

Rooftop Solar
Advocates
Request New
CPUC Hearing

By Larry Altman

REGIONAL – Rooftop solar advocates opposed to the California Public Utilities Commission’s (CPUC) recent decision to cut the amount new solar users will be compensated for supplying power to the grid are petitioning for a chance to be reheard.

Following months of hearings in 2022 that included hours of public comment mostly against the CPUC’s decision, attorneys for two groups filed requests with the CPUC for a chance to argue again. Tri-Valley advocates of rooftop solar

(See SOLAR, page 9)

Pandemic
Emergency
Funds to End

By Larry Altman

REGIONAL – Although state and local health officials caution that COVID-19 will remain a continued part of life, California Gov. Gavin Newsom’s State of Emergency order and similar local orders officially ended last week.

Alameda County officials followed suit in terminating their emergency orders the same day. The city councils in Pleasanton and Dublin voted Feb. 7 and Feb. 21, respectively, to end their local emergency orders.

Livermore’s emergency order expired on April 11,

(See PANDEMIC, page 9)

Parent Shares Story of Loss

Students Get
Education on
The Dangers
Of Fentanyl

By Ruth Roberts

LIVERMORE – Livermore High School students participated in an educational presentation by the Livermore Police Department (LPD) last week highlighting the dangers of fentanyl and other opioids.

The National Institute on Drug Abuse states that fentanyl is an extremely potent synthetic opioid 50 to 100 times stronger than morphine. It is a prescription drug for patients with severe pain. However, many abuse the substance, which is also

(See FENTANYL, page 5)



Livermore siblings Jace and Jo Girordanengio take advantage of last week’s rare snow event on Mines Road south of Livermore to enjoy a good old-fashioned snowball fight. Recent conditions have brought extreme weather throughout Northern California and the state. See additional snow photos on page 7. [See photo gallery at www.independentnews.com/multimedia] (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)

Cartoonist Condemned for Racist Remarks

By Larry Altman

PLEASANTON – Newspapers across the nation dropped the popular comic strip “Dilbert” this week after its creator — Pleasanton resident Scott Adams — aired a racist rant on YouTube, declaring Black Americans to be a “hate group” and encouraging White people to “get the hell

away” from them.

Adams’ distributor, Andrews McMeel Universal (AMU), followed suit by severing its relationship with the cartoonist, announcing the company’s vision and principles were no longer compatible.

“As a media and communications company, AMU values free speech. We are proud to promote and share

many different voices and perspectives,” AMU chairman Hugh Andrews and President Andy Sareyan said in a joint statement. “But we will never support any commentary rooted in discrimination or hate. Recent comments by Scott Adams regarding race and race relations do not align with our core values as a company.”

(See CARTOONIST, page 6)

Options Emerge to Address PFAS Contamination

By David Jen

PLEASANTON – Solutions to the city’s water contamination issues will likely require a variety of options, according to an initial report from Pleasanton’s Water Supply Alternatives Study.

Engineering consulting firm Brown and Caldwell, working with the city, helped present the study’s first update at the Feb. 21 city council meeting.

Jenny Gain, Brown and Caldwell managing engineer, listed groundwater supply options that included a city-managed treatment facility, new wells outside of the plume, and a joint project between the city and Zone 7 to build a regional treatment facility. She also shared non-groundwater options, such as desalination, stormwater capture, and water purchases from outside the city.

“It would not surprise me that the ultimate recommendation, or several recommendations, end up being a combination of perhaps all of these items,” said Councilmember Jeff Nibert.

Last November, increased forever-chemical research and tighter state health recommendations prompted the city to shut down its groundwater wells

(See CONTAMINATION, page 11)

Dublin’s Amador Station Affordable Housing
Switches Developer and Gets New Timeline

By David Jen

DUBLIN – Attempts to buoy an affordable housing project at the West Dublin-Pleasanton Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) station barely won city council approval on Feb. 21.

The council voted 3-2 to modify the Amador Station project’s community benefit and affordable housing assistance agreements. The revisions switched the proj-

ect’s developer, reversed its construction phases, and increased the upfront funding paid by the city.

Mayor Melissa Hernandez and Vice Mayor Michael McCorriston cast the dissenting votes due to the lack of time for considering the complexities around BART ownership, city involvement and the project’s varied stakeholders.

Originally proposed

by nonprofit developer BRIDGE Dublin, LLC in August 2021, the two-phase project planned to build 300 affordable housing units on the 3.6-acre site at 6501 Golden Gate Drive, adjacent to the BART station.

Since then, industry headwinds have hampered BRIDGE’s ability to complete the project; it partnered with The Related Compa-

(See HOUSING, page 7)

Parents Raise
Concerns About
Student Violence

By Dawnmarie Fehr

PLEASANTON – Parents of Pleasanton Middle School (PMS) recently voiced their concerns about student violence at the Pleasanton City Council meeting on Feb. 7.

They were motivated by a fight between two PMS students that took place across from the school at the Pleasanton Library on Jan. 19 after

many saying physical violence is a common occurrence throughout the district. LaBarge said she specifically asked the city to support the schools by providing more funding for school resource officers (SROs).

Because the students involved were juveniles, details about injuries and consequences are not being dis-

closed. Pleasanton Police Department’s Lt. Erik Silacci, a spokesperson for the department, released a statement noting the incident is under investigation. “In cases such as fights, there could be police and/or school consequences depending on the age of the involved persons,” he said. “The goal of the juvenile justice system is to focus on rehabilitation. Pleasanton Middle School administrators are also investigating this case as the school has jurisdiction over their students from the time they leave school until they arrive home at their residence.”

(See VIOLENCE, page 6)



The Dublin High Culinary Academy recently held one of its regular ‘Chopped’ competitions, where culinary students were placed into random teams of five at the beginning of the 1.5-hour period. The teams had 70 minutes to plan and prepare five servings of the specialty item, which was chicken wings. Guest judges rated the teams on creativity, appearance and taste. (Photo courtesy of Dublin High School)



The Granada Matadors Girls Varsity team, above, took second place in the 2023 North Coast Section Girls Basketball Division 1 Championship on Feb. 25 against Monte Vista High School. Monte Vista won 66 to 39. [See photo gallery at www.independentnews.com/multimedia] (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)

Planning Commission Gives Greenlight to City
Council Review of Stoneridge Mall Development

By David Jen

PLEASANTON – The planning commission struggled at its Feb. 22 meeting to consider a Stoneridge Mall development project that predated the Stoneridge Framework plan, and therefore followed a set of principles and standards different from the framework’s.

The application, brought forth by the Simon Property Group, proposed the construction of 360 multifamily apartment units with related site improvements on about 6 acres of a current parking lot in the southeast corner of the mall property.

The commission voted 4-1, with Commissioner

Ken Morgan opposing, to find the application’s environmental findings adequate, the development plan consistent with the city’s General Plan and zoning, and two requested exceptions appropriate.

The requested exceptions included a half-story of height above the design guidelines and a lack of ground-floor unit entries onto the street.

“I wouldn’t want to do any project that precluded being able to meet all of the Stoneridge Mall Framework,” said Morgan.

Intended to guide development at the mall, the city council adopted the

Stoneridge Framework in January, which defined principles touching on economic viability, mixed-use integration and other considerations applying to the 75-acre mall property as a whole.

But Simon’s development application, first submitted in 2019 and then resubmitted in March 2022, came prior to the framework. The commission therefore could not subject it to the principles guiding the rest of the mall.

Community Development Director Ellen Clark explained that when the framework was approved, “this (application) was well

(See STONERIDGE page 9)

PET OF THE WEEK



BOOTS

Brilliant Boots is a bubbly and bold boy who balances sunshine baths, strolling his neighborhood beat and sojourns in the car. Learn more about Boots and other cats and dogs at valleyhumane.org. Email info@valleyhumane.org to start the adoption application process. #ShareTheCare to help pets today!

(Photo - Valley Humane Society)

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Master Gardeners Program Promotes Education and Sustainability

By Dawnmarie Fehr

The Master Gardeners of Alameda County (MGAC) have taken another step toward their plans for an educational garden in Pleasanton.

Members of the program – dubbed Master Gardeners – have put up a sign informing observers of the plot’s



A new sign marks the spot where the Master Gardeners educational garden will soon take root. The public plot is located at the Bernal Park Community Farm off of Laguna Creek Lane in Pleasanton. (Photo courtesy of Master Gardeners of Alameda)

future use as part of the City of Pleasanton’s Bernal Park Community Farm, off Laguna Creek Lane, east of the 680 freeway. The city has not yet published a timeline for construction of the park.

“We are so excited to have this spot in Pleasanton

where we can provide classes and information locally,” said Master Gardener Patti Joki. “The city council gave us the ability to have this permanent location and we can also grow food and help underprivileged individuals.”

Joki is one of the non-profit’s lead organizers for their annual plant sale, coming up April 1-2 at the Pleasanton Senior Center, and said once open, the new site will enable the Master Gardener program to grow its offerings in the East Bay.

Master Gardener Lou Astbury said members of the program also planted a cover crop on the site in December to prepare the ground for future use.

“The cover crop is a mix of a soil builder seed mix and a wildflower mix to prepare the soil and provide a habitat for bees and other pollinators,” Astbury said. “We have been giving away the same seeds in packets at both the Pleasanton and Livermore libraries with information about the benefits of cover crops. They have been quite popular.”

Astbury and the other members of the MGAC program take pride in their titles, having completed a 12-week course through the University of California,

and continuing education each year, as well as volunteer hours. The group offers their classes and knowledge free to the public, and their new site will support those efforts.

Joki said the idea of an educational garden was first floated in 2015 and supported by nine individuals. Now, there are 25 master gardeners from all over the Tri-Valley actively working to move the project forward.

“All these individuals are embracing this whole idea of giving back to their community,” Joki said. “Helping out individuals who are less fortunate, sharing their enjoyment of being outside and their knowledge to help others go through this arena of plants and how good they are for you ... we were so happy to be putting the sign up and that this project is moving forward.”

The Educational Garden will serve to grow plants for the annual plant sale, store equipment, offer classes, and produce food and plants for local charitable organizations and school gardens. Master gardeners currently utilize several locations across the Tri-Valley to serve these needs. Much of their recent efforts are focused on the Pleasanton Senior Center, where they

are propagating seedlings on the shuffleboard courts in preparation for their plant sale.

For last year’s plant sale, master gardeners grew 5,500 plants, selling 4,075 and donating 500 to area groups. They raised \$13,000, all of which Joki said goes back into the program to purchase plants and supplies, finance the educational garden and fund classes.

Judy Matthew oversaw the donations of leftover plants after last year’s sale. She worked with several organizations such as the Cal-Fresh Healthy Living Program, Sunflower Hill, St. Claire Episcopal Church garden, Village High School and Santa Rita Jail to donate tomatoes, peppers, herbs and other food producing plants.

“We are very glad to be able to donate those plants to people that can use them,” Matthew said. “Several of the schools in Oakland have food gardens, so we donated some of those to the schools’ gardens and they are certainly put to very effective use.”

MGAC provides free information to anyone in its classes, and online through its virtual help desk. Anyone can fill out the form on the MGAC website to ask a question about anything

flora-related and receive an answer from a Master Gardener.

For more information on the MGAC Program, visit www.acmg.ucanr.edu.

The MGAC Plant Sale will take place April 1-2 at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd., in Pleasanton. For more information, visit www.incredibleedibleplantsale.com. Pre-ordering will be available on the website in mid-March.

To donate to MCAC,

visit https://bit.ly/indy_mg-donate.

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Trumark Homes Plans Housing Development in Livermore

Trumark Homes, based in San Ramon, has purchased nearly 29 acres on Las Positas Road, between Arroyo Vista Road and Bennett Road, in Livermore for a housing development to be named Arroyo Vista.

The purchase was an-

nounced by Colliers, a professional services and investment management company, which represented both the buyer and seller of the property. The sale price was not announced.

Tony Bosowski, Northern California division pres-

ident for Trumark Homes, noted that Livermore is a “thriving destination where young professionals and families want to live.”

“From the historic wine country and charming downtown to its convenient access to Silicon Valley, Livermore

is a highly desirable location for homebuyers seeking an exceptional quality of life,” Bosowski said.

The Collier’s announcement said Trumark is planning to build 348 townhomes and 86 detached homes at Arroyo Vista.

Pleasanton Mayor Karla Brown Set to Deliver State of City Address

Pleasanton Mayor Karla Brown will deliver the annual State of the City address at the Palm Event Center, 1184 Vineyard Ave., on Wednesday, March 29.

Tickets to the 11 a.m. luncheon, hosted by the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce, are \$75 and are available at www.pleasanton.org.

“I am pleased to join

the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce to present the State of the City update this year,” Brown said. “It is an honor to reflect and acknowledge the achievements we have made together over the past year, as we set our sights on a strategic and sustainable future.”

A resident of Pleasanton for the past 29 years, Brown is serving her second term as

mayor. She also served two terms on the Pleasanton City Council and is a licensed real estate broker.

Jill Buck, board chair for the Chamber of Commerce and founder of the nonprofit Go Green Initiative, noted that “Pleasanton faces many challenges, from housing to water quality, that require collaboration across broad stakeholder groups. The

State of the City event is a unique opportunity to hear from the mayor and learn how to substantively engage in the most pressing issues in our community.”

Park District Program to Cover Niles Canyon Railway

East Bay Regional Park District naturalist Erica Stephens will present a program on the history of the Niles Canyon Transcontinental Railway, including the role of Chinese workers, from noon to 2 p.m. on Saturday, March 4, at the Sunol Wilderness Regional Preserve visitor center. The program is free and registration is not required. There is a \$5 parking fee per vehicle. The Sunol Wilderness visitors center is at the end of Geary Road about five miles south of I-680 and the town of Sunol. For more information, call 510-544-3249.

Friends of Open Space Creates Student Scholarship Program

Friends of Open Space and Vineyards (FOV), a Livermore-based nonprofit that supports the permanent protection of the Livermore Valley’s open spaces and agricultural land, will offer two new \$750 scholarships for students majoring in Environmental Studies and Environmental Science at Las Positas College.

For several years, FOV, founded in 1981 as Save the Vineyards, funded scholar-

ships for students in the Viticulture and Winery Technology programs at the college.

The organization said the new scholarships are intended to encourage and reward students for their academic efforts and activities outside the classroom aimed at improving the quality of the local and global environment.

The college created the environmental majors in 2009, in part through the efforts of Eric Harpell, a

physics professor at Las Positas and an FOV board member. The FOV scholarships are the first intended specifically for students in the new majors.

FOV said its view the scholarships as a natural step in developing the next generation of environmental stewards and activists who will work to protect the Livermore Valley.

For more information, go to fov.org.

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EDITORIAL

Utilities Commission Got It Wrong; Time for a Rehearing

The Independent strongly supports a rehearing on the California Public Utilities Commission’s (CPUC) decision last December to cut the amount of money solar users are reimbursed for installing solar panels.

The CPUC unanimously approved a program that would reduce by nearly 75% the credits that future solar users can receive for sharing energy with the grid.

The governor and CPUC’s choice doesn’t respect the interests of the public as we work toward important climate goals. Instead, they made a decision that will benefit the utility companies and make solar cost prohibitive during

a critical era that should be focused on incentivizing green energy generation. “Disappointing” doesn’t cover it. This was a money grab for the utility companies during a global crisis.

Without a corrected course, we’re slowing progress toward a carbon-free energy future. We are running out of time. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, “without dramatic action in the next couple of decades, we are unlikely to keep global warming in this century below 2.7° Fahrenheit (1.5° Celsius) compared to pre-industrial temperatures—a threshold that experts say offers a lower risk of serious

negative impacts.”

The time for dramatic action is now, and it doesn’t involve passing the buck to working class Californian families. Microgrids could offer a solution by reducing utility costs while increasing solar usage. Microgrids offer several other benefits, including increased resilience and reliability of electricity supply, especially during natural disasters or grid failures. They can also promote renewable energy adoption and reduce carbon emissions, as they allow for the integration of renewable energy sources, such as solar and wind power.

It’s time to revisit this decision for the future of solar and our climate.

MAILBOX

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Help is on the Way for Rental Property Owners
David Haubert, Alameda County Supervisor, District 1

On Feb. 9, I held a community town hall to learn more about the impacts of the County’s eviction moratorium that was put in place years ago to help struggling renters get by during the pandemic. It was clear to me that many rental housing providers have been denied the rents that are rightfully theirs as a direct result of the eviction moratorium. Instead of focusing on our most vulnerable residents the moratorium has been used by many renters who are capable of paying rent as a blanket justification to shirk their responsibility. As a result, housing providers are owed tens, perhaps hundreds of millions of dollars of unpaid rent. As a result, many rental housing providers have been forced to sell or face bankruptcy or foreclosure, thereby reducing the available rental housing stock.

In addition to unpaid rent, the eviction moratorium brought out the worst in people. Many housing providers report tenants exhibiting deliberate harassment of neighboring tenants, unlawful subletting, and ignoring lease terms with impunity because they feel emboldened by the eviction moratorium.

The original intent of the moratorium was to protect renters from the catastrophic effects of COVID-19. But conditions have changed since the early days of the pandemic. The shelter-in-

place order was eliminated many months ago and everyone is now back to work, vaccines are widely available with over 90% of residents protected, hospitalizations are at an all-time low, and even mask requirements have largely gone away. That’s why every other county in America has eliminated or amended their eviction moratorium.

After many months of delays, the Board of Supervisors will finally hold a hearing on February 28 to discuss whether to end the moratorium, which I support. My message to property owners is this: help is on the way. I am committed to identifying ways that the County can make property owners whole, repaying the lost rent denied to them so they can continue to provide naturally affordable housing in Alameda County. I am committed to protecting property owners from foreclosure and bankruptcy. I am committed to preserving the moratorium’s original intent to protect renters who are struggling as a direct result of COVID-19.

I look forward to continuing to generate creative solutions alongside our community.

Happy to See the Vast Improvements in Flood Control
Kenneth Henneman, Pleasanton

Your article last week on FEMA and the large January rainstorm (5” at Dublin, about a 1 in 100 yrs. storm) and flooding increases interest in, and awareness of, unusually large storms that cause Valley flooding. — Below are comments on Del Valle Reservoir control of large Valley storms & flooding.

Flood worry. On the day after the large 5”/day rainstorm, I was worried that if it continued to rain hard the following days in the watershed above Del Valle Reservoir, or if the forecasted following week rainstorm was unusually large—we could have had extensive flooding in west Pleasanton (& elsewhere). Because water flowing over the Reservoir spillway lip will be very damaging.

What is large? By an unusually large megastorm I mean one causing water to overflow the spillway lip into Arroyo del Valle at a rate likely five times larger than the 2,000 cubic feet per second that was released. Which flooded trails. — The Reservoir was designed to contain, below the spillway lip, runoff from about a 1:200 yr storm. Technically the design contains a 12” rainfall over 3 days over the 150 square mile watershed. It does a good job, note peak Arroyo del Valle flow during the 1955 flood was 18,000 cfs. Since the 1960s it has been kept below 3,000 cfs.

What is extensive? By large extensive flooding I mean flooding the 4,000-6,000-acre floodplain in west Pleasanton where 30,000-40,000 people live (According to 2018 Valley Hazardous Management Plan). — These values

are for a 1:500 yrs. storm, which storms, unfortunately, appear to be happening much more frequently. Causing one to worry now when a megastorm is forecasted. I worried when 5” of rain fell in one day, almost half of the 12” needed to cause spillway overflow.

What’s the good news? Since the Oroville flood event better stream flow flooding forecast tools have been developed. Knowing a day or two ahead of time really helps people be prepared. During last month’s rainstorm I found, unexpectedly and delightedly, online real time forecasts of Del Valle Reservoir storage and inflow, making it possible now to warn us if a megaflood is coming. A key reason for these comments. I was delighted with this vast improvement in flood control & flood warning systems that I delt with during my 55 years as a water engineer.

Volunteer for Tactical East Avenue!
Trish Munro, Livermore

For more than thirty years, East Avenue has been my path to downtown Livermore. I know exactly where the speed limit switches from 40 mph to 30 mph as the road narrows and becomes more residential. I know when school lets out and which lanes to avoid as cars line up to collect children, as children race out of school on foot, bikes, or to the waiting cars. I know the labs’ commute hours. I’ve walked and biked down East Avenue to the RLCC by myself, with children, and with grandchildren. The point being: East Avenue is a well-used street and the people who travel on it do so for many reasons.

East Avenue is also one of the oldest streets in Livermore, which means that as Livermore has grown into the street, the number of people using the street and the reasons they use it have grown. So how can all the different stakeholders get these very different needs met? And, most importantly, how can the street be safer for everyone?

That’s what Tactical East Avenue is about. Over the last couple of years, the City of Livermore conducted a Corridor Study to understand mobility and safety on East Avenue between Livermore Avenue and Vasco Road, a segment identified as a priority corridor in the Livermore Active Transportation Plan.

In the next few weeks, the City of Livermore will start implementing Tactical East Avenue, a pilot project to test ways to improve East Avenue’s safety and mobility. This kind of testing is called Tactical Urbanism. How does it work? Where there are places where a city wants to make major changes—to increase safety, to build community, or for some other reason—Tactical Urbanism uses low-cost, temporary materials and volunteer help to pilot-test those changes. It’s cheap, it’s temporary, and it allows everyone to test new ideas.

That’s what Tactical East Avenue does: allows the City of Livermore and the community to experiment with proposed changes. The pilot project will focus on East Avenue from Maple Street to Hillcrest Avenue. From March 13 to March 17, volunteers can help install temporary curb extensions, painted median refuges, and high visibility crosswalks. The changes thus created will be evaluated over six months and help shape the future of

East Avenue. Here’s a link to find out more and volunteer: <https://www.eastavecorridor-study.com/>.

City’s Growth is Not Sustainable
Matt Sullivan, Pleasanton City Council, 2004-2012
Pleasanton Planning Commission, 1998-2004

The City of Pleasanton is seeing an explosion of growth and development not seen since the 1980s when Hacienda Business Park and Stoneridge Mall were constructed. This time it is driven by an alliance of tech companies and the state legislature forcing cities to rezone enormous amounts of property for tech worker high-density housing and by our city governments’ desire to increase growth-related revenue. It would be bad enough if the impacts of this growth—traffic, air pollution, and quality of life—were spread equitably to all parts of town. But most of this new growth regime has focused on the city’s northwest area. This started with Costco and the hotels and other retail development at the Johnson Drive Economic Development Zone, the Workday and 10x Genomics high-tech office complexes at the mall, and the recent approval of zoning for up to 2000 housing units and an expansion of retail uses at Stoneridge Mall. This development will disproportionately affect the Muirwood and Val Vista neighborhoods by concentrating the impact on these residents. This is a clear case of environmental injustice perpetrated by the city government on its residents.

But the people in this area have little recourse to oppose these projects. When the City Council established election District 1, these residential neighborhoods were combined with Hacienda Business Park. This districting violated the state guidelines that communities should be contiguous and have common issues. This has resulted in our neighborhood’s disenfranchisement and left us without the political power of the vote to stop this. Only Jeff Nibert, the District 1 Councilmember, is at risk for any constituent backlash and, to his credit, opposed the Stoneridge expansion. But one vote isn’t enough to stop a project. The rest of the Council voted for these projects and are immune to voter repercussions because of the districting.

In the bigger picture, this growth is not sustainable. When replicated across every city and town in the country, it puts all of us at risk for climate catastrophe and biosphere degradation. What is needed is a re-visioning of the city’s growth, development, and fiscal policies and the prioritization of neighborhood integrity, quality of life, environmental justice, and sustainability.

Right Idea in the Wrong Place
Alex Abey, Livermore

The Asbury property is the wrong location for a tiny homes project; an otherwise commendable idea. For those who are unaware, the Asbury property in question is an undeveloped greenspace that is partially used by the non-profit Fertile Groundworks to serve its mission “to encourage, empower, and teach individuals and communities to grow healthy, nutritious food, organically and sustainably.” To visualize the property in question, I

encourage you to visit www.fertilegroundworks.org.

This location is a boundary property between the City of Livermore and unincorporated Alameda County. Two sides of the rectangular property about Alameda County land that is zoned for rural residential activities such as viticulture, tree farming, and plant nurseries, as well as raising sheep, goats, cows, and horses. For many years, the Asbury property has served as a transitional space between suburban Livermore and rural Alameda County.

The residents of Buena Vista Avenue who about the Asbury property on two sides do not vote in Livermore City Council elections and therefore have no representation in City government. Perhaps this makes the property a more attractive target for development by the City? Fewer constituents to deal with?

Residents of Buena Vista have the privilege of choosing to live in a rural residential environment and are understandably loathed to lose this transitional greenspace. I believe there is a middle ground approach that would allow Asbury to expand its charitable mission while at the same time preserving the rural/suburban interface. The answer is to allow Fertile Groundworks (or another entity) to expand their use of the property for food production. This would help to feed the at-risk population in the area while at the same time preserving the more rural character of the property.

There are many ways to help vulnerable populations, and an agricultural use is much more suited to this property and the desires of neighboring residents.

In Other Words...
Patricia Best-Thorstad, Livermore

In other words, Mr. Kind Gent, you have given me my “Rosebud.”

“Wh...whi...white carnations...”

Stop the Bunk on Homelessness!
Greg Scott, Livermore

“Livermore residents should be proud of the work we do to care for everyone.” (Trish Munro, “A Few Questions for the Weekend,” Mailbox, 2/23).

To me, the misconceptions presented in Ms. Munro’s last letter on homelessness, along with the falseness in her letter on homelessness last September, are both insulting and sickening. I could write thousands of words and many letters in rebuttal. It is my community responsibility to counter this misinformation on homelessness.

This Pollyannaish theory of “care for everyone” is woefully misleading. I was acquainted with six homeless individuals who died in Livermore during the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic. At least five others I didn’t know also died. Are we, as a community, “proud” of this? This demonstrates our love for fellow human beings?

Richard French was a City of Livermore homeless nemesis. He attended Livermore High School and was a former U.S. Marine. Mr. French had a Monday routine of leaving his possessions in a decrepit bicycle trailer at Carnegie Park and walking to the old Vineyard Church on North Livermore Avenue to shower and get something to eat. One fateful Monday, the City of Livermore confiscated all of his stowed belongings.

That evening I went to the Livermore City Council

and during the Community Forum, I begged the City to return Mr. French’s things to him. Two to three days later, they were returned - but without the bicycle trailer. How was he to move his possessions? Try being out at night with just the clothes on your back and no bedding. Was this an ethical treatment? Are we “proud” of this?

Sometime afterwards, Mr. French’s son loaned him a small pickup truck. Richard got sick at the Arroyo Plaza encampments and was taken to the hospital. The truck was impounded. Mr. French told me he lost important papers. After being released from the hospital, sans truck, Mr. French just laid on the ground a lot in various locations. He then died. Problem solved.

This is just one story of too many.

“Who knows why / Some-day we all must die / We’re all homeless boys and girls / And we are never heard / It’s such a lonely, lonely, lonely, lonely world / People turn their heads and walk on by / Tell me, is it worth just another try?”

Light of the world, shine on me / Love is the answer” (Rundgren et al., “Love Is the Answer”)

Livermore Valley Half This Weekend
Tania Panarello, Livermore

The Livermore Valley Half Marathon is this Sunday, March 5, 2023. The Independent should be posting a list of times of expected road closures; please check out the info to plan your day accordingly. Livermore Police Department has also posted these closures on NextDoor, Facebook and Twitter.

For more information, visit livermorevalleyhalf.com:

- For a map of the half marathon course: Click on “Race”, then “Course + Schedule”.
- To volunteer: Click on “Get Involved”, then “Volunteer”, then “Join Our Event Crew” to see available volunteer opportunities.

My husband and I have both run this race, and although this year’s storms have changed the original course a bit, it is still a wonderful event. Last year, we both cheered on runners at various locations; this year, we will be official volunteers. Let’s hope for a beautiful day; come on down and join the fun! Shop Farmers’ Market and local businesses, and cheer on the runners! Believe me, that extra bit of commUNITY support can make all the difference to runners to push through those last challenging miles, and all the miles in-between.

For all Livermore residents and visitors: Thank you for your patience as you navigate the roads!

For all peace officers and medical personnel: Thank you for keeping everyone safe!

For all volunteers: Thank you for helping out!

For all race participants: Have fun and have a great race – YOU GOT THIS! (“You’re almost there!”)

Securing Liberty
Jan Brovont, Livermore

“Liberty cannot be preserved without a general knowledge among the people.” John Adams, a signer of Declaration of Independence, the first Vice President of the United States and second President of the United States. He said this in a letter to John Taylor, 1814.

THE Independent

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Livermore Hopes to Continue Garbage Contract With Vasco Road Landfill

By Larry Altman

The Livermore City Council on Monday approved notifying Republic Services Vasco Road Landfill that the city wants to negotiate a long-term contract with the facility that has accepted the community's refuse for seven decades.

The unanimous council vote concurred with a staff recommendation to alert Republic Services that the city wants to extend its soon-to-expire contract with the facility at 4001 N. Vasco Road for a year in order to come up with a deal that might last another 20 to 30 years.

The move to give Republic Services the sole opportunity to negotiate a deal means the city will not solicit bids from other solid waste disposal facilities, including Waste Management's Altamont Landfill in Livermore and other dumps in nearby counties.

"If directed to pursue sole source negotiations for a disposal agreement with the Vasco Landfill, it is expected that Livermore would continue to have the lowest price per ton for municipal solid waste disposal among all of the other jurisdictions served by the Vasco Landfill," Judy Erlandson, the city's interim assistant public works director, told the council.

"Republic Services is also committed to expand their construction and demolition sorting operation to increase the recovery of (recyclables)," Erlandson continued. "The site of the Vasco Landfill could also be a possible disaster debris staging location if the city of Livermore were to need debris storage after a severe event."

Should a deal not be reached, the city would open up bids with other waste disposal companies. The

latest contract with Republic Services approved by the Livermore City Council in 2002 is set to expire on Dec. 31.

Erlandson told the council that Republic Services must agree to the terms of the extension; the company has informed the city that it wants the one-year extension to include a 4.5% increase on its base rate of \$20.24 per ton of solid waste the city sends there.

Erlandson said other companies, including Waste Connections' Potrero Hills Landfill, could accommodate the city's solid waste and might be interested in making a bid, but other facilities likely would be more expensive. Trash hauled longer distances must be on large trucks, she said.

"Other impacts of transferring waste to out-of-county landfills would be increased emissions, traffic congestion and additional fees," Erlandson said. "If the Livermore sanitation facility on National Drive were to be used to transfer waste from small trucks to larger trucks, ratepayer-funded investments in infrastructure and equipment would be necessary. And current permits would need to be modified, which could take years to finalize. And impacts to the area around the facility, such as odors, litter, additional truck traffic, would all likely increase."

City Councilmember Brittini Kiick said she agreed with the decision to extend negotiations with Republic Services to keep in line with the city's Climate Action Plan. Kiick said she was surprised to see the lengthy distances of other landfills in the Bay Area.

"I understand that there is generally an equity issue where we want it to be fair that everyone can have an opportunity. However, to

maintain our climate goals and to maintain the best rate that we promised, my personal thought is that we should do that one-year extension and continue with Republic Services. It just honestly seems silly to drive our trash farther away," Kiick said.

Waste Connections owns Livermore's trash hauler, Livermore Sanitation, which holds the contract for the pickup of solid waste, recyclables and compostable materials from residents' curbs and trucking the solid waste to the Vasco Road site. That contract continues through 2030.

In other council business, the panel unanimously approved modifications to the city's development code to require E-commerce distribution facilities to be located in the city's heavily industrial district along with traditional warehouses and obtain Conditional Use Permits (CUP) to operate. The CUP will enable city leaders to review E-Commerce sites for traffic, noise and other issues.

The move comes following Amazon Logistics' \$66 million purchase of a 610,000-square-foot building at 400 Longfellow Court in 2019 to use as a delivery station, the last stop for packages before drivers drop them on porches.

The council also adjusted a decision in 2021 that allowed people working at home to have three clients on-site at one time from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Besides setting standards for what work could be done at home to avoid noise, dust and odor for neighbors, the decision required those working at home to annually renew a "home occupation permit" to do so. The council's Monday night vote eliminates that annual requirement for people who do not have clients on-site.



Entries are currently being accepted for Pleasanton's Youth in Excellence Art Awards program. Contestants, seen above in past years, compete in several arts categories. (Photo courtesy of Pleasanton Cultural Arts Council)

FENTANYL

(Continued from first page)

illegally manufactured and distributed.

In 2021, LPD received at least four calls for service related to fentanyl. In 2022, that number nearly tripled to at least 11 calls for service. Statewide, in 2021, more than 5,000 statewide opioid deaths were related to fentanyl, with 224 of those deaths related to teenagers.

Livermore parent Judy Burescia appeared in the video that was shown to the Livermore High student body, describing how her daughter Coreen, a Granada High School alum, died of a fentanyl overdose in 2019.

"In high school, she felt like she had to fit into the crowd," said Burescia. "I don't know when she first used drugs other than alcohol, but pretty soon you start to use it because it is so addictive."

After high school, Coreen became pregnant, and when the baby was born, they found traces of heroin in the baby's bloodstream. The baby was unharmed, but Coreen was legally mandated to enter rehab. Burescia said that once her daughter was released from rehab, she appeared to have recovered.

"And for three and a half years she was ok," her mother continued. "To this day I don't know how or when she started to use it again. Unfortunately, in just one use she died. She used it and stopped breathing. That's what fentanyl does. It's just a tiny, tiny grain of sand, and you're dead."

Burescia said her daughter wanted to be a fourth-

grade teacher, but drugs destroyed those dreams along with her family.

"We miss that empty chair at the dinner table at Thanksgiving and Christmas," Burescia said. "It's been four years, and you think you'll get over it, but you don't."

Members of Mothers Against Drug Addiction and Deaths (MADAD) praised the LPD for its efforts in bringing attention to the nation's ongoing epidemic. "Mothers Against Drug Addiction and Deaths is grateful to Livermore Police Department for proactively working to keep kids and teens safe through education," the group posted online.

For more information on the dangers of Fentanyl,

visit United States Drug Enforcement Administration: One Pill Can Kill at, <https://www.dea.gov/onepill>; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at www.cdc.gov/stopoverdose/Fentanyl/; and California Department of Public Health at www.cdph.ca.gov/.



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The Search for Local OHV Space Continues

By David Jen

With concessions won for the protection of Tesla Park near Livermore, California State Parks continues its search for Bay Area properties on which to expand off-highway vehicle (OHV) access.

Previously intended for the expansion of the Carnegie State Vehicular Recreation Area, the 3,100 hilly acres in southeastern Alameda County, commonly known as Tesla Park, became a topic of discussion when expansion studies documented a high level of biodiversity in the area.

According to the California Native Plant Society (CNPS), the area supports 42 protected wildlife species, including the threatened California tiger salamander and the California red-legged frog.

"The land we call Tesla Park is within the ancestral homelands of the Yokuts and Ohlone peoples, where it traditionally provided seasonal hunting, gathering, and trading grounds, and it holds sacred ceremoni-

al sites," states the CNPS website.

While Senate Bill (SB) 155, signed in September 2021, protected Tesla Park from use as a state vehicular recreation area, it also transferred \$29.8 million from the state's General Fund to the Off-Highway Vehicle Trust Fund and named Henry Coe State Park as a possible new location for OHV access.

"When the Friends of Tesla Park were talking about buying out the 3,100 acres, the order of magnitude was \$9 million — that was roughly the purchase cost of those 3,100 acres," said Dick Schneider, member of Friends of Tesla Park, a group that worked to keep OHV access out of the area. "In the closed-door negotiations, both the idea of opening up Henry Coe as well as the \$28 million in total came out of the package."

Henry Coe State Park was the only area explicitly named in SB 155 as an area for consideration.

At 87,000 acres, Henry Coe's large size has supported both those for and

against opening up OHV activities there. The space could provide large buffers between multiple uses in the park, but also could stand out as a large, contiguous wilderness in the highly built-out Bay Area.

"The park's size is specifically what makes it an important intact refuge for at-risk species, including mountain lions, at a time when a combination of regional development pressures and climate change impacts make such wild places necessary for survival," read a Sierra Club statement.

State Parks, however, stressed that it has not yet made any firm decisions.

"While the bill specifically mentioned areas within Henry Coe State Park, this language does not require State Parks to allow OHV recreation at Henry Coe; it is a recommendation to explore the viability of that recreation," read the State Parks website.

Future meetings seeking public input can be found on the State Parks website at bit.ly/indy_henrycoehv.

Foothill Alums Join Pleasanton Police Department

Two Foothill High School alums, Danielle

Fowler and Anu Kaur, have joined the Pleasanton Po-

lice Department.

Kaur, a former Police Explorer with Pleasanton, was a deputy with Alameda County before joining the Pleasanton police force. She has a bachelor's degree in accounting information systems from San Jose State University.

Fowler, a dispatcher for the San Leandro Police Department for more than 15 years, will serve in the same capacity in Pleasanton.

"We gladly welcome Dispatcher Fowler and Officer Kaur as they continue their careers in public safety and serve their hometown," said Police Chief David Swing.



Danielle Fowler, left, and Anu Kaur, right, were recently sworn into the Livermore Police Department. (Photo courtesy of LPD)

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VIOLENCE

(Continued from first page)

During the Feb. 7 city council Meeting, Pleasanton City Manager Gerry Beaudin explained that public safety does fall under the auspices of the City of Pleasanton, but the city works with the Pleasanton Unified School District (PUSD) to help ensure that safety extends to school campuses.

“We do have a memorandum of understanding, and that is the heart of the discussion about how the district and the school operate,” Beaudin said. “But in terms of our budget and the things we are doing here operationally, it is a completely different set of funding sources and a different set of responsibilities relative to the school board and the school district.”

PMS Principal Joe Nguyen also spoke at the meeting, saying he attended to hear the community and gather input. He said student safety is important and that he intended to engage various stakeholders and continuously make adjustments.

“I have no tolerance for violence in schools,” he told the city council. “That deserves a response both disciplinary and any other way we can do that, because we are

more than just an educational – in terms of academics – institution. We have to teach how to be people and how to be better people. It is at the forefront of the work we have done and continue to do.”

PUSD Spokesperson Patrick Gannon said the school district is addressing the specific incident but should be more focused on behavioral trends that have been emerging from the pandemic. He said while the altercation was disturbing, violence is a community issue, and not just centralized at one school site.

“It’s something we are trying to address as a system, and we can definitely do better, and we want to do that working with the community,” Gannon said.

The PUSD board and the Pleasanton City Council will hold its annual joint meeting in April, during which time, the agencies will discuss the topic of student violence. Vice Mayor Jack Balch expressed the hope that at the joint meeting, he would hear identified, measurable steps to move forward from this incident.

Since the fight on Jan. 19, Gannon said PMS staff has increased supervision

during passing periods, and as students arrive at and leave school, especially near the library.

In addition to these re-active measures, PMS site administration visited every class to speak with students about behavior and expectations. Administration also discussed social and emotional learning, self-regulation and understanding the emotions and feelings behind what causes violent behaviors.

“We want families to know that we hear their concerns, and we are taking this – and when I say ‘this,’ I mean the issues we’ve seen with student behavior – very seriously,” Gannon said. “We hope that they’ll work with us in helping our students be better moving forward, because we are better than this and we know that our students can be better than this. We just have to show them.”



Members of the Livermore Community Police Academy Class #39 met for their first session on Wednesday, Feb. 16, and were greeted by Police Chief Jeremy Young and Capts. Jason Boberg and Julie Cochran. They also received a tour of Livermore Police Department (LPD) headquarters. The academy is a 10-week program that provides an overview of local law enforcement, including patrol procedures, Horizons Family Counseling, the records department, dispatch, school resource officers, and the Homeless Liaison Unit, Crime Prevention Unit, Traffic Unit, and Criminal Investigations Bureau. (Photo courtesy of LPD)

CARTOONIST

(Continued from first page)

In a 73-minute response posted on YouTube on Sunday, Adams defended himself, saying he had instantly lost 80% of his income and that audiences had taken his words out of context. Some 2,000 newspapers had carried the satirical comic strip about the workplace since it began in 1989.

“How many people are here to look at the train wreck?” Adams said during the video. “How many of you are from the media looking to get a new quote for your story?”

Publishers including the Los Angeles Times, Boston Globe, Washington Post, Cleveland Plain Dealer and the USA Today network of hundreds of Gannett newspapers dumped Dilbert over the weekend. The Bay Area News Group (BANG), which publishes the San Jose Mercury News and the East Bay Times, canceled the comic strip immediately, as did its affiliated Southern California News Group publications that include the Orange County Register and Los Angeles Daily News.

“In the wake of controversial remarks by Dilbert artist Scott Adams, The Mercury News and East Bay Times will no longer carry the strip in our publications,” said Frank Pine, executive editor of the California newspapers. “We believe that communities are strengthened by embracing diversity and striving for unity as opposed to divisiveness and provocation. With these values in mind, we cannot continue to publish Adams’ work for our audience.”

Adams, who has a history of making controversial statements and did not introduce a Black character into his comic strip until last year, made his stunning remarks last week during his live-streamed YouTube show, “Real Coffee with Scott Adams.”

During his talk, Adams commented on a Rasmussen Reports poll that asked if respondents agreed with the statement, “It’s OK to be White.” The Anti-Defamation League said the phrase became popular about five years ago on the online forum 4Chan and was seized as a slogan by White supremacist groups.

Rasmussen said 53% of Black Americans agreed with the comment.

Adams responded, “Nearly half of all Blacks are not okay with White people, according to this poll, not according to me, according to this poll. That’s a hate group, and I don’t want to have anything to do with it. And I would say, you know, based on the current way things are going, the best advice I would give to White people is to get the hell away from Black people. Just get the f— away. Get wherever you have to go. Just get away.”

Following a backlash,

Adams posted another video explaining that he meant everyone should be treated individually without racism.

But he doubled down on his previous statement, saying “You should also avoid any group that doesn’t respect you.”

In his response Sunday, Adams said the media glogged onto the phrases “racist tirade” and “racist rant” in its stories about him but had not listened to his lengthy commentary to put his words into perspective. His comments, he said, were taken out of context.

“What was the context?” Adams asked. “The context is far too many Black Americans have a negative opinion of White Americans. And then in general, as life advice, you shouldn’t spend time with people who, you know, let’s say in a statistical sense, are going to have a negative opinion about you. It’s a bad life strategy. So how many of you got that context without watching the video?”

In addition to losing his newspaper income, Adams’ learned his publisher, Penguin Random House’s Portfolio, would no longer publish his book, “Reframe Your Brain.” The book was scheduled for release this September.

Over the years, Adams created controversy expressing his right-wing political views. In removing Dilbert from its pages, the Los Angeles Times pointed out that it had not run four of Adams’ Dilbert strips in the last nine months because they did not meet the publications’ standards.

“The comics pages should be a place where our readers can engage with societal issues, reflect on the human condition, and enjoy a few laughs,” the editors wrote in announcing their decision to delete Dilbert. “We intend to maintain that tradition in a way that is welcoming to all readers.”

In introducing “Dave the Black Engineer” in the comic strip last May, Adams Tweeted the comment, “Let’s see if the world is ready for this.”

In the strip, Dave said he “identified as White.”

“Dave will be featured all week,” Adams wrote. “So, if this one doesn’t get me cancelled, more chances to come.”

Although Adams found himself on the wrong side of the controversy, he did receive support from Elon Musk, the billionaire owner of Tesla and Twitter.

Responding to criticism of Adams on the social media site, Musk tweeted that the media were racist against non-White people for a long time.

“Now they’re racist against Whites & Asians ... Same thing happened with elite colleges & high schools in America,” Musk wrote. “Maybe they can try not being racist.”

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info@pleasantonband.org
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Dublin, CA 94568
925-829-9555
Schoolofimagination.org

Senior Support Program of The Tri-Valley
5353 Sunol Blvd.
Pleasanton, CA 94566
925-931-5378
SSPTV.org

Shakespeare's Associates, dba Livermore Shakespeare Festival
P.O. Box 2616
Livermore, CA 94551
925-443-2273
LivermoreShakes.org

Shepherds Gate
1660 Portola Ave.
Livermore, CA 94550
925-443-4283
ShepherdsGate.org

Sleep In Heavenly Peace Alameda Co.
Daniel.curtis@shpbeds.org
510-827-7033
Shpbeds.org

SPECTRUM Community Services, Inc/Meals on Wheels
2621 Barrington Ct.
Hayward, CA 94545
510-881-0300
SpectrumCS.org

Sunflower Hill
info@sunflowerhill.org
925-800-1042
SunFlowerhill.org

The Taylor Family Foundation
P.O. Box 2450
Livermore, CA, 94551
925-455-5118
TTFf.org

Three Valleys Community Foundation
5960 Inglewood Drive, Suite 201
Pleasanton, CA 94588
info@3vcf.org
www.3vcf.org

Tri-Valley Animal Rescue
P.O. Box 11143
Pleasanton, CA 94588
TVAR.org

Tri-Valley Conservancy
1457 First St.
Livermore, CA 94550
925-449-8706
Trivalleyconservancy.org

Tri-Valley Haven
3663 Pacific Ave.
Livermore, CA 94551
925-449-5842
TriValleyHaven.org

Tri-Valley Nonprofit Alliance
P.O. Box 2467
Livermore, CA 94550
TVNPA.org

Tri Valley Reach
P.O. Box 5564
Pleasanton, CA 94566
TriVallyReach.Org

Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre
P.O. Box 1445
Pleasanton, CA 94566
info@trivalleyrep.com
Trivalleyrep.org

ValleyCare Charitable Foundation/Stanford Health Care-ValleyCare
1111 E. Stanley Blvd.
Livermore, CA 94550
925-373-4560
GiveValleyCare.org

Valley Concert Chorale
P.O. Box 286
Livermore, CA 94551
Valleyconcertchorale.org

Valley Dance Theatre
2247-B Second St.
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925-243-0925
Valleydancetheatre.com

Valley Humane Society
3670 Nevada St.
Pleasanton, CA 94566
925-426-8656
ValleyHumane.org

FREE NONPROFIT LISTING FOR LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS.

If you would like to be added please email kim@independentnews.com



Above: Residents woke up to some snowy views of the Livermore valley on Feb. 24 following a series of storms that blanketed the area. [See photo gallery at www.independentnews.com/multimedia] (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)

Half Marathon to Force Road Closures March 5

The Livermore Valley Half Marathon, organized by the Oakland Run Co., will be held on Sunday, March 5. The race will begin at 7:30 a.m. at the intersection of Livermore Avenue and First Street in downtown Livermore and will necessitate the temporary closure of several roads during the event. According to the event organizers, First Street will be closed between L Street and Livermore Avenue from 2 a.m. and noon, and between Livermore Boulevard and McLeod Street from 5 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Other closures include:

- Livermore Boulevard between First Street and Second Street from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m.

- McLeod Street between First Street and Second Street from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m.
- Second Street from L Street to N Street from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Second Street between McLeod and L Street from 7:30 a.m. to 11 a.m.
- L Street between First and College Avenue from 7:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.
- Southbound Arroyo Road between College and Concannon Boulevard from 7:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., and between Concannon and Wetmore Road from 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.
- Eastbound Wetmore Road between Arroyo and Tolentino Court from 7:30 a.m. to 8:45 a.m.
- The eastbound bike lane

along Concannon between Arroyo and Wente Street will also be closed from 8 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. The Livermore Downtown Farmer’s Market will move to Second Street for the race. Motorists traveling to and from neighborhoods on the east side of Arroyo will be able to enter and exit on the northbound lanes of Arroyo Road. Motorists should take Concannon to access neighborhoods north of Concannon, and westbound Wetmore for neighborhoods north or south of Wetmore. The heaviest delays for inbound traffic are expected between 7:40 a.m. and 8:15 a.m. For more information, go to livermorevalleyhalf.com.

Caltrans Reschedules Work on Northbound I-680

The northbound lanes of Interstate 680 between Sunol Boulevard and Bernal Avenue will be closed for resurfacing from 10 p.m. Friday, March 3, to 5 a.m. Monday, March 6, according to the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans). Southbound lanes will remain open.

The resurfacing had been scheduled for the previous weekend but was rescheduled because of a forecast of rain. The work is part of an I-680 reconstruction project stretching from Sunol to San Ramon. According to Caltrans, motorists coming from the South Bay will be advised

to take I-880/SR-238/I-580 instead of I-680. Detour signs will direct northbound traffic to exit I-680 at Calaveras and take Paloma Way, Pleasanton Sunol Road, Sunol Boulevard, and Bernal Avenue before getting back on the interstate. For more information, go to 680paving.com.

LPD Promotes Jenifer Bloom to Sergeant

The Livermore Police Department (LPD) said last week that detective Jenifer Bloom has been promoted to patrol sergeant. Bloom has been in law enforcement for 11 years, the last four with LPD, according to the announcement. During her time with LPD, she has been a detec-

tive, school resource officer, field training officer, crisis negotiations team member, First Aid/CPR Instructor, Explorer advisor, and department mentor. “As a detective, I took great pride in handling every case as if my loved ones were involved,” Bloom said. “I’ll take that philosophy with me back to patrol.”



Jenifer Bloom

Dublin Police Recover Stolen Lawnmower

A John Deere riding lawnmower stolen from Dublin High School was found for sale on Craigslist and recovered by Dublin Police Services. Damon Cisneros, 45, from Dublin, was arrested and charged with grand theft, according to police. The lawn mower was valued at \$54,000. After the lawnmower was reported stolen, police said a school resource officer discovered it for sale online and notified detectives. Surveillance video also showed it being towed from the school parking lot on Feb. 11. After initially trying to “purchase” the lawnmower, detectives were able to identify a suspect through another vehicle for sale on

another online service. On Feb. 17, police said, detectives followed Cisneros, who led them to

the stolen lawn mower, which was on a trailer that was reported stolen out of Hayward.



Dublin Police Services recently recovered a John Deere lawnmower that was stolen from Dublin High School. (Photo courtesy of Dublin High School)

HOUSING

(Continued from first page)

nies of California, LLC, a for-profit affordable housing developer, for help. “(BRIDGE) ran into issues like many of us in the industry have faced with high construction costs, with rising interest rates, and, in particular for this development, they were having trouble securing the project-based Section 8 (funding), which was really critical for their financing plans,” said Ann Silverberg, Chief Executive Officer for Related’s Northern California Affordable and Northwest Divisions. BRIDGE had planned on financing part of the development with project-based vouchers from Alameda County, but the source has yet to pan out. Kurt Wiest, Executive Director for the Housing Authority of the County of Alameda (HACA), explained, “The Housing Authority of the County of Alameda (HACA) has been allocated, through congressional appropriations, funding to support 7,000 households throughout our jurisdiction in Alameda County.” Project-based vouchers, continued Wiest, refer to vouchers that HACA has aggregated within a single address, allowing the county to pool benefits from many households to fund a development project. “Project-based vouchers are very, very, very scarce,” he said, adding that the current queue for such vouchers in the county stretches 70 projects deep while only 46 have been funded over the past 15 years. “The likelihood of us being able to support other projects in the future is very tenuous because we just have a finite number of vouchers to allocate,” he continued. “The supply is limited and the demand is enormous.” With Related named as the new developer, the project will attempt to continue with less financial reliance on the county. Although BRIDGE originally planned for an average rental cost around 56% area

median income, the new plans from Related have yet to finalize an affordability breakdown, which will respond to the project’s financing requirements as they come in. Rose Olson, Related senior vice president of development, shared plans that averaged 48% area median income. The project will remain at 300 units. It will also now build its residential component before its retail, swapping its original order. “The piece that concerns me a little bit is that we now have an exit clause, a cancellation clause, which says that it’s possible we only get Phase A,” said Councilmember Jean Josey, referring to the first residential phase. “We may never get Phase B.” Related also asked the city for a \$4.3 million pre-construction loan to assist with site acquisition, which will be taken from the \$7.1 million in affordable housing funds already allocated by the city for the project. “It’s just simply an advance of that money now rather than waiting until the permanent construction financing,” said Community Development Director Jeff Baker. Hernandez and McCorriston disliked how little time Related allowed the council to consider the substantial changes. Hernandez noted that the developer should have first provided

an informational study, instead of coming to the dias and asking for a predevelopment loan. “I just think it could’ve been brought forward a little differently,” she continued. Kevin Fryer, on behalf of global investment firm Barings, explained how a ground lease on the site held by Barings would soon expire and return the site to BART control, should the agreements fail to receive approvals. “We turn back into a pumpkin here in March,” said Fryer. “What happens in March, I can’t tell you for sure; I don’t know for sure. But the level of uncertainty increases dramatically.” Despite the project’s lack of guarantees and record of financial uncertainty, the council majority placed their confidence in Related. “This project is consistent with our strategic initiatives,” said Josey. “We want affordable housing. We want affordable housing here.”

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Writers Club to Discuss Self-Publishing

Jim Azevedo, corporate communications manager at Draft2Digital (D2D), will be the guest speaker at the March meeting of the Tri-Valley Writers.

His presentation, “Indie Publishing: What’s the Big



Jim Azevedo

Deal?” will discuss how last year’s merger of D2D and Smashwords affected the self-publishing world for authors.

Launched in 2012, Oklahoma-based D2D offers a broad range of automatic digital formatting and self-publishing services. The Las Gatos-based Smashwords, launched in 2008, was already the world’s largest distributor of indie ebooks, with a catalog of over 400,000 electronic publications by more than 100,000 authors and publishers.

Azevedo, former marketing director at Smashwords, will explain how the merger

can help even more writers get their work published and distributed globally.

His presentation is scheduled for 2 p.m., Saturday, March 18, in Room 2470 at Las Positas College, 3000 Campus Hill Drive, Livermore.

There is a two-step process to register and pay to attend the meeting.

To RSVP, e-mail treasurer@trivalleywriters.org by Thursday, March 16. Payment must be made online at trivalleywriters.org. The cost is \$10 for members of Tri-Valley Writers (\$5 for student members). The cost is \$12 for non-members (\$8 for students).

Asbury Players Present ‘Savannah Sipping Society’

The Asbury Players, a Livermore community theater group, will present “The Savannah Sipping Society,” a comedy about four middle-aged Southern women who decide they need an escape from the sameness of their everyday lives, over the next two weekends.

Jim Lobao, who has acted in several Asbury plays, takes on a new challenge as a first-time director, while Martie Muldoon takes on the producer’s role.

Muldoon also plays Randa, a perfectionist and workaholic, whose career was

recently derailed.

Donna Blevins plays Dot, widowed and facing life alone in a new city until she takes a hot yoga class and her first sip of bourbon.

Marsha Howard is Marlafaye Mosley, a fiery Texas gal looking for mending and revenge to get over her cheating ex-husband.

Lea Blevins is Jinx, a recent arrival in Savannah and offers her services as a life coach to the others, not realizing that she may be most in need of a makeover.

The Asbury Players will present “The Savannah Sip-

ping Society” at the Asbury United Methodist Church, 4743 East Ave., at 7 p.m. on Saturday, March 4, Friday, March 10, and Saturday, March 11, with 2 p.m. matinees on Sunday, March 5, and Sunday, March 12.

Tickets are \$15 and are available at asburylive.org/asbury-players.

Livermore Reading Program Presents “The Radium Girls”

Joe W. Gray, professor emeritus in the Biomedical Engineering Department at Oregon Health & Science University, will discuss the latest research into radiation exposure during a Zoom-based presentation on Tuesday, March 14, hosted by the Livermore Public Library.

The online presentation is in conjunction with the library’s annual Livermore Reads Together program, which this year features “The Radium Girls: The Dark Story of America’s Shining Women.”

Published in 2018, the best-selling book by Kate Moore tells the true story of factory workers in the 1920s who suffered radiation poisoning from treating watch dials with self-luminous paint made with powdered radium and their struggle to sue their employers and strengthen worker’s rights.

Gray also serves on the board of councilors of the Radiation Effects Research

Foundation, a joint U.S. - Japan organization that studies the long-term effects of radiation on survivors of the atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in World War II.

He also worked in the Biomedical Sciences Division at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, was associate laboratory director for Biosciences and Life Sciences at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory.

And chaired a committee of the National Academies of Science that was charged with developing a strategic plan for low dose radiation research for the United States.

To view his presentation, use the Zoom access link us02web.zoom.us/j/85870130190. No registration is required.

Questions can be sent by email to prsevilla@livermoreca.gov prior to the presentation with “Question for Dr. Gray” in the subject line.

City of Dublin to Host Second Annual Poetry Walk in April

Dublin will observe National Poetry Month in April by hosting its second annual Poetry Walk.

Organized by the city’s poet laureate, James Morehead, works submitted by both local and nationally known poets will be displayed in downtown storefronts.

Residents and visitors will be able to download or access a Poetry Walk Passport with a map of the participating businesses. The poetry website Viewless Wings will provide high quality posters of the

poems selected for display.

Last year, 25 businesses joined in the first Dublin Poetry Walk.

Poems must be submitted to the Viewless Wings webpage at viewlesswings.submittable.com by Monday, March 20. Poems must be no more than 30 lines and fit on a single page. They also must be suitable for all ages and public display.

Selected poets may also be featured on ViewlessWings.com and the Viewless Wings Poetry Podcast, hosted by Morehead.

Deadline for Youth Arts Awards is March 4

The Pleasanton Cultural Arts Council is accepting entries for its Youth Excellence in Arts Awards program through Saturday, March 4. The annual competition recognizes students in literary arts, visual arts, and music/performing categories. The program is open to Pleasanton students attending public or private high schools or being home schooled. To register and submit entries, go to pleasantonarts.org. Winners will be announced at an awards ceremony at 3 p.m., Sunday, March 26, at Valley Community Church, 4455 Del Valle Parkway.

Livermore Cinema to Screen International Films

The Vine Cinema and Alehouse in Livermore will bring back its International Film Series with the French



“Farewell, Mister Haffmann” will be screened on March 23 as part of the Vine Cinema and Alehouse’s International Film Series. (Photo courtesy of the Vine Cinema and Alehouse)

World War II drama “Farewell, Mister Haffmann” on Thursday, March 23, and the Israeli comedy drama “Perfect Strangers” on Sunday, March 26.

“Farewell, Mr. Haffmann” is about a Jewish jeweler in Nazi-occupied Paris in 1941.

Fearing the worst, Haffmann arranges to flee the city with his family, and asks an employee to take over the shop until the war ends. But when the jeweler’s attempts to escape are thwarted, he must rely on his employee for protection.

Prior to the 7:40 p.m. screening of “Farewell, Mister Haffmann,” the theater will present the award-winning short “Joe’s Violin,” a 2016 American documentary about a 91-year-old Polish

survivor of the Holocaust who decides to donate his 70-year-old violin during a local instrument drive and his friendship with a 12-year-old girl from the Bronx.

“Perfect Strangers” is an Israeli adaption of a 2016 Italian film about seven people, friends since childhood, agree to read aloud any texts they receive, or play their conversations on speakerphone, during a dinner party, with disastrous results. The movie will be shown at 7 p.m.

Admission to “Joe’s Violin,” considered suitable for middle school students and adults, is free.

Admission to “Farewell, Mister Haffmann” and “Perfect Strangers” are both \$14, payable at the door.

TRI-VALLEY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Now to Thursday, March 16

BROADWAY CHORUS REHEARSALS

The chorus will soon be starting rehearsals for the Spring Concert. This is a non-audition chorus, so if you love to sing, this is the place for you. The first rehearsal will be March 9, at 7 p.m., at Asbury United Methodist Church, 4743 East Ave., in Livermore. Those interested are welcome to come to the first rehearsals to observe. For more information or to sign up, visit eastbaymusicals.org.

Saturday, March 4, 5, 11, and 12

LIVERMORE VALLEY OPERA PRESENTS PUCCINI'S TOSCA

Livermore Valley Opera (LVO) will present Puccini’s dramatic TOSCA at the Bankhead Theater at 7:30 p.m., the first of four performances of a tale that barely spans 24 hours, is replete with love, jealousy, betrayal, torture and murder. It will grip viewers with its intense drama, passionate arias, and unforgettable melodies. The Bankhead Theater is located at 2400 First St., in Livermore. Tickets are \$20 to \$98 for adults, with special ticket pricing of \$20 for age 20 and younger and \$40 for age 20 to 40. For more information or tickets, visit lvopera.com.

Saturday, March 4

LIVERMORE LIONS ANNUAL CRAB FEED FUNDRAISER

Tickets for the Livermore Lions Annual Crab Feed Fundraiser are now available through March 1. The dinner will feature raffles, silent auctions, and an all-you-can-eat crab dinner with pasta, salad, bread, and dessert, at the Bothwell Arts Center, located at 2466 8th St., in Livermore. Doors open at 5:30 p.m., and the cost is \$65 per person or \$60 each for table of eight. For tickets, call 805-405-8742 or email ann.lopez16@yahoo.com.

Wednesday, March 8

INTERFAITH INTERCONNECT RELIGION CHAT

All are welcome to join at 5 p.m. for this month’s Religion Chat topic: How does your religion adapt itself to reflect changing times? Speakers will be Rev. Steve Wilde of the First Presbyterian Church in Livermore, and Hosai Mojaddidi of the Muslim Community Center East Bay in Pleasanton. Optional breakout discussion groups take place from 6 to 6:30 p.m., via Zoom at bit.ly/41embGK. The Zoom room opens at 4:45 p.m. Religion Chat is a free interfaith forum presented by Interfaith Interconnect on the second Wednesday of most months. For more information, email Interfaith.interconnect@gmail.com or visit bit.ly/3F8Wyyw.

Friday, March 10

TRINITY CONCERT SERIES: PATRICK BALL – THE CELTIC HARP

Trinity Lutheran Church will host the Trinity Concert Series: Patrick Ball — The Celtic Harp, at 1225 Hopyard Road, in Pleasanton, at 7 p.m. The Celtic harp has a broken and troubled 1,000-year tradition, which Patrick Ball now revives in the 21st century, reviving the ancient art of minstrelsy and storytelling. Ball is considered one of the premier Celtic harpers and storytellers in the world today and has recorded nine instrumental and five spoken word albums. The TLC Concert Series is free, but contributions are welcome at a suggested \$20 for general admission, \$5 for students, and free for those 12 and under. Concerts are in the sanctuary, and no one will be turned away. The venue is also accessible via the Dublin / Pleasanton BART and bus connection. Parking is accessible off Golden Road via Hopyard Road, or from Del Valle Parkway. For more information, visit patrickball.com.

Friday, March 18

TRI-VALLEY WRITERS CHAPTER OF THE CALIFORNIA WRITERS CLUB

Jim Azevedo will present “Indie Publishing: What’s the Big Deal?” at the Tri-Valley Writers March meeting, at Las Positas College, room 2470, at 3000 Campus Hill Drive, in Livermore. He will explain how the union of D2D and Smashwords legitimized the indie author movement, and ensured more writers will achieve their dreams of becoming published. Check-in begins at 1:30 p.m. To RSVP and pay, email treasurer@trivalleywriters.org by March 16, then register at bit.ly/3CpDOUC. Prices are \$10 for CWC adult members; \$12 for nonmembers; \$5 for student members ages 14 to 22; and \$8 for student nonmembers.

Saturday, March 19

HOUSE CONCERT IN LIVERMORE: THE ERIK JEKABSON QUARTET

From 2 to 4 p.m., Livermore Jazz Society will host the The Erik Jekabson Quartet. To request a seat, email info@livermore-jazzsociety.org or visit bit.ly/3fzOt7j. If seats are available, attendees will receive an email invitation with the concert address. Seating capacity is limited, so advance notice is

highly recommended. For the livestream, refer to the ‘Events’ page of the website listed above. Suggested donation is \$20 per person, but donations of any amount are most welcome.

Saturday, March 19 and Sunday, March 20

VALLEY CONCERT CHORALE CELEBRATES 60TH SEASON

The Valley Concert Chorale is celebrating its 60th anniversary with concerts highlighting America’s well-known contemporary choral composers. “Choral Currents: Celebrating American Composers” takes place on March 18, at 7:30 p.m. at Asbury United Methodist Church, 4743 East Ave., in Livermore; and March 19, at 4 p.m., at Trinity Lutheran Church, 1225 Hopyard Road, in Pleasanton. Featured composers include Norwegian-born American composer Ola Gjeilo; young American composer Jake Runestad; Grammy Award winner Eric Whitacre; Dan Forrest; and Daniel Elder. Tickets are \$30 for general admission, \$10 for high school and college student tickets with valid student identification, and free for children. For more information or tickets, visit valleyconcertchorale.org or call 925-866-4003.

Sunday, March 19

REGISTRATION OPEN FOR 2023 SHAMROCK 5K FUN RUN, WALK

The annual Shamrock 5K Fun Run and Walk will begin at 8:30 a.m., on Dublin Boulevard across from the Dublin Civic Center (100 Civic Plaza). All participants will receive a commemorative t-shirt, if registration is received by March 3. The top three finishers in each age group from the competitive division will receive a medallion and a Dick’s Sporting Goods gift certificate. Following the race, a celebration will be held with refreshments, entertainment, and prize drawings. For more information, visit dublin.ca.gov/funrun.

Wednesday, March 22

RECIPES FOR HEALTHY EATING WITH DIABETES

From 10 to 11:30 a.m., CityServe of the Tri-Valley, Alameda County Public Health, the City of Pleasanton and others will host Recipes for Healthy Eating with Diabetes for Tri-Valley residents aged 60 or better who have been diagnosed with prediabetes or diabetes at Pleasanton Senior Center’s main classroom, 5353 Sunol Blvd., in Pleasanton. Event attendance is limited to the first 25 adults who register. To register, call 925-294-0558 or email seniors@cityservecares.org.

Saturday, April 1

LIVERMORE HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION 11TH ANNUAL CRAB FEED

The Livermore High School Alumni Association will host their 11th annual Crab Feed at 6 p.m., at Robert Livermore Community Center 4444 East Ave., in Livermore. The dinner will feature crab, pasta, salad, bread and dessert, with chicken available upon request prior to event, and a no-host bar. For tickets, visit bit.ly/3XQ2tia. For more information, email lhasalumniassoc@gmail.com or call 925-724-4251.

Monday, May 8 to Tuesday, June 27

UPCOMING SUPPORT GROUPS

When grieving the loss of a loved one, people may feel overwhelmed by the ebb and flow of emotions. Hope Hospice’s grief support services help adults and youth learn to process these feelings and find ways to move forward in a positive direction. Hope’s grief support services are free of charge, but registration in advance by phone is required at 925-829-8770 on weekdays, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. A brief assessment is required. Support groups are currently being conducted online by Zoom video conference, and services for young children are temporarily paused until in-person group gatherings can continue. General Grief runs May 8 to June 26, on Mondays, from 6 to 7:30 p.m.; Spousal and Partner Loss runs May 9 to June 27, on Tuesdays from 6 to 7:30 p.m. or Wednesdays from 1:30 to 3 p.m.; and Loss of a Child runs from May 8 to June 26, on Mondays from 6 to 7:30 p.m. For Teens Group, call for dates. Groups are offered once per quarter.

ONGOING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

TOPSCIENCE

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

ONGOING WEEKLY EVENTS

PLEASANTON FARMERS MARKET

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

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OBITUARIES

Thomas S. Cunningham March 23, 1943 – Feb. 9, 2023

Thomas S. Cunningham passed away unexpectedly on Feb. 23, following a stroke. He was 79.

Thomas was born in Bakersfield, California on March 23, 1943. He grew up and attended schools in San Jose from elementary through college.

Tom was preceded in

death by his parents and three brothers. Tom leaves behind his adoring wife of 58 years, Barbara. He also leaves behind two adult daughters, Melissa (Mark) and Babette (Rob) as well as three grandchildren; Tatum, Riley and Ashton. He also leaves a brother-in -law, two sisters-in-law and many friends.

Thomas was employed by United Airlines for thirty-nine years, and was a proud member of RUEA, a group of retirees from United.

We wish to thank staff and physicians at Stanford Hospital for their excellent care.

A celebration of life will take place at a future date.

Raj Mal Jan. 13, 1944 – Feb. 23, 2023

Raj Mal, resident of the Livermore Valley traveled with his wife and daughter from the Fiji Islands in 1968 and passed away on Feb. 23, 2023.

Loving father, grandfather, brother, neighbor and friend. Loved by all for his laughter. Our Raj brought a sense of community wherever he went.

He is survived by his wife Raj Mati, children Sarjeet and Peter Michno, Roshni Mal, Umash Mal, and Ragani Mal. He adored his brothers, Gurmel, and Gurdayl Batna, grandchildren, and numerous nieces and nephews. He will live forever in our memories and hearts. He will be deeply missed and loved beyond measure.

To honor Raj’s memory, services will be held on Saturday, March 4, at 9:30 a.m. at Callaghan Mortuary 3833 East Ave., Livermore, California. A continuation of prayer will be held at Guru Ravidas 2150 Crestview Drive, Pittsburgh, California, 94565.

SOLAR

(Continued from first page)

agreed that the CPUC should revisit its decision.

In a 25-page application for rehearing filed Jan. 17, Michael Boyd, president of Californians for Renewable Energy (CARE), accuses California Gov. Gavin Newsom of conspiring with CPUC board members to violate state and federal antitrust measures that benefit the state’s three largest public utilities, including Pacific Gas & Electric, which serves Northern California.

Boyd identifies the conspirators as PG&E, Southern California Edison (SCE), and San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E), Newsom, the CPUC commissioners and staff, and groups including Cal Advocates, Natural Resources Defense Council and The Utility Reform Network.

The conspiracy’s objectives, the petition says, include wholesale and retail price fixing and price discrimination.

“The pretext for the conspiracy is an alleged cost-shift between small renewable power generators, including customers with residential solar systems, to IOU (investor-owned utilities) customers without residential solar systems,” the petition alleges. “We contend this proffered reason is pretextual and the proximate cause of the antitrust injuries.”

Boyd’s application for a rehearing – along with a joint petition from three environmental groups – follow the CPUC’s 5-0 decision on Dec. 15 to dismantle policy incentives enacted in 1997 to entice customers to install solar panel systems on their roofs.

The policy known as Net Metering (NEM) requires the utilities to pay solar panel users about 30 cents a kilowatt for generated power they didn’t use and sent to the grid. The policy resulted in millions of Californian’s installing panels on their rooftops, but opponents contended the utilities passed the cost paid to those who could afford rooftop solar onto those who could not.

The California Public Advocate’s Office (PAO) reported last year that the cost of the rooftop solar incentive program increased from \$3.4 billion in 2021 to \$4.6 billion in 2022 for customers who did not have rooftop solar. The PAO said those without rooftop solar were paying more for electricity to subsidize the NEM solar incentive.

In reaching compromises on its new policy – termed NEM3 – the commission said the change beginning in April will only lower the price paid to new solar customers, not those who already have it.

Despite that, groups against the incentive change, which lowers the price paid for future solar users from about 30 cents to about 8

cents a kilowatt, say it will kill the consumer market for solar panel use at a time when the state is attempting to transform to clean energy.

Livermore resident David Rounds called the commission’s NET3 decision a “huge mistake.”

“Why, in the middle of an existential crisis like climate change, would the governor-appointed CPUC take steps to de-incentivize rooftop solar?” Rounds said. “PG&E does everything it can to advocate for huge industrial scale solar factories, because that energy is very cheap when purchased in bulk. We certainly need these large solar energy generation operations, but we also need to maximize solar energy production everywhere.”

Dublin resident Shirley Lewandowski said the CPUC failed to “adequately account for the externalities that large-scale (distant) solar power plants produce, and which are avoided by installing local roof-top and parking lot solar.”

“Those externalities include the direct financial and indirect environmental costs of transmission lines, the direct impacts on agricultural land and biological habitat of large-scale solar power plants, and the resiliency of having solar power generated and stored where it is used,” Lewandowski said. “No accounting for these real externalities was in the CPUC’s NEM3 decision.”

Filed within weeks of the vote, Boyd’s petition alleges the CPUC surrendered its regulatory authority over the public utilities by affording the IOUs “undue influence and control over the CPUC deliberations, decisions and actions” related to the energy market. He accused CPUC and IOU officials of having “politically incestuous relationships ... which effectively preclude any independent judgment and exercise of discretion in the implementation and application of governing and controlling federal and state laws and regulation.”

In the other petition, the Center for Biological Diversity, the Protect Our Communities Foundation and the Environmental Working Group contend the CPUC made legal errors in its decision, failing to meet statutory requirements for altering its policy.

“To cure this legal error, the commission must grant this application for rehearing and reverse its adoption of the decision,” the groups’ attorneys argue.

The groups contend NEM3 violates its own statutes because it “will neither ensure the continued sustainable growth of distributed renewable generation nor encourage the spread of those resources to disadvantaged communities,” something the rules require.

“The decision presents

prospective NEM customers with an unattractive economic value proposition and a longer payback period,” the groups contend. “Record evidence demonstrates that these changes will dramatically decrease growth of NEM resources in direct violation of the (CPUC code) mandate...”

“The decision’s justification for disregarding this record evidence – a purported need to balance other statutory directives – ignores the statutory language, which commands the Commission to achieve all of the statute’s goals. The decision also unlawfully leaves behind residents of (disadvantaged communities) and low-income customers.”

Two groups – including Berkeley-based 350 Bay Area, a nonprofit organization focused on “ensuring a sustainable climate and associated environmental and economic justice for all” and the Clean Energy Coalition in Santa Barbara – also filed a brief in support of a rehearing.

350 Bay Area contended the NEM3 policy “fails to acknowledge the substantial benefits of rooftop solar.”

“We file this response because it will be more difficult if not impossible to meet the urgent timeline required by the climate crisis and multiple state goals, including renewable energy, emission reduction, local resilience and a high DER (distributed energy resources) future if rooftop solar installations in California dramatically decrease,” 350 Bay Area contends in its brief.

In a response against a rehearing, attorneys for PG&E, SCE and SDG&E, contend the arguments are nothing new. The petitions reprise “previous contentions on issues that were fairly litigated in the proceeding and resolved in the decision.”

“The decision sets forth the necessary findings and conclusions for the Commission’s determinations, which are supported by substantial record evidence,” the utilities contend. “Applicants have failed to present any legal error and the Commission acted within its discretion in making the factual and policy determinations reflected in the decision. Applicants’ effort to re-litigate these issues should be rejected and the (petitions) denied.”

Terrie Prosper, a spokeswoman for the CPUC, said the commission will review the allegations in the petitions to determine whether the applicants “demonstrated legal error in the underlying decision.”

“The CPUC will issue a formal decision resolving the Applications for Rehearing, but there is no specific timeline for the CPUC’s issuance of that decision,” Prosper said.

PANDEMIC

(Continued from first page)

2022.

Dublin City Manager Linda Smith wrote in a report to her council that the city had resumed normal operations and was adjusting to a “post-pandemic world.”

“The emergency powers and authority granted by the local emergency proclamation are no longer needed,” Smith wrote.

Newsom’s emergency proclamation, issued when just dozens of people had died from the coronavirus, gave him broad power to issue executive orders to distribute personal protective equipment to first responders and hospitals; require mask mandates and stay-at-home directives; and skirt the normal bidding processes to enter contracts with companies to combat the pandemic.

The local orders provided city officials with similar powers to make decisions and allocate funding to help residents and businesses affected during the crisis without the usual red-tape.

In comments to the Alameda County Board of Supervisors on Feb. 7, Colleen Chawla, the county’s Health Care Services Agency director, said that although residents continue to contract COVID-19, health officials believe the number of reported cases, hospitalizations and deaths has declined enough that emergency measures can elapse.

“We will be shifting from a primarily response-driven approach to COVID-19 to a greater focus on prevention, and we’ll continue to integrate our ongoing COVID-19 work into regular programming in the communicable disease control division of the Public Health Department,” Chawla said.

Throughout California, COVID-19 and its variants have claimed more than 103,000 lives since 2020, state statistics show.

In the three years since the pandemic began, more than 2,300 people have died in Alameda County. The death toll, according to the county’s data, included 25 in Dublin, 111 in Livermore, 83 in Pleasanton, and 10 in Sunol. About 15,600 people were hospitalized and laboratories conducted more than nine million tests for Alameda County residents.

To date, about 86% of county residents have received an initial vaccination, but just 35% returned for the bivalent booster shots to provide protection from developing variants, Chawla said.

“It’s still important to know that the local burden of ‘Long COVID’ is not known and people are continuing to contract COVID and experience negative health outcomes as a result of COVID,” Chawla said.

In rescinding his emergency order – which Newsom announced in October he would do at the end of February if conditions allowed – the governor said California developed the tools it needs to continue fighting COVID-19, “including vaccines and boosters, testing, treatments and

other mitigation measures, like masking and indoor ventilation.”

The order in 2020 freed up money to quickly fund programs needed to help keep businesses alive and deliver \$18.5 billions of dollars in stimulus funding to help residents pay their bills.

Newsom said the state administered 81 million vaccines, distributed a billion units of PPE and processed 186 million tests. Billions of dollars went to hospitals, community organizations, frontline workers and schools. The state also issued \$8 billion for rent

relief, \$10 billion for small business grants and tax relief, and \$2.8 billion to help with overdue utility bills.

“Throughout the pandemic, we’ve been guided by the science and data – moving quickly and strategically to save lives,” Newsom stated in October. “The State of Emergency was an effective and necessary tool that we utilized to protect our state, and we wouldn’t have gotten to this point without it.”

During a routine vote that included the approval of previous meeting minutes, Dublin’s city council members rescinded Smith’s local emergency order, which had been declared at the beginning of the pandemic.

“Over the course of the last three years, the city has responded and adapted to ever-changing developments in the pandemic,” Smith wrote to the council. “Through a myriad of programs developed by staff and with the leadership of the city council, the city was able to protect and support vulnerable residents and small businesses, and emerge from the pandemic stronger than before. In recent months, the pandemic has progressed toward a more endemic stage, where COVID-19 will eventually circulate in a more predictable and manageable manner.”

In Pleasanton, the city council’s similar vote placed the issue on its consent calendar, where decisions are considered routine. Along with an end to the State of Emergency, the vote ended programs that provided financial assistance to pandemic-affected businesses. The deadline date on one successful program, however, was extended to allow merchants to apply for grants for the downtown parklet and outdoor dining installation program that allowed restaurants and businesses to operate on sidewalks and curb lines.

Outdoor eating became so popular and successful with residents that it resulted in permanent policies to allow it going forward. New design standards for

outdoor eating areas were created.

Livermore Assistant City Manager Christine Martin said the rescission of emergency orders means council members must adhere to Brown Act provisions requiring them to meet in person for meetings. During the pandemic, meetings continued without audiences and remotely. The meeting rules provisions were recently modified to allow a council member to participate remotely for a limited number of meetings when certain personal emergency conditions exist, Martin said.

“COVID-19 will remain a threat indefinitely, particularly for older and more vulnerable community members. Residents should use the same tools we have relied on for much of the pandemic to keep themselves and others as healthy as possible”

– Alameda County spokesperson, Neetu Balram

In Alameda County, which was among the first counties to declare a stay-at-home order when COVID-19 began filling hospitals with patients in February 2020, the termination of the State of Emergency will switch remaining health care orders regarding isolation and quarantine for patients in long-term care facilities and inmates in jails from requirements from health care officials to recommendations to administrators of those venues.

“Certainly we will continue to respond to outbreaks in long term care facilities and other congregate settings to quickly isolate people who are in those close quarters and prevent the spread of COVID 19 in those facilities,” she said.

The county also will continue with community vaccinations and testing in its most impacted neighborhoods, but with a focus on outreach and education, she said.

Neetu Balram, a spokesperson for Alameda County, said the county’s eviction moratorium as originally passed will expire at the end of April. However, as of The Independent’s deadline, the Alameda County Board of Supervisors was set to consider ending the moratorium in a meeting this week, possibly leading to an earlier termination.

Despite the end of the order, Balram said the local health emergency will not mean the end of COVID-19.

“COVID-19 will remain a threat indefinitely, particularly for older and more vulnerable community members,” Balrum said. “Residents should use the same tools we have relied on for much of the pandemic to keep themselves and others as healthy as possible.”

County officials continue to recommend staying home if ill or positive for COVID-19; keeping current with vaccines and boosters, wearing high-quality masks; opening doors and windows when meeting indoors; getting tested; and planning how and where to access treatment.

“Not just us, but all of our partners saw this building on the corner. They’re not here tonight saying, ‘Yes, approve it,’ but believe me, they’re not telling you don’t approve it.”

Clark also echoed Barclay’s sense of the other mall property owners.

“This piece was sort of an assumed puzzle piece in the framework,” said Clark. “Other things are going to be built around it — are going to need to respond to it, rather than vice versa.”

Although the successful motion included the analysis of inconsistencies requested by Morgan, completion of the analysis will not hold up city council consideration, which Morgan thought it should.

STONERIDGE

(Continued from first page)

underway, substantially designed, and it would not have been appropriate or fair to ask this applicant to go back and design to a new standard.”

Morgan, however, asked for an analysis of the discrepancies between the project and the framework as due diligence and for the possible benefit of future development at Stoneridge.

“Even though we can’t require it, we could work with the applicant to make sure it’s consistent with the overall master plan,” said Morgan, adding that the commission could still give Simon the opportunity to make changes.

Commission Chair Brandon Pace, while supportive of looking at the

project against the bigger mall picture, took care to not overstep the commission’s purview.

“I don’t feel comfortable that we could somehow hold this up trying to apply a standard that doesn’t apply,” said Pace.

In an attempt to ease concerns, Cecily Barclay, land-use attorney on behalf of Simon, said that although this project may not conform to all of the framework’s standards, it nonetheless fits into the overall vision for future development at the mall.

“(The framework) principles were endorsed by Macy’s, Lowe, JCPenney, Simon knowing that this project was about to be approved,” said Barclay.

Granada High School Boys Basketball Team Starts Journey to the NorCal Playoffs

By Phil Jensen

Last week was a rough one for the Granada High School boys basketball team. Granada suffered a very tough 64-60 loss to host Dougherty Valley in a North Coast Section Open Division semifinal game on Feb. 22. Neither team had more than a five-point lead in the

together.”

In the third-place game of the Open Division on Saturday, Salesian-Richmond edged Granada 50-48. Then on Sunday, the California Interscholastic Federation tournament committee, which decides the seeding for the NorCal Regional placed Granada as the No. 9 seed in NorCal Division

bracket and traveled to face No. 5 Inderkum-Sacramento on Tuesday in a first-round game. The Gaels fell to San Ramon Valley 82-79 in the NCS Open Division fifth-place game on Feb. 22.

In Granada’s NCS semifinal game, it trailed 62-60 with 56.6 seconds left to play after a free throw by Tyler Harris. The score remained the same as perhaps the key call of the game occurred in the last seconds.

After a missed shot by Dougherty Valley, Granada’s Andrew McKeever grabbed the rebound and a timeout was called by the Matadors with 10.3 seconds to play. McKeever got the ball in the key on the next possession but was tied up by Dougherty Valley on a physical play. A jump ball was called, much to the dismay of the Granada team and fans, and the ball went to Dougherty Valley. Two free throws by the Wildcats’ Ryan Beasley with 4.7 seconds remaining were the final points of the game.

Granada trailed 22-14 in the first quarter but scored the last four points of the period on a jumper by Harris on the left elbow and a put-back by McKeever. The duo combined for all of Granada’s points in the first quarter (10 for McKeever, eight by Harris).

Those two baskets were the start of a 12-4 run for the Matadors, and after that run, neither team had more than a two-point lead the rest of the half, which ended in a 30-30 tie.

Granada’s Nate Keaney scored eight of his 13 points in the third quarter, including a pair of three-pointers. The first gave the Matadors a 38-37 lead with 4:32 left in the period.

Both Harris and McKeever were also major factors in the game. Harris scored a team-high 21 points and also grabbed eight rebounds. McKeever added 20 points, a game-high 16 rebounds and three blocks. Beasley had a game-high 30 points and also six rebounds, three assists and six steals for Dougherty Valley.



Granada’s Nate Keaney goes for the shot during the Feb. 22 second round NCS CIF Boys Open Division playoffs against Dougherty Valley. Dougherty Valley won 64-60.

(Photo - Doug Jorgensen)

second half. Dougherty Valley went on to win the Open Division title 65-51 over De La Salle.

“I love my team. I go to battle with them any day of the week. I’d play Dougherty Valley every day of the week if we had to,” said Granada coach Quaran Johnson after the game on Feb. 22. “They battled hard for me, and we’re all in this

I with a road game in the first round. Salesian is the No. 6 seed in Division I, and Dougherty Valley is the No. 2 seed in the Open Division.

The Matadors traveled to play No. 8 Sacred Heart Cathedral-San Francisco on Tuesday in the first round after this publication’s deadline.

Dublin is the No. 12 seed in the NorCal Division I

Dublin High Girls Softball Beats Bishop O’Dowd 10-0

By Nathan Canilao

The Dublin High School softball team shutout the Bishop O’Dowd Dragons 10-0 on Feb. 23. The Gaels won their second game of the season and improved to 2-0.

Tanaya Barrett batted 2 for 4 with two RBIs and a double. Kelly Maggiora and Sarah Bull each had

two RBIs.

The Gaels took control of the game early. They scored two runs in the second inning to take a 2-0 lead.

Dublin blew open the game in the third inning as they scored five consecutive runs to take a commanding 7-0 lead.

On the defensive side, the Gaels were just as dom-

inant. Dublin pitcher Sarah Bull pitched all six innings and recorded five strikeouts and just one hit.

The Gaels had 18 total putouts with Caitlyn Burgess recording seven by herself.

Dublin gets a big win over an East Bay powerhouse in Bishop O’Dowd and remains undefeated on the season

Falcons Win First Game of Season Against Heritage High

By Nathan Canilao

The Foothill High School baseball team defeated the Heritage Patriots 7-6 on Feb. 22. The Falcons won their first game of the season with the win.

Senior Brendan Comerford batted 2 for 2 with two RBIs and an RBI double. Sophomore Landon Comerford batted 2 for 3 and recorded a RBI.

Senior Tyler Gebb struck

out three batters in four innings pitched and recorded an ERA of 1.75.

The Falcons started the game off strong, scoring two runs in the first and second innings. At the beginning of the third, Foothill had a comfortable four run lead.

The Patriots got on the board in the third and fourth innings. At the top of the fifth inning, Foothill led 5-2.

Heritage slowly mounted a comeback as they scored a

run in the sixth inning to cut the deficit to just two, 5-3.

In the seventh, the Patriots scored three consecutive runs to take a 6-5 lead with half an inning left in the game.

The Falcons scored two runs in the seventh and won on a walk off in the final inning.

Foothill starts its season off with a solid win as they improved to 1-0 on the season.



The Foothill Falcons Boys Varsity Lacrosse team hosted the Northgate Broncos Friday, Feb. 24. Northgate won 8-3. [See photo gallery at www.independentnews.com/multimedia]

(Photo - Doug Jorgensen)

Exciting Run in Playoffs for Granada Girls Basketball

By Phil Jensen

The Granada High School girls basketball team produced its most impressive North Coast Section playoff run in decades, advancing to the Division I championship game last Saturday.

Now it has another new experience – competing in the California Interscholastic Federation NorCal Regionals.

The Matadors are the No. 5 seed in Division III and hosted No. 12 Clovis East in a first-round matchup on Tuesday after this publication’s deadline.

Granada coach Kris Birco said the Matadors girls basketball program last played in a NorCal Regional in 1993, which was also the last year Granada played in an NCS champi-

onship game ... until last Saturday.

The game was tied 2-2 early before No. 1 seed Monte Vista went on a 12-2 run at Dublin High School. Granada, the seventh seed, cut Monte Vista’s lead to 16-11 on a drive for a basket by Jasmine Branda in the second quarter. But the Mustangs went on a 12-1 run to end the half and eventually won 66-39.

“Monte Vista, they were incredible. They were on,” Birco said. “Their players stepped up. ... They kind of rattled us at the beginning.”

Alexa Pletschette and Branda both paced Granada in scoring with 10 points apiece. Teammate Kaitlyn Brongiel added eight points and a game-high 12 rebounds, and Pletschette grabbed seven rebounds.

Granada upset higher seeds in the quarterfinals and semifinals to qualify for the championship game at Dublin. But there was nothing at the end of the regular season that foreshadowed the run; the Matadors lost six of their last eight games before the NCS playoffs.

“It was a rocky year ... I just wanted to get our first NCS win in six years and go from there. We took it one game at a time,” Birco said. “There’s something special about this team.”

Granada opened the NCS tournament with a 61-41 home victory over No. 10 Castro Valley. The Matadors led 31-21 at half-time and ended the game with a 13-3 run.

But the Matadors would need to be road warriors the rest of the way in the tournament. The first big challenge was in the quarterfinals on Feb. 17, where Granada upset No. 2 California 47-35. Cassidy Bartolotto had 20 points, 14 rebounds and three steals for the Matadors, Pletschette had 11 points, and Brongiel grabbed 15 rebounds.

Then Granada traveled to Union City to face No. 6 James Logan, which had upset No. 3 American 54-51 in the quarterfinals. Granada lost to James Logan 67-58 on Jan. 7, but the NCS semifinal game on Feb. 21 was another matter; the Matadors won 61-41.

“We were really well-prepared for Logan. We started off strong and stayed strong,” Birco said. “We stuck to the game plan and trusted it.”

Granada had extremely balanced scoring with five players in double figures. Pletschette and Branda led the way with 13 points apiece, followed by Bartolotto (12), Mia Bartl (11) and Brongiel (10). Brongiel also grabbed an impressive 22 rebounds, including 11 offensive, and also had three blocks. Bartolotto added nine rebounds and five assists in the victory.



Granada’s Alexa Pletschette takes a shot during the NCS Girls Basketball Division 1 championship game against Monte Vista on Feb. 25. Monte Vista won 66-39. [See photo gallery at www.independentnews.com/multimedia]

(Photo - Doug Jorgensen)

Livermore High Softballers Defeat Newark Memorial

By Nathan Canilao

The Livermore High School softball team defeated Newark Memorial High School 10-7 on Feb. 22. The Cowboys won their first game of the season with the victory.

Senior Kaitlyn Aguilar batted 3 for 4 and recorded two RBIs on the day. Freshman Laine Macosky batted

2 for 4 and also recorded 2 RBIs.

The Cowboys scored at least one run in the first five innings of the game. In the second inning, Livermore scored four consecutive runs to take a commanding 6-0 lead.

The Cougars fought their way back in the fifth inning as they scored five straight runs to cut the deficit to just

10-5 heading into the sixth inning.

In the bottom of the seventh, the Cougars scored two runs to cut the Livermore lead to just three, but the Cowboys closed out the game.

Livermore records its first win of the season with the victory. They will face Freedom High School at home on March 3.

Granada Boys Drop Match to Berean Christian High School

By Nathan Canilao

The Granada High School boys’ volleyball team was defeated by Berean Christian High School 3-1 on Feb. 23. The Matadors dropped to 1-1 with the loss.

The Matadors kept it close in the first set, but the Eagles pulled away late to win 25-21.

Berean’s offense picked up in the second set. Their high powered attack led to a dominant 25-17 win as the Matadors fell behind 2-0 in the match.

Granada fought back in the third set. The Eagles kept it close, but Granada’s defense prevailed as they won the third set 25-21.

With one more match win to tie, the Matadors fought hard in the fourth set. But the Eagles offense prevailed as they escaped with a 25-21 win.

The Matadors dropped their first game of the season with the loss. They will face Irvington High School on March 2.



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CONTAMINATION

(Continued from first page)

in response to a plume, and it has since embarked on a quest to make up the supply deficit.

“I think we’re a little ahead of the curve right now that we have discovered PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) in our groundwater,” said Mayor Karla Brown.

In contrast to other Tri-Valley cities, Pleasanton enjoys its own groundwater pumping rights. The city, in the past, used those rights to supplement water bought from the regional supplier, Zone 7. When its three wells were operational, Pleasanton’s 3,500 acre-foot per year groundwater allotment made up about 20% of the city’s

water supply.

But since November, the city has been buying all of its water from Zone 7 while it conducts its supply alternatives study.

Several supply options will require a partnership with Zone 7 and therefore warrant further assessment.

“As we talk about Zone 7 here tonight, it’s really staff at Zone 7,” said City Manager Gerry Beaudin. “The board at Zone 7 has not been engaging in this dialogue.”

However, Dan Repp, Pleasanton managing director of utilities, said that Zone 7 has assisted the city throughout the study.

“I think it’s helpful to remember that

Zone 7 is the regional water provider,” said Repp. “That’s their mission: to provide water to all of the retailers in this valley. They’re not deviating from that and they’re willing to support us on that.”

Councilmember Valerie Arkin urged the study team to think ahead when planning the water supply, alluding to the city’s recently adopted Housing Element, which zoned for 6,391 new housing units over the next eight years.

“Please consider the growth factor with primarily the residential growth (that) will happen in the future and accommodating that,” said Arkin. “Putting a lot of money

forth on these alternatives, we want to make sure we’re going to be able to address that in the future.”

Although the project team did not yet provide recommendations, Mayor Brown and Councilmember Julie Testa expressed a preference for building a treatment facility at Well 8, which would be a scaled-down version of the PFAS Treatment and Wells Rehabilitation project that the city paused last September due to rising costs and moving health targets.

The Water Supply Alternatives Study will next present an update to the city council in the second quarter of the year.

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LEGAL NOTICES

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 595005

The following person(s) doing business as: RELATE Social Skills, 5424 Sunol Blvd Ste 10-554, Pleasanton CA, 94566, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Emily Macfarlane, 642 North 3rd st., San Jose, CA 94566. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Emily Macfarlane, Owner, Director. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 25, 2023. Expires January 24, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5375. Published February 9, 16, 23, March 2, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 595088

The following person(s) doing business as: The Little Toystore4U, 4832 Bernal Ave, Apt G, Pleasanton, CA 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Hector Javier Flores Oviedo, 4832 Bernal Ave, Apt G, Pleasanton CA 94566. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 10/23/2021. Signature of Registrant/s/: Hector Javier Flores Oviedo, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 27, 2023. Expires January 26, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5376. Published February 9, 16, 23, March 2, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 595165

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Neorache; 2. Euniofy Coaching, 7235 Lumbert Hills Dr., Dublin, CA 94568, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Sandeep Mann, 7235 Lumbert Hills Dr., Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 01/01/2023. Signature of Registrant/s/: Sandeep Mann, Principal. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 30, 2023. Expires January 29, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5377. Published February 9, 16, 23, March 2, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 595210

The following person(s) doing business as: Pierre Concierge, 38658 Country Terrace, Fremont, CA 94536, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Paul Neuenschwander, 38658 Country Terrace, Fremont, CA 94536. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 01/01/2023. Signature of Registrant/s/: Paul Neuenschwander, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 31, 2023. Expires January 31, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5378. Published February 9, 16, 23, March 2, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 595247

The following person(s) doing business as: EB services, 2009 73rd Avenue, Oakland, CA 94621, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Nabeal Altareb, 17321 Via Encinas, San Lorenzo, CA 94580. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Nabeal Altareb, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 1, 2023. Expires January 31, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5379. Published February 9, 16, 23, March 2, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 595212

The following person(s) doing business as: Motorcycles

Unlimited, 5813 Heidi Way, Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Neil J. Clifton, 5813 Heidi Way, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Neil J. Clifton, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 1, 2023. Expires January 31, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5380. Published February 9, 16, 23, March 2, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 594910

The following person(s) doing business as: Al Transport, 5551 Jacqueline Way, Apt 2, Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Jesus Rafael Arciniega Bibiano. This business is conducted by a Married Couple. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 11/11/2022. Signature of Registrant/s/: Nabeal Altareb, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 23, 2023. Expires January 22, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5381. Published February 9, 16, 23, March 2, 2023.

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME ORIGINAL FILE NO. 576870

The person(s) listed below have abandoned the use of the following fictitious business name(s). Sunshine Heating & Cooling, 1021 Algonquin Ave, Livermore, CA 94551. Registered Owner(s): Wayne Heiman, 1021 Algonquin Ave, Livermore, CA 94551. The fictitious business name statement was filed on 03/02/2021 in the County of Alameda. This business was conducted by an Individual. Signature of Registrants: /s/: Wayne Heiman, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 2, 2023. The Independent Legal No. 5382. Published February 9, 16, 23, March 2, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 595194

The following person(s) doing business as: Rebirth & Rise Community Housing, 2827 76th Ave, Oakland, CA 94605, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Rebirth & Rise Arts and Education Inc., 5535 E 17th St, Oakland, CA 94621. 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: 01/05/2023. Signature of Registrant/s/: Derrick Muhammad, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 31, 2023. Expires January 30, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5384. Published February 16, 23, March 2, 9, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 595331

The following person(s) doing business as: Jiggle and Things, 18434 Plymouth

Dr., Castro Valley, CA 94546, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Kin and L LLC, 18434 Plymouth Dr., Castro Valley, CA 94546. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Kin C. Low, Manager Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 3, 2023. Expires February 2, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5385. Published February 16, 23, March 2, 9, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 595480

The following person(s) doing business as: Malik Gallery Collection, 23587 Foley Street, Hayward, CA 94545, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Watson Furnishing, Inc., 2742 Corey Place, San Ramon CA 94583. 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: 7/22/2016. Signature of Registrant/s/: John Watson, CEO, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 9, 2023. Expires February 8, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5386. Published February 16, 23, March 2, 9, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 595447

The following person(s) doing business as: T&M Oviedo Trading Company, 4832 Bernal Ave Apt G, Pleasanton, CA 94566, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Hector Javier Flores Oviedo, 4832 Bernal Ave Apt G, Pleasanton, CA 94566. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 8/10/2019. Signature of Registrant/s/: Hector J. Flores, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 8, 2023. Expires February 7, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5387. Published February 16, 23, March 2, 9, 2023.

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME ORIGINAL FILE NO. 543567

The person(s) listed below have abandoned the use of the following fictitious business name(s). Motorcycles Unlimited, 880 San Martin Place, Fremont, CA 94539. Registered Owner(s): Dave Shears, 880 San Martin Place, Fremont, CA 94539. The fictitious business name statement was filed on 4/11/2018 in the County of Alameda. This business was conducted by an Individual. Signature of Registrants: /s/: Dave Shears, Owner, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 14, 2023. The Independent Legal No. 5389. Published February 23, March 2, 9, 16, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 595334

The following person(s) doing business as: RC Products,

39270 Paseo Padre Parkway #100, Fremont, CA 94538, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Bruce Creedy, 39270 Paseo Padre Parkway #100, Fremont, CA 94538. 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: 5/17/2017. Signature of Registrant/s/: Bruce Creedy, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 3, 2023. Expires February 2, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5390. Published February 23, March 2, 9, 16, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 595564

The following person(s) doing business as: J+C Creamery, 219 Blackstone Cmn, Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Jeremy Vadurro, 219 Blackstone Cmn, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by a Married Couple. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 2/15/2023. Signature of Registrant/s/: Jeremy Vadurro, Co-Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 15, 2023. Expires February 14, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5391. Published February 23, March 2, 9, 16, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 595361

The following person(s) doing business as: Triple CrownD Ranch, 6162 Bay Hill Ct, Dublin, CA 94568, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Katherine Dwiggins, 6162 Bay Hill Ct, Dublin CA 94568. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 01/01/2023. Signature of Registrant/s/: Katherine Dwiggins, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 6, 2023. Expires February 5, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5392. Published February 23, March 2, 9, 16, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 595608

The following person(s) doing business as: Dublin Nissan, 3800 Kaiser Rd, Dublin, CA 94568, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): East Bay Infiniti, 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: 3/18/2019. Signature of Registrant/s/: Inder Dosanjh, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 15, 2023. Expires February 14, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5393. Published February 23, March 2, 9, 16, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 595619

The following person(s) doing

business as: Sreed's Tax and Bookkeeping Services, 4753 Paula Court, Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Sreedharan Vallachira Pisharath, 4753 Paula Court, 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: 2/2/2022. Signature of Registrant/s/: Sreedharan Pisharath, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 16, 2023. Expires February 15, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5394. Published February 23, March 2, 9, 16, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 595333

The following person(s) doing business as: Nitty Gritty Paralegal Services, 2385 Bluebell Drive, Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Tipcro LLC, 2385 Bluebell Drive, Livermore, CA 94551. 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: 1/1/2021. Signature of Registrant/s/: Jamica Tipcro, Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 3, 2023. Expires February 2, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5395. Published February 23, March 2, 9, 16, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 595633

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Pellucid Finance Corporation; 2. Pellucid Finance; 3. Pellucid, 1119 Miller Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94708, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Pellucid Finance Corporation, 1119 Miller Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94708. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 2/6/23. Signature of Registrant/s/: Andrew Hollingsworth, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 16, 2023. Expires February 15, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5396. Published February 23, March 2, 9, 16, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 595451

The following person(s) doing business as: Why Why Bird, 1676 Paseo Laguna Seco #93, Livermore, CA 94551, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Carina King, 1676 Paseo Laguna Seco #93, 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/: Carina King, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 8, 2023. Expires February 7, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5397. Published February 23, March 2, 9, 16, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 595485

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Sacred Grove Wellness; 2. Sacred Grove; 3. Sacred Grove Traditions, 385 14th St, Apt 582, Oakland CA 94612, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Asatu Hall, 385 14th St, Apt 582. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 12/1/2022. Signature of Registrant/s/: Asatu Hall, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 9, 2023. Expires February 8, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5398. Published February 23, March 2, 9, 16, 2023.

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME ORIGINAL FILE NO. 569360

The person(s) listed below have abandoned the use of the following fictitious business name(s). Fit Focus Personal Training, 2452 Windsor Place, Livermore, CA 94550. Registered Owner(s): Nonda Ebbinghaus, 2452 Windsor Place, Livermore, CA 94550. The fictitious business name statement was filed on 4/11/2018 in the County of Alameda. This business was conducted by an Individual. Signature of Registrants: /s/: Nonda Ebbinghaus, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 15, 2023. The Independent Legal No. 5399.

Published March 2, 9, 16, 23 2023.

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Cuda Ridge Winery: Taking a Chance on Carménère Wines

By Laura Ness

Building on Livermore’s 3 Steves Winery, which brought attention to Carmenerere with the Chilean project, Cuda Ridge Wines is now making a move by growing and producing their own Carmenerere wines.

One of the lesser-known grapes of the noble Bordeaux family, it is the prog-

made their way to Chile, where the plague never reached. In the Maipo Valley, where Carménère thrived, it was often mistaken for Merlot. Today, more than 90% of the world’s Carménère vineyards are located in Chile, with small plantings in France, Italy, New Zealand, and now in Livermore.

side of Livermore Valley.

“Back in 2013-2014, I had discussions with a high school friend, Stan DeMarta, who owned property in Pleasanton, near the Callippe Golf Course, in the western portion of the Livermore Valley AVA,” said Dino. “He was taking viticulture classes at Las Positas Community College and wanted to plant an experimental vineyard. We came up with the idea of planting Carménère!”

The first vintage from the 369 vines planted there was harvested in 2018. Tom Insel now owns the property.

Dino also began talking with friends Mark Rowell and Jessica Roche, who live on Mines Road. Little Dog Vineyard became the second in Livermore to install a block of the variety. They planted 250 vines in 2017 and just put in an additional 100 vines, which will come online in three years. The first harvest from Little Dog was 2020, giving Cuda Ridge two vineyard designate Carménères.

Insel and Little Dog vineyards offer distinct growing environments. Insel’s cooler, westerly location results in a natural acidity that characterizes its grapes. Conversely, Little Dog’s warmer location yields more generous fruit with a higher pH and fuller mouthfeel.

Both wines from the 2020 vintage have garnered critical acclaim. The 2020 Insel Vineyard was awarded Gold at this year’s San Francisco Chronicle, while the 2020 Little Dog received an impressive 92-point rating

from Wine Enthusiast.

Dino is pleased with the results, saying, “I am really liking the Carménères. They both have their own nuances but there is a common thread that runs through them. I like the earthiness, spice and herbaceousness in the wines.”

As for food compatibility, Dino says, “We have paired the Carménère with Mu Shu Pork and Kim Chi, as well as with turkey and herbed stuffing. We noticed the flavors of the wine really flourish with mushrooms and herbs, especially basil and cilantro.”

The 2020 Insel Family Vineyard Carménère boasts a delightful bouquet of red fruits, such as pomegranate and red plum, mingled with hints of smoky earth and BBQ sauce. On the palate, zesty flavors of clove, dark chocolate, blueberry pop tarts, and a touch of basil are accompanied by pleasing tannins and a silky texture, all balanced by a good acid level. The wine concludes with a long, juicy finish, featuring a subtle hint of sweetness.

In contrast, the 2020 Lit-

tle Dog Vineyard Carménère offers an intense herbal nose, characterized by notes of pine, tarragon, milk chocolate, and cinnamon. With considerably more tannins, this wine boasts a palate brimming with baking spices, dark blackberry, licorice, and a touch of green pepper.

Both wines pair exceptionally well with sautéed eggplant, red and yellow peppers, zucchini squash, and spring onions infused with fresh oregano and basil olive oil. These wines complement peppers and chiles splendidly and are a natural

pairing with lamb and mint. They are a perfect choice for Easter or Passover dinner, particularly if lamb is on the menu.



Larry Dino, owner/winemaker of Cuda Ridge Winery, is holding two of his most recent releases of Carmenerere wines. (Photo – Ron Essex Photography)

eny of Cabernet Franc and Trousseau, which explains its inherent green savory edge.

The phylloxera epidemic of 1867 wiped out the once-widespread planting of Carménère in Bordeaux’s Médoc region. However, before the epidemic, Carménère and Merlot had

Cuda Ridge Wine is the first and only winery to release a Livermore Valley grown and produced Carménère. The project began over eight years ago when Larry Dino, owner/winemaker of Cuda Ridge Winery, worked with a friend to plant an experimental Carménère vineyard on the west

Livermore’s Cars and Engines Event Rescheduled

Winter storms rained out the Feb. 26 event of Cars and Engines at Hagemann Ranch in Livermore but has been rescheduled for Sunday, March 5 from 1 – 4 p.m. Vintage cars, antique Livermore fire trucks, the

Pleasanton Vesperados with Vespa motorcycles, and Midget race cars will be the main attractions at the Cars and Engines event at Hagemann Ranch on February 26 from 1-4 pm. Joey T and Friends, a local band,

will provide the musical entertainment. The kids can make paper rockets and launch them in the big arena. The latest Eagle Scout project, an exhibit of farm equipment, will be ready for viewing.

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