victims in Ukraine, Turkey, and Syria.

TRI-VALLEY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Saturday, March 25

LIVERMORE VALLEY CAMERA CLUB FREE PRINT GIVEAWAY

Members of the Livermore Valley Camera Club are looking for new homes for some of our competition photos. These mounted and mated photographs cover a wide variety of subjects, including color, monochrome, nature, creative, and travel. They vary in size up to 16"x20" and are usually (but not always) on white mats. Those looking for something to decorate their walls won't find a better deal. All images are absolutely free, with a limit of three per household. For more information, visit the Livermore Public Library, 1188 S. Livermore Ave., from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Saturday, March 25, 2023

SPRING USED BOOK & MEDIA SALE

Friends of Dublin Library, Inc. invites all to shop for bargain books and audio-visual materials at their Spring Used Book & Media Sale. Most items are priced are \$.50 to \$2. Funds from sales go toward purchasing the library's materials and supporting its programs. The event takes place Saturday, from 9 to 11 a.m. for members only, with memberships available at the door starting at 8:30 a.m.; Saturday, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., with the sale open to all; and Sunday, from 1 to 4 p.m. for Bargain Day, with the sale open to all. Bargain Bag-o'-Books patrons can fill a paper bag (provided) with books for only \$5, while Special Bargains offers half off on specially priced items. For more information, visit dublinfriends.org.

Sunday, March 26

PASSOVER OPEN HOUSE

Curious about Jewish culture? Come to Tri-Valley Cultural Jews' free Outdoor Passover Jewish Cultural School Open House at 10:30 a.m., in Pleasanton. Attendees will learn about Passover traditions from around the world and make some homemade matzah. Jewish Cultural School meets twice a month for kids aged 5 to teens. Masks are required. For more information, email culturaljews@gmail.com, call 925-399-8029 or visit trivalleyculturaljews.org.

Saturday, April 1

LIVERMORE HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION 11TH ANNUAL CRAB FEED

The Livermore High School Alumni Association will host their 11th annual Crab Feed at 6 p.m., at Robert Livermore Community Center 4444 East Ave., in Livermore. The dinner will feature crab, pasta, salad, bread and dessert, with chicken available upon request prior to event, and a no-host bar. For tickets, visit bit.ly/3XQ2tia. For more information, email lhsalumniassoc@gmail.com or call 925-724-4251.

Saturday, April 1

MIJENTA TEQUILA BUNNY HOP LIVERMORE

Hop into the spirit of Earth Month with Mijenta Tequila's "Bunny Hop" for a fun-filled afternoon of sipping on delicious Mijenta Tequila cocktails while exploring some of the best bars in town. The event is free, and an RSVP is suggested but not required at <http://bit.ly/3n9B3pZ>. Drinks and food will need to be purchased, with food available at all stops except for Beer Baron and food specials throughout the day at La Botica. Participating bars include Monica's, Sons of Liberty, Beer Baron, and Last Word. Each bar will be creating two special cocktails (one with Mijenta Tequila Blanco and one with Mijenta Tequila Reposado). Be sure to take notes during the day, as participants will be voting for their favorites at the end of the day. A portion of the proceeds from the event will be donated to Women's Earth Alliance at womensearthalliance.org. The event takes place from 1:30 to 7 p.m., at Monica's, 2074 Second St., in Livermore. For more information, visit monicaslivermore.com or mijenta-tequila.com, email liz@altos-planos.com or call 925-922-2493.

Saturday, April 1 and Sunday, April 2

LIVERMORE ART ASSOCIATION 66TH ANNUAL SPRING ART SHOW

The Livermore Art Association's biggest art show takes place at the Bothwell Center for the Arts, 2466 8th St. The non-juried format attracts a lot of new artists, who bring surprising and exciting works. Bud Donaldson will also be showing a special display of artworks made by veterans from the Veteran's Hospital. The show is generously supported by the City of Livermore Commission for the Arts and Livermore Arts. It is free and open to the public from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., on Saturday and Sunday. There will be a reception with awards on Sunday from 2:30 to 4 p.m.

Sunday, April 2

HOUSE CONCERT IN LIVERMORE: THE LUIS PERALTA TRIO

From 2 to 4 p.m., The Livermore Jazz Society will host The Luis Peralta Trio. Comprised of Luis Peralta on piano, Brian Juarez on bass, and Ben Esposito on drums, the trio will be playing bebop, hard bop, and songs from the Great American Song book. The event will take place via live audience and livestream. A recent video is available at youtu.be/FZh_biGAt40. To request a seat, email info@livermorejazzsociety.org or fill out the form at livermorejazzsociety.org/reserve-seats. If seats are available,

attendees will receive a formal invitation with the concert address. Seating capacity is limited, so advance notice is highly recommended. For livestream information, refer to the 'Events' page of the website listed above. The suggested donation is \$20, but donations of any amount are welcome. For more information, visit livermorejazzsociety.org.

Sunday, April 9

"AMAZING RACE" EASTER AT GRACEWAY CHURCH

Families are invited to join GraceWay Church to celebrate Easter "Amazing Race" style, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. This free event includes a race through different locations in the church to explore the story of Easter. There will be games, challenges, crafts and of course Easter eggs. Lunch will be served to the entire family. RSVP at gracelife.org/events or call 925-846-4436. The Amazing Race will follow GraceWay's Easter celebration that will start at 10 a.m. on April 9. All are welcome. The church is located at 1183 Quarry Lane, in Pleasanton. For more information, visit gracewaylife.org.

Saturday, April 15

TRI-VALLEY WRITERS CHAPTER OF THE CALIFORNIA WRITERS CLUB

Connie Post will present "Finding your creativity in the Between Places" at the Tri-Valley Writers April meeting. She will explain how to find creativity by going beyond descriptions to find hidden meaning in unexpected places. Join in at 2 p.m. at Tri-Valley Writers' new meeting location, Las Positas College, room 2470 at 3000 Campus Hill Drive, in Livermore. Check-in begins at 1:30 p.m. TO RSVP and pay, email treasurer@trivalleywriters.org by April 13, and register at bit.ly/3CpDOUC. Tickets for CWC adult members are \$10; nonmembers are \$12; CWC student members ages 14 to 22 are \$5; and student nonmembers are \$8.

Sunday, April 23

TRINITY CONCERT SERIES THE VERVE TRIO: CLASSICS

Founded in 2019, the Verve Trio is comprised of pianist Chia-Lin Yang, violinist Elbert Tsai, and cellist Brady Anderson. The trio has engaged audiences throughout the San Francisco Bay Area with innovative programs featuring familiar masterpieces as well as lesser-known works highlighting the influence of tango and jazz. The concert takes place at 4 p.m., at Trinity Lutheran Church, 1225 Hopyard Road, in Pleasanton. Suggested contributions are \$20 for general admission; \$5 for students; and free for those age 12 and under. Proceeds support the artists and ongoing concert series.

Saturday, April 29

TWIN VALLEY BSA SCOUTS' LIVERMORE LUAU FUNDRAISER

From 5 to 8 p.m., at El Sol Winery, located at 8626 Lupin Way in Livermore, the Twin Valley BSA Scouts' present the Livermore Luau Fundraiser. The event will feature kalua pig, shoyu chicken, teriyaki beef, lomi-lomi salmon, rice mac salad, green salad, and haupia, as well as music, wine, auction, and raffle. Tickets are \$70. For more information, call 925-577-0724 or email tvdistrictchair@gmail.com.

Monday, May 8 to Tuesday, June 27

UPCOMING SUPPORT GROUPS

When grieving the loss of a loved one, people may feel overwhelmed by the ebb and flow of emotions. 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. Hope's grief support services are free of charge, but registration in advance by phone is required 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, and services for young children are temporarily paused until in-person group gatherings can continue. General Grief runs May 8 to June 26, on Mondays, from 6 to 7:30 p.m.; Spousal and Partner Loss runs May 9 to June 27, on Tuesdays from 6 to 7:30 p.m. or Wednesdays from 1:30 to 3 p.m.; and Loss of a Child runs from May 8 to June 26, on Mondays from 6 to 7:30 p.m. For Teens Group, call for dates. Groups are offered once per quarter. Those who cannot make the next sessions should call the office to put your name on the interest list for the following quarter.

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.

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

Youth Competition Winners to Perform Solos with Livermore-Amador Symphony

The winners of the Livermore-Amador Symphony's 50th annual Competition for Young Musicians in 2022 will join the symphony for solo performances during the "Kaleidoscopic Color and Spiritual Sound" concert at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore on Saturday, April 1.

The concert will feature the music of Mexican composer Arturo Marquez, known for incorporating the musical forms and style of his native country into his compositions, and late American composer Florence Price, the first African American woman to have her work played by a major U.S. symphony, the Chicago Symphony, in 1933.

The symphony will perform Marquez's popular Danzon No. 2, which is infused with dance rhythms and sultry melodies, and Price's Symphony No. 1 in E Minor, which won First Prize in the Rodman Wana-maker Competition in 1932.

"We are so excited to bring the music of Florence Price to our community," said symphony music director Lara Webber.

Her music "is rooted in melody, in spirituals, in suffering and resilience, and in a feeling of profound faith in humanity," Webber said. "Within the framework of a traditional symphonic structure, [she] finds a freedom of expression, totally unique and daring musical choices that take us on a deeply satisfying musical

journey."

Webber added that Marquez "uses orchestral forces to display the rhythmic vitality and rich tapestries of color of Mexican folk music." His Danzon No. 2 is "perfectly paced from a slow burn to a driving force of energy that can't help but get your feet moving and your smile broadening."

The symphony will be joined by 15-year-old Pleasanton resident Minna Fu, who will perform the first movement from Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 1 in C Major; Juhye Oh, a senior at California High School in San Ramon, who will perform the third movement from Ibert's Flute Concerto; and Owen Sheridan, a first-year horn performance major at the University of the Pacific, who will perform the first movement from Strauss' Horn Concerto No. 1.

Local teen jazz band Element 116, under the direction of Matt Finders, will perform during intermission.

Fu is the winner of several national and international music competitions, including the Los Angeles International Liszt Competition and the United States Open Music Competition. She began playing piano at age 5 and giving recitals at age 9. In 2019, she was invited to perform at Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall in New York. Fu is the youngest docent at the nonprofit Music for Minors

II in Fremont, where she volunteers to give music lessons to elementary children every week.

Oh currently plays in the San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra and studies with flutist Isabelle Chapuis. She has also won top prizes in several U.S. and international music competitions, and in June 2022, she made her solo debut at Carnegie Hall.

Oh is president and vice music director of Tri Valley Symphonics, an ensemble bringing music to libraries and senior centers.

Sheridan began his horn studies as a high school sophomore and now studies with Professor Sadie Glass at the University of the Pacific's Conservatory of Music. He has performed with several Bay Area youth symphonies, including the Oakland Youth Symphony, the Young Peoples' Symphony Orchestra, and the San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra.

Tickets to the 8 p.m. concert start at \$27, with those under 21 admitted free. Tickets are available online at livermorearts.org, by phone at 925-373-6800, or at the Bankhead Theater box office, 2400 First St., Livermore.

Webber will also give a 30-minute prelude talk at 7 p.m., and the symphony will host a complimentary sparkling cider and wine reception in the Bankhead lobby following the performance.

OBITUARIES

Oralia "Willie" Eskew



Oralia "Willie" Eskew, longtime resident of Livermore, California, passed away peacefully surrounded by her loved ones on March 16, 2023, at the age of 93.

The Rosary will be held at Callaghan Mortuary 3833 East Ave., Livermore, California, on Tuesday, March 28, 2023, at 5:30 p.m.; viewing 4 to 8:30 p.m.

Mass will be held at St. Michael's Church 458 Maple St., Livermore, California on Wednesday, March 29, 2023, at 11 a.m. Burial to follow at St. Michael's Cemetery, 3885 East Ave., Livermore, California.

Willie is survived by her seven children: Kathy (Angel) Chavez, Elaine Soto, Mickie Garcia, Carmen (Ed-

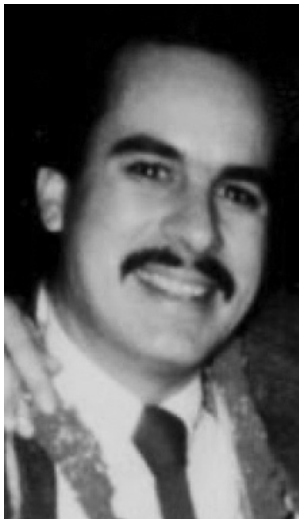
die) Naval, Christine Garcia, Margaret (Mike) Perry, and Willy Joe Garcia. Willie is preceded in death by her

son, Paul Garcia, her daughter, Anita Shuman and her long-time love Bruce Orcutt. Willie was loved by her nine children, 35 grandchildren, 88 great-grandchildren and 41 great-great-grandchildren and many more family and friends.

Willie loved music, dancing, shopping, socializing, and drinking screwdrivers and wine coolers. Being surrounded by her family and friends was the joy of her life. Her smile, her beauty, her sophistication and her love will be dearly missed by all.

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

Christopher E. Wolff



Back in the loving arms of his wife Margarita, Christopher E. Wolff passed on March 10, 2023, after several lengthy and challenging battles with various health issues.

Chris was a longtime resident of Pleasanton, California, and last worked as an event coordinator for SAP in Palo Alto. The son of a military veteran, Chris was born at Tripler Army Medical Center in Honolulu. He spent his formative years living on military bases on the East Coast. When Chris was a teenager, he moved with his family to Northern California. Not long thereafter, he decided to put down roots.

Chris was an avid Forty Niners fan and loved golf. He was happiest when out on the links, where he could be a tad irreverent. He was

well known for being strong in his opinions and telling it like he saw it. Most importantly, Chris had a big heart and treasured the wonderful moments he shared with loved ones.

Barbara Jean McGinty Dec. 12, 1950 – Jan. 28, 2023

Mrs. Barbara Jean McGinty (Hutchinson), age 72, of Brentwood, California went home to her Lord and Savior on Saturday morning, Jan. 28, 2023, surrounded by her family.

She was born Dec. 12, 1950, in Portland, Oregon, raised in Medford, Oregon, a daughter of Roy and Dolores Hutchinson. She and her husband moved their family to Livermore, California in 1982 and raised their family there.

Barbara was preceded in death by her father, Roy Hutchinson, son-in-law Ken Limtiaco and great-grandson, Casen Glenn Ambrosino.

She was a natural caregiver and worked as a preschool teacher and infant care pro-

vider after raising their three daughters. She had a passion for helping others, singing, and was known for her joy-filled smile. She had a love for hummingbirds, flowers, camping in the mountains, traveling and most of all taking her grandkids to the zoo.

Barbara is survived by her husband of 49 years, Edward Allan McGinty, Jr., mother, Dolores Hutchinson, sister, Beverly (Martin) McCartan both of Rogue Valley, Oregon, three daughters and a son-in-law; Jennifer (Mike) Ambrosino of Patterson, California, Pam Limtiaco and Jodel Wolfe both of Brentwood, California; 11 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

A celebration of life was held at Celebration Church in Livermore, California on March 18, 2023. When asked what she would like for her service, she simply responded "PINK!"

Donations can be made to the Oakland Zoo, PO Box 5237, Oakland, California, 94605. Please make a note "In Memory of Barbara McGinty." Donations may be made on their website via the donation page. Please email impact@oaklandzoo.org after the donation and include in the subsection line "In Memory of Barbara McGinty" as all donations will go toward a bench within the zoo with a plaque in her memory.



Woody and Magee Manchester of Livermore celebrated 60 years of marriage this month and are looking forward to many more happy years together. Only about 1% of all married couples reach their Diamond Anniversary. The year 1963 may sound like a long time ago but the memories they share make it seem like yesterday. The car pictured in the photo was used for their first date, ride to their wedding, and then the move to Livermore. (Photo courtesy of Chris Manchester)

Naturalists to Lead Wildflower Walks in Sunol

By Ned MacKay, East Bay Regional Park District

The wildflower season is starting, and one of the best places for viewing the blooms is Sunol Wilderness Regional Preserve in southern Alameda County.

With that in mind, Sunol's naturalist staff has scheduled two wildflower walks.

The first walk will be from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, March 25. The second is at the same time on Sunday, March 26.

The hikes are free of charge and intended for

ages four and older, with adult participation required. There is a parking fee of \$5 per vehicle.

To join one of the walks, sign up at the Sunol Visitor Center the morning of the hike on a first-come, first-served basis. Walkers should bring drinking water and wear weather-appropriate clothing, sun protection, and closed-toe shoes.

The Sunol Wilderness is at the end of Geary Road, about five miles south of I-680 and the town of Sunol. However, be aware that Geary Road has been periodically closed recently due to landslides. To be sure the park is open, go to ebparks.org/alerts-closures. It's always a good idea to check the status of any regional park or program before heading out.

There will also be a naturalist-led wildflower walk from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. on Saturday, March 25, at Thurgood Marshall Regional Park in Concord. The program is also free, but does require advance registration.

For registration and information, call 888-327-2757.

Foothill Students Take Honors at DECA Conference

Five members of the Foothill High School DECA program took top honors this month at the State Career Development Conference in Anaheim, California.

Kate Clifford finished first in the Marketing Communications roleplaying competition.

Prisha Bhandari and Anishka William were first in Marketing Management Team Decision Making.

Pratham Chhabra and Dhruv Suri were first in the Community Giving Project, a written examination category that combines knowledge of project management and business management and adminis-

tration.

DECA is a career and technology-oriented organization for students who are interested in marketing, finance, hospitality, and management.

Four Foothill students finished second in roleplaying categories, including Rushil Sahai in Automotive Services Marketing, Michael Liu in Retail Merchandising, and Ojas Sathe and Gaurav Tripathi in Sports and Entertainment Marketing Team Decision Making.

Five Foothill DECA members also finished second overall in written testing, including Bhandari and William in Integrated Marketing Campaign-Prod-

uct, Ashley Li for Community Awareness Project, and Pranesh Ragu and Ashwin Sriram for Sales Project.

More than 2,200 students from 47 schools competed in the written and roleplaying competitions, including 55 from Foothill.

Other Foothill students with top five finishes in one or more categories included Avaneesh Yendluri, Mrina Shivanand, Jasmine Phan, Isabel Dong, Preksha Jain, Yash Shelar, Arushi Arora, Margaret Nam, Sarah Fikry, and Echo He.

Top five finishers at the state conference qualify for the DECA International Career Development Conference in Orlando next month

Elva M. Cooper Nov. 4, 1932 – Feb. 8, 2023

Elva M. Cooper passed away on Feb. 8, 2023, at the age of 90.

She was born in Inglewood, California and attended college at San Diego State and the National University of Mexico in Mexico City. And for close to 60 years, she lived in Pleasanton with her husband Philip Cooper, raising their family, teaching and contributing thousands of volunteer hours to her community.

She is survived by her husband Philip Cooper (m. 1959), her children Ian Cooper of Orinda (Sari) and Monika Cooper of Walnut Creek (Ken); her grandchildren Zoë, Sofia and Jordan; sisters Zoë and brothers-in-law, and many nieces and nephews. Her parents and her sister, Joyce Crane, preceded her in death.

Elva went with no regrets – she often said she had checked off all of her bucket list items – but her family and friends miss her terribly. Elva was a fierce, independent

woman who always stood up for the underdog. She was a lifelong educator who saw education as a way to bring opportunities to the disadvantaged. Through her tireless volunteer efforts, she fought to provide supportive family crisis housing, food security for poor families, housing security in indigenous communities, and political representation for women, among many other causes. But her main focus was on her family – they always knew they had her love and support.

Fortunately, she also found time to indulge her passions – travel, good food, good wine, and good fashion – passions which she shared with Philip for nearly 70 years. Despite not having a lot of money, they travelled the world, with highlights that include living in Europe for more than two years as newlyweds; living in Mexico for three months; the pyramids in Egypt and Central America; the Great Wall; skiing (and hiking) the Alps; the Himalayas; snorkeling in the Caribbean, French Polynesia, and Indonesia; Cuba; Machu Picchu; and traveling in Europe at least 15 times and visiting Paris (her favorite city) more than 19 times! She also prided herself on her appearance and was always dressed to kill, although she would often confide that her designer clothes were thrifted.

Hers was a fantastic life

– as Philip said, better than they ever imagined it could be – and she (along with Philip) set an amazing example for those who followed. En-



joy the things and people that you love! Let them know that you love them! Help those less fortunate! Fight for what you believe in! Make the world a better place, like she did!

We will celebrate Elva's extraordinary life on Saturday, March 25, 2023, at 11:30 a.m. at Lynnewood United Methodist Church at 4444 Black Ave., in Pleasanton. It will also be live streamed. A reception will follow for all at the family home. And if you feel so inclined, wear a hat; she would have.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in her name to the Lynnewood United Methodist Church, the American Cancer Society, or any of the many other charities you may know that she worked with.





The Goats overcame an 8-point deficit to defeat Team Hazen, 27-23, in the sixth- to eighth-grade girls division of Dublin's city-sponsored Junior Warriors basketball league, setting up a match with the Timberwolves in the Junio Warriors Classic on Sunday, March 26. A swarming defense and baskets by Raina Prasher and Shravya Ajarapu sealed the win for the underdog Goats. Top row (l-r) are coach Joe Washington, Persephone Anderson, Shravya Ajarapu, Tashvi Madan, and coach Mike Vickers. Bottom row (l-r) are Allison Chan, Aaliyah Arukar, Bhavya Adabala, Lourdes Walker, Raina Prasher, Emma Chen, and Naomi Clough.

Foothill Baseball Defeats California High

By Nathan Canilao

The Foothill High School baseball team defeated California High School 11-5 on March 16. The Falcons won their second straight game and improved to 6-1 on the season.

Sophomore Jack Fowler batted 3 for 3 and recorded two RBIs. Junior Mason Walsh went 1 for 3 while nabbing two RBIs and a double.

Senior pitcher Jackson

Flora threw out six batters and allowed five runs and seven hits in 5 ½ innings pitched.

The Falcons' offense got going early. They scored one run in the first inning and two runs in the second to take a 3-0 lead heading into the third inning.

In the third, Foothill scored three straight runs to take a commanding 6-0 lead.

The Grizzlies made a big comeback in the sixth inning. California scored

five straight runs to cut the Foothill deficit to just one, 6-5.

The Falcons answered in the bottom of the sixth, scoring five runs of their own to take a 11-5 lead heading into the seventh inning. Foothill shutout the Grizzlies in the seventh and won the game on its own turf.

The Falcons remained undefeated at home with the win. They will face De La Salle High School on the road on March 24.

Falcon's Bats Come Alive in Win Over Granada

By Phil Jensen

The Foothill High School softball team exploded for 13 runs in a four-inning stretch to defeat visiting Granada 13-7 on March 16 in a battle between two of the top teams in the North Coast Section.

"Ultimately our offense carried us today," said Foothill coach Greg Chandler,

The Matadors came back to tie the score 3-3 in the top of the fourth, which included Raab's solo shot to deep center field on the first pitch of the inning. Chandler estimated the blast was at least 270 feet. Delilah Vanderbeek also had an RBI single in the inning.

But Foothill answered right back with four runs in the bottom of the inning.

"They hit well," said Granada coach Johnny Heinz about Foothill. "That's probably one of the worst games we've played, to be honest. No excuses here. ... You've got to make little changes, that's what we talk about all the time. ... They played a good game, hats off to them. They did a good job."

Novitske and Bilter both



The Foothill girls' softball team enjoyed a decisive win over Granada High School on Thursday, March 16. Foothill won 13-7. [See photo gallery at www.independentnews.com/multimedia/] (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)

whose team improved to 6-0 overall and 2-0 in the East Bay Athletic League with the victory. It trailed 1-0 until it scored three runs in the bottom of the third inning. "Second time through the lineup, big game, these are the one and two teams in NCS right now ... As both teams settled in, they started hitting."

Both teams were able to score runs in bunches in different ways. Foothill produced 15 hits – 12 singles, three doubles – and five walks. Granada had nine hits – six singles, a double and two home runs, including a tape-measure blast by Saskia Raab – and three walks.

But Foothill's base-to-base attack won the game with a score that is more similar in football than top-notch softball.

"We were really wanting to battle today," said Foothill catcher and cleanup hitter Marissa Anderson, who was 2 for 4 with two RBI and two runs scored. "Obviously Granada is the league favorite, so we definitely wanted to battle against them, and I think we just put our heart and soul out there today and I'm so proud of my teammates."

Granada took the lead in the top of the first when Lauren Melton reached base on an error, went to second on a wild pitch, reached third on a flyout to right field, and scored on a passed ball. That run held until the bottom of the third inning, when Foothill broke through with four straight singles to start the inning and five total in the frame, including run-scoring hits from Anderson and Amanda Bilter.

Anderson broke the tie with an RBI single to center field, followed by a run-scoring single by AvaMarie Perry and a two-run double by Bilter.

Again, Granada's first batter of an inning slammed a home run, as Delaney Aumua crushed a home run over the left-field fence to narrow the score to 7-4 in the fifth inning. Foothill got that run back in the bottom of the inning on back-to-back doubles by Ellie Novitske and Kaycie Burdick.

The Matadors kept battling, however. They scored three in the top of the sixth, as Aumua ripped a two-run double by Aumua and later scored on an error, cutting Foothill's lead to 8-7.

However, the Falcons delivered the final blow with five runs in the bottom of the sixth, including an RBI single by Naima Braham and a two-run single by Novitske.

Granada fell to 5-1 overall and 1-1 in the EBAL with the loss.

had three hits for Foothill. Novitske, the leadoff hitter, was 3 for 5 with two runs scored and three RBI. Bilter was 3 for 3 with three RBI, a run scored and a walk. Both players had one double.

For Granada, Aumua was 2 for 4 with a home run and a double, three RBI and two runs scored. Lean-na May was 2 for 4 with a run scored, and Lauren Deplitch was 2 for 3 with a run scored.

On March 15, Foothill won its EBAL opener 4-3 over visiting Livermore. The Falcons scored the winning run in the bottom of the sixth. Novitske was 3 for 4, including a double, and scored two runs in the game. Emily Mayer had a double and two RBI in the win. Livermore's Kimber Dao drove in two runs in the loss.

Granada shut out Dublin 11-0 on March 14 in the Matadors' EBAL opener. Raab was 2 for 3, including a triple, with two runs scored and two stolen bases.

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Local Runners Achieve Personal Bests at Dublin Distance Fiesta

By Phil Jensen

Granada High School's Dheeraj Gurusamy didn't fall into a trap of starting out too fast in the final heat of the boys 3200 meters at the huge Dublin Distance Fiesta on Saturday.

Instead, the senior made a decisive move on the third lap of the eight-lap race and stayed near the front for the rest of the battle, finishing sixth with a huge personal-record time of nine minutes, 6.81 seconds.

"I was just going to move, see how the race flowed," said Gurusamy, whose previous personal record was 9:20. "I was just trying to match moves, keep moving up slowly during the race."

To give an idea about how fast Gurusamy's time of 9:06.81 is, the winning time of last year's North Coast Section Meet of Champions was 9:08.54.

Gurusamy was the top local placer in the boys 3200, which had 20 heats. Besides Gurusamy, Granada had four other runners produce times under 9:27 in that event: Roland Ruckmann-Barnes (9:12.92), Luther Hart (a personal-record 9:24.41), Eshaan Singh (9:25.86) and Erik Bromley (a personal-record 9:26.99).

The Dublin Distance Fiesta is the largest distance-only high school meet in the nation, said Dublin Distance Fiesta meet director and Dublin High School coach Chris Williams. The giant meet had a jaw-dropping 411 boys who finished with sub-five-minute 1600-meter times.

One of those athletes was Foothill's Colin Wong. The senior clocked a personal-record time of 4:27.90 and was the fastest local runner in the event Saturday (41st overall). He also was the fastest local finisher in the boys 800 with a mark of 1:59.42 (20th overall).

"I definitely got a good start," said Wong about the 800. "It kind of helped a lot to have a lot of people in

my heat."

Two other local runners broke 4:40 for the 1600 on Saturday: Foothill's Brennan DeCoite (4:37.86) and Dublin's Aidan Stone (a personal record 4:38.06). DeCoite and Stone also set personal bests in the 800 (2:03.15 and 2:03.37 respectively).

In the girls 800, the top local placer was Foothill's Katelyn Espino (18th overall in 2:23.57). Espino put herself in contention for the

Espino broke the 12-minute barrier in the 3200 (11:43.61), as did Granada Kerrigan Sauder (11:45.40), Amador Valley Kacie Wong (11:46.08), and Granada's Jenna Herscu (11:50.41) and Mia Lnenicka (11:52.00).

Wong was also part of Amador Valley's third-place 3200-meter relay girls' team (9:58.32), along with Dahlia Versteeg, Erika Pettersson and Tessa Jennings.

A couple of freshman boys for Amador Valley



Dublin High School's Prime Sterling leads the pack during the 1600-meter race at the Dublin Distance Fiesta event on Saturday March 18. The two-day event, held at Dublin High, included over 150 schools and nearly 3,000 student athletes. (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)

lead in the first lap of her heat and finished second.

"The whole thing just felt like I was flying," said Espino, a junior. "I'm so happy with my result."

In the girls 3200, Granada sophomore Abby Stein smashed her previous personal record with a time of 10:51.44, good for ninth overall and the fastest local time for the event. Her previous personal record was close to a minute slower.

Stein passed through the 1600 mark in 5:15.45 on her way to her personal best. It was close to her mile personal record of 5:10.

had impressive marks in the meet: Tommy Hekl clocked 2:06.82 in the 800 and Aidan Versteeg had a time of 10:01.23 in the 3200.

In the boys 3200 relay, Foothill was the top local finisher in fourth (8:04.18), represented by Colin Surridge, DeCoite, Elias Baddillo-Benard and Shiven Kamik.

For the Dublin girls, Medha Gowda clocked a personal-record time of 2:28.77 in the 800 and Laasya Balupari set a personal best in the 3200 (12:07.52).

Dublin High Baseball Shuts Out San Ramon Valley High

By Nathan Canilao

The Dublin High School baseball team defeated San Ramon Valley High School 1-0 on March 16. The Gaels recorded their third shutout of the season with the win.

Junior pitcher Desi Lopez pitched all seven innings and struck out four batters while allowing just two hits. Senior Carston Pearson batted 3 for 4 and scored the only Gaels' run.

The game was a defensive match throughout. Neither team came close to scoring as the Gaels and the Wolves each had terrific defensive outings each inning.

Dublin recorded just one error throughout the game and put on a defensive clinic with its fielding. The Gaels recorded 21 total putouts and 6 assists through seven innings.

In the bottom of the seventh inning, Pearson scored on a walk-off to win the game for the Gaels.

Dublin shutout its opponent for the second straight game and have allowed just five runs in five games this season. The Gaels are

currently on a three-game winning streak and are second in the East Bay Athletic League standings.

The Gaels will face California High School on March 24 at home.

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