

Supervisors Give Initial Approval to Solar Policies

By Larry Altman

REGIONAL — Alameda County supervisors gave initial approval Tuesday to potential policies for future large-scale solar and battery storage facilities in rural areas of the county.

In a 4-0 vote on May 17, with Supervisor Keith Carson absent, the proposals will eventually be translated into zoning ordinance amendments that must undergo environmental review before they are returned to the board of supervisors for final approval. That could take a year.

Residents last year demanded the board come up with policies for the placement and conditions for so-

(See SOLAR, page 6)

Voting Gets Underway For Primary Elections

By Larry Altman

REGIONAL — The mail-in voting portion of the June 7, 2022 election primary is underway with a wide-ranging ballot asking Alameda County residents to pick their favorite candidates in state, federal and local government.

Although registered voters can wait until Election Day to cast ballots in person, early in-person voting begins as soon as May 28 at 11-day centers (locations that are open 11 days before the election) throughout the county. Four-day voting centers (facilities that are open four days before the election) open June 4. Voters can visit any of the 100 locations throughout the county through June 6, place their ballots in drop boxes at numerous locations, or send their ballots in the mail.

Governor

Although it's been just eight months since voters decisively rejected a recall of California Gov. Gavin Newsom, the Democrat's name will again top the ballot as he seeks a second term. Newsom, a Democrat, faces 25 challengers, most of whom are little known. Pundits expect Newsom to easily finish first

(See VOTING, page 9)



The Livermore Street Fest returned to downtown for the first time since the pandemic on May 14-15. Hosted by Livermore Downtown Inc., the weekend featured carnival rides, local beers and wines, food vendors and arts and crafts. [See photo gallery at www.independentnews.com/multimedia] (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)

Commission OK's Senior Facility

By David Jen

DUBLIN — Questions around repurposing a campus-office site for an assisted living facility split the planning commission last Tuesday, with the commission narrowly recommending that the city council support the proposal's planned development rezone, stage one and two development plans and a site development review permit.

The Dublin Senior Living Project, at 5751 Arnold Road, adjacent to the Hites Plaza office building and across from the Dublin Crossing neighborhood, is a two-story building that would provide 114 assisted living and 38 memory care units. The structure would also offer two courtyards,

offices, medical facilities, a theater, activity areas and dining rooms.

Commissioners Renata Tyler and Stephen Wright opposed the recommendation, citing aesthetic disharmony with the neighboring Hites building — a four-story office building of near-solid glass — as a reason to reconsider the project's proposed location.

"I just cannot see that building located in that parcel," said Tyler.

In contrast to the office building, the senior living architecture proposes wood-like panel veneer, smooth stucco and a cultured stone facade.

However, Wright felt that the care facility would look like someone "plopped" it next to the Hites building

and suggested that South Bay Partners, the applicant developer, return to the drafting table to redo the architecture.

"I really like the design. Just, why here?" he said.

Tyler also worried about giving up the original campus-office land use designation.

"We have this great opportunity in this parcel, in this site," she said to South Bay. "You are taking away the opportunity to have employers here ... We have an exodus of brain and youth because they can't find jobs nearby, they cannot afford to live where the jobs are."

Gaspere Annibale, Dublin associate planner, explained that the parcel's zon-

(See FACILITY, page 9)

Livermore City Manager Updates Finances, Looks at Future Budget

By Larry Altman

LIVERMORE — The City of Livermore has recovered from the "Great Recession," City Manager Marc Roberts told the city council on Monday, May 16.

Referring to the massive downturn that took place more than 10 years ago — which resulted in 100 layoffs and the realization that the city's revenues could not meet long-term obligations to pay retiree pensions and benefits — Roberts explained that, with pension liabilities paid down, revenue has grown. The city has now reached a time when budget surpluses are expected over the next five years, he continued.

"A decade ago, our expenditures and our revenues were not in balance, either for short-term or long-term obligations," Roberts said. "During the past decade, we've brought both of those things into alignment. And that provides essentially a platform for us to solve the last of our unsolved long-term challenges. We're not all the way there yet. But we have a plan that's pointing us in the right direction."

Roberts and Tina Olson, the city's director of administrative services, made the disclosures during a special budget workshop that included talks on how future surpluses could be saved or allocated to pay

for expensive propositions, like long-term infrastructure repairs and continued retiree pensions and benefits.

Revenue, Roberts said, is expected to grow during the next five years, enabling the city to add some positions to its workforce. The positions will include a crisis intervention specialist who will work with the police department to handle and de-escalate responses where a mental health expert might be preferable to a police officer.

City officials expect to run a \$131.6 million budget over the next year, about \$8 million more than originally proposed. The projected sur-

(See BUDGET, page 8)

Amory Lovins Reports

Saved Energy is World's Biggest Energy Source

By Jeff Garberson

For half a century, Amory Lovins has put forth imaginative ideas aimed at encouraging society to consume energy more wisely, using less energy when possible and generating it ethically and sustainably when it has to be produced.

He and the organization he helped found, the Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI), have put forth a constant stream of energy-saving ideas and designs for industry, for huge commercial buildings, for urban planning and even single family homes.

His approach has emphasized reduced cost as one major benefit of energy savings, but more recently, he has also extolled its benefit to the climate.

Lovins, 75, spoke last week at Livermore's Bankhead Theater as part of the Rae Dorrough Speaker

Series.

He is currently teaching classes on energy efficiency at Stanford University as an adjunct professor.

He still has responsibilities at RMI, serving as chief scientist and chairman emeritus. He is author of more than 30 books and hundreds of technical papers, and the recipient of a very large number of U.S. and foreign awards for his energy efficiency research.

(See LOVINS, page 8)



Amory Lovins

County Delays Decision On Composting Facility

By Larry Altman

LIVERMORE — A businessman seeking Alameda County's approval to build a 30-acre composting facility in the unincorporated area east of Livermore found himself with a major decision to make Tuesday — either decrease the amount of waste he plans to treat each day or face rejection.

Michael Harding, president of Biosolids Recycling Inc., who had received unanimous planning commission approval in March for the project on Jess Ranch Road just south of the 580 Freeway, made the case for his business at Tuesday's Board of Supervisors meeting, where he faced significant opposition to his plan.

"You have the ability to accept what we're asking for, or you have the ability to accept a denial, or I'll provide a third option: If you want to go back and redo your numbers and rethink about this I'm willing to entertain continuing this so that you can make an informed economic decision," Supervisor David Haubert told Harding. Harding, representing

the applicants Joe and Connie Jess, chose the continuance so he could determine whether his proposal remains financially viable. The Board expects to hear his decision in about a month.

Tuesday's hearing was sparked by Donna Cabanne, a Livermore resident who often speaks out on development and environmental concerns in East County.

Cabanne took exception to the Planning Commission's approval, filed a lengthy appeal and made an impassioned case before the panel to stop it or, at least, decrease the amount of waste that could be processed at the facility.

Among her arguments, Cabanne said the facility posed significant health risks to Alameda County residents, affecting the air quality, posing danger to the water supply, and creating the potential for fire.

"Please," Cabanne said. "You are in charge of the health of all Alameda County residents and you need to take an action that limits the daily tonnage to no more than 500 tons per day."

(See COMPOSTING, page 9)



Prashanth Krishnamohan, MD, medical director Neurosciences Service Line, is seen here with a stroke patient at Stanford Health Care-ValleyCare in Pleasanton.

(Photo courtesy of Stanford Health Care)

Innovative Stroke Program Treats the Whole Patient

By Ruth Roberts

REGIONAL — ValleyCare Medical Center in Pleasanton recently added another component to its mission of treating stroke patients and their families.

Several years ago, the ValleyCare Charitable Foundation, which merged with Stanford Medical Center Development, raised money through community outreach to fund its stroke program. Livermore resident Lynn Seppala, who suffered a severe stroke 30 years ago, was actively involved in the process, and together with his wife Joan, matched donations collected.

"Lynn and Joan Seppala were really driving the need for stroke care in the valley, and they did a great job with

our ValleyCare Foundation," said Joe Carlucci, director of sport medicine and physical therapy. "At the time, the plan was (that) there would be layers (to the program)."

These layers included not just stabilizing the patient, but also assisting them through the process of recovery and eventually returning home. However, once a patient is released, much of the supportive work begins, and that was where the impetus for the stroke support group began.

Today, the ValleyCare Stroke Support Group is an extension of that original mission — a monthly virtual meeting where patients and their caregivers gain emotional support, tools for dealing with their level of

(See STROKE, page 3)

CLARIFICATION

Last week's article on airport noise solutions stated that Five Rivers Aviation owner Pete Sandhu wanted to extend the runway.

To clarify, Sandhu's suggestion was not to extend the runway, but to add a displaced threshold before the runway, so planes taking off can have space to get a head start and climb earlier and higher before they reach residential areas. There is ample space within the existing airport boundaries to accommodate a displaced threshold. The displaced threshold does not extend the available runway for planes that are landing.

PETS OF THE WEEK



ROCKY

Rocky is reasonably quiet — though he has some renal issues, he's receptive to his ready lap and loves to read with Robin (foster). At age 15, he is a rewarding choice and is looking for his last retirement home. Learn more about Rocky and other cats and dogs at valleyhumane.org. Email info@valleyhumane.org to start the adoption application process.

(Photo - Valley Humane Society)

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Local Students Create Eco-Friendly Business to Decrease Waste

By Dawnmarie Fehr

A team of students from Dublin and San Ramon have joined forces to decrease plastic waste caused by discarded phone cases. The 10 member team was brought together by the Junior Achievement of Northern California Company Program (JANCCP) and tasked with creating a company that would solve a problem of their choosing. With just 13 weeks to go before presenting at the regional competition on April 19, the group quickly found a common passion for protecting the environment and reducing plastic waste, and Eco Case was born. “Our company ... re-

volves around phone cases, and it’s a common misconception that it’s just straws and plastic bags that contribute to the microplastics in the oceans,” said Shruti Kale, 16. “But 1.5 billion plastic phone cases are thrown out each year and that’s a lot of waste in our planet. For every hundred people that switch to Eco Case, we would save 120 pounds of plastic from entering our ocean.” Shruti is Eco Case’s chief executive officer. She and the rest of the team spent the three-plus months building a company, designing the product, finding a manufacturer and solving the myriad problems that

come with running a small business. And their hard work paid off. The group took first place at the regional level of JANCCPS’s competition, but their sales weren’t high enough to move on to the national level. Undeterred, the group hopes to increase their revenue and compete at the national competition next year. For now, they are working to generate additional orders for their eco-friendly, recyclable phone case. The phone cases are available for 11 different iPhone models, with eight color options, as well as premade and customizable decorative chains. All the case and chain materials are recyclable.

In addition to their sustainability, the group said their cases are cost effective and give back to the planet. Eco Case donates 5% of its proceeds to the Ocean Conservatory, and another 5% to the Coral Gardeners, a group planting coral in oceans around the world. “Another thing that sets us apart is a lot of phone case companies are sort of a one-time thing, but for us, every case we provide can be sent back to us when customers are done and want to discard it,” said Chief Marketing Officer Samia Ahmer. “They send it back

to us and we recycle it back for them, so it’s a long-term connection, not just a one-time purchase.” Silicone items must be sent to a specialized recycling company to be properly recycled, and Eco Case sends their returned cases to a facility in New Jersey. The company also offers a free, eco newsletter to inform readers of recycling needs and means locally and globally. Chief Sales Officer Sanjana Badami said the newsletter has information in a variety of media formats. “Everything is eco-friendly materials,” said Sanjana, 16. “We have glass beads and the string is a type of fiber that can be recycled.” As the students continue to work on increasing sales for their phone cases, they stressed this is only the beginning of their journey. “This mission is not just about the Eco Case, it’s one way people can replace something useful in their everyday lives with an alternative, and it stands for something bigger,” 17-year-old Samia said. “Everything we use in our lives can be used to make the world a greener place, and we as high schoolers want to do our part to make a cleaner future.” For more information, or

to place an order, email eco-case22@gmail.com, visit www.eco-case.org or follow on Instagram @eco_case.



As part of a Junior Achievement competition, a group of Tri-Valley high school students developed the Eco Case – a fully recyclable case available in multiple colors. (Photo courtesy of Shruti Kale)

Entrepreneurs Circle to Host Panel of Business Owners

East Bay Entrepreneurs Circle, a local group of small business owners in Livermore that launched three months ago, will be

create a community of like-minded people at all stages of their business, where everyone can ask questions and find and give the kind of sup-

All business owners, entrepreneurs and anyone interested in learning about businesses are invited.

hosting their first panel of locally owned small business owners. The goal of this panel is to provide a platform for small business owners to share their challenges and successes. Attendees will be introduced to some of the most inspiring local business owners, who will share their stories about scaling up and scaling back. The business owners on the panel include Dan Floyd of Dan’s Good Cookies; Alexandra Henkelman of Omega Road Winery; and Jill Johnson of Rustic Beauty. “The mission of East Bay Entrepreneurs Circle, based in the Tri-Valley, is to inspire entrepreneurs with valuable business knowledge, helping them turn passions into profits,” said Deborah Finestone, one of the co-founders of the EBE Circle. All business owners, entrepreneurs and anyone interested in learning about businesses are invited. “The group’s goal is to

port we all need,” said Mony Nop, another co-founder of the EBE Circle. The group’s leadership team — all local business owners — wants to hear from all types of entrepreneurs about their needs so they can help each other thrive. Event will be held on Tuesday, May 24, from 4 to 6 p.m., at Good Morning Maxwell, 1850 Second St., in Livermore. To RSVP, visit bit.ly/3FTpsfs.

Tri-Valley Public Art Project Seeks Design Submissions

Five Tri-Valley communities, including Dublin, Livermore, and Pleasanton, are inviting local artists to submit designs for a temporary public art project. The “Picture This” project will involve 4-foot by 3-foot wooden frames, provided by the participating municipalities, with 5-inch borders as the artists’ workspace. Danville and San Ramon are also participating in the public art project. The frames, eventually standing 6-feet tall, will be erected at picturesque locations around the Tri-Valley, with residents and visitors invited to pose for pictures. The art frames will also be put on display at various art centers, libraries, community centers, and parks.

The frames will be on display from July 16 through Sept. 30. Artists may submit up to three colored sketches for the frames, with designs appropriate for public display representing the Tri-Valley or local activities. The deadline to submit proposals is May 27. Artists whose designs are selected will receive a \$300 stipend. For more information, visit tinyurl.com/picturethisartists.

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STROKE

(Continued from first page)

physicality, interactive and narrative approaches to mental health healing and, above all, a sense of community. The program is free of charge to anyone wishing to participate — not just ValleyCare members — and open to all stroke survivors, whether they suffered a stroke decades ago or are newly adjusting.

Led by Carlucci and Stroke, Neuro and STEMI Coordinator Megan Silveira along with Hannah Kirsch, MD, clinical assistant professor, the meetings target myriad topics, including listening sessions, group discussions, music, and exercise — all a conglomeration of subjects initiated by the co-leaders, but fine-tuned by the participants.

“I work on something called narrative medicine,” said Kirsch. “That can be stories or music or art to help explain what anyone in the medical field is going through. In advance, I pick two pieces, usually a poem or prose and a work of visual art. We read together; we talk about it, and then we write on a prompt for about five minutes anything that has to do with their stroke experience. People have responded really well.”

Silveira agreed.

“We do a lot; we try a lot of things because it’s new It’s evolving,” she said. “(In) our last session, we had

a whole thing on chair yoga (and how people) can modify it to what they can do.”

Because of the pandemic, the program has been virtual by necessity, something Carlucci said has turned out to be a positive development, allowing individuals with mobility problems easy access to group meetings online, while fostering a sense of connection and continuity.

And that, said Carlucci, is what makes the program so special.

“This is not new. Hospitals tend to have this in some form, but what is different is this is truly a community benefit,” Carlucci explained. “It is a credit to (Stanford Health Care - ValleyCare) that they see this as an important need. We are blazing some new trails here, and with the energy of our specific group, it’s very exciting.”

For now, the group remains manageable, 8 to 10 attendees each session, but leaders say the team is looking to grow and eager to get the word out. Each 90-minute session boasts an agenda that runs the gamut from educational resources to therapists offering exercises to pharmacists and dieticians. All are designed to address the individual as well as the collective interests of the group. Co-leaders say it has been a learning experience.

“People are insightful

in ways that I didn’t think about,” said Kirsch. “I had one person, who had a stroke of the cerebellum that controls balance coordination of the whole body, including speech, and sometimes his speech was quite slurred. But at one point he said, ‘It’s hard to speak in public because people think I’m drunk.’ I was so taken aback by that.”

For Seppala, who suffered a stroke at 42, but returned to most of his previous activities, including snow skiing, the realization of a program that is inclusive and diverse was something recovering stroke patients 30 years ago could never have dreamed of.

“My stroke was very severe, but one of the things

that helped me through was a weekly physician’s group at John Muir rehab in Walnut Creek,” said Seppala. “I had rehab there daily, and getting out of the hospital was a little like getting out of the cocoon ... I graduated and looked for something here (in the Tri-Valley), and there really was nothing. That’s why I’m so happy Stanford has taken the chance to do this, and they have gone beyond what I expected. The fact so many people are involved, it warms my heart.”

For additional information on the stroke support group email, VCstrokesupport@stanfordhealthcare.org, call 925-416-3619 or visit <https://valleycare.com>.

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EDITORIAL Sanchez for Sheriff

Seeking his fifth term, Alameda County Sheriff Gregory Ahern touts numerous accomplishments: his deputies were first to wear body-worn cameras. He established a cold-case unit to investigate unsolved homicides, advanced department technology to solve crimes, and expanded his aviation fleet to fight crime. He's instituted procedures to address issues like poverty, drugs and unemployment. He operates programs that distribute food to needy residents.

All of this good work is to be saluted, but we believe it's time for a change in leadership at the Alameda

County Sheriff's Office (ACSO).

Under Ahern's 14-year watch, the suicide rate among inmates at the Santa Rita Jail in Dublin rose to one of the worst in the United States. In an interview last year, Ahern blamed the Board of Supervisors (BOS), saying the jail's problems could have been avoided had they listened to his calls a decade earlier for more funding.

But Ahern was Sheriff and appears to have done little to improve conditions in the jail until forced to do so.

In 2018, attorneys representing inmates sued the Sheriff and the county in U.S. Dis-

trict Court, charging that the jail needed an increase in staff and mental health programs to deal with the suicide problem. After experts analyzed the jail and agreed with many of the lawsuit's allegations, the BOS approved \$318 million to be spent through 2023 to institute changes. Officials said they knew they had to provide the money because they were going to lose in court.

The case settled in February with a "consent decree" requiring a federal judge to monitor over the next six years whether the county properly institutes what is necessary to improve jail condi-

tions.

While funding can certainly provide the needed psychiatric care for those suffering from mental health disabilities, other mandates brought on by the lawsuit included things as simple as increased out-of-cell time and provisions for use-of-force, which could have been corrective actions taken long before litigation. There has been a clear pattern of poor internal training for employees who already were paid with taxpayers' dollars prior to the jail receiving the additional funding. As a leader, Ahern should not have blamed this on financial woes alone.

Division Cmdr. Yesenia Sanchez would bring a fresh approach to running a department that has employed her since 2001. Rising through the ranks to the top, she would become the first Latina and woman to head the law enforcement agency.

Put in charge of the jail in April 2021, the Livermore resident already has first-hand experience to implement the consent decree's requirements. Her campaign platform includes community engagement, transparency and accountability. She has vowed to listen to residents, work with community organizations,

focus on crime prevention, provide mental health support services for those who need it, and institute crisis intervention training and de-escalation techniques for deputies.

Sanchez said she will listen to young deputies' ideas and improve morale in the force.

The third candidate, veteran San Francisco police Officer JoAnn Walker, lacks the leadership experience to run a major law enforcement agency with a \$523 million budget and about 1,500 authorized positions.

Sanchez has that experience and is our choice for Sheriff.

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

Re-elect Dennis Gambs

Mark Triska, Livermore

Please join me in voting to re-elect Dennis Gambs to the Zone 7 Board of Directors on June 7. I have known Dennis for some time, both as a professional civil engineer and as the current Zone 7 Board Member. His professional knowledge and background give Dennis a better understanding of technical issues related to water quality and supplies, as well as a solid fiscal understanding of the cost pressures related to water demand and supply. As a wine grape and orchard grower, I have appreciated Dennis interest and willingness to consider the concerns of untreated water users in the South Livermore Valley area and bring them to the board and public. Dennis certainly understands our need for continued reliable, quality, and affordable water supplies and to increase our storage capacities and diversify our sources of water with affordability in mind. Given the drought we are in, more than ever we need Dennis to continue his steady leadership in stewarding both the treated and untreated water resources of our TriValley. Support Dennis Gambs for our Zone 7 Board of Directors!

Look How Pleasanton Did It

Theodore Schaefer, Livermore

On May 24, the Planning Commission will vote on changes to the downtown hotel agreement. These changes include removing the underground hotel parking requirement previously agreed to and providing valet parking on the old Pool Supply land on the NW corner of the intersection of Railroad Avenue and K Street. The city council and mayor loaned the developer a sweet \$1.9M deal to acquire the land for their private valet parking usage. Rather than pay the hotel its valet parking fee, hotel guests will probably use the city's nearby I Street Garage that will cost them nothing. They will remove needed public parking.

These major concessions, added on to the extremely low cost for the city-owned land the hotel will be built upon and the deletion of the previously agreed upon restaurant, add up to another major Livermore mismanagement of our precious land and monetary resources.

Last but certainly not least, the hotel's architecture and exterior materials should aspire to be in keeping with and coordinate with both the Bankhead Theatre and Blacksmith Square's red brick facade. If it is city management's desire to make our downtown a "destination", then the downtown hotel should reflect our history and add to the architectural ambiance of our town rather than reflect something that would be more in keeping off the I-580 interstate corridor.

Perhaps the builder, the planning commission, the city council and our lame duck mayor should drive over to Pleasanton and visit the Rose Hotel and see how a true destination hotel looks. Surely, we deserve no less than what Pleasanton has done with their downtown hotel!

Eric Dillie for Office of Education

Jim Berry, Livermore

I am delighted to endorse Eric Dillie for Alameda County Office of Education Trustee Area 7.

The ACOE's responsibility is to oversee all 18 school districts in the county. This is a critical oversight position where Eric's experience will be beneficial. Eric is a passionate advocate for education and has led some outstanding educational programs with successful outcomes. I believe his knowledge and success-oriented

nature will be a great addition to the County's education program.

Let's make sure ACOE has the people it needs to be successful. ACOE's Mission: "Our mission is to provide, promote, and support leadership and service to ensure the success of every child, in every school, every day." Vote for Eric Dillies as a trustee for the Alameda County Office of Education.

Elect Mony Nop

Carol Chargin, Livermore

The citizens of Livermore will have the opportunity to choose between Mr. John Marchand and Mr. Mony Nop for Mayor of Livermore. Mr. Marchand is a former mayor and one of the architects of the now contentious redevelopment plan for downtown Livermore. Mr. Nop came to Livermore from Cambodia. Everyone I know describes Mr. Nop the same way. Mony Nop is intelligent, a great listener, committed to completing the task at hand, positive, creative, and a person of integrity. In 2005, I had the opportunity to visit Cambodia. How Mr. Nop even survived Cambodia after its destruction by the Khmer Rouge is amazing to me. Then, he came to this country and worked in the fields to support himself and his family. Next, he had a successful career as a Livermore policeman, helped create two non-profits, and now is a successful Livermore businessman. All of these accomplishments tell me that Mr. Nop is not an ordinary person. Mony Nop is an EXCEPTIONAL person. The people of Livermore have the opportunity to work with a mayor who knows how to work with people to accomplish the desired goals. The finalization of the plans for the redevelopment of downtown Livermore on its own will be a huge task, let alone deal with the other problems that will undoubtedly occur. So, vote for Mony Nop who is a fresh and extremely talented individual and will help us all work together to accomplish our goals of creating a vibrant downtown Livermore.

Ahern for Sheriff

Mike Grant, Dublin

The choice is clear that Greg Ahern has the background to handle this very difficult job as Sheriff. He has proven his dedication to public safety and keeping all of us safe in the county. Alameda County Citizens we need to RE-Elect Greg Ahern for Alameda County Sheriff. Please Vote June 7 for Sheriff Greg Ahern!

Sanchez Deserves Your Vote for Sheriff

Marla Kirby, Livermore

In 2007, the first iPhone was released, Stephen Curry was playing college basketball and Arnold Schwarzenegger was governor of California. It was also the year that Gregory Ahern became Alameda County Sheriff. He ran unopposed in that election, and in every

election since.

This year, we voters in Alameda County have a choice in the sheriff's race (for the first time in over 30 years), so I urge you to cast your ballot wisely. I believe it is past time for a change and support Yesenia Sanchez for Alameda County Sheriff.

One of the biggest responsibilities of the Alameda County Sheriff is running the Santa Rita Jail. On that score, Ahern is failing - over the past several years, the conditions in the jail have prompted not just an extensive U.S. Department of Justice investigation (which found "deliberate indifference" by Ahern's staff to prisoner health and safety), but also a class action lawsuit (as a result of which the jail was placed under court supervision for 6 years). Then, in March, two additional lawsuits were filed against Ahern and the County regarding recent deaths at Santa Rita Jail. Clearly, it is time for a change; a sheriff who fosters an attitude of "deliberate indifference" to the safety of persons in his charge does not inspire confidence as the steward of public safety for Alameda County.

Yesenia Sanchez has worked in the Sheriff's office for 24 years and knows what its problems are and how to fix them. Along with safety, she will prioritize transparency and accountability which are critical for a public servant like the sheriff. But I am most impressed by Ms. Sanchez for her immense courage in stepping forward to challenge her boss - something that nobody else in her position has been brave enough to do for the past three decades. She deserves your vote.

Uniting Livermore

Marcus Libkind, Livermore

I have lived in Livermore since 1975 and seen many changes. Starting with the plan to build a 2000-seat theater on the old Lucky site, and now with the Eden Project, there has been more discord between the citizens of Livermore and the City Council than ever before. At the heart of the discord is that the Council seems to have forgotten who they are representing.

The Eden Project is a prime example of what is wrong with the Livermore City Council. The Council did not earnestly look at alternatives to the Eden Project in the heart of Livermore on the old Lucky site. The Council had the opportunity to consider alternative sites that would have preserved the center of downtown Livermore for development that would benefit all of Livermore's residents - maximize the health and prosperity of Livermore.

The Eden Project was pushed through without consideration of alternative sites that would have provided more units of housing and "all the required parking," and left the old Lucky site in downtown Livermore for development that would benefit

all the citizens of Livermore. In particular, the Council could have considered the lands on the north side of Railroad Avenue that abuts the old Lucky site. The old Nob Hill shopping center on South Livermore is another ideal site - large, underutilized, and deteriorating.

The way to unite the citizens of Livermore behind a common vision for the downtown and affordable housing is to replace the City Council with those with a fresh view of what can be done and who want to see the optimal allocation of our resources. With a new Council, there is hope for a vote by the citizens to clearly see what they desire for the future of our downtown.

To do that, you need to elect Mony Nop Mayor. He's a fresh voice who will look at all the possibilities and work to maximize the health and prosperity of Livermore. His opposition, Marchand, is a confederate of the current Council and will not give you the opportunity for the changes you deserve - it will be business as usual. I urge you to vote for Mony Nop for Mayor, ask your friends to do the same, and create an atmosphere for unity within Livermore.

What is the library? And Other Questions About City Buildings

Trish Munro, Livermore

1. What is 42?
a. The answer to the ultimate question of life, the universe, and everything
b. Jackie Robinson's number, worn by other ballplayers only on Jackie Robinson Day.
c. The number of buildings that the city of Livermore owns and maintains.
d. All of the above.

2. What is an example of an essential facility?
a. Civic Center Library
b. Carnegie building
c. The water reclamation plant
d. Sycamore Grove
e. City Hall

3. What is an example of a specific use facility?
a. Civic Center Library
b. Carnegie building
c. The water reclamation plant
d. Sycamore Grove
e. City Hall

4. What is an example of a general use facility?
a. Civic Center Library
b. Carnegie building
c. The water reclamation plant
d. Sycamore Grove
e. City Hall

5. To determine how healthy the city's assets are, the city looks at all the components of those assets, from windows to plumbing and evaluates:
a. Risk, which is the overlap between the probability of failure and consequences of failure.
b. Cost of replacing components that would have large consequences if they failed.
c. Cost of replacing compo-

nents that have a high probability of failure.
d. Cost of purchasing a warehouse of duct tape.
e. A, B, and C

Answers:

1. d, 2. e, 3. b, 4. a, 5. e

Note: for questions 2, 3, and 4, Sycamore Grove is under LARPD's purview, and the Water Reclamation Plant has a dedicated funding source, so it falls under a different category (technical term: enterprise fund).

Want more? The questions and answers all came from the building's fact sheet. You can learn more about assets this weekend by playing the augmented reality adventure with L'more the Asset Hound. He'll be your guide as you explore Carnegie Park (2155 Third Street), searching for hidden passwords while learning about the City's assets (like roads, pipes, buildings, and more). If you can find them all, you'll be entered to win fun prizes! Both the building fact sheet and adventure sign-up can be found here: www.cityoflivermore.net/assets.

Elections and Money

John Cameron, Dublin

I hear people talking about corrupt politicians and the broken political system, how it doesn't matter who they vote for because all politicians are bad. Well, they're not all the same. If we truly want real representation from our elected "leaders," we should probably find out who is getting tons of money, from where, and who isn't. If you're getting inundated with political ads, take note of where all that money is coming from. As a whole, we keep electing most candidates that are backed by those looking to line their own pockets. Special interests and the very rich control most of the narrative and are very cunning with their messaging.

We can change all this if we take our time, do our homework, and start electing those who understand the problems most people face as well as the big problems that affect us all. Chances are they are not the candidates you hear the most about. We can bring beneficial change with real solutions if we stop electing people loyal to those with gargantuan amounts of money who run things from the shadows.

Underground Hotel Parking is Expected

Susan Putnam, Livermore

The City Council and Mayor are sidestepping the Downtown Plan and their commitment to Livermore residents for underground parking at the new hotel site. Valuable land in our scenic downtown is set to be paved over for hotel valet parking. The Presidio Builders were given an opportunity to purchase the hotel land at an extremely reasonable price (\$72,000) with the agreement to build underground

(See MAILBOX, page 5)

THE Independent

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MAILBOX

(Continued from page 4)

parking. Why are the Mayor and Council allowing the opportunity for Presidio to renege on the business commitment for underground parking? They seem prepared to flip on the plan to suit their liking and to create convenience for Presidio, but not for the future vision of Downtown Livermore. Most city hotels have underground parking, as generally expected by hotel guests. It's simply normal. Why should we be expected to reap less from our hotel agreement to benefit Presidio's balance sheet?

Aviation Solutions

Frank Doljack, Pleasanton

The article "Aviation Business Owner Offers Solutions to Airport Noise Issue" was confusing. As a private pilot I have based my airplane at Livermore Airport for 30 years until recently. Quotes from the owner of Five River Aviation and reporter's paraphrasing is noted in the following.

"Pushing the Federal Aviation Administration to create new landing paths from the west, and extend the runway to ease residents' concerns ..." The FAA does not "create landing paths." It creates IFR approach procedures, three of which have been in existence for decades and apply only to IFR traffic, and the majority of traffic is VFR. All of these IFR approaches are from the EAST, and none are from the WEST. VFR traffic will arrive from all directions and will enter a downwind leg based upon instructions from the control tower. And "extend the runway" seems a self-serving statement.

"Design an approach from the west that allows (pilots) to come in much higher and glide down to the airport on a normal glide slope on a normal approach slope on a low power setting". This statement makes no sense to any pilot operating at Livermore Airport. There are NO IFR approaches from the west and VFR traffic land are free to land in any safe manner as they see fit.

Reporter writes "under current rules that need to be changed, pilots who approach from the west must fly around the airport to the east side over downtown Livermore, fly around the south end and go over neighborhoods in Ruby Hill and Pleasanton. Pilots also are required to increase their throttles to 70% engine power during landing, creating noise." Again, there are no rules existing that need to be changed, and no pilot is required to maintain 70% power.

The airport has a voluntary advisory regarding no operations from 10 PM to 6 AM and an advisory to avoid overflight of neighborhoods to the west for principally VFR aircraft. It has no policy regarding jet aircraft. Jet departures over the residents are a large source of the noise problem. My recommendation is to ask that all jets follow the ICAO Noise Abatement Departure Procedure 1. This is a well-known procedure designed to mitigate noise from jet aircraft. It is followed at many airports around the U. S. After reading the article I noticed no mention of this as a "solution."

Dr. Sarah Palmer for Zone 7
Donald Price, Livermore

Please re-elect Dr. Sarah Palmer for the Zone 7 Board of Directors on June 7.

Sarah is a Biochemist with deep experience at

Zone 7. Sarah understands and supports all water users that depend on Zone 7. Her performance as a multi-term Zone 7 Board Member has given the Tri-Valley a reliable, high quality water supply for many years. Zone 7 has rigorously pursued water policies that meet the needs of consumers and all who rely on a constant source of water. Continued drought, water policy disputes within the State of California's legislature, and uncertainty surrounding water issues going forward, indicate the need for a strong and effective Zone 7 Board. Dr. Sarah Palmer should continue to serve on the Zone 7 Board of Directors.

Please re-elect Dr. Sarah Palmer for the Zone 7 Board of Directors.
Please vote on JUNE 7. Thank You.

Why You Should Support Mony Nop for Mayor

Isabella Macchioni, Livermore

For me it is simple. Mony is a great leader, honest, and a giving man. All qualities I would want in a mayor. Not only is Mony someone who will advocate for what is fair and right for the Livermore community, he will also always listen to the community members' concerns and ideas. Having a mayor who is approachable and willing to listen to everyone's concerns and possible solutions to issues is a big deal to me as a voter. Mony also has a great plan for our future Livermore. He would address the 5 major issues we have in our community head on and with a new and fresh mind. Mony has many years of experience in real estate, which makes me confident he would be able to address our increasing housing prices. This would allow many families access to this great community, which then helps our local economy. One big reason I am voting for Mony as Livermore's next mayor is his vision for our public safety. I am a young voter who wants to see better community policing in our small town. With Mony's 17 years as a police officer, I am very confident he would be able to help engage our police department more with the community. As a community member, I am excited to see a new fresh face running for our mayor. Livermore needs someone who is willing and ready to address concerns and needs from all types of Livermore residents, which is exactly what Mony will do. I am confident and fully support Mony as Livermore's next Mayor!

Vote for Sarah, Dennis and Eric

Bill Stevens, Livermore

I was on the Zone 7 Water Agency board of directors for over 20 years. I encourage you to vote for Sarah Palmer and Dennis Gambis. They are practical and know the water and flood control needs of the TriValley. I left Zone 7 because I got fed up with some of the new directors who did not know anything about water and flood control, and just wanted to elevate themselves with meaningless blurbs of righteousness to get on the front page of the news. I also support Eric Dillie for the Alameda School Board. He knows the challenges of trying to provide education for the pupils and the politics that have to be overcome to do the right thing. Sarah, Dennis and Eric are in my Rotary Club, which provides money and services

to the people in need in the TriValley. All three of them, Sarah, Dennis and Eric, are good people.

Wordsmithing Inappropriate

Jim Caselli, Livermore

When Proposition P to determine the location of the downtown hotel was pending, I was having a discussion on Nextdoor about the pros and cons. Marchard noticed this and made his own statements. First, he tried to equate the location of a fast food restaurant with the destiny of the downtown and the city. When I questioned his logic, he then proceeded to state that if P was not passed, it could not be reconsidered later after further development of the downtown plan. I had no cause to question such a flat statement, so I let it drop. After P passed, my curiosity led me to read its actual language. It stated that it could not be voted on again in its current form. That means that it could be revisited with minor changes.

While wordsmithing is commonplace in DC, I find it totally inappropriate for local politics, which should be based on forthrightness and trust.

Jimmie Wilson for Alameda County DA

Anthony Beckett, Pleasanton

I was taken aback upon reading that Julie Testa endorses Pamela Price for Alameda County DA. This odd endorsement, rather than causing me to reconsider the possibility that Ms. Price wouldn't be the worst possible choice for DA, made me wonder who would wish upon their fellow citizens the disaster that would ensue by electing Price. Pamela Price is a Soros-backed candidate in the mold of Boudin and Gascon, both facing recalls for their creating chaos in their respective cities with soft-on-crime policies that go against the very laws they were elected to enforce. If this sounds like another "Soros-backed conspiracy theory", look at the amount of cash Soros has funneled into the Price Campaign. As of March, the Soros-funded (and ironically named) California Justice and Public Safety PAC, spent \$699,647 in support of Price. That's twice what her campaign was able to raise. Regarding her experience, she has no experience in prosecution (which is what a DA does) and a hatred for law enforcement.

After a lot of research, I think Jimmie Wilson is the right candidate for Alameda County DA. There is an old expression: If you don't prosecute a crime, you've made it legal. That's what Boudin and Soros have done, and that's where Price will take this county. If we're not careful.

As for Testa, I don't know if she just doesn't know the facts or even if she is on the ballot soon, but I won't be casting a vote for anyone with that level of seriousness. Sorry Julie.

Cheryl Cook-Kallio for District 7 County School Board Trustee

Helen Machuga, Livermore

For the first time in years, we have an open position for the District 7 County Board of Education Trustee. Cheryl Cook-Kallio has all the qualifications necessary and more. Her entire family has taught, been educated, or both in this area. Cheryl taught for forty years in the

public schools in the area and knows what is needed in a local school, small or large.

Cheryl served on the Pleasanton City Council until termed out, so has experience dealing with boards and decision making. Involved in the State of CA Task Force on Civic Engagement Teacher Advisory Board, the Center for Free, Fair, and Accountable Democracy Board, and as the CA We the People/Project Citizen State coordinator and a member of the Center for Civic Education National Board, Cheryl is aware of education and funding issues within and beyond our local boundaries.

Endorsed by a Who's Who of educational and civic leaders, Cheryl is the perfect choice for our District 7 County Board of Education Trustee.

Eric Dillie for Trustee – He Cares

Kala Sanchez, Livermore

I am submitting this letter on behalf of Cody Wade, a former student of Eric's when he was a high school principal in Texas.

I first met Eric Dillie in 2012 when he was a principal at a DFW charter high school, and I was beginning my sophomore year. I didn't know anything about him before we met, but we quickly became acquainted as I became more active in school activities. While assisting with community service projects through our student council, it was evident that Eric was one of our biggest supporters. After getting to know him a lot better, he ended up being one of the main male influences in my life. He was someone that I started to look up to more and more. My home life was rather rocky, and in my later teen years, I didn't feel like I had too many people supporting me. As my sophomore year continued, it became more and more clear that Eric believed in me, not many adults believed in me at that time. His support for me was evident when I pitched him a student council proposal to raise money for charity by duct-taping him to a wall. Without hesitation, he agreed, and the entire school paid to duct-tape him to a wall.

One of the things I remember most about Eric is his leadership abilities. Also, he genuinely cares about people. He was comforting, and relatable, and I really needed that in my life at the time. He was someone that I and others could count on and was a friend to everyone. Eric moved to California before my Junior year and my high school experience didn't feel the same after he left.

Now, in my late 20s, when I think back about that developmental time in my life, I often

Think of the positive in-

fluence that Eric had on my life. Despite only knowing him for about a year,

his kindness holds a strong memory that's lasted into my

(See MAILBOX, page 8)

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SOLAR

(Continued from first page)

lar farm facilities following the controversial approval of the 357-acre Aramis project in North Livermore. Three community groups filed suit to overturn the approval. A judge could rule anytime. Although they spent hours discussing the policies at two meetings, the supervisors made only small changes to proposals un-

veiled last month. Notably, the policies do not apply to parcels in the South Livermore Area plan to make sure the area’s vineyards are unaffected. At the root of the proposals, solar and battery projects will only be allowed in areas designated as Large Parcel Agriculture (LPA) sites within the East County

Area Plan (ECAP). Solar panel farms will require conditional use permits and environmental review, and will be listed as “electrical transmission corridor equipment,” not buildings. Initially capping the size at no more than 1,000 acres — although there could be discussion in the future to increase or remove the limit

completely — the supervisors altered how agrivoltaics, a process of growing crops or raising animals under the solar panels, would be utilized. Originally, the plan would have required companies proposing to build solar panel farms over 100 acres in size to include agrivoltaics. Instead, they will

be “encouraged” to do so. Anyone planning a solar farm under 100 acres also has the option to use agrivoltaics. Other policies require the solar facilities to comply with the county’s Williamson Act, which states non-agricultural structures that do not qualify as buildings must be located on no more

than 10% of the property, or 10 acres, whichever is less; and a solar farm entity using land designated as important farmland or prime soil must conserve an equal amount of land elsewhere, In addition, battery storage facilities no longer “must be” located close to existing facilities. Instead, (See SOLAR, page 7)

This Is the City Council's Plan



Proposed Eden Housing building, along the block on Railroad Avenue from L Street

■ 4-Stories High ■ No Promised Workforce

This is Save Livermore



Architectural rendering of proposed park along Railroad Avenue from L Street to

✓ A Destination Park ✓ 100% Public Open Space

*Isn't It Time We Had A City
for the Heart of*

There's still time to Save Livermore's downtown

SOLAR

(Continued from page 6)

they “should be encouraged” to be nearby.

About a dozen residents who called into the meeting were evenly split on the policies.

Resident David Rounds, who took part in a recent public workshop to offer the county ideas for policies, encouraged the board not

to approve what was before them.

“You all have a choice today,” he said. “You can direct staff to move forward on this cursory effort to come up with a policy that will allow development of thousands of acres of utility scale solar on the rural open space and agricultural lands in East Alameda County; or

you can take a leadership role in planning, developing and incentivizing the achievement of climate change goals by pushing photovoltaic solar to the built environment, in the suburban and urban core; on rooftops, on brownfields and in distributed, community serving microgrids within the Urban Growth

Boundary, while protecting the rapidly diminishing open space and agricultural land and habitat in the rural parts of the County.”

Resident Carol Silva said she also was disappointed the policies did not include provisions for urban solar.

“Why not incentivize urban areas to protect open space,” she said. “Also,

there were no changes involving biodiversity in the solar policy. Instead, it's left as like a footnote in regards to the solar policy. Measure D protection was not just for the land, but included wildlife that forage, migrate or nest on the land and all the waterways in Measure D areas.”

Larry Gosselin, a ranch-

er who serves on the county’s Agricultural Advisory Committee (AAC), and helped write solar policies that were sent to the supervisors, said he supported the board’s effort for innovation. A supporter of agrivoltaics, Gosselin said the Aramis project, which includes plans to raise ag-

(See SOLAR, page 8)

Plan for Livermore's Town Center



Street to the extension of K Street. Source: City of Livermore Planning Document.

Housing ■ **Makes Parking and Traffic Worse**

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the extension of K Street, with Eden Housing moved to another location nearby.

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LOVINS

(Continued from first page)

“Saved energy is the world’s biggest energy source,” he told the audience. “We doubled renewables (energy output), but that had 28 times less cumulative impact than the savings.”

He noted that renewable energy generators like solar and wind “get practically all the headlines because they’re visible,” but “the energy you don’t use” is almost unimaginably greater in scope.

Saving energy benefits the climate

As a climate benefit, he said, from 2014 through 2016 “the world’s saved energy avoided more than three times as much carbon dioxide (greenhouse gas) as all the renewable and nuclear growth did.”

His early interests were on the outdoors as much as on energy. In the 1960s, he worked as a mountain guide while photographing outdoor scenery and writing about conservation issues. He published his first book, “World Energy Strategies,” at the time of the energy crisis brought on by the 1973 Arab oil embargo.

He and his wife, Hunter Lovins, founded the Rocky Mountain Institute in Western Colorado in 1982, calling it a “think and do tank.” The terminology reflects the Institute’s plan not only to

offer new ideas, but also to develop designs and technologies for carrying them out.

Speaking at the Bankhead, Lovins cited his home in the Rocky Mountains as a demonstration laboratory for what is possible in energy savings on a small scale.

At 7,100 feet, despite winter temperatures that can plunge far below zero, the home requires no combustion-based heating, he said. Warmth is sustained almost entirely by passive means such as “super insulation” and “big super-windows that insulate like 16 or 22 sheets of glass but look like 2 and cost less than 3.”

He said the financial savings realized by not installing and operating a furnace exceeds the added costs of the windows and insulation.

The house has had an influence far beyond local efficiency, he said, since it “helped inspire several hundred thousand European passive buildings with – like ours – no heating and roughly normal construction costs.”

In addition, comparable building designs have proved effective “in hot muggy climates like Bangkok’s.”

In general, he said, the advantages of investing in infrastructure are overrated and those of smart design are underrated.

Recovering capital

Financially, cutting electrical demand through design changes brings “tremendous benefits.” Reducing demand requires “roughly a thousand-fold less capital and recovers it 10 times faster.”

Moving rapidly through detailed slides, he outlined one approach after another to saving energy through innovative design. A few examples:

* Most electricity runs motors. “Half goes to pumps and fans” that push some product through pipes and ducts.

The process is highly inefficient, with 90% of the energy generated in a power plant lost through inefficiencies that compound as the product completes its journey. By contrast, he said, thoughtful design of pipes and ducts can reduce 80-90% of the friction that inhibits flow and forces pumps to work hard.

“If done everywhere, (thoughtful design) could save about a fifth of the world’s electricity.”

RMI’s approach is to reverse the usual design, combining big pipes with small pumps instead of small pipes with big pumps. Pipes are laid out first to make sure of low-friction flow using approaches like eliminating elbows to reduce the need for powerful pumps.

* Weight reduction can make cars “several fold more efficient even before they’re electrified.” Lovins has owned a lightweight carbon fiber electric car for 9 years. The expensive carbon fiber material was “paid for by needing fewer batteries to propel the lighter weight car,” with fewer batteries needing less electricity purchased for recharging.

The car’s assembly takes less energy and time than a normal car, he said, with no need for the cost of repainting and some other maintenance. “Its quadrupled efficiency, at 124 mpg, comes without compromise and with many driver advantages.”

* The electrical industry is evolving rapidly as “powerful disruptors” force change “faster than most utility cultures can cope.”

Disruptors include the growth of wind power, photovoltaics that have rapidly become inexpensive, a revolution in lighting technology and the development of cheap, reliable batteries.

Renewable energy scales up in a “fundamentally different way” than “giant, cathedral-like power plants, which cost billions of dollars and take many years to license and build.”

Today, he said, an investment that might have built a giant power plant in the past can build a solar cell

factory that produces each year thereafter enough solar cells to generate ... as much electricity as the power plant ultimately would. So solar output worldwide is scaling faster than cellphones.”

While most of his talk discussed the kinds of energy efficiency issues he has worked on at RMI and now teaches at Stanford, Lovins responded to an audience question about local controversies, like the proposed 347-acre North Livermore Valley solar farm project.

He described it as “a controversy that pits our desire for solar energy against our need for open space.

Without addressing the legalities of a case now in court, he said one general solution is to “use the electricity efficiently,” implying minimizing the need for a large installation.

Another, “if you want to build solar big,” is to “put it in places that don’t sacrifice important community values...there are things called wires you can use to move the electricity” from distant, less sensitive sites.

He cited recent efforts by Stanford University to “go all solar” but making sure to “put solar (panels) in places that are not so sensitive.”

He cited parking lots, canals and rooftops as examples of places not likely to provoke controversy.

Geopolitics and the end of an era

Beyond the standard measures of business success, the world’s rapidly evolving energy scene is intertwined with some of the day’s great geopolitical currents, Lovins believes.

He is the descendant of Ukrainian grandparents, many of whose Jewish relatives were murdered by the Nazis in 1941. He mentioned “Putin’s war” in Ukraine repeatedly.

He believes that Putin is “blowing up the fossil fuel era” by forcing Europe and the rest of the world to find more reliable ways to obtain and save energy.

During the first two weeks of the war, western countries bought more than \$8 billion worth of Russian oil and gas, he recently told the UK Guardian.

That is changing rapidly. “Putin’s war has triggered a European and American led response likely to trigger a steep decline” in fossil fuel use, he told the Bankhead audience.

“Putin has set inexorably in motion all the outcomes he dreaded,” speeding the end of the fossil fuels that underpin his power.

“If we grasp this unique opportunity, as Europe is now doing with impressive focus and resolve, then Ukraine’s agony will not have been in vain.”

BUDGET

(Continued from first page)

pluses are about \$5 million a year. The increased budget is needed to fund the new city positions; pay consultants working on the city’s new General Plan; modernize the city’s technology; buy a police training simulator; provide grants for homelessness and affordable housing programs; pay Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department (LPFD) overtime costs; buy firefighting equipment; and pay claims filed against the city.

Although revenue increased, some one-time expenditures that include paying for the downtown parking structure and other capital improvement expenses, will result in a \$19 million shortfall that will be covered by reserves, officials said.

City officials, however, expect revenue to grow during the next five years.

That includes income from sales and hotel taxes that declined sharply during the COVID-19 pandemic, but have returned to near normal levels. Income from property taxes, meanwhile, continues to provide revenue as housing assessments increase what homeowners pay, Olson said.

Councilmember Trish Munro called that good for the city, but bad for residents.

According to a written report by Roberts, property tax revenue is projected to increase by \$2.5 million, from \$40.5 million in fiscal year 2021-22 to \$43 million in fiscal year 2022-23. Sales tax revenue is projected to increase from \$37.6 million to \$39.1 million, partly due to the pandemic recovery and inflation. Sales tax revenue, Roberts wrote, is strong because of the Outlet Mall,

the city’s auto dealerships, and the addition of non-retail sales tax producers.

Besides the crisis intervention specialist, the city plans to use its budget to hire a manager for its stormwater program; an additional LPFD battalion chief; a librarian; a senior civil engineer; an IT engineer; a crime analyst; and a climate action manager.

The council workshop, in which no action was taken, was held to educate the members on how the city’s money is spent. In the coming weeks, the council will discuss staff proposals on how to stash revenue, reserves and surpluses to fund pensions and infrastructure repairs. Roberts said the city owns \$3.5 billion in infrastructure and is underfunding maintenance by \$12 million a year.

The council learned last

December that the cost to repair or replace assets such as traffic signals, public buildings, bridges, traffic signs and streetlights was estimated to be around \$330 million total for medium-to-high-risk assets. However, in March this year, the council declined to place a sales tax initiative aimed to fund general city infrastructure and services on the November ballot, after a survey by Fairbank, Maslin, Maullin, Metz & Associates determined 51% of those polled would not support a tax measure.

During a discussion, Mayor Bob Woerner called the budget “prudent.” Vice Mayor Gina Bonanno said she supported all of the new positions because each affects and improves the quality of life for every community member, “whether it’s the library, public safety,

infrastructure, sustainability, information system.”

“That all comes back to what we provide the community, who, after all, is paying for this,” Bonanno said.

In addition to the budget discussion, City Engineer Bob Vinn listed some of the city’s projects completed during the last year, including 27 street lights downtown; bike lane improvements on First Street; bike racks throughout the downtown; work on the Iron Horse Trail and a pedestrian bridge. Projects soon to be completed include the

downtown I Street parking structure, Livermorium Plaza and an emergency generator at the city’s water treatment plant.

SOLAR

(Continued from page 7)

riculture under the panels, should serve as a model for future projects.

Gosselin, however, disagreed with limiting solar farms to LPA. He said that will decrease the likelihood of developing “urban-rural interface, microgrids and other benefits that would be available to just a large parcel of property.”

“There’s a little bit of a conflict there that we need to move beyond,” Gosselin said.

Dick Schneider, an author of Measure D, which voters approved in 2000 to protect open space and agricultural land, said he was disappointed and frustrated with the policies. He said the county ignored the work of the AAC and the public’s input.

“The policy is vague, identifies many topics that still need completion and basically ignores the work that was done to get to this

point,” Schneider said. “The county held a three hour community meeting in February...very little if any of the recommendations from the public at that meeting is reflected in the current policy force.”

Tim Frank, representing the Alameda County Building and Construction Trades Council, said the organization supported “rapid scaling of renewable energy production and storage needed to meet our region’s greenhouse gas reduction goals.”

“We agree with many other stakeholders here that increasing the efficient utilization of prime solar land in Alameda County by targeting long fallow farmland and also by allowing projects with greater efficiencies of scale should be a prime goal of the solar siting policy,” Frank said.

He added that “utility scale renewable storage

projects in California generally have a good record of creating good union jobs.”

Anat Razon, an Alameda County resident who described herself as a solar energy professional, said she called in to thank the board for its work.

“Given the climate change crisis, and the need for more renewable energy, I urge you to put a plan in place so that we can have more solar installed in Alameda County and start mitigating climate change for ourselves and the future generations that are to come.”

Among the policies that received minor changes in language was one that gave the East Bay Community Energy (EBCE) company the right of first refusal to buy the generated energy from solar farms in the county. Supervisor David Haubert suggested the policy language be altered

to encourage the company to bid on the energy, but not make it a requirement.

Supervisor Richard Valle, who had raised the issue, suggested county authorities speak to EBCE officials to make sure they understood that the benefits of any solar power development in Alameda County should first benefit its residents.]

Supervisor Nate Miley, who questioned how long it would take for the proposed ordinances to come back to the panel, said he recognized that some residents felt the county’s civic engagement was insufficient.

“I just want, once again before we make the final adoption, to ensure that there’ll be additional opportunities for the public to weigh in,” he said. “I do think it’s important that the perfect not be the enemy of the good, and I do think for the most part, this is good stuff.”

MAILBOX

(Continued from page 5)

adult life. He is running for the Alameda County Board of Education, and I’m confident that Eric will continue to do an incredible job of shaping the lives of young people. Alameda County and the community is lucky to have Eric, and I encourage everyone to elect Eric to the Alameda County Board of Education.

Get to Know Shawn Kumagai

Amy Miller, Dublin

I was very surprised and, frankly, somewhat astounded to read the untruthful and random attack on Assembly candidate Shawn Kumagai that appeared in your May 12, 2022 “Mailbox.” At

every Dublin City Council meeting I have attended over the years and during smaller group meetings with Kumagai, I’ve observed him listening carefully to constituents’ views, treating them with great respect, and weighing important decisions critically before voting. A quick look at his record of outstanding service to our community and his 20 plus years of service to our country in the U.S. Navy belie the unsubstantiated claims in the letter. Kumagai takes tremendous pride, as well, in having spearheaded Dublin’s forward-thinking policy on flying the Pride flag, which was the catalyst that other cities then followed. J. Gordon, It doesn’t

seem as though you actually know Shawn. Maybe grab a coffee with him and have a conversation.

Vote for Jennifer Esteen

T. Tran, Dublin

I am writing to urge voters in AD 20 to support Jennifer Esteen. This tireless community organizer and advocate has the right stuff to represent us in Sacramento. She knows and cares about the needs and concerns of our constituents and will make sure that the unincorporated areas are heard and seen. In addition to her keen intelligence, seemingly boundless energy, and can-do attitude, her background as a psychiatric nurse has uniquely equipped her

to handle health care issues, new policing policies with regard to the mentally ill, and difficult situations and people in general. We need a strong voice in the assembly. Join me in voting for Jennifer Esteen.

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VOTING

(Continued from first page)

in the primary, with the second-place candidate facing him in November. State Sen. Brian Dahle, who represents a large Northern California district running along the Nevada and Oregon borders, is considered the top Republican candidate.

Statewide

Voters also will choose whether to re-elect Democratic Lt. Gov. Eleni Kounalakis for a second term or pick one of seven challengers. Secretary of State Shirley Weber, whom Newsom appointed to the position after he named Alex Padilla to replace Vice President Kamala Harris as U.S. senator, faces her first election for the post against six challengers.

Also appointed when his predecessor, Xavier Becerra, was named to President Joseph Biden's cabinet, Attorney General Rob Bonta has four people trying to replace him, including Sacramento District Attorney Anne Marie Schubert.

Voters will pick a new state Controller, whose candidates include the Tri-Valley's Democratic State Sen. Steve Glazer; and decide whether to re-elect Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara, Treasurer Fiona Ma and state Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond to their posts.

Regional

On the federal portion of the ballot, California's first Latino U.S. senator, Padilla, must win twice: first to complete his current term through Jan. 3, because he was initially appointed; and the other to elect him to a full-term through 2029. The Democrat faces several opponents, including constitutional attorney Mark Meuser, who was endorsed by the Republican Party.

U.S. Rep. Eric Swalwell, who has represented the Tri-Valley in Congress since 2013, is running for his newly drawn District 14 seat against six candidates, including spe-

cial education teacher Alison Hayden, a Republican he defeated 71% to 29% in 2020. The district represents Livermore, Pleasanton, Hayward and Fremont.

Some Dublin residents shifted to the newly drawn Congressional District 10 will find U.S. Rep. Mark DeSaulnier — a Democrat who previously represented the 11th District, including Danville, Orinda, Pleasant Hill and Richmond — and two challengers on their ballots.

Tri-Valley voters will, for the third time, choose between Democratic Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan and Republican businessman Joseph Rubay for the District 16 State Assembly seat. Bauer-Kahan defeated Rubay twice in 2020 and will face off against him again in November because they are the only two candidates.

Dublin and Pleasanton residents now living in the newly drawn 20th Assembly District will have a choice of three Democrats and a Republican. The candidates include Dublin City Councilmember Shawn Kumagai and the Republican, retired laboratory scientist Joseph Grear, who ran for the post in 2018.

Locally

Tri-Valley voters will have a say about who leads the Alameda County District Attorney's Office. Four candidates are vying to replace retiring Nancy O'Malley. They are civil rights attorney Pamela Price; Seth Steward, chief of staff for an Oakland city councilmember; Terry Wiley, chief assistant district attorney; and veteran prosecutor Jimmie L. Wilson. Unless one candidate wins more than 50% in June, the top two finishers will head to a runoff in November.

Residents also will decide if they want to retain Alameda County Sheriff-Coroner Gregory Ahern for a fifth term or replace him with one of two female challengers trying to become the first women

and first person of color to head the law enforcement agency. The candidates are Yesenia Sanchez, a division commander who took over the troubled Santa Rita Jail in Dublin in 2020, and San Francisco Police Officer JoAnn Walker. The top two finishers will head to a runoff in November unless one wins outright.

Countywide

Voters will find some positions with only a single candidate, including assessor (Phong La), auditor/controller (Melissa Wilk) and treasurer/tax collector (Henry Levy), along with three judicial posts (Tamiza Hockenhull, Office #1; Pelayo A. Llamas, Office #12; Michael Bishay, Office #21).

Tri-Valley residents also must choose whether to re-elect L.K. Monroe as superintendent of the Alameda County Office of Education (ACOE). Alysse Castro, a San Francisco Unified School District administrator, is running against Monroe.

Three candidates are running for ACOE's 7th Trustee area seat, which represents the Tri-Valley. Yvonne Cerrato held the position for 20 years, but chose not to run again. Educator and parent Kate Dao, public school administrator Eric Dillie and retired teacher Cheryl Cook-Callio are vying for the spot.

Four seats are available on the Flood Control and Water Conservation District Directors Zone 7 Board of Directors. Incumbents Dennis Gambis, Sarah Palmer and Olivia Sanwong are on the ballot, along with water agency professional Dawn Benson and pharmacist Todd Shinohara. The top four win.

All California voters were sent a mail-in ballot the second week in May. The last day to register to vote is May 23. For a list of vote centers, go to acgov.org/rov_app/vcalist. A list of drop boxes is available at www.acgov.org/rovapps/maps/ballotdrop_box_map.htm.

dent Shirley Lewandowski asked. "We're just trying to live as normal and healthy, and in an area we'd like to protect as much as possible."

Resident Tamara Reus said the risks to air quality concerned her.

"I understand what it's like to be a parent of someone who has asthma attacks and has to go to the hospital because of that," she said. "I just don't see any reason that we need to put those kinds of emissions out in our environment for a project where technology is in flux, and there's so many harmful risks involved."

Despite the negative comments, Haubert said it appeared the project was necessary so that Alameda County would "be taking care of our own mess." He appeared to be ready to approve it.

Miley, however, said he was swayed by Cabanne and the residents' comments. He said he would not vote for the plan unless Harding lowered its daily maximum tonnage from 1,000 to no more than 500 a day. He wasn't concerned about whether that's enough for the business to succeed.

"I think the applicant would be wise to cut (to) the 500 tons per day," Miley said.

He added that Harding might not get approval from the other government agencies anyway.

"I'm not concerned about the economics," Miley said.

ate for this piece of land," said Commissioner Dawn Benson.

Both the commission and staff acknowledged the growing demand for assisted living in the Tri-Valley.

The commission's recommendation follows a similar suggestion just two weeks prior for a memory care and assisted living facility on the Valley Christian Center property on Inspiration Drive, led by Fulcrum Development.

The project will next go before the city council for approval.

OBITUARIES

CORRECTION OF SERVICE

Robert Bedford

Aug. 16, 1933 – Jan. 13, 2022

A Celebration of Life will be held in honor of the life lived by Robert Bedford at his son's residence (2405 Wedgewood Way in Livermore) on Friday, May 27, 2022, from 3-5 p.m. We hope you can join us in the celebration and will share this invitation with any of Robert's friends that may like to join us.

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

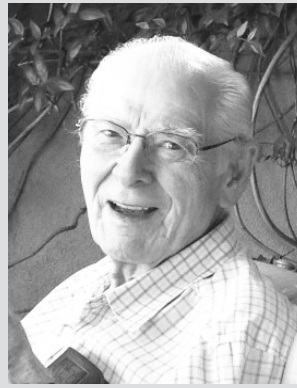
Maurice August Ghysels

Feb. 13, 1929 – Dec. 29, 2021

Maurice August Ghysels died peacefully on Dec. 29, 2021 holding the hands of his children, Ivonne and Maurice, in Pleasanton, California.

He was born on Feb. 13, 1929, in Racine, Wisconsin, to Cyrille and Ivonne Ghysels, who were immigrants from Ghent, Belgium. Maurice's father died when he was three years old leaving his mother to provide for him and his older brother, Albert. She had very little knowledge of the English language and had to find work relying on her neighbors to help raise her boys. Maurice endured many hardships as a child and as a result was basically on his own. He was a butcher until he was 17 years old, at which time he joined the Navy. He was stationed on the USS FDR aircraft carrier from 1946-48. He sailed the Caribbean and Mediterranean and loaded ordinance in 5-inch cannons. He loved the Navy. It was the first time he had a stable life. He was honorably discharged and attended airplane mechanics school in California, graduating top of his class. Upon graduation he was offered a position in Florida but decided to stay in California.

His mother married Santo "Sam" Sturino. They lived in Van Nuys, California. Sam had a large Italian family in Kenosha, Wisconsin. After his military discharge, Maurice joined them on a visit to Kenosha



where he met the love of his life, Sam's niece, Carmella Trotta. Maurice stayed in Wisconsin a short time until he decided to help Sam in his painting and decorating business in California. Carmella moved to California where they were married in 1949. Their daughter, Ivonne, was born in 1950, and son Maurice Cyrille in 1956. He was so proud of his children throughout their lives. His family brought him great joy.

In 1970, Maurice moved to Pleasanton, California, and worked with his brother, Al, in his cabinet shop. In the early 1980's he started working at LLNL and retired in 1992 to care for his ailing wife. They were happily married until Carmella's death in 1994. In 1995, Maurice met Adele Waldman who was his companion and love until her death in 2017. Maurice was first and foremost a family man. He was always on the go helping everyone with projects. He could fix and

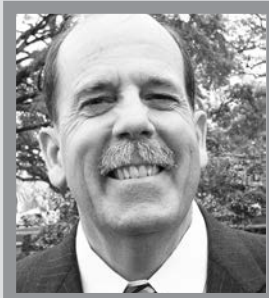
build anything like a pro. He was fun-loving, funny, kind, friendly, always happy with a positive attitude and had a kind word for everyone. He focused on the good. He was patient and a wonderful caregiver. Because of the hardships of his childhood, he was very frugal, yet very loving. Maurice enjoyed being on the go whether he was doing a build-it project, perusing the aisles of any store, taking day trips or traveling and exploring the world with Carmella and Adele.

Maurice was the patriarch of a large loving family, he is survived by his daughter Ivonne Witt and her husband Michael; his son Maurice C. Ghysels, EdD and his wife, Carmen; grandchildren Marcella Witt Rampoldi (Dean); Melissa Witt (Mark Grace); Aja Lodigiani (Stephen); and Michael Ghysels; great-grandchildren, Anna, Emma Rampoldi, Mateo, and Giulia Lodigiani; along with many beloved nieces, nephews and extended family. Maurice will be greatly missed by his family, friends and his caregivers at The Parkview in Pleasanton. He was preceded in death by his wife, Carmella; companion Adele Waldman; and brother, Albert. A private burial was held. There will be a celebration of life on June 4, 2022. Please contact the family by May 28 for details. Maurice was loved and will be missed by all who knew him.

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Timothy Peter Evans

March 9, 1948 – May 8, 2022



Timothy Peter Evans passed peacefully on Sunday, May 8, 2022. He was at home surrounded by family. Tim was born in Helena, Montana to Boyce and Patricia Evans. Tim retired from Sandia National Lab, where he worked as a Patent Agent. Tim was a long-time member of Asbury United Methodist Church. He is survived by his wife of 42 years, Linda Evans, son Nicholas and daughter Laura, as well as his brother Christopher Evans.

A memorial service to celebrate Tim's life will be held at Asbury United Methodist Church, 4743 East Ave., Livermore, on May 21, 2022, at 11 a.m., followed by a reception in the Fellowship Hall.

Bonnie Brown

Feb. 1943 – May 2022

Bonnie was born to Dorothy Selleck and Clyde Field in Oakland, California in February 1943. She graduated from Castlemont High School and went to work for Wells Fargo.

Bonnie married Harold Brown in September 1963 in Oakland. They moved to Livermore in 1967 and she became a stay-at-home mom, raising three sons. Bonnie was married to Harold for 58 years, enjoying her family and friends, as well as family trips, going to the movies and exploring new places to enjoy dinners with her family.

Bonnie was preceded in death by her oldest son Greg in 1978 and her mother in 1996. Bonnie is survived by Harold, her sons Mike and Jeff, her grandchildren Thomas and Lindsay and her daughter-in-law Carol.

A public service was held for Bonnie. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to Stanford hospital or Hope Hospice.

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



CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Pamela L. Rose

Dec. 13, 1961 – May 1, 2022

Pam Rose, 60 years old, peacefully passed away at home in Discovery Bay from complications due to melanoma. Pam was born in San Jose to DeWitt Ault and Lilly Ault and was raised in Pleasanton where she attended Foothill High School and was on the swim team and played clarinet in the marching band.

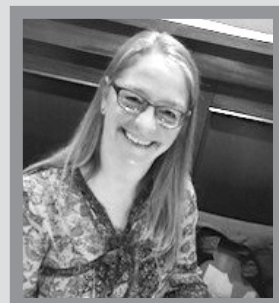
She loved boating and related water sports and met her husband Mike while attending a Fun and Sun Waterski Club event. She excelled as an administrator in the construction industry, working for firms such as Callahan Pense, Clark Construction, Nibbi Brothers, Ryan Associates and ADI in San Francisco and in the East Bay.

But her love was fine wine, and she quickly became a respected member of the Livermore wine community, first volunteering for Eckert Estates Winery and then working at The Lineage Wine Collection (The Steven Kent Winery) for the past 10 years. She was adored by friends and coworkers for her engaging smile and great sense of humor. She will surely be missed by all who knew her.

Pam is survived by her husband, Mike Rose, uncle Richard Ault, brother Doug (Sue) Ault, nieces Melanie (Todd) Lindgren, Kelle (Greg) Hutter and Amanda (Danny) Haberman, brother-in-law's Mark (Robin) Rose and Scott (Angie) Rose, Mike's daughters Christina (Nick) Nichols and Caroline Nelson and grandsons Nicky and Liam Nichols and Wyatt Gormican.

With credit due to Mike's daughter, Christina, Pam had been vehemently pursuing a mostly whole-food, plant-based diet over the past few years to promote good health and increase her longevity, citing Dr. Michael Gregor's How Not to Die books and the PLANT-STRONG vegan lifestyle, eventually hoping it might reverse some of the ravages of her melanoma. With this in mind, memorial contributions may be made to NutritionFacts.org.

A celebration of life will be held at The Lineage Wine Collection, 5443 Tesla Road, Livermore, California on Sunday June 5, at noon.



COMPOSTING

(Continued from first page)

The Jess/Harding proposal aimed to create a facility that would accept green waste, food waste, biosolids, untreated scrap wood, natural fire products, non-recyclable paper waste, an inert material, including gypsum and clean construction debris. The facility would create fertilizer and other products to sell to farms in the Central Valley.

Harding proposed to treat a maximum 200,750 tons of waste annually, or about 550 tons a day. However, some days might be lower and others higher, with up to 1,000 tons processed a day.

Besides health risks, Cabanne argued the plant violated Measure D requirements to protect agricultural land, would create traffic and air pollution, and wasn't needed. Alameda County, she said, already has three large composting centers: Waste Management Composting at the Altamont Landfill; Green Vision near Livermore; and Davis Street Recycling and Composting in San Leandro. Combined, those facilities process 1,200 tons of waste a day.

And, she said, composted materials combined with biosolids – human waste – are not allowed for use in any Alameda County city, park, or residence.

"The residents of East County should not have to bear the health risks for a product that can only be used in rural San Joaquin County

and the Central Valley," she said. "This large project will make it impossible for the East County to meet Clean Air Standards of 2017 that will be implemented by the end of 2022."

Harding disagreed, saying his proposal did not pose health risks to residents.

"The nearest neighbor is over a mile away," Harding told the supervisors. "The project will provide an in-county solution for an anticipated increase in organics recycling that is being required by the state. Currently, the only large-scale composting facility in Alameda County is located at the Altamont landfill and I believe that facility is at full capacity."

Besides the Supervisors' approval, Harding also would require permits to operate from the Bay Area Air Quality Management District, the Alameda County Department of Environmental Health, the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle), and the Alameda County Waste Management Authority.

Five people spoke against the facility, encouraging the supervisors to uphold Cabanne's appeal. Just one spoke in favor.

"It just seems that this department continues to approve projects that will negatively affect the Tri-Valley up to East County. Why is that?" Dublin resi-

its operations.

The site's location, continued Johnson, would also open opportunities for intergenerational activities in conjunction with the future Dublin Crossing school site. About a tenth of a mile away, students could volunteer at the senior center, benefiting students and seniors alike, he added.

The other commissioners expressed interest in co-locating assisted living with a business park and welcomed a use for the long-vacant parcel.

"In this day and age, this seems more appropri-

FACILITY

(Continued from first page)

ing dates back to 1998 and, while the city envisioned office and research and development uses for the site at the time, such a project has yet to materialize.

"The site hasn't come to fruition for that," continued Annibale. "So there isn't a market there for that. There is a market here for senior assisted living facilities."

Josh Johnson, chief operating officer of West Bay Senior Living, the prospective operator of the facility, added that the center would provide about 75 full-time jobs plus vendor and contractor demand as part of

Amador Valley Takes Second Place in Playoffs

By Nathan Canilao

The Amador Valley High School boys' volleyball team took second place in the North

Coast Section (NCS) playoffs on May 12, losing in the championship final against the College Park High School Falcons.



Amador's Luke Melvin spikes the ball past Collage Park player Sami Hieta during the May 12 battle for the 2022 CIF North Coast Section Boys Volleyball Championships Division 1 title. College Park won 3 matches to 1. [See photo gallery at www.independentnews.com/multimedia] (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)

Livermore Softball Wins EBAL Championship

By Nathan Canilao

The Livermore High School softball team defeated the Granada Matadors by a score of 2-0 on May 12. With the win, the Cowboys captured the 2022 East Bay Athletic League (EBAL) Championship.

The game was all about defense for both teams. The Cowboys scored the first run of the game during the 2nd inning and scored another in the 3rd inning.

The Cowboys' defense was phenomenal in this game with senior Taylor Rodriguez pitching a shutout through seven innings. She finished the game with nine strikeouts and allowed just four hits.

Rodriguez was also a force on the offensive end for the Cowboys. She finished the game going 1-for-3 with a homerun.

Though it was a tough game offensively for the Matadors, their defense played as well as it could. Junior pitcher Alex Mello



Livermore High's Kaitlyn Aguilar slides safely into second base, as Granada's Mariah Ayala catches the ball on Thursday, May 12. The varsity softball teams met for the second time in a week, this time to decide the EBAL softball Championship. Livermore won 2-0. [See photo gallery at www.independentnews.com/multimedia] (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)

finished the game allowing just two runs and striking out four batters.

The Cowboys have beaten the Matadors two out of three matchups this year, with the last two wins coming in the past two weeks.

The Dons started their playoff run with wins over Deer Valley High School and Heritage High School. In the semi-final, they swept Tri-Valley rival Granada High School at home 3-0.

The Dons moved on to the championship game facing College Park High School, the 2nd ranked North Coast Section team.

The first set was very close with the Dons pushing the Falcons to extra points. The Falcons would go on a 2-0 run at the end of the set to take the first set 28-26.

The second set was close to start, but the Falcons would capitalize off of solid serves and solid defensive play, taking the second set 25-20.

Amador would fight back in the third set as they were able to turn the tables on College Park. They squeaked out a tightly contested 25-21 set win to bring them to a fourth set.

The fourth set was also a close contest with both teams going back and forth. However, the Falcons were able to go on a run late in the set and closed out the Dons to win the NCS Championship.

The Dons playoff run ends with three wins and one loss. Their season is not over just yet as they will compete in the CIF State championship playoffs at the Division II level.

Duo Named to National Water Polo Team

By Matt Schwab

They're club teammates, high school rivals and intense competitors in the pool.

Their resumes are impressive too.

Livermore residents Tyler Laymon and Piero Arianti were recently selected to the 2022 USA Men's Youth National Water Polo team — a 40-player squad divided into two traveling teams.

Laymon, a junior at De La Salle High, is set to travel to Hungary in August with a squad composed of players born in 2005 or younger.

Arianti, a San Ramon Valley High senior who has signed with Cal, also has an opportunity to travel to Serbia with an 18-and-older team, but he's still weighing his options.

Laymon and Arianti both compete for the 680 Drivers club team based in Danville, but they're rooted in Livermore aquatics. They both started out playing water polo for head coach Matt Croghan's LARPD Livermore Lasers.

"I definitely say Matt gave me my start and helped me love water polo," said Laymon, who plays the center defender position. "That was the program that taught me the fundamentals and basics and what it means to play. I wouldn't be where I am without that program."

Arianti, a center who was selected MVP of the East Bay Athletic League for the 2021 fall season, describes the Livermore community as always being a "super supportive" and happy about his accomplishments.

A powerful presence in the water, Arianti credits Croghan with helping him with his swimming technique last year when he was going through another selection process.

"Swimming has always been my weak point," Arianti shared. "I'm a pretty big dude. I'm never going to be the fastest guy in the pool. I asked him to help me train ... He would fix my technique, like we worked together several times at various pools ... He was super happy to help."

Laymon also represented the USA Cadet squad a year ago in Hungary, and was second-team All-EBAL last season. The international experience opened his eyes to the highest levels of the sport.

"It was definitely a great opportunity," Laymon said. "You're going to a different country with the flag on your back, and so not only do have to play like that when you're in the water, but you have to act like that when you're outside the water."

"So I think it definitely helped me mature," he continued. "Water polo-wise you're playing with the best in the world, so you're bound to get better."

Playing different positions, Laymon and Arianti squared off directly in the pool in high school play.

"I know him really well,"



Tyler Laymon (left), Matt Croghan and Piero Arianti are shown here at the Livermore Community Center. (Photo courtesy of Amy Laymon)

Laymon says of Arianti, "Piero is definitely one of our leaders on our 680 team — a beast in the water and a great kid outside the pool. Definitely nothing but high praises for him."

Arianti says he followed Laymon's lead when it came to transitioning from the Livermore Lasers to the larger 680 Drivers. The two competitors would carpool together to club practices, but it was serious business when San Ramon Valley and De La Salle would square off in the EBAL.

"We were definitely rivals when I was at San Ramon and he was at De La Salle," Arianti said. "He would guard me in games and we'd have some tussles or whatever. We played hard, but it was always, like everything always gets left in the water. There's never been any animosity. He's actually improved so much. ... He's not just some other guy I can easily mess with. He's seriously improved. Great, I'm super happy for him."

Laymon is enjoying a sensational year in the pool. He helped De La Salle to its first CIF North Coast Section water polo championship since 2004 in November with a win over Miramonte in the Open Division championship game. The Spartans' motto for the playoffs was to "Play like a

champion."

"I love De La Salle," Laymon shared, noting that his junior year was still wrapping up.

Before heading to Europe, the U.S. Youth National Team will head to Southern California on Memorial Day Weekend for training.

Arianti is thrilled to soon be heading to Cal, which won its first NCAA championship since 2016 last season. Practice starts July 22 with the Golden Bears, and Arianti is set to move in on Aug. 16-17. Cal coach Kirk Everist doubles as the 18-under coach and technical director for 680 Water Polo.

"I'm super, super excited for Cal," Arianti said. "I've been literally dreaming about it. It was my dream school, and dreams come true, I guess."



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Tri-Valley Schools Perform at Championships

By Nathan Canilao

All five Tri-Valley high schools competed at the North Coast Section (NCS) Tri-Valley Area Championships on May 14 and competed against some of the best track and field teams in the East Bay. Each school had moments of greatness, scoring high marks in each event.

Emma Lim from Foothill High School took second

place in the section 2 girls' 100M hurdles with a time of 16.50.

Foothill also dominated the girls' 400M dash with Sabrina Nelson and Kayla Galvez taking first place in section 1 and 2 of the event.

Alexander Franco of Dublin High School took first place in the boys' 400m dash finals with a time of 50.21.

Dublin also had a winner in the girls' 100M dash uni-

fied event final with Rachel Johnson-Okwudiafor taking first place with a time of 13.32.

Livermore High School had a solid outing in the jumps event. Dwayne Noel won the boys' high jump final with a score of 6-06.00.

The Tri-Valley high schools will compete in the North Coast Section Meet of Champions which will take place May 20 and 21 at Dublin High School.

Foothill Baseball Takes East Bay Athletic League Championship

By Nathan Canilao



Foothill player Gabe DeBenedetto backed up by Payton McMillan, catches a fly ball to centerfield during the May 11 Foothill High baseball game against Cal High. Foothill won 3-0. [See photo gallery at www.independentnews.com/multimedia] (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)

The Foothill High School baseball team defeated the De La Salle Spartans 4-1 on May 13 to win the East Bay Athletic League Championship. The Falcons capped off their EBAL tournament run defeating the 12th ranked team in the state.

The Spartans struck first, scoring the game's first run in the first inning of play, but the Falcons shut them out from that point on.

The Falcons got off to a slow start offensively, but picked up their play in the 5th inning. The Falcons would score four straight runs and take a 4-1 lead heading into the 6th inning.

Foothill's pitching closed out the Spartans in the final innings and the Falcons would capture the EBAL title.

Junior pitcher Tyler Gebb was terrific for the Falcons allowing just one run and two hits in seven innings pitched. The Falcons fielders had 21 putouts on the day as well.

Falcons' senior Evan

Bittler went 2-for-4 with two RBIs. Senior Gabe DeBenedetto went 1-for-3 with an RBI.

With the win, the Falcons clinched the No. 1 seed in the North Coast Section playoffs which will start on May 17.



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Cantabella Children's Chorus to Celebrate 30 Year Anniversary

The Cantabella Children's Chorus will celebrate its 30th anniversary with spring concerts at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore on Saturday, May 21.

The program's Children's Choir, with students in fifth through eighth grade, will perform at 1 p.m., with the Chamber Choir, for older students, performing at 4 p.m.

This will also be Eileen Chang's last concert. Chang, who

was named artistic director in 2017, is retiring after 12 years with the organization.

Tickets for the performances are \$25 for adults and \$8 for children under 18. Tickets are available at LivermoreArts.org or cantabella.org/tickets.

Cantabella Children's Chorus is a non-profit organization that offers training programs in Livermore and Pleasanton.



The Cantabella Children's Chorus will perform at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore on Saturday, May 21. (Photo courtesy of the Bankhead Theater)

Blood Drive Set for June 13 at Dublin Library

The American Red Cross will conduct a blood drive from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., on Friday, June 13, in the Community Room at the Dublin Library, 200 Civic Plaza.

To register, call 800-733-2767 or visit RedCross.org and sign up using the sponsor code "Dublin Community."

LEGAL NOTICES/CLASSIFIEDS

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LEGAL NOTICES

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME

Case No. 22CV010036

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF ALAMEDA

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

Petitioner:
Lisa Ann Carter
903 Kolin Street
Pleasanton, CA 94566
(925)998-9135
lisa_ann_carter@hotmail.com
filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:

Present Name:
Lisa Ann Carter
Proposed Name:
Lisa Ann Holmquist

THE COURT ORDERS

that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.

NOTICE OF HEARING

Date: 6/10/2022
Time: 11:00 AM
Dept: 17

The address of the court is: **Alameda County Administration Building 1221 Oak Street Oakland, CA 94612**

A copy of this Order To Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation printed in this county: The Independent Newspaper 2250 First Street, Livermore, CA 94550

Dated: 4/18/2022 /s/ Electronically Filed - Xian-xii Bowie, Deputy Clerk - Judge Hon. Frank Roesch.

The Independent, Legal No. 5144, Published April 28, May 5, 12, 19, 2021.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 588083

The following person(s) doing business as: Transport World, 39675 Cedar Blvd # 1000, Newark, CA 94560, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Yusuf Saad, 46097 Raindance Rd, Fremont, CA 94539. 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/: Yusuf Saad, Applicant/Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 7, 2022. Expires April 6, 2027. The Independent, Legal No. 5145 Published April 28, May 5, 12, 19, 2022.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 588340

The following person(s) doing business as: Crochet Boutique and Beyond, 3767 Ferncroft Way, Dublin, CA 94568, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Shatha Khairalla, 3767 Ferncroft Way, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 4/19/22. Signature of Registrant/s/: Shatha Khairalla, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 19, 2022. Expires April 18, 2027. The Independent, Legal No. 5146 Published April 28, May 5, 12, 19, 2022.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 588015

The following person(s) doing business as: Village Daycare, 8112 Mulberry Place, Dublin, CA 94568, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Tvaprakash Singh, 8112 Mulberry Place, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted

by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 7/22/21. Signature of Registrant/s/: Tvaprakash Singh, Director. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 5, 2022. Expires April 4, 2027. The Independent, Legal No. 5147 Published April 28, May 5, 12, 19, 2022.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 588338

The following person(s) doing business as: Patty's Rito Food, 3000 Fruitvale Ave, Apt 6, Oakland, CA 94602, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Soledad P. Rito Sosa, 3000 Fruitvale Ave, Apt 6, Oakland, CA 94602; Nelser P. Perez Guzman, 3000 Fruitvale Ave, Apt 6, Oakland, CA 94602. This business is conducted by a Married Couple. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 7/1/21. Signature of Registrant/s/: Soledad Rito Sosa, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 18, 2022. Expires April 17, 2027. The Independent, Legal No. 5148 Published April 28, May 5, 12, 19, 2022.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 587809

The following person(s) doing business as: Fortune Real estate Investments, 4695 Chabot Dr. Suite 200, Pleasanton, CA 94588, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Hua Liu, 557 Kingsbridge CT, San Ramon, CA 94583. 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/: Hua Liu, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 30, 2022. Expires March 29, 2027. The Independent, Legal No. 5149 Published April 28, May 5, 12, 19, 2022.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 588368

The following person(s) doing business as: Nourish Healthy Habits, 5806 W. Las Positas Blvd, Pleasanton, CA 94588, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Karuna Kherra, 5806 W. Las Positas Blvd, 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: 12/9/2021. Signature of Registrant/s/: Karuna Kherra, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 19, 2022. Expires April 18, 2027. The Independent, Legal No. 5150 Published May 5, 12, 19, 26, 2022.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 588078

The following person(s) doing business as: Aloha Nail, 869 E. Stanley Blvd, Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Lan Xuan Nguyen, 534 Downslen Blvd, San Jose, CA 95133. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 4/4/22. Signature of Registrant/s/: Lan Xuan Nguyen, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 7, 2022. Expires April 6, 2027. The Independent, Legal No. 5151 Published May 5, 12, 19, 26, 2022.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 588408

The following person(s) doing business as: Oaktown Flour Shop, 6662 Liggett Drive, Oakland, CA 94611, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Christine Ong, 6662 Liggett Drive, Oakland, CA 94611. 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/: Christine Ong, Owner. This statement was

filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 20, 2022. Expires April 19, 2027. The Independent, Legal No. 5152 Published May 5, 12, 19, 26, 2022.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 588598

The following person(s) doing business as: Wiztech Computer & IT, 5147 Sunburst Lane, Livermore, CA 94551, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Cody Joseph Shubin, 5147 Sunburst Lane, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Cody Joseph Shubin, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 27, 2022. Expires April 26, 2027. The Independent, Legal No. 5153 Published May 5, 12, 19, 26, 2022.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 588549

The following person(s) doing business as: Lusty Creations, 3856 Dartmouth Way, Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): LustyCo, LLC, 3856 Dartmouth Way, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 4/12/22. Signature of Registrant/s/: Christine Lusty, CEO/Manager. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 26, 2022. Expires April 25, 2027. The Independent, Legal No. 5154 Published May 5, 12, 19, 26, 2022.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 588665

The following person(s) doing business as: Bag C Mini (Bay Area Gun Club Mini), 1463 103rd Ave, Oakland, CA 94603, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Bay Area Gun Club Mini (Bag C.), 2112 Silver Oak Lane, Cares, CA 95307. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Channon SMith, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 29, 2022. Expires April 28, 2027. The Independent, Legal No. 5155 Published May 5, 12, 19, 26, 2022.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 588684

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Paula LeDuc Fine Catering & Events; 2. LeDuc Events, 1350 Park Ave, Emeryville, CA 94608, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Une Fete Complete, 1350 Park Ave, Emeryville, CA 94608. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 4/1/22. Signature of Registrant/s/: Tom F. Devine, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 29, 2022. Expires April 28, 2027. The Independent, Legal No. 5156 Published May 5, 12, 19, 26, 2022.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 588664

The following person(s) doing business as: TruckN on C.G. Smith's Authority, 1463 103rd Ave, Oakland, CA 94603, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): TruckN on C.G. Smith's Authority, 2112 Silver Oak Lane, Cares, CA 95307. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Channon Smith, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 29, 2022. Expires April 28, 2027. The Independent, Legal No. 5157 Published May 5, 12, 19, 26, 2022.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 588892

The following person(s) doing business as: Traveling Tax Lady, 38399 Birch Street,

Newark, CA 94560, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Patricia E. Fretty, 38399 Birch Street, Newark, CA 94560. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 1/1/2017. Signature of Registrant/s/: Patricia E. Fretty, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on May 6, 2022. Expires May 5, 2027. The Independent, Legal No. 5158 Published May 12, 19, 26, June 2, 9, 2022.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 588435

The following person(s) doing business as: Third Culture Bakery, 2701 8th Street, Unit 101, Berkeley, CA 94710, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Third Culture Food Group, 2701 8th Street, Unit 101, Berkeley, CA 94710. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 4/30/2017. Signature of Registrant/s/: Raymond Butarbutar, CEO, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 21, 2022. Expires April 20, 2027. The Independent, Legal No. 5159 Published May 12, 19, 26, June 2, 9, 2022.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 588717

The following person(s) doing business as: Nomada, Coaching & Consulting, 1015 Park Hills Road, Berkeley, CA 94708, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Jodi Pincus, 1015 Park Hills Rd, Berkeley, CA 94708. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 5/2/2022. Signature of Registrant/s/: Jodi Pincus, Sole Proprietor, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on May 2, 2022. Expires May 1, 2027. The Independent, Legal No. 5160 Published May 12, 19, 26, June 2, 9, 2022.

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME

Case No. 22CV010768

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF ALAMEDA

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

Petitioner:
Brian K. Ross, Esq.
Law Offices of Brian K. Ross
11850 Dublin Blvd.
Dublin, CA 94568
925-803-9450
br575653@gmail.com

Attorney for Jerry Peter Walker (AKA Gerard Peter Garand) filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:

Present Name:
Gerard Peter Garand
Proposed Name:
Jerry Peter Walker

THE COURT ORDERS

that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.

NOTICE OF HEARING

Date: 6/24/2022
Time: 11:00 AM
Dept: 17

The address of the court is: **Alameda County Administration Building 1221 Oak Street Oakland, CA 94612**

A copy of this Order To Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation printed in this county: The Independent Newspaper 2250 First Street, Livermore, CA 94550

Dated: 5/3/2022 /s/ Electronically Filed - Xian-xii Bowie, Deputy Clerk - Judge Hon. Frank Roesch. The Independent, Legal No. 5161. Published May 19, 26, June 2, 9, 2021.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 588817

The following person(s) doing business as: Eli's Room, 4147 Freeda CT., Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Carey Hylton, 4147 Freeda CT., Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Carey Hylton, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on May 4, 2022. Expires May 3, 2027. The Independent, Legal No. 5162. Published May 19, 26, June 2, 9, 2021.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 589901

The following person(s) doing business as: Bangles and Bovines, 751 Polaris Way, Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Theresa Kummerer, 751 Polaris Way, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 4/30/2022. Signature of Registrant/s/: Theresa Kummerer, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on May 12, 2022. Expires May 11, 2027. The Independent, Legal No. 5163. Published May 19, 26, June 2, 9, 2021.

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Follow TRI-VALLEY ANIMAL RESCUE on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

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Fire Department to Offer Emergency Response Classes

The Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department will offer Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Training for community members with Tuesday evening classes at the Operations Service Center, 3333 Busch Road in Pleasanton, May 17 through June 21. The classes will run from 6 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. One class will also be held from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., on Saturday, June 4.

CERT training is an opportunity to learn about basic disaster preparedness and is open to those who live or work in either Livermore or Pleasanton. Participants must be at least 16 years of age and those under 18 must be accompanied by an adult.

To register or for more information, call 925 454-2361.

Dublin Police to Conduct Youth Academy

Dublin Police Services will hold its annual Youth Academy, introducing teens from 14 to 18 to various aspects of law enforcement, from June 6 through June 10.

Taught by law enforcement personnel, the free program covers such topics

as the bomb squad, crime prevention and community policing, crime scene investigation, and gang identification and prevention.

Participants also tour local law enforcement facilities and participate in physical training exercises.

Students will be required to pass a background check and must have parental consent.

To apply, complete an online form at dublin.ca.gov by Monday, May 30. A highlight video from the 2021 academy is also available on the city website.

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NOTICES

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