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Sheriff's Office Faces Fines After Officer Dies

By Larry Altman

REGIONAL — A state agency that investigates workplace safety has fined the Alameda County Sheriff's Office (ACSO) $2,440 for allegedly violating COVID-19 safety requirements possibly related to the death of a deputy who worked in the Santa Rita Jail in Dublin.

The citation follows the July 23 death of Deputy Oscar Rocha, 56, who was a victim of COVID-19. Although the Division of Occupational Safety and Health (Cal-OSHA) citation does not specifically name Rocha in its report, the material states that the agency opened an inspection on July 25, and that it was "fatality initiated."

The report also never uses the name "Santa Rita Jail", but lists the site for the investigation as 5325 Broder Blvd. in Dublin, the jail's address.

The fine was first reported by KTVU news.

Sgt. Ray Kelly, an ASCO spokesman, said the agency cooperated with Cal-OSHA and is making sure it meets the safety agency's demands. The department, however, is appealing the citations and fines.

"We want to be able to highlight and show the safety protocols we had in place," Kelly said.

According to the agency, Cal-OSHA inspectors issued four small fines ranging from $315 to $850 on Jan. 25. The violations were listed as the department failing to:

- "Establish and retain a record of the specific make and model of the respirator tested during a qualitative fit test administered to an employee required to wear a tight-fitting filtering facepiece respirator with occupational exposure to pathogens, including but not limited to SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19."
- "Include procedures for identifying and evaluating workplace hazards within their written Injury and Illness Prevention Program whenever new substances, processes, procedures, or equipment are introduced to the workplace that represent a new occupational safety

(See SHERIFF'S, page 10)



The Dublin Little League Majors Orioles were able to hold their first practice at the Fallon Sports Park, Saturday, Feb. 6. The Orioles hope to start playing games in mid-March. (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)

On Potable Water

Council Withdraws from Water Study; Opts to Fund Well Decontamination

By Ruth Roberts

PLEASANTON — The city pulled the plug on using potable water as a possible alternative drinking source.

In a meeting that sometimes turned contentious, the city council voted 3-2 to opt out of a joint water study with regional agencies, despite a previous commitment to explore the merits of potable drinking water. Also sometimes called "toilet-to-tap," potable water comes from surface and ground sources; it's treated to levels that meet state and federal standards for consumption.

"I am surprised that we are not unanimously supporting the study to advance science, to advance knowledge."

Councilmembers Kathy Narum and Jack Balch voted against the motion, with Mayor Karla Brown and Councilmembers Julie Testa and Vallerie Arkin in favor.

The council was asked to decide whether to continue to participate with other regional agencies on studies regarding the merits of potable water reuse; and provide $300,000 toward the study.

"The thing that is unique about potable reuse is that we have local control over that particular water supply option," said Kathleen Yurchak, city director of operations and water utilities,

(See WATER, page 9)

Honoring Mendelsohn

Journal Recognizes Advances Set in Motion Half a Century Ago at LLNL

By Jeff Garberson

Nearly 50 years ago, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory hired an eminent cancer researcher from the University of Pennsylvania to renovate and expand the Laboratory's small biomedical research program.



Mortimer Mendelsohn

The scientist, Mortimer Mendelsohn, arrived in 1972, accompanied by several university colleagues. In the years that followed, he assembled a team that helped spur a revolution in understanding how and why human cells mutate and sometimes become cancerous.

Mendelsohn died early last year, honored by former scientific colleagues from around the country and abroad.

More recently, the scientific journal Cytometry recognized his career with a series of memorial essays writt7

en by colleagues, including several from LLNL whose careers were influenced by Mendelsohn's leadership.

Born in New York City, Mendelsohn earned an MD at Harvard Medical School in 1948 before specializing in oncology, practicing medicine and carrying out research at Walter Reed Medical Center.

After getting a PhD at Cambridge University in the UK, he had a distinguished career at the University of Pennsylvania, helping to

(See MENDELSOHN, page 10)

Airport Commission Approves Project for Charter Airplanes

Boeing 737s Might Call Livermore Home

By Aly Brown and David Chircop

LIVERMORE — The Airport Commission voted unanimously this week to support KaiserAir's development proposal that would put six corporate aircraft in the skies over Livermore, with talk of additional planes down the road.

The Feb. 8 decision — made by members Adam Bertsch, Darin Bishop, Greg Chabrier, Christopher Dombrowski and Jon Lavine — to add Boeing 737s and other aircraft to the Livermore Municipal Airport (LVK) followed a proposal put before the commission by Airport Manager David Decoteau.

In the proposal, aviation company KaiserAir requested to proceed with development on a vacant parcel at LVK. The approximately 45-acre parcel is located north of West Jack London Boulevard and south of Taxiway Lima.

Decoteau confirmed that KaiserAir will operate as a full service Fixed Based Operator (FBO) providing a terminal, fuel, charter and aircraft maintenance, which together involve about 35 jobs.

"There will be no traditional commercial passenger service provided by KaiserAir," he said.

KaiserAir operates VIP charters for corporations, athletic teams and other large groups.

KaiserAir's charter service clients have included the San Jose Sharks NHL team, Fleetwood Mac, the Rolling Stones, and U2. One of its 737s was the flagship airplane for President Joe Biden and his campaign staff in the weeks before he was sworn in. It flew then Biden and his family to Joint Base Andrews in Maryland on Inauguration Day.

Decoteau further stated that KaiserAir estimates two aircraft would conduct two landings and two takeoffs per week.

KaiserAir proposed a phased development of the parcel that would include a FBO terminal complex, offices, aircraft maintenance

(See AIRPORT page 10)

City Amends Land Use in an Effort to Meet Housing Needs

By Ruth Roberts

DUBLIN — The city recently took the next steps toward accommodating the state's affordable housing mandates.

In a unanimous vote on Feb. 2, the city council approved the initiation of a general plan amendment study designed to change the land-use designation of two local parcels and redesignate the Emerald High School site.

The changes will allow the city to begin the work of meeting the state's Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) laws, while retaining some local control over the locations and potentially the number of homes.

"It's pretty straightforward and is something the council had discussed back in October," said Linda Smith, Dublin city manager. "This is our first small step toward how we handle potentially getting 110 to 150 units (if developed on these sites) of the (required) 2,400 in the very low to low-income category."

The two vacant parcels include 2.5 acres on Croak Road and 2.0 acres on an empty lot in East Dublin. With the zoning changes, the parcels will go from semi-public to public/semi-public.

Semi-public status includes child care, youth and senior centers, special needs facilities, religious institutions and hospitals to name a few. Public/semi-public uses include public and private schools as well as the development of housing by nonprofit entities to meet affordable housing needs.

Those parcels have planned development zoning designations, as well as stage one development plans. The exact locations of the housing available on each property would be determined during the stage two development plan.

In a separate move, staff also asked that the new Emerald High School site be amended from a neighbor-

(See HOUSING, page 10)

In the Tri-Valley

Director of Emergency Services Reports COVID-19 Cases on "Dramatic" Decline

By Aly Brown

LIVERMORE — The director of emergency services reported a positive trend in COVID-19 cases in the county and city, along with optimism that the area would be moving out of the most restrictive purple tier.

During a Feb. 8 city council meeting, City Manager Marc Roberts, who is also the director of emergency services, updated the council and community on the status of the COVID-19 emergency, its impacts, and the governmental operations in response to that emergency.

Roberts said the seven-day rolling average of daily new COVID-19 cases "both within the county and within Livermore are dropping dramatically."

"From a low in November of under six cases per 100,000 per day to a high in mid-December in Livermore of 64 new cases per day, we are now back down to just over 12 cases per day," Roberts said. "So that's a dramatic improvement."

He said that trend is continuing into February and that he saw a potential for returning to the less restrictive red tier in the near future.

However, at the meeting this week, he expressed the hope that the community had not gathered outside of their social bubbles for the Superbowl on Feb. 7, noting that the "bumps" in case counts followed holidays and get-togethers.

"Like clockwork, if we did have a bunch of gatherings over the weekend, we will see a bump," he said.

Between the two large testing sites in the Tri-Valley — one at Stanford Health - ValleyCare and the other at the Alameda County Fairgrounds — Roberts reported there have been nearly 30,000 COVID-19 tests conducted since April 2020.

Roberts then pointed out that the Alameda County Public Health Department (ACPHD) now tracks vaccine distribution on its website. As of Tuesday this week, the county had administered

(See COVID-19, page 6)



Valentine's Day decorations popped up around downtown Pleasanton. Even the unicorn statue at the corner of First and East Angela streets received a splash of festive colors. (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)



JIGSPAW

PET OF THE WEEK

Jigspaw is a smart and eager puppy; she is people-oriented and quick to bond to her caregiver. Exercise and mental stimulation, preferably side-by-side with her adored owner, will be the key to Jigspaw's happiness. If you are up for the challenge and demands of an athletic, driven puppy, you'll be rewarded with a confident and versatile canine companion. While Valley Humane Society remains closed during shelter-in-place, adoptions are coordinated by appointment. Contact info@valleyhumane.org for more information.

(Photo - Valley Humane Society /J. Beacham)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Classifieds.....11
Editorial.....4
Mailbox.....4
Obituaries.....9
Real Estate.....11

Teens Helping Seniors 2
Campo di Bocce Closes 2
Resident Seeks Living Donor 7
Pleasanton Fire Displaces Three 7
Former Athletic Rivals Shine Together at Las Po 8
Livermore Rodeo Cancelled 11

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Teen Service Group Helps Seniors Keep Active During the Pandemic

By Heather Brewer

Watching a loved one deal with the effects of dementia isn't an easy thing for someone of any age to go through, and it can be especially devastating for young people to witness.

After going through this upheaval, a group of area teens started Movements for the Mind, a service organization that provides art and music therapy to people with dementia as a means of strengthening their memories.

"Our group created this nonprofit because many on our team have had family members suffer from dementia, and others have made connections with people going through cognitive change through their volunteer work at elderly homes in the past," said Abby Baldwin, the group's treasurer. "Losing memories and accounts of important events in your life is saddening and can be lonely. We want to use our skills in music and art to help brighten the lives of people who may be going through dark times."

Other members of the organization are Ayushi Deokule, Aubrey Tran, Ann Yang, Allyson Wong, Sherry Long, Kira Nguyen, Ainsley Chang, Karthikha Sri Indran, and founders Anushka Rajasekhar and Mira Rajagopalan. All members are 15 or 16 years old, and attend Amador, Foothill, or Mission San Jose schools. The group was created in the summer of 2020 and was made official that September. Because of the pandemic, the teens have been volunteering virtually only. They send videos of themselves playing music or teaching and creating art to different senior and memory-care centers.

"The centers we have reached out to have been more than welcoming in letting us connect with their seniors," said Baldwin. "Many of the coordinators were excited that a group of high school students wanted to help out, especially considering COVID. As young students, we are still learning what hobbies and interests we truly enjoy. Community service is a great way to not only help your community, but also realize what you are passionate about."

Baldwin looks at being able to volunteer with seniors as a joy and an honor.

"Volunteering is a privilege, and helping others brightens both your day and theirs," she said. "With us, people have the opportunity to expand their love for music and art to help out those suffering from cognitive disease. Being able to see how our work positively impacts the elderly is absolutely heartwarming."

Tran, the group secretary, hopes their efforts makes the struggles of those suffering from dementia more visible.

"I wanted to help inspire others to help others and do the things that they enjoy to do," she said. "I want to let the people who have close relations with people with cognitive disabilities to know that they are not alone, and we are in this together. My goal is to bring awareness to those with health obstacles and provide them with joy and laughter, so others can see that no obstacle is too big."

Tran's interest in community service stems from her own struggles.

"I grew an interest in volunteering and medical sciences after experiencing a difficult mental health period in life," she said. "I developed values of balance and compassion, which guides my life to raise awareness and positivity. Though it may be hard for those with cognitive disabilities to see the light of the situation, I want to use my personal piano skills to shine a light for those who need it most."

For more information, to volunteer, or to seek services, visit www.movementsforthemind.com, find @movementsforthemind on Instagram or email movementsforthemind@gmail.com.

Livermore's Campo di Bocce Joins List of Closures

By Dawnmarie Fehr

Last month, Tri-Valley residents were saddened to learn Livermore's Campo di Bocce will permanently shut its doors.

The string of restaurants included three locations in Livermore, Los Gatos and Fremont. The Fremont locations has also been permanently closed, while the Los Gatos location is closed until mid-February, when management will reevaluate the business's situation.

"The continual shutdowns, lockdowns, changing of the rules, takeout food only, outdoor dining only, minimal indoor dining, then once again takeout only, finally took its toll," wrote a press release posted on the company's website. "And the grips of the COVID-19 pandemic finally took hold and have forced us into this dire situation."

The chain began in Los Gatos in 1997 with an idea conceived by Tom Albanese of San Jose. He went on to open the Livermore location in 2007, then the Fremont location in 2016. Albanese's restaurant and bocce club combinations proved to be popular spots where both new and seasoned players gathered for food, wine and friendly competition. Livermore's courts were home to four National Bocce Championships, international events, in-house leagues and regional tournaments.

Michael Toro of Livermore expressed his disappointment on Facebook, where residents decried the loss of another business to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"This breaks my heart that these businesses are closing up," Toro wrote. "People put their blood, sweat and tears into growing these businesses, and to have them close is very sad."

He said he felt deeply for the owners of small businesses like Campo di Bocce and Dom's Outdoor Outfitters who were forced to close due to forces outside their control.

"Oh, I'm so sad over this news," wrote another resident, Kelly Cockrell. "We love, love, love Campo and have made it our go-to restaurant over the years for birthdays and family events."

These sentiments were echoed hundreds of times by locals who held events on-site or volunteered at fundraisers for schools, scouting troops and organizations like the Special Olympics.

Currently, the Campo di Bocci building sits empty, leaving a hole in the small shopping center it was part of at the corner of Highway 84 and East Vineyard Avenue.



A favorite bocce ball venue in Livermore closed under the strain of the pandemic. (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)

Lawrence Lab Develops 3-D Printed Biofilms

Scientists at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory scientists have developed a method for 3D printing of living microbes, enhancing the potential to use engineered bacteria in a variety of industrial processes such as recovering rare-earth metals, cleaning wastewater, and detecting uranium.

Through a novel technique that uses light and bacteria-infused resin to produce 3D-patterned microbes, researchers successfully printed artificial biofilms that resemble the thin layers of microbial communities that occur in the natural world.

The researchers suspended the bacteria in photosensitive bio-resins and "trapped" the microbes in printed biofilms as thin as 18 microns – nearly as thin as the diameter of a human cell – using LED light from a 3-D printer, also developed by LLNL, called the Stereolithographic Apparatus for Microbial Bioprinting.

"We are trying to push the edge of 3D microbial culturing technology," said LLNL bioengineer William "Rick" Hynes. "We think it's a very under-investigated space and its importance is not well understood yet.

"We're working to develop tools and techniques that researchers can use to better investigate how microbes behave in geometrically complex, yet highly controlled conditions," Hynes added. "By accessing and enhancing applied approaches with greater control over the 3D structure of the microbial populations, we will be able to directly influence how they interact with each other and improve system performance within a biomanufacturing production process."

Although they may seem simple, Hynes said microbial behaviors are extremely complex and are driven by spatiotemporal characteristics of their environment.

How microbes are organized can affect a range of behaviors, such as how and when they grow, what they eat, how they cooperate, how they defend themselves from competitors, and what molecules they produce, Hynes said.

Previous methods for producing biofilms in the laboratory offered scientists little control over microbial organization within the film, limiting the ability to understand the complex interactions seen in bacterial communities in the natural world, Hynes explained. The ability to bioprint microbes will allow scientists to better observe how bacteria function in their natural habitat and investigate technologies such as microbial electrosynthesis, in which "electron-eating" bacteria convert surplus electricity during off-peak hours to produce biofuels and biochemicals.

Results of the LLNL research was reported in a paper published in the journal "Nano Letters."

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During a Heart Attack, Every Minute Counts

Know the warning signs:

- Chest discomfort, pain, or pressure that lasts for more than a few minutes, or that goes away and returns
- Upper body discomfort or pain, including in the arms, back, neck, jaw, or stomach
- Shortness of breath
- Lightheadedness, nausea, or vomiting
- Extreme fatigue
- Cold sweat

Chest pain is the most common symptom of a heart attack in men and women. Women are more likely to report some of the other common symptoms listed above. The hospital is still the safest place you can be in an emergency. Don't hesitate. Call 911.



Caring for your heart is essential, even during the pandemic. Make cardiovascular health a priority starting this Heart Month by exercising, eating a balanced diet, keeping up routine medical visits, and promptly addressing signs of illness. We are prepared to safely care for you.

Learn more about cardiovascular health at **stanfordhealthcare.org/heartmonth**

Stanford HEALTH CARE
STANFORD MEDICINE

EDITORIAL

County Needs to Address Its Vaccine Inequity

During this pandemic, we've seen the Hispanic population hit hardest by COVID-19 in our county.

Of the county's total 76,648 COVID-19 cases, the categories of white and unknown have made up around 13% and 24%, respectively. But Hispanics have accounted for about 40% of the cases, even though they make up only 22% of the county's population — according to a 2019 report by the U.S. Census Bureau.

However, vaccine distribution is not following those same percentages.

White individuals have received 25% of the vaccines. Hispanics have received about 8%.

Why are those who have been identified as the most vulnerable to this virus — a group that ranks number one for cases — taking the fifth-place space for vaccinations received? What are the roadblocks standing in the way of providing equitable care?

Many of our Hispanic community members are working on the frontlines during this pandemic, increasing their exposure to COVID-19. As the county continues to evaluate its vaccination process, perhaps it should appropriately prioritize those providing essential services and living in close quarters.

MAILBOX

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

Who Does That? Again
Patricia Thorstad, Livermore

Inciting a partisan crowd to march towards insurrection?

Who does that? Donald J. Trump.

His gestures, his words, and, because he said this so cavalierly, "Anyone you want, but I think right here …," meaning Pennsylvania Avenue, have manifestly injured me and others I know.

Once recalled or thought about, Jan. 6, 2021, any part of it, cannot be unseen. I should know because I was there (virtually).

Apologies Noted
Donna Blevins, Livermore

Lee Edwards, wow!

But, I think I've got you beat. I have my own citizenship papers, since I was born to Polish parents who survived the horrors during WWII. I spent my first two years in a refugee camp in Germany before coming over on a boat to Ellis Island.

My father worked so many blue-collar jobs that I've lost track, before landing General Motors. My mother worked part-time as a custodian and a maid. They saved every cent they could for buying a house. They believed in the American Dream - for everyone. That's how I was raised.

But where we differ is how we treat others. The image of kids in cages is not lost on me. Migrants working in the fields and wanting a better life for their children is not lost on me. Black and Brown people and LGBTQ people being treated less equally is not lost on me.

On Jan. 6, domestic terrorists tried to take my - and your - freedom away. On Jan. 20, I breathed a sigh of relief and hope for a return to decency and respect. You will not hear me whine.

Because of what my immigrant family worked for, I am able to live a good life. But that's not true for everyone. I was taught to empathize and share.

There's enough to go around - it's not pie. I'm sorry you don't get it.

Parking for The Future
Glenn Stewart, Livermore

Livermore may not know it, but we are facing a future parking crisis.

The warning flag went up in 2017 when the results of the Outreach Program were compiled. Residents were asked what their concerns were regarding downtown development. Not enough parking was the number response, followed by community character.

Revitalize downtown was the city's rally cry in 2004. Bring more people to Livermore. Make Livermore a destination. Well, attracting people means attracting and parking their cars. A study by MIT Transportation Alternatives states 30% to 50% of traffic congestion in downtown centers is generated by drivers searching for a parking space.

To date, we are looking at building conventional parking structures at L Street and at North I St. One is 4.5 stories for 500 vehicles, and the second one is 3 stories with 250 vehicles.

Do you know that robotic parking garages use an average of 50% less land area for the same amount of parking as compared to conventional concrete, ramp-style garages? Robotic parking can provide 2 to 3 times more parking spaces compared to concrete ramps in conventional parking structures.

Robotic (automated) parking is a solution for Livermore's future parking challenge.

Robotic parking garages are more economical - $35,000 vs. $55,000 per parking space. They are greener – by reducing pollution inside the garage using electro-mechanical automated parking machinery to move cars into parking spaces, lower fuel consumption, minimal lighting, power, and ventilation requirements, and contributes to Livermore's Climate Action Plan (CAP) to help reduce greenhouse gas emission levels. It is safer - no assailants, robbers, no walking alone at night to car, no fender benders, no door dings, no vandalism, no theft of vehicle contents, as vehicles are stored in an enclosed building, and suitable for handicap parking as entry-exit terminals are 16 feet wide to meet ADA requirements.

What is in it for Livermore? Many more available parking spaces than previously planned, a solution for Eden housing's expensive underground parking at $85,000 per space, and a reduction in traffic congestion for those driving around looking for a parking space. Robotic parking garages generate revenue, contribute to reducing the carbon footprint, and provide electric vehicle charging at each transfer pallet when you plug in – car is charging while parked, which will be a requirement as the combustible engine is phased out.

Livermore's future points to robotic (automated) parking.

Making Unwise Decisions
Marcus Libkind, Livermore

I just read that Biden and Democrats are considering $1,400 to $2,800 stimulus payment to single people and married couples earning $50,000 and $100,000 or less to ensure people who have lost their jobs or taken a pay cut still have enough money to buy food, pay rent and get the medical care they need during the pandemic.

This makes no sense. They are advocating paying people who are still working and have had no reduction in income. I have family members in that category. Each will receive $1,400, but their incomes have not been reduced at all. As you can see, I speak based on ethics, not my pocketbook.

I'm not against the $1.9 trillion package other than who the money goes to. No one who still has their job should be receiving a penny. If the government wants to hand out more money to stimulate the economy, it should be given to the poorest people, because they will most likely spend it, unlike many of the people the current proposal includes. Read the statistics, the boom in the stock market is due to many people having more money to save or invest.

With the Democrats' tenuous hold on Congress, especially the Senate, they are driving people like me away from the party by making unwise economic decisions.

Check Our Website
Ruth Gasten, Livermore

"Save Livermore Downtown" has created a web page that provides current information for citizens to learn about the changes in the Eden Housing project.

The URL is www.SaveLivermoreDowntown.com

Timeline Set for Climate Plan Draft
Ollie Sears, Livermore

Climate change is affecting our lives more and more drastically each year.

The wildfires of 2020 got dangerously close to the home of my friends and family, much closer than ever before. Climate change will eventually affect some aspect of every individual in our communities' life. Our local governments need to set an example to show how everyone can be more responsible and how we are all able to go above and beyond.

I've been doing school from my home in Livermore, but I've still had the chance to commit time to causes I care about. I joined CALPIRG Students this year to take more responsibility for my community and to set the precedent to my peers that climate change is something we should be working against consistently. I wish I could see a push from my local government to do more than what is required or expected.

I am part of CALPIRG's campaign calling for Governor Newsom to commit to 100% clean electricity by 2030. To meet our goal we need to show that our communities and local leaders believe this to be a worthwhile cause and a feasible plan. I employ our local leaders to show that my hometown of Livermore understands why and how to tackle our emissions goals.

I know that clean energy is a safer way to make progress in our community than relying on outdated fossil fuels. Climate change will bring with it more fires, rising sea levels, and harsher weather. We have the chance to lead this community, California, and the United States of America in protecting each other from the worst effects of climate change. I take pride in everything that has been done so far, and everything that we have the opportunity to do.

Rename LLNL
Dr. Michael P. Mendenhall, Ph.D., Livermore

The "Livermore" in LLNL's name contributes to pervasive confusion among Tri Valley residents between the situation today and that of decades ago.

Millionish-dollar condo prices are an unambiguous statement that "my kind" - as a research physicist - is, by law, definitively unwelcome here. No quantity of nostalgic platitudes about the city's identity changes the ugly truth of what it is today.

I modestly propose renaming LLNL to "Lawrence Tracy National Lab." This name would better represent the lab's workforce, the overwhelming majority of whom are excluded from living in the Tri Valley.

Lest any be upset that this amounts to erasure of Livermore's "historical character," I further propose that the lab endow a museum to display the mummified remains of the last scientist to feel at home here, alongside other archaeological remnants of displaced aboriginals. Perhaps it could even have a park around it.

Build a Great Park!
Tim Sage, Livermore

Dear fellow residents, city council, and planning commission,

A drive past the new parking structure on L Street has prompted this letter. Here it is-short and sweet: The massive new construction downtown, with more to follow, is all the more reason to build a Large Central Park, a place to take a break, relax, gather (someday), and play. Please don't go "wall to wall" with buildings. Let's keep downtown Livermore a place that residents and visitors will enjoy. Build a great park!

Livermore City Park
Barbara Savoy, Livermore

What a beautiful gift we have with our city park; it has so much for everyone.

On the corner is the old blacksmith's shop, where people can be found sitting and enjoying a casual drink and conversation. You can hear music floating out into the park through the leaves on the trees.

Next to it is the small Stockmen's section of the park representing our forefathers who settled here. The Black Box Theater is in another section, with activities that have brought people to the park.

The Science Building is busy today with families going in and out. An art fair is being held nearby. Laughter can be heard throughout from children who are playing actively on the playground and from a group of boys who are kicking a soccer ball around.

Near the corner of L Street and Railroad, a farmer's market hails fresh fruits and vegetables for sale from our ranchers here in the valley and beyond. A section of this park represents the veterans who gave us so much for our country. Across the street there are apartments, townhouses, affordable living, shopping, restaurants, and a hotel for tourists, but Livermore City Park is a place for everyone to enjoy and relax - an open space, a breath of fresh open air.

It represents a place for the people right in the heart of the city of Livermore.

Geographical America Revisited
Richard Ernst, Livermore

I would like to comment on the Feb. 4 Mailbox posting, "Geographical America."

First, though the Declaration of Independence and Constitution were remarkable documents, they were also flawed in some significant ways. In particular, the franchise was not specifically guaranteed for all Americans.

To wit, African American slaves were universally denied the right to vote. Freed slaves in only some non-slave states were able to vote. Women were nowhere considered voting citizens. Native peoples were seldom guaranteed voting rights. It took later constitutional amendments, a civil war, and decades of civil strife to rectify (in principle) these omissions from our founding documents.

In the meantime, the scars of these omissions on our national psyche have never been fully recognized, addressed, or healed. With regard to the descendants of African slaves, the reality of racism is, sadly, an inescapable fact of our national life today. The desire of many to focus a light on this painful part of our history is not a reflection of a "leftist ideology" seeking the destruction of "America's democratic republic…" It is instead a movement of patriotism, the goal of which is to restore to our great nation the principles of justice, equality, and respect for the dignity of all human beings.

The United States of America is akin to a magnificent house, but one whose external beauty is compromised by some serious flaws in its original construction. Those flaws, if left unattended, will eventually undermine the integrity and survivability of the house itself. It isn't helpful to accuse the building inspector of seeking to destroy the house, when the inspector is simply attempting to awaken the homeowner, so that he or she will do what is needed to shore up the foundations and save the house.

No Support From Locals
Virginia Loewe, Livermore

As I watch Livermore's downtown lose any chance of preserving a special character of its own, I am saddened by what is happening.

When the town had a golden opportunity to create a park like center where townspeople would gather, our city council seemed to rush headlong into passing up this chance and instead, is now filling the space with more and more buildings.

Can you imagine how different New York City would be without its Central Park? Or how Grant Park enhances the city of Chicago? We are not a large town and if these much larger cities could afford to set aside land for parks, can we not keep a bit of open space in our downtown?

Please stop a moment and reflect on how our downtown is now changing. There does not seem to be any support from the locals for this rush to build downtown.

Goodbye, Jeff
Thomas Isenburg, Livermore

I am leaving Amazon, too.

On 24 January, Amazon scammers sent me an email confirming a purchase of a computer and accessories for a Richard Griffin, Westbury, New York, in the amount of $2,610. When I called Amazon at the phone number in the email, I was advised that Amazon was attempting to track a Hacker of customer files, and would I agree to have my computer searched for any links to the hacker.

Amazon's scammer Alan Parker (805-823-8605) gained access to my computer to install a scanner for a 24-hour check time. My payment of $2,800 for use of the scanner would be reimbursed. Payments had to be made with $200 and $500 gift cards purchased from Best Buy, Target and CVS for all services provided.

The scammer told me that Amazon chose to use the gift cards as a way to protect my Amazon account from being accessed by the hacker.

There were constant problems using the gift cards to pay for the scan, and over five days, ran up a total $20,000 in replacement gift cards. Reimbursement checks into my bank account were not real and disappeared before my bank could accept them.

Amazon scammers breached my applications, programs, and files, including

(See MAILBOX, page 5)

THE Independent

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MAILBOX

(Continued from page 4)

addresses of friends and secure sites. I told Parker that I was shutting down operations. Parker threatened to withhold the $20,000 payment if I did not comply. I knew then I lost that money and needed to move on. I shut down the internet connection and turned off my computer.

Yes, I was trusting and continually stupid in dealing with these scammers. I hope to have my repair specialist and ATT security staff help me get my computer life back. To the cashiers and clerks at Target, Best Buy and CVS, thank you very much for trying to restrict my gift card purchases. And the fact that your companies, my bank and credit card teams found ways to hold up some of the payments is greatly appreciated. I am sorry I didn't pay attention to your concerns or was less stupid.

Goodbye, Amazon. To all my friends and business contacts, I apologize. If you get a call or an email from Amazon concerning a purchase that you didn't make, please do not call the phone number on the notice.

Support for Eden Housing

Christine Fiori, Livermore

I'm wanting to express support for Eden Housing to be able to build.

I am a current resident with a child living in Eden Affordable Housing in Livermore. I believe at this time of need of affordable housing, Livermore (should) give those in need a chance in another community of Eden Housing within Livermore to be able to get a chance to have an affordable, safe place to live.

The staff is always kind to us. Eden Housing even gets residents a reason to (succeed) throughout Livermore (from) the school kids with resources to possible job resources.

When the pandemic came, we had someone that worked with Eden who checked on us and our wellbeing and kept giving us great ideas to keep entertained as well.

If it wasn't for affordable housing by Eden Housing keeping us safe and sound, I'm not sure where else we would be. Please give Eden a chance.

I'm an essential worker. I'm sure that there are essential workers out there that need affordable housing that can give them a peace of mind of housing.
Please approve Eden Housing to build another wonderful community.
Thank you.

The Fantasy Cake of the Aramis Solar Project

Greg Scott, Livermore

By recent executive order, President Biden affirmed the goal of 30% of the country's land into conservation.

The call by academia and policymakers, on the other hand, is for "carbon net-zero" by 2050. The juxtaposition of these two reminds me of the English proverb, "You can't have your cake and eat it too."

Carbon net-zero means that overall, we will have zero carbon and carbon dioxide equivalent emissions annually. Academia is saying this is feasible on a cost basis in relation to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by 2050.

In one article entitled "Big but affordable effort needed for America to reach net-zero emissions by 2050, Princeton study shows," Molly Seltzer writes, "Past research has probed whether net-zero is technically possible and what it might take to get there. But a missing piece has been detail that could inform local officials and authorities responsible for making decisions about important areas for the transition, such as siting and land use, along with information for the communities and stakeholders that shape and are affected by decisions."

It was not a logical and informed local decision to approve the North Livermore Aramis Solar Project by the East County Board of Zoning Adjustments.

Commissioner Imhof, with the heritage of 100 years of family farming, stated that, "You wouldn't grow lettuce out there," in regard to the Aramis Project lands.

Someone please tell Mr. Imhof that lettuce is being grown, albeit on a small-farming scale, in North Livermore. The 18 acre-feet (5,865,318 gallons) of water the Aramis Project is slated to receive annually would grow a lot of lettuce!

Land use is a consideration? It is going to take an enormous amount of land to get to carbon net-zero through utility-scale solar-electric. The detrimental losses are to the soil, to the biological and genetic diversity, and to socio-economic justice.

The Aramis Project would be a sacrifice of critical lands - crucial to conservation and agricultural potentials - for more expensive and less reliable electricity as a result of building additional grid transmission, distribution and backup infrastructure; and the vulnerability of lithium-ion batteries unable to deal with long-term outages like we had in the heat spell last August - a time of optimum solar-electric energy production.

That English adage is poignant. We can't have our resilience and reliability and maintain conservation and agricultural North Livermore land-use character too.

Definitely Not Eden

Carol Krakowsky, Livermore

It's hard to take any of Eden Housing's recent design changes to Livermore's Downtown Plan seriously.

While there are many disturbing aspects, the one I object to most strenuously is the housing itself. I advocate strongly for convenient, affordable housing, but not in the center of Livermore's downtown superblock … the one intended to attract residents and tourists alike with a wide range of cultural and commercial offerings in an open space setting that promotes community participation. This housing should be nearby, perhaps north of Railroad Avenue, and it should be truly affordable, not out of range for our police, firefighters, teachers, and other valued service-oriented residents.

The current plan promises concrete canyons, increased parking shortages, and all the downsides of urban density.

We have elected a mayor and city council whose members are intelligent and accomplished. I, for one, expect a much more enlightened and intelligent alternative to Eden Housing's plan from them. Otherwise, this revitalization effort will be nothing more than a costly four-story housing project … and it definitely won't be Eden.

No to Aramis and Sunwalker "Farms"

Sandra Yamaoda, Pleasanton

I strongly oppose the Aramis Solar "Farm" project and the Sunwalker "Farm" in the North Livermore Valley.

I often travel through that valley (and) enjoy the scenery, including the grazing cattle and wildlife that would be obliterated by these projects. This is a scenic route which should not be destroyed by an industrial solar project, which could well go somewhere else.

I have seen what PG& E has done to their station on North Livermore Avenue … it is a junk yard now. Once they put in trees, but they cut them down and it is a sin what they have done. So, I do not want some industrial project to ruin the rest of the lovely farmland.

Where is the County Energy Plan? What about Measure D? Sickening that I vote for something and then the will of the people can be ignored by a company with lots of money and power to force their will upon the residents and those who have so long lived there and enjoyed the valley.

Do not approve these so-called "farms."

(See MAILBOX, page 6)

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LIVERMORE CALIFORNIA

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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

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

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

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

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

Eden Housing's new plan means more traffic downtown

Eden Housing's new plan will have a negative impact on downtown traffic and parking. Their 132-stall underground parking garage will have just a single exit and entrance located on L Street near Veterans Way. This is where the City's 500-stall L Street Garage is planned on the east side of L Street, as well as access to 441 parking stalls for the residential development under construction on the west side. To make matters worse, Eden's parking garage is 98 stalls short of the city's standard, meaning more cars will be circling the downtown looking for parking.

✗ Single access on L Street to Eden's garage will cause traffic congestion

✗ Combined with traffic from the L Street Garage and west side residential development, Eden's traffic will create even more serious bottlenecks

✗ 98-stall shortfall will cause drivers to search for parking and add to traffic jams

Save Livermore Downtown!



Speak up to save Livermore Downtown!

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

Check out our new website at SaveLivermoreDowntown.com!

PAID FOR BY SAVE LIVERMORE DOWNTOWN

MAILBOX

(Continued from page 5)

Not Pleasing to the Eye
Vic Avila, Livermore

North Livermore Valley is "open space," a scenic byway, "open space" is not another term for "development"… it really isn't.

Look at (our) neighboring cities Pleasanton and Dublin. No one would accuse them of valuing "open space", would they? Livermore's spaciousness is what makes Livermore, from the north to the east to the south to the west … this is what distinguishes Livermore and saves the Tri-Valley from losing all its "open space."

Don't lose it, because you can't get it back, ever.

Ground critters, insects, birds, cows, and sheep all thrive out there. Bicyclists and residents thrive out there.

Contact your elected representatives, especially Supervisor Haubert, and let them know you want this space to be left as God designed and deemed it. So, the solar farm has to go somewhere else, and we have to pay one cent more kwh to transmit the power to a substation … I'd rather pay that one cent and keep Livermore's sense of spaciousness.

As you drive by (our) neighboring cities, and especially the Bay Area proper, look around and you'll see concrete, asphalt, and plenty of buildings …not pleasing to the eye or the spirit.

We Have One Chance
Ashley Hughes, Livermore

City council and city planning committee, please consider the process of making sure that Veterans Park area meets the proper requirement of building up friendships, safety and providing a large open space for mental and physical health.

Look at the green open space at Lions Wayside Park in downtown Pleasanton - how it attracts families at all times, picnics, live music, a truly wonderful setting. Less housing is the key! The revised low-income Eden Housing plan was not appropriate for such sacred space! We have one chance to get it right for a lifetime of memories! It already feels so boxed in downtown with the Groth Brothers site!
We can't replicate!

Executive Orders
Owen Brovont, Livermore

Too many presidential executive orders are being issued.

An executive order is a fiat, a decree, an edict! They are not laws – they are diktats. Diktats are the typical tools of despots, tyrants, oligarchs, kings and emperors, not chief executive officers of Democratic Republics.

Biden issued a dozen "executive orders" on the first day he sat down behind his desk in the Oval Office of the White House – 43 to date – the only thing missing from the scene was a gold crown on his head. I will not make any excuses for Trump's liberal use of executive orders, but I argue that his use was in the best interests of an America dedicated to keeping its citizens free, and necessitated because the House of Representatives, guided by the despotic and arrogant Speaker of the House, Pelosi, attempted to block everything he had promised.

As one clear indication of what was at stake, had the leftists controlled the Senate, as they did the House, we would not now have three more Associate Justices of the Supreme Court who are champions of the Constitution of the United States as it was written and intended to be implemented! The Constitution is intended for a free people, not to be used by a despotic socialist to subjugate the people.

In spite of the often hateful, obstructive behavior of the House majority and malicious attacks by the Senate minority, Trump managed to accomplish the campaign goals he promised to the American people – many of which Biden cancelled on the first day of his presidency. Should the House and Senate have respected the will of the American people, and supported Trump in fulfilling the campaign promises that got him elected, many of those promises would have been properly debated and likely have become democratically created laws instead of being forced into implementation as vulnerable, unilateral executive orders.

To say that America would have been better off if the legislative process had been followed as the founders had intended, is a glaring understatement and ultimately a crucial loss to the American people!

Biden's choices for his cabinet and high-level administrative positions certainly proclaim the direction America will be traveling for the next two and possibly four years. Hang on, it will be a bumpy ride!

Ayn Rand said, "We can evade reality, but we cannot evade the consequences of evading reality."

We Will Recall You
Ellen Turner, Livermore

Citizens of Livermore are living in the Peanuts comic strip as we watch our downtown park dissolve into a mess of high-rise apartments, inadequate parking and traffic congestion on L Street and beyond.

Like Charlie Brown, we believe that surely this time Lucy won't move the football as we try to kick a touchdown. But Lucy (aka city council and mayor) have moved the ball again. The height and number of units of Eden's low-income housing have grown. Open space and grass have shrunk.

Our new mayor was elected after he suggested a viable relocation of the housing to an available site north of the park. Now, Mayor Lucy has moved the football and reverted to the Eden plan.

If nothing else, self-interest should motivate Mayor Lucy and the council to pay attention to us, the voters.

We will recall you if that's what it takes to return to a large green park with Eden housing relocated.

Plant-based Diet Goes Back to Bible
Lucas Nelson, Livermore

I miss Mardi Gras.

I miss being in crowds on Fat Tuesday. I'm hoping for a speedy recovery from the pandemic, so we can all congregate again.

After Fat Tuesday, Lent begins. Lent is the 40-day period before Easter when Christians stop eating meat and dairy in remembrance of Jesus' 40 days of reflection. As a Christian, Lent has meaning to me.

For me, I already don't eat meat and dairy. My plant-based diet helps reduce chronic diseases, environmental degradation, and animal abuse. Countless reports have linked consumption of animal products with risk of heart failure, stroke, cancer, and other diseases.

A U.N. report named meat production as a source of greenhouse gases and water pollution. Investigations have revealed animals raised for food under horrible conditions of caging, crowding, drugging, and mutilation. These actions go against what I believe.

Lent offers an opportunity to honor Jesus' powerful message of compassion and love for all living beings, stop subsidizing the meat industry, and choose a nonviolent plant-based diet. It's a diet that goes back to The Bible (Genesis I:29) and observed in the Garden of Eden.

Enter "plant-based Lent" in Google, and explore hundreds meat-free recipes.

We Need a Park Downtown
Eva Westerlin, Livermore

For years, I have participated in groups that were interested in the best use of the former Lucky site, now proposed for use by the Eden Housing Project.

It seems to me that the best use of this site will include a real park that encourages people to come downtown and participate in city life. Moving affordable housing to other nearby sites fills that need and makes the Lucky site usable for the public. We know from cities around the world that accessible parks are a big benefit to the residents. The city council has only one chance to do this right and I really hope they positively think this through.

Where are the youngsters who live in the new housing on the Groth Brother's site going to play and meet? The same for the grownups?

Industrial Solar Will Do More Harm than Good
Tamara Reus, Livermore

The Aramis Solar Project appeal hearings are scheduled for March 4 before the board of supervisors. There is still time for the public to voice opposition to this misguided effort to bring industrial-scale solar to the North Livermore Valley.

The Aramis Project would cover roughly 360 acres with solar panels on land traditionally used for agriculture in North Livermore. It violates the voter-approved Measure D initiative and a number of land-use planning policies established by Alameda County to prioritize the protection of agriculture and open space in unincorporated east county. The project will also have detrimental environmental effects, including the loss of scenic views along North Livermore Avenue, an area designated by the County as a scenic corridor in 1966.

The project poses risks to several threatened species, notably the California Red Legged Frog, California Tiger Salamander, San Joaquin Kit Fox, and their habitat. Numerous organizations, including the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, East Bay Regional Park District, Save Mount Diablo, and Golden Gate Audubon Society recommended that the developer, Intersect Power, should be required to get incidental take permits due to inevitable animal deaths, and should pay for off-site habitat protection to compensate for habitat loss.

The mitigation measures included in the Environmental Impact Report were deemed insufficient by these groups. Their recommendations were not adopted. Intersect Power maintains that the habitat is of low quality despite all the evidence to the contrary submitted by the government agencies and environmental protection organizations.

As reported in the Independent, the US Fish and Wildlife Service in January sent a letter to the County which also emphasizes the quality of the habitat, and the need for incidental take permits and compensatory mitigation. Intersect continues to dispute the recommendations of the experts and agencies tasked with enforcing environmental laws. It is not willing to agree to the steps that would minimize the harm to these threatened species.

In fact, Intersect is even appealing the requirement to provide a one-mile buffer to protect nesting eagles. They claim that a half-mile is enough, notwithstanding that the one-mile limit is a federal requirement. Intersect doesn't care about the environment; it just wants to maximize its profits in the name of addressing climate issues.

However much we want to stop climate change and support renewable energy, we cannot justify destroying the environment to save it. Tell Supervisor David Haubert (david.haubert@acgov.com) to oppose this project.

COVID-19

(Continued from first page)

a total of 187,080 doses, including 39,524 second doses. Livermore has received 6,991 first doses and 1,882 second doses.

The county dashboard also breaks down vaccine inoculations by age, gender and race. The "unknown" race group has received the most vaccines with 48,048, followed by white individuals with 46,756 doses. Asian individuals have received 39,198, multi-race (23,970), Hispanic (15,525), African American (9,779), Pacific Islander (1,242) and Native American (388).

When it comes to COVID-19 case rates, however, Hispanic people have been hit the hardest with 30,606 cases. Unknown falls into second place with 18,280, then white (10,078), Asian (8,977), African American (5,624), multi-race (2,410), Pacific Islander (529) and Native American (144).

Livermore has entered into partnership with the cities of Dublin and Pleasanton, the county, and Stanford Health - ValleyCare to operate the vaccination center set up at the fairgrounds. Roberts said the final opening date has not been set, but it could be as soon as late next week.

The Oakland Coliseum test site has been taken over by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, more commonly known by its acronym, FEMA.

"That is actually a very positive step for us, because that brings another source of vaccine being brought into Alameda County," he said. "That isn't out of the total that the county gets. That's in addition to. That's a complete net gain (of vaccines) for everybody throughout the county when the federal government is involved in that site."

Alameda continues to be in phase 1b, meaning police department employees can now receive vaccinations. The remainder of city staff will be vaccinated with the general population.

Equity and Inclusion Subcommittee Update

Deputy City Manager Christine Martin provided an update on the city's Equity and Inclusion Subcommittee, which was created last summer. Based on community feedback, the subcommittee broadened its scope beyond policing to include housing, transportation and culture, Martin said.

Originally, it was going to be limited to an 18-member group, but all 48 community members who applied were accepted.

"The Subcommittee, with assistance from the Public Dialogue Consortium, has been receiving information from the working group to accomplish the Subcommittee's objective to develop a recommendation to the City Council to foster equity and inclusion in Livermore through diverse community engagement that will result in a welcoming city, exemplified by equity of opportunity and just treatment for all," Martin said.

> *"As you can anticipate, going through COVID, we've had to change what we do in order to continue to serve the homebound seniors."*

At the orientation, the working group members self-selected into one or more of the following four subgroups: Community Culture and Representations; Policing and Human Services; Reaching and Inspiring Younger Generations; and Housing, Workplace, Economics, and Transportation Environments.

On Dec. 9, the entire working group was invited to culminate the first phase of work with an interactive workshop, "Sharing our stories so we can have the difficult conversations."

"There is continued interest from community members in joining the working group," Martin continued. "As phase one comes to an end, and the Subcommittee embarks on phase two, it is a natural time to seek additional people to join the working group to provide additional information to the Subcommittee."

The first phase of the project included staff time and consultant expenditures in the amount of $54,800. The next phase will include additional staff time and a new consultant contract.

Citizens' Forum Speaker Calls for Volunteers

During the Citizens' Forum, speaker Carrie Oldes, program manager for Meals on Wheels program Spectrum Community Services, stressed the continued need for volunteers.

"As you can anticipate, going through COVID, we've had to change what we do in order to continue to serve the homebound seniors," she said. "I currently run 45 volunteers a week to run the 45 rounds here in Livermore. With your support — with the city's support, with the community's support — we were able to grant the wishes of 165 seniors for Christmas, and it's something I could not have done without the dedication and support of the community."

Oldes went on to say that there are still seniors who have been home since last March. She called for those with extra time to consider volunteering to deliver meals or writing letters to bring comfort to isolated residents. Contact the organization by email at mow@spectrumcs.org or by phone at 925-483-1989.

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Livermore Resident Seeks Living Organ Donor for Liver Transplant

By Heather Brewer

When Michael Haas, 56, was diagnosed with nonalcoholic steatohepatitis (NASH) liver failure in 2019, no one saw it coming.

"We were surprised and not expecting the diagnosis, due to making positive health and lifestyle changes," said Michael, a Livermore resident. "It has impacted my day-to-day life, as I am not able to go to work or enjoy the recreational activities I once performed, including hiking, biking, camping, and participating in the Ham radio Club (AD6TA)."

NASH is liver inflammation and damage caused by a buildup of fat in the liver. It is part of a group of conditions called nonalcoholic fatty liver disease. Those affected are often told they have a fatty liver, and for most people, it causes no symptoms and no problems. However, the fat causes inflammation and damages cells in the liver in some people. Because of the damage, the liver doesn't work as well as it should. The condition can worsen over time and cause scarring of the liver, which leads to cirrhosis.

NASH is similar to the kind of liver disease that is caused by long-term, heavy drinking, but it occurs in people who don't abuse alcohol.

Fortunately, Michael is eligible for a living organ donation from a matching donor with A positive, A negative, O positive or O negative blood types; a relatively normal weight (a BMI 32 or under); and who is between the ages of 18 and 65 years old. As none of his immediate family are a match, they are hoping one can be found in the community via outreach through a website at www.aliverformike.com, as well as business cards they had made.

""The most lengths that I have gone through to spread the word is either by phone, but with COVID it is hard to see friends," said Heidi Haas, Michael's wife of 32 years. "If I see somebody or meet somebody when we go for a walk that I can have a conversation with. I always have (cards) with me and pass them out. If I am at a store and I happen to have a conversation with somebody, I give them a card as well."

Born and raised in the Bay Area, Michael lost his mother at a very young age. He was then lovingly raised with his father, a German Jewish Holocaust survivor. He is described by those who know him as a kind and generous person who is highly regarded by his family, friends and co-workers.

"When Mike turned 16, I was already out of law school, working as a prosecutor in the small town of Placerville in El Dorado County," said Gregory Haas, Michael's brother. "Almost every time I was in trial, Mike would love to take the Greyhound bus up to Sacramento, so he could come to court and watch. Whether I won or lost, Mike was always my biggest supporter, and I remember how all the attorneys and court staff came to know and like Mike for the good person he was."

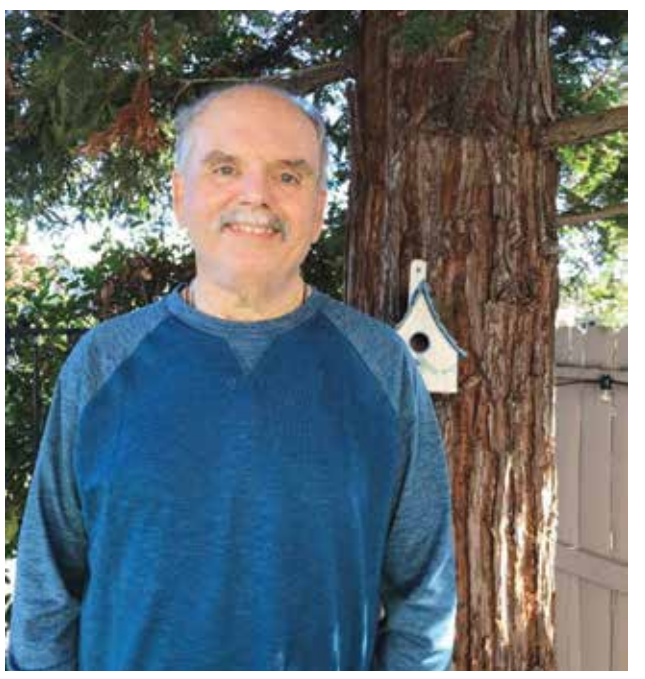
While support and well wishes are pouring in from the community, Michael's family is hoping fervently for a match to turn up.

"We are hoping that if it is somebody who's willing and able, we can become lifelong friends," said Heidi. "If we know who the donor is — because you can do this anonymously — we would want to meet this person and have a lifelong relationship with them."

For those out there considering undergoing testing for living organ donation, Michael urges them to remember the impact they could make on another person's life and family.

"If you have the ability to change someone's life forever, take it," he said. "Please consider becoming a living donor. Think about if you were put in (these) families' situations. It's very difficult to think you could lose a loved one when possibly there could be someone who could help save a life or give someone a second chance. Keep in mind as the donor, your liver will regenerate to the size needed for you to live a normal life."

For more information or to help get the word out, visit www.aliverformike.com.



Livermore resident Michael Haas is looking for a living donor to save his life. (Photo - Michael Haas)



Three Residents Evacuated During Fire on Driftwood Way

The Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department (LPFD) responded with the Alameda County Fire Department and the Pleasanton Police Department to a report of a fire on Driftwood Way in Pleasanton, Feb. 4.

Fire personnel arrived on scene approximately 6:48 a.m. and found heavy fire in the residence. Firefighters began fighting the fire from the exterior and then transitioned into the residence to extinguish the flames. Three residents were evacuated from the hazardous area to a safe location. The three residents were treated at scene for minor to moderate injuries prior to transport to the hospital by Falck ambulance. Driftwood Way and adjacent residential streets were closed during the fire, and some streets remain closed for the continued fire investigation. The fire was brought under control at approximately 7:45 a.m.

The cause of this fire has not yet been determined. A joint investigation with the Pleasanton Police Department, Alameda Arson Task Force, and the LPFD is currently being conducted. There were no reported injuries to firefighters. An early estimate of damage to the home and contents is $850,000.

At left: A fire that tore through a Pleasanton home on the morning of Feb. 4 displaced three residents. (Photo - LPFD)

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Former Dublin and Granada Student Athletes Make Mark at Las Positas College

By Matt Schwab

The Las Positas College men's basketball team has a hearty helping of former Dublin and Granada high school players.

The Hawks roster boasts ex-Matadors Jayden Johnston and Yatyn Anderson and ex-Gaels Malik Jackson and Jaden Saunders. All four have common goals of achieving success on the court and advancing to four-year programs. Las Positas coach James Giacomazzi is delighted to have them all on board, knowing the level of student-athlete and caliber of play in the East Bay Athletic League.

"They'll fit well with my up-tempo system, which has produced 100 total wins over the past five seasons," Giacomazzi said. "They are really good players and good pieces to our puzzle."

Las Positas players were energized on Feb. 4, the long-awaited first day of team conditioning in preparation, hopefully, for a modified season during COVID-19 times.

Clearly, the Dublin-Granada boys' basketball rivalry was turned up a notch in the 2019 to 2020 season. The teams split close games, with the highly regarded Gaels prevailing 53-48 in the second round of league play after being stunned by the Matadors 55-53 in the first round.

Johnston, who played a key role in the EBAL upset of the Gaels, feels right at home with players from both schools. The blend is just right.

"We both had really good talent," Johnston said of the two programs. "We all know each other and stuff. I went to elementary and middle school in Dublin, but I went to Granada for high school. Basically, I grew up with all the Dublin kids, so every time we played them, the games were like personal but fun too. Those are your friends, but you want to beat them, obviously."

Anderson, another high school standout, is highly familiar with the Las Positas program after redshirting last year.

Jackson describes bringing the Gaels and Matadors together this season as "kind of cool, especially because we kind of had a little rivalry last year."

The vibe at Las Positas has suited Jackson well.

"It's great so far. The coaches are good. (Giacomazzi) wants the best for the players and he's been working really hard trying to get us back in the gym," Jackson said. "We're starting conditioning, so that's great. Everything's been good so far. We're just trying to keep everything moving forward and hopefully get a season."

Saunders ran the point for Dublin last year as the straw that stirs the drink.

"It's always been fun playing with Jaden," Jackson said. "He's a very unselfish player; he wants the best for his teammates. He's a great leader too, so it been kind of good playing with Jaden."

The Gaels enjoyed a memorable 2019 to 2020 season that ended with a heartbreaking 59-58 loss to top seed Sheldon in the semifinals of the California Interscholastic Federation Northern California Open Division championship. Jackson and Saunders both had strong performances, combining for 21 points.

The Las Positas program has deep ties with Dublin High. The Hawks were formerly headed by the beloved Tony Costello, the late older brother of current Dublin coach Tom Costello. The Hawks' court was dedicated to Tony Costello in 2014.

Jackson worked his way up the roster at Dublin.

"It was a great experience," he said. "(Costello) coached me to get better. He motivated me to get better."

Las Positas players have had to prepare for 2021 in atypical ways. It's like their whole basketball world has been shaken up from shutdowns due to the pandemic.

"It's definitely taken a toll," said Johnston, a second-team All-EBAL guard, "Especially the times when we couldn't find any gym action. I'd have to go to the park every day. It was cold, and your hands are freezing and stuff, but it was like kind of a shock, because you're used to doing the same thing every day in high school.

Johnston was a part of a unified group of hard-working players at Granada under head coach Quaran Johnson. Giacomazzi has told Johnston the Hawks will be doing a high-tempo system and pressing the full game, which the players like.

"That's what I'm really good at, so hopefully, I can come in and make an impact on that," Johnston said.



Former Dublin player Jaden Saunders (No. 5) is seen here in a game against Dougherty Valley High in 2019. (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)

Parks District Seeks Volunteer for Commission

A volunteer is needed to serve on the Personnel Commission for the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District.

The commission advises the district on personnel policies, approves eligibility lists for the hiring of full-time staff, and hears appeals of disciplinary actions. The commission meets as needed, but normally not more than once per month. Volunteers are appointed to four-year terms.

To apply, or for more information, contact Administrative Services Manager Jeffrey Schneider at jschneider@larpd.org or 925-373-5716. Applications must be submitted by Friday, Feb. 26.

Foothill Finishes Strong at DECA Conference

More than 40 students from the Foothill High School DECA program placed in the Top 10 in Northern California Career Development Conference competitions, held virtually last month because of the COVID-19 pandemic, and will move on to the state DECA conference this March.

The Foothill students took home a total of 167 awards for individual and team performances.

Two DECA teams from Foothill also qualified for the virtual Stock Market Game and will compete at the International Career Development Conference in April.

DECA, formerly the Distributive Education Clubs of America, is a nonprofit student organization that focuses on career development in marketing, finance, hospitality, and management.

More than 500 high school students participated in the Northern California Career Development Conference, which tested their knowledge, preparation, and ability to respond to industry problems. In addition to written tests, the students were required to upload video roleplaying presentations.

Finishing first from Foothill were Angela Chen, Mirra Kannappan and Emma Lin, Hospitality and Tourism Operations Research; Chase Dinkel, Arianna Hall and Aly Tran, Independent Business Plan; Simone Pereira, International Business Plan; Shristi Rath, Hospitality and Tourism Professional Selling; Mirra Kannappan, Hotel and Lodging Management Series; and Kelsey Lem, Food Marketing Series.

Finishing second from Foothill were Kelsey Lem and Dayeon Jeong, Integrated Marketing Campaign-Service; Vishnu Nair and Ian Yoon, Franchise Business Plan; Amisha Jain, Principles of Business Management; Dayeon Jeong, Food Marketing Series; Emma Lin, Restaurant and Food Service Management Series; Simon Pereira, Apparel and Accessories Marketing Series; Anushri Roy, Retail Merchandising Series; and Anvi Vasa, Marketing Communications Series.

Finishing third were Kate Clifford, Anvi Vasa and Anvita Kodali, Integrated Marketing Campaign – Product; Jason Yu and Michael Zong, International Business Plan; Kate Clifford, Marketing Communications Series; Bryce Englert and Leo Wang, Entrepreneurship Team Decision Making; Ian Hsu, Principles of Marketing; Amisha Jain, Retail Merchandising Series; Vishnu Nair, Entrepreneurship Series; Kate Clifford, Anvi Vasa and Anvita Kodali , Integrated Marketing Campaign; Jason Yu and Michael Zong, International Business Plan; Kate Clifford, Marketing Communications Series; Bryce Englert and Leo Wang, Entrepreneurship Team Decision Making; Ian Hsu, Principles of Marketing; Amisha Jain, Retail Merchandising Series; Vishnu Nair, Entrepreneurship Series.

Another 21 students from Foothill also finished in the Top 10.

Prior to the conference, the Foothill DECA team of Vishnu Nair, Michael Zong, and Jason Yu finished 12th in the Western Region in the 2020-2021 Stock Market Game, while Dylan Chidambaram finished 17th. The top 25 teams in each region qualify to present their portfolios at the International Career Development Conference.

TRI-VALLEY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Now Until Saturday, March 6 Give the Gift of Swim

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

Thursday, Feb. 11 Tri-Valley Chamber Virtual Speed Networking

The Tri-Valley Chamber of Commerce will host a virtual speed-networking event at 2 p.m. The event is free, but registration is required. For more information or to register, visit https://bit.ly/3aAkF8n.

Thursday, Feb. 11 Career Planning for Students

Does the thought of picking a college major or deciding on a career have you worried? AAUW – LPD for High School Girls has answers, so join them for career planning for STEM and more, at 7 p.m. A panel of young professional women will share their varied paths to success, so you can listen to their very own 'Ted Talks,' and learn about their varied journeys, and follow up with a question-and-answer session. To reserve a seat at this event, register at https://bit.ly/2KsKBJY.

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Sunday, Feb. 14 East Bay SPCA Smooches for Pooches Drive-Thru

Join the East Bay SPCA on Valentine's Day from noon to 2 p.m. for a Smooches for Pooches drive-thru event. This is a free, drive-thru event. Donations are welcome to help support our Humane Education Programs. Drive-thru and enjoy sending some socially distanced love to our animals; candy and non-food treats available for kids; and a fun East Bay SPCA activity book to take home. Covid-19 safety guidelines will be drive-thru, car only event; no walk-ups; keep masks on in car; and all food items individually packaged for safety. The event will be hosted at both the Oakland and Dublin shelter locations, at 8323 Baldwin St., in Oakland, and 4651 Gleason Drive, in Dublin. For more information, visit https://bit.ly/3aOfEJr.

Tuesday, Feb. 16, Thursday, Feb. 18, Tuesday, Feb. 23 Become a Literacy Tutor

Can you see yourself helping an adult learn to read a medicine label, fill out a job application, write a letter, or study for the driver's license exam? If so, become a volunteer tutor, and help an adult improve their basic reading and writing skills and achieve their goals. No previous experience is necessary. the next three-part Tutor Training will take place from 10 a.m. to noon via Zoom. Participants must attend all three sessions.

Wednesdays, Feb. 17 to Wednesday, May 19 Coffee Hour for Seniors

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

Thursday, Feb. 18 Love Your Heart

Dublin seniors are invited to participate in a "Love Your Heart" drive-thru event from 12:30 to 1:15 p.m., at the Dublin Senior Center. City staff will be handing out a swag bag to seniors filled with information about heart health. Early action is important in loving your heart and protecting your life. Swag bags will be filled with information on cardiovascular health, including warning signs of heart attacks and strokes; tips to control blood pressure; and other free information and swag. Participants should enter the Senior Center driveway from Donohue Drive and drive past the front door of the facility. Do not arrive before 12:30 p.m. and stay in your car upon arrival. Drivers should pop open their car's trunk or roll down a window in the back seat so that staff can safely deliver the bag to the occupant. For more information, email seniorctr@dublin.ca.gov.

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

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

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

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

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

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

ONGOING WEEKLY EVENTS

Livermore Downtown Farmers Market Open for the Season

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

Pleasanton Farmers Market Open for the Season

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

Six Feet Apart Productions Shares Art From a Distance

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

Stress Relief Recovery International

A confidential, peer-led, self-help group for stress relief will take place Sundays, at 2 p.m., via conference call. Get guidance on practicing a method developed 80 years ago by psychiatrist Abraham A. Low to replace the 'defeatist babble of the brain, with secure thinking to help cope with the stressful events in our everyday lives. Call 925-515-604-9094, ID 192451547#.

VIRTUAL ONLINE EVENTS -AVAILABLE ANYTIME

Register for Virtual and Outdoor Activities

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

EBRPD Brings "Parks to People"

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

LARPD Now on YouTube

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

Music Together Tri-Valley Supports Early Childhood Development

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

Pacific Chamber Orchestra Offers Musical Podcast

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

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WATER

(Continued from first page)

during the Feb. 2 city council meeting.

Over the years, Pleasanton has participated in various water-usage studies with neighboring agencies. including Zone 7 Water Agency, Danville and San Ramon Services District and the City of Livermore. In 2019, they all supported joint funding for the water reuse study.

Now, with the elimination of Pleasanton's participation in this particular study, the council directed that the $300,000 designated for the capital improvement program (and earmarked for the potable water study) be used to treat hazardous per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in the city's currently out-of-operation Well 8.

Pleasanton resident Matt Maciel agreed.

"Toilet-to-tap just does not sound like something I'd ever want to drink, and I don't care what the science says about how clean it is, because there's always those unknowns," he said during public comment. "I would like you guys to find other alternatives to spending the money."

Councilmember Balch said the city should not back out of the agreement, arguing that science has proven the merits of alternative water usage sources. He said that by leaving the study, Pleasanton is losing a seat at the table and missing out on additional educational opportunities.

"I am surprised that we are not unanimously supporting the study to advance science, to advance knowledge," said Balch. "I am a little dumbfounded. That is not to say I support potable reuse in any way … (but) I wonder what the cost of ignorance is going to cost us."

Narum echoed Balch's sentiments.

"I am not in any way shape or form ready to sign up for potable reuse," said Narum. "(But) there is far more to this study than whether or not to support potable reuse. It's about making informed decisions. Why would we not honor our commitment to our regional parties?"

Mayor Karla Brown added that she believed the residents of Pleasanton, who have long struggled with the city's water quality, should be the priority.

"The thing that is unique about potable reuse is that we have local control over that particular water supply option."

"Pleasanton drinks water from the Delta," said Brown. "Why are we getting water that isn't as good as our neighbors? Why are we considering potable reuse? If you have a brand-new baby, do you want to feed that baby potable reuse water? I don't. Our residents want better quality drinking water … and quite honestly they deserve it."

For more information, visit www.pleasantonca.gov.

OBITUARIES

Matthew Bearden Jr.

March 31, 1949 – Jan. 26, 2021

Matthew Bearden Jr. was born March 31, 1949, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, to proud parents Matthew Bearden Sr. and Christine Angeline Benedetto-Bearden.

He was the oldest of seven children, Matthew, Portia, Mark, Edward, Ralph, Paul, and Thomas. He was endearing called "Butchie" by his close family and friends.

He graduated from Phoenixville High School in 1967 in Pennsylvania. He continued his education and attended a business college in Philadelphia. He served his country for four years in the United States Air Force, as a sergeant working in the Inventory Management Division. He had the opportunity to travel in Europe. He toured London, Paris and Morocco. In 1974, he was honorably discharged from the United States Air Force and relocated to California.

On June 26, 1977, Matthew Bearden, Jr. married the love of his life, Annette Marie Donnell-Bearden, a marriage and bond that would last for more than 43 years. To this union, two sons were born - Matthew III and Jeffrey David. They will always cherish the memories of their father, who instilled the values of integrity, love of God, and wisdom.

He loved his family, and they loved him even more. Matthew Bearden, Jr. will be



best remembered for being a giving person, he had such a big heart.

In 1976, he was employed with Safeway Inc. Some of the department's he held positions in were human resources, accounting and cash management as a financial analyst. He retired from Safeway Inc. in 2014, after 38 years of loyal and faithful service.

Matthew Bearden, Jr. and his wife enjoyed vacations of cruising, visiting family, and attending concerts. Cruise designations included Alaska, Hawaii, Baja California, Caribbean Islands, Spain, Portugal, Italy, and even through the Strait of Gibraltar. Matthew enjoyed many genres of music and he attended jazz concerts, classical performances at Davis Symphony Hall, and Opera recitals at the San Francisco Memorial Opera House. Some of his favorite performers were Leontyne Price, Jesse Norman. He also enjoyed Diana Ross, Patti LaBelle and Barbara Streisand.

In March 1996, Matthew and Annette joined the St. Matthews Baptist Church in Livermore, where he eventually became finance chairman for the church. This role kept him busy. His goal was to assist the pastor and increasing the church fiscal stability. Today, he would shout "Thank you Lord, goal accomplished!"

Matthew Bearden, Jr. departed of life on Jan. 26, 2021, and he will be greatly missed by many. He was preceded in death by his parents, Matthew and Christina Bearden, Sr., his sister, Portia Ramsey; and his father-in-law, Sherman Donnell Sr. He leaves to cherish his loving memory his beloved wife of more than 43 years, Annette M. Bearden; his sons, Matthew Bearden, III and Jeffrey David Bearden, all of Pleasanton; his five brothers, Mark Bearden of Philadelphia, Edward (Doreen) Bearden of Phoenixville, Pennsylvania; Ralph (Cynthia) Beardon of Phoenixville, Pennsylvania; Paul (Vanessa) Bearden of Landenberg, Pennsylvania; and Thomas (Sharon) Bearden of Phoenixville, Pennsylvania; his mother-in-law, Jeanette Donnell; sisters-in-law, Narvella Berthia, Linda Abney, and Carolyn Donnell; as well as a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, friends, and church family

Richard John Epp

Dec. 30, 1934 – Jan. 15, 2021

Richard "Dick" John Epp, age 86, passed away peacefully in El Paso, Texas on Jan. 15, 2021.

He is survived by his wife, Lindy Epp, five children, 12 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Born in Buffalo, New York, he joined the Air Force as a young man, serving as a weather observer, crew chief and pilot, which inspired in him his love of travel and sense of adventure, the joy in experiencing new places and opportunities. Dad was an engineer - mechanical, construction, safety and practical. No matter how many times he moved, each place became home.

He instilled in his children this love of life, travel and adventure. He viewed the world optimistically, always had a ready smile and good attitude, and even in tough times, his response was just a shrug and smile. A devout Catholic, he was very active in the church, and a 4th Degree Knight of Columbus. His outlook and approach to life was an inspiration to all who knew him.

Rest in perfect peace, Dad! You will always be remembered with love and fondness!

Nelson Fletcher

April 13, 1923 – Jan. 27, 2021

Carlton Nelson Fletcher, a long-time resident of Livermore, died peacefully on Wednesday, Jan. 27, 2021, at the age of 97.

Known as Nelson or Nels, he is survived by his son, Robert Nelson Fletcher; his wife, Tish Fletcher; his daughter-in-law, Linda Fletcher; his grand-daughter and her husband, Betsy and Brett Kelly, and their children Rose (age 5) and Fergus (age 7). He was preceded in death by his wife of 65 years, Betty Fletcher; and his son, Richard Fletcher.

Nels was born in Colusa, California, on April 13, 1923, to his parents, Dwight and Elizabeth Fletcher. He went to grade school in Oakland before moving to Livermore at the age of 10. He graduated from Livermore High School in 1940, where he played football and baseball. After high school, Nels attended San Jose State College.

In 1942, he enlisted in the Navy, where he trained as a fighter pilot. Following flight school, he opted for the Marine Corps and piloted Corsairs off of air craft carriers. Recalled to the Korean War, he was one of the first to fly helicopters, and flew many nighttime missions to rescue injured servicemen. For his actions, he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross.

Between the wars, Nels





met his future wife, Betty Sills, while attending San Jose State. Nels and Betty were married in 1948 and had two sons, Rich and Rob, who were only 18 months apart.

Growing up on College Avenue next to the county firehouse, the boys were either hanging out at the firehouse or playing in Mocho Creek.

In the '50s. Nels started and grew his own successful business, C.N. Fletcher Co., as a general contractor and built many custom houses in and around Livermore. In the mid-60s, he opened a sporting goods store in downtown Livermore, known as the Team Shop and later as Fletcher's Team and Ski. The store had a loyal following and employed many local youths over the years.

His experience in the retail business created many long-lasting friendships and provided lots of fond memories for Nels.

In later life, Nels enjoyed traveling around the world with Betty and hosting gatherings at home. Nelson and Betty were both avid golfers took frequent golfing excursions with friends. One of his most impressive talents was in rose gardening. In his yard, he grew many gorgeous varieties and those of us who were lucky always left the Fletcher home with a bouquet.

Nelson was warm and straightforward, fun to talk to and good at everything he set his mind to. He was a devoted and loving husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather. His children and grandchildren were the recipients of unwavering support. Many of us who were impacted by his life will go on remembering him with great love and respect.

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, no services are planned. Rest in peace, Nels.

Bruce Walter Shore

Feb. 27, 1935 – Jan. 9, 2021

Dr. Bruce Walter Shore passed away in his sleep on Jan. 9, at Kaiser Hospital in Walnut Creek, surrounded by family.

Bruce was born Feb. 27 1935, in Visalia, and graduated from East Bakersfield High School in 1952. He graduated from the College of the Pacific in 1956 and earned a Ph.D. from M.I.T. in 1960 with a thesis in nuclear chemistry. Dr. Shore worked at Lawrence Livermore Laboratory from 1971 until his official retirement in 2001. Before and during this period he also served on the faculty of Harvard College Observatory, Kansas State University, and Imperial College in London.

In 1997, he was awarded an Alexander von Humboldt prize and worked for a year at Technical University of Kaiserslautern in Germany. He returned there or to Technical University of Darmstadt an-



nually through 2019 to present papers and participate in seminars in quantum optics. He was a Fellow of the American Physical Society and the Optical Society of America. He authored numerous scientific papers and six books in his field, the most recent of which, "Our Changing Views on Photons," was published in 2020.

Bruce founded the M.I.T. water polo team and was a nationally ranked swimmer in his age group in his 40s. He was a gifted draftsman and cartoonist, self-penning a Christmas card in 1956 which would become a tradition lasting the next 64 years. He was passionate banjo player throughout his life. Locally, he was active in Livermore Rotary.

Most of all, Bruce treasured visiting with friends and family, particularly at the family cabin over plates of spaghetti and glasses of fine ale. He was an avid traveler and storyteller with an insatiable curiosity. He will be missed very much by all who knew him.

He is survived by his wife, Randi; children, Tim, Hilary, Hans, Leif, and Derek; brother, Dick; sister, Betty; and nine grandchildren, with another on the way.

A celebration of Bruce's life will be held in Livermore when circumstances permit. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to University of the Pacific, Attn: Advancement Services, 3601 Pacific Avenue, Stockton, CA, 95211.

Eliza Brown Struthers

Nov. 22, 1952 – Dec. 28, 2020

Eliza Brown Struthers, age 68, raised in Livermore, passed away peacefully on Dec. 28, 2020, at her care home in Walnut Creek, California.

A memorial service will be held at a future date at Grace Cathedral in San Francisco, where she will be interred along with her predeceased parents, Athalia "Thale" Dulebohn Struthers and William "Bill" Struthers, who died in 1993 and 2000, respectively.

Eliza, known to family and friends as "Liza," was born in San Francisco on Nov. 22, 1952. She attended primary and secondary schools in Livermore along with her five siblings and where her father practiced law and her mother ran the family household and had her weaving studio.

Liza graduated from the University of California in Davis, California, in 1975, with a degree in German and briefly pursued graduate degrees in linguistics and speech and language pathology. She excelled as a pianist and taught lessons and tuned pianos. Liza was fluent in German and loved learning languages, including Turkish.

In 1982, while apprenticing to be an electrician, Liza suffered a tragic life-changing car accident, suffering serious traumatic brain injury in a head-on freeway collision caused by a wrong-way driver. After extended rehabilitation services, she was able to drive again. Although she never worked, she volunteered in



early childhood classrooms reading to children and took classes to be a teacher's assistant.

She lived in Santa Cruz, California, where she met and married James "Jim" Finta, her local letter carrier, in 1995. Liza and Jim resided in Eureka, California and later in Hilo, Hawaii, near her step-sister, Julie Rounds Lee, during their 25-year partnership. Liza moved back to California in 2017 due to health issues.

Throughout her life, Liza loved playing classical music on the piano, spending time with her numerous cats, traveling to be with family and friends, going to the beach, and more recently, attending church and playing the organ at St. Theresa Catholic Church in Mountain View, Hawaii.

Eliza is survived by her step-mother, Beverley Rounds Struthers of Pleasanton; her five siblings, Charlene Polan (Jonathan Polan) of New York, Polly Struthers (Peter Davidow) of North Grafton, Massechusetts, Mitchell Struthers (Anne Struthers) of Alamo, California, John Struthers (Jean Struthers) of Sacramento, California, and Mary Pan (Stephen Pan) of South San Francisco; her step-sister, Julie Rounds Lee of Mountain View, Hawaii; Jim Finta, her life partner of Hilo, Hawaii; her step-son, Brett Finta of Eureka, California; her step-daughter, Genessa Arias of Atlanta, Georgia; five nephews, Sam Polan, Michael Polan, Jackson Davidow, Eli Davidow, and Todd Struthers; five nieces, Emlyn Struthers, Hillary Struthers, Jane Struthers, Julianna Struthers, and Haley Pan; her aunt, Molly Jackson of Dana Point, California; and her uncle, The Rev. Richard G. Johns of West Vancouver, B.C.

Honoring Liza's love of music, The Eliza Struthers Memorial Church Organ Fund has been established at her parish in Hawaii, St. Theresa Catholic Church, to purchase a new organ or to upgrade the existing church organ. Online donations may be made at www.stcmv.org or mailed to P.O. Box 37, Mountain View, Hawaii, 96771. Donations of any size are greatly appreciated.

Liza's family wishes to extend their sincere thanks to Diablo Assisted Living I of Walnut Creek, especially to Jill Bragg, Cheisa and John Verdaguer, Aileen Tica, and all the caretakers; ACE Home Health and Hospice of Orinda, California, especially Ninia Villanueva, RN, CHPN; and Toben Torres of Functional Fitness of Antioch, California.

Nathan Riggin

May 15, 1970 – Nov. 23, 2020

Nathan Riggin, 50, beloved son of Lance (dec.) and Ruth Riggin, of Livermore, passed away in Santa Cruz, California, on Nov. 23, 2020.

He leaves behind his brother, Mitch (Korina) Riggin of San Pedro, California, and his sister Rachel Riggin (aka RayRay) of San Francisco. Nathan's grandparents were Carl and Treva Riggin of Muncie, Indiana, and Max and June Smith of Brook, Indiana. He leaves behind many loving cousins, aunts and uncles, most in the Indiana area.

Nathan graduated from Del Valle High School in Danville, California, and attended Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana. Nathan was a builder, fixer, inveterate tinkerer, someone who could sculpt something unique out of someone else's discards.



He helped remodel countless houses and was a staunch proponent of the tiny home movement. He always had to have a project going - building the next biggest, best boom box, building bikes from the frame up, foraging for each piece.

He was bright, funny, inquisitive, passionate and vocal about the injustices and inequities he saw in the world. He was quick to give a hug or enthusiastic dance. Tragically, like too many before him, Nathan succumbed to drug addiction, despite our many attempts to change the trajectory. Nathan was truly a gentle soul. We are heartbroken, and we mourn the creative man he was and what could have been.

Burial was officiated by Rev. Kim Risedorph of San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church of Alamo, California, and Rev. Linda Dew-Hiersoux of The Table United Methodist Church of Sacramento, California. Thank you, dear ladies!

Arrangements were handled by Wilson and Krazter Chapel of San Ramon Valley, Danville, California. A celebration and memorial will be held at a later date at San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church in Alamo, California.

Bay Area Council Offers Update on Transbay Rail

By Larry Altman

REGIONAL — A group of transportation officials on Thursday touted a massive rail project plan that would add a crossing from Oakland to San Francisco, add lines to allow commuting throughout Northern California, create 377,000 jobs and provide a $145 billion boost to the economy.

The project, which the Capitol Corridor Joint Powers Authority and San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit revealed Jan. 27, is in its opening stages with an estimated completion by 2040. The proposed plan, which requires likely years of community meetings, design, funding and environmental reports before any construction could begin, would add a rail link across the San Francisco Bay and tie 21 counties in the Northern California "mega-region" together.

Proponents believe a rail system similar to those in cities like London, Shanghai, New York City and Washington D.C., would bring existing commuter lines together and make traveling between Oakland, San Jose, San Francisco, Sacramento and the San Joaquin Valley more amenable to Northern Californians spreading out in search of affordable housing.

"It's an exciting time," said BART's general manager Bob Powers during an hour-long Feb. 4 webinar. "We need to start talking about this now … We are all going to take this thing and move it forward and hand it off to the next generation."

The proposal, called Link21, would provide better service and reliability, reduce greenhouse gas emissions by taking cars off the road, connect major economic and education and destinations, and cope with a population expected to rise from 12 to 16 million by 2050.

California Secretary of Transportation David Kim called the plan a "game changer" for Northern California.

"We think of it as a major investment that will literally transform the entire mega-regional transportation system," Kim said. "If we can do all of these things, we're going to have a fully integrated network that spans the Bay, and that would bring about much better travel options. It would save people time. And, very importantly, it would provide access to more jobs."

Organized by the Bay Area Council, the webinar, "Bay Area Impact: The Mega-Regional Case for a New Transbay Rail Crossing," focused on more than just a Bay Area bridge. Camille Tsao, an official with the Capitol Corridor authority, said the 21 Northern California counties together created the fifth largest "mega-regional" economy in the United States.

"It is critical that we have an efficient transportation system to keep it functioning well," Tsao said. "The health of our economy, access to housing and job opportunities, our quality of life and meeting air quality and public health goals, absolutely depend on our ability to move people and goods effectively.

"We already have great existing rail services that serve people from all around the mega-region, but there is great potential to serve a lot more people by improving the rail network."

The program did not address funding for the billions of dollars such a system would require, land acquisition or where lines might cross through neighborhoods.

According to plans revealed on BART's website, funding would come from Measure RR and Measure 3. Measure RR is a $3.5 billion bond measure passed by voters in Alameda, Contra Costa and San Francisco counties in 2016. Measure 3 was passed by voters in Alameda and eight other counties in 2018 to finance transit improvements with a toll increase on seven state-owned bridges.

Sadie Graham, BART program manager, said the Link21 group is committed to advancing equity as it promotes and potentially implements the project. Graham acknowledged that large infrastructure projects often have disparate negative impacts on marginalized communities, including people of color, non-English speaking residents, and people with low income.

"We're trying to ensure that equity is a principle that will be integrated into the process and the outcomes of this project," Graham said.

Powers said the hope is a Northern California rail network would become commuters' first choice over driving, with stations close for riding bikes and walking, and with reasonable commute times.

"The rail network needs to be accessible to all and it needs to be affordable to all," Powers said.

Also taking part in the discussion were Jim Wunderman, CEO of the Bay Area Council; Barry Broome, president and CEO of the Greater Sacramento Economic Council; Barbara Leslie, president and CEO of the Oakland Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce; and Rob Padgette, managing director of Capitol Corridor.

The discussion is available for viewing at http://bit.ly/Indy_Transbay.

MENDELSOHN

(Continued from first page)

set up a cancer center there before moving to Livermore.

He joined the national laboratory at a time when biology was undergoing a transition from the painstaking examination of microscope slides to the development of instruments that measure features of thousands of cells per second.

Much of the development of these high speed systems took place at LLNL in the 1970s under Mendelsohn's leadership. Colleagues credited the capabilities of the systems, and Mendelsohn's personal eloquence, with persuading the U.S. government that scientists could and should map the human genome — the complete set of genetic instructions in human cells.

By the late 1980s, LLNL and its fellow national laboratories at Los Alamos and Oak Ridge were creating the world's most precise maps of the gene-carrying concentrations of genetic material called chromosomes, according to Tom Slezak, a computer scientist who worked with Mendelsohn for many years.

'Like all great scientists…'

In its tribute to Mendelsohn, the journal Cytometry wrote, "Like all great scientists, Mort was driven by curiosity and the refusal to accept the status quo."

His approach to science emphasized the demand for quantitative information, "applying the tools of statistics and mathematical modeling to data extracted from individual cells."

Former colleagues remembered him as a demanding but always constructive leader.

Bart Gledhill recalled Mendelsohn's rare ability to probe someone's argument — to "dig until he could see the logic" — without causing offense.

Gledhill was part of the original group from the University of Pennsylvania, a research veterinarian. At LLNL, he became a senior manager in Mendelsohn's program.

Another member of the Penn group, Dan Moore, a statistician, remembers that Mendelsohn "made everyone feel important," fostering an atmosphere of cooperation and support rather than competition.

A third member of the Penn group who moved to LLNL, Brian Mayall, recalled both the "congenial" atmosphere of Mendelsohn's research program and its wide range of scientific disciplines.

"People visiting from abroad were really delighted and at the same time puzzled at how well we had been able to create that environment and collegial atmosphere, which was very different from the usual academic environment," he said.

Mayall was an LLNL group leader under Mendelsohn, a physician who later transferred to the University of California, San Francisco as a professor. He was founding editor of Cytometry and organized the journal's recent tribute.

In addition to medicine, mathematics and veterinary science, the group incorporated expertise in physics, engineering, computer science, marine biology, environmental science and more.

'Wonderful mentor'

Joe Gray, a physicist, regarded Mendelsohn as a "wonderful mentor." After nearly 20 years at LLNL, Gray has had a distinguished career in biomedical research at UC-San Francisco, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, and now the Oregon Health Sciences University in Portland.

Mendelsohn "created a multidisciplinary environment where people from a variety of walks of life could work together in a supportive way to tackle problems too big for one person to go after," Gray said.

"He brought all these people together in a very rich milieu that allowed progress to be made on important problems of the time.

"He was tough in the sense of demanding scientific rigor, but he was incredibly supportive as a mentor and uncharacteristically generous. He stayed out of the way when it came time for assigning credit … he wanted his people to get credit, wasn't interested in the limelight himself. That's pretty rare."

To still another of his colleagues with a distinguished career, Elbert Branscomb, Mendelsohn had a "sense of sacredness" in undertaking biomedical research.

He meant by this that Mendelsohn was very conscious of spending public money and felt he had to produce genuine value for it. "He (carried out research programs) carefully and respectfully, not just putting up numbers."

Branscomb later became an associate director at LLNL and head of the U.S. Department of Energy's Joint Genome Institute.

The move to Livermore gave the Pennsylvania team, and the colleagues they attracted to their programs, resources not readily available in a university setting.

'Incredible panorama'

Gledhill, the research veterinarian, said working at a big national laboratory "meant opening an incredible panorama of researchers and research tools and skills that were not available anywhere else."

Gray commented, "People (at LLNL) with measurement technologies could work with people interested in biological problems, could work with people who were math oriented, could work with people who had a chemistry background."

Because of his renown in cell science, Mendelsohn was chosen as vice chair of the joint U.S.-Japanese Radiation Effects Research Foundation, which studied survivors of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki atomic bombings for health effects.

He moved to Japan for several years as part of this responsibility. The Japanese government recognized his contributions by awarding him the Third Order of the Sacred Treasure, one of that country's highest civilian awards.

Friends and neighbors remembered Mendelsohn as an excellent tennis player. He was musical as well. He played the flute, and a daughter recalls live chamber groups performing in the house while she was growing up in Pennsylvania.

A Livermore resident, he served on the board of Del Valle Fine Arts and the founding board of Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center.

HOUSING

(Continued from first page)

hood commercial designation to public/semi-public. The change complies with the general plan and keeps the property consistent with its planned use as a high school site. The high school site sits on four separate parcels totaling just over 23-acres.

"We're getting ready to get into a housing element planning process for this RHNA cycle, and we have to identify additional sites," said Vice Mayor Shawn Kumagai. "For Emerald High School, it's a no brainer. We have to change the land-use designation there for them — they are not in the business of creating commercial space; that's a given. The other sites will give the landowners additional flexibility to bring forth proposals."

Mayor Melissa Hernandez supported the move, but added the designations do not give free reign to construction.

"We will see all of these projects as they come forward," said Hernandez. "We are not saying we are giving developers the right to do whatever they want; they still have to bring it back to us."

City staff will present the council with an initial report regarding the sites next month. The report will highlight means for determining associated impacts, conducting the appropriate level of environmental review and preparing analysis of the projects.

"One way or another we have to build affordable housing," said Councilmember Jean Josey. "And I am very supportive of this item to give us an option to put affordable housing on these parcels."

For more information, visit www.dublin.ca.gov.

AIRPORT

(Continued from first page)

facilities, fuel farm, self-service aircraft fueling facility, corporate hangars, parking spaces and box/t-hangars. The proposed development will provide enhanced aeronautical services at the airport and generate revenues to the Airport Enterprise Fund. The development will house their corporate offices for 30-40 employees and provide space for six KaiserAir corporate aircraft.

Part of KaiserAir's proposal also included a subsequent development plan that could include the construction of additional corporate and t-hangars. These other projects would be brought back to the Airport Commission for review prior to construction.

Pleasanton resident Joe Mattison uses the Livermore airport as a pilot and flight instructor.

"I am a big supporter of the airport. I feel like the airport itself has been good for the community and a lot of businesses, attracting corporations to set up shop in the Tri-Valley area, because that brings jobs and tax revenue," Mattison said. "But something as big as Kaiser with these 737s, I don't think that's the direction that I want the airport to go."

He expressed concerns about noise and flight schedules, noting the size and scope of the Livermore airport to be perfect at present. As a former San Jose resident, he said he was well aware of how large airplanes flying overhead can impact a city. And as a Pleasanton resident whose home is near the airport, he was additionally concerned that the choices of the Livermore officials would impact others in the Tri-Valley.

"I think the airport is a great thing for the community, but I don't want it to outgrow itself," he said.

KaiserAir currently operates an airline with three 737s based at the Oakland International Airport where it runs weekly flights to Hawaii. It is licensed by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) as a regularly scheduled air carrier under what is known as a Part 121 Certificate. The company operates three 737s, and two business jets — a Cessna Citation 525 and a Gulfstream IV, according to FAA records.

Rob Guerra, KaiserAir's senior vice president and chief pilot, said the flights to Kona, Hawaii would continue to operate out of Oakland.

Guerra, a Pleasanton resident, who grew up in the Tri-Valley and raised his own family here, learned to fly at the Livermore airport. He leases a small hangar at the city-owned airport for his personal airplane. He noted the company's plan would build additional medium sized hangars in the early phases, which recognizes a current need at the airport, where hangar space is hard to come by. Current wait lists for box hangars can be as long as 10 years or more. The proposed development also fits within Livermore's long-term plans for the airfield.

While he recognizes concern over the potential for increased noise, Guerra said the 737s in KaiserAir's fleet are operated below the FAA's modern Stage 4 noise standards, which are considerably quieter than previous generation jets that once frequented the airport and more stringent than current federal standards for business jets.

"Big airplanes don't have to be noisy," he said.

The company intends to adhere to Livermore's Voluntary Restraint from Night Flying Policy, Guerra said. The operative word in that policy is "voluntary," however, as federal law prohibits the city from restricting or regulating airport access to any kind, type or class of aircraft that can safely use the airport.

In its operations in and out of San Jose, including numerous after-hours landings, KaiserAir received no noise violations or complaints, and did not set off any noise monitors during the last two years, Guerra said. San Jose International Airport has stringent noise-based curfew. KaiserAir's 737-500 can only operate during curfew if it can operate below 89 decibels. Guerra said his company equipped the jet with costly specialized equipment to reduce the noise it generates well below that threshold.

Before submitting the airport development proposal for the Livermore airport, Guerra said fully loaded 737s flew into Livermore and were tested for noise under deliberately louder than normal conditions. No noise complaints were received, according to Decoteau.

Decibel readings were taken east and west of the airport in residential areas; both readings were in the low 80s, which is comparable to the noise level of current operations, Decoteau said.

KaiserAir's proposed business/development plan, which includes an estimated $15 million to $18 million investment, involves relocation of the company's corporate offices from Oakland International Airport, along with basing some of their existing corporate fleet at LVK. KaiserAir proposes to bring in its existing customer base built on 74 years of service in the industry. The company currently has two FBO locations — one at Oakland International Airport and the other at Sonoma County Airport. KaiserAir sells approximately 4 million gallons of aviation fuel on an annual basis from these two locations.

Based upon revenue projections, the ground lease would net the Airport Enterprise Fund approximately $286,944 per year. Over the term of a 45-year lease (35-years with two five-year options), an estimated net revenue of $12,912,480 is anticipated. In addition, fuel flowage fees — a charge for every gallon of fuel pumped — would result in over $100,000 additional revenue to the airport fund per year. The development would also increase enterprise fund revenues further through landing fees. The additional revenue would be used to enhance and improve airport facilities.

KaiserAir must comply with LVK's Minimum Standards for FBOs and will conform with applicable Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) legal requirements related to the development and operation of the facility. Additionally, the project is subject to required state and federal environmental compliance review, clearance and approval. An update of the Airport Layout Plan is also required.

The City of Livermore Community Development Department and Planning Commission will review the project prior to a vote by the City Council.

The next Livermore Airport Commission meeting is set for Monday, March 15, at 6:30 p.m. For more information, visit the Commission's city webpage at http://bit.ly/Indy_AirportCommission.

SHERIFF'S

(Continued from first page)

and health hazard." This fine included a violation of failing to "include training and instruction for employees within their written (injury and illness prevention program) whenever new substances, processes, procedures or equipment are introduced to the workplace and represent a new hazard."

- "Include written procedures and schedules within their respiratory protection program for cleaning, disinfecting, storing, inspecting, repairing discarding and otherwise maintaining respirators."
- "Ensure that employees with occupational exposure to pathogens such as SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, assigned to use a filtering facepiece respirator, passes a fit test annually."

Three of the violations must be corrected by March. One was corrected during the inspection.

Following Rocha's death, ACSO issued a statement saying the 25-year department veteran died "from complications due to COVID-19." Rocha's wife also reportedly contracted the virus, but recovered. Rocha worked at the courthouse and in the jail. He was 56.

"He put up a courageous fight to the end and will never be forgotten," ASCO wrote in its statement. "May he rest in eternal peace."

In an Aug. 4 social-media post, the department shared photos from Rocha's funeral, where he was buried with full law enforcement honors while adhering to COVID-19 restrictions.

California Attorney General Xavier Becerra issued a Tweet that day encouraging all of California to pause and remember the deputy.

It was unclear if the investigation was also related to the death of technician Valerie Leon. She died at a Modesto hospital the day after Rocha of COVID-19. Leon worked in a courthouse, but was a friend of Rocha.

Scouts from Leo Croce Elementary in Livermore Create Kindness Rock Garden

Nine sixth-graders at Leo Croce Elementary in Livermore, members of Girl Scout Troop 30521, have earned their Bronze Award by finishing a "Kindness Rock Garden" at the school in memory of former Livermore school superintendent Leo Croce.

The girls -- Allie Halfon, Hailee Murray, Carolyn Siemens, Elizabeth Siemens, Finley Syth, Adriana Mosby, Sarah Theberge, Taya Trinta, and Kaitlyn Zoerhoff – began planning the project last year and were about to start actual work on the garden when the state issued a stay-at-home order because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

When the state eased the restrictions, the girls worked in shifts, following Alameda County COVID-19 health guidelines, to complete the low-maintenance garden. After working with the Livermore Joint United School District to determine where to place the garden, they involved other students and their families in painting the rocks, solicited donations from local companies for supplies, and physically built the garden.

"The hope is that the garden will help spread kindness and be a beautiful sight for those who come on campus," said Kirsten Zoerhoff, a Girl Scout leader whose daughter was one of the students.

"Mr. Croce was a big part of Leo Croce Elementary and he would often come to campus to participate in and watch many of the school's activities.," Zoerhoff said. "The Livermore school district adopted the "Choose Love at School" program and a Kindness Rock Garden seemed like a good fit."

The Bronze Award is the highest honor a Girl Scout Junior can earn.

The nine students at Leo Croce Elementary were Girl Scout Juniors when they began the project and became Girl Scout Cadettes when they began sixth grade. But because of the pandemic, the Girl Scouts extended the time for last year's Juniors to complete their Bronze Award projects until October 2021.

Another Rodeo Year Cancelled Due to COVID

The 2021 Livermore Rodeo has been cancelled.

It's the second consecutive year the legacy week-long event was called off due to safety concerns amid the COVID-19 pandemic. The cancellation was announced on the Livermore Rodeo's Facebook page early Wednesday.

"It is with sadness that we report the cancellation of the 2021 Livermore Rodeo. The decision to cancel this year's event was thoroughly discussed and voted on by your elected Board of Directors. This decision was based on the COVID-19 pandemic currently impacting the world," wrote Livermore Stockmen's Rodeo Association President Sheila Fagliano in a letter to the community. For the complete letter: www.livermorerodeo.com/covid19. "Every news channel, internet article, and media print has completely informed all of us regarding the dangers of this pandemic. Social distancing, isolation, hand washing and preventing large gatherings have been the most advised preventative method available to overcome this virus."

The Rodeo's board of directors is working to develop another western event that can be safely conducted with social distancing as required by the Alameda County health department order, Fagliano wrote. "As you can imagine, this is an active and moving target."

Tickets for the June 2022 Livermore Rodeo go on sale on April 1, 2022.



For a second year in a row, officials decided to cancel the Livermore Rodeo. Tickets for the 2022 season will go on sale April 2022. (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)

Livermore's Boomers Reopens to the Public

Boomers, a family entertainment center in Livermore, reopened last week after being closed for almost 11 months because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In announcing the reopening, Boomers said it has adapted its operations to meet California's pandemic-driven safety guidelines, including reduced capacity to ensure social distancing.

In addition, all customers and staff will have their temperature checked before entering the park and employees will wear protective facemasks. Rides, restrooms, and other high-touch areas will be cleaned throughout the day.

Boomers said it would reopen its miniature golf, go-karts, climbing wall and outdoor dining areas.

"We are providing our guests with a much-needed day of fun," said Boomers Parks CEO Tim Murphy. "We know that means instilling confidence that we are going above and beyond to provide a clean, safe place for fun."

Boomers operates five family entertainment centers in California. For information and operating hours for Boomers in Livermore, go to boomersparks.com/livermore/.

LEGAL NOTICES/CLASSIFIEDS

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LEGAL NOTICES

FOR INFORMATION PLACING LEGAL NOTICES Call 925-243-8000

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 575510

The following person(s) doing business as: H&S Food Service LLC DBA Discount Liquors, 212 S L Street, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): H&S Food Service LLC, 1610 2nd Street, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 11/1/2020. Signature of Registrant/s/: Harminder Pal Singh Uppal, CEO/President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 29, 2020. Expires December 29, 2025. The Independent Legal No. 4812. Published January 21, 28, February 4, 11, 2021.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 575722

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

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 575726

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Sustain Forever 2. N2CA Solutions, 5582 Maybeck Ln, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Sustain Forver Inc., 5582 Maybeck Ln, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Adesh Kumar. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 13, 2021. Expires January 13, 2026. The Independent Legal No. 4814. Published January 28, February 4, 11, 18, 2021.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 575936

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

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 576191

The following person(s) doing business as: Manam Naturals, 1282 Gusty Loop, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Sathya Poosappan, 1282 Gusty Loop, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Sathya Poosappan, Individual Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 29, 2021. Expires January 29, 2026. The Independent Legal No. 4816. Published February 11, 18, 25, March 4, 2021.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 576043

The following person(s) doing business as: Persistent Athletics, 2970 Cabrillo Avenue, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Krystal Hill, 2970 Cabrillo Avenue, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Krystal Hill, Individual Owner/Sole Proprietor. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 26, 2021. Expires January 26, 2026. The Independent Legal No. 4817. Published February 11, 18, 25, March 4, 2021.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 575758

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

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 575759

The following person(s) doing business as: Vennergi Consulting, 1442 Allman St., Oakland, CA 94602, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): James Brett Stineman, 1442 Allman St. Oakland, CA 94602. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: James Brett Stineman, Principal. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 14, 2021. Expires January 14, 2026. The Independent Legal No. 4819. Published February 11, 18, 25, March 4, 2021.

CLASSIFIEDS

ANIMALS

2) CATS/ DOGS

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Tri-Valley Animal Rescue

Adopt a new best friend TVAR Tri-Valley Animal Rescue

Our current weekly adoption events include:

Saturdays - Dogs & Puppies at Farmer's Market in Pleasanton. The location is Delucchi Park, 4501 First St. Hours: 10:00am to 1:00pm.

Saturdays & Sundays - Kittens at Dublin PetSmart, 6960 Amador Plaza Rd. Hours: 11am to 3pm.

Visit our website, WWW.TVAR.ORG, to see adoptable animals, volunteer opportunities, and how to donate.

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

FERAL CAT FOUNDATION

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

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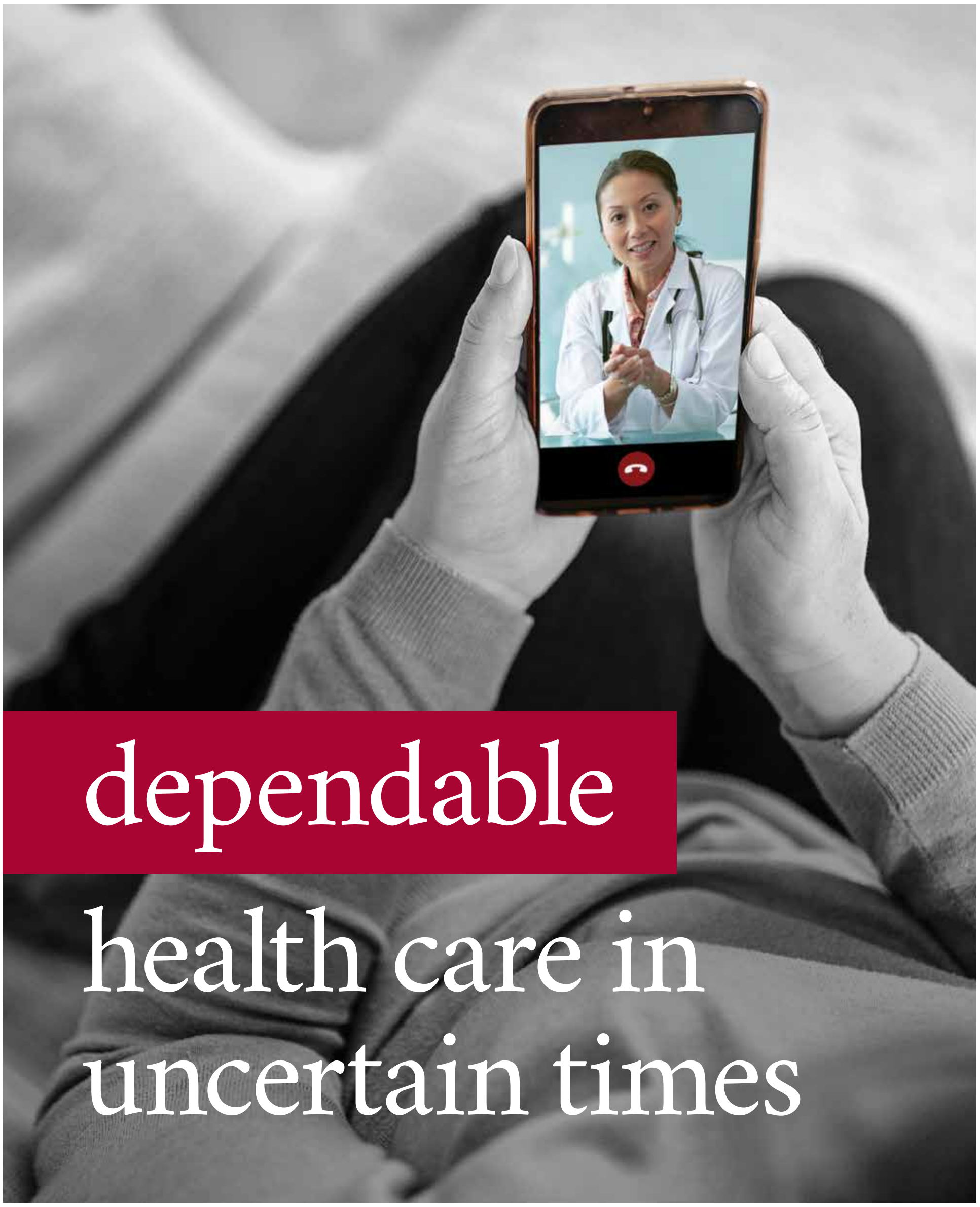
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