

Supervisors Greenlight Buildings in Wine Country

By Larry Altman

LIVERMORE — The Alameda County Board of Supervisors last week voted to allow South Livermore Valley winery operators to erect larger agricultural buildings on their land, a decision supporters hope will help the local industry prosper and keep open space as farmland.

Acting as the county's Community Development Agency, the board voted 4-0 Dec. 15 to alter the East County Area Plan to give winery operators more space on their land to erect the buildings, which must be used to house farm implements and horticultural products.

Laura Mercier, executive director of the Tri-Valley Conservancy, called the decision vital to the success of the South Livermore Valley area agricultural wine economy.

"It will facilitate commercial agriculture businesses to succeed," Mercier said in an interview.

Mercier, whose organization works to protect agricultural land and open space in the Tri-Valley, said the vote's provision that enables winery operators to build agricultural buildings on 2.5% of their land — instead of the current 1% for non-residential structures — was key. The previous codes allowed for buildings of about 20,000-square-feet, while winery operators typically need 40,000 to 60,000 square feet to store equipment and supplies.

"We believe it has prevented mid-sized wineries from being displaced," she said. (See WINE, page 12)

Doyle Retires After 47 Years in Service to Park District

REGIONAL — As Robert Doyle retires at the end of December 2020, he leaves behind many legacies that will benefit the lives of East Bay residents in perpetuity. Doyle served the East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) for 47 years, including 10 years as the general manager. He received recognition for his work during the EBRPD Board of Directors' Dec. 15 meeting.

"It has been such an honor to lead the district and the talented staff that make Regional Parks work, including daily park operations and maintenance, interpretation and recreation programs, land acquisition and park planning, and police and fire protection, to name a few," Doyle said. "The park district's success is about having a team committed to our 86-year mission to protect public open space, wildlife and habitat while providing quality parks for recreation."

"Preserving land for parks on a large landscape scale has been something I've been passionate about and is worth fighting for." EBRPD's Livermore representative, Ayn Wieskamp, stated that Doyle's work with both park expansion and people has been incredible.

"He spent his life working here at the district from the ground up," Wieskamp said. "He knows every corner."

(See RETIRES, page 7)



Friday, Dec. 18, Livermore Veterans Hospital began inoculating the staff and patients with the first round of COVID-19 vaccines. (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)

Alameda Hospitals Celebrate the Arrival of COVID-19 Vaccinations

By Aly Brown

REGIONAL — On the heels of U.S. Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) approval of a COVID-19 vaccine, hospitals throughout Alameda County last week issued historic inoculations.

Amid celebratory scenes,

Friday, Dec. 18, marked the first day frontline workers in the county received the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine.

Stanford Health Care - ValleyCare's (SHC-VC) first vaccination was administered to one of its emergency room physicians, Howard Yoshioka.

Yoshioka said that while he had scheduled his appointment to receive the vaccine later in the day, he was surprised by the call asking if he would be the first.

"I feel lucky that I am the first one ... I'm grateful to" (See VACCINATIONS, page 8)

Former Police Chief Ron Scott Dies

LIVERMORE — The Livermore Police Department (LPD) announced the loss of former Police Chief Ron Scott, who died Tuesday morning this week.

According to a Dec. 22 social-media post from the city, Scott suffered from an ongoing medical illness.

"Chief Scott served the City of Livermore from 1990 until 2002, during which he oversaw the development and construction of our current police department building," wrote the city. "Throughout Chief Scott's tenure, the Livermore Police

(See CHIEF, page 8)

Company Guides Businesses on 'Putting People, Planet Before Profit'

By Aly Brown

PLEASANTON — A newly formed organization aims to help businesses find paths to sustainability.

Sensiba San Filippo LLP (SSF), a leading Northern California-based accounting and business consulting firm, launched the Sensiba Center for Sustainability in August this year. The center helps guide busi-

nesses through the complex process of obtaining B Corp certification — issued by the nonprofit organization B Lab, which aims to transform the global economy to benefit people, communities and the planet.

B Corp certification requirements differ based on size and structure of a company. Small and large companies can expect an assessment of their areas

of impact on the following: community, environment, customers, governance and workers.

In other words, SSF Managing Partner John Sensiba explained that "sustainability" means putting people and the planet ahead of profit.

On their path to achieving sustainability, businesses take a look at their" (See SUSTAINABLE, page 7)

Three Youths Killed in Crash

LIVERMORE — Three young men were killed this week when their vehicle collided with a semi-truck on the 5600 block of Las Positas Road.

Livermore Police Department (LPD) officers were dispatched to the scene on Monday, Dec. 21, around 10:30 p.m.

Two of the vehicle's occupants were pronounced deceased at the scene and the third occupant of the vehicle was transported to a local hospital and later succumbed to his injuries. The fatalities involved two juveniles and one young adult.

Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District (LVJUSD) Superintendent Kelly Bowers sent a letter home to members of the school district, informing them of the tragedy.

"It is with a heavy heart that I have learned of the

untimely and tragic deaths of three young men in Livermore," Bowers wrote. "Last night, a Livermore High School student, a Del Valle High School student, and his older sibling, a Del Valle alumnus, passed away as a result of a vehicle collision ... I ask that you join me in extending our deepest condolences to their grieving loved ones during this incredibly difficult time."

"At this time of year when we take time to celebrate, appreciate and cherish our family and friendships, it is particularly somber that we instead acknowledge such a devastating loss to our schools and community."

"This news shocks and saddens us and serves as a reminder that life is precious."

"As always, during periods of crisis, the LVJUSD and our entire Livermore community will pull

(See CRASH, page 8)

If President Signs Federal Bill

Relief Funds Would Help Local Theaters, Venues Nationwide

By Larry Altman

LIVERMORE — If President Donald Trump signs it, the \$900 billion emergency pandemic relief bill that passed in Congress this week will help independent venues like the Bankhead Theater in Livermore to meet payroll and pay the bills, possibly until patrons can return.

However, at press time the bill, which includes \$15 billion in grants, was in jeopardy. Trump threatened to veto it in disagreement with how much money individual Americans would receive.

Tri-Valley Congressman Eric Swalwell was among more than 120 co-sponsors of a "Save Our Stages" bill that was included in this relief act. The funding will

allow the U.S. Small Business Administration to make grants of up to \$12 million to smaller live venues, specifically for payroll, utilities and rent expenses, and personal protective equipment.

Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center (LVPAC) Executive Director Chris Carter will apply.

In a discussion posted Dec. 18 on the LVPAC website a few days before the House was expected to approve the measure, Swalwell said the grants would not have to be paid back.

"We know it's not only the talent that's on the stage, but it's the people who are behind the curtain offstage — workers in concessions

(See THEATERS, page 7)

EBCE Accepts PG&E Nuclear Power Option

By David Chircop

REGIONAL — The East Bay's public power agency recently green-lighted a plan to accept nuclear power from Pacific Gas & Electric Co. next year, and attempt to flip it to a third party for a profit.

The board of directors for East Bay Community Energy (EBCE), voted 12-2 in favor of the yearlong nuclear monetization plan. Albany and Hayward representatives voted no.

The board also includes elected representatives from Livermore, Dublin and Pleasanton. Mayor Melissa Hernandez represents Dublin, Vice Mayor Trish Munro

represents Livermore, outgoing Councilmember Jerry Pentin represents Pleasanton and District 1 Supervisor Scott Haggerty, who spearheaded the creation of EBCE, represents customers in unincorporated Alameda County.

While the Dec. 16 decision to accept the power came with some criticism, those in favor of reselling it through a wholesale energy marketer say the move was a means to raise revenue while forcing PG&E to more accurately report its greenhouse gas emissions.

"The choice to me is between" (See NUCLEAR, page 8)

High Incomes Drive Up Rent in the Tri-Valley

By Ron McNicoll

REGIONAL — Social Security payments that can't keep pace with raising rent rates continue to push out seniors from the Tri-Valley, accentuating the area's need for affordable housing.

Over the past three years, the permissible ceiling on subsidized Below Market Rate (BMR) rentals rose by 19%; some 2% of that was interest compounded over

the three years.

Seniors over the same three years received a total raise of 4% in their Social Security income, in effect putting them a net 15% behind where they had been in their earlier personal budgets. A new percentage has not been announced yet by HUD for limits in 2021.

The vacancy rate is very low on BMR housing, said Steve Hernandez,

(See RENT, page 5)



In his final Christmas Food and Toy Drive on Dec. 16 - 18, Alameda County Supervisor Scott Haggerty asked the community to donate new unwrapped toys and canned goods to the Historic Heritage House at the Alameda County Fairgrounds, in Pleasanton. Seen from left are Dublin Area California Highway Patrol Capt. Christopher Sherry, Dublin Mayor Melissa Hernandez, California Highway Patrol Officers Tyler Hahn and Tony Rose, Haggerty, Lawson Bell and Verner Bates. (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)



PHONOGRAPH

PET OF THE WEEK

Open up your lovin' arms; watch out, here he comes! Phonograph has set his sights on you and no one else will do. This 8-month-old shorthair cat will spin you right 'round; right 'round like a record, baby! While Valley Humane Society remains closed during shelter-in-place, adoptions are coordinated by appointment with approved adopters. Contact info@valleyhumane.org for more information. (Photo - Valley Humane Society / T. Salgado)

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Tri-Valley Stargazers 2021 President Ron Kane waits at sunset to observe what is known as the Christmas Star. For the first time in 800 years, Jupiter and Saturn are only a short distance apart, that is, 1/5 the diameter of the moon. (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)

Volunteers Assemble Bikes For Needy Livermore Students

Volunteers from the Livermore Valley Craft Beer Foundation and Kids Bike Lane assembled more than three dozen bicycles this month for needy students in the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District.

The foundation's second annual Bikes 'n' Brews fundraiser, held virtually in October because of the pandemic, raised money to purchase the bicycles through the sale of tickets for a 10-mile bike ride and a silent auction.

Christensen Middle School Principal Pat Avilla delivered the bikes to the students this week.

"The new bicycles for our students are beyond anything they could have wished for," Avilla said. "For some of our students, this will give them the ex-

ercise and mobility they need."

The foundation and Kids Bike Lane, a Livermore-based nonprofit that works with community organizations to provide bikes to needy youths throughout the San Francisco Bay area, partnered with TAG Real Estate, Trek Bicycle Livermore, Rivers End Brewing, Homegrown Hops, and Pennyweight Craft Brewing to the sponsor the fundraiser.

"Their inspiring generosity is the definition of the spirit of Christmas," said Laura Lembo, principal at the Joe Michell School in Livermore. "A simple act of kindness that warms the heart, brings a smile and sometimes a tear. They have done that for our families and made sure that this holiday will be much brighter."

Chamber Hosts Fourth-Annual Awards Ceremony to Honor Local Businesses

By Heather Brewer

The Livermore Valley Chamber of Commerce (LVCC) hosted its fourth-annual #LivValBiz Awards Ceremony on Dec. 17, but this year, it was virtual.

"Already recognized as a very professional and effective team supporting chamber members, the chamber team took it to the next level during the pandemic and shelter-in-place, working tirelessly to support the business community," said Harold Roundtree, chairman of the board. "I want to say thank you to Martha Espinoza, Christy Malsack, Jeanie Haigh, Sayeh Ahmari and Dawn Argula. You are the engine that powers the chamber of commerce."

In thanking the community for its support and resilience in the face of adversity, Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan, representing the 16th California Assembly District, spoke during the meeting.

"I am honored to be here today for these Livermore business awards to celebrate some of the most resilient and innovative business anchors in our community," she said. "I do have to say that I missed the wine country luncheon this year, but I know, as we look toward the light at the end of the tunnel... that we are going to get through this."

Presenting the awards this year was outgoing Livermore Mayor John Marchand.

"It truly has been a pleasure and an honor to have been a member of the chamber of commerce here in Livermore, because it is important for the mayor to be involved," he said. "As the mayor, my representation is there because when the businesses in my community succeed, my community succeeds."

The five categories of awards were redefined to suit the current environment under COVID-19 restrictions. Nominations were submitted by members of the chamber, as well as nonmembers, and nominees who are not chamber members were fully considered in the light of this year's difficulties.

Excellence in Business Adaptations with a Focus on the Future: Fremont Bank

The category of Excellence in Business Adaptations with a Focus on the Future recognized businesses that have risen to the challenges presented and adapted to meet those needs during COVID-19.

The nominees were Eurotech, Fremont Bank, First Street Alehouse, Gillig, Pinot's Palette, Strizzi's Restaurant, UNCLE Credit Union, and Wiley X.

Fremont Bank took home the award.

"Thank you for this wonderful award," said Elena Silva, the bank's assistant branch manager for Livermore. "I joined Fremont Bank during the pandemic, and what Fremont Bank has done for businesses and the community... is amazing. I am so blessed to be part of a great team that supports the community in a strong manner, especially during a pandemic."

Most Valuable Employer with a Focus on Employee Health and Wellness: El Charro Mexican Food and Cantina

The winner of Most Valuable Employer with a Focus on Employee Health and Wellness showed the ability to assist employees with responding to the pandemic and recognizing the value of employees' contributions while keeping them safe, healthy, paid, and productive.

The nominees for Most Valuable Employer with a Focus on Employee Health and Wellness were El Charro Mexican Food and Cantina, Fremont Bank, Gillig, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, Safeway, Valley Montessori School, and Wiley X.

Taking home the award was El Charro Mexican Food and Cantina.

"Thank you very much for the award - it is very nice for you to be doing this," said Jose Madriz, general manager of the business. "We have only been open because of our employees, so they'll be happy."

Community Minded Award: Garre Vineyard and Winery with Whitecastle Tours

The Community Minded Award recognizes businesses that are dedicated to helping others by making a positive impact and giving back to the community during the COVID-19 shelter-in-place orders. The Community Minded nominees were Amos Productions, Comcast, First Street Alehouse, Fortune Emporium, Fremont Bank, Garre Vineyard and Winery, Whitecastle Tours and Pinot's Palette.

Taking home the award was Garre Vineyard and Winery with Whitecastle Tours.

"Thank you to Mayor Marchand and the chamber of commerce because you put this program together," said Abe Ahmari, the executive chef at Garré Winery. "I also want to thank the owners and my staff. It has been a tough year for every one of us, but I'm sure we're going to go through this very soon. I wish everyone a safe holiday."

Creative Pivot: First Street Alehouse

Despite the challenges of 2020, the winner in the category of Creative Pivot demonstrated leadership, resilience and creativity when making adjustments to the strategies, business models or goals during COVID-19. In the category of Creative Pivot, the nominees were Comcast Business and Xfinity, First Street Alehouse, Garre Vineyard & Winery, Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center, La Roza Construction, and Pinot's Palette.

Taking home the award was First Street Alehouse.

"I just want to say what an honor it is to be able to serve in this community," said Brook Witherspoon, who owns the restaurant. "This has been a challenging year for everyone, but our city is resilient, and support has been poured out from every level. I definitely want to thank the city. It is an honor to even have been nominated, and we hope to be able to continue serving for many years to come."

2020 Success Story: La Roza Construction

The 2020 Success Story Award went to the business with the most compelling success story during COVID-19. The nominees were BratPak Dog Kamp, Comcast Business and Xfinity, and La Roza Construction.

The award went to La Roza Construction due to their changing focus from commercial to residential work, which not only kept their employees working, but also added four new workers.

"Thank you so much - we are so grateful and so honored," said Kelly Klein, who owns the business with Eric Klein. "We could not have done this without our community. It has been a big, big change for our company, and our guys are thrilled. Thank you again."

In closing the ceremony, Marchand congratulated the 2020 award winners.

"Thank you all for your sacrifice and for your commitment to sustain our businesses here in the Tri Valley," he said. "We wish you the very best for a successful future."

For more information about the Livermore Valley Chamber of Commerce, visit livermorechamber.org.

Library Board Receives Updates on Policies, Procedures

By Dawnmarie Fehr

Earlier this month, the Livermore Public Library Board of Trustees received an update on library services.

A number of topics were covered, including library operations during the pandemic; a large donation received for the digital library; and library equity, diversity and inclusion efforts.

"It is always important to provide the Library Board of Trustees with information about our library services and to get their feedback and direction," said Tamera LaBeau, library services director. "This has been especially important during the pandemic since the pandemic has necessitated so many changes to our library services."

LeBeau discussed teen programs held via Zoom, a Lego challenge run through Facebook, and the Grab-and-Go science and craft kits available through curbside pickup. She also showed the board a series of slides depicting the interior of the Civic Center Library on South Livermore Avenue, where furniture had been rearranged and - in some cases - removed since the library opened briefly in November for patrons

to visit. The changes were made to allow more space for social distancing and discourage patrons from gathering on couches, chairs and other furniture.

"The slides and discussion around furniture removal and other safety measures were presented to inform the Board about the preparations that were made to safely open the library," said LeBeau. "On Nov. 18, the city closed all of its buildings, including the Civic Center Library, for indoor services due to rising COVID-19 case rates. However, the changes that I presented at the meeting will remain in place so that we can safely reopen the library once the situation with new COVID-19 cases has improved significantly."

During the meeting, the board also discussed its annual update to the city council. Board chair Art Pontau is scheduled to present the update at the Jan. 11 City Council Meeting. Pontau and the other board members also expressed gratitude for a donation made to the digital library.

"The family of Yu-Li Pan recently made a very generous donation of just over \$106,000 in his memory," LeBeau said. "This funding will be used to provide additional online resources

in the digital library, including resources to support investment and business research, cultural diversity, and education."

The digital library is the Livermore Public Library's online branch, a collection of resources available to library card holders. It includes e-books, downloadable audiobooks, digital magazines, homework resources, consumer guides, online classes and more. The contracts will likely take several months to set up, but the library will send out more information as it becomes available.

Board Trustee Mini Chopra questioned LeBeau about the eighth item on the agenda, library equity, diversity and inclusion efforts. LeBeau explained this topic was the focus of one of the strategic objectives in the library's strategic services plan, adopted last year. A team has been formed to further this objective, and LeBeau noted the team was currently working on a library staff training program to lay the groundwork for additional projects in the future.

The Civic Center Library is located at 1188 South Livermore Ave., Livermore. For more information, call 925-373-5500 or visit <https://www.cityoflivermore.net/citygov/lib/default.htm>.

[vermore.net/citygov/lib/default.htm](https://www.cityoflivermore.net/citygov/lib/default.htm).

Curbside pickup is available by appointment at the Civic Center Library from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday; and from 11 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. on Saturdays.

For more information on the board, minutes, and agendas, visit <https://www.cityoflivermore.net/citygov/lib/about/board/default.htm> or call 925-373-5509.

Officials Say Misunderstanding Led to Controversy Around Blue Line Flag

By David Chircop

A group of protesters with a bullhorn converged outside the homes of Livermore Mayor Bob Woerner and Councilmember Trish Munro Saturday in a display of outrage over a perceived threat to privacy and free expression.

At issue was the thin blue line flag — an American flag with a blue stripe intended to honor police officers — that the protesters believed city leaders were targeting as a symbol of hate.

Protestors at the Dec. 20 rally also worried about tax dollars funding a digital dossier created to locate, inventory and identify those who display the flag on private land.

The problem is, none of

this was true.

"Recently, meeting notes posted on the city's website were extrapolated into some extreme interpretations. That, in turn, led to considerable further social media commentary that continues to swirl," Woerner wrote in a Dec. 17 letter to the community. (http://bit.ly/Indy_WoernerLetter)

The tumult started with an online Dec. 12 editorial on the "Law Enforcement Today" police website that seized upon language contained in the city's Equity and Inclusion Subcommittee meeting minutes. The October brainstorming session featured a city-facilitated community conversation on equity and inclusion. While the subcommittee's notes did not

call the flag a racist symbol, protesters who rallied this week surmised that they had.

The thin blue line flag is essentially a black and white American flag with a single blue stripe. Described by its creator as a tribute to fallen police officers, it has also come under scrutiny as a symbol of division. It was flown by white nationalists alongside Confederate flags at the 2017 United The Right rally in Charlottesville, Virginia, and has been a subject of intense debate across the country.

The write-up sparked what organizers called Back the Blue rallies at Lizzie Fountain, where demonstrators, including Alameda County Sheriff Gregory

Ahern, gathered to draw attention to their concerns. "The thin blue line actually stands for the line between justice and injustice and

groups, can be misunderstood by others, and can trigger anger and division," the mayor and councilmember stated in a portion of the

porting the people who put their lives on the line to provide public safety. To come together, we need to hear and acknowledge other

"Recently, meeting notes posted on the city's website were extrapolated into some extreme interpretations. That, in turn, led to considerable further social media commentary that continues to swirl."

— Bob Woerner

evil and righteousness," Sheriff Ahern told a KTVU news crew at one of the downtown Livermore demonstrations. "So we support the thin blue line and we do that every day in our job."

The Livermore Police Officers Association weighed in on the issue with a post on social media dispelling the notion that the symbol is racist; the association thanked members of the public who flocked to its members' defense.

It also brought loud demonstrations to the homes of elected city officials. A video, which briefly circulated on Facebook, showed one protester outside Munro's home.

Woerner and Munro wrote a joint letter in response to friction stirred by the "Law Enforcement Today" editorial, saying the notes were taken badly out of context. Woerner and Munro, invited interested parties to participate in the community project. To read the full letter, visit http://bit.ly/Indy_WoernerMunro.

"Unfortunately, symbols can have very different meanings to different



A rally in support of law enforcement and the Blue Line flag gathered at the intersection of South Livermore and First Street, on Saturday, Dec. 19. (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)

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Pleasanton Nonprofit Helping Cancer Patients Cope With Acupuncture, Therapeutic Massage Treatments

By Tony Hicks

Ray Hartjen never tried acupuncture until he was diagnosed with multiple myeloma (a type of blood cancer) in May 2019 — a difficult thing to digest even before treatment starts.

Then came the chemotherapy, steroids and immunotherapy, not to mention the resulting painful side effects. The Pleasanton resident suffered skin rashes, fatigue, insomnia, constipation and diarrhea, all of which can feel as bad as the cancer itself.

"I thought I would give both acupuncture and acupressure a try in an effort to alleviate the symptoms of my treatment," he said. "Both of them seemed to provide a moderate amount of relief; I used to doze off during acupuncture and that was a welcome relief. When I feel better, I am empowered to exercise and build my strength and flexibility. That allows me the energy to go to my doctor appointments and prepares my body to better receive my medications."

Hartjen's oncologists at Stanford Health Care-ValleyCare in Pleasanton told him about Sandra J. Wing Healing Therapies Foundation, a nonprofit that provides grants for local patients suffering from cancer and treatment side effects.

The foundation was started based on Tri-Valley resident Sandra Wing's own experience with alternative treatments while combating cancer. Wing was diagnosed with ovarian and uterine cancer at 47, forcing her to undergo a hysterectomy and chemotherapy, as well as all the treatment side effects.

"She tried five different things - acupuncture, acupressure, therapeutic massage, guided and visual imagery and deep-breathing meditation - and it was re-

ally helpful to her," said Mara Kutter, the foundation's project coordinator. "She wanted to make the same kind of therapies available for other people. A lot of people don't know about these things. These therapies are compliments to cancer treatment, not alternative treatments."

Encouraged by her improved feeling of well-being, Wing started the foundation in an effort to share her pain relief methods with others. Though Kutter stresses that the idea isn't to use alternative therapies to cure cancer, and beneficiaries need to already be undergoing chemotherapy or radiation treatment or have done so during the past 18 months to receive support from the foundation.

"That's not to say (complimentary treatments) don't help cancer, but what we're trying to do is help people with compromised systems get through treatment," Kutter explained. "When we've done surveys of people, 98% have indicated it's helped a lot with things like pain, appetite, energy, diarrhea and more."

The foundation connects people to 'alternative' services covered by few insurance companies, however, many of the therapies that are covered, such as Kaiser Permanente's group acupuncture sessions, aren't currently possible with COVID-19 restrictions. The foundation uses 25 to 30 providers in the Tri-Valley area, and raises funds through events, individual donations and sponsors. Grants are \$500 and last for a year.

Massage therapist Kathleen Beaulieu - whose specialties include working with lymph nodes, a key bodily component in cancer's spread - was one of the first service providers Wing hired.

"They're very ill after chemo and radiation. It just depletes them of everything," said Beaulieu, who owns Pleasanton Family Wellness Center.

"There are special things you do," she said of her work. "(Lymph) nodes are very important, especially to women with breast cancer, because the lymph nodes carry the cancer to other parts of the body. There's lots of inflammation there."

Beaulieu sees herself as a coach and often forms connections with patients, staying in touch regardless of the status of their grants. Her treatments go beyond massage and include light therapy for patients going through radiation.

"At least we're able to give them comfort and hope," Beaulieu said. "If these people don't have hope, they have nothing to look forward to."

The American Cancer Society lists acupuncture, massage and meditation as helpful, and safe alternative and complementary treatments for side effects when used with more mainstream methods like chemotherapy, radiation and surgery.

The website states, "There are many complementary methods you can safely use along with standard treatment to help relieve symptoms or side effects, to ease pain and to help you enjoy life more. Even if they aren't fully tested, you can choose

methods that don't usually cause harm and won't interfere with your cancer treatment."

It also suggests acupuncture can help mild pain and nausea; massage can decrease stress, anxiety, depression and pain, and increase alertness; and that meditation relaxes the body and calms the mind.

For more information about Sandra J. Wing Healing Therapies Foundation, visit the website or call 925-249-6771.

This story was first published on localnewsmatters.org, an affiliated nonprofit site supported by Bay City News Foundation.

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EDITORIAL Call Upon Newsom to Prioritize Educators

Parents with children enrolled in the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District classes recently called for a return to campuses, but the reality is that local administrators are controlled by county and state regulations.

A common emotion expressed among educators behind the scenes throughout the Bay Area is frustration. There's frustration that the state offered clear guidelines on when to close, but no real path for reopening. There's frustration that even as the Bay Area region remains under a shutdown due to low intensive care unit (ICU) capacity, some parents continue to demand a return to the classroom, which would go against the health order. And there's frustration that schools must remain closed even as the mental

health of children in isolation worsens.

But something other than the COVID-19 strain has gained traction: a movement to prioritize teachers for the vaccine. From San Francisco to Sonoma, Santa Cruz to Burlingame, teachers, parents, doctors, lawmakers and many more are calling for teachers to receive vaccines early through resolutions and public comments submitted to the California Department of Public Health.

We at The Independent hope to see educators given priority for the next phase of COVID-19 vaccines. As citizens and elected leaders, we must call on the governor to answer this critical request.

The state would then be taking the first step to reopening our schools safely.

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.

How About These Projects?

Richard Hughes, Livermore

Here is yet another thought for city officials to ponder.

If you somehow have obtained 'access' to federal or state funds (i.e., taxpayer money) to do some 'amazingly awesome' infrastructure projects, why don't you guys think about implementing the following projects?

There are approximately 20,000 people now living in North Livermore, because it has grown hugely with all the PUDs (Planned Unit Developments) that the City of Livermore has approved over the last 30 years, yes? Around 1999, you guys expanded the 'Airway Boulevard 580 Fwy. Overpass,' to twice its width, which was an awesome project that was highly commended by the Livermore community at large, yes?

So, how about this idea? Can you city officials please think about expanding the 'First Street 580 Fwy. Overpass' and the 'Vasco Road 580 Fwy. Overpass' to twice their width, just like you guys did to the 'Airway Boulevard 580 Fwy. Overpass' way back in 1999?

Has anybody noticed how very, very busy and overcrowded and dangerous, the 'First Street 580 Fwy. Overpass' and the 'Vasco Road 580 Fwy. Overpass' have become recently at 8 a.m. and at 5 p.m.?

LPD or CHP have to go there rather often lately, because of an 'incident' that is 'unfolding' out there!

Hello? Is anybody home?

City of Livermore officials, if you guys have 'access' to some money and want to do something good, that will get you mucho mucho accolades, including a 'pat on the back,' and mucho mucho smiles and positive feedback from the community, even enabling you guys to get re-elected, without a doubt, no problemo!

So, then how about this choice? Council Member Patricia Munro, can you please make a note of this invaluable suggestion, and try to implement it ASAP? Please? Much better than screwing up East Avenue with a 'road diet' and angering approximately 25,000 people (i.e., one quarter of the population of Livermore) what do you think?

Swalwell Compromised Daniella Karo, Pleasanton

I have never been a supporter of Congressman Swalwell, as I considered him not the sharpest tool in the shed.

He impressed me as a mouthpiece for Adam Schiff and Nancy Pelosi, parroting their false stories and following them around like a puppy dog. The latest imbroglia with a Chinese national spy only proves how right I was all along.

He needs to be given the shaft off his position as a congressman! He is badly compromised!

A Beacon for Downtown - Our Park Susan Putnam, Livermore

Saddened to hear that the revised plan for downtown has shrunk the open space to such an extent that Livermore's residents will not be able to enjoy much greenery at all.

What will remain of downtown is primarily a restaurant and shopping district. While low-income housing is important to all of us, the area across from Railroad Street is available for development. Building low-income housing on a larger piece of land will provide increased housing units with more spacious floor plans and parking.

Downtown will flourish with a beautiful, open park. It will become a beacon for residents and visitors alike to enjoy the best that our charming downtown has to offer. We can do this, Livermore!

Meeting Local Needs Peter MacDonald, Pleasanton

The City of Pleasanton's treatment of the proposed Public Storage expansion on Stanley Boulevard is a bad sign for the future of our community.

It is amazing to think that in 1982, the City of Pleasanton approved Hacienda Business Park with two years of processing, and a planning department with only five people, including the secretary. The Hacienda approval process included environmental compliance, huge infrastructure improvements, and real public controversy.

Now, the city council is considering approval of a redevelopment and upgrade of the mere seven-acre Public Storage property on Stanley Boulevard. That approval process has taken three years, despite a planning department of 30 people, general plan compliance, an infill exemption from environmental review, and virtually no public controversy.

According to the owner's representative, the Public Storage project has been whipsawed by three redesigns. First by the planning staff, then by the planning commission, and now, the city council is redesigning it again. Even worse, city staff, encouraged by Councilmember Testa, proposes to calculate the development fees not based on mitigating actual impacts, but rather based on taxing the value of the city approval to the property owner (\$2.4 million, according to EPS - the city consultant). This is pure government theft.

Maybe California government does not care if it drives businesses like Hewlett Packard and Oracle from our state, but Pleasanton will have more success if it works with businesses that want to expand, improve their properties, and meet local needs.

Bring People Downtown Maryann Brent, Livermore

A few weeks ago during a public online workshop, Livermore's City Council reviewed Eden Housing's plan to build 130 workforce housing units in the heart of Livermore. Eden Housing presented a two-dimensional plan without elevations. They tried to accommodate the needs of occupants by expanding the size of the units. They allocated only a single underground parking space per unit due to space and cost constraints.

Let's assume this plan is built. Imagine wandering in the vicinity of First Street, L Street, and around the corner to Railroad Avenue. And imagine gazing from the four stories of condos of the old Groth Brothers site to the four stories of the planned Eden Housing. Such a stroll would leave no suggestion that Livermore ever cherished open space.

Now, add the popular events, festivals, shows and celebrations we have enjoyed in good weather. Consider the cramped four-story housing corridor and seriously inadequate parking. Would that version of downtown draw residents and visitors to downtown? No, that version of Livermore would be just another overbuilt town without character.

However, it is still possible to create something quite unique and lovely downtown. Move the Eden Housing project across the street to the north, where there is actually enough space for it. In the vacated space, build

a park. A downtown park might seem unthinkable to those who fear that the city might not break even, let alone see profit. But people crave parkland. Science has shown that "(we) are wired to be outside" (<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/news/2017/02/nature-fix-brain-happy-florence-williams/>). A park is the very thing that will draw people to our downtown. And it may be the very thing that brings profits and more investment to Livermore.

Destruction of American Culture Owen Brovont, Livermore

The letter from The Equity and Inclusion Subcommittee from Mayor-elect Bob Woerner and Council Member Trish Munro was apparently intended to allay a negative reaction to an unspecified "misunderstanding that occurred a few days ago."

Evidently, it generated the "very misleading and inflammatory story currently circulating." While I have no direct knowledge regarding the content or source of the "misleading and inflammatory story," it doesn't surprise me.

Government at all levels has become more and more authoritarian, and its evolutionary vector is clearly aimed toward socialism and total control of society, even at the local level!

For too many years, the American public has been abused and subject to attacks on its culture leading to unrest, destruction of public and private property, looting, murder, and general mayhem conducted under a false flag of reacting to racism, xenophobia, white privilege, and homophobia.

Today, more than 20 American cities are under duress by mobs chanting accusations of institutional racism. These accusations are themselves vaguely defined and loosely applied and are buttressed by academic and journalistic articles that flood the media and drive efforts to inculcate elements of "critical race theory" and revisionist history like the 1619 Project into all levels of education, businesses, required in government agencies, forced on government contractors, and even on the armed forces at all levels.

These efforts are aimed at denigrating the founding generation that created the American form of government, i.e., the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States of America, by accusing the founding fathers of various behaviors such as holding slaves, which we have since repudiated.

It is clear that their actual purpose is to attack and undermine the meaning and value of what founders created, individual freedom that is central to the American culture. This is nothing short of trying to remake America by a collection of subversive socialist enemies of that freedom.

At the least, a distortion of facts and, at worst, camouflaged flagrant lies.

We do not hold slaves today, and we haven't for over 150 years; we do not approve of slavery, we reject racism

— no matter the source. That unfortunately doesn't mean there are no racists because there are, but most flagrant racists are not white!

The American people are being swindled. To be continued.

Broken Partnership? Rich Buckley, Livermore

What's really behind Alameda County's 410-Acre North Livermore Valley partnership break with Livermore City's Urban Boundary Limit?

A trial balloon business template is being forged off a false paradigm that has become a brainless runaway meme we need to rein in. The meme: solar panels + battery backup ... is politically unchallengeable.

We are just waking up to learn about walkaway safe, thorium molten salt reactors, small modular reactors (SMRs) that do on 10 to 20 acres what solar panels + battery backup does on 40,000 acres!

Elon is all about innovation, risk, and disruptive technology innovation and application. I'm not mad at Elon for not knowing what this local Livermore business template is doing. He probably doesn't even know about it. We need to tell him and draw his attention, even if he is not legally connected. He is Mr. Battery. He is Mr. Electric. He is Mr. Solar Panel. He will probably be the main supplier once this local usurpation of suburban ag open space takes root.

The challenge is not to stop the business template, but to first get Elon to step in and say, "Not here. Not this way."

If this template overpowers Alameda County politicians, it will overpower Santa Clara County and other counties as well. Contact Elon Musk at press@tesla.com. Get him engaged. There's better ways to implement.

There is Something to See Mak Codioli, Livermore

I just finished reading your editorial calling Eric Swalwell's contact with a Chinese spy "baseless" and that he should be "honored, not punished."

The article went on to say that "political attempts to damage reputations without facts should stop."

Funny, I don't recall reading any editorials in The Independent touting the Mueller investigation as "baseless," or saying that Trump should be "honored, not punished," when in fact, a 2.5-year investigation turned up no wrongdoing on Trump's part.

The fact is reporters (in general) are no longer fact based. News today is nothing more than political spin, lazily being regurgitated.

Question: If Doland (sic) Trump Jr. was found out to be cozying up to a Chinese spy, or taking millions from a Chinese energy company, would the Independent report that as a "baseless" allegation and issue a call for unity? I think not.

How about this idea? Investigate Swalwell with a special council, find out the facts, then report the findings. After all, it seemed to be a fine idea in 2016. Your

"nothing to see here" attitude on this issue is pathetic.

Misleading and Disappointing Valerie Daum, Livermore

Reading The Independent's article about Eden Housings' plan to expand its building size by 42% was both disappointing and distressing.

Our open space has now shrunk by 32%, and the low-cost housing units have increased approximately 1.5 times larger in size! How can this happen and how can it possibly go forward?

Eden's Project Developer Matt Graves' and President Linda Mandolini's comments that their original plan could not get financing must have been known long before last week's workshop meeting. The city cannot approve the revised plan or our downtown will be lost forever.

Further, why did the city mislead us by not including in drawings the long-approved Groth Brothers 230-unit apartment complex in all the future downtown plans? As we now know, this huge complex dramatically overshadows the entire downtown scene.

Sadly, this giant project was omitted from any of the workshop or committee discussions and sketches. Instead, we were presented with idyllic illustrations of trees, park benches, an enchanting wine country hotel, an intimate small theater, a bold science museum and an enlarged Stockmens' park.

In reality, we could be left with three- and four-story housing developments surrounding the Stockmens' park statue in a plot of green grass.

Putting The Nation At Risk John Lahommedieu, Dublin

Regarding Larry Altman's article on Swalwell and the Chinese spy Larry does not mention the FBI had to contact Swalwell, Pelosi knew of this all along.

Why did the Chinese seek out Swalwell? Not because he is a rising star, but more because he is not very smart.

They say he did nothing wrong? He gave information away. After all, Ms. Fang did not seduce the love-starved Swalwell for his looks or brains.

He must step down from not only the intelligence committee (how in the world did he get in on that?), but he must also step down as the congressman in the 15th district.

Mr. Altman carefully worded his article, because he did not want the Swalwell camp to be angry with him, so he skirted the facts. Swalwell, who purchased a home in D.C., because he wants to run for the senate, has some answering to do as to his cash on hand to buy all these nice things at once - benefits of the communist Chinese one can say!

Maybe Larry was tossed a few bucks to be nice to Swalwell in his words, who knows?

But one thing for sure ... Swalwell put this nation at risk. We all knew he was not the smartest crayon in the box, but we never knew a box of crayons could carry an imbecile color!

(See MAILBOX, page 10)

THE Independent

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Granada Wrestler Commits to Lehigh

Granada High School wrestler Carter Bailey has signed a National Letter of Intent to attend Lehigh University in Pennsylvania.

The storied Lehigh college wrestling program, which dates to 1910, is currently ranked No. 10 in the nation. The Lehigh Mountain Hawks compete in the Eastern Intercollegiate Wrestling Association, which includes wrestling powerhouses Cornell and Princeton universities.

Bailey, a senior at Granada, is a returning high school state medalist and North Coast Section champion.

During the off-season, Bailey competed with the Livermore Elite Wrestling Club and captured the 120-pound class in both the freestyle and folkstyle divisions at the Western States tournament.

He also defeated four top-15 nationally ranked wrestlers en route to a seventh-place finish at 126 pounds at the Super 32 tournament, considered one of the toughest tournaments in the nation.

Bailey, who plans to study business at Lehigh, is currently ranked 13th nationally among high school wrestlers in his weight class.



Carter Bailey

Gnagy Assigned to Navy Base in Africa

Aaron Gnagy, from Pleasanton, an air traffic controller 2nd class, has been assigned to the Navy's Camp Lemonnier in the Republic of Djibouti.

Gnagy is ground control tower liaison for air operations

responsible for coordinating with foreign and U.S. military coalition air operation controllers.

Originally a French Foreign Legion garrison, Camp Lemonnier is the only permanent U.S. military base

in Africa and is home to the U.S. Africa Command. Djibouti is located on the Horn of Africa at the southern end of the Red Sea. It is bordered by Somalia, Ethiopia and Eritrea.

RENT

(Continued from first page)

Pleasanton's housing manager. While he only manages city housing — not private BMR — he estimated Pleasanton's affordable housing availability is "well below 5%."

The city council has not approved any new rental developments.

Pleasanton has an inclusionary zoning ordinance; the council must approve builders' intentions. In-lieu fees a developer pays to the city in place of building low-income housing goes into the city's Lower Income Housing Fund (LIHF).

In Dublin, the city's performance so far in building affordable housing has fallen far short of goals set in 2015. Every city has an eight-year time window to meet the Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) goals.

The goals for Dublin are to build 796 very low income units, 446 low income units, 425 moderate income units and 618 above moderate income units by 2023.

From 2015 through 2019, the city saw the development of 26 units in the very low income bracket, 39 in the low income, 39 in moderate, and 3,641 in above moderate.

Dublin's affordable housing plans for the future includes between 70 and 114 units downtown at 6541 Regional St. for seniors and/or residents with special needs with nonprofit Eden Housing Inc. as the developer.

Another project sited near Dublin's West Side BART station, with 152 affordable units out of 334 total units. The main floor will have retail commercial uses. BRIDGE Housing will be the developer.

A development for up to 195 affordable units is zoned for land located at the Iron Horse Parkway near Martinelli Way and Campus Drive close to the East Dublin BART station. However, no developer has stepped forward to build the affordable units yet.

The Independent also sought comment from Livermore on its plans, but the city's housing director did not respond to email or phone calls by press deadline. However, the city's Equity and Inclusion Subcommittee plans to address housing needs; the city is already considering a number of projects.

The Livermore council on Dec. 7 supported a plan for 130 units of affordable rental housing in the downtown center with developer Eden Housing.

Cheaper affordable housing may be obtained through the HUD section 8 program. Generally, very low-income people qualify for it. HUD deducts medical costs from the qualifying amount, then charges tenants on a low income scale. The waitlists are currently closed.

The Livermore Housing Authority and the Housing Authority of Alameda County provide Section 8 units when available.

Water District Seeks Board Applicants

The Dublin San Ramon Services District, which provides water and wastewater services to 188,000 people in Dublin, San Ramon, and Pleasanton, has decided to appoint someone to fill a vacancy on the board of directors after nobody ran for the position in the general election.

The vacant seat represents Division 5, the eastern most portion of the district's service area in Dublin.

Anyone interested in the position must submit an application by Jan. 8. Applicants must be registered voters and reside in the area east of Hacienda Drive in Dublin that is represented by Division 5.

The vacancy must be filled by Feb. 12 and the board expects to conduct interviews Feb. 2. The appointed board member will serve an abbreviated term to end in December 2022.

For more information, go to www.dsrsd.com.

This was the first year that the district elected representatives by division instead of at-large. Marisol Rubio was elected to represent Division 1, covering the Dougherty Valley area of San Ramon, Rich Halket, who has served on the board since 2004, was elected to represent Division 3 of western Dublin and San Ramon.

Dreams Put Temporarily on Hold for Livermore High Cowboys' 2021 Senior Class

By Matt Schwab

Everyone around the Livermore High football program expected the fall of 2020 to be a season for the ages thanks to the Cowboys' strong senior class, but the COVID-19 pandemic has put their dreams on hold.

Last week, the California Department of Public Health declared that no high school sports event or organized practice could start before Jan. 25, pushing the football season back even more.

Counties still need to get out of the purple tier, which includes widespread transmissions, and reach the orange tier to even have a football season.

Livermore senior quarterback Shaun Smith still holds out hope for a big finish in Cowboy country.

"We're all really excited for this senior year, no matter what it is," Smith said. "If we can get three games to eight games, we're ready for anything."

The Cowboys' seniors have competed successfully together for the past 10 years, and everything was building to 2020-21. They went 9-1 on both their freshman and sophomore teams — losing only to De La Salle each season — and advanced to the 2019 North Coast Section Division II playoffs, with 17 or 18 junior starters and about eight other 11th-graders seeing ample playing time.

Thus, even after a tough loss to Campolindo 13 months ago in the playoffs, optimism reigned.

"They've been playing football together for a long time," Livermore coach John Wade said. "They basically have earmarked this senior year as the one they've looked forward to the most, obviously, but they're top to bottom one of the better groups I've been around."

Optimism aside, Smith said it's hard to sit there and accept what's happening as

the text messages and emails keep rolling in with updates from the California Interscholastic Federation and North Coast Section, and the debate over public safety continues across the state.

Smith says Livermore coaches are doing a great job keeping things organized. Players are wearing masks and social distancing during workouts.

"We just want to be on that field. We want to pad up and get out there," Smith said. "But it's really our of our control. There's not a whole lot we can do except use this extra time to get better and be as ready as we can, so when we get the call to go play, it's a no-brainer. We're out there and we're ready to go."

Wade has been awed by the dedication and positive nature of his players during this difficult time. To him, it's one of those groups where you just want to see how great they can be.

"You can tell, every once in a while, they're anxious, but they just keep going and they keep coming and they keep working out, and we keep telling them that we're really do think that we're going to play - we just don't know when, and we don't know for how long," Wade said. "They're really taking it to a different level that I haven't had with kids in a long time. It's been really inspiring just to be around them and to see their attitudes. Regardless if we play, they've taught me a lot about staying the course

and fighting through things. They're a tremendous group of kids."

Smith, a dual-threat dynamo, is filling out physically and now stands at 5-foot-11 and 170 pounds. He recently received a visit from a coach from Division III Lewis and Clark College (Portland), which offered him a scholarship a couple months ago. He will soon have an official virtual visit with D-III Whittier College.

Whittier offered him in July. A big Seattle Seahawks fans — his dad was born and raised in Seattle — Smith models his playing style after Seattle quarterback Russell Wilson, one of the shorter signal-callers in the NFL at 5-foot-11, in being able to escape the pocket and stay calm under pressure.

Smith showed his potential last season as a polished leader with speed and a strong arm.

"Last year, I was playing at about 5-foot-9 and 140 pounds, and I literally had to do everything I could to stay away from a lot of injury and getting the ball where I needed to be using my whole body, giving 100 percent," Smith said. "I put on a lot of weight this offseason, so I'm excited to be able to see how I can compete at the varsity level being bigger and stronger and already having a whole year under my belt."

Cowboys senior tight end Matt Polaski is up to 6-foot-4, 240 pounds and drawing comparisons to

former Livermore stalwart tight end Brad Archer, now with Stanford.

"Matt Polaski, I believe, is 100% the best tight end in EBAL and probably one of the better ones in all of the Bay Area," Smith said. "I love that guy. He's a big target (and) an end zone threat. He's going to have a big year."

Smith also pointed out middle linebacker Eli Nudleman, who probably led the league in tackles, and his twin brother Ben Nudleman, a 'powerhouse' at outside linebacker. Wideouts Tyler Martin and Dylan Prusso are very capable targets for Smith.

"I've got a lot of weapons to work with here," Smith said.

Now the waiting game continues.

"COVID has been really messing with our season and the way we get to practice and stuff, but all the guys

are still excited," Smith said last week. "We know we're going to play, we're hopeful

we're going play, and we're doing everything we can to get there."

Public Notice

The Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority (LAVTA) is seeking public input on emergency service changes that were implemented as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Full details of LAVTA's response to the pandemic, including the emergency service changes and the public input process are available at www.wheelsbus.com/covid/.

Comments will be summarized and provided to the Wheels Board of Directors.

The deadline for submitting input is January 20, 2021 at 5 pm.

Livermore Amador Valley
TRANSIT AUTHORITY



Partner for Change Tri-Valley Poverty Alleviation Program

During COVID-19 restrictions - PFCTV is hosting ZOOM weekly meetings! Send a text, call or email 650-474-9962, director@pfctv.org and you will get sent the Zoom Link



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For more information visit: www.pfctv.org or Call/Text or Email Annie Corbett, Executive Director, Partners for Change Tri-Valley 650-474-9962 – director@pfctv.org

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As part of the National Wreaths Across America, in honor of veterans, the Jose Maria Amador Chapter – DAR sponsored Dublin's Pioneer Cemetery wreath placement, Saturday, Dec. 19. (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)

Leo Club Collects Toys for Needy Families

The Leo Club at Livermore High School collected more than 270 new toys this year to be given to the children of needy families for Christmas.

Me, Baughman's Western Outfitters, Fantasy Books & Games, and Donut Wheel.

The donated toys were then taken to Tri-Valley Haven, which works with

more than \$2,200.

Leo Clubs are younger versions of Lions Clubs that encourage youths to become involved in community service efforts.

Leo Clubs are younger versions of Lions Clubs that encourage youths to become involved in community service efforts.

The Leo Club, sponsored by the Livermore Lions Club, set out decorated collection bins at four downtown stores during the four-week toy drive — Mozart Einstein &

children and adults who are homeless or have been victims of domestic violence or sexual assault, for distribution.

The toys were valued at

Giulia Cuppoletti, a junior at Livermore High School and president of the local Leo Club, said the group hopes to make the Christmas toy drive an annual event.



Hively, a nonprofit in Pleasanton that serves families in need throughout the Tri-Valley and Livermore, hosted a toy drive on Saturday, Dec. 19. (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)

Quarry Lane Junior Presents Research Paper on Agriculture

Harshita Krupadanam, a junior at the Quarry Lane School in Dublin, recently presented a research paper on ways to save harvested crops during unseasonable rains in India at the Global Youth Institute sponsored the World Food Prize Foundation.

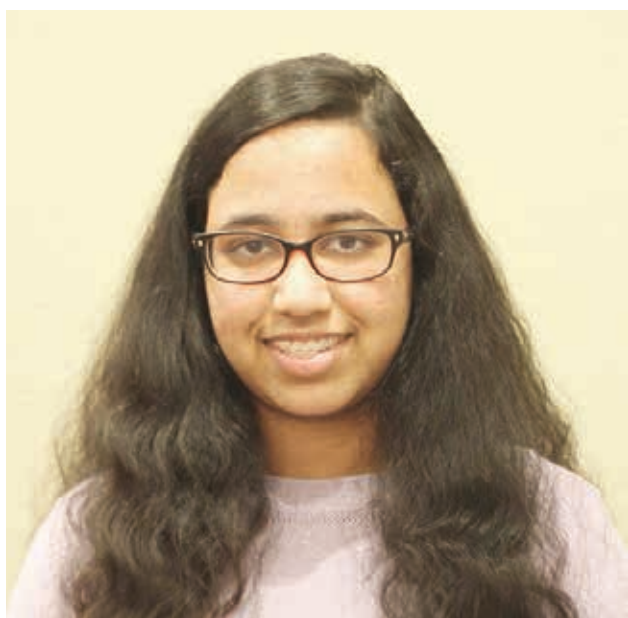
Krupadanam was one of 215 students, out of 10,000 applicants, selected to participate in the Global Youth Institute, held annually in conjunction with the Norman E. Borlaug International Symposium.

This year's institute and symposium were held virtually because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The World Food Prize was created in 1986 to honor those who have made vital contributions to improving the quality, quantity, or availability of food throughout the world.

Borlaug was an American agronomist whose work to increase agricultural production led to what has been called the Green Revolution. He was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1970 and later received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, National Medal of Science, and the Congressional Gold Medal.

After learning about farmers in India losing their crops to unseasonable rains, Krupadanam researched and proposed engineering solutions for the temporary on-site storage of crops in



Harshita Krupadanam

"harvest pods."

She was selected to present her paper, "Harvest Loss Prevention Using On-site Storage," as a Borlaug Scholar to a panel of professors, global food security experts, and fellow students at the World Food Prize Foundation's Summer Youth Institute.

That led to an invitation to participate in the two-week Global Youth Institute, Oct. 9-22.

"Attending the Global Youth Institute was a remarkable experience," Krupadanam said, adding that she especially enjoyed the opportunity to talk with Dr. Howarth Bouis, a graduate of Stanford University,

who received the World Food Prize in 2016 for his work on biofortification, the science of increasing the nutritional value of staple crops.

Krupadanam said genetics is "an area of research that interests me greatly."

Delegates to the Global Youth Institute represented 27 states and 10 foreign countries, including Bahrain, Canada, China, Dominican Republic, Honduras, India, Mexico, the Netherlands, and Sweden. In addition to their individual papers, they will share their ideas in a collaborative report to the advisors of the 2021 United Nations Food Systems Summit.

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

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www.questers1944.org

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chezanami.org

Christian Youth Theater Tri-Valley

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Pleasanton, CA 94566
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CulinaryAngels.org

Drivers For Survivors

39270 Paseo Padre Pkwy #335
Fremont, CA 94536
510-369-5770
driversforsurvivors.org

Exceptional Needs Network

P.O. Box 3149
Livermore, CA 94551
925-215-2281
ennetwork.org

Fertile GroundWorks

4743 East Avenue
Livermore, CA 94550
925-344-9090
Fertilegroundworks.org

Friends of the Livermore Library

P.O. Box 2483
Livermore, CA 94551
www.friendsoflivermorelibrary.org

Friends of Open Space and Vineyards

P.O. Box 1191
Livermore, CA 94551
fov.org

Goodness Village

1660 Freisman Rd.
Livermore, CA 94551
Goodnessvillage.community

Hively

6601 Owens Drive, Suite 100
Pleasanton, CA 94588
925-417-8733
BeHively.org

Hope Hospice

6377 Clark Ave.
Dublin, CA 94568
925-829-8770
HopeHospice.com/donate

Interfaith Sharing Inc.

678 Enos Way
Livermore, CA 94551
925-366-5567
saintbartslivermore.com

Livermore-Amador Symphony Guild

P.O. Box 1049
Livermore, CA 94551
925-447-6454
Livermoreamadorsymphony.org/guild

Livermore Area Recreation and Park District Foundation

P.O. Box 3403
Livermore, CA 94551
925-373-5730
Larpd.org/larpd-foundation

Livermore Art Association

P.O. Box 216
Livermore, CA 94551
925-449-9927
Livermoreartassociation.org

Livermore Filipino-American Organization, Inc.

P.O. Box 172
Livermore, CA 94551
Livermorefilam.org

Livermore Heritage Guild

P.O. Box 961
Livermore, CA 94551
925-449-9927
lhg.org

Livermore Homeless Refuge

4743 East Ave.
Livermore, CA 94550
925-895-4167
HomelessRefugeLivermore.com

Livermore Lab Foundation

c/o UC Office of National Labs
1111 Broadway, Suite 2130
Oakland, CA 94607
925-453-9382
Livermorelabfoundation.org

Livermore Lions Club

P.O. Box 975
Livermore, CA 94551
805-405-8743

Livermore Valley Education Foundation

849 East Stanley Boulevard
PMB Box 143
Livermore, CA 94550
LVEF.org

Livermore Valley Opera

P.O. Box 1002
Livermore, CA 94551
925-321-6964
Livermorevalleyopera.com

Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center

2400 First St.
Livermore, CA 94550
925-373-6100
LivermoreArts.com

Museum on Main

603 Main Street
Pleasanton, CA 94566
902-462-2766
Museumonmain.org

NAMI Tri-Valley

P.O. Box 5563
Pleasanton CA 94566
925-980-5331
www.nami-trivalley.org

Open Heart Kitchen

1141 Catalina Dr. # 137,
Livermore CA 9 4550
(mailing address only)
925-580-1616
OpenHeartKitchen.org

Pacific Locomotive Assoc., Inc. Operators of Niles Canyon Railway

P.O. Box 515
Sunol, CA 94586-0515
(510) 996-8420
NCRY.ORG

Partners for Change Tri-Valley

4743 East Ave.
Livermore, CA 94550
650-474-9962
pfctv.org

Paws In Need

Info@Paws-In-Need.org
925-551-1877
Paws-In-Need.org

Pleasanton Art League

P.O. Box 23
Pleasanton, CA 94566
Pal-art.com

Reins In Motion

Therapeutic Riding Program
P.O. Box 1001
Livermore, CA 94551
reinsinmotionca.com

Rotarian Foundation of Livermore

P.O. Box 2181
Livermore, CA 94551-2181
http://www.rotarianfoundationlivermore.org

Sandra J. Wing Healing Therapies Foundation

5890 Stoneridge Dr., Suite 104
Pleasanton, CA 94588
866-862-7270
HealingTherapiesFoundation.org

Senior Support Program of The Tri-Valley

5353 Sunol Blvd.
Pleasanton, CA 94566
925-931-5378
SSPTV.org

Shakespeare's Associates, dba Livermore Shakespeare Festival

P.O. Box 2616
Livermore, CA 94551
(925) 443-2273
LivermoreShakes.org

Shepherds Gate

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

SPECTRUM Community Services, Inc/Meals on Wheels

2621 Barrington Ct.
Hayward, CA 94545
510-881-0300
SpectrumCS.org

Sunflower Hill

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

The Taylor Family Foundation

P.O. Box 2450
Livermore CA, 94551
925-455-5118
TTFF.org

Tri-Valley Animal Rescue

P.O. Box 11143
Pleasanton, CA 94588
TVAR.org

Tri-Valley Conservancy

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

Tri-Valley Haven

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

Tri-Valley Nonprofit Alliance

P.O. Box 2467
Livermore, CA 94550
TVNPA.org

Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre

P.O. Box 1445
Pleasanton, CA 94566
info@trivalleyrep.com
Trivalleyrep.org

ValleyCare Charitable Foundation/Stanford Health Care-ValleyCare

1111 E. Stanley Blvd.
Livermore, CA 94550
925-373-4560
GiveValleyCare.org

Valley Concert Chorale

P.O. Box 286
Livermore, CA 94551
Valleyconcertchorale.org

Valley Dance Theatre

2247-B Second St.
Livermore, CA 94550
925-243-0925
Valleydancetheatre.com

Valley Humane Society

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

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THEATERS

(Continued from first page)

who have also been affected and have lost their jobs," Swalwell said, adding that the grants could be used to prepare a theater for reopening, such as spacing out seats, taking temperatures or administering vaccine checks.

"I'm glad the omnibus budget and COVID-19 relief legislation ... includes \$15 billion in dedicated funding for live venues, independent movie theaters, and cultural institutions, like our own Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center," Swalwell said after the vote. "Venues like this are the cultural lifeblood of our communities, providing enlightenment and entertainment to all, and we must help them survive until this pandemic recedes and we can safely gather again in celebration of the arts."

Carter declined to say how much funding he might request from the federal government when given the opportunity, but the money and community donations throughout the COVID-19 pandemic should allow the theater to pay its employees through 2021 and keep the building in good condition until shows resume, possibly not until 2022.

"We are not out of the woods," Carter said. "This is a great bill. I am super happy that it got included. I think it's really wonderful, and I think it's going to save a lot of spaces from closing."

The grants for indepen-

dent venues are among a slew of relief measures in the bill, which provides \$600 checks to people who make less than \$75,000 a year, adds Payroll Protection Program loans for small businesses, includes \$25 billion for rental assistance, offers aid for freelance and gig workers and gives \$300 a week in unemployment benefits.

Live music and entertainment venues, including movie theaters, across the nation had recently rallied together for help in this relief plan. The National Independent Venue Association pushed for economic help and unemployment benefits for its workers.

Locally, the Bankhead Theater and Bothwell Arts Center — each part of the Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center — joined 24 other venues last week to create the East Bay Venue Coalition. The organization plans to advocate for community and government support and financial help for an industry they say generates \$257 million a year for the local economy. According to the coalition, for every dollar spent on a ticket, \$12 is spent at bars and restaurants, on transportation and at retail stores.

Besides the Livermore venues, others included in the coalition are The Greek Theater in Berkeley, The Ivy Room in Albany and the Oakland Metro Operahouse.



A pandemic relief bill passed by Congress this week could help theater venues across the nation. It awaits approval from the president. Seen here is a December 2019 performance of "The Nutcracker" at Livermore's Bankhead Theater. (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)

The coalition is part of a larger group.

"We had to close before everybody else, and we are going to be one of the last ones to open," Carter said.

In a statement announcing its formation, the coalition noted that lawmakers in Nashville, Tennessee; Austin, Texas; and Sacramento have already allocated funding to save live venues from closing in their cities. The State of Wisconsin authorized \$15 million in a larger relief plan.

"Without similar actions in Alameda County, the county could lose its live entertainment scene for good," East Bay Venue Coalition said in a statement.

Carter does not expect

to even partially reopen his 500-seat Bankhead theater until the summer at the earliest, with a full recovery predicted in about 18 months. The venue annually offers a full slate of entertainment including all types of music, dance troupes, acrobatics, theater and comedy.

The county's stay-at-home order shut down the venue March 12. Although Carter had hoped it would reopen after a few weeks, the pandemic has kept the doors locked for nine months to date. The Bothwell Arts Center has limited access to its programs.

Carter reduced his 55-member staff to eight people, cutting the pay for those who remained by 40%.

Unlike restaurants and retail outlets, theaters with live performances cannot offer curbside service, Carter said.

"We got really lean," Carter explained. "It was awful, and it was scary. I had no idea what we were going to do to stay afloat."

The federal PPP, passed in a relief bill in March, offered businesses forgivable loans to keep employees on the payroll and pay their health care. The loan provided a "lifeline that we needed" for a couple of months, Carter said. But the pandemic is into a second wave with vaccines just beginning to reach first responders and hospital workers.

Tri-Valley residents also are helping keep their fa-

vorite theater afloat. A fundraiser in November brought in \$200,000, part of about \$1.8 million secured from donors since the closure.

"It's been really amazing," Carter said. "We are very fortunate. We got our first estate gift this summer. Someone left us their home in a will. That made an incredible difference."

Meanwhile, LVPAC has online performances for Christmas and more available for purchase on its website. Carter's staff is scheduling its performance dates for the future, mostly shows and speakers postponed during the COVID-19 closure.

For more information, visit livermorearts.org.

RETIRES

(Continued from first page)



Robert Doyle

He knows ranchers and has known them for 30 years ... he keeps contact with them so that when they're ready to sell, they call us first ... He's the one who's going to write a book, because he knows people stories as well as land stories."

Doyle was intimately involved with the creation of the last three EBRPD masterplans, essentially creating the roadmap for district expansion.

"Parks do their best when they have a great leader, and the East Bay has had incredible leadership with Bob Doyle," said Former Director of National Park Service John Jarvis, who served under President Barack Obama. "Bob is not only a visionary, but someone who can deliver on that vision at the same time, a rare quality."

Doyle more than doubled the size of the EBRPD in acreage, parks and trails. Several of his other significant accomplishments have been lauded by leaders

within the East Bay:

Three former military bases that closed during the Clinton administration are now approved for redevelopment into the future with publicly accessible regional parklands.

Doyle successfully fought a 20-year battle for environmental justice along the Richmond shoreline, including the Dotson Family Marsh (named after the family who began the fight to acquire this property for the public) that offers access along the Bay adjacent to a predominantly Black community near Point Pinole in Richmond.

Closing gaps incrementally along the San Francisco Bay Trail, including developing two pedestrian bridges over busy BNSF Railway tracks. Doyle is responsible for EBRPD's mostly contiguous Bay Trail along the 55 miles of the East Bay urban shoreline.

McLaughlin Eastshore State Park grew out of com-

munity support by leaders like Sylvia McLaughlin, co-founder of Save the Bay, who fought to remove garbage dumps from the Berkeley shoreline; under Doyle's leadership, a close partnership exists with a 30-year management plan between the State of California and the EBRPD to manage this popular destination for recreation and environmental enthusiasts.

Doyle significantly increased the EBRPD's connection with multicultural communities through innovative health initiatives, educational programming, and a record 10-year sustainable revenue growth of the Regional Parks Foundation, the private fundraising nonprofit that improves regional park access for underserved communities and communities of color.

"Bob lives conservation," said Seth Adams, Save Mount Diablo Conservation director. "During his years at the park district, pro-

tected acres at the district have more than doubled, and public lands in the East Bay as a whole have more than tripled. John Muir is the East Bay's most famous conservationist, but much of his work was elsewhere. Bob Doyle has been the most effective environmentalist in the history of the East Bay, with a greater positive impact on the physical geography than any other individual."

Growing up in Concord, Doyle spent endless outdoor time as a kid exploring the open spaces around him, especially Mount Diablo, Diablo Foothills and the land that is now Black Diamond Mines Regional Park. His first contribution to the environmental movement began in 1970 during the nation's first-ever Earth Day, where he organized his high school's participation and activities. Doyle then went on to become one of the founding board members of Save Mount Diablo in 1971.

During his four decades spent at the EBRPD, Doyle has held many instrumental roles. His unique journey from park ranger to general manager included many significant positions along the way. His first leadership position came in 1979 when former General Manager Richard Trudeau tapped him to lead the district's efforts to create a regional trail system connecting its parks. Today, regional trails in the East Bay are likely the most used trails in the EBRPD, providing environmentally friendly modes of transportation for recreation and getting to work, school or shopping areas.

In 1985, Doyle was selected to lead the EBRPD land acquisition efforts. After 20 years as assistant general manager for Land Acquisition, Trail Planning, and Interagency and Advanced Planning, Doyle was selected as general manager of the district in 2010. During his tenure, the EBRPD has grown from 59,689 acres to 125,186 acres and today is the nation's largest regional park system.

"The landscape of the East Bay would be significantly different if it were not for Bob Doyle," said Pat O'Brien, former EBRPD general manager. "Not only did he help create parks and preserve properties and areas for wildlife, but he inspired other people, who took up the mantle to advocate for open space, for legislative priorities within the district, and to procure public access."

"Bob has also been an advocate for public access, one thing that probably is not talked about enough. Not only did he want to preserve the properties and acquire them, but he also knew the importance of public access because, without public access, the public wouldn't support the property acquisition program of the district."

Always one to share his district's best practices on a state, national and international level, Doyle is well known in the Parks, Conservation, Environmental space. He was a co-leader in California's first successful statewide park bond effort in 15 years for Prop 68, generating \$4 billion in per capita funding for every park agency in California. Under Doyle's leadership,

the EBRPD has never seen higher support from the public (85% voter approval for 2018's Measure FF to provide additional revenues for parks); he has successfully advocated and helped the EBRPD receive over \$1 billion in new revenue to pay for sorely needed capital development at parks and acquisition of parklands across Alameda and Contra Costa counties.

Doyle concluded his career at the EBRPD leading the agency through one of the most challenging times in its history.

"COVID-19 has shown just how essential parks are to the community's physical and mental health," Doyle said. "The district overcame tremendous challenges to keep parks open and safe for the public when they needed them most. Our existing partnerships with the County Health Departments have been very effective in showing that parks are essential for health, not just recreation. I am extremely proud of how district staff answered the call and came to the public's aid during this time."

Doyle is currently a Walnut Creek resident. His wife Tina is also an ardent conservationist, executive leader, and successful private fundraiser for parks and open space. The two have plans to enjoy their coastal home hiking trails and ocean views.

The EBRPD has begun the recruitment process for a new general manager. In the interim, beginning in January 2021, EBRPD District Counsel Carol Victor will serve as acting general manager.

SUSTAINABLE

(Continued from first page)

environmental impact and ways to improve the quality of life at a local level. They work to cultivate a more inclusive work environment, leverage what their company does best for future generations and help customers become more sustainable as well. While the focus for each company differs, the two main areas of focus remain on ethics and integrity.

Sensiba further noted that SSF started its own B Corp certification a few years ago, making it the only B Corp accounting and consulting firm in California and one of just seven such firms in the U.S.

"After Sensiba San Filippo went through the B Corp process ourselves, we quickly began to see the many benefits this shift in our business model had on our employees and company culture, client relation-

ships and communities," Sensiba said. "We're excited to work with our existing clients and new companies that are ready to begin or significantly enhance their sustainability programs."

Through this firsthand experience, Sensiba realized how time-consuming and complex the B Corp certification process could be. But he also called the endeavor enlightening, as he recognized the shift in consciousness is needed.

"Right now, some people might consider (B Corp certification) a nice to have, but in a very short period of time, it's going to be a have to have," Sensiba said.

He noted that the future job talent market is focused on sustainability. The fact that SSF is now a B Corp company allowed his team to recruit top students from colleges in ways that weren't able to before as a

smaller CPA firm.

Sensiba said several Tri-Valley companies have signed on for guidance.

"We started the center to be a resource for people," he said. "Our profession is shifting toward verifying sustainability for companies that have to prove to their stakeholders — whether its shareholders or employers, investors, lenders — that their practices and supply chains are sustainable."

From businesses just beginning to explore the concept of adopting a formal sustainability program to those that have already decided to undertake B Corp certification or Sustainability Accounting Standards Board compliance reporting, SSF's expert advisors take a personalized approach intended to turn every client's vision for a more sustainable company into a reality.

The Sensiba Center for Sustainability offers program and brand voice development, certification and compliance reports, and assessments. Sensiba said that, depending upon the client's needs, the center can either take the reins and drive the process or assist internal personnel already tasked with spearheading the certification efforts.

"Companies that hope to be thriving 10 years from now have by and large accepted that incorporating sustainability into their business models in a serious and thoughtful way is no longer optional," Sensiba continued. "However, knowing how to get started — and even where you'd like to end up — is far from obvious."

For more information on B Labs, visit <https://bcorporation.net/about-b-lab>. For more information

on the Sensiba Center for Sustainability, visit <https://ssflp.com/sensiba-center-for-sustainability>.

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NUCLEAR

(Continued from first page)

tween not accepting this allocation, or accepting it, selling it and pushing PG&E to report their actual effect on greenhouse gasses through their entire procurement portfolio,” said Diane Martinez, board vice chair who represents Emeryville.

The power is generated at PG&E’s Diablo Canyon station — the state’s last remaining nuclear-power plant, scheduled to close in 2025.

Livermore and Dublin as well as unincorporated areas of the county, including Sunol, were among the first communities to join the public power agency when it launched in 2018. Pleasanton opted out initially, but has since decided to join and has a directors seat on the board. Enrollment of Pleasanton customers will begin in 2021. The board sets rates and determines the mix of power sources.

EBCE has no sharehold-

ers and funnels excess revenue to run local programs. The agency claims it provides greener power at low rates, saving customers a combined \$10 million annually compared with what they would have paid PG&E.

The plan is the third nuclear power sales proposal presented to the board this year, and the first to gain approval.

Prior proposals contemplated selling nuclear to EBCE customers. It boiled down to a trade-off between having nuclear and lower greenhouse gas emissions, or being nuclear-free and accepting higher greenhouse gas emissions. The board ultimately chose to remain nuclear-free, avoiding the controversy and marketing complications it would bring.

But this left PG&E with all of the benefits of the carbon-free nuclear energy for which its customers paid,

including the ability to report a reduced carbon footprint.

PG&E produces more energy than it sells to retail customers. If there were sufficient carbon-free generation in its portfolio, PG&E could avoid disclosing emissions from its gas-fired power plants.

The approved plan avoids this by taking the nuclear generation out of PG&E’s hands. The argument goes: the less carbon-free energy it can claim, the more carbon-emitting sources of energy it must disclose.

The new plan also steers clear of slapping a nuclear label on EBCE’s power content label — the energy mix disclosure it must share with customers — because the energy will be sold wholesale and the source reporting requirements will shift to a third party.

The plan calls for accepting the nuclear power and immediately transferring the

allocation to an energy marketer, which would retain it or attempt to resell it to a third party. EBCE would receive half of the net revenue from any sale.

Such a profit-sharing arrangement is projected to generate between \$500,000 and \$1 million in revenue next year, based on EBCE staff estimates. Proceeds could be considerably higher or lower based on actual sales. The board directed that any proceeds be earmarked for local development projects, procurement or renewable energy content.

EBCE and other community choice entities have been engaged in ongoing efforts through the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to reduce fees that the state’s investor-owned utilities like PG&E charge to recover costs.

The Power Charge Indifference Adjustment (PCIA), also called an exit fee, is

levied by PG&E against customers who leave for community choice energy providers. The monthly fees are supposed to ensure departing customers pay their fair share of procurement costs incurred on their behalf.

Advocates for community choice argue the fees are artificially inflated in order to limit the ability of community choice energy programs to compete with the large investor-owned utilities. The fees have increased 600% since 2013 and nearly doubled since 2018.

As part of the CPUC proceedings to justify the charges, PG&E last December offered to begin providing EBCE, and other load-serving entities that pay the PCIA, proportional annual shares of carbon-free hydroelectric and nuclear sources. Any rejected allocations would revert back to PG&E to use or dispose at it saw fit.

Accepting allocations also requires accepting certain conditions that provide a measure of protection for PG&E from regulatory and legislative challenges.

Renewable energy advocates oppose accepting nuclear power from PG&E regardless of the mechanics of the transfer, arguing nuclear energy is dirty and dangerous and in conflict with EBCE’s green-energy mission. More than a dozen people spoke against the latest plan during the public comment period of the directors meeting held remotely via Zoom.

“You’ve heard from your constituents multiple times — once in April and again in November. We don’t want nuclear in any shape or form,” said Igor Tregub, a Sierra Club SF Bay Chapter representative. “...We don’t understand why this item continues to come up, over and over.”

CHIEF

(Continued from first page)

Department received countless awards and recognitions to include the ranking of Livermore as one of the top Fifteen Safest Cities Nationwide and one of the top Five Safest Cities in California.

“Chief Scott was born in Monterey County and

raised in Salinas. After serving in the United States Coast Guard Reserves, he attended Hartnell Junior College, having played on the 1967 Hartnell Panther’s State Champion football team. While attending night school, Chief Scott complet-

ed his bachelor’s degree and his master’s degree in public administration, which he received from Golden Gate University.

The announcement stated that Scott spent over 30 years in law enforcement, including time with the

Monterey County Probation Department and the Salinas Police Department. He rose to the rank of captain with the Salinas department. He served the Livermore Police Department as chief of police for 12 years.

“Following his retire-

ment, Chief Scott remained a proud and active resident within the City of Livermore,” the statement continued. “Chief Scott was a member of the Rotary Club and participated within the Livermore Rodeo, serving as Rodeo Parade Chairman.

Chief Scott was well known for his friendliness, often striking up conversations with officers while strolling about town. Chief Scott will be remembered fondly by his Livermore Police Department family and the community he served.”

VACCINATIONS

(Continued from first page)

Pfizer for the production of this vaccine in a remarkable manner and to ValleyCare for all of the work it’s taken to get this in play and set this up,” he said. “I think we’re all lucky, honestly.”

John Sensiba, who sits on the SHC-VC board, was also present on Friday morning to witness Yoshioka receive the first Pfizer dose. He described the hallways lined with observers, cameras and hospital staff from every department.

“I did not anticipate the emotional release from these people, who finally see a light at the end of the tunnel with the vaccine coming,” Sensiba said of the frontline workers. “I could not have done anything better on Friday morning ... it was amazing.”

Rick Shumway, SHC-VC CEO and president, stated that the availability of vaccines for staff is a significant turning point in response to the pandemic.

“It has been a really challenging year for all of us. We’ve all gone through lots of challenges, both person-

ally and professionally,” Shumway said.

The Livermore Veterans Hospital staff also shared in the historic moment as employees stepped forward to receive their first Pfizer doses. Nurses Sherryl Ong and Renee Cerenio administered the vaccines to Raul Morales, Alice Roszyk and Jason Augustus, among others.

While there are no Kaiser Permanente (KP) hospitals in the Tri-Valley region, many of the providers who live in the area are employed in Oakland, San Leandro, Richmond, Antioch and Walnut Creek facilities — where frontline workers received their first vaccines as well.

“To help end this pandemic and to protect our physicians, staff, patients, families and communities, we are encouraging everyone to get vaccinated when they meet the criteria for those being vaccinated, and supplies are available,” said Dr. Sharon Mowat, co-physician-in-chief for Kaiser Permanente’s Dia-

blo Service Area. “Even as the vaccine is provided to people in our communities, it is still critical for everyone to keep using all available methods to help reduce the spread of COVID-19. These include covering your mouth and nose with a mask, washing your hands often, avoiding gatherings, and staying at least 6 feet away from others — and encouraging others to do the same.”

The first phase started with the highest risk frontline hospital workers and paramedics who perform intubations.

Under the vaccine prioritization framework, next in line are staff and residents of nursing homes, said Dr. Kathleen Clanon, deputy health officer and medical director for Alameda Coun-

ty Health Care Services Agency. Clanon explained that the state expects this portion of the program to begin Dec. 28.

These early doses of COVID-19 vaccine come amid a surge of cases and hospitalization rates regionally and across the state, which health experts have described as the worst they have seen to date.

“To me, this day signals a significant step forward in our ability to take better care of our staff, patients, families and community,” Shumway continued. “I’m so excited for the opportunity our staff, our teams and our physicians will have — to have that peace of mind and allow them to do their jobs in a safer and more effective way.”

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CRASH

(Continued from first page)

together. We have built a strong network of support at both Livermore and Del Valle High Schools. I know we will come together during this time to bolster and comfort one another. We are mobilizing our District crisis team to provide grief and trauma counseling to students, faculty, and support staff.

“Let’s keep their families in our minds and hearts,

as they have suffered such an unimaginable and heartbreaking loss. Our community’s strength and sheer love will help them through.”

The collision is still under investigation and associated factors or fault have yet to be determined. LPD asks anyone with information surrounding this collision to call Sgt. Justin Lash at 925-371-4857.

TRI-VALLEY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Now Until Sunday, Dec. 27 Eleanor’s Very Merry Christmas

“Eleanor’s Very Merry Christmas The Musical” is now online on Demand only until Dec. 27. It has been reviewed to be ‘as sweet as Mrs. Claus’ cookies ... crafted with love and warmth,’ by “Chicago On Stage.” For more information or to purchase tickets, visit <https://bit.ly/3nEujvK>. Use code LVPAC20 and a portion of sales will benefit the Bankhead.

Now Until Sunday, Jan. 3 The Wave Closed

The Wave will be closed for the holidays beginning Monday, Dec. 21. Lap swimming and water walking hours will resume on Jan. 4. Swim camps will resume on Jan. 9. Reservations for lap swimming and water walking lanes during the week of Jan. 4 will open on Wednesday, Dec. 30, at noon.

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.

Christmas Eve Services Thursday, Dec. 24

Asbury United Methodist Church, 4743 East Ave., in Livermore, invites the public to join in on Christmas Eve for three virtual worship services. The Christmas Pageant Service on ZOOM — an interactive pop-up Telling of The Christmas Story — is scheduled for 4:30 p.m.; a YouTube worship service is scheduled for 7 p.m.; and a live-streamed YouTube

worship service is scheduled for 11 p.m. Contact the church office at office@asburylive.org or 925-447-1950 for the links to the services.

Tri-Valley Community Television Thursday, Dec. 24 and Friday, Dec. 25

Broadcasting throughout the holiday season is this year’s “Pleasanton Virtual Hometown Holiday Celebration & Tree Lighting,” starting at 5 p.m. on Christmas Eve. The festivities may be viewed on Comcast TV Channel 30 and AT&T Uverse via Channel 99, as well as streaming live at tv30.org. Christmas Eve lineup is from 5 p.m. to 6 a.m., and on Christmas Day from 6 a.m. to 12 a.m.

Wednesday, Jan. 13 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 Jan. 13, Feb. 17, March 17, April 14 and May 19. For more information, visit dublin.ca.gov/380/Special-Events.

ONGOING WEEKLY EVENTS

Livermore Downtown Farmers Market Open for the Season

Open Sundays, from 9:00 a.m. to 1 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 compiled are designed to be used at home, in a classroom or part of any online learning. For more information, visit www.ebparks.org/activities/digital_learning/default.htm.

LARPD Now on YouTube

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

Music Together Tri-Valley Supports Early Childhood Development

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

Pacific Chamber Orchestra Offers Musical Podcast

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

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OBITUARIES

Andrew Carlton Finster

June 25, 1991 – Dec. 1, 2020

Andrew "Drew" Carlton Finster passed away unexpectedly on Dec. 1, 2020, at the age of 29.

Andrew was born June 25, 1991, at Valley Memorial Hospital and remained a lifelong resident of Livermore. He was a 2009 graduate of Livermore High School and worked in many fields, including the construction industry.

As a young boy, Andrew had a love of trains, playing sports, and the great outdoors. As he grew, Andrew developed a talent and passion for music and was an avid A's, Raiders, and Sharks fan. Andrew was a loyal friend, had a heart of gold, and his blue eyes and



contagious smile permeated any room he entered.

Andrew was a beloved son, brother, grandson, and friend. He is survived by his parents, David and Rachelle Finster; brother, Matthew Finster; sister, Hannah Finster; grandparents, David and Karen Finster; Cheryl

Ringer and Glenn Ringer; as well as many uncles, aunts, and cousins.

The family held a private viewing on Tuesday, Dec. 8, 2020, at Callaghan's Mortuary. A Celebration of Life will be held in the future, once restrictions allow for the celebration Andrew deserves. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to Sunset Community Church, c/o Darin Anderson, 2200 Arroyo Road, Livermore, California, 94550.

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

Robert Lee (Bob) Hansen

May 13, 1946 – Dec. 10, 2020

Early in the morning on Dec. 10, Robert Lee (Bob) Hansen left this Earth to go to a much better place.

He was born on May 13, 1946, to Dan and Vera Hansen. He and his two older brothers, Dan Jr. and Albert, were proud fourth-generation Californians. He was proud of that fact.

His best memories as a child involved going fishing at the "old river" with his Dad and brothers. Bob went to school in his hometown of Livermore. He remained close to his childhood friend, Bob Souza, until the end of his life.

At the age of 16, Bob became the youngest chief fire warden in Alameda County history, which includes Oakland, Berkeley, and the Livermore Valley. He was stationed alone in a lookout tower above the treetops, searching the county for any signs of fire. He fought many fires in the hills and valleys where he lived, with only a rake and a 50-gallon water can on his back.

Bob went on to work at the well-known Concannon Vineyard, where he learned winemaking from planting to the finished product. He then attended the prestigious viticulture and enology program at University of California, Davis, where he became an accredited wine master. He went on to become part of the team that developed Concannon's renowned petit Sirah, as well as many other lines.

In 1973, Bob met Mary, the love of his life, and they were married a year later. The young family moved to Wisconsin, where Mary was born and raised. Bob managed Green Bay's The Victorian House and served the many Green Bay Packers who were regulars. In 1979,



they bought a tavern in Grover, Wisconsin, known as Hansen's Hide-A-Way. There, he and Mary raised their two children, Rich and Robin, and met many people who remain friends to this day.

He was given the nickname "Buffalo Bob" during this time. He went on to become a cheesemaker at County Line Cheese. His boss fondly called him "Jose the Cheesehead." Bob, who was half Mexican and half Danish, was very proud of his heritage. He was the first person with brown skin to become a permanent, well-known and well-liked resident of Peshtigo, Wisconsin.

Bob then took a job at Marinette Casting, where he worked until his retirement at the age of 62. While there, his friend Al Duprey gave him the nickname "Smokey," a moniker he kept for 20 years. His hat with that nickname still hangs in the hallway at Mary's house.

Bob loved taking care of his lawn and planting all the lilac and cedar trees that enclose the backyard. Sadly, soon after retirement, Bob's health declined, and he went to reside at Rennes Health Center East for his last decade, where he did his very best to terrorize the incredibly patient staff. Special thanks to Lu, Sandy, Molly,

Kristine, Jessica, Lisa and Kari, who cared for him and treated him with love, respect and kindness. Thanks as well to any workers who are not named above for your care. You are heroes in our eyes and hearts.

Especially close to Bob's heart were family who remained in the area, including his children, Rich and Robin (Todd), grandson Gabe, and Gabe's father, Ralph. Bob is survived by his wife of 46 years, Mary; his loving daughters, Mary Lou (Gary), Ann Marie, and Robin Lee (Todd); and only son, Richard Lee; as well as his brother, Albert (Teresa). His grandson Gabe was Papa's boy, and granddaughter Mikayla, his pretty girl. Grandchildren Meagan and Cody Greenhalgh, along with Michael and Austin Frampton, were far away in California, with great-grandchildren, Derek and Nicole, carrying on the generations in California, with many nieces and nephews.

There will be no services for Bob due to Covid 19, so this will stand as his obituary and his eulogy. I hope you will all think of him and honor his memory, just as if there were a memorial service for him. His brother, Al, and his lifelong friend, Bob, will sprinkle his ashes in "the old river" in California he so loved as a child, per his wishes.

With all the nicknames he was given over his lifetime, to us he will be best remembered with love as Bob, Dad and Papa.

Berth and Rosenthal are caring for Bob's wishes and for Bob's family. Cards of sympathy can be directed to Mary Hansen, at 389 S. Ellis Ave., Peshtigo, Wisconsin, 54157.

Rose Marie Short

May 15, 1939 – Dec. 9, 2020

Rose Marie Short of Bedford, Virginia, passed away unexpectedly at her home on Dec. 9, 2020.

She relocated to Bedford in 2017 from Livermore.

Rose Marie was born in Arlington, Kentucky, to Wiley and Garneda Goad. She graduated from Livermore High School in 1957. Rose Marie met the love of her life and married William (Bill) Short in 1959. As an adult, she worked for the Department of Energy, retiring from the V.A. Hospital in 1996.

Rose Marie was very active in the Masonic community. She joined Job's Daughters as a teen, being a charter member of Bethel 232, Livermore. She became an influential part of Job's Daughters International as an adult, serving as Bethel Guardian, of Bethel #232 Livermore, and culminating a decades long career of service as Supreme Guardian of Job's Daughters International 2012/2013. She was also a member of the Order of the



Eastern Star, Livermore for 60 years.

Rose Marie loved her family and friends and enjoyed nothing more than spending time with each of them. She enjoyed traveling wherever she could, had a love for music, and enjoyed singing in the choir at Trinity Baptist Church for over 40 years.

She was preceded in death by her mother and father, Garneda Wooden and Wiley Thomas Goad; her mother and father-in-law, Evelyn and Hubert Short; and her husband, William Warren Short.

She is survived by her

daughter, Garneda Skinnell, and her husband, Ken; son, Randol (Randy) Short; grandchildren, Haley (NeChole) Skinnell and finance, Shaun McClure, Justin Skinnell, Riley Cooper and Morgan Jo Short; her great-grandchildren, Joshua James, Laurryn Olivia, Averie Rose and Isabelle Riley; her brothers, Ted Goad, his wife Linda and their family; Tom Goad, his wife Susan and their family; and brother-in-law, Terry Short and wife Michelle.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Rose Marie and Bill Short memorial scholarship fund established through the California Job's Daughters Foundation. Donations may be sent to California Job's Daughters Foundation, 303 West Lincoln Ave., Suite 210, Anaheim, California, 92805-2928.

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

Enez James



Enez James lived a long and fulfilling life for 94 years, but on Nov. 30, the Covid virus claimed her.

She leaves behind many friends and a family that loved her.

Enez was born and grew up in Brooklyn, New York. In many ways, she was a true Brooklynite - intelligent, with an acerbic wit, quick to laugh and to point out flaws in our world. She enjoyed challenging herself with crossword puzzles and other word games, even in her final years.

Enez took pride in being self-reliant. After working her way through college in New York, she became a professional dietician. She met her future husband, Ed James, while on a tour of Norway. After their marriage, they enjoyed

many vacations in far-away places.

Ed's work as an explosives expert at Lawrence Livermore Lab drew the couple to Livermore. Enez established deep roots in the community through her work at the VA hospital, as well as her volunteer work as a friendly greeter to Livermore newcomers. She

also volunteered at Valley Memorial Hospital and the Bankhead Theater.

Enez was a long-time member of Lifestyle Rx, where she enjoyed water aerobics.

After Ed's death in 2001, Enez lived alone in their home until 2016, when she moved to an assisted-living facility in Livermore. Despite decreasing mobility, Enez continued twice weekly exercise sessions with a personal trainer at Absolute Wellness. She was always willing to try new things, and learn new dance steps.

Due to Covid burial services will be private. Callaghan Mortuary is honored to be serving the James family. An online guestbook is available for condolences at www.callaghanmortuary.com.

Michael Vincent O'Con

April 15, 1962 – Dec. 7, 2020

Michael Vincent O'Con was born on April 15, 1962, in Oakland.

He was the youngest of nine children to Peter and Nellie O'Con. Michael departed on Dec. 7, 2020, after a battle of five years to lymphoma cancer.

Michael was raised in Oakland with his parents and siblings. In 1981, he met the love of his life, Michelle, and asked her, "Do you believe in love at first sight?"

They were inseparable ever since. After dating for three years, they married on Aug. 4, 1984. Four years later, they welcomed their only daughter, Monique.

His hobby was building and flying model air-



planes. It became a hobby for him when his family moved to Livermore in 2006. He enjoyed flying on the weekends with his friend, Mark, and all of his buddies. He also enjoyed spending time with family and his dog, Moose.

He loved watching mov-

ies. His favorite shows were "Law and Order," "90 Day Fiancé," and "Love After Lockup."

Today, Michael rests in peace and is with the Lord. He has now been reunited with his honey babe. His kind heart touched many family and friends and will truly be missed.

He is survived by his daughter, Monique; son-in-law, Robert; granddaughter, Elaina; brothers, Jesse, John, Joseph, and Larry; and sister Helen.

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

Mildred Karstens



Mildred Karstens passed away on Thanksgiving Day, 2020.

Originally from Moscow, Idaho, she attended school in Washington, and later obtain a degree while living in California. Passionate about her work, Mil worked for Alameda County in Adult Protective Services for 32 years. She was known for her incredible focus, dedication to helping others and the development of her co-workers.

Upon retirement, she set out upon two lifelong dreams, to live on a ranch

and travel. With her family, she found a small ranch near Livermore, spending hours gardening, tending animals and doing nearly everything

ranch related. She achieved her dream of traveling, visiting Africa, South America, the Galapagos, Alaska, and many places throughout the United States. However, she made it a point to travel to see her friends.

Mil is survived by her sister, brothers, two sons and wives, and a granddaughter. Mil is preceded in death by her husband, Jon Sr, and will be buried next to him in the Mid-West. Mil was spoken of having made significant impact in hundreds of peoples' lives, and will be missed by every single one.

Donna Belle (Kiser) Simoni

Nov. 16, 1933 – Dec. 11, 2020

Dona Simoni was a devoted wife, a loving mother, a marvelous grandmother, a cherished friend, and an accomplished realtor and businesswoman.

She was born in her family home on a peach orchard in Forest Grove, Oregon, where her father ran a trucking business. After she finished high school, she was invited by her sister Bonnie to come and stay with her and her husband, Ted, who was a Naval officer.

Dona accepted the offer, and joined them in Concord, California. She settled in and she soon met Bob in Oakland. They have been married for 66 years.

They started their life together in Oakland, and relocated to Hayward after their first child was born. Dona raised three children

and was well known to all of their friends and neighbors as a room mother, Cub Scout troop leader, Brownie troop leader and Girl Scout troop leader. She was also well known in the neighborhood for being active in the HOA, the editor of the neighborhood newsletter, and the Avon lady.

Dona's interest in investment property inspired her to become a realtor. Her passion for real estate drove her to start her own venture, and she co-founded NorCal Realty. She started as a female realtor in a man's profession, but quickly became 'the broker' in her neighborhood.

There was no challenge too big for Dona. She and Bob bought property in Point Arena, California, that didn't have electricity. Dona

convinced the other property owners in the area to form an HOA. She set about getting power lines installed for several miles to bring power to all of the properties. There were so many hurdles, processes, permits, and people to manage. She was determined and tenacious, and of course, she was successful.

Dona enjoyed going to the cabin, spending time with Benji, the family dog, going on road trips with Bob, researching the family ancestry, and visiting historical monuments. Dona loved trips abroad, especially Italy, and started to learn Italian.

Dona is survived by her husband of 66 years, her three children, five grandchildren, and six great grandchildren.

Carol Ann Webb (Hicks)

Oct. 13, 1941 – Dec. 16, 2020

Carol was born Oct. 13, 1941, in Carson City, Nevada, and passed away on Dec. 16, 2020, in Palmdale, California.

She was raised in Livermore and attended Livermore High, class of 1959.

She is survived by her children, Susan Hicks-Veliz of Palmdale, and Robert Hicks of Livermore; her grandchildren, Taryn

Dallas-Ridgeway, Robyn Veliz, Michael Veliz, and Amanda Wardlaw; and her great-grandchildren, Wren Wardlaw and Penny Ridgeway. Carol was predeceased by her two sons, Larry Hicks and Tom Dallas.

She was a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. She was loved by many and will be missed by all!



Miguel Baez Named Livermore Teacher of the Year

Miguel Baez, a computer science instructor at Granada High School, has been named Teacher of the Year by the Livermore Joint Unified School District.

Baez was honored this month at the 31st annual Alameda County Teacher of the Year Awards Ceremony, sponsored by the Alameda County Office of Education and held online this year because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Miguel is the rare teacher that is as inspirational for staff as he is for students,"

said Granada Principal Matthew Hart. "He provides technological opportunities for his students that I've literally never seen in high school classrooms before."

Since Baez began teaching at Granada five years ago, Hart said, he has taken the lead in expanding computer science courses available to students. He currently teaches several courses including computer science principles, computer graphics, web page design, and game design. His computer applications course is part of the school's Dual

Immersion Program, taught in both English and Spanish.

Baez also leads the high school's competitive Cybersecurity Club.

During the pandemic, Baez has gotten creative to engage his students in online learning.

"When the distance learning experience started, I decided to study what streamers do to engage with their viewers," Baez said. "I set up a space, physical and digital, with lots of lights, animations, and overlays on my camera. I got into character

using Snapchat lenses and just went in for it!

"It's great to see [the students] laugh at my jokes or to hear them engage when they thought they were muted," Baez said.

District Superintendent Kelly Bowers also praised Baez his collaboration with elementary STEM teachers, calling him a "model teacher." Baez's computer science students at Granada used Webex to teach students at Altamont Creek Elementary how to program Sphero robots.



Miguel Baez

Laursen, Miller Elected President, Vice President of Pleasanton School District for 2021



Joan Laursen



Mark Miller

Joan Laursen, a member of the Pleasanton Unified School District Board of Trustees since 2010, will serve as board president for 2021.

Laursen previously served as board president in 2016. She also works as a director of district advisory services for the Alameda County Office of Education.

The five-member board also picked Mark Miller to serve as vice president for

the coming year.

Miller, an information technology manager, was first elected to the board of trustees in 2016 and served as president in 2017.

At the board's organizational meeting this week, Superintendent David Haglund also swore in two new newly elected trustees, Kelly Mokashi and Mary Jo Carreon, and Steve Maher, who was elected this year to a second four-year term.

"It continues to be a privilege to serve the students and families of Pleasanton," Laursen said. "I look forward to working alongside Vice President Miller and hand-in-hand with trustees Carreon, Mokashi and Maher to best serve our students during this critical time in our history."

The district also recognized former trustee Jamie Yee, who lost her bid for a fourth term on the board

after serving for 12 years.

"Thank you, Jamie, for your service to our students and families," Haglund said. "PUSD is better because of your work to ensure that our students become resourceful, resilient, responsible, and engaged world citizens."

The Pleasanton Unified School District serves nearly 15,000 students in 15 schools.

New Livermore School Board Members Guzman and Wang to Take Seats

Two new members were sworn into office last week during an organizational meeting of the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District Board of Trustees.

Yanira Guzman and Kristie Wang were elected to four-year terms in November.

Guzman is a former Spanish teacher and literacy coach in California public schools and worked in the private sector in customer training and software implementation. She is also

started a career-coaching business, The Career Gem, and is co-leader of a professional and social network for Latina women, Latinas of the Bay Area.

She holds a bachelor's degree in sociology from the University of California, Berkeley and a master's degree in education from San Francisco State University. Guzman is the mother of two children, both of whom attend Junction Avenue K-8 School in Livermore.

Wang previously worked

for two nonprofit advocacy groups, Futures Without Violence, based in San Francisco, and Children Now, based in Oakland. She has also been an active volunteer since moving to Livermore 14 years ago, including 10 years as an advocate for Tri-Valley Haven and co-founder of Flavors Addict Kids Livermore, a grassroots organization created to combat youth vaping.

She holds a bachelor's degree in education policy

from the University of Chicago and a master's in public policy from Harvard University. Wang is the mother of a son who graduated from Livermore High School in 2020 and a daughter who attends Granada High School.

Guzman and Wang were the top two vote getters among five candidates for two open seats on the school board.

At their organizational meeting, the trustees also elected trustee Craig Bueno to continue as president of



Yanira Guzman



Kristie Wang

the five-member board for 2021. Board member Emily Prusso will serve as clerk

and Livermore's representative to the California School Boards Association.

MAILBOX

(Continued from page 4)

Zero Bail is Dumb

Bill Bau, Livermore

How many times does the idiotic "zero bail" policy have to prove itself as being a very dumb idea?

At least this time, the "guys and gals in blue" quickly caught the miscreant and returned him home. Stole the sheriff's golf cart? Really?

Latest Downtown Housing Plan is Even Worse

Thomas Soules, Livermore

I venture to say that if a vote were taken today, 90% of the people of Livermore would oppose placing huge Eden Housing residential buildings behind the small shops on First Street.

Please, city council, listen to your constituency. We are not a small fringe group that doesn't care about low-income housing. We want the housing where it can do the most good and not destroy the character, desirability and functionality of the city downtown.

Typically, a small city's downtown is reserved for shops, retail, museums, parks, churches, etc., that bring people downtown, people essential to the vitality of a city. These huge residential buildings will dissuade people from shopping (in or) visiting downtown.

Further, we need far more affordable housing units and more square footage per unit than can be achieved in this small space. Who will the current plan help - a few families who need housing as quickly as possible and want to be close to downtown? Certainly, that is good.

However, building the housing north of Railroad Avenue could help many more families. This is still very close to downtown.

Apparently, the city already owns some of the land and likely far more space is available for immediate purchase than is on the Lucky site. Purchasing land might delay construction, but if the city was really intent on doing this the delay should not be excessive.

This would also improve the area north of Railroad Avenue and create a public space across the street, which can be utilized by the residents of the housing units and the general public for a park, recreation, additional parking, etc., improving the

quality of life for all. I think everyone would support it.

Driving by the three- and four-story housing units being built on the previous Groth Brother's site, turning down Veteran's Way and imagining similar humongous buildings with canyons behind the small shops on First makes me very sad. Now, we learn that the situation is worse than first proposed.

Eden Housing said the building sizes must be increased 42%. Now, a three-story building runs the entire available length from L Street, ~400 feet, with a still higher four-story building behind abutting Railroad Avenue and also running the entire length. The original small space between buildings is decreased 32%.

This is insane.

You Can't Fight Invincible Ignorance

Richard Sears, Livermore

Forgive the honkeys (the Saturday drive-by shouting, it is all about them.

'Look at me!'

'You didn't want to eat a quiet meal or relax with your family. Peace and quiet are not my concern!'

'Look at me!'

'I supported the biggest bully of all time.'

I have a very bright friend who said, almost 60 years ago, "You can't fight invincible ignorance."

I guess we can hope that, in time, it will just fade away. Thanks for voting!

Swalwell Nothing More Than a 'Dumbocrat'

Bill Andrade, Dublin

The article by Larry Altman was so ridiculous it shows your paper to be part of the fake news. No Evidence to support wrongdoing? Swalwell is nothing more than a Dumbocrat stooge for Crazy Crooked Pelosi. Six years this idiot has been banging this SPY. Swalwell is either stupid, unaware or a traitor. Hoping there was still any paper that was not biased. Oh well, we can still line our bird cage with The Independent.

Rich with Hypocrisy

Philip La Scolia, Livermore

I read the editorial comment about Eric Swalwell.

The headline stated,

"Choose unity over unfounded accusations."

When it comes to defending Eric Swalwell, I find that to be "rich with hypocrisy."

Isn't Swalwell the congressman who went around for four years claiming Trump was a Russian agent? Didn't he say there was overwhelming evidence that not only was Trump a Russian agent, it was Russia who helped Trump win in 2016?

Alas, Congressman Swalwell has yet to produce one scintilla of evidence to support his claims. He was often found on CNN, MSNBC, and even FOX, spouting off about what he knew and what he had. Yet, like his cohorts, Brennan and Clapper, who also repeated the same on these networks, when they were under oath, in front of a congressional committee, they stated they had not seen any evidence to support that Trump was an agent or was helped by Russia.

I would call what Swalwell, Brennan and Clapper did "unfounded accusations."

This paper can defend Swalwell. However, this editorial belongs in the same place Swalwell says he has evidence that Trump was a Russian spy and was helped by the Russian's to win in 2016 - the trash heap.

Do Not Destroy Livermore Valley

Sharon Howe, Livermore

How is Intersect Power - the company behind the massive Aramis solar power plant proposed for North Livermore Valley - going to make a profit on the project?

It has contracted to sell 75% of the electricity generated to San Francisco electricity customers. As long-standing Livermore veterinarian and Alameda County Commissioner Larry Goselin has stated, the Aramis Project allows San Francisco officials to claim that they are meeting their green energy goals, but only by burdening Alameda County residents.

Land that has been used for ranching and farming for centuries - and remains productive agricultural land today - will be destroyed. Open space that serves as a habitat for sensitive and threatened species will no longer exist. Shouldn't these factors be included in calculating the real cost of the project by the

Alameda County Board of Supervisors?

If San Francisco wants more clean energy, it should start by generating the power in its own backyard. Offshore wind farms are one option. We have done more than our fair share in Alameda County to generate wind energy. Let San Francisco step forward and start producing its own renewable energy.

Livermore Valley should not be destroyed to power San Francisco.

Country Needs Unity

Phyllis Couper, Pleasanton

In response to the editorial "Choose Unity over Unfounded Accusations."

If Congressman Eric Swalwell is innocent of the accusations of association with a Chinese spy, there would be no news items or discussions about it.

His photograph with the woman is widely distributed. Why didn't he dismiss any involvement with her from the very beginning if he is a leader? And yes, the country needs unity, not baseless attacks such as levied against President Trump for the last four years.

What He Was Doing To Trump

David Whitaker, Dublin

Republicans (want) Swalwell removal from committee, despite any wrong doing.

Well, that's what he was doing to Trump. My mother always said whatever they accuse you of, their (sic) doing (Mr. Swalwell), and my mother never (lies).

Too Little, Too Late

Mark Palajac, Livermore

At the Dec. 7 city council meeting, I submitted a comment supporting the 'alternate plan' to the Eden Housing plan.

I regret having made that statement.

In late October, Joan Sepala asked me to chair a committee to promote an alternate plan to the present location. Joan was a committee member. After learning of the likely members, I agreed.

The committee did a lot of work in just a few weeks, but it was very late in the process. During the six weeks, I had at least weekly calls with Bob Woerner. Bob was very helpful providing suggestions and

guidance. Anyone characterizing him as not helpful in this effort is just plain wrong or disingenuous.

Our group lacked many things including data about the Eden Plan, a source of funding, and a reasonable alternative plan. At the end of six weeks, the only funding identified was City of Livermore funds. The proposed 'doubling of the number of affordable units' is not feasible.

The alternate site, for which there is no money, was expected to have a unit density double that of the Eden Housing plan of just over 50 units per acre. Eden Housing will need this kind of (lower density) plan in order to be successful in obtaining tax-advantaged financing necessary to make the plan viable.

By the time the council meeting ended, I'd learned enough about the Eden plan that I knew it was not possible to consider an alternate plan without jeopardizing the \$14.4 million of A1 county funding already awarded. I resigned from the committee.

During the meeting, John Marchand made a statement that is very true: There is no alternate plan.

I'll close by saying that I fully understand the people who desire a larger downtown park. I would like that as well. The reality is that the city bought the land with affordable housing money and is required to build it.

Yes, if someone gave the city land in close proximity, the city might have been able to move some or all of the units to that site. Even if that kind of benefactor could be found, the time constraints tied to the funding in place do not allow time to pursue an alternate location. It is time to move on.

This New Year's

Kathleen Streeter, Livermore

On New Year's Eve, I am going to drink a good riddance toast to 2020.

I don't believe I will be alone in being glad to see it go either. 2020 has been a year of pandemic, of fractured population and leadership, and of heartbreaking loss of life. So many of us have lost close friends and family members that we are tremendously saddened during this season that is meant for love, joy, togetherness, and celebration.

But, I will make another toast on New Year's Eve.

I will make a toast to 2021. A toast of hope for an end to the pandemic and return to our united population supporting and protecting our country. A country that stands for inclusiveness and working together to support the democracy our forefathers gave their lives for. A country that believes in honesty and compassion and embraces the standards that make us America.

Inciting divisiveness is dangerous to our democracy and some who seek power have tried to advance their objectives by driving us apart. I believe we are smarter and stronger than that. I believe in America and so I welcome 2021 with confidence and a toast to us.

The world is watching us. Some are rooting for us, and some are hoping we falter. Now is the time to remember who we are!

Happy New Year. Welcome 2021!

No Small Sense of Irony

Anthony Crane, Pleasanton

While the Independent in its opinion says we should be honoring and not criticizing him, it was with no small sense of irony to find that Eric Swalwell had been compromised by Chinese spies in 2015 and then with a straight face spent the next four years ineffectively harassing President Trump over nebulous accusations of collusion with the Russians.

He and Adam Schiff seemed to take an unnatural glee in repeating the daily character attacks against Trump, to the point where one began to wonder if there was something else going on. Turns out, there was.

To make matter worse, the fact that Pelosi didn't at the time, and still won't, remove him from the House Intelligence Committee, let alone Congress, speaks volumes about the current state of Democratic Party leadership.

When confronted about it, Swalwell said something (after years of leaks about Trump from his very own House Intel Committee) about the information leaked being the big crime. Deflection, duplicity and deception aren't traits to be 'honored.'

Maybe in this brave new world they are.

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 574533
The following person(s) doing business as: Balanced Books by Brenda, 127 Summertree Drive, Livermore, CA 94551, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Brenda McCormick, 127 Summertree Drive, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 9/1/2016. Signature of Registrant/s/: Brenda McCormick, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 17, 2020. Expires November 17, 2025. The Independent, Legal No. 4800. Published December 3, 10, 17, 24, 2020.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 574532
The following person(s) doing business as: Beauty by Frendi, 4625 First St. #150, Pleasanton, CA 94566, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Sorayatom Exum, 498 Colusa Way, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Sorayatom Exum, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 17, 2020. Expires November 17, 2025. The Independent, Legal No. 4801. Published December 3, 10, 17, 24, 2020.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 574532
The following person(s) doing business as: Math Atom, 3168 Paseo Granada, Pleasanton, CA 94566, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Stephen Ng, 3168 Paseo Granada, Pleasanton, CA 94566. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 11/01/2020. Signature of Registrant/s/: Stephen Ng, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 18, 2020. Expires November 18, 2025. The Independent, Legal No. 4802. Published December 3, 10, 17, 24, 2020.

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME

Case No. RG 20076346

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF ALAMEDA

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner: Senait M. Abraha 1250 Lakeland Dr. Livermore, CA 94551 (408) 786-4336, filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Present Name: Senait Mesfin Abraha Proposed Name:

Senait Mesfin Piccigallo THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing. NOTICE OF HEARING Date: 1/22/2021 Time: 11:00 AM The address of the court is: Alameda County Administration Building 1221 Oak Street Oakland, CA 94612 A copy of this Order To Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation printed in this county: The Independent Newspaper 2250 First Street, Livermore, CA 94550 Dated: September 23, 2020 /s/ Judge Desautels, The Independent Legal No. 4803 Published December 17, 24, 31, January 7, 2020.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 574355
The following person(s) doing business as: Elenita's Coffee, 7054 Dublin Meadows ST. APT C, Dublin CA 94568, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Enrique Rojas, 7054 Dublin Meadows ST. APT C, Dublin CA 94568. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Enrique Rojas, Founder/ CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 3, 2020. Expires December 3, 2025. The Independent Legal No. 4804 Published December 17, 24, 31, January 7, 2020.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 574784
The following person(s) doing business as: Nguyen Solutions, 3029 Leger CT, Pleasanton, CA 94588, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Ricky Nguyen, 3029 Leger CT, 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: 01/01/2020. Signature of Registrant/s/: Ricky Nguyen, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 24, 2020. Expires November 24, 2025. The Independent Legal No. 4805 Published December 17, 24, 31, January 7, 2020.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 575211
The following person(s) doing business as: Little Sugar Sapes, 360 Quartz Circle, Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Shelley

O'Brien and Andrew Miller , 360 Quartz Circle, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by a Married Couple. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Shelley O'Brien, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 14, 2020. Expires December 14, 2025. The Independent Legal No. 4806 Published December 24, 31, January 7, 14, 2020.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 574877
The following person(s) doing business as: Hodge Podge, 1941 Chestnut St, 1, Oakland, CA 94607, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Jeri Lynn Snyder, 1941 Chestnut St, 1, Oakland CA 94607. 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: 11/1/20. Signature of Registrant/s/: Jeri Lynn Snyder, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 1, 2020. Expires December 1, 2025. The Independent Legal No. 4807 Published December 24, 31, January 7, 14, 2020.

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EMPLOYMENT

Data Scientists (Ref:100) Operations Analysts (Ref:102) Flexon Technologies, Inc. Multiple positions available. Detail job desc at https://www.flexontechnologies.com/. Data Scientists (Ref:

100): Synthesize quality & quantity data from multiple sources using various analytical approaches to generate comprehensive insights on customer behavior & attributes. Job Site: Pleasanton, CA. Job may involve working at various unanticipated locations throughout the US. Travel required to the extent of re-locating to various unanticipated locations throughout the US; Operations Analysts (Ref:102): Present the results of data analysis & mathematical modeling to the management. Job Site: Pleasanton, CA. Send resume referencing aforementioned job title & ref number to Flexon Technologies, Inc., 7901 Stoneridge Drive, Suite 390, Pleasanton, CA 94588.

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160) BOAT / RV / RENTAL

165) HOUSE/ROOMS/RENTALS TO SHARE

160) BOAT / RV / RENTAL

REAL ESTATE

170) LAND FOR RENT

157) OFFICE/HOUSE/CONDO/ DUPLEX/ APT RENTAL

165) HOUSE/ROOMS/RENTALS TO SHARE

160) BOAT / RV / RENTAL

REAL ESTATE

170) LAND FOR RENT

157) OFFICE/HOUSE/CONDO/ DUPLEX/ APT RENTAL

REAL ESTATE

170) LAND FOR RENT

157) OFFICE/HOUSE/CONDO/ DUPLEX/ APT RENTAL

REAL ESTATE

170) LAND FOR RENT

157) OFFICE/HOUSE/CONDO/ DUPLEX/ APT RENTAL

REAL ESTATE

170) LAND FOR RENT

157) OFFICE/HOUSE/CONDO/ DUPLEX/ APT RENTAL

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170) LAND FOR RENT

157) OFFICE/HOUSE/CONDO/ DUPLEX/ APT RENTAL

REAL ESTATE

170) LAND FOR RENT

157) OFFICE/HOUSE/CONDO/ DUPLEX/ APT RENTAL

REAL ESTATE

170) LAND FOR RENT

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REAL ESTATE

170) LAND FOR RENT

157) OFFICE/HOUSE/CONDO/ DUPLEX/ APT RENTAL

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Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department firefighters responded to a residential fire on Farnsworth Drive in Livermore, Sunday, Dec. 20. (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)

Department Breaks Ground On Dublin Fire Training Center

The Alameda County Fire Department broke ground last week on a regional training center next to Fire Station 17 on Gleason Road in Dublin.

The new facility will include a 7,500-square-foot building with classrooms, offices, exercise facilities and storage areas.

It will also include a five-story training tower with a burn room to simulate smoke and fire scenarios, a concrete ledge for repelling, and a training control room. There will also be an Urban Search and Rescue complex to simulate collapsed-building and

confined-space rescues.

"The possibilities for the training site are endless," said Fire Chief William McDonald, noting that the facility will also be adjacent to the Alameda County Sheriff's Department Regional Training Center on Madigan Drive, which will allow for more collaborative exercises.

The new training center will replace the fire department's 50-year-old facility in San Leandro, which was damaged by fire this summer. The center is expected to be completed by the spring of 2022

WINE

(Continued from first page)

ies from relocating inside the South Livermore Valley," Mercier said.

The vote does not allow for the construction of event centers necessary for the wine-tasting and tourism industry. Mercier said the subject of agri-tourism is just beginning with the supervisors and open space advocates. Whether a hotel would be necessary in downtown Livermore to support tourism in the area's growing wine business will be discussed as well.

"We need to turn this into a place that supports overnight guests," Mercier said. "That's down the road."

During the board's meeting on Dec. 15, six people spoke in favor of the change. No one spoke against it.

Tamara Reus of Friends of Open Space and Vineyards said that she was for the change as long as event centers were not included. Prior to the board's vote, she stated that the changes provided a "workable solution that fits the goals of the wine country to be a productive agricultural wine country and still maintain the goals of the South Livermore (Valley) Plan."

Rancher Chuck Moore, chair of the Alameda County

Agricultural Advisory Committee, supported the change for the wine industry, but hoped it would broaden. Moore owns an equestrian center in Castro Valley.

"I just hope in this we don't forget about other areas of the county that need to enhance their agriculture," Moore said.

Supervisor Scott Haggerty, whose office worked with land preservationists on the change, called it a "great step toward helping to increase agriculture in the East County."

County officials noted that they will make sure the board's decision adheres to the provisions of Measure D, which voters approved 20 years ago to protect agricultural lands and wildlife, or whether it needs to be put on the ballot for the public to approve.

But some of the satisfied open space advocates who spoke during the public meeting said that a ballot measure likely wasn't necessary because the new policy was a technical change.

"This (change) would enhance agriculture, which is one of the expressed purposes of Measure D," Sierra Club leader Dick Schneider said.

Tri-Valley Wine News

By Laura Ness

Garré Winery takes Best of Livermore at 2020 Harvest Challenge

For the first time ever, a Livermore wine ended up in the Sweepstakes at the annual Harvest Challenge Wine Competition, the only one that evaluates wines by American Viticulture Area (AVA).

The panel of judges that I happened to be on awarded five medals to Garré Winery, the sole Livermore winery to enter this year. The wine that made it to we chose for the Sweepstakes round, a culmination of the Best of the Best, was the 2017 Profound Secret, which was also named "Best of Livermore."

"Profound Secret is named after a racehorse that the owner once owned and the front label comes from a picture of Profound Secret during a race," said Aaron Luna, Garré's consulting winemaker. "The 2017 was made as a field blend, which was harvested and fermented together. Only four barrels were produced, with 25% being in new American oak. The Profound Secret grapes come from a small half-acre block in front of the Bella Rosa event center and Garré Cafe."

Profound Secret was a big hit during the Sweeps tasting and the first sampling of a Livermore wine for several of the 24 judges.

"Ninja Angel" Wine Debuts

Aidan Mirassou, seventh-generation winemaker for Steven Kent Winery and The Lineage Wine Company,

wanted to do something special to honor his late mother, June, who lost her battle to glioblastoma in 2016. He created a special Bordeaux style blend to honor the woman he and his sisters called "Ninja Angel." The bottle bears her image as stylized by her friend Robin Robinson. Sales of the wine benefit both the Brain Tumor Society and Culinary Angels. They can be purchased from Steven Kent Winery.

Sidewinder Spirits Rolls Out Rye

If ever there was a time that called for a savory spirit to lift our sagging ones, it is this perilous moment. Owner John Kinney and winemaker/distiller David Hendrickson are proud their new rye, of which Kinney says, "Single cask-aged a little over two years in American oak and then given additional aging in our tawny port wine barrel."

Sips to Savor

Here are a few recently tasted wines that would make the holidays that much sweeter:

2017 Favalora Carignane, Del Barba Vineyard, Contra Costa – Frank Favalora loves this grape, which he says takes forever to ripen. It's savory and generously textured, with ripe Mission fig flavors, and plenty of grip.

Rosa Fierro Cellars NV Primitivo – Brown sugar shortbread, sugarplum jam, a plush, velveteen texture and warm baking spice on the finish make this a holiday no-brainer.

2017 3 Steves Sangiovese, Grimes Vineyard, Livermore – Now this is Sangiovese, pure cherry, brisk and lithe. Ready to tackle your biggest, baddest lasagna.

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