

On SB 9, SB 10

Opponents To Launch An Initiative

By Tony Kukulich

REGIONAL — Few in California will contest the assertion that a serious shortage of affordable housing exists, but local officials say that a pair of housing bills recently signed into law aren't the solutions the state needs.

Gov. Gavin Newsom signed Senate Bills (SB) 9 and 10 earlier this month with the stated intent of expanding housing production, streamlining housing permitting and increasing density to create more inclusive and vibrant neighborhoods across the state.

Opponents to the bills argue that the state has overstepped its authority by applying a one-size-fits-all solution to the housing crisis, and diminishing or eliminating the ability of municipalities to manage local zoning. In response, the grassroots organization Californians for Community Planning has launched an effort to put a voter initiative on the Nov. 2022 ballot that will, if passed by voters, amend the state's constitution to restore local control over local zoning issues.

"It reaffirms that land use
(See SB 9, page 8)

City Extends Input Period for General Plan Update to Oct. 3

The City of Livermore extended its deadline to submit input on the General Plan update to Sunday, Oct. 3.

Residents can submit online comments at www.ImagineLivermore2045.org under "Get Involved."

The general plan guides city decisions about housing, transportation, jobs, parks, shopping, services and more. The current general plan was adopted in 2004 and looks out to the horizon year 2025. This update process will set the vision for Livermore through 2045.

The extension follows a Sept. 23 virtual workshop, an in-person Sept. 25 open house at Civic Center Library and two pop-up events that were held Sept. 9 at the Livermore Farmers Market and Sept. 14 at the Marilyn Avenue School food pantry.

A special workshop set for Oct. 7 will interview applicants for appointments to the General Plan Advisory Committee, along with 15 regular members and four alternates.

For more information, visit www.cityoflivermore.net/government.

City Mandates A 15% Water Reduction

By Aly Brown

LIVERMORE — The city council this week enacted the next stage of the water shortage contingency plan, bringing the city to a 15% mandatory conservation level.

The council's unanimous vote on Sept. 27 declared a water shortage emergency; enacted Stage 2 of the water shortage contingency plan at a 15% mandatory level effective Oct. 1, 2021; implemented Stage 1 water conservation rates effective Oct. 1, 2021; and authorized the city manager to take whatever actions are necessary and appropriate to carry out the purpose and intent of the resolution. Vice Mayor

(See WATER, page 6)



Former Alameda County Supervisor Scott Haggerty smiles while holding up an East Bay Community Energy hat during a ribbon-cutting ceremony held at the "Scott Haggerty Wind Energy Center" in the Altamont Pass last Friday. During the ribbon-cutting, Haggerty thanked the stakeholders who made the achievement of local clean energy possible. To read more, see page 3. [See photo gallery at www.independentnews.com/multimedia] (Photo – Doug Jorgensen)

Local Athletes Bring Home Gold Medals

By Dawnmarie Fehr

DUBLIN — Two Dublin natives made it all the way to Tokyo for this year's Paralympics and both brought home gold for their teams.

Jorge Sanchez, 29, and Bethany Zummo, 28, grew up in the "Crossroads City" and graduated from Dublin High. Each faced their own challenges after amputations at an early age and found the drive to train for the world's largest athletic event for disabled athletes.

Sanchez plays for the United States men's wheelchair basketball team. Zummo for the women's sitting volleyball team. Despite a year-long delay due to the COVID-19 pandemic and a great deal of uncertainty surrounding the Paralympic games, both athletes persevered in their training and stayed connected with their teams to reach their ultimate goals.

"Tokyo was absolutely amazing," Sanchez said. "I'm so thankful they were able to follow through with the Paralympics and the Olympics. The people there were amazing hosts. They treated us all like the amazing athletes we are, and I'm so thankful to Tokyo, the Japanese government and Japanese people."

Sanchez was born without disabilities but was diagnosed with a tumor on his left femur when he was 8 years old. A biopsy confirmed his parents' worst fear: the tumor was cancerous.

"I remember going to McDonalds and playing with my sister at the playground and seeing my parents cry," Sanchez recalled. "I was 8. I didn't think anything of it, but it was very serious . . . I think it was a little more difficult on my

family than it was on me, honestly, but having them by my side was incredible."

Sanchez underwent several months of chemotherapy to shrink the tumor and had a total of 23 surgeries. After six months of treatment, his family was faced with two choices: keep his leg, with a 50% chance of the cancer returning, or amputate, and decrease the chance of recurrence to 5%.

"My parents actually gave me the decision, because they said I was going to live with it for the rest of my life," Sanchez said. "I

dedicated to advancing the lives of those with physical disabilities through sports and recreational activities. The organization gave Sanchez his start on the court.

He now plays professionally for a wheelchair basketball team in Spain and represents the United States at the Paralympics.

Zummo's story began at birth. Born with fibular hemimelia and proximal femoral focal deficiency, by the time Zummo was 2, her right leg was four inches shorter than her left.

"When I was born, I



Jorge Sanchez of Dublin proudly holds an American flag during this year's Paralympics in Tokyo. He and another Dublin native, Bethany Zummo, brought home gold for their teams. (Photo courtesy of Jorge Sanchez)

was ready to be done with cancer and out of the hospital and get back to my life, so I chose to have my leg amputated."

Despite complications that led to a three-month coma, Sanchez finally emerged from the hospital intact and began life as an amputee. It was a few years later when he learned about wheelchair basketball and began to play through Bay Area Outreach Recreation Program (BORG). BORG is

was missing my fibula," said Zummo. "The doctors knew the difference in my legs was only going to get greater, so the surgeons and my parents decided amputation was the best option, so they amputated."

Zummo's leg was amputated below the knee. Being able to keep her knee has given her a much higher level of activity and motion than if she had lost her knee as well. She wears an adjustable prosthetic leg most days

(See ATHLETES, page 7)

Officials Launch Investigation into Ambulance Agency

By Tony Kukulich

REGIONAL — Pressure on Falck Northern California, the provider of emergency ambulance service for much of Alameda County, appears to be building in the wake of increasing emergency medical response times across the county.

Officials have called for an investigation, while local unions have questioned the company's business practices.

Reginald Freeman, fire chief with the Oakland Fire Department, requested an investigation into Falck ambulance response times

in the City of Oakland between Jan. 1, 2020, and Aug. 31, 2021 in a letter sent to the Alameda County Emergency Medical Services Agency (ALCO EMS), the organization in charge of managing countywide ambulance service.

"Between July 1, 2021, and Aug. 17, 2021, there were a total of 462 response delays," wrote Freeman. "That's an average of 11 per day. The incident descriptions for these calls include but are not limited to stabbing, gunshot, sexual

(See INVESTIGATION, page 6)

Amazon Secures 58.5 Acres Along Stanley Blvd

By Larry Altman

PLEASANTON — Amazon has purchased a large land parcel on the edge of East Pleasanton to build a warehouse that would serve the East Bay region, company officials said.

An Amazon spokeswoman on Friday confirmed the \$75 million purchase from Lionstone Investment Group for 58.5 acres on Stanley Boulevard near Valley Drive.

Construction likely will not begin until 2023.

"Plans are still up in the air for the site," said Natalie

Wolfrom, a Northern California public relations manager. "It may be a sortation room, or it may be a delivery station. Plans have not been made yet."

Wolfrom said the facility will create up to 800 jobs if it becomes a sortation center. A delivery station would employ 100 to 200 people.

At sortation centers, which could be up to 520,000 square feet, associates sort customer orders by their final destinations and consolidate them onto trucks for delivery. Smaller delivery stations, about

(See AMAZON, page 7)

Council to Move Forward With District Elections

By Ruth Roberts

PLEASANTON — The Pleasanton City Council has taken the initial first steps toward moving from an at-large to district-wide elections.

On Aug. 5, the city received a letter from attorney Kevin Shenkman, of Shenkman & Hughes law firm on behalf of Southwest Voter Registration Education Project, alleging "racially polarized voting" in Pleasanton and threatening litigation if the city declines to voluntarily convert to district-based elections.

Pleasanton is the latest in a cadre of cities throughout the state that have been facing the same legal challenges to eliminate their at-large

systems of electing city councilmembers. Almost all cities that have received a legal challenge have settled claims out of court by agreeing to voluntarily shift to district-based elections. Those that have opposed California Voting Rights Act (CVRA) challenges in courts have ultimately either voluntarily adopted, or have been forced to adopt district-based elections.

"I find it very distasteful, and I have very legitimate concerns that if we go to district, councilmembers will be more concerned about their district and winning reelection than doing what's best for the city," said Councilmember Kathy Narum. "My other concern is

(See ELECTIONS, page 7)

Affordable Housing Moves Ahead on Golden Gate Drive

By Ruth Roberts

DUBLIN — The city council has given the green light to an affordable housing project in the transit-oriented section of downtown.

In a unanimous vote Sept. 21, the council adopted the community benefit program agreement and affordable housing assistance agreement with BRIDGE Dublin LLC for the development of 300 units of affordable housing on a 3.6-acre site located on Golden Gate Drive. A total of 41 of the units would be made available for homeless individuals and residents with special needs.

The community benefit program agreement is required in order for the city

to allocate units from the downtown specific plan's development pool.

While the council collectively agreed to move ahead with the project, there were some concerns.

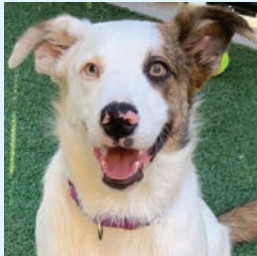
"As we introduce different types of folks into the facilities, some of them will need more support and my understanding is that BRIDGE has done a lot of good work when they established these apartments," said Councilmember Michael McCorriston. "What is BRIDGE going to do? What is their strategy for some of the homeless and services that will be necessary? I know it might be a county thing, but if they have done

(See HOUSING, page 7)



Protesters gathered last week to show their support for Wells Middle School Principal Mark Neal, who was placed on leave after an exchange with a teen. Neal was reinstated Monday this week. To read more, see page 2. [See photo gallery at www.independentnews.com/multimedia] (Photo – Doug Jorgensen)

PET OF THE WEEK



Vinny

Vinny is a happy, goofy boy who doesn't let his handicap hold him back! He is affectionate and likes to lean on people to further the connection. Vinny is a huge fan of peanut butter! Deaf dogs can be taught hand signals instead of voice commands and can make wonderful pets and lead full and rewarding lives. Vinny is eight-months-old and weighs 35 pounds. Get more information at info@valleyhumane.org. (Photo - Valley Humane Society / S. Reed)

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Livermore Woman Pleads No Contest to Second-Degree Murder Charges

By Larry Altman

A Livermore woman who smoked marijuana and drank whiskey before a crash killed two of her passengers has pleaded no contest to second-degree murder charges, prosecutors announced Wednesday.

Lauren April Davis faces 15-years-to-life in prison when she is sentenced in Alameda County Superior Court on Oct. 19. Davis entered her plea Tuesday in a deal with prosecutors as her murder trial was set to begin.

"This senseless tragedy took the lives of two young women and could have been avoided," Alameda County District Attorney Nancy O'Malley said in a statement. "Our office is committed to ensuring that those driving under the influence are held accountable for their actions."

The crash that occurred Nov. 22, 2017 — the night before Thanksgiving — killed Violet Campbell, a 16-year-old student at Village High School in Pleasanton and Alexys Garcia, 25, of Livermore.

About 11:30 p.m. Davis, who was 26 at the time, was driving her Kia Sorrento at 70-80 mph east on Stanley Boulevard near Isabel Drive in Livermore. She lost control of the SUV, which veered off the right side of the road and rolled over several times, prosecutors said.

Violet, who was in the seat behind Davis, died instantly. Garcia was thrown from the rear passenger seat into the street. Suffering from massive head injuries, she died five days later. Two other passengers were injured, but not seriously. Unscathed, Davis crawled from the wreck.

According to the California Highway Patrol and Alameda County District Attorney's Office, Davis had a history of driving under the influence of alcohol and marijuana. In 2013, she was arrested and charged with driving under the influence of marijuana. She pleaded no contest to reckless driving and was placed on three years' probation, records show.

Six months before the deadly crash, she pleaded guilty to alcohol-related reckless driving. Records show a judge sentenced her to 15 days in county jail and placed her on three years' probation. The terms included a requirement to complete a 12-hour class that included information on the dangers of driving under the influence, prosecutors said.

But on the night of the crash, Davis smoked marijuana before going into a

bowling alley, where she and others took shots of whiskey. Security footage inside the bowling alley showed her drinking beer, prosecutors said.

Leaving the bowling alley, she drove to a bar in downtown Livermore. Outside, Davis and others took more shots of whiskey. Once inside, she had more whiskey shots and another drink.

Prosecutors said Davis and her four passengers then got into her SUV and headed for another Livermore bar. Her SUV struck a curb before the crash.

The California Highway Patrol said Davis' blood-alcohol level measured 0.16, double the legal limit in California for driving.

Records showed prosecutors charged Davis with two counts of first-degree murder, along with gross vehicular manslaughter

charges and a slew of special allegations related to drugs and alcohol use that could have resulted in a

much lengthier sentence had she put her case before a jury.



Residents check out classic cars that filled the streets in downtown Livermore, Sept. 26, during the Altamont Cruisers' 32nd Nostalgia Day Car Show. According to organizers, the annual event has contributed nearly \$1 million in the past 31 years to local charitable and youth organizations. [See photo gallery at www.independentnews.com/multimedia] (Photos — Doug Jorgensen)

Wells Middle School Principal Reinstated After Paid Leave

By Larry Altman

A Dublin middle school principal whose heated exchange with a 15-year-old high school student and his mother went viral on social media returned to work Monday following an investigation.

Wells Middle School Principal Mark Neal was placed on paid administrative leave on Sept. 20 — the day the student's mother, Lisa Feliciano, posted a video her son forcefully recorded on his cell phone during a meeting that went awry. Mostly recorded under a table and pointed at the floor, the video showed a meeting that devolved into an argument.

By Friday, Dublin Unified School District (DUSD) Assistant Superintendent Heather Duncan wrote in a letter to the district's employees that the district had completed its investigation into the incident.

"We're happy to announce that Mr. Neal will be back on work on Monday, Sept. 27," Duncan continued. "Thank you for respecting the process and the outcome in order to support Mark and the school in an effort to move forward."

Neal did not respond to an email from The Independent.

Feliciano wrote on Facebook that she and her son had originally met with Neal because of an incident that happened Sept. 17. While passing by the middle school, her high school son saw a man yelling at girls the teen knew.

"My son stepped in on his way to my mom's, and he was not on campus," the mother wrote. "We went for a meeting to clarify what happened, and that was the only reason we were there."

The teen told the Mercury News that he stopped at 3:50 p.m. to confront the yelling man. School officials called the police, who responded to the scene.

Feliciano further wrote that her son had started the video recording on his cell phone during the Monday meeting when the principal became "aggressive." During the exchange, Neal and Feliciano raised their voices and talked over each other.

Neal explained to them he had dealt with the "girl drama" and a "dad who went overboard" outside the school and had worked it out.

"That's how we do things. We worked things out," Neal told them. "I just need you to understand, dude, you were not correct in what you did on Friday. I don't care what you think, but you were not correct, dude. And I need you to not be around here after school. Not because of you. I don't like high school kids here after school."

Although the mother told Neal she understood, her son — who had remained quiet through the discussion — accused Neal of not telling the truth and said he never saw Neal outside the school.

After the principal interjected, the teen responded, "I'm talking to my mom."

The discussion escalated into an argument with all three yelling at each other, prompting the boy to inform the principal he had the exchange on video.

The video then ended. What happened at the end was not clear, but the 15-year-old boy told the San Jose Mercury News that Neal knocked his phone from his hand and pushed a table toward his mother to stop her from picking it up.

Feliciano wrote on her Facebook page that the meeting became physical.

"Hit with a table at Wells thanks, Principle (sic)," she wrote.

On her Facebook page, Feliciano accused DUSD of "racism, homophobia, bullying, cyber bullying that has been here for years" and

referred to a police officer who apparently responded as a "straight punk."

In another post, Feliciano said she was amazed that some people called her son disrespectful.

"You weren't there," she said. "My son retreated and backed up. I tried (to) explain to him to stop a grown (expletive) man. When I go to the Dr., I don't expect my Dr. to strike me. When I go to the hospital, I don't expect them to hurt me. I expect professionalism with someone who works with teens with attitudes to be able to handle that situation 20 (years) as an educator. I expect better, not be so aggressive with a mother and a child, period."

On her Facebook page, friends commented in support of her and her son. Some backed the principal.

"It clearly is a video showing a school official losing his cool, for no good reason, actually, on defense, closed off, unapproachable, clearly has a predetermined opinion of your son, as if (it's) based on gossip," Jennifer Nascimento wrote. "We ALL know how this town loves the gossip!"

Michael Saxby disagreed.

"There is no love like a mother's love, but if that was my son this would be a different story," Saxby wrote. "He would sit down and (be quiet) ... If their policy is from what I understand high school boys are not supposed to be there, then he ain't supposed to be there. End of story."

Neal's brief suspension spurred supportive demonstrations from faculty, staff and parents outside the campus throughout his absence.

"This woman's intent was to divide, and all she's done is make us stronger," said Neal's secretary, Jessica Mitchell.

Mitchell called the social-media video a one-sided story that had changed as the family spoke to re-

porters.

"What happened on social media is not the truth," Mitchell said.

Neal took over at Wells a year earlier. During a rally, Robbie Kreitz, a special education teacher who also serves as president of the Dublin Teachers Association, credited Neal with holding the campus together following a year of virtual classes.

"We want our principal back," Kreitz said. "This staff is united. This staff is solid. The community is supportive."

Superintendent Chris Funk said Neal had built trust and a culture virtually during the pandemic.

"He is highly respected, and he brought stability during a time that was frantic," Funk said. "This was an unfortunate incident. I don't think it's the norm."

Funk said that while working in the "kid business," some young people can get under a principal's skin. But, Funk said, principals are trained to de-escalate problems and remain professional.

Staff photographer Doug Jorgensen contributed to this article.

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Vietnam Veteran, Livermore Resident Honored by the VFW

By Ruth Roberts

Livermore resident Mike Hurder was recently recognized through the Veterans of Foreign Wars’ (VFW) #stillserving campaign for his ongoing work with service dogs.

“(Mike) Hurder continues to give back by preserving the memory of, and advocating for, all military working dogs through his volunteer work with the Vietnam Dog Handler Association, Military Working

Dog Team Support Association and the Military Working Dog Heritage Museum,” said Randi K. Law, VFW communications manager.

Hurder said he is touched by the recognition.

“I don’t do the honor thing very well,” he said. “And I don’t particularly think I am the prime example, but it does make me feel proud.”

In 1971, a 19-year-old Hurder was drafted into the Army and sent to Vietnam where he was assigned to

the 34th infantry working as a K-9 handler. Together with his dog, Prince, much of Hurder’s job included patrolling the perimeter of his base camp and keeping the Viet Cong at bay.

After receiving three concussions in as many months and suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder issues, Hurder was transported to Guam to recuperate and then sent home to Hyde Park, Massachusetts. He was not quite 21 years old. And his faithful

companion, Prince, was euthanized, since there was no directive at the time for the government to pay to send military dogs home from war.

The times being what they were and Vietnam an especially controversial conflict, Hurder was not exactly met with open arms upon his arrival back in the states. The political climate and anti-war propaganda painted the servicemen in Vietnam as drug addicts and murderers. Hurder’s family believed what they were hearing and were hesitant to have their son back home.

“My parents were terrified that if I moved back in with them, God knows what I would do,” said Hurder. “I was in the hospital for about 30 days, and when I got home, I realized how scared my parents were.”

Hurder’s family didn’t want him staying at the house, so he subsequently took what little money he had and eventually ended up homeless on Boston Common for about six months.

Hurder became heavily involved with drugs and alcohol during that time. His father later came to regret asking Hurder to leave and set out to find him and bring him home. It was then that the process of healing, which ended up taking decades, began.

Through it all, Hurder found comfort from his own dogs. As he immersed himself in a variety of therapy programs, it was suggested that he get a service dog,

especially since he was a prior handler.

“What didn’t click with me at the time was that these dogs, my pets, were already performing those services,” said Hurder. “When I had bad dreams, they wrapped themselves around my feet. I already had service dogs.”

But the suggestion did spur Hurder to do more for others like himself. In 1999, he began working with a branch of the Vietnam Dog Handlers Association to kick off a movement called Never Again, which eventually passed a bill protecting dogs like Prince. The bill stated that service animals would be brought home from wars and if/when they are retirement ready, they would be adopted. To date, thousands of dogs have been retired with their handlers.

“We are all very proud of

that,” said Hurder.

It is those efforts and more, that earned Hurder his recent honors with #stillserving. He remains grateful for the recognition that serves as a constant reminder of his fellow veterans’ service.

“It’s important that we always remember the sacrifice that these guys gave up their lives for,” said Hurder. “We have taken the best years of our lives to serve America. These guys simply said ‘Ok, I’ll do my part’ during an important time in history. All this is not just to remind America of what people did, but it is for guys like me, who for a long time felt like outsiders ... It took a while, but life is wonderful now. I feel very grateful.”

For more information on the #stillserving organization, visit www.vfw.org.



Vietnam veteran and Livermore resident Mike Hurder has spent his post-war years advocating for military dogs. He was recently honored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars’ #StillServing campaign for his work. (Photo – Doug Jorgensen)

Wind Energy Center Commences Commercial Operations

By Dawnmarie Fehr

An emblematic ribbon-cutting was held by East Bay Community Energy (EBCE) at the Scott Haggerty Wind Energy Center in the Altamont Pass last Friday to mark the start of commercial operations.

The facility, a repowered source of clean energy for residents, represents a \$20 million investment in Alameda County through tax revenue to support public services. It will also sustain numerous clean energy jobs across operations and maintenance, following an initial output of more than 115,000 hours of union labor.

“As a mother of three children who are going to inherit this world, this is the work we need to be doing,” said Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan (D-16) during the event. “We need to be working toward our goals of achieving sustainable energy.”

Bauer-Kahan thanked Scott Haggerty for his devotion and time spent serving the public. She said she was grateful to be able to honor his work at such an impor-

tant event. EBCE honored Haggerty for his 25 years as an advocate for Alameda County. He served on the board of supervisors for 24 years and was an active member of multiple other boards and commissions.

Haggerty also spoke at the ribbon-cutting, thanking the stakeholders who made the achievement of local clean energy possible by providing power made in Alameda County for Alameda County.

“This is truly an honor, and I’d like the thank East Bay Community Energy for this amazing event,” Haggerty said. “I am so proud of this because this was the vision. We wanted to have sustainable power in Alameda County. I hope the board of supervisors moving forward will continue to demand that power go back to our grid.”

Livermore’s Altamont Pass was one of the earliest sites for modern-day wind power development in California and the United States. This new wind energy center replaces 569 one hundred kilowatt turbines with 23 state-of-the-art environmen-

tally and wildlife-friendly turbines. The new wind farm will produce lower-cost electricity for thousands of residents and businesses who rely on EBCE for clean and affordable energy.

“The re-powering of the Altamont wind project has greatly improved environmental impact while meeting the county’s need for clean, affordable wind power,” said Mehul Mehta, executive vice president with Greenbacker Renewable Energy Company, owner and operator of sustainable infrastructure and energy efficiency projects. “With this project, now the largest wind asset in Greenbacker’s portfolio, we look forward to partnering with EBCE to expand access to renewable energy for the communities and stakeholders within Alameda County for decades to come.”


Greenbacker currently manages \$1.5 billion in investor capital with projects spread across 32 states.

The clean electricity created from the new turbines will serve as a main supply source for EBCE’s Renewable 100 program, a power

mix of wind and solar energy servicing about 100,000 customers.


EBCE is a nonprofit public agency that operates a community choice energy program for Alameda County and 14 incorporated cities, serving more than 1.7 million residential and commercial customers. EBCE initiated service in 2018 and expanded to the cities of Pleasanton, Newark and Tracy in 2021. It is one of 19 community choice aggregation programs operating in California.

For more information about EBCE, visit ebce.org.

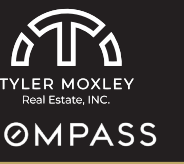


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Festivals Kick Off Busy Month at the Bankhead

The Bankhead Theater in Livermore will host nearly a dozen performances in October, including the highly anticipated return of the bluegrass trio The Wailin’ Jennys, blues guitarist Robert Cray, and jazz master Branford Marsalis and his quartet.

“An Evening with Danny Glover,” a Rae Dorrough Speaker Series presentation featuring the acclaimed actor, producer, and community activist, will lead off the month on Friday, Oct. 1, followed by the ninth-annual Taste of Africa festival sponsored by the Cheza Nami Foundation on Saturday, Oct. 2, and the Filipino Barrio Fiesta on Sunday, Oct. 3.

The Wailin’ Jennys, featuring singer-songwriters Nicky Mehta, Ruth Moody, and Heather Masse, will cap a busy first four days of the month on Monday, Oct. 4. The Wailin’ Jennys have released five critically-acclaimed albums, including the Juno-winning release, “Bright Morning Stars.”

Cray, a five-time Grammy Award winner, returns to the Bankhead stage for the fifth time on Thursday, Oct. 21. Inducted into the Blues Hall of Fame in 2011, Cray is credited with creating a new generation of blues fans with his distinctive guitar sound on more than 20 studio re-

leases. He has been called a modern blues poet, combining his signature blend of rock, rhythm, and blues with smooth vocals to deliver stories that touch the heart of his listeners.

Marsalis and his quartet will appear on Monday, Oct. 25. Acclaimed early as a saxophonist, Marsalis, former musical director for “The Late Show with Jay Leno,” has built on his talents as a musician, composer, bandleader, and educator to attract a broader audience to the world of jazz.

The theater will also host a variety of Big Band music, comedy, family shows, and Livermore Valley Opera vocalists during the month.

Comic mime Tape Face, best known for his stint on “America’s Got Talent,” will perform on Thursday, Oct. 7; Cirque Mechanics will present a new acrobatic show, “Birdhouse Factory,” on Saturday, Oct. 23; and matinee and evening tributes to Big Band leader Benny Goodman are set for Sunday, October 24.

Del Valle Fine Arts will present pianist Mark Anderson on Saturday, Oct. 16, and the Livermore-Amador Symphony will perform an outdoor “Picnic with the

Pops” on Oct. 23.

The final weekend of the month will feature “The Daily Show Writers Comedy Show” and an afternoon screening of the Mel Brooks spoof “Young Frankenstein” for a laugh-filled start to Halloween.

Tickets for all shows are available at livermorearts.org, by calling 925-373-6800, or at the box office.

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EDITORIAL

The Redistricting Process Needs Input

By December, Alameda County must adopt final district maps. The public’s input on how the redistricting process should go will be critical. As mandated every 10 years alongside the completion of the U.S. Census, local and regional governments must undergo a redistricting process. Elected officials will consider state law, as they draft solutions and maps to account for changes in population.

The county will hold a meeting to draw the draft map on Oct. 26, followed by several special board meetings throughout the month of November to garner feedback before a late December adoption.

Retired mathematician Joseph Grcar, who once worked for government labs in Livermore and Berkeley, said the community’s voice will be critical in this process. In an extensive research white paper, which he sent to Alameda County officials, Grcar noted that the current lines have created gerrymandered districts. The supervisors will need to do more than make subtle adjustments in order to comply with California Elections Code laws.

Elected officials across the region are calling for public input during the meetings. The county’s redistricting website (redistricting2021.acgov.org) allows visitors to submit “Community of Interest” applications. A Community of Interest is a population that shares common social or economic interests that should be included within a single supervisorial district for purposes of fair representation.

According to the Elections Code, “Supervisorial districts shall be geographically contiguous. Areas that meet only at the points of adjoining corners are not contiguous.” In other words, regions with shared interests shouldn’t be divided. Through the website, individuals and organizations can geographically identify their Community of Interest within the Alameda County boundaries. (<https://redistricting2021.acgov.org/communities-of-interest>)

Prioritizing fair representation of communities and their people is something the entire county should support. The lines we draw in the coming months will impact us for the next 10 years.

MAILBOX

Mailbox Guidelines:

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

Community Is More Important Lisa Harris, Livermore

After reading "Livermore High Schools Join in Solidarity ..." and the unity poster project, I am writing to express how proud I am to be a part of Livermore.

This article is a much-needed reminder of the goodness we have in our community in a time of dire need, and who better to remind us of this than our teens. After all, they are our leaders of tomorrow! Their display of putting team rivalry and differences aside and standing together in prayer and healing through care and compassion is truly wonderful and gives me hope for a better future.

Of course, my concern and prayers for all affected by this tragedy are paramount and not to be overlooked.

I can only hope that the leadership in Livermore today can strive, through compromise, for the same unity. As stated, "At the end of the day, community is more important than rivalry."

"Two schools (or two opinions), one town." And God bless all who are wounded and hurting from this terrible accident involving our youth.

General Plan Update Process Jim Hutchins, Livermore

The City Council has begun the process of updating the city’s General Plan. This three-year endeavor is projected to cost \$3.2 million, of which \$2.8 million will go to PlaceWorks, the consulting firm selected by the Council last March. Part of

the process is for PlaceWorks to engage the community “to weigh in on the vision and guiding principles” for the new plan. Their procedures, though, appear to prevent rather than promote eliciting significant input from the public.

To perform the public outreach, PlaceWorks held four events: two “pop-up events”, a virtual workshop (on September 23rd), and a table at a music event (on September 25th), with the process running for two weeks ending on September 26th. Compare this to the outreach PlaceWorks did in 2017 for the Downtown Livermore Public Outreach, where they held seven workshops and ten pop-up events over almost a two-month period. The Downtown Outreach events were published well in advance, while the current outreach events were announced in a last-minute press release, and due to publishing deadlines, only appeared in The Independent on the day of the workshop (which required pre-registration to participate).

The workshop itself was also almost comical in its (mis)operation: the Zoom attendance link was sent just two hours before the event; it started late; it had only a couple dozen resident participants (due to the poor publicizing); there were about as many city and PlaceWorks staff as residents, and the technology was problematic.

An example of how the technology they used discouraged participation is when they displayed a QR code for a webpage to enter comments for discussion, and told people to scan the code using their smartphones. If someone was using a smartphone to access the virtual meeting, they couldn’t use it to also scan the code, preventing them from participating in that exercise.

Another example of how input is being discouraged is that (I have been informed) their online comment submission access has been extended to October 3rd, but they haven’t publicly announced this, nor does their website state it. They need to tell the Livermore public.

The General Plan establishes the City’s long-range policy, and all citizens must have the chance to provide their input, but the current General Plan Update outreach does not seem designed to elicit real citizen input. Livermore deserves better, and the City Council must address these issues involving the consulting firm they hired.

City Leaders Not Representing Public Nancy Mulligan, Livermore

The citizens of Livermore have been trying for years to stop this unpopular use of the land behind First St. From early on when the City Council convened groups, the majority of respondents asked for a few things — more

parking, more green space, less apartments. The City Council disregarded all of them. Why do you continue to flaunt public opinion and ram your unpopular solution down our throats? Aren’t you supposed to be representing the people? You are not doing your jobs. Why don’t you try being good at your jobs and give your electorate what they need and asked for?

Exploiting Dead Americans Glenn White, Dublin

Richard Nixon became president in 1968, lying about a secret plan to end the war.

That resulted in 20,000 additional names on the Vietnam Memorial. His plan remains secret, but Republicans discovered that exploiting death and wrapping it in the flag, the Nixon strategy, was a sure winner in 1972.

W. Bush, Powell and Cheney betrayed the unity given them after 9/11 by invading Iraq and specifically rejecting the Powell Doctrine consisting of lessons learned from Vietnam, such as having a clear plan for victory, including overwhelming force and an exit strategy. That doctrine, per Powell and Cheney, was the difference between our only victory since 1945 in Kuwait and multiple defeats in unending, unwinnable wars.

The war mongers rejected their own doctrine that defined victory, paid for so dearly by those listed on the Vietnam Memorial, to lie about WMDs and launch two unending, unwinnable wars that led to humiliation and defeat. Therefore, those war mongers are actually war criminals.

The 2004 Bush campaign then lied about keeping us safe from terrorists when, actually, thousands died on 9/11. They prematurely claimed, “mission accomplished,” like Nixon proclaiming his secret plan. Republicans won again following the Nixon strategy.

“Patriotism, the last refuge of the scoundrel.” - Samuel Johnson

Deflecting from their own high civilian and unnecessary war casualties, the scoundrels then inverted the Nixon strategy by blaming casualties on Obama and Hillary, rather than terrorists. The Benghazi strategy, where Republicans lie and blame casualties on Democrats for political gain, as Kevin McCarthy proudly proclaimed, also gave terrorists cover. Republicans defeated Hillary after multiple bogus Benghazi hearings politicizing dead Americans.

Just before the recent ISIS attack in Kabul, Lindsey Graham said if one American dies, Biden should be impeached. One could hear the glee in Graham’s voice hoping for a chance to “Benghazi” Biden, despite knowing that Reagan allowed terrorists to kill hundreds more Marines than Biden. They got their chance.

However, Biden, like a Democrat, said the buck stops with him. Republicans had the audacity to pretend casualties don’t occur in war.

Now, Republican governors oppose using overwhelming force (vaccines and masks) against COVID-19. Rather than a quick victory, like Kuwait, the scoundrels would rather wrap another unending unwinnable war in the flag for political gain by exploiting dead Americans, like Nixon.

“Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it!” - San-

tayana.

Listen To the Residents Robert Blum, Livermore

Keep the lawsuit going with the City Council all the way to the next elections and vote all of them out. The City Council ignores what the citizens of Livermore have been wanting and asking for the Downtown development of open space and Eden housing. The City Council approved the Legacy project whose contractor went bankrupt and is sitting as an ugly dinosaur — a bad decision by the City Council for not doing their homework on creditable contractors and developers. This situation could turn positive... IF... the City Council and Eden Housing put on their thinking caps and negotiate to work out a plan to buy out the Legacy project before it is too late. Its bankrupt contractor has brought the project to a standstill. This would be an opportunity to create more housing for Eden Housing with parking on site. The project is partially started and no contaminated soil.

The City Council needs to put all effort into this opportunity for the Downtown of Livermore to take over and buy out the Legacy Project or what has been discussed, moving Eden Housing across Railroad Avenue.

When is the City Council going to wake up and do the right thing for the Downtown? The citizens of Livermore voted and voiced strongly to create and develop a very large-scale open space park in the heart of the Downtown. A well-planned scenic park is what the citizens of Livermore want. They do not want a so-called half-baked park with housing taking over a good portion of the park and destroying the area.

Remembering Mary Henriques Jason A. Bezis, Livermore High School c/o 1991

The Mary Henriques Scholarship for future Livermore High School (LHS) valedictorians is a fitting legacy for the late teacher and alumna (Sept. 2 edition).

Miss Henriques, LHS Spanish instructor from 1962 to 1991, was among the most effective educators during my 20 years of formal schooling. I attended her second-year Spanish class in 1988-89.

Señora Henriques was a silver-haired dynamo who did not waste one minute of instructional time. She exuded professionalism and demanded excellence. Some students skipped a year after completing her comprehensive course.

Her classroom was immersed completely in the Spanish language, including the daily Pledge of Allegiance. “¿Cómo se dice ____?” [“How is ____ said (in Spanish)?”] preceded the only words spoken in English.

Diligently devoting every possible moment to speaking, listening, writing, and reading en Español, Sra. Henriques constantly was in motion. She efficiently reviewed completed homework by walking from desk to desk with a textbook in one hand and a rubber stamp in the other, processing thirty students’ papers while simultaneously firing questions at pupils.

As she imparted lessons, she filled one chalkboard and sped across the room to fill another. Firmly controlling the class, she addressed mis-

behavior by coolly encoding demerits in her grade book, without verbal comment or another glance at the miscreant. She often announced homework assignments as the final bell rang.

As longtime faculty advisor for the California Scholarship Federation academic honor society, she presided over an annual potluck banquet, beaming proudly as she acclaimed graduating seniors’ accomplishments to the assembled families.

Mary Henriques personified the best of 20th century Livermore’s small-town values: an orderly “melting pot” of diverse cultures coupled with educational opportunities. Her father was an illiterate, Portuguese-speaking native of the Azores. Her mother’s parents also were Azoreans. She graduated from St. Michael School in 1946.

Perhaps prophetically, she delivered a speech at her LHS graduation ceremony in 1950 titled “Our High School in the Future.”

Sra. Henriques was an heir to the mantle of May Nissen (1884-1981), the legendary LHS alumna (class of 1903) who was an LHS Latin and English teacher from 1910 to 1948. Like Miss Nissen, she resided on McLeod Street, in the shadow of the LHS campus. Whereas Miss Nissen bridged the 19th and 20th centuries at LHS, Sra. Henriques and her generous bequest connect the 20th and 21st centuries.

¡Adiós, profesora distinguida y querida!

Council Needs to Reconsider Housing Plan William E. Zagotta, Livermore

Why am I still writing Letters to the Editor about the Affordable Housing project on the old Lucky Supermarket site that Eden Housing may be building? Because the suggestion that a better affordable housing project could be built if the housing was moved from the Lucky site to the north side of Railroad Ave threatens the City’s power position ... even after two counselors were defeated for reelection for advocating a previous City plan that was clearly inferior.

Why doesn’t the City defend their plan in response to the voters’ unrest about the housing? The City “knows” that they have a “pat hand” public discussion that would only increase Citizen unrest.

Just consider Citizens’ Letters; only ones from Sept. 23, 2021.

Mary Ann Brent raised the issue of toxic waste under the project. The Water Board has labeled the City’s proposed cleanup “neither appropriately justified nor acceptable”.

Jim Hutchins wrote that Staff said the toxicity was a “non-issue”, “propaganda”. The Council debunked the toxic waste under the affordable housing. Now the Board is investigating!

Carol Silva has suggested that there may be more landowners who want to sell because some businesses may be closing due to COVID-19.

Sophia Schafer wrote that “... if the new location provides more units, would not the

County deem this a good thing and continue to support” the Citizen suggested project?

Rich Buckley, decades long Livermore realtor, suggests the City should learn something from its disas-

trous Legacy project on First and L.

Citizens are begging. Change the plan.

AB1512 The End and a Beginning Estelle Miller, Livermore

It appeared that AB1512 would be passed in the Senate and then go on to the governor to be signed, but it was suddenly inactivated.

A trailer bill was passed on Sept. 9, after a deal was made by the legislators, the governor and the State Department of Parks and Recreation concerning the fate of the Alameda-Tesla Expansion Area.

Why was AB1512 pulled and a deal made? Was there a chance that the governor was going to veto AB1512 just as he had done in 2019 with AB1086?

It is refreshing to hear the authors of AB1512 say that this deal is a win-win. For the past five years, it appeared they were going for a win-lose scenario. Previous bills tried to sell the Expansion Area (AB1086), eliminate Carnegie SVRA (SB1147), and remove motorized recreation for a mere \$9 million compensation (AB1512).

Because of the deal, the expansion area is now its own state park. This is a win for those who wanted OHV to find a suitable place elsewhere for ‘that kind of recreation’ (as Senator Glazer describes OHV).

It is also a win for Californians who enjoy ‘that kind of recreation,’ including myself and a growing number of new OHV users. With the sufficient compensation provided by the trailer bill, OHV now has the funds for another OHV park to replace the expansion area.

It’s a deal that provides \$28.9 million compensation to the OHV Trust Fund, protection for Carnegie SVRA, and the promise of a new OHV park close to the Bay Area and the Central Valley. All in all, it’s not a bad deal.

It could be considered a win-win and a great new beginning.

Our Self-Vaunted City Council Richard Andrews, Livermore

It is always a pleasure when the Gods of Olympus (aka. Livermore City Council) deign to show their superiority, excellence, and better understanding than we poor peasantry in matters that concern our city and its future. We who merely live under their benign oversight, and pay the taxes they spend, had informed them at meetings and with letters our displeasure at their roughshod acceptance of a severely altered Eden plan THAT WE DID NOT APPROVE. But they proceeded anyway. They chose to instead use their own superior “self-evaluation” and move on as their infallible brilliance deemed proper — namely, that Eden should get underway in anyway the Council deemed proper, by their own “self-evaluation”.

Sure, they shamelessly had Eden pay a LOBBY firm (two?), to load in special speakers they recruited, as well as those who would get employment if the fiasco was allowed. They acted like shills and were packed into the comment time at the City Council Eden Project meeting to seem like “grassroots”, when actually the majority opposed this questionable act. Sure, they tried to skirt around the obvious, while

(See MAILBOX, page 5)

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MAILBOX

(Continued from page 4)

ignoring the fact they were acting against the citizens wishes. And lastly (but not least), sure they have denied they did any of the above. Oh, the pure joy of "self-evaluation". Sounds more like action from Mar-a-Lago, than Livermore.

I am told the mayor is aware of our distaste with his and his cronies' actions. And he fears a recall may happen. He and his gang of four need to go. Their efforts have pretty much ruined the downtown for the future, with the parking problem they have exacerbated with their effete approach that they know it all, and proceeded as they wish. Does this irresponsible behavior ever stop?

I feel at times the City Council of Livermore is behaving more like Chicago of the '50s with Mayor Daly doing as he pleases, than the wonderful small-town council we need. This entire cabal needs to be voted out in the next election. They have failed us.

PlaceWorks Disappoints Deborah McQueen, Livermore

On Sept. 23, PlaceWorks held a public meeting for the new 2045 General Plan. There were 53 people attending this very important event. Among the 53 attendees were 16 members of City staff, 6 members from PlaceWorks, 6 members pending nomination to the GPAC, 1 interpreter, and a paltry 24 from the rest of the poorly informed general public. Notices for this event only ran in the Independent the day of the meeting, thereby ensuring that virtually no one would be able to attend. Out of 90K people that live in Livermore, only .027% of the residents were represented to speak on some of the most important issues facing Livermore and its future. PlaceWorks will receive \$2.8 million for their work over a three-year period, which equates to \$2,700 a day. How is it possible that they neglected to adequately contact the public, whose tax dollars pay their fees, regarding the meeting on Sept. 23?

PlaceWorks' primary job function is to communicate directly with the public in a meaningful manner and their first meeting missed

that mark by a galactic mile. Citizens of Livermore should write the mayor and city council and complain about their tax dollars being poorly spent, and demand a second meeting with ample advance notice to the public, sent out through primary established news sources, such as newspapers and direct mail to each residents' home (not NextDoor, Patch, or the Library bulletin board).

PlaceWorks was also awarded the prior contract for the General Plan 20 years ago, and handled the 2017 Downtown Livermore Public Outreach Plan. This is the same downtown plan that the City and Eden Housing are completely ignoring in their efforts to drop a 4-story building the size of a football field into downtown Livermore. The number one take-away from the meeting was the desire for open space in downtown. No one voiced support for tall 4-story buildings downtown (with the exception of John Marchand) and everyone wanted the character of Livermore to be preserved as a "small town atmosphere."

The City is ignoring the results of the 2004 General Plan, and the 2017 Downtown Plan, so why should the public have any confidence that they will respect the findings from the 2045 General Plan? The City and Council are wasting hard-earned taxpayer dollars on fantasies that are as real as the "Easter bunny and the tooth fairy."

Hold Officials Responsible Kaylee DeLand, Livermore

The Exposing Agricultural Trade Suppression (EATS) Act (H.R. 4999 / S. 2619) threatens state animal protection laws across the country.

If passed, this bill would prevent both states and local jurisdictions from passing new animal welfare laws, while nullifying all existing regulations. California has a long history of protecting animal welfare, first passing Proposition 2 in 2008 to eliminate the use of battery cages, gestation crates, and veal crates in the state. Further, in 2010, California banned the in-state sale of eggs coming from hens raised in cruel battery cages, ensuring that out-of-state producers using inhu-

mane practices would also be barred from selling their products to Californians. Most recently, Proposition 12 strengthened these cage and crate-free standards, expanding the in-state sales ban to include pork and veal products.

The passage of the EATS Act is a direct federal assault on our steps toward a more humane future and the right of Californians to pass their own animal protection laws. Because of the bill's broad definition of "any agricultural product," this bill could void hundreds of state and local laws regarding animal welfare, farm labor, environmental protection, food safety, and puppy mills.

I urge Representative Swalwell and Senators Alex Padilla and Dianne Feinstein not to cosponsor the EATS Act and to vote NO if it comes up for consideration. Californians are counting on our elected officials to uphold the laws we have in place to protect animals, people, and the environment.

Things We Would Like to Know Theodore Schaefer, Livermore

If the highly controversial Eden project goes forward, I believe all Livermore residents would like to know about the project management that we can expect.

How many 1-bedroom, 2-bedroom and 3-bedroom units will be provided?

Will Eden remain 'rental only' in perpetuity, or will Eden be able to cash in later and reap big profits?

Who will qualify for renting these units? Will it be singles, singles with subletted roommates, marrieds, with or without kids, working poor, retirees, public employees only or privately employed, current Livermore residents or outside Livermore persons? etc.

Who will manage this

development for exterior/interior maintenance, noise levels, garbage collections, etc.?

Finally, why are the City Council and Mayor not responding to the hundreds of complaints about their decisions on Eden vs. moving it across the street??

Preparing for the Worst Grace Clark, Livermore

As our democracy hangs by a thread, we can expect our elections in '22 and '24 to be extraordinarily bitter and potentially violent.

White Christian supremacists have propagated Trump's "Big Lie," and convinced a large fraction of the electorate that our elections are rigged against the GOP. Simultaneously, key red state legislatures have changed their election laws so the GOP can always win, regardless of how the electorate actually votes. Vladimir Putin is licking his chops.

When non-GOP voters realize that their votes were nullified, they will (or should) furiously protest. Both sides will scream, "Fraud!" Nobody will trust our constitutional republic. The potential for violence is enormous.

Putin, Trump and GOP leaders are rapidly implementing their plan to install a white theocratic fascist autocracy - while the complicit Supreme Court helps them, and the feckless Democrats watch passively.

We are on track to squander the sacrifices of our ancestors.

Weigh-In on Livermore's Future Donna Cabanne, Livermore

What should Livermore look like in 2025? 2045? Now is your chance to give input about what you like and your concerns.

Want more parks? More bicycle paths? Want to pro-

tect open space? Want to keep our small-town charm? Concerned about contamination downtown and the safety of Eden Housing? If you oppose the expansion of the Livermore Airport to include 737 jets and become

a commercial airport, now is the time to speak up...

Please email your comments to gupdate@cityoflivermore.net and/or use website: imaginelivermore2045.

(See MAILBOX, page 6)



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DOWNTOWN IN-DEPTH

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

Opening the doors to an exceptional and affordable downtown park

Moving Eden Housing's massive buildings across Railroad Avenue would not only preserve our downtown charm, but also open the door to an exceptional park for Livermore. Eden's plan provides only a .63 acre park between 4-story residential buildings up to a block long, a park that would appear to belong just to Eden's residents. Relocating the housing would allow for a 1.48-acre inspiring, destination park, one that could be enjoyed by all.

Opponents of the Downtown Alternative north of Railroad Avenue have suggested very high estimates of the cost of the downtown park. These are exaggerated in order to frighten people away from the concept. In fact, the added cost of preparing .85 acres, 135% more than the City's proposed park, might amount to \$136,000-\$170,000 if the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District general ballpark figure of \$160,000-\$200,000 per acre were used for preparing the ground, installing irrigation, planting a lawn, etc. However, even if the cost per acre for a high quality, creative park – like South Park in San Francisco – were used to determine the upper limit of the proposed .85 acre portion of the downtown park, it would amount to about \$3.7 million, a fraction of the estimate some critics have cited.

There are many ways to defray the costs of the park and make it affordable. The cultural uses acquiring sites surrounding the park will bring in dollars to help cover park expenses. Fundraising from business and community members wishing to name portions of the park could contribute several million more. Increased tax dollars benefiting the City's general fund from visitors, residents and hotel guests drawn to the park and its nearby retail and restaurants should also be included. Volunteers can assist with the ongoing cleanup costs of the park. Finally, elements of the park could be developed in stages, enabling fundraising to continue for years.

Certainly, the cost of a destination park should not deter the relocation of the Eden project; an extraordinary park is the very heart of what the community envisions for its downtown.

Find Out More at SaveLivermoreDowntown.com



Paid for by Save Livermore Downtown

MAILBOX

(Continued from page 5)

org. Deadline for comments is October 3. Your input is critical to maintaining a beautiful, livable Livermore we can all be proud to call home.

East Avenue Corridor, Part 2 Jan Brovont, Livermore

Last week I wrote about the “East Ave Corridor” and the alternatives 1 & 2 TJKM, the company the city has hired, are suggesting. Here is their website: <https://www.eastavecorridorstudy.com/>

The City of Livermore strives to maintain a safe and convenient transportation network. The City is conducting a Corridor Study on East Avenue that will enhance mobility and safety for all modes of transportation. www.eastavecorridorstudy.com.

The city could improve our roads and bike paths, making them safer by increasing the number of streetlights. East Ave. is actually a 6-lane street with streetlights only on 1 side of the street and only every other pole. The lights don’t cover both sides of the street or the distance between the poles. Additional lights across the street between poles would make a zig-zag effect and better lighting.

Alternative 3 would give us 2 traffic/driving lanes, 1 each direction 11’ width each and center turn lane 13’, it will also be the emergency vehicle lane. Bicycle lane 6’, with a 3-9’ buffer, 5-8 ft wide sidewalk and 109 parking spaces, almost exactu-

ally HALF of current parking spaces.

Hybrid alternative has 4,3,2 lanes; sounds confusing already. A center lane for shared lefts in both directions and shared with emergency vehicles, both directions. Bicycle lanes 6-7’, buffer lanes of 2-4’, sidewalk increases by 2-4’ in some places. TJKM wording not mine. And 82 parking spaces, instead of 215 we have now.

Last spring, I drove the length of East Ave on a weekday, from Livermore Ave. to Vasco at 11:30 in the morning. I passed 27 oncoming cars and only 2 bicyclists. A few months ago, I was waiting for a left turn light at Hillcrest, counted 17 cars in both lanes stopped at the light on EA. How long would it take to get through that light if in a single lane? One morning while looking out a window of a friend’s house on EA, I counted 39 vehicles passing by in 4 minutes. If that had been in a single lane it might have taken them 2 turns of a traffic light to get through an intersection, backing up more traffic.

Former Mayor Marchand was very proud of Livermore’s 8,000 handicapped curbs. The people needing a handicapped curb could not walk far, ride a bike, and probably not step into a bus either; cars are their best transportation.

The Promise of Marxism Owen Brovont, Livermore

As with most socio-political theories, Marxism has been massaged by many fingers in academia to the point that there is no specific interpretation universally recognized. Marxism is principally about the relationships between society, economics, and politics. According to Marx, human societies develop through class conflicts, between the bourgeoisie, the affluent ruling classes who control the means of producing material wealth, and the proletariat, the working classes who sell their labor for wages. This relationship understandably creates tensions. Using the theory of Historical Materialism, Marx asserted that changes in social structures and relationships result from changes in technological and material conditions and not from ideal or theoretical models of organization. Whoever controls these processes are the primary sources motivating social change. His ideas have a powerful appeal owing to the apparent but superficial simplicity of their formulation. This is disastrously misleading since none of these ideas are actually brief, simple, or approach a coherent and comprehensive discussion of all factors triggering social change. One only has to look at the societal chaos caused by growing Marxism in America today!

Relatively early in the development of human societies, the control of material

and human resources was concentrated in the wealthier, most powerful members of society, the aristocracy. The difficulty of creating and distributing material goods slowly declined as new techniques of manufacturing and methods of production developed, leading to improved quality, abundance, and availability of material goods. Over time, more and more of the material products of society became available to the lower economic layers of society. Eventually, some human beings stopped being legally classified as chattel – as property! Historical analysis reveals that competition to obtain basic material goods in many cases generated levels of tension and occasionally physical conflict between the rich and the poor – the Bourgeoisie and the Proletariat in Marxist terminology. The growth of freedom and capitalism modified that dynamic.

Early Capitalism evolved as a byproduct of recognizing the right of private property, recognizing the power of worker organization, and competition for markets for both products and the workers who produce them.

The roots of these new insights of ownership and production grew as products of discovery and invention of the Industrial Revolution. The right to negotiate how one chooses and provides for his own life is an expression of personal freedom – it is a right underwritten by Capital-

ism – it is a right denied by Marxism.

Possible Alternatives to Housing Rich Buckley, Livermore

My silly notions for buying part of Legacy Partners’ project? “Rich, your simplistic notion of just buying a portion of the Legacy Housing project for the city to fulfill its moderate rental housing obligation, just so we can keep open a grand central park on the old Lucky store site has a major problem. They’ll be too nice and too plush for the city’s moderate rental housing budget.”

Response:

Areas of possible cost savings and revenue:

(1) Instead of high-end appliances, accept lower cost appliances. Look for other trade down opportunities as well.

(2) Instead of a landscaping budget around Veterans Park allocated to Eden Housing for its fair share, transfer it to maintaining its fair share of our large community park.

(3) Instead of risky experimental low to nonexistent parking for the Eden Housing mess of a design being placed on the monstrosity building currently planned by the city, buy the market rate housing allocations delivered in the Legacy Partners project, simultaneously draft a monthly rental charge for tenants’= extra vehicle parking on the city units.

(4) Instead of trying to pay

for and micro-manage the design of Eden Housing fiasco on the old Lucky store site, a design that has cast a bad taste along with apologies in everyone from Eden Housing, to their architects, to all us critics, hire the same designer to customize and tweak new trade-down finishing specs off the Legacy Partners plans, and hire Eden Housing to manage the project.

(5) Instead of leaving the existing mayor to appear in the light of a political opportunist who bait and switched us during the election, put a phase one effort into the task of seriously looking into alternative housing sites and open Central Park. Include the city attorney in the task.

(6) Capture \$-Millions by updating the city’s excess properties and start an attractive liquidation plan utilizing some of that revenue to mitigate our costs.

(7) Facing the challenge together <https://www.bitchute.com/video/GSjbx-whz1749/>

Be Thankful for Our Water Kenneth Henneman, Pleasanton

Water, its availability is essential for us living here in our three great Livermore Valley communities. Thankfully it is available, even during this drought year.

This drought year lets be thankful for our water supply; and for the great leaders that emerged during three

(See MAILBOX, page 7)

WATER

(Continued from first page)

Trish Munro was absent for the vote.

Anthony Smith, Livermore’s acting water division manager, explained that Stage 2 activation would restrict outdoor watering to the hours of 6 p.m. to 9 a.m., at a maximum of three days per week on an even/odd address-based schedule. According to the city’s staff report, Stage 1 conservation rates will increase variable charges by 10%; Stage 2 rates would increase those same variable charges by 20%. Under Stage 1 rates, the monthly bill for an average single-family home that does not reduce water usage would increase by \$1.99 per month, or 2.2%, continued the report.

Smith further detailed the state of emergency in California.

“Earlier this year, the governor declared a drought and asked Californians to reduce their water usage. This began as a call for a 10% reduction and then increased to 15%,” Smith said. “Following two dry years, reservoirs throughout the state are at historic lows.”

Smith went on to note that on Sept. 1, the Zone 7 Board of Directors declared a water shortage and called for a 15% water reduction. As a water wholesaler, Zone 7 officials said at the time that the agency could not implement a mandate among its retailers, which are the City of Livermore, the City of Pleasanton, California Water Service Company, and Dublin San Ramon Services District. However, it encouraged those retailers to enact mandates of their own.

“Zone 7 activated their water shortage contingency

plan at Stage 2, and staff recommends that the city follow suit,” Smith said prior to the council vote. “Zone 7 typically sources a majority of the Tri-Valley’s water from the State Water Project, which is pumped in from the Delta. The Department of Water Resources has previously notified State Water Project contractors to expect only 5% of their requests this year and that there may be periods of time next year that contractors will get no water ... Staff believes that the Stage 2 activation, coupled with a robust public outreach and education campaign, will allow the city to meet the 15% overall reduction target.”

During public comment, speaker John Marchand — a former Livermore mayor — raised various questions.

“How much has the total water consumption of Livermore’s water enterprise gone up since the last drought?” Marchand asked. “Livermore has added thousands of residents and hundreds of new housing units since the last drought. How does Livermore’s current annual per capita consumption compare today to our per capita consumption in 2014 before the last drought? ... Many of us modified our lifestyles and still use conservation methods that we adopted during the drought; we have not returned to our previous use levels.”

He went on to note that during the last drought, Livermore led the state in water conservation by cutting back 40%.

“But we kept Lizzie Fountain on because that is where the children played,” he said. “The children that play there do not have swim-

ming pools. Many do not even have backyards. But by reducing the hours of operation and the number of fountains, we still reduced outdoor water use by the 50% target.”

City Manager Marc Roberts noted that the 15% is calculated by the total volume of the water enterprise, rather than on individual users.

“Individuals are not where the focus is because, in certain circumstances, they have hardened their water use, so from that perspective, there will not be penalties or fines or a ticket if you’ve already gone through fixed leaks or reduced your demand,” Roberts explained. “Our overall water demand since the previous drought actually still remains below where it was ... we’ve had additional savings.”

Councilmember Gina Bonanno said that going from getting water from the snow melt to taking it out of “our bathtub” was like taking money out of the bank. She asked if the schools and Livermore Area Recreation and Park District (LARPd) would work with the city to achieve water reduction. Roberts said “absolutely.”

“During our last drought, LARPd and the school district worked with the city, and all three agencies reduced our water by more than the minimum that was requested through all of our landscaped areas,” Roberts explained. “LARPd and the school district are a critical partner in helping us get to those goals, because both of those agencies have large turf fields and use

an enormous amount of water.”

Councilmember Robert Carling asked which year will be used as a baseline from which the 15% is calculated. Roberts responded to say the baseline year is 2020.

Mayor Bob Woerner wanted to know how often the city should report out the water reduction progress. Roberts suggested at least monthly, as data captured in shorter time periods than that would not be as meaningful.

Councilmember Brittni Kiick asked for an update on her previous request for the city to convert turf where possible throughout the city. Roberts reported that the city has already started with the civic centrally still remains below where it was ... we’ve had additional savings.”

Infrastructure Improvements, Stormwater Update

Meanwhile, the council approved the issuance of bonds to finance improvements for Trevano Road’s private sewer and water systems, which were constructed in 1915 and have had numerous problems. The city expects to pay \$107,838 for the General Benefit portion of the improvements.

The council also received an update on the Asset Management and Stormwater Program. Debbie Bell, Public Works management analyst, reminded the council that asset management had been set as a city goal and priority in 2015, 2017, 2019 and 2021.

Bell detailed the work staff has undergone to improve stormwater management, including engaging a consultant, developing a citywide approach and consulting with Zone 7. She further noted the city is implementing options to reduce funding needs, such as replacing high-maintenance assets with lower-maintenance alternatives or selling community-owned assets.

To read the complete staff report, visit https://bit.ly/Indy_AssetUpdate.

Closed Session Considerations

For its closed session, the council was set to consider existing litigation, labor matters and possible negotiations with Presidio Companies LLC and 2205 Railroad Avenue LLC regarding a development agreement. An amendment to the disposition and development agreement would allow for the construction of a downtown hotel, as well as a possible loan from the city to Presidio to aid in acquiring a parcel for hotel parking, the burned down Pool Supply store site on the northwest corner of the intersection of Railroad Avenue and K Street.

At the start of the meeting, the council heard comments from the public on these closed session items. Maryann Brent said in the past, there have been concerns about traffic along Railroad and Livermore avenues generated by the hotel and Eden Housing, an affordable housing complex slated for downtown. She asked whether there will be extra traffic and congestion at the Railroad Avenue and Livermore intersection

caused by guests and valet parking. Every time guests want to summon their cars, two trips will be generated, she said. She wanted to know if the city must provide a new traffic review for the California Environmental Quality Act to include the new I Street Garage and the proposed hotel valet parking site on Railroad Avenue.

Another public speaker, Jean King, said the consideration of purchasing property for valet parking for the hotel should have been conducted in a regular public session.

Using this prime location for one level of surface parking does nothing to revitalize the downtown area, she stated. She went on to say that the proposed Alternative Plan shows a structured, robotic parking garage with required parking for the residents and extra spaces that could be used for valet parking. The garage could be planned to serve both the hotel and the 230 affordable residential units, she said, further adding that the Pool Supply site would then be part of a plan with a purpose greater than valet parking.

Matters Initiated

During the matters initiated portion of the council meeting, Woerner raised the issue of the humanitarian crisis concerning Afghan refugees.

“I’ve been asked to see if there’s something that we can do,” he said. “I would ask staff what might be appropriate for us to do in light of the situation with these refugees.”

INVESTIGATION

(Continued from first page)

assault, seizures, breathing problems, stroke, traumatic injury, chest pain, overdose and hemorrhage laceration. Our residents and visitors deserve to have the best services, which includes their loved ones being transported to the hospital in an expeditious, safe and orderly manner when there is a medical emergency.”

Response time concerns have not been limited to the western part of the county. Impacts of extended response times have also been felt in the Tri-Valley.

“We have seen Chief Freeman’s letter, and we do share many of his concerns,” said interim-Fire Chief Joe Testa of the Livermore-Pleasanton Fire District. “We have experienced some extended response times for Falck ambulances in Livermore and Pleasanton. At times, the Alameda County Fire Department has dispatched their paramedic ambulance from the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory to respond to calls in our jurisdiction when there was a lack of Falck ambulance availability or an extended estimated response time.”

In an email to The Independent, Falck USA Director of Marketing and Communications Jeff Lucia said he wasn’t aware of Freeman’s letter, but that he shared Freeman’s concerns about increasing response times. He noted that average response times in the county have increased in recent months, a result he attributed to delays experienced by ambulance crews while waiting to transfer patient care to hospital staff, referred to as wall time.

“We’ve seen a slow increase in response times countywide of approximately 60 seconds in the past three months, in tandem with an increase in time spent waiting with patients for beds at hospitals of approximately 12 minutes, due to the hospital labor shortage up and down the state and across the nation,” Lucia said.

ALCO EMS acknowledged Freeman’s concerns and said that efforts are underway to make improvements.

“We have identified some systemic problems that are contributing to longer response times,” said Jerri

Applegate Randrup, communications officer with Alameda County Health Services Agency. “We have multiple mitigation efforts in place, and we advised Chief Freeman that we would keep the fire chiefs apprised of our progress.”

Speaking before the Sept. 9 meeting of the Alameda County Board of Supervisors’ Public Protection Committee — comprised of supervisors Richard Valle and Nate Miley — representatives of NAGE EMS Local 510 presented a more complex picture of the factors behind Falck’s diminishing services levels. They discussed an array of concerns regarding the company’s business practices. Local 510 represents emergency medical technicians, paramedics and support staff that provide emergency medical services and transport.

Admitting that wall times have increased, particularly since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, Gary Breazeale, Local 510 treasurer, said the ambulances can routinely take 30 minutes or more to respond to a 9-1-1 call. Falck’s staffing prac-

es, he said, are a significant factor in those delays.

“alck has blamed the long response times on hospital wall times,” Breazeale said. “This is a red herring argument by Falck to detract from their staffing shortcomings. Hospital delays are nothing new for Alameda County EMS. However, hospital wait times have increased exponentially since COVID ... County LEMSA, the county local EMS authority, is now giving exemptions to Falck for long response delays. This exemption absolves Falck of the responsibility to upstaff their ambulances. There is no motivation for the company to fix the issue by adding extra ambulances because there is no penalty for any delays.”

Dominic Curcuruto — the chief shop steward for Local 510 and a current Falck employee serving Alameda County — outlined other concerns. He asserted that Falck staffed a large number of basic life support (BLS) ambulances to meet contractual unit hours, instead of staffing advanced life support (ALS) crews. According to Curcuruto, BLS crews are

limited to responding to less serious calls and often sit idle while urgent incidents wait for an ALS crew to become available.

Additionally, Curcuruto alleged that Falck has failed to meet its contractual obligation to provide comfort stations for on-duty ambulance crews. Falck was awarded the contract to provide ambulance service to Alameda County in July 2019. During the county’s analysis of the bids for that contract, Falck received 85 points for its promise to provide 17 of these stations. Cucuruto asserted that those points allowed Falck to beat the other bidders, Paramedics Plus and American Medical Response. To date, Curcuruto said, Falck has only made three stations available.

“We ask only that Falck be held appropriately accountable for their actions, or lack thereof,” he said. “Our families and this community deserve at least that much.”

The director and chief of Falck Alameda County, Carolina Snypes, resigned from her position after 18 months in the role. Snypes announced the move Sept. 9

in posting on the company’s Facebook page.

“For me, it’s something that I’ve been working with the administration on for quite some time,” Snypes said in an interview with The Independent. “Obviously, I couldn’t share that earlier than it was appropriate to. I’m a full-time student. My wife is a full-time student. Our lives are kind of crazy. For me, I pretty much set out to get a couple of major things accomplished. I’ve been with the county a really long time. So, I wanted to get through transition. There were a couple of major milestones for me once I took the director and chief role that I wanted to finish. I felt like I finished those, and I just felt like it was time for me to move on to something that was a little less demanding.”

Snypes’ successor has not yet been named. The day after her resignation, Falck announced that Scott Enslinger had been hired as the company’s new director of operations. Lucia said that Enslinger’s hire fills a role that had been open since May.

SB 9

(Continued from first page)

and zoning is a municipal local affair, which is what our constitution currently says,” explained Pleasanton Mayor Julie Testa, who is a member of Californians for Community Planning. “We’re really just asking to reaffirm our California Constitution with this, because the state has overreached their authority in passing these and other unfunded mandates.”

Under SB 9, a homeowner is allowed to split a lot and build up to two housing units on each half. While there are some restrictions, including a minimum lot size and a requirement that the homeowner must occupy one of the units for at least three years, the legislation allows the construction of multiple units without regard for current zoning. A lot previously zoned for a single-family home can be modified to support four housing units. Local municipalities are prohibited from enforcing zoning restrictions as long as the conditions set forth in SB 9 are met.

“SB 9 will open up opportunities for homeowners to help ease our state’s housing shortage, while still protecting tenants from displacement,” said Senate Pro Tem Toni Atkins, D-39, who was one of the authors of SB 9. “And it will help our communities welcome new families to the neighborhood and enable more folks to set foot on the path to buying their first home. I’m grateful for the governor’s partnership and our shared determination to turn the corner on California’s housing crisis.”

Authored by Sen. Scott Wiener, D-11, SB 10 allows local governments to approve the construction of up to a 10-unit apartment building in areas currently zoned for single-family residences, provided the lot is close to mass transit or in an existing urban area.

“California’s severe housing shortage is badly damaging our state, and we need many approaches to tackle it,” Wiener said. “SB 10 provides one important approach — making it dramatically easier and faster for cities to zone for more housing. It shouldn’t take five or 10 years for cities to rezone, and SB 10 gives cities a powerful new tool to get the job done quickly.”

Newsom acknowledged that SB 9 and 10 are controversial during a press conference on housing issues. He also issued a signing statement related to SB 10, cautioning regulatory agencies to look for and address unplanned effects of the bill.

“While the benefits of this bill are promising, certain provisions may have unintended impacts on affordable housing projects that use density bonuses, as well as possible Fair Housing implications based on how jurisdictions may choose to implement its provisions,” wrote Newsom in an SB 10 signing statement. “Therefore, I am directing the Department of Housing and Community Development’s newly established Housing Accountability Unit to vigilantly monitor the implementation of this bill at the local level, and if needed, work with the Legislature to proactively address any unintended consequences, should they arise.”

Testa said that at least one lawsuit has been filed in response to SB 10. It asserts that the state’s attempt to override local zoning is unconstitutional. She said that suing the state is an option, but she believes that establishing a constitutional amendment will ultimately be a more effective way to return local zoning decisions to local governments.

“There are different remedies,” Testa explained. “Suing on one bill does not cure the other bill. A constitutional amendment will cure the entire issue and put it back to where the California Constitution intended it to be saying that zoning and land use is, in fact, the authority of the local municipality.”

The proposed initiative has been submitted to the Office of the Attorney General, said Californians for Community Planning proponent Jovita Mendoza.

“They review title, summary and financial impacts to the state, which we don’t think there is any,” said Mendoza. “Having an issue for land use doesn’t cost the state anything. Once that’s done and they give us their blessing, then we have 180 days to collect 1 million signatures. We’re hoping that we get those pretty quickly. Then it goes on the ballot for November 2022. It’s going to be work, but anything worth anything is work.”

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Gov. Gavin Newsom Signs Tesla Park Legislation

By Larry Altman

Gov. Gavin Newsom has signed a state budget bill with provisions to protect the 3,100-acre Tesla Park site near Livermore from use as an off-road vehicle park.

Newsom signed the bill Sept. 23. SB 155 — which passed 68-8 in the Assembly and 28-9 in the Senate — keeps Tesla Park under the jurisdiction of the state’s Department of Parks and

Recreation but makes it independent of the Carnegie Vehicular Recreation Area. Off-road vehicles are allowed in the Carnegie area.

The legislation — a result of negotiations between legislators, the governor’s office and parks department officials — replaced a measure by Tri-Valley Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan that would have protected Tesla Park and placed \$9 million in the Off-Highway Motorized Vehicle

Trust Fund to find another location.

Off-highway vehicle enthusiasts and the State Parks Department had wanted to expand the Carnegie off-road park into Tesla Park for years. The new law prevents that from happening.

The new law places \$29.8 million from the state’s General Fund into the Off-Highway Motorized Vehicle Trust Fund. Land in the Henry W. Coe State Park in Morgan Hill is a possible location for an off-roading site.

TRI-VALLEY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Now Until Jan. 30

Student Speakers Contest

The Livermore Lions Club is having its annual Student Speakers Contest. This college scholarship event is open to all high school students in and around Livermore. The topic of the speech is “How Can Kindness Reunite Our Country?” The purpose of the contest is to provide an opportunity for competitive public speaking, stimulate self-expression and independent thinking, and to consider the means at our disposal for meeting present and future world problems. The winner at each level continues to the state level and will win \$21,000 in college scholarships. The contest takes place in the afternoon of Jan. 30, 2022, at the main library in Livermore. For more information, contact Ann Lopez at 805-405-8742 or ann.lopez16@yahoo.com.

Saturday, Oct. 2
Science of Engineering, presented by Quest Science Center

Join Quest for their last event, “Science of Engineering,” from 4 to 7 p.m. Design, build, test, and reiterate! Experience the engineering design cycle as you create rockets, boats, bridges, catapults, and more! Challenges for aspiring engineers of all ages and experiences. For more information, visit Science@Stockmen’s Park page.

Saturday, Oct. 2
Science of Coffee, presented by Quest Science Center and Espresso Rosetta

Quest Science Center and Livermore’s Espresso Rosetta Coffee Shop have teamed up to co-present an interactive, hands-on Science of Coffee event. Join us under the Quest Plaza shade sail to learn about the biology, chemistry, and physics behind the complex journey from farm to cup. General admission is \$25. For more information or tickets, visit https://bit.ly/39FGNhc.

Saturday, Oct. 2
Monthly DAR Meeting

Josefa Higuera Livermore Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) will host its monthly meeting on Oct. 2, via Zoom. The chapter meets September through May, on the first Saturday of each month, at 9:30 a.m. Any woman 18 years or older, regardless of race, religion or ethnic background, who can prove lineal descent from a patriot of the American Revolution, is eligible to join. For more information, visit jhl.californiadar.org or email jhlchapter@yahoo.com.

Saturday, Oct. 2
7th Annual Taste of Africa event

Pleasanton’s Cheza Nami Foundation presents the ninth-annual extravaganza celebration and adventure into African by hosting a magical day of African dance, music, art and food on Oct. 2, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., at the Shea Homes Plaza lawn area in front of the Bankhead Theater in Livermore. The festival is a magical day of celebrating Tri-Valley’s cultural diversity through music, art, dance and food by local African artists. Guests are welcome to enjoy free activities on the Shea Homes Plaza lawn area directly in front of the Bankhead Theater. Free outdoor activities will be open throughout the day from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Sunday, Oct. 3
Walk-thru Animal Blessing

Asbury United Methodist Church is hosting a Walk-thru Animal Blessing, from 2 to 3:30 p.m. St. Francis is known as the patron saint of animals, and it’s a tradition to have a blessing of the animals near his birthday This year because of the pandemic, it will be a walk-thru blessing in Asbury’s Courtyard. You’re invited to bring your animals to the courtyard any time from 2 to 3:30 p.m. Asbury is located at 4743 East Ave. Pets and their owners may enter either driveway, and signs will direct them to the courtyard. Because attendees will be in close

proximity, organizers ask that you wear a mask (organizers will have masks). Those who are staffing the blessing stations will wear masks and practice good hand hygiene. When you come to the station, you will be asked to share a bit about your pet(s), and then a blessing will be prayed on them. You will also receive a St. Francis medal for each of your pets, and organizers will have some pet snacks on hand, as well. All in the community are welcome. For more information, call 925-447-1950.

Sunday, Oct. 3
15th Annual Wine & Liberty Celebration

The Libertarian Party of Alameda County invites the public to celebrate the harvest season at Westover Vineyards. Attendees do not have to be a libertarian to attend, and everyone is welcome. The event will feature food, drinks, a raffle, an auction, games, chickens, and a waterfall, and it is family and dog friendly Tickets range from free to \$50, and RSVP is required by Sept. 29. For more information, contact Michelle Ellison at secretary@lpac.us or 707-280-4569. Westover Wineyards is located at 34329 Palomares Road, in Castro Valley.

Tuesday, Oct. 5
American Musical Theater: From Show Boat to Hamilton

From “Show Boat” and “West Side Story” to “Company” and “Dear Evan Hansen,” enjoy a fast-paced, entertaining and informative look at the history of American musical theater through video clips of over 60 songs and dance numbers from stage, concert and film versions of musicals, plus live commentary by the instructor. Special focus is on 21 musicals that were especially significant in the development of musical theater from 1920 to 2020. Instructor Ken Ross has extensive experience as a musical theater director, performer, and teacher. From 1989 to 2010, he was head of the Las Positas College Theater Department. This is an online class of the Las Positas College Community Education program, with four sessions on Oct. 5, 12, 19 and 26, from 7 to 9 p.m. For more information, call 925-424-1467.

Wednesday, Oct. 6
Livermore Climate Action Plan Advisory Committee Meeting

The public is invited to attend the monthly meetings of Livermore’s Climate Action Plan Advisory Committee. Learn what steps the committee is taking to help update the city’s plan. For more information or the meeting agenda, visit https://bit.ly/3IH5Whc. For recordings of past presentations, visit https://bit.ly/3sFWJc8.

Wednesday, Oct. 6
Free Webinar: Water-Wise Plant Selection

Interested in planting water-wise landscaping but not sure how to start? Join Alden Lane Nursery’s Jackie Williams-Courtright in an exploration of California native and drought-tolerant plants suited to the Tri-Valley. No matter if your yard is sunny or shaded, large or small, Jackie will have recommendations for plants that will look beautiful and lower your water bill. Can’t make it to the webinar? Register anyway, and organizers will send you the recording afterward. This webinar is sponsored by the City of Livermore, Cal Water, and Zone 7 Water Agency. Registration is open at https://bit.ly/3Cv5vgC.

Thursday, Oct. 7
FOV Twilight Tasting

Twilight Tasting is back! FOV will again be hosting this popular event next month. Join in from 4:30 to 8 p.m., at Page Mill Winery, 1960 S. Livermore Ave., for wine tasting, light snacks, a raffle, and general merriment! Raffle tickets will be available on-site. Proceeds from this event will be used to support the Viticulture and Winery Technology Program at Las Positas College. The tasting fee is \$15. Page Mill Winery is generously donating \$10 per tasting plus 10% of any additional sales to this fund-raiser.

This event will be compliant with current COVID-19 safety protocols. Tastings will be held on the outdoor patio. Attendees will need to wear a mask to enter the winery building to pay the tasting fee and make any other purchases. For more information, email info@fov.org.

Friday, Oct. 8
Granada High School Homecoming - Alumni Barbecue

The Granada High Alumni Homecoming Barbecue is back next month for 2021! Care will be taken to present a safer event, with hot dogs and hamburgers on the grill with commercially prepared food and smart hygiene in play, from 5 to 7 p.m. Organizers suggest a \$5 contribution per person to defray the cost of purchasing versus a traditional potluck. The committee is looking for volunteers to help with food service, as well as a few greeters and break down and clean up help. To RSVP or volunteer, text or call Steve Goodman at 925-323-5712.

Saturday, Oct. 9
ArtWalk Livermore 2021

At ArtWalk, more than 200 artists will display their works on sidewalks and plazas, in parks and galleries, surrounded by boutique shops, wine tasting rooms and restaurants in historic downtown Livermore. Art works range from contemporary to classical, abstract to realism, pottery to mixed media, handmade bags, ceramic garden art and jewelry, with subject matter from floral to figurative and much more. Art is the main focus of the day at ArtWalk: meet the artists and buy one-of-a-kind, original, hand-made treasures. For more information, email agiancola@lvpac.org or call 925-447-2787.

Saturday, Oct. 9 and Sunday, Oct. 10
Celebrate! 30th Anniversary Concert

Livermore Valley Opera opens their highly anticipated 30th Anniversary Season with “Celebrate!” an extraordinary evening or afternoon of favorite operatic ensembles. This is a unique, LIVE gala-concert offering from LVO, and the perfect opera experience for all audience members, young or mature. Tickets are on sale now, through the Bankhead Theater, online, at the box office window, or by phone at 925-373-6800. Season discount of 10% can be received when purchasing both Celebrate! and Otello in the same transaction and using the code: season2122. Tickets prices range from \$20 to \$95.

Monday, Oct. 11
Auditions for Valley Concert Chorale

The Valley Concert Chorale is hosting auditions by appointment on Oct 11. Full vaccination and masks are required. Rehearsals and auditions take place at First Presbyterian Church, 2020 Fifth St., in Livermore. The chorale is seeking experienced singers with sight-reading skills who enjoy singing exciting and challenging music. Auditions will include vocalizing (to determine range), reading from one page of a motet, and a clapping exercise. Singers must commit to the season with Monday evening rehearsals held at the First Presbyterian Church of Livermore. For more information, visit valleyconcertchorale.org or call 925-866-4003.

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

Solving Your Brick Wall (two-part workshop) begins part one with some tips for solving brick wall problems. Types of brick walls to be covered include pre-1850 ancestors and common surnames, and same name individuals, as well as resources every researcher should know. Gena Philibert-Ortega is an author, researcher, and instructor whose focus is genealogy, social and women’s history. She holds a master’s degree in Interdisciplinary studies and a master’s degree in religion. Her current research

includes women’s repatriation and citizenship in the 20th century, foodways and community in fundraising cookbooks, and women’s material culture. Zoom registration information is forthcoming.

Tuesday, Oct. 12 and Tuesday, Oct. 19
Planning for College for 9th and 10th Grade Girls

The Livermore-Pleasanton-Dublin branch of the American Association of University Women is hosting two virtual Planning for College presentations during October. Tuesday, Oct. 12, at 7 p.m., will be for grades 9 and 10; and Tuesday, Oct. 19, at 7 p.m. will be for grade 11. Diane Keller, a former college consultant, will present essentials for young women and their parents considering applying to college. General admission is \$10. For more information or to register, visit https://bit.ly/3kMjkrO.

Wednesday, Oct. 13
Cabbies & Patties

Livermore’s Concannon Vineyard is helping raise funds for Granada High School’s 2022 Safe and Sober Grad Night. Money raised will help to cover the cost of activities, prizes, food, equipment, and staff for GHS graduates. Tickets include entrance to Cabbies & Patties, a tasting flight of Concannon Cabernet Sauvignon, and a locally crafted burger from Ominous Burgers. General admission is \$50. For more information or tickets, visit https://bit.ly/3ue5nPY

ONGOING WEEKLY EVENTS

Sundays at Hagemann Ranch

Sundays at Hagemann Ranch are hosted by the Livermore Heritage Guild. Each free, family-friendly event has a different educational, historical and entertaining theme. Tours of the historic ranch and the Blacksmith Shop, as well as visits with the animals and art exhibits are offered each month. The ranch is located at 455 Olivina Ave., in Livermore. Sundays at Hagemann are on the last Sunday of each month, except July and December, and take place from 1 to 4 p.m. For more information, visit www.lhg.org.

Dublin Farmers Market Open for the Season

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

Livermore Downtown Farmers Market Open for the Season

Open Sundays, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., on Second Street between J Street and L Street. Open Thursdays, April 15 to Nov. 18, from 4 to 8 p.m., at Carnegie Park, 2155 Third St., between J Street and K Street.

Pleasanton Farmers Market Open for the Season

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

VIRTUAL ONLINE EVENTS -AVAILABLE ANYTIME

Pacific Chamber Orchestra Offers Musical Podcast

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

Sunflower Hill Online Activities

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

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

Newsom Signs Bill to Facilitate Valley Link

Gov. Gavin Newsom has signed into law Senate Bill 548, which designates the Tri-Valley – San Joaquin Valley Regional Rail Authority as a Rail Transit District.

Under state law, the designation exempts commuter

rail projects that run through multiple jurisdictions from local building codes during construction. It is expected to speed up significantly the permitting process for the 42-mile Valley Link passenger rail project connecting

the Bay Area Rapid Transit system and the Altamont Corridor Express.

The bill was approved by the state Senate 36-0-4 in May and by the Assembly 74-0-2 in September.

The bill now goes to the Senate.

Sunflower Hill Names Interim Executive Director

Sunflower Hill has named Janet Cohen, an independent nonprofit consultant, to serve as interim executive director during its search to replace the retiring Edie Nehls.

Nehls, named the organization’s first executive director in 2018, recently announced that she would be stepping down at the end of October. The Pleasanton-based Sunflower Hill develops residential communities and provides life-skills and enrichment programs for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Cohen, president of Florida-based Janet Cohen Consulting, will work with the board of directors to recruit a replacement. She will oversee day-to-day operations during the transition, working with staff to implement key goals and initiatives identified during the organization’s recent strategic planning process.

Cohen’s experience includes serving as director of new business ventures at Hope Services in San Jose for three years and affiliate consultant with the nonprofit CompassPoint in the Bay Area for six years.

She was also a senior consultant with the National Center for Social Entrepre-

neurs for five years, and served as chief executive officer of Project HIRED, a nonprofit employment service serving individuals with disabilities, for 10 years.

“We are very excited to be working with Jan as we begin our search for a permanent executive director to lead us into the future,” said Kathy Layman, Sunflower Hill board president. “The wealth of expertise and skills that she brings strengthens our position as we prepare for significant growth over the next few years.”

Swalwell Votes for Women’s Health Legislation

Rep. Eric Swalwell (D-CA) last week voted to approve HR 3755, known as the Women’s Health Protect Act, which would ensure a woman’s access to abortion, regardless of any state efforts to impose restrictions.

The bill passed along

partisan lines, 217-207.

“Women’s healthcare decisions must be respected,” Swalwell said. “This bill takes the power to make those medical decisions out of governors’ mansions and state legislatures and puts it back where it belongs – in

the hands of patients and providers. I am proud to have voted for this bill and will continue fighting to protect a woman’s right to choose.”

The bill now goes to the Senate.

Dead Bird in Pleasanton Tests Positive for West Nile Virus; County Increases Monitoring

A dead bird found in Pleasanton has tested positive for the West Nile virus, according to the Alameda County Mosquito Abatement District.

The bird, which was tested on Sept. 27, is the first indication this year of the active transmission of the virus in the county. In response, the

district is increasing mosquito monitoring and larval control efforts in the area where the bird was discovered. West Nile virus is transmitted to people and animals through the bite of an infected mosquito.

“With the change of season, residents may assume mosquitoes are no longer a

threat, but this is usually the time of year when we see an increase in West Nile virus in our county,” said General Manager Ryan Clausnitzer. “With light showers in the mornings followed by warm weather in the afternoons, mosquitoes still have plenty of opportunities to breed and flourish.”

Clausnitzer urged residents to eliminate standing water from their property and protect themselves from mosquito bites by wearing repellent and long and loose clothing.

“While we are not detecting high numbers of mosquitoes in the area where the bird was found, there is an

increased risk of West Nile virus with every mosquito bite,” Clausnitzer said.

As of Monday, 57 people in California had tested positive for West Nile virus, according to the mosquito district. Symptoms can include fever, headache, body aches, joint pains, vomiting, or rash. Although there is no known

cure for the virus, less than 1% of those infected develop a serious neurological illness, such as encephalitis or meningitis.

For more information about mosquitoes, West Nile virus, or to request district services, visit mosquitoes.org or call 510-783-7744.

OBITUARIES

Alfred James Aguirre March 12, 1939 – Sept. 18, 2021

Alfred James Aguirre, husband, father, grandfather and friend, left us on Saturday, Sept. 18, with his family by his side. He was 82.

Al was born on March 12, 1939 in Colorado. He was a musician from the age of 9 years old until his last days. Everyone enjoyed hearing him play the saxophone with his band or just playing for family and friends. He retired from America Can Company at the age of 50. He then started

a second career as a barber in Dublin. He loved his customers as many became dear friends of his. He was loved by everyone that knew him and would stop to talk with people wherever he went.

He will be greatly missed by his wife, Eva, of 55 years, his four children, two son in-laws and five grandchildren. A memorial service will be held on Thursday, Sept. 30 at 2 p.m. at Chapel of the Angels in Fremont, California.



Philip Thomas McCarthy Sept. 1, 1940 – Sept. 10, 2021

Philip Thomas McCarthy was born on Sept. 1, 1940 to Thomas Raymond McCarthy and Phyllis Theresa McCarthy in Kansas City, Missouri. Philip grew up in San Mateo, California and graduated from San Mateo High school in 1957. He went on to attend the Carpenters Apprenticeship Program and worked as a Journeymen Carpenter until his retirement.

In 1971 he married the love of his life Andrea (Andy). They just celebrated their 50th wedding anni-



versary in July. They have made Livermore their home

for the last 30 years. They have enjoyed many exciting adventures and vacations together. He will always be remembered by his big smile and happy laugh. Phil is survived by his wife Andy, daughter Deborah Supp, son-in-law Paul Supp, grandsons Andrew, Eric Sandoval and Cory Supp, granddaughter Tara Supp and great-grandson Joshua Supp. Phil will be missed by all who knew and loved him. Services will be private for the family and friends.

William (Bill) Clark O’Neal May 16, 1928 – Sept. 25, 2021

William (Bill) Clark O’Neal was a resident of Livermore, California for 60 years. He passed away on Sept. 25, 2021. He is survived by his brother, Ted Daniels; two daughters; Kathleen Cothorn and Victoria Beatty; their husbands, Jeff Cothorn and Sean Beatty; and two grandsons, Christopher and Eric Beatty.

Bill O’Neal was born on May, 16, 1928 in Brooklyn, New York to Doris and Shelly O’Neal. After high school, Bill joined the United States Army in 1946. After four years in the service, he began his college career at Colorado A&M earning a degree in mechanical engineering. After college, Bill met the love of his life Mary Giori. After only a few months of courtship, the two were married and remained together for 62 years until Mary’s death in 2019.

Bill’s jobs took the newlyweds around the country, from New York to Indiana, and then California where Bill accepted a position as a mechanical engineer at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (the “lab”) in 1962. There they bought a home where he lived for the rest of his life. Bill worked at the lab for 25 years. As a retiree, he continued working on projects for the lab for several years.

As much as Bill enjoyed the many projects that he worked on during his time at the lab, he enjoyed his time with his wife and family



even more. In the early years of their marriage, Mary and Bill enjoyed everything from hiking, camping and scuba diving, to sailing, painting and music. Bill was a man who truly loved the outdoors. His love for camping and hiking took the couple everywhere from California to Mexico to Canada. Yachting and sailboat races took him everywhere from the East Coast to Southern California to the San Francisco Bay. His love and respect for the outdoors was a passion he shared with his family. Family vacations included many lakeside camping trips with Mary and their daughters, Kathy and Vickie. Other vacations included trips to New York, Massachusetts and Hawaii.

Bill also maintained a life-long love of music, which included several bands throughout the years. Whether it was playing guitar in his rock band “The Eclectics” or playing banjo in the “Valley Banjo Band” and “Wineland Banjo Band.” His love for playing the banjo continued

throughout his entire life.

He was also very much involved with community. He spent many years as a board member of the Livermore Heritage Guild. He took great interest in preserving the history of Livermore. He worked tirelessly to preserve the Livermore Adobe Site and its archeological artifacts, as well as other historic Livermore buildings and sites. His love for archeology took him on many local archeological digs searching for relics from the past to preserve for future generations.

Bill was not only a devoted husband for 62 years, but an amazing father and grandfather. He shared his passions with his family and always let them know how much he cherished their presence in his life. He was an amazing example to his daughters and grandsons as to what it means to share your life with someone and always let them know how much they mean to you.

Bill died peacefully surrounded by his family. We will miss him with every passing day. ill was predeceased by his parents, brother Don O’Neal and wife Mary O’Neal.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Meals on Wheels or a charity of your choice. Callaghan Mortuary is honored to be serving the O’Neal family. An online guestbook is available for condolences at www.callaghanmortuary.com.

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Jane T. Staehle April 3, 1939 – April 23, 2021

Friends And fans of Jane Staehle, join in for her Celebration of Life on Saturday, Oct. 2, at 11 a.m., at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Livermore, located at 1893 N. Vasco Road.

The ceremony will be held outside. There will be an ‘open mic’ portion for appreciations. Please wear masks. A wake will follow at a friend’s home in Livermore. In lieu of flowers, please make donations in Jane’s honor to Open Heart Kitchen, which she co-founded, online at www.openheartkitchen.org or checks to 1141 Catalina Dr., #137, Livermore, CA 94550.

For any questions, please contact Johanna Hartwig (johanna.hartwig@gmail.com). We look forward to your joining us to celebrate the life of this inimitable woman!



Margaret Ellen (Walls) Howard December 1940 – March 2021

Margaret was born in Arkansas, the eldest child of Jack and Maxine Walls. She and her family lived in several states, following her father’s jobs in the coal and steel industries, before finally settling in Richmond, California when she was a teen. There, she met and married the love of her life, Glen E. Howard. They were married for 60 years prior to his death in 2000, and had two daughters, Deborah and Diana.

Margaret and Glen resided in Pleasanton between 1972 and 1988 before moving to Livermore. Until we were in our teens, Mom expertly balanced being a mother and homemaker, and managing rental properties. She was always there for us, happily ferrying us almost daily to the library for summer reading programs, acting as a chaperone on school field trips and helping us sell Campfire Girls mints. She hosted countless family gatherings. Everyone clamored for her homemade Johnnie bread and fudge. We have fond memories of being treated to chocolate-dipped ice cream cones at Foster’s Freeze in Dublin on scorching summer days, perusing antique shops with her and much shared laughter. Best of all, Mom was our life-long friend and confidant. Diana is also grateful for Mom’s match-making skills as she played a key role in arranging Diana’s first date with her



future husband.

In the late 1970s, Mom took classes at Chabot College and became a real estate agent. Shortly thereafter, she earned her broker’s license. For many years, she was the office manager at Tri-Valley Brokers in Dublin. She would later work with other brokerages in Pleasanton and Livermore. Mom was awarded multiple top sales awards and had many repeat clients, a testament to her skill and integrity.

Mom’s faith played a huge part in her life. Her love of God shined through in all she did. She selflessly cared for her mother and her husband throughout their prolonged illnesses. Her faith carried her through two bouts of breast cancer, the final one being terminal. While in hospice, gospel songs soothed her. In her last days, she became very quiet but surprised her daughters by firmly and loudly proclaiming “RIGHT!” at the conclusion of the song “Standing on the Promises of God.” Her family rejoices in knowing that she is once again with her loving husband whose last words were that he would “Meet (her) at the Gate.” We, too, know we will see her again one day in Heaven.

Margaret is survived by her daughters, Deborah (Sean) McMenamin and Diana (Rick) Chimenti of Livermore; granddaughters Katelyn (Dan) Adams of Charlevoix, Michigan and Rachel McMenamin of Glendora; her beloved brother Charles Walls of San Diego; sisters-in-law Carolyn (Donald) Morgan of Pittsburg and Sandra Haigh of Benicia; and many nieces and nephews. Her family would like to thank her oncologist, Dr. Kavitha P. Raj and her staff members for their outstanding care and support, as well as the wonderful staff at Hope Hospice.

Alec Richard Willis Sept. 14, 1935 – Aug. 25, 2021

Alec Richard Willis, longtime resident of Livermore, California, passed away at the age of 85. He earned bachelor and master degrees in mechanical engineering from UC Berkeley, served in the U.S. Army stationed at Ft. Lewis, Washington, from 1957 to 1959, and enjoyed a long career at Sandia National Laboratories in Livermore.

Alec was preceded in death by his wife, Rachel Anne Willis, of over 52 years,

and is survived by their sons Jeffrey Willis and Mark Willis, five grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Alec’s evangelical Christian faith and family were important to him. A visitation was held at Callaghan Mortuary followed by a graveside service at Memory Gardens cemetery on Sept. 14, 2021. Donations may be made to Samaritan’s Purse or locally to Shepherd’s Gate of Livermore.



Foothill Remains Undefeated With a 21-17 Win Over Amador Valley

By Nathan Canilao

The Foothill Falcons defeated the Amador Valley Dons 21-17 in a back-and-forth nail biter. The Dons came into the game undefeated and were looking to get a statement win against their crosstown rivals. The Falcons came in 4-1, looking to build off of their last win against Freedom High School.



Foothill running back Trevor Barros prepares to catch a pass during Friday's game against Amador Valley. The Falcons defeated the Dons 21-17. (Photo – Doug Jorgensen)

The atmosphere of the game rivaled that of a college game. Both bleachers were packed, and many watched over the gates on the outskirts of the field. Though the Falcons were on the road, one wouldn't be able to tell — their fans were just as loud and rowdy as

those rooting for the home team.

The Dons started off the game with a touchdown from senior EJ Thomson on the Dons' first possession to put them up 7-0. After forcing the Falcons to punt, the Dons again got to the goal line where Thomson scored another touchdown to give the Dons a 14-point lead going into the second quarter.

The 14-point deficit was

second quarter. But penalties cost the Falcons as they couldn't convert on fourth down, giving the Dons the ball on their own 38.

The Falcons' defense held strong though as they were able to force the Dons to punt, and they got the ball back with just over four minutes left in the quarter. Senior quarterback Nick Walsh was able to march the Falcons into Dons' territory

Falcons eventually got into the red zone where Walsh was able to tie the game with a quarterback keeper.

On the ensuing kickoff, the Dons were able to get deep into Falcons' territory,

game. This was likely going to be their final possession as they started off in their own territory. The team needed to advance the ball down the field through the air, and their quarterback did

Amador had one last shot to win the game on the ensuing possession, but sophomore cornerback Sameer Lattier intercepted Thomson with 45 seconds left in the game to seal the win for the



Amador Valley's marching band provides a lively halftime show during the home game against cross-town rival Foothill High School. [See photo gallery at www.independentnews.com/multimedia] (Photo – Doug Jorgensen)

but a penalty brought the kick back towards mid-field.

The fourth quarter started off strong for the Dons. Senior running back Marcus Hoerz started the fourth quarter for the Dons with an 18-yard run to get them into the redzone.

The Falcons' defense again stepped up to the plate, stopping the Dons from getting into the end-zone. The Dons elected to take the points on fourth down, electing to kick the field goal. Senior Riley Balch scored the go-ahead field goal to give the Dons a 17-14 lead.

The Falcons got the ball back with just over seven minutes left in the ball

not disappoint.

Walsh completed a 29-yard pass to freshman wide receiver Chris Lawson, which got the Falcons to the Dons' 20-yard line. The Falcons ran the ball effectively and got down inside the 10-yard line. The Dons' defense held strong for three plays near the goal line, stuffing anything the Falcons threw at them.

On fourth down, instead of trying to tie the game, the Falcons elected to go for the lead, and it paid off. Walsh threw a 3-yard pass to senior tight end Noah Lombardi, which gave the Falcons the 4-point lead with just over three minutes left in the game.

Falcons.

Both quarterbacks were electric in this game. Walsh ended the game going 14/20 for 155 yards and three touchdowns. Thomson ended the game with two rushing touchdowns for the Dons.

The yearly crosstown rivalry ends with the Falcons getting the win. The Falcons move to 4-1 on the year and will play San Ramon Valley at home on Oct. 1. The Dons lose their first game of the year and drop to 4-1. The Dons will have a bye week and will then go on to play San Ramon Valley at home on Oct. 8.

Abby Herscu Heads to Germany to Compete in FINA Cup

By Matt Schwab

Livermore Aquacowboys swimmer Abby Herscu received some exciting news over the summer.

The Granada High senior was selected to the USA Swimming National Junior Team and will compete in Berlin, Germany (Oct. 1-3) and in Budapest, Hungary (Oct. 7-9) in the 2021 FINA World Cup.

Things are working out swimmingly for her.

The Cal commit was set to depart for Europe on Tuesday, Sept. 28.

"When my coach (Alex Silver) told me that I made it, I was shocked," Abby recalled last week. "I'm so excited now that I'm able to do that because I've never been able to visit other countries, and being able to represent Team USA is such an honor. I'm really looking forward to it."

Abby was selected to the World Cup roster after strong performances in the June U.S. Olympic Team Trials in Omaha, Nebraska, in Wave 1 and Wave II sessions.

Now the accomplished breastroker gets to swim in a world-class pool in Berlin.

"I've heard from so many people that the pool is just amazing, because apparently it's a super-new project, and it's enormous," Abby said. "That's probably the No. 1 thing I'm excited to see."

Abby has thrived in the Aquacowboys and Granada programs. She finished sixth in the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) State championships in the 100-yard breaststroke as a freshman and had an All-American time. She also finished fourth in the 100 breaststroke and ninth in the 200 IM at the North Coast Section Championships. She achieved Olympic Trials cuts, placing 18th in both the 100m and 200m breast at the Toyota U.S. Open.

A dedicated competitor who enjoys the social side of swimming as well, she swims six days a week, does yoga and is "very strict with her eating," said her dad Gabe Herscu. "She's just an incredibly dedicated hard worker, especially when it

comes to her swimming. She takes it very seriously."

During the COVID-19 shutdown of facilities, Abby found a creative way to stay in shape. She trained in the backyard pool of one of her dad's colleagues in Woodside. Gabe, a vascular surgeon at Washington Hospital in Fremont, took her to Woodside three times a week so she could keep the feel of the water, he said.

"That paid off in a big way because she stayed in shape during the time," Gabe said. "That was for several months until they were able to practice again."

The makeshift training sessions even had their fun side.

"I don't even know if it was like a 10-yard pool; it was tiny, but it was super-fun because it was just me and my dad going back and forth, and he kind of has all these ideas about swimming, so he was able to coach me for a little bit, which was fun," Abby said.

Her swimming career started innocently enough, when her parents took her to a local pool to make sure

she was 'water safe' before she turned 10.

"The teachers that were there to teach her be water safe remarked that she was pretty comfortable in the water, and she had some potential to be a swimmer," Gabe recalled. "Based on their advice we had her join the Aquacowboys Swim Club, and then her coach, Alex Silver, has kind of guided her the whole way since she started. He's been a tremendous influence on her."

But it wasn't always smooth sailing for Abby in the pool. She recalls struggling early in the butterfly.

"Actually, I wasn't the best when I started," she said. "My coach told me to scrap all the fly events, because I kept getting disqualified, but I always had the breaststroke kick, because my legs, they go backward, they're hyperextended, and so that was the one thing that I was actually able to do well when I started."

And that butterfly kick has powered her all the way to Berlin.



Livermore's Gabriel Prickett (3) goes head-to-head with an Amador opponent, Sept. 23. [See photo gallery at www.independentnews.com/multimedia] (Photo – Doug Jorgensen)

Dons Defeat the Cowboys

By Nathan Canilao

The Amador Valley Dons defeated the Livermore Cowboys by a score of 21-4 during a Sept. 23 water polo game. The Dons push their win streak to three games, while the Cowboys continue their four-game losing streak.

The Dons came out of the gate firing on all cylinders. They scored 11 points in the first quarter of the game and forced the Cowboys to use two timeouts.

The Cowboys were able to score in the second quarter, but the Dons continued their dominance as they closed out the half with a 13-1 lead.

The second half was much of the same for the Dons.

They outscored the Cowboys 3-2 in the third quarter and controlled the pace of the game throughout. The Cowboys had a hard time getting their offense set up and had now answer for the Dons on the defensive end.

Amador closed out the game outscoring the Cowboys 5-1 and eventually won the game 21-4.

Junior Joshua Asturias led all scorers with four goals and seniors Kenny Kasper and Petar Bilkik each had three goals. The Dons improve to 6-4 and will play San Ramon Valley on Sept. 30. The Cowboys drop to 0-4 and will play Foothill High School on Sept. 28.

Foundation to Host Taste of Africa on Saturday

The Cheza Nami Foundation will host the ninth-annual Taste of Africa Festival, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., on Saturday, Oct. 2, at the Shea Homes Plaza at the Bankhead Theater, in Livermore.

The free festival will include African dance, music, art, and food vendors, along with outdoor activities for children. The nonprofit, Pleasanton-based foundation promotes awareness of African culture through dance, play, and movement. Cheza Nami means "come play with me" in Swahili. The festival is sponsored in part by a grant from the City of Livermore.

Annual ArtWalk Coming to Downtown Livermore on Oct. 9

Downtown Livermore will become a massive, outdoor art district, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 9, as the Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center presents the 20th annual ArtWalk.

More than 200 artists are expected to participate in ArtWalk, which will also feature live music, performances, hands-on crafts, and community art projects. Booths will be spread throughout

the downtown area, from the Bankhead Theater to McLeod Street and Stockman's Park.

McLeod will be closed between First and Second streets for displays and a range of free art activities. Nana-Dicta Graves will lead a mini-workshop turning recycled materials into art, and Way Up Art & Frame will offer the public an opportunity to experiment with various art materials. Veteran artists led

by Bud Donaldson, as well as high schools in the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District, will display their work in the Bankhead Theater lobby.

The Gallery at the Bankhead is also exhibiting "Explorations in Colored Pencil IX" through Oct. 31, with more than 50 works that showcase the versatility of colored pencils as an art medium. Also on display in the

Bankhead's Founders Room are quilts by the late Gigi Phillips.

There will be live music on the Plaza and at Stockman's Park throughout the day. Stockman's Park will also host performance art, including the Encore Players.

ArtWalk maps are available online at LivermoreArts.org.

Children's Choir Artistic Director Eileen Chang Set to Retire

The Cantabella Children's Choir has announced artistic director Eileen Chang will be retiring after the current season ends in May 2022.

"It is with a touch of sadness that I announce (Chang's) planned retirement, because we love Ei-

leen," said Choir President Denise Leddon. "We share in Eileen's exciting future plans to embark on a next phase to have more time to travel and volunteer in different parts of the world."

Chang joined the joined choir's artistic faculty in

2009 and helped establish the group's award-winning traveling Honors Choir. She was named artistic director in 2017. She studied at California State University, Long Beach and Westminster Choir College in New Jersey, and previously served as

sanctuary choir conductor at Westminster Presbyterian Church in San Jose and Dae-sung Korean Presbyterian Church in Sunnyvale.

The choir will be interviewing for a new artistic director for the 2022 to 2023 season.

Teen Jazz Band to Join Symphony for Free Concert

The Livermore-Amador Symphony and local teen jazz band Element 116 will present a free outdoor concert at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore, at 3 p.m., on Saturday, Oct. 23.

The symphony orchestra will play a variety of favorites from stage and screen, from Star Wars to West Side Story and Duke Ellington to John Phillips Sousa marches, for "The POPS" concert. Element 116 will present a musical ensemble.

Concertgoers are invited to bring blankets and picnic lunches to enjoy the concert from the lawn in front of the Shea Homes Stage at the theater, or enjoy the music from outdoor seating at one of the nearby restaurants.

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 581675

The following person(s) doing business as: Welderman Fabrication, 10 Meritage Commons, Unit 102, Livermore, CA 94551, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Kenneth C. Masterman, 10 Meritage Commons, Unit 102, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Kenneth C. Masterman, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 19, 2021. Expires August 19, 2026. The Independent, Legal No. 4954. Published September 9, 16, 23, 30, 2021.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 581993

The following person(s) doing business as: Sports Rhymes, 8 Admiral Drive, A-235, Emeryville, CA 94608, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Paul Auday, 8 Admiral Drive, A-235, Emeryville, CA 94608. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Paul Auday, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 26, 2021. Expires August 26, 2026. The Independent, Legal No. 4955. Published September 9, 16, 23, 30, 2021.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 582090

The following person(s) doing business as: CPG Solutions, 2136 San Antonio, Apt B, Alameda, CA 94501, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Cynthia P. Geronno, 2136 San Antonio, Apt B, Alameda, CA 94501. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Cynthia P. Geronno, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 30, 2021. Expires August 30, 2026. The Independent, Legal No. 4956. Published September 9, 16, 23, 30, 2021.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 581960

The following person(s) doing business as: Jack B. Long, 1619 Radcliffe Rd. Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Sheryl I Volkman, 6246 Mines Rd, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 1/2015. Signature of Registrant/s/: Sheryl I Volkman, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 30, 2021. Expires August 30, 2026. The Independent, Legal No. 4957. Published September 9, 16, 23, 30, 2021.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 582033

The following person(s) doing business as: Caliber Collision Center, 494 36th Street, Oakland, CA 94609, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Caliber Bodyworks LLC, (a CA LLC), 2941 Lake Vista Drive, Lewisville, TX 75067. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Gregory Nichols, Secretary. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 27, 2021. Expires August 27, 2026. The Independent, Legal No. 4958. Published September 9, 16, 23, 30, 2021.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 581973

The following person(s) doing business as: Integrative Veterinary Care, 2110 Greenville Road, Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Brenda G. Mills, DVM, 16018 Madrid Court, Tracy, CA 95304. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 01/01/2017. Signature of Registrant/s/: Brenda G. Mills, DVM/Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 26, 2021. Expires August 26, 2026. The Independent, Legal No. 4959. Published September 9, 16, 23, 30, 2021.

SUMMONS Case Number: HF21087523

(Parentage-Custody and Support)
**NOTICE TO RESPONDENT:
ANTHONY METOYER
YOU HAVE BEEN SUED.**
Read the information be-

low and on the next page.
**PETITIONER'S Name:
Kimberly Thomas**

You have 30 calendar days after this Summons and Petition are served on you to file a Response (form FL-220 or FL-270) at the court and have a copy served on the petitioner. A letter, phone call, or court appearance will not protect you. If you do not file your Response on time, the court may make orders affecting your right to custody of your children. You may also be ordered to pay child support and attorney fees and costs. For legal advice, contact a lawyer immediately. Get help finding a lawyer at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courts.ca.gov/selfhelp), at the California Legal Services website (www.lawhelpca.org), or by contacting your local bar association. NOTICE: The restraining order on page 2 remains in effect against each parent until the petition is dismissed, a judgment is entered, or the court makes further orders. This order is enforceable anywhere in California by any law enforcement officer who has received or seen a copy of it. FEE WAIVER: If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the clerk for a fee waiver form. The court may order you to pay back all or part of the fees and costs that the court waived for you or the other party.

1. The name and address of the court are:

**Hayward Hall of Justice
24405 Amador Street
Hayward, CA 94544**

2. The name, address, and telephone number of petitioner's attorney are:
**Pamela Ross/Ashtikh Levantian
All for the Family Legal Clinic, Inc.
3137 Castro Valley Blvd., #210
Castro Valley, CA 94546**

**NEXT HEARING:
10/20/2021 at 1:30 P.M.
in DEPT 510**
The Independent, Legal No. 4960. Published September 9, 16, 23, 30, 2021

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 582130

The following person(s) doing business as: Bella Marie Interior Designs, 7840 Foothill Knolls Drive, Pleasanton, CA 94588, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Marlene Hisaka, 7840 Foothill Knolls Drive, Pleasanton, CA 94588. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Marlene Hisaka, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 30, 2021. Expires August 30, 2026. The Independent, Legal No. 4961. Published September 9, 16, 23, 30, 2021.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 581873

The following person(s) doing business as: Pristine Janitorial Services, 1216 Lomitas Ave, Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Richard Alan Pringle, 1216 Lomitas Ave, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Richard Alan Pringle, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 25, 2021. Expires August 25, 2026. The Independent, Legal No. 4962. Published September 16, 23, 30, October 7, 2021.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 582106

The following person(s) doing business as: Fun Camp Adventure Rentals, 73 Rickenbacker Circle, Livermore, CA 94551, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): David Victor, 73 Rickenbacker Circle, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious

business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: David Victor, Managing Partner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 30, 2021. Expires August 30, 2026. The Independent, Legal No. 4963. Published September 16, 23, 30, October 7, 2021.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 582107

The following person(s) doing business as: Today's Kitchen, 73 Rickenbacker Circle, Livermore, CA 94551, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Stephen D. Properties, LLC, 73 Rickenbacker Circle, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: David Victor, Managing Partner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 30, 2021. Expires August 30, 2026. The Independent, Legal No. 4964. Published September 16, 23, 30, October 7, 2021.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 582511

The following person(s) doing business as: Top Tier Appliance Installations, LLC, 3032 Gardella Plaza, Livermore, CA 94551, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Tier Appliance Installations, LLC, 3032 Gardella Plaza, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 8/1/2021. Signature of Registrant/s/: John M. Yeager, Owner, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 8 2021. Expires September 8, 2026. The Independent, Legal No. 4965. Published August September 16, 23, 30, October 7, 2021.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 582371

The following person(s) doing business as: Ursula Raptis, 5778 Southbridge Way, Dublin, CA 94568, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Ana Reynoso, 5778 Southbridge Way, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 9/3/2021. Signature of Registrant/s/: Ana Reynoso, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 3, 2021. Expires September 3, 2026. The Independent, Legal No. 4966. Published September 16, 23, 30, October 7, 2021.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 582223

The following person(s) doing business as: Performant Healthcare Solutions, 333 North Canyons Parkway, Suite 100, Livermore, CA 94551, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Performant Recovery, Inc. 333 North Canyons Parkway, Suite 100, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Harold T. Leach, Jr., President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 1, 2021. Expires September 1, 2026. The Independent, Legal No. 4967. Published September 16, 23, 30, October 7, 2021.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 582390

The following person(s) doing business as: Teresa's Administrative Services, 3541 Norton Way, Pleasanton, CA 94566, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Teresa Hrubesh, Inc. 3541 Norton Way, Pleasanton, CA 94566. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 8/31/2006. Signature of Registrant/s/: Teresa Hrubesh, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk

of Alameda on September 3, 2021. Expires September 3, 2026. The Independent, Legal No. 4968. Published September 16, 23, 30, October 7, 2021.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 582719

The following person(s) doing business as: Marr & Associates, 3577 Fruitvale Ave, Oakland, CA 94602, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Mike William Marr, 1032 East 14th St, San Leandro, CA 94577. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 11/7/2013. Signature of Registrant/s/: Mike William Marr, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 16, 2021. Expires September 16, 2026. The Independent, Legal No. 4969. Published September 23, 30, October 7, 14, 2021.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 582394

The following person(s) doing business as: JOLLI Faces, 1026 Flurry Drive, Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): LJ&O Ventures LLC, 1026 Flurry Drive, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: June, 2021. Signature of Registrant/s/: Isabel Guevarra, Manager. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 3, 2021. Expires September 3, 2026. The Independent, Legal No. 4970. Published September 23, 30, October 7, 14, 2021.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 582397

The following person(s) doing business as: Pacific Oral and Facial Surgery Center, 1133 E. Stanley Blvd, Suite 215, Livermore, CA 94587, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Michael L. Beckley, D.D.S., 727 Vineyard Terrace, Pleasanton, CA 94566. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 11/20/2003. Signature of Registrant/s/: Michael L. Beckley, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 3, 2021. Expires September 3, 2026. The Independent, Legal No. 4971. Published September 23, 30, October 7, 14, 2021.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 582257

The following person(s) doing business as: TEZBEE LLC, 4432 Viejo Way, Union City, CA 94587, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): TEZBEE LLC, 3400 Cottage Way, Set G2 #7422, Sacramento, CA 95825. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 8/18/21. Signature of Registrant/s/: Hussain Sabir, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 1, 2021. Expires September 1, 2026. The Independent, Legal No. 4972. Published September 23, 30, October 7, 14, 2021.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 582517

The following person(s) doing business as: SIPS Global Teas LLC, 21 Clipper Drive, Alameda, CA 94502, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): SIPS Global Teas LLC, 21 Clipper Drive, Alameda, CA 94502. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 4/4/2021. Signature of Registrant/s/: Marlene Quan, Manager. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 8, 2021. Expires September 8, 2026. The Independent, Legal No. 4973. Published September 23, 30, October 7, 14, 2021.

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME ORIGINAL FILE NO. 572577
The person(s) listed below have abandoned the use of the following fictitious business name(s): Diablo Valley Property Management, 2222 Second Street, Suite 5, Livermore, CA 94550. Registered Owner(s): Diablo Valley Property Services Inc., 2222 Second Street, Suite 5, Livermore, CA 94550. The fictitious business name statement was filed on 9/1/2020 in the County of Alameda. This business was conducted by a Corporation. Signature of Registrants: /s/ Judith Pipkin, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 17, 2021. The Independent Legal No. 4974. Published September 23, 30, October 7, 14, 2021.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 582145

The following person(s) doing business as: Summerwood Apartments, 21701 Foothill Blvd., Hayward, CA 94541, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Standard Summerwood LLC, 1901 Avenue of the Stars, Ste. 395, Los Angeles, CA 90067. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 3/2/2015. Signature of Registrant/s/: Brad Martinson, Managing Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 30, 2021. Expires August 30, 2026. The Independent, Legal No. 4975. Published September 23, 30, October 7, 14, 2021.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 581818

The following person(s) doing business as: 1.Fremont Hyundai, 2. Hyundai of Fremont, 43690 Auto Mall Circle, Fremont, CA 94538, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): DGDG 19 LLC, 911 Capitol Expy Auto Mall, San Jose, CA 95136. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 2/15/1996. Signature of Registrant/s/: Benjawan Terlecky, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 14, 2021. Expires September 14, 2026. The Independent, Legal No. 4979. Published September 30, October 7, 14, 21, 2021.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 582303

The following person(s) doing business as: The Learning Wheel Preschool, 1432 Concanon Blvd, Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): The Kaur, 4621 Myrtle Drive, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Linda Bernardi, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 3, 2021. Expires September 3, 2026. The Independent, Legal No. 4980. Published September 30, October 7, 14, 21, 2021.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 582324

The following person(s) doing business as: The Livermore School of Dance, 1988 Second ST, Livermore, CA 94550,

is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Brittany Lee, 1921 E Shoreview Dr., San Ramon, CA 94582. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 8/1/21. Signature of Registrant/s/: Brittany Lee, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 2, 2021. Expires September 2, 2026. The Independent, Legal No. 4982. Published September 30, October 7, 14, 21, 2021.


FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 582709

The following person(s) doing business as: ILLUMYN, 843 Longridge Rd, Oakland, CA 94610, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Him for Her PBC, 843 Longridge Rd, Oakland, CA 94610. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Fiona Tang, Director, Co-Founder. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 16, 2021. Expires September 16, 2026. The Independent, Legal No. 4983. Published September 30, October 7, 14, 21, 2021.

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Liliana Perez milks “Fiona” during Pleasanton’s Fall Festival held at Alviso Adobe park, Sept. 25. Events included basket weaving and lessons on how to make apple juice, adobe bricks and corn husk dolls. (Photo – Doug Jorgensen)

Foundation Hosts Mental Health Lecture

By Jesse Watson

Monday night, Pleasanton’s Alan Hu Foundation hosted a webinar lecture featuring Dr. Stephen Hinshaw focused on addressing the stigma associated with mental health in adolescents.

Hinshaw is an author, a professor of psychology at the University of California, Berkeley and a professor of psychiatry and behavioral science at the University of California, San Francisco. In his lecture, he touched on stigma and how it affects those experiencing mental health disorders.

“By blending science and narrative, I hope to give voice to the family suffering involved when stigma reigns, and to what a future could look like when open attitudes, evidence-based treatments, and humanization can prevail,” said Hinshaw.

Throughout the lecture, Hinshaw related the topic of stigma to his father’s battle with bipolar disorder in the 20th century. He correlated this experience with academic research on the topic of stigma, ending with a look into mental illness in adolescents and how to overcome shame through dialogues on mental health.

Hinshaw argued that, although public knowledge on the issue has increased, the

negative image surrounding it has not changed.

“We’ve either made no progress or we’ve gone backwards,” said Hinshaw. “We have not provided the level of care and funding for community treatment that we’ve needed to, so we may be inadvertently increasing stigma rather than decreasing it.”

The lecture was followed by a brief question and answer session in which Hinshaw fielded questions from the audience. Topics ranged from how to get help for a loved one experiencing mental health illnesses to how to lessen the stigma behind mental health disorders.

Hinshaw expressed the belief that the simplest way to reduce stigma is for schools and families to find ways to reduce stress. He further said people can help mitigate the issue by confronting those who ridicule people with mental disorders.

Pleasanton Mayor Karla Brown and Fremont Vice Mayor Yang Shao were honored by the Alan Hu Foundation as notable figures who attended the webinar.

The event is part of a larger mental health lecture series organized by the Alan Hu Foundation, a nonprofit organization based in Pleasanton focused on destigmatizing mental health.

When Alan Hu passed away due to mental health disorders in 2018, his parents started the foundation in his legacy to help those suffering from mental illnesses.

“The Alan Hu Foundation mental health lecture series aims to make mental health knowledge common knowledge,” said Alan Hu Foundation Co-Founder Chih-Ching Hu, PhD, in an introduction to the lecture. “Alan Hu Foundation’s mission is to promote mental health, raise awareness and remove stigma surrounding psychiatric disorders, and support fundamental research for cures.”

Both the Alan Hu Foundation and Hinshaw are working to create a safe space for adolescents to seek help for mental illnesses. Overcoming stigma and shame is just one of the ways they hope to achieve their goal.

“We need to humanize (mental illness),” said Hinshaw. “The more we talk about it ... everyone will be beyond the point of thinking that admitting to a struggle mentally is a sign of weakness — no, it’s just the opposite.”

For more information on the Alan Hu Foundation, visit <http://alanhufoundation.org>.

Historian to Present “Then & Now”

By Dawnmarie Fehr

Livermore City Historian Richard Finn will tell tales from the bygone era of cowboys and ranchers in old Livermore during a virtual presentation next month.

The result of a collaboration between the Livermore Public Library and the Livermore Heritage Guild (LHG), the evening of old west stories is free and open to the public. No registration is required.

“What we do is we talk about the ranchers and farmers that were first here in the valley,” Finn said. “That’s Amador over in the Dublin area, and of course, Robert Livermore here in the Livermore area. Then we talk about those that came later — Mendenhall and them. And then we end up talking about the farmers and ranchers that are now active in the valley, and some of the problems they have with their land and the drought and people trespassing.”

Finn said he does his best to cover as much information as possible during the roughly 45-minute event. The presentations are given quarterly and vary by topic.

“Pre-pandemic, we held the talks in person at the main library,” said LHG First Vice Andrea Loyd. “When the shelter-in-place order came into effect, we were able to pivot to a Zoom format, which has been very successful.”

LHG President Will Bolton said members of the guild worked hard with library staff to transition the talks smoothly and successfully from in-person events to live, online events. Since the first virtual event, there have been more than 100 attendees for each talk, and the audience continues to grow.

“City Historian Richard Finn’s talks are always standing-room-only popular,” Bolton said. “The online presence and recording for later viewing greatly expand the availability of the talks for enjoyment and education.”

The LHG was established in 1973 by residents mobilized to preserve the local train depot and soon transformed into Livermore’s multifaceted historical society. The group manages three city-owned historic properties — the history center inside the Carnegie Building, Duarte Garage and Hagemann Ranch — and operates on the goodwill of hundreds of members and dozens of volunteers who dedicate their time and resources. Its mission is to ensure awareness and protection of Livermore’s rich heritage through public advocacy and by collecting, preserving, interpreting, and sharing historic resources for the education and enjoyment of all.

The guild’s History Center in Carnegie Hall has slowly begun to reopen, with hours coinciding with the Livermore Farmers Markets on Thursdays and Sundays.

Duarte Garage is open the third Sunday of each month and showcases a “car of the month.”

“The Duarte Garage is also where we store local fire engines that have been restored,” Loyd said. “Our curator there knows everything there is to know about the garage.”

Hagemann Ranch is open the last Sunday of each month and showcases ranch life as it used to be. The events feature children’s activities as well as local craftsman and vendors. Loyd said the events are free and “very much hands-on.”

LHG is also in the early

stages of attempting to move and renovate the last one-room schoolhouse in the area. Built in the early 1900s, the building sits on the Altamont Pass. Loyd said it is in pretty bad shape.

“It may not be able to be picked up and moved; it may have to be dismantled,” she said, noting the group would like to bring it into town. “Our vision is to make it like it was in the early 1900s, so kids can actually see what school life would have been like then. We are hoping the kids will enjoy it.”

Finn became the city’s historian five years ago. He moved to Livermore from Berkley in 1969 to work at Sandia National Laboratories. After his retirement, he became interested in local history.

“People started asking me to put together stories on this Livermore family

or that Livermore family,” Finn said. “We now have a database with more than 40,000 names in it. Any name that has made a mark in the Livermore Valley is probably there.”

Finn has been building his database for 15 years and adds new names often. He said he is always on the hunt for new names, new stories and new photographs to include.

Then & Now: Livermore Stories of Cowboys and Ranchers will be livestreamed via Zoom on Wednesday, Oct. 27, at 7 p.m. The event is free and no pre-registration is required. To access the program, visit <https://bit.ly/3tRqzuX>.

For more information on the Livermore Heritage Guild, or to donate, call 925-449-9927 Sundays and Thursdays, or visit www.lhg.org.

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Library to Sponsor Mariachi Performance

Mariachi San Francisco, a 10-piece mariachi band, will perform in traditional costumes on the basketball courts next to Rincon Branch Library, 725 Rincon Ave., Livermore, at noon on Sunday, Oct. 10, as part of a Latinx/Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration sponsored by the Livermore Public Library. The performance is free.

Valley Concert Choral Schedules Auditions

The Valley Concert Choral will hold in-person auditions on Monday, Oct. 11, for experienced singers interesting in joining the all-volunteer chorus.

The 10-minute auditions will be by appointment only at First Presbyterian Church, 2020 Fifth St.,

Livermore.

Auditions will include vocalizing, sight reading music, and a clapping exercise. Singers must commit to the season with Monday evening rehearsals held at the First Presbyterian Church of Livermore. Vaccination against COVID-19

is also required.

The chorus performs three concert sets a season. The 2021 to 2022 season will open with holiday concerts on Dec. 11 and 12.

To schedule an audition, call 925-866-4003 or text 925-216-7084.

Malibu Barbie Tour to Stop in Pleasanton

The 2021 Barbie Malibu Truck Tour, celebrating the 50th anniversary of Malibu Barbie, will make a stop at the Stoneridge Shopping Center in Pleasanton, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., on Saturday, Oct. 2.

Mattel Toy Co. launched

the original Barbie doll in 1959. Twelve years later, it introduced Malibu Barbie, a blonde, suntanned, and makeup-free version of the doll that was marketed as the ultimate surfer girl. The company began sponsoring the Barbie truck tour

in 2019.

The brightly colored van will be parked near the Cheesecake Factory at the mall and will be selling '70s-themed Malibu Barbie beach apparel and accessories.

Catholic Women's Ministry Groups Merge

The WINGS Ministries of the Catholic Community of Pleasanton and the Catholic Community of St. Charles Borromeo in Livermore have merged.

Women in God’s Spirit

(WINGS) is a ministry for women of all ages and all stages of life.

Beginning Oct. 7, the merged groups will meet at 9:30 a.m. on Thursdays at St. Charles Borromeo or

on ZOOM. St. Charles Borromeo, 1315 Lomitas Ave.

For more information about the ministry, including upcoming speakers, go to www.stcharleslivermore.org/wings.

Dublin to Host Senior Info Fair

Dublin will host an outdoor Senior Info Fair from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Oct. 2, at the Dublin Senior Center, 7600 Amador Valley Blvd.

A variety of agencies and organizations will be on hand to provide information, referrals, and health services for adults 50 and older, their families, caregivers, and friends. Admission is free.

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