

Author Barry Fadem Calls For National Popular Vote

By Larry Altman

REGIONAL — Campaign and elections attorney Barry Fadem, who in the past has represented groups in the Tri-Valley, is a voice in the national conversation on the U.S. election system.

During his long career, he authored the California lottery initiative that voters approved in 1984. He also penned the book, "Every Vote Equal: A State-Based Plan for Electing the President by National Popular Vote," alongside six co-authors.

And now, the Lafayette attorney and author is pushing hard to gain support for a national movement that he believes is a better way for the United States to elect its presidents.

Fadem differs from those who want to strike the Electoral College system from the U.S. Constitution. He knows that's unlikely to succeed. Instead, he promotes an idea that would utilize the Electoral College to make sure the candidate who receives the most popular votes nationally always wins.

Fadem has traveled to 45 states to promote the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact. In this scenario, states taking part would jointly provide their electoral votes to the candidate who wins the national popular vote. The goal is to create a compact with a sufficient number of states so that the popular vote winner would always win the Electoral College vote, even if he or she lost based on regulations that governed the Electoral College votes in the past.

Had the plan been in effect in 2000 and 2016, Al Gore and Hillary Clinton would have won the presidency, because more people across the nation voted for

(See FADEM, page 7)



Barry Fadem



Dublin High School hosted a cross-country meet Saturday, Feb. 13. It was the area's first high school sporting event since the pandemic began. Read the full story on page 3. (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)

Rep. Swalwell Shares Trial Perspective

By Larry Altman

REGIONAL — Tri-Valley Congressman Eric Swalwell said this week that although the U.S. Senate acquitted President Donald Trump of inciting the Jan. 6 insurrection on the

"The country saw who he is and who he isn't," Swalwell said in an interview with The Independent three days after 57 senators — seven of them Republicans — voted to convict Trump at the conclusion of

of the public agreed that Trump was guilty and that history will ultimately reflect that opinion.

Swalwell found himself presenting some of the most emotional evidence during the trial. After Del.

Swalwell said he has tried many cases as an assistant district attorney in Alameda County, but this was the first time the prosecutors and jurors were also the victims, and the room was the crime scene.

capital, he and his fellow House Managers won their case and have effectively prevented Trump from ever holding office again.

a weeklong impeachment trial, short of the two-thirds needed for a guilty verdict.

"I believe we won," Swalwell said, adding 60%

Stacey Plaskett of the U.S. Virgin Islands detailed former Vice President Mike Pence's escape from the

(See SWALWELL, page 11)

Environmental Groups Join Opposition to Aramis

REGIONAL — The Alameda Creek Alliance and Ohlone Audubon Society recently joined other environmental organizations in opposing the Aramis Solar Energy Generation and Storage project proposed for agricultural land in North Livermore, along Cayetano Creek.

"The Alameda Creek Alliance opposes the Aramis industrial solar plant, which is poorly sited. It would occupy land immediately adjacent to Cayetano Creek, which is designated as Water Management land under the Alameda County zoning

code," stated Jeff Miller, Alameda Creek Alliance president. "Solar projects are not permitted on Water Management land. The Aramis project would be detrimental for Cayetano Creek and set a bad precedent allowing further industrial-scale development next to creeks in other rural areas of Alameda County.

"The Alameda Creek Alliance supports distributed urban and rooftop solar to meet green energy needs, rather than siting industrial-scale solar plants on dwindling open space, wildlife habitat and agricultural lands in the

county."

The Ohlone Audubon Society advocates for the protection of birds and their habitats in southern and eastern Alameda County. Its opposition to the Aramis project follows similar opposition to the project from the Golden Gate Audubon, which focuses on protecting native birds and other wildlife species in the San Francisco Bay Area, particularly in San Francisco and western Alameda and Contra Costa counties.

The Golden Gate Audubon Society found that the

(See ARAMIS, page 7)

Water Market Could Spell Higher Costs For Local Agencies

By Ron McNicoll

REGIONAL — A recent webinar on trading of guaranteed future water prices on the stock market showed the potential to drive up the price tag of water for public agencies.

During a Feb. 2 California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) virtual meeting, water stock market advocates were clear that prices would rise. However, they stated that it would be a good thing, because water has been undervalued and therefore wasted. Their approach would encourage more efficient use of water, they told the CDFA board.

The meeting followed a recent announcement of the prestigious Chicago Mercantile Exchange (CME), which started in the 1800s trading corn futures, stating it would handle water trades.

The first and only water trading so far occurred Dec. 7, 2020, with 36 trades recorded. The average price settled at \$496 per acre foot (AF). An

acre foot is the amount of water that covers 1 acre to a depth of 1 foot, or about 325,000 gallons. It is enough to meet the needs of two typical households for one year.

It's difficult to find a yardstick price among public agencies regarding the worth of water. Zone 7 — which serves the Livermore and Pleasanton municipal water agencies, Dublin San Ramon Services District (DSRSD) and the private California Water Service — purchased surplus water from Napa Water District for \$230 per AF in a contract that later can be renewed.

Zone 7 is one of 29 State Water Project contractors. It has been paying in the range of \$300 to \$375 per AF, said Carol Mahoney, Zone 7 manager of integrated water resources.

The future of water looks like everything else in California — growing more expensive all the time, and forcing out residents who no longer can

(See WATER, page 9)

Council Amends Application Process for Tall Granny Units

By Ruth Roberts

PLEASANTON — In an effort to retain some local control over state accessory dwelling unit (ADU) mandates, the city council recently voted to amend its master fee applications process while voting to eliminate future citywide construction of two-story ADUs.

In a 4-1 vote, the council flexed its collective muscle when it came to allowing two-story, above-the-garage units and voted them down. Councilmember Jack Balch was the dissenting vote.

According to city senior planner Shweta Bonn, the city will no longer receive impact fees for ADUs measuring 749 square feet or less. However, reduced impact fees for ADUs totaling 750 square feet or more will still be received, as required by the state. Those with existing ADUs will be grandfathered into the amendment and unaffected by the changes.

ADUs are defined as

units within an existing single-family home or built as an extension or a detached unit. Junior accessory dwelling units (JADUs) are similar, but are located completely within a single-family dwelling, and may be no more than 500 square feet in size.

During the council meeting, Balch condemned the motion to prohibit all above-the-garage, two-story units. He cited the city's Walnut Hills neighborhood as an example of protocols that previously allowed for such structures.

"Walnut Hills is designed for (above garage ADUs); it's preapproved," said Balch. "So now ... by this amended motion, we will not allow them to build an ADU?"

Mayor Karla Brown offered her perspective.

"I've seen many good units over a garage, and I've seen some really bad ones," she said. "And if I buy a house, and it's next to a home that does not have

(See UNITS, page 5)

State Launches Map for School Reopenings

REGIONAL — As schools in the Tri-Valley and throughout California prepare for a return to the classroom, the state aims to provide virtual assistance with the planning process.

Gov. Gavin Newsom announced last week that the state has launched the Safe Schools for All Plan's interactive Safe Schools Reopening Map, an online tool providing a statewide snapshot of the status of school reopenings across California.

The map supports local communities in making data-driven decisions to safely open classrooms and helps ensure public transparency. The Feb. 12 announcement builds on the additional transparency, accountability and

assistance measures incorporated in the Safe Schools for All Plan.

"As COVID-19 conditions continue to improve and vaccinations ramp up throughout the state, this map will provide local communities with accessible, up-to-date information on how districts in their communities and beyond are adapting to the pandemic, including safety planning and implementation," said Newsom. "This map is one of many resources we have made available that will help school staff and families make informed decisions as we safely reopen our schools."

The Livermore, Dublin and Pleasanton school districts remain in the remote learning only phase.

But the Tri-Valley's neighboring San Ramon Valley Unified School District has returned to a hybrid education format for its elementary students.

The interactive map was developed in partnership with county offices of education and the California Collaborative for Educational Excellence. The map will display data from all school types — including school districts and charter and private schools — indicating status on reopening, safety planning and COVID-19 supports. Local communities and school staff will be able to leverage this tool when evaluating their reopening plans. The Safe Schools Reopening Map will help clarify the plan-

(See MAP page 7)



A hawk soars over the Tri-Valley with its beautiful feathers on display as rain clouds approach, bringing much-needed rain this week. (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)



EMBER

PET OF THE WEEK

Ember is looking for a cozy lap upon which to spend her twilight years. This coal-colored dog will warm your heart and your home with her soulful eyes, wagging tail and welcoming personality. Make your winter toasty with this sweet senior. While Valley Humane Society remains closed during shelter-in-place, adoptions are coordinated by appointment. Contact info@valleyhumane.org for more information.

(Photo - Valley Humane Society / E. Scholz)

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— VISIT WWW.INDEPENDENTNEWS.COM FOR DAILY ONLINE NEWS —

Livermore Author Pens Book That Aims to Help Immigrants in America

By Heather Brewer

In her 44 years, Senait Mesfin Piccigallo has traveled more, experienced more and prevailed over more than most people even hear about others going through, making her the quintessential author for a book about living as an immigrant in the U.S.

Born and raised in Ethiopia, the Livermore resident has lived in multiple countries, made trans-Atlantic moves, and raised a special-needs child – all in addition to working for several international non-governmental organizations (NGOs), completing a mandatory military service, and becoming an author after moving to the U.S.

"I worked for different international NGOs in the areas of gender equality, HIV/AIDS, female genital mutilation (FGM) and projects connecting youth globally through music. In 2003, my son, Aaron, was born with some complications, which led to him being hospitalized," Piccigallo said. "I then traveled to China with Aaron when

he was only 2 months old, in search of a diagnosis and possible treatment. I ended up staying in China for two years, teaching English as a second language, while figuring out my life with my son's disability (cerebral palsy). Although I fell in love with the Chinese culture, I decided to return back home."

Back in Eritrea, her family's country of origin, she worked with the United Nations (UNDP and UNFPA), as a local consultant, while finding a way to get her son either to Europe or the U.S., since services for him weren't available.

"I came to the U.S. because I wanted a better life for my special-needs son and myself," she said. "I tried many ways, including applying for a visa to the Netherlands and England and filling out an application for the USA Diversity lottery with a nudge from a friend. Getting a visa to come to the U.S. isn't as easy as people who are born here think it is, especially for people who live in developing nations.

Luckily for Piccigallo, she won a green card lottery in 2007.

"I traveled by myself to Kenya, where I had to stay for a month to get my visa processed by the American embassy," she said. "From there, I came to the U.S. in December 2017. After six months of hard work here, my son Aaron (who was only 4 at the time) and my dad, who accompanied him, joined me here. We've been living in the Bay Area in California since then."

Now married with two more children, Piccigallo has turned her attention to helping people through writing, putting together a book that has been described as an asset in making the lives of immigrants easier to traverse.

"When I read Senait's book entitled, 'You are in America, Now What? 7 Skills to Integrate with Ease and Joy,' my first impression was that I wish I had this kind of resource before moving to the U.S. to make my cultural integration a lot smoother," said Yonas B. Keleta, Ph.D., an associate professor of behavioral neuroscience. "I have never seen or read a book that is so well written and well thought out to make the life of an immigrant simpler. I highly recommend immigrants from all corners of the world to use it as a reference to make the process of their cultural integration a lot easier and joyful."

"The author walks you through many essential topics that the immigrant needs to know to make their life journey more successful. Included are several themes on maintaining a positive at-

titude, managing and controlling one's emotions, how and where to obtain your support system, and eventually building self-confidence, allowing one to integrate within a sea of diverse communities easily and freely where they live."

Through writing, Piccigallo has found yet another way to fulfill what she sees as her goal – improving the lives of those around her.

"Since I announced this book, people tell me it is important and timely with things that has been happening with the last administration," she said. "New immigrants have been scared and felt unwelcome, and to make matters worse, (there's also) the COVID virus situation. New immigrants need to learn a tremendous amount of skills to adapt to the ever-changing culture of America. My work has always given me purpose and fulfillment. Whether I am working as a court interpreter, being a CEO of my nonprofit, or coaching immigrants to integrate to their new home, all these activities have something in common – serving people, helping others, and making an impact. This is very fulfilling to me."

According to Piccigallo, immigrants to the U.S. can find American culture and government bureaucracy confusing and unwelcoming as they strive for the American dream. With her work, she hopes to support them and help them adjust to their new lives.

"Without support, these immigrants could be overwhelmed by American culture, falling into depression or resignation, as they become

bitter and unproductive, thinking the American dream is unreachable for them," she said. "If we can support these new immigrants by giving them the confidence to quickly and easily learn the skills to navigate and integrate into American culture successfully, they'll be able to achieve their vision of the American dream, not only becoming productive members of society themselves, but also giving hope

and opportunity to others. My book has the purpose of guiding new immigrants into navigating American culture, by giving them the skills and vision to experience their version of the American dream."

To pre-order the book, visit bit.ly/3u5yFzO. For more information, visit anchoringthenewyou.com or follow Piccigallo on Facebook at bit.ly/2M1i6EO.



Senait Mesfin Piccigallo will soon release her book, "You're in America, Now What?" (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)



Friends Search for Livermore's Finest Foods

By Jesse Watson

The time had come — three long rounds of intense battle had already passed, leaving only two competitors remaining.

However, as the final showdown approached, it was clear: only one burrito could be crowned "Best in Livermore."

El Bracket, a burrito competition started by longtime friends Andrew Kutsenda and Robbie Reign, aimed to find the best burrito in Livermore while supporting small businesses. The friends' search for Livermore's finest began two years ago when they moved from San Jose to Livermore.

"We were going back to San Jose three or four times a week to eat, and it became a homesickness kind of a thing," said Kutsenda.

After a while, the pair realized they had to find some new favorite food spots closer to home, so they decided to make their local search into a game.

"It kind of started out as this thing between us," said Reign. "Then next thing we know, we're Facebook live streaming it and talking to more and more people about it, and now it's getting a little bit more traction."

The search culminated in the El Bracket competition and the establishment of the Chomp Chomp Facebook page where the two friends now post their food critiques. Last December, burritos from Taqueria Los Caporales and El Cerrito Taqueria competed in the final round of El Bracket. The tasting was live streamed on @chompchompayarea, and the video now has more than 800 views. After a

detailed evaluation of the burritos' flavors, textures and authenticity, the duo announced El Cerrito's burrito as the winner of the burrito bowl.

According to Kutsenda and Reign, they are amazed by the support this 'wacky thing' garnered, and they're going to continue running the page for an important cause.

"I don't know why, but it's kind of becoming a thing, so we're going to keep it rolling, especially if that means we can continue to support small businesses," said Kutsenda.

The pandemic had a lot of adverse effects on the economy, but one significant effect has been the uncertainty it's created for small businesses. Kutsenda and Reign now have a platform with the potential to pro-

mote local small businesses, and that's exactly how they plan on using it.

Recently, the Chomp Chomp founders pitted donuts from Donut Wheel and Best Donuts against each other to settle the town's division between the two once and for all. They concluded that Best Donuts makes the best donuts in Livermore, giving it their Chomp Chomp certification.

Coming up, the pair plan on reviewing Livermore's sushi. They've also teamed up with the Livermore Downtown Association and will be helping them promote buying from small restaurants.

Kutsenda and Reign will continue to review local food and said if anyone has a bitter food rivalry they want settled, the two would love to hear from them on

Facebook.

"Continue to support small businesses however you can — that's the whole reason why we're doing this," said Kutsenda. "They need more support than ever right now."

For more information or to get a restaurant on the duo's radar, visit facebook.com/chompchompayarea.



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Long-awaited Cross-Country Season Gets Underway in Dublin

By Matt Schwab

It really hit Dublin High cross-country coach Chris Williams as he watched his boys’ varsity team finishing its race Saturday afternoon from his perch in the Gaels Football Stadium bleachers. The season had begun ... finally. “I was sitting there (thinking) ‘Wow, we’re

really racing!’” Williams said. “It was kind of an ‘awe’ moment, and I got choked up.” Emotions ran high as Dublin hosted a meet against Granada, Livermore and California in the teams’ long-awaited first East Bay Athletic League action of the school year, to begin a modified season during the

COVID-19 pandemic. Dublin’s boys’ team and Granada’s girls’ squad prevailed in the three-mile varsity races in windy conditions, but Saturday felt like a breath of fresh air for participants. It had been 11 months since Dublin runners had competed, dating back to the Dan Gabor Invitational at Amador Valley

tancing and stuff like that. They were super-pumped up about it,” Williams said. Normally, cross-country starts in the fall, but this season is unlike anything Williams has experienced in his 20-year Dublin coaching career. “Honestly, just toeing the line and being able to finally compete against other people was an amazing thing,” Williams said. “The performances also were great, but I think just overall, it was just nice to just actually race another human being that wasn’t wearing a Dublin across their chest.”

In a grand return, Dublin junior Daniel Trampe placed first in the boys’ varsity race with a personal best time on the course of 15 minutes, 14.1 seconds. He edged out Granada senior Wesley Chiba by two seconds, pulling away after the two were running shoulder-to-shoulder in the late stages. Dublin’s boys topped runner-up Granada 23-34 in a hard-fought team battle. California was a distant third with 89 points.

“(It) definitely felt good to get back out there and competing, especially against other teams,” Trampe said. “It’s nice to get out after so long of not racing.”

The girls’ race showcased a young and powerful Granada squad, as Matadors freshmen Gaby Edwards and Evelyn Ruckman-Barnes were first and second. Edwards’ winning time was an impressive 17:57.0 under the conditions, as the lone female competitor to break 18 minutes. Second-place Livermore’s duo of Angelina Guzman and Viviana Valenton were third and fourth as individuals. Maia Marquez led the third-place Gaels individually, in fifth.

The gung-ho Gaels had six boys’ runners in the top 10. Juniors Cole Turpin and

Joshua Turpin finished third and fourth, and Granada sophomore Farin Soriano rounded out the top five, one spot ahead of junior teammate Jacob Bauman. “Obviously, I think our varsity boys ran pretty well,” Williams said. “Granada’s a really good team on the guys’ side, and we performed pretty well against a very formidable opponent. To have this long layoff and to be able to produce that was pretty good. A lot of my younger kids ran really, really well.” Runners were buffeted by 20 mph winds at times, but Trampe remained undaunted and focused on

the task. “Definitely at the start, it was a bit windy, but I just followed the race plan,” Trampe said. “I didn’t expect anything unusual to happen. I expected to take the lead early on and just maintain it, and I just did that.” Trampe and the Gaels are looking to build on the effort. “My teammates are very excited,” Trampe said. “Just like me, they wanted to get there and race. We’re excited to finally have some competition because for the past few months we’ve only been having time trials between just us.”



Runners return to the course at Dublin High School as sports ramp back up in the Tri-Valley. (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)

EBAL Cross Country
At Dublin High, Saturday, 3.0 miles

GIRLS VARSITY
Team scores:
Granada 26, Livermore 50, Dublin 73, California 84.
Individual (top 10)
1, Gaby Edwards (Gra) 17:57.0; 2, Evelyn Ruckman-Barnes (Gra) 18:12.3; 3, Angelina Guzman (L) 18:19.6; 4, Viviana Valenton (L) 18:31.6; 5, Maia Marquez (D) 18:40.4; 6, Jana Barron (Gra) 18:46.6; 7, Elizabeth Melcher (Gra) 19:08.2; 8, Madison Chavez (Cal) 19:59.2; 9, Medha Gowda (D) 20:04.9; 10, Mia Lnenicka (Gra) 20:19.0.

BOYS VARSITY
Team scores:
Dublin 23, Granada 34, California 89, Livermore 106.
Individual (top 10)
1, Daniel Trampe (D) 15:14.1; 2, Wesley Chiba (Gra) 15:16.1; 3, Cole Turpin (D) 15:36.1; 4, Joshua Turpin (D) 15:44.5; 5, Farin Soriano (Gra) 15:48.7; 6, Jacob Bauman (Gra) 15:50.7; 7, Grayson Young (D) 15:54.9; 8, Sharvin Manjrekar (D) 15:55.9; 9, Vincent Giannini (D) 16:14.2; 10, Payton Spurlock (Gra) 16:16.5.

in track and field. “Last week, when we got word that we were going to be able to have a season, the excitement and intensity at practice really picked up, even on the easy runs,” Williams said. “The kids were so excited that they were going to have a season.” Teams had to follow strict rules due to the pandemic. Everyone in attendance was required to wear facial coverings, but runners could take the masks off during competition. Each team was also given an area to use as its home base, along with a designated bathroom. “We had to remind everybody, even though the season was ‘officially’ starting, that we still had to adhere to all the protocols that we’ve been having at practice — the social dis-

CIF Issues Update on Youth Sports Bylaws

The California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) sent an inquiry to the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) regarding the Cohorting Section in their updated youth sports guidance document released on Dec. 14, 2020, and they have confirmed that their specific language regarding cohorting and multi-team participation is not a mandate, but a recommendation.

Therefore, effective immediately, the CIF is

reinstating its waiver of Bylaws 600-605. The only exception is the sport of football. In consultation with the CIF Sports Medicine Advisory Committee and given the California law (California Education Code 35179.5) regarding full-contact practice limitations and other safety regulations resulting from Assembly Bill 2127 (Cooley), Assembly Bill 1 (Cooper), and CIF Bylaws, students will not be allowed to participate on a high school

football team and a club football team at the same time. No student is in violation of this bylaw until they participate in a high school football game and subsequently participate in a club football game. If a student has already participated on a football team outside the CIF, their high school eligibility is not impacted. As of printing, there have been no CIF football games, so no student has lost eligibility with respect to this bylaw.

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The City of Livermore invites applications for appointment to the Planning Commission

The Planning Commission advises the City Council on the adoption and on-going review of the General Plan for the physical growth of the City. The Plan, in conjunction with the Development Code, guides the general location of future public facilities, private buildings and improvements.

The Commission has specific responsibilities in the administration of the Development Code, including decisions or recommendations on subdivision of land and other development projects. The Commission is also responsible for ensuring development projects meet the City’s Design Standards and Guidelines.

In addition, the Commission promotes public interest in planning and encourages citizen participation in the formulation of land use policies. The commissioners also acquaint the public with problems and solutions relating to the local physical environment. Preference is for applicants to have demonstrated ability in the area of design by virtue of avocation, vocation, talent, and interest in design, architecture, landscape architecture, or a related field.

Applicants are required to have attended at least one meeting of the Planning Commission prior to submitting an application. Meetings are held the first and third Tuesdays each month at 7:00 pm and are held virtually using Zoom. Additional recruitment information and agendas can be found using the following link: www.cityoflivermore.net/PlanningCommission. The next Planning Commission meeting will be held Tuesday, February 16, 2021.

Interested parties are invited to attend an informational meeting on Tuesday, February 16, 2021, 5:30 pm virtually prior to the regularly scheduled Planning Commission meeting.

Applications are available on-line at www.cityoflivermore.net/AB. Applicants must reside within the Livermore city limits. If you have questions regarding the application, please contact the City Clerk’s Office at cityclerk@cityoflivermore.net or call (925) 960-4200.

The recruitment period begins February 4, 2021 and applications are due to the City Clerk’s Office no later than Friday, March 5, 2021 at 5:00 pm.

Interviews are tentatively scheduled the evening of March 15, 2021. Due to COVID-19, these interviews may be held virtually using Zoom.

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EDITORIAL

National Popular Vote Ensures Each Vote Counts

The author and attorney Barry Fadem has called for the U.S. to implement a National Popular Vote. It presents an alternative to the current Electoral College vote as we look at the future of elections. We're glad California is already one of the 15 states — along with the District of Columbia — to enact it.

This approach, which would declare a presidential winner based on who receives the most votes nationally, has a host of benefits. The change is practical, because it wouldn't strike the Electoral College system from the U.S. Constitution. Instead, participating states would jointly agree to provide all their electoral votes to the candidate who wins the popular vote.

Voter turnout could drastically improve on both sides of the party lines. Those who previously felt that their votes wouldn't count in blue or red states would feel empowered when casting their ballots.

While we would still await accurate results from the popular vote, the National Popular Vote would put an end to the waiting period the nation saw in November for decisions on close contests in battleground states like Arizona, Georgia and Pennsylvania.

Imagine how this could heal some of the division and partisanship we've seen in recent years.

In Fadem's assessment, the change would make every American's vote count and ensure candidates seek votes in every state, not just the closely contested ones.

The concept is not without its critics, though.

Some say the method would disproportionately represent large metropolitan areas and limit the voice of rural America. However, according to the Conservatives for National Popular Vote website, the current state-based winner-take-all method "assigns inordinate amounts of importance to the handful of battleground states." The site further noted that the population of the 100 largest cities (59.8 million) was nearly equal to the number of people living in rural America (59.5 million). And during the 2012 and 2016 campaigns, only five of the country's 25 most rural states received visits by the candidates. That means a majority of rural America was largely overlooked.

We support Fadem's stance on the National Popular Vote. By making each vote count, each of us will have a voice.

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 is to Be Done?

Mike Thompson, Livermore

As a 56-year, proud resident of Livermore, I've considered sending a letter to the Independent several times. This is the first time, so you can see that I am very concerned. I'm a businessman and used to negotiations and reaching agreements.

Last year, after months of residents input, the city requesting input, and then the measure P vote, the residents voted in favor of the City Plan. I voted for the City Plan. Like all my friends and family, I had two main concerns, will there be enough parking and will there be enough open space.

For the record, these two concerns are shared by a large majority of our citizens.

Now, we hear that Eden Housing has changed its plans and now wants to be given almost a 50% bigger footprint. This results in two major issues.

One, Veterans Park now shrinks to a grass strip between two four-story buildings, so the park is gone. Second, Eden's new plan is almost 100 parking places less than city code.

Therefore, the two most important expressed concerns of Livermore residents, parking and open space, are severely impacted. The new residents of Eden Housing will take at least 100 parking spaces from public parking.

Result, less parking for our citizens to shop and eat downtown, another blow to our suffering small businesses

and their employees.

What happens to downtown cannot be changed after the fact. We will have to live with it. If you, like me, are scared and concerned, please speak up, otherwise, I believe the result will be devastating to our great city.

What is to be done? My suggested options are:

- 1: Have Eden go back to their agreed plan, OR
- 2: Seek an alternative site for their housing, OR
- 3: Put this new plan on the ballot, so we can vote on it and make sure we have a fair decision.

In closing, I feel very confident that if Livermore citizens could attend council meetings in person, residents' feelings would be very evident.

I Feel Your Pain

Paul Stone, Dublin

In an article in The Independent from Feb. 11 by Dawnmarie Fehr, a number of people are cited as lamenting the closure of Campo di Bocce restaurant in Livermore.

I too lament this closure and also that of Specialty's in Pleasanton and Rickys Sports Bar in San Leandro and many, many other businesses in the East Bay and in California. Much, if not most, of the blame for this is due to the floundering, erratic, capricious, governance of Gavin Newsom in his handling of the Covid crisis.

Please take time to download a copy of the petition to recall the governor. You can sign it only for yourself if you wish at recallgavin2020.com.

Move Eden Housing and Unite Livermore

Monny Nop, Livermore

I have been a part of Livermore for over 25 years now and have come to love this city as much as life itself. I will always do what I can to make our city the best place possible.

During the recent mayor's race, my position about Eden Housing was to keep the 130 housing units at its current location, South of Railroad Avenue and East of North L Street. However, with the latest change that Eden Housing had proposed, which includes reducing the area dedicated for a new park by 32%, I am now in favor of relocating Eden Housing to north of Railroad Avenue or another location in Livermore altogether. Below are my top four reasons why we should move Eden Housing:

It's the right thing to do for our city and residents. With Eden Housing's new proposal, it would completely change the landscape in downtown. With their new change, it is only right and fair to listen to our residents and make the change they are now asking.

Make downtown a great place for people to visit, shop, play and support our

downtown businesses. With a bigger park in downtown Livermore, more families can enjoy the park while supporting our many struggling downtown businesses. With the continued crisis of Covid-19, a bigger park would also serve as the perfect place for outdoor dining and picnicking. More thriving businesses also mean more revenues for our city.

More parking and more affordable housing units. Because a majority of our residents have demanded more parking, moving Eden Housing would allow more space to accommodate more parking in downtown and more space to add much needed, affordable housing units in our city.

This is a once in a lifetime project. A bigger park in downtown Livermore would not only allow all of us to enjoy it now, but it would accommodate the many future generations to enjoy. We have waited long enough, so why not do it right now and plan for the future growth as well?

I strongly urge all residents to support the moving of Eden Housing, and I strongly urge the city council to reconsider their position. This is the right thing to do for our city to make it the best place to live and play. Doing the right thing now will certainly help heal and unite our residents.

Always Be Skeptical

Pete Stephenson, Livermore

In the Feb. 11 Independent, I read with dismay the Letter to the Editor in which Mr. Isenburg describes his plight with scammers pretending to be from Amazon.

I sincerely empathize and hope he has since been able to recover most or all of his money.

I fear that since he was fooled once by these scammers, they'll add him to a "sucker list," and he'll receive more scam calls and emails. I trust he will be skeptical and not fall for them.

I also wanted to share some information he and others might find useful:

1. Any unsolicited calls or emails purporting to be from Amazon, Apple, etc. are fake. Always. Such emails and calls are not from the companies in question, but from scammers pretending to be them. They use fake names, disposable phone numbers, websites, etc. and can be very convincing.
2. Never take any action based on information in an unsolicited email (such as calling a number in the email, clicking a link, etc.). Instead, manually type in the known-good web address (e.g., www.amazon.com) directly into your web browser. A quick check of his "Your Orders" page on the real Amazon site would verify that Mr. Isenburg's account did not place the order the scammers purported he did.
3. Amazon, Apple, etc. will never ask to scan or remotely access to someone's computer.
4. Gift cards are anonymous, untraceable, irrevocable once used, and can be quickly and easily be fenced by scammers. They should never be used for anything (e.g. paying bail money, the IRS, PG&E, etc.) other than as a gift to friends or family: gift cards are for gifts, not payments. Anyone saying otherwise is a scammer.
5. The "constant prob-

lems" with the gift cards and "reimbursement checks" were part of the scam, and a ruse to get him to send more money.

6. Since the scammers had access to his computer, I urge Mr. Isenburg change the passwords to his various online accounts (e.g. banks, email, etc.) to prevent scammers from accessing them. This should be done from a "known-clean" computer since they may still be monitoring his current one.

7. Always be skeptical. Scammers are clever, persistent, and high-pressure. With legitimate companies, there's rarely any sort of immediate time pressure to take some action, so be patient and check things out.

See consumer.ftc.gov/articles/paying-scammers-gift-cards for more helpful tips, and stay safe. Good luck!

Community Feels Betrayed

Mary Anne Rozsa, Livermore

Shame on the City Council for allowing the Eden Housing Plan to be so radically changed. The housing promised has been significantly changed, so now our teachers, emergency responders, downtown workers and artists no longer qualify with the new income limits. Also, the parking has been modified, reducing the critically needed spaces for all the residential units. The park area that the community would totally enjoy has been reduced and marginalized.

The combination of all the above will greatly change the feel and ambience of our downtown, which I have always considered to be "Very Special".

I am disappointed in our Council and Mayor for allowing this to happen and believe the community feels betrayed.

Don't Vote for Swalwell

James Cable, Livermore

I am not a member of a political party, but I do vote in every election.

I always hope to find candidates who are the best for the job, are centrist, and fiscally responsible.

I voted for Eric Swalwell the first time that he ran for Congress. I am ashamed of that vote now. In his time in Congress, he has gotten further and further away from doing the right thing. He always votes to spend money. He always complies with whatever the Democrats want. He does not think for himself.

Now, he is center stage, violating the constitution of the United States. The constitution does not allow impeachment of an ex-president. Only people in office can be impeached, but Mr. Swalwell doesn't seem to care.

Trump is gone. Why are our representatives wasting time and money, making a mockery of our constitution? I truly believe that there are more important things that Eric Swalwell could be working on.

I hope that there is a good challenger for his seat next time and hope that you will join me in not voting for Eric Swalwell.

Stand Up for Constituents

Kim Vardanega-Kent, Livermore

Aramis claims that the project site for its industrial solar power plant is not productive agricultural land, yet the Aramis Project will preserve ranch land and revital-

ize agricultural use the land.

The cows and calves that graze at the site year around would disagree.

Construction of the Aramis plant will require the grading, excavation, trenching and boring of the land, the installation of over 300,000, tightly spaced solar panels, construction of a five-acre lithium-ion battery complex, water tanks, and a power substation, laying of underground and overhead electrical transmission lines and miles of internal access roads, all surrounded by security fencing.

Instead of enhancing the agricultural use of the land, the Aramis project will destroy it. The land will be transformed into a utility scale solar facility for the commercial generation and storage of electricity. That will be the predominant and overwhelming use of the land for the next 50 years.

Let's not allow a private energy company to set in motion the industrialization of North Livermore Valley. Please take 5 minutes to call Supervisor David Haubert's office at (925) 551-6995. Ask him to stand up for his constituents in Livermore and vigorously oppose the Aramis Project.

Bravo, Mr. Swalwell

Robert Yates, Livermore

I'm proud that our district is represented in Congress by Eric Swalwell, a person with the integrity and courage to do the right thing for us and our nation.

Bravo, Mr. Swalwell!

Relocate Eden Housing

Eric Dillie, Livermore

I have been a downtown Livermore resident since 2015. It is an incredibly special place to my family.

The past 20 years of Livermore city leadership cannot be thanked enough for their incredible efforts and stewardship in making Downtown Livermore the jewel that it is. Current city leadership is tasked with navigating an incredibly difficult political situation as it pertains to the Eden housing development. Affordable housing is desperately needed in our city and region, but the recent, unexpected changes to the Eden development has made the project untenable. Bob Woerner and the Livermore Stockmen's Association were able to relocate much of the required housing to another location. The same savviness and problem solving that enabled the relocation and Stockmen's Park creation is once again needed.

No one is claiming that moving the Eden Housing development north of Railroad Avenue will be easy, or cheap, but it is the best overall development option for Downtown.

Living on the Fringes

Mini Chopra, Livermore

Our unhoused neighbors, currently sheltering in makeshift tents in the creeks in Livermore, are daily fighting the harshest cold and rains this year.

Habitating close to each other in open but unroofed spaces, amidst piles of toxic waste, and often with no means to travel to community food banks, shelters, or the county-sponsored free COVID-19 testing sites, Livermore's unhoused are undoubt-

edly among the highest at-risk individuals to COVID-19.

During last summer, despite the pandemic at its peak, the city had opened cooling centers at the Robert Livermore Community Center. Disappointingly, no similar provision for warming centers has been made by the city during this cold season. Upon contacting the city council's Subcommittee on Homelessness, I was informed that COVID-19 restrictions relating to proper ventilation and limited public intake has precluded the city and support groups from providing warming stations to the unsheltered in Livermore.

Further, there appears to be no explicit ban on evictions of homeless encampments (similar to the county-enforced moratorium on rental evictions), at least until such time we are able to put COVID-19 behind us. At one instance, on Dec. 7 last year, at the Arroyo Mocho Trail, a city agency ordered a homeless encampment to be evicted after a passerby reported them. Keeping the ongoing global health crisis in mind, this eviction order, in my view, was inconsistent with the CDC guidance, which states that "clearing homeless encampments can cause people to disperse throughout the community and break connections with service providers, thus increasing potential infectious disease spread."

Furthermore, there has been no clear communication so far from the city, nor from Alameda County, on what affirmative steps they plan to take for ensuring that eligible homeless elders are being enabled with means to get themselves vaccinated. Though the unhoused are typically scattered around the fringes of our city, trying as hard as they can to make their presence inconspicuous for fear of being evicted, it is easier for the city to keep track of the eligible elder and chronically ill homeless currently sheltering at the hotel by the outlets.

In order for us to actualize herd immunity in our immediate communities, it is imperative that our grassroots public agencies lead us in taking all necessary steps that will overcome socio-economic and racial disparities in the equitable access to the vaccine by all community members.

Keep Potential for Cultivated Agriculture

Linda Thissell, Livermore

Every time I read a comment from an Aramis representative about North Livermore Valley, the person says the soil is "severely impaired."

Bunk. The Natural Resource Conservation Service, which is part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture rates the soil quality of the land north of Manning Road (providing 80 acres for the Aramis project) as farmland of statewide importance. The NRCS rates the soil quality of land south of the Manning Road (the Crosby Family Trust property which provides 269 acres for the Aramis project) as prime farmland if irrigated.

As recently as 2018, delicious strawberries were grown on the Stanley Ranch and sold at a stand on North Livermore Avenue. The Stanley Ranch is immediately

(See MAILBOX, page 6)

THE Independent

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UNITS

(Continued from first page)



The Pleasanton City Council recently approved fees and height requirements for granny units. (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)

a unit over the garage, and with minimum ministerial approval, all of a sudden, I have something that blocks my view of the mountains, and I have no say about it? It changes my property values and my enjoyment of my home, so I just can't support that."

Balch countered to state that removing the ability of the homeowner to build an ADU on a home previ-

ously approved for the addition would also reduce its value.

Staff highlighted the benefits of ADUs in the report as being conducive to on-site independent living space for family members or aging relatives; a convenient place of residence for caregivers; a way to provide for disabled or aging homeowners; or as a rental property.

Under the state's new legislation, local municipalities have the ability to decide on two-story structures. The council voted against it, primarily because the city, under the new state laws, would have no discretionary room for modifications on the two-story ADU units. Just as with the ADU fees, existing units will be folded into the grandfathered amend-

ment and thus protected.

It has been a year since the state enacted a series of bills to enhance ADUs, granny flats or in-law units, as they are also known. Staff has worked to meet state law while protecting Pleasanton's goals.

Vice Mayor Julie Testa praised staff for their work with the state and city planning commission.

"I think the standards that staff and the planning commission have worked on are great," she said. "I do believe they have made a tremendous amount of effort to conform to the Draconian law while still trying to create as much protection as possible to our neighborhoods."

Councilmember Valerie Arkin agreed and briefly addressed the council's spirited discussion.

"In terms of further restricting (ADUs), this is what we have to do to conform to state law," she said. "I think ADUs are great ... I think that is a great way to address the affordability piece, and I think residents should be allowed to do that. (But) what I am upset about is that there is no discretionary review allowed now because of this ridiculous state mandate ...

and that is where the blame needs to be placed; not on each other."

For more information, visit www.cityofpleasantonca.gov.

LIVERMORE
CALIFORNIA

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

LIVERMORE RESIDENTS: Share your talents with the community by volunteering on one of the City of Livermore's advisory bodies. We are accepting applications now through Friday, February 26, 2021.

Airport Commission (1 vacancy, at-large)
Join us in ensuring the continued quality and viability of the Livermore Municipal Airport as a community and regional asset.

Beautification Committee (2 vacancies)
Join us in working to preserve the natural beauty and habitat of Livermore.

Community Asset Management Program (CAMP) Outreach Committee (1 vacancy)
The City of Livermore manages more than \$3 billion in community assets that include our streets, sidewalks, traffic signals, storm drains, public facilities, and more. Join the Community Asset Management Program (CAMP) Outreach Committee and advise the City on how we can ensure the sustainability of our essential infrastructure investments. CAMP members will provide input and serve as outreach ambassadors—sharing our efforts and educating the broader community about the important decisions we face.

SAVE THE DATE! Interviews will be tentatively held the evening of March 10, 2021. For more information or to apply, please visit www.cityoflivermore.net/AB, call the City Clerk's office at (925) 960-4200, or email us at cityclerk@cityoflivermore.net.

Eden Housing says changes to their flawed plan are impossible. Don't believe it.



The new Eden Housing plan reduces park space and parking stalls, increases building size and traffic congestion, and abandons workforce housing for teachers, firefighters and police. It threatens the character of Livermore's historic, open downtown. Yet Eden and others say any relocation of the housing is "impossible" because Eden could lose its \$14.5 million Alameda County A1 loan, and a property covenant requires at least 84 units on the current site. Don't believe it!

- X The experienced Director of Alameda County Housing and Community Development wrote in an email last year before she retired that "If the result of changes were higher scores on ranking criteria and a larger number of affordable housing units, it is likely that the funds could remain with the project." Eden's \$14.5 million loan should be preserved especially if the number of units were increased at the new location.¹
- X Livermore's own City Attorney has written that Livermore "may propose a change of use only in the event that the Property is no longer needed" and "the Property will be used to benefit individuals or families whose incomes do not exceed 120 percent of median income for the area." This would happen if the units were moved across the street north of Railroad Avenue.²



Speak up to save Livermore Downtown!

Call on the City Council and Eden Housing to keep their promises and present a new alternative for downtown.

Sources: 1) Email from Alameda County Housing and Community Development Director to BOS District 1 Chief of Staff, 1/29/2020 2) Interoffice Memorandum from Livermore City Attorney, 9/04/2018

Check out our new website at SaveLivermoreDowntown.com!

MAILBOX

(Continued from page 4)

adjacent to the Crosby Family Trust property. The Crosby Family Trust has chosen to lease its property for free range cattle to graze.

Here is the bottom-line: The soil at the Aramis project site is of sufficient quality for cultivated agriculture, it just needs water. Once developed into a solar power plant, the potential for cultivated agriculture at the site is gone forever.

Float a Bond Sam Stone, Livermore

I am saddened that our City Council lacks the vision to insist upon something bold and attractive on the windfall of 8 acres of open space at the downtown lot.

Aim toward 100 years of grandeur. Lead; don't squeeze. Cost is the constraint of tight fiscal thinking, and I believe unnecessary.

Float a bond; I'd buy into one.

Pay Attention to Residents Helga Christopherson, Livermore

Ellen Turner nailed it in her letter about the downtown project in the Feb. 11 issue of the Independent.

Lucy (aka powers that be) is still pulling the football away as Charlie Brown (aka Livermore residents) tries to kick it. But there is always more.

The solar "farm" project hasn't gone away yet. Continuing vigilance is required, and just last week (thank God for the Independent's local coverage) we read of a proposal to operate B-737s out of the Livermore airport, so the elite of the Bay Area don't have to go to Oakland or San Jose for their charter or private flights.

The article is replete with assurances that, no, it will not be noisy for the people who live near the airport. According to David Decoteau, airport manager, "There will be no traditional commercial passenger service provided by Kaiser air."

While that sounds nice, it is a slippery slope from charter service to more charter service to full-blown charter flights, and this time via Livermore-based B-37s. It depends on who defines "traditional passenger service." The many of us who participated in the airport wars years ago probably remember the assurances that Livermore would never be open to big planes. B-37s are big planes. "Charlie, kick the football again," Lucy says.

Charles Schultz, creator of Charlie Brown, was one observant artist. There was an episode, done late in Schultz' career, in which Snoopy had a nightmare in which he was portrayed as an abused sled dog who finally couldn't take it anymore. The sweet dog became a killer animal. It was a nightmare ... in the comics. Like what is happening around here now.

In this matter, I think we should pay attention to the needs of Livermore and Pleasanton residents, not business and sports elites.

Water A Critical Issue Kelly Cousins, Pleasanton

Mayor Brown and Councilmembers Arkin and Testa rejected spending \$300,000 of city funds to study and market 'potable reuse' water (also known as toilet-to-tap).

On a 3:2 vote at the Feb. 2 city council meeting, the mayor reminded others about an advisory vote in 2000, when Pleasanton voters strongly rejected programs for 'potable reuse.' The no vote carried by a margin of 72%, with only 28% in favor of the controversial water program. Additionally, the city's guiding document, the General Plan, prohibits using of potable reuse in our drinking water.

Finally, the cost of this type of water is estimated to be four times higher than current water supplies.

Clean and safe water is a major concern to people who live in Pleasanton. Residents derive their drinking water from several sources, including Zone 7 and the city's three water wells, including Well #8, which has been decommissioned due to testing that uncovered low levels of polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). Bringing well #8 back to production will be expensive.

In response, the council majority voted to divert the \$300,000 toward the engineering design studies to remove PFAS from the city's well. The city wells are being

closely watched and tested regularly.

With expanding populations here in the Tri-Valley, plus unpredictable weather patterns, the need for additional water sources will continue to be a focus for the city and for Zone 7. Some alternatives for additional water are expensive and can take decades before water is available, such as constructing new storage dams, ocean water desalination, intertie connections to existing water supplies in other communities, and piped water from the mountains via the Delta Conveyance. A list of acceptable diversified water sources should be considered.

Some water agencies with limited alternatives are focusing on the risky option of injecting potable reuse water (toilet to tap) into underground aquifers.

There is no inexpensive option to provide Pleasanton with more water, but clean and safety water must be our top priority. Potable reuse water according, to city reports, has a price tag of more \$222 million for the capital equipment alone, and the cost of cleanup of PFAS in one well is estimated to range from \$25 million to \$40 million.

This is a critical issue, and the solutions are complex and expensive. Pleasantonvoters.com will be tracking this important topic, and we will provide new information as it becomes available.

Do The Right Thing Lee Giroux, Livermore

Just have to add some thoughts on the Eden Housing issue.

The location north of Railroad Avenue seems ideal. The residents would have more privacy, and the happy people of Livermore would have more park space. I have lived here for over 30 years and have seen the city leaders do the right thing over and over.

Do the right thing once again and move the Eden Project.

We Only Have One Scenic Corridor Merlin Newton, Livermore

If you think the residents of North Livermore Valley are somehow solar NIMBY's, think again!

We are trying to protect the legacy of those who came before us, over a half century ago, with the foresight to protect the scenic views and natural landscape in North Livermore for future generations. It was so important, county officials designated North Livermore Avenue a scenic corridor and adopted to its general plan the 'scenic route element.'

Hence this 'backyard' belongs to all of us, including the wildlife and the natural biodiversity habitat. We must do all we can to continue to preserve the legacy of those who came before us and protect the area before it's destroyed and lost forever.

We already have a massive electric corridor in East Alameda County, next to a PG&E substation close to Mountain House. The county should tell the solar companies to build their so-called 'farms' there.

We only have one scenic corridor in North Livermore. Please contact Supervisor Haubert today, and tell him it makes no sense to convert North Livermore into another massive electric corridor.

Downtown Needs a Park, Parking Carol Wahrer, Livermore

I am disappointed with the new downtown plan.

Eden Housing misrepresented the size of the development, and betrayed the trust of the citizens of Livermore. I am amazed our city council and planners fell for this nonsense. Our downtown needs a park and parking. Let's make sure we get both as planned and as promised.

The Aramis (Project) Musketeer Mentality Greg Scott, Livermore

Aramis, one of the musketeers in the novel, "The Three Musketeers," written by Alexandre Dumas, kills humans with the tool and ability of a metal sword.

The namesake Aramis Solar Project, on the other hand, will destroy the habitats of and kill red-legged frogs and other organisms by the installation of metal, glass, semi-conductor, and lithium-ion materials by heavy equipment for the operation of

solar-electric panels on North Livermore Valley terrain.

Biodiversity is essential for the human food web and for the ecosystem services necessary for our survival. The human food system and its attendant biodiversity is the system of most priority because of the threat of human-induced climate disruption from carbon emissions, soils degradation from human manipulations, and from habitat losses caused by developments and other overall ecologically non-beneficial land uses.

Three-fourths of the carbon on the Earth is in the soils and upper crust. One-fourth, and increasing by human emissions, is in the atmosphere. Solar electric reduces emissions, however it does not 'fix' or retain carbon. To solve our predicament, we must not only reduce emissions, we must also remove carbon from the atmosphere.

The carbon cycle is not well understood. Current carbon capture and sequestration (CCS) technologies are not feasible for achieving carbon net-zero. We cannot afford to sacrifice precious lands on the pathway to atmospheric carbon reduction solutions. The answer to a better carbon balance between the ground and the atmosphere is most likely in the conservation, preservation, and restoration of lands, soils and habitats like those of the North Livermore Valley Study Area.

We are trying to resolve our 21st-century situation with 19th-century or previous mentality: exploitation, extraction, and desecration. This is not going to work.

Aramis, the musketeer, had insatiable ambition and arrogance. At the finale of Dumas's Le Vicomte De Bragelonne it is inferred that Aramis, reluctantly, may have cried. It will be us, too, as communities, and as individuals, in the aftermath of the swashbuckling spoils of solar-electric energy, who lament the loss of the North Livermore lands if the development of the Aramis Project is built.

Inspired by the late-California-native writer William Saroyan, who said it takes a dull nerve not to be awed by Yosemite, I say it takes the sensitive nerves of aware individuals to be awed by the wonder and ecosystem-service potentials of a spared North Livermore Valley.

Open Space Needed For Downtown Betty Maranville, Livermore

I have been in Livermore resident since 1962, and I am very upset about the plans for the old Lucky Store lot downtown.

Building more housing in an area that cries out for open space is a terrible mistake. You will be turning what could be a lovely, inviting park area into a congested space, dark and dismal. The planned affordable housing belongs further away, north of Railroad Avenue.

Livermore City Council, please reconsider the downtown plan. Join the many of us who were looking forward to a large, open-space park.

We Don't Want 737s Landing in Livermore Donna Cabanne, Livermore

Have you heard about 737 jets flying into Livermore?

The Airport Commission voted to allow Kaiser Air to bring in fully loaded 737 jets. The company plans four flights a week in and out of Livermore Airport. It won't stop there.

Once 737 jets are ap-



Hikers and their dog enjoy the crisp February air at Livermore's Del Valle park. (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)

proved, the FAA does not allow airports to prohibit other companies with 737 jets from landing in Livermore. Do we want Livermore to become the cheap alternative to Oakland, San Jose and SF, so charter companies can maximize their profits at our expense?

What about noise? Kaiser Air plans to voluntarily respect nighttime curfews, but the key word is voluntary. There is nothing to prohibit Kaiser Air from landing and taking off at night if jets are delayed.

What about decibel levels? Kaiser will operate according to FAA noise standards below 89 decibels if they fly at night. The California Noise Control Act sets allowable decibel levels. Any noise exposure (dBA) above 80 is considered to have a severe impact.

The City of Livermore General Plan 2003 to 2025 follows state noise limits of 70 dBA, except for the downtown area, which may increase to 75 dBA. 89 dBA far exceeds state and city noise limits. You will not be able to enjoy your backyard or stay indoors without disturbing and jarring overhead noise.

What about air pollution? We live in a non-attainment air basin. Livermore triggered air violations for particulate matter (PM 2.5) 14.8 days in 2018, 17 days in 2017, 46 days in 2018, and 58 days in 2020. Now, Kaiser Air wants to bring in 737 jets loaded with aviation fuel and plans to sell aviation fuel at fueling stations for 737 jets. Do we want to exacerbate current unhealthy air conditions with aviation fuel from 737 jets?

Speak up if you care about health and safety. This project will negatively affect Livermore, Pleasanton, and Dublin. Attend the next Airport Commission hearing, on March 15, at 6:30 p.m., and contact

the Livermore Planning Commissioners to let them know we don't want 737 jets landing in Livermore.

Creeping Urbanization Richard Sears, Livermore

Let's see.

It appears that Veterans park is shrinking, and the attendant housing is growing. The parking for the housing is shrinking, and the traffic is expanding. Seems as if someone has the attention of the city. I am pretty sure it is not current residents.

What do you think about creeping urbanization?

Lies, Planning, and Insurrection Carol Silva, Livermore

I watched the second impeachment trial of Trump, and I was horrified by the chilling information and visuals as presented by the House managers.

All of the House managers did an excellent job communicating and presenting the truth, much of it recorded from Trump's own words. This trial showed the world how Trump not only continually lied about the presidential election results, in which Trump's (more than 60) lawsuits were denied by mostly conservative judges due to lack of evidence, but then Trump tried to get election officials to either 'find' votes for him or to throw out valid votes. This is fraud and it illustrates that it was Trump who was trying to steal the election from Biden.

The House managers not only provided evidence of

how Trump incited his base to believe that the election was stolen from him, but also asked them to come to the Capital on Jan. 6 for a 'rally' that he knew would be violent. Trump assisted the 'rally' by changing the permit of the 'rally' from not marching to the Capital to 'rally participants' being able to march to the Capital. The videos of the insurrection are chillingly horrific, and Trump led the way for his followers to maim and kill police and to vandalize and steal materials from the Capitol.

After the disappointing vote by most of the Republican Senators to acquit Trump, it was especially disappointing to hear Mitch McConnell seem to side with the arguments presented by the House managers and then say that he didn't believe that Trump should be impeached as a private citizen for his actions and his negligent inactions as president. McConnell was the individual who controlled the Senate calendar and who would not bring the senators into session for the impeachment trial prior to Inauguration Day, when the Democrats wanted to start the trial four days before Inauguration Day.

Not only will Jan. 6 be considered a sad day for this nation, but I will also remember Feb. 13 as another very sad day when many Republican leaders denied the truth, hurt the future of democracy, provided no justice for the Capital police, who were overwhelmed by delusional, violent thugs, and provided no justice for this nation.

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Assistance League Continues Work During Pandemic

One might think that Assistance League of Amador Valley (ALAV) has not been doing much with the COVID-19 restrictions. Assistance League, however, has been busy. While some of the programs have been put on hold, others continue. In times of such great need it is vital to continue the work of helping those in need. Donations of milk, eggs, flour, sugar, and oil to the Food Pantry in Livermore

on Junction Avenue are now weekly, thanks to donations and grants. Currently, the pantry is serving more than 1200 families each month. The need is great, and can-do workers are helping to fill a need. The Birthday Bag program this year has provided birthday bags to 22 children in local shelters. The bags contain age-appropriate gifts and items to celebrate their birthday. In Livermore alone,

ALAV help children in three different shelters – one for homeless and two for victims of domestic abuse. Children in shelters may not have any other acknowledgment of their birthday, and this is one way for these children to feel special during a very challenging time in their lives. Birthday bags let the children know people care. As a nonprofit, ALAV relies on fundraising to support their programs. The annual

Poinsettia Sale, Crab Feast and Mad Hatter's Tea are on hold due to Covid-19, but they hope to resume both activities next year. In the meantime, volunteers are busy working to plan a virtual fundraiser this spring, which will provide some much-needed revenue to continue the programs. Stay tuned for more information. For more information, visit AVAL on Facebook or at assistanceleague.org/amador-valley.

MAP

(Continued from first page)

ning and implementation of safe reopening. As of Feb. 8, the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District (LVJUSD) has received \$9.78 million. The LVJUSD has an established COVID-19 safety plan. To view the Livermore plan, visit http://bit.ly/Indy_LVJUSDopening. The Pleasanton Unified School District also has a safety plan available for viewing. It has received \$7.14 million in COVID-19 funds. To view the Pleasanton plan, visit http://bit.ly/Indy_PUSDopening. Dublin Unified has not submitted a safety plan to the county office of education, according to the interactive map. That district has received \$5.11 million. The California Department of Public Health will be adding other key data to the map, including outbreaks reported in each school district and whether the school has partnered

with the Valencia Branch Lab for COVID-19 testing. To provide up-to-date information, schools will input their data every two weeks. Additional data – including student enrollment data – will be collected and displayed publicly, subject to legislative approval. Since unveiling the Safe Schools for All Plan, the state has launched the Safe Schools for All Hub to serve as a one-stop shop for information about safe in-person instruction. The Governor's 2021-22 State Budget proposes historic levels of funding for schools – nearly \$90 billion, including \$3.8 billion above the Prop 98 minimum – which builds on existing state and federal funds to support schools in responding to the pandemic. The State Safe Schools Team has also:

- Issued updated guidance that consolidates requirements from Cal/OSHA and CDPH.
- Provided direct technical assistance on key safety measures to hundreds of school leaders per week through an online portal. (<https://caschoolsopening.powerappsportals.us/en-US>)
- Monitored and acted on feedback regarding school safety, which school staff and families can submit either via an online portal or a telephone hotline (with non-English options available).
- Distributed an extra month of PPE and supplies to all public schools via county offices of education.
- Onboarded over 800 schools in 41 counties to the state Valencia Branch Laboratory to support COVID-19 testing. The Lab continues to build supports tailored to

schools, including drop-boxes throughout the state to reduce logistical costs, an online platform that manages consent and data reporting, and certified support for testing students. Published new COVID-19 testing resources for schools, including contact information for commercial laboratories and playbooks to support implementation. The State Safe Schools Team will continue developing resources that support schools to plan and implement safe school reopenings, beginning with our youngest and most disproportionately impacted students. For more information, please visit the Safe Schools For All Hub: <https://schools.covid19.ca.gov/>. To review the map, visit <https://maps.schools.covid19.ca.gov/public.html>.

FADEM

(Continued from first page)

them. However, at other times, the Republican party could benefit. According to the Conservatives for National Popular Vote website, the population of the 100 largest cities (59.8 million) was nearly equal to the number of people living in rural America (59.5 million). "We are very bullish on this going into effect," said

U.S. Constitution, states award Electoral College votes based on their individual elections. Each state is given a number of electoral votes based on its population and the number of congressional districts. California, for example, and its 40 million residents hold 55 electoral votes. Wyoming and its population of less than 600,000

about a dozen battleground states, including Florida, Ohio and Nevada, drew candidates' most attention and advertising. According to the National Popular Vote website, the dozen closely contested states in 2020, 2016 and 2012 respectively received 96%, 94% and 100% of the campaign events. In the three elections, 25 states did not have a single campaign event, while six states held just one, the website noted. According to the National Popular Vote site, states deemed "politically irrelevant spectator states" included nearly all small states, rural states, agricultural states, southern and western states, and the Northeast.

better make every American's vote count and candidates would seek votes in every state, not just the closely contested ones. "At the end of the day, whoever gets the most votes, wins," he said. For more information, go to nationalpopularvote.com.

Fadem differs from those who want to strike the Electoral College system from the U.S. Constitution. Instead, he promotes an idea that would utilize the Electoral College to make sure the candidate who receives the most popular votes nationally always wins.

Fadem. "We are not going away. We've been doing this since 2005. We know we are doing the right thing." So far, legislators in Delaware, Hawaii, Rhode Island, Vermont, Colorado, Connecticut, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New Mexico, Oregon, Washington, California, Illinois and New York — all states that went for Hillary Clinton in 2016 and Joe Biden in 2020 — have enacted bills to join the interstate compact. Those states total 196 electoral votes. Bills in nine states — Arkansas, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, North Carolina, Nevada, Virginia, Oklahoma and Arizona — have passed through at least one of the legislative chambers, Fadem said. The interstate compact legislation includes the stipulation that it would not go into effect to be used in an election until it reached the magic number of 270. Currently, it is 74 votes short. Fadem said he is optimistic more states will sign on, but he admits that it will be difficult in the current partisan political climate. "We are active in lots of states," Fadem said. The National Popular Vote would put an end to the waiting period the nation saw in November for decisions on close contests in so-called battleground states like Arizona, Georgia and Pennsylvania.

have three electoral votes. Candidates must tally 270 votes of the 538 electoral college votes to be elected. The U.S. Constitution gives states the right to choose how to award their electoral votes. Currently, 48 states are "winner take all," while Nebraska and Maine award them according to congressional district victories. Critics contend the current system violates the "one person, one vote" principle. In California, a heavily Democratic or "blue" state, Republican votes for president don't matter. This means nobody must court Republican voters here, Fadem contends. In Oklahoma, a heavily Republican or "red" state, Democratic votes are tallied in the nationwide popular vote, but mean nothing in electing a president when it's a given that Oklahoma's Electoral votes will go Republican. Essentially, Fadem said, that means candidates don't campaign where the Electoral College votes are predetermined, and instead, spend most of their time in the so-called battleground states, where close elections could tip one way or another. In most recent presidential elections,

Looking further back in U.S. history, Andrew Jackson took the popular vote, but lost to Electoral College winner John Quincy Adams in 1824. Samuel Tilden received more support, but lost to Rutherford B. Hayes in 1876. Finally, Grover Cleveland was the popular vote winner in 1888, but went home in second place to Benjamin Harrison. Although polls have shown a majority of Americans would like to see the Electoral College eliminated, supporters of the proposed system say it would ensure that candidates cater to all parts of the country. Candidates, otherwise, would only campaign in the most populous states, like California. Fadem believes the National Popular Vote would

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ARAMIS

(Continued from first page)

biological surveys, which form the basis of the environmental impact report on the Aramis Project, were "inadequate" and that the project "will permanently alter over 500 acres of critical habitat" for multiple threatened bird species. "We are grateful for the support of the Alameda Creek Alliance and Ohlone Audubon Society to preserving the open space and natural habitat of North Livermore Valley," stated Merlin Newton of the Save North Livermore Valley steering committee. "It is one of the last undeveloped and productive agricultural areas remaining in Alameda County. As important as it is to expand renewable energy to address climate change, it's equally important to preserve the biodiversity of our planet. We shoot ourselves in the foot if we destroy our en-

vironment in an attempt to save it." In addition to the Alameda Creek Alliance and Ohlone Audubon Society, East Bay nonprofit environmental organizations opposed to the Aramis Project include: Friends of Livermore, Friends of Open Space and Vineyards, Golden Gate Audubon Society, Save Mount Diablo and Friends of Springtown Preserve. Some public environmental agencies — such as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, East Bay Regional Park District, and the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality District — further determined that the environmental impact report for the solar project is deficient and that sensitive species could be harmed or killed during construction.



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Livermore Students Named National Merit Semifinalists

“The hard work, focus, and commitment to academic excellence required to be recognized as a National Merit semifinalist is significant.”

Four students from the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District have qualified as National Merit Scholarship semifinalists based on the results of the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Tests they took last fall.

The students -- Emma Laurence, Feoden Soriano and Vishal Venkatesh from Granada High School and Alicia Zhang from Livermore High School -- will now compete with about 15,000 other semifinalists from high schools across the country to become National Merit Scholarship finalists.

Finalists will be selected by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation, a privately funded, non-profit organization that has administered the program since 1955, based on criteria

including the students' academic records, local recommendations, SAT scores, extracurricular activities, and essays. Finalists are eligible for about \$35 million in National Merit scholarships.

“The hard work, focus, and commitment to academic excellence required to be recognized as a National Merit semifinalist is significant,” said Livermore schools superintendent Kelly Bowers.

The Livermore school district semifinalists, and 22 other local students who received National Merit letters of commendation, were formally recognized at a Board of Trustees meeting in January.

Typically, only about 1% of all high school students qualify as semifinalists.



These Livermore High School students will compete to become National Merit Scholarship finalists. (Photo - Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District)

Alameda Fairgrounds Wins Big Despite Unusual Year

The Alameda County Fair received top awards from the Western Fairs Association and the International Association of Fairs and Expositions for innovation and excellence in competitive exhibits, agricultural programs and marketing for 2020.

Overall, IAFE recognized the fair with eight international awards. The fair took home nine WFA awards in its division, including four first-place honors.

Although there was not a traditional fair this year, award categories reflected the innovation and vehicle-based fun that was held throughout the year. Categories included Community Outreach, Drive-In Entertainment and Facility Beautification Projects, for which

the fairgrounds received recognition for the remodel of the Palm Pavilion. The fair received awards in a variety of categories for competitive exhibits, innovative events, and social media campaigns. Additionally, the fair was recognized in the emergency response services category for its role as a base camp for Cal Fire during the SCU Lightning Complex Fire in August of 2020.

The Alameda County Fair received top honors in Virtual Fair and Community Contests and for budget-friendly tactics.

Both organizations sponsor annual awards programs to recognize outstanding achievement in specific areas and to share successful ideas and programs with other fairs.

Livermore Twins Eli and Ben Nuddleman Attain Eagle Rank

Identical twins Eli and Ben Nuddleman, members of Boy Scout Troop 999 in Livermore, were both awarded the rank of Eagle Scout on Feb. 2.

The brothers have been involved in scouting since the first grade.

They also backpacked the Philmont Scout Ranch high-adventure base in New Mexico together and paddled across the Northern Tier, the Scouts' high-adventure canoe base encompassing the Boundary

Waters between Minnesota and Canada.

However, each went his own way for their Eagle projects.

For his project, Eli refurbished one bench and built three new benches for Livermore High School's athletics field. Both Eli and Ben, now seniors, played football at Livermore and Eli said he wanted to do something for the school and his coaches.

For his project, Ben built two trellises for Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Liver-

more. Holy Cross Lutheran is the chartering organization for Troop 999 and Ben

said he wanted to give back to the church for supporting the troop.



From left: Eli and Ben Nuddleman achieved Eagle status. (Photo - Robert Nuddleman)

Pleasanton Student Lambert Earns Eagle Scout Award

Taryn Lambert, a member of Scouts BSA Troop 998G in Pleasanton, has been awarded the rank of Eagle Scout following a board of review.

Troop 998G is an all-girl troop formed in February 2019, soon after the Boy Scouts of America began allowing girls to join its tra-

ditional Scouting program, which was rebranded as Scouts BSA. The troop is led by Scoutmaster Kimberly Carlson and sponsored by Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post #6298, which also sponsors Troop 998 for boys.

Taryn, the daughter of Ed and Kerry Lambert, has served as senior patrol

leader, scribe, troop guide, and patrol leader for Troop 998G. For her Eagle project, she led a group of volunteers in hand sewing more than 70 double-layered facemasks for the New Bridge Foundation, a nonprofit addiction-treatment center in Berkeley.

Outside of Scouting, the Amador Valley High

School junior and her younger brother, Colin, created “Bears That Care,” a volunteer group that collects and donates toys to Alameda County Court Services for children who are involved in custody hearings. Their mother, Kerry, is a Child Protective Service court officer.

Resident of Pleasanton Named To Nonprofit Medicare Board

Pleasanton resident Beth Hostelter, a registered nurse and director of Medicare Services for Albertsons Companies, has been named secretary of the board for the National Medicare Secondary Payer

Network, a nationwide non-profit advocacy organization.

Founded in 2015, the National MSP Network works to educate and keep secondary payers up to date on changes to Medicare.



TRI-VALLEY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Now Until Saturday, March 6 Give the Gift of Swim

American Swim Academy is offering its 2021 Winter Camps for age 6 months to 15 years. Camps run weekly for 30 minutes with class ratios as low as 2:1. Gift certificates are now available. The academy is also hiring for positions in Dublin, Livermore and Walnut Creek. For more information, visit americanswimacademy.com.

Now Until Wednesday, May 19 Coffee Hour for Seniors

Zoom “Coffee Hour for Seniors” will resume once a month, on Wednesday mornings, beginning in January. The Zoom get-togethers will take place from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. on Feb. 17, March 17, April 14 and May 19. For more information, visit dublin.ca.gov/380/Special-Events.

Thursday, Feb. 18 Website Development and Optimization - Part One

Join this free, three-part Website Development and Optimization Webinar Series, hosted by the Alameda County Small Business Development Center, from 1 to 3 p.m., as it introduces best practices for website design, development, and optimization to the small business owner. This ACSBDC event will discuss both how to improve an existing website and how to design and build a new one. It explains the vital role a website plays in promoting your business and demonstrates techniques for optimizing the performance of your website and maximizing the value for your business. Note: Zoom link will be sent a few days prior to the event. To register, visit <https://bit.ly/3jRx00N>.

Thursday, Feb. 18, Tuesday, Feb. 23 Become a Literacy Tutor

Can you see yourself helping an adult learn to read a medicine label, fill out a job application, write a letter, or study for the driver's license exam? If so, become a volunteer tutor with the Livermore Public Library, and help an adult improve their basic reading and writing skills and achieve their goals. No previous experience is necessary. The next Tutor Training will take place from 10 a.m. to noon via Zoom. Participants must attend all three sessions. For more information or to sign up for Tutor Training, call 925-373-5507 or email literacy@livermore.lib.ca.us.

Thursday, Feb. 18 Love Your Heart

Dublin seniors are invited to participate in a “Love Your Heart” drive-thru event from 12:30 to 1:15 p.m., at the Dublin Senior Center. City staff will be handing out a swag bag to seniors filled with information about heart health. Early action is important in loving your heart and protecting your life. Swag

bags will be filled with information on cardiovascular health, including warning signs of heart attacks and strokes; tips to control blood pressure; and other free information and swag. Participants should enter the Senior Center driveway from Donohue Drive and drive past the front door of the facility. Do not arrive before 12:30 p.m. and stay in your car upon arrival. Drivers should pop open their car's trunk or roll down a window in the back seat so that staff can safely deliver the bag to the occupant. For more information, email seniorctr@dublin.ca.gov.

Friday, Feb. 19 to Sunday, Feb. 28 Taste Tri-Valley

Visit Tri-Valley, the region's destination marketing organization, in partnership with the Cities and Chambers of Commerce of Pleasanton, Livermore, Dublin and Town of Danville, are launching their first annual Taste Tri-Valley, a 10-day delivery and take-out restaurant week promotion from Friday, Feb. 19 through Sunday, Feb. 28, for participating dining establishments ready to showcase their culinary talents. Prix-fixe menus will be available for take-out and delivery from diverse cuisines at various set price points (for lunch and dinner) for every taste and budget. For more information, visit visittrivalley.com/restaurantweek or follow @visittrivalley on Facebook and Instagram.

Monday, March 1 to Sunday, March 21 St. Patrick's Day at Home

This St. Patrick's Day, enjoy the rich sights and sounds of traditional Irish dancing, drums and fiddles. Recorded before a live audience in 2019 and never before seen on film, The National Dance Company of Ireland captures Celtic joy and delivers it right to your doorstep. A portion of all ticket sales benefits the Bankhead Theater. For tickets, visit <https://bit.ly/3tElJzy>.

Friday, March 5 and Saturday, March 6 Virtual Dance Performance

Deborah Slater Dance Theater and Studio 210 will be hosting a virtual performance from 5 to 7 p.m. on Zoom. This event is a culmination of their eight-week winter residency program and features work by winter 2021 residents Cynthia Ling Lee and Bahiya Movement.

Monday, March 8 Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society Presents Susan Goss Johnston

“The Records Behind the WWI Draft Registrations” - The 1973 fire in the National Personnel Records Center destroyed about 80 percent of World War I Army personnel Records. Fill the gaps in your WWI soldier's military life with the records behind the World War I

draft registration cards, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. via ZOOM. Visitors are welcome to this free event. Susan Goss Johnston was a member of Yale University's first undergraduate class of women, graduating with a B.A. in physics. She is a 2011 ProGen alumna, has attended the National Institute on Federal Records, and completed the “Advanced Methodology and Evidence Analysis” course at the Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research. For more information or a Zoom invite, email Tom Mathews, program chairperson, at program@L-AGS.org. To register, visit <https://bit.ly/3s8qXTR>.

Saturday, March 13 City of Dublin St. Patrick's Day Celebration!

The 37th Annual St. Patrick's Day Celebration will be held Saturday, March 13, through Saturday, March 20. This week-long celebration will feature both virtual community events as well as in-person, reservation-based events throughout the City of Dublin. The festive schedule of events will be updated soon. heck with the city for more information on how you can celebrate St. Patrick's Day all week long, at <https://bit.ly/3bbPSyl>. Contact Lauren Marriott by phone at 925-556-4508 if your business is interested in getting involved with the 2021 St. Patrick's Day Celebration.

ONGOING WEEKLY EVENTS

Livermore Downtown Farmers Market Open for the Season

Open Sundays, from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., at Carnegie Town Square. Open Thursdays, from 4 to 8 p.m., at Carnegie Town Square (South K Street between Third and Fourth St.) 2155 Third St.

Pleasanton Farmers Market Open for the Season

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

Six Feet Apart Productions Shares Art From a Distance

Sunday Night Stories is an on-line show with people sharing true stories, poetry, comedy, music and more, featuring an eclectic mix of entertainment to feel connected in times of social distancing and self-isolation, live every week, on Sundays, at 7:30 p.m. For more information, visit facebook.com/pg/Six-Feet-Apart-Productions or eventbrite.com/e/sunday-night-stories.

Stress Relief Recovery International

A confidential, peer-led, self-help group for stress relief will take place Sundays, at 2 p.m., via conference call. Get guidance on practicing a method developed 80

years ago by psychiatrist Abraham A. Low to replace the “defeatist babble of the brain, with secure thinking to help cope with the stressful events in our everyday lives. Call 925-515-604-9094, ID 192451547 #.

VIRTUAL ONLINE EVENTS -AVAILABLE ANYTIME

Register for Virtual and Outdoor Activities

Do you want to learn a new skill, dabble in a new art form, get into shape, or finally take up that new hobby you've pushed back for so long? The Pleasanton Library and Recreation Department is now offering a wide variety of virtual and outdoor in-person courses this fall. Registration is open for everything from coding, web design and engineering courses to art, public speaking, and outdoor group exercise. There are even courses on LEGO and Minecraft. Sign up now at <https://bit.ly/33BNAoU>.

EBRPD Brings “Parks to People”

East Bay Regional Park District is committed to the idea of lifelong learning and helping people make their own discoveries about local parks. The resources they have compiled are designed to be used at home, in a classroom or part of any online learning. For more information, visit www.ebparks.org/activities/digital_learning/default.htm.

LARPD Now on YouTube

Livermore Area Recreation & Park District is featuring videos for all ages with virtual activities, including Basketball Academy, Mystery Craft Making Activities and many more to come. Visit www.larpd.org to subscribe and receive notifications as new videos are available.

Music Together Tri-Valley Supports Early Childhood Development

This international, award-winning, early-childhood music program supports parents with songs and musical activities to enjoy with their children through play-based learning curriculum, designed to help everyone learn to sing in tune and keep a beat. For more information, visit www.musictogether.com.

Pacific Chamber Orchestra Offers Musical Podcast

During this time of challenge, PCO continues to bring everyone beautiful music made insightful. Conductor Lawrence Kohl is pleased to announce the launch of a series of podcasts of musician interviews and conversations about the music. Subscribe to listen at www.pacificchamber-orchestra.org.

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WATER

(Continued from first page)

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Population Causes Water Shortages

The shortage of water causes even more concern for public water agencies than the possibility of higher prices. One slide at the CDFA meeting showed trouble ahead for all Californians — whether they live in cities, own farms, or are connected to industry. In 20 years, there will be less water available in the underground water storage basins, which means everyone will be paying more for water, regardless of the water stock market.

The blame for the shortage was placed on the state's population boom.

In 1960, there were about 15 million people living in California. This year, updated census figures show about 40 million. As economists say,

costs get inflated if supply is not increased to keep up with demand.

Because of executive orders issued by former Gov. Jerry Brown and subsequent legislation, all water basins are supposed to arrive at sustainable levels by 2042. The sustainable levels are not there yet. Most underground basins are in overdraft and don't meet the 2042 goal now, although some districts are working hard to achieve it in the future.

The late Marc Reisner, who wrote a classic book about water in the west, summed up what he said was the basic problem for the West's water shortages — too much development envisioned for such a naturally dry area from Colorado to California. His book was titled "Cadillac Desert: The American

West and Its Disappearing Water."

Reisner said that the Army Corps of Engineers and the federal Bureau of Reclamation were simply enabling the U.S. policy of settling the West, a region light on rainfall and unsustainable for much agriculture or much population.

A Look at Local Water Conservation

The state Department of Water Resources (DWR) praised Zone 7 Water Agency for how well it has managed its basin in the past. The DWR held up Zone 7 as a model to other agencies about what they should be doing.

But even Zone 7 is up against the same pressure, as it searches for a future water supply. Five months ago, the Zone 7 board committed to spending between \$400,000 and \$1

million to continue a study of expanding Los Vaqueros Reservoir, near Vasco Road north of Livermore, which would pipe water

committed \$400,000 to help pay for an earlier study, the environmental survey on the project.

Zone 7 also is following

sible that water traders will compete against Zone 7 and other public agencies, as indicated by a question in the CDFA webinar.

The shortage of water causes even more concern for public water agencies than the possibility of higher prices. In 20 years, there will be less water available in the underground water storage basins, which means everyone will be paying more for water, regardless of the water stock market.

directly over to the South Bay Aqueduct, where it could be sent to Zone 7.

Pryor said that range is a package, but she would like it to be negotiated in specific amounts, each near the \$400,000 mark. In 2016, the Zone 7 board

developments concerning the Sites Reservoir, which is being discussed as a potential new water dam and reservoir 70 miles northeast of Sacramento.

Competition on the Horizon

In conclusion, it's pos-

One panelist asked if Sites might be a "source for futures trading."

One of the stock market experts answered, "The potential depends on who and how it moves into the market."

OBITUARIES

Richard Joseph Winkler Aug. 20, 1933 – Jan. 15, 2021



Dick passed away unexpectedly at his home on Jan. 15 and is survived by his two sisters, his seven children, eight grandchildren and one great-grandson.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his brother and the love of his life, his wife Pam. They had a wonderful 43 years together raising their large family and making lots of lifelong friends along the way. When the nest was empty,

they and their close-knit group traveled to many near and far away places around the globe.

They loved it when all the kids brought their families home every Thanksgiving and Christmas. Dick was a genuine, good man who was loved very much and will be missed by many. He will never be forgotten by his children and his memory will live on through his grand-and great grandchildren.

Barbara Joyce Elsperman Nov. 8, 1936 – Feb. 8, 2021



Barbara Joyce Elsperman passed away peacefully in her sleep on Feb. 8, 2021, in Pleasanton.

Barbara grew up in Rio Vista, California, where she met the fisherman of her dreams. They eventually landed in Livermore to start a family.

To some, she was Barb, Barbie, or Babe, but to us she, was big grandma. She landed that name when us kids sought it to be fit standing next to her 4'9" mother, whom we called little grandma.

Barbara spent a lot of her days working as a volunteer at Valley Memorial Hospital, Intel, and in various elementary lunchrooms, where she gained many dear friends. She was a strong-willed woman who often proclaimed she wasn't "arguing with you, just simply explaining why she was right."

She was a woman of many lessons, such as ponytails are essential, the perfect macaroni salad is an art and a woman never "toots" in the presence

of others. Well, except for that one time - we never did let her live that down.

Barbara enjoyed all her grandchildren and would spend summers spoiling us then sending us home. There was nothing quite like a weekend at grannies with a trip to shadow cliffs, Yin Yin's Chinese food and unlimited arm rubs.

She had a special and unique love for animals. She mostly found love in her heart for dogs that needed it the most. As her grandchildren grew, she redirected the spoil-

ing to a rescue Chihuahua named Dexter (aka Cujo to the rest of us). We know Dexter was there to greet you with lots of kisses.

Although her work here is done, her new mission comes with a family reunion with lots of love and an overdue girl's day with her best pal, Betty. She will be very missed but never forgotten.

Barbara is survived by her daughter, Nancy Wilkerson (Robin); her beloved fur-baby, Casper; grandchildren, Jena Vogel (Robert), Jesse Wilkerson (Meghan) and Jennifer Lacey (Seth); and her great grandchildren, Brooke, Olive, Canner and Merrick. Barbara is preceded in death by her husband, Glenn Elsperman; and son, Michael Elsperman.

At Barbara's request, there will not be a public service, and as we all know, low adherence to this instruction will not be tolerated. In lieu of flowers, Barbara would prefer donations be made to your local ASPCA.

Dinora Morales Oct. 1, 1951 – Jan. 26, 2021



Dinora Morales, age 69, passed away on Jan. 26, 2001.

She was born in El Salvador on Oct. 1, 1951. She is survived by her husband of 45 years, Roberto; five children, Maricela Morales, Erica Moreno, Michelle Valencia, Diane Mardones, and Roberto Morales Jr.; as well as four sons-in-law, one daughter-in-law, 15 grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Dinora will be remembered as a very dedicated wife, mother, and grandmother.

Kelley Renae Clarin April 8, 1962 – Feb. 8, 2021



Kelley Clarin was born on April 8, 1962, in Clovis, New Mexico.

Wife, mother, grandmother, sister and daughter. Kelley passed away peacefully of natural causes on Feb. 8, 2021, at home with family. She spent a lifetime caring for others and always put them ahead of her needs. She raised two kids and watched her granddaughter grow for the first 6 years.

She was loved by many, many people. She touched the hearts of everyone she met. She is gone too soon, but she lived a full life with lots of experiences. Kelley lived for most of her life in Livermore, California. She loved to travel and she loved children. She worked in day care and provided foster care for more

than one while also raising her two kids.

She also worked in the retail and banking industries. Her customer service skills came naturally. From first place baton competitor to learning sign language, she always looked out for others and worked to please. She loved to dance and loved music. Most of all, she loved her family, which extends way beyond the bonds of bloodlines.

er, as well as an extremely dedicated member of the St. Michael's charismatic prayer group. She would voluntarily pray for anyone who needed it in their home or wherever requested. She helped with grief support and leading the rosary. She was so caring and giving that she would regularly donate to those in need.

Her warm and loving personality will forever be remembered by all those who knew her.

Kelley is preceded in death by her father, Leon McDaniel. She is survived by her husband, Mark Clarin; son, Cole Thompson; daughter, Jodie Thompson; granddaughter, Kaylee Dionne; mother, Noaetta McDaniel; four brothers and their spouses, Kim McDaniel, Charles and Emmy McDaniel, Darrel and Shelley McDaniel, Harold McDaniel and Debbie Day; mother-in-law, Sylvia Clarin; sibling-in-law, Melanie and Andy DeGiovanni; and multiple nieces, nephews and grand nephews. The family is big and full of love, and Kelley is missed.

In lieu of flowers, please donate to Hope Hospice or American Cancer Society.

Dottie Bangs passed away on Feb. 7, after a brief illness.

She was born to Harry and Gladys Moseley in Silver Spring, Maryland, in 1933, and graduated Montgomery Blair High School and Lycoming College.

In college, her roommate was Sally Bangs, a country girl from Pennsylvania, who introduced Dottie to her young cousin, Bob, who was just leaving the Marine Corps. They soon married and moved to Hornell, New York, while Bob finished college.

She had a wonderful life in Hornell, where her son, Mike, was born, and then on to Mt. Vernon, Ohio, where daughter Sandi joined the family. Further adventures took the family to Annandale Virginia, before settling in Livermore. Most recently, she lived at Stoneridge Creek in Pleasanton.

Dottie was part of the great migration from the east coast to California in the 1960s, leaving behind everything she knew to move with her young family to the promise of good jobs, great weather and endless opportunities. Her generous and thoughtful spirit brought joy to everyone she encountered in the family's

Michael Lynn Jenks entered peacefully into rest in Danville, California, on Jan. 26, 2021. He was 72 years old.

Michael was born in Louisiana on Sept. 11, 1948, to parents John and Margaret (Jacobs) Jenks. He joined the United States Air Force in 1968 as a communications specialist serving during the Vietnam war and other conflicts. In 1988, he retired from the military and spent another 20 years working in the IT technology field locally.

Born into a military family and serving in the armed forces, Mike saw many parts of the

Michael Lynn Jenks Sept. 11, 1948 – Jan. 26, 2021

world. His interests and hobbies over the years included surfing, model trains, building model cars, and playing guitar. Mike and his brother, Chuck, shared a passion for their Harley Davidson motorcycles and looked forward to riding together.

Mike will be remembered for his affable personality and his sense of humor. He followed current events closely with often pointed observations.

Mike is survived by his four children, Jeremy Jenks, Meridith (John) Scott, Gene Donald (Jessica) Smith, and



Dorothy Bangs May 2, 1933 – Feb. 7, 2021

H&R Block during tax season.

Her last job was a "welcomer" at Stoneridge Creek, making the new residents feel a part of the community. A tireless mother who took tremendous pride in her children, she was always the first to volunteer as room mother or to lead a bake sale, and she was eventually awarded a lifetime membership in the PTA.

Her many friends become cherished travel companions as she traveled the globe to England, Ireland, Spain, Alaska and many destinations around the country. Family time was her greatest joy, including visits to Lake Tahoe, relaxing in Hawaii, spending time with extended family in Maryland and Pennsylvania, or enjoying simple family gatherings with her children and grandchild. She was extremely proud of her children and their families and relished the role of family matriarch.

She is survived by her son, Michael (Coleen); daughter, Sandi Martin (Eric, d.); and grandson, Brian (Samantha). She will be interred at the family plot in Catlett, Virginia. Please make any donation to Asbury United Methodist Church in her honor.

Edward Daley Rasmussen Sr. Dec. 22, 1937 – Jan. 13, 2021



Edward Daley Rasmussen Sr. died on Jan. 13, 2021, in Livermore, surrounded by his seven children.

Ed was born on Dec. 22, 1937, and grew up in Redding, Connecticut. His home ties remained strong throughout his entire life. At age 70, he wrote and compiled many of his childhood stories about growing up during wartime. The stories often included his mother, Helen; father, Henry; sister, Shirley; and brother, Hank; as well as his beloved donkey, Clementine.

He married the love of his life, Margaret Mary Lynch of Danbury, Connecticut, on June 25, 1965. His work took them to the West Coast, where Ed worked for Pan Am in San Francisco. In 1968, Ed and Margaret moved to Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, where Ed worked for Aramco. In 1974, they settled in Dublin, California, where they raised their seven kids.

Ed and Margaret were long time parishioners of Saint

Raymond Catholic Church in Dublin, where Ed was a founding member of the John C. Murphy Council of the Knights of Columbus.

Ed was an Air Force Veteran. He retired as a flight engineer from Chevron after 25 years. He loved sharing stories about his extensive travels around the world, and he inspired his kids to travel and to see the world.

He was imaginative and enjoyed working on projects for his kids and grandkids. Some of his legendary creations included the candy shooting

cannon, a zip line rocket ship, castles, playhouses and so much more.

He was a loving son, husband, brother, father, uncle, and grandfather. He was proud of his children and relished in their many achievements. His family and friends will remember his kind nature, good humor and adventurous spirit.

He is survived by his seven children, Ed (Beth), Paul, (Leanne), Annelise (Pete), Jim (Alyse), Larry (Kristin), Monica (Bourke) and Stephen (Maggie); as well as nine grandchildren.

A socially distanced funeral mass will be Friday, Feb. 26, at 9:30 a.m., at St. Raymond Church in Dublin. If unable to attend in person, please view the live stream by searching Ed Rasmussen Mass St Raymond at youtube.com. Ed will be interred with his wife, Margaret, at the Sacramento Valley VA National Cemetery in Dixon, California. In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to St Raymond Church.

SWALWELL

(Continued from first page)

building, revealing security video not previously made public, Swalwell showed just how close the intruders got to the Senate and what the police officers endured as they protected the building and its occupants.

Swalwell said he has tried many cases as an assistant district attorney in Alameda County, but this was the first time the prosecutors and jurors were also the victims, and the room was the crime scene.

The congressman — who has represented Dublin, Pleasanton, Sunol, Livermore and 11 other Alameda and Contra Costa county communities since 2012 — was in the house chamber on Jan. 6 when representatives were debating objections to the elec-

toral college vote count that would officially make Joe Biden the 46th president.

Swalwell said he felt safe until the chaplain began praying.

“That’s when I messaged under their chairs. A House chaplain took the podium and recited a prayer for peace.

Swalwell said he felt safe until the chaplain began praying.

my wife,” Swalwell said. “I said, ‘I love you, and kiss the babies for me.’”

Inside, House members could not see how close the rioters came to them. They were forced to evacuate and learned later that a police officer had shot a female intruder as a mob tried to push its way inside.

“Had that officer not shot that rioter, they would have pushed through that door and just mowed down the members that were last to leave,” Swalwell said.

Among those who were the last to evacuate were older members and those who were less mobile. Swalwell called the officer who fired the gun a hero.

“I think he saved a number of lives,” Swalwell said. “They knew where to go, and they were at the foot of the chamber.”

Swalwell and other colleagues remained in a holding room for several hours until police regained control of the building. Swalwell, who said he had hated to leave the chamber, returned to finish the electoral vote count.

A week later, the House voted to impeach Trump for the second time in a year and sent its case to the Senate. Pelosi selected Swalwell to serve as one of nine case managers. Swalwell, who comes from a family of

Alameda County deputies, said he told Pelosi his law

“I’d be lying if I said it was not intimidating,”

“I believe we won,” Swalwell said, adding 60% of the public agreed that Trump was guilty and that history will ultimately reflect that opinion.

enforcement background and career as a prosecutor could help the team.

As each manager presented different parts of the case, Swalwell presented evidence in what some reporters described as a silent chamber. Senators watched riveting video that showed how close to danger they came. Videos showed officers fighting back against the mob, including shocking scenes of an officer being crushed by a door.

Swalwell said the managers knew many Republican senators already had their minds made up for acquittal, but “thought having new evidence would make them pay attention.”

The congressman said he tried to treat his job “like I was at the Rene C. Davidson courthouse” in Oakland, and tried not to think about how many people were watching him in the Senate chamber and at homes across the world.

Swalwell said, adding Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell was sitting 10 feet from him.

On Saturday, Feb. 13, House managers said they wanted to call at least one witness but following a few hours of discussion decided against it. Going into the case, 44 Republican senators had voted to declare the proceeding unconstitutional, so the managers decided witnesses were not going to change any minds, Swalwell said.

“We felt we had a powerful case,” Swalwell said. He further stated that his team could have “given them a signed, sealed confessional from Donald Trump,” but his followers still wouldn’t believe it.

Although Trump was not convicted, he will face criminal and civil exposure going forward, according to Swalwell.

The congressman said Trump should be pros-

ecuted if that is what the law dictates, not for political means or for retaliation.

On Tuesday, Mississippi Democrat Bennie Thompson, the chairman of the House Homeland Security Committee, sued Trump and Trump’s lawyer, former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani, in civil court, alleging they conspired with far-right groups to ignite the Jan. 6 insurrection. The lawsuit is the first related to the event.

Swalwell said he had no opinion on whether, as some have cited, the Fourteenth Amendment can be used to prevent Trump from running for office again. He added that he believes the impeachment process, vote and public opinion, has already functionally stopped that from happening.

“One of my friends from the DA’s office said, ‘Eric, you did a great job in the trial, but we need to work on your jury selection skills,’” Swalwell said. “It’s a great reminder that when you don’t get to pick the jury, it’s a little more challenging.”

“I was honored to be part of the team,” he continued. “It’s a solemn responsibility. I wouldn’t do anything differently from the case that we made. For accountability, for history, we did the job.”

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 575722

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Taboada Racing Stables 2. Mareanta Stables 3. Johnny D. taboada 4. JT Home Mortgages, 8032 Canyon Creek Circle, Pleasanton, CA 94588 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Johnny D. Taboada, , 8032 Canyon Creek Circle, Pleasanton, CA 94588. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s: Johnny D. Taboada, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 13, 2021. Expires January 13, 2026. The Independent Legal No. 4813. Published January 28, February 4, 11, 18, 25, 2021.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 575726

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Sustain Forever 2. N2CA Solutions, 5582 Maybeck Ln., Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Sustain Forver Inc., 5582 Maybeck Ln, 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: Adesh Kumar. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 13, 2021. Expires January 13, 2026. The Independent Legal No. 4814. Published January 28, February 4, 11, 18, 2021.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 575936

The following person(s) doing business as: Team 292-SOLD, 1686 Second Street, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Tammy Pryor Barstow, 1686 Second Street, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 2001. Signature of Registrant/s: Adesh Kumar. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 21, 2021. Expires January 21, 2026. The Independent Legal No. 4815. Published February 4, 11, 18, 25, 2021.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 576191

The following person(s) doing business as: Manam Naturals, 1282 Gusty Loop, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Sathya Poosappan, 1282 Gusty Loop, 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: Sathya Poosappan, Individual Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 29, 2021. Expires January 29, 2026. The Independent Legal No. 4816. Published February 11, 18, 25, March 4, 2021.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 576043

The following person(s) doing business as: Persistent Athletics, 2970 Cabrillo Avenue, Signature of Registrant/s: Krystal Hill, 2970 Cabrillo Avenue, 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: Krystal Hill, Individual Owner/Sole Proprietor. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 26, 2021. Expires January 26, 2026. The Independent Legal No. 4817. Published February 11, 18, 25, March 4, 2021.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 575758

The following person(s) doing business as: L & L Property, 4432 Enterprise St., Suite A Fremont, CA 94538, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Asmir Sojkic, 4432 Enterprise St., Suite A Fremont, CA 94538. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 2/1/2020. Signature of Registrant/s: Asmir Sojkic, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 14, 2021. Expires January 14, 2026. The Independent Legal No. 4818. Published February 11, 18, 25, March 4, 2021.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 575759

The following person(s) doing business as: Vennergi Consulting, 1442 Allman St., Oakland, CA 94602, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): James Brett Stineman, 1442 Allman St. Oakland, CA 94602. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s: James Brett Stineman, Principal. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 14,

2021. Expires January 14, 2026. The Independent Legal No. 4819. Published February 11, 18, 25, March 4, 2021.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 576594

The following person(s) doing business as: Dublin Kia, 4300 John Monego CT, Dublin CA 94568, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): California Automotive Retailing Group, Inc., 4200 John Monego CT, Dublin CA 94568. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s: Inder Dosanjh, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 10, 2021. Expires February 10, 2026. The Independent Legal No. 4820. Published February 18, 25, March 4, 11, 2021.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 576219

The following person(s) doing business as: Honey Blooms Co., 1668 Spruce St. Livermore, CA 94551, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Kelsey Jordana Szendenski, 1668 Spruce St. Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s: Kelsey Jordana Szendenski, Owner & Creator. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 29, 2021. Expires January 29, 2026. The Independent Legal No. 4821. Published February 18, 25, March 4, 11, 2021.

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Our current weekly adoption events include:

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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
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Almond tree flower blooms entice local busy bees as signs of spring crop up in the Valley. (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)

Featured Restaurants to Offer 10-Day Deals

Taste Tri-Valley, a 10-day promotion of restaurants offering outdoor dining, delivery and take-out, kicks off tomorrow (Friday, Feb. 19), sponsored by Visit Tri-Valley, a regional destination marketing organization, and local chambers of commerce.

The promotion will feature 35 restaurants in Pleasanton, Livermore, Dublin and Danville offering complete, multicourse lunch and dinner menu options. Several Livermore wineries will also offer virtual events and special wine bundles and tasting packs.

“Our goal for Taste Tri-Valley is to shine a spotlight on the amazing variety of restaurants that make the Tri-Valley a culinary destination,” said Robin Fahr, director of marketing and communications for Visit Tri-Valley. “Right now, it’s more important than ever that we support our restaurants to see them through these tough times.”

Wineries offering bun-

dles and tasting packs include 3 Steves Winery, Las Positas Vineyards, McGrail Vineyards, Wood Family Vineyards, Wentz Vineyards, The Lineage Collection, and Nella Terra Cellars.

Participating restaurants include 110 Shabu Shabu, Amaravati House, Amici’s East Coast Pizzeria, Bangkok 101 Thai Cuisine, Berevino Italian Pub, BottleTabs, Bridges

Koja Kitchen, Mountain Mike’s Pizza, Pacific Catch, Sabio on Main, SideTrack Bar + Grill, Simply Pizze, Sourdough & Co., Strizzi’s Restaurants, Thai House Restaurant, The Banana Garden, The Vine and Spirits, Yafa Hummus, Zephyr Grill & Bar, and Crumbs Breakfast Lunch & Bar.

To order from the special Taste Tri-Valley lunch and dinner menus, residents

The promotion will feature 35 restaurants in Pleasanton, Livermore, Dublin and Danville offering complete, multicourse lunch and dinner menu options.

Restaurant & Bar, Burma! Burma!, Caraway Indian Cuisine, Chaat Bhavan, Cocina Hermanas, Coco Cabana, Danville Brewing Co., Danville Harvest, De La Torre’s Trattoria, Eddie Papa’s American Hangout, Faz Restaurants & Catering, Frankie Johnnie & Luigi Too!, Incontro Ristorante,

need to sign up for a free event pass at <https://visittri-valley.com/restaurantweek>. Those who sign up will also have an opportunity to win \$25 gift certificates, while the person with the most restaurant check-ins at the end of the week will win a Tri-Valley weekend getaway.

Ride Service for Seniors Gets a New Name

Pleasanton Paratransit Services, the city’s transportation service for senior citizens, is now Pleasanton Rides.

Black Tie Transportation, the Pleasanton-based company that received a multi-year contract from the city in December to operate the program, launched the

rebranded service on Feb. 1. City Manager Nelson Fialho said the program would provide the same level of service under Black Tie’s management.

“The city is excited to continue serving our seniors through our senior transportation program now called Pleasanton Rides, Fialho

said. “We are pleased to partner with Black Tie, a home-grown Pleasanton business, to provide the best quality of service to our residents.”

To request a ride, or for eligibility requirements, go to www.blacktietrans.com/pleasanton-rides/pleasanton-rides-info/ or call (925) 398-1045.

Shepherd’s Gate Receives Furniture Donation

When Taylor Morrison’s moved its Bay Area division into new offices in San Ramon, which came fully furnished, the home builder

and developer donated surplus furniture, artwork and office accessories to Shepherd’s Gate, a Livermore-based nonprofit that pro-

vides services to women and children who are victims of addiction, homelessness, and abuse.

Alameda to See Time-of-Use Electric Billing

Pacific Gas & Electric and East Bay Community Energy announced last week that 400,000 Alameda County residential power customers will be charged based on when they use electricity beginning in May.

Under the Time-of-Use rate plan, customers will be charged more for usage during the peak demand hours of 4 to 9 p.m. Customers will be encouraged to shift some usage to times when demand is lower and renewable resources such as solar and wind power are considered most plentiful.

PG&E said customers affected by the transition began receiving notice by mail last month.

For the first 12 months, any customers who see their electric bills increase because of the change will receive an automatic credit for the difference. They also will have the option to switch back to a tiered rate.

“With TOU rates, customers have greater control over their electricity bills because they can shift energy usage away from peak hours,” said Nick Chaset, chief executive officer for East Bay Community Energy, a nonprofit agency that operates a renewable energy program for Alameda County and 11 cities.

“From our internal analysis of their usage history, a vast majority of our custom-

ers will financially benefit from TOU rates,” Chaset said, “and it creates better conditions for us to add more renewable energy facilities on the grid.”

EBCE serves more than 550,000 residential and commercial customers.

PG&E said the automatic transition to Time-of-Use rates would continue across the company’s service area through 2022. Customers enrolled in the Medical Baseline program will not be affected.

State law requires Cali-

fornia investor-owned electric utilities to automatically transition customers to a TOU rate plan to promote a cleaner and more reliable energy grid.

PG&E began testing its TOU rate plan with about 150,000 residential customers in 2018 and says 80% of those customers stayed on the new plan for more than a year.

For more information, go to www.pge.com/toutransition or www.ebce.org/timeofuse.

Livermore Shakespeare Festival Commissions Play Based on Science, COVID-19 Pandemic

The Livermore Shakespeare Festival has commissioned California playwright and actress Diana Burbano to create an original play focusing on local scientists at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and how they have responded to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The play is part of the nonprofit Shakespeare Festival’s yearlong Science@Play initiative “to bring the scientific process to life through literature and performance” and “to highlight and provide opportunities for writers, directors, actors and scientists, especially of color,” according to organization’s website.

“Diversity is nothing that can ever be wished away, driven away, or washed away,” said Michael Wayne Rice, the Shakespeare Festival’s resident director. “It is baked into the very nature of our nation and the world. We are at a point in history where taking a stand and moving into action is the answer to creating a more just, empathetic and representative world.”

The Shakespeare Festival announced a renewed commitment to “equity, diversity and inclusion” last summer in response to the racial unrest caused by the death of George Floyd and others at the hand of the police.

Burbano grew up in an

immigrant family, having been born in Columbia and brought to the U.S. when she was 3. Her previous plays include including “Policarpa,” “Fabulous Monsters,” and “Caliban’s Island.” In addition to writing and acting, she is a teaching artist at the South Coast Repertory in Costa Mesa and the Breath of Fire Latina Theatre Ensemble in Santa Anna.

Rice said the Shakespeare Festival is also working with scientists at LLNL to identify stories for a public reading series that will accompany development of the new play, which is expected to premiere in October.

Scout Project Encourages Acts of Kindness

Emilia Romagna, the daughter of Colleen and Joe Romagna and a member of Girl Scout Troop 33250 in Livermore, is hoping to encourage some acts of kindness in her hometown.

For her Silver Award community service project, the Livermore High School freshman is hiding 500 stickers in small bags around the city that encourage residents to show some act of kindness toward someone else. “It can be as simple as opening a door for someone,” Romagna said.

Afterwards, she is encouraging those who respond to post what they did and how it affected them to a “Livermore Spreads Kindness” page on Facebook.

“I wanted to do something that spread kindness and positivity,” Romagna said. “My goal was to have people do something nice for others and hopefully have that spread and grow. My goal is to get a ton of people to spread kindness!”

Romagna said acts of kindness already posted to the Facebook page include driving to Santa Cruz to

help feed the needy and making Valentine’s Day cards and placing them on friends’ porches.

“Even people who haven’t found stickers are getting into the spirit and starting to post kind acts that they have done,” she

said.

The 14-year-old’s Girl Scout project came together last summer after she started her own business – the Emilia’s Shop on RedBubble.com – designing, printing, and selling stickers that feature Livermore.

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Explore how the intersection of mathematics, science, art and computers can be used to visualize and create artistic pieces which also describe and explain nature. As you tour this exhibit, we hope you see that, while art has often been described as an opposing discipline to mathematics, science and computers, in many ways they are very similar. In the end, all are creative processes that involve a journey of discovery.

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cindy@tbltaxservice.com

Raimy Wigen
raimey@tbltaxservice.com

373 N. L Street, Livermore, CA 94551 Phone: 925.495.4892 Fax: 925.495.4893