

LLNL Appoints Budil as First Woman Director

LIVERMORE — Kim Budil, a scientist who has worked in a variety of leadership positions during a 34-year career at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL), has been appointed its director, making her the first woman to hold the position.

According to a laboratory statement, Budil, the principal associate director for Weapons & Complex Integration, will take over as director on March 2, replacing Bill Goldstein, who announced last summer that he planned to step down. Goldstein held the position for seven years.

Charlene Zettel, chair of the Lawrence Livermore National Security (LLNS), which manages the laboratory for the Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA), announced Budil's (See DIRECTOR, page 7)



Kim Budil

Cooks More at Risk of Getting Coronavirus, a Study Shows

By Ron McNicoll

REGIONAL — Line cooks are in the riskiest post-pandemic occupation, according to a deep study by University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) that compared pre-pandemic and post-pandemic death statistics for 25 groups of occupations in a wide variety of fields.

These included other food-handling jobs, agriculture and meatpacking.

But the food industry isn't alone. Social workers, realtors and bartenders ranked in the low 20s on the list of 25 occupations; they are still more at risk of contracting COVID-19 than the general population, because they see many people as part of their jobs.

Others at risk don't deal with the public, but work close to co-workers all day long, such as filling machine operators. These workers are No. 2 in the whole survey when it comes to likelihood of risking exposure. Filling machines operate on a sort of assembly line that pours soda or coffee into bottles for supermarket sales. While the jobs could be considered food services, the important aspect is that the people watching the bottles work near each other all day long.

Construction workers operate in close quarters, too, finding it difficult to maintain 6-foot distances from each other while performing tasks. They are fifth on the risk list, after miscellaneous agricultural workers in third place and bakers in fourth. Other risky occupations included, vocational nurses, teacher assistants, housekeepers, laborers, among others. To review the full study, visit bit.ly/Indy_UC-SFstudy.

Given the study's findings, (See COOKS, page 7)



Students from the Pleasanton Unified School District stand at the intersection of Bernal Avenue and First Street Jan. 28 in a show of support for a return to the classroom. (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)

Transbay Tunnel Aims to Connect 21 Counties in New Transportation Grid

By Ron McNicoll

REGIONAL — The Bay Area Council Economic Institute announced a plan to wrap 21 counties in

billion to \$50 billion.

The range depends on the expense of various building strategies, said Jeff Bellisario, executive

muter, said Bellisario.

Joining in the mix would be the Capitol Corridor trains, which already run to Auburn — a suburb

"One goal is to decongest Bay Area car traffic and transit to better compete with high-tech regions, such as Chicago, Washington D.C. and New York City ..."

Northern California into a comprehensive commutating approach that would add another tunnel under the Bay to link Oakland with San Francisco.

The project called Link 21 is estimated to cost \$30

director of the economic institute.

The plan would also produce other public transit and highway opportunities in the region and help fight climate change by reducing single-driver cars in com-

east of Sacramento — as well as the high-speed Central Valley rail and a new line connecting Salinas to Monterey.

Bellisario stated that to compete with other tech (See TRANSBAY, page 7)

If Conditions are Favorable

School Districts Prepare for March Reopenings

By Dawnmarie Fehr

REGIONAL — The three districts of the Tri-Valley are making plans to bring students back to campuses in light of new criteria released by the state on Jan. 14.

According to a press release from the Alameda County Public Health Department, with the winter surge of cases receding, more schools will be permitted to open, and the state's new guidelines for reopening in-person instruction will help schools operate safely.

In Livermore, Philomena Rambo, director of community engagement for the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District (LVJUSD), said their updated plan is complete, and they are now involved

in a waiting game.

"We decided to hold off on filing our plan until we are closer to the reopening date," Rambo said. "We are to file a week or two before we plan to open. Plan is written and ready to go."

Currently, LVJUSD is anticipating seeing students in elementary grades return as soon as March. 10. To get a gauge on how many families would be willing to return their children to school once reopened, the district sent out a survey sent out on Jan. 29, asking whether they preferred to remain in the distance learning program or return to school for in-person instruction. Elementary students had the additional option to stay with their current teacher, whether that teacher is assigned to

teach distance learning or in-person classes.

"Whether students can return every day or part of a week is as yet unknown because of community health conditions," Rambo said. "Health department criteria also must be taken into account."

Rambo noted much of the behind-the-scenes work — in terms of air filters, plexiglass shields and other physical safety items — have been in place for some time.

Under the state's new guidelines, schools that intend to open must "complete and publicly post their COVID-19 safety plan (CSP). The CSP consists of two components required by the state: 1) the Cal/OSHA COVID-19 Prevention Plan (CPP) and

(See REOPENINGS, page 7)

Officer Placed on Leave Due to Controversial Social-Media Post

By Larry Altman

PLEASANTON — The Pleasanton Police Department (PPD) has placed an officer on administrative leave while investigating the officer's social media posts, including one related to a pro-President Trump rally around Jan. 6, a published report said.

The officer, who was not identified in a Bay Area News Group report, was taken off duty after a post appeared to place the officer at a Sacramento rally on or near the same day Trump supporters staged an insurrection at the U.S. Capitol in Washington D.C. as the House and Senate counted

electoral college votes to declare President Joe Biden the winner of the 2020 election.

Pleasanton police declined to discuss the report with The Independent, but Chief David Swing issued a statement saying he was "unable to comment on the status of any personnel investigation for reasons of confidentiality and the law."

Swing added that the department is "honored and grateful to enjoy strong levels of trust and support from the Pleasanton community — whom we also hold in high regard.

"In order to maintain (See OFFICER, page 5)

On Aramis Solar Project

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Concludes Species Likely to Be Killed

By Aly Brown

LIVERMORE — In a recent letter to the county, the Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office (SFWO) called for the Aramis Solar Energy Generation and Storage project applicant to acquire an "incidental take permit" for the federally listed species likely to be killed during construction.

The Jan. 26 letter directed to Alameda County Planner Andrew Young named the California red-legged frog, the California tiger salamander and the San Joaquin kit fox as threatened species that could die or become injured should the project set for North Livermore along Cayetano Creek commence.

SFWO, a branch of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Ser-

vice (USF&WS), concluded that Intersect Power, the Aramis applicant, should therefore submit a habitat conservation plan that minimizes and mitigates harm to the impacted species and obtain the incidental take permit from the federal agency prior to commencing construction. To address the permanent habitat loss from the Aramis project, the USF&WS further called for "permanent habitat conservation as a mitigation measure."

SFWO spelled out concerns with the project's final environmental impact review (EIR), which captured surveys on species' habitats. It noted that, had the county followed the Ser-

(See ARAMIS, page 6)

County Seeks Open-Space Regulation Rollbacks to Benefit Region's Wineries

By David Chircop

LIVERMORE — The Alameda County Agricultural Advisory Committee's experts in viticulture, ranching and cannabis production are poised to dig deep into their respective fields to come up with a comprehensive list of proposed changes to Measure D, the county's agriculture and open space initiative approved by voters in 2000.

For years, the panel that advises the Board of Supervisors and public agencies has reviewed various options for modifying Measure

D to alleviate what it sees as negative impacts on agriculture. But it has not formally made recommendations to the Alameda County Board of Supervisors.

A proposed ballot initiative to increase the building intensity allowed for agricultural buildings located on rural properties in the county was originally expected to be placed on the November 2020 ballot by the Board of Supervisors, but that plan has twice been pushed to later elections, given the controversial nature of the proposed ballot

(See WINERIES, page 6)

Alameda County Fairgrounds Setting Up for Vaccinations

By Larry Altman

REGIONAL — Workers have begun preparing the Alameda County Fairgrounds in Pleasanton to serve as a COVID-19 "mega" vaccine distribution site that could inoculate thousands of people a day.

Tents, signs and cones already are in place at the site, which could become operational in the next couple of weeks, county officials said at a recent meeting of the Alameda County COVID-19 Advisory Board.

According to county of-

ficials, the fairgrounds site and another at the Oakland Coliseum will each open with the hope of administering 5,000 doses each day. The sites will operate in conjunction with the Kaiser Permanente, Sutter and Stanford - ValleyCare health plans.

During the board's meeting last week, Aneeka Chaudry, assistant director at the county Health Care Services Agency, said officials are still working out how residents will make appointments to visit the sites.

(See VACCINATIONS, page 7)



A row of tents, seen here at the Alameda County Fairgrounds, will soon welcome patients seeking COVID-19 vaccines. The site should be operational in the next couple of weeks. (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)



CRESCENT

PET OF THE WEEK

Crescent arrived at Valley Humane with 10 bouncy puppies in tow. Now that her puppies are weaned and Crescent has been spayed, her own puppy-like personality is shining through. Crescent loves long walks, playing fetch and squeaky toys. She is estimated to be between 4 and 7 years old and weighs 67 pounds. While Valley Humane Society remains closed during shelter-in-place, adoptions are coordinated by appointment. Contact info@valleyhumane.org for more information. (Photo - Valley Humane Society /S. Gray)

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Livermore Area Recreation and Park District's Finances Improve Following Cuts



As part of a playground renovation project, Livermore Area Recreation and Park District's May Nissen Park opened in December 2019. (Photo -Doug Jorgensen)

The Livermore Area Recreation and Park District's (LARP) budget is back in the black, four months after the district was forced to lay off employees and cut spending across the organization to account for a projected \$2.4 million budget deficit for the fiscal year.

months of sustained declines in programming revenue due to COVID-19 park facility closures, as well as higher-than-expected unemployment expenses.

As a result, the district is currently in good financial shape and continues to trend favorably, Jeffrey Schneider,

liabilities from pensions and other post-employment benefits, which may result in a future recommendation to issue pension obligation bonds.

According to the most recently available audited financial report, the district's pension liability in the 2019-2020 fiscal year increased to nearly \$16 million, up from the previous year's figure of about \$7 million.

District General Manager Mathew Fuzie in his monthly report for January expressed optimism going forward.

"We will not be one of those special districts who have to go into debt to pull through," he wrote. "We will be ready to begin programming and continue the programming we are allowed. For our organization, I am of the opinion that the worst is behind us because we acted quickly, thoughtfully and decisively."

"We will not be one of those special districts who have to go into debt to pull through."

In October, LARP implemented a board-approved revised budget and reorganization plan that bridged the bulk of the projected budget gap by slashing millions of dollars in employee salary and benefit expenses.

The revised budget took into account worst-case projections for revenues and expenses, following several

LARP administrative services manager, told the board during a financial update at the board's regular meeting Jan. 27.

"This came as the result of some really tough decisions that the board made with our input," Schneider said.

On the horizon, the district is still grappling with how to address increasing

Energy Prepayment Program Still Under Consideration

By Ruth Roberts

The East Bay Community Energy (EBCE) Board is considering establishing a prepayment option for customers in the Tri-Valley.

In a recent meeting of the EBCE board, Mike Berwanger, managing director for the Public Provident Fund, one of the entities working to establish the initiative, offered an overview of the prepay energy program.

"A similar presentation was brought to staff earlier, and (because) it's a complicated structure, we will continue to review before taking any action items to the board," he said.

Should EBCE choose the program, the development of a prepay initiative would allow the agency to offer customers energy programs at reduced rates.

"In essence, this is a financial structure that allows EBCE to raise money through tax-exempt bonds and apply a discount to our long-term power purchase agreements," said EBCE COO Howard Chang, who has been leading the initia-

tive. "This is a structure that has been done for multiple decades for natural gas prepayments, and we are now applying the same process toward renewable energy. The discount leads to lower procurement costs, which ultimately leads to a lower rate for our customers."

Through the establishment of a Joint Powers Authority (JPA), which EBCE would set up with other entities, tax-exempt bonds could be purchased by the JPA. The money would be used to raise capital from which to borrow from a bank or lender at tax-exempt rates.

According to Chang, the money raised from the bonds would be used to prepay energy. These tax-exempt bonds have a rate lower than normal taxable bonds and allow a prepayment structure to apply a discount to customers. With the implementation of a long-term contract, customers are guaranteed a discounted rate. The only risk involved is that because these bonds are dependent on the state of the market, it is possible that rates could fluctuate.

"... but we do have a minimum discount throughout, so in all cases, we are receiving a discount of some form," added Chang. "The only real risk would be the opportunity to miss out on a potentially higher discount in the future if a better rate structure is developed."

With the success of a prepay program, customers could save 8% to 12% of current rates over the life of the 20- to 30-year contract.

DiAnne Martinez, the new EBCE chairperson, expressed her support for the program while reminding the board of its responsibility and obligation to the public.

"I want to be clear that we are dealing with just municipal bonds," said Martinez. "Given today's news cycle with GameStop and Robinhood, folks are really looking for security and transparency. I want to commend staff for putting this (presentation) together; it's definitely a complicated matter, and I appreciate the effort."

The decision around whether or not EBCE will enter the program is still in the discussion phase. Should

the board go forward with the initiative, implementation could take months depending upon how the market is faring and how quickly all the entities can prepare paperwork and other managerial tasks.

Santa Clara, Roseville and Redding have all participated in similar transactions of the years. The Sacramento Municipal Utility District recently set up a program as well.

The EBCE provides renewable energy to customers at competitive rates throughout the East Bay.

In 2018, the County of Alameda and 11 of its cities formed EBCE to create a not-for-profit public agency that governs this Community Choice Energy service. The cities currently served are Albany, Berkeley, Dublin, Emeryville, Fremont, Hayward, Livermore, Oakland, Piedmont, San Leandro, and Union City. The City of Pleasanton recently became the EBCE's newest member city.

For more information, visit www.ebce.org.

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Hidden History of Black Nationalist Women's Political Activism

By Keisha N. Blain, Associate Professor of History, University of Pittsburgh

Black History Month is an opportunity to reflect on the historical contributions of Black people in the United States. Too often, however, this history focuses on Black men, sidelining Black women and diminishing their contributions.

This is true in mainstream narratives of Black nationalist movements in the United States. These narratives almost always highlight the experiences of a handful of Black nationalist men, including Marcus Garvey, Malcolm X and Louis Farrakhan.

Contrary to popular conceptions, women were also instrumental to the spread and articulation of black nationalism.

During the Great Depression, Chicago was one of the key cities where black nationalist women organized. In 1932, Mittie Maude Lena Gordon, a former member of the Universal Negro Improvement Association, established an organization called the Peace Movement of Ethiopia which became the largest Black nationalist organization established by a woman in the United States. At its peak, the organization attracted an estimated 300,000 supporters in Chicago and across the country.

In 1933, Gordon initiated a nationwide emigration campaign, utilizing her widespread political networks in Chicago and across the Midwest. With the assistance of other Black nationalist activists, she collected signatures for a pro-emigration petition.

In August of that year, she mailed the petition to President Franklin D. Roosevelt with approximately 400,000 signatures of Black Americans willing to leave the country. Drawing inspiration from FDR's New Deal programs, Gordon requested federal support for those who desired to relocate to West

Africa in hopes of securing a better life.

Gordon's attempt to secure federal support failed. Yet she drew an even larger following of supporters who were inspired by her bold move. Many of these new members were women. Black women found in her organization a space of empowerment and opportunity. They occupied a number of visible leadership roles, working alongside the organization's female founder.

Celia Jane Allen, a Black woman from Mississippi who had relocated to Chicago, was one of these women. In the mid-1930s, she became an active member of the Peace Movement of Ethiopia. Embracing Gordon's vision for unifying Black people in the U.S. and abroad, Allen took on a leadership role in the organization.

In 1937, she became one of the national organizers. From the late 1930s to the mid-1940s, Allen traveled extensively throughout the South, visiting local homes and churches to recruit new members and advocate the relocation to West Africa. By the end of World War II, she was successful in getting thousands of black southerners to join the movement and embrace Black nationalist ideas.

Today, these women's stories are largely absent in popular accounts of Black nationalism. More often than not, the assumption is that men exclusively established and led Black nationalist organizations. This could not be further from the truth. As these few examples reveal, women were key players in Black nationalist movements, and their efforts helped to keep Black

nationalist ideas alive in U.S. politics.

No history of Black nationalism is complete without acknowledging women's significant contributions.

Keisha N. Blain received funding from the American Association of University Women (AAUW). This story originally appeared in *The Conversation*.

Darcie Kent VINEYARDS

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LIVERMORE CALIFORNIA

The City of Livermore invites applications for appointment to the **Planning Commission**

The Planning Commission advises the City Council on the adoption and on-going review of the General Plan for the physical growth of the City. The Plan, in conjunction with the Development Code, guides the general location of future public facilities, private buildings and improvements.

The Commission has specific responsibilities in the administration of the Development Code, including decisions or recommendations on subdivision of land and other development projects. The Commission is also responsible for ensuring development projects meet the City's Design Standards and Guidelines.

In addition, the Commission promotes public interest in planning and encourages citizen participation in the formulation of land use policies. The commissioners also acquaint the public with problems and solutions relating to the local physical environment. Preference is for applicants to have demonstrated ability in the area of design by virtue of avocation, vocation, talent, and interest in design, architecture, landscape architecture, or a related field.

Applicants are required to have attended at least one meeting of the Planning Commission prior to submitting an application. Meetings are held the first and third Tuesdays each month at 7:00 pm and are held virtually using Zoom. Additional recruitment information and agendas can be found using the following link: www.cityoflivermore.net/PlanningCommission. The next Planning Commission meeting will be held Tuesday, February 16, 2021.

Interested parties are invited to attend an informational meeting on Tuesday, February 16, 2021, 5:30 pm virtually prior to the regularly scheduled Planning Commission meeting.

Applications are available on-line at www.cityoflivermore.net/AB. Applicants must reside within the Livermore city limits. If you have questions regarding the application, please contact the City Clerk's Office at cityclerk@cityoflivermore.net or call (925) 960-4200.

The recruitment period begins February 4, 2021 and applications are due to the City Clerk's Office no later than Friday, March 5, 2021 at 5:00 pm.

Interviews are tentatively scheduled the evening of March 15, 2021. Due to COVID-19, these interviews may be held virtually using Zoom.

Dublin Unified School District Teachers Appear on Ellen DeGeneres Show

By Heather Brewer

There is no denying that over the past year, teachers across the nation have had a rough go of it.

From transitioning to teaching online to the constant back-and-forth of safety guidelines, it has been a tumultuous period.

Fortunately, silver linings have appeared here and there, including a group of Dublin educators being recognized by celebrity Ellen DeGeneres during a program that aired last month.

Murray Elementary School teacher Samara Grace, the driving force behind the appearance, recalled the entire process fondly.

"I wanted to audition for the Ellen show, because I have always enjoyed watching her show and the joy and laughter she brings to her audience, both in-studio, and at home," said Grace. "I submitted an application online during the 12 Days of Giveaways that she hosts during Christmas and shared a bit about myself."

Grace submitted her application on a Monday, and by Thursday, a producer had contacted her to set up a Zoom meeting.

"He really enjoyed chatting with me and could see my passion for teaching," she said. "During the giveaways, they were featuring essential workers on each episode, and he wanted me to include a few of my colleagues, so he spoke to them. Then, we included a few more and ended up with the 12 of us who were

featured on the show."

According to Grace, the producer could see how much the group loved teaching and their students, and he knew he wanted them to be part of this show.

"I spoke to the producer so many times that he became a friend during the process," she said. "We were set to record in December. And upon completing a tech rehearsal and waiting for filming to start, we were notified that the show would not be airing because of a situation that had happened backstage. It turned out that Ellen had COVID, but we were assured that it would be rescheduled, and in the end, she was fine, and we were able to film our episode a few weeks later."

Murray Elementary School's Principal Meghan Boriskin counts the experience as more than enjoyable on many fronts for the teachers, as well as for the school's staff, students and parents.

"Students were overjoyed to see their teachers on the Ellen Show," Boriskin said. "It was such a fun and bonding experience for our staff. Grace is new to Murray, so it was an opportunity for her and others to connect in a positive and exciting way. (Our teachers), much like the many teachers across our country, are working around the clock trying to support the many needs of our students. Teaching through Zoom is not what our teachers signed up for, but they are finding creative and enriching ways to connect and engage their



These 12 Dublin teachers appeared on television during a segment honoring frontline workers. (File photo)

students."

Even though the filming date was postponed and later aired Jan. 13, everyone still enjoyed the experience.

"I was grateful to be able to showcase our school and district, as well as the fabulous teachers that make it what it is," said Boriskin.

In addition to the fun of being on the show, recognition in general can help encourage those who may not feel appreciated given the daunting job they have.

"I think being featured by someone like Ellen helps morale, because it brings attention to a career that is oftentimes overlooked and undervalued," said Grace. "It reminds us that our work in this career is extremely important and respected. As teachers, we give our hearts to a career, because at the center of it are children that are ready

to do amazing things in the world with the guidance and support of the adults in their lives. To be able to inspire and encourage a child to realize their potential is humbling and so rewarding."

In acknowledging how difficult teaching can be, even in the best of times, Grace had a message for other teachers.

"I would say, 'You got this! You are incredible human beings who daily put others before yourselves and your work never goes unseen,'" she said. "These are hard times, and we are each battling a challenge, but we teach our kiddos about resilience and grit, and the reality is, they learn this because they see it in us. Take care of your hearts and know that a better season will come."

To watch the clip, visit bit.ly/Indy_EllenShow.

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Pleasanton's Capt. Craig Eicher Retires After 32 Years



Capt. Craig Eicher

Capt. Craig Eicher is retiring this week after a 32-year career with the Pleasanton Police Department.

Eicher's last day on the job will be Friday, Jan. 29, according to a department announcement.

"I am eager to enjoy my new future," Eicher said, "but am saddened to leave behind the wonderful and talented people I have had the privilege to work alongside."

"I plan on staying in Pleasanton and hope to see you around town. I wish the organization much future success and look forward to watching the city and police department continue to meet and address future

community challenges with excellence."

Eicher, 55, became a volunteer reserve officer for Pleasanton in 1989. Two years later, he joined the department as a full-time police officer. Over the years, he has served as a bicycle officer, field training officer, detective, sergeant, lieutenant, and captain. For the last nine years, he has headed the investigations and operations division of the police department.

During his career, Eicher attended the Executive Leadership Institute at Claremont Graduate University, participated in the FBI National Academy, and received a master's degree in

organizational leadership from Saint Mary's College of California.

He was involved in the development of several Pleasanton police department programs, including peer support for employee wellness, body-worn cameras, and most recently, an outreach program for the city's homeless population. Eicher also wrote procedure manuals on 21st Century Policing and the department's strategic plan.

Eicher received Exceptional Customer Service awards from the city of Pleasanton, along with numerous departmental commendations, and was a guest speaker at the International Leadership Association in Chicago.

"The Pleasanton Police Department and community has greatly benefited from Captain Eicher's service," said Police Chief David Swing. "His leadership and community involvement set a standard for others and ensured PPD was seated at the table of solutions for many pressing needs. Craig accomplished what every leader strives to do – he left things better than he found them."

Eicher continues to serve on the Pleasanton Chamber Foundation Board and the Pleasanton Community of Character Collaborative Board of Directors. He also served as board president for Hope Hospice for the past six years and founded the Pleasanton Police Officers' Charitable Foundation,

which helps fund community-based programs. He is a past president of the Pleasanton Police Officers' Association.



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EDITORIAL Consider Additional Options for Relieving Long Commutes

Last week, the Bay Area's transportation planners – those with the Capitol Corridor Joint Powers Authority (CCJPA) and San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit District (BART) – unveiled Link21, a project they call a “transformational rail improvement program that would connect BART and regional rail systems to employment opportunities and affordable housing throughout the 21-county Northern California Megaregion.”

Link21, which includes Alameda County, was once known as the New Transbay Rail Crossing. Proponents say it will include projects to “provide more services, faster connections and better access to jobs for people traveling in the Megaregion – the greater San Francisco Bay Area, the Monterey Bay area, the Sacramento area, and the northern San Joaquin Valley.

Among the projects envisioned is a New Transbay Rail Crossing from Oakland to San Francisco. The existing corridor, planners say, is one of the most congested in the country; BART trains before the COVID-19 pandemic often were overcrowded. A new crossing project would include a path for regional rail, another BART crossing or both.

Transportation planners tout the project as necessary to relieve traffic congestion in a region where the population is expected to grow to 16 million by 2050. Funding would come from BART's Measure RR, a \$3.5 billion bond measure passed by voters in Alameda, Contra Costa and San Francisco counties in 2016; and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission's Regional Measure 3, passed by voters in Alameda and eight other counties in 2018 to finance transit improvements with an increase on tolls on seven state-owned bridges.

The plan seems ambitious and a solution to the traffic congestion in a region where commuters travel long distances to get to work from afford-

able communities to jobs in Silicon Valley. As planners say, getting people out of their cars and into trains will reduce pollution and shorten commutes.

Although that might be helpful for the children and grandchildren in generations to come, the proposed project is in its infancy and could take years to develop. It will do little to ease problems now.

In the short run, it would behoove Silicon Valley and its giant tech companies to invest in building affordable housing closer to the worksites, so employees can live and work without lengthy commutes. And if that doesn't happen naturally, the state should mandate that certain businesses be required to build housing.

In October, the Tri-Valley Anti-Poverty Collaborative held a webinar that called for more affordable housing, addressing how scientists at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory were forced to live far from their workplaces, unable to pay the costs to buy or rent housing nearby.

“That's really sad when your parents are here, and you can't even live nearby,” stated the Rev. Jennifer Nelson, an Episcopal deacon, who also works as a laboratory scientist. “Something has got to be done. Please, I beg you. We cannot continue like this.”

The region also should explore whether remote working and education is a better alternative to building transportation projects that will take decades and likely be outdated by the time they are completed. Perhaps the state should invest in improving internet speeds and connections, in addition to making internet and computer equipment accessible to people of all incomes.

One thing the pandemic has shown: Working from home not only relieves congestion, but also helps clean the air, eliminates commutes and allows parents to spend more time with their children.

MAILBOX

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

The Other Pandemic

Bruce Fiedler, Dublin

While our lives have been radically altered by the Coronavirus pandemic, the CDC is reporting another and more serious epidemic – the 480,000 U.S. deaths every year from tobacco use.

It is not just lung and other cancers, but also heart attack, stroke, emphysema, tuberculosis and COPD. Smokeless tobacco – vape and chew – increase the risk for sudden death from irregular heartbeat. Persons who vape are more likely to contract both influenza and the Covid-19 virus. Menthol and other flavored tobaccos, which are targeted at teenagers and African Americans, are especially insidious products.

So, protect yourself and others by neither smoking nor vaping, but rather by staying home, wearing masks, washing hands and keeping distance from persons not in your household. It's a small effort in order to stay alive. And get your vaccine shot when available.

More information on this other pandemic is on the CDC website, listed under ‘tobacco data.’

Listening Makes a Difference

Veronica Hope Long, Livermore

We are lucky to live in a city where the council is responsive to us residents.

When we filled the council chambers to protest the Lennar development, they voted not to extend the contract with them. Later, then-councilmember Bob Woerner brokered a deal to move some of the apartments out of the downtown project area in response to the general sentiment that public areas were better in that space. The downtown project area is still evolving and the proposed apartment complex taking up the last bit of space is a loss of the chance for us to get a great public space developed there.

Once the two huge, three- and four-story buildings are built and filled by families who are given one parking spot per unit, not only do we lose that community space, but our traffic and parking will be worse. Please contact the city council and let them know what you think about the latest plans for our downtown project.

They have listened in the past – it makes a difference!

Where Does Swalwell Get His News?

Tom Hutton, Livermore

It appears that Rep. Swalwell only gets his news from the mainstream media.

In your Jan. 21 front-page article about Swalwell being reappointed to the House Committee on Homeland Security, you reference a statement he made that he would use his committee post to expose and tamp down on “the scourge of white nationalist extremism” that he called a growing threat. That's good, but perhaps he is not aware of the scourge of white and black extremists that are a growing threat, having caused many millions of dollars of physical and economic damage to our cities ... even on Inauguration Day.

Now that I have made him aware of this issue, I hope that he addresses all extremism that adversely affects our society.

Let's Not Waste It

Larry H. Thompson, Livermore

As a 47-year resident in Livermore, I would like to express my concerns, along with the growing chorus of people, who believe that Livermore deserves better than having its central downtown packed with high-

density, four-story housing.

Alternative sites north of Railroad Avenue have been identified that can accommodate many more units of low-income and workforce housing than on the central downtown lot. Therefore, why would the Livermore City Council not eagerly explore this option? They could be remembered with appreciation for their foresight in giving Livermore a welcoming open-space core, while also multiplying the stock of affordable housing.

This is our only chance to create a beautiful, inviting downtown, so let's not waste it.

Do Something To Benefit Us All

Paul Schimmelman, Livermore

I'm adding my voice to the growing chorus of voices speaking out in favor of the city council rethinking the location of the Eden Housing project.

I have been involved in this process since the community workshops took place a few years ago. I listened carefully while people from all parts of the community made their priorities clear, with open space and parking leading over housing right in the center of our downtown. With the recent surprise announcement of the increase in height and footprint of the Eden housing units, and the revelation that the focus would be on low income and homeless housing units, as opposed to workforce housing, I feel as if all the smart and capable folks on the city council and planning department need to rethink having such a development right in the core of downtown.

I am all for increased workforce, low income and homeless housing being available throughout Livermore. Everyone should have the opportunity to have access to decent housing, but I don't see that it makes sense that this housing must be located right in the core of downtown. There does appear to be alternate locations for the housing on the north side of Railroad Avenue.

Even our new mayor, while campaigning for our votes, suggested that relocating these housing units was a strong possibility, one that he supported, embracing it as the wonderful sounding ‘win-win’ solution. So, lets encourage our bright and dedicated mayor and city council members to rethink this housing decision for the benefit of all of us, not just a relatively small number of folks who may fill these planned new housing units.

The results of this decision will be with us for many decades to come.

They Are All Bought By China

Mike Bland, Livermore

I feel so much better that Swalwell is back on the DHS committee (HA).

This jerk could not tell a threat if he was sleeping with one. And that we have proof of (All networks and Independent). That Pelosi “doesn't have any concerns about Swalwell” (NPR) shows her ignorance of what is at stake globally. I am sure that Biden will have his son look into this and give it a green light, since they are all bought and paid for by China.

Unfortunately, probably so is most of Congress.

Save Our Character

Merlin Newton Sr., Livermore

I don't agree with the revised proposal for downtown Livermore and Eden Housing.

The revised proposal would eliminate ‘open green space’ by 60% and eliminate housing for teachers, police and firefighters. The proposal will also increase the number of parking stalls in the underground parking area where vehicles will be crammed in, with only one entrance and exit onto L Street, causing increased congestion and traffic.

The original plan was approved to have housing for our teachers, police and firefighters. What kind of message is the revised proposal sending to our teachers and first responders? Not a good look!

When it comes to ‘open green space’ in downtown, we should have more not less, so families and groups can gather safely outside and enjoy the downtown experience.

We must save the charm and character of our historic downtown Livermore.

Welcome Gina Bonanno

Lori Souza, Livermore

I want to extend my congratulations to our newest city council member, Gina Bonanno.

She is well qualified, and we need everyone in our city's governance to help lead our fine city through the post-COVID recovery.

Take Another Look

Connie and Bill Bish, Livermore

Dear City Council and Mayor of Livermore,

The state of California and Livermore are facing a shortage of housing, especially affordable housing.

While the latest new plan for the former Lucky Center would provide 130 units (of) Eden affordable housing, given the traffic volume and lack of parking that already exists in the downtown, could the plan be improved? Would the council and mayor look again at moving housing across Railroad Avenue?

The original concept for developing the Lucky site was to make Livermore's downtown a destination supporting shopping and dining and showcasing our wine country. Does this plan fulfill that vision?

Please reconsider the latest plan.

Geographical America

Owen Brvont, Livermore

America is fast becoming just a geographical location as a result of its population being conspicuously ignorant of what the promise of America was as it was laid out in the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States.

That promise was argued in many documents during the founding era, in books, pamphlets, and recorded debates. Without clear knowledge of its purpose and conscious dedication of its people to support, protect, and live up to its founding ideals, no country can long survive. History is littered with many examples of that proposition. Today, the fate of what was once the American Republic is well on its way to being sealed.

Thomas Sowell said, “The course of history is determined by what people do with their opportunities.” The failures of America have been the failures of men, not of its founding ideals. America is embarking on the most terrible failure of its tenure as an independent nation, and the failure must be laid at the feet of its ignorant, impulsive, misled population willingly selecting leaders whose actions telegraph their real purpose: adopting the ideology of complete domination over a compliant, supine population.

A perceptive person doesn't have to indulge in conspiracy theories – he or she merely has to pay attention to what is happening around them. The currency of Critical Race Theory, White Supremacy and the recently launched 1619 Project, argues that race consciousness is an integral and inescapable facet of reality, and that its most egregious expression is particularly predominant in the white population of America and in western culture generally. These arguments are being published throughout America by the advocates of leftist ideology using them as effective tools in destroying America's democratic republic and replacing it with a socialist state.

The groundwork for this goal was largely laid in the early '60s. The American population was made progressively susceptible by destroying the Melting Pot Theory, and the extended criticism of our culture as being too judgmental, racially exclusionary, xenophobic, racist, homophobic, and the absence of cultural diversity. During this period, feminism developed into a major movement, especially among young “educated” women. All of all these criticisms have been fused into an intentionally divisive effort to destroy the social unity of the American nation, to make it easier to replace!

Mark Twain said, “It's easier to fool people than to convince them that they have been fooled.”

Make It Work

Dave David, Livermore

I can't believe we are having this fight again with our elected city council.

Eden Housing has pulled the classic “bait and switch” and is proposing housing with

even less open space than originally promised. Our elected representatives need to listen to the outpouring of support from our citizens to move the housing across Railroad Avenue. We only have one chance to get this right for the future of our downtown.

Let's not let the housing developer dictate the way our downtown will look and feel, when there is a perfectly acceptable alternative that is actually better.

Our leaders should take the time to make it work for the good of the entire community.

No Apology Needed

Beth Rasmussen, Livermore

In response to Lee Edwards, Livermore (01/28/21 – Opinion Letter)

As a registered Democrat, your apology is not necessary.

I am proud that my great-grandparents immigrated to the United States from Russia, Germany and Sweden, seeking religious freedom and better economic opportunities. I am proud they taught our family the value of education and a strong work ethic.

After visiting Ellis Island, where my ancestors first stepped foot onto American soil, I will always remember this quote, “I came to America because I heard the streets were paved with gold ... when I got here, I found out three things. First, the streets weren't paved with gold; second, they weren't paved at all; and third, I was expected to pave them.”

I am sorry to read is that you perceive Democrats as liberal whiners who long to depend on the government. I am grateful that our government provides temporary unemployment benefits. I am grateful that the government provides Medicare to our elderly population. I am also grateful that our citizens have access to an education and can succeed through hard work.

I hope people in different political parties could strive to understand, not ridicule, our many different viewpoints and start the path toward a more unified nation.

Progression or Regression?

Erik Sommargren, Livermore

I can't help but believe that Livermore and Alameda County politicians and planners have been referring to R. Crumb's 1979 illustrated “A Short History of America” as a blueprint for future development.

Do we really want hulking three- and four-story buildings dominating the

(See MAILBOX, page 8)

THE Independent

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Pleasanton Updates Families, Reviews Past Year At Second Annual State of the District Event

By Dawnmarie Fehr

The Pleasanton Unified School District (PUSD) hosted its second annual State of the District on Jan. 27 to look over the past year and thank its community sponsors.

The event was hosted in cooperation with the Pleasanton Partnerships in Education (PPIE) Foundation and live streamed through Zoom and YouTube. Included were an address by Superintendent David Haglund and remarks from Pleasanton Mayor Karla Brown. The affair concluded with the presentation of the 2020 PPIE Pillars of Pleasanton awards to community partners.

"We were pleased to be able to take a moment to pause and celebrate the hard work of each member of our PUSD community over the last year," Haglund said. "It really is about the 'us' in PUSD — every employee, parent, student and community member is part of our collective work and how we move forward to support our young people. We are living through history, and while we have had great obstacles to overcome, we have much to be proud of."

Steve McCoy Thompson, PPIE's executive director, listed some highlights of the foundation's work last year, including the funding of various initiatives throughout the district.

"We partner with PTA — we focus on funding staff, and they fund stuff," Thompson said. "We get that money into the classroom, and we take parent donations and combine that with our great corporate partners, and we were able to reach \$725,000 last year. With that, we funded a broad range of positions that make a real difference for our students."

Thompson went on to discuss PPIE's funding of grants, a robotics program,

a business program taught by real career professionals to offer support and guidance, and a mock-interview program.

These programs were all made possible through community support. During his remarks, Haglund said he was inspired by the way the entire community supported its schools and the health and well-being of all its students.

"2020 has been a year of challenges, of conflict, and of change," Haglund said. "Yet, I have never believed more in the shared mission and vision statements that guide our collective work. Our students will make a better world, and each and every one of them will grow to be a resourceful, resilient, responsible and engaged world citizen."

Thompson also presented the Pillars of Pleasanton awards to highlight local businesses that support PUSD with funding, volunteerism, in-kind support and auction gifts, among other things.

Larry Damasas, a State Farm agent, attended the meeting to accept his Pillars award in the financial and professional category.

"Steve and his team are doing fantastic things," Damasas said. "I am really proud to be a part of that ... I have three kids at Amador; schools are why we moved to Pleasanton, and I take a lot of pride in our whole school system."

As winner of the Hospitality, Restaurant and Food category, Nick Valenziano of Porky's Pizza Palace expressed his gratitude and commitment to continue to work with the district for the good of the students.

"Use us as a resource, so we can work together to support the kids," he said. "Being a product of Pleasanton school district as well as a future parent, I want to thank all the parents on this call, because you're

showing up for your kids. The more parent support, the better the kids' lives are, and it will pay dividends later on for your kids as well as our community."

PPIE's 2020 Pillars of Pleasanton Award winners are as follows:

Building and Construction: Richert Lumber

Education, Childcare: ShengMeng Learning Center

Financial and Professional: State Farm (agent Larry Damasas)

Hospitality, Restaurant & Food: Porky's Pizza

Medical: Stanford Healthcare

Real Estate and Property Management: Bob & Deb Cilk, Remax Realtors

Retail: Towne Center Books

Software and Technology: Veeva Systems

Transportation & Energy: Chevron

PUSD serves nearly 15,000 students in 15 schools, including nine elementary schools, three middle schools, two comprehensive high schools and one continuation high school. Its mission is to raise students who will make a better world.

For more information or to view a recording of the State of the District, visit www.pleasantonusd.net or call 925-462-5500.



Players from the Bay Area Willow Cricket Academy played a pickup match at Dublin's Fallon Sports Park, on Saturday, Jan. 30. (Photo -Doug Jorgensen)

OFFICER

(Continued from first page)

that trust, I expect each and every person on our team to conduct themselves in a way that is reflective of the values of our organization and community," Swing continued. "Those values include professionalism, dignity and respect for all people and cultures. If someone's actions are incongruent with those values, we will take appropriate action to change behavior."

In its department policy manual, Pleasanton police allow officers to speak or post materials on social media as private citizens, unless it harms the department's professionalism or reputation. Although what the officer posted was not made public, among the

provisions in the code that could be considered violations are "statements that indicate disregard for the law or the state or U.S. Constitution" and "Expression that demonstrates support for criminal activity."

Police departments across the nation are investigating officers who took

part in the Washington D.C. insurrection. The Washington Post said departments are looking at officers' social-media posts as part of their probes.

The Independent sent an email to the Pleasanton Police Officers Association on Tuesday, but did not receive an immediate response.



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cindy@tbltaxservice.com





Raimey Wiggen
raimey@tbltaxservice.com

373 N. L Street, Livermore, CA 94551 Phone: 925.495.4892 Fax: 925.495.4893

Parking for Eden Housing is Falling Short

Eden Housing's new plan fails to meet the Livermore city parking requirements. It provides only 132 spaces, 98 less than the 230 spaces needed to serve its 1-, 2- and 3-bedroom units. This will cause residents and their guests to use public parking on nearby Veterans Way and the L Street Garage. Reduced parking will discourage those wanting to come to downtown businesses and the proposed cultural facilities.

- ✗ Fails to meet current city parking requirements
- ✗ Has only 132 spaces out of 230 needed
- ✗ 43% fewer spaces than necessary

Save 
Livermore
Downtown!



Speak up to Save Livermore Downtown!

Call on the City Council and Eden Housing to keep their promises and present a new alternative for downtown.

EMAIL SAVELIVERMOREDOWNTOWN@GMAIL.COM TO TAKE ACTION!

PAID FOR BY SAVE LIVERMORE DOWNTOWN

Protect Your Home in Wildfire-prone Communities

A team of California and Nevada fire scientists have produced a booklet with step-by-step guidance on retrofitting an existing home to be more resilient to fire.

Susie Kocher, UC Cooperative Extension forestry and natural resources advisor and co-author of the new guide, said some homeowners feel powerless to protect their homes against California's increasing wildfire threat.

"I'm happy to tell them that's not true. There are specific actions that we can all take to reduce the likelihood of our homes being burned in wildfire," said Kocher, who lives in a forested area near Lake Tahoe. "We need to educate ourselves on the details of home construction that make homes less vulnerable to ignition."

The free 20-page publication, "How to Harden Homes against Wildfire," is now available online at ucanr.edu/HomeRetrofitGuide. It includes recommendations for 12 vulnerable components of homes in wildfire-prone areas, including roofs, gutters, vents, siding, windows, decks and fences.

"Mitigation is one form of preparation for wildfire," said Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department Deputy Chief Joe Testa. "The most important thing for those who live within the wildland or urban and wildland interface area is to create a defensible space around buildings of at least 100'. Using fire-safe building materials and design is also important. We often see on the news the home that is still standing after the fire has passed through. Certainly, building construction can play a part in this, as well as the defensible space and the topography of where the home is located."

Testa also recommends keeping good clearance for fire engines. Often, long driveways can become overgrown with low tree branches. If firefighters have time, they will cut the branches to get to the home, but if things are happening quickly, they may have to move on to the property that they can access."

CAL FIRE awarded funding to develop and publish the wildfire home retrofit guide, funding that is part of California Climate Investments, a statewide program that assigns cap-and-trade dollars to projects that aim to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, strengthen the economy and improve public health and the environment. In addition to CAL FIRE, organizations that contributed to the document are University of Nevada, Reno Extension; University of California Cooperative Extension; Living with Fire, Tahoe; Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team; Tahoe Resource Conservation District; and Tahoe Network of Fire Adapted Communities.

The team also hosted three webinars to share home fire resilience information targeted to different audiences. Videos of the webinars are available on the Living with Fire YouTube Channel at, for the public, bit.ly/39CW57d; for building professionals, bit.ly/2LbqEbn; and for fire educators, bit.ly/3pH3qJj.

ARAMIS

(Continued from first page)

vice's "Revised Guidance on Site Assessments and Field Surveys for the California," the agency would have confirmed that the surveys were inadequate.

"The proposed project site is dominated by upland habitats, which the California red-legged frog utilizes for dispersing, foraging, sheltering and aestivating," SFWO wrote. "Therefore, protocol-level surveys that focused on only a portion of the nonbreeding aquatic habitats near the project site — and did not survey all known and potential breeding habitat within dispersal distance of the project site — would not necessarily detect California red-legged frog use of the upland habitats within the project site."

SFWO dispelled the notion that the tiger salamander was unlikely to occur in disked farmland areas used for "intensive agriculture" by pointing to a series of aerial photos that documented the species in similar habitats.

"Given the numerous Central California tiger salamander detections within 1.3 miles of the proposed project site, the availability of suitable dispersal and upland refugia habitat throughout the project site, and the lack of protocol-level surveys demonstrating the absence of the Central California tiger salamander from the project site, the Service believes the Central California tiger salamander is highly likely to occur within the project site," wrote SFWO.

In addition, the project's final EIR outlines procedures for kit fox dens to include destroying inactive dens (to discourage reuse) or performing an on-site passive relocation of active dens. SFWO stated these methods would reduce the potential for killing the kit fox but said the destruction of potential dens or excluding the species from active dens would still be considered "harass and harm" under the Endangered Species Act of 1973.

"Therefore, the proposed excavation and destruction of potential San Joaquin kit fox dens and implementation of an on-site passive relocation program would require an incidental take permit from the Service," continued SFWO.

Local environmental advocacy groups, such as Save North Livermore Valley (SNLV) and the Friends of Livermore, chimed in last week to express their continued duress with the project.

"The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service has now added

its authoritative voice to the debate and reached the same conclusion as other public agencies that the environmental review of the Aramis project has been deficient," SNLV Steering Committee Chair Chris O'Brien said. "Injuring and killing endangered foxes, frogs and salamanders is obviously not the path Alameda County should take in seeking to achieve its clean energy goals. The Board of Supervisors needs to bring this deeply flawed project and process to an end."

Michael Fredrich representing the Friends of Livermore said that the county has failed to apply common sense and sound public policy in reviewing the solar project.

"Unlike neighboring Contra Costa and Santa Clara counties, Alameda County has not amended its General Plan to authorize utility scale solar power facilities solely in rural areas where they would pose the least conflict with wildlife habitat, open space, agricultural land and scenic resources, as well as comply with voter-approved Measure D," Fredrich said. "Instead, Alameda County worked closely with Intersect Power to advance the Aramis project in North Livermore Valley — where it is abundantly clear that massive industrial solar power plants should not be located."

O'Brien further noted that other groups, such as the East Bay Regional Park District, Golden Gate Audubon Society and Save Mount Diablo, which have closely examined the Aramis project, have found Intersect Power and Alameda County planners failed to acknowledge and account for the project's significant and negative impact on several threatened species.

Intersect Power has not offered any compensatory mitigation for the Aramis project's destruction of habitat for threatened species. When asked if Intersect Power would offer compensatory mitigation, seek the take permits or provide a conservation plan, the company's representatives issued the following statement:

"Intersect Power stands firmly behind the quality of the Aramis project's biological survey work, which was conducted over multiple years by experts, and included protocol-level and focused surveys for amphibians and other taxa. There is no potential breeding habitat for California red-legged frog or California tiger salamander on the

Aramis project site, and the comprehensive surveys did not detect any frog or salamander individuals. San Joaquin kit foxes also are not present at the site, and haven't been seen in Alameda County for decades. Intersect Power sited the Aramis project on its particular plot of land because of its low potential for harm and its high potential for local benefits.

"Intersect Power holds the wildlife agencies in the highest regard and takes any feedback they provide very seriously. In response to recent concerns expressed by representatives of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife that cryptic amphibian species, like California tiger salamander, are difficult to detect, we are in close consultation with the agencies to collaborate on the best path forward for the species and the project. We look forward to working closely with agency staff, and we thank them for their service protecting biodiversity.

"The Aramis project is one of a handful of locations where modifying current land management practices in favor of renewable energy generation has the potential to improve the quality of habitat for a wide range of species while directly offsetting fossil fuel generation in Alameda County. The solar arrays have been deliberately designed to avoid areas with higher potential habitat value, namely Cayetano Creek, which will be protected from development activities.

"Intersect Power is proud to have support for the Aramis project from leading environmental organizations, including the Sierra Club, Natural Resources Defense Council and the Audubon Society."

To review the entire SFWO letter, visit bit.ly/Indy_SFWOletter.

WINERIES

(Continued from first page)

measure, and the required public process and environmental review.

"I would like for us to stop kicking the can down the road and come back with some documentation and put it in front of the board of supervisors to vote on," said Chuck Moore, the committee's chairman during its first meeting of the year on Jan. 26.

Measure D established a county Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) that places strict limitations on development on parcels outside of the UGB.

Substantive changes to Measure D require voter approval. County supervisors are now expected to place a ballot initiative on the November 2022 ballot asking voters to approve amendments to Measure D to allow agricultural buildings in the unincorporated rural areas to cover up to 2.5% of a parcel's area, or what's referred to as a Floor Area Ratio (FAR) of .025. Current rules allow an FAR of .01 for agricultural buildings in most rural parts of the county, plus an FAR of up to .025 for greenhouses, but only on land designated as Large Parcel Agriculture (LPA).

The proposed changes to Measure D in their current form would essentially extend the building intensity allowed for greenhouses on LPA to other types of agricultural buildings for other types of uses, not only on LPA lands, but also on what are designated under Measure D as more environmentally sensitive Resource Management lands.

The types of uses allowed in agricultural buildings and the locations where development intensity could be increased will likely be a matter of significant public debate as the proposal wends its way to the Board of Supervisors.

A full Environmental Impact Review is likely needed for such a change, and multiple public meetings throughout the county will be held, Assistant Planning Director Liz McElligott told the committee.

Over the past decade, Alameda County agricultural property owners, in particular local wineries and those who operate equestrian facilities, have sought to escape development restrictions imposed by Measure D, which limit the allowable area for agricultural buildings, and other nonresidential buildings in the unincorporated rural areas, to 1% of a parcel's area.

Most attempts to change or get around the restrictions have been thwarted by Measure D proponents, who have argued any increase in allowable development intensity is substantive in nature and requires a public vote. One example involves a 2013 proposal to amend the East County Area Plan and the Castro Valley General Plan to allow larger buildings for horse breeding and training facilities in the Castro Valley area.

There was concern the technical amendment proposed was an attempt to circumvent protections contained in Measure D, setting a dangerous precedent for more changes. After intense opposition, county supervisors ultimately backed away from approving the proposed changes.

More recently, however, county supervisors have expressed a willingness to revisit the use of technical changes as a way to increase allowable development intensity on agricultural land.

Without any clear signs of public opposition in December 2020, county supervisors unanimously approved moving forward with technical modifications to the East County Area Plan to allow South Livermore winery operators to construct larger agricultural buildings on their properties. The vote to take the next steps was subject to county counsel returning with an opinion that a board-approved action is legally permissible.

In a nonbinding policy approved on Dec. 15, supervisors recognized the "economic and historical

importance of the South Livermore Valley wine industry" and expressed an intent to adopt amendments to the East County Area Plan to "promote and support" the development of wineries in the area.

Unlike the previously pitched alterations to Measure D for equestrian facilities to the west, McElligott explained the application of increased agricultural building intensity rules in South Livermore actually pertain to provisions of the county's South Livermore Valley Plan. This plan predated Measure D and cannot be superseded or changed by the 2000 initiative.

As a result, the Board of Supervisors can make technical amendments that affect South Livermore but not the rest of the county. The proposed changes in the rules of the South Livermore Valley Area Plan would enable those that govern greenhouse buildings to apply to all agricultural buildings as generally defined.

That means that the .025 FAR allowed for greenhouses would now apply to agricultural buildings as well.

While vintners could store barrels of wine in agricultural buildings, they could not process, crush or ferment grapes in a tank within one, said Karl Wentz, a member of the committee.

According to Wentz, the changes help but don't go far enough to enable success.

"We still have incredibly prohibitive structures in place that are not supporting our agriculture," he concluded.

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VACCINATIONS

(Continued from first page)

Chaudry further stated that vaccination availability will

65 and older.

In the coming weeks,

The fairgrounds site and another at the Oakland Coliseum will each open with the hope of administering 5,000 doses each day. The sites will operate in conjunction with the Kaiser Permanente, Sutter and Stanford - ValleyCare health plans.

be according to state guidelines — offering them first to health care professionals, first responders and people

however, the state will change the system from job-based to age-based, following a directive from

California Gov. Gavin Newsom.

Eventually, health care providers, pharmacists, dentists and more will dispense vaccinations. But utilizing large parking lots for mass distribution of vaccines is the state's latest effort to stem the tide of the virus, which surged following Thanksgiving and Christmas.

The two sites in Alameda County will follow similar efforts in Southern California, where parking lots at Dodger Stadium in

Los Angeles and Disneyland in Anaheim began serving residents in Los Angeles and Orange counties, respectively. The Dodger Stadium site is hoping to inoculate 12,000 people a day, the largest site so far in the country.

Three other sites in Los Angeles County, including the fairgrounds in Pomona, also were utilized as mass delivery sites.

In addition, PetCo Park in San Diego and the CalExpo fairgrounds in Sacramento are being used

as mass distribution sites.

The number of people who can receive vaccines depends, of course, on the availability of doses, which are in short supply. In Santa Clara County on Monday, Kaiser Permanente had to cancel more than 5,000 appointments for seniors who were set to receive their shots, the Los Angeles Times reported.

Ralphs supermarkets in Southern California also were forced to cancel appointments when vaccine doses meant for their phar-

macies were diverted to other locations.

On Tuesday this week, California had recorded nearly 3.3 million COVID-19 cases. The death toll was approaching 41,000. Just more than 3.5 million vaccines had been administered. In Alameda County, more than 74,000 COVID-19 cases had been reported, with 982 deaths.

For more information on California's vaccination plan, go to covid19.ca.gov/vaccines/.

REOPENINGS

(Continued from first page)

2) the COVID-19 School Guidance Checklist.

In Pleasanton, Patrick Gannon, the Pleasanton Unified School District's (PUSD) coordinator of communications and community engagement, said his district has a working three-phase plan. The plan they submitted to the county's office of education in October has been updated with the new guidelines and approved by the board of trustees.

"During the Jan. 28 regular board meeting, the PUSD Board of Trustees approved the newly required COVID-19 Protection Plan and Safety Plan for school reopening and voted to begin returning students to school two weeks after Alameda County enters the red tier," Gannon said in an email to The Independent. "We did not identify a specific date, as all school districts in Alameda County's ability to return students to school rely heavily on COVID-19 cases and positivity rates, which are influenced by our broader community's collaboration in adhering to health and safety guidelines."

The three phases of the PUSD plan are to return students through second grade in a morning and afternoon hybrid model. One week later, PUSD will bring third, fourth and fifth graders back, also in a morning and afternoon hybrid model. Finally — after one more week — the secondary students will return. Specific details for secondary students will be decided upon at the board meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 11.

In the Dublin Unified School District (DUSD), a reopening plan approved by the board on Jan. 12 — just two days before the state's new guidelines were issued — is undergoing an update. Chip Dehnert, the district's public information officer, said the plan has not yet been submitted, but will be once complete.

"If conditions are favorable, the proposed start date for elementary schools is now early March," Dehnert said. "As with all things COVID-related, many factors have the potential to impact our timing. We are still working on a date for our secondary schools." Currently, the district's

plan for elementary schools is a hybrid plan. Dehnert noted a date for returning to full time, in-person learning is difficult to predict at present.

Dr. Nicholas Moss, Alameda County Health Officer, said schools implementing the state's new guidelines will be in a good position to safely welcome back students for in-person instruction.

"Schools and school districts have been preparing for the return of in-classroom learning for months and with the number of daily new cases on the decline in Alameda County, schools should submit their CSPs as soon as they determine they are ready to reopen classrooms," Moss said.

Currently, the county is in the purple — or most restrictive — tier of the state's Blueprint for a Safer Economy. Only grades TK-6 are permitted to open once the county's daily adjusted case rate has come in below 25 cases per 100,000 population for five consecutive days. Grades 7-12 that are not yet open are not permitted to open in purple tier counties according

to the state's framework. Once Alameda County has been in the red tier for five days, grades 7-12 will be permitted to open. A CSP must be posted publicly for any K-12 schools for five days prior to resuming in-person instruction.

The county's health department also strongly recommends schools address safety measures for their facilities, including staff training, cohorts, movement within schools, use of face coverings, health screening, identification and reporting of cases, and physical distancing.

Questions for the Alameda County Public Health Department can be emailed to SafeLearning@acgov.org. For more information, visit covid-19.acgov.org/schools.

For more information on LVJUSD, call 925-606-3200 or visit www.livermoreschools.org/.

For more information on PUSD, call 925-462-5500 or visit www.pleasantonusd.net/.

For more information on DUSD, call 925-828-2551 or visit www.dublin.k12.ca.us/.

TRANSBAY

(Continued from first page)

centers in the United States, Northern California needs to unify into a region, acting to solve its transportation problems.

One goal is to decongest Bay Area car traffic and transit to better compete with high-tech regions, such as Chicago, Washington D.C. and New York City, where people can travel up to 85 mph in one hour, compared to the Bay Area's 35 miles in an hour,

said Bellisario.

The Bay Area Council is a successor to the former Silicon Valley Leadership Group, whose CEO for 20 years was Carl Guardino until last year. Critics in the East Bay have claimed that the Silicon Valley Leadership Group was foisting its responsibility for Silicon Valley and San Francisco employee housing and transportation on Alameda County.

The schedule for Link 21 starts this year — it must identify programs. The plan expands to phase 2 in 2024 with the selection of projects, and moves to phase 3 in 2028 by delivering projects. Phase 4 aims for some projects to be ready for service in 2040.

Asked whether some of the Bay Area billionaires might want to contribute money to help their workers move around, Bellisario

said that public-private partnerships exist in Europe but not much in America. However, he said that could change with the Biden Administration to some extent, as Biden might be looking for shovel-ready projects to help economic recovery.

For information on Link 21, visit http://bit.ly/Indy_Link21. For a look at reports about the plans behind Link 21, visit www.bayareaconomy.org/publications-list/.

COOKS

(Continued from first page)

Livermore's employment makeup appears to contribute to its COVID-19 infection rate.

As of Tuesday this week, the Alameda County Public Health Department reported that Livermore, Pleasanton and Dublin accounted for 7,136 COVID-19 cases of the county's 74,661. Of those counted in the Tri-Valley, Livermore had the highest number of cases with 3,797, followed by Pleasanton at 1,935, and Dublin with 1,404. That puts Livermore in the lead at about 5% of its population compared to roughly 3% each for Pleasanton and Dublin.

According to City Data, the largest chunk (nearly 15%) of Livermore's workforce falls under the "professional, scientific and technical services" category. However, construction comes in second with nearly 8%, followed by educational services (7%), health care (6%) and food services (5%).

In comparison, Pleasanton also had 15% of its residents employed in the professional, scientific and technical services, which ranked No. 1. But the following four occupations included computer and electronic products (9%), educational services (7%), finance and insurance (6%) and health care (5%).

Dublin's top five industries were professional (11%), health care (7%), finance and insurance (6%), construction (6%) and edu-

cational services (6%).

Higher Risk for Minorities

The UCSF study further showed that Californians in the 18-65 age group saw a 22% increase in mortality compared to the pre-pandemic period. Food and agricultural workers experienced a 39% increase in excess mortality, the highest among all sectors. "Excess mortality" refers to the number of deaths caused

by a specific disease.

The study found that Black and Latino individuals tended to be at higher risk than white people. Latinos had a 36% increase in mortality, and Latino food and agricultural workers experienced a 59% mortality increase.

Black Californians saw a 28% increase in mortality and black retail workers showed a 36% increase.

Among white people,

excess mortality was 6% higher, and 16% higher among white individuals in agriculture and food.

In Alameda County, case rate by ethnicity saw the Latino group hit hardest with 29,867. The next highest fell under the "unknown" category with 17,967 cases, followed by 9,791 cases among white people; 8,667 for Asian; and 5,454 for Black people.

DIRECTOR

(Continued from first page)

appointment to employees on Thursday, Jan. 28.

"We strongly believe that she is the best person to lead LLNL at this time, and she will continue to champion the Laboratory's outstanding contributions to its national security missions into the future," Zettel said.

Budil will lead 6,300 employees and an annual budget of about \$1.5 billion. She will take Goldstein's position as president of LLNS, becoming the 13th director since the laboratory opened in 1952.

"I am deeply honored to take on the role of Laboratory director," Budil said. "Our lab has a storied history and continues this spirit of innovation and impact today through the efforts of our amazing workforce. The Lab team has demonstrated time and again its resilience and commitment to our mission of service to the nation, and I look forward to working with all of my LLNL colleagues, LLNS and our partners across the nuclear security enterprise."

According to the laboratory, Budil will set the facility's strategic vision and lead the execution of programs and operations to advance science and technology. She also will be responsible for maintaining an outstanding, diverse workforce, and serve as a liaison to the U.S. Department of Energy, the NNSA, the LLNS Board of Governors, the University of California and other public and private organizations.

Part of her job will be providing President Joseph Biden, through his secretaries of Energy and Defense, an annual assessment of the state of the nuclear weapons stockpile, including its safety and security, and availability for use without a test.

Budil received a bachelor's degree in physics from the University of Illinois in

1987, and a Ph.D. in engineering/applied science at UC Davis in 1994.

Budil has held numerous positions at the laboratory, involving an increasing management responsibility in programs that include Weapons and Complex Integration, Global Security, the National Ignition Facility and Physical and Life Sciences.

She twice worked in Washington D.C. at the NNSA in the Office of Defense Science and as a senior adviser to the undersecretary for science in the Department of Energy.

Budil also served as the vice president for national laboratories in the UC Office of the President, where she was responsible for oversight of the Lawrence Livermore, Lawrence Berkeley and Los Alamos national laboratories, and the development of strategic partnerships among the 10 UC campuses and the laboratories. She also was chosen as the executive committee governor on the Los Alamos National Security and LLNS Boards of Governors.

"Kim has proven scientific leadership and senior management experience across a broad range of Laboratory programs," Zettel said. "Her passion and commitment to the Lab's mission and people, and her ability to strategically manage the breadth of Livermore's science and technology capabilities and operations will serve the Lab, its people and the nation well."

"She is a respected and trusted scientist among Laboratory managers and employees, and with the DOE, NNSA, UC and other key government sponsors and academic and industrial partners."

Zettel also thanked Goldstein for his contributions to LLNL.



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"Gratitude turns what we have into enough, and more. It turns denial into acceptance, chaos into order, confusion into clarity. It makes sense of our past, brings peace for today and creates a vision for tomorrow."
Melody Beattie

Last year certainly wasn't what we expected. I was truly grateful for the opportunity to work with great clients and friends in 2020. I hope 2021 brings you good health happiness, success, laughter and joy!

I am here (while maintaining social distance guidelines) if you have any questions about getting a new mortgage for your first home, helping your children obtain a mortgage for their first home, guidance in purchasing an investment property to help you prepare for retirement income, or refinancing your current home with a new lower interest rate or taking cash out to make it your "perfect" home.

I am here to help. Call me today for all your home financing needs. Take care and enjoy 2021.

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MAILBOX

(Continued from page 4)

immediate downtown area and irreparably changing Livermore's historic character? And do we really want a massive industrial solar plant that will stamp out the scenic beauty and ranching heritage of North Livermore Valley? I don't think so.

Make Something To Be Proud Of Janet Allan, Livermore

It appears the 'grand poobahs' of Livermore City Council are submitting to the hegemony of the Eden Project's uglyfication of Livermore.

To go down this road is to waste the opportunity to make our downtown a place we can be proud of.

A Permanent Blight Matt Kwan, Livermore

Two decades ago, PG&E was allowed to build a station in North Livermore to bring more electricity to Dublin and San Ramon.

PG&E promised the Ceyetano station would be hidden behind trees and other landscaping. No landscaping exists today at the site. It degrades the scenic beauty of the valley.

Today, Aramis wants to construct 300,000 solar arrays spread over hundreds of acres and a lithium-ion battery station complex next to the Cayetano station. 75% of the power from the Aramis plant already is under contract to San Francisco. Aramis also pledges to 'hide' the solar plant behind landscaping.

If the Aramis project is approved, PG&E must build out its Cayetano station to full capacity, adding more transformers and other electrical equipment. Overhead electrical transmission lines on a 10-story high tower will connect the Aramis facility to the Ceyetano station.

North Livermore Valley under Measure D is restricted to agricultural uses. The Aramis plant violates Measure D. It constitutes an industrial use of the land and will permanently blight our valley.

Transparency Needed For Council Rick Nordyke, Livermore

With transparency at last back in the White House, perhaps some of it might rub off on the Livermore City Council and staff.

This is in regards to relating how exactly the \$14.5 million, earmarked for downtown housing, can be spent. Does it have to be limited to the 8-acre parcel downtown or can it go towards construction of Eden Housing north of Railroad Avenue? There are many of us that haven't heard the city explain exactly what options or limitations if any, the city has for this considerable amount of money.

With the Eden footprint growing even larger and the park diminishing in size, moving across the street is making more and more sense!

As for the East Avenue lane reduction, in full disclosure, I live two blocks from East Avenue Station #6. As a result, I'm pretty aware of their activity, and 95% of the emergency exits are onto East Avenue - East and West bound. Any calls received during morning and

afternoon commute periods could have deadly consequences with emergency vehicles having to negotiate a bumper-to-bumper, one-lane street. This station responds to many, if not all, 580 accidents, in addition to city needs.

When East Avenue was widened at Madison in the mid-60s, and still today, Livermore's largest collective employer, Lawrence Livermore and Sandia Labs, made significant financial contributions to the project to aid their commuters. I doubt the directors thought they needed to worry about a "Sunset" on the deal. I hope they won't.

Congrats to Councilmember Gina Bonanno! Peg Folta, Livermore

Last week, our council unanimously voted to appoint Gina Bonanno to the city council, filling the seat vacated by Bob Woerner when he was elected mayor.

Gina is a fabulous addition to the council. She brings extensive knowledge of the city and success at working on diverse teams to meet very challenging problems with conflicting requirements. Her style is inclusive, yet she is driven to solution and cares deeply about the community. I am thrilled with Gina's selection and feel the city is positioned to meet the many challenges we face.

I am also impressed with how the council chose to select the new council person.

At first, I was skeptical of their choice to interview everyone who applied. While inclusive, it seemed to be overkill. But they found a way to do it that proved extremely effective. As a result, we heard from people we would not otherwise have heard from and who, from my perspective, represent the future of Livermore. I was proud of our town for the incredible people that applied and the council for thinking outside the box and allowing them a voice.

This kind of approach bodes well for the future of our city.

Listen to Residents Kristin Ekvall, Livermore

After all the money spent, time spent, a vote, and now, they're saying the plan won't work the way we voted on it?

Downtown Livermore is a special place because of the restaurants, small shops, and open space. There aren't any towering buildings making it feel enclosed. It's where the sun shines and our kids feel safe, and we as parents feel comfortable with our kids downtown.

Livermore shouldn't become a city where walking down the street feels like a big city with no sunlight (i.e., 1st Street between L and M). The things we all love about downtown are all the families that gather downtown to eat and walk around in the evenings and weekends. The families that come downtown because of the smallness yet feeling of open space. I see all the kids playing in the fountains, the open area across the street, in front of the Bankhead. Just think if we had a big, open area.

I understand we need housing, but it seems there are condos all around downtown. I don't understand the need for housing in the area directly associated with our downtown center. People are leaving California at a great rate, leaving Livermore.

I, for one, am disappointed. We have spent money and time on this, and now we're told it needs readjusting and change? I haven't really been following this, because I was so disappointed. It's not going to really matter to me, because by the time it's done, I probably won't be here anymore, and my kids don't live here, so why bother? But I like this place, and for the future, we need to fight for a big, open space area in our downtown.

Listen to the residents of Livermore.

Improve Your Letter Writing Today Ginger Iglesias, Livermore

Welcome to my weekly screed!

Now that I've successfully poked some grumpy bears and got them roaring in my face instead of responding to the challenge of my previous letter, it's painfully obvious to me there's little point in trying to reason with those who live in a different reality. Calling the armed insurrection on the Capitol "civil disobedience" or a way to "blame the right" would have been laughable if it weren't so depressingly delusional. With that in mind I'll devote the rest of my jeremiad to a short tutorial on letter writing.

1. When attempting sarcasm or satire, it's always a good idea to have a reasonable grip on the subject matter and not devolve into rage. There are many classes

that can help you with this, whether it be the writing or the rage.

2. When writing about someone you're not acquainted with, it is common courtesy to address them in the formal manner. I wasn't asked if my first name alone would suffice, and Ms. would have been fine without the accompanying taunt. Once again, white male privilege rears its ugly head.

3. In making statements as facts, it's very important to verify these facts through reliable channels. When your letters are filled with falsehoods and mendacity, it takes away from any argument you are putting forward. Plus, at some point your pants will definitely catch on fire.

4. When complaining about a previous letter being disrespectful and snarky, it looks pretty hypocritical and unconvincing when being disrespectful and snarky yourself. Also, before complaining about censorship in a published letter in a newspaper, ask yourself how you were actually censored. I realize this may be challenging to some, but stick to logic and you'll get there.

5. Don't forget to watch your grammar!

6. Don't order, command, or make assumptions about others if you want to persuade the reader. You might think these statements come across as assertive, but really, they just convey a bitter yearning to return to a time when women and brown people knew their place. In addition, it's impolite.

7. Stick to a primary subject. Laundry lists of disparate thoughts are boring. You'll lose your reader jumping from one rant or questionable statement to another. Keep it cohesive.

I hope this has been instructional. I look forward to significantly improved letters in the future.

Save Downtown Janice Molinelli, Livermore

The vision that has been presented to the community for years was about more green space for our community members to enjoy downtown.

The Dec. 7 Special City Council Meeting presentation from Eden Housing was instead a concrete jungle in the heart of our downtown - they expanded the housing units by 45%, which nearly eliminates the vision of our beautiful city and turns Veterans Park into an afterthought. It was supposed to be an open space filled with trees, benches, grass for kids to run and play - a (sacred) spot for people to increase time with their fami-

lies, to take walks for better mental health, and to enjoy their city. We will now have a massive, second housing complex next to the one currently being developed, with little space for our families.

Lastly, they are proposing one parking space for each unit - and redesigning the square footage for families. Where is everyone to park?

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TRI-VALLEY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Thursday, Feb. 4 Business Roundtable: Dublin Real Estate Update

David Stark, public affairs director for the BayEast Association of Realtors, will present his annual residential real estate update at the February Business Roundtable, from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. The event will be held virtually on Zoom. For more information or to register, visit <https://bit.ly/3aAkF8n>.

Friday, Feb. 5 Community Blood Drive

Join the City of Dublin in supporting the American Red Cross at a Community Blood Drive on Friday, Feb. 5, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Dublin Senior Center (7600 Amador Valley Blvd.) Successful blood donations are tested for COVID-19 antibodies. To make a reservation, visit www.redcross-blood.org and enter the sponsor code, DublinCommunity, or call 1-800-733-2767. While reservations are encouraged to donate, drop-ins are welcome. The City of Dublin will be hosting blood drives on the first Friday of alternate months. In addition to the February blood drive, other upcoming blood drives will be held on April 2, June 4, Aug. 6, Oct. 1, and Dec. 3. This allows for donors to participate at each blood drive, following suggested recommendations to wait 56 days between donations. Please note that blood drive locations may change within the City of Dublin.

Monday, Feb. 8 Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society Presents Stewart Traiman, MD

This free Zoom class, from 7 to 8:30 p.m., is based on Mastering Genealogical Documentation by Tom Jones (NGS, 2017). Stewart will breakdown all 17 chapters and lead you through exercises designed to sharpen your citation crafting skills. You will learn the five necessary elements of a good citation - who, what, where, when, and where is. You will then put those elements together to create clear, complete, and accurate descriptions of your sources. The class will also discuss software aids to help you become a citation expert. For more information, email program@L-AGS.org.

Thursday, Feb. 11 Tri-Valley Chamber Virtual Speed Networking

The Tri-Valley Chamber of Commerce will host a virtual

speed-networking event at 2 p.m. The event is free, but registration is required. For more information or to register, visit <https://bit.ly/3aAkF8n>.

Thursday, Feb. 11 Career Planning for Students

Does the thought of picking a college major or deciding on a career have you worried? AAUW - LPD for High School Girls has answers, so join them for career planning for STEM and more, at 7 p.m. A panel of young professional women will share their varied paths to success, so you can listen to their very own "Ted Talks," and learn about their varied journeys, and follow up with a question-and-answer session. To reserve a seat at this event, register at <https://bit.ly/2KsKBJY>.

Tuesday, Feb. 16, Thursday, Feb. 18, Tuesday, Feb. 23 Become a Literacy Tutor

Can you see yourself helping an adult learn to read a medicine label, fill out a job application, write a letter, or study for the driver's license exam? If so, become a volunteer tutor, and help an adult improve their basic reading and writing skills and achieve their goals. No previous experience is necessary. The next three-part Tutor Training will take place from 10 a.m. to noon via Zoom. Participants must attend all three sessions.

Friday, Feb. 19 to Sunday, Feb. 28 Taste Tri-Valley

Visit Tri-Valley, the region's destination marketing organization, in partnership with the Cities and Chambers of Commerce of Pleasanton, Livermore, Dublin and Town of Danville, are launching their first annual Taste Tri-Valley, a 10-day delivery and take-out restaurant week promotion from Friday, Feb. 19 through Sunday, Feb. 28, for participating dining establishments ready to showcase their culinary talents. Prix-fixe menus will be available for take-out and delivery from diverse cuisines at various set price points (for lunch and dinner) for every taste and budget. For more information, visit visittri-valley.com/restaurantweek or follow @visittri-valley on Facebook and Instagram.

Now Until Saturday, March 6 Give the Gift of Swim

American Swim Academy is offering its 2021 Winter Camps for age 6 months to 15 years. Camps run weekly for 30 minutes with

class ratios as low as 2:1. Gift certificates are now available. The academy is also hiring for positions in Dublin, Livermore and Walnut Creek. For more information, visit americanswimacademy.com.

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

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

ONGOING WEEKLY EVENTS

Livermore Downtown Farmers Market Open for the Season

Open Sundays, from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., at Carnegie Town Square. Open Thursdays, from 4 to 8 p.m., at Carnegie Town Square (South K Street between Third and Fourth St.) 2155 Third St.

Pleasanton Farmers Market Open for the Season

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

Six Feet Apart Productions Shares Art From a Distance

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

Stress Relief Recovery International

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

VIRTUAL ONLINE EVENTS -AVAILABLE ANYTIME

Register for Virtual and Outdoor Activities

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

EBRPD Brings "Parks to People"

East Bay Regional Park District is committed to the idea of lifelong learning and helping people make their own discoveries about local parks. The resources they have compiled are designed to be used at home, in a classroom or part of any online learning. For more information, visit www.ebparks.org/activities/digital_learning/default.htm.

LARP Now on YouTube

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

Music Together Tri-Valley Supports Early Childhood Development

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

Pacific Chamber Orchestra Offers Musical Podcast

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



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OBITUARIES

John Irvin Castor 1943 – Jan. 19, 2021



John Irvin Castor, 78, of Livermore, passed away suddenly of a suspected aneurysm at home on Jan. 19, 2021.

He is survived by his wife of 43 years, Melissa Reading; daughter, Emily Warren and son-in-law Frankie Warren; sister, Judy Butts and brother-in-law Alan Butts; and many loving nieces, nephews, cousins, and close family friends. He was preceded in death by brother Paul Castor, 32, in 1967, and son, Ethan Castor, 38, in 2017.

John was born in Fresno, California, in 1943, the youngest child of Lyle Castor and Virginia (Bragg) Castor. As a boy of 10, John was given a book on calculus by a perceptive teacher. He devoured it. He became interested in astronomy and built a telescope, grinding his own lens. He was taken under the wing of the local club of amateur astronomers, and went to their star parties in the mountains above Fresno. By his sophomore year at Clovis High School, he enrolled at Fresno State, and at the age of 18, he graduated with a double major in math and physics. He was given an honorary high school diploma.

John began graduate school in astronomy and astrophysics at CalTech at age 18. He became not only an instant curiosity, but a formidably respected applied mathematician among his fellow students, who would bait him with fiendishly difficult problems, each of which he would solve overnight, according to the legend.

During his CalTech years, he joined the Sierra Peaks Section of the Sierra Club, and one by one, conquered the peaks of the range. This included a night ascent of Mount Whitney aimed to summit before the sun rose. He earned his Ph.D. at age 22.

John began his professional life in Boulder at the Joint Institute for Laboratory Astrophysics and the University of Colorado. It was there he met Melissa, with whom he connected over long hikes

and wine club feasts. In 1977, they were married on top of Flagstaff Mountain to the accompaniment of a French horn quartet. They celebrated the birth of Ethan in 1979, and the family moved to Livermore in 1981, where he began a position at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. Emily was born soon after, in 1983.

He spent the remainder of his career at the lab, making seminal contributions to the field of radiation hydrodynamics. In 2004, John wrote the book "Radiation Hydrodynamics" for Cambridge University Press, building on a series of lectures he had given in Oslo, Norway. John retired from the lab as a distinguished member of the technical staff in 2017, following a symposium celebrating his scientific achievements.

When Ethan and Emily were young, John and Melissa soon introduced them to the mountains, taking frequent trips to beloved spots like Tuolumne Meadows, Lembert Dome, and Little Lakes Valley. John taught the kids the basics of rock climbing, belaying them with a top rope in their little climbing harnesses. His honeymoon with Melissa

was a 120-mile backpack trip around Mount Robson, in the Canadian Rockies. The John Muir Trail, a night on Mount Whitney, and at age 69, a Tour du Mont Blanc in France, Italy, and Switzerland, were other highlights of his love affair with the mountains.

John was also a passionate amateur musicologist. In later years, this extended into a deep love for Wagner, Bruckner, and Mahler. He had multiple recordings of each of the Wagner operas, and listened to them with reduced score in hand, comparing the intricate details of each of the performances. He celebrated his love of Mahler with many trips back to Boulder with Melissa for the annual MahlerFest, and was a patron of the San Francisco Opera and San Francisco Ballet for over 30 years.

John was beloved by friends and colleagues for his humility, kindness, humor, and academic and technical brilliance. He is remembered by many former students and colleagues as a patient, generous teacher and a wonderful listener whose approachable style allowed him to communicate complex topics with verve and clarity. In addition to his love of music and the outdoors, he found joy in photography, history, literature, and the visual arts.

He will be dearly missed.

Given the constraints of the coronavirus pandemic, a virtual memorial service will be held to celebrate John's life in the coming weeks. If you are interested in attending, the family requests that you register once arrangements are made. In lieu of flowers, the family recommends those wishing to remember John's life direct memorial donations to MahlerFest, the San Francisco Opera, or the San Francisco Ballet.

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

Carol Bertsch Gordon Nov. 11, 1932 – Jan. 15, 2021

Carol Bertsch Gordon, age 88, passed away peacefully in her sleep Jan. 15, 2021.

Carol was born to Frank and Clarabelle Bertsch in Fargo, North Dakota. She lived in Fremont, California, from 1962 until 2002, when she moved to Livermore to be closer to her children.

Carol was a retired secretary with State Farm Insurance. She loved to sew and quilt and was active in many activities which included her monthly Bunco game and weekly dice and card games

until Covid came along and took those away.

Carol is survived by her daughter, Debbie Gordon Eads; son, Mike Gordon (Mary); three grandchildren, Tiffani Schmidt (Bryan), Chris Gordon (Drea), and Stacey Janssen (Greg); six great-grandchildren, Aidan and Gillian Vierra, Bridgette and Scarlett Gordon, and Quinn and Reid Jansse; and many cousins and friends. She was best friends with her caregiver, Kellea Johnson.

Carol is predeceased by her

son, Jeffrey Gordon; her parents, and her brother Duane. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Muscular Dystrophy Association. A private burial will be held at Irvington Memorial Cemetery, where Carol will be buried with her son, Jeff.

A Celebration of Life will take place at a later date when Covid restrictions are lifted.

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

Rose Marie Mueller Lawson May 30, 1940 – Sept. 15, 2020



On May 30, 1940, Rose Marie was born in Winnemucca, Nevada, to Louis and Rose Mueller.

The new family returned to Livermore, where she grew up on South L Street, attended 5th Street School, and graduated from Livermore High School in 1958. She was working at Snow White Drive-in when she met James Lawson, who offered her a ride home and discovered he was renting a room at Twin Palms right across the street from her house.

They were married in 1959. Their son, Steven, was born in 1960. Jim was drafted, and they were stationed around the United States for several years. They returned to Livermore, where they resided for more than 30 years.

Rose was an accomplished painter and was a member of the Livermore Art Association. She loved entertaining and being with friends and family. She enjoyed cooking, gardening, reading and for those who knew her ... shopping. She had a great love for animals, domestic and wild. Sissy,

Shultz, Hanz, Pedro and Miss Kitty were pets over the years. All were greatly loved.

She and Jim did extensive traveling around the United States many times, by all different modes of transportation. They also cruised to many ports of call. They celebrated Jim's 80th birthday by taking the family on a cruise to Alaska.

Over the years, she fostered children from other countries and was a huge supporter of World Vision.

Rose worked at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory from 1978 to 1996 in the Engineering Records Center. They built a home on the California coast in Anchor

Bay, which she designed and moved there upon their retirement. She continued to paint and showed her work at local galleries. Their home was always open to friends and family, and she and Jim would take them sightseeing to beaches, lighthouses, wineries, wonderful eateries, botanical gardens and crab feeds.

Rose Marie is preceded in death by her parents and her brothers, Erwin and Michael. She leaves behind her husband of 61 years, Jim; her son, Steven (Dixie) of Cottage Grove, Oregon; grandchildren, Josh (Chassity), Matthew, Dennis (Michelle), and Tracy (Loren); 19 great grandchildren many cousins, nieces, and nephews; and many friends from Livermore, Anchor Bay, Santa Rosa and Australia, who were a part of her life for decades.

Rose Marie will be greatly missed by all who knew her. There are no plans for services at this time. Those who wish to remember her please make donations to their favorite charity.

Tracey L. (Smith) Quartaroli June 19, 1969 – Jan. 20, 2021



Tracey L. (Smith) Quartaroli, loving wife, devoted mother and loyal friend, died on Wednesday, January 20, at the young age of 51, after losing her three-year, hard-fought battle with Stage IV colon cancer. She was at her home surrounded by her family and closest friends.

Tracey was born June 19, 1969, in Kanazawa, Japan, at the U.S. Naval base where both her father and mother were stationed. The family eventually returned to the states and resided in such places as Annapolis, Maryland, Santa Fe, New Mexico, and Colorado Springs, Colorado, finally settling in San Jose, California.

Tracey attended Willow Glen High School and graduated in 1987. She continued her education at San Jose State University, where she received a bachelor's degree in advertising. She also met the love of her life in college, her husband, Brian. Her professional career included working at multiple Silicon Valley-based startup companies. She worked in the marketing departments and coordinated and managed trade show events, which she thoroughly enjoyed, as it allowed her the opportunity to travel the country, and she was highly successful at it!

Tracey and Brian married in 1999 and settled in Livermore, California. As they be-

gan to start a family, she set her corporate career aside to raise their two daughters – her true passion in life. Tracey longed to be a mother and she was a 'Supermom.' There was nothing that she wouldn't do for her girls. She was dedicated to be an integral part of their upbringing and made sure they were the kindest, most well-rounded ladies they could be. She was extremely involved and spent much of her time volunteering at St. Michael School teaching special programs, being a room mom, and chaperoning field trips. She was also their Girl Scout troop leader and soccer coach, all while holding a part-time marketing position at Bishop Ranch Veterinary Center in San Ramon.

In more recent years, she became involved in the local chapter of NCL (National Charity League), a group of mothers and daughters that volunteer in the community.

Her hobbies included playing tennis, reading with her book club, gardening and enjoying her many wine clubs. More than anything, Tracey's true calling was working with and caring for animals. In the past 20 years, she rescued and fostered hundreds of cats and dogs through her volunteer work with Tri-Valley Animal Rescue, SPCA and Ozzie Pound Puppies, to name a few. She was determined to find each and every one a happy and forever home.

Tracey was always game for anything and had a true zest for life! She enjoyed traveling with her family, spending time in Lake Tahoe and drinking red wine with good friends. She will always be remembered for her huge and generous heart, her kind and loving demeanor and unwavering devotion to her family, friends and animals.

She is survived by her husband of 21 years, Brian; daughters, Caitlyn (19) and Camryn (17); father, Brad Smith (Prescott, Arizona); sister, Penny Edlund (Stevenson, Washington); and several nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her mother, Janice Langley (Phoenix, Arizona).

Tracey has asked in lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the SPCA or St. Michael School (Livermore) in her honor.

Linda Granada 1949 – 2021



On Monday, Jan. 25, 2021, Linda Granada, loving mom of three and nana of six, passed away at the age of 72.

Linda was a beauty school graduate and worked for 37 years cutting, coloring and styling hair, all while chatting and caring for everyone who sat in her chair. Linda was known for her style, beauty, wit, and strength. She was artistic in nature; she painted with acrylics, sewed clothes, curtains, and pillows, crocheted blankets and scarves and more.

If you really want to know Linda, you'll have to know the story of her and a '66 Mustang - her first car. Her eldest son Damon restored it for her when he was 16 years old.

This car was her signature. It was normal for some teenage kid to pull up next to her at a stoplight, rev his engine as a challenge to race. With Linda's spitfire spirit, she would smile - as if to taunt - then place her hands on the wheel with determination.

The first time this hap-

pened, I remember thinking, "What? My Mom is going to race that teenager?" When the light turned green, the silly teen boy would bolt through the intersection leaving a cloud of smoke. Linda would cruise on slowly - like a real champ. Then we'd bust up laughing.

Linda was loved by her three children, Damon, Stacy, and Jesse; and her grandchildren, Kendall, Shelby, Ezra, Jaeden, Dylan, and Audrey. Her spirit remains alive with our memories of her quick wit, humor, creativity, determination, and strength.

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

Charles "Chuck" Anthony Hurley Aug. 13, 1927 – Jan. 28, 2021

Chuck Hurley, 93, died peacefully on Jan. 28, 2021.

Chuck was born in San Francisco, California, on Aug. 13, 1927. He leaves his children, Jane Hurley and John Hurley, Justin Hafen, Sydney Dake and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his first wife and

mother of his children, Eleanor; his youngest daughter, Trish Hurley Adams; and his second wife, Ann.

Chuck was a retiree of the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. He worked there for over five decades and was immensely proud of his many contributions to the

important work the laboratory performed. He was also passionate about family, food and wine, travel, reading and gardening among many other activities. He was dedicated to science such that his last wish was that his body be donated.

No memorial is planned at his request.

Ralph Laughlin May 25, 1938 – Dec. 24, 2020



Born into the Laughlin and Basso/Uliana pioneer families, Ralph lived his entire life in his beloved Livermore.

Many happy moments were spent at Granny Laughlin's ranch at the end of Croak Road. He especially enjoyed Sheep Shearing Saturday, even when his job was at the bottom of the wool sack! He was loved and appreciated by his many aunts and uncles, and they enriched his life in so many ways. While his mother (Sara Laughlin) worked, he was raised by his loving Gram Uliana. The "outdoors" was the favorite part of all he did; be it hunting game birds, deer, shooting targets and clays, or hiking and riding a Jeep through the Livermore hills on Pine Ridge, the Blackbird, or Rock Creek Ranch.

He loved music, played several instruments and was in the marching band when he wasn't playing high school football. Ralph graduated from Livermore High School in 1957 and went to work at Vallecitos General Electric Nuclear Facility as a radiation technician specializing in safety. Always desiring to be in business for himself and control his own destiny, he left GE to work at Reagan Realty, Allied Brokers, and later opened Ralph Laughlin and Associates Real Estate.

His love of people led him to serve in many groups; the farm bureau, Cattlemen's and Cattlewomen's associations, Native Sons of the Golden West and the Martin Kaufmann 100 Club. Ralph's love of the Livermore community and his love for rodeo were a natural fit. Believing in the original spirit that began the Livermore Rodeo at the

end of World War I, he saw it as a way to involve and draw Livermore residents together. He served as Rodeo Association president in 1987 and 1988, and was honored as the Grand Marshal of the Livermore Rodeo Parade in 2005. Born without a nervous bone in his body, Ralph loved to have a microphone in his hand. He enjoyed being the emcee for the rodeo queen competition for many years.

Ralph was above all a family man! Married to his high school sweetheart for 60 years (Kathryn McGlinchy), they raised a son (Steve) who was his pride and joy and helper in all things. Steve blessed Ralph with two granddaughters. As they grew up, the girls embraced Ralph's love of rodeo. He delighted in them and their accomplishments. Bailey was Miss Livermore Rodeo in 2015, and Morgan in 2019.

Morgan continued with her royalty honors and is the reigning Miss Rodeo California.

On Feb. 8, 2003, his life was forever changed when he suffered a massive stroke. It was declared that he would live in a vegetative state unable to read, write, walk or talk. The determined fighter that he was, Ralph worked on rehabilitation and defied expectations. He did learn to walk enough to transfer, talk enough to make his wants known and hold limited conversation, could read parts of the daily newspaper with help, and found connection to the world through television. His angelic caregivers learned to make his every want a reality, and they enriched his life by sharing the happenings of their lives.

Ralph enjoyed many visitors, none more faithful than Rob and the late Rich Fletcher, who took him to lunch weekly for years. Lifelong friend, Ron Kennedy, used his building talents to fabricate whatever was needed, making the outdoors a continued possibility. Having overcome so many challenges, Ralph truly continued to live life to its fullest.

On Dec. 24, 2020, Ralph left to sing and play in the heavenly choir. Due to Covid restrictions, there will be no services. Memorial donations can be made to the non-profit Livermore Rodeo Foundation, which supports breast cancer survivors, Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), ValleyCare Health Library, and the Lil Partners Rodeo serving special needs children. Please address donations to Livermore Rodeo Foundation, P.O. Box 646, Livermore, CA 94551-0646.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Local Seniors Invited to Apply for Presidential Scholar Program

Fourteen high school seniors in the Tri-Valley area are among nearly 4,500 students nationwide who have been invited by the U.S. Department of Education to apply for the 2021 Presidential Scholars Program.

Established in 1964 and considered one of the highest honors for graduating seniors, the program initially recognized students for their academic success, leadership, and service to school and community. It has since been expanded to include exceptional scholarship and talent in the creative arts and technical fields.

Seniors are invited to apply based on their College Board SAT and ACT scores or the recommendation of their state department of education. A panel of educators will review candidate applications and select 600 semifinalists in April. The Commission on Presidential Scholars will then name up to 161 Presidential Scholars in May. In the past, scholars have been invited to Washington, D.C., for several days in June, culminating in the presentation of the Presidential Scholars Medallion.

Candidates from the Tri-Valley are Angela Y. Chen, Jonathan Huang, Kevin Li, Jiahua Liang, and Amala K. Rao, Foothill High School, Pleasanton; Allison E. Gable, Jeffrey Huang, Elliot S. Kang, Dalynn A. Miller, Collin Wang, Cassandra K. Ying, and Jocelyn Zhu, Amador High School, Pleasanton; Hriday N. Sheth, Granada High School, Livermore; and Gexing C. Chen, from Dublin, who attends The Athenian School, a private college preparatory school in Danville, California.

Tri-Valley Students Invited to Compete in Rotary Speech Contest

The Rotary Club of Dublin, Rotary Club of Pleasanton North and Tri-Valley Rotary are inviting local high school students to test their oration skills at the first, Covid-safe, virtual club-level version of the Richard D. King Annual Youth Speech Contest.

The competition, which recognizes the value of public speaking skills for emerging youth leaders, will provide 9th to 12th grade students an opportunity to write an original five-minute speech, based on the theme of "Rotary Opens Opportunities." Contestants will then record videos of their lectures for judging before their recordings are presented and contest results are announced at Zoom meetings during the week of Feb. 21.

Contestants will be randomly assigned to one of three club-level contests conducted simultaneously by the local Rotary chapters. The winners of each contest will be awarded a \$150 cash prize. They will qualify for area competition with its \$200 top prize in March, with the possibility of moving on to the regional contest and its \$250 top prize later in the month. Regional contest winners will compete for a top prize of \$1000 at the Rotary District 5170 finals in April.

Second- and third-place winners at the three club-level contests will be awarded \$100 and \$50, respectively. The application deadline is Feb. 7. Applications and contest rules are available at tinyurl.com/2021RotarySpeechContest.

Livermore Sponsors Student Water Poster Contest

"Without Water, Life Would Be Pretty Dry." That's the theme for the annual Livermore Water Awareness Poster Contest for elementary students sponsored by Livermore Municipal Water, California Water Service, and the Zone 7 Water Agency.

The contest is open to all third, fourth and fifth grade students who live in Livermore or are enrolled in Livermore schools. Posters can be made using any size paper and colored pencils, markers, paint, ink, fabric, or poster paint. Entries should be submitted by mail to the Livermore Water Resources Division, 101 W. Jack London Blvd., Livermore, or by email to nlcroak@cityoflivermore.net. Entries must be received by 3:30 p.m., on March 1. For more information go to Livermore Web - Contests (cityoflivermore.net).

American Legion Hosts Oratorical Contest

Livermore Post 47 of The American Legion held their Oratorical Contest on Saturday, Jan. 23, 2021, at the Veterans Memorial Building in Livermore.

The contest was open to all high school students. The prepared oration had to be on some aspect of the United States Constitution, to include amendments, giving emphasis to the duties and obligations of a citizen. The assigned topic was Article 3, Section 1, pertaining to Supreme Court judges.

Regina Irene Molitoris, Granada High School, placed first and received \$250.00. Amber Belk, Livermore High School, placed second and received \$150.00. The winner will next go to the Area 2 completion to be held in February.

Granada Students to Host Diversity in Literature Conference

Diversify Granada, a student-led initiative to diversify the local high school English curriculum, is hosting a conference on Feb. 10, 2021, via Zoom, from 2 to 4 p.m.

The conference will be centered around the topic of diversity in literature. Panelists will consist of four student moderators from Granada High School and five Bay Area authors: Angela Dalton, Alexandra Giardino, Innosanto Nagara, Mae Respicio, and Meera Sriram. Their books will be available to purchase online at Towne Center Books.

Topics at the conference will include the importance of representation in literature and the challenges authors of color may face when it comes to telling their stories. The conference will also discuss topics such as social justice and activism and their relationship to literature.

Everyone who attends the conference will automatically be entered into a giveaway. Prizes include a signed copy of Traci Chee's "We Are Not Free," a signed copy of Traci Chee's "The Storyteller," a copy of Jenny Sanchez's "We Are Not From Here," and \$25 gift cards to Towne Center Books (located in Pleasanton and Livermore). Those who ask questions and interact with the panelists will be entered into the giveaway additional times.

The conference is open to the entire community. Participants do not need to be a student or teacher or be associated with LVJUSD in any way to attend the conference. For more information including the Zoom link, find the conference on the Granada High School events calendar at www.livermoreschools.org/granadahigh.

Local Art Group Moves Online

While the Livermore Art Association Gallery is closed, they have opened an online store.

They have recently added Valentine's gifts, jewelry and cards and will have pickup dates at the Gallery on Wednesdays and Saturdays before Valentine's Day.

The Livermore Art Association is a nonprofit organization founded in 1957 to promote public interest and appreciation in the fine arts and the fine crafts, as well as to encourage the artistic progress and the development of its members. For more information, visit livermoreartassociation.org.

Writers Club Sponsors High School Contest

Tri-Valley Writers, the local chapter of the California Writers Club, is soliciting entries from high school students for its 10th annual writing contest, "My Story, My Vision."

The contest is open to Tri-Valley students in grades 9 through 12. First, second and third-place winners in each category will receive cash awards and a free, one-year membership in Tri-Valley Writers. There is no cost to enter.

Categories include Poetry, Short Story (fiction) and Literary Nonfiction. Students may submit up to two pieces, and all entries will receive feedback from the judges. Submissions will be accepted from Feb. 14 through April 4.

For more information, go to www.trivalleywriters.org or email contests@trivalleywriters.org.

Library Recruiting Adult Literacy Tutors

The Livermore Public Library is recruiting tutors for its adult literacy program.

The library will provide training for both in-person and online tutoring. No experience is necessary.

After completing the three two-hour training sessions, volunteers will be paired with an adult learner. Tutors typically meet with their adult students for one to two-hour sessions, once or twice a week, to help improve their basic reading and writing skills.

The training sessions will take place from 10 a.m. to noon on Tuesday, Feb. 16, Thursday, Feb. 18, and Tuesday, Feb. 23. For more information, call (925) 373-5507 or email literacy@livermore.lib.ca.us.

Livermore Extends Geocache Hunt

Livermore's popular geocaching treasure hunt, launched in November as a fun way to learn about the city, is being extended through the end of winter. Those who find all five geocaches can enter their gamecards in a raffle for a chance to win prizes. Each cache is hidden outdoors, and the game is considered COVID-19 safe. For more information, visit www.Livermoreassets.net/geocache or www.cityoflivermore.net.

Arts Commission to Explain Grants Program

The Alameda County Arts Commission will host two webinars this year for nonprofit arts organizations applying for 2021 ARTSFUND grants.

The online workshops will be held at 6:30 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 11, and 10 a.m., Friday, March 5. The deadline to apply for the grants, which typically range from \$1,000 to \$2,500 each, is March 31.

The ARTSFUND grant program helps support dance, music, theater, visual arts, literature, media arts, and other arts forms. Last year the commission gave grants to 45 nonprofit organizations in the county.

The webinars are free and open to the public. Reservations are not required. For more information, go to www.acgov.org/arts and click on programs. Arts commission staff can also be reached by email at artscommission@acgov.org or by phone at (510) 208-9646.

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

Amador Questers

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

Amador Valley Lions Club

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

Assistance League Amador Valley

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

Axis Community Health

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

Big Bay Ray, Inc.

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

Blankets For Kids

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

Cantabella Children's Chorus

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

Cheza Nami

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

Christian Youth Theater Tri-Valley

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

CityServe of Tri-Valley

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

Community Health Education Fund

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

Culinary Angels

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

Drivers For Survivors

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

Exceptional Needs Network

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

Fertile GroundWorks

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

Friends of the Livermore Library

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

Friends of Open Space and Vineyards

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

Goodness Village

1660 Freisman Rd.
Livermore, CA 94551
Goodnessvillage.community

Hively

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

Hope Hospice

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

Interfaith Sharing Inc.

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

Livermore-Amador Symphony Guild

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

Livermore Area Recreation and Park District Foundation

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

Livermore Art Association

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

Livermore Filipino-American Organization, Inc.

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

Livermore Heritage Guild

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

Livermore Homeless Refuge

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

Livermore Lab Foundation

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

Livermore Lions Club

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

Livermore Pleasanton Fire Fighters Foundation

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

Livermore Valley Education Foundation

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

Livermore Valley Opera

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

Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center

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

Movements For The Mind

MovementsForTheMind.com
movementsforthemind@gmail.com

Museum on Main

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

NAMI Tri-Valley

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

Open Heart Kitchen

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

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

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

Partners for Change Tri-Valley

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

Paws In Need

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

Pleasanton Art League

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

Pleasanton Community Concert Band

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

Reins In Motion

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

Rotarian Foundation of Livermore

P.O. Box 2181
Livermore, CA 94551-2181
<http://www.rotarianfoundationlivermore.org>

Sandra J. Wing Healing Therapies Foundation

5890 Stoneridge Dr., Suite 104
Pleasanton, CA 94588
866-862-7270
HealingTherapiesFoundation.org

Senior Support Program of The Tri-Valley

5353 Sunol Blvd.
Pleasanton, CA 94566
925-931-5378
SSPTV.org

Shakespeare's Associates, dba Livermore Shakespeare Festival

P.O. Box 2616
Livermore, CA 94551
(925) 443-2273
LivermoreShakes.org

Shepherds Gate

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

SPECTRUM Community Services, Inc/Meals on Wheels

2621 Barrington Ct.
Hayward, CA 94545
510-881-0300
SpectrumCS.org

Sunflower Hill

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

The Taylor Family Foundation

P.O. Box 2450
Livermore, CA 94551
925-455-5118
TTFF.org

Tri-Valley Animal Rescue

P.O. Box 11143
Pleasanton, CA 94588
TVAR.org

Tri-Valley Conservancy

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

Tri-Valley Haven

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

Tri-Valley Nonprofit Alliance

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

Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre

P.O. Box 1445
Pleasanton, CA 94566
info@trivalleyrep.com
Trivalleyrep.org

ValleyCare Charitable Foundation/Stanford Health Care-ValleyCare

1111 E. Stanley Blvd.
Livermore, CA 94550
925-373-4560
GiveValleyCare.org

Valley Concert Chorale

P.O. Box 286
Livermore, CA 94551
Valleyconcertchorale.org

Valley Dance Theatre

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

Valley Humane Society

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

Youth Advisory Committee to Assist in Upcoming Dublin Events

By Jesse Watson

In a unanimous vote last Wednesday, the Dublin Youth Advisory Committee agreed to assist in promoting the Tri-Valley Virtual Teen Job and Career Fair.

The committee convened over a Zoom call for their monthly meeting led by Chair Saanya Goel.

Dublin Recreation Coordinator Henry Siu presented plans for a virtual teen job and career fair put on by the cities of Pleasanton, San Ramon and Danville along with the Dublin/San Ramon Women's Club.

Last year the annual job fair was held at the San Ramon senior center and attracted approximately 300 attendees and 35 employers, according to Siu. This year, however, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the organizers have decided to continue the tradition in a virtual capacity.

"Teens will have the opportunity to view and research available jobs in their city, participate in resume writing and interview technique workshops and to interact with various career panelists," said Siu.

The fair will be held on Saturday, March 6, and electronic flier invites will be distributed to students of Pleasanton, Dublin, San Ramon and Danville middle schools and high schools.

Organizers of the job fair requested for the members of the Dublin Youth Advisory Committee to help them further promote this resource to interested students.

Committee Member Kunal Khaware motioned to approve, Committee Member Mannat Dhot seconded his motion, and the voting members of the committee passed the motion in a unanimous vote.

The Youth Advisory Committee also received a report on volunteer opportunities at Dublin's upcoming St. Patrick's Day festivities from Bridget Amaya, assistant director of parks and community services.

According to Amaya, the City of Dublin is planning on holding a week-long celebration consisting of smaller events during the week of St. Patrick's Day. The city is opting for this plan rather than their traditional, large St. Patrick's Day celebration in an effort to keep any gatherings smaller and safer.

Amaya said the plans for these events have to be "very fluid and can be changed at any moment based on the state health department regulations."

These celebrations require community volunteers to help with preparations and organization. Amaya said the volunteer opportunities will be socially distanced and would include tasks such as filling swag bags and decorating.

At this point there is no set schedule for the week, so Amaya simply asked the committee members to consider setting aside time to help the city continue one of its most cherished traditions.

The committee ended the meeting with a discussion about the Youth and Senior Advisory Subcommittee's plans for the April Dublin Benefit Concert. However, they decided to table their discourse for a future meeting once more concrete plans developed.

For more information on the Dublin Youth Advisory Committee, visit www.dublin.ca.gov/87/Youth-Advisory-Committee.

State Extends Current Moratorium on Evictions

Gov. Gavin Newsom signed legislation last week extending the state's pandemic-driven moratorium on evictions through June 30.

SB 91 also allocates \$2.6 billion in federal funds to aid tenants most at-risk because of unpaid rent and to reimburse property owners. Property owners who agree to waive 20% of unpaid rents will be eligible to receive 80% of past-due rents between April 1, 2020, and March 31, 2021.

"Today, we took the boldest action in the nation to protect California renters and support mom and pop landlords," said state Senate President pro Tem Toni Atkins, following passage of SB 91.

The moratorium on evictions had been set to expire at the end of January.

The legislation pauses evictions for tenants who declare under penalty of perjury that they are unable to pay all or part of their rent for a pandemic-related reason. Although tenants remain responsible for unpaid rents, landlords cannot use that as basis for an eviction, even after the moratorium ends.

The new State Rental Assistance Program will begin accepting applications from property owners and tenants in March.

Livermore Valley Opera Offers Online and Free Valentine Concert

The Livermore Valley Opera is offering a free, online concert, "Isn't It Romantic," for Valentine weekend.

Soprano Sarah Cambridge and tenor Kyle Van Schoonhoven, former members of the Merola Opera Program and Adler Fellows with the San Francisco Opera, will perform duets from Puccini's "Tosca" and Wagner's "Die Walküre," plus works by Tchaikovsky and Joseph Marx.

They will be accompanied by Livermore Valley Opera music director Alexander Katsman.

The performance, including English subtitles, can be viewed on the opera's YouTube channel at 6 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 13. For a link to the video, go to www.livermorevalleyopera.com.

Local Wineries Helping to Uncork Love on Valentine's Day

By Laura Ness

Is there nothing more romantic than the perfect bottle of wine, some chocolate, and thou?

Livermore wineries are here to help. Salomé Taylor suggests the 2019 Retzlaff "Isabelle's Blush," first released in 2007, when Salomé and Aaron's eldest daughter turned sweet 16.

Rosie Fierro of Rosa Fierro Wines briefly dated a guy who complained that his current girlfriend was 'too delicate.' Upon sharing this tidbit with her cellarmates, they teased her relentlessly, intervening when she went to use the forklift, saying, "No! You're too delicate!"

So, she named her rosé, "Delicada Rosa," as a joke. Her "Love Pack" includes signed and wrapped bottles of rosé and her "Big Daddy" Cabernet Franc from the White Cat Vineyard. She might have called it "Fat Cat" instead, but she's a dog person. Pick up prints of "te amo," her photo of heart-shaped wine lees left at the bottom of the tank after racking wine. No photos of the former boyfriend, though.

Nothing lights up a romantic evening better than Port, and Earl and Linda Ault of Cedar Mountain are offering a Viog-

nier Port, 2007 Library Cabernet Royale Port and four hand-selected Ghirardelli chocolates.

Steve Burman of 3 Steves is offering specials on their Tawny Reserve, Tawny Chardonnay and sparkling wines. While his wife, Kim, prefers the Tawny Reserve (their red "port"), because it's richer, he prefers the Tawny Chardonnay.

Concannon and Truffle Shuffle's former French Laundry chefs will teach you how to make Lemon Ricotta Gnocchi Truffle Carpaccio with Italian Truffles and Sage Brown Butter Sauce, on Feb. 13, at 4 p.m. For more information, visit bit.ly/3oAePZq.

Wente has wine and chocolate bundles with Fabbri chocolate bonbons, from a family owned and operated company that dates back to 1905, while Big White House will offer cheese or chocolate boxes, paired with their Peche Mignon, a peachy sparkling dream with gorgeous label.

Cuda Ridge traditionally releases their S&M on Valentine's Day. It's a Sangiovese and Malbec blend. (And you were thinking something else.) Garré is offering a romantic, take-home, five-course dinner

for two on Valentine's Day, including sparkling and tasting certificates. Order by Feb. 11, at 5 p.m.

Rodrigue Molyneaux Winemaker Meredith Sarboraria's husband, Mark, designed some beautiful floral print labels that are better than a bouquet. Avid nature lover, Nancy Molyneaux, chooses a different native flower for each vintage: 2017 features a California poppy, and 2018 is a Woodland Star. RM's Best of Class 2017 Envie port, (French for both "envy" and "desire"), is a mouth-watering libation made of Malbec.

McGrail is hosting a cheeseboard-making event with the Charming Fig on Wednesday, Feb. 10, at 6:30 p.m.

Rhonda Wood of Wood Family calls her Rosé of Grenache, "Pink Pearl," in honor of her girlfriends, who met at The Pearls Café. Ladies will get a rose with each bottle of 2020 "Pink Pearl," purchased through Valentine's weekend. One of those girls was her junior high school pal, Donna Garrison, who passed away just before Covid hit last year. If you're celebrating Galentine's Day, do it with Pink Pearl.

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JT Home Mortgages, 8032 Canyon Creek Circle, Pleasanton, CA 94588 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Johnny D. Taboada, 8032 Canyon Creek Circle, 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/: Johnny D. Taboada, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 13, 2021. Expires January 13, 2026. The Independent Legal No. 4814. Published January 28, February 4, 11, 18, 2020.</p> <p>FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 575936</p> <p>The following person(s) doing business as: Team 292-SOLD, 1686 Second Street, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Tammy Pryor Barstow, 1686 Second Street, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which</p>	<p>2021. Expires January 13, 2026. The Independent Legal No. 4813. 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We also have adult cats & ranch cats for adoption.</p> <p>EMPLOYMENT</p> <p>65) HELP WANTED</p> <p>57) SERVICES</p> <p>BE WARY of out of area companies. Check with the local Better Business Bureau before you send money or fees. Read and understand any contracts before you sign. Shop around for rates.</p> <p>TO PLACE CLASSIFIED AD Call (925)243-8000</p> <p>MERCHANDISE</p> <p>114) FOR SALE</p> <p>115) ESTATE/ GARAGE/ YARD SALES</p> <p>18) FREE SECTION</p> <p>Free Pine & Oak Wood You cut & haul it Lots of Pine cones, too Please call (408)897-3156</p> <p>127) LOST/ FOUND</p> <p>NOTICES / ANNOUNCEMENTS</p>	<p>155) NOTICES</p> <p>"NOTICE TO READERS: California law requires that contractors taking jobs that total \$500 or more (labor and/or materials) be licensed by the Contractors State License Board. State law also requires that contractors include their license numbers on all advertising. Check your contractor's status at www.cslb.ca.gov or (800)321-CSLB (2752). 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Ilene Misheloff Vigil Goes Online

Although the annual candlelight vigil for Ilene Misheloff, who disappeared 32 years ago, was cancelled this year because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Dublin police still posted messages online from Chief Garrett Holmes and the girl's father, Mike Misheloff, to keep the investigation alive.

Ilene Misheloff, then 13, was walking home from Wells Middle School in Dublin on Jan. 30, 1989,

when she went missing.

In their YouTube messages, Mike Misheloff says he hasn't given up hope of finding his daughter, who would now be 45. Holmes promises that the Dublin police will follow up on any new leads and notes that there remains a \$95,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person responsible for the disappearance of Ilene Misheloff.

Last month, Dublin police said they were taking another look at the cold case after David Misch, a 59-year-old man currently awaiting trial in a 32-year-old double homicide in Fremont, was also charged in connection with the disappearance of 9-year-old girl in 1988. Misch has been in prison since 1989 for a murder in Fremont.

To view the recorded messages, go to www.dublin.ca.gov/ilene.

Lectures to Focus on Combating COVID-19

The popular Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory's lecture series for middle and high school students, "Science on Saturday," is going virtual this year with the theme "Combating COVID-19."

The free, online lectures, featuring leading LLNL researchers joined by Bay Area science teachers, are scheduled for 10 a.m., on four consecutive Saturdays, beginning Feb. 6.

Each of the lectures will address a difference aspect of the scientific effort to combat the coronavirus.

Feb. 6 - "Molecular Diagnostics in the Age of COVID: Designing a Portable Point-of-Care Device." Presented by LLNL scientists Larry Dugan and Michael Triplett, joined by Tracy High School teacher Erin McKay, the lecture will

provide an overview of how viruses infect a host leading to disease, the current state of the COVID-19 pandemic, the laboratory's previous work in molecular diagnostics, and efforts to develop a point-of-care device for use in a clinical setting.

Feb. 13 - "Engineering Solutions: A Story of Swabs and Ventilators." Presented by researchers Eric Duoss, Chris Spadaccini, Angela Tooker, Jack Kotovsky and Allison Yorita, joined by retired Alamo Elementary School teacher Stan Hitomi, the lecture will discuss the development of 3D printed swabs for COVID-19 testing and how an LLNL-designed ventilator is helping COVID-19 patients.

Feb. 20 - "Defense by Design: Creating Antibodies against COVID-19." Presented by LLNL scientists

Dan Faissol, Tom Desautels, and Feliza Bourguet, joined by Dougherty Valley High School teacher Katherine Huang, the lecture will discuss how antibodies are being engineered to protect against COVID-19.

Feb. 27 - "Keeping Up with COVID: Staying in Touch and Staying Safe." Presented by researcher John Chang and Capuchino High School teacher Thi Ngo, the lecture will look at how wireless communications technology is being used to alert the community and reduce the transmission of diseases.

"Science on Saturday" is sponsored by LLNL's Science Education Program. To join the virtual talks, follow the instructions on the "Science on Saturday" website at st.llnl.gov/sci-ed/science-on-saturday.

Columnist to Offer Insight for Garden Club

Lorene Edwards Forkner, a gardening columnist



Lorene Edwards Forkner

for the Seattle Times' weekly Pacific NW Magazine, will be the guest speaker for the monthly meeting of the Livermore Amador Valley Garden Club at 7 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 11.

Forkner, the former editor of Pacific Horticulture magazine and the author of five books on gardening, will talk about "Seeing Color in Your Garden - Nature's Tool for Attention."

The public is invited to join the Zoom-based meet-



Color will be the theme at the Garden Club meeting.

ing. For more information, go to www.lavgc.org.

Wang Named Outstanding CAP Squadron Cadet

Yuhui "Samantha" Wang, a cadet master sergeant with the California Civil Air Patrol's Tri-Valley Composite



Yuhui "Samantha" Wang

Squadron 156, has received the Air Force Association's Outstanding CAP Squadron Cadet Award.

The Air Force Association, based in Arlington, Virginia, is a nonprofit organization that supports the nation's aerospace military. It annually recognizes one cadet in every Civil Air Patrol Squadron, chosen by the squadron commander.

Wang, a Civil Air Patrol member since June 2019, is a junior at Palo Alto High School, where she is a member of the Philosophy Club and the speech and debate team.

She is Alpha Flight sergeant for Squadron 156 and captain of the squadron's CyberPatriots competition team, which made it to the semi-final round last year in the National Youth Cyber Education Program, which promotes careers in cybersecurity and other science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) disciplines.

The Civil Air Patrol is the official auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force. The Tri-Valley squadron, based in Livermore, is part of the California Wing and includes both senior and cadet members.

Tracey Lewis Taylor Installed as Chamber Chair

Tracey Lewis Taylor, chief operating officer for Stanford Health Care-Valley Care, will chair the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors for 2021.



Tracey Lewis Taylor

She was installed last week during a virtual State of the Pleasanton Chamber meeting.

"As I look towards our future in 2021, I am inspired and optimistic that our sense of business continuity and stability will return," Lewis Taylor said. "There is no more relevant moment than now, 10 months after the first Bay Area shelter-in-place order was issued, to recognize the need for our business community to come together, to focus on our present economic challenges, and work together to be the champions for a stronger and healthier community for our future"

Prior to joining Stanford Health Care-Valley Care in 2017, Lewis Taylor was vice president of operations at New York-Presbyterian/Lawrence Hospital in Bronxville, New York.

Other leadership positions for 2021 are Kim Damiani, Summit Financial Group, treasurer; Lauri

Moffet-Fehlberg, Dahlin Group, vice chair-Vision 2025; Herb Ritter, Ritter Investments, vice-chair-economic development and government relations; Ken Norvell, CMT Solutions, vice chair-membership; and Randy Brown, PMZ Real Estate, past chair.

LIVERMORE CALIFORNIA

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

LIVERMORE RESIDENTS: Share your talents with the community by volunteering on one of the City of Livermore's advisory bodies. We are accepting applications now through February 26, 2021 at 5:00 pm.

Airport Commission (1 vacancy, at-large)
Join us in ensuring the continued quality and viability of the Livermore Municipal Airport as a community and regional asset.

Community Asset Management Program (CAMP) Outreach Committee (1 vacancy)
The City of Livermore manages more than \$3 billion in community assets that include our streets, sidewalks, traffic signals, storm drains, public facilities, and more. Join the Community Asset Management Program (CAMP) Outreach Committee and advise the City on how we can ensure the sustainability of our essential infrastructure investments. CAMP members will provide input and serve as outreach ambassadors—sharing our efforts and educating the broader community about the important decisions we face.

SAVE THE DATE! Interviews will be tentatively held the evening of March 10, 2021. For more information or to apply, please visit www.cityoflivermore.net/AB, call the City Clerk's office at (925) 960-4200, or email us at cityclerk@cityoflivermore.net.



With California's loosening COVID-19 restrictions, outdoor dining was able to resume. Customers, like those seen here in Livermore, returned to their favorite restaurants on Friday, Jan. 29, after almost two months of lockdown. (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)

LLNL Names Singh as Associate Director

Anup Singh, former director of the Center for Biological and Engineering Sciences at Sandia National Laboratories, has been named associate director for Engineering at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory.

Singh, who will be responsible for overseeing 2,300 Engineering employees, was hired following a nationwide search launched after the previous associate director, Anantha Krishnan, retired in October.

Singh holds a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay, Mumbai, India, and a doctorate in chemical engineering from North Carolina State University.

Singh is also an adjunct professor at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston, Texas, and serves as the director of Microfluidics at the Joint BioEnergy Institute, a DOE-funded bioenergy research center.

Last year, Singh was responsible for coordinating Sandia's COVID-19 research

and development efforts and represented Sandia on the Department of Energy National Virtual Biotechnology Laboratory team.

He has also served on several review and advisory panels including the Depart-

ment of Defense's Defense Science Board, the National Research Council's Chemical Science and Technology panel, and the National Institutes of Health's Instrumentation and Systems Development Study Section.

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