

Ambulance Service Hit With Fine

Corrective Action Plan Approved

By Tony Kukulich

REGIONAL — The county's beleaguered provider of emergency ambulance service, Falck Alameda County, was recently assessed a financial penalty when it failed to meet its contractual service levels. However, the company received approval of its corrective action plan (CAP).

Alameda County Emergency Management Services (ALCO EMS) — the agency in charge of managing countywide ambulance service — assessed a \$215,000 compliance penalty last month on the service provider after ambulance response times fell short of the standard in September.

ALCO EMS has been critical of Falck's operations. As the company's performance deteriorated through the summer and fall, ALCO EMS complained about a lack of urgency on Falck's behalf to improve ambulance response times. In early October, ALCO EMS Director Lauri McFadden demanded that Falck submit a CAP outlining the steps it would take to restore service levels. A first draft of the plan was rejected by ALCO EMS, while a revised draft was accepted Oct. 29.

"Upon review of the submitted update received on October 27, 2021, we have found that Falck has adequately identified the issues that contributed to the response time performance shortfalls in August and September of 2021, provided a plan to address these issues, highlighted efforts already underway, and provided trackable metrics to monitor progress as Falck works to improve their performance," wrote McFadden. "Based

(See AMBULANCE, page 8)

Local Climate Group Weighs Solar Changes

By David Jen

REGIONAL — A coming update to rooftop solar incentives may soon affect California electric customers whether they have solar or not.

At its Nov. 17 meeting, the Tri-Valley chapter of the Citizens' Climate Lobby considered the impacts of reducing financial credits — by up to 80% — to rooftop solar owners. While lowering the credits would reduce the drive for rooftop solar expansion, continuing incentives at their current levels would increasingly burden non-solar customers through rising distribution costs.

The meeting focused on a decision the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) will make on Dec. 9 about how much the next iteration of the Net Energy Metering (NEM) program will compensate rooftop solar owners for the power they export to the grid.

"NEM is basically the policy that allows people who have solar to share their excess energy back into the grid and spin their meter backwards," SunPower Corporation Senior Manager Patrick Sterns explained at the meeting. "You're exporting energy out onto the grid, and you get a financial credit for that."

SunPower installs home
(See SOLAR, page 8)



Mony Nop (at left) and his family donned their finest Thanksgiving costumes to deliver frozen turkeys during the Mony Nop Turkey Drop on Sunday, Nov. 21 in front of Livermore's City Hall and police station. The donated birds will go to the Tri-Valley Haven Food Bank. [See photo gallery at www.independentnews.com/multimedia] (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)

Nonprofit Requests Funding from Council

By Ruth Roberts

DUBLIN — The city council recently received a presentation from Three Valleys Community Foundation (3VCF) in which the organization requested \$50,000 in funding to assist the non-profit in serving other charitable groups in the Tri-Valley area.

3VCF is a new geographically based organization dedicated to enhancing the quality of life in the Tri-Valley and surrounding East Bay communities. The name, Three Valleys, is a nod to the Amador, Livermore, and San Ramon valleys, an area that encompasses the communities of Alamo, Danville, Dublin,

Livermore, Pleasanton, San Ramon and Sunol. 3VCF's role serves the community as a liaison between existing

secretary. "And that's the fundamental basic reason why we want to be able to have local donors, support

"I am very supportive and excited that this is being brought forward."

local donors and nonprofits, helping to secure dollars and new donations as a way to keep charitable dollars local and groups thriving.

In the Tri-Valley, there are 360 registered nonprofits, 40 in Dublin alone.

"All of those nonprofits are looking for donors," said Susan Houghton, 3VCF interim treasurer and

local needs and local nonprofits."

According to Houghton, there is \$42 billion in gross domestic product in the Tri-Valley area, but less than 0.5% comes back to local nonprofits. Larger, big-name charities, while assisting communities, aren't always able to give as much

(See NONPROFIT, page 8)

City Approves Mental Health Pilot Program

By Ruth Roberts

PLEASANTON — The city council has given the go-ahead to a pilot program designed to assist those suffering from mental health crises, while managing the level of police involvement.

Starting next year, the innovative program will send a licensed mental health professional in an unmarked police car to certain non-emergency dispatched calls instead of a uniformed Pleasanton police officer.

The program aims to allow clinicians to respond to mental health crises — known as 5150 calls — as a way to relieve officer workloads, while offering a less threatening presence to those in crisis. Clinicians could also respond to calls involving homeless individuals, those living with mental illness, substance abuse issues and other situations that might benefit from non-emergency intervention. An

additional juvenile specialist will primarily respond to Pleasanton Unified School District sites and within the community as needed for residents under 18.

"I'm really excited about what this program can mean to the community," said Pleasanton Police Chief David Swing. "The goal is to reduce the number of overall health detentions known as 5150s and to decrease the response of uniformed law enforcement personnel through a coordinated response to homelessness and mental health issues."

According to the police department, nearly 350 calls from individuals who are potentially a danger to themselves or others are made each year; local patrol officers have less time to invest in other community needs when responding to these urgent, yet non-safety related calls. The department further reported that officers do not have the expertise or im-

mediate access to resources to intervene appropriately in some of these situations, nor the time to dedicate to an in-depth assessment.

"This is a program that has been discussed for many years," said Vice Mayor Julie Testa. "I'm very grateful. I'm very excited... While I think this program is an outstanding beginning, I hope this extends to the entire Tri-Valley."

According to the staff report, a review of three years of data from state records show that most 5150 cases occur between the hours of 9 a.m. to 11 p.m., Monday through Friday. With this new intervention program, calls for help would be assigned through police dispatch detailing the level of response necessary and, when appropriate, transferred directly to a clinician.

Comparable adult and juvenile programs have been initiated and met with suc-

(See PILOT, page 8)

Council Considers a Wine Country Infrastructure Ballot

By Larry Altman
LIVERMORE — The Livermore City Council on Monday discussed two items that supporters say could assist the Livermore Valley's burgeoning wine industry — establishment of an assessment district to raise money to market the region's products and a proposal to extend sewer lines into southern agricultural areas.

In its early stages, the sewer line expansion into the South Livermore Valley will require an initiative for Livermore voters to approve on the November 2022 ballot. On Tuesday, the city council, with a 4-0 vote (absent Councilmember Gina Bonnanno), directed the city's staff to begin drafting language for

the ballot measure "to protect water quality and agriculture in the South Livermore Valley."

In a previous interview with The Independent, former Tri-Valley Conservancy (TVC) Executive Director Laura Mercier explained that the current wineries utilize septic systems, but to encourage wineries to grow or come into the area, that form of sewage management is not an option.

"Right now, residential development that's out in the county can use septic systems," she said. "New wineries wouldn't be allowed to use septic systems, because the waste from a winery is more intense — it's more

(See BALLOT, page 6)

For Airport Hangars

Commission Reconsiders Its Wait List Policy

By Aly Brown

LIVERMORE — Following complaints of inequitable practices and a lawsuit, the Livermore Airport Commission last week considered a new policy for its large box hangar waitlist.

During the Nov. 15 meeting, the Commission reviewed consulting firm Aeroplex Group Partners' draft waiting list policy and procedures for the Livermore Municipal Airport (LVK). The commissioners and the public were able to ask questions and submit comments, but no substantive revisions to the draft were suggested to staff. A final version is expected to return to the Commission for approval in December or early next year.

While the airport boasts nearly 400 aircraft hangars, historically, the waitlist issue has centered around its large box hangars, which often feature business offices and bathroom facilities. In an interview with The Independent, Sean Moran, LVK airport manager, explained that almost all of the hangars are t-hangars, which are made to

accommodate smaller, hobby aircraft. The wait time for those is about six months, Moran said. However, he noted that since there are only 18 large box hangars, the wait for hopeful lessees has been about 10 years.

"Currently, right now, the waitlist policy and how the waitlist is processed are through what we consider a prioritization point system... The issue we've had in the past is there's a lot of subjectivity in the scoring of these points," Moran said. "It's not standard with other airports within the industry. None of the other comparable airports our consultant studied based their waitlist on a point system — they are strictly chronological."

Under the new proposed chronological prioritization system, Moran said those on the waitlist would rank in order based on the date and time the application was submitted, which was one of the recommendations brought forward by Aeroplex in its report.

"A chronological system (See AIRPORT, page 6)

Agencies Test Carbon Farming on the Altamont

By Tony Kukulich

LIVERMORE — As state and local agencies look for ways to combat global warming, a local experiment is underway to test the effectiveness of using compost to remove carbon from the atmosphere while improving the quality and productivity of soil.

StopWaste, a public agency governed by the Alameda County Waste Management Authority, the Alameda County Source Reduction and Recycling Board, and the Energy Council, is managing the program, commonly referred to as carbon farming.

City of Livermore Councilmember Bob Carling reported in a recent council meeting that he had received an overview on the process.

"StopWaste has been looking at this carbon farming concept where you take compost, you throw it on to a field, and it helps to fix carbon in the soil to create a healthier soil than what you had," Carling said in an interview with The Independent. "It doesn't solve the climate change issue, certainly not. But, it's something interesting we can do."

(See CARBON, page 8)



These shoppers came in their pajamas and brought their holiday spirit during the Earlier Than The Bird shopping event in downtown Livermore. Merchants opened their stores early Saturday, Nov. 20, for the annual tradition hosted by Livermore Downtown, Inc. [See photo gallery at www.independentnews.com/multimedia] (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)

PET OF THE WEEK



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(Photo - Valley Humane Society)

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Livermore Council Approves 140-Unit Affordable Housing Project for Seniors, Veterans

By Larry Altman

The planning commission last week unanimously approved initial plans for a 140-unit affordable housing rental complex for seniors and veterans at the Civic Center.

The Pacific Avenue Affordable Housing Project, as it is called, is proposed for 3.6 acres of vacant city-owned land on the south side of Pacific Avenue at the end of the cul-de-sac between Sunken Gardens Skate Park, Tri-Valley Haven and a solar panel field — nearby city hall, the library and the police station.

Satellite Affordable Housing Associates and Interfaith Housing plan to develop and run the units, located near Vineyard Village, another of their properties for seniors.

“It’s a four-story building that does not feel like a four-story building,” said Commissioner Evan Branning. “I think it will be a great place to live and age in. Every resident is going to be happy to be there, and it’s serving an absolute need this city has.”

According to the proposal, which eventually must be approved by the city council, the project will include preferences for Livermore residents over age 62, as well as veterans and seniors experiencing homelessness.

The 100% affordable senior project is designed for households earning 60% of the area median income, which in 2021 was less than \$60,000 for one person. Apartments will range from 575-square-

feet for a one-bedroom and 750-square-feet for a two-bedroom unit.

The plan will be built in two phases — a southern building with 79 units, followed by a northern building with 61 units. A large parking lot will be built to the south, adjacent to the side of Sunken Gardens park, along with dozens of trees. Although some areas of the building will be four stories, other parts will include one-, two- and three-story heights.

City Planner Andy Ross told the five-member planning commission that the project meets goals set for housing in the city’s General Plan.

James Conlon, project manager for Satellite Affordable Housing Associates, said the plan was in

the works since 2018 and its initial approval would allow the company to seek funding “to make it a reality.”

Calling the project “really cool,” Branning said he liked the proposed design of contemporary agrarian architecture with colors including forest green.

“I’m definitely in support of this project,” Branning said. “I think it’s wonderful.”

During a discussion, planning commissioners suggested building trails to allow residents to easily walk to the library; they suggested the planting of evergreen trees along with the deciduous trees proposed in the project application.

The project was originally included as part of the 33 acres that belonged to

the Livermore Stockmen’s Rodeo Association. The city purchased the property in 1962 to build a civic center campus, parks and other recreation facilities. As part of the purchase, the city planned to dedicate a park to house a permanent memorial for residents of Murray and Pleasanton Townships who served in the U.S. armed forces. Although the city built the civic center, the park never materialized.

In 2018, the city council amended the agreement to use the land for affordable

housing for seniors and veterans and provided land in the downtown core for Stockmen’s Park. Stockmen’s Park houses the memorial.

Planning Commission Chair Jacob Anderson credited Interfaith Housing’s Laning Thompson for her advocacy for the project.

“Laning, you have probably housed thousands of people,” Anderson said. “I just want to say ‘thank you’ from the bottom of my heart for doing this for all those people and for our community.”

Red Cross Hiring Phlebotomists

The American Red Cross will be hiring phlebotomists for the San Francisco Bay Area on Thursday, Dec. 2, at the Pleasanton Red Cross Blood, Platelet and Plasma Donation Center, 5880 W. Las Positas Blvd. from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Phlebotomists draw blood for testing and collect blood from donors for use in transfusions. Reservations are not required for the walk-in event. Applicants should bring resumes and must wear a facemask.

The Red Cross will provide paid training.

Pleasanton Seeks Input on Housing Sites

Pleasanton will hold an online community meeting to review and solicit input on potential sites for rezoning and inclusion in the city’s inventory of land to meet future housing needs on Wednesday, Dec. 1.

The Zoom-based meeting will run from 6 to 7:30 p.m. State law requires that cities and counties plan to meet projected housing needs in the community.

Every eight years, local governments must update what is known as the housing element of their general plans and have it certified by the California Department

of Housing and Community Development. Pleasanton, like all jurisdictions in the Bay Area, must update its housing element by Jan. 31, 2023.

Pleasanton’s updated plan must include an inventory of sites with zoning to accommodate the city’s Regional Housing Need Allocation (RHNA) of 5,965 new housing units. Based on the city’s review of existing sites and capacity, there is a need for additional rezoning of locations to allow residential use, including sites suitable for both lower-income and market-rate

housing.

The city has developed a preliminary list of potential sites for inclusion in the new inventory, with a summary and analysis of each site available for public review at www.PleasantonHousingElement.com.

The meeting link is also available on the website.

The Planning Commission and City Council will also discuss the inventory of future housing sites at public meetings later next month and in January 2022. The city is expected to adopt a final inventory in January 2023.

Planning Commission Fine Tunes Vision Statement for 2045

By Larry Altman

Taking a turn to forge a vision statement for what Livermore should aspire to be in 2045, the city’s planning commission on Nov. 16 dissected a proposed 100-word paragraph for nearly two hours, suggesting the addition of phrases including “jobs,” “honor,” “biological diversity” and “breweries.”

The commission’s editing procedure followed community outreach, staff and consultant work, and discussions among a 19-member appointed committee to create a proposed vision statement and guiding principles that will inspire the city’s general plan rewrite for how the community will grow and develop through 2045. The current general plan written in 2004 expires in 2025, and state law requires a new one.

“‘Resiliency’ would be a great word to have in here somewhere,” Planning Commission Chair Jacob Anderson said during a discussion that focused on spicing up some proposed verbiage and shifted an emphasis from cliched buzzwords toward realism.

The process to write a new general plan began in March when the city council hired the consultant firm, PlaceWorks, and appointed residents to a General Plan Advisory Committee (GPAC) to start discussions and conduct community outreach. Consultants visited parks, libraries, farmers markets and other locations to survey residents, asking for their opinions on what they liked about Livermore and what they would like to see in its future.

Joanna Jansen, principal in charge of PlaceWorks Bay Area office — which works on general plans for numerous California cities — said Livermore residents pointed to plenty of positives about the city, offering up terms like “small town,” “family-friendly,” “safe,” “downtown,” “restaurants,” “schools,” “parks” and “open space.” Residents also identified negatives, such as traffic congestion, lack of affordable and diverse housing options, limited public transit, parking and homelessness.

Jansen described the vision statement as if “someone dropped you down into Livermore in 2045 and you were looking around. What would be the best vision of Livermore you would like to see?” She described guiding principles as values for “how we make decisions — how we work together to manifest that physical embodiment.”

Asked about their vi-

sion for the city in 2045, residents cited keeping a small-town feel with a vibrant downtown, a safe and healthy community, a strong economy, a variety of housing options, and open space, Jansen said.

The input resulted in a proposed vision statement that read:

“In 2045, Livermore is a safe and welcoming community, with a big heart, where diverse people share a connection to the city and each other. Residents and visitors enjoy a vibrant, active, clean downtown. Walking, biking and transit are pleasant and convenient. Livermore maintains a healthy local economy and families of all income levels find diverse housing choices close to well-maintained parks, shopping and exceptional schools. The community values its agricultural heritage and natural open spaces surrounding the city. Residents remember Livermore’s small-town roots as they plan for the future, fostering a close-knit place where civic life and opportunity prosper.”

Crediting the GPAC, Jansen and city staff for their work, the five-member planning commission’s job was then to critique the language

of the proposed vision statement, offer suggestions for improvements, ask staff to redo it, and send a new version to the city council for another discussion in December.

Anderson went through the paragraphs line by line, saying the statement should reflect a vibrant city, not just the downtown, and focus on maintaining a healthy economy that attracts families of all income levels to diverse housing and jobs, excellent shopping, clean parks and top schools.

The proposed statement, he said, seemed passive. So, Anderson prepared his own 140-word version that he’d prepared in advance as a suggestion and read it aloud:

“In 2045, Livermore will continue to be a wonderful place like no other with a safe and welcoming community for all, where diverse people share a connection to the city and each other. Residents and visitors enjoy vibrant active clean commercial spaces, a place where walking, biking and transit are pleasant and convenient. Livermore will maintain a healthy local economy, resilient to a changing world. Individuals and families of all income levels find diverse housing

choices, close to well-maintained arts, shopping, jobs and exceptional schools. The community values and works to preserve its agricultural heritage and natural open spaces surrounding the city. Livermore also carries on its commitment to science technology and wide genres of the arts. Residents honor Livermore’s small-town, big-hearted roots as they plan for the future, fostering a close-knit community where civic life and opportunity prosper.”

Anderson’s colleagues appeared to like it and offered some more suggestions, such as Commissioner John Stein’s emphasis on including phrases about biodiversity and climate change. Asked to sum up what the panel wanted in a revised statement, Senior Planner Andy Ross and Jansen quickly spelled it out: More aspiration with phrases like resiliency, economic sustainability, cultural amenities and even the word breweries to reflect more than the city’s wine industry.

The panel unanimously approved its critique and sent Ross and Jansen to rewrite a new version. That version will go next to the city council.

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Livermore Commission Approves Requests from Hindu Center

By Larry Altman

Livermore's iconic Shiva Vishnu Temple — also known as the Hindu Community and Cultural Center (HCCC) — received approval last week (Nov. 16) to increase its operating hours and to allow music outdoors.

In a decision weighing a religious institution's ability to practice its rituals and customs while not bothering its neighbors, the Livermore Planning Commission unanimously agreed to update the temple's conditional use permit that had limited late night activities and prohibited devotees from playing music while honoring their Gods.

"What we see is the need for a balance between freedom of religion and the idea that a man's home is his castle," said Planning Commissioner John Stein. "The fact that we've had no official complaints for 10 years ... speaks strongly about the fact they are a good neighbor."

Temple officials, who provide a worship facility for Bay Area Hindus at 1232 Arrowhead Dr., requested changes to a conditional use permit issued during a building expansion in 2010 that places conditions on their hours and how much noise they can make. The property established in 1977 grew along with the surrounding neighborhood.

The request was simple: Open their doors at 6 a.m.,

instead of 7 a.m., and close at 10 p.m., instead of 9 p.m.; Increase the number of annual special events that continue to midnight from 6 to 9; allow for limited outdoor amplified music for special religious services and processions; and reopen 22 parking stalls eliminated because of its proximity to neighboring homes. Temple officials said they hoped to use the parking spots closer to their building for seniors, disabled people and their priests, who don't wear shoes.

The 11-year-old permit placed other restrictions on the temple, including requiring officials to notify neighbors about events, eliminate amplified music and install landscaping and fencing between the parking area and their neighbors' houses.

Sreeni Malireddy, a representative of HCCC, told the panel the institution had met the requirements, but had been forced to compromise some of its religious practices, including rushing through services that had to end by 8 p.m. or not holding them at all in the early morning.

Most services, Malireddy said, are held indoors, but some festivals include processions with devotees praising Gods by carrying the deities around their building.

Malireddy said they wanted to use an iPhone, not a loudspeaker system, to

add music and would adhere to 60 decibels, which is about the sound of a normal conversation.

Twenty people voiced support for the changes during the meeting.

Some neighbors, however, wrote letters in opposition.

Ricci and Michelle Ragnesi, who live next to the temple, complained that "non-Hindu residents that live in homes surrounding the temple are being discriminated against for not being Hindu or wishing to worship their religion." The Ragnesis said the temple creates traffic, noise and parking problems in their neighborhood.

Tom and Luanda Sherman wrote that the expansion of hours was "unreasonable and unsuitable for our and/or any neighborhood."

Malireddy countered that his temple's devotees had adhered to the rules and engaged in activities that benefited the community, including inviting neighbors annually for lunch, and holding blood drives, health fairs and yoga classes. Any outdoor music the commission might allow, he said, would last a maximum of 20 to 30 minutes.

"We have gone out of our way to police ourselves and be the best possible neighbor," Malireddy said.

City staff agreed, saying they had not received complaints in years. Commis-

sioners questioned whether other religious institutions in the city had restrictions placed on their activities.

Project Planner Jennifer Ackerman cited three Christian churches with conditional use permits, but said none placed restrictions on hours, noise and traffic. One church, Ackerman said, had a permit that addressed parking; another had restrictions on landscaping; and one institution required permits for processions when police officers and firefighters were needed.

Although the city's planning department recommended the planning commission allow everything but the parking changes, the commissioners approved all the temple's requests with the condition that outdoor amplified music will be limited during each event to a maximum of one hour at low decibels. The commissioners also approved reopening some of the 22 parking spaces following a review by the city's transportation and landscaping department.

Malireddy said temple officials will continue to find ways to coexist with some of their neighbors.

"We will continue to be a good neighbor," he said. "We will definitely reach out to them."

Charity League Launches Membership Drive

The Pleasanton chapter of the National Charity League is conducting its annual membership drive.

The chapter is open to women who live in Pleasanton and have daughters in the sixth, seventh or eighth grades.

The goal of the National Charity League is to strengthen the bond between mothers and daughters while building leadership skills and encouraging community service. The Pleasanton chapter, with about 300 members, provided more than 5,000 hours of community service to 33 Tri-Valley organizations in the 2020-2021 program year, including Hively, Meals on Wheels, Open Heart Kitchen, the Pleasanton Unified School District and the Pleasanton Senior Center, according to chapter president Alison Huff.

Applications for membership are accepted only during the annual membership drive from October through January. For more information, go to <https://bit.ly/3CCqz0>.



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Student Honored for Food Access GIS Program

Sudharsan Gopalakrishnan, a junior at the Quarry Lane school in Dublin, has received a National Scholar Award for outstanding leadership from the National 4-H Geospatial Leadership Team for his efforts to connect the community with local produce using geographical information system (GIS) technology.

Gopalakrishnan, a member of the National 4-H GIS/GPS Team, has been

working with government officials and Tri-Valley food banks this summer to identify areas in the region where access to healthy food is limited, part of a national 4-H GIS/GPS technology initiative known as "Where's the Food?"

Gopalakrishnan is also a Teen Project Leader and Science, Technology, Education and Mathematics (STEM) Educator for the California 4-H program.



Sudharsan Gopalakrishnan

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PETER JAMES

EDITORIAL Pleasanton Health Clinician Pilot Program Shows Great Promise

The recent decision by the Pleasanton City Council to test-drive a new program where licensed social workers ride along on mental health calls with the police is a positive, sensitive move.

The purpose of the pilot program is to lend a more human hand to those in crises, by partnering mental health professionals with the Pleasanton Police Department to assist on some of their 5150, non-life threatening calls. According to the police department, dispatch receives nearly 350 calls from individuals each year who are potentially a danger to themselves or others because of their mental health.

Bringing along a seasoned clinician on these emotionally charged calls, adds a quieter, less intimidating presence to an already sensitive situation. In addition, it frees up an encumbered police force to respond to other needs and emergencies in the community.

Given the nation's current focus on law enforcement policy and procedure, the council hit a home run with their continued commitment toward de-escalating encounters between the public and the police. This model has been gaining popularity as more and more cities begin to rely less on the police for matters that aren't criminal in nature.

Kudos also to Police Chief David Swing for taking the lead and endorsing this much-needed program. His recent comments at the city council meeting were encouraging and uplifting.

As communities throughout the state and country continue to embrace this form of mental health support, the public will benefit from a police force better able to respond to their law enforcement needs, and those in crisis will receive the care and attention they deserve.

MAILBOX

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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.

Las Positas – Building Systemic Racism Revisited

Richard K. Ernst, Livermore

I was saddened to read the Nov. 11, Mailbox criticism of Jesse Watson's recent article, "Las Positas College Paving the Way to Equity for Students." Why would one choose to belittle and politicize programs, the intent of which is to support, encourage and enhance educational opportunity for historically under-represented African Americans and other groups of color? The comment that no similar programs have been established for "blue-eyed blonde citizens" or "people of Portuguese ancestry" feels both disrespectful and unaware of the realities of our nation's history.

For all too long the "melting pot" idea has encouraged a 'one-size-fits-all' mentality, favoring the dominant culture. Honoring our diversity, on the other hand, encourages recognizing and respecting the ways in which we are all different. It has nothing to do with the "Balkanization" of our population.

The Umoja Learning Community Program (a Swahili word for "unity"), currently provides support for African American and other students of color in 70 of the 116 community colleges in California. It is unequivocally not 'systemic racist indoctrination.' It is a lifeline for tens of thousands of mainly young Americans striving for educational excellence.

Kudos to Las Positas College for being sensitive to, and in support of, the educational aspirations of all.

Checks, Lies and Campaign Forms

Deborah McQueen, Livermore

Many people have expressed their concern over the lamentable Legacy building sitting in tattered tarps in downtown Livermore. Citizens are rightly distressed over the condition and imposing height of the buildings. The City Council's published

priority list, crafted from public input collected by PlaceWorks in 2017, stated their top three priorities were parking, community character and open space. These priorities were quickly and severely compromised, if not entirely diminished, by the Council and then Mayor Marchand, who swiftly moved ahead with the Legacy building.

Meeting minutes from the City Council meeting on Feb. 13, 2017 state that "David Eichler, Legacy Partners, spoke in opposition to establishing an interim height limit reduction for residential projects within the Downtown Specific Plan area and said that prior uses of the Groth site made it problematic." As a result, the pending vote to limit height restrictions was abandoned. The approval process for Legacy was rushed through in 14 weeks (March 6 – June 11, 2018) without adequate public input and transparency.

On June 11, 2018, the City Council approved a Development Agreement with Legacy Partners for a 222-apartment complex. Three months later, on September 19, 2018, Marchand received a donation from David Eichler for \$467.00 as stated on his campaign form. Marchand lists Eichler as a "Real Estate Agent, Legacy" who lives in "Livermore." However, there isn't a registered real estate agent named David Eichler in California. Eichler lives in Piedmont, not Livermore, and Legacy Real Estate (similar name) on Second Street, is not affiliated with Legacy Partners Inc.

These facts bring up controversial issues of ethics for Mr. Marchand. Was Marchand trying to obfuscate the source of the donation, which seems a lot like a payoff, so that no one would look more closely at his relationship with Legacy Partners?

Marchand claimed on Jan. 12, 2021, "I have not accepted so much as a cup of coffee from any developer." Marchand is required by law to fill out his campaign form under penalty of perjury. "I have used all reasonable diligence in preparing and reviewing this statement and to the best of my knowledge the information contained herein and in the attached schedules is true and complete. I certify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct."

Unfortunately, lying on campaign forms isn't prosecuted by California authorities, but it's still immoral behavior.

Focus on Climate Change, High Density Housing Not Helping

Dawn Plants, Dublin

The Dublin Patch recently quoted: "... the State determined that the Bay Area needed to plan for another 441,000 new housing units, including affordable housing, to address the housing crisis. The State does not require local governments to ensure that the units get built ..."

Then why is so much time and money wasted on this intrusive manipulation, with ABAG's outdated formulas to force suburban cities to comply? Packing Dublin with high density housing creates

increased pollution, overcrowded schools, traffic and crime. The taxpayer is stuck with each new school bond expense from poor long-range planning.

The climate change crisis requires us to mitigate our carbon footprint as soon as possible. The answer is not cramming dense housing into small areas, which only increases the problem! Anyone who lives in the Tri-Valley sees the traffic gridlock on I-580 daily. Dublin leads the pack, with the majority of high-density Boxes with Windows either built, or in the pipeline.

Where are the solar panels on new construction? No effort is made by builders to reduce carbon emissions in Dublin. Instead, they push more multi-story Boxes, until no green hills are left, as they partner with city staff to steamroll the naive planning commission and oblivious city council. City staff fluffs their pension nests at our expense.

Dublin activists have shown clear opposition against the constant granting of zoning amendments to get these bad projects denied. Yet, there's a developer's puppet in the mix, who uses hidden tactics to sweep the community's opposition efforts under the rug. They appear concerned and knowledgeable, as they deliberately betray the community to advance their own agendas, and finance political campaigns with builder funds.

REMEMBER, we have a Dublin city election in 2022. We can clearly show what we expect by our votes. Enough double talk, as Dublin staff planners continue to push staggering projects, such as the "Downtown Dublin" travesty that crams 1,500 housing units into the Dublin Place shopping center? Two six-story Boxes containing 1,500 units? Wasting millions "fixing the street grid" (since shopping centers don't have "streets") to shove an unreasonable amount of housing into a small area? Nothing "walkable" or "friendly" about a "tenement style" housing project.

Have you seen it get better or worse the last four years? Vote out the incumbent developer puppets, or expect the same bad results.

City Leaders Could Use Some Foresight

Lawrence Thompson, Livermore

Imagine New York City without Central Park, which is the heart and lungs of the city. In 1851, Mayor Ambrose Kingsland had the foresight to propose creating a park "of sufficient magnitude" that it "would become the favorite resort of all classes" and "a lasting monument to the wisdom of its founders." The 843-acre park eventually cost \$15 million, about five times the city's entire 1851 budget, but what a magnificent legacy! It's unfortunate that Livermore's civic leaders don't share Mayor Kingsland's foresight.

Don't Forget Vaccines During Holidays

Kyoko Takayama, Livermore

When our grassroots effort started on Aug. 16, Livermore's vaccination rate was 66.6%. As of Nov. 19, 82.5% of residents 12 and older are fully vaccinated, and 90.1% have gotten at least one shot.

With 1500+ newly eligible 5-11-year-olds vaccinated, 79.1% of our residents got at least one shot. I am happy that Livermore is likely to see 80% of its population fully vaccinated, one of the qualifications the state laid out to lift general (not school) mask mandates.

Our outreach goal was to give information on how to get vaccinated so that everybody can get vaccinated when

they chose. Since August over 5,000 bilingual flyers were delivered to doors by our volunteers. We targeted neighborhoods with higher Hispanic and/or higher renters identified using the Census data.

Along with the county's DOOR project knocking on doors to provide information, Sunday vaccine clinics, Axis library vaccine clinics and multiple pop ups, I believe we made a difference.

I appreciate the collaborative effort of the City of Livermore, Alameda County Public Health Department, schools, community organizations (La Familia Counseling Service, Open Heart Kitchen, Tri-Valley Haven, Axis Community Health), faith communities (Asbury United Methodist Church, St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church, St. Michael Parish), grassroots organizations (OFA East Bay Central, Livermore Indivisible, Granada Students for Social Change), and Livermore CERT volunteers.

I would like to thank everybody who has been following ever-changing mandates and recommendations. Going into the holiday season I would like to remind them that vaccinations and masks are not just to protect ourselves, but also seniors with higher risk, immunocompromised people like my friend who is fighting brain cancer, and little ones who are not yet eligible for the vaccine. Boosters are now recommended to everybody and available at local pharmacies including those in the grocery stores, and walk-in is widely accepted.

Vaccines, masks, social distancing, keeping contact time short in public or social gatherings, and keeping good air circulation indoors will help you protect you, your family and friends. Nothing is perfect, but combined we can protect our community.

Have a safe and nice holiday season with your family and friends. I love Livermore and its residents who work to take care of each other.

Mea Culpa

David Yaffe, Livermore

I haven't been a very good citizen of Livermore. I took my part in the future of this city for granted. I thought this was the deal: I would go out and work and pay taxes, a lot of taxes, to support the city. I would stop at stop signs, diligently sort my recycling and let my lawn die during the drought. The city would be run in my best interest and would progress with the guidance of an enlightened, dedicated city council. The precedent was there; they had done a darn good job of remodeling First Street. I voted for Measure P in March 2020, okaying the downtown hotel plan and feeling good about the housing to be built next to Stockmen's Park.

What the City Council said seemed to make sense; there was no reason to change horses in the middle of the stream. I just wanted all the bickering to stop. Then, suddenly the housing was now a Dublinized four-stories. Huh? And then, police, firefighters and most teachers were cut out of the housing deal. All of the housing units are now reserved for low-income and homeless residents.

So much for equity and inclusion. So, now I'm doing a lot of reading, maybe a little late. Apparently, partner Eden Housing said its proposed plan couldn't work; the apartments weren't large enough to be practical and it would be hard to get financing. The City Council changed the plan, "so the State couldn't come in and build eight-story buildings."

Did the plan really need to be changed to suck the soul out of the downtown? It's hard to tell. The arrogant City Council and mayor re-

fuse to even acknowledge the citizens are unhappy and might have a point. Putting apartments across the street is really a much better plan. Or build apartments on the dilapidated grocery store site at S. Livermore and Pacific (or on a dozen other suitable sites around town). What I'd like to see is the City Council holding open, frank discussions with opponents to their path. Barring this, maybe the project can be delayed until we can vote the Council and mayor out of office.

The Never-Ending Pandemic

Ramona M. Krausnick, Dublin

To the anti-vaccine and anti-mask individuals (excluding those who have a documented reason not to be vaccinated):

No vaccines, no masks = never-ending pandemic (illness and deaths continue).

Vaccines, masks = end of pandemic and return to normalcy

Period.

It's that simple – what part of this fact do you not understand?

Eden Housing and Election 2020

Carol Silva, Livermore

Numerous letters have been written to The Independent showing support of slightly different locations for affordable housing in Livermore. A few other letters oppose the suggestion to relocate Eden Housing, in which the City Council intends to have massive Eden Housing right across the street from the tall, half-finished Legacy project. Some of the Eden Housing proponent letter writers claim that voters voted in the current City Council and that we should not go against the Council's direction. Should we blindly follow a government that doesn't listen to the majority of its constituents? If local officials want to create a water reservoir at the old Lucky site, should the public accept their decision because they were voted into office? The public would show their dissent, like their dissent with Eden Housing.

Prior to the 2020 election, I emailed Morny Nop, a candidate for Livermore mayor, asking for his view on the location of Eden Housing. He quickly responded to all my inquiries. I was impressed with Nop's responsiveness, although I was disappointed by his acceptance of Eden Housing being located at the southeast corner of Railroad Avenue and "L" Street in the downtown footprint. After receiving Nop's response, I wrote a letter to The Independent, in which I implied that I did not trust Woerner's "win-win" campaign message about his willingness to review the relocation of Eden Housing. Also, I wrote about Nop's acceptance of Eden Housing's location.

At the time I wrote the letter, I was unsure whom I would be voting for Livermore mayor, but I did vote for Nop, since I respected what I thought were honest answers to my inquiries.

It seems like an increasing number of Livermore voters, especially individuals like Nop and Jay Davis, who both were initially strong proponents of Eden Housing's current location, are now opposing Eden's project design and location at the business downtown center. Whether this increase of Eden's opponents is due to concern of soil contamination, to lack of affordable housing for most teachers and essential workers, to lack of sufficient residential parking, to this project not meeting city design requirements, to the massive size and height of the housing, or for wanting to create a beautiful central park for

the enjoyment of all, wouldn't it make sense for Livermore's City Council members to reevaluate the situation and consider alternatives?

Public Comment Period Begins on Livermore Lab's Hazardous Waste

Mary Perner, Livermore

Livermore Lab handles, stores and "treats" hazardous and mixed radioactive waste (radioactive and hazardous materials mixed together) in various Livermore Main Site buildings. These wastes are regulated by the California's Department of Toxic Substances (DTSC). The DTSC began the Hazardous Waste Permit Renewal process for the Lab's Main Site back in 2016. The permit governs the number of waste storage locations, treatments performed and more.

The initial permit had to be revised in response to the first round of comments and appeals from Tri-Valley CAREs and other stakeholders. CAREs has monitored Livermore Lab's hazardous waste management, and associated problems, for four decades. These revisions, (which took the DTSC three more years to complete) are now ready for public review, comment and a (virtual) public meeting.

The community is urged to review the revised permit renewal documents and submit public comment. Links to permit docs and useful comment process information are available at <http://www.trivalleycares.org>.

The DTSC will accept written comments until Feb. 4, by mail sent to Elena Espada, DTSC Project Manager 700 Heinz Ave., Berkeley, California, 94710 or via email to Elena.Espada@DTSC.ca.gov.

Additionally, the virtual public meeting, where oral comments can be made, will be held by DTSC on Dec. 9, at 6:30 p.m. Advance sign-up using <https://bit.ly/3l02i2v> is advised.

We encourage you to get involved, and hope to see you at the DTSC virtual public hearing Thursday, Dec. 9.

Take the Air Quality Survey

Laurene Green, Livermore

I would like to invite readers to take a look at our TQAQCA 2nd ANNUAL AIR QUALITY SURVEY (Tri-Valley Air Quality Community Alliance). We are a relatively new organization of community leaders, scientists, and supportive individuals. Our mission is to understand our local air quality using the latest scientific methods and data, to ask residents and workers how they experience air quality (the Survey), to communicate our findings (at various forums and events), and to solicit mitigation ideas (the Survey). We were able to action some of our findings from last year's survey and hope to do the same this year. As an example, we found that many residents were concerned about pollution and noise from lawn and garden equipment, so we created a grant program and held a forum. Last year's survey focused on outdoor air pollution, this year's focuses on indoor air pollution. We do track general responses from year to year for a handful of questions, but never specifically individual responses.

Please take 10 minutes to fill out the Survey; you can find it at <https://bit.ly/30U6T7s>.

And, if you are interested in learning more about the TQAQCA, please visit our website at www.TQAQCA.org, or email us at TQAQCA1@gmail.com. Thanks, we hope to hear from you!

(See MAILBOX, page 5)

THE Independent

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MAILBOX

(Continued from page 4)

Four-Stories is Too High
Valerie Daum, Livermore

As work begins again on the failing Legacy project, you can see how massive the gargantuan four-story buildings now appear. How can the Eden project, which is directly across the street, possibly have city approval?

Word on the street states Eden is in violation of the Livermore Downtown Specific Plan and city approval has violated the law. According to this plan, Eden Housing should have been limited to four stories for 60% of its site frontage on Railroad Avenue and L Street. With our city's approval, the current Eden project exceeds the 60% standard on both of these streets, even extending to 100% on Railroad Avenue.

Before any Eden ground is broken, the courts must resolve this issue and save our charming downtown.

Unfit to Print

Alan Marling, Livermore

Last week you may have seen the ad copy "unfit to govern." It was paid for by Joan Seppala and her old, rich friends and printed in her newspaper.

She is upset Livermore's City Council voted against her wishes and in favor of the needs of California in general and this town specifically.

I cannot say I understand Joan Seppala's motivations. Perhaps she is to trying to apply principles from the last century to this one. What I am certain of is that she doesn't value the community's pressing needs for clean energy and affordable housing. If she did, she wouldn't have sunk her time and money opposing them in print and in court. Lawsuits funded in large part by her are currently delaying a solar farm in Alameda County and affordable housing in Livermore. In each case, these projects were passed by unanimous vote from their respective democratically elected officials. She and her echo chamber of supporters are trying to veto the will of the majority, in court.

Alameda County Superior Court Judge Frank Roesch ruled in September her group must post a \$500,000 bond because their lawsuit is in bad faith or merely "for the

purpose of delaying or thwarting low-income housing." Joan Seppala and the political groups she supports should withdraw these harmful lawsuits.

Her wealth and her newspaper give Joan Seppala the loudest voice in Livermore, but she no longer speaks for its citizens.

Editor's Note: This letter contains statements that are factually incorrect regarding an ad that ran in *The Independent* last week. After *The Independent* contacted *UnfitToServe2022* (also known as the *Committee for Making a Better Livermore*), a member of the organization stated that its ad, referred to in the letter above, was only funded by members of *UnfitToServe2022*. Neither *The Independent* Publisher Joan Seppala, nor any other groups of which she is a member — such as *Save Livermore Downtown* — paid for the ad.

"Historic Downtown Livermore"

Nancy Mulligan, Livermore

There is a City of Livermore sign at the corner of Fourth Street and South P Street that states: "Historic Downtown Livermore".

This sign does not conjure up the idea that the brand-new, four-story Eden Housing development without architectural interest would be located in "Historic Downtown Livermore," let alone two four-story multiple developments up to a block long that would oppose each other on opposite sides of the street. They would create no semblance of a charming, welcoming, vintage historic downtown. 'New high-density multiple dwellings' do not belong in a historic downtown in the rural American West.

The Legacy Partners development on the north side of South L Street between Railroad Avenue and First Street adheres to building design standards the City of Livermore established and is responsible for enforcing. It is also across the street from the 'downtown core.'

However, the city council ratified the Eden Housing development, a project that has evolved from its original design to the point that it's not recognizable any longer.

The mayor and council are willingly ignoring the design standards they approved in order to shoe-horn 130 apartments into a small-ish plot.

The city imposes these standards on other developments, but the city is violating these standards here, violating "Historic Downtown Livermore." Is that representative of the public's interest and will?

Do you ever wonder if the mayor and council who voted for the Eden Housing placement wake up feeling guilty after betraying the will of the people of Livermore?

You can be sure this betrayal will be remembered by the citizens for years to come.

Making the Case for Equity

Sarah Thompson, Jean O'Neil Opipari, Kyle Johnson, Las Positas College

Las Positas College provides access to educational opportunities that allow our students to transfer to four-year universities, attain degrees, and increase students' employability and life-long success through career-technical training. Last year, the college was ranked the #1 best community college in California by BestColleges.com. These rankings are grounded in statistical data including academic quality, student

completion, and affordability. The college is also a top transfer institution and has the 8th highest transfer rates among California Community Colleges. Despite our high institutional standards, the college recognizes that there continues to be disproportionately distributed outcomes in student completion among our students. Institutional data informs our institutional goals, and one of these institutional goals is student equity, because of these persistent disproportionate student outcomes.

The college continuously disaggregates data by gender, age, and race to allow the campus community to analyze, discuss, and identify specific strategies to address the gaps in student outcomes for the students who would benefit the most. Las Positas College is committed to achieving equitable outcomes for all of our students.

The college values educational equality, and the college is committed to educational equity. Equality is about sameness; it focuses on making sure that each student receives the same resources and support to be successful. Equality assumes that all students are entering our college from a common, level playing field. Equity is about fairness and justice; it ensures that

each student receives what he or she needs to be successful. Equity recognizes that not all students have been served by our educational systems in the same way and as a result are entering our college from different playing fields. This distinction is especially important in education, where there are data-supported gaps in opportunities and outcomes for some students, including low-income students and students of color, who historically have greater needs due to the systemic shortcomings of our educational systems in providing for them.

As faculty, classified staff, and student leaders, we are proud of our institution, our programs, and our colleagues for creating the institutional conditions that allow all students to reach their full potential. Our campus community is committed to achieving equitable student outcomes within an institutional culture that values the importance of student equity and understands why this work matters to all of our students, to our community, and to our region.

More Drumming

Jim Hutchins, Livermore

In John Marchand's Nov. 18 letter, he continues to "pound the table and yell like hell" by making multiple fallacious claims.

He begins with the call for applicants for the General Plan Advisory Committee (GPAC), which he states was well advertised in spite of the fact that only 48 people from a town of 90K applied. Marchand perseverates in stating the GPAC was "well communicated through various public channels". But the lack of applicants speaks for itself. Marchand claims that I (and unnamed people) had "discussed information concerning the application process and posted about it on Nextdoor." The unnamed people are conveniently unverifiable, but as for my part, this claim is impossible. My Nextdoor account was closed in May 2021, which is two months before the City Council approved forming GPAC.

Marchand also stated our website (PreserveDowntownLivermore.com) claims "there is 'no park' in the downtown," and cites Stockmen's Park. The website specifically addresses the continuing changes to the Eden Housing proposal. It demonstrates how the public is not getting the Veterans Park they were promised. Marchand claims the new park is bigger, which is disingenuous and misleading. The city defines "the park" as the green space inside the plan's sidewalks.

(See MAILBOX, page 6)

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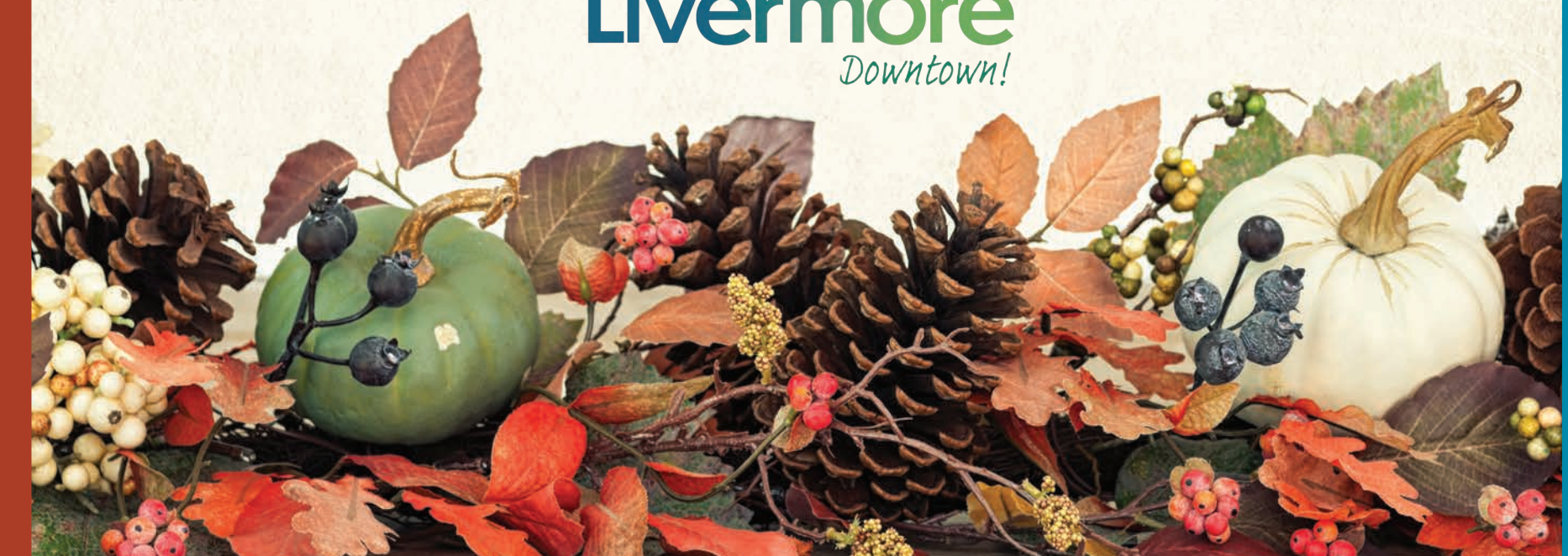
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MAILBOX

(Continued from page 5)

The new park drawings don't show sidewalks, and that missing element has been included as additional park space. The way the park sizes are measured is different allowing the new park size to appear bigger.

Marchand also claims the website "condemns the City's approved downtown plan." The website doesn't condemn the Downtown Plan. It educates people on discrepancies between the Downtown Plan as originally conceived,

and Eden Housing's design changes. The results of the 2017 Outreach state the city shall "Maintain the small town, small-scale, historic character", "Buildings should be low-rise, no more than two-to three-stories", and "Down-

town Livermore should not have high density housing."

Marchand's favorite technique is 'gaslighting.'

He claims I knew about the GPAC application process, and posted it on Nextdoor. Again, completely false. He

notes my participation in the Sept. 23 Visioning Workshop, adding "which occurred BEFORE the interviews of potential members for the committee." He conveniently omits that the workshop was two weeks after the GPAC

application deadline, and the interviews were for those that had applied by the Sept. 7 deadline.

Keep pounding the table Marchand because the law and the facts are indeed against you.

AIRPORT

(Continued from first page)

takes away subjectivity," Moran said. "It removes a lot of legal risk to the city, because we have had in the past action taken by an applicant on our list, which stalled the allocation of three of our hangars earlier this year. This way it's more objective and more responsible to everybody on the list."

The litigation previously brought forward by XL Aviation against the City of Livermore around LVK's leasing decisions was settled out of court in June this year, Moran reported. XL Aviation — which was subleasing from Attitude Aviation, owned by Sam Rivinius — had alleged that the city was doling out corporate and executive hangar leases in an arbitrary and capricious manner. The Independent submitted a public records request for the terms of the settlement, which were not available at press time.

However, the practice of subletting hangars in itself was a point of focus in AeroPLEX's report. The consultant advised the city to end lessees' ability to transfer, sell or trade leases of these municipally owned assets.

"In order to best facilitate demand for aeronautical space in the airport's hangars,

those waiting on the list and current hangar tenant agreements should not be permit (sic) subletting or assignment of their space to other aircraft owners," the report stated.

The number of corporate and executive hangars that groups or individuals can lease also prompted discussion. Curt Castagna, managing partner for AeroPLEX, warned that the number of corporate/executive hangars that any one entity and its affiliates may lease at the airport should be limited to three units — a rule that's been part of the city's current ordinance since 2015.

"In a commercial setting, the airport might be setting themselves up to the challenge that they're providing an exclusive right to keep competition out," Castagna continued. "For instance, if the person looking for more than three units were a charter company or an FBO (fixed base operator) that was operating out of a publicly held hangar, and they were occupying that space to keep out another charter or another FBO or another flight school, they would be using that policy to eliminate competition, and the airport can't do that." According to public re-

ports requested by The Independent earlier this year, Rivinius previously held at least seven taxpayer subsidized corporate/executive hangars under different business names — six under Attitude Aviation and one under J & R Electrics — before relinquishing three of them recently to the Alameda County Sheriff's Office, the Mountain Cascade construction company, and Bay Area Flying Club. These three allocations were held up due to the lawsuit.

Rivinius purchased J & R in March 2018, which already held a month-to-month lease since April 2010. J&R still retains its use of hangar #141. After the hangars were taken from Rivinius' Attitude Aviation in recent months, he now holds three under that company, and a fourth under J & R.

"The hangar is assigned to the business itself, so by buying (J & R Electrics), (Rivinius) has the hangar, but it's in the (business) name," Moran said. "Now if he were to try to put that in his own name, that wouldn't be allowed, because that entity or that one person would have more than they're allowed to hold." Black's Law Dictionary

defines an affiliate as "companies that have shared resources, interests or business dealings." Other Livermore city staff reports on separate development topics have previously stated that "'Affiliate' means any Person which (1) directly or indirectly through one or more intermediaries, (x) Controls or (y) is Controlled by, or (z) is under common Control with, Developer."

When asked why an owner of multiple companies wouldn't be considered an affiliate of all them, Alcalá said "the determination whether the businesses are affiliated is an administrative decision."

"But I can also share that (as) a part of the process to update the hangar policy, city staff is also evaluating revisions to the ordinance to more clearly reflect staff's consistent interpretation and implementation of that language, as well as opportunities to establish new expectations for application(s) in the future," Alcalá said.

Overall, Moran stressed that the airport was aiming to become more equitable going forward.

"Ultimately," he continued, "we just want to get a more straightforward and fair

policy for those that wish to get on the list and hopefully get a hangar at our airport in

the future."

David Chircop contributed to this story.

BALLOT

(Continued from first page)

black than residential (waste) because you're not taking showers, you're not doing laundry — it truly is black. It can pollute the water table, so there is concern about the quality in the water in the water tables running below our area. One way to protect it is to not allow septic systems for any additional commercial wineries."

The state's regulations prohibiting additional septic treatments in rural areas due to concerns about groundwater contamination prevent new wineries from coming in or existing wineries from expanding services. Stakeholders in the area have requested the extension in what they say will ensure the future economic vitality of the winery and hospitality industries.

The council's vote further authorized \$212,502 for Rincon Consultants to prepare a supplemental Environmental Impact Report for the project and to pay for project consultants.

Livermore Planning Manager Steve Stewart told the council that city employees and consultants are already examining the technical and financial aspects to extend sewer service into South Livermore Valley, such as pipeline adjustments and improvements to existing infrastructure, including the city's water treatment plant. Stewart said city employees would return to the council in May with the proposed measure's language.

Proponents believe the project to connect winegrowers and property owners to sewer lines will improve water quality by removing nitrates that flow from their septic systems into groundwater and resolve other water quality concerns.

"This extension would ensure that the cultivated agriculture in our valley will continue to be financially

viable and would encourage future planted acreage, which is needed to fulfill a goal of the South Livermore Valley Area Plan (SLVAP) to reach 5,000 acres of cultivated agriculture," current TVC Executive Director Laura Antrim and Board Chair David Kent wrote in a letter to the council.

"In addition, it would provide the infrastructure required to enhance commercial wine country development to include medium sized wineries, restaurants, and a wine country resort," they wrote.

Two members of the public voiced concerns about whether the city's sewer treatment plant and current sewer lines had the capacity to handle the potential increased sewage flow.

"I ask that that issue be specifically addressed in the (Environmental Impact Report,)" resident Jean King said.

Speaker Donna Cabanne further called for the formation of an assessment district, guaranteeing that payment for the project would come entirely from users outside the Urban Growth Boundary for the life of the project.

Livermore resident James Folta said he supported preparation of a ballot measure to help Livermore Valley wineries and related businesses succeed.

Wine Heritage District Approved

In other action, the council approved with a 4-0 vote a scaled-down version of a Livermore Valley Wine Heritage District (WHD) that no longer includes wineries in Danville, Dublin, Pleasanton and San Ramon. The district, which will collect 2% of direct-to-consumer California wine sales to promote wineries within the historic Livermore Valley American Viticultural Area (LVAVA),

was reconfigured by the Livermore Wine Growers Association (LWGA) to appease vintners in other cities who did not want to be included.

William Westover Smyth, owner of the Westover Winery in Castro Valley, who had raised opposition to the WHD at the Nov. 8 Livermore council meeting, said he was pleased the Livermore wine growers had excluded wineries from other areas.

In an interview with The Independent, Smyth later said — especially considering inflation and the high taxes in Alameda County — that it wasn't right to add an additional 2% customer charge, which will appear as a line item on their bill. This, he added, would make wineries even less accessible to the public. He further said he left LVWGA five years ago because it had become "too bloated" with overhead costs, which paired with rising member dues.

"The only reason they're doing this is because (LVWGA) became too big and too inefficient," Smyth said. "A lot of the wineries have said we should go back to the old way ... they think that rather than go to the government and force wineries into this thing, that maybe we should have gotten rid of people and go back to the way it was."

LVWGA president Steve Mirassou said the area's wine industry had "existential financial challenges" and the WHD would create funding "for the kind of marketing that this region deserves," enabling it to "effectively describe to customers what it is that we actually do here and what the quality of our wines are here."

"I'm excited about where the future lies for the Livermore Valley growing area and for the wineries that are included in the assessment district," Mirassou said.

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Riding Therapy Program Urges Donations for Horses

The Reins in Motion Foundation is urging members of the Tri-Valley community to consider donations to the therapeutic riding program in Livermore for GivingTuesday on Tuesday, Nov. 30.

GivingTuesday, created by a New York YMCA in 2012, has become a worldwide movement to encourage a day of generosity.

"The (foundation) is focusing its efforts on the gentle giants that provide hope, happiness and an increased quality of life

to everyone who rides or loves them," said Program Director Katy Kempton. "Our equine friends are hard-workers deserving of continuing great care such that they are always ready for our riders in the therapeutic riding lessons. What better way to say thanks to our four-legged friends than with a gift that goes straight back to them."

Kempton, a certified therapeutic horsemanship instructor, said it costs about \$100 a month to feed and care for each of the pro-

gram's seven horses.

"Ensuring our horses are happy and healthy is paramount to providing a safe and enjoyable experience for our riders," she said.

Volunteers with Reins in Motion currently provide weekly riding sessions for about 50 special needs and veteran program participants. The program also takes horses to Camp Arroyo during Taylor Family Foundation camps for special needs children. For more information, visit reinsinmotion.com.

Pleasanton Resident Earns Rank of Eagle Scout

Noah Hugh Marek, a member of Boy Scout Troop 948 in Pleasanton, has been awarded the rank of Eagle Scout.

Eagle Scouts must earn a minimum of 21 merit badges and complete a community service project.

For his Eagle project, Marek raised funds to purchase a stainless-steel mountain bike repair stand and tire pump, which he and his fellow troop members installed at the top of the trail at Augustin Bernal Park on the Pleasanton Ridge.

Marek, the son of Sara and Don Marek of Pleasanton, served as a patrol leader, assistant senior patrol leader and a camp counselor at the Wente Scout Reservation in Willets, California.

He is a recent graduate of Amador Valley High School, where he was junior class president and on the wrestling team. He was also on the Mr. Amador leadership committee, which volunteers at the George Mark Children's House in San Leandro.

Upon graduation, he plans to attend UC Santa Barbara.



Noah Marek

Executive Director Rachel Snedcor Set to Leave Downtown Livermore Inc.

Rachel Snedcor, executive director of Livermore Downtown Inc. (LDI), is stepping down from her position after 21 years of leading the organization, effective Feb. 28.

During her time with LDI, Snedcor has completed dozens of improvement projects in the downtown area and led the charge in enlivening the event calendar, attracting residents from all over the Tri-Valley to activities like dining experiences and "Witches Night Out." No replacement has been hired, but

LDI hopes to have someone in place by the end of January so there is time for Snedcor to help train her replacement.



Rachel Snedcor

Community College Launches Supply Chain Training Program

The Chabot-Las Positas Community College District has launched a new program to prepare students for jobs in the transportation, distribution and logistics sectors.

The Bay Area Prologis Transportation, Distribution and Logistics Training Program was developed with Prologis, a San Francisco-based real-estate investment company that focuses on the global supply chain and logistics facilities, and the nonprofit Jobs for the Future.

Prologis has pledged to train 25,000 workers by 2025, with the Bay Area one of 15 key logistics markets.

The self-paced digital curriculum teaches essential

workforce skills and provides an overview of best practices in the distribution and logistics industries.

"Opportunities in the logistics industry have reached a new peak as companies recognize the importance of the supply chain to their operations," said Steven Hussain, Prologis vice president for workforce programs and community relations. "This initiative expands access to career opportunities in this growing sector while addressing the hiring gap for employers."

For more information, email Tamara Dehnert, Prologis program coordinator, at Tdehnert@clpccd.org.

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Volunteers Needed for Library Bookstore

Friends of the Livermore Library, a nonprofit organization, is seeking volunteers to staff its bookstore at the Civic Center Library.

The store sells donated books and books no longer needed by the library system, with the proceeds helping to fund library activities.

The library is located at 1188 S. Livermore Ave. Prospective volunteers are asked to call 925-447-8466 or 925-667-7810. Training will be provided.

Tri-Valley Cities Plan Parades, Holiday Tree Lightings

Dublin will get a jump on Livermore and Pleasanton with an official Holiday Tree Lighting ceremony at the Civic Center, at 7 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 2.

Dublin plans to turn the Civic Center parking lot into a winter wonderland with lights, food vendors, music from the Dublin Unified School District Children's Choir and other local music ensembles, and "a special guest from the North Pole."

The Winter Wonderland will open at 5:30 p.m., at 100 Civic Plaza.

Livermore and Pleasanton will both hold tree lighting ceremonies on Saturday, Dec. 4.

Pleasanton will officially kick off the holiday season with a "Light Up Pleasanton" downtown parade at 5 p.m. on Dec. 4, followed by a tree lighting under the Pleasanton Arch in front of the Museum on Main.

Starting at the Main Street Bridge, the Pleasanton parade will head south on Main to Abbie Street. The tree lighting, about 6:45 p.m., will include holiday music and a visit from Santa Claus.

Livermore will also host "The Holiday Village" at Carnegie Park, 2155 Third St., Dec. 3 (4 to 8 p.m.), followed by a "Holiday Sights & Sounds" parade and tree lighting tree on Dec. 4.

Sponsored by Livermore Downtown, the parade will begin at 6 p.m. and head down First Street from M Street to McLeod Street.

Activities at Carnegie Park will include local food and craft vendors, entertainment, and visits from Santa.

TRI-VALLEY

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SOLAR

(Continued from first page)

solar systems in the Bay Area.

Igor Tregub, Senior Policy Advisor for the California Solar & Storage Association, stated during the Nov. 17 meeting that policy should protect the incentives to continue the growth of rooftop solar. Tregub prefers rooftop solar over utility-scale solar because it does not use any additional land, and because it brings power generation closer to where it is used, reducing transmission costs. He added that President Joe Biden's "30 by 30" conservation plan, which aims to protect 30% of U.S. land and water by 2030, cannot succeed without rooftop solar.

Tregub then presented a website of the Solar Rights Alliance (savecalifornia-

solar.org), California's association of solar users that works with California Solar & Storage. The website referred to the drastic credit reductions as a utility-company "profit grab" and a defensive reaction to growing homeowner energy independence.

Utility companies, explained Tregub, earn a return from transmission lines and therefore benefit financially from more centralized generation sources.

Tregub also pointed out a socioeconomic downside to lowered incentives: the longer it takes for a rooftop solar installation to pay for itself, the less feasible it will be for households to go solar.

In a comparison of NEM successor proposals pre-

pared by SunPower, the 80% credit reduction would extend the cost-recovery period from 7 years to over 20 years. This effect could make home solar and its benefits, such as lower energy bills, cost-prohibitive to lower income households.

"We fundamentally believe that customers should not have to choose between paying their rent and paying their utility bill," said Tregub.

Proponents of the drastic credit cuts argue that, under the current NEM program, rooftop solar owners have been over-compensated at the expense of non-solar customers.

Scott Murtishaw, Policy Director at Independent Energy Producers, explained at the meeting that when

an electric customer pays for power, some money goes toward the generation and some money goes toward the distribution of that power.

Under the current NEM program, however, when a rooftop solar owner exports power back onto the grid, that owner collects both the generation and the distribution payments, even though the power is actually distributed by the utility company. In other words, those distribution costs never make it back into the grid. And because the grid still must be paid for, those costs are reallocated to everyone else, Murtishaw explained.

In an increasingly solar California, continued Murtishaw, this has shifted distribution costs from those

who are able to afford rooftop solar to those who are not.

Crediting solar owners the full retail rate made sense at NEM's inception, said Murtishaw. Meters were analog then, and the easiest way to calculate credits was to simply let the meter spin backward. Also, solar installations "were so expensive at the time that nobody was very concerned about it," he continued.

But the solar landscape has since changed. According to the Solar Energy Industries Association, solar installation costs have dropped by more than 70% over the past decade. And because electric rates have gone up, so has the compensation received by owners of rooftop solar.

Instead, Murtishaw said the proposed 80% reduction would tie "export compensation to something that's more pegged to the wholesale cost rather than the retail cost."

But even if the CPUC decides to reduce NEM credits, non-solar customers will not see significant changes to their power bills for several years because the decision will not apply to pre-existing NEM participants.

Finally, Tregub emphasized this should not be viewed as a choice between rooftop or centralized solar.

"It's important to recognize that in order to meet our climate action goals, we do need both," Tregub continued. "We cannot achieve as a state our goals without both."

AMBULANCE

(Continued from first page)

upon this determination, this letter serves as approval of the submitted Correction Action Plan for implementation."

Falck splits the county into three service zones — North, South and East. The cities of the Tri-Valley fall into the East zone. Each zone is further divided into rural, suburban and metro/urban subzones. Calls for service are divided into code 2, code 3 and 5150 calls. A code 3 call is a time-critical emergency that requires the responding ambulance to use lights and sirens. A code 2 call is not time-critical, and a 5150 call refers to an individual experiencing a mental health crisis. Each call type in each subzone is assigned response time, and Falck is expected to achieve that response standard 90% of the time.

Most of the call volume originates in the metro/urban subzones. In September, Falck missed the 90% standard for code 3 calls in each of the three metro/urban subzones. The same was true

in August, though the service levels were actually worse in September, indicating that Falck's efforts to reverse its performance slide had not yet started to yield results. As of this writing, Falck's October performance report is not yet available.

"Falck is committed to making steady improvements in line with our commitment to provide Alameda County residents and visitors with the best possible emergency medical care and transportation," said Jeff Lucia, Falck USA director of marketing and communications, in an email to The Independent. "The initiatives will take time to have a significant effect, but we hope to see improvement quickly."

According to Lucia, the CAP focuses on five areas including reducing the amount of time required to transfer a patient from an ambulance to a hospital emergency department; improving staffing and improving operations.

The time it takes to transfer a patient to hospital care is known as wall time. Ex-

tended wall times have been a problem across the country as hospitals struggle with high patient loads resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic and staffing shortages of their own. Lucia reported that the average wall time that Falck has tracked dropped from 57 to 52 minutes recently.

While not oblivious of the increased wall times at county hospitals, ALCO EMS previously met with Falck to discuss increasing patient offload times and other operational issues "unrelated to the pandemic" that hindered the company's performance. Gary Breazeale, treasurer for Local 510 — which represents emergency medical technicians, paramedics and support staff — said that Falck blaming wall times for the long responses aims to detract from its staffing shortcomings.

Keeping ambulance crews staffed has been, and continues to be, a challenge for Falck. The CAP states that while Falck has hired 74 paramedics and emergency

medical technicians (EMT) in 2021, they have lost 117.

"We're being very aggressive about recruiting, including offering generous signing bonuses and working with specialty recruiters," Lucia said. "As almost all paramedic schools shut down during the pandemic, we are competing for a more limited number of qualified caregivers than in the past. Another contributor to the decreased talent pool is the EMTs and paramedics who have left the profession entirely, like many other health care professionals across the U.S."

Extended ambulance response times impact operations that extend beyond Falck. Most medical calls result in the dispatch of a fire department unit in addition to the ambulance crew. Fire crews are committed to those incidents until patient care can be transferred to Falck paramedics and EMTs.

"When our apparatus sits on scene for an extended time waiting for the ambulance, that means that they're not available for an-

other call in their respective district," said Eric Moore, deputy chief with the Alameda County Fire Department. "So, we would be sending the next appropriate unit to respond to that call."

ALCO EMS is expected to review Falck's progress at the end of the month. A spokesperson for ALCO EMS said the agency is closely monitoring Falck's performance and they are meeting on a regular basis.

"It is critical that our residents receive timely ambulance responses, and I'm glad that our EMS agency is holding Falck accountable to their contract and responsibility," said Alameda County

District 1 Supervisor David Haubert in an email to The Independent. "Now that the corrective action plan has been accepted, I'm looking forward to seeing the needed improvements."

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CARBON

(Continued from first page)

capture that carbon from the air and deposit it in the soil for long-term storage."

The Marin Carbon Project started in Marin County in 2008, and researchers there discovered the potential for rangeland soils to remove carbon from the air and store it for decades, or even centuries. That project has influenced the work currently underway in Alameda County.

Alameda County's three-year long project went underway in December 2019 when researchers applied a thin layer of compost on a 10-acre sloped section of rangeland owned by StopWaste in the Altamont Hills east of Livermore. While the pandemic and drought have contributed to less-than-ideal conditions, the project is expected to eventually cover about 100 acres.

Schoonmaker said the project has removed about one ton of carbon from the atmosphere per year for each acre that received a single, one-quarter inch application of compost. That closely matches the observations made as part of the Marin Carbon Project, which also completed computer model-

ing to determine how long the compost benefits will continue. Their research determined that one ton of carbon will continue to be extracted from the atmosphere every year for 30 years. Some benefits of the application will continue for up to a century.

"The goal of our project is to demonstrate to ranchers that they can adopt new practices or adapt existing practices to sequester carbon," Alameda County Resource Conservation District biologist Hillary Sardiñas said. "Many farmers and ranchers already use climate-beneficial practices, but they may not recognize that what they're doing can help mitigate climate change."

The StopWaste project also has a possible secondary benefit. Senate Bill (SB) 1383, signed into law by then-Gov. Jerry Brown in 2016, established several requirements aimed at reducing the volume of short-lived climate pollutants (SLCP) — organic waste like food scraps, yard trimmings, paper and cardboard. According to CalRecycle, SLCP accounts for half of material

deposited in landfills, and is responsible for 20% of the state's methane emissions. Methane is considered a super pollutant that's 84 times more potent than carbon dioxide. Beginning Jan. 1, 2022, SB 1383 requires cities and counties to purchase compost created from recovered organic waste products to keep the material out of landfills and to create a market demand for the material.

Carling said that the City of Livermore will be required to purchase 10,000 tons of organic mulch annually. If the StopWaste project pans out, some of that material could be used in other carbon farming projects on farms and ranches.

Expanding the organic materials in mulch could have an impact on the quality of the mulch produced, Schoonmaker noted.

"The thing about (SB) 1383 is that you're going to see a lot more food waste," she said. "With food waste comes contamination, which is a huge problem. That's like plastic and glass. I don't mean toxic stuff. But it's really hard to screen out, and you can end up with a lot of plastic and glass in certain

types of compost. Compost is like any other product — there is a range of quality."

Schoonmaker went on to note that since food waste contaminants can be difficult to remove from green waste, requirements should be set up that support carbon farming, while also protecting grazing.

"We don't want to spread plastic and glass everywhere," she said. "We don't want people to think this is just open land where we can just chuck all this compost. We want people to use it where it's got the most benefit."

While the prospects are promising, there is the potential for other unintended consequences. Carling told of a Livermore rancher who used compost on his rangeland. While it had the intended benefit of producing more grass, drought conditions turned the tall, thick grass into a fire hazard.

"Carbon farming gets you a couple of things," Carling said. "It addresses SB 1383. Secondly, it helps to fix carbon in the soil to combat climate change to a limited extent. I think it's an interesting idea."

NONPROFIT

(Continued from first page)

to locally based nonprofits due to larger overhead and national commitments.

The 3VCF's board request to council is three-fold:

Partner with 3VCF to support philanthropy in the region with an unrestricted gift of \$50,000 over three years; consider a city-sponsored 'field of interest' fund or endowment to specifically address community needs; and, in addition, allow 3VCF to manage a discretionary grant fund program of \$15,000 to secure and enlist the best opportunities for Dublin.

While the council was unanimously supportive of the request, there were some questions.

"I definitely see a need for this as a way to bring this (nonprofit) fragmentation together, with a very clear view of where they are going to get those funds," said Councilmember Michael McCorriston. "But I have to ask what are your expectations?"

Houghton responded that the initial \$50,000 contribution from the city would serve to pay for start-up administrative costs and assist in getting the founda-

tion closer to being self-sustaining.

"Community foundations are measured by asset growth so they can become a self-sustaining model," Houghton said. "Ideally, in a perfect world, this would help toward that overall goal."

The group came before the council two weeks ago with their funding request and were asked to return on Nov. 16, during the council's regular meeting, with additional information and a more detailed presentation. The council asked staff to work with the foundation to

create a workable contract and plan for presentation to the council at a future meeting.

"I am very supportive and excited that this is being brought forward," said Vice Mayor Sean Kumagai. "One of the great things about Dublin is that people are always asking 'how can I help, how can I help?' and this would be a great way to set something up that would help people locally."

For more information, visit the Three Valleys Community Foundation website at 3vcf.org or email info@3vcf.org.

PILOT

(Continued from first page)

cess in other jurisdictions, including the California cities of Roseville and San Diego, and the State of Oregon. A similar pilot program is currently underway in Santa Clara County.

The anticipated cost of the recommended two-year pilot program is \$844,462,

which will provide two full-time clinicians, one for adults and another for juveniles, and one part-time temporary program assistant. If the pilot program were successful, the City of Pleasanton could hire clinicians as direct employees or third-party contractors.

Bi-annual reports will be presented to the council as the program progresses.

"The well-being of our adults and our children in our community is of the utmost importance," said Councilmember Valerie Arkin. "I really believe we should not be burdening our

police with mental health crisis responses, so having a mental health clinician available will really help ... I'm very excited about this program and excited to get it off the ground."

For more information, visit www.cityofpleasantonca.gov.

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Livermore Wines Impress at Harvest Challenge

By Laura Ness

At this year's Harvest Challenge Wine Competition, Livermore showed up bigger and better than ever. It was an impressive showing, with 17 great wines, including two head-turning cabernet francs, a gregarious grenache, a solid sangiovese, a mighty malbec, stout petite sirah and a righteous Bordeaux style blend.

This year, the man with the widest smile is once again Aaro Luna, who managed a 98-point score for his 2018 Garré Vineyards and Winery Cabernet Franc, which was crowned Best of Livermore Valley and went on to the Sweepstakes round. That's the not the first time a Garré wine or a wine from Livermore has been in the Sweeps at this competition, which judges wines strictly by American Viticultural Area (AVA) — a specific type of appellation of origin used on wine labels. There are 260 AVAs within 34 states in the US; 142 of them are in California.

Nobody brought cabernet franc like Livermore this year. Each wine medaled, including the 2018 Fenestra Cabernet Franc, gold, 94 points (silky and juicy with a lively texture, warm ginger and raspberry); the 2018 Garré Vineyards and Winery Cabernet Franc, double gold, 98 points (sexy, with pine, eucalyptus, chocolate mint, cocoa powder, dried cranberry and red currant); and the 2018 Rodrigue Molyneux, which just missed gold with a high silver (rose perfume, cedar, pine, silky and lithe).

Winning double gold was the 2018 Fenestra Grenache, 97 points, described as captivating, with ripe red strawberry fruit, and the 2016 Fenestra Conjugation, 97 points, noted as herba-ceous, with ripe plum, cigar box, rhubarb, good structure and a long finish.

Scoring Gold was the 2018 Rodrigue Molyneux Malbec, 93 points, described as having explosive red fruit, a savory edge with sage and

licorice, and a lush texture. The 2018 Garré Sangiovese also scored gold, 94 points and was noted as high impact, with silky texture, loads of cherry, spice and cedar. The 2016 Fenestra Petite Sirah came away with gold, 94 points, described as having a rich concentrated nose, with blackberry, white pepper and spicy dense mole on the palate.

Bringing home silver medals were the 2020 Fenestra Sauvignon Blanc, 2018 Fenestra Infrared Rhone blend, the 2018 Garré Profound Secret, the 2018 Rodrigue Molyneux Barbera, 2016 Fenestra Estate Syrah, 2018 Garré Syrah, 2018 Fenestra Zinfandel and 2018 Garré Petite Sirah.

In the final voting, a Primitivo from St. Anne's Crossing (Sonoma Valley) took Best Red and Best of Show, but it wasn't for lack of trying by Luna's outstanding cabernet franc. Yes, there is hope for this grape to be the Best of Livermore in more ways than one.

Valley Chorale to Present Holiday Concert Dec. 10, 11

Valley Concert Chorale (VCC) will perform its annual holiday concert, "Carols, Glorias and Lullabies," at the First Presbyterian Church in Livermore on Friday, Dec. 10, and Saturday, Dec. 11.

Both concerts will begin at 7:30 p.m.

VCC artistic director John Emory Bush invites the audience to join in singing familiar carols that include "Joy to the World," "The First Noel," and "Hark the Herald Angels Sing." Other

carols will include the 16th-century French carol "Ding, Dong Merrily on High," the Austrian carol "Still, Still, Still," and "Silent Night."

The Glorias section will include two well known selections, "And the Glory of the Lord," from Handel's "Messiah," and the first movement of Vivaldi's "Gloria." In addition, Bush said the most challenging piece during the Glorias will feature Daniel Glover with a virtuosic piano accompaniment in Randal Bass's

'Gloria.'

The lullabies section will feature two selections by Norwegian Kim Andre Arnesen, "Cradle Hymn" and "His Light in Us."

Tickets are \$25 in advance, and \$30 at the church, located at 2020 Fifth St. in Livermore. Children are free when accompanied by an adult, and tickets for high school and college-age students are \$10. Advance tickets are available at valleyconcertchorale.org or 925-866-4003.

GoFundMe to Benefit Livermore Shop with a Cop

Retired Christensen Middle School Principal Pat Avilla has created a GoFundMe page to raise money for the Livermore Police Department's Shop with a Cop program with the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District (LVJUSD).

The annual holiday program matches 30 needy students, selected by school district staff, with police officers who take them to Wal-Mart to buy gifts for themselves and

family members.

The GoFundMe campaign has a goal of \$9,000.

The Shop with a Cop program takes place this year on Dec. 11, and students will meet with a Livermore police officer in uniform at the school they attend.

The police officers, who donate their personal time to the program, will drive the students to a local Starbucks, where they will be treated to a cup of hot cocoa. From there,

the officers and students will caravan to the Wal-Mart in Livermore, where they will be greeted by the Granada High School band and members of the student leadership team. Each of the students will get about \$300 to spend.

The officers and other volunteers also help the students wrap their presents before driving them home. To view the GoFundMe page or donate, visit tinyurl.com/6ay28vkh.

Turkey Burn Fun Run Returns to Pleasanton Nov. 25

The Pleasanton North Rotary Club will sponsor the seventh annual Tri-Valley Turkey Burn fun run on Thursday, Nov. 25, starting at the Ken Mercer Sports Park in Pleasanton.

The 5K/10K Thanksgiving Day fun run will begin at 9 a.m., gates open at 8 a.m. The Turkey Burn, held virtually last year because of the COVID-19 pandemic, has become a tradition for many

Tri-Valley families.

It features race bibs with the phrase, "I am thankful for ...," to be completed by the participants.

"We hope this year's Turkey Burn brings back that community spirit everyone felt before the (COVID-19) pandemic," said Viviana Cherman, co-chair of the organizing committee. "It's going to be super fun."

The entry fee is \$10 for

adults, \$5 for teens and pre-teens. Children 9 and under are free. Participants will be asked to wear face masks and to maintain social distance from other runners. Funds raised from the Turkey Burn go to support local Rotary youth services.

The Ken Mercer Sports Park is located at 5800 Parkside Drive. To register, visit trivalleyturkeyburn.org.

Hagemann Ranch to Host Arts and Crafts Bazaar

Hagemann Ranch in Livermore, will host an arts and crafts bazaar from 1 to 4 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 28.

The free, family-friendly "Giving Thanks" event will also feature a veterans art display, arts and crafts

demonstrations and tours of the Hagemann Ranch Historic District, which represents the last five-acres of a former 600-acre ranch that operated from the 1870s to 2005.

The site, which includes

a farmhouse, barn, blacksmith shop and other out-buildings, is now owned by the City of Livermore and managed by the Livermore Heritage Guild.

Hagemann Ranch is located at 455 Olivina Ave.

TV30 Set to Offer 24 Hours of Thanksgiving Football

Tri-Valley Community Television will carry a High School Football-A-Thon from midnight on Wednesday, Nov. 24, to midnight on Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 25.

The 24-hours of football

on TV 30 will include back-to-back broadcasts of three high school games from earlier this season: Foothill at Amador Valley, Foothill at Dublin and Granada at Livermore. The games, which can be seen on Com-

cast TV Channel 30, AT&T U-verse via Channel 99 and streaming on the TV30 website, will repeat during the football-a-thon.

Viewers should check their program schedules for exact times.

OBITUARIES

John Phillip Elliott



California. He went on to Northern Arizona University where he graduated with a degree in marketing and an MBA. John was a retiree of the Lawrence Livermore

National Laboratory where he served as a senior staff member.

A small graveside service and reception was held Nov. 22, 2021. In remembrance of John Elliott's life, the family asks that any charitable donations be made to:

The American Cancer Society, <https://bit.ly/3Fw4HtF>, and/or Tri-Valley Conservancy, <https://bit.ly/3x8y1IJ>.

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

Anthony (Tony) Russo

Sept. 17, 1936 – Nov. 17, 2021



of Security and Regional Manager.

After retiring Tony and his wife Marie became volunteers with the Dublin Police Services and participated in many events sponsored by the Dublin Police. They also became Neighborhood Watch Block Captains for many years, during which time they spearheaded the Neighborhood Watch National Night Out events. Theirs was one of the most popular gatherings in Dublin, always attended by members of the Dublin City Council, Police Services, Fire Department, Highway Patrol and members of several Dublin city offices.

Tony will be fondly remembered for his hobby of photography and his skill in

the use of Photoshop, his woodworking abilities, and for his talent in the kitchen including his wonderful banana nut bread.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Joseph and Mae Russo, brother Sal Russo and his beloved wife of 56 years, Marie. He is survived by his daughter Renee (Bernie) of Sparks, Nevada; his son Tony, Jr. (Krissy) of Dublin; his granddaughters Angela Smith (Nate) of Sparks, Nevada, and Olivia Russo of Dublin; and grandson Connor Russo of Dublin; great-granddaughters Briannah Smith, Hannah Smith and Olivia Smith; and great-grandson Micah Smith, all of Sparks, Nevada.

Services will be held at Callahan Mortuary in Livermore, California, on Friday, Dec. 10, with visitation from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. The funeral will be held from 1 - 2 p.m., with burial immediately following. Callahan Mortuary is honored to be serving the Russo family. An online guestbook is available for condolences at www.callaghanmortuary.com.

Ervin Behrin

May 6, 1934 – Nov. 14, 2021

ing the Korean War would make him eligible for the GI bill. There, he was trained as an electronics technician, which established the foundation for what would become his lifelong career. Following his discharge from active duty, he used the GI bill to attend Ohio State University and eventually Case Institute of Technology, where he graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in electrical engineering with honors. While attending Ohio State University, he married Dorothy Chestler, and, after graduation, the two of them moved to Livermore, California. There, he began his career at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, initially as an electronics engineer, later becoming a group leader and finally a project manager.

He retired in 1991 but kept busy as a part-time consultant until 2006.



Ervin loved the outdoors and was an avid camper and backpacker in the California wilderness. He was eminently curious and he and Dorothy traveled the world extensively. He enjoyed theater, music, film and reading throughout his lifetime.

Ervin is survived by his wife Dorothy of Livermore, and their two children, David and Michael, their spouses Beth and Alysa and two grandchildren Sawyer and Bronte.

Anthony J. Gazzuolo

March 9, 1958 – Nov. 21, 2021



Italy as often as possible, even after moving to California.

After marrying the love of his life Eileen Mulroy in 1980, they moved to the Cleveland suburbs. Although he worked as a retail parts manager for various car dealerships, Anthony worked on his gardening skills in his free time, resulting in a huge supply of summer harvest fruits! During this time, he also was a member of the Knights of Columbus Council 5405, a membership he maintained even after moving out of state.

In 1993 the family moved to Livermore, California, where Anthony put his gardening skills to use by starting his own company

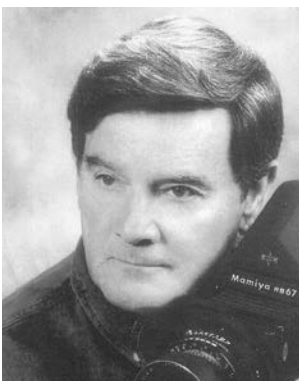
Tri-Valley Garden and Lawn Care. This also gave him the opportunity to set his own hours and help in many areas of his children's lives - working as a monitor at the middle school, helping coach softball teams and running them around to softball, soccer and band events. His gardens in his yard were always beautiful - and he leaves behind gorgeous rose bushes for his family and neighbors to enjoy.

Anthony was a bear of a man with a heart of gold who loved both his Budweiser but also a good glass of wine, his cigars, the Cleveland Browns and Indians (although they drove him crazy!), and his dog Vinny. At heart, he was a family man and was happiest grilling dinner on his back patio surrounded by family and friends with Dean Martin or Beatles music playing in the background.

There will be a celebration of life and burial in Cleveland in early 2022. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to Hope Hospice, Dublin, California, or Valley Humane Society, Pleasanton, California.

Donald J. Houser

Sept. 27, 1937 – Sept. 23, 2021



and Marine Corps medal, Bronze Star with "V", Navy Commendation Medal with "V", and two purple hearts.

After 24 years of service, he retired with the rank of first sergeant.

Don established Don's Photography of Poway in 1979. He was fortunate to reside for 55 years on Holland Road surrounded by dear friends and neighbors. In his golden years he was an avid traveler who enjoyed his grandchildren, racquetball and gardening. He is survived by his loving wife, Marilyn, of 61 years, his children Kathleen, Donna and Darren, seven grandchildren and his sister Jacqueline LaLonde.



Donald J. Houser passed away surrounded by loved ones on Sept. 23 after battling various illnesses consistent with Agent Orange Exposure in Vietnam. Don was born in Angels Camp, California, raised in Livermore and graduated as a Livermore High School Cowboy in 1955. Serving with the USMC in Vietnam, he distinguished himself as a calm leader and received a battlefield commission to platoon commander, a billet normally held by a commissioned officer. His citations include the Navy



The Foothill High School varsity football team huddles during a game against Rancho Cotate High, Nov. 20. The Falcons won 35-7. (Photo – Nathan Canilao)

Foothill Wins on the Road Against Rancho Cotate

By Nathan Canilao

The Foothill High School football team won its second-round North Coast Section (NCS) playoff game against No. 2 seeded Rancho Cotate High School 35-7 on Nov. 20. This gives the Falcons their 10th win overall and advances them to the NCS title game.

The first quarter started off hot for the Falcons. Senior quarterback Nick Walsh hit senior running back Trevor Barros for a 26-yard score, putting the Falcons up 7-0 early.

The Falcons were able to force a three and out on the Cougars' first possession. The Falcons were able to get another score at the end of the first quarter with a 12-yard run by sophomore running back Jackson Chandler, putting them up 14-0 at the end of the first quarter.

The Cougars were able to stop some of the Falcons' quick scoring in the second quarter and were able to hold them scoreless throughout the second quarter. The Cougars were even able to block a Foothill field goal early in the second quarter.

But the Falcons' defense stepped up and forced the Cougars into two consecutive punts. They ended the half with a 14-point lead heading into the third quarter.

The Falcons carried their momentum into the second half. They were able to stop the Cougars on their first possession by forcing a three and

out. The Falcons then scored on a 12-yard run by Chandler putting them up three scores at the end of the third quarter.

The Falcons closed out the fourth quarter on a 14-7 run, giving them the 35-7 win.

The Falcons put up a substantial number of points, but their defense is what won them the game. They held the Cougars to just 7 points even though the Cougars averaged 38.5 through their first 11 matches.

"We knew they were a tremendously athletic team," said Falcons Head Coach Greg Haubner. "We knew we had a big challenge on our hands."

The Falcons' defense was disruptive all night as they did not allow the Cougars to cross the 50-yard line until the third quarter. The Falcons forced 4.5 sacks on the night and were able to get pressure on the quarterback 20 times during the game. They also caused two interceptions on the night courtesy of seniors Kenny Olson and Gianni Addiego.

Freshman Chris Lawson also had a big game for the Falcons. Lawson played both sides of the ball and was able to make plays when the Falcons needed him.

"Chris is the most highly skilled freshman I have ever met," said Haubner. "In the 20 plus years of coaching, he's the highest skilled freshman I have ever met."

Lawson was given the task of shadowing three-

star Cougars wide receiver Sailasa Vadrawale. Lawson completely shut down Vadrawale, keeping him out of the endzone the entire game.

On the sidelines, Lawson's family was talking to him through a bullhorn and giving him pointers on what they wanted to see from him. Lawson credits his family to his success as a freshman.

"They taught me a lot. They're the reason I play football," said Lawson.

Walsh turned in a key performance for the Falcons, going 10/16 for 118 yards and one touchdown. He also turned in 25 yards rushing on the night. His biggest contribution was his ability to improvise when plays broke down. Walsh used his scrambling ability well in this game to evade defenders and extend plays.

"He makes plays with his feet; obviously, he can throw the ball far," said Haubner. "But he also does a great job managing the offense when he's out there."

The Falcons will go on to play Campolindo High School on Nov. 27 for the NCS championship. Campolindo has had a down year to their standards but has been a football powerhouse for the last ten years.

"I am very familiar with Campo's success as a program, and they have gotten better as a team towards the back end of the season," said Haubner. "I think it's going to be a great matchup."

Amador Loses in Second Round of CIF Playoffs

By Nathan Canilao

The Amador Valley girls' water polo team was defeated in the second round of California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) playoffs by Acalanes High School on Nov. 18 by a score of 11-4. The Dons' season ends

as they finish with a 23-5 record.

The Dons had trouble scoring in the first half. Acalanes was able to force the Dons into taking shots toward the end of the shot clock from farther away than the Dons hoped. The

Dons also had trouble getting into their early offense as Acalanes was able to drop back into coverage very quickly.

Acalanes was also able to get into a rhythm early in the game as they scored 6 points in the first half. The Dons made a little run at the end of the second quarter and cut the lead to just 4 at halftime.

The Dons failed to gain momentum in the second half. They were shut out in the third quarter, failing to get a score. Meanwhile, Acalanes extended its lead by scoring three straight goals in the third quarter. Acalanes finished out the game strong and won 11-4.

The Dons' season ends, and they will finish with a 23-5 record while winning the East Bay Athletic League championship. They remained undefeated in league play and did not lose back-to-back games the entire season.

The Dons will only be graduating four players, meaning they will retain their core from this year. They will look to bounce back next year with a return to state playoffs in sight.



Amador Valley's goalie Erin Brown deflects a shot during the second round of the Nov. 18, CIF NorCal Girls Water Polo Championships, Division 2 against Acalanes High School in Lafayette. Acalanes won the match 11-4 [See photo gallery at www.independentnews.com/multimedia] (Photo – Doug Jorgensen)

Amador Bounces Back to Win First Round

By Nathan Canilao

The Amador Valley High School girls' water polo team defeated the Carondelet Cougars by a score of 11-5 on Nov. 16, bouncing back from a North Coast Section (NCS) semi-final loss to Campolindo and advancing to the second round of the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) playoffs.

The Dons dominated the first half. They allowed only one goal the entire half and made it difficult for the Cougars to get clean looks near the goal. A big part of the Dons' defensive success goes to junior goalie Erin Brown who had a bunch of key saves for the Dons.

"We have great communication on defense, it is all

anchored by Erin Brown," said Amador Valley head coach Tim Reilly. "I rest assured that she will play at a very high-level college. She's kept this team together even when they have had defensive breakdowns, she's the one that's always been there."

The second half was much of the same for the Dons. They held onto their lead despite the Cougars going on a bit of a run in the second half.

Despite the win, Reilly was adamant in his team huddle after the game that the effort wasn't enough. He relayed to his players that the effort they gave in their performance would not be enough to win a state title.

"We need to be able to come out fast and strong and to continue to be consistent," said Reilly.

The Dons got a much-needed win after their NCS semi-final loss to Campolindo in which they gave up 19 goals, the most they have ever given up this season. Reilly praised his team's ability to respond to adversity after a loss in the win against the Cougars.

The Dons will move on to the second round where they will face Acalanes High School in Lafayette on Nov. 18. The Dons lost to Acalanes earlier in the season 9-8, but the team will be looking to get that loss back as they make their run for the state championship.

Cowboys Lose Scrimmage to Castro Valley

By Nathan Canilao

The Livermore High School boys' soccer team loses its first scrimmage game to Castro Valley High School by a score of 2-1 on Nov. 17. The Cowboys stayed put at 0-0 as the game

did not count in the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) scorebooks.

The first half started off well for the Cowboys as they struck first with a goal at the 10:31 mark. They were also able to hold the Trojans from

getting clean looks at the goal as they kept pressure on the Trojans' midfielders.

The Trojans responded, however, and were able to get a goal at the 2:00 mark to tie up the game going into halftime.

The second half was back and forth as both teams were able to get good looks on the attack but couldn't finish. The Trojans broke through and were able to score at the 21:12 mark in the second half. The Cowboys weren't able to break through the Trojans defense and failed to score a goal for the rest of the half. The Trojans would ultimately take the win 2-1 in a competitive outing.

The Cowboys won their Nov. 18 home match against Kennedy High School by a score of 4-1 and will play Antioch High School on Dec. 2.



The Livermore Cowboys soccer started their season with a scrimmage against Castro Valley High on Wednesday, Nov. 17. [See photo gallery at www.independentnews.com/multimedia] (Photo – Doug Jorgensen)

Boys' Basketball in the Tri-Valley is on a Roll

By Nathan Canilao

According to RealGM.com, the Tri-Valley had produced 40 boys' college basketball players among its collective high schools. These schools include Foothill, Amador, Dublin, Granada and Livermore.

As of late, the Tri-Valley has sent its best players to Division 1 colleges to play hoops at the highest levels. Some of these players include Robby Beasley (Montana University, Dublin High), Caleb Oden (Nevada, Dublin High), Jojo McGlaston (Bradley, Dublin High) and Mac Hoffman (Army, Amador Valley). These are only the players who made it to the highest levels, but there are many more who went to Division 2 and 3 colleges around the nation.

After a COVID-19 shortened season in the spring where there were no fans in the stands, the Tri-Valley high school basketball scene is set to return. Student sections will be filled and the four-month race to the top will return. Fans should be excited to see their local teams competing once again.

This will be an interesting year for the five public high schools that make up the Tri-Valley. Three of the five teams finished with a record of .500 or better in the COVID-19 shortened season. In the 2019 season, four of five teams went to the North Coast Section playoffs and Granada was able to go all the way to the NCS championship.

Granada will look to repeat its success from the past two years under head coach Quaran Johnson. Johnson has done a complete 180 with the Matadors as he is yet to turn in a losing season in his three years as head coach.

The team will feature senior Kevin Gad and junior Andrew McKeever, two players who should be in the running for MVP of the East Bay Athletic League.

On the other side of town, Livermore High School is the complete opposite. The Cowboys have yet to win a league game since 2014. Livermore High has only managed to secure nine total league wins in the past 10 years.

The Cowboys will look to change their losing ways this year as they bring back three seniors from last season. If the Cowboys suffer another zero-league win season, it might be time to shake up

the coaching staff in order to bring home some wins for the green and gold.

A team who has already mixed up their coaching staff is Amador Valley. Head coach Willis Gardner will get a chance to coach a full season after being hired in February of last year. The Colorado State alum has been coaching in the Bay Area for over seven years in the Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) circuit and will look to continue Amador's historical successes.

The Foothill Falcons will also be in the mix for a league title. Under head coach Jason Wallis, the Falcons have sustained success in the East Bay Athletic League, and this season should be no different. The Falcons have a young team, but Wallis has had success in the past with developing underclassmen.

The Dublin Gaels might be the favorites to come out of the Tri-Valley division of the EBAL. They have a track record of sending multiple basketball players to play at the Division 1 level, and this year is much of the same. Juniors Donovan Cooks and Courtney Anderson are in the running for best duo in the Bay Area. Both players have serious college interest and will look to lead the Gaels far into the NCS playoffs.

The Gaels continue to

have the athleticism and skill to compete for state titles and they will be looking to do the same this year. Under head coach Tom Costello, this team will be poised to make a deep run into the NCS playoffs.

Not only will this year be one of the more competitive years for Tri-Valley basketball, but the EBAL league championship is wide open as the competitive gap between teams has tightened. There are new coaches, players and storylines that will make this year that much more exciting.

Tri-Valley basketball is set to start this week. The smell of popcorn at the snack bar will return while the sounds of 100 students screaming and yelling will be even louder. The high-intensity games will be back on TV30 and the gyms will be roaring once again. The only thing left to do is sit back and watch.

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STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME ORIGINAL FILE NO. 567886
The person(s) listed below have abandoned the use of the following fictitious business name(s). Affordable Custom Signs, LLC, 5675 Arlene Way, Livermore, CA 94550. Registered Owner(s): Affordable Custom Signs, LLC, 5675 Arlene Way, Livermore, CA 94550. The fictitious business name statement was filed on 1/27/2020 in the County of Alameda. This business was conducted by a Limited Liability Company. Signature of Registrant(s): James Miller, Manager. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 20, 2021. The Independent Legal No. 5015. Published November 4, 11, 18, 25, 2021.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 583845
The following person(s) doing business as: Cup & Crone, 968 Bellflower Street, Livermore, CA 94551, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Jennifer Lee Christensen, 968 Bellflower Street, 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): Jennifer Lee Christensen, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 21, 2021. Expires October 21, 2026. The Independent, Legal No. 5016. Published November 4, 11, 18, 25, 2021.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 583797
The following person(s) doing business as: Gudhumn, 5407 Gracon Way, Dublin, CA 94568, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Eat Laugh Lift LLC, 5407 Gracon Way, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 7/13/21. Signature of Registrant(s): Maniya-Georgia M. Walker, Principal. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 20, 2021. Expires October 20, 2026. The Independent, Legal No. 5017. Published November 4, 11, 18, 25, 2021.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 583915
The following person(s) doing business as: You Didn't Ask with Frankie and Tish, 2000 Baylor St., Union City, CA 94587, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): You Didn't Ask LLC, 2000 Baylor St., Union City, CA 94587. 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: 9/29/21. Signature of Registrant(s): Vanessa Mackenzie, Manager. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 25, 2021. Expires October 25, 2026. The Independent, Legal No. 5018. Published November 4, 11, 18, 25, 2021.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 583286
The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Books by Melanie Bookkeeping Solutions 2. Books by Melanie, 637 Estates St., Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Books by Melanie LLC, 637 Estates St., 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: 9/26/2016. Signature of Registrant(s): David C. Becker, Manager. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 21, 2021. Expires October 21, 2026. The Independent, Legal No. 5026. Published 11, 18, 25, December 2, 2021.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 584171
The following person(s) doing business as: Puz Studio, 2200 Adeline Street, Ste 305, Oakland, CA 94607, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): ProCraft Equipment LLC, 25886 Clawiter Road, Hayward, CA 94545. 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: 10/21/21. Signature of Registrant(s): Jacob Vital, Partner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 27, 2021. Expires October 27, 2026. The Independent, Legal No. 5025. Published 11, 18, 25, December 2, 2021.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 583992
The following person(s) doing business as: Luna Dance Collective, 5399 Hillflower Dr., Livermore, CA 94551, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Cecelia Cano Balboa, 5399 Hillflower Dr., Livermore, CA 94551; Lisa Wiedlin, 945 Fulton Way, Hollister, CA 95023. This business is conducted by a General Partnership. The date on which the

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 584153
The following person(s) doing business as: Jeppson Construction, 828 S K Street, Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Gregory W. Jeppson, 828 S K Street, 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: 11/1/2021. Signature of Registrant(s): Gregory W. Jeppson, Sole Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 4, 2021.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 584048
The following person(s) doing business as: Ind-co, 1031 45th Street, Emeryville, CA 94608, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Tracy Neddman, 1031 45th Street, Emeryville, CA 94608. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the

FILE NO. 583257
The following person(s) doing business as: Soffact, 4841 Piper Glen Ter, Dublin, CA 94568, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Arundhati Kulkarni, 4841 Piper Glen Ter, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant(s): Arundhati Kulkarni, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 27, 2021. Expires October 27, 2026. The Independent, Legal No. 5028. Published 11, 18, 25, December 2, 2021.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 584041
The following person(s) doing business as: 3D Twin Solutions, 3865 Harvard Way, Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Patricia Machado, 3865 Harvard Way, Livermore, CA 94550. 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: N/A. Signature of Registrant(s): Aaron Machado, Owner/Operator. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 29, 2021. Expires October 29, 2026. The Independent, Legal No. 5022. Published November 4, 11, 18, 25, 2021.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 584192
The following person(s) doing business as: Iron Horse Heating and Cooling, 4315 Amherst Way, Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Jess Daniel Bouscal, 4315 Amherst Way, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant(s): Jess Daniel Bouscal, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 21, 2021. Expires October 21, 2026. The Independent, Legal No. 5022. Published November 4, 11, 18, 25, 2021.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 583997
The following person(s) doing business as: Iron Tri-Valley Pictures, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Jacob Vital, 363 Holladay Ct, Livermore, CA 94551; Francis Hamada, 785 Loma Verde Ave, Palo Alto, CA 94303; Rosalinda Ferdin Cruz, 2033 La Salle Drive, San Mateo, CA 94403. This business is conducted by a Limited Partnership. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 10/21/21. Signature of Registrant(s): Jacob Vital, Partner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 27, 2021. Expires October 27, 2026. The Independent, Legal No. 5025. Published 11, 18, 25, December 2, 2021.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 583846
The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Sunset Supply 2. Palisades Lumber 3. Integrated Technology Services, 25886 Clawiter Road, Hayward, CA 94545, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): ProCraft Equipment LLC, 25886 Clawiter Road, Hayward, CA 94545. 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: 9/29/21. Signature of Registrant(s): Vanessa Mackenzie, Manager. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 25, 2021. Expires October 25, 2026. The Independent, Legal No. 5018. Published November 4, 11, 18, 25, 2021.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 584171
The following person(s) doing business as: Puz Studio, 2200 Adeline Street, Ste 305, Oakland, CA 94607, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): ProCraft Equipment LLC, 25886 Clawiter Road, Hayward, CA 94545. 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: 10/21/21. Signature of Registrant(s): Jacob Vital, Partner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 27, 2021. Expires October 27, 2026. The Independent, Legal No. 5025. Published 11, 18, 25, December 2, 2021.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 583992
The following person(s) doing business as: Luna Dance Collective, 5399 Hillflower Dr., Livermore, CA 94551, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Cecelia Cano Balboa, 5399 Hillflower Dr., Livermore, CA 94551; Lisa Wiedlin, 945 Fulton Way, Hollister, CA 95023. This business is conducted by a General Partnership. 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): Lisa Wiedlin, General Partner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 27, 2021. Expires October 27, 2026. The Independent, Legal No. 5028. Published 11, 18, 25, December 2, 2021.

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No. 21CV001944

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF ALAMEDA

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

Petitioner: Mary Bowron and Joseph Pineda, 2837 Patcham Common Livermore, CA 94550 Telephone: 925-784-3325 E-Mail: Pinedajoe80@yahoo.com filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:

Present Name: Skylia Jennifer Bowron
Proposed Name: Skylia Jennifer Pineda

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: 1/14/2022 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: November 5, 2021 /s/ Judge Tara M. Desautels. The Independent, Legal No. 5029. Published 11, 18, 25, December 2, 2021.

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No. 21CV001646

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF ALAMEDA

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

Petitioner: Tracie Leigh Roddick 5584 Hermitage Court Livermore, CA 94551 Telephone: 925-640-7806 E-Mail: traciernm@att.net filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:

Present Name: Tracie Leigh Roddick
Proposed Name: Tracie Leigh Rohm

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: 1/2/2022 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: November 6, 2021 /s/ Judge Tara M. Desautels. The Independent, Legal No. 5030. Published 18, 25, December 2, 9, 2021.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 584153

The following person(s) doing business as: Jeppson Construction, 828 S K Street, Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Gregory W. Jeppson, 828 S K Street, 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: 11/1/2021. Signature of Registrant(s): Gregory W. Jeppson, Sole Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 4, 2021.

Expires November 3, 2026. The Independent, Legal No. 5031. Published November 18, 25, December 2, 9, 2021.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 584002

The following person(s) doing business as: Lakeside Village Apartments, 4170 Springdale Dr., San Leandro, CA 94578, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Standard Lakeside GP LLC, 1901 Avenue of the Stars, Ste. 395, Los Angeles, CA 90067. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 12/1/2009. Signature of Registrant(s): Brad Martinson, General Partner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 28, 2021. Expires October 27, 2026. The Independent, Legal No. 5032. Published November 18, 25, December 2, 9, 2021.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 584280

The following person(s) doing business as: Humbowl, 2975 College Ave, Berkeley, CA 94705, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Victuals LLC, 2548 Arlington Blvd, El Cerrito, CA 94530. 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): Eric Wright, Managing Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 9, 2021. Expires November 8, 2026. The Independent, Legal No. 5033. Published November 18, 25, December 2, 9, 2021.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 584466

The following person(s) doing business as: Redwood Dynamics, 3301 Sutton Loop, Fremont, CA 94536, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Marc Vittoria, 3301 Sutton Loop, Fremont, CA 94536. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 11/10/2021. Signature of Registrant(s): Marc Vittoria, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 19, 2021. Expires November 18, 2026. The Independent, Legal No. 5034. Published November 25, December 2, 9, 16, 2021.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 584247

The following person(s) doing business as: 1.Sunshine Trade Co, LTD 2. Sunrise Trade Co., LTD 3. Sunny Trade Co., LTD, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Tao Wang, 5364 Moonflower Way, 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: 11/8/2021. Signature of Registrant(s): Tao Wang, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 8, 2021. Expires November 7, 2026. The Independent, Legal No. 5035. Published November 25, December 2, 9, 16, 2021.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 584466

The following person(s) doing business as: 1.Sunshine Trade Co, LTD 2. Sunrise Trade Co., LTD 3. Sunny Trade Co., LTD, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Tao Wang, 5364 Moonflower Way, 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: 11/8/2021. Signature of Registrant(s): Tao Wang, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 8, 2021. Expires November 7, 2026. The Independent, Legal No. 5035. Published November 25, December 2, 9, 16, 2021.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 584352

The following person(s) doing business as: LBC Notary, 777 Poinciana Street, Hayward, CA 94545, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Llareny Baran Caraballo, 777 Poinciana Street, Hayward, CA 94545. 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): Llareny Baran Caraballo, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 12, 2021. Expires November 11, 2026. The Independent, Legal No. 5036. Published November 25, December 2, 9, 16, 2021.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 584048

The following person(s) doing business as: Ind-co, 1031 45th Street, Emeryville, CA 94608, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Tracy Neddman, 1031 45th Street, Emeryville, CA 94608. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the

registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant(s): Tracy Neddman, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 29, 2021. Expires October 28, 2026. The Independent, Legal No. 5037. Published November 25, December 2, 9, 16, 2021.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 584065

The following person(s) doing business as: Polycarbon Games, 1550 Hampel ST, Oakland, CA 94602, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Polycarbon Games, 1550 Hampel ST, Oakland, CA 94602. 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: 10/25/21. Signature of Registrant(s): Jamal Williams, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 1, 2021. Expires October 31, 2026. The Independent, Legal No. 5038. Published November 25, December 2, 9, 16, 2021.

CLASSIFIEDS

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Our current weekly adoption events include:

Saturdays - Dogs & Puppies at Farmer's Market in Pleasanton. The location is Delucchi Park, 4501 First St. Hours: 10:00am to 1:00pm. Saturdays & Sundays - Kittens at Dublin PetSmart, 6960 Amador Plaza Rd. Hours: 11am to 3pm. Visit our website: WWW.TVAR.ORG, to see adoptable animals, volunteer opportunities, and how to donate.

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

FERAL CAT FOUNDATION
Cat & kitten adoptions now at the new Livermore Petco on Saturdays from 10:00AM to 2:30PM. We have many adorable, tame kittens that have been tested for FIV & FELV, altered & vaccinated. We also have adult cats & ranch cats for adoption.

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