

Schools Adjust to Stay Open

By Dawnmarie Fehr

REGIONAL — With students in the Tri-Valley returning to class over the past two weeks, schools have been working hard to comply with new health protocols from the state and county to keep facilities open.

Some changes in district policies for students and staff include isolation periods shortening from 10 to five days, and the ability to use at-home tests to come out of isolation.

Families in all three districts received take-home COVID-19 tests, so they could delay their return to school after winter break if they tested positive. In the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District (LVJUSD), tests were distributed to students and families in December just prior to winter break. Michelle Dawson, LVJUSD spokesperson, said the results have been helpful in minimizing the spread of the newest COVID-19 variant, Omicron, as the district returns to school.

“Getting those test kits in the hands of our staff and students was of high importance to us, and it resulted in many positive cases being detected prior to returning to school,” Dawson said. “We had 115 positive cases officially reported through the Primary Health system, with many other positive results detected and called in by parents to our attendance line.”

Livermore schools returned from break on Jan. 3 and sent home notification to families on Jan. 7, informing them of protocol changes. Officials further assured families in a letter that the district would contain the virus as much as possible.

“According to public health experts, the Omicron variant results in less severe disease for vaccinated individuals, but has a higher rate of community transmission, causing a steep increase in positive cases,” the letter stated. “Rest assured, our district adheres to the protocols and guidance established by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and Alameda County Public Health Department (ACPHD), who have both released new guidance relative to COVID-19 protocols for isolation, quarantine and testing.”

(See SCHOOLS, page 8)



Hana (left) and Sara Fahey at Cottonwood Creek K-8 School in Dublin don matching masks while carrying hand sanitizer to class. School districts throughout the Tri-Valley implemented new policies in an effort to keep schools open during a spike of COVID-19 cases. [See photo gallery at www.independentnews.com/multimedia] (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)

Candidates for Sheriff Face Off

By Larry Altman

REGIONAL — Saying he’s passionate about the job he has held for 14 years, Alameda County Sheriff Gregory Ahern on Sunday faced off with two veteran police officers who hoped to replace him in the next election and keep him from a fifth term.

Ahern and his challengers — San Francisco police Officer JoAnn Walker and Alameda County Division Cmdr. Yesenia Sanchez — met online for more than two hours in a public candidate forum to discuss the issues they hope will get voters behind them.

“I try to make a difference and a change each and every day I go to work,” Ahern said. “Since 2007,

I’ve preached the Guardian principle of law enforcement, and I believe that we as law enforcement are caretakers in our community. I believe that we must be compassionate and understanding in our approach to crime, poverty, mental health and homelessness, as (well) as addiction.”

At one point during the forum, Walker, who has served on San Francisco’s force for 26 years, said that the public perceives Ahern’s department to be “corrupt.” Otherwise, the forum sponsored by the grassroots organization Indivisible East Bay, The Independent, Livermore Indivisible and the Pleasanton Weekly, remained cordial. Candidates offered views on subjects includ-

ing transparency and oversight, spiking gun violence, suicides, mental illness, community relations and COVID-19 at the Santa Rita Jail in Dublin.

Ahern emphasized many of the departmental policies and programs he instituted, while Sanchez and Walker suggested it was time for a change in a Sheriff’s Office entering a consent decree following a massive lawsuit over poor conditions in the jail, a lack of mental health treatment for inmates, and a high suicide rate. Whoever runs the department following the November 2022 election will be in charge of implementing policies and procedures to meet the requirements of the consent

(See SHERIFF, page 8)

Council Requests Input for District Maps

By Larry Altman

PLEASANTON — The city council last week formally invited the public to submit suggestions for drawing the city’s first maps for district elections, a process that each panel member said they wished was not taking place.

The process, which will continue with public hearings through February, will divide the city into four council districts. Residents from each area will elect an individual representative. The change, precipitated by the threat of a lawsuit alleging that at-large elections

violate California’s Voting Rights Act of 2001, will begin with the November 2022 election. Voters will shift from voting for all council members to choosing a single representative who lives in their district. All residents will continue to elect the mayor to fill out the five-member panel.

Livermore moved to district elections in 2020 for the same reason.

“It doesn’t seem logical,” Vice Mayor Julie Testa said during the Jan. 4 Pleasanton City Council meeting, where a demographer and two attorneys explained the process going forward.

“It seems like an unnecessary project ... This was predatory litigation against the city — against every city in California — and it really was not a choice that we made.”

Livermore, along with the Dublin and Pleasanton school districts, also will be drawing district lines in the coming weeks. Federal and state law requires district boundaries be drawn and adjusted every 10 years following the U.S. Census count, which occurred in 2020.

Pleasanton City Council voted in September to drop

(See MAPS, page 8)

Council Approves Loaning \$1.9M to Presidio Developer

Lawyer Cites Legal Issues

LIVERMORE — The attorney representing community group Save Livermore Downtown submitted a letter to the city, outlining the legal issues surrounding the council’s approval of the \$1.9 million loan to Presidio’s limited liability company, called “2205 Railroad Avenue LLC.”

The loan — unanimously approved by the council on Jan. 10 — will aid the Presidio company’s LLC in its completion of a valet hotel parking lot at 2080 Railroad Avenue, situated about a tenth of a mile from the hotel site.

In a letter submitted ahead of the public hearing, Winston Stromberg of Latham & Watkins LLP had urged the council to reject the proposed amendments to the Disposition, Development and Loan Agreement (DDLA) with 2205 Railroad

(See LEGAL, page 10)

Valet Parking Wins 5-0 Vote

By Larry Altman

LIVERMORE — The Livermore City Council on Monday approved a plan that included a \$1.9 million loan to a downtown hotel developer to buy land that will be used as a valet parking lot.

The 5-0 approval of the amended Disposition, Development and Loan Agreement (DDLA) that will enable “2205 Railroad Avenue LLC” — a limited liability company of Davis-based Presidio — to bring a four-story, 125- to 135-room hotel to the corner of Railroad and South Livermore avenues by December 31, 2025.

Under the agreement, the developer will receive the loan from the city to purchase a 33,600-square-foot property owned by a private company on the corner of K Street and Railroad Avenue.

(See PARKING, page 10)

City Welcomes New Airport Tower Manager

By David Jen

LIVERMORE — Livermore Municipal Airport welcomed its new air traffic control tower manager, Paul Griffiths, at the end of last year.

Griffiths comes to the Tri-Valley from his previous position as frontline manager at Monterey Regional Airport. He draws from over 26 years of experience working for the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) from air traffic controller up to manager.

He said he hopes to continue to hold at Livermore “the high standards of safety that we have here, and (develop) any strategies we can to enhance everything else that’s in place.”

Although aware of resident noise concerns and apprehension over the possible KaiserAir project, Griffiths explained that those complaints are typically beyond the purview of the tower and are redirected to the airport itself.

He said that while the airport is owned by the City

of Livermore, the control tower is a federal entity operated by the FAA. The tower, therefore, is somewhat insulated from resident complaints in order to focus on its mission of “the safe and expeditious flow of air



Paul Griffiths

traffic.”

The Livermore Airport Commission, however, does receive and compile noise complaints; it works with the surrounding cities to discuss those issues.

KaiserAir is an aviation charter firm based at Oakland International Airport that has submitted a letter of intent to develop land at Livermore Airport. The airport granted KaiserAir a sec-

(See MANAGER, page 7)



From left, Jake Snyder and Richard Hopper dismantle the parklet in front of Beer Baron on St. Mary’s Street in Pleasanton. The city recently required restaurants and owners to remove the structures, which were originally installed to encourage outdoor dining during the pandemic. (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)

Zone 7 Submits Groundwater Management Plan

By Tony Kukulich

REGIONAL — A plan to manage groundwater — an important component of the Tri-Valley water supply — was submitted to state officials in advance of a January deadline by the Zone 7 Water Agency.

“For the long-term sustainability of communities, business and agriculture, having these plans in place and implemented is critically important,” said Paul Gosselin, California Department of Water Resources (DWR) deputy director of sustainable groundwater management. “Zone 7 is in a medium priority basin, and that does have importance.”

The plan, approved by the Zone 7 Board of Directors during their Dec. 15 meeting, details the actions

the agency will take to maintain and improve the Livermore Valley Groundwater Basin, which provides about 30% of the agency’s water supply.

“We prepared this plan very methodically in cooperation with DWR so that we put out a product that meets their criteria,” said Ken Minn, Zone 7 groundwater resources manager. “That is the approach.”

After decades of allowing too much water to be drawn from underground aquifers, California enacted the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) in 2014 to ensure the long-term viability of the state’s groundwater supply.

A central tenet of SGMA was that groundwater should be managed locally. As such, water agencies

were assigned to each of the state’s 515 groundwater basins; those agencies were charged with developing plans to mitigate the impact of overdrafting within the next 20 years.

Responsibility for the Livermore Valley Groundwater Basin — also known as Groundwater Basin Number 2-10 — was assigned to Zone 7, though the agency has been actively managing it for more than 50 years. The basin covers 69,557 acres. It’s 14 miles long and has a total capacity of 254,000-acre feet of water. An acre foot of water roughly equates to 326,000 gallons. In total, that’s about 82 billion gallons of water.

“Our basin has been sustainably managed,” Minn said. “At the same time,

(See ZONE 7, page 8)

PET OF THE WEEK



ALICE

Go on, ask Alice. This adorable, adoptable girl is active, active, active! This adolescent gal is always affable and awaiting attention and affection. And so you’re aware, she’s... active! Valley Humane coordinates adoptions by appointment only. Learn more at valleyhumane.org. Email info@valleyhumane.org to start the adoption application process. (Photo - Valley Humane Society)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Classifieds	13
Editorial	4
Mailbox	4
Obituaries	9
Sports	11

Pleasanton Student Wins Stock Market Game	2
Woman Charged for Auto Theft, Hit and Run	2
Local Groups Offer Ministry to Inmates	3
Local Author to Lead Panel of Black Writers	12
Rotary Accepting Grant Proposals	14
Livermore Valley Wine Foundation Donates to Five Charities	14

VISIT WWW.INDEPENDENTNEWS.COM FOR DAILY ONLINE NEWS

Local Groups Provide Ministry for Prison Inmates During the Pandemic

By Dawnmarie Fehr

During the pandemic, the needs of various communities — from the unhoused to homebound seniors — have increased, and while many volunteers have risen to

Currently, religious volunteer groups are not able to enter Santa Rita Jail. Though Sackett and her fellow volunteers were regularly visiting inmates to host bible studies and fellowship meetings, and

ship partnered with other Tri-Valley churches to write devotionals specifically for the incarcerated men and women in Santa Rita. They send weekly inspirational videos for inmates to watch on their tablets, along with



Diana Sackett, coordinator for the Cornerstone Worship Prison Ministry, sits with inmates at San Quentin State Prison during their Christmas Banquet. Sackett (wearing a black and gray sweater) and her fellow volunteers were recently able to return to in-person ministry in San Quentin, but they are still offering virtual support in Alameda County facilities. (Photo courtesy of Diana Sackett)

meet these needs, one group has been harder to reach: inmates in prison facilities around the Bay Area.

Shelter-in-place restrictions allowed many charitable operations to continue in the great outdoors, however, prison ministry was not able to switch to drive-through operations. Volunteers from the Cornerstone Worship Prison Ministry are now doing what they can remotely, while waiting to return to in-person ministry in local prisons in Dublin, Tracy and San Leandro.

“In general, we go into Alameda County Santa Rita Jail and Alameda County Juvenile Justice Center,” said Diana Sackett, ministry coordinator. “We are waiting to get back into Santa Rita Jail and the Juvenile Justice Center, but we are allowed to do video visits with the youth at the Juvenile Justice Center, and we can now go into San Quentin State Prison.”

offering one-on-one visits of prayer and support, those trips have been put on hold since March of 2020. Lt. Ray Kelly, public information officer for the Alameda County Sheriff’s Office, said last week there were 177 cases of COVID-19 among the jail’s population of 2,200 inmates, leaving prison officials unable to set a reopen date.

“We have seen not just our people in custody, but our own staff, with COVID infections, and they have been mild cases for the most part,” Kelly said. “We seem to be doing rather well with this variant, and this isn’t the first time we have done this, but we need to be careful ... that will affect a lot of services in the jail, not just the religious services, but all the services we provide.”

Unable to enter the jail physically, Sackett and her team have focused on virtual ways to offer their support. Cornerstone Wor-

ship partnered with other Tri-Valley churches to write devotionals specifically for the incarcerated men and women in Santa Rita. They send weekly inspirational videos for inmates to watch on their tablets, along with

Deborah McQueen, one of the ministry’s volunteers. “We write prisoners in other prisons, because you are not allowed to write a prisoner in a prison you visit, so we pen pal write to prisoners, often in other states. The thing about prisoners is they are the most invisible of all who suffer. They are hidden away, deliberately, and as a result, their needs and dreams and hopes and families are not seen at a time when everyone is dealing with COVID ... it’s a social blind spot.”

McQueen is a PhD student working toward a degree in leadership with a prison focus. Her motivation comes from a desire to find a connection between illiteracy and recidivism. She said as a member of the Cornerstone community, joining the prison ministry made sense. Within the group, she said she has found a rewarding way to connect with inmates.

Currently, the Cornerstone prison ministry group continues to offer support as it can, virtually in Alameda County, and in person at San Quentin. The pandemic has

been particularly hard on inmates, who are locked down even more than usual.

“It has been almost two years of this for them,” Sackett continued. “Christmas is a particularly difficult time for them, so it was a blessing to go into San Quentin and pray and worship with people and let them know that someone out here cares about them and God cares about them. For many of us, it’s sad not to be able to go into the other facilities and work

with them face to face. But I would say that letters and sending sermons in has been a wonder for many of the inmates during this time.”

Sackett and her team continue to be inspired by the people they meet and look forward to expanding their ministry once health restrictions allow. For more information on the Cornerstone Worship Prison Ministry, or to donate or volunteer, email DianaS@cornerstoneweb.org or visit bit.ly/3nfwOXj.

LIVERMORE
— arts —
BANKHEAD THEATER
LIVE AT THE BANKHEAD
WED JAN 26 AT 7:30 PM

The Queen's
Cartoonists

“Who needs another Broadway show when you can hire a jazz combo playing music from Bugs Bunny cartoons?”
- The Wall Street Journal

PHANTOM OF THE OPERA'S
JEREMY STOLLE
FRI JAN 21 AT 8 PM

GET TICKETS NOW
LivermoreArts.org
925.373.6800 | 2400 First Street, Livermore



HELP SHAPE LIVERMORE’S FUTURE

Participate in the Process of Redrawing District Boundaries for the City of Livermore

Every 10 years, local governments use new data from the Census to redraw their district lines to reflect how local populations have changed. The City of Livermore is asking for your help to plan, draw and redivide City Council electoral district boundaries. Use the QR Code below or visit DrawLivermore.org/Draw-A-Map to submit your own by January 31.

The City also welcomes input on Livermore’s communities of interest (COI), which you can provide using the COI tools on DrawLivermore.org/Draw-A-Map or by emailing redistricting@cityoflivermore.net. Communities of Interest can include shared interests, social and civic networks, racial and ethnic compositions, cultural identities, socioeconomic status, and groups that share common everyday spaces like grocery stores, pharmacies, libraries, etc.



Learn more and share your feedback during an upcoming redistricting Public Hearing:

January 24, 2022, at 7:05 p.m.
February 14, 2022, at 7:05 p.m.
March 14, 2022, at 7:05 p.m.

Live Spanish interpretation will be available. (Habr  interpretaci n en espa ol.)

Make your voice heard
Submit a draft map by January 31!

Draw a map using online mapping tools (just scan the QR code with your cell phone camera or QR reader app), or use paper mapping tools at the Livermore Valley Chamber of Commerce or in redistricting kiosks at the Rincon, Civic Center, and Springtown libraries.



DrawLivermore.org/Draw-A-Map

EDITORIAL Worth Taking Another Look

The Dublin City Council's recent approval of the East Ranch development project's Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is creating a wedge within the community. The Dublin Unified School District (DUSD) and residents have expressed outspoken concern on the wisdom of implementing a 30-year-old outdated EIR.

Opponents of the 165-acre, 573-unit project on Croak Road, which will include 18 moderate-income single-family units and 77 affordable housing residences, say the preexisting EIR fails to address 2022 issues, namely school overcrowding, wildfire risk and drought considerations. Under the California Environmental Quality Act, residential projects may be exempt if they are consistent with a prior specific plan that underwent environmental review.

The council maintains the decision to allow

the current EIR — last updated in 2005 — remains lawful and true.

Now the community and the school district are at odds with a council that is seemingly unwilling to explore other options or at the very least undergo a new EIR.

And the obvious question is why?

Is the council's decision based on previous financial agreements with the developer, Tru-mark Homes, and a desire to move the long-planned project along or a genuine belief that the EIR is solid?

Legally, the City of Dublin has no jurisdiction over the DUSD, and as such does not have to consider the school district in its decisions. But from an ethical and practical standpoint, shouldn't they? Isn't the relationship between a city and its school district one of community? Isn't it incumbent on the city council to be a good neighbor to all its residents, students

included? Doesn't it just make sense that one benefits from the other and that a symbiotic relationship is good for everyone?

One would hope that is the case, but so far, it does not appear to be the situation in Dublin. While the project may indeed be a good one and the decision to build the development a benefit in the long term to the entire community, one has to ask what's the rush? What would be the harm in slowing down the process — a process that has been years in the making — in order to reevaluate how best to move forward to incorporate the interests of everyone?

The school district is so frustrated that its officials are exploring legal options as it pertains to the EIR. A reevaluation of the EIR would create some goodwill between the city, the school district and its residents.

Surely that is reason enough for a second look.

MAILBOX

Mailbox Guidelines:

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

What's at Stake in DA Race?

Anthony Beckett, Pleasanton

Is the Alameda County District Attorney election important?

Very much YES. Of particular concern is candidate Pamela Price, who is backed by George Soros, who has a certain agenda for his investments.

Looking at the track record of Soros-backed DA candidates nationwide who won, the pattern is very clear: eliminate cash bail, and lower charges for crimes like burglary, theft, robbery, assault - even armed robbery, home invasion and carjacking. Look no further than San Francisco to see the result: DA Chesa Boudin was backed by Soros and San Francisco - the smash-and-grab retail robbery capital of America - is paying dearly. Businesses are closing and leaving the city for good - because criminals are winning.

Why does Soros focus on these DA races? In funding local DA campaigns, activists hope to secure many of the sentencing and bail policies they have struggled to realize through laws or ballot initiatives. That's right. Things that couldn't pass muster through a vote can be adjusted to the DA's liking. Like what Gascon has done in L.A. Incidentally,

both Boudin and Gascon are facing recalls for this very activity. New York City and Philadelphia have the same problems with the same cast who I suspect will soon initiate recalls.

If you shudder when you see the crime in San Francisco, beware of Pamela Price. She'll bring it to Alameda County. Guaranteed.

We Need Housing

Bill Leach, Livermore

I agree that the former pool company land is best held for future housing, for the time when other plots going west from there can be obtained. If Livermore grows as expected (2% per year, 50,000 more residents in one generation from now) we are going to need a lot of housing, and not at the expense of open space like Stockmens Park. I ask three things of Council:

If the pool company land cannot be held for future housing, then we citizens would like more detail on the \$1.9M loan's interest rate and payback time. Banks make good money on loans; maybe the City can, too?

For Council to positively state that the hotel could not appropriate additional parking space in the L-Street garage.

For serious consideration of an automated L-Street garage, because it both takes up less space and is cheaper per-car to build.

Disappointed

Mary Rozsa, Livermore

It is difficult to express how disappointed I am as a longtime resident of Livermore with the disturbing Downtown plan with high-rises on both sides of South L Street and Railroad Avenue. Certainly, there has been a multitude of objections expressed by Livermore citizens to the Mayor and Council Members. The current plan with Eden Housing will not provide a decent downtown park as initially proposed but will have concrete walkways and strips of grass/landscaping between large imposing buildings, not a true park with spacious grass area, playgrounds, picnic area and benches for just enjoying the scenery. Now to add more disappointment, the City is planning on giving a \$1.9 million loan to the hotel developer, Prosidio. The parcel in question will be used for valet parking for the hotel, but is not large enough to accommodate the spaces required for a 135-room hotel, short by 49 stalls, so where does the City propose to locate the extra stalls? This proposed loan, since it does not meet park-

ing requirements, should not be approved by the Mayor and Livermore City Council.

With so many mistakes occurring in our Downtown, I feel our City's character and charm will be totally and irreparably damaged for current residents and future generations.

It is a Crime

Thomas Soules, Livermore

For some time, many folks in Livermore have been suggesting that the low-income housing be moved from the proposed Lucky's site to north of Railroad Avenue. Numerous suggestions have been made for how that could be done and why it would be much better than the city's proposed site in order to preserve the character of Livermore and provide a park downtown. Even the then running for mayor Bob Woerner touted it as a possible win-win.

However, we were told this is impossible. That land is not for sale, and we, the city, do not have the money for it and the city does not want to go through eminent domain.

Now, last week's Independent pointed out the city is considering loaning the hotel developer \$1.9 M to purchase part of that land that was not for sale for valet parking, and a private citizen is considering purchasing another part of the land that was not for sale for \$2.4 M.

Are we fools? These not-for-sale parcels of land could have been used for the low-income housing and could have helped preserve Livermore's character and everyone would win.

Instead, the purchases will be an attempt to block this win-win option. We are fools. These decisions are all being made behind closed doors in total disregard of the citizens' wishes. In fact, they are being made in an attempt to make it impossible to realize the citizens' wishes! And we have been lied to on top of it! Apparently the not-for-sale land is for sale — just not for sale to those wishing to move low-income housing there.

Define "Boutique Hotel"

Ben Barrientos, Livermore

I feel like a salmon swimming upstream with the City Council. I am persistent, and I do remember the vote I cast on the rendition of Downtown a few years ago. But the council members didn't like what we chose. Now folks who speak out are being castigated for their opposition.

I'd like to see poles put up with yellow tape on the sites of the proposed "boutique hotel" and the parking lot showing us how high the structure will be, with a big sign on the parking lot with the cost on it.

Please look up the definition of a "boutique hotel". You will find that it is 10 to 100 rooms, not the 135 rooms that are in the plans. They will require a certain number of parking slots, which would be subsidized by us, the taxpayers.

I'd encourage you to look

up "robotic parking" and the cost savings it would bring to the city. It will not take 2+ hours to retrieve your car (but) maybe a few minutes — probably less time than it would take you to remember where you parked and walked up to the correct level. The robotic parking would be a better use of the limited space we have and cheaper.

Please use your mind eye and envision what is proposed for downtown.

Hotel Guests Unlikely to Use Valet

Carol Garberson, Livermore

I strongly object to the idea of the City of Livermore loaning \$2 million to the downtown hotel developer so they can buy a piece of property for valet parking a long city block away from the hotel and across two busy streets — Livermore Ave. and Railroad Ave. The hotel is being allowed to provide an insufficient number of parking spaces for their staff and guests, resulting in public parking spaces being taken up to meet their needs and limiting parking available for Livermore residents and visitors in the public garages. In reality, guests are more likely to park in the public lot across the street from the hotel rather than using SLOW, EXPENSIVE valet parking.

Valet parking also means a staff person will have to run across two busy streets through traffic even in the high heat, and likely smoky air, of summer and during rainy weather every time a car needs to be parked or retrieved, which can be very unsafe, as well as a possible serious threat to health.

Livermore has a long history of allowing development to proceed without enough parking. The results can be seen at the Outlet Mall and in areas like Norma Way where apartment residents have to park all along the street, blocking parking for the houses on the street. Now that seems to be happening again with both the hotel and the affordable housing developments in the downtown being allowed to build without enough parking. The result will be overcrowding in the public parking garages and increased traffic with people looking for parking.

Encouraging a hotel to be built without requiring adequate parking for staff and guests is a remarkably poor plan, especially when the residents of Livermore have listed the need for more public parking as a major priority.

Tell the People the Truth

Charlene Stark, Livermore

How can we trust Eric Swalwell?

He sent out an email story about Jan. 6, which was an amazing lie for anyone who reads, watches all channels and has a brain that can figure out he tells many untruths to the people of Livermore.

Jan. 6 was not a good day for our country with the people speaking out for what they believed was for liberty,

doing the violent thing was not good and should not be looked at as good. It was disgusting, but the tall tale from Rep. Eric Swalwell takes the cake.

He sent out this email as if we the people never watch TV, read newspapers, research on the internet or just plain listen to what is going on or happening. He doesn't mention in his email the facts that we watched the Capitol police usher people into the Capitol as if they were there to visit it. He doesn't mention the fact we saw police yelling and telling people to go into the Capitol. He doesn't mention the fact a woman was killed by a Capitol policeman when she appeared to be walking without a gun. He also doesn't mention the FBI did not call it an insurrection, but a riot.

He continues to tell lie after lie. First, he went on about the Russian hoax against President Trump, and come to find out, it was the Hillary Clinton campaign that funded it. He was part of impeaching a president for nothing!

Wake up, Livermore, and see Eric Swalwell for what he is. He is a disgusting politician who makes my skin crawl with all of his lies and his China connection, which the paper avoided printing. We the people want to read the truth not some fictional lie made up by him.

Say No to City Loans for Developers

Mark Sobrepena, Livermore

Remember the inflationary 1980s and the incredible rising cost of material and resources. The prices we see now at the supermarket are just the beginning. Not only is this parking garage a bad plan, but a waste of taxpayer money when Livermore needs to keep the general fund fully stocked for this oncoming inflation cost. What about affordable housing, taking care of our community, and infrastructure repairs? This cost will certainly increase soon. We cannot expect continuous federal bailouts like the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) of \$4.97M into our funds.

We need to stop this "loan expenditure", which leaves the city at risk holding the bag on a loan that may not recoup the principal due to cost overruns. There are many reasons to stop this building - born from closed-door meetings - but another reason is the financial risk to Livermore and its services. As voters we need to tell the city council to have financial foresight and not just give away our future into bad debt.

Honoring Two Anniversaries

Mary Perner, Livermore

On January 17th, I will commemorate the life and legacy of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. On January 22nd, I will celebrate the first anniversary of the entry into force of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

These two events are

more intertwined than they may appear on the surface.

King spoke often against nuclear weapons, calling them the most colossal of all evils. "The alternative to disarmament," he said, "may well be a civilization plunged into the abyss of annihilation." And, Dr. King's prescription for humanity was clear: "The development and use of nuclear weapons should be banned."

The ban is here. It is now part of international law. Dr. King would be pleased. Unfortunately, the United States has yet to sign the treaty, but it should. U.S. leadership could deliver the world from the threat of the abyss of which King spoke.

This is why I will go to the Livermore Lab on Friday, January 21. With colleagues I will hold banners celebrating the treaty's enactment, calling on the U.S. to join, and quoting our country's most eloquent proponent of peace and justice, Dr. King.

This coming week I, and millions like me, will pause to reflect on King's words, and we will act in communities across our country and around the world to bring to fruition our common aspiration for the abolition of nuclear weapons and war. I invite you to join me at Livermore Lab's, one of two US laboratories that design nuclear weapons. Information on our local action can be found at www.trivalley-cares.org.

Who Is Buying Elections?

John Marchand, Livermore

Jim Hutchins' December 30 letter suggests impropriety and secrecy over a contribution to a mayoral campaign. He and Deborah McQueen, on their website and in their letters to The Independent, continue to whine about David Eichler's contribution of \$467 to my mayoral campaign in 2018. Hutchins now refers to it as a "substantial donation". That contribution was acknowledged years ago, and it was included in my legally required State and City filings. Mr. Eichler made that contribution as a private citizen and not as an agent of Legacy Partners. There was no pre-arranged agreement.

Hutchins and McQueen are trying to call into question my integrity over a \$467 campaign donation. I can assure everyone in this community, for whom I served for over three decades, that my integrity is intact. My campaign raised over \$35,000 from numerous members of our community, which means that Mr. Eichler's contribution was less than 2% of the total funds raised.

I question the hypocrisy of Hutchins and McQueen who are silent about the contributions to the "No on P" campaign from four members of the Seppala family, four out-of-town multi-millionaires whose contributions totaled over \$650,000. That is over 1,300 times the amount of Mr. Eichler's contribution.

(See MAILBOX, page 5)

THE Independent

INLAND VALLEY PUBLISHING CO.
PUBLISHER: Joan Kinney Seppala
EDITOR: Aly Brown

ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER: David T. Lowell (In Memoriam)
EDITOR: Janet Armatrout (In Memoriam)

THE INDEPENDENT (USPS 300) is published every Thursday by Inland Valley Publishing Company, 2250 First St., Livermore, CA 94550; (925)243-8000. Mailed at Periodical Postage Prices at the Livermore Post Office and additional entry office: Pleasanton, CA 94566-9998. THE INDEPENDENT is mailed upon request. For more information or to sign up visit www.independentnews.com. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Independent, 2250 First St., Livermore, CA 94550.

Advertising and subscription rates may be obtained by calling (925)243-8000 during regular business hours or by emailing info@independentnews.com. Editorial information may be submitted by emailing editor@independentnews.com.

www.independentnews.com

MAILBOX

(Continued from page 4)

The real question is, “What political purpose is served by a handful of out-of-town multi-millionaires trying to buy Livermore elections?” Public documents on file with the City Clerk reveal that the Vice Chair of the Board of Directors of the Intermatic Corporation, who lives in New Hampshire, contributed over \$100,000 to an effort to mislead Livermore voters. The truth is Measure P was only about Livermore voters supporting a hotel next to the Bankhead Theater and they overwhelmingly approved it by a 2:1 margin.

The real question of impropriety is, “Why are out-of-town millionaires funding the deception of Livermore voters and trying to buy Livermore elections?”

Rethink Your Options
Rich Buckley, Livermore

Instead of loaning \$1.9 million to the hotel developer to buy and build on the old Livermore Pool and Spa Site (Bordoni-Site), it seems a better use to go with robotic parking (at least in part of the structure) to be built on the old Kentucky Fried Chicken (KFC-Site) site already owned by the City of Livermore.

The community has been waiting for the 500-car proposed parking on the KFC-Site for many years.

Engineering planning conducted on the KFC-Site, indicates that a 650-parking space robotic parking structure could be built for around \$20.1 million, nearly \$14.4 million less than the 500 space long awaited KFC-Site parking structure. Part of the KFC-Site parking structure could be dedicated to valet parking. Surprisingly, when I drive from the proposed hotel site across South Livermore Avenue along Veterans Way to the 500-car KFC-Site area, I save on average three-minutes per trip over maneuvering down Railroad Avenue, where the city is proposing to lend money to build valet parking and use up a valuable street fac-

ing lot.

Every 100 valet parked cars is 200 valet trips, or 10 hours wasted. These are use-delays paid by the hotel guests. Additionally, the valet parking the city is proposing on the Bordoni-Site (at the NW corner of the intersection of Railroad Avenue and K Street) falls 49 parking stalls short of stalls city studies show are required for the 135-room hotel!

Design layouts for 650-robotic-parking-space garage (with plenty of parking for the 135-room hotel) can be done more compactly yielding nearly a full story of reduced height for all street facing sides including Veterans Way, over the currently proposed 48-foot-high proposed KFC-Site 500-car parking. Your proposed garage is not the best we can do.

Rethink your options please.

Special-Interest Groups Remain a Problem
Alan Marling, Livermore

I wish to thank Joan Seppala and all others who stopped development in Livermore in the last century.

In hindsight, it’s obvious now the last thing we need is more townhouses sprawling over our valley’s open space. I mention Joan Seppala, specifically, because I remember the editorial in The Independent, the newspaper she owns, congratulating her for opposing the development. No one was in favor of it except those the developers convinced using ads from their special-interest groups.

Thanks to her work and others’, now in the 21st century, we have the space to develop what is truly needed: affordable housing, solar farms, and a hotel to help struggling vineyards. This week, the city council held a vote on a garage critical to the hotel development. The measure passed unanimously because of past city-wide votes in favor of the project, along with the support

of vineyard owners, their workers, and the Livermore Chamber of Commerce.

Everyone was in favor of the development except those convinced by ads from special-interest groups.

Special-interest groups opposing the public good remain a problem in Livermore, from the last century to this one. The only difference is that now they’re all funded by Joan Seppala.

Our Road to Proto-Fascism
Greg Scott, Livermore

The events at the U.S. Capitol Building on January 6, 2021, 'Insurrection Day', cannot be rationally justified or condoned. Certainly, Donald Trump bears some responsibility, along with some politicians and members of the Republican Party. There is no evidence the presidential election was stolen or corrupted by vote count.

While significant blame lies with Mr. Trump and some Republican politicians, a question should be asked: How did Mr. Trump win the presidency in 2016 and come to power? How did his supporting Republican politicians win elections and maintain their power?

The answer lies in the abandonment and betrayal of the working class, a large portion of the middle class and of the poor. Saying the Democrats do more for these classes is, and has been, tepid consolation. An alternative was sought, and the Republican Party was the vote, even though Republican politicians' actions may likely be against the self-interests of their supporters.

Therein lies the basis for Insurrection Day. Nothing can justify the actions of that day, however, the majority of the foundation for the day was laid in Democratic President Obama's administration through a backing of \$650 billion for bankers responsible for the Great Financial Crisis. This further accelerated the wealth and income divide, and the

working class, middle class and poor could not possibly keep up.

To add insult to injury, the Federal Reserve Bank Corporation - the "Fed" - started a program of "quantitative easing" in November of 2010 that expanded the money supply by \$1.2 trillion, which is a bigger increase than the Fed did in its previous 97-year history. This is a program of buying bonds and stocks and creating a "demand pull" in a monetary environment of low interest rates that had hit the "zero bound" - a zero percent rate. The Fed continued growing quantitative easing and it greatly benefited those with huge assets and the ability to borrow large sums of money.

This is how we arrived at the great exasperation that is in our country. Democrats pivoted to support the so-called "Smart America" (Packard, "How America Fractured Into Four Parts", 2021) with their wealthy-donors dominating from parts of California, Northeast New Jersey, New York City Area and in Connecticut. To heck with "flyover" America, the rural plight and the lower classes.

This has made for a dangerous groundwork for Insurrection Day and a victorious authoritarian Republican rule.

Robotic Parking is Better
William Zagotta, Livermore

The Livermore City Council seems tone deaf on the need for additional parking in the next version of the Downtown Plan. In addition to the 500 or so parking spots that are being replaced, spots will be needed because people in the affordable housing will need more parking than the PLAN provides (John Stein). and probably may park in (what-ever) public parking spots the PLAN provides. Ditto for the inadequate HOTEL parking in the PLAN.

The council should therefore consider a Citizen suggested parking facility; the Robotic Parking facility that is better than the PLANNED GARAGE next to L Street. The robotic garage apparently has a much less massive footprint, the street side height is lower, robotic garage permits more spots even in the smaller footprint, and can't be as ugly as the five-level parking

garage in the PLAN... go look at the parking garage in Walnut Creek.

These claims for the Robotic Parking Facility are unverified by me, but certainly should be checked with existing operators of robotic garages and the company that builds them.

Isn't it Alanis Morissette...?

Daryl R Carlson, Livermore

Ironic, don't ya think? Indeed, the "Park Before People" group spent the holiday season begging for funds for their petulant lawsuit against the City of Livermore, concerning trifles like the non-conforming configuration of the windows at the Eden Housing site, funds more appropriate for the needy.

Their most recent weekly ad admonishes that same city government for "wasting" taxpayer funds to loan the hotel developer money necessary to assure valet parking, thus alleviating one of this park group's own complaints about the hotel.

So, who is really wasting tax dollars here — the upper crusts who claim to be in

(See MAILBOX, page 6)



REVERSE MORTGAGE

WANDA THOMPSON

CA DRE# 00983781 | NMLS#244633

Why should one consider a reverse mortgage? As the age of retirement approaches, many start to look toward their savings, social security, and investments for financial support. However, there's another important, smart and safe retirement asset that homeowners have access to: home equity. By utilizing a reverse mortgage one could use their home equity to help maintain a more comfortable standard of living. These type of loans provide excellent flexibility and can help payoff an existing mortgage. This will then provide a lower monthly payment going forward! Along with other guidelines that must be considered, to be eligible for a reverse mortgage one must be at least sixty-two years of age. Give us a call today and together we will review the financing tools that are available to you.



411 So L St, Suite E, Livermore, CA
925.858.9128



Paid Political Advertisement



The proposed L St. Garage, view from south L Street (Source: City of Livermore)

The \$34.5 Million Mistake

The City Council's outdated parking plan will cost more money for less parking spots, and put a 48' garage in the middle of our charming downtown.

A Bigger Garage The City's outdated parking plan includes the massive L Street Garage – a 5-level, 48-foot high monstrosity. It not only will create a visual mass in our charming downtown that will overwhelm those at street level, but it also means less spots and a greater cost than better alternatives.

But Less Parking The city's L Street garage would have 500 spots and cost \$34.5 million for its construction. But it ignores the latest advances in parking that could provide a 650-stall robotic garage for just \$20.1 million, saving the City \$14.4 million. The robotic garage could supply more parking for residents and the hotel. It would also be smaller – reaching only 36' high as seen from the street, instead of 48'.

At a Higher Cost The City recently authorized a poll to evaluate whether city residents would be willing to increase sales tax and add a new parcel tax. Maybe instead of raising taxes, the City Council should start saving tax dollars – starting with the \$14 million that would be saved with a modern parking plan.



It's not too late to save Livermore's downtown

Paid for by Save Livermore Downtown

MAILBOX

(Continued from page 5)

favor of affordable housing as long it does not obscure their view, who are dragging the city through a feeless doomed lawsuit? Shall we put those in need of assistance closer to the tracks where they belong to satisfy the haves?

Remember, these self-same people wanted to build a luxury hotel on land purchased with a grant intended for the construction of assisted housing. That smacks of social-class snobbery and indifference, and the voters of Livermore responded appropriately.

Our Infrastructure Needs Funding First
Carol Silva, Livermore

On January 10, 2021, the Livermore City Council's meeting had an agenda item for the Council to consider loaning a for-profit, Limited Liability Company, 2205 Railroad Avenue LLC, which is associated with the Presidio Companies LLC developer of the downtown hotel, \$1.9 Million to develop a parking facility at 2080 Railroad Avenue.

Facts to the best of my knowledge are as follows:

1. The developer was to provide parking for its hotel guests under the structure of the hotel.

2. Recently, but prior to the January 10th City Council meeting, the Council held meetings behind closed doors with Presidio Companies LLC.

3. With the Council's January 10th approval to an Amended and Restated Disposition, Development and Loan Agreement, it effectively permits Presidio Companies LLC to provide surface parking instead of the more expensive construction costs of an underground parking garage, and it makes it easier for the Council to state that there is insufficient space on the north side of Railroad Avenue to have Eden Housing moved to that area.

4. The construction of the downtown hotel is supposed to occur during 2024-2025. Therefore, the construction of any type of parking facility for hotel guests would not occur before this period. Of course, Presidio Companies LLC would not want nearly \$2M of its money invested in property that is sitting unproductive for a couple of years. Therefore, they would want the city's money used.

The city's loan to Presidio makes it a win-win situation for the City Council and for all the Presidio LLCs associated with the project. However, it will impact the residents and visitors of Livermore by creating more of a congestion bottleneck on downtown city streets with hotel employees driving cars to and from the parking structure and by constantly walking on not just one crosswalk, but two crosswalks, to go between the hotel and the parking structure.

How many LLC's are able to obtain a \$1.9 Million loan from the City's General Fund, which is funded by us taxpayers? Another parking garage is a waste of taxpayers' money. A recent report to the city reflected the many needs of our infrastructure. Shouldn't taxpayer money be spent on infrastructure instead of loans to a LLC to build a surface parking lot, which would be a dis-

appointing use of a prime location?

Our Noble Livermore City Council
Richard Andrews, Livermore

I don't think I can recall a greater display of questionable decisions, hidden moves, and lack of respect for the electorate since Warren G. Harding was POTUS.

It was 1920, and we were flush from war, & devastated by a virus. And the Democratic candidate was a fop. So, America got a shady fast-talking huckster who had friends with money and ambition. And wanted more. Harding rolled over to them and the corruption, as well as his constant need for money, women, and booze was like none we ever saw before. "Money Talks" was the byword until his demise. Fortunately, for America he had a stroke and was even more useless. So, the dogs found his "bones" in TeaPot Dome and brought the house of cards down. The Eden Project and the Jokerster's Hotel, seem to the Money dreams of Our City Council, and AGAIN, Money Talks... as the saying goes. Look at what we citizens have told them on many occasions we want, and what they corrupted it to, "The Eden project." What a name. I think The Almighty should sue them for usurpation of the name, and defamation of character, as well as the manner in which it was done.

Ah, Now the hotel (which was questionable from the beginning). All of a sudden, it needs parking. Gee Whiz!! A hotel needs parking! Who would have thought that? Obviously not our Mayor, and City Council and their learned advisers. And who do they want to loan the developer the money to build it? Us! What a surprise. And how was the land obtained? Take a wild guess. Don't ask. Going back to "Eden". If you look at the whole project, you'll see questionable moves by our "elected council" that seem to continually favor the contractor. Is anyone really surprised? I sure as heck am not. Who is watching the Watch Dogs? Is the question I'd like to see answers to.

So my friends and voting citizens of Livermore: Do not expect anything but another handout to the Money People, and not us. Money talks, not the constituency, with this crowd. The elections are coming, and I hope it is not too late for Livermore citizens.

Why?
Jan Brovont, Livermore

Why won't City Council explain what is really driving them so hard on the downtown build out?

It is unlikely crowded streets, little or no parking and large crowded 4-story buildings looming in the heart of what is supposed to be a charming downtown, is going to be pleasing to anyone, including wine country tourists.

Besides the Legacy's 4-story buildings, which are in the process of being built; there will be at least 3 other 4 story buildings across L St. Two large housing unit buildings, and a parking garage behind the gas station on First & L leaving little open space. The parking garage and the addition to the

garage on Railroad Ave. will not be large enough to handle all the cars downtown. Let's look at why. There will be visitors and overflow parking from Legacy, and certainly the 14,000 sq ft of retail which is supposed to go on the ground floor of the Legacy building, which will not only require a lot of parking spaces, but will add to the traffic congestion. The Eden housing units that the council wants to build are only providing 1 space per unit, yes one parking space each, for the hundred + units. Where will their second cars be parked? Or their visitors park?

Why not build Eden housing on another location, and let the city residents and our wine country tourists enjoy a charming, large downtown park, with trees, grass, play area for children, fountains, benches and walking paths? This could be enjoyed by residents, visitors and tourists.

Remember, besides the parking garage and large 4-story Eden housing buildings, there will also be, a Science Center; and Black Box Theater of approximately 15,000 sq ft, which will all take up even MORE open space — leaving the remaining amount of open space very small.

Why not have the large beautiful friendly park adjacent to Stockmen's Park, enhancing the Science Center and Black Box theater and have housing elsewhere?

No Vision for Downtown
Victoria Stewart Long, Livermore

While the General Plan Update Committee has toiled over vision statements and guiding principles, one wonders what vision is guiding our beloved downtown as developers have been allowed to change plans for their properties in the downtown development project.

The "Approved Plan" promoted to voters during the Measure P campaign was received by residents because it was "vetted, studies done, financing organized, 'shovel ready' etc.," -- so we were told.

First, the Hotel developer seemingly disappeared, - and there was no certainty that they were still going to build the hotel. At the same time, other projects around town progressed as planned - with the pandemic in full swing. Now, the hotel developer is back, but needs to borrow \$1.9 million for an off-site parking garage for its guests.

In the meantime, the housing developer changed the essential nature of the housing. Slated to be moderate-income workforce housing, it became low, very low, and extremely low/homeless income housing. The size of the units was also changed and although they knew that for months (before the Measure P vote), the City Council was surprised when the size of the buildings increased. And did you know that our community character is "Santa Barbara" style? If you aren't familiar with it, just look in communities all over the state that are building the same cookie-cutter style. . Dublin is a nearby example. Is there really a plan or vision?

The downtown project feels ad hoc. The Hotel is left over from the Lennar Development in 2016; the Apartment Complex takes

up half of the space on the west side; the Stockmen were given control over a section, and somehow things are being named "Veteran's (fill in park, street, etc)."

When people ask a question about the project, they are assured by supporters that whatever it is they are wondering about – we residents voted for it. The truth is that we have voted on one thing – the hotel contract – but now it's changing too.

Prioritize Shelter
Jeff Kaskey, Livermore

I understand that a local person, whose only shelter was his car, recently had that car impounded by Livermore Police, leaving him without shelter and with a large bill to reclaim the car.

I understand also that at the very least, he was driving without a license, so there is no question that LPD had every right to do what they did.

Police stops, and police actions are discretionary. When making a contact, and when deciding whether to ticket, or impound, or issue a fix-it, or refer for other services, the officer acts on a combination of his/her judgment and management directives, which includes directives from council.

If the police acted on every violation they saw, they would never do anything else. Our officers consider many instances of speeding, rolling stops, and other known unsafe maneuvers to be below the threshold of action, and indeed that is responsible policing.

I suggest that council make it clear to our officers that shelter shall be given a very high priority when considering the possible actions. Now more than ever we are in a crisis of availability for even the most marginal shelter. The public safety impacts of adding someone to the ranks of the homeless, and adding a large debt burden on them, are significant, as is the outsized impact on an individual with limited resources.

Policing is never a one-size-fits all exercise, and I am confident that given a clear statement of Council priorities, our police can keep as many people as possible sheltered. This is not open-season on unlicensed driving, any more than the scores of rolling stops at Livermore stop signs has turned us into a lawless demolition derby. Council has an opportunity to tip the scales in favor of shelter to optimize our public safety and quality of life.

Are You Nuts?
Glenn Stewart, Livermore

Objectives of the Revitalization Strategy in the 2004 Downtown Specific Plan were to "provide a cohesive, comprehensive strategy that addressed each of the Downtown's roles as City Center - as Livermore's most unique shopping district, as its civic meeting place, and as a neighborhood hub for the residential enclaves that surround it.

"... bring the distinctive visual character of Livermore, by drawing from the best of what is already there: Downtown's historic fabric, its yellow-bricked buildings and ornate detailing, and some of the surrounding wine country.

"... reflect the unique qualities of the Livermore community: its social history, its architectural heritage, its agricultural past, the scientific and artistic influences of today, and the individuality of the populations who call it home."

Once strategies are developed, a downtown master plan follows with goals and implementation strategies. Master plans are typically a collaboration with outside consultants and a lead urban development organization. Where's the plan?

It's my opinion, that the previous mayor and city council members and today's city council have zero experience to act on the DSP revitalization strategy, when they decided in 2013 to de-

velop 8.2 dirt acres without a master development plan, without residents' input, and without retaining an urban consultant with vision.

The \$500K 2017 workshops — waste of taxpayer money — only happened because of the public outcry to building 260 high-rise Lennar condos adjacent to Blacksmith Square. Can you imagine what that corner would be like, if the condos were built?

Then a deal was cut with Eden Housing without engaging residents, without urban development consultation, and what a mess we have today.

I predict an east side hotel without underground parking will have a huge impact on traffic congestion in the future. Want to know what Livermore will look like by 2045?

City council is considering a loan of \$1.9M of taxpayer's money for Presidio — hotel developer — to buy the old Livermore Pool building site and build a flat parking lot for hotel valet parking in an area zoned for residential. That's crazy.

City council is contemplating spending \$34M on a 500-car L St garage, when a 625-car robotic garage can be built for \$20M... use 125 extra spaces for hotel parking.

They have zero consideration as to the impact on future parking, traffic congestion, community character... no future vision here.

Do you know that listening builds trust...reduces misunderstandings... eliminates conflict...improves business relationships... improves leadership.

Quid Pro Quo
Terry Miller, Livermore

What is the quid quo pro in politics? "Nobody does something for nothing."

There is always the deal involved. What is the deal? Here's the \$1.9 million and then down the line it will

(See MAILBOX, page 7)



Congratulations Dublin and Pleasanton!

Together with the cities of Albany and Hayward, you're making the transition to 100% renewable solar and wind energy in January 2022

READ ABOUT THE TRANSITION AT EBCE.ORG/DUBLIN AND AT EBCE.ORG/PLEASANTON



HOPE HOSPICE

Supporting East Bay Families Since 1980

Hospice Care | Grief Support | Dementia Education
Senior-Care Classes | Caregiver Resources
Volunteering Opportunities

HopeHospice.com | (925) 829-8770

Caffeine for a Cause Campaign Extended Through Jan. 17

Visit Tri-Valley's challenge to Tri-Valley residents and visitors to take part in the "Caffeine for a Cause" campaign has been extended through Jan. 17.

By visiting any participating locations along the Tri-Valley Caffeine Trail — including coffee shops, tea houses, and bubble tea cafes — patrons will help raise funds for local nonprofit Culinary Angels, which provides healthy meals to people going through serious illnesses. For each person who completes the “Caffeine for a Cause” challenge, Visit Tri-Valley will donate \$20 to Culinary Angels.

Participants will earn a limited-edition mug along the way. To participate, individuals must visit the Tri-Valley Caffeine trail and submit photos online via social media by using the hashtag #CaffeineForACause and tag @VisitTri-Valley. Those choosing not to post on social media can submit images directly to the Visit Tri-Valley website at visittrivalley.com to receive their Caffeine Trail mug. Additionally, submitting images via social media automatically enters users into a weekly drawing for a \$10 gift card to any participating Tri-Valley Caffeine

Trail location.

“Visit Tri-Valley is wholly invested in our incredible Tri-Valley community,” said Robin Fahr, Visit Tri-Valley vice president of marketing. “By contributing to individuals in health-crises with wholesome and organic meals, we can support those facing health challenges with the gift of strength.”

Culinary Angels is a 100% volunteer and donation-based nonprofit that provides healthy meals to those affected by a health crisis, namely those battling cancer, and to date has served over 6,500 meals to those in need in the Tri-Valley area. Founded in 2016 by Lisa McNaney, Culinary Angels delivers these meals free of charge to not only recipients, but also to their caregivers, serving to promote health and wellness in a person's time of need.

"We are proud to be a part of this event and feel so fortunate to have such amazing support from everyone on the Tri-Valley Caffeine Trail," said Lisa McNaney, Culinary Angels executive director.

For a full list of participating locations, visit www.visittrivalley.com/caffeine-for-a-cause.

MANAGER

(Continued from first page)

ond extension last summer to apply for development.

The firm operates several jets, including three Boeing 737s, that it plans to fly to Livermore for maintenance. According to Livermore Airport FAQs, however, “KaiserAir will use the Livermore airport for maintenance and reconfiguration purposes of their aircraft only” and will not introduce traditional airline passenger service.

KaiserAir has until July to file the formal application

for the project.

In the tower, after about two months on the job, Griffiths was quick to compliment the professionalism of the tower staff.

"We don't peddle money products; we peddle safety," Griffith said. "And they do a very good job of that here. The controllers here are extremely experienced. This is a very good group of controllers. I'd like (it) to be known that the local flying public is in very good hands."

MAILBOX

(Continued from page 6)

be forgiven; here's the \$1.9 million no interest; or here's the \$1.9 million low interest; or maybe some promise that is entirely different.

What is Presidio's part of the deal behind closed doors? Is it of equal value? But the deal is not always of equal value.

I don't have trust in the City Council. What you have done to our downtown or better yet haven't done for our downtown is a tragedy.

The hole you are digging for us is getting deeper, and I fear the unknown consequences. The known consequences are frightening enough.

Quid pro quo:

What is our benefit from handing \$2 million to a builder for a valet parking for a hotel that is problematic?

A Satisfactory Life

Owen Brovont, Livermore

One important element of a satisfactory life is the quality of one's environment, and several critical elements of quality are consistency and stability. It is obvious that unwanted changes in one's environment can be quite unsettling and if the sense of this unwanted change is disturbing enough and reaches a sufficiently disagreeable level, one is motivated to alter or halt those changes in one way or another. A typical approach is to contact those implementing the change and asking them to desist or alter the situation to a more acceptable approach.

The Eden project in Livermore is a relevant example of this situation. Despite many individual requests by long-term residents not to build multi-story structures in the middle of town that are overlarge and inconsistent with the character of Livermore, whose history is agriculture, viticulture, and cattle, and for over 60 years, has also hosted several national laboratories immediately adjacent to the town's eastern boundary; and despite enormous vocal opposition, the arrogant

“powers that be” have damaged and continue to threaten the character of Livermore by insisting on the construction of huge concrete monstrosities, such as the Legacy project – an enormous abomination violating every historic small-town characteristic Livermore residents want protected and enhanced.

Livermore residents have repeatedly and passionately declared for a lovely green city park in the center of town instead of building another four-story concrete monstrosity for which those same “powers that be” have contracted and which is completely inconsistent with the character of the town and in direct opposition to the many requests of its citizens. There are other locations in Livermore more suited to construction of a mixed residential building of that size or with a larger number of rental units. Our City Council has refused to honestly and thoroughly discuss these possible alternatives. The obvious solution is to turn the recalcitrant, unresponsive mayor and council members out at the next

opportunity and elect a new council that will be more respectful and responsive to the citizens who have elected them. Our recent regional, state, and national mode of political operation clearly has departed from the concept that the government serves the people, not that the citizens are subjects of government dictates! Continually living under the proverbial thumb of political edicts and arbitrary decisions is inconsistent with being a free people, the unique ideal upon which this nation was founded.

Can We Think More Creatively?

Johnna Thompson, Livermore

It seems to me nonsensical to be wringing our hands over the lack of transit-centered affordable housing while at the same time permitting a surface parking lot to be built on a housing-zoned parcel mere blocks from a transit hub, just to accommodate hotel valet parking, yet this is what Livermore is doing. Why not expand the as-yet-unbuilt parking garages for the 100 cars the parking lot would

accommodate? Better yet, a robotic parking garage could accommodate the extra vehicles less expensively and with a lower profile than a conventional garage. Come on, Livermore council, start thinking more creatively.

A R R O Y O
C E L L A R S

Tasting Room Open:
Saturday: 12 - 5pm,
Sunday: 12 - 5pm,
or by appointment

2270 Research Drive,
Livermore
(925) 292-9157

Reed Plumbing Company

Livermore, CA

(925) 371-5671

davidreed@dareedplumbing.com
LIC #601931

TIRED OF NO BURN DAYS?

The BurnGreen logo features a green circular icon with a white flame-like shape inside, followed by the text "BurnGreen" in a green, sans-serif font.

Two photographs of fireplaces. The left photo shows a fireplace insert with a stone surround and a wooden mantel, with the word "MENIOTA" overlaid in a large, serif font. The right photo shows a fireplace insert with a wood surround and a wooden mantel, with a small flame icon overlaid on the word "MENIOTA".

**WE SELL AND INSTALL
FIREPLACE INSERTS*, AND FIREPLACES.**

SAVE UP TO \$400.00 ON SELECT UNITS.

The logo for Jerry's Fireplaces, featuring the name "JERRY'S" in a stylized, bold, black font with a small flame icon above the "Y", and "FIREPLACES" in a bold, red, sans-serif font below it.

FIREPLACES
Locally owned by Livermore resident,
happily servicing the Tri-Valley since 1982

***Gas, Wood and Pellet**

**23585 CONNECTICUT ST # 15, HAYWARD
510.471.5601 www.jerrysfireplaces.com**

CALIFORNIA DERMATOLOGY CARE

Advanced Care with a Personal Touch

NEW LIVERMORE LOCATION
Text/Call 925-328-0255 for APPT

Center of Excellence for
skin cancer, acne and psoriasis

Call to learn
about Sebacia,
FDA approved
laser treatment
for nodulocystic
acne instead of
Accutane.

A place where beauty and healthy skin meet.

We are dedicated to Medical, Cosmetic and Surgical Dermatology. A place for medical skin consultation, aesthetic rejuvenation and face & body contouring. Visit us online for an extensive list of procedures, treatments, product lines, lasers and therapies offered.

www.DrWilliamTing.com Schedule your consultation appointment today!

Dr. William Ting, MD
Board Certified Dermatologist and Mohs Micrographic Surgeon

48 Fenton Street Livermore, CA 94550 2262 Camino Ramon San Ramon, CA 94583
Text/Phone: 925-328-0255 Text/Phone: 925-328-0255
Fax: 925-328-0257 Fax: 925-328-0257

Email: staff@CalDermCare.com | www.DrWilliamTing.com

Medical & Surgical Dermatology For Healthy Skin

Offering treatments for:

- Acne, Eczema, and Rashes
- Cysts and Lipoma
- Hair and Nail Disorder
- Keloid and Scar Revisions
- Moles
- Physician-Strength Skin Care Products
- Precancerous Lesions
- Psoriasis and Vitiligo
- Skin Cancer
- Underarm Sweating
- Warts, Molluscum

Cosmetic Dermatology For Beautiful Skin

Offering treatments for:

- Body Sculpting
- Eyebag Reduction
- Face, Neck, Body Tightening, Lifting, and Rejuvenation
- Frown Lines and Jawline/Jowl Reduction
- Hair Removal
- Pigmentation and Melasma
- Rosacea, Facial Redness, Veins, and Post-injection Bruising
- Sun Damage and Scars
- Tattoo, Moles, Birthmarks, and Scars
- Thinning Hair and/or Balding

Technology & Procedures Offered

- Agnes RF Microneedling
- Cellfina
- Cool Mini for neck
- Coolsculpting*
- Cryoshape
- Diolite 532 laser
- EMSculpt NEW!**
- EMSella NEW!**
- Enlighten Pico Genesis Laser
- Excel V Laser
- Excimer Laser
- Fractional CO2 Laser
- GenesisPlus Laser
- Infini Microneedling RF
- Kybella
- Liposonix*
- Microneedling
- MiraDry
- Mohs Micrographic Surgery
- NBUVB Phototherapy
- PicoSure Laser
- PRP for Hair Loss and Rejuvenation
- Sebacia
- Spectra Laser
- Superficial Radiotherapy
- Thermage FLX™ and CPT
- Ultherapy™
- Vaginal Rejuvenation
- Vaser Shape
- Vbeam Prima and Perfecta Laser NEW!**
- VLase for Feminine Rejuvenation

*Welcoming new Medicare patients

SCHOOLS

(Continued from first page)

Dublin Unified School District (DUSD) welcomed students back on Jan. 10. Spokesperson Chip Dehnert said they are also implementing updated protocols.

“We are adopting new Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendations, approved by the California Department of Public Health that will, in some cases, allow students and staff to return to school sites sooner than they were able to do in the past,” Dehnert said. “The Dublin Unified School District received 13,000 COVID-19 antigen rapid tests from the California Department of Public Health via the Alameda County Office of Education. Those tests were distributed on Jan. 6.”

Dehnert said DUSD believes testing is a critical part of the COVID-19 mitigation strategy. The district offers testing to students, staff and family members in the same

household each week at school sites and the district office. Home tests were also distributed to students prior to the end of break, allowing them to test before returning to campus.

“The district encourages its students and staff to test in advance of returning to school,” Dehnert continued. “While testing is not a requirement, we hope that everyone will take advantage of these services to mitigate the risk of spreading COVID in our community and at our schools.”

The situation in the Pleasanton Unified School District (PUSD) mirrors that of its neighbors, though spokesperson Patrick Gannon said masking policies have been updated to discourage the use of cloth masks.

“Cloth masks are not as effective against the Omicron strain, so we aren’t saying no cloth masks, but we are encouraging families

to use N95 masks,” he said. “The most common issues with cloth masks is that when you breathe, air can still exit out of the top and sides of the masks, because the cloth masks aren’t fitted around your entire face. And we have communicated with families that gators, which are the turtleneck socks you pull over your face, are not allowed, nor are the valved masks.”

PUSD opened its testing facilities to staff and students on Jan. 3 and distributed at-home tests on Jan. 6 and 9.

As the three districts move forward in January, they continue to implement policies that have kept COVID-19 transmissions in schools low. LVJUSD Deputy Superintendent Chris Van Schaack said school officials are aware of the disruption and challenges created by distance learning and will exhaust every possible resource to keep students in



Ahead of students' return to school from winter break, the Dublin Unified School District held COVID-19 testing at the district office, Jan. 7. (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)

school full time.

“Health officials have indicated that they believe the current surge to be short-term, and that the decline in cases will likely be as rapid as the increase,” said Van Schaack. “Additionally,

we are not seeing significant spread in our schools. Our contact tracing still indicates that the vast majority of student and staff COVID cases are from outside our school sites. This tells us that our internal

protocols are working well. With increased diligence in masking, distancing, and symptom awareness, we are confident we will meet this challenge without having to resort to dramatic measures, such as school closures.”

MAPS

(Continued from first page)

at-large voting after Malibu attorney Kevin Shenkman threatened to sue the city. Shenkman alleged in a letter that the at-large electoral system violated the California Voting Rights Act. Shenkman, who has threatened to sue numerous cities throughout California, contends the state’s Voting Rights Act requires cities to switch to district elections when there are underrepresented minorities.

He is engaged in a lengthy court confrontation with the City of Santa Monica, which chose to fight the change. Pleasanton’s attorneys told the council that Santa Monica has spent more than \$22 million so far in the battle.

Instead of spending that money and likely losing, Pleasanton’s leadership and attorneys said they chose to transition to the new system, even though they

would have liked to fight.

“I didn’t like this when we had to vote for this in September,” Councilmember Kathy Narum said. “I haven’t seen anything or learned anything that makes me like it any better than I did then. I just feel like we were kind of being stuck by an attorney to get this done. I feel it’s kind of unfortunate.”

To get the process rolling, demographer Michael Wagaman of Wagaman Strategies, provided the council with an overview of the process, which will include another public hearing on Jan. 18. In the meantime, the council wants residents to submit recommendations and suggested district maps on the city’s website. Wagaman’s firm will use the information, as well as voiced comments during that meeting, to create proposed maps that will

be discussed and updated during meetings on Feb. 3 and Feb. 24.

Wagaman said the council must follow federal and state guidelines in drawing the boundaries. Beyond creating four districts with similar-sized populations of about 20,000, the districts must be contiguous, use main streets and identifiable locations for understandable boundaries, consider races within the population, and identify ‘communities of interest,’ which are areas that will be determined to have similar social and economic interests including language, shopping centers, housing and schools.

Each of the five council members said they preferred representing all residents, not just those in one area. Councilmembers must live in the district he or she represents, so the possibility exists that when the

new lines are drawn, some current members could find themselves squaring off for the same seat.

Councilmember Jack Balch said he had heard from residents who are not pleased with the change. He called it ‘a great honor’ to be elected by residents from throughout the city, but said he understood why some voters prefer voting for an individual representative who lives in their community.

Councilmembers voiced concern that future members might put their district’s concerns over what’s good for the whole city. But that has been Shenkman’s point in the decade since he has been trying to alter voting in the state.

Mayor Karla Brown, who will avoid district elections if she runs for reelection in 2024, called it frustrating for an elected

official to run with a focus only on one district where they obtain votes. She said she expects candidates will continue to campaign all over the city because “you don’t represent one quarter of Pleasanton.”

“We all represent the entire city,” Brown said. “We all need to be experts in the entire city ... So it is challenging, but we are back to the wall (and) don’t have a lot of choices ... We’re not going to be frivolous with taxpayer dollars in a very unlikely litigation.”

Balch said councilmembers should still treat the city as one.

“I challenge our future elected district representatives to think of the city’s heart as a whole,” Balch said.

For more on redistricting and to take part, visit bit.ly/3zsd47M.

In other action, the city

council altered part of its parklet plan to replace makeshift outdoor eating areas created on downtown sidewalks and parking areas during the COVID-19 pandemic. Approved in December, the plan will continue to allow pre-approved new parklets to go up March 1. A city designed kit will become available for April 1.

Although Testa expressed concern that restaurants were required to remove the so-called pop-ups by Jan. 7, just as COVID-19 began another surge, her fellow colleagues agreed that the city needed to clean the streets and that more aesthetic parklets should be constructed.

In the latest vote, the council agreed to make outdoor eating — available in areas formerly set for street parking — 8-foot-wide, not 7.5 as in their previous vote.

SHERIFF

(Continued from first page)

decree recently agreed to in court. Consent decrees are settlements that resolve disputes between two parties without an admission of guilt or liability.

“I am driven to become the next Sheriff of Alameda County, because I’d like to bring back balanced leadership and trust into that department,” Walker said. “We cannot solve problems if the community does not trust us; if they think that we are not doing our job ... The other reason why I entered the race) is because I would like to take care of some of the problems that exist in Santa Rita Jail. Every time I walk the streets here in Alameda County, that is the first thing that people want to know about — ‘how are you going to change things?’ — because they just can’t stand it any longer.”

Sanchez, a Livermore resident and highest ranking Latina in the Sheriff’s Office, was placed in charge of the Santa Rita Jail in April 2020, following years of the facility ranking near the top in deaths across the country. Getting that promotion, she said, proved to be the most challenging of her career, coming as the COVID-19 pandemic began.

Sanchez called that a

“blessing in disguise,” because she developed relationships with medical providers and behavioral and public health officials to create protocols to prevent the virus from sweeping through the inmate population. Those relationships, she said, would continue if she becomes sheriff after running the facility with a \$270 million budget and 600 employees.

“I know that Santa Rita has had a lot of issues in recent years, and I’m committed to reshaping how we provide services in our facility,” Sanchez said. “If you are looking for someone who has the passion and the drive to reform this agency, that person is me.”

Sanchez was not asked what specific policies she instituted in the jail to prevent deaths and coronavirus spread, but touted her experience running the facility as experience for becoming sheriff.

In running the jail as the pandemic escalated, Sanchez said she invited input from advocates for inmates and made sure every prisoner had a mask, sanitation wipes and cleaning supplies. Inmates, she reported, are placed in 14-day quarantine when they enter the jail, are

tested within 48 hours and tested again on their 10th day in custody. Vaccines are offered immediately.

Sanchez said she recently required staff to wear N95 and surgical masks throughout the facility to combat the Omicron variant.

“There’s no longer allowed a cloth mask, so I will continue to ask our law enforcement agencies to avoid bringing in arrestees and to cite them in the field,” she said.

Ahern said that since 2019, he instituted changes to decrease the number of hours inmates are kept isolated in cells and to institute drug treatment and mental health programs for those behind bars.

“We’ve made great strides in reducing the number of deaths,” Ahern said. “A lot of those deaths are due to overdoses. So we brought in canines to help us with narcotics detection, (and we were) one of the first agencies in the state of California to bring Narcan into a jail setting where our deputies can apply that quickly to save lives.”

Walker countered that 2021 was the first year that Ahern cooperated with justice officials to try to lower suicide rates.

“Why did it take so long?” Walker asked. “Why did it take so many people dying? So many families are suffering because they didn’t find out what really happened to their loved one?”

On issues, the sheriff and candidates agreed that mentally ill people should be steered from jail to treatment programs, vowed to remove so-called “Ghost guns” from the street, and said racism has no place in law enforcement.

On transparency, Ahern noted, “We work really hard to make sure the public understands what we are doing.” He said strategic plans are available for the public to read, public records can be requested, and the department’s policies are posted on its web site.

“We believe in transparency,” Ahern said. “We meet with the various groups in our community. I’ve answered questions to the religious community, to the faith-based community, to the immigration community, to the ACLU, to the NAACP. We meet with those groups on a regular basis and provide information to each and every one of the questions that they present to us.”

Walker and Sanchez,

however, said that wasn’t good enough. Walker said families of people who died while in custody were not getting information or assistance from the sheriff.

“If you can talk to the faith-based community, the ACLU, the NAACP, if you can talk to all of those members of the community who are not related to people who have died while in the Santa Rita jail, then why can’t you talk to the family members?” Walker said. “Isn’t that part of transparency, and it is important to us as law enforcement professionals. Why hasn’t that happened?”

Sanchez agreed, saying, “We need to do better with how we provide information to the public,” as well as provide services for family members of those who died in jail.

“They have lost a loved one, and I think we lose sight of that,” Sanchez said. “That needs to be improved upon because we have human beings that we are caring for and we need to treat their family with respect.”

Sanchez added that there should be more transparency in the sheriff’s budget and how money is spent.

Asked about a coming civilian oversight committee to watch over the Sher-

iff’s Office, Ahern said he welcomed any review to improve the agency. Sanchez and Walker each said they also invited community oversight and wanted to work with the public to make changes.

Walker, saying sometimes it helps to have people come in and suggest improvements to outdated policies, said there is a “a public perception that the Alameda County Sheriff’s Department is corrupt.”

“Sometimes it may, for that person or that family, ring true for them because of the way they were treated,” Walker said. “If we don’t develop our partnership with people in the community so they can understand through education what we do and why we do it, we’re not being as successful as we can be.”

Ahern interrupted briefly to say he took exception to the comment, but the moderator didn’t give him an opportunity to fully respond.

About 280 people viewed the forum live. To watch the video, visit <https://fb.watch/asO7nc20KF>. Voters go to the polls in June. Unless one wins more than 50%, the top two finishers will battle on the November ballot.

ZONE 7

(Continued from first page)

I have to point out that doesn’t mean that we are bulletproof. We are very vigilant about emerging threats from different sources. Sustainably managing the basin doesn’t mean that we can put it on autopilot. We still have to be vigilant to manage the water quality, to manage the basin to be what it is today.”

Groundwater provides up to 40% of the state’s water supply in wet years. In dry years, it increases to 60% of the total water supply. According to the DWR, approximately 33 million residents rely on groundwater for at least a

portion of their drinking water supply, and nearly six million people completely depend on groundwater for the entirety of their drinking water supply.

Zone 7 operates as a water wholesaler. It provides water for approximately 250,000 Tri-Valley residents through its sale to four agencies: the City of Livermore, the City of Pleasanton, California Water Service and the Dublin-San Ramon Services District.

The majority of Zone 7’s water comes from the State Water Project (SWP). However, last month, DWR announced that due to an

expected continuation of drought conditions into 2022, SWP contractors like Zone 7 will only receive enough water to meet basic health and safety needs in the upcoming months. It’s still too early to tell if the precipitation experienced in December will be sufficient to allow a greater water allocation from DWR. Drought conditions like those the state is currently experiencing draw the importance of groundwater management into sharp relief.

Through SGMA, each groundwater basin was assigned a high-, medium-, low- or very low-priority

rating, and that priority set the schedule for the delivery of management plans, also known as groundwater sustainability plans (GSP).

“They’re ranked based upon how important groundwater is to those areas,” Gosselin said. “Groundwater is very important to Zone 7 and other medium- and high-priority basins.”

GSPs for the most seriously overdrafted basins had to be provided to DWR by Jan. 31, 2020. GSPs for the remaining high- and medium-priority basins are due by Jan. 31, 2022.

DWR has two years to review the GSPs and iden-

tify any deficiencies, though each agency is expected to begin executing its plan as soon as it is submitted to DWR. Annual updates regarding progress against the plan are also required, and plan updates are due every five years.

Last November, DWR released comments on GSPs that were submitted in January 2020 for the management of some severely overdrafted basins. While several were approved, DWR was critical of four plans for Central Valley basins. In a press release issued at the time, DWR said that “their plans lack specific details

and will need to address deficiencies to be approved.”

Minn said that Zone 7 took the opportunity to review its own work in light of DWR’s comments.

“We were able to learn from those reviews and make sure that our plan is as good as it can get,” he said. “They are signaling that they are taking their job very seriously, and they are reviewing plans very critically.”

For more information on SGMA, visit Zone 7 at https://bit.ly/Zone7_SGMA, or the Department of Water Resources at https://bit.ly/DWR_SGMA.

OBITUARIES

Joan Marie Kavanagh Zehnder
July 27, 1936 – Aug. 20, 2021

Joan Marie Kavanagh Zehnder of Boise, Idaho, formerly of Pleasanton.

On Aug. 20, 2021, we lost an amazing wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, sister, and friend.



Joan (Joanie to all of us) passed away in Boise after a long period of ongoing health problems. She had health issues since she was very young and never complained.

She was born in Oakland, California, on July 27, 1936, to Lauretta and Jack Kavanagh, Sr. She was the eldest of three children, followed by Jack Jr., and Jim. She was an outstanding lady whose first priority was her family and friends and doing the best job she could in those endeavors.

Joan attended Sacred Heart in Oakland, and All Saints in Hayward, and she graduated from San Lorenzo High in San Lorenzo. She graduated from UC Berkeley with a BA in Japanese History and attended Seattle University to get her teaching license. She met her future husband, John while in Seattle, where they settled.

When her parents decided to step away from the family business, Kavanagh Liquors, she was offered the opportunity for her and her husband to join brothers Jack Jr. and Jim in continuing the family business. She and her husband moved to California, where they raised six children.

After her children were raised, she became a more involved and important member of the success of Kavanagh Liquors and its expansion.

Joan became very involved in the Pleasanton community.

She was president of the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce in the late 1990s, active in Pleasanton's Blairgowrie Sister City Committee, Rotary member for many years and served as president in the 1990s. She served for several years on the Social Justice Committee at St. Augustine's Catholic Church, which disbursed funds to worthy charities and special projects both nationally and internationally.

Joan was a very strong proponent of education and its importance to her children's upbringing. She was active in American Association of University Women (AAUW), where she served as branch president of the Tri-Valley branch. She went on to serve on the state and national level. She was the local Arrangements Chair for the conference of IFUW (International Federation of University Women) held at Stanford University.

While with AAUW, Joan was instrumental in setting up Tech Trek, a program encouraging middle-school girls to pursue their interests in the sciences. She also was involved in Open Heart Kitchen. Joan was an avid reader and belonged to several book clubs

throughout the years. She always had a book recommendation on the tip of her tongue and loved discussing them.

Upon her and her husband's retirement, they moved to Lincoln, California, for a while. Their son Joe convinced them to move to Boise to be closer to many of her family who had settled there.

Joan loved to travel and cruised most of the world. She enjoyed the live theater and visiting museums wherever and whenever she could. She was a devoted friend and annually gathered with her bridesmaids. She also travelled annually with a group of special local friends: Betty, Ginny, Joan L., and Patty.

Joanie was a sweet, fun loving, amazing woman who always was interested in what you were doing, asking thoughtful questions and listening with genuine interest to what you had to say. For those who had the pleasure of spending time with Joan, they always received a warm smile and a feeling of caring. She will be greatly missed.

Preceding her in death were her daughters Joanne Flores and Debra Parker; son-in-law, Steve Parker; mother, Lauretta Castellotti; and father, Jack Kavanagh Sr. Surviving her are husband John; brothers, Jack (Julie) and Jim (Barbara); children, John Jr. (Sam), Julie Hill (Bill), Joe (Judy), and Jaime (Ellie); son-in-law, Julio Flores; 13 grandchildren and two great children; and many nieces and nephews. A memorial service will be held later this year.

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Phillip H. Butterfield
Feb. 1, 1937 – Dec. 24, 2021

Phillip H. Butterfield was born in Manteca California, the second of five children. He spent the first 35 years of his life in Livermore and graduated from LHS in 1955, going on to serve in the US Army. Phil and his wife of 62 years, Joanne (Moomau) Butterfield, who also graduated from LHS in 1959, moved to the Auburn area, where they began a successful home building business.

Phil is survived by his wife, Joanne, his daughter, Pamela (Jeff Hardesty) and his son, John. He left behind 12 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren. He was a charter member of the Meadow Vista Area Lions Club, a charter member of Foothill Christian Fellowship in Meadow Vista, a charter member of Sierra Grace Fellowship in Auburn and was currently a member of Centerpoint Church in Roseville, California.

A Celebration of Life is being planned for the spring at the Meadow Vista Park in Meadow Vista.



Darin James Avedissian
July 1, 1993 – Dec. 23, 2021

Darin James Avedissian 28, loving son, brother and father and resident of Livermore, California passed away on Dec. 23, 2021.

Darin was born on July 1, 1993, to Darin S Avedissian and Cari Holsworth in Pleasanton, California. He was their second child. Darin moved to Modesto when he was six years old and graduated from Beyer High School. Darin worked in the construction Industry.

Darin enjoyed spending time with his family and friends. He loved his son with all his heart. He had a passion for working on cars, trucks



and motorcycles. He enjoyed going camping at the lake with his friends, going to the beach and snowboarding. He was caring, thoughtful and

always willing to help anyone in need. Darin had a funny sense of humor along with his positive energy he would always make you laugh. He will be greatly missed and live forever in our hearts.

He is survived by his father Darin S. Avedissian, mother Cari Holsworth, sister Ashley Avedissian and his son Darin Robert Avedissian; stepmother Misty Williams, stepfather Brad Holsworth and his two children Matt Holsworth and Nikki Lopez.

The service will be held at Callaghan Mortuary on February 12, at 11 a.m., 3833 East Ave., Livermore.

Robert Brendan Joseph Grubbs
Sept. 5, 1969 – Dec. 30, 2021

Resident of San Francisco, CA

Resident of San Francisco Robert, age 52, died in the early morning of Dec. 30, after struggling for several years with lung cancer and bone cancer due to melanoma, which had metastasized.

Bob is the second of six sons, born in San Francisco to Mary and David Grubbs. The week of his first birthday, the family moved to Pleasanton, and immediately met and made life-long friends.

Bob attended Alisal Elementary School, and Assumption School in San Leandro, where he was the school editor of the monthly paper. He is a graduate of Moreau Catholic, class of '87. He was active in student government, school theater, and did his utmost to make school fun, tempered with honors classes.

During the summer, he worked at the Alameda County Fair, was a YMCA camp counselor, and assisted his mother as a counselor with her fifth-grade outdoor education week. Bob had a raucous sense of humor and a generous and perceptive heart. His keen sense of observation and judgment allowed him to comment or text his brothers with his joy or frustration, particularly when it centered around the San Francisco



49ers.

Following college at Loyola Marymount in Los Angeles, he took a sabbatical exploring various occupations: park ranger, cultivating garden nurseries, and illustrating medical journals. He settled on culinary school. This led to a position at the Wente Vineyards Restaurant in Livermore. He relished his years there, as did his younger brothers.

Bob encouraged the owners to establish an herb garden which he did. He moved to San Francisco, worked as a chef in several noted restaurants, and was generous with his talents, often volunteering for charitable fund raisers.

He met Diana in San Francisco.

cisco. He was a devoted father to his son Noah, age 14.

The cancer curtailed his health and stamina. Eventually, he resigned himself to the cancer treatments and return to what he loved most – father-son activities, working in the kitchen, and his family.

He is survived by his parents, Mary and David Grubbs; his ex-wife, Diana; his son, Noah; and his brothers, John, Patrick (Andrea), Carl, Daniel (Lisa), and Benjamin (Sok). He was the favorite uncle of Clarissa, Annabelle, John, Grady, Joe, Jack, Andrew, Ava, Nico, Abe, Fitz, Joshua, Anneliese, and Delaney. He will be missed by many aunts, uncles, and cousins.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, Jan. 15, 2022, at 10 a.m. at St. Augustine Church, 3999 Bernal Ave., in Pleasanton. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to U.C.S.F. Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Melanoma Program, 1825 4th St. 3rd floor, San Francisco, CA 94158. Attn: Dr. Tsai; or the college fund for Noah c/o John Grubbs, P.O. Box 5218, Pleasanton, CA 94566, or your favorite charity.

The Grubbs family thanks all for your kindness and expressions of sympathy.

Jack Paul Pons
Jan. 14, 1935 – Jan. 4, 2022



Jack Paul Pons passed away at 6:27 a.m., on Jan. 4, 2022, at the age of 86 years young.

He was born in Berkeley, California, on Jan. 14, 1935. He was an only child and was raised in Pleasanton, California, by his parents, Jack and Madelyn Pons.

Jack graduated from Amador High School in Pleasanton. Thereafter, he joined the Navy on Sept. 30, 1955, and served for four years. It was there he met a life-long friend, Joe LaCorte, who then introduced him to the absolute love of his life, Maclyn Barranti.

They began exchanging letters through the mail, and on June 15, 1958, at St. Christopher's Church in San Jose, California, Jack and Maclyn were married. They were blessed with three children, Gregory Pons, Leslie Spence and Christine Spence; eight grandchildren, Amber Spence, Karianne Spence, Matthew Spence, Billy Spence, Michael Spence, Andrea Jaeger, Nick Pons, and Jack Spence; and six great grandchildren.

Jack worked at Sandia Corporation in Livermore for 38 years, retiring in 1997. Jack also worked for the City of Livermore for a few years, as a crossing

guard for the Livermore Unified School District, and worked at Joan's Pumpkin Patch, which he really enjoyed. He was a devoted parishioner of Saint Michael Catholic Church in Livermore and was a member of The Knights of Columbus. He was also a member of the Garden Club in Pleasanton and belonged to the Livermore Art Association.

Jack was an avid runner. He ran two marathons and well over 30 different races, but his most favorite thing to do, his passion, was most certainly gardening and baking. For this, he won his share of first-place ribbons for his famous chocolate cream pies and prized ferns at the Alameda County Fair on multiple years.

Jack and Maclyn loved traveling with good friends and family. Their travels

included cruises to Europe, Caribbean, Mexico, Alaska, Canada and Hawaii. It should also be noted that he volunteered for several years at Valley Care Hospital and absolutely loved helping people wherever and whenever he could. He was such a very kind, selfless, loving, caring and generous man.

Abraham Lincoln said, "And in the end, it's not the years in your life that count; it's the life in your years."

Jack was a living example of this. He made a real difference in his community and those around him, and I just hope we can all take a page out of his book. We will all love and miss him, now and always.

Visitation for Jack will be at Callaghan Mortuary, 3833 East Ave., in Livermore, California, on Thursday, Jan. 13, 2022, with visitation at 5 p.m., and Rosary at 6:30 p.m. On Friday, Jan. 14, 2022, at Saint Michael Catholic Church, 458 Maple St., in Livermore, California, a Mass of Christian burial will be held at 11 a.m.

Callaghan Mortuary is honored to be serving the Pons family. An online guestbook is available for condolences at callaghan-mortuary.com.

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Rodney Allen Mort, Sr.
March 6, 1952 – Jan. 2, 2022

Rodney Allen Mort Sr. passed away on Jan. 2, 2022, at his home in Tracy from cancer.

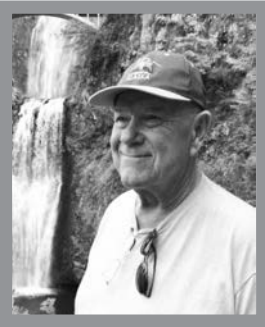
He was preceded in death by his parents, Glenn and Patty Mort. He is survived by his wife of 46 years, Terri Mort; his three sons, Rodney Mort Jr. (Tahnru), Ryan Mort (Chantell) and Robby Mort (Katie); his sisters Glenna Herrera (Richard) and Renee Howerton (Larry); seven grandchildren (Emilee, Cody, Julea, Kaelyn, Ryder, Carlyn and Jeffrey); and seven nieces and nephews.

Rod was born in Hettinger, North Dakota and his family moved to Livermore in 1954. He graduated from Granada High School in 1970, going on to Chabot College, Delta College and Chico State University. His final years were spent living at the San Joaquin River Club in Tracy, a place which he loved dearly.

Rod followed in his father's footsteps becoming a meat cutter for 30 years and part owner at the Tracy Quick Freeze Meat Market. He was a family man and always the life of the party, bringing laughter to all. He knew no strangers, just friends he hadn't met yet. Rod was known for his sense of humor and tender heart. His hobbies included fishing, playing blues music on his harmonica, barbecuing, basketball, gardening, astronomy, creating and painting. He had a huge heart with a small streak of orneriness.

Join us to "Celebrate a Legend" at the San Joaquin River Club Clubhouse, 30000 Kasson Rd., Tracy, California, on Saturday, Jan. 22, 2022, at 11 a.m. Tribute will follow at noon with food and celebration from 2 to 4 p.m.

Guests are encouraged to wear blue, Rod's favorite color. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the Stanford Medicine Cancer Discovery Fund (<https://give.stanford.edu>)



Audrey Aune
July 4, 1932 – Jan. 4 2022

In loving memory of our father and mother, Gordon and Audrey Aune.

Audrey and Gordon were both born in Portland, Oregon. They both attended college in Oregon, where they met.

Gordon Aune was born on Dec. 24, 1933, and passed on Nov. 2, 2021. He preceded his wife of 67 years. Audrey Aune was born on July 4, 1932, and passed Jan. 4, 2022.

They started their adventure with Gordon in the Air Force. Their time in the Air Force took them to Arizona, Texas, Florida and Alaska. During one of Gordon's flights, he got lost in Russian airspace, but luckily, made it back to Alaska with barely enough fuel. In the meantime, Audrey worked as a school teacher. They then settled back in Oregon. They were then



blessed with the opportunity to adopt twin daughters, Jeanne and Joanne. Three years later, Audrey gave birth to a son, Mark. Gordon's job took them to Tustin, California, where they stayed for four years.

Gordon's job then took them to Pleasanton, where they lived out the remainder of their life, in the same

home for 50 years. They are survived by their three children; a daughter-in-law; seven grandchildren and eight great grandchildren; Audrey's sister, Gene; and five nieces and four nephews, which also includes their children and grandchildren. They had a wonderful life and many adventures and travels.

Gordon was an amazing woodworker and could build anything. Audrey was well-known in the community as a teacher and school counselor during her career for Foothill High School District. Audrey also volunteered at the discovery shop for 26 years, and where Gordon's skills were often used.

Audrey and Gordon Aune were greatly loved and will be sorely missed. May they rest in peace. We love you!

Geraldine Patricia Wright
March 17, 1946 – Jan. 3, 2022

Geraldine Patricia Wright, age 75, passed away on Jan. 3, 2022, in her home in Livermore California. Geri was born on March 17, 1946, in Oakland California.

She was raised by her parents John and Lillian Shebelut. She met the love of her life while in high school, James M. Wright Jr. They married and moved to Livermore soon after they had two children, a son James M. Wright III and a daughter Kristina K. Wright-Freelen. Geri and Jim were married for 50 years.

James proceeded her in death eight years before.

Geri was an amazing mom, grandmother and friend. She



had a master's degree in teaching which was one of her biggest passions. Geri loved to read, garden and cook for her family, but her greatest joy came from being with her grandchildren.

Geri is survived by her

two children James and Kristina, son-in-law George; her grandchildren Rachel, Keegan and Kyle; her brother John Shebelut and sister-in-law Lillian Shebelut; her nieces Margaret and Nicole as well as the Moufarrejs, plus all the bonus children and grandchildren.

Services were held at Callaghan's Chapel and Mortuary on Sunday, Jan. 9, 2022, and she was laid to her final rest at Memorial Gardens on Monday, Jan. 10, 2022.

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

Retired Teachers’ Group Offers Scholarships

The Tri-Valley Retired Educators' Scholarship Fund is offering up to five \$2,500 scholarships for any senior who is graduating from a public high school in Livermore, Pleasanton, Dublin or San Ramon and plans to pursue a career in education. For more information, visit div85.calrta.org.

Clif Family Foundation Awards Grant

Sunflower Hill announced on Tuesday this week that it has been awarded a grant from the Clif Family Foundation, which supports organizations working to strengthen the food system and communities, enhance public health, and safeguard the environment and its natural resources.

The grant, totaling \$5,000, will be used to purchase tools, materials, and programmatic supplies to support the organization’s Hands-On Garden Group Program, organic produce donations, and overall operational maintenance of the Sunflower Hill Garden.

“Having visited the Sunflower Hill Garden and its residential community in Pleasanton, we could see the organization’s mission of providing opportunity to those with disabilities bloom and grow,” said Terry Sue Mock, Clif Family Foundation’s communications manager. “The Foundation supports Sunflower Hill in its aim to engage and teach life-skills to its participants in the East Bay.”

The Sunflower Hill Garden is an instructional outdoor space utilized to provide life skills curriculum and a horticulture experience for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Local adult day and adult-in-transition programs meet in person weekly or bi-weekly to

participate in the organization’s Hands-On Garden Group program, which enables program participants to develop vital life skills that are critical to ensuring a productive and fulfilling life. In addition, the Sunflower Hill Garden, which is located at Hagemann Ranch in Livermore, produces thousands of pounds of fresh, organic produce each year, which is donated to local nonprofit organizations. Produce is typically planted and harvested by program participants and volunteers under the guidance of staff. Along with learning life skills, Hands-On Garden Group program participants experience the benefits of being able to give back to their community through the produce donations.

“We’re thankful to the Clif Family Foundation for continuing to support the Sunflower Hill Garden and our programs,” said Pamela Zielske, Sunflower Hill advancement director. “Their ongoing generosity enables us to continue to provide the materials and supplies needed to ensure our Hands-On Garden Group program participants have an engaging and enriching experience.”

In 2021, the Clif Family Foundation also awarded Sunflower Hill a grant to support its Hands-On Garden Group program. For more information, visit sunflowerhill.org.

Stanford to Incentivize Blood Donations

Due to the current COVID-19 surge, Stanford Blood Center (SBC) is seeing a significant increase in cancellations — both on an individual basis, as donors are falling ill, and on a blood drive basis, as companies are restricting their visitor onsite policies. As a result, SBC is currently facing an emergency need for all blood types and offering incentives to bring in more donors.

To encourage blood donations, anyone who gives blood will be entered to win a two-night stay at a Ritz-Carlton resort. In addition, from Jan. 13 to 17, donors will also have the opportunity to win digital gift cards.

“With many of our regular donors out sick right now, we are asking for any-

one who is healthy and eligible to please make an appointment as soon as possible,” wrote Harpreet Sandhu, SBC executive director. “Across the nation, the blood supply is at dangerously low supply levels, and that situation is impacting us here in the Bay Area as well. Currently, SBC has only a few days of blood on hand. At the same time, demand at the hospitals has increased, and shows no signs of slowing down in the coming weeks.”

New donors who are unsure of their eligibility to give blood can call 888-723-7831 or visit stanfordbloodcenter.org/eligibility or sbcdonor.org. For information on incentives, visit stanfordbloodcenter.org/donate-blood/promotions.

LEGAL

(Continued from first page)

Avenue LLC. He reported the use of the project parcel for off-site parking to be inconsistent with the Specific Plan.

“The Downtown Specific Plan states that for commercial, retail, office, and non-residential uses in the Downtown Core plan area — where the hotel would be situated — ‘[r]equired parking shall be provided on-site, by payment of an in-lieu fee, off-site within the Downtown Core, or any combination thereof,’” wrote Stromberg. “While the hotel is within the Downtown Core, 2080 Railroad Avenue is not.”

He pointed out that the Downtown Core is centered on the city’s historic crossroads, at the intersection of First Street and Livermore Avenue; its northern boundary is Railroad Avenue from M Street to Livermore Avenue.

“To that end, 2080 Railroad Avenue is actually within the ‘Downtown

Neighborhood - North Side’ area of the Downtown Specific Plan, which is not in the Downtown Core,” Stromberg continued. “Because the 2080 Railroad Avenue site is outside of the Downtown Core, the hotel project as envisioned in the proposed DDLA is inconsistent with the Specific Plan, in that it would allow off-site parking for the hotel in an unlawful location.”

City Manager Marc Roberts addressed the issue during the hearing, when asked by Mayor Bob Woerner if — by approving the amendment to the DDLA — the council would be in compliance with all elements of the downtown zoning.

“The question was raised having to do with the location of where the valet parking lot actually is,” Roberts said. “The item that was discussed had to do with where the actual car is picked up from, so in the case of valet parking, it’s where the pickup point is that is within

your downtown core. Yes, this project complies with your downtown specific plan requirements.”

Stromberg responded by noting that parking isn’t determined by the location where a car is picked up; it is determined by the location where the car is parked. City Attorney Jason Alcalá did not respond to requests for comment before press time.

In his letter, Stromberg called the \$1.9 million an exorbitant loan, which constitutes an “illegal expenditure of, waste of, or injury to, the estate, funds, or other property of [the city].”

“In other words, this ‘loan’ would be a waste of taxpayer funds,” Stromberg continued.

He further pointed out that 2205 Railroad Avenue LLC was not exempt from the Surplus Land Act, which provides government agencies with a protocol for making use of excess public lands. The council’s vote to approve the DDLA amend-

ment in part found the LLC exempt from this act.

“However, while the hotel property may be exempt under the current version of the Surplus Land Act set forth in 2019’s Assembly Bill 1486 and the accompanying Surplus Land Act Guidelines implementing it, Government Code sections 54234(a)(1) and (b)(1) are clear that the Surplus Land Act as it existed on December 31, 2019, still applies,” Stromberg continued. “Here, the city’s staff report does nothing to demonstrate that the city complied with the prior version of the Surplus Land Act in proposing to dispose of the property to 2205 Railroad Avenue LLC. Generally, the prior version of the Surplus Land Act required a city, prior to disposing of surplus land, to offer that land for sale or lease for affordable housing, park and recreational purposes, and school district facilities or open space.”

SAVE LIVERMORE DOWNTOWN RESPONDS TO CITY DECISION

Following Livermore City Council’s decision to loan 2205 Railroad Avenue LLC funds to acquire and construct a valet parking lot, Save Livermore Downtown (SLD) issued a press release stating that a portion of the Jan. 10 staff report provided incorrect information to the public.

The staff report stated that switching from underground parking beneath the hotel to valet parking on a surface lot was necessary because of actions taken by citizens who filed referendums and an initiative — the 2018 Referendum, the 2019 Referendum, and the 2019 Central Park Plan Initiative.

“Staff asserts — without any supporting evidence — that these measures caused the hotel to be significantly delayed, resulting in increased construction, operation, and maintenance costs making underground parking infeasible,” SLD stated. “As a result, the report states that a surface parking lot for hotel parking is needed. This is simply untrue. The facts do not support the staff’s conclusion that citizen efforts to improve the proposed Downtown Plan, which did not follow the priorities expressed in the city’s 2017 Public Outreach Process, led to the loss of the hotel’s underground parking.”

SLD pointed out that the delay caused by the 2018 Referendum “amounted to only 7 weeks—from October 11, 2018, when it was presented to the city, until November 26, 2018, when the City Council approved it.”

“The council could have submitted the referendum to the voters, but they decided to adopt it instead and to repeal parts of the Specific Plan,” the release continued. “Importantly, none of the provisions of the Specific Plan repealed by the referendum addressed the hotel’s parking issues, so this referendum would not have caused a delay.”

SLD additionally noted that the hotel’s decision to pursue surface parking preceded both the 2019 Referendum and 2019 Initiative. The staff report states that in May 2019, when the city council made revisions to the Downtown Specific Plan, “the provision of between 70 to 150 parking spaces in a new public or private parking facility accessed from K Street was included in the project at that time as an alternative to an underground parking garage.”

“Thus, those measures — which came after May 2019 — could not have influenced the hotel’s decision,” SLD continued. “The reality is that the hotel developer wants surface parking instead of underground parking because it would likely save

them over \$10 million. In March 2020, International Parking Design, a leading parking design firm, indicated that an underground parking garage with an irregular footprint built using union labors would cost \$85,000 per space, in contrast to just \$10,000 per space for a surface lot.”

SLD said that citizens who have long supported measures to improve the city’s Downtown Plan should not be blamed for the hotel developer’s decision to value engineer their project.

“With no evidence to support alleged ‘infeasibility’ it is clear that abandoning underground parking was simply a hotel decision to avoid the burden of this expense,” SLD concluded.

Some of the speakers at the council meeting reproached citizens who backed the ballot measures mentioned in the city’s staff report.

Laning Thompson of the Tri-Valley Anti-Poverty Collaborative said the developer’s decision for surface parking made sense.

“These delays have been caused by a combination of adverse factors, in particular opposition by certain groups and the pandemic,” she said. “These delays have caused these, as well as some other affordable housing projects, to become much more costly than originally estimated because construction costs have so greatly increased. That made the hotel’s underground parking plan infeasible, hence the need for valet parking.”

Winemaker Karl Wente said the hotel was needed for the wineries, craftsmen, artists, the city’s food culture and downtown businesses.

“We should be a little bit more mad at how much money these delays are costing us,” Wente said. “We do know where and why these delays are coming to be, and we need to move forward.”

Sherry Nigg, who owns property downtown encouraged the council to approve the parking plan and hotel.

“We’ve had so many delays, and it’s taken so long, and I’m thankful for the speakers tonight that clearly stated all the reasons that we need the hotel and all the reasons for the delays,” she said. “The delays need to stop. This hotel will help our downtown businesses, restaurants, wineries and just people coming to enjoy our downtown. It’s truly been long enough.”

PARKING

(Continued from first page)

The loan — which must be paid back in a lump sum at 3.5% interest when the hotel opens by 2025 — will enable 2205 Railroad Avenue LLC to build a valet lot about a tenth of a mile from the hotel, replacing its original plan of underground parking.

Livermore residents and business owners have wanted a quality hotel as a centerpiece in the city’s revitalized downtown for many years.

“We’ve been trying to get this done for a long time,” Mayor Bob Woerner said before the council’s vote. “There have been the impediments that have been thrown at us. And I think it’s time to get going here.”

Paul Spence, Livermore’s Community Development director, said the city’s planning commission should be able to review the hotel’s architectural designs in March, with the city council’s hearing to follow in April.

The “Wine Country Hotel at the Bankhead” project proved controversial from its inception with debates over whether it should be located on the east side of Livermore Avenue near the Bankhead Theater or the westside adjacent to an open park.

Community groups opposed to the location of the hotel obtained enough signatures to place the issue on the March 2020 ballot. Based on designs of the downtown center shown at the time, voters approved Measure P to allow the hotel to be built on the east side by a 2-1 vote.

Under the approved plan Monday, the city will sell the city-owned land for the hotel site to Presidio for \$71,000. The hotel will include meeting space, a rooftop deck pool, a fitness center and an outdoor courtyard.

Presidio will spend \$30,000 a year for maintenance of Stockmen’s Park, build a new solid waste facility to serve the entire block, make road improvements, allow the public to use its rooftop deck, and lease the project site for public parking until construction begins, Spence said.

While the hotel was approved in the 2020 vote, Monday’s approval of the DDLA added the hotel valet parking lot to the agreement.

Many supported the hotel valet agreement so that the hotel could move forward without further discussion related to parking. Further delay, they said, would harm

the downtown and Livermore’s fragile wineries, who need a downtown hotel to attract tourists. Supporters further stated that citizen referendums and initiative have already delayed the hotel.

Those opposed to the hotel valet parking agreement said they support the hotel. However, they believe the 2080 Railroad Avenue lot could be put to better use, such as affordable housing, and that other parking solutions could be found. Also, they did not think that the city should spend taxpayer money at a time when the city is short of funds for maintenance. Save Livermore Downtown (SLD) representative said facts show that citizen ballot measures could not have influenced the decision to abandon underground parking.

David Kent, board governance committee chair at the Tri-Valley Conservancy, said that it was good that everyone now supported the hotel. Kent said a hotel was vital for a vibrant downtown when its development was first suggested in the 1990s, and remained so 25 years later. He said delays damaged vintners and small business owners who invested in the downtown while expecting a hotel to

be built.

Dawn Argula, CEO and president of the Livermore Valley Chamber of Commerce, asked the council to approve the parking plan because “the strong need for the hotel has not subsided.”

A hotel, she said, will attract visitors to downtown Livermore and to the Livermore Valley wine region. Argula cited a recently published UC Davis report that said the wine industry needs “overnight visitor accommodations to support a vibrant wine economy.”

“Starting as soon as within the next five years, the sustainability of vintners will be in jeopardy,” Argula said. “The construction of this hotel will be a major step forward to supporting a sustainable wine region.”

Lynn Naylor, CEO of Innovation Tri-Valley, a coalition of employers, research lab educators, tech business workers and civic leaders, said the hotel plan was identified in 2002’s Downtown Specific Plan as a “crucial catalyst project.”

“That, of course, was 20 years ago,” Naylor said. “The hotel is long overdue and an integral part of the regional plan to attract both a vital tourism audience and to support the needs of our businesses.”

Lori Souza, a resident since 1979, accused a “small yet vocal opposition” to the hotel project of wasting taxpayer dollars through delaying tactics.

“The residents of Livermore voted in favor of this hotel project by a decisive margin back in March of 2020,” Souza said. “It’s time to move forward with this important project. It’s what the citizens want. It’s what our community needs. And it’s what is important to our economic health.”

On the other side, Jim Hutchins said he supported building a downtown hotel, but called the loan “a poor use of city funds” and said the Railroad Avenue parcel should be used for something else.

“Does Presidio not have the money to build the hotel without a bailout from the city, or is the city giving Presidio the loan as an entitlement to encumber a parcel at the heart of the Eden Housing disagreement?” Hutchins asked. “Given the lack of transparency in how this agreement was created, the public is in the dark.”

Karalee Brune said she was not opposed to the hotel, but was “appalled by this hair-brained scheme.”

“If this developer is so poorly financed that they

are not capable of obtaining money from more traditional sources, I think that there’s something very wrong,” Brune said.

Jean King, of SLD, said her group supported the hotel, but not the parking lot. King took exception to the staff report’s conclusion that citizens are responsible for the loss of the underground parking. See SLD statement in the sidebar on page 10.

Before the council voted, Vice Mayor Gina Bonanno said the hotel is the cornerstone to complete the downtown project. She credited the developer with sticking with the city, and said she approved of the loan arrangement.

“Here we are in 2022; we have yet another opportunity to move the ball down the field and get the hotel built,” Bonanno said. “We won’t get an infinite number of chances to do this.”

City Councilmember Trish Munro said the project made “fiscal sense.”

City Councilmember Bob Carling pointed out that most of the people who spoke during the meeting supported building a hotel, even if they did not support the parking plan.

“It’s fiscally sound,” Carling said. “I am very much in support of this.”



The Gaels' Izzy Liu heads the ball in front of the Granada goal, Jan. 8. Dublin defeated Granada 2-1. (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)

COVID Wave Puts Events on Hold

By Nathan Canilao

The Las Positas Hawks men's basketball team drove in three separate vans to drive 23 minutes to conference rival Ohlone college. The windows were down, and the car heater was blasting while each player was required to wear a face mask.

During their usual Tuesday practice, coaches handed out hand sanitizers to each player every 15 minutes in what the Hawks call "sanitation break." In their game against Ohlone, players wore masks on the bench and were told not to sit next to each other if they could.

On the high school side of things, the Tri-Valley put a pause on indoor games set to take place at local campuses from Jan. 3 to Jan. 6 to help combat the surge of COVID-19 cases.

Alameda County guidelines state that any event over 500 people must have guests show proof of vaccination in order to enter. With this week being the first week of league basketball games, there most certainly could have been a situation where schools would have to check students and parents' vaccination status to enter the gymnasium.

"Each school needs to determine what they can and can't do," said East Bay Athletic League (EBAL) commissioner Leo Lopoz. "What we have done is work with each other a few days ahead to forecast what may or may not be possible."

The EBAL, which all Tri-Valley schools participate in, is in a unique position — the league spans across Alameda and Contra Costa counties. The Mountain division of the league, which comprises San Ramon Valley, Monte Vista, California, Dougherty Valley and De La Salle High School, follow different guidelines than schools in the Tri-Valley.

But at the end of the day, it is the schools that ultimately make the final decision if teams will play or not. For example, Foothill boys' basketball played their league opener against San Ramon Valley on the road on Jan. 5. Granada boys' basketball, which had an away game at Dougherty Valley, decided not to play in their league opener. Livermore High, which would go on the road against Monte Vista, also followed suit and did not play.

Teams have also taken precautions internally in order to keep their players healthy.

"Mask up; lots of water, lots of vitamin C and praying," said Dublin High Head Basketball Coach Tom Costello when asked about precautions the Gaels are taking to keep players healthy.

The Las Positas Hawks, who have not had a game canceled or rescheduled, have taken precautions to make sure that they can continue with their season.

"We just try to keep everyone spread as much as

possible, wash our hands and preach to our guys about safe practices," said Las Positas Men's Basketball Coach James Giacomazzi.

Indoor sports like basketball and wrestling have a higher chance of being rescheduled or canceled because of the close proximity of players, coaches and fans at these events, but outdoor winter sports like soccer will not be as affected.

"From the outdoor side, nothing has changed within our league," said Lopoz. "People are going by the status quo."

For indoor sports, both divisions of the EBAL are following California Department of Public Health's recommendation of weekly testing for athletes and coaches, but weekly testing is not mandated by the schools. For outdoor sports, testing is not required or recommended for athletes.

In terms of games being rescheduled, the EBAL by-laws say that if both schools do in fact agree to a reschedule, the game could be played at any time during the EBAL league season. Lopoz has said that the league is looking into Sundays as rescheduling days, but it will ultimately be up to schools to decide what day they would be willing to play a rescheduled game.

"I think everyone has been open and has been flexible to getting the common denominator done which is giving the athletes some sort of opportunity to play," said Lopoz.

Las Positas Dominates Ohlone in Conference Game

By Nathan Canilao

The Las Positas men's basketball team defeated the Ohlone Renegades 114-65 on Jan. 5, winning their first conference game of the season.

The Hawks improve to 14-1 and extend their winning streak to 14.

They were without starting forward Jorren Edmonds due to injury, and freshman Dathan Satchell took his place in the starting lineup. Satchell started off the first half making his first two 3-pointers after being held scoreless in the Hawks' last game against Redwood College.

The Hawks started off the game going on an 11-0 run, forcing the Renegades to call a timeout with 16:34 left in the first half.

The Hawks put pressure on the Renegades defensively as they went into a man-to-man full court press. This

defense forced turnovers for the Hawks which led to easy fastbreak points.

The Renegades did not score their first points until the 15:54 mark of the first half. The Hawks led at half-time 58-23.

The second half was much of the same for the Hawks. They hit their 3-pointers and continued to force turnovers on the defensive end.

The story of the game was the huge bounce back performance from Satchell. He scored 31 points for the game, the second time this season that he's scored 30 or more points. Coach James Giacomazzi was pleased at his performance after he struggled with his shooting in the Hawks' last game against Redwood College.

"Last week he was pretty upset at his shooting performance, but for him he just needs more shots," said Giacomazzi. "He got his work in

today and he shot it well."

The Hawks took advantage of the fastbreak as they were able to score a majority of their points in seven seconds or less. A big part of their game plan was to take advantage of the lack of players that suited up for the Renegades. The Renegades only suited up seven players and played only six.

"We wanted to create pressure and control tempo and get in transition as much as we can," said Giacomazzi.

The Hawks win their first conference game of the year and will look to extend their winning streak as the week goes on. They will face district rival Chabot college at home on Dec. 14 which will be one of the Hawks' bigger tests this year.



The Falcons' Fernando Cavazos (white uniform) kicks the ball toward Livermore goalie Alex Garcia. The Livermore Cowboys took on the Foothill Falcons, Thursday, Jan. 6. Livermore won 1-0. (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)

SPORTS CORNER

With Nathan Canilao



AAU Basketball Essential to Growth of Players

The Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) is an amateur sports organization that was made for athletes to continue playing their desired sport all year round

It is most known for its roots in the amateur basketball scene which has increased in popularity in the past 10 to 20 years.

High school basketball has consumed the vast majority of player's winters for some time now, but the impact of AAU basketball has taken up the top priorities of many

players who are looking to play at the college level. AAU has made such an impact that even top public high school coaches in the Tri-Valley area are looking to own or coach at AAU programs to help grow their players come high school season.

In a sense, these programs act as feeder teams for these high schools. Players enter the AAU program and practice and play for their respective teams from when the high school season ends to when the next one starts.

These AAU basketball teams have major benefits for the players themselves. Back in the days, when high school took up the majority of the players' time, they did not have the luxury of playing all year round. Instead, they had to work out on their own time and find ways to keep their skills sharp.

Now that AAU basketball has evolved, players can maintain their practice schedule and can play in organized games all year round. Most of these players' weekends consist of playing in anywhere from two to five games while also competing for tournament championships.

If the players decide to play AAU at the high school level, colleges from all over the country are allowed to speak to these players about possibly playing at their universities. There are now apps like Hudl and the AIR app that allows players to send colleges their game film along with their GPA and physical measurements in order to market themselves for potential scholarships.

In the Tri-Valley, there are many AAU programs that have been successful in training and developing college basketball players.

Train First Basketball out of Livermore is owned by Granada Head Coach Quaran Johnson. He's coached players like Tommy Krammer (Cal State Monterey), Jayden Johnston (Citrus College) and Jack Kath (Whitman College) who played for his AAU club and all went to public high schools in the Tri-Valley. The programs help coaches get a better look at their talent pool for the upcoming season, so they can help them overcome their weaknesses.

Though AAU has great upside for players and coaches, it has gotten pushback from older generations that is also valid. Some AAU programs only focus on success on the court and fail to develop their player's weaknesses in practice.

The high number of games played can sometimes lead to players only looking forward to the games and not their overall development as basketball players. AAU could also cause burnout in some players as they are playing year-round without much of a break.

Overall, AAU basketball looks like a mainstay in the basketball scene, not just in the Tri-Valley, but around the country. Teams like Train First, East Bay Bulldogs and Tri-Valley Basketball are all successful AAU programs that have planted their basketball roots in the Tri-Valley. The work they do for the players is what keeps the Tri-Valley a gold rush for basketball talent.

Dublin Gains First League Win Vs Foothill

By Nathan Canilao

The Dublin Gaels boys' basketball team earned its first league win against Foothill High School on Jan. 7, beating the Falcons 59-52 to move to 7-3 on the season, while the Falcons drop to 9-6.

The Gaels started off the game applying full court pressure on the Falcons. They were to force some early turnovers and score easy baskets, but the Falcons beat them to the offensive glass which kept them in the game.

Junior Mehki Thomas led the charge for the Gaels in the first half. He had 11 points in the first half alone and was creating for others when he got into the painted area. The Gaels ended the first half up 28-17.

The Gaels looked like they were going to pull away in the third quarter. They forced the Falcons into tough shots and were able to turn defense into offense by scoring off turnovers. The Gaels went into the fourth quarter with a comfortable 14-point lead.

The Falcons fought back in the final quarter of the game. They cut the Gael lead to 7 with 1:07 left in the game in part due to the offensive rebounding of senior Ehssan Aksar. But it was too little, too late for the Falcons as they would fall to the Gaels 59-52.

Thomas had a big game for the Gaels, turning out 19 points which included two 3-pointers. Thomas, along with his teammates, have not played in two weeks due

to COVID-19 restrictions and emphasized that this game was to help get his legs back under him.

"I was just trying to get my legs back and get back into a flow in the offense," said Thomas.

Thomas, who was a transfer from Arroyo High School in Hayward, is playing in first year at Dublin and has been pleased with the support he receives from the Gaels' coaching staff.

"They just give me confidence to come out and

play my game and they believe in me," said Thomas. "It's easy playing for Coach (Tom) Costello."

"I love him, he's super competitive and has lots of energy," said Costello.

The Gaels get their first league win on the road against a talented Falcons squad. They will play their first home league game against Livermore High on Jan. 14. The Falcons drop their first league game and will look to rebound on the road against De La Salle High on Jan. 14.



Dublin's Cortney Anderson Jr. takes a shot during a game against Foothill, Jan. 7. (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)

Did your insurance premium with California Earthquake Authority (CEA) **DOUBLE** this year?

You **DO** have options!

Contact us today for a free quote.

(925) 447-2565

or email us at: save@genemorganinsurance.com to save over **50%** on your premium!

Gene Morgan Insurance Agency
www.genemorganinsurance.com



Local Author to Lead Panel of Black Writers

Tina Jones Williams, whose books reflect the rich traditions of African American communities, will moderate a panel of Black writers in an online discussion of the power of storytelling on Tuesday, Feb. 8, part of the Livermore Public Library's celebration of Black History Month.

Williams, now a Livermore resident, is the author of the Julia Street series that pay homage to the all-Black neighborhood in South Berkeley where she was raised. Since publishing her four-book Julia Street series, Williams has led bi-annual neighborhood walks which begin and end on Julia Street, sharing anecdotes, folklore, and history about times, places, and people she believes should not be forgotten.

A graduate of the University of Texas at Austin, Williams is also the author of the three-book Bridge to Freedom series about a Black domestic day worker, Violet, and her Pullman porter husband, Everett, and other books about the working-class African American experience. Her latest book, "It Happened on Our Watch," is a multi-generational look at a Black family that moved from the Southside of Chicago to South Berkeley in 1943. Published in September, the book traces how the early struggles against discrimination paved the way for today's youth.

Other members of the panel will include:

R.C. Barnes, a Berkeley resident and author of the young adult series The Tattoo Teller.

Kevin Eastman, a native of Oakland and retired Air Force officer, who published his first book, "Don't Gam-

ble on Life Improvement ... Until You Shift the Odds," in 2018.

Geraldine Cynthia Forte, editor of "Writer's Talk," the monthly newsletter for the South Bay Chapter of the California Writers Club and author of "Appropriating Old Cultures into New Futures: From the Kingdom of Tonga to California."

Dera R. Williams, co-director of the AfroSurreal Writers Workshop and frequent contributor to literary anthologies and journals, who has also compiled a collection of childhood memories, "In My Backyard: Stories of Growing Up in Oakland."

The program, at 7 p.m., is part of the library's Authors and Arts Series. No registration is required. To access the live, Zoom-based panel discussion, visit bit.ly/3q9ahxh.

Library Exhibit Celebrates Literacy Program

The Livermore Public Library is marking the 35th anniversary of its adult literacy program with an exhibit of personal stories from authors, including sharing the good things to be found in life every day.

Some of the authors include adult learners who honed their skills by meet-

ing with volunteer tutors or in English conversation groups.

According to the library, each author determinedly models the practice of lifelong learning and represents the thousands of adult learners served by the literacy program through the years. The "Our Celebration Stories"

exhibit also celebrates "the supportive and dedicated volunteers, past and present, who often share that they are the ones to benefit most from the tutoring experience."

The exhibit will be on display in the Art Gallery at the Civic Center Library, 1188 S. Livermore Ave., through Jan. 31.

Residents Offer to Match Tri-Valley Haven Donations

Livermore's Alan and Mary Burnham have offered to match up to \$25,000 in donations for Tri-Valley Haven through the end of the month for the group's new food pantry.

Tri-Valley Haven provides services to children and adult victims of domestic

violence, sexual assault, and homelessness. The nonprofit recently announced it would be closing its longtime food pantry at the Mar Thoma Church and would be opening a larger food pantry at 150 N. L St., in Livermore. The pantry is expected to open in late February.

The new pantry will operate more like a grocery store, allowing individuals to select the food and other household items they want or need, including more fresh fruits, vegetables, meat, and dairy products, instead of being provided with a box of available items.

BBB Warns of Potential COVID-19 Testing Scams

The Better Business Bureau (BBB) is warning of potential scams involving fraudulent COVID-19 tests, vaccines, and treatments as the pandemic continues.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the rise of the omicron variant has led to a growing number of scams, including deceptive advertising and nonexistent testing products, and the potential compromise of personal information. The FBI also issued a warning about potential fraud related to antibody tests. In doing so, the BBB said, the scammers may also be collecting personal information, such as social security numbers and dates of birth, and may be stealing health insurance or Medicare information that can be used in future schemes.

According to BBB, scammers are using robo-calls to direct consumers to websites that may look like a health clinic or medical supply company offering COVID-19 tests, some even promising results in 10 minutes. However, to receive a test, the scammers ask for a credit card number or a form with personal information.

The scam may involve an at-home testing kit or testing offered through a clinic, according to the BBB, but in all versions, the website selling the test is short on details, including information about how the test works, where it is sourced, or where it is processed.

The BBB said the offered the following information to avoid coronavirus testing scams:

Talk to your doctor. Your healthcare provider can you find a legitimate clinic and help determine if a test will be covered by insurance. If you don't have a primary-care physician, check out the Alameda County Health Department website.

Do your research. Scammers put pressure on people

to buy or commit without giving them time to do further research. Before agreeing to anything, investigate any claims the company makes. The BBB suggests starting with the Better Business Bureau website to see if a company is BBB accredited, has good reviews, or if there are any complaints or scam reports.

Understand your options. The CDC website has a detailed guide to COVID-19 testing. Understand the different tests available.

Never share personal information with strangers, and only make purchases and share your personal information with people and companies you know and trust.

Check claims of FDA approval. Not all COVID-19 antibody tests have been approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Check the FDA website for a list of approved tests and testing companies.

Kaiser Permanente Recognized for Safety

Kaiser Permanente Northern California has been recognized by the Patient Safety Movement Foundation (PSMF) for its efforts to provide reliable patient care while reducing preventable medical harm.

Kaiser Permanente Northern California is among the first healthcare providers to be named a Highly Reliable Organization Champion by PSMF, a global non-profit organization promoting zero preventable patient harm and death.

The new PSMF program places an emphasis on data transparency, which is considered critical to achieving zero harm and improving patient safety.

"We are honored to be recognized for our unwavering commitment to provide safe patient care and commend our staff for be-

ing strong advocates for safety," said Robin Betts, vice-president of safety, quality, and regulatory services for Kaiser Permanente Northern California. "Our hospitals are among the country's highest performing for minimizing patient injuries, medication errors, and infections. Every day, we aim to protect the health of our patients, keep them safe from harm, and provide the highest quality care."

Pleasanton Museum on Main Opens Exhibit

The Museum on Main in Pleasanton this week unveiled its 14th annual exhibit of works by members of the Pleasanton Art League (PAL).

The Imagination Expressed 2022 exhibit of local paintings, drawings, ceramics and jewelry, will run through Saturday, March 26. Many of the works on display are also for sale. Several PAL members will also be at the museum during the exhibit to demonstrate their methods and to talk with the

public about their work.

The Museum on Main, 603, Main St., is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday. For a schedule of artists and their demonstrations, visit museummain.org.

Bankhead Online Gallery Features Pandemic Art

The Bankhead Gallery is now hosting an online exhibit, "Pandemia Days," featuring more than a year's worth of "practice" images along with a daily journal posted by Bay Area artist Elizabeth Addison during the COVID-19 pandemic.

For 456 days, from March 17, 2020, when California issued its first shelter-in-place mandate, through June 15, 2021, when the restrictions were lifted, Addison posted her normally private "daily practice" artworks online.

residence at Kala Art Institute. She is also exhibitions chair for Northern California Women's Caucus for Art and a member of both the

Bay Area Women's Artists Legacy Project and Women Eco Artists Dialog. Pandemia Days is available to view at livermorearts.org.

MILLER'S
AIR CONDITIONING and HEATING
925-447-3000
www.millersacandheating.com

SERVING
TRIVALLEY
SINCE
1960
License
#253756

**RETZLAFF**
Estate Wines

NOW OPEN FOR WINE TASTING AND
PICNIC TABLE RESERVATIONS.

FRIDAYS, SATURDAYS, SUNDAYS AND
MONDAYS 12-4:30 FALL AND WINTER HOURS.

LIVE MUSIC MOST WEEKENDS.
FOOD FOR PURCHASE EVERY WEEKEND.

Make your online reservation at
RetzlaffVineyards.com

GAY NINETIES
Pizza & Pasta Co.
gayninetiespizza.com



**OPENED FOR INSIDE AND
OUTSIDE DINING!**

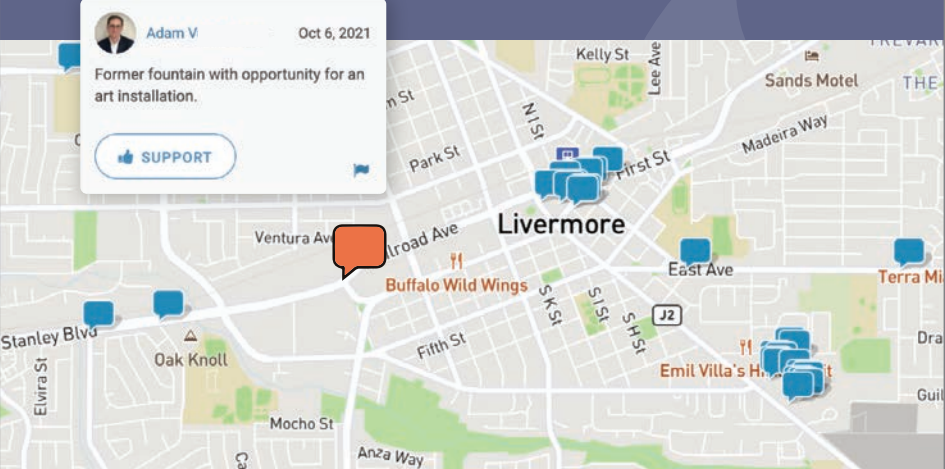
288 Main Street, Pleasanton | (925) 846-2520
Hours: Sun-Thu 11am-9pm, Fri & Sat 11am-10pm

Where should the city invest in cultural arts in Livermore?

Pin your ideas on our map!

Community members who live, work, play, and visit the city are invited to help build the Livermore Cultural Arts Vision, a strategic cultural arts plan for the coming decade.

Deadline to participate: 1/31/22



coub.co/LivermoreCulturalArtsVision

LIVERMORE
CULTURAL ARTS VISION

ART BUILDS
COMMUNITY

LIVERMORE
CALIFORNIA



Your local news source is delivered free to readers in the Tri-Valley.

We are asking readers, who are able, to make a voluntary contribution of \$10 a month, or \$100 a year.

You can sign up online at www.independentnews.com/contribute/ or mail a check to 2250 First St., Livermore, CA 94550

THE Independent
independentnews.com | 925.243.8000

Follow us on  

LEGAL NOTICES/CLASSIFIEDS

www.independentnews.com



LEGAL NOTICES

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 584982

The following person(s) doing business as: Williams Landscape Designs, 495 Abbie Street, Pleasanton, CA 94566, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Trevor C. Williams, 945 Abbie Street, 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: 1/1/2020. Signature of Registrant/s/: Lamar Spalding, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 21, 2021. Expires December 20, 2026. The Independent, Legal No. 5060. Published December 23, 30, 2021 & January 6, 13, 20, 2022.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 585006

The following person(s) doing business as: Royal Restrooms of California, Inc., 5552 La Ribera ST. Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Royal Restrooms of California, Inc., 5552 La Ribera ST. Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 2/2007. Signature of Registrant/s/: Rich Reynolds, V.P. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 13, 2021. Expires December 12, 2026. The Independent, Legal No. 5054. Published December 23, 30, 2021 & January 6, 13, 2022.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 585007

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. E Tribe Mobile 2. Etribe Mobile, 1487 Sauvignon CT, Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Royal Restrooms of California, Inc., 5552 La Ribera ST. Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Rich Reynolds, V.P. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 13, 2021. Expires December 12, 2026. The Independent, Legal No. 5054. Published December 23, 30, 2021 & January 6, 13, 2022.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 585005

The following person(s) doing business as: Red Carpet Trailers, 1452 N. Vasco Rd, # 350, Livermore, CA 94551, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Red Carpet Trailers, 1487 Sauvignon CT, Livermore, CA 94550. 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: 5/2014. Signature of Registrant/s/: Rich Reynolds, V.P. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 13, 2021. Expires December 12, 2026. The Independent, Legal No. 5055. Published December 23, 30, 2021 & January 6, 13, 2022.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 584985

The following person(s) doing business as: Livermore Live Scan, 4047 First St, Suite 208, Livermore, CA 9455, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Readymade Services LLC, 4047 First St, Suite 208, Livermore, CA 9455. 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: 2007. Signature of Registrant/s/: Dan McDowell, V.P. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 13, 2021. Expires December 12, 2026. The Independent, Legal No. 5058. Published December 23, 30, 2021 & January 6, 13, 2022.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 584721

The following person(s) doing business as: Step Into My Studio, 2218 Via Espada, Pleasanton, CA 94566, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Miyoung Lim, 2218 Via Espada, 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: 10/25/2021. Signature of Registrant/s/: Miyoung Lim, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 2, 2021. Expires December 1, 2026. The Independent, Legal No. 5059. Published December 23, 30, 2021 & January 6, 13, 2022.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 585185

The following person(s) doing business as: The Chairman, 2317 Amatrice Way, Dublin, CA 94568, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Lamar Spalding, 2317 Amatrice Way, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which

the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 1/1/2020. Signature of Registrant/s/: Lamar Spalding, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 21, 2021. Expires December 20, 2026. The Independent, Legal No. 5060. Published December 30, 2021 & January 6, 13, 20, 2022.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 585178

The following person(s) doing business as: E.T.F Logistics, 7500 Weld ST, Oakland, CA 94621, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Essay T. Fkadu, 7500 Weld ST, Oakland, CA 94621. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 12/20/2021. Signature of Registrant/s/: Essay T. Fkadu, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 20, 2021. Expires December 19, 2026. The Independent, Legal No. 5061. Published December 30, 2021 & January 6, 13, 20, 2022.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 585008

The following person(s) doing business as: Lamorinda Volleyball Club dba Norcal Volleyball Club, 789 N. Canyons Parkway, Livermore, CA 94551, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Meg Herr, 16240 E Twin Acres Dr. Gilbert, AZ 85298. 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: 2012. Signature of Registrant/s/: Meg Herr, Director. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 13, 2021. Expires December 12, 2026. The Independent, Legal No. 5062. Published December 30, 2021 & January 6, 13, 20, 2022.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 585337

The following person(s) doing business as: United CU Partners, 4234 Hacienda Dr. # 110, Pleasanton, CA 94588, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Teri Banholzer, 653 Saint Marg St. 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/: Teri Banholzer, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 29, 2021. Expires December 28, 2026. The Independent, Legal No. 5063. Published January 6, 13, 20, 27, 2022.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 585204

The following person(s) doing business as: Organized with Julie, 1437 Roselli Drive, Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Julie Melendez, 1437 Roselli Dr., Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Julie Melendez, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 22, 2021. Expires December 21, 2026. The Independent, Legal No. 5064. Published January 6, 13, 20, 27, 2022.

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: Sherry Mullins Case No. RP21118699

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of **Sherry Mullins**. A Petition for Probate has been filed by: **Matthew Mullins**, in the Superior Court of California, County of ALAMEDA. The petition for probate requests that **Matthew Mullins** be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority. THE COURT REQUIRES ALL PARTIES WHO WISH TO ATTEND THE HEARING ON THE BELOW DATE AND TIME, INCLUDING THOSE WHO WISH TO STATE OBJECTIONS, TO APPEAR BY AUDIO OR VIDEO TECHNOLOGY. THE PARTIES SHOULD CONSULT THE COURTS WEBSITE FOR THE SPECIFIC TELEPHONIC AND VIDEO APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE. THE PARTIES MAY ALSO CONTACT THE PROBATE CLERK AT probateclerk2@alameda.courts.

ca.gov. PARTIES MUST BE PRESENT AT LEAST FIVE (5) MINUTES BEFORE THE SCHEDULED HEARING TIME.

A hearing on the petition will be held in this court as follows: 2/7/2022, 2:00 pm in Department 201 Superior Court of California, County of Alameda 2120 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley, CA 94704

If you object to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney. If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of the first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California Law. You may examine the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (Form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk. **Petitioner: Matthew Mullins 5400 High Pointe Drive Haltom City, Texas 76137** The Independent, Legal No. 5065. Published January 13, 20, 27, 2022.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 585514

The following person(s) doing business as: Bjoy Beauty, 20200 Redwood Road Suite 2, Castro Valley, CA 94546, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Brittany Joy Clements, 26381 Whitman ST., Apt 10, Hayward, CA 94544. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 1/1/2022. Signature of Registrant/s/: Brittany Clements, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 6, 2022. Expires January 5, 2027. The Independent, Legal No. 5066. Published January 13, 20, 27, February 3, 2022.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 585394

The following person(s) doing business as: Top Care Nails, 5424 Sunol BLVD, #12, Pleasanton, CA 94566, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Lam Ngwen, 3159 Rocky Mountain Dr. San Jose, CA 95127. 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/: Lam Ngwen, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 30, 2021. Expires December 29, 2026. The Independent, Legal No. 5067. Published January 13, 20, 27, February 3, 2022.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 585184

The following person(s) doing business as: Bijoustella LLC, 2608 Lotus Street, Pleasanton, CA 94588, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Bijoustella LLC, 2608 Lotus Street, Pleasanton, CA 94588. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 12/1/2021. Signature of Registrant/s/: Seung Yeon Lee, Managing Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 21, 2021. Expires December 20, 2026. The Independent, Legal No. 5068. Published January 13, 20, 27, February 3, 2022.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 585257

The following person(s) doing business as: 7 Seasons, 5211 DeMarcus Blvd, Apt 321, Dublin, CA 94568, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Regina Yin Leung, 5211 DeMarcus Blvd, Apt 321, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is

conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Regina Yin Leung, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 27, 2021. Expires December 26, 2026. The Independent, Legal No. 5069. Published January 13, 20, 27, February 3, 2022.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 585223

The following person(s) doing business as: Silhouette Aesthetics, 101 E Vineyard Avenue, Suite 107, Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Tam Nguyen, 101 E Vineyard Avenue, Suite 107, 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: 8/1/2021. Signature of Registrant/s/: Tam Nguyen, Managing Partner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 22, 2021. Expires December 21, 2026. The Independent, Legal No. 5070. Published January 13, 20, 27, February 3, 2022.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 585548

The following person(s) doing business as: L. Mendez Trucking LLC, 5328 Keystone Dr. Fremont, CA 94536, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): L. Mendez Trucking LLC, 5328 Keystone Dr. Fremont, CA 94536. 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/: Rosa Maria Mendez, Manager. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 7, 2022. Expires January 6, 2027. The Independent, Legal No. 5071. Published January 13, 20, 27, February 3, 2022.

LEGAL NOTICE NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY of a Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Monte Vista Memorial Gardens Project Alameda County Planning Application PLN2017-00194

TO: State Clearinghouse, State Responsible Agencies, State Trustee Agencies, Other Public Agencies, and Interested Organizations and Parties.

SUBJECT: Notice of Availability of a Draft Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIR) for the Monte Vista Memorial Gardens Project in compliance with California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 15087.

SUMMARY: NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Alameda County Planning Department (County), as lead agency for the Project, has completed a Draft EIR in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The proposed project that is the subject of the Draft EIR is the construction and operation of Monte Vista Memorial Gardens (MVMG or the "Project") a proposed memorial park project that would include a funeral home, interment (burial) areas and associated services, including a crematorium and mortuary. The purpose of this notice is to (1) serve the public Notice of Availability (NOA) of a Draft EIR pursuant to the CEQA Guidelines Section 15087, and (2) advise and solicit comments regarding the content of the Draft EIR for a 45-day period, commencing on January 13, 2022 and ending at 4:30 PM on February 28, 2022, after which a final EIR will be prepared containing comments and responses to comments that, together with the Draft EIR, will form the final EIR. The final EIR will be used by the Alameda County Planning Commission in its consideration of approval of the proposed Monte Vista Memorial Gardens Project.

PROJECT TITLE: Monte Vista Memorial Gardens Project

PROJECT LOCATION: The Project would be developed at 3656 Las Colinas Road, Livermore, CA in unincorporated Alameda County. Development of the Project would occur on approximately 47 acres in the southern portion of the ±104-acre parcel (Assessor's Parcel Number 099-0015-016-03) just north of the City of Livermore between the North First Street exits.

and North First Street exits.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Monte Vista Memorial Gardens (MVMG or the "Project") is a proposed memorial park project that would include a funeral home, interment (burial) areas and associated services, including a crematorium and mortuary. MVMG would provide memorial services for the Tri-Valley region where there are over 1,200 deaths per year with about 750 cremations and 300 burials done locally. The mission of the MVMG is to provide services for the final needs of present and future Tri-Valley residents. MVMG would be the first cemetery developed in Alameda County in over 110 years and would accommodate the needs of several multi-cultural communities. The cemetery would include an area specifically designed for the Jewish community, with appropriate burial services, practices, and artwork for Jewish residents. Project development would occur in two phases. Once approved, the Phase I build-out of the Project would occur over approximately 5 years. Phase II buildout would occur over approximately 100 years. Phase II would be developed in subphases based on future demand and other development and regulatory factors. Permitting would begin for Phase II following approval of the CUP from Alameda County.

SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS:

The project would have significant impacts in the following environmental areas:

- Air Quality (air pollution from ground disturbing construction activities)
- Biological Resources (sensitive species, seasonal wetlands and "other waters of the United States", and local policies.
- Cultural Resources (cultural and/or tribal cultural resources and human remains)
- Geologic, soils and seismic (earthwork and proposed lakes)
- Hydrology and Water Quality (construction effects, operation of proposed lakes)

PUBLIC REVIEW AND DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY: The 45-day public review period for the Draft EIR is from January 13, 2022 to February 28, 2022. The Draft EIR will be available for review at the following locations:

Alameda County Planning Department
224 W. Winton Avenue,
Room 111
Hayward, CA 94544

Livermore Public Library – Civic Center
1188 S Livermore Ave
Livermore, CA 94550

And on the County's website: <https://www.acgov.org/cda/planning/landuse/projects/currentprojects.htm>

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Written comments on the Draft EIR must be received no later than February 28, 2022 at 4:30 PM.

any 28, 2022 at 4:30 PM.

Please send written comments to:
Alameda County Planning Department
224 W. Winton Avenue, Room 111
Hayward, CA 94544
ATTN: Albert V. Lopez
Planning Director

Please include a return address and contact name with your written comments. You are also encouraged to email your comments to albert.lopez@acgov.org with "Monte Vista Memorial Gardens EIR" as the subject.

PUBLIC PROCESS: Although CEQA does not require formal hearings at any stage of the environmental review process (State CEQA Guidelines Section 15202(a)), it does encourage "wide public involvement, formal and informal...in order to receive and evaluate public reactions to environmental issues" (State CEQA Guidelines Section 15201) and requires the lead agency to provide the public with the opportunity to provide comments. The County, as lead agency, circulated a Notice of Preparation (NOP) of an EIR (SCH # 2020069045) for the proposed project on June 29, 2020. The NOP was distributed for a 30-day comment period that ended on July 29, 2020. In addition, the County held a public scoping meeting on July 20, 2020, to solicit input on the scope and focus of the EIR. Comments received on the NOP and during the public scoping meeting were considered in the preparation of the EIR. Appendix A of the Draft EIR contains the NOP, and Appendix B contains written comments received on the NOP.

The Draft EIR incorporates public and agency responses to the NOP. Like the NOP, the Draft EIR is being circulated for review and comment by appropriate agencies, as well as organizations and individuals who have requested notification. In accordance with Section 15205(d) of the State CEQA Guidelines, the County has scheduled a 45-day public review period for the Draft EIR, ending on February 28, 2022 at 4:30 p.m. Within that 45-day period, the County will hold one public hearing before the Planning Commission via teleconference and video conference to request comments on the Draft EIR, at the following time and link.

Monday February 7, 2022, at 3:00 pm
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/95946946292>
Call-in Number: (669) 900-9128 or (346) 248-7799
WEBINAR ID# 95946946292

The meeting will be held in conformance with the County's Teleconferencing Guidelines for Planning Public Hearings (PDF), at the link provided or at the Planning Department webpage below:

<http://www.acgov.org/cda/planning>

Following the close of the public review period for the Draft EIR, the County will prepare a final EIR, incorporating all comments received during the public comment period, for consideration by the Planning Commission, at a date for which notice shall be provided. As required by CEQA (Section 21092.5), the final EIR, including written responses to the comments submitted by public agencies, will be available at least 10 days prior to certification. The Independent, Legal No. 5072. Published January 13, 2022.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 585342

The following person(s) doing business as: Blue Zen, 938 Soto Drive, San Lorenzo, CA 94580, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Francisco Antunez, 938 Soto Drive, San Lorenzo, CA 94580. 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/: Francisco Antunez, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 29, 2021. Expires December 28, 2026. The Independent, Legal No. 5073. Published January 13, 20, 27, February 3, 2022.

CLASSIFIEDS

ANIMALS

CATS/DOGS

ADOPT A DOG OR CAT
For adoption information contact Valley Humane Society at (925)426-8656



Adopt a New Best Friend
TVAR
Tri-Valley Animal Rescue

Our current weekly adoption events include:

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

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

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

EMPLOYMENT

CDL-A TRUCK DRIVING JOBS HOME EVERY DAY!

J.B. Hunt is hiring CDL-A drivers for a local driving job on our Dedicated fleet. \$96,000 a year + daily home time. Medical benefits after 30 days of employment, company-matched 401(k), paid time off & more!
Call us at 1-800-723-3169 or visit DriveJBHunt.com for more info!

HELP WANTED

SERVICES

BE WARY of out of area companies. Check with the local Better Business Bureau before you send money or fees. Read and understand any contracts before you sign. Shop around for rates.

TO PLACE
CLASSIFIED ADS
go to
bit.ly/Indy-Classifieds
or call
(925)243-8000

MERCHANDISE

FOR SALE

ESTATE/ GARAGE/ YARD SALES

FREE SECTION

Free Pine & Oak Wood
You cut & haul it
Lots of Pine cones, too
Please call
(408)897-3156

LOST/ FOUND

NOTICES /ANNOUNCEMENTS

NOTICES

"NOTICE TO READERS: California law requires that contractors taking jobs that total \$500 or more (labor and/or materials) be licensed by the Contractors State License Board. State law also requires that contractors include their license numbers on all advertising. Check your contractor's status at www.cslb.ca.gov or (800)321-CSLB (2752). Unlicensed persons taking jobs less than \$500 must state in their advertisements that they are not licensed by the Contractors State License Board."

REAL ESTATE

LAND FOR RENT

OFFICE/HOUSE/CONDO / DUPLEX / APT RENTAL

HOUSE/ROOMS/RENTALS TO SHARE

BOAT / RV / RENTAL SPACE

Inland Valley Publishing Co. Client Code:04126-00001
Re: Legal Notice for Classified Ads
The Federal Fair Housing Act, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and state law prohibit advertisements for housing and employment that contain any preference, limitation or discrimination based on protected classes, including race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin. IVP does not knowingly accept any advertisements that are in violation of the law.

Professional's Choice Real Estate Directory

Local guide to the Valley's Leading Real Estate Professionals & Services

MIKE FRACISCO
(925) 998-8131
Fracisco Realty
Residential • Commercial • Property Mgmt
MikeFracisco.com
DRE #01378428

REALTOR®

Sandee Utterback
(925) 487-0524
CalBRE#00855150
WWW.SANDEEU.COM
Berkshire Hathaway Drysdale Properties
Specializing in Livermore's Finest Homes

TO PLACE YOUR AD, PLEASE CONTACT:
925.243.8010
kim@independentnews.com

NICOLE SWEENEY
REALTOR®
925.518.2142
nicole@nicoleseweeeyhomes.com

Cindy Greci
(925) 784-1243
GRI

Dominic Greci
(925) 525-0864
GRI

www.GreciGroup.com

THE KRISTY PEIXOTO TEAM
Luxury homes, Ranches & Land Realtors
(925) 621-1210
TheKristyPeixotoTeam@gmail.com
TheKristyPeixotoTeam.com

PREFERRED BROKERS
Wanda Thompson
925.858.9128
411 So L St, Suite E, Livermore
CA DRE #00983781 / NMLS#244633

Gail Henderson
BROKER ASSOCIATE, MPA
COMMERCIAL • RESIDENTIAL
(925) 980-5648
homes@gailhenderson.com
www.gailhenderson.com
DRE 01709171 **sereno—**

Michelle Elliott
Senior Home Lending Advisor
925-212-6907 | Fax: 866-378-1616
michelle.d.elliott@chase.com
home.loan.chase.com/michelle.d.elliott
NMLS ID: 694685

Gordon Corsie
Real Estate Broker
Scotsman Realty Group
CA DRE Lic # 0091100
Call/Txt: 925.202.5497
www.thescotsman.com

ROOM FOR R

Storyteller to Present Classic Greek Tale on Jan. 16

Six Feet Apart Productions will present “The Odyssey: Belly of the Beast,” master storyteller Odds Bodkins

Bodkin’s take on the classic Greek tale, live on YouTube on Sunday, Jan. 16. Described as a consum-



Odds Bodkins

mate storyteller by The New York Times, Bodkins uses his voice to create heroes, villains, and animals while playing musical instruments to create vivid soundscapes. The 70-minute production of “Belly of the Beast” opens with Odysseus, the legendary Greek warrior-king, inside the Trojan Horse and longing for his wife and child, whom he has not seen in 10 years. Following the conquest of Troy, Odysseus begins his journey home, during which he and his men encounter storms, whirlpools,

the six-headed monster Scylla, the man-eating cyclops Polyphemus, and other dangers. Tickets for the presentation are \$25 and are available at sixfeetaparatproductions.com. The performance begins at 4 p.m. The Pleasanton-based Six Feet Apart Productions is an online story-telling company formed during the COVID-19 pandemic by two Bay Area comedians and mothers, Claire Hennessey and Regina Stoops, with the goal of turning shelter-in-place into entertainment-in-place.

Chorale Seeking New Singers

The Valley Concert Chorale is seeking experienced singers with sight-reading skills and will hold auditions on Monday, Jan. 17, and Monday, Jan. 24. Auditions are by appointment only and will include vocalizing to determine range, reading from one page of a motet, and a clapping exercise. Now in its 58th season, the Livermore-based chorale performs three concerts a season ranging from classical to contemporary and folk to jazz. Singers will be expected to commit for the full season, with Monday evening rehearsals at the First Presbyterian Church of Livermore. The next concert, “Celebrate the Night: Songs of Dreams, the Moon and the Stars,” is scheduled for March 12 and 13. To schedule a 10-minute audition, call 925-866-4003 or text 925-216-7084.

Livermore Wine Foundation Donates Auction Proceeds to Five Charities

Five children’s charities received almost \$200,000 from the Livermore Valley Winegrowers Foundation last month, proceeds from the 27th annual Livermore Valley Wine Auction held in September. The foundation said checks totaling \$195,575 were presented to the Shakespeare & Performing Regional Company (SPARC); the Child Abuse Listening, Interviewing, and Coordination Center (CALICO); the Exceptional Needs Network (ENN); the Quest Science Center; and the Reins in Motion Foundation during a program at the Wente Vineyards Tasting Lounge in Livermore. The annual fundraising auction was also held at Wente Vineyards in Livermore. SPARC received the largest amount, more than \$85,000, for a new educational program for Tri-Valley seventh graders. Brandi Addington, auction manager for the foundation, declined to say how much each of the other four charities received.

Local Singer-Songwriter Eve Marie Shahoian to Perform

Singer-songwriter Eve Marie Shahoian, a Bay Area native, will perform live at the Firehouse Arts Center in Pleasanton on Saturday, Jan. 29. Shahoian, who grew up in Oakland, has been performing since she was a child, appearing solo on “The Tonight Show with Johnny Carson” in 1980, when she was just 9 years old. She performed with the Oakland Symphony as a teen and has continued to perform and teach music in the San Francisco area. She recently debuted her show, “Take Me to the World,” a compilation of songs from the musical theater genre, jazz standards and newly released original

music, at the New York cabaret, Don’t Tell Mama. Tickets for the 7 p.m. performance at the Firehouse Theater, 4444 Railroad Ave., are \$20 to \$30, and are available at firehousearts.org. The Firehouse Arts Center is owned and operated by the city of Pleasanton.



Marie Shahoian

Rotary Accepting Grant Proposals

The Pleasanton Rotary Foundation is now accepting applications from local organizations for its 2022 community grant program. The club said proposals would be reviewed based on the potential lasting impact on the community, the level of involvement with Rotary,

and the relationship to the club’s mission of serving the human service needs of the community. Applications and guidelines are available at pleasantonrotary.org. Applications must be emailed to foundation@pleasantonrotary.org by 5 p.m., on Monday, Jan. 31.

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR EMPLOYMENT WITHIN
EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION
IN LIVERMORE OR HAYWARD?
**CAPE, Inc. is currently looking for
Early Childhood Professionals.**

Seeking Individuals With:

- Minimum Associate Permit
- AA Degree or Higher
- Experience Working with ECE

CAPE, Inc. Offers:

- Competitive Wages/Benefits
- Quality Programs
- Reimbursement Program for Continuing Education

For More Information Please Contact:
CAPE, Inc. Human Resources
E-Mail: HR@capeheadstart.org Website: www.capeheadstart.org

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR FREE OR LOW-COST
PRESCHOOL AND/OR CHILDCARE
FOR CHILDREN AGES 12 Months TO 5 Years?
CAPE, Inc.
MAY BE THE PROGRAM FOR YOU!!
Give your child a HEAD START with:

- Quality opportunities to support school readiness!
- Family support services including parent education!
- Health and development screenings and assessments!
- Disability and mental wellness support for families!

NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS!
For more information, please contact:
ERSEA Department (925) 443-3434 ext. 125
COMPLETE YOUR APPLICATION ONLINE
[HTTPS://WWW.SURVEYMONKEY.COM/R/CAPEAPP](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CAPEAPP)

**\$39 EXAM, X-RAY
& CLEANING!**
-ASK FOR DETAILS-

**SMILES
by Design**
(925) 443-4182
RICHARD D. HOWES, D.D.S.
www.smilesbydesignninelivermore.com

Paid Political Advertisement

**LIVERMORE MAYOR & COUNCIL
UNFIT to SERVE**

COMMUNITY ISSUE #1

DESTRUCTION OF OUR DOWNTOWN CHARACTER

- *Mayor/Council refuse to acknowledge citizens’ concerns
- *Citizens wanted open green-space by 4-1.
- *Veterans Park has shrunk to .70 acre due to the 38,000 sq foot of Eden housing buildings and their PRIVATE open space requirements.
- *Veteran's park becomes Eden’s residents yard vs. community park?
- *Eden project requires 231 parking spots but only has 117 underground parking spots. The Proposed 15M cost was reduced by 6.5 M as the other 114 parking spots needed by Eden tenants will take up spots in the COMMUNITY “L Street” parking garage paid for by us taxpayers!
- *Between the Eden project/Legacy project there is an additional 700+ cars coming/going downtown daily, clogging access downtown.
- *Eden’s project fails to meet the city’s low income housing requirement by 105 units. Why do it here since another site is still needed?



**JOIN OUR RALLY!
LET YOUR VOICE
BE HEARD!**
**Saturday, January 15,
11 am-1 pm**
Eden site Downtown

PAID FOR BY MAKING A BETTER LIVERMORE