

Teachers and Union Object To New Policy

By Dawnmarie Fehr

DUBLIN – Dublin teachers have expressed their frustration with the Dublin Unified School District (DUSD) Board of Trustees' proposed adjustment of an existing rule monitoring teachers' use of social media.

The revised policy could have been adopted at the Nov. 15 meeting, but when 25 members of the Dublin Teachers Association (DTA) attended the meeting to voice their displeasure with the revisions, board members voted 4-1 to table the discussion to a future meeting that could be livestreamed. Trustee Kristin Pelham cast the lone dissenting vote, but did not provide her reasoning. She was unavailable for comment before press time.

Explaining the teachers' concerns, DTA Co-President Denise Saylor referred to part of the wording under Social Media Usage in the Professional Standards of the Board Policy Manual. It explains that individuals have the right to address work-related issues on social media. The policy also states that "gripping" is not allowed.

"We just want to be able to do our job without fellow teachers, district admin or the Board of Education saying, 'Oh, that's gripping.'"

– DTA Co-President Denise Saylor

Responding to the inclusion of "gripping" in the new policy, Saylor did not feel it was fair or supportive of teachers. She objected to what she called "vague language" describing the disciplinary action that could be taken for inappropriate behavior on social media.

"There's a variety of things that could occur based on your relationship with the superintendent, as he – or his designee – would be investigating," said Saylor. "We just want to be able to do our job without fellow teachers, district admin or the Board of Education saying, 'Oh, that's gripping.' It's just wanting a safe work environment where we can advocate for our students. Because the question is, who's determining if it's a gripe or not? That's our

(See TEACHERS, page 9)



Pleasanton residents came out to burn some calories last week during the city's eighth annual Turkey Burn sponsored by the Pleasanton North Rotary Club. The event took place on Thanksgiving morning, Nov. 24, at the Ken Mercer Sports Park. [See photo gallery at www.independentnews.com/multimedia] (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)

ACE Trains to Run On Renewable Diesel Fuel

By Larry Altman

REGIONAL – Altamont Corridor Express (ACE) officials announced recently that its commuter trains that run from San Jose to Stockton are now running entirely on renewable diesel fuel.

The action taken by the San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission (SJRRC), which operates the service, is part of the agency's Climate Action Plan and a key move to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 99%.

Unlike diesel, which is a petroleum-based fossil fuel, renewable diesel is derived

from sustainable feedstock, such as cooking oil and inedible corn oil. It does not contain petroleum.

According to a SJRRC statement, ACE became the first Northern California commuter rail service to switch to 100% renewable diesel operations.

"Our commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions has taken a large step forward," Brian Schmidt, SJRRC's director of equipment services, said in a statement. "Our fuel partner, Valley Pacific (Petroleum Services), has been a key partner in this transition."

ACE's fleet of locomotives use about 51,000 gallons of fuel every month shuttling some 8,300 passengers each weekday back and forth between cities in San Joaquin and Santa Clara counties. Along the 86-mile route, trains make 10 stops, including in Livermore and Pleasanton.

Valley Pacific's fuel is designated as R100, which means it is 100% renewable diesel.

"Our customers have found that, compared to petroleum-based diesel, renewable diesel works better in their engines, produces

(See TRAINS, page 5)

Council Votes 3-2 to Restrict Public Signage

By Larry Altman

LIVERMORE – During a spirited discussion about the proliferation of signs adjacent to public streets, the council voted 3-2 to adopt an ordinance restricting them.

The conversation mainly related to campaign signs. Mayor Bob Woerner along with Councilmembers Trish Munro and Brittini Kiick voted in favor of the new legal provisions, despite their belief that it should be tweaked in several months by a new city council. Wo-

erner, Munro and Vice Mayor Gina Bonanno are leaving the council at the end of the year.

According to the new ordinance suggested by Woerner as an alternative to a city staff proposal, temporary signs will not be allowed in the public right-of-way in commercial, industrial and residential zoning districts.

The law will not be enforced until July 1, 2023 to allow staff to research and develop additional amendments suggested by the new

city council, which will have three new members in a few weeks.

City staff had recommended that signs posted in the right-of-way be restricted to 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and for 60 days before an event, such as an election. Whoever posted the signs had to remove them at 5 p.m. or the city would do so.

Woerner preferred the plan he raised as an option to ban them altogether.

"We just get rid of them," Woerner said. "It's a sim-

(See SIGNAGE, page 9)

City Pulls EIR for The Garaventa Hill Development

By Larry Altman

LIVERMORE – The Livermore City Council on Monday rescinded its approval of a 47-home development on Garaventa Hill following a lengthy court battle where residents successfully — at least for the moment — beat City Hall.

During a busy meeting, the council voted 5-0 to pull the final Environmental Impact Report, tract maps and sign plan designs for Lafferty Communities' 32-acre development without discussion — as required by the Court of Appeal. The vote means that if Lafferty wishes to continue with the development — as was indicated by city planners at an October city council meeting — it must start the approval process from scratch.

In an interview, Livermore's Community Development Director Paul Spence said Lafferty has

not officially sought to revive the project, which was approved by the city council in 2019, but was overturned in March by the Save the Hill Group in litigation taken to the First Court of Appeal.

"The property owner does have the right to re-submit their application and to correct the deficiencies identified by the court," Spence said. "They would need to go back through our standard review process. We have not received an application at this time."

Lafferty President David Ragland did not respond to emailed questions about his company's plans.

The residential development project at Laughlin and Vasco roads appeared to be dead in March after a three-judge appellate court ruled in favor of the Save the Hill Group's lawsuit

(See GARAVENTA, page 9)

Resident Launches Fundraiser For Bus Passes for the Needy

By Dawnmarie Fehr

LIVERMORE – Resident Jacky Poulsen launched the holiday push for her eighth annual bus pass drive.

Poulsen collects funds through Asbury United Methodist Church, then purchases bus passes to hand out to local nonprofits. Those organizations, in turn, pass them out to local homeless and needy individuals. She said the passes are an important lifeline for the disadvantaged. While she accepts donations for passes year-round, she gathers most of her funding during the holidays.

"(The passes) enable them to get to medical appointments, food pantries for groceries, jobs and job interviews, many local services, such as hot meals, showers, laundry, and much more," Poulsen said.

Poulsen purchases 24-hour bus passes from Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority (LAVTA), known locally as Wheels. She pays the full price of \$3.75 for each pass she purchases and gives it to local service centers like Tri-Valley Haven and Open Heart Kitchen.

"The need is greater than ever," said Poulsen. "I say that every year, and unfortunately, it's true every year. And there is tremendous appreciation from the recipients of these passes. They are truly a lifeline, they really are."

Poulsen began the tradition of collecting bus passes following a suggestion from a friend who volunteered at a homeless shelter. Poulsen began by petitioning family and friends for money for the passes. As word spread, so did her campaign. She took her efforts to the community eight years ago and has raised funds to donate thousands of passes to many Tri-Valley organizations. Those groups — including the Livermore Homeless Refuge, Open Heart Kitchen, Asbury United Methodist Church, Interfaith Sharing Food Pantry, Axis Community Health, and Tri-Valley Haven — hand the passes directly to those who need them.

Christi Williams is the program coordinator for Open Heart Kitchen. She said their clients often use the passes to go to Asbury Church to take a shower and

(See BUS, page 6)

Folk Dancers Continue Longtime Tradition

By Dawnmarie Fehr

LIVERMORE – The Del Valle Folk Dancers (DVFD) are a long running tradition in Livermore.

The group comes together weekly to learn and practice traditional folk dances and socialize with each other. Like many clubs and organizations, DVFD's numbers dwindled during the pandemic and still haven't returned to normal. Members are hoping to change that by spreading the word about their club.

"I find I enjoy folk dancing, and I enjoy other kinds of dancing as well, but this has become a social activity," said DVFD member Carol Krakowsky. "You

become friends with the people you are dancing with. You may only see them once a week, but it's a wonderful way to get exercise and create long lasting relationships."

Krakowsky said the group used to have social gatherings in addition to their weekly dance practices on Tuesday nights, and she hopes to see those pick up again in the future.

International Folk Dancing is "dancing without borders," according to the Folk Dance Federation of California. Dances include moves performed in other countries at weddings, parties, festivals and any other occasions people gather

with music. Folk dancers have been collecting and sharing these dances for generations. The Del Valle Folk Dancers are part of the tradition of passing on their knowledge.

The Bay Area has multiple folk dancing groups, and Krakowsky noted they are often in constant communication with each other. Her husband, Art Krakowsky, noted many dancers dance with multiple groups each month.

"And let me add the Folk Dance Federation often sponsors or promotes events during the summer, so there are a wide variety of events for people to pursue,"

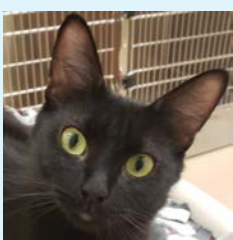
(See FOLK, page 5)



This runner decided to make the most of the beautiful fall weather by taking a run down a path lined with ever-changing leaves in Dublin's Emerald Glen Park. The Tri-Valley offers a vibrant display of colors this time of year heading into winter. (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)

PET OF THE WEEK

BLACK WIDOW



This best mama wants to book a room with you! Black Widow is not bashful, and is bribable with snacks. You'll never be bored with her babbling meows, and you'll benefit from her bold, bighearted, boundless bond. Learn more about Black Widow and other cats and dogs at valleyhumane.org. Email info@valleyhumane.org to start the adoption application process. #ShareTheCare (Photo - Valley Humane Society)

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Livermore is gearing up for the holidays with lighted decor, like the Rodeo Cowboy at Stockmen's Park. (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)

Lions Club Collects for Toys for Tots

Members of Amador Valley Lions Club celebrated the holiday season on Dec. 6, at Livermore's Terra Mia Restaurant.

As part of this annual event, members and guests completed holiday greeting cards, stacked and boxed donated canned goods, and displayed the collected toys for this year's contribution to the U.S. Marines' Toys For Tots program.

As the celebration began, guests and members were hard at work writing personal well wishes and messages on holiday greeting cards. These cards will be delivered to the VA hospital in Palo Alto for distribution to the infirmed veterans there. Attendees also spent time boxing and stacking donated canned goods to be given to the Tri-Valley Food Pantry to help restock its shelves.

Maureen Hamm was in attendance representing Haven's Food Pantry and accepted a check for \$1,000 as part of the club's cash award program. Denise Strickland also attended, representing Open Heart Kitchen, and was also given \$1,000.

Members then loaded up toys to be dropped at a local fire station for the Toys For Tots program.

According to President Nikhil Damle, this year's donations included 12 back-

packs and \$600 to the Kaleidoscope Adult Program, as well as a check for \$500 to Kim Curtis of Goodness Village. During the event, Damle thanked members of the club for additional donations to Eye of the Lion, Ear of the Lion, and Lions Center for the Visually Impaired, and acknowledged the many local business and community members who attend and support fundraisers throughout the year.

Amador Valley Lions Club members live up to their motto - we serve. The club is looking for new members who have a desire to work for the betterment of the Tri-Valley communities

and support the Lions' efforts to provide services to those in need of vision correction and assistance. For more information, visit bit.ly/3VAZ2ud or email amador.valley.lions@gmail.com.

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Physicians Encourage Vaccines, Cleanliness To Prevent Covid-19, Respiratory Illnesses

By Larry Altman

An infectious disease specialist at Stanford Health Care Tri-Valley in Pleasanton said influenza and a respiratory illness that primarily affects young

children are recently on the rise because of two years of isolation and social distancing during the COVID-19 pandemic.

increase in hospitalizations statewide. Incidence of influenza and RSV began showing earlier by several weeks compared to recent years in the United States and California, significantly impact-

ing some health care providers, the Alameda County Public Health Department (ACPHD) reported.

California Public Health Department officials added that emergency department visits for 0- to 4-year-olds are already the highest they have been throughout the pandemic, impacting both pediatric hospital and pediatric intensive care bed availability.

RSV, Scott said, is something doctors routinely see. It can be severe for children under six months old because their bronchial muscles have not developed to adequately clear secretions, and serious for older frail adults.

Scott spoke with The Independent after Alameda County health officials last week alerted health care providers about an early rise in respiratory diseases in all age groups and a 10%

COVID-19, to stay home when sick and to wear masks.

In an alert released to medical providers before Thanksgiving, Alameda County health authorities said flu hospitalizations were higher in both Northern and Southern California than at their peaks last year. Influenza A, or H3N2, accounted for 99% of laboratory specimens. County officials advised doctors to prescribe oseltamivir, an antiviral drug, without waiting for test results. The drug helps treat the symptoms and reduce recovery time.

COVID-19 also remains a concern, but the pandemic that began two years ago and killed more than one million Americans, has significantly improved, especially in the Bay Area.

"I would say the most significant factor is high levels of vaccination," Scott said. "In Alameda County, at least 85% or so people have gotten their first dose."

Others who recover from the illness also develop immune protection. Scott said COVID-19 is here to stay.

"Before we had vaccines available, it was horrendous," Scott shared. "It's very different now."

Most people, he said, have received multiple doses of the vaccines and those who contracted COVID-19 and also took vaccines have "hybrid immunity," providing extremely high levels of protection.

"I can't tell you how different it is," Scott said. "It's just dramatically better overall than it used to be. Is it possible for someone to

children are recently on the rise because of two years of isolation and social distancing during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Dr. Jake Scott, who also teaches at the Stanford University School of Medicine, explained that nearly all humans are infected with Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) and develop a serious or severe cold during their first two years of life. But staying home - along with distancing and cleaning measures to prevent COVID-19 - hindered that. Now, he said, the infection is catching up.

"Because so many kids were isolated in the last couple of years, they didn't get it during those first couple of years, and we didn't see it much," Scott said. "So now we're seeing it a lot because all these kids are getting it all at once because they didn't have any immunity at all. And it's infecting more kids who would have had immunity from last year."

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RSV, Scott said, is something doctors routinely see. It can be severe for children under six months old because their bronchial muscles have not developed to adequately clear secretions, and serious for older frail adults.

Scott said the previous isolation contributing to the current surge of infections with RSV is also true for the classic flu.

"It was only a matter of time before RSV and the flu just sort of broke through," he said, adding surface cleaning measures and hand washing during the pandemic also served to reduce the spread.

California health officials cautioned residents to protect themselves with vaccinations for flu and

"Before we had vaccines available, it was horrendous. It's very different now."

- Dr. Jake Scott, Infectious Disease Specialist



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NNSA
National Nuclear Security Administration

National Nuclear Security Administration
Draft Site-Wide Environmental Impact Statement
Public Hearings

The Department of Energy's (DOE) National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) has prepared a Draft Site-Wide Environmental Impact Statement (SWEIS) for the Continued Operation of the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in California. The document analyzes the potential environmental impacts of ongoing operations and proposed projects and activities at both the Laboratory's Livermore, California site and Site 300 near Tracy, California for approximately the next 15 years.

NNSA will host the following in-person public hearings to receive formal public comments on the Draft SWEIS:

Wednesday, Dec. 7
Garré Vineyard Bella Rosa Room • 7986 Tesla Road, Livermore
Poster session: 6:00-6:30 p.m.
Formal program and public comment: 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 8
Tracy City Council Chambers • 333 Civic Center Plaza, Tracy
Poster session: 6:00-6:30 p.m.
Formal program and public comment: 6:30-8:30 p.m.

A virtual public hearing will be held using Zoom:
Tuesday, Dec. 13 6:00-8:00 p.m.
Meeting Link: <https://tinyurl.com/LLNLSWEIS>
Join by phone: (669) 900-9128
Meeting ID: 852 6045 5697 Passcode: 975388

Public comments can also be submitted by email to:
LLNLSWEIS@nnsa.doe.gov
or in writing to:
Ms. Fana Gebeyehu-Houston, LLNL SWEIS Document Manager DOE/NNSA,
1000 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20585.
Please mark envelopes and emails as "SWEIS Comments."
Comments must be received/postmarked by Jan. 3, 2023.

Additional information about the Draft SWEIS is available at the NNSA online Reading Room: <https://www.energy.gov/nnsa/nnsa-nepa-reading-room> under Open For Public Comment. Para información general en español, visite: <https://www.energy.gov/nnsa/nnsa-nepa-reading-room>. Hard copies of the Draft SWEIS also are available in the Livermore and Tracy public libraries.

If you require special assistance to participate in the public hearings, please call 833-778-0508 to leave a message or email: LLNLSWEIS@nnsa.doe.gov

Welcome to *what's next* in cardiovascular care

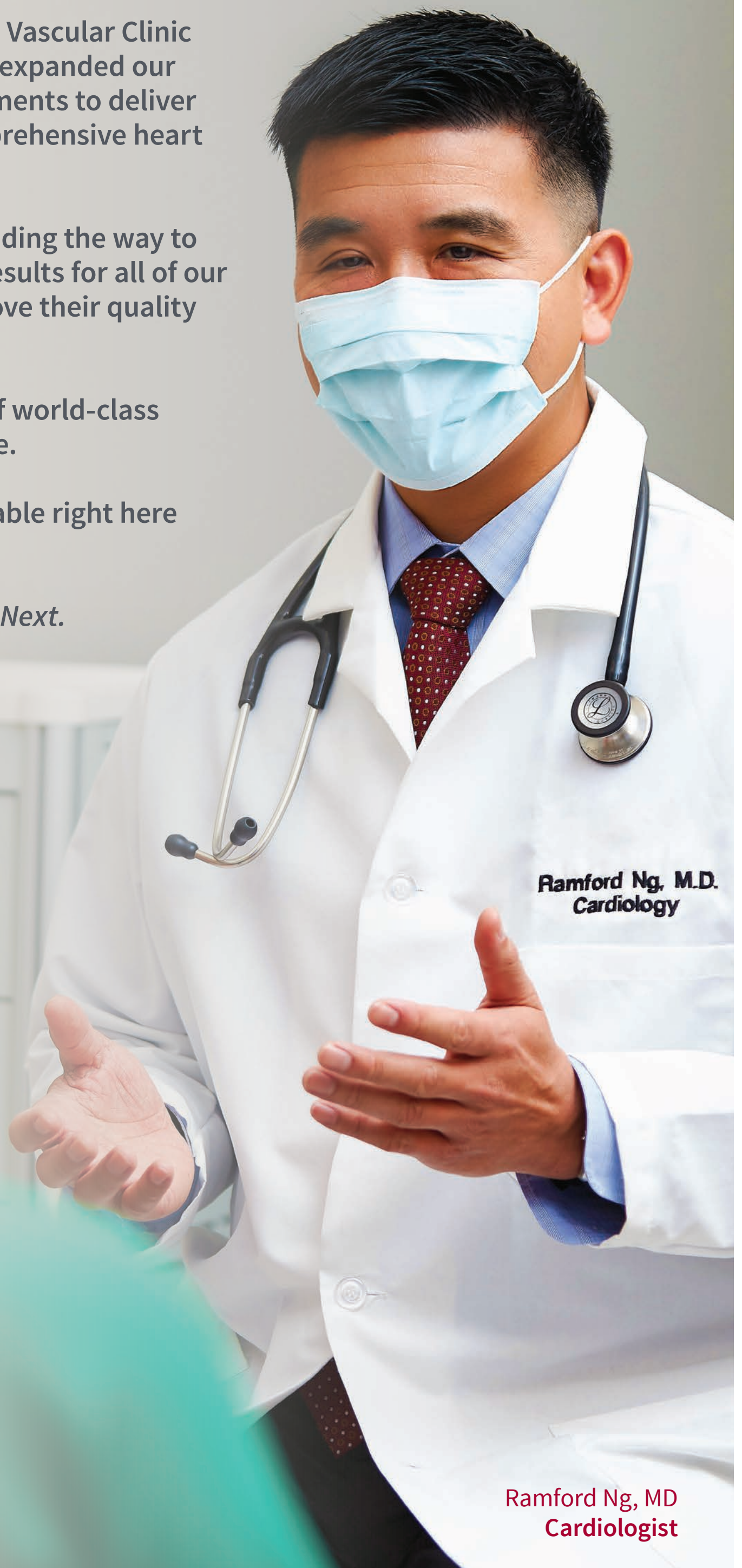
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EDITORIAL

Make Your Voice Heard

On Dec. 15, the California Public Utility Commission (CPUC) will make a decision that could have a critical impact on rooftop solar. Residents should make their voices heard.

The CPUC released a proposal that would reduce by nearly 75% the credits that future solar users can receive for sharing energy with the grid. The time to pay off the panel investment would also extend from six to 10 years, further reducing the benefit for homeowners. This would make solar far too expensive for many people, businesses and public buildings. A vote in favor of this proposal is a

vote for the utility companies, not the communities they serve and certainly not the earth.

As Bernadette Del Chiaro, California Solar & Storage Association executive director recently said, “An immediate 75% percent reduction of net energy metering credits does not support a growing solar market in California.”

Solar Rights Alliance points out that changes can be made to the proposal before the CPUC votes. This group will be holding rallies in various locations on Dec. 1, from 11 a.m. to noon. Locations include San

Diego, Palm Springs, Los Angeles, San Luis Obispo, Bakersfield, Fresno, Santa Cruz, San Francisco, Stockton, and Chico. To sign up, visit <http://bit.ly/3ONYcbs>.

Those in the Tri-Valley who are unable to attend a rally can comment publicly during CPUC meetings by calling 1-800-857-1917 and entering passcode: 9899501#. For more information on upcoming meetings, visit <https://www.adminmonitor.com/ca/cpuc>.

To reach CPUC President Alice Busching Reynolds' chief of staff, Anand Durvasula, call 415-703-3307.

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 Monday before publication.

Overcome Holiday Melancholy- Depression

Rick Buckley, Livermore

The Secret: The most powerful way to resist evil is with light, love, forgiveness, humility, compassion, transparency, and silence, respecting free-will and personal choice... to the extent you are able. Perennial wisdom guides that Evil, when dealt with through compassion, love, light, harmony, and transparency, ... retreats.

For the first time in recent history people are feeling captured as prisoners in their employment position...like a rug has just recently been pulled out from under them by fast moving global ethical, sociological, corporate shifts inflated through endless war, death, fear, and engineered chaos. Their companies seem to have betrayed them, forcing each employee into compliance. Somewhere, high in the corporate structure, the idiot in charge demands exactly the wrong solution...even these elite

bosses are under some mystical occult spell...a Faustian Bargain like Daniel Webster.

Intuitively, we are indeed under mystical occult spells.. a Rudolf Steiner event. The elite idiots in charge have been captured and are defaulting to compliance through tyranny of uncreative, negative, tyrannical mystical occult energies.

Stuff that seems to help: Listening to music and pleasant sounds help.

Humor helps. Meditation helps. Projecting healing thought helps.

Projecting forgiveness to the extent possible, helps.

Asking the Universe for positive guidance, helps.

Daily physical exercise helps

Regular sleep helps

Now the hard part. Our churches' group-think cliques do not teach forgiveness by action. They quote the words "forgiveness", "inclusiveness", "tolerance," but are quite unforgiving in their institutional actions. The "institutional goal" in practice, is not the fullness of your personal enlightenment. The institutional goal is, to keep the institution and pastor-priests in power at any cost.... ANY COST! Your suffering works for them. You are after all a miserable sinner in the practice of religious cannon. The church and academia is there to support your suffering. Suffer away...we feel your pain. Qui, moi ?

Rethink Power Words.

Overcome holiday melancholy-depression: Rethink words. Words carry energy. What we see as evil is after all part of "God's" universe... (or if you prefer, "Source" instead of God, or "Infinite Wisdom.", "Cosmic Oneness,"... many names that mean the same!) Evil is part of the universe! Dang it all!

When all else fails, adopt a pet and feed the pet yourself personally, daily.

...Namaste...

To All Residents of Livermore

Ben Barrientos, Livermore Councilmember Elect, District 2

Thank you for giving me the honor to represent you on the City Council. I'd also like to thank all my supporters - especially my wife Ann - for go-

ing through this long, but interesting, election campaign.

The results speak volumes. I received the largest number of votes for any Council candidate running in this election. It is quite humbling, and I look forward to representing the residents of Livermore, especially those in District 2.

I will do everything I can to move forward with our agenda. There will be no housing development on Garaventa Hill. Downtown is no place for towering apartment buildings. We need more affordable workforce residences throughout the city. Our \$30 million annual infrastructure deficit can no longer be ignored. We need to get to work and solve it without raising taxes. Traffic congestion reduction and downtown parking allotment cannot be compromised. Let's bring back the Energy and Environment Commission. And finally, let's have a police precinct north of I-580.

I will be accessible to everyone. We will have coffee klatches at private homes and town hall gatherings to listen to your concerns and ideas on how to keep our city a fantastic place to live in and raise our kids. I'd like to give extra support to artists, too, and make our unique city an even greater destination.

Gracias a todos.

Freight Train Info

Jan Bravont, Livermore

As of Nov 24, 2022, the impact on the U.S. Economy for a one-month long rail strike would cost our GDP \$156 Billion. We would lose 700,000 jobs; that's on top of the current unemployed #'s we have now. And our Producer Price Index would go up 4 percent.

March 3, 2020 ... One rail car can hold up to 220,000 lbs. of product which equals 3 to 4 truckloads. No wonder it takes a freight train a mile or more to stop after it starts breaking! Freight trains can carry one ton of freight nearly 500 miles while only using 1 gallon of diesel fuel. In a typical year, U.S. railroads move about 1.7 billion tons across nearly 140,000-miles of track, through 49 states and the District of Columbia.

America's railroads are almost entirely privately owned and operated. Unlike trucks and barges, railroads operate overwhelmingly on infrastructure they own, build, maintain and pay for themselves. Approximately 630 railroads operate across the nearly 140,000-mile U.S. freight rail network. The Amtrak passenger train rents rail space from the freight train track owners. The seven "Class I" railroads —with 2021 revenue of at least

\$900 million — account for around 68% of freight rail mileage, 88% of employees, and 94% of revenue. Each Class I railroad operates in multiple states over thousands of miles of track. Non-Class I railroads (also known as short line and regional railroads) range in size from small operations handling a few carloads a month to multi-state operations close to Class I size. Together, they provide a safe, efficient, cost-effective transportation network that reliably serves customers and the nation's economy.

Interesting facts: Amtrak serves more than 500 destinations in 46 states. President Lincoln was an attorney for the Illinois Central Railroad, a single freight car can hold enough corn to make 480,000 bags of Fritos, and time zones were actually invented to coordinate freight passenger movement across the U.S.

American railroads make massive investments across the country that enable the most efficient freight rail network in the world; moving the goods that make modern life possible, and connecting American businesses to markets from coast to coast and beyond. If railroads didn't move freight in the U.S. it would take over 99 million additional trucks traveling on public roadways and would take four times more fuel than rail to handle the freight Americans rely on every day.

Health and Human Services in Livermore

Trish Munro, Livermore

This past Monday, on November 28, the City Council discussed the Housing and Human Services Grant Priorities for 2023-2024. Allocating money for these services is one of critical responsibilities of city government; the four priorities, developed with resident participation help determine criteria for allocating what is likely to be around one million dollars from federal, state, county, and local sources. Here's what the recommended priorities are:

1. Public Health: caring for the dental, medical, and mental health of low-income residents, seniors, and unsheltered community members, as well as providing support services for those in need. The range of the potential needs is quite wide, including—for example—people with disabilities, those in need of substance abuse treatment, and survivors of domestic violence.

2. Housing Services: housing is a basic human need for individual stability and security. Yet the whole community also benefits when people remain housed or can move from homelessness to be-

ing housed. Rental assistance and support services help provide a safety net for some.

3. Homeless Services: Livermore has worked hard to provide these services for our unsheltered population. This work in this category will continue by providing emergency shelter or temporary housing, basic needs, assistance with employment, and support services.

4. Safety Net Access: providing services for non-English speakers, people with disabilities, seniors, low-income families, and youth that might include access to social programs that are difficult to access, ensuring food security, and assisting in transportation.

Writ large, these priorities are about ensuring that everyone in our community has their basic needs met. The list is long; a million dollars—the cost of two affordable housing units—makes a dent in it, but let's not forget that there will also be much more that needs to be done. And here's a big thank you to city staff, service providers, and those who volunteer to help provide for all.

All For Open Conversation(s) and Tired of Unnecessary Apologies

Greg Scott, Livermore

"I am scarred from past negative encounters with the homeless and don't know what to do or how to properly interact with them..." (Tania Panarello, "All Apologies and Open Conversation," Mailbox, 11/24) Solution: If this is the level of character judgment and street sense, and all "homeless" are a generalized demographic, then avoid all homeless! Since "drug addict[ion]" is a problem mentioned in Ms. Panarello's letter, this will be understood: Around 60% of homeless are either on illicit drugs, such as methamphetamine and/or fentanyl, and/or are mentally ill. If you do not comprehend the effects of drugs like these and you do not know mental illness behaviors, then please, for your own personal safety, avoid all homeless!

"...I do care and want to know their stories, too - so please, tell me how I can help." (ibid.) Start by understanding homelessness. As I have stated numerous times in our local leadership public forum: Imagine giving up "your roof, private bathroom and bed" and enduring a night out in Livermore. That is just the physical reality. If you spend enough nights unsheltered, you will get to the emotional level, as in the likes of, "...I'd like to hear your story." (ibid.) You begin to fathom the experience when you crack, get a 5150 and are sent for a 72-hour involun-

tary stay in a psychiatric hospital.

With enough time being homeless, you would also probably know a homeless person who dies. During the pandemic alone I was acquainted with six homeless who died here in Livermore and there were over ten total deceased - information omitted by a 9/22 letter writer on homelessness. In 2018 my friend Carl died after being homeless in his pickup truck for 10-plus years. He had worked at Sandia National Laboratories for more than a decade and a half. He got sick. Try being ill in a pickup truck without a bathroom. I found Carl facedown on the ground in only his BVDs, having previously been covered in diarrhea. He only wanted to get up and go on with his life. Eighty hours later he died. Where was the "hope" for Carl?

"Have you given up, Mr. Scott? Or will you keep fighting?" (ibid.) "You just don't get it." (W. Somerset Maugham, "The Razor's Edge") If I were to ever give up or quit fighting and not accept the help of others, I, too, would be dead.

Corrupt Commissioners Alan Marling, Livermore

The California Public Utility Commission (CPUC) will soon vote on a proposal, which will kill our rooftop solar industry. We should be incentivizing this critical piece of green infrastructure. The CPUC instead wants to turn rooftop solar into a luxury item. Why? Because they and Governor Newsom, who appoints them, do exactly what PG&E tells them. Big-utility companies want to monopolize power and believe solar should only be produced in solar farms. We'll need those too, but there are no good reasons (and only one bad one: greed) to snuff out the rooftop solar industry. I will list the CPUC commissioners, so we know exactly who is selling out our future to pad PG&E's short-term profits:

President Alice Busching Reynolds

Commissioner Clifford Rechtschaffen

Commissioner Genevieve Shiroma

Commissioner Darcie L. Houck

Commissioner John Reynolds

Here's what we can do about it. Call Governor Newsom and hold him accountable. Next, join a Save California Solar Rally on December 1st. The closest one will be in San Francisco. Or you can phone in to the CPUC meeting on the same day and comment, then again on December 15th when they'll vote. You can also leave a comment through their website. For more info you can look up the

(See MAILBOX, page 5)

THE Independent

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With the grapes harvested, fall brings a blaze of colors to the valley's vineyards. (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)

MAILBOX

(Continued from page 4)

Solar Rights Alliance.
Governor's phone: (916) 445-2841
CPUC's website: www.cpuc.ca.gov

Was There an Election? Jay Davis, Livermore

So this morning, Thursday November 26th, I trudge down to the street to collect my mail at noon. I am looking forward to the Independent's reporting on the Livermore election: Mayor's race, Council seats, propositions, meaningful analysis and so forth. To my surprise, I seem to see that there has not been an election. At the lower left-hand corner of the front page, where the Independent usually buries admissions of error and apologies in a gray background, there are statements by the two candidates for Mayor. Nice, but hardly analysis.

I check the Letters to the Editor Section, expecting that the deep breathers and hyper ventilators will have something to say. Nothing. It is though sedatives have been poured into the presses. Will the election be re-run in the future?

In the old Soviet Union, there were two newspapers: Pravda and Izvestia. Pravda means Truth, Izvestia means News.

The phrase among Soviet Citizens was "There is no Pravda in Izvestia and no Izvestia in Pravda."

The Independent seems to be approaching that standard.

Editor's note: The Independent ran front-page coverage of election results in its Nov. 10 issue immediately following the election (http://bit.ly/3AUK4XY), in addition to an updated list of election results on page 2 in the Nov. 17 issue (http://bit.ly/3FcSYTy) prior to the Nov. 24 statements from the Livermore mayoral candidates.

Thank You Tania Panarello, Livermore

First, in the spirit of the Thanksgiving/Christmas season, I'd like to thank each one of you for who you are and what you contribute to our community.

I'd also like to thank the

Independent for printing my letters, as well as other letters of varying opinions.

Also, I forgot to mention that if Greg Scott or anyone else would like to talk or more directly express their opinions, I welcome your comments (no marketing or junk email, please); email is best: pgbum255@yahoo.com, or Instagram: @tanpanontherun. I will also gladly meet up with you in person just to talk or share ideas.

I realize that I really put myself out there in my last letter, but I am tired of hiding behind masks and walls, of being ashamed or embarrassed. I just want to be more authentic, more genuine, in talking with people. In talking with others more and expanding our social circles -- however casual or close -- we might actually discover we have more in common with others than we think, and with the people we'd least expect. Have a wonderful, awesome, blessed day.

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FOLK

(Continued from first page)

said Art.

George Pavel has been part of the group for 37 years and now serves as a leader and teacher. He said the group long predated his arrival though.

"I don't know exactly

when it started, but I suspect it's been going since the early '60s," said Pavel, who noted his wife introduced him to folk dancing. "When we moved to Livermore, we looked for a folk-dance group and found this group

and started attending weekly. I pretty much learned to dance in this group, and I just enjoy being able to move to the music."

Pavel said as time passed and members came and went, he kept the dances and

traditions alive, recruiting and teaching new members. He offers informal instruction at the beginning of each class, introducing or bringing back dances he learned in the past.

"There are no costumes necessary, and we don't really do events," he said. "It's a lot of fun and we always have a good time dancing. We are a very welcoming and loving group, and we enjoy having new people and we like to spread our joy."

DVFD meets Tuesday evenings from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Livermore Oddfellows Lodge, 2160 First St., in Livermore. There is no charge for membership, but there is a \$5 per person fee

to cover insurance and rent. For more information, call 925-447-8020.

For more information on folk dancing and its origins, visit www.folkdance.com.



Participants in the Del Valle Folk Dancers group meet Tuesday evenings at the Livermore Oddfellows Lodge to celebrate culture through dance. (Photos courtesy of George Pavel)

TRAINS

(Continued from first page)

less ash, and they're happy it improves air quality and lowers their carbon footprint," Nathan Crum, Valley Pacific's president and CEO, said in a statement.

The change in fuel from regular diesel continues SJRRC's effort begun in 2017 to meet climate change challenges by replacing its Tier O locomotives with Tier IV Siemens Charger Locomotives which allow trains to be longer.

Following a series of tests and discussions, the engine manufacturer, Cummin, approved 100% renewable diesel for their locomotives and determined the new fuel posed no harm to the engines or their components, the statement said.

While the transition to renewable diesel is a step toward reducing carbon emissions, "100% renewable energy" does not necessarily mean "100% carbon-free energy," explained a report from Stanford University. To reach net zero emissions, SJRRC is launching a research and development project to explore the use of zero-emission locomotives.

The tests will look for a propulsion method that can handle the grades in the Altamont Pass.

SJRRC's climate plan also includes converting its shuttle bus services to electric vehicles and installing on-site solar programs for stations. In addition, the agency is working toward switching the San Joaquin Joint Powers Authority's trains and Thruway Buses to renewable diesel, the agency said.

The SJRRC's move to

renewable diesel is the latest effort to make travel through the Altamont Pass greener. Authorities behind the proposed Valley Link rail project to connect the Tri-Valley to San Joaquin County recently purchased 200 acres in Tracy to build a facility to produce green hydrogen to run its trains.

The Tri-Valley-San Joaquin Valley Regional Rail Authority is attempting to become the first passenger rail system in California

to run on self-produced, green hydrogen. If funded, the Valley Link train would begin construction in 2025. Its initial phase would run 26 miles from the Dublin/Pleasanton BART station through Livermore's Isabel and South Front Road stations to Mountain House. Transportation planners hope to stay on track to eventually operate the line to the North Lathrop Altamont Corridor, 42 miles from Dublin.

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Every year, Livermore resident Jacky Poulsen raises funds to purchase bus passes for those in need. The passes help residents travel to such places as laundromats or food banks. [See photo gallery at www.independentnews.com/multimedia] (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)

BUS

(Continued from first page)

do some laundry. “Asbury Church is the only free place for our unhoused folks to take a warm shower and get their clothes cleaned at the same time,” said Williams. “It’s an awesome service the church is offering (but) it’s not feasible for our clients to walk miles to the church carrying a heavy load of laundry. These bus passes are literally the main thing that is enabling these 70 plus unhoused folks in the Tri-Valley to shower and do their laundry.” The passes also serve as a way for others to get to job interviews, work, and – in some cases – stay out of inclement weather. “With the rain and cold temperatures coming, I know the passes will be utilized again for clients to get a respite from the winter weather,” said Williams. “Often when I’m ‘freezing’ while walking to my car or taking out the trash, etc., I think of these poor folks who are out in the cold and rain without a break for months ... the bus passes are such a comfort during the freezing months in particular.”

Poulsen collaborates with Asbury United Methodist Church to process all donations. The church office handles the accounts for her. She said she is very appreciative of their support of her efforts. “The donation is to Asbury United Methodist Church,” said Poulsen. “I email a thank-you letter, and it has an actual receipt from Asbury that has their tax ID. They keep a separate account for the bus passes, giving the whole program a legitimacy that makes people feel comfortable.” Rosemary Young of Interfaith Food Pantry agreed that the bus passes offer an important service. “Sometimes one bus pass can solve what seems like an insurmountable problem of how to get to a doctor’s appointment or job interview,” Young said. Donations can be made online at www.asburylive.org/buspassprogram or by mailing a check to Asbury United Methodist Church, 4743 East Ave., Livermore, California, 94550. Please write “Bus Pass” on the envelope and in the memo line

of the check and include an email address.

Dublin Residents Called Upon For Public Artwork Ideas

Dublin residents are being asked to submit ideas, along with photos of animals, birds, insects, and plants, to be included in the public artwork planned for the Dublin Transit Center Parking Garage. When completed, the \$34 million garage will add more than 500 parking spaces near the Dublin-Pleasanton BART station, including charging stations for electric vehicles. Bay Area artist Phillip Hua has been retained to create artwork decorating the outside of the structure, which will include flying birds to

symbolize movement and transportation in a natural form, according to the Alameda County Arts Commission, which is managing the project. The design will feature a different bird on each floor, including hummingbirds, northern flickers, great horned owls, red-tailed hawks, and egrets. Smaller elements of the artwork will include images of animals, birds, insects, and plants submitted by the Dublin community. Ideas can be submitted at bit.ly/DublinPublicArt. The deadline is Wednesday, Dec. 14.

Christmas at Ardenwood: News From The East Bay Regional Park District

Victorian-era splendor will be on display at Fremont’s Ardenwood Historic Farm during a “Christmas at the Patterson House” program, on Dec. 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11, 16, 17, and 18. From 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. each day, costumed docents will lead tours of 14 rooms of the mansion decorated with Victorian-style holiday ornaments. The schedule also calls for 20-minute Tot Tours for

all ages, at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m., which will be downstairs only and wheelchair accessible. Full tours for ages six and older will be at 11:30 a.m., 1 p.m., and 2:30 p.m., with each lasting 45 minutes. These events are drop-in tours, and no registration is necessary. Tickets will be sold at the door as space allows. Fees are \$3 for adults and seniors, \$2 for ages six through 17, and

free for children 5 and under. There are separate fees for Ardenwood entrance. For more information, call 510-791-4196. Programs at Ardenwood recreate life on a restored, turn-of-the-20th-century estate. The renowned area is also a working farm. Ardenwood Historic Farm is located at 34600 Ardenwood Blvd., just north of Highway 84. For more information, call 510-544-2797.

Naturalist to Host Water Birds Program at Del Valle Regional Park
 Look for resident and migrant water birds with naturalist Gisselle Hernandez during a drop-in program from 9:30 to 11 a.m., on Sunday, Dec. 4, at Del Valle Regional Park. The program is for ages 8 and older, but adult participation is required. All levels of birding expertise are welcome. Attendees are encouraged to bring binoculars and bird guides if able, though some binoculars will be available for loan. Participants will meet Hernandez at the Del Valle Marina. The park is on Del Valle Road off Mines Road, about nine miles south of Livermore, with a parking fee of \$6 per vehicle.

Birding Walk to Be Led at Shimada Friendship Park
 Tilden naturalist Anthony Fisher will lead one of his Monday birding walks from 9 a.m. to noon, on Monday, Dec. 5, at Shimada Friendship Park, in Richmond. This is an easy walk to see the birds and enjoy some ornithological lore. The park is at Peninsula Drive and Marina Bay Parkway. For more information, call 510-544-2233.

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

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<p>Amador Valley Lions Club P.O. Box 1764 Pleasanton, CA 94566 (925) 290-7592 Amador.valley.lions@gmail.com</p>	<p>Hope Hospice 6377 Clark Ave. Dublin, CA 94568 925-829-8770 HopeHospice.com/donate</p>	<p>Monthly Miracles 5211 Demarcus Blvd Dublin, CA 94568 Monthlymiracles.org</p>	<p>Shepherds Gate 1660 Portola Ave. Livermore, CA 94550 925-443-4283 ShepherdsGate.org</p>
<p>Amador Valley Quilters P.O. Box 955 Pleasanton, CA 94566 AmadorValleyQuilters.org</p>	<p>Interfaith Sharing Inc. 678 Enos Way Livermore, CA 94551 925-366-5567 saintbartslivermore.com</p>	<p>Movements For The Mind MovementsForTheMind.com movementsforthemind@gmail.com</p>	<p>Sleep In Heavenly Peace Alameda Co. Daniel.curtis@shpbeds.org 510-827-7033 Shpbeds.org</p>
<p>Assistance League Amador Valley P.O. Box 11843 Pleasanton, CA 94588 925-461-6401 Assistanceleague.org/Amador-valley</p>	<p>Las Positas College Foundation 3000 Campus Hill Drive Livermore, CA 94551 925-424-1010 LPCFoundation.org</p>	<p>Museum on Main 603 Main Street Pleasanton, CA 94566 902-462-2766 Museumonmain.org</p>	<p>SPECTRUM Community Services, Inc/Meals on Wheels 2621 Barrington Ct. Hayward, CA 94545 510-881-0300 SpectrumCS.org</p>
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<p>Big Bay Ray, Inc. Bigbayray16@gmail.com 925-523-3133 Bigbayray.com</p>	<p>Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society P.O. Box 901 Livermore, CA 94551 l-ags.org</p>	<p>Open Heart Kitchen 1141 Catalina Dr. # 137, Livermore CA 9 4550 (mailing address only) 925-580-1616 OpenHeartKitchen.org</p>	<p>The Taylor Family Foundation P.O. Box 2450 Livermore, CA 94551 925-455-5118 TTFf.org</p>
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<p>Cantabella Children's Chorus P.O. Box 131 Pleasanton, CA 94566 925-292-2663 Cantabella.org</p>	<p>Livermore Area Recreation and Park District Foundation P.O. Box 3403 Livermore, CA 94551 925-373-5730 Larpd.org/larpd-foundation</p>	<p>Partners for Change Tri-Valley 4743 East Ave. Livermore, CA 94550 650-474-9962 pftcv.org</p>	<p>Tri-Valley Conservancy 1457 First St. Livermore, CA 94550 925-449-8706 Trivalleyconservancy.org</p>
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<p>Exceptional Needs Network P.O. Box 3149 Livermore, CA 94551 925-215-2281 ennetwork.org</p>	<p>Livermore Lab Foundation c/o UC Office of National Labs 1111 Broadway, Suite 2130 Oakland, CA 94607 925-453-9382 Livermorelabfoundation.org</p>	<p>Rotarian Foundation of Livermore P.O. Box 2181 Livermore, CA 94551-2181 rotarianfoundationlivermore.org</p>	<p>Valley Dance Theatre 2247-B Second St. Livermore, CA 94550 925-243-0925 Valleydancetheatre.com</p>
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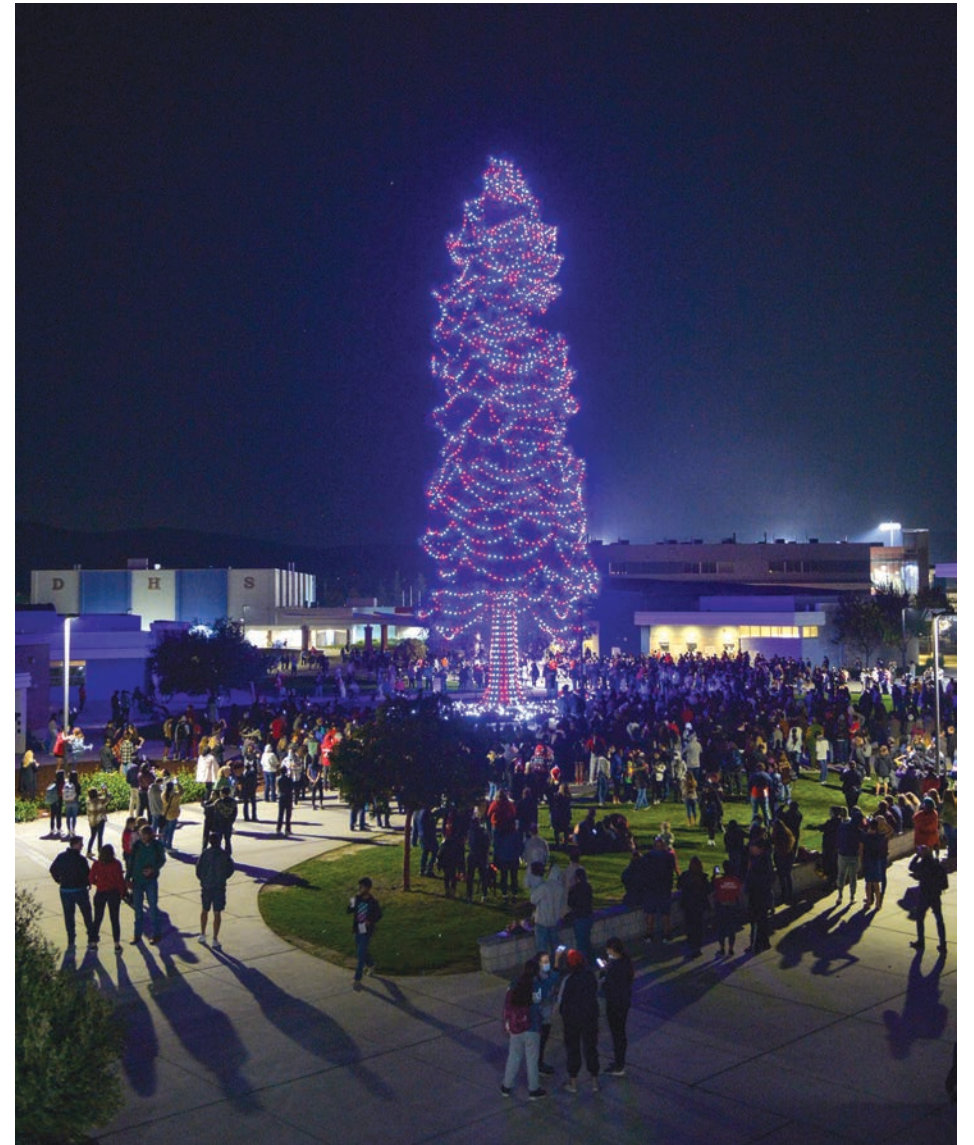
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Celebrations of Holidays Past

The Tri-Valley comes to life with holiday celebrations each year. Seen here from previous years are residents from Dublin, Livermore and Pleasanton as they welcome the season with various festivities. 2022's events are planned for the coming weeks. (Top left: Dublin tree-lighting ceremony; top right: Livermore's Holiday in the Vineyards at Wente Vineyards; second from top at left: Livermore holiday parade; second from top at right: Dublin High tree lighting; second from bottom at left: memorial tree lighting ceremony for Deputy John Paul Monego at the Dublin Sheriff's Office; bottom: Pleasanton tree lighting.) (Photos - Doug Jorgensen)



Pleasanton Schedules Holiday Events

The City of Pleasanton is pleased to announce its upcoming Hometown Holiday Parade and Tree Lighting Ceremony on Saturday, Dec. 3, at 5 p.m., on Main Street, under the Pleasanton arch in downtown Pleasanton.

The event will run until 8 p.m., and the tree lighting ceremony is anticipated to occur around 6:45 p.m. The annual event will kick off the holiday season with a festive parade, which will include the Foothill and Amador Valley high schools' marching bands, animal groups, hot rod clubs, floats and more.

Immediately after the parade, there will be musical entertainment performing familiar holiday songs in the styles of the top bands of our time on the main stage at the Museum on Main, followed by the tree lighting by the mayor with a special visit from Santa.

Main Street will close to vehicular traffic at 3:30 p.m. that day. Parade spectators are encouraged to shop and dine in downtown after finding a favorite viewing place along the parade route. In the event of inclement weather, a parade cancellation telephone hotline will

be implemented and updated each hour after 2:30 p.m. on parade day. The Hometown Holiday Hotline is 925-931-5352.

For more information, visit hometownholiday.com. Follow the city on Facebook at [facebook.com/CityofPleasanton](https://www.facebook.com/CityofPleasanton) or on Twitter @Pleasantonca.



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Jared Freiburgand & Vagabonds Return to Pleasanton's Firehouse Arts Center

The City of Pleasanton's Firehouse Arts Center announces the return of rock-&-roll piano virtuoso Jared Freiburg, for a live performance of his new holiday show "A Rockin' Holiday Revue."

After making his Pleasanton debut at the center in last year's 2021 summer series, Jared will once again take the stage at the theater on Thursday, Dec. 22, at 7:30 p.m.

Jared's high-energy performances are filled with joy and excitement as he journeys through the golden age of American music with an electric lineup of favorite rock & roll, blues, country, and jazz hits from the 1950s — serving up a

healthy helping of memorable tunes by artists ranging from Chuck Berry to Sinatra to Jerry Lee Lewis, and more. His new holiday show includes classics like "White Christmas," "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree," "Run Run Rudolph," and "Boogie Woogie Santa Claus," to name a few.

For the past six years, Jared has been touring the world, performing the role of 'Jerry Lee Lewis' in Broadway's Tony Award-winning Musical, "Million Dollar Quartet." Last year, the originating team of the show created a spinoff of their original production — "Million Dollar Quartet Christmas" — and asked Jared to re-

ate his signature role. The World Debut tour played throughout the country and the original cast recording has just been released in time for this year's Holiday Season.

After seeing Jared's portrayal of him, Jerry Lee Lewis himself became a fan and left this note: "I am humbled and grateful to be honored this way. God bless you...and keep rockin'."

This concert is the next in a series of shows offering audiences a chance to enjoy a live, in-person experience at the Firehouse Arts Center. Tickets range in price from \$20 to \$30 and may be purchased at firehousearts.org.



Jared Freiburg

Cantabella Children's Chorus Presents Winter's Light

Cantabella Children's Chorus presents Winter's Light in concert, on Saturday, Dec. 10, at 1 and 4 p.m., at the Valley Community Church, located at 4455 Del Valle Parkway, in Pleasanton.

Many wintertime and holiday favorites are lined up to celebrate the season. The beautiful "Northern Lights," a fantastic arrangement of "Deck the Halls" in 7/8, "It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year," many international carols sung in different languages, and fun pieces such as "The Twelve Days of Christmas Confusion" and "The Piglets' Christmas." It is a variety to please everyone in the family.

The chorus welcomes incoming Artistic Director Clement Cano, who joined this season. With his well-rounded musical experience,

Cano brings many novel ideas to the chorus, and invites everyone to his first concert with Cantabella.

"Bring your children," he said. "They will be inspired!"



Clement Cano

Cantabella training choirs sing at 1 p.m. Performance choirs sing at 4 p.m. Tickets are \$20 at cantabella.org or \$25 at the door on Dec. 10. Children 18 years and under are free.



The Cantabella Children's Chorus will perform on Saturday, Dec. 10, at 1 and 4 p.m., at the Valley Community Church in Pleasanton. (Photo courtesy of CCC)

First Presbyterian Church of Livermore Sanctuary Choir Hosts 2022 Holiday Concert

'Tis the season for 'Bells, Brass and Carols!'

Come and enjoy a free concert of festive holiday and Christmas music, including the singing of carols.

The concert will feature the First Presbyterian Church of Livermore Sanctuary Choir, with Jo Ann Fosselman as guest conductor; Janet Holmes, music director and organist; and Annette Musso on piano; with the Maestro Brass Quintet and percussion. Also performing are FPCL's 3 Bell Choirs (Celebration

Chimes, Praise Bells and the younger Bell Buddies), with Cathryn Griggs directing. Highlights include Kyle Pederson's "Sing We Now of Christmas," Dan Forrest's "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing!" and John Ferguson's arrangement of "Night of Silence."

This free concert takes place at 4 p.m., on Sunday, Dec. 11, in the sanctuary of First Presbyterian Church of Livermore, located at 2020 Fifth St. For more information, call 925-447-2078 or visit fpcl.us.

TRI-VALLEY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Now to Thursday, Dec. 8 GRIEF MINISTRY

The death of a loved one is unlike any other loss, and grieving people need time and space to honor their grief and figure out how to keep on living when a loved one has died. Join in grief meetings, which will be held at St. Elizabeth Seton, 4001 Stoneridge Dr., in Pleasanton. The schedule is Sept. 8 and 22, Oct. 6 and 13, Nov. 17, and Dec. 8. The meetings will begin at 7 p.m., and registration is not required. However, organizers ask attendees to arrive early for check in. The meetings are open to all, regardless of religious affiliation. For a short video explaining the grief program, visit catholicofpleasanton.org, scroll to 'Grief Ministry' and tap on the video box. For more information, call 925-846-3904.

Thursday, Dec. 1 LIVERMORE TEACHER/MINISTER TURNS WRITER

Author Heather Hammer will introduce her book "Shetland Mist" and sign copies at 11 a.m. at Towne Center Books, 555 Main St., in Pleasanton. On Dec. 9, from 7 to 9 p.m., she will launch her book in Livermore at Asbury United Methodist Church, 4743 East Ave., beginning with a book talk followed by signing and refreshments. The book tells the story of the author's great-great-grandmother and her hardship, faith, and resilience. For more information, visit heatherlesliehammer.com.

Friday, Dec. 2 ANNUAL SING-IT-YOURSELF MESSIAH

Valley Concert Chorale's "Sing-it-Yourself Messiah" will take place at Asbury United Methodist Church, 4743 East Ave., in Livermore. The event is open to all singers of all ages in the community to join in singing Part I of Handel's great choral masterpiece, also known as the Christmas portion of "Messiah," which will conclude with a powerful rendition of the "Hallelujah Chorus." Singers are encouraged to bring their own copy of "Messiah," though there will be some copies available to borrow. The event is also open to those who wish to listen to the performance. Tickets are \$15. For more information, call 925-866-4003.

Saturday, Dec. 3 LIVERMORE-AMADOR SYMPHONY'S FAMILY CONCERT

Join in at the Bankhead Theater for a free, family-friendly concert with the Livermore-Amador Symphony and ballet dancers from the Valley Dance Theatre. Directed by Lara Webber, the program will include music from Christmas and Hanukkah, excerpts from The Nutcracker, Mary Poppins, Sound of Music, and the ever popular "Sleigh Ride!" Sponsored by Livermore Valley Arts. All are welcome. There is no cost to attend, but tickets are required. For tickets or more information, visit bit.ly/3hVSXKn or call 925-373-6800.

Saturday, Dec. 3 LIVERMORE-AMADOR SYMPHONY'S HOLIDAY JOY

Two English composers, Coleridge-Taylor and Vaughan Williams, bring holiday favorites with "A Christmas Overture" and "Greensleeves." The Nordic lyricism of Grieg leads a journey from darkness to brilliant bold light with French composer Saint-Saens' exhilarating and triumphant "Organ Symphony." A complimentary sparkling cider and wine reception will be held in the Bankhead lobby following the performance. For tickets or more information, visit bit.ly/30QuRub or call 925-373-6800.

Saturday, Dec. 3 THE COBBLER'S GIFT

This Christmas ballet weaves the tale of a good and kind, yet poor cobbler, struggling to survive the holiday season. The event takes place from 2 to 4 p.m., at the Dublin Center for Performing Arts and Education, located at 8151 Village Parkway, in Dublin. Tickets are \$17 to \$26 and can be purchased at radianceballet.com.

Saturday, Dec. 3 BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

Santa Claus is coming to Dublin! Don't miss this fun annual event, with seatings at 8:30 a.m., 9:45 a.m., and 11 a.m. Families are invited to enjoy a delicious hot pancake breakfast served with sausage, fruit, coffee, and juice, followed by the arrival Santa Claus. Santa will happily pose for holiday photos following each session. The cost to attend is \$15 for residents of all ages and \$18 for non-residents. To register, visit dublinrecguide.com.

Saturday, Dec. 3 and Sunday, Dec. 4 LIVERMORE VALLEY WINE COMMUNITY'S HOLIDAYS IN THE VINEYARDS

The Livermore Valley Wine Community has partnered with Pacific States Petroleum for a Toys for Tots drive. Pacific State Petroleum will be matching the donations (up to \$100,000) collected at the wineries toy-for-toy, as they showcase their decorated tasting rooms with special wines, arts, crafts, holiday music, activities and more. The event

takes place both days, from noon to 4:30 p.m. Admission is free, however, tasting fees may apply and vary by winery.

Saturday, Dec. 10 REMEMBERING DEPUTY JOHN MONEGO

On Dec. 12, 1998, Dublin Police Deputy John Monego was killed in the line of duty while responding to a robbery. Join with the Dublin Police in honoring his memory at an annual tree-lighting ceremony at 5 p.m., in the lobby of Dublin Police Services, located at 6361 Clark Ave. Following the tree lighting, light refreshments will be served.

Saturday, Dec. 10 WEEKEND WONDERS - WINTER WREATH WORKSHOP

In this month's Weekend Wonders, participants will create a winter wreath to display at home. Hot chocolate will be provided for all guests. The event will take place at Dublin Heritage Park and Museums, 6600 Donlon Way, in Dublin. The cost is \$5. To register, visit bit.ly/3Vy5GBC.

Monday, Dec. 12 LIVERMORE-AMADOR GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY PRESENTS MADELINE YANOV

From 7 to 8:30 p.m., Madeline Yanov, the owner of Time Travel Genealogy, presents Ancestral Road Trips, Part II: Go West Young Man, the sequel to Ancestral Road Trips, Part I. The focus will be on the Santa Fe Trail, The Oregon-California Trail, The Mormon Pioneer Trail, and the Trail of Tears. The event is free, and visitors are always welcome. For tickets or more information, visit bit.ly/3VaANmv.

Saturday, Dec. 17 KYMBERLIE INGALLS PRESENTS "CREATE A RELEVANT MARKETING PLAN"

Ingalls is an award-winning essayist, editor, and author of memoir, opinion, and short fiction. Her books, Bridges: A Lifetime in Essay and 43, compile personal essay, social media, and memoir to address themes of grief, humanity, and the heart. In her presentation, Ingalls will explain the essential parts of doing this, including building a platform, focusing your efforts, and developing a flexible strategy while tackling your fear and self-doubt. Join in at 2 p.m., at Four Points by Sheraton, 5115 Hopyard Road, in Pleasanton. Check-in begins at 1:30 p.m. Reservations are required at bit.ly/3CpD0UC. Tickets are \$14 for adult members; \$18 for adult nonmembers; \$6 for student members ages 14 to 22; and \$10 for student nonmembers.

Saturday, Dec. 10 and Sunday, Dec. 11 CHRISTMAS JOY

Joyous music for the holiday season featuring choruses from Bach's "Magnificat in D," a choral arrangement of A'soalin made famous by singing group Peter, Paul and Mary, plus carols and a fun arrangement of Jingle Bells. As is tradition, the audience is invited to sing-along for a selection of carols. The Saturday event will take place at First Presbyterian Church, 2020 Fifth St., in Livermore. The Sunday event will take place at Trinity Lutheran Church, 1225 Hopyard Road, in Pleasanton. Tickets are \$30 for general admission, and \$10 for high school and college students with valid identification. Children are free. Advance tickets are available at valleyconcertchorale.org or 925-866-4003. Audiences will be asked to follow current Alameda County guidelines in effect at the time of the events, which may require showing proof of vaccination upon entry and wearing your mask while indoors. All singers have been vaccinated.

Jan. 12 to Feb. 23 CACTUS CORNERS SQUARE DANCING LESSONS

Cactus Corners, a nonprofit, is offering free square-dancing lessons to new dancers. Anyone age 8 and up is invited to this great activity for the entire family. Meetings take place on Thursday, Jan. 12, 19, and 26, and Feb. 2, 9, 16, and 23, from 7 to 8:30 p.m., at 2253 5th Street, in Livermore, between south J and south I streets. This is at 5th Street School (now Del Valle Continuation High School). For more information or to be placed on the class notification list, email Margaret at mmiller1435@gmail.com or call 925-447-6980.

ONGOING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES TOPSCIENCE

TOPScience is a group that partners with elementary school science teachers to enhance learning for both students and teachers. It is an opportunity to pass on skills and knowledge while having fun and contributing to schools in Livermore. For more information or to volunteer, contact Art Krakowsky at artkr@sbcglobal.net or 925-455-0486.

ONGOING WEEKLY EVENTS PLEASANTON FARMERS MARKET

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

Jeanette Arline Frevola Nov. 28, 1928 – Nov. 20, 2022

Jeanette was born Jeanette Arline Love. Her natural father, Arlin Love, was lost fighting a forest fire when she was just three years old. Her mother, Signa Mae, later remarried Alfred Field and he legally adopted her, and she became Jeanette Field. It is one of life's grand coincidences that at her birth her name was "Love" because that is the one word that most describes her life.



Love of her husband, Vin-

cent Frevola, married for 56 years, until his passing in 2004. Love of his father, Nonny (James Vincent Frevola), a sweet man whom they cared for in their home on School Sreett in Pleasanton until his passing. Love of their four lovely daughters, Cindy Engel, Denean Gable, Nancy Strohmeier and Marianne Sekany. Love of her 14 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren. Jeanette was the embodiment of LOVE. The children in the neighborhood knew there was always a cookie and a smile for them at her home. The students at Amador High and Foothill High knew that she was there to help, quietly, and with love in the library. Her daughters knew that the gentle but firm parenting she administered was given in love.

Her beloved husband, Vince, was the center of her love for 56 years and quietly trusted that love which she gave in abundance. To

her many longtime friends whom she traveled, golfed and attended church with, she was known and admired



as the sweet, kind, loving woman that she was. Jeanette was loved by all she touched and returned that love in full measure. She will be lovingly missed and lovingly remembered. Donations to Hope Hospice.

Robbie Robinson April 29, 1932 – Nov. 21, 2022

On Monday, Nov. 21, GE "Robbie" Robinson passed away in Livermore, California after a lengthy illness. He was 91 years old.

Robbie was born April 29, 1931, to Aaron and Marlys Robinson. Robbie was a cadet in the Coast Guard Academy in New London, Connecticut where he met and married Paula Beckwith. Following the wedding, the couple moved by train to Moscow, Idaho where Robbie earned his degree in engineering. Following graduation, he immediately went to work for General Electric where he spent his entire career.

Robbie and Paula had three daughters, and eventually settled in Livermore, California.



Robbie was very active in his model train club, duplicate bridge, the Masonic Lodge, Eastern Star, church, family genealogy, sailing his boat on San Francisco Bay and cruising with Paula.

He is preceded in death by his wife Paula and his sister Eleanor Pitman. He is survived by his three daughters, Carol Holman of Portland, Oregon; Dorothy Trumpp of Livermore, California; and, Patty (Charles) Crohare of Livermore, California; as well as his brother-in-law, Harvey Pitman of Boise, Idaho. He is also survived by his six grandchildren, Erin, Kyle, Jennifer, Fallan, Cortney, and Jason, as well as five great-grandchildren, and two nephews.

Memorials services will be planned after the holidays in both Livermore and Boise, details to be announced. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made in his name to Hope Hospice.

SIGNAGE

(Continued from first page)

pler alternative for us to consider."

Woerner said banning signs outright without considering their content also would adhere more easily to First Amendment considerations.

Woerner, Kiick and Munro argued that getting something done was important, following years of not addressing the problem.

"Let the future council tweak it, if necessary, but get going on something because they're trying to get perfect," Woerner said. "You never get there."

Kiick said it was time to do something, instead of putting it off.

"A new council person comes in and asks for it, like three times, as I have in the past two years; then nothing happens," Kiick said. "Then, now, we're back here again. So my goal was to get something moving."

During public comment, David Stark of the Bay East Association of Realtors, said he understood that political signs are an irritant for residents and the council wanted to do something. He suggested they slow down and consider the "unintended consequences."

TEACHERS

(Continued from first page)

concern."

The policy expands on what constitutes "gripping."

It states, "But just individually gripping about some aspect of work is not 'concerted activity': what they say must have some relation to group action, or seek to initiate, induce, or prepare for group action, or bring a group complaint to the attention of management."

The Nov. 15 meeting was not livestreamed because it was the district's "Data Walk," with in-depth information on student achievement and wellness set up in locations around the board meeting room. Meeting attendees literally walk the room to look at the data, making a livestream difficult. Since there was so much feedback on the agenda item that would adopt the

revised policy, the board felt a vote during a live streamed meeting would be more appropriate.

In a letter sent to staff earlier this month, DUSD Superintendent Chris Funk noted the board had been discussing updating language in regard to the use of social media for the past few months.

"The latest proposed language in this policy was taken from the National Labor Relations Board," Funk wrote. "In 1935, Congress passed the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA), making clear that it is the policy of the United States to encourage collective bargaining by protecting workers' full freedom of association. The NLRA protects workplace democracy by providing employees at

private-sector workplaces the fundamental right to seek better working conditions and designation of representation without fear of retaliation."

Funk closed the letter saying the district supports the First Amendment and believes the NLRA guidelines are "a good place to start" when creating and revising board policy.

At this time, no decision has been made; this issue will be brought to a future meeting for a final decision. Trustee Megan Rouse noted she had looked in nearby districts for a similar policy and couldn't find anything. Board President Dan Cherrier made the motion to table the item.

For more information on DUSD, or to view agendas, visit www.dublin.k12.ca.us.

Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve in Antioch Hosts Saturday Afternoon Stroll

The naturalists at Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve in Antioch lead a 'Saturday Afternoon Stroll,' a two-to-three-mile hike to explore the park's varied plant and animal life, almost every week.

On the schedule is a stroll from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m., on Saturday, Dec. 3. The minimum age requirement is 4 years old, and parent participation is required.

Alternatively, participants can meet one of the park's snakes-in-residence during a program from 2 to 3 p.m., on Sunday, Dec. 4, with naturalist Jessica Kauzer. The minimum age requirement is 2 years old. Jessica will show the snake and talk about how snakes contribute to the local ecosystem.

Registration is not necessary for either program. Both meet at the uppermost parking lot on Somersville Road, 3½ miles south of Highway 4. The programs are free, but Black Diamond Mines has a parking fee of \$5 when the kiosk is staffed.

For more information, call 510-544-2750.

GARAVENTA

(Continued from first page)

arguing that the Livermore City Council had failed to consider whether the land could be purchased with city conservation funds and protected as open space before approving the developer's housing plan.

Save the Hill Group contended that the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) provisions required local governments to disclose the availability of conservation funds in Environmental Impact Reports (EIR) before approving a development. The information would give a property owner the choice of selling the land to the city in an effort to preserve the local ecosystem. Livermore did not disclose the fact the city had funds available from a previous lawsuit settlement available for the purchase.

The ruling was a significant achievement for the group, which initially lost in Alameda County Superior Court but kept fighting in the appellate court. The ruling became case law that residents in other cities can cite in litigation to preserve land.

Opponents to the Lafferty project rejoiced in the decision, but months later resident Vladimir Pavlushkin noticed PG&E crews near the project site at Bear Creek Drive working to install a heavy power line that would be needed to supply electricity if a large housing development were built. He inquired and found that despite the court's rejection of the housing project, the city's engineering department had issued a permit to PG&E to conduct electrical work in preparation for the homes that Lafferty aimed to develop.

Pavlushkin complained during a city council meeting, at which point, city staff revealed that Lafferty indeed was in contact with planners with the intention of going forward. PG&E issued a statement saying it had obtained a work permit from the city following a request from Lafferty. PG&E reported to The Independent that it had requested the permit. The spokesperson said the utility company did not know the housing project was no longer approved. When it learned the Lafferty development was not active, it halted its work.

Livermore Senior Civil Engineer Farnoush Levers later told The Independent that PG&E never indicated the work was tied to the Garaventa Hill development. PG&E's application for permits the power company regularly submits to the city.

At the time, City Attorney Jason Alcalá further said that, as a public utility, PG&E has the right to access the public right-of-way subject to the city's time, place and manner regulations.

"It does not appear that PG&E advised the city that their work was related to the Garaventa Hills project, nor does it appear that the city asked PG&E the reason for the work – but also it does not appear that those conversations are part of the usual process," Alcalá said in an Oct. 18 email to The Independent.

However, during this week's Monday council meeting, Pavlushkin revealed that he obtained emails through a Public Records Act request with the city that showed Lafferty and a design firm were in contact with Livermore officials, including Levers and engineering specialist Michael Pato, about the Garaventa project in July and September of 2022.

Pavlushkin shared the emails with The Independent.

The year before, on Nov. 21, 2021, an email from Sami Mofleh, a project manager for construction firm Giacolone Design Services in Pleasanton, included a map that shows the Garaventa Hill site with sketches of where the new PG&E power lines were to be installed. A cloud is drawn around the words "New Business," the location where the houses were to be built. At the time, the housing project's future remained in litigation.

The map cites "PG&E BETTERMENT," with PG&E slated to install electrical lines. Another map includes other lines set for installation.

In a later email dated Sept. 8, 2022, Jim Idleman, Lafferty's senior vice president of operations, wrote to Livermore's Principal

ruling was a result of incompetence or "if we the residents were being lied to."

"For years, we've asked about conserving the Hill," Huang said. "We now know all the money to conserve the Hill is ready to go. If this is what all the residents want, why won't you work with us? Why do you keep spending needless energy and resources on trying to keep this project alive? Is your relationship with the developer more important than the residents who voted you in?"

Bianca Covarelli, the plaintiff in the Save the Hill Group's lawsuit, told the council that city officials had not learned from the court's ruling, which said the EIR for the Garaventa project had not met state guidelines.

"It's clear there are continued communications with the developer," Covarelli said. "It's clear to me that with the PG&E project on Bear Creek ... there are backroom agreements with the developer."

Covarelli questioned whether the council and staff bore responsibility to Livermore residents or the developer.

"This is arguably the most environmentally sensitive untouched land in Livermore," Covarelli said.

"It seems that in spite of the court ruling, the city has been working tirelessly to keep this project moving forward. Your work ethic is admirable, but it's misplaced. You see, you're supposed to be working tirelessly — tirelessly for your constituency, not against them."

— Vladimir Pavlushkin, Livermore resident

Planner Steve Stewart asking for an update on the project, which was apparently still being discussed despite the court ruling.

"Steve, is there any updates on Lamphier or an extension of our original agreement now the project is back in process? Thank you," Idleman wrote. Lamphier refers to Scott Lamphier, Livermore's director of public works.

Pavlushkin noted that the emails indicate the city was fully aware of PG&E's connection to Lafferty and planned to move forward with the developer.

"They were aware of its purpose and how it ties into the Garaventa Hill unapproved project," Pavlushkin said.

Speaking to the council Monday, Pavlushkin questioned why the city would not take a step back and reflect "Hey, I must be doing something horribly wrong?" after losing a lawsuit to their constituents.

"You didn't do that," he said. "It seems that in spite of the court ruling, the city has been working tirelessly to keep this project moving forward. Your work ethic is admirable, but it's misplaced. You see, you're supposed to be working tirelessly — tirelessly for your constituency, not against them."

Resident Connie Huang said she couldn't tell whether the PG&E utility work following the court

"Facts are, there are trust funds available. Facts are, it was stated by the court (that) conservation was the choice ... Thousands of North Livermore residents I've spoken with want the land preserved forever."

In response to statements that a revised housing project could move forward, Covarelli said during an interview with The Independent that she did not believe that a future EIR would allow any development on the Hill to proceed.

"The developer will not be able to secure a certified EIR because the area is too environmentally sensitive," she continued.

She pointed out that rare mineral salts and soil on the Hill produce an environment for the special-status plants and animals found there to thrive. These special-status species include the California red-legged frog, California tiger salamander, California burrowing owl, San Joaquin kit fox, western spadefoot toad, vernal pool fairy shrimp, Livermore tarplant, palmate-bracted bird's beak, and Congdon's tarplant.

"The land is so special it needs to be saved," Covarelli concluded. "We will fight until the Hill is saved forever."

Councilmembers did not comment on the residents' remarks, nor did they ask staff to do so.

West Coast Wildkatz Travel to Silverlakes College Showcase and Earn Three Wins

West Coast 05 girls made the journey south to the beautiful Silverlakes Soccer Complex, where they competed in a 20 team BMW bracket.

Wildkatz started off a little slow falling behind local SoCal club Future FC.

“We needed to get the travel out of our legs and take care of some tactical adjustments,” said Coach Troy Dayak, former Olympian and US National team and World Cup player. “Once we took care of that, everything fell in place for the rest of the weekend.”

West Coast would power through Future FC with an exciting 3-2 victory goals

by Jackie Bellamy, Addison Sanchez, and Hayden Romero. On the second day, Wildkatz matched up against Surf South Valley, continuing their clinical play and winning 3-0, with goals coming from Jadyann King, Jackie Bellamy, and Addison Sanchez.

On the final day, West Coast played local SoCal Club Legends FC.

The match was back and forth until Addison Sanchez broke the deadlock with an outstanding turn and volley. West Coast defense, led by GK’s Elizabeth Loforte and Abby Tucker, held strong and secured the shutout. Defenders Mary

Jane Anzo, Madison Reid, Jordan Sawyer, Gabi Rodriguez, and Kayla Cochenour played solidly all weekend, while the creative midfield of Josette Davila, Jadyann King, Renee Davis, Hayden Romero, Kira Korsak, and Natalia Umana all rotated in to keep the center fresh and explosive. Forwards Mia Degrazio, Gracie Ronveaux, Jackie Bellamy and Addison Sanchez struck fear on the oppositions defense.

Overall, West Coast Wildkatz scored seven goals and only allowed two, winning all three showcase games. Next up, West Coast travels with three teams to Arizona for the GA fall showcase.

Granada Secures Victory Over Vanden High

By Nathan Canilao

The Granada High School boys’ basketball team defeated Vanden High 69-61 on Nov. 26, at the NorCal Tip-Off tournament in Dublin, Calif.

The win gives them their second win of the season with the victory.

Granada controlled the pace for most of the game and locked down the usually busy Vanden offense. Senior center Andrew McKeever picked up his fourth foul halfway through the third quarter, but the Matadors were able to use their scoring on the wing to keep the team afloat.

With 1:54 left in the fourth quarter, Granada guard Kevin Grant hit a 3-pointer to give the Matadors a seven-point lead. Grant’ shot shifted the momentum for Granada and lifted them to a win.

Senior forward Tyler Harris finished with 21 points, 9 rebounds, 3 assists and 5 steals.

The Matadors got a huge statement win over a NorCal powerhouse in Vanden and improved to 2-0 on the season. They will face Belarmine College Prep on the road, on Dec. 8.



The Matadors’ Andrew McKeever goes for a dunk during the 15th annual Nor Cal Tip Off Classic tournament held at Dublin High School on Nov. 16. The Granada High School Matadors started the tournament against Vanden of Fairfield and won 69 to 61. Dublin High lost its game against Inderkum of Sacramento 65 to 68. (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)

West Coast 2014 Tremors Win State Cup

The 2014 West Coast Tremors, led by Coach Orlando Perez and Manager Michelle Plunkett, battled it out against some stiff competition to win the State Cup Championship in the U9 bronze division.

In the semifinals against California Odyssey, WCS Tremors pulled off a 4-3 win to put them into the finals against Kingston County SC from Hanford.

In the finals, WCS 2014 Tremors fought hard and found the back of the net twice. The offensive attack was led by Cruz Boosahda, Julian Zuleta, Dylan Plunkett, Aidan Humber, Maxwell Renton, Titus Ancira, and Isaac Moore.

The Tremors defense, led by goalkeeper Grant Maier, had many saves and kept all shots out of the net. In the back, Nico

Hansen, Trent Leeds, and Jacob Aguiar were solid and played their hearts out to protect the two-goal lead.

“What a great experience for our U9 Tremors team to start their soccer experience by winning a state cup so early on,” said Coach Rob Hansen. “We are all so proud of our boys to come out and play their best through the end of the season.”



The West Coast Soccer Tremors recently won 4-3 in the State Cup Championship in the U9 Bronze division. (Photo courtesy of West Coast Soccer)

The Dons Defeated By College Park High School

By Nathan Canilao

The Amador Valley boys’ basketball team was defeated by College Park High School 50-45 on Nov. 26, dropping their first game of the season with the loss.

The Dons got off to a slow start as they went into

halftime down 28-16. In the second half, Amador’s offense grew steadily and they were able to cut the lead at certain points of the fourth quarter. The Dons outscored the Falcons in the fourth quarter 16-11, but it wasn’t enough as College Park escaped with a home

victory. Senior Colton Cash scored a game-high 26 points for the Dons, and senior Javier Gros added 7 points.

Next, Amador will face Homestead High School on the road, on Dec. 1.

Amador Valley Girls Triumph Over Berkeley

By Nathan Canilao

The Amador Valley girls’ basketball team defeated Berkeley High School 41-32 on Nov. 22.

With the win, the Dons take their first game of the

season and start the year undefeated at home.

Amador got off to a good start as they took a 23-12 lead at halftime. In the third quarter, the Dons took a 39-16 lead. The Yellow Jackets made a big run in the fourth

quarter as they outscored the Dons 16-2, but it wasn’t enough as Amador Valley got a big win.

The Dons start the season 1-0 and will face Irvington High School on the road, on Dec. 1.

West Coast Soccer Boys Take Bronze Division

West Coast Soccer’s 10U boys team, Terremoto, defeated the Mustang Soccer Quakes 5-2 in Lathrop, California, on Sunday, Nov. 13 to take first place in the

Bronze division of the NorCal State Cup.

Forward Julian Marron scored all five goals for the Tracey-based West Coast Soccer squad.

Terremoto went 4-0-2 during the tournament, including a 5-1 win over the Mustang Soccer Fury in the semi-finals to make it into the championship match.



Terremoto, West Coast Soccer’s 10U boys’ team took first place in the Bronze division of the Nor Cal State Cup (Photo courtesy of West Coast Soccer)

Las Positas Loses 91-89 to San Jose City College

By Nathan Canilao

The Las Positas men’s basketball team was defeated by San Jose City College 91-89 on Nov. 23, dropping their second game of the season with the loss.

The game went back-and-forth in the first half with both teams taking the lead at certain points, but the Hawks finished off the half strong and took a 39-37 lead

at halftime. The second half was much of the same, as both teams made key shots down the stretch.

Las Positas guard Jalen Patterson hit two free throws with just over a minute left in regulation to tie the game at 81.

Neither team could score the go-ahead basket, and the game went into overtime. San Jose City College got

the decisive go-ahead basket with 1.4 seconds left in overtime to win the game.

Sophomore forward Brandon Fisher scored a game-high 22 points and snagged 11 rebounds. Guard Jaden Phillips scored 16 points off the bench.

Las Positas will face Reedley College at the James Clark Classic in Sacramento, on Dec. 1.

Naturalist to Lead Hike at Shadow Cliffs

Shadow Cliffs Regional Recreation Area in Pleasanton is the venue for the next meeting of the informal “Let’s Get Outside Club.” Naturalist Betty Villalta will lead a beginners-level hike there from 9 to 11:30 a.m., on Sunday, Dec. 4. The minimum age requirement is 8 years old, and parent participation is required. This is a drop-in hike, and while no registration is required, parking fees apply. Attendees will meet at the park’s Lakeside Picnic Area and are encouraged to bring water and a snack or lunch. The club offers an easy to moderate, naturalist-led hike on the first Sunday of every month. All are welcome. Shadow Cliffs is located on Stanley Boulevard east of downtown Pleasanton. For more information, call 510-544-3234.

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Former Pleasanton Police Captain Craig Eicher Named President of the Community of Character Collaborative

Craig Eicher was with the Pleasanton Police force for 32 years.

Prior to his retirement as captain, he was the acting chief for six months during the recent search for a new police chief. His service included patrol, training new officers, and detective before becoming a sergeant, investigations sergeant, lieutenant, Special Operations lieutenant, and then captain for nine years.

He founded the Pleasanton Police Officers Charitable Foundation and was president of the Pleasanton Police Officers Association for six years.

Eicher is a long-time Pleasanton resident. Not only has he served the city long and well, he has been involved in a variety of charitable activities and was on the board of Hope Hospice, where he served as president of their board of directors for six years. At a recent Special Olympics Track event, he spent the day helping to pass out awards to athletes after their events.

Having married the daughter of Bob Widmer, who is the creator of the wonderful Christmas display, Widmer World, he spends several months prior to Christmas helping to set it up for the community to enjoy.

Eicher has been a member of the board of the Community of

Character for many years and lends his skills as an expert barbeque chef at the annual fundraiser for the Juanita Haugen Scholarships, where he has served as a member of the scholarship committee. The group appreciates Craig for his willingness to continue serving the Pleasanton community after his retirement.

Community of Character sends many thanks to Kelly O'Lague for her many years of service as president of the board. O'Lague recently accepted a position as CEO of the Portland United Way in Oregon. They wish her success in her new position, where she will do remarkably well and have a positive impact. As a wonderful benefit of position is to be close to her daughter and grandchild who live nearby.

O'Lague was previously CEO at Hively, where she established a 'free' store for the needy, where the community could pick up free diapers, food, children's clothing, books, household goods, and adult clothing. Prior to Hively, she served for many years as the executive director of the Tri-Valley YMCA, where she directed popular programs such as Y-Princess, many day camps and activities for children, including Pinewood Derbies.

She also established the annual

Martin Luther King breakfast in the Tri-Valley, honoring the late Martin Luther King. Local citizens and organizations are honored at this event for their service to the community.

O'Lague continues to be a wonderful and compassionate leader who is committed to helping children, seniors, and those in need. Community of Character appreciates her many years of selfless service and personal sacrifice to the community, all while promoting the values of the organization. Though her job is in Oregon, O'Lague continues to be a member of the Community Character board of directors, while maintaining a residence in Pleasanton.

The group would also like to recognize the newest members of the Community of Character board - Marie Stapleton and Linda Kelly.

The Community of Character Collaborative is a non-profit board of volunteers representing the City of Pleasanton, Pleasanton Unified School District, Chamber of Commerce and other faith, non-profit and business organizations to help create a community of Character built on values, goodwill and the traits of responsibility, compassion, self-discipline, honesty, respect, and integrity. For more information, visit communityofcharacter.org.

Livermore Hosts Holiday Sights and Sounds Parade

Join in for Livermore Downtown Inc.'s holiday tradition, the 'Holiday Sights and Sounds Parade,' on Saturday, Dec. 3, at 6 p.m., on First Street.

While there, enjoy floats and performances by local businesses, bands, schools, clubs, and more - a Livermore tradition no one wants to miss. The Holiday Sights and Sounds Parade is part of a two-day lineup of events to kick off December, with the Holiday Village in the Park scheduled for Friday, Dec. 2nd.

Local vendors and makers welcome to this magical evening in the park - it's like a holiday movie, but in real life. For more information, visit bit.ly/3iq3Vlc.

Dublin Police Services to Launch A Police Chief's Advisory Panel

As a result of the City of Dublin's Community Task Force on Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion, Dublin Police Services and Police Chief Garrett Holmes will be launching a Chief's Advisory Panel (CAP).

The panel, which will start in January, will serve as an advisory resource providing feedback to the chief on ways to enhance police-community relations. The CAP will consist of up to 12 members, appointed by Holmes, who either live, work, or own a business in Dublin. Recruitment for members is slated to begin on Nov. 28, with the panel's initial meeting taking place in January.

The deadline to apply is Dec. 29, at 5 p.m. To apply, visit bit.ly/3u4Wt84. For more information, visit bit.ly/3F6oq5M.

LEGAL NOTICES/CLASSIFIEDS

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 592887

The following person(s) doing business as: Fremont Commerce, 933 Corporate Way, Fremont, CA 94539, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Ann Chen, 7862 Foothill Rd., Pleasanton, CA 94566. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s: Ann Chen, Self. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 21, 2022. Expires October 20, 2027. The Independent, Legal No. 5314. Published November 17, 24, December 1, 8, 2022.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 593270

The following person(s) doing business as: Pinenuts, M., 19225 Santa Rita Avenue, Castro Valley, CA 94546, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Maki Nishikawa, 19225 Santa Rita Avenue, CA 94546. 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: Maki Nishikawa, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 7, 2022. Expires November 6, 2027. The Independent, Legal No. 5313. Published November 17, 24, December 1, 8, 2022.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 592854

The following person(s) doing business as: Atomic Turtle, 570 Mormandy Circle, Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Launch Pad Ventures, LLC, 2301 Concannon Blvd, 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: 3/7/19. Signature of Registrant/s: Jill M. Zolkos, . This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 20, 2022. Expires October 19, 2027. The Independent, Legal No. 5314. Published November 17, 24, December 1, 8, 2022.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 593274

The following person(s) doing business as: Designs by Deena Lynn, 755 N N St, Livermore, CA 94551, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Deena Kennedy, 755 N N St, 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: Deena Kennedy, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 6, 2022. Expires November 5, 2027. The Independent, Legal No. 5315. Published November 17, 24, December 1, 8, 2022.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 593419

The following person(s) doing business as: Amore Montessori Family Child Care and Preschool, 266 Wood St. Unit 406, Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Jessica Perez Maldonado Munoz, 266 Wood St Unit 406, 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: Jessica Perez Maldonado Munoz, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 14, 2022. Expires November 13, 2027. The Independent, Legal No. 5318. Published November 24, December 1, 8, 15 2022.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 593353

The following person(s) doing business as: Valley Montessori

School, 1273 N Livermore, CA 94551, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Tri-valley Montessori School, 1273 N Livermore Ave, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 9/23/1994. Signature of Registrant/s: Andrew Wang, Director of Finance. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 9, 2022. Expires November 8, 2027. The Independent, Legal No. 5319. Published November 24, December 1, 8, 15 2022.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 593433

The following person(s) doing business as: Rick's Landscape and Maintenance service, 2729 Kennedy St, Livermore, CA 94551, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Richard Sanchez Jr., 2729 Kennedy St, 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: 6/00/1993. Signature of Registrant/s: Richard Sanchez Jr., Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 15, 2022. Expires November 14, 2027. The Independent, Legal No. 5320. Published November 24, December 1, 8, 15 2022.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 593383

The following person(s) doing business as: Mountain Ridge Rentals, 3988 California Way, Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Finster's Hauling and Equipment LLC, 3988 California 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: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s: Matthew Finster, Manager. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 10,

2022. Expires November 9, 2027. The Independent, Legal No. 5321. Published November 24, December 1, 8, 15 2022.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 593502

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Harsh Jadhav, CPA; 2. Mirabelle Investments; 3. Harshavardhan Jadhav, CAP, 6436 Tiffany Common, Livermore, CA 94551, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Harshavardhan Jadhav, 6436 Tiffany Common, 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: 3/9/2018. Signature of Registrant/s: Harshavardhan Jadhav, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 18, 2022. Expires November 17, 2027. The Independent, Legal No. 5322. Published November 24, December 1, 8, 15 2022.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 593534

The following person(s) doing business as: Nuhope Wellness, 11501 Dublin Blvd #324, Dublin, CA 94568, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Park Legend LLC, 3045 S. Archibald Ave #H178, Ontario, CA 91761. 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: 11/21/22. Signature of Registrant/s: Ferdous Ahmed, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 21, 2022. Expires November 20, 2027. The Independent, Legal No. 5323. Published December 1, 8, 15, 22, 2022.

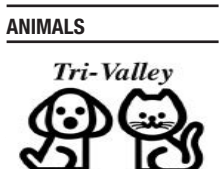
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 593351

The following person(s) doing business as: Diver City, 1123 El Centro Ave, Oakland, CA 94602, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Benja-

min Powning, 1123 El Centro Ave, Oakland, CA 94602. 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: Benjamin Powning, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 9, 2022. Expires November 8, 2027. The Independent, Legal No. 5324. Published December 1, 8, 15, 22, 2022.

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ROOM FOR RENT

Record Crowd Comes to Tri-Valley Turkey Burn

Family Fun Run Expresses Positive Spirit of Living in or Around Pleasanton

More than a record 2300 participants shared personal expressions of thanks at Pleasanton's Ken Mercer Sports Park Thanksgiving Day morning during the eighth annual Tri-Valley Turkey Burn Family Fun Run.

Hosted by the Pleasanton North Rotary (PNR) Club, this year's event attracted participants from a varied backgrounds for what has become one of the city's largest public gatherings of the year.

Most ran, walked or

celebrate everything they are thankful for as a community," he said. "It was an amazing event."

The combination of entry fees, souvenir revenue and corporate sponsorships, including top sponsor Elation Real Estate (www.Elationre.com), generated more than \$20,000 for PNR and its affiliated non-profit Pleasanton North Rotary Foundation.

The funds will support PNR's youth services, including its involvement with the annual Richard D. King Youth Speech Contest, Rotary Interact Community Service Club at Pleasanton Foothill High School, Rota-

ry Youth Leadership Award (RYLA) camp, college and technical school scholarships, high school student of the month awards, and the Rotary International Youth Exchange program.4 Tri-Valley Haven, a charity food pantry in Livermore, collected canned food from Turkey Burn participants for distribution to families and individuals in need.

To learn about membership opportunities with PNR, visit the club's website (www.pnr-rotary.org) or attend a weekly lunch meeting at 12:15 p.m. Fridays at Hap's Original Steaks & Seafood in Pleasanton.



strolled 5K or 10K courses while wearing race bibs that carried personal messages of gratitude for their good health, loving families, special friends, beloved pets or often the unique community spirit that defines the Tri-Valley's character. Some wore turkey hats and Thanksgiving costumes. Others ran with infants in strollers or dogs on leashes. Everyone received a medal at the finish line to recognize their participation.

PNR President Billy Buckley was amazed by the record attendance, which reflected participation from as far away as Copperopolis in California's Gold Country.

"It is always great to see everyone come together to



Pleasanton runners came out in the Thanksgiving spirit on Nov. 24 for the annual Turkey Burn. (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)

Create a Winter Wreath in Dublin

Bring the kids out to Dublin Heritage Park and Museums on Saturday, Dec. 10, from 10 a.m. to noon, for "Weekend Wonders." This month, families can create a winter wreath to display at home. Hot chocolate will be provided for all guests. To register, visit bit.ly/3Vy56BC

Rose Collection Curator to Speak at Garden Club

Tom Carruth, curator of the Rose Collections at the Huntington Library Art Museum and Botanical Gardens in San Marino, California, will be the guest speaker for the Livermore-Amador Valley Garden Club Zoom-based meeting on Thursday, Dec. 8.

The three-acre garden contains more than 2,500 individual plants and more than 1,300 different cultivated varieties, according to The Huntington. Carruth's presentation, "The Little Seedling that Could," will discuss how a nearly lost and unnamed seedling played a

major role in the breeding of roses, including Ebb Tide and Julia Child varieties.

The garden club meeting will begin at 7 p.m., with Carruth scheduled to speak at 7:30. To join the online session, contact Jeri Stark, club president, at jstark-home@comcast.net.

Culinary Angels Reveals End of Year Giving Programs

Culinary Angels, an almost entirely volunteer-based non-profit organization, has unveiled three ways for donors to support its vital work.

The organization prepares and delivers delicious and organic meals to those undergoing cancer treatment in the Tri-Valley cities of Dublin, Livermore, Pleasanton, San Ramon, and Danville. Meals are also provided for caregivers who play a critical role in the healing process.

"Generous donors allow us to continue to expand and prepare meals for our recipients, and manage growing cost increases," said Lisa McNaney, Culinary Angels executive director and founder. "This year, there are three ways to donate, and we are very grateful to everyone who contributes to

our effort."

There are several ways donors can contribute to the health, hope, and wellness of those going through cancer. The Community Health & Education Foundation (CHEF) will match \$1 for every \$2 donation to Culinary Angels on Giving Tuesday from Nov. 29, through Dec 2. Nourish the Need provides Culinary Angels with an easy, monthly recurring donation in any amount. To participate, visit culinaryangels.org/donate. A one-time donation to Nourish the Need is also much appreciated.

Donors can also join in the spirit of the season with a year-end contribution that supports the Culinary An-

gels meal program for those struggling with a cancer challenge. To participate in the Year End Giving, visit culinaryangels.org/donate.

Culinary Angels is a registered 501c3, tax ID#84-2906765.

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Bay Area Air District Offers Cash To Scrap Old Cars

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District is announcing incentives of \$1,200 through the Vehicle Buy Back Program for Bay Area residents to scrap 1998 and older vehicles to improve local air quality.

The program pays owners of older, high-polluting cars and small trucks to voluntarily retire their vehicles. Older vehicles lack modern emission control technology and pollute at a higher rate than newer models.

"The Vehicle Buy Back Program is an important tool to encourage early retirement of the most polluting cars and trucks on our roads as older engines run dirtier than newer models

and contribute significantly more to unhealthy air quality," said Sharon Landers, interim executive officer of the Air District. "Transportation remains the largest source of air pollution in the Bay Area and scrapping older vehicles helps limit harmful tailpipe emissions in the air we breathe."

Eligibility requirements for the Vehicle Buy Back Program include:

- Vehicle must be 1998 model year or older
- Vehicle must be currently registered as operable and must be drivable
- Vehicle must have been registered in the Bay Area for the past 24 months

- Vehicles within 60 days of a required smog check must take and pass smog check

The program reduces air pollutants from vehicle exhaust including fine particles and ozone precursors, the main ingredients in smog. These pollutants contribute to respiratory diseases and increased mortality rates. Retiring older vehicles also reduces carbon dioxide, a potent greenhouse gas that contributes to climate change.

Since 1996, the Air District's Vehicle Buy Back program has retired over 90,000 cars, vans, pickup trucks and SUVs. For each

pre-1998 vehicle removed from Bay Area roads, an estimated 75 pounds of air pollution is prevented from being emitted into the air annually. In 2021, 3,000 vehicles were retired, representing 91 tons of air pollution having been removed.

The State of California operates a complimentary program offering eligible consumers vehicle retirement options for vehicles that do not pass smog check. More on the Consumer Assistance Program is available at bit.ly/3gILwpG. To find out more about the Vehicle Buy Back program, visit baaqmd.gov/vbb.

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