

Candidates On the Ballot For Upcoming Primaries

By Larry Altman

REGIONAL — The ballot for the California June 7 primary is filling out, following newly drawn districts. Deadlines to file for various races closed March 16, and while most candidates have qualified to see their names on the ballot, some are waiting for official approval. Congressman Eric Swalwell will face six challengers; state Assemblywoman Rebecca Bauer-Kahan is set for a rematch with her last opponent; a fourth candidate has opted into the race for District Attorney; and voters will select four candidates for Zone 7 board seats, according to Alameda County's official election site.

Here's how the races stack up, according to the Alameda County Registrar of Voters office:

Six candidates have filed to run against Swal-

According to the California Secretary of State's office, the last day to register to vote for the June primary is May 23.

well for the newly drawn 14th Congressional District that includes Livermore, Pleasanton, Hayward and Fremont. Swalwell, a Democrat from Livermore who has represented the 16th District since 2013, will face Republicans Tom Wong, a small business owner; Sri "Steve" Iyer, a global renewable executive; and Alison Hayden, a special education teacher he defeated 71% to 29% in 2020. James Andrew Peters, who lists himself as a team builder/waiter, is the other Democrat in the race, along with two candidates who did not list a party preference — software engineer Major Singh and Liam Miguel Simards, who did not list his occupation.

Some Dublin residents whose homes shifted into the newly drawn Congressional District 10 will find at least two candidates from which to choose. U.S. Rep. Mark DeSaulnier — a Democrat who has represented the 11th District including Danville, Orinda, Pleasant Hill and Richmond since

(See PRIMARIES, page 6)



The Bankhead Theater in Livermore will soon welcome the Oakland Ballet Company for a performance of Dancing Moons Festival, April 2. (Photo courtesy of Oakland Ballet Company)

Oakland Ballet Company to Perform at Bankhead Theater

By Dawnmarie Fehr

LIVERMORE — The Livermore Bankhead Theater will host the Oakland Ballet Company's (OBC) Dancing Moons Festival on April 2.

The festival highlights the work of Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) choreographers with four new ballets, and one older piece resurrected from 300 years ago. The idea was welcome news in the dance community, according to Michael Lowe, a featured choreographer.

"I think it's a wonderful platform to share the Asian voice," said Lowe, who is of Chinese and Korean descent. "I think it is much needed, especially since there has been some Asian discrimination, and I think it's unfortunate, but I think

this is a great way to highlight the Asian voice in the arts."

Graham Lustig, OBC's artistic director, promulgated the idea. With five decades of experience in North America, Europe and Asia, Lustig felt it was time to bring a new level of diversity to the OBC. He created the program to celebrate AAPI artists, their talents and creativity.

"It is somewhat unusual in the ballet to have this level of AAPI artists. They are something of a rarity," said Lustig. "It is a program that brings together these artists and showcases their works. We also have the work of AAPI composers and designers in the program."

When creating his contribution to the festival, Lowe said he was inspired by memories of the water-

colors his Korean mother used to paint. With images like the majestic mountain waterfalls painted by Fan Kuan — a Chinese artist alive during the 10th century — running through his head, he created an interpretive piece with six dancers called "Ebbtide."

"It's sort of like a flow, and in Chinese folklore, we use the work 'chie' for energy," Lowe said. "The dance creates a certain energy, and there's nothing literal about it. It's just beautiful dancers moving and interweaving in a fluid way."

The show will include a modern imagination of an 18th century ballet titled "Ballet des Porcelaines" or "The Teapot Prince," a story centering on a prince in search of his lover who is trapped by an evil sorcerer

(See BALLET, page 10)

Pleasanton Council Activates Stage Two Drought Water Rates

By David Jen

PLEASANTON — The city will charge residents more for water beginning May 1 in an attempt to recover financial reserves lost through the city's water conservation efforts.

The efforts, begun last October in response to Pleasanton's water-reduction mandate, resulted in usage reductions in the range of 18-22%. And while the reductions improved the city's water supply, they also caused an estimated \$3.2 million loss of revenue, drawing down the city's financial reserves and risking its ability to finance an upcoming fix for another pressing water issue — "Forever Chemicals."

Forever Chemicals is a term used for Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS), chemicals used in the manufacture of products, such as non-stick cookware. Exposure to PFAS increases the risk of cancer, harms the development of the fetus and reduces the effectiveness of vaccines.

At its March 15 meeting,

the city council voted 4-1 to activate its Stage Two Water Drought Rates, adding a 65 "Cents per 100-Cubic-Feet" (CCF) of water charge to single-family home water bills. Commercial and multi-family homes will see an added 62 CCF charge, and irrigation water users will see an added 65 CCF charge.

The purpose of the drought rates "is to help keep the Water Enterprise Fund financially sustainable during a drought or water shortage emergency," according to the staff report. Based on the mid-year budget adjustment, the ending balance in the Water Enterprise Fund at the end of fiscal year 2021-22 would be \$9.7 million, explained Kathleen Yurchak, Pleasanton director of operations and water utilities.

The drought rate activation will be the city's first.

Councilmember Julie Testa opposed the activation, uncomfortable with asking doubly from residents during the ongoing drought.

(See DROUGHT, page 8)

Downtown Livermore Inc. Executive Director Settling into New Job

By Ruth Roberts

LIVERMORE — When Ruby Lopez-Villarreal took the helm as the new executive director for Livermore Downtown Inc. (LDI) in February, she was already a well-known entity in the community and a welcome addition to the Downtown team.

Her previous relationship with LDI included working as the marketing director and event coordinator in 2008-2009. She was also the TV30 producer who directed the Livermore Downtown Inc. lifestyle show, Livermore Life, in 2007, before moving on to a variety of career opportunities, including working as a reporter and in-game host for the Oakland A's and host spokesperson for the Golden State Warriors.

Lopez-Villarreal's return to the business community, where she and her husband Joel are raising their two children, is a full-circle moment for the longtime resident.

"I've always said that



Ruby Lopez-Villarreal
(Photo - Doug Jorgensen)

returning to LDI felt like I was coming back home, and I truly do feel at home now," said Lopez-Villarreal. "I'm so fortunate to have been received with such great support and enthusiasm by the downtown businesses, the City of Livermore and the community."

LDI Board President Mike Allen said the timing of Lopez-Villarreal's return couldn't have been better.

"We believe Ruby will be a great fit for this position for many professional skill reasons," said Allen. "Another great advantage is that Ruby grew up in a family where her parents owned

(See DIRECTOR, page 7)

Tri-Valley Responds to Gas Hikes

By David Jen

REGIONAL — The Shell station on Dublin Boulevard and San Ramon Valley Boulevard hit \$5.99 per gallon for regular gasoline last week, a reflection of worldwide oil prices following the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

While state lawmakers considered several forms of financial relief that included gas tax holidays and cash rebates, fuel-dependent businesses struggled locally to find creative ways to lessen the shock.

"Prices are ridiculous!" said Pleasanton resident Veronica Torres.

Torres, who drives for DoorDash to supplement her income, said that the price increases rendered many of

her delivery prospects too expensive. Dashers, after all, pay for their own gas. She now cannot take any jobs that pay less than two dollars per mile.

"I'm having to really look at my phone," she said. "And I'm having to stay within the Pleasanton area. ... You get an order that they're telling you, 'Hey, you're going 9.7 miles, and we want to pay you six dollars.' It's like, yeah, okay, I'm gonna sit right here. I'm not moving."

Outside of work, Torres said that she and her daughter gave up eating out, and they paused their usual trips to explore San Francisco.

Jeff Harlan, who runs the lawn-care company TriValley Landscape, adjusted his business as well. The

company, because of recent fuel prices, made an effort to concentrate its clients closer together to minimize travel, going as far as canceling some accounts and retargeting its marketing. His construction business now asks for all of its materials to be delivered.

Motorists suffering sticker shocks at the pump are turning to public transit as a means to alleviate the pain to their pocketbooks.

Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) saw its highest weekday ridership last week since the beginning of pandemic lockdowns, reaching 33% of pre-pandemic levels on March 17.

"We have seen a modest increase in weekday rider-

(See GAS, page 10)



From left, Dublin Councilmember Shawn Kumagai, Dublin Mayor Melissa Hernandez and Dublin Councilmember Michael McCorriston help celebrate the unveiling of improvements at Dublin Heritage Park on March 15. [See photo gallery at www.independentnews.com/multimedia] (Independent file photo)

Swalwell's Lawsuit Against Trump Moves Forward

By Larry Altman

REGIONAL — A federal judge has ruled that Congressman Eric Swalwell's lawsuit to hold former President Donald Trump accountable for the Jan. 6 attack at the U.S. Capitol can move forward, but dismissed Rudy Giuliani and Trump's son Donald Jr. as defendants in the case.

U.S. District Judge Amit Mehta's rulings last month, which also dismissed Alabama Rep. Mo Brooks as a defendant, means Swalwell can continue his litigation against Trump, who he contends instigated the rioting that put his life and those of his colleagues in danger.

Swalwell was at the Capitol on the day of the insurrection.

"Judge Mehta's ruling is a complete vindication of my claims against Donald Trump for inciting an attack against the Capitol," Swalwell said in a statement. "Trump led a conspiracy to violently interfere with the Jan. 6 Joint Session of Congress. With this ruling, I will move forward to depose Donald Trump and seek all relevant evidence surrounding Jan. 6."

In his ruling, Mehta said Swalwell and the plaintiffs in two similar lawsuits — U.S. Rep. Bennie Thompson, D-Mississippi, chairman of the Jan. 6 Commission;

and Capitol Police Officers James Blessingame and Sidney Hemby — could potentially "establish a plausible conspiracy involving President Trump."

"That civil conspiracy included the Proud Boys, the Oath Keepers, Proud Boys leader Enrique Tarrio, and others who entered the Capitol on Jan. 6 with the intent to disrupt the Certification of the Electoral College vote through force, intimidation, or threats," the judge wrote.

Swalwell sued Trump, Trump Jr., Giuliani and Brooks in March 2021 in U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, charging that speeches by each

(See LAWSUIT, page 8)

PET OF THE WEEK



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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Classifieds	11	Wine Competition Winners	2
Editorial	4	Science Author to Speak at Bankhead	2
Mailbox	4	Fiddler Performing at Firehouse Center	3
Obituaries	9	Volunteers Plant Trees in Springtown	3
Sports	10	Dublin Prepares for Egg Hunt	12
		Goodguys Coming to Fairgrounds	12



Don Graver and Heather Laufer enjoy themselves at the Pleasanton Downtown Association's 9th annual Downtown Brew Crawl on March 17. The St. Patrick's Day event featured craft beer and food at locations throughout the downtown area. [See photo gallery at www.independentnews.com/multimedia] (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)

Children's Day at Hagemann Ranch

The Livermore Heritage Guild will sponsor Children's Day at Hagemann Ranch, from 2 to 5 p.m., on Sunday, March 27. Hagemann Ranch is a living-history site owned by the city and managed by the Livermore Heritage Guild. The ranch dates to the 1850s, when it was known as the Mendenhall Ranch. In addition to the site's hands-on museum, free Children's Day activities will include a petting zoo sponsored by the Del Arroyo 4-H Club, a demonstration of how bees make honey, and ranch chores and games. Hagemann Ranch is located at 455 Olivina Ave.

Brent Amos Wins Best of Show

By Laura Ness

The 2022 East Meets West Wine Competition pitted an exciting lineup of East Coast wines against a healthy slate from the West, starring the usual suspects like Chardonnay, Pinot Noir, Zin and Cabernet Sauvignon.

Brent Amos, winemaker and general manager of Las Positas Vineyards in Livermore, handily bested all the wines from both East and West to take Best of Show for his 2021 Estate Las Positas Albariño. This bright, lively, apricot, pear and lime-filled take on this Iberian white popular in Galicia and Northwest Portugal, has a bit of residual sugar to counter the plentiful acid, and was fermented and aged entirely in stainless. It's not released yet, but when it is, you'll be able to find it at your local Costco.

Amos has experienced great success with his Albariños in this channel. You can currently find the 2020 Las Positas Albariño, which has no residual sugar and was partially aged in some neutral barriques, in Livermore and Danville Costco locations. It's more tropical and weightier, with hints of banana and a soft, feather-down finish.

To win the overall East Meets West Competition with an Albariño from Livermore defied odds.

Judges usually vote for Sauvignon Blanc or Chardonnay. And yet, the Albariño prevailed handily as Best West White. Amos had a chance to take Best Red,

as well, as his 2019 Estate Las Positas Tempranillo was in the Red Sweepstakes. However, the 2018 Sonoma-Cutrer Vine Hill Pinot Noir took Best West Red.

In a showdown for Best of the West, the Las Positas Albariño then went head-to-head with the NV Breathless Blanc de Blanc, (Best Sparkling) the 2021 Côtes-du-Rhône from Eberle (Best Rosé), the Sonoma-Cutrer Pinot Noir and the Sonoma-Cutrer Late Harvest Chardonnay, to be crowned Best of the West.

Then, it was time to face the Best of the East, the 2020 Holy-Field Tailgate White blend of 46% Seyval Blanc, 45% Vignoles and 9% Valvin Muscat. Hailing from Kansas, this charmed with a near-perfect flood of pineapple and peach deliciousness that completely coated the palate.

In the final voting, the Las Positas Albariño bested the Tailgate White blend by a whopping 13 votes to 5.

This comes on the heels of the 2021 Wood Family Livermore Albariño winning Best Albariño at the 2022 San Francisco Chronicle, out of a field of 41 entries. Standouts were the 2021 Livermore Cellar 13 by Darin Winton, the 2021 Edna Valley CRU, the 2020 Arroyo Seco Morgan, the 2021 Wood Family and both 2020 and 2021 Las Positas examples. The wine of the day was the Carboniste sparkling Albariño from Gomes Vineyard in Isleton, California, a delightful way to toast Livermore's winemaking accomplishments!

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Science Author Mary Roach to Speak at the Bankhead

By Dawnmarie Fehr

The Rae Dorough Speaker Series (RDSS) will host author Mary Roach on Thursday, March 24, at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore.

With seven best-selling books to her name, Roach is known for her off-beat and humorous take on everyday science. During her event, she will participate in a moderated discussion with RDSS supporter and podcaster Rex Horner, where the pair will discuss her body of work, her unorthodox approach to science, and the insatiable curiosity that led to her varied research in a myriad of fields.

Roach's newest book, "Packing for Mars for Kids," debuts April 5, but she said Thursday's conversation will be much broader than that.

"It will be a conversation about the work I do — how I do it, how I get access

and choose my topics," explained Roach. "It's about what I do in general and the oddball topics I select and why — the challenges of that work. And that is where the conversation will go. It's sort of a 'how the sausage is made' thing and what goes into books like these; what makes me tick. You never know where the conversation will go exactly."

Roach's research has led her through the upper echelons of the military to a nuclear submarine to medical schools' use of cadavers to the effect of diarrhea on special forces in Africa. Social stigmas or taboos have never been enough to keep her away from the topic. While she didn't set out to break boundaries, she found herself doing just that with many of her books.

"I started writing for magazines, and I have always kind of wandered out to the

fringes," said Roach. "These are topics people have avoided, and in a way, I'm a little bit of the bottom feeder in that I'll take the things people don't want to do and make it interesting. To me, they are all part of the natural experience, and they are things we are all interested in, and the taboos keep us from asking questions. Most people avoid these areas, so it's fresh terrain."

RDSS Board Member Don Johnston said Roach felt like a good fit for the series because she can speak well on an engaging topic — science — and make it accessible.

"I think her perspective should be really interesting because our local demographic includes people from the lab — people from Las Positas — and we have a lot of tech in the Livermore Valley," said Johnston. "I think she will bring an interesting

perspective on science because she has made a career of writing highly entertaining books and taking an offbeat look at science, and I think people will find that entertaining."

The Rae Dorough Speaker Series was established in 2008 in honor of Livermore resident and community activist Rae Dorough. The series features provocative, entertaining and enlightening presentations on a wide variety of topics. Past speakers have included engineers, scientists, fiction and non-fiction writers and historians, entrepreneurs, comedians and entertainers, diplomats, astronauts and journalists.

To purchase tickets, visit www.livermorearts.org. For more information on the RDSS, visit www.raedoroughspeakerseries.org. For more information on Mary Roach, visit www.maryroach.net.

Livermore Lab Foundation Offers Carbon Neutrality Education

By Dawnmarie Fehr

Students in Joey Rodriguez's science class at Livermore High School, are learning about carbon footprints and combating climate change, thanks to the Livermore Lab Foundation (LLF). The world-renowned organization has created a Carbon Cleanup Initiative educational tool kit for use in high school classrooms. The curriculum is currently being tested by 30 teachers across the state, including one at



Joey Rodriguez

Livermore High School.

The "plug and play" program allows teachers to focus on the science of carbon neutrality, and capture and store while giving students the tools to create solutions to the problems facing scientists today.

Rodriguez has implemented the tool kit in his classroom and said his students are getting a chance to learn how climate change is affecting the Livermore community and the rest of the region using real world applications and examples.

"The curriculum is interactive," Rodriguez said. "That, and the real science and raw data that was provided, that was important to me. I've noticed the students get excited when material is relatable, when it is applicable and when they are doing real science ... and the variety of teaching strategies rolled into one program keeps everyone engaged."

Rodriguez said he initially agreed to be part of the pilot program because the LLF's curriculum hit his three targets — it was local, it was easy to implement and he was passionate about the subject content.

Sally Allen, executive director of the LLF, said the project was funded by a grant from the Clean and Sustainable Energy (CASE) Fund, which recognized that while much of the technology needed to obtain carbon neutrality was not new, it is new to many people outside the world of science.

"Because of this, the grant was to focus on the outreach and materials that could be built to get a broader understanding of what it was and what California's goals are around this," Allen said, adding the lab began its research with public outreach to gauge what the general understanding of carbon neutrality was. "Very early on, we recognized that the classrooms, particularly high schoolers, were our goal. The more we could share this information with them and translate this science for that audience, the

more we would quickly be able to reach as many folks as possible throughout the state."

With this goal in mind, the foundation collaborated with scientists from the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) and educators from the San Joaquin County Office of Education to craft an interactive curriculum aligned with Next Generation Science Standards that would not only explain the issues associated with climate change, but offer solutions to fix them.

"This was an opportunity to take this ground breaking science from the lab and make it accessible and available to a very wide audience to help advance California's broader goals," said Allen. "It is a good example of how we want the foundation to work: the lab does the science, and we help communicate that and provide a bridge to the community."

Livermore High School Principal Helen Gladden said she was pleased to have a member of her team partner with the foundation to bring the climate education toolkit to her school.

"The lessons focus on reducing carbon dioxide to achieving carbon neutrality by 2045," said Gladden. "Students may receive up to 14 hours of learning. Also, Mr. Rodriguez will have the opportunity to participate in LLNL's Teacher Research Academy in Summer 2022. We are grateful to the Livermore Lab Foundation for this

wonderful opportunity."

The Livermore Lab Foundation was begun in 2016 as a nonprofit dedicated to advancing science and inspiring next generation scientists and engineers by fostering the development of transformative technologies.

For more information on the LLF, visit www.livermorelabfoundation.org.

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Pacific Chamber Orchestra to Perform Pairing of Symphony and Poetry, March 28

The Pacific Chamber Orchestra will perform Gustav Mahler's Symphony No. 4 and by "Facade: An Entertainment," featuring poems by Edith Sitwell recited with instrumental accompaniment by composer William Walton, at the Orinda Library auditorium in Orinda on Saturday, March 27, and the Bankhead Theater in Livermore on Sunday, March 28.

Marnie Breckenridge, a

newcomer to the orchestra, will be soprano soloist for the Mahler symphony and will recite the Sitwell poems for "Facade."

The goal of the pairing, dubbed "Words!" by the orchestra "is to place the Germanic and Romantic long melodic lines" of Mahler's symphony "next to the British 20th century humoresque" of Sitwell's poems, according to conductor Lawrence Kohl.

"The works illuminate each other in their differences and in some amazingly similar aims," Kohl said. "Both works express different types of childhood memories and joys: Mahler starting with a child's joy at hearing sleigh bells, then culminating in a child's vision of heaven, while Walton evokes a child in play with almost nonsensical short punchy lines of poetry and music."

Mahler's symphony, also known as the "Ode to Heavenly Joy," concludes with "The Heavenly Life," based on a German folksong that depicts a child's view of heaven.

Sitwell, a British poet, began publishing some of the "Facade" poems in 1918, in the literary magazine Wheels. Walton, a British composer and Sitwell's protege, began writing orchestral accompaniment for

her rhythmic poems in 1922. Over the years, Walton continuously revised the suite of poems and several different versions of "Facade" now exist.

Tickets for the 7:30 p.m. Saturday performance in Orinda are \$20 to \$48. Tickets for the 3 p.m. Sunday matinee in Livermore are \$20 to \$65.

Tickets for either production may be purchased online at pacificchamberorchestra.org. Tickets for the Livermore performance are also available at the Bankhead box office, 2400 First St. in Livermore, or by calling 925-373-6800.

The Pacific Chamber Orchestra is a resident company of the Bankhead Theater.

Volunteers Plant Trees at Springtown Open Space Area

More than 200 volunteers showed up early on Saturday, March 12, to plant trees for an Amplify the Urban Forest event on a former golf course in the Springtown

area of Livermore off Bluebell Drive.

Initially, the plan was to plant the trees at nearby Marlin Pound Park but was shifted to the larger Spring-

town open space project, where the volunteers planted 65 trees provided by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire). The event was organized by the Rotary Club of Livermore Valley with support from the Livermore Department of Public Works, which prepared the area and pre-dug holes for planting the trees.

"It's beautiful to see what can occur when people work together toward a common goal," said Rotary Club President Angelika Voss-Quinn. "Today was such a day, and it was wonderful to plant 65 trees in such a short time."

Livermore was one of 28

cities to receive trees from the Cal Fire Amplifying the Urban Forests Circle grant. Other sponsoring organizations included the California Urban Forests Council, West Coast Arborists, Western Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture, California Climate Investments, The Britton Fund, Invest from the Ground Up, and Taylor Guitars. Ace Hardware in Livermore donated shovels for the planting.

Volunteers were encouraged to write their names on tags that will remain on the trees over the next few years, until they outgrow their stakes.



Volunteers and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection planted 65 trees in Springtown's open space. (Photo courtesy of Angelika Voss-Quinn)

DAR Chapter Honors 11 Students During Awards Ceremony

The José Maria Amador Chapter of Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) recently recognized 11 students for their participation in the Pleasanton-based group's 2021 citizenship programs.

Saachi Bhayani, a senior at Foothill High School in Pleasanton, received the chapter's Good Citizen Award for demonstrating the overall qualities of dependability, service, leadership, and patriotism during the year. She also received the Good Citizen Award from California DAR District IV. Agamroop Kaur, from Dougherty High School in San Ramon, was runner

up, while Mia Tarricone, from Village High School in Pleasanton, received honorable mention.

Additionally, four Pleasanton students were honored for their essays about the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia. American History Essay Awards went to Zainab Firdaus, a fifth grader at Vintage Hills Elementary School; Aditi Pundoor, a sixth grader at Pleasanton Middle School; Aditya Nalabotu, a seventh grader at Harvest Park Middle School; and Amelia Umentum, an eighth grader at Thomas Hart Middle

School.

The students were asked to imagine that they were attending the dedication of the monument in 1921 after having lost a brother in World War I.

First place in the chapter's Constitution Week poster contest went to Bilal Tariq Rauf of Valley View Charter Prep in Stockton. Rauf also won the state DAR poster contest and was National Society DAR winner for the Southwest Division.

Second place went to Shreya Krishnakumar, from Cottonwood Creek School in Dublin. Anushka Biswas, from James Dougherty El-

ementary School in Dublin, was third, and an honorable mention went to Aarna Pandeya, also from Dougherty Elementary.

The awards ceremony was held March 12.

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Fiddler Tom Rigney to Perform at Firehouse Arts Center



Tom Rigney

Fiddle virtuoso Tom Rigney and his band, Flambeau, will perform at the Firehouse Arts Center in Pleasanton on Sunday, April 3.

Known for his fiery fiddle playing, Rigney and his band perform a variety of American "roots music," including Cajun, early blues, New Orleans groove, boogie-woogie, beautiful

ballads and waltzes. The repertoire includes several Rigney originals, mixed with classic ballads and waltzes.

Tickets for the 2 p.m. performance are \$17 to \$27 and are available at firehousearts.org. The Firehouse Arts Center at 4444 Railroad Ave., and is owned and operated by the city of Pleasanton.

Local Author to Hold Book Signing, Reading Event

Livermore resident Peggy Schimmelman will be holding a reading and book signing event at Towne Center Books in Pleasanton on April 5 at 2 p.m., and on April 14 at 6 p.m., at Page Mill Winery in Livermore.

Schimmelman will debut her second novel, "Insomniacs, Inc", which will be released in early April.

The cozy mystery is set in 2019, in a California town where a small group of neighbors with diverse cultural backgrounds and disparate political views band together to help an inept detective to solve another neighbor's murder

A percentage of book sales along with winery sales from the Page Mill event will be donated to the Rotary Foundation of Livermore's music scholarship fund.

"Both my husband and I are music lovers and musicians, so I've designated the Rotary Foundation of Livermore's music scholarship fund as the donation recipient of the winery event," said Schimmelman.

The books will be available at Towne Center books in Pleasanton and Livermore as well as on Amazon.com. Peggy's previous work includes the novel "Whip-



Peggy Schimmelman

poorwills," two poetry chapbooks and numerous short fiction and poetry publications.

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EDITORIAL Rising Gas Prices Offer Opportunity for Positive Change

Those old enough to remember the gas wars of the 1970s may be experiencing a sense of déjà vu. Prices are on the rise, with the average cost for a gallon of gas in the Tri-Valley coming in this week at nearly \$6.

Talk about sticker shock.

Filling up the gas tank for \$100 plus dollars once or twice a week is not a sustainable option for many. Yes, Gov. Newsom is promising relief for beleaguered California drivers, whether it be in the form of a rebate or a moratorium on the annual gas tax. For many, relief cannot

come soon enough.

But with the soaring gas prices comes a silver lining. Optimists will embrace the opportunity to save money by taking public transportation instead of driving. BART officials said this week that ridership is up 33% from pre-pandemic levels. And then, there is the benefit to our carbon footprint – getting more cars off the road will do much to help the environment as well as our pocketbooks. According to a report from NPR, cars and trucks account for roughly a quarter of all the country's greenhouse emissions.

Of course, not everyone can ditch the car and hop onto public transit, but every little bit helps.

If ever there were a moment to invoke Winston Churchill's motto "Stay Calm and Carry On" this would be it. And while we would still like lawmakers to step up and take some of the pressure at the pump away, this is also a good time to adjust as we are able.

The '70s may be gone, but our dependence on oil is not.

What better time to change our current mindsets about daily travel?

MAILBOX

Mailbox Guidelines:

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

PG&E is Getting a Good Deal

Rion Causey, Livermore

I read with interest the article on the front page of the Independent last week about the City of Dublin supporting a renewable energy plan. Specifically, "businesses in Dublin may soon join their residential counterparts in buying renewable carbon free energy through East Bay Community Energy (EBCE)". The EBCE Renewable 100 plan procures its electricity from a 50-50 mix of wind and solar at a cost higher than the current PG&E plans. Will the businesses of Dublin realize that opting into this plan will not change in any way where their electricity comes from? By the same token, do all the people in the East Bay that "get their electricity" from EBCE realize that they are getting exactly the same amount of energy from fossil fuels that those do that aren't in EBCE. Smoke and mirrors. We all suck our energy from the grid. It doesn't make one iota of difference in the fraction of "dirty" versus renewable energy you get just because you're paying your bill to wind and solar sources. Maybe you can sleep a little better at night thinking you are being nice about renewable energy, but it is just a myth. The

grid is the grid is the grid. Everyone making electricity, clean and dirty, helps energize the grid. I hope the business community of Dublin can see through the smoke and not participate in this sham. Too bad that many of the East Bay cities could not see this as well. I would imagine that PG&E is happy that someone else is paying for the expensive renewable energy on the grid, so they don't have to.

Livermore's Future

Glenn Stewart, Livermore

From Wikipedia: "Next to water, concrete is the most consumed substance on the planet, with more than 4.4 billion tons produced every year, and is expected to continue growing."

Climate scientists say that buildings and transportation remain two of the largest emitters of greenhouse gases.

Why? Because concrete has to be heated to high temperatures to make it. In addition, concrete production requires large amounts of water. Definitely not a very environmentally friendly product.

Did you know that the concrete industry is responsible for approximately 8% of carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions worldwide?

The threat from increased CO2 is the greenhouse effect.

Excessive CO2 creates a cover that traps the sun's heat energy in the atmosphere, warming the planet and the oceans. Most office buildings, warehouses, and parking garages use concrete.

Livermore is planning to build a 5 level, all concrete conventional parking structure on L Street.

Let us see how an automated (robotic) parking garage is much more eco-friendly than a concrete parking garage.

Automatic parking garages are mostly constructed of steel and other materials and use very little concrete.

They use 50% less land space to park the same number of cars as a conventional garage.

Traffic congestion is reduced, as 50% of traffic congestion in downtown centers is generated by drivers searching for a parking space.

With an automated parking garage, you drive into a garage kiosk.

Pollution inside an automated garage is reduced by using electro-mechanical automated parking machinery to move cars into parking spaces.

Since no cars run inside the garage, there is no driving up and down ramps, and through aisles in search of

a space.

This reduces emissions and makes a robotic parking garage an environmentally clean parking facility.

Residents can contribute to reducing the city's future carbon footprint by voting for a new mayor and city council members this fall, who are forward thinking, concerned about global warming, and are committed to building smart mobile technology, and smart buildings in Livermore.

Where Do the Children Play?

Greg Scott, Livermore

"Yes, get what you want to if you want / Cause you can get anything / I know we've come a long way / We're changing day to day / But tell me, where do the children play?" (Cat Stevens, "Where Do The Children Play?")

Quite a number of us in Livermore need economically obtainable housing. We haven't come far on that; in fact, we have gone the opposite direction. The Eden Housing Development - another housing monstrosity proposed for Livermore's downtown core - is not the answer, for it is in the wrong place, ill-conceived and ill-planned.

Urban parks are an American value. It would seem that Livermore would want a central draw in Veterans Park and in so doing would desire an inspirational openness and not the dominating enclosure of "stack-'n-pack" private residence boxes. How is that to be, considering the size of the Eden Housing Development footprint? What remains is 31,000 square feet, including sidewalks and planters. This is one-third of a square foot per resident in Livermore. Do we think this will provide an alluring attraction?

Now consider Central Park, one of New York City's 13 major green spaces. If you packed all of New York City's 8.5 million residents into Central Park's open space of 711.5 acres, out of 843 total acres, you would have nearly 3 2/3 square feet of open space per resident. That is around 11 times the ratio of what Livermore's Veterans Park will offer with the Eden Housing development. I therefore ask: Where do the children play? This is all the open space we are going to have for them and everyone else in Veterans Park.

The Livermore City Council appears to be transfixed on a \$14.5 million 'contingency' for the Eden Housing Development. This outweighs everything else, when Veterans Park is to be for Livermore community's vibrancy into posterity?

If eminent domain can be used by the City of Livermore to 'house' cars for parking, why cannot the City of Livermore use eminent domain for the housing of humans? This would buck a national trend. (U.S. Supreme Court Kelo v. New London (2005)). There has to be a better place for housing than Veterans Park.

The Eden Housing development shows a lack of urban vision by the Livermore City Council. Three

Livermore City Council seat terms end this year, including that of the mayor. Vote a change, Livermore!

It Is Time to Modernize Livermore Roadways

Randy Simpson, Livermore

Many of Livermore's streets were established in the late 1800's. Although those roads met the needs of the 19th and much of the 20th centuries, we now need them to meet 21st-century needs. Our population has grown, demographics have changed, and we are in the midst of a revolution in transportation technologies.

East Avenue is a case in point. The City has the opportunity to evolve it from largely the same county road it was designed as, to a corridor of modern mobility that enhances our quality of life.

Livermore's city engineers have been studying how to do this on East Ave. They understand that the City is way behind other cities in meeting safe, efficient and high-quality-of-life transportation needs.

Our response to just about any change is predictably "no!". This has been the case on East Ave. Hopefully, after reflexively saying no, we will thoughtfully consider the advantages of modernizing to proven and emerging mobility standards.

People that are afraid of losing the ability to keep their cars parked on East Ave should consider that their cars could be used as part of a solution by creating protected micro-mobility lanes (i.e., pedestrians, cyclists, electrically assisted scooters and bicycles). Cars parked between car lanes and micro-mobility lanes are a standard approach in making protected lanes of traffic.

Should our younger families have to decide between owning a home in Livermore or having to pay for a car because of inadequate transportation options?

Should our children be able to safely walk, scooter, or ride bikes to school?

Should we be able to walk across East Ave safely?

Should commuting by car be our only option in Livermore?

Should East Ave be beautified?

If you haven't experienced a city with modern mobility, I recommend you go visit one. You'll love it.

Let's give our city engineers the chance to protect and improve our lives.

Here and There

Ann Giannini, Livermore

Hello Citizens,

We are witnessing the brutal destruction of Ukraine by its neighbor, Russia. The Russian citizens are uninformed and punished if they question anything. Unfortunately, they cannot do anything to stop it.

All this misery caused by one greedy egotistical man, and history proves this has happened many times.

Whether these leaders are in countries or small cities, the people endure indifference as they turn their backs on the citizens to please their agendas. Very similar here, don't you think? However, we in our

city, a mere tiny pinpoint on the global map, can easily remove our leaders. ALL WE HAVE TO DO HERE IS VOTE THEM OUT!

Bras for a Cause

Kathy Pedrini, Livermore

Have you heard of the "Bras for the Cause" Breast Cancer Walk? This very fun, all-outdoor fundraiser is happening on Saturday, May 7th, at Amador Valley Community Park in Pleasanton. Decorate a bra, wear it on the outside of your clothes, and join us for a festive 5-mile walk through downtown Pleasanton and surrounding neighborhoods.

The walk is organized and presented by Tri-Valley SOCKs (Stepping Out for Cancer Kures), a group of fun-loving and hardworking volunteers. Tri-Valley SOCKs raises money for breast cancer research, treatment, and educational programs. After 15 years and over \$2,000,000 raised, this year's walk will be our last. Help us make our final walk the biggest and best one yet! Join us in our quest, as we walk around in our underwear, to fund a cure to find a cure. Registration is open for walkers, event partnerships are available, and we need volunteers on the day of the event. Each registered walker is asked to raise a minimum of \$200.

Since we are all volunteers with no paid staff, 100% of all walker funds raised are given to our selected beneficiaries. Goodie bags, t-shirts, pre-walk festivities, and finisher's party are included with registration. To donate and for more information, please see our website: www.trivalleysocks.org. Thank you!

Thank you, Ag Commissioner Roche, for this report that reminds us Alameda County is still an agricultural county. www.acgov.org/cda.

Weights and Measures ensures that people can pump fuel from verified dispensers, buy their groceries over accurate scales, and pay fair prices without price gouging. Every commercial scale, scanner and fuel pump is tested and sealed, even at the Oakland Port and Airport.

Thank you, Ag Commissioner Roche, for this report that reminds us Alameda County is still an agricultural county. www.acgov.org/cda.

Agriculture Week in Alameda County

Karen Sweet, Livermore

March 22 was the National Ag Day, celebrating the people and values of Agriculture that sustain this nation and contribute to others. <https://www.agday.org/> "Growing a Climate for Tomorrow" is the 2022 theme, an opportunity to share the technological, biological, and technical strides and resources being made to produce food, fiber, flowers, and, yes, fuel with increasing sustainability.

Alameda County has a long heritage of diverse hay and grain, orchard fruit and oil, winegrapes, and row crops (i.e. strawberries, melons). The Hagemann Farm in Livermore, Ardenwood Farm in Fremont, pumpkin patches and other sites demonstrate it.

The County's current state of Agriculture remains strong and diverse. Each year the Agriculture Commissioner collects gross sales data of raw products leaving farms and ranches. Commodity values are an annual snapshot, affected each year by the market, weather, drought and wildfire, as was Covid-19. The 2020 snapshot:

Acres: 182,488 acres (ac) were actively farmed or ranching, including 52 ac of community gardens and 92 ac of school gardens. Total gross commodity sales: \$43,895,000.

Wine Grapes: 2533 ac, \$19,470,000

Cattle \$12,183,000

Fruit, Olives & Nuts: 1786 ac, \$5,646,000

Field Crops - hay, grain, pasture: 138,234 ac, \$4,986,000

Nursery shrubs and ornamentals: 123 ac, \$4,583,000

Sheep, Goats, Pigs, Bee pollination & Apiary products \$520,000

Vegetables - broccoli, cabbage, corn, lettuce, melons: 40 ac, \$316,000

Agriculturalists, Consumers and the Community greatly benefit from Ag Department services. It is responsible for many programs that protect agriculture, consumers, and the urban and natural environment. Staff and the canine patrol regularly inspect shipments and measuring devices at the Oakland Port and Airport and other parcel centers, where shipments enter the country.

Pest (plant, rodent, nematode and insect) detection, exclusion, and management programs (i.e. Sudden Oak Death and fruit flies) and pesticide use (training, licensing and compliance of applicators) are critical services conducted in partnership with regional land management agencies and organizations to protect all native and ornamental plants.

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Roll-Over Robert Livermore

Vic Avila, Livermore

Would Livermore pioneers roll over in their graves if they witnessed two unsightly 4-story apartment developments going into downtown? It is possible. We can only imagine.

How would they feel about the last two city councils' failure to protect the historic nature, character and legacy of Livermore?

What would Jose Loreto Higuera say, the former local operator of the bullfight ring in downtown? "Those developments ruin the character of downtown. Even our bulls will rebel. No bueno!"

What would John Cannon, an Irish immigrant who established Concannon Vineyards, say? "This is a ranching and agricultural town. We don't want monstrosities ruining the feel of our community."

What would an Ohlone tribe member say? "Hemen makkin, 'o 'akwena, 'itmay hemmen."

What would Alphonso Ladd, owner of the hotel on Junction Avenue, say? "Those large developments will change the hometown, comfortable ambiance of Livermore. Our clientele on horseback and wagons

(See MAILBOX, page 5)

THE Independent

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MAILBOX

(Continued from page 4)

will not want to come to us anymore.”

What would the manager of the local Nottingham Post Office say? “No one will be able to find us in among all those tall buildings downtown.”

What would Andrew Carnegie say? “Four-story eyesores will spread through the town. My library is going to be engulfed by these ugly buildings.”

What would Robert Livermore, a local rancher and planter of the first vineyards say? “Ranchers won’t come to the downtown bars. Visitors will not be drawn to our wineries. How can our town become a destination for either our agricultural community or our wine country visitors?” Livermore’s legacy and livability have been alive for 153 years. One hundred and fifty-three years; think about that ... and recent city councils led by John Marchand and Bob Woerner, supported by six of their council members, took it upon themselves to violate all this history, significance, importance, and presence, the very essence of what makes Livermore a great place to live. They failed to take into consideration what

makes Livermore ... Livermore. Council’s responsibility is to preserve and protect. Did not happen.

We Need a Downtown Park

Maggie Jong, Livermore

My response to Rion Causey is, yes, sir, it is true that we do indeed have a lot of small parks scattered around town. But you are missing the point. When I go to the park in my neighborhood, I might see a few people I know, but they are always my close neighbors. I have friends scattered all across town. With one centrally located park, especially if there is a downtown event, I have a chance to meet many of my good friends. The second issue that you are missing is that there is much beauty and shade in the green grass and tall trees. If we don’t have a centrally located park, then all we have are hot, drab colored cement walls.

Yes, on A for Livermore Students

Bryan Balazs, Livermore

I was a member of the independent citizens’ oversight committee for Livermore Valley Joint Unified

School District’s voter-approved parcel tax from 2017 through 2021. I will be voting Yes on Measure A on May 3rd to renew parcel tax funding – without increasing the tax rate - because I have seen firsthand that these funds are consistently spent as promised for the benefit of local students.

Since Livermore’s parcel tax was first approved in 2004, an independent oversight committee has carefully reviewed the use of funds annually, and for 18 consecutive years, has consistently reported that funds have been spent properly. Because of this strong track record and responsible spending, our local schools deserve to have this important source of local education funded renewed, just as our community has done many times in the past.

Measure A requires LVJUSD to continue strict fiscal accountability protections such as the oversight committee and mandatory annual audits. These reports are available to the public on the LVJUSD website: <https://www.livermoreschools.org/Page/6871>.

Oversight committee reports confirm the only positions supported by parcel

tax funding are certificated teachers working in the classroom teaching our students science and technology. Funding also supports:

- Advanced instructional programs in math, science and engineering
- Classroom technology and instructional materials
- Maintenance to keep schools safe and clean

Measure A is a responsible proposal that simply extends what we are currently paying to support our schools and does not increase our taxes. I urge everyone to help protect the quality of Livermore schools by voting Yes on Measure A.

Smiles Over Miles with Livermore Half Marathon

Tania Panarello, Livermore

I know there are battles going on currently over downtown Livermore development, and the world in general, but can we put down our swords for a moment to express gratitude for the good things in life?

First, thank you so much to all the organizers, sponsors, businesses, volunteers, supporters and runners for bringing back the Livermore Valley Half Marathon this year. Also, many thanks to

Livermore residents, Farmers Market vendors and Cedar Grove Community Church for their patience and flexibility in accommodating this event. It really does “take a village” to make special events like the Livermore Half a success, and after two years of pandemic fatigue, our community really needed this spark of energy to confirm that we are still alive and kicking!

Thanks especially to all the friendly peace officers stationed along the course to keep everyone safe. Livermore Police Dept. (along with Cedar Grove church staff) did all they could to alert people in advance to plan for road closures related to the race.

Having run the Livermore Half in years past, my husband and I greatly appreciated the encouragement we received from bystanders along the race route. This year, we stood with our signs and other proud supporters to cheer on the runners.

There has been so much negativity on social media and in life, overall; after hiding behind face masks and computer screens for so long, it was incredibly

uplifting to be outside with others on such a beautiful day, sharing smiles over miles and doing life together. Let’s take this win and move forward by PAYING IT FORWARD with kindness to one another. Thank you!

Yes, on A to Support Classroom Instruction in Livermore

Renee Haugen, Livermore

As a 17-year Livermore teacher and 17-year Livermore resident with 2 kids in local schools, I have seen first-hand how the \$4 million in locally controlled parcel tax funding benefits teaching and classroom instruction in our local schools.

This important funding source for our local schools is set to expire this summer and Measure A is on the ballot this spring to extend the funding at the current tax rate. Voting Yes on A maintains funding for Livermore schools but does not increase the tax rate.

Local parcel tax funding goes directly to the classroom and is only used to support certificated teachers. No funds are used for ad-

(See MAILBOX, page 6)

— Paid Political Advertisement —



RESIDENTS SPEAK OUT
TO SAVE LIVERMORE'S DOWNTOWN



Rifka served as a curriculum specialist at Rincon and Portola Schools, taught in the CAPE-Headstart Program and helped establish several preschool sites. She currently works at Las Positas College.

"I Am For A Beautiful Downtown Park"

"I was raised in Livermore, graduated from Livermore High, and raised my two children here. I look at life with positivity, and am "for" things rather than "against" them. I am "for" a beautiful downtown park, larger number of affordable housing units, adequate parking and most especially, a return to collaboration in our civil discourse.

After actively participating in the community process for designing our future downtown, I became convinced that a large park was essential to our social and creative growth, as well as being a huge benefit to economic development. Research confirmed that central parks were key to successful downtowns.

As a renter in Livermore, I can attest that we need affordable housing. I support Eden Housing, and the project relocation could increase the number of units from 130 to 230 – which is significant when you consider how many cannot afford to live where they work.

The relocation also addresses the real need for more parking – ease of parking encourages participation in our great downtown entertainment and dining venues.

And, relocating the housing complex allows for a large downtown park, which benefits businesses, the new hotel, and folks who want to gather in the heart of their town. A dream come true!"

– Rifka Several, Livermore



There's still time to Save Livermore's downtown
Sign up to help at savelivermoredowntown.com

Paid for by Save
Livermore Downtown

MAILBOX

(Continued from page 5)

ministrator salaries or other purposes. For the nearly twenty years that this funding has been in place, an independent citizens' oversight committee and annual audits have confirmed that the funds are used ONLY for the teaching and instructional programs identified in the language of the measure. These reports are available for public review on the LVJUSD website.

As you consider Measure A, I encourage you to consider the following:

*Measure A renews expiring funding that has been in place for 18 years and proven to work

*Measure A does not increase our taxes by one penny

*All funds benefit Livermore schools and cannot be taken by the State

*Every penny goes to the classroom and cannot be used for administrator salaries

*Strict accountability ensures proper spending

*Without Measure A, Livermore schools lose \$4,000,000 in annual funding and must make deep cuts

*Good schools protect property values

Please join parents, teachers, local science and business leaders and vote YES on A.

Four Items of Note in Livermore

Trish Munro, Livermore

Want more? Sign up for a weekly email here: www.CityOfLivermore.net/CommunityUpdate

1. We know that trees cool the earth, give us oxygen, and help mitigate climate change. So, Livermore planted trees! On March 12, over 200 volunteers joined representatives from many organizations to plant 65 trees in the Springtown open space area. Thank you to all who helped grow our urban forest!

2. Speaking of climate change: with the lack of rain, plants and trees are suffering. As a result, people are watering more, and water use has increased. So how can we triage water use? Here are four suggestions: Add 2-3 inches of mulch everywhere. Irrigate from 6 PM to 9 AM. Check that water is being absorbed by the soil. And prioritize trees—our most precious resource—over small shrubs and grass and other vegetation that can be easily replanted. Here's a link for more information: www.CityOfLivermore.net/Drought

3. Here's a shout-out for our Library's work in educating Livermore residents about neurodiversity, autism,

and inclusion. Livermore Reads Together's book, *The Reason I Jump: The Inner Voice of a Thirteen-Year-Old Boy with Autism*, began the conversation. Over the past week, the library has hosted a talk on Autism Full Employment, a conversation with renowned author, advocate, and Professor Temple Grandin, and a presentation on neurodiversity from UC-Davis' MIND Institute. Stay tuned for future events on the subject.

4. On March 28, the City Council will take the next step toward adopting new districts: conducting a first reading of the ordinance to do so. During the past several months, Livermore residents have drawn maps and defined their communities of interest. The proposed final map incorporates the input of an involved, caring community.

Beware of DA Candidates

Anthony Beckett, Pleasanton

I want to again warn voters about Pamela Price, the Soros-backed candidate in the Alameda County DA's race. This election may seem inconsequential but the effects that other notable Soros-backed DA candidates who have been elected around the country should give pause to that notion. DA Gascon in LA and DA Boudin of San Francisco, to name just two, are both up for recall due to their cruel disregard for victims of crimes in the name of "fairness" for the perpetrators. Criminals have been released with no jail or even no bail, with charges reduced or even dropped completely. I'm talking about shootings, smash and grabs, carjackings, home invasions and assault. This is a well-documented pattern of DAs who are funded by George Soros. These DA offices have suffered from mass resignations of frustrated prosecutors unable to protect the public from repeat offenders because the DA has decided, contrary to their job description, to simply not prosecute many of these crimes, and set the criminals free to offend again and again; the DA office is visibly more interested in protecting defendants than crime victims and everyday citizens. Don't be fooled into thinking that "progressive" means "better". In DA terms, it usually means it's OK to break the law. I will vote for chief assistant district attorney Terry Wiley.

Doing the Right Thing

Daryl R Carlson, Livermore

Adding to the DSM-5, the American Psychiatric

Association announces a new diagnostic category to its list of treatable conditions, Pseudo-Claustrophobic Downtown Canyon Anxiety Disorder, often seen with a comorbidity of dementia. Patients present with a dramatic disregard for others less fortunate than they are, also indifferent to Federal, California and Alameda County regulations that require city governments to provide equitable housing, and an obsession with a past that no longer exists. Persistent worry over adequate numbers of climate-killing automobile parking spaces is also a characteristic symptom.

In its response to the judge's decision to deny Save Livermore Downtown's (SLD) churlish lawsuit against the City of Livermore, Eden, a not-for-profit organization, stated that it would have begun construction in 2022, bringing some hope of relief to many hard-pressed families in need of this assistance. SDL offers pie in the sky, well, eventually, after we force the city to purchase (with what taxpayer money?) tracts North of Railroad Avenue, perhaps with eminent domain proceedings to stall things and yes, let's add a collection of environmental tests to determine whether or not the construction site would cause harm to an endangered species of chickweed.

SDL charges boldly forth with weekly propaganda ads featuring prosperous, successful, comfortable Livermore residents who seem to feel that their downtown aesthetics are much more important than people in need. SLD, how about featuring a Livermore family that has to make hard choices between food and medicines for some balance?

I applaud the city council and mayor for following the honorable path in spite of enormous pressure brought by the precious few. As veteran actor gravel voiced Ossie Davis said in Spike Lee's film, "Always Do the Right Thing."

It's Hard to Understand

Sally Brown, Livermore

Like a tired old love song, I can't judge right from wrong, as I read this paper's contradictory pages. Yet, as I walk through our downtown, I cannot help but frown, surrounded by these walls of human cages.

State Auditor Confirms Inaccuracies in Housing Numbers

Deborah McQueen, Livermore

On March 17, 2022, Michael Tilden, the acting

California State Auditor, stated in a letter to the Governor and State Legislative Leaders that "HCD does not ensure that its needs assessments are accurate and adequately supported." HCD (California's Department of Housing and Needs Development) is tasked with providing key housing guidance for the State's local governments. This guidance is used to determine how much housing is required in a particular town or county and how much can be at or below market rate.

A recent audit directed by the Joint Legislative Audit Committee demonstrated that there are several areas in which the HCD's methodology for determining housing needs is flawed. These include 1) "HCD does not satisfactorily review its needs assessments to ensure that staff accurately enter data when they calculate how much housing local governments must plan to build", and 2) "HCD could not demonstrate that it adequately considered all of the factors that state law requires, and it could not support its use of healthy housing vacancy rates", and when relying on projections from the Department of Finance 3) "it has not adequately supported the rates it uses to project the number of future households that will require housing units in the State. Although these household projections are a key component in HCD's needs assessments, Finance has not conducted a proper study or obtained formal recommendations from experts it consulted to support its assumptions in this area." The result of these errors has undermined "public confidence that HCD is informing local governments of the appropriate amount of housing they will need."

Stepping back in time to a June 1, 2021 letter I wrote (entitled "Are Affordable Housing Developers Profiting from Poverty?"), the public was informed that Eden Housing's Executive Director, Linda Mandolini ... quoted inaccurate housing needs numbers — 13,000 instead of 1,600 — during her sales pitch to the Council (Livermore Housing Authority Feb. 2021 meeting minutes). These numbers were foundational to the City's approval of Eden Housing's revised building plan (two large football-field-sized four-story buildings) in spite of its violations of the publicly funded Downtown Plan priority guidelines which included 1) providing ample parking 2) maintaining

the character of downtown Livermore and 3) maintaining open space. The Council should take into consideration these new findings from the State substantiating errors in HCD's numbers, and recalibrate their prescribed plans for affordable housing.

Trump = Putin

Patrick Weidhaas, Dublin

I am in complete agreement with the joint opinion of the civilized world: Vladimir Putin is a terrorist, a mass murderer, a war criminal.

I also shake my head, puzzled why so many Russian citizens believe Putin and his propaganda.

Then my thoughts turn to our own country, the USA, and I cannot help but draw unpleasant parallels.

I am convinced, Trump and Putin are two of a kind; have the same mentality. They show off, live in billion-dollar palaces, they crave power, they want to rule forever; they love mass rallies full of lies, they are heartless, brutal egomaniacs, have no compassion for human lives, they are lying despots. They do not even shy away from considering weapons of mass destruction in order to achieve their cruel goals. OK, Trump did not start a war -- yet! But let's not forget how the generals worried about keeping access to nuclear codes away from Trump. They knew how dangerous that man is!

We do not understand why so many Russians believe Putin's propaganda -- I do not understand why so many Americans believe Trump's propaganda. Trump, if re-elected, would find it quite easy to march into a sovereign country to get its oil or whatever. He would be cheered by his MAGA fan club -- probably 40% of Americans or more.

As a former mathematician I can only formulate my assessment of Trump and Putin in one succinct equation: Trump = Putin.

Why Measure A

Joanne Morrison, Livermore

Measure A, slated for the mail-in election on May 3, will provide parcel tax funds to continue support for the much-needed science programs in Livermore District schools. It is a new measure, but it's not a new tax.

In 2004 Measure D was adopted to levy a parcel tax that would address shortages in funding for Livermore Schools. The voters have continued the tax with subsequent measures, now

by Measure G, scheduled to expire on June 30, 2022. Measure A will renew the tax and continue the funding. The amount of the levy remains the same, \$138 per parcel. Despite inflation and rising costs, the district has not asked for any increase in the amount of the tax. There is an exemption for property owned by seniors.

Why does Livermore have a parcel tax while Pleasanton pays for school science programs without levying such a tax? A fair question. The answer is that both Pleasanton and Dublin school districts have historically received more state funding per student than Livermore has. A loophole in recent law has baked this inequity in permanently through the formula adopted by the state for Economic Recovery Target Funding. Pleasanton receives approximately \$5 million more per year than Livermore. The Livermore parcel tax provides approximately \$4 million annually to make up part of the shortfall.

The Measure A funds will be used for teachers and programs, not for school administration. The measure sets out the uses allowed:

Provide elementary science and TK-12 technology specialists

Attract and retain highly qualified teachers

Maintain academic achievement in math, science, reading, writing, engineering and technology

Keep classroom technology and instructional materials up to date

Maintain small class sizes

Keep schools well-maintained

The measure also states: "All of the purposes named in this Proposition shall constitute the specific purposes of the education parcel tax, and the proceeds thereof shall be applied only for such purposes."

Thus, the measure is self-limiting for the purposes stated. No Measure G funds were used for school administration purposes. Annual accountings of the funds used can be found at: <https://www.livermore-schools.org/Page/6871>.

Why Measure A? Because it will continue to provide funds for the next seven years to support Livermore teachers and programs on a par with other communities in the area. Because it continues local control over funding and accountability. And because it gives our students the educational benefits they deserve. Vote "Yes" on Measure A!

PRIMARIES

(Continued from first page)

2015 — filed in Contra Costa County to run for the new district seat that takes in a portion of Alameda County. Michael Ernest Kerr, a social justice advocate with the Green party, and charity director Oleksii Chuiko of the Republican party pulled papers but have not yet qualified for the ballot.

The top two finishers in each congressional race will face a runoff in November.

In the newly drawn California Assembly District 16, which includes all of the Tri-Valley, state Sen. Rebecca Bauer-Kahan (D-Orinda) will face a rematch of her November 2020 bout with Republican businessman Joseph Rubay. Bauer-Kahan won two-thirds of the vote in that race against the Alamo resident. Because the top two finishers in the state's primary elections go to a November runoff, Bauer-Kahan and Rubay will both be on the November ballot regardless of what happens in June.

Voters in the Assembly's redrawn 20th District, which includes portions of Dublin and Pleasanton, will have a choice of three Democrats and a Republican to fill a seat currently held by Assemblyman Dr. Bill Quirk, D-Hayward, who is retiring. The Democrats in the race are psychiatric registered nurse Jennifer Esteen, labor council exec-

utive Liz Ortega, and Dublin City Councilmember Shawn Kumagai. Retired laboratory scientist Joseph Grcar is the Republican entry. The top two will face a November runoff.

Tri-Valley voters will have a say in two races that will steer how justice is served in Alameda County. A three-candidate race for months, the battle to succeed retiring DA Nancy O'Malley, now has four contenders: Pamela Price, civil rights attorney; Seth Steward, chief of staff for an Oakland city councilmember; Terry Wiley, chief assistant district attorney; and Jimmie L. Wilson, veteran prosecutor. Unless one candidate wins more than 50% in June, the top two finishers would head to a runoff in November.

Seeking a fifth term, Sheriff-Coroner Gregory Ahern will face two veteran female police officers who have campaigned against him for months. Yesenia Sanchez, an Alameda County Sheriff's Office division commander who oversees the Santa Rita Jail in Dublin, and San Francisco Police Officer JoAnn Walker are attempting to become the first woman and person of color to head the law enforcement agency. Like the DA's race, the top two will appear on the November ballot unless one wins outright in June.

Go ahead and mark down wins for incumbent Assessor Phong La; Auditor-Controller/Clerk Recorder Melissa Wilk; and Treasurer/Tax Collector Henry "Hank" Levy. Each is running unopposed.

In the Alameda County Office of Education (ACOE), Superintendent of Schools L.K. Monroe will try to retain her position against Alyse Castro, executive director of Court, County and Continuation High Schools in the San Francisco Unified School District.

Meanwhile, the ACOE's 7th Trustee area seat, which represents the Tri-Valley cities, is up for grabs with incumbent Yvonne Cerato leaving the position she held for 20 years. The candidates are educator and parent Kate Dao; public school teacher Eric Dillie and retired teacher Cheryl Cook-Callio.

Three judicial spots on the Alameda County Superior Court will be on the ballot. Superior Court Commissioner Tamara Hockenull is running unopposed for the open Office 1 seat. For Office 12, Superior Court Commissioner Pelayo Llamas is challenging incumbent Judge Delbert Gee, who pulled papers to run, but has not yet qualified for the ballot. In Office 21, Superior Court Commissioner Michael

Bishay is facing off against incumbent Judge Yolanda Northridge, who also pulled papers but has not yet qualified for the ballot.

Twenty-three other judgeships will not be placed before voters because no one filed to run against the incumbents.

In another election race, four seats on the Flood Control and Water Conservation District Directors Zone 7 board will be decided by voters. Incumbents Dennis Gambis, Sarah Palmer and

Olivia Sanwong aim to retain their jobs against water agency professional Dawn L. Benson and pharmacist Todd Shinohara. With director Michelle Smith McDonald not running for re-election, four of the five candidates will be elected. Former Livermore Mayor John Marchand filed papers to run, but the registrar website shows he withdrew his candidacy.

According to the California Secretary of State's office, the last day to regis-

ter to vote for the June primary is May 23. Alameda County elections officials will begin mailing ballots by May 9. All active California voters will receive a vote-by-mail ballot.

Aside from the local races, the ballot will include choices for Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Insurance Commissioner and more. Tri-Valley State Sen. Steve Glazer has indicated his plan to run for state controller.

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Nonprofit Office Space Opens in Livermore

The Tri-Valley Nonprofit Alliance (TVNPA) has opened a workspace and resource center for community organizations in downtown Livermore.

The nonprofit alliance said the CommonPoint Nonprofit Center at 116 N. L St. is "a physical extension of the programs and services" it already provides to encourage the growth and development of the local nonprofit community.

Created in 2014, the TVNPA provides resources for other nonprofit groups, including education, advoca-

cy, skills training, workforce development, and organizational resources. The center offers flexible office space for both start-up and established nonprofits on a drop-in or long-term basis. It also offers "virtual offices" for nonprofits that just want a physical address and use of the conference room.

The nonprofit center will be staffed by TVNPA employees and volunteers and offer such amenities as secure Wi-Fi, printers, and a kitchen.

"Having a physical place for collaboration – not just with colleagues, but

also those they serve – is important for nonprofits, particularly when they're just getting started," said TVNPA President Kathy Young. "Larger nonprofits not based in the Tri-Valley also benefit from having an office front closer to those they serve here."

According to TVNPA, Hively, Quest Science Center, and HERS Breast Cancer Foundation have already committed to leasing space at CommonPoint. For more information, contact Kathy Young at 925-699-7323 or kathy@tvnpa.org.



Tri-Valley real estate agent Mony Nop matched a \$10,000 donation from building owner Alan Burnham to help establish the CommonPoint Nonprofit Center in downtown Livermore. Nop co-founded the Tri-Valley Nonprofit Alliance (TVNPA) in 2014 with current TVNPA President Kathy Young. From left; TVNPA board members Christine Dillman and Valerie Jonas; Young; Nop; and board members Marti Sutton, Susan Hayes, and Carolyn Siegfried; and (second row) Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center Executive Director Chris Carter, building owner Alan Burnham, and TVNPA board member Robert Nuddleman. (Photo courtesy of TVNPA)

Library Promotes 'Blind Date' with a Book

The Livermore Public Library will celebrate National Library Week, from April 3 to 9, by urging patrons to read a book that may be outside their comfort zone.

The library's "Blind Date with a Book" program encourages readers to select a wrapped book from a display at the Civic Center Library, 1188 S. Livermore Ave. While the books are wrapped to conceal their titles, there are staff notes and other clues available to suggest what the books are about.

Each book comes with a "Rate your date" bookmarks for readers to share their feedback and be entered into a prize drawing. For more information, call 925-373-5505 or visit livermorelibrary.net.

SPARC Brings Back Summer Shakespeare Festival

After a two-year absence because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Shakespeare and Performing Arts Regional Company (SPARC) will bring back the popular Livermore Shakespeare Festival this summer with outdoor performances at the Darcie Kent Vineyards.

The theater group will open the festival with "The 39 Steps," a farce based on the 1935 Alfred Hitchcock thriller. Four actors will take on more than 150 roles

in the fast-paced, Tony-award winning whodunit, which will run from June 23 through July 10.

SPARC will also offer a dinner-theater production of the musical "Life is a Cabernet" on the vineyard stage from June 26 through July 31.

Closing out the festival will be Shakespeare's "The Comedy of Errors," one of the Bard's earliest plays, opening July 15 and running through Aug. 7. The farcical

comedy follows the journey of two sets of twins separated during a shipwreck and the mishaps that occur in their quest to reunite. The SPARC adaptation will be set in Texas, on the border of El Paso and Ciudad Juarez.

Tickets go on sale this month. All performances will be at Darcie Kent Vineyards, 7000 Tesla Road, Livermore.

For more information, visit SPARCtheater.org or call 925-443-2273.

LLNL Report Ready for Public Comment

A draft of the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) five-year report on environmental cleanup efforts at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) site in Livermore is now available for public review and comment.

The report, mandated by the federal Superfund law for toxic waste sites, is available in the LLNL Environmental Repository at the Livermore Public Library, 1188 S. Livermore Ave. Comments can be submitted to the DOE by email at LS-Public-Comments@

llnl.gov until May 9.

The 800-acre LLNL site three miles east of downtown Livermore was a U.S. Navy flight training and aircraft repair and assembly site in the 1940s. It was converted into a weapons design and basic physics research facility by the Atomic Energy Commission in the 1950s.

After a plume of pollutants from the site was detected in groundwater in 1987, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) placed the site on its priority list for environmental

cleanup. The Superfund law requires a comprehensive review of clean-up efforts every five years.

This will be the sixth review for the LLNL site.

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Federal Spending Bill Includes \$7 Million for ACE Projects

The San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission expects to receive \$7 million in community project funding from the \$1.5 trillion omnibus spending bill recently passed by Congress.

The bill, which President Biden signed last week, funds the federal government through the end of September. It includes the first round of funding for infrastructure programs that were included in the long-term Infrastructure bill that

was approved in November.

The commission, which operates the Altamont Corridor Express (ACE) commuter rail service, said the \$7 million is earmarked for the North Lathrop and Manteca ACE stations and a zero-emission pilot program for locomotive engines.

"These investments will help continue to improve and expand passenger rail options for our region," said Christina Fugazi, com-

mission chair. "We aim to provide convenient, safe and sustainable transit options and appreciate the recognition by Congress that these station projects and technology improvements are an important part of California's transportation future."

The commission said the bulk of the funding, \$4.4 million would go to modernize the Manteca station, a multi-modal transit hub, including rider-safety

improvements. Another \$1.5 million will go to update the North Lathrop station, while the remaining \$1.5 million will go to the ACE Locomotive Zero Emission Engine Conversion Project.

ACE offers four round trips daily between Stockton and San Jose. The 86-mile route includes stops at Lathrop/Manteca, Tracy, Vasco Road, Livermore, Pleasanton, Fremont, Great America, and Santa Clara.

Asbury Players Community Theater Director Set to Retire

Barbara David, longtime director with the Asbury Players Community Theater, will be leaving the



Barbara David

group following the final performance of "Done to Death" this coming weekend.

The Livermore com-

munity theater group announced recently that David and her husband, Dave, who is also the group's set designer, would be moving out of the area later this spring.

Dave David was one of the original Asbury Players, joining the group in 1990 and acting in several productions before moving into set construction. Barbara David joined the group in 2006, playing opposite her husband as Mr. and Mrs. Kirby in "You Can't Take It with You."

The next year, then-director Chuck Johnstone asked if she would direct the group's production of "Harvey," he could play the lead role of Elwood P. Dowd.

"The only experience I

had until then was directing short skits for church and the kids at school," said Barbara. "So, I had to learn on the fly, and poor Dave got 'voluntold' to not just build sets, but to create a working stage on the church's platform altar. We've both learned a little bit more with each production, usually because each play required something new and different, like revolving bookcases or disintegrating fireplaces, or the 'invisible door' on this set."

Barbara David chose "Done to Death" for her final show, because it's a creative mystery story she's had on her radar for years.

"I can guarantee you'll be kept guessing throughout,"

she said. "I've wanted to do it since I first read it. The technical and the performing requirements are pretty complicated, but it's my last chance to do it, and they can't fire me now, so hey, let's put on a show!"

Martie Muldoon, who has been a member of the Asbury Players for 15 years, will take over as director next season.

The final two performances of "Done to Death" at Asbury United Methodist Church, 4743 East Ave. in Livermore will be at 7 p.m. Saturday, March 26, and 2 p.m. Sunday, March 27. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased at the door or reserved by emailing asburyplayers94550@gmail.com.

Physicist to Explain How LLNL Helped Avert Nuclear War

Tom Ramos, a physicist and former nuclear weapons designer at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL), will give a virtual history lecture, "How the Livermore Lab Helped Avert a Nuclear War," at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, April 19.

The Zoom-based lecture is sponsored by the Livermore Public Library and the Livermore Heritage Guild as part of their "Then & Now: Livermore Stories" series.

Ramos will discuss creation of the Berkeley and Livermore Radiation Laboratories, how the Livermore lab created a national defense

strategy to deter the Soviet Union during the Cold War, and how President Kennedy adopted that strategy when former Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev threatened to use nuclear weapons against the United States during the Berlin Crisis.

The presentation is based on Ramos' research for "From Berkeley to Berlin: How the Rad Lab Helped Avert Nuclear War," published last month by the nonprofit United States Naval Institute in Annapolis, Maryland.

In the 1980s, Ramos was a nuclear weapons designer

for the Livermore lab's X-Ray Laser Program, which supported the federal Strategic Defense Initiative. In the program's last nuclear test, he led a team of physicists who designed the program's brightest laser.

In 1989, Ramos was assigned to prepare daily summaries for then-Energy Secretary James Watkins during National Security Council meetings on the resumption of Strategic Arms Reduction Talks (START). Two years later, he was assigned as an advisor to the Pentagon, with the primary role of prepping the Department of

Defense (DOD) for hearings on atomic energy.

During the 1990s, Ramos helped create several DoD programs, including the Counterproliferation Analysis and Planning System and the Homeland Defense Operational Planning System.

Prior to joining LLNL, Ramos was an associate professor of physics at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York. He holds a master's degree in physics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

To view the lecture, visit <https://bit.ly/3fzOt7j>. No registration is required.

DIRECTOR

(Continued from first page)

and operated two different businesses. This provides her great insight and valuable knowledge as she connects with and supports our business owners. Her bilingual skills will be a great asset in increased communication amongst our valuable work force."

Rachel Snedecor, whom Lopez-Villarreal is replacing, said she will bring enthusi-

asm and professionalism to the job.

"Having worked with Ruby in the past and having watched her continued success and growth in a stellar career path, I am so thrilled to leave the LDI association in such talented and capable hands," said Snedecor, who is leaving LDI after 21 years.

As the community continues to return to a post-CO-

VID environment, Lopez-Villarreal looks forward to bringing residents a variety of experiences and events downtown, while continuing to support the downtown merchants and their businesses.

"The events calendars are filling up; the community is enjoying being together downtown, and we are looking forward to a year full of

fabulous and joy-filled events in downtown Livermore," she said. "I'm excited to partner with Livermore community stakeholders to continue to move Livermore Downtown Inc. into the future — a future where LDI and all of our partners continue to thrive and a future where we continue to nurture the joy that downtown sparks in all of our community."

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OBITUARIES

Joan Frances Hughes Madsen June 23, 1940 – Feb. 16, 2022



Livermore Commercial and later the Vittle Vendor. She was a cheerleader/song leader and says she ran every touchdown with the football team. She was active in Job's Daughters. Joan loved to support the youth. She was a 4-H Beef Leader and chaperoned many FFA trips even after she didn't have a student in high school. Joan and Louie loved their road trips antiquing.

They came home with various items (mannequins, buggies, a chuckwagon, and fiberglass farm animals including an alligator), for Joan's Farm and Pumpkin Patch (originally known as Joan and Wanda's).

Joan loved all the trips (New Zealand, Australia, Branson, Hawaii, Virginia, Pennsylvania) she got to go on with Annie, Roy and Freddie. She was very happy that the whole family and some friends went together on a Baltic Sea Cruise in July 2019. Joan loved her Pumpkin Patch which has been open for 31 years. Per Joan's request her Pumpkin Patch legacy will continue, and we will be open again this October. In lieu of flowers please send donations to Jr. Livestock Auction Boosters, PO Box 3176, Livermore, California, 94551 or to a different non-profit of your choice. The celebration of life will be held April 3, 2022.

Joan was born in Oakland and moved to Livermore with her family when she was in elementary school. She graduated from Livermore High School in 1957 and went on to attend Modesto Junior College, then on to work for Sandia National Laboratories from 1958 until 1997.

When Joan married Louis H. Madsen, she went from City Girl to Country Girl. Joan was preceded in death by her parents John and Frances Hughes and husband Louis H. Madsen, and is survived by her son David Madsen, daughter Annette (Annie) Warner, grandson Austin Andrade, step-grandkids, Wes Andrade, Jessica Wharf and Marie Mahan; son-in-law Roy Warner, daughter-in-law Becky Madsen and brothers Don Hughes and John Hughes and their families.

As a youth Joan worked at her family's grocery store,

LAWSUIT

(Continued from first page)

man near the White House that morning, incited the crowd to march on and storm the Capitol building. Senators and Congress members, including Swalwell, were forced to evacuate from their chambers until police and the National Guard contained the onslaught.

Following the lawsuits' filings, Trump Jr. and Giuliani filed motions with the court arguing that their speeches were protected by the First Amendment. In his ruling, Mehta agreed and dismissed them as defendants last month. He dismissed Brooks this month after Brooks filed his own motion.

"As the court concluded with respect to defendants Giuliani and Trump Jr., Brooks' alleged speech that forms the basis for the claims against him is protected expression under the First Amendment," the judge said. "The allegations against Brooks do not support a plausible inference that 'he was advocating ... any action' or that his words were intended to produce, and likely to produce imminent disorder."

Mehta, however, said the former president's speech that morning could be construed differently. He said Trump's speech that included the statements, "We fight. We fight like hell, and if you don't fight like hell, you're not going to have a country anymore," occurred immediately before he exhorted rally-goers to "walk down Pennsylvania Avenue." The judge said Trump's words were plausibly words of incitement not protected by the First Amendment.

"The 'import' of the president's words must be viewed within the broader context in which the speech was made and against the speech as a whole," Mehta wrote. "Before Jan. 6, the president and others had created an air of distrust and anger among his supporters by creating the false narrative that the election literally was stolen from underneath

their preferred candidate by fraud and corruption.

"Some of his supporters' beliefs turned to action. In the weeks after the election, some had made threats against state election officials and others clashed with police in Washington, D.C., following pro-Trump rallies. The president would have known about these events, as they were widely publicized. Against this backdrop, the president invited his followers to Washington, D.C., on Jan. 6. It is reasonable to infer that the president would have known that some supporters viewed his invitation as a call to action."

The judge's ruling should allow Swalwell's attorney to depose Trump.

In a statement, Brooks, who represents Huntsville and surrounding areas, said the judge cleared him of any wrongdoing.

"A liberal Obama-appointed federal judge agrees with me that communist-sympathizer Swalwell's lawsuit is meritless and frivolous," Brooks said. "I make no apologies whatsoever for fighting for accurate and honest elections. The fact that socialist Democrats tried to ruin me demonstrates my effectiveness in the fight for honest elections and their fear of having to win/lose elections fair and square."

Brooks said Mehta's order "goes to show how absurd Swalwell's claims were."

He continued: "Swalwell accused me in his lawsuit of inciting a mob, saying, 'The horrific events of Jan. 6 were a direct and foreseeable consequence of the defendants' unlawful actions. As such, the defendants are responsible for the injury and destruction that followed.' The fact is, I did no such thing. The only thing I asked the Save America rally crowd to do was chant 'USA.' Socialist Democrats and the fake news media took my words out of context and misconstrued them as they so often do. Their lies are crumbling."

DROUGHT

(Continued from first page)

"It seems really unreasonable to say, 'Conserve and we're going to penalize and charge you more,'" she said.

While a household conserving 15% of its water usage will pay under the higher drought rates, something close to what it paid under the normal rates with no water conservation, Councilmember Jack Balch pushed for a usage limit below which drought rates would not apply.

"I just think that we have said there's some level that you just cannot conserve beyond that," he said.

Balch, however, dropped the idea due to a lack of data on where that limit should be and reluctantly supported the activation.

Councilmember Kathy Narum also expressed hesitation but prioritized the health of the city's fund.

"Where we are now, I just don't think we really have a lot of choice, given that we're going to need to have a reserve to meet the

bond covenants," she said, referring to the bonds the city will need in order to finance a treatment solution for Forever Chemicals in the city's groundwater. "I don't like it. I wish it would rain. But I don't think we really have a choice here."

Pleasanton water test results revealed in 2019 that one of the city's three groundwater wells contained Forever-Chemicals above state-defined response levels. The city, upon receiving those results, placed the offending well on non-operational standby and began preparing a rehabilitation project.

\$31.4 million of the Forever Chemicals' estimated \$46 million cost will be funded by state and federal grants, legal settlement proceeds, and debt financing, according to the city's website. The project is scheduled to complete in 2025.

Water customers can expect to see the added charges on their July bill that reflects their May-June usage.

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Constance (Connie) Baldonado
July 29, 1944 – Nov. 13, 2021

Reyes (Ray) O. Baldonado
Jan. 6, 1950 – March 14, 2021

Family and friends will gather to remember and celebrate the lives of former Livermore residents, Ray and Connie Baldonado, both of whom passed away last year in Rio Rancho, New Mexico. A memorial mass is scheduled for 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, March 30, 2022, at Saint Charles Borromeo Church, 1315 Lomitas Avenue, Livermore, California, 94550. Committal services will follow at St. Michaels Catholic Cemetery, 3885 East Avenue, Livermore, California 94550. A reception will be held from 1 to 4:00 p.m. at the home of Sandra Lomand, located at 1641 Vancouver Way, Livermore, California, 94550. So that we may properly plan for the gathering, please R.S.V.P. to Sandra via email: sklorma@gmail.com; or phone: 925-667-5478, by March 25, 2022, or the earliest date possible. In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to the Alzheimer's Association (www.alz.org) in honor of this very special couple.



(See OBITUARIES, page 9)

TRI-VALLEY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Now to March 26

"High Fidelity: The Musical"

The Las Positas College (LPC) Theater Arts Department presents "High Fidelity: The Musical" live on campus at the Barbara F. Mertes Center for the Arts' indoor main stage from March 18-26. Tickets are available now for this musical, which is based on the popular 1995 Nick Hornby novel of the same name. The musical was written by David Lindsay-Abaire with music by Tom Kitt and lyrics by Amanda Greene. "High Fidelity" follows the adventures of Rob, a Brooklyn record store owner who finds himself unexpectedly dumped, and his life takes a music-filled turn toward the introspective. Tickets range from \$10 to \$20 per person and can be purchased at bit.ly/3JasYaJ. Vaccination and masks required for all audience members over the age of 5.

Now to March 27

Asbury Players Community Theater Presents "Done to Death"

Asbury Players Community Theater's production of "Done to Death" will feature Friday and Saturday performances at 7 p.m. and Sunday performances at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$10 and can be reserved by emailing asburyplayers94550@gmail.com or purchased at the door. "Done to Death," by Fred Carmichael, is a hilarious mash-up of murder mystery genres, as five prominent mystery authors meet to collaborate on a television series. Cast and crew are all fully vaccinated, and audience will be asked to show proof of vaccination at the door. Audience will be masked, but performers will be unmasked. All performances are at Asbury United Methodist Church, 4743 East Ave., in Livermore.

Now to April 22

Lions Seafood Fundraiser

The Livermore Lions Club is taking orders for its annual seafood fundraiser. This year's event will feature cioppino, a delicious Italian stew brimming with shellfish, tomatoes, wine, spices and herbs. Each 64-ounce container of cioppino serves four and comes with a bread round. The cost is \$70 per order, and deadline to place orders is April 22. Drive by pick up will be Saturday, April 30, from 1 to 4:00 pm, at the Singing Wine Maker, 5143 Tesla Road, in Livermore. To order, call 805-405-8742. Proceeds will benefit Lions Clubs International Relief Fund for Ukrainian refugees.

Now to Nov. 12

Master Gardeners of Alameda County Demonstration Garden

The Master Gardeners of Alameda County's demonstration garden at the Martinelli center in Livermore highlights low-water plants that look beautiful and offer diversity through all four seasons. During the monthly workday – the second Saturday of the month – the group offers free talks on garden topics from March to November. Talks are out of doors in the demo garden, at the Martinelli Center; 3585 Greenville Road, in Livermore, from 10 to 11 a.m. Demos are

scheduled as follows: March 12 - Native Plant Propagation (dividing, cuttings); April 9 - Monarch Butterflies and Milkweed Myths and Truths; May 14 - Growing Succulents (low water plants); June 11 - Photography in the Garden (an introductory class); July 9 - IPM: Integrated Pest Management (steps to control pests); Aug. 13 - Sheet Mulching (how to get rid of your lawn); Sept. 10 - Vermicomposting (worm composting); Oct. 8 - Evolution of a Garden; and Nov. 12 - Native Plant Propagation (seed saving). For more information or to sign up for a free monthly gardening newsletter, visit acmg.ucanr.edu.

Thursday, March 24

Veterans Job Fair

Tri-Valley Career Center and Chabot - Las Positas Community College District will hold an in-person Veterans Career Fair. This event allows veterans to meet directly with leading industry recruiters interested in hiring veterans. Businesses interested in participating can complete an online form at bit.ly/3lalt2f. Attending job seekers can register at bit.ly/35WYXBN.

Thursday, March 24

The Mundaze at Almost Famous Wine Lounge

See The Mundaze live at Almost Famous Wine Lounge. The event features festival seating, so arrive early unless you don't mind standing. Outside food is welcome, but only AFW wine can be consumed on premise. The show is for those 21 and older and starts at 6 p.m. It is free, as part of Almost Famous Wine Company's Free Thursday live music series. Almost Famous Wine Lounge is currently requiring COVID-19 vaccination proof or proof of a negative COVID-19 test result, taken within 48 hours prior to entry. Please wear a mask inside when not actively drinking.

Thursday, March 24

Grief Ministry

The death of a loved one is unlike any other loss. Please join in for bi-monthly meetings, held at St. Elizabeth Seton, 4001 Stoneridge Drive, in Pleasanton, on Thursdays, March 24, April 7 and 21, May 12 and 26, June 9 and 23, and July 14 and 28. Meetings will start at 7 p.m., and although there is no advance registration, organizers ask attendees to arrive a little early to check in. The meetings are open to all, regardless of religious affiliation. For a short video explaining the grief program and additional information, visit catholicsofpleasanton.org, scroll down to Grief Ministry, and tap on the video box. For more information, call Barbara at 925-846-3904.

Saturday, March 26

Pacific Chamber Orchestra Presents "Words!"

Pacific Chamber Orchestra, under the direction of Conductor Lawrence Kohl, presents "Words!" with the chamber orchestra version of Gustav Mahler Symphony #4 and William Walton Façade: An Entertainment. Marnie Breckenridge will be soprano soloist for the Mahler and the reciter for the Walton. Performances are Saturday, March 26, at 7:30 p.m., at the auditorium theater of the Orinda Library, 26 Orinda Way, in Orinda; and Sunday, March 27, at 3 p.m., at Bankhead Theatre, 2400 First St., in Livermore. Tickets

may be purchased at pacificchamberorchestra.org and additionally for the Livermore performance at 925-373-6800 or the Bankhead box office, located at 2400 First St., in Livermore.

Saturday, March 26

Gaby Castro: Pleasanton Farmers Market

Gaby Castro is an Americana/folk singer-songwriter and San Francisco Bay Area native. Her latest project, La Guerrera//The Warrior EP, was released in March of 2019 and touches on themes such as feminism, self-empowerment, mental health, and overcoming adversity. Her songwriting incorporates the lyrical power of Carole King, infectious hooks of Taylor Swift, and storytelling feel of Jewel. Her latest plans include writing and recording her next album, touring the United States, and continuing to advocate for mental health, women's rights, and disability rights. Let her music tell the stories.

Sunday, March 27

A Bowl To Remember

Hosted by Livermore Masonic Lodge #218, F & AM for Alzheimer's Research will feature raffle prizes, food, and fun, from 1 to 3 p.m., at Granada Bowl, located at 1620 Railroad Ave., in Livermore. Cost is \$25 per person, with proceeds going to the Alzheimer's Association. For more information, contact Jeffrey Dulle at 925-583-5166 and leave a message or email jdulle32@yahoo.com.

Wednesday, March 30

Italian Catholic Federation Hosts Meal Fundraiser

The Italian Catholic Federation of Livermore and Pleasanton invites the public to join in for a delicious way to raise money for charities. The organization supports high school and college scholarships, Cooley's Anemia-Thalassemia Research and treatment, Gifts of Love for disabled persons, Goodness Village-Home Community for the unhoused, and other local charities. Just order lunch or dinner from Sidetrack Bar and Grill, located at 30 W. Angela St., in Pleasanton, on March 30, and 15% of proceeds will be donated back to local support organization. When placing orders, please mention that you are ordering in support of ICF Branch 285. For more information, call 925-519-0435.

Thursday, March 31

Deep Blue Jam at Almost Famous Wine Lounge

See Americana, roots rock, and reggae come together with Deep Blue Jam, live at Almost Famous Wine Lounge. The event features festival seating, so arrive early unless you don't mind standing. Outside food is welcome, but only AFW wine can be consumed on premise. The show is for those 21 and older and starts at 6 p.m. It is free, as part of Almost Famous Wine Company's Free Thursday live music series. Almost Famous Wine Lounge is currently requiring COVID-19 vaccination proof or proof of a negative COVID-19 test result, taken within 48 hours prior to entry. Please wear a mask inside when not actively drinking.

Saturday, April 2

Fraternal Order of Eagles Crab Feed

The Fraternal Order of Eagles will host a crab feed as a sit-down dinner including crab, pasta, salad, rolls and dessert. The cost is \$85. For more information, contact Livermore Eagles #609's Adam McLeod at aerie609foe@sbcglobal.net or 925-449-4557.

Thursday, April 7

Deep Blue Jam at Almost Famous Wine Lounge

See Timothy O'Neil Band, a boot-stompin', whiskey-drinkin', dance-floor blazin', stringband with a heart of gold, live at Almost Famous Wine Lounge. The event features festival seating, so arrive early unless you don't mind standing. Outside food is welcome, but only AFW wine can be consumed on premise. The show is for those 21 and older and starts at 6 p.m. It is free, as part of Almost Famous Wine Company's Free Thursday live music series. Almost Famous Wine Lounge is currently requiring COVID-19 vaccination proof or proof of a negative COVID-19 test result, taken within 48 hours prior to entry. Please wear a mask inside when not actively drinking.

Saturday, April 16

Annual Spring Eggstravaganza

Bring your kids out to Dublin Heritage Park and Museums for the City of Dublin's annual Spring Eggstravaganza! Children will hunt for eggs, play games, meet Flopsy and Peter Rabbit, and enjoy arts and crafts. Registration is now open, and space is limited for each session. Cost is \$15 per child for residents and \$18 for nonresidents, and parents and grandparents are free. Children must be preregistered to participate, and onsite registration is not available. To register, visit bit.ly/3tr2PPB.

Saturday, April 16

Lessons in Literary Law with California Writers Club Tri-Valley Branch

Authors should know their rights, and Attorney Kelley Way will describe five areas of law – copyright, trademark, right of privacy and publicity, defamation, and contracts – and explain how to protect these rights as well as how to avoid infringing on the rights of others, during "Lessons in Literary Law," at the Tri-Valley Writers meeting, at 2 p.m. Attendees can participate either in person or through Zoom. The in-person venue is Four Points by Sheraton, 5115 Hopyard Road, in Pleasanton. The Tri-Valley Branch of the California Writers Club (CWC) hosts the meeting. Reserve and pay at trivalleywriters.org. Reservation deadline is Friday, April 15. Fees for CWC adult members are \$14; nonmembers are \$18; CWC student members (ages 14 to 22) are \$6; and student nonmembers are \$10. For more information, contact Deborah 'Jordan' Bernal at president@trivalleywriters.org or visit trivalleywriters.org.

ONGOING WEEKLY EVENTS

Pleasanton Farmers Market Open for the Season

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

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

OBITUARIES

Giovanna ("Vanna") Pecoraro Born

Oct. 6, 1926 – March 10, 2022

Vanna was born in Madison, Wisconsin and received her degree in social work at the University of Wisconsin, where she met her husband, Don. They moved to Livermore in the 1950s and designed the home on Chateau Way that Vanna lived in until her last day. She taught elementary school at Fifth Street and Portola schools for more than 25 years and as a Fulbright Scholar in Cochrane, Alberta for a year.

Vanna was the quintessential educator: creative, demanding and respected. To teach her fifth grade students math concepts, she helped them run a small store in the classroom. Some of her fifth-grade classes actually invested in the stock market. Cooking, another life skill, was a memorable part of her innovative curriculum. It was a joy when former students recognized her in the aisle of Trader Joe's, even 40 years after she had been their teacher. But Vanna was easy to recognize; she got older, but she didn't seem to age. She was a lifelong learner, who loved to read, attend lectures and travel with the Road



Scholar program.

Vanna was outspoken in her beliefs, and she acted on them. She contributed time and money to multiple causes, including a scholarship at Las Positas College to support aspiring early childhood educators. A warm host with an ebullient smile and laugh, Vanna relished cooking for visitors, and there always seemed to be one at her kitchen table. She was known for her soups, the Sicilian dish caponata, and desserts that never had quite enough sugar (because it wasn't good for you, she said).

She will be deeply missed by the many people who admired her kindness and resilience.

Vanna was preceded in death by her husband, Don, and daughter, Ellen. She is survived by her son, Greg of Cleveland, Ohio; sister Nina of Oakland; and nieces and nephews. Vanna's family and friends are grateful for the kind care she received from long-time friend Thelma Fones and from caregivers Gemma, Rochelle, Ruth and Tessie.

A celebration of Vanna's life will be at Terra Mia restaurant on Tuesday, March 29, at noon. Please text your full name to 510-697-0303 if you plan to attend. For those who would like to donate in her memory, please consider the Vanna Born Early Childhood Education Scholarship at LPC ("LPC Foundation" at 3000 Campus Hill Drive, Livermore, 94551 or online at <https://www.lpcfoundation.org/investing/make-an-investment/>) Or the Tri Valley Retired Educators Scholarship Fund (for future teachers), c/o Faye Younger, 1792 Old Tower Road, Livermore, California, 94550.

Ronald Charles Norton

May 26, 1969 – Feb. 17, 2022

It is with a heavily saddened heart to let you know of the passing of my beloved husband, father, son, brother, uncle, cousin and friend to all that had the pleasure of knowing Ron. He won his battle; fighting every day with bravery, resilience and unbelievable strength but ended up losing his war to pancreatic cancer.

He was born in Menlo Park at Stanford Hospital and attended Mount Carmel with his younger brother Russell and sister Rachel. Later they moved to Livermore where he met his best friend, Adam. They were best friends and partners-in-crime; even running from the police while walking on the railroad tracks for trespassing! Playing football in the rain and mud where he earned the nickname Big Hitter, basketball and baseball too! Adams' family gave Ron a second home when he needed it most.

Ron loved the 49ers and the Warriors and rarely missed a game. I met Ron in 1990 and we were inseparable from that moment on! We were more than a family—we got to be best friends too. Ron loved cars, dirt bikes and



four-wheeler riding, driving his boat on the Delta and Lake Del Valle, snow skiing and snowmobiling in Tahoe, Reno and the mountains in Northern California. He and his son Robert wanted to fly so we were able to vacation on Maui and drive the road to Hana while there too. We went to Las Vegas and the boys hit every thrill ride they could!! Ron worked for Pac-Rail at the Port of Oakland for many, many years and found a Brotherhood of friends he considered family!!! Thank you all for everything you did for him throughout the years! You guys meant very much to him!!! His nicknames were

Heavy-Hitter, Tony Soprano and Beetlejuice (he loved that and would always smile).

Ron is preceded in death by his grandparents Russell and Janet Norton, father Ron, his in-laws Bob and Betty Dietrich and his son Robert. He is survived by his wife Patty, mother Loma (Larry) Hooten of Granbury, Texas, brother Russell (Chris) and their daughter Emily of Colorado and sister Rachel (Robert) and their daughter Christina of Weatherford, Texas. Sister-in-law Laurie, cousins Dale, Devana and Ahren Lowe and their children Azalea, Mythaineil and Jozalyann. My very strong faith knows that you are wrapped up in the arms of Bob, Betty and Robert Ronny. I will miss you every minute of every day and will be with you soon my sweet love!!!!

Memorial service at Callaghan Mortuary, 3833 East Avenue, Livermore, Friday April 8 at 11 a.m. Reception to follow at Casa Orozco, 325 S. L Street Livermore at 12:30 p.m.

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

Blue-Eyed Beauty

Dorothy Teresa Timnetta also known as Dottie was 82 years old when she passed Feb. 19, 2022. Dottie was born in Idaho Falls, Idaho on September 23, 1939. Dottie is survived by her husband of 54 years Robert Timnetta, her two sons Rick and Douglas Timnetta as well as her three grandchildren Kayla, Dana, and Joshua Timnetta. Dottie was a mother of three children who were the lights of her life until she became a grandmother and loved every second of it. Dottie had a love for music and the baton she used to twirl in parades

when she was younger. Dottie was a woman who never showed anything but love for the people near to her. Her bright blue eyes always lit up any room she walked in. She will always be remembered as our blue-eyed beauty who will forever be loved and missed. She was preceded in death by her daughter, Sheri Timnetta and two grandchildren, Jonathan and Zachary Timnetta.

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



William Leonard Plant

July 29, 1922 – Feb. 18, 2022

William Leonard Plant died peacefully of natural causes at his home on the morning of Feb. 18, 2022. He was 99 years old.

William (Bill) was a devoted husband, father and grandfather. He was born in England on July 29, 1922, to Leonard and May Plant. He was born in London, England. He was the oldest of three boys. As a teenager in London, he survived the bombings during the London Blitz. After the war he moved to Toronto, Canada in 1948 where he met his wife Beth (Margaret Kitchen Plant) and they married in 1960 in Phoenix, Arizona. They moved to Hollister, California in 1962. They eventually settled in Pleasanton where they re-

mained until his passing.

Bill enjoyed a long career in the electronics industry. He was a proud member of the Masons (the main principles of Freemasonry being tolerance, respect and kindness toward others). He enjoyed the music of the 50's and 60's, including Bing Crosby, and he had a great singing voice. In his later years, Bill enjoyed traveling and spending time with his family. He is survived by his wife of over 61 years Beth Plant, his son Les and wife Carole of England, son Leonard and wife Amy of Livermore, daughter Lori and husband Michael Rudd of Manteca; grandchildren David and Jenni Plant of England, Amanda and Lindsay Plant of Livermore,

Zachary Rudd and wife Katherine of Fremont and Kaylyn Rudd of Manteca, as well as great-grandchildren Joshua Plant and Jordan Plant and Kera Plant. Bill also known as "Grandad" and "Pops" enjoyed many good trips to Pismo Beach, Disneyland and to Canada and England with the last trip in April of 2019 to celebrate the wedding of his grandson Zachary. He was fortunate to be able to see his youngest grandchildren grow to adulthood. As he was fond of saying "smile – it may never happen to you!" He was one of a kind and will be greatly missed by family and friends. We will cherish many fond memories of time spent together.

Matthew Donald Magoon

March 24, 1969 – Feb. 28, 2022

Deeply loved son, brother, uncle, nephew, cousin and friend, Matthew Donald Magoon, 52, of Pleasanton, California, passed away peacefully at Valley Care Hospital, Feb. 28, 2022. He had bravely confronted and fought the physical challenges of diabetes.

Matt was born March 24, 1969, in Valley Memorial Hospital, Livermore, California, to Jeanne Marie Magoon and Robert Willard Magoon. He was raised in Pleasanton,

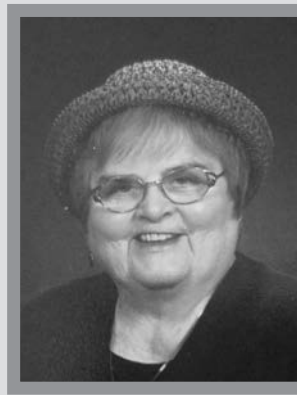
the youngest of five children, Robert, Jeanette, Jacqueline and Douglas. Matt, a skilled carpenter by trade, enjoyed woodworking projects and especially enjoyed building anything using scrap material. He experienced living in Livermore, Seattle, Denver (where Matt was president of the Raiders booster club), Modesto, and most of his years in Pleasanton. Matt will always be remembered for his big heart.



CELEBRATION OF LIFE

E. Lorene Stack

March 24, 1925 – Dec. 28, 2020



Lorene was born in Portland, Oregon on March 25, 1925. She passed away in Livermore, California at the age of 95 on Dec. 28, 2020, due to the COVID pandemic.

She grew up in Portland and graduated from Oregon State University in 1947. She married her high school sweetheart, Bernard G. Olsen in 1948, after he returned from the service in WWII. He was her first and only love. She moved to Livermore in 1960, when her husband was recruited by Lawrence Livermore National Lab (LLNL), to establish the Training and Education Department.

Lorene was a proud member of the First Presbyterian Church, where she was a deacon and a Stephen minister. She was also an active member for over 50 years of both the alums of Alpha Chi Omega and the American Association of University Women. She took great pride in her community and was a 20-year associate member with the Livermore Chamber of Commerce, and a commissioner for the Human Services Commission for the City of Livermore for eight years. After surviving breast cancer, she volunteered for over 30 years in various capacities in support of breast cancer patients, including teaching breast self-examinations and heading cancer support groups. When her children were young, she enjoyed volunteering at the school and with 4-H. After her husband passed, she worked at the LLNL, and retired in 1990.

She loved the ocean and the serenity of the beaches in Oregon and California. She enjoyed music, opera, live theater (including Shakespeare), dance theater and art. She loved to craft, sew, crochet, embroider and even took a design course, which led to her designing and making her own wedding dress and trousseau. She was famous in the day for making neckties.

She is survived by her daughters, Lori Olsen and J.J. Olsen (Mike McCrory), her three grandchildren, BeLinda Olsen Renteria-Toscano (Hugo Renteria-Toscano), Molly Olsen McCrory and Bailey Olsen McCrory, and one great-granddaughter, Dahlia Renteria-Toscano. She was preceded in death by her husband Bernard G. Olsen in 1972 and did not remarry. She was buried with her husband at the Willamette National Cemetery near Portland, Oregon.

In lieu of flowers donations can be made to First Presbyterian Church, 2020 Fifth St., Livermore, California, or Tri-Valley SOCKs (Bras for the Cause), PO Box 1196, Livermore, California. www.trivalleysocks.org. A celebration of life will be held on March 26, 2022, from 1 to 4 p.m. Please call 925-200-4375 for details.

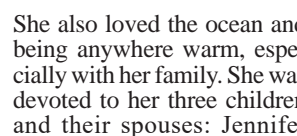
Sharon Hoggatt

1941 – 2022



Aptly described as beautiful, spunky, and independent, Sharon Hoggatt, 81, of Pleasanton, passed away on March 16, 2022. She was the beloved daughter of Geraldine and Roger.

Sharon grew up in Fullerton and Bakersfield. "Tweeter" had many fond memories of attending East Bakersfield High School where she was a song leader and a social butterfly. She graduated from Cal State University, East Bay in her late forties. Real estate was both her profession and passion. Going on long walks, being in her garden, playing golf, or attending supper club were activities she enjoyed.



She also loved the ocean and being anywhere warm, especially with her family. She was devoted to her three children and their spouses: Jennifer

and Curt Rocca; Kevin and Julie Hoggatt; and Kristen and Ron Altbaum. She was also an amazing grandmother to her nine grandchildren: Lyndsey, Grant, Alex, Sierra, Austin, Jake, Brad, Lane, and Kayley. Sharon's sisters are Rondi and Marilee of Bakersfield. She was preceded in death by her late husband and the love of her life, Doug Hoggatt, and by her faithful sister Bobbe.

Friends and family of Sharon are welcome to attend a celebration of life in Sharon's backyard on April 16, 2022, at 2 p.m. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to <https://www.teamintraining.org/>.

Anne Beeman Lack

Aug. 17, 1937 – Feb. 26, 2022



Anne Beeman Lack passed away on Feb. 26, 2022, in Pleasanton, California. She was 84.

A native of San Francisco, Anne was born to parents Josiah and Helen Beeman on Aug. 17, 1937. She graduated from Lowell High School and San Francisco State University, receiving a Bachelor of Arts degree in art history and a teaching credential. In 1960 she married William Lack and moved to Marin where she began her teaching career. They moved to Pleasanton in 1971 where Anne joined East Avenue Middle School, teaching English and art classes. She enjoyed being on the leading edge of technology, incorporating digital animation into the English literature curriculum. She retired in 1997, after 20 years. She dearly valued the friendships she made at East Avenue during those years.

In retirement, Anne loved to travel and took many memorable trips. She enjoyed

summers at Pinecrest Lake – hiking, fishing, boating on the lake and making wonderful family memories. Anne had a fun-loving spirit and enjoyed fully participating in theme parties with family and friends. She loved music, playing both guitar and piano, and sharing that love with her family. She played guitar in the Celebration folk service at the United Presbyterian Church in

the 1970's, and performed in local theater productions in the 1980's. At United Presbyterian Church, she joined a book club that became a cherished group of friends for more than 50 years. She was a lifelong San Francisco 49ers fan, always rooting for her favorite team on game day, with her beloved dogs by her side. Anne was a generous and loving mother, grandmother, sister-in-law and aunt. She will be forever missed by all that knew her and loved her.

She was predeceased by William Lack, her husband of 31 years, and her brothers Jerrold and Josiah Beeman. She is survived by her three daughters, Lindley Lack Rubero (Angelo), Jennifer Lack and Jessica Lack; grandson, Corbin Rubero; sister-in-law, Susan Beeman; niece Olivia Beeman, and nephew Joey Beeman. A celebration of life service will be held at a later date.

In Loving Memory Bernadette Irene Guillaume (Hiner)

May 11, 1934 – March 6, 2022



Bernadette Irene Guillaume (Hiner), age 87, passed away peacefully in her home in Dublin, California, on March 6, 2022. She was a 1953 graduate of Bishop Heelan Catholic High School. Bernie (as her friends and family knew her), was born on May 11, 1934, in Sioux City, Iowa. She went on to marry the love of her life, Harvey Ernest Hiner on Feb. 20, 1954. They remained in Iowa for a short time before moving to California in 1960, and settling in Dublin, California, in 1961. There, Harvey worked as a roofer, before retiring in 1994, and passed away in September 2012. Both Harvey and Bernie were avid bowlers in many different leagues. They were married for 58 years.

Preceded in death by husband- Harvey Ernest Hiner; infant daughter- Barbara Jean Hiner; father- Alvin Guillaume; mother- Venita Kelly; sisters- Rita, Teresa; brothers- Lawrence, Alvin Jr., and Gene. Survived by sister, Patty, brother, Tommy, Bobby. Children, Valerie, and husband Mike Brown; Lynda and hus-

band Bob Young; Ritchie and wife Malathi; Brian and wife Rachel; Susan and husband Rob Roy; Roger and wife Sharon. Grandchildren: Billy, Robert Luis (R.L.), Michael, Bobby, Patty, Timmy, Krysten, Gary, Kristi and Michael and 15 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services will take place at St Raymond's Catholic Church in Dublin on March 28, 2022, at 9:30 a.m. Burial services will be private for immediate family. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Catholic Daughters of St Raymond's Church, 11555 Shannon Avenue, Dublin California, 94568. The Hiner family wishes to acknowledge the prayers, kind words, calls, & loving support at this most difficult time.

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Peggy Jean (Mason) Feliciano

Sept. 26, 1931 – Feb. 21, 2022

Peggy Feliciano died peacefully on February 21 after a brief illness, at 90 years of age. Peggy was born on Sept. 26, 1931, in San Francisco, a middle child of nine siblings, and grew up in Monterey and San Jose/Willow Glen, having attended both Monterey and San Jose high schools. She met her husband Robert (Bob) Feliciano while at San Jose State. They were happily married for 63 years. She has lived in Livermore for the last twenty years.

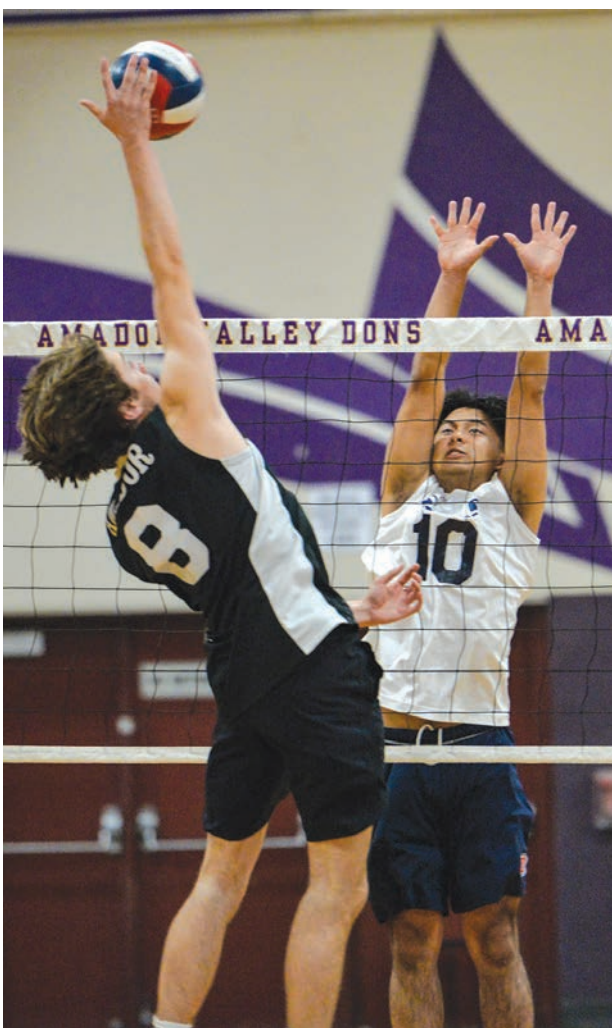
Peggy was known for her keen interest in everyone she met, and for her encouraging and uplifting spirit. She had a soft and caring heart for children of all ages. But most of all she was passionately dedicated to her family as an enabler and supporter of all that they pursued, whether in sports or music or advanced education. She and Bob had two sons, Jim and Jerry, and three grandsons, Kevin, Brian and Trevor. She adopted unconditionally, as her own, her daughters-in-law Gloria and Lori. She also had many nieces and nephews, and grand-nieces and grand-nephews, and loved them all. Peggy could always be found at the center of any family gathering. Peggy was first and foremost a child of God, active in churches since childhood, and exemplary of the Christian life in all that she did and said. She loved her church community as her true and eternal family.

A celebration of life service will be held April 2, at 11 a.m., at Trinity Church, 557 Olivina Ave, Livermore, California.



The Livermore stunt team was defeated by the Monte Vista Mustangs 14-11 on March 18. The Cowboys lost their home opening competition and dropped to 0-1 on the season. The Cowboys started off strong and were able to win two of the first three routines. But after the third routine, it was all Mustangs. Monte Vista went on to win eight of the next nine routines. Livermore finished strong however, scoring two points in the final routine of the contest. [See photo gallery at www.independentnews.com/multimedia] (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)

Amador Continues Winning Streak



The Amador Don's boys' varsity volleyball team hosted the Dublin High School Gaels on Thursday, March 17. The Don's swept all three matches, 25-16, 25-23 and 27-25. [See photo gallery at www.independentnews.com/multimedia] (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)

By Nathan Canilao

The Amador Valley High School boys' volleyball team defeated the Dublin Gaels on March 17, sweeping the Gaels by a score of 3-0. The Dons win their seventh straight game and improve to 7-1 on the season.

The Dons took control of the first set early when they grabbed a quick lead and never looked back. They won the first set 25-16.

The second set was hard fought on both sides. The Gaels and Dons were neck and neck until the end when the Dons went on a 2-0 run that sealed the set for them 25-23.

The next set was much of the same. Both teams fought hard until the end when the Dons took control. The Gaels were able to push the set to extra points but gave up a 2-0 run to give the Dons the set and the win 27-25.

The Dons won their seventh straight game and extend their dominant league game streak. They have swept every league opponent thus far except for De La Salle. They are currently 1st in the East Bay Athletic League standings.

The Gaels dropped to 4-3 on the season and lost their second straight game.

GAS

(Continued from first page)

ship over the past month, but it is difficult to conclude a direct cause and effect with rising gas prices because it coincides with some employers bringing back workers to the office," said BART media relations manager James Allison.

\$5.841 per gallon.

The prices include a state excise tax of 51.1 cents per gallon used to fund improvements to infrastructure, like public roads, mass transit systems, airports and waterways.

While the tax normally

Lawmakers, meanwhile, proposed even more aggressive ways to use the state's estimated \$46 billion surplus for motorist relief.

In January, Assemblymember Kevin Kiley introduced Assembly Bill 1638, which would suspend the entire state excise tax for six months, effectively lowering the cost of gas by 51 cents — a gas tax holiday. Critics of the bill, however, pointed out that there was no guarantee that gas stations would pass the cost savings on to customers, and the bill failed to pass on March 14.

Another group of lawmakers, led by Assemblymember Cottie Petrie-Norris, announced on March 17 a proposal to send \$400 to every state taxpayer. The payments, although dubbed a gas rebate, would not be tied to fuel purchases or vehicle ownership.

"For most vehicles — for most Californians — this \$400 rebate is equivalent to a one-year gas tax holiday," said Petrie-Norris.

The proposal is in its early stages and when drivers will see the money remains to be determined.

"For most vehicles — for most Californians — this \$400 rebate is equivalent to a one-year gas tax holiday."

— Cottie Petrie-Norris

The Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority (LAVTA) saw a similar uptick, with weekday March ridership up three percent compared to February. LAVTA attributed the increase to both a return to work and fuel prices.

California gas prices averaged \$5.800 per gallon last Friday, up 22% from what it was a month ago and up 49% from a year ago, according to the American Automobile Association. Alameda County numbers came in slightly higher at

rises in July to keep pace with inflation, Gov. Gavin Newsom proposed in his 2022-23 budget to skip this year's 3-cent increase "in an effort to potentially lower the price of gasoline and diesel fuel and provide some relief to consumers."

A governor's office spokesperson told The Independent, "The governor is focused on providing billions in relief to Californians who are suffering from rising gas prices across the country, a direct result of Putin's war."

BALLET

(Continued from first page)

with the power to transform people into porcelain. The reimaged version was created by Phil Chan, who has worked hard to diversify ballet companies and end Asian stereotypes in dance.

Bankhead Executive Director Chris Carter said the OBC was well-received in the Tri-Valley when the company performed at the Bankhead in previous years.

"The Oakland Ballet Company is highly regarded, and we are lucky and privileged to have such a well-known dance company perform at the theater," said Carter. "I know they have put a lot of work into this. Just like everyone else, they have been waiting a long time to come back, and we want them to come back strong and get a lot of

wonderful support. We are really looking forward to having them. We are really excited about it."

The Bankhead Theater is located at 2400 First St. in Livermore. The performance is set for Saturday, April 2, at 8 p.m. For tickets and more information, call the box office at 925-373-6800 or visit www.livermorearts.org.



Dublin High School hosted the 14th annual Dublin District Fiesta on Saturday, March 19. The event saw nearly 3,000 student athletes from over 150 high schools compete in one of the largest races in the country. [See photo gallery at www.independentnews.com/multimedia] (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)

Foothill High Shines at Invitational

By Nathan Canilao

The Foothill High School Track and Field team competed in the San Leandro Invitational on March 19. The Falcons were able to win many of the team events and members of the Falcons took high ranks in the individual events.

The Falcons won the girls 4x100 relay with a time of 50.26. The boys team finished in 5th place with a time of 46.32.

The girls' team also placed first in the 4x400 relay with a time of 4:10.54. The boys team also took first place in the same event with a time of 3:37.41.

In the boys 110m relay, senior Chase Dinkel received first place with a time of 16.96. In Finals section 1, sophomore Muhammed Hassan Chaudhary won first place with a time of 20.08.

The Falcons placed high in the field events as well.

Junior William Duncan placed first in the pole vault with a mark of 11'6. Senior Rachael Bertch also took first for the girls' team with a mark of 10'6.

In long jump, Falcons' athlete Torre Anderson took first with a mark of 18'6. In high jump, junior Lesley Townsend received first with a mark of 5'0.

The Falcons will compete in the Bay Area Relays on Saturday March 26 at home.

Granada Defeats Livermore 7-1 Improving to 5-2 in the Season

By Nathan Canilao

The Granada High School baseball team defeated the Livermore Cowboys 7-1 on March 16. The Matadors get their first league win of the year and improve to 5-2 on the season.

Both teams pitched well in the first couple of innings. The game was scoreless until the third inning when Cowboys struck first with a Tanner Lee RBI to put them up 1-0.

The Matadors would respond by posting four runs in the next inning. The Matadors 4th inning push gave them momentum heading into the 5th.

The Matadors would prevent the Cowboys from scoring in the 5th inning and would tack on three more runs. The Matadors closed out the game by not allowing any runs after allowing one run in the third.

Junior Joshua Morano led the way for the Matadors going 1-2 with 2 RBI's and a

homerun. Sophomore Riley Winchell went 2-4 with a homerun and a double.

Morano also posted 12 strikeouts in 5.2 innings pitched. He is 2-0 from the mound thus far this season.

The Cowboys were led by Lee who went 2-3 with an RBI. Senior Nick Maaog went 1-2.

The Cowboys drop to 5-4 on the season and 0-2 in league play. The Matadors improve to 5-2 on the season and start league play off with a win.



The Granada Matadors Varsity Baseball team hosted cross-town rivals, the Livermore Cowboys on Wednesday, March 16. Granada won 7-1. [See photo gallery at www.independentnews.com/multimedia] (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)



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New Research Advances Understanding Of Why T Cells Don't Kill Breast Cancers

Scientists at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) have determined that the ability of T cells and the human immune system to destroy cancer cells depends significantly on the matrix of molecules and proteins that make up an organ's structural 'scaffolding.'

In a paper published online in the journal "Biomaterials," the researchers noted that T cells, a type of white blood cells critical to the body's immune system, typically identify and destroy precancerous cells in healthy people. But for most types of breast cancer, the T cells fail to do their job.

In an effort to determine why, LLNL researchers looked at the interaction between cancer cells and the extracellular matrix (ECM) — the so-called "scaffolding" of the body's organs — and found that proteins in the ECM can dramatically impact the immune system's ability to destroy tumors.

"The surprising thing

was finding the ability of the immune cell to kill a tumor depends on what [scaffolding proteins] the tumor is sitting on," said Claire Robertson, THE LLNL mechanical engineer who led the research. "Depending on the ECM environment, the tumor cells were either completely susceptible and died off or they remained completely resistant to T cells."

The discovery could lead to new ways to activate the human immune system to target cancer cells.

"The question is 'what can we do to activate the immune system?'" Robertson said. "We've found a completely unique mechanism of immunosuppression, (which) means we have a whole new way of targeting cancer."

Researchers cultured tumor and immune cells on nine different combinations of ECM proteins.

Most notably, the team found that in the presence of the Collagen IV protein, breast cancer cells were

more likely to grow and were more resistant to T cells, while the T cells were more likely to die off.

"The T cells that were touching Collagen IV were just not doing their job," Robertson said. "In fact, we found that any time Collagen IV was in the mix, the T cells were dying instead of the tumor cells, exactly what you don't want to happen if you have a tumor."

Further research determined that Collagen IV turned off genes in the T cells related to the killing of harmful cells, while it caused the tumor cells to produce a type of cytokine, cell signaling proteins, that tells the T cells there is no tumor.

The team's next step is to determine what drugs can target the interactions between Collagen IV and the tumor and T cells, with the goal of developing a way to activate the immune system in breast cancer patients. Ultimately, the research could be expanded to other forms of cancer.

Alviso Adobe Hosts Earth Day Celebrations

In celebration of Earth Day, the City of Pleasanton's Alviso Adobe Community Park welcomes the Pleasanton community to explore the themes of Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, and Rejoice. The community is invited to participate in Earth Day events on each Saturday in April.

Saturday, April 2 | 2 p.m. - 3 p.m.

Author Spotlight with Dr. Jessica Hernandez, author of Fresh Banana Leaves
At the Alviso Adobe Community Park on 3465 Old Foothill Road.

Saturday, April 9 | 10 a.m. - noon

Creek Clean-Up
At Marilyn Murphy Kane Trail on 3200 W Lagoon Road.

Registration Required. Register at pleasantonfun.com; Course code 5468

Saturday, April 16 | 10 a.m. - noon

Fix-It Workshop
Pleasanton Senior Center at 5353 Sunol Blvd.
Registration Required. Register at pleasantonfun.com; Course code 5465

Saturday, April 23 | 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. and 1 p.m.-2 p.m.

On-site Shredding at the Pleasanton Public Civic Center at 200 Old Bernal Ave.; and Author Visit with local children's author Keely Parrack, who will share her children's picture book, Morning, Sunshine! At the Alviso Adobe Community Park on 3465 Old Foothill Rd.

Saturday, April 30 | 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Arbor Day Celebration Alviso Adobe Community Park 3465 Old Foothill Road.

There will also be a special screening of Hometown Water: The Lifeline of Pleasanton—a documentary filled, produced, and presented by Pleasanton students. This showing—and post-screening Q&A—will be hosted by the Go Green Initiative on Thursday, April 21 at 7pm at the Firehouse Arts Center. The event is free, and registration is required. Please go to pleasantonfun.com and enter course code #5525 to register.

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 586608

The following person(s) doing business as: Roofline Services Company, 6291 Sierra Court, Dublin, CA 94568, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): RL Western, Inc., 9799 Ellis CT., 6291 Sierra Court, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 2/5/2022. Signature of Registrant/s: Robert Law, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 22, 2022. Expires February 21, 2027. The Independent, Legal No. 5099. Published March 3, 10, 17, 24, 2022.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 586616

The following person(s) doing business as: DAC Sales, 4847 Hopyard Rd, Unit 4209, Pleasanton, CA 94588, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): David Camp, 4847 Hopyard Rd, Unit 4209, Pleasanton, CA 94588. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s: David Camp, Sole Proprietor. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 22, 2022. Expires February 21, 2027. The Independent, Legal No. 5100. Published March 3, 10, 17, 24, 2022.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 586547

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Geo Monjes; 2. Geo-Ya, 5813 Arlene Way, Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Angelo Cyrus Ramirez Monjes, 5813 Arlene 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: Angelo Cyrus Ramirez Monjes, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 17, 2022. Expires February 16, 2027. The Independent, Legal No. 5101. Published March 3, 10, 17, 24, 2022.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 586762

The following person(s) doing business as: SF Auto Sales, 44790 S. Grimmer Blvd, Suite 101E, Fremont, CA 94538, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): SF Auto Sales LLC, 240 Bryant CMN # 102, Fremont, CA 94539. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 2/21/22. Signature of Registrant/s: Shira Jan, Manager. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 28, 2022. Expires February 27, 2027. The Independent, Legal No. 5102. Published March 3, 10, 17, 24, 2022.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 586660

The following person(s) doing business as: Finish Line Performance, 8578 Briarwood Lane, Dublin, CA 94568, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Finish Line Performance, 8578 Briarwood Lane, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on

which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 4/19/17. Signature of Registrant/s: Stephen Malfatti, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 24, 2022. Expires February 23, 2027. The Independent, Legal No. 5103. Published March 10, 17, 24, 31, 2022.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 3197547

The following person(s) doing business as: A Cut Above Auto Films, 2021 Calabria Dr., Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Samuel P. Marco, 2021 Calabria Dr., Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 1/20/22. Signature of Registrant/s: Samuel P. Marco, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 14, 2022. Expires February 13, 2027. The Independent, Legal No. 5104. Published March 10, 17, 24, 31, 2022.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 586932

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Sithara Couture 2. Sithara Collections, 4227 Kellton St. Dublin, CA 94568, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Prathima Singamsetty, 4227 Kellton St. 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: Prathima Singamsetty, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 3, 2022. Expires March 2, 2027. The Independent, Legal No. 5105. Published March 10, 17, 24, 31, 2022.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 586596

The following person(s) doing business as: Learning Care Academy, 1983 B 2nd St., Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): GG's LLC, 225 Vallecito Rd, 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: 2/21/22. Signature of Registrant/s: Shakra Gupta, Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 22, 2022. Expires February 21, 2027. The Independent, Legal No. 5106. Published March 10, 17, 24, 31, 2022.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 586666

The following person(s) doing business as: Vieira Artistic Designs, 668 South S ST., Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Nicole Vieira, 668 South S ST., 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: Nicole Vieira, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 24, 2022. Expires February 23, 2027. The Independent, Legal No. 5107. Published March 17, 24, 31, April 7, 2022.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 586700

The following person(s) do-

ing business as: 1. Integrated General Counsel; 2. Integrated General Counsel Services; 3. Integrated Legal Counsel; 4. IGC, 4900 Hopyard Road, Suite 100, Pleasanton, CA 94588, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Integrated General Counsel, P.C., 4900 Hopyard Road, Suite 100, Pleasanton, CA 94588. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 12/17/2020. Signature of Registrant/s: Kristen Hayes Kuse, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 25, 2022. Expires February 24, 2027. The Independent, Legal No. 5108. Published March 17, 24, 31, April 7, 2022.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 586945

The following person(s) doing business as: TopCyclist, 3090 Osgood CT, Fremont, CA 94539, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Aleia Corp, 3090 Osgood CT, Fremont, CA 94539. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 4/25/2017. Signature of Registrant/s: Lou Ramondetta, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 3, 2022. Expires March 2, 2027. The Independent, Legal No. 5109. Published March 17, 24, 31, April 7, 2022.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 586735

The following person(s) doing business as: Zakia's Comfort Home Care, 4011 Pomona Way, Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Zakia's Alae, 4011 Pomona Way, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 4/16/2021. Signature of Registrant/s: Zakia Alae, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 25, 2022. Expires February 24, 2027. The Independent, Legal No. 5110. Published March 17, 24, 31, April 7, 2022.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 586696

The following person(s) doing business as: 1.MID Trade Co; 2. MID Realty; 3. Kim Games Lounge & Cafe, 1019 B ST., Hayward, CA 94541, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Anna Nie, 5689 Gold Creek Dr, Castro Valley, CA 94552; Chongyu Nie, 5689 Gold Creek Dr, Castro Valley, CA 94552. 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: Chongyu Nie, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 25, 2022. Expires February 24, 2027. The Independent, Legal No. 5111. Published March 17, 24, 31, April 7, 2022.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 587406

The following person(s) doing business as: Darlina Nails, 210 N. K Street, Livermore, CA 94551, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Numphung Phumrat, 210 N. K 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:

Numphung Phumrat, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 16, 2022. Expires March 15, 2027. The Independent, Legal No. 5112. Published March 24, 31, April 7, 14, 2022.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 587337

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Vittoria Financial and Insurance; 2. Vittoria Insurance; 3. Vittoria Financial, 3283 Vittoria Loop, Dublin, CA 94568, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Yong Bin Wu, 3283 Vittoria Loop, 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: Yong Bin Wu, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 15, 2022. Expires March 14, 2027. The Independent, Legal No. 5113. Published March 24, 31, April 7, 14, 2022.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 587103

The following person(s) doing business as: Ke Aloha Quilts, 668 South S ST., Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Nicole Vieira, 668 South S ST., 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: Nicole Vieira, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 8, 2022. Expires March 7, 2027. The Independent, Legal No. 5114. Published March 24, 31, April 7, 14, 2022.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 587051

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Positive Thoughts Soulful Designs; 2. PTSDesigns, 4902 Lowry Ave, Union City, 94587, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Two Girls and A Dream LLC, 522 W. Riverside Ave, Suite N, Spokane, WA 99201. 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: Loni Posey, Managing Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 7, 2022. Expires March 6, 2027. The Independent, Legal No. 5115. Published March 24, 31, April 7, 14, 2022.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 586778

The following person(s) doing business as: Bubbs' Bagels & Coffee, 1606 Holmes Street, Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Bubbs' Bagels and Coffee LLC, 3956 Purdue Way, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 10/1/2021. Signature of Registrant/s: Davis Gundersen, Owner, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 28, 2022. Expires February 27, 2027. The Independent, Legal No. 5116. Published March 24, 31, April 7, 14, 2022.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 587347

The following person(s) doing business as: Tasty Treats by Terry, 800 East Stanley Blvd,

Unit 443, Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Stephen Brookes Webber, and Terry Rae Webber, 800 East Stanley Blvd, Unit 443, 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: Stephen B. Webber, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 15, 2022. Expires March 14, 2027. The Independent, Legal No. 5117. Published March 24, 31, April 7, 14, 2022.

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Lessons in Literary Law Set for Mid-April

Attorney Kelley Way will speak about "Lessons in Literary Law," at the Tri-Valley Writers meeting, at 2 p.m., on April 16.

Authors should know their rights. Kelley Way will describe five areas of law – copyright, trademark, right of privacy and publicity, defamation, and contracts – and explain how to protect these rights, as well as how to avoid infringing on the rights of others.

Way graduated from UC Davis and the UC Davis

School of Law. She practices copyright, trademark, and estate planning law at The Law Office of Kelley A. Way.

The Tri-Valley Branch of the California Writers Club (CWC) will host the meeting. Attendees can reserve and pay online at trivalleywriters.org. The reservation deadline is Friday, April 15. Fees for CWC adult members are \$14; nonmembers are \$18; CWC student members (ages 14 to 22) are \$6; and student

nonmembers are \$10. Attendees can participate either in person or through Zoom. The in-person venue is Four Points by Sheraton, 5115 Hopyard Road, in Pleasanton.

The CWC Tri-Valley Branch invites writers of all genres and experience levels to learn about the craft at monthly meetings. For more information, contact Deborah 'Jordan' Bernal at president@trivalleywriters.org or visit trivalleywriters.org.

Livermore Lions Receive Excellence Award

The Livermore Lions Club recently received the Club Excellence Award from the Lions Governor of California District 4c3, which encompasses 42 Lions Clubs in the counties of Alameda and Contra Costa.

The club was honored to be selected as one of the most active clubs in the district. The Lions motto is "We serve," and the Livermore Lions continued to serve the community even during the worst parts of the

pandemic.

Through club fundraising and food donations, the club delivered 1,000 pounds of food and 400 meals to local families in need; collected eye glasses from donation boxes in the Tri-Valley area, which totaled nearly 2,500 pairs; and supported Lions in Sight, Eye of the Lion, Canine Companions, Girl Scout Troops, Shepherd's Gate and other charities.

The club's next fund-

raiser is its annual take-out cioppino dinner, on April 30. Proceeds will benefit the Lions Club International Relief Fund for Ukrainian refugees. One of the next service projects is preparing food for the "Special Kids' Day Fair" in May, at Freedom High School in Brentwood; and in June, the club will cook a pancake breakfast for the eighth-grade graduation at East Avenue Middle School.

Dublin to Hold Spring Egg Hunts April 16

Dublin will hold its annual Spring Eggstravaganza! at the 10-acre Dublin Heritage Park and Museums on Saturday, April 16.

Egg hunts are scheduled for 9 a.m., 10:15 a.m., and 11:30 a.m. Pre-registration is required at tinyurl.com/29sy2wwa. The cost is \$15 per child for residents and \$18 for nonresidents.

In addition to egg hunts, children will have an opportunity to meet Flopsy and Peter Rabbit, play games, and participate in arts and crafts.

Dublin Heritage Park is at 6600 Donlon Way.

For more information, visit tinyurl.com/mr49mncf.

Goodguys Rod & Custom Association Coming to Alameda Fairgrounds

Goodguys Rod & Custom Association, the organizer of America's premier hot rod and custom car events, is returning to the Alameda County Fairgrounds for the 38th All American Get-Together on Saturday and Sunday, March 27 and 28.

The event will feature over 3,000 American made or powered custom hot rods, muscle cars, restored classics and trucks competing for show prizes, as well as on-track excitement with burnout competitions, the Goodguys Autocross Series and more.

Hundreds of vendors and exhibitors will be on site offering products and services, memorabilia, food and drinks, and more. The weekend-long swap meet, and corral will feature car parts as well as cars for

sale. Throughout the weekend, Goodguys will also be doing giveaways of their select products.

A special indoor car show will feature custom vehicles from 1936-1972 competing for the coveted Custom of the Year award honors.

The annual family-friendly event will feature highlights such as the Nitro

Thunderfest Dragster Exhibition, burnout competition, indoor lowrider display, model/pedal car show, Pinstripers Brush Bash, and more. There will also be a Kids Model 'Make and Take' plus Kids Zone with free arts and crafts, games and prizes.

For more information on the event and to purchase tickets, click here.

TV30 Broadcasting St. Patrick's Day Parade

TV30 is rebroadcasting video of the 38th-annual Dublin Lions Club St. Patrick's Day Parade, now through the end of March.

The parade featured more than 80 entries including high school and

middle school marching bands, floats and antique cars, Irish bagpipers, and the John Madden Memorial Cruiser, the Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority's tribute to the late National Football League

announcer and longtime coach of the Oakland Raiders. Former Dublin mayor and TV30 sports personality Tim Sbranati was the parade announcer.

For the broadcast schedule, visit tv30.org.

Transit Authority Seeks Advisory Committee Members

The Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority (LAVTA), which operates the Wheels Bus system and Dial-A-Ride paratransit service, is seeking local residents to serve on the Tri-Valley Accessible Advisory Committee (TAAC).

The committee advises LAVTA on accessibility issues facing senior and disabled passengers on both the fixed route buses and Dial-A-Ride service. TAAC members are appointed by the LAVTA board of directors to represent Livermore, Pleasanton, Dublin, unincorporated areas of Alameda County, and Tri-Valley

social and human services agencies.

There are current vacancies for one member and an alternate from Dublin, two members and an alternate from Livermore, one member and an alternate from Pleasanton, one member and an alternate from unincorporated Alameda County, and three members and an alternate from social or human service agencies.

Committee members who represent a city or unincorporated Alameda County must reside in the area they represent. Committee members also must be able to meet during regular business

hours and be current users of LAVTA bus or paratransit services. The committee meets six times per year, with meetings generally lasting about 90 minutes.

TAAC members will receive a free annual pass for the agency's fixed bus route services, while those who are paratransit eligible can also use Dial-A-Ride to and from committee meetings for free.

Those interested in serving on the committee can request an application by calling 925-455-7555. Applications are also available at wheelsbus.com and must be submitted by April 18.

Animal Advocates Call for Pet Adoptions

Pleasanton's Valley Humane Society (VHS) is calling on residents to adopt a new fur baby as California animal welfare leaders are concerned that shelters are once again filling up. Dogs and cats are taking up space with longer than usual stays, due primarily to a lack of adopters, VHS added.

"Being proactive and working collectively, however, community members and animal welfare leaders can take action to stop this impending crisis in its tracks," stated VHS in a press release. "The pandemic was an unexpected boon to shelter animals, with people seeking furry companions in record numbers during their isolation. While this mass pet acquisition did not result in the returned-pet exodus many feared, and intake at shelters across California remains lower than before the pandemic, adoptions have also slowed significantly, leaving the cats and dogs that do enter a shelter with no place to go. In other words, fewer animals are entering shelters, but those that do are staying much longer."

As shelters fill up, VHS urged those who can't adopt to still help by promoting and encouraging pet adoption among their family, friends and colleagues.

VHS rescues and rehabilitates companion animals, champions responsible caretaking, shares pets' soothing affections with people in need of comfort, and supports and preserves existing pet-guardian relationships. For more information, visit www.valleyhumane.org.



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