

SLD v Livermore

Court Decides to Publish Opinion In City's Favor

Save Livermore Downtown Determined to Keep Fighting

By Larry Altman

LIVERMORE – Save Livermore Downtown (SLD) reported Monday it will continue fighting Livermore's approval of the 130-unit Eden Housing project as currently planned despite two court rulings against the group last week.

Jean King, a spokesperson for the community organization, said SLD is considering all its options, including an appeal to the California Supreme Court.

"SLD once again reiterates that it is not against affordable housing being built in downtown Livermore. It is very much needed in our community," King said.

"SLD simply believes that the central parcel in downtown Livermore should be revitalized with the development of an attractive and captivating central park for the community, nearby residents and visitors alike."

Last week, the state's 1st District Court of Appeal denied SLD's request for a rehearing of their case, while granting petitions from the City of Livermore, Eden Housing, California Attorney General Rob Bonta and two other organizations to publish its Dec. 28 opinion. The opinion rejected SLD's arguments that the city council wrongly approved the Eden Housing project. SLD had contended that the project's design failed to meet requirements of the Downtown Specific Plan (DSP), and that a new California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Environmental Impact Report (EIR) was needed to address soil contamination concerns.

The court's decision to

(See SLD, page 7)

Council Adopts Housing Element Plan Through 2031

By David Jen

PLEASANTON – The city adopted its Sixth Cycle Housing Element in a special meeting on Jan. 26, paving the way for housing development over the next eight years and narrowly avoiding issues caused by noncompliance.

Council members paid particular attention to a Pleasanton Unified School District site, as it tried to balance the city's need for teacher workforce housing with fears of unintended projects on the site and compatibility with the neighboring downtown.

"There's nothing that we can do to guarantee (workforce housing) with our housing element," said Councilmember Valerie Arkin, who resisted calls to increase the site's housing density in the name of workforce housing.

While proposed maximum unit counts on the 10.7-acre site at 4750 First St. have ranged from 85 to 254 throughout the Housing Element process, the council considered a maximum of 128 units at the meeting. Arkin motioned to include the site in the Housing Element

(See HOUSING, page 12)



The Livermore Granada Boosters held its Race to the Flagpole event on Saturday, Jan. 28. The run started and finished at Independence Park in Livermore. The 5k and 10k courses were altered a bit this year due to storm damage at Sycamore Grove Park. [See photo gallery at www.independentnews.com/multimedia] (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)

Booted from Committee, Swalwell Vows to Make McCarthy 'Shortest Serving Speaker'

By Larry Altman

REGIONAL – Accusing Republican Speaker Kevin McCarthy of carrying out political vengeance, Tri-Valley Congressman Eric Swalwell on Monday vowed to help his fellow Democrats retake the majority in two years.

In an interview with The Independent, Swalwell said McCarthy's move to block his re-appointment to the House Intelligence Committee that oversees national intelligence was made with vindictiveness for his strong positions against

former President Donald Trump, including his role as a manager for Trump's second impeachment trial.

"To me, the new McCarthy feels a lot like the old McCarthy. The old McCarthy used political power to punish and abuse his political opponents, and Kevin McCarthy is doing the same thing here."

– Congressman Eric Swalwell

"For the last five or six years, I have been an effective messenger and, I would say, prosecutor of the case against Trump and his corruption," said Swalwell, whose 14th District

includes Livermore and Pleasanton. "I'm paying the price now for that with Speaker McCarthy. To me, the new McCarthy feels a lot like the old McCarthy. The old McCarthy used political power to punish and abuse his political opponents, and Kevin McCarthy is doing the same thing here."

Two years ago while serving as Minority Leader in the Democratically controlled House, the Bakersfield Republican failed

(See SWALWELL, page 6)

City of Dublin Launches Special Needs Registry

By Dawnmarie Fehr

DUBLIN – A special needs registry (SNR), designed to give first responders access to information that might be helpful during a mental health emergency, has recently gone live in the City of Dublin. Maintained by the Dublin Police Department, the registry serves as an extension of the city's mental health service programs.

"Using ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds, Dublin police brought on a Behavioral Health Unit last year to help those having immediate mental-health related issues," said Sheri Jackman, the city's public information officer. "The Special Needs Registry complements that work and

our work with Axis Bridge." A mental health urgent care service serving the Tri-Valley, Axis Bridge provides rapid access to mental health treatment to patients ages 5 and up.

Livermore launched its SNR in May of last year, with dozens already registered. Livermore Police Department Spokesperson Azenith Smith said the registry is comprised of people who reside in or frequently visit Livermore.

"Having information specific to the individual, such as pre-meltdown indicators, stimulating behavior, method of communication and sensory issues, can help ensure safe encounters for both police and the people

Livermore Police serves," Smith said. "Information provided can also help reunify individuals with their loved ones, should they wander off and are contacted by Livermore Police Department."

Pleasanton is in the final stages of creating its SNR through the city's police department, according to spokesperson Sergeant Marty Bildt.

"Our registry will be similar to Livermore and Dublin where members, loved ones, caregivers, etc., of the IDD (Intellectual and Developmental Disability) community can fill out a form to provide us with the information they feel we

(See REGISTRY, page 12)

Supervisor Miley Thanks Constituents For Passing Measure D Amendment

By Ruth Roberts

REGIONAL – Alameda County District 4 Supervisor Nate Miley hosted a reception on Jan. 20 to celebrate the passage of an amendment to Measure D last November.

Considered a critical component to bolstering the economic viability of Livermore's Wine Country and local agriculture, the voter-approved amendment to the original Measure D protects agricultural lands and open space from urban sprawl, while allowing wine growers and farmers to construct agricultural buildings on their properties of up to 2.5% of the square-footage

of their parcels. Prior to the amendment, the permitted floor area ratio was 1%, which many argued could not sustain facilities intended to foster business growth and vitality.

Members of the agricultural, wine and equestrian industries, as well as business leaders and community members, attended the event held at the Castro Valley Marketplace in Castro Valley. Miley welcomed and thanked those in attendance for their efforts in securing the passage of the Measure D amendment.

"We are here to celebrate the victory of Yes on

(See MILEY, page 6)

Council Approves the Stoneridge Framework For Future Housing

By David Jen

PLEASANTON – The effort to transform large parts of the Stoneridge Mall into housing reached the end of the beginning on Jan. 26, when the city council approved the initial planning document known as the Stoneridge Framework.

Begun in August 2022, the framework provides guardrails for future planning efforts, most notably establishing a density range of 50 to 65 dwelling units per acre, which translates to 900 to 1,170 new housing units on the 75-acre parcel. If 900 units were built, 620 would be for very-low- and low-income families, and 280 would be for those considered above moderate.

The council voted 4-1 to approve the framework, with a protest vote from Councilmember Jeff Nibert, who expressed concerns over the traffic impact of the large project.

"I believe that the citizens of the northwest part of Pleasanton are being asked to bear a traffic burden that's out of proportion," said Nibert. "I don't have a good feeling about where we're headed in terms of the traffic impact for this whole project."

Also troubled by traffic impacts, resident Debbie Wallace recalled a joint workshop with the city council and planning commission on Dec. 15. At the meeting, city traffic engineer Mike Tassano stated that the roads around Stoneridge would reach their limits around the project's maximum unit count.

But Mayor Karla Brown expressed faith in the city's engineering department to work through the traffic and parking challenges created by the project.

"This is a chance to, I think, make one of the most

(See STONERIDGE, page 8)

School District and Teachers Agree to New Contract Terms

By David Jen

LIVERMORE – Livermore teachers and the school district approached an agreement on Jan. 25, when the Livermore Education Association (LEA) and the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District (LVJUSD) met and decided on a schedule for staff pay increases.

While the LEA asked late last year for a 10.9% annual increase, last week's negotiations settled on a 16% increase spread across the 2022-23 and 2023-24 school years.

"The challenge with the (10.9%) request was the timing of it," said LVJUSD Superintendent Chris Van Schaack. "We finalized our 2022-23 budget last August and allocated money to a variety of programs based upon that budget. LEA was asking for a mid-year increase of 10.9%, which was money we simply didn't have."

The new agreement will provide a 3% increase, retroactive to July 2022, on top of the 4% increase already on the salary schedule. Another 6% increase will arrive this March and a final 3% increase will come with

the start of the next school year in July.

LEA President Aimee Thompson said the progressive structure reflected how both sides of the negotiations came together to understand each other's needs and goals.

"We started this process, in the first place, with trying to be sure that our compensation package is competitive before the March hiring season begins," said Thompson. "We wanted to be sure that our compensation package is competitive with neighboring districts to try to alleviate the teacher shortage that we're seeing in Livermore."

Van Schaack also viewed the negotiations as successful.

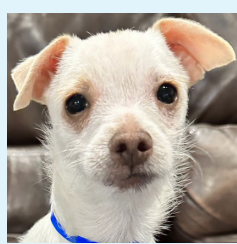
"We're really happy with the outcome of these negotiations," he said. "The two teams worked together to find creative ways to free up the dollars necessary to improve the salary schedule. Once the agreement is implemented, two-thirds of our teachers will be earning over \$100,000 per year. This will have a positive impact on our district."

(See CONTRACT, page 8)



Children enjoy a recent break in the rainy weather with a sunny day at Dublin's Don Biddle Community Park. Residents throughout the Tri-Valley have frequented the park since it opened in October 2022. [See photo gallery at www.independentnews.com/multimedia] (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)

PET OF THE WEEK



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(Photo - Valley Humane Society)

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Las Positas Named Top Community College in California

Las Positas College (LPC) was named the Best Community College in California for 2023 by Intelligent.com, a resource for program rankings and higher education planning. LPC outperformed all other two-year institutions in the state based on the site's methodology, which assigns an overall score to the college based on several factors, including tuition costs, the number of credits required to graduate and the online coursework delivery format. The college was awarded "Intelligent Pick" on the final list. Intelligent.com ranks each institution on a scale from 0-100 across six categories. The scoring system compares each school to tuition costs, admission, retention and

graduation rates, faculty, reputation and the student resources provided for on-line students. "Las Positas College is focused on meeting the educational and workforce development needs of the community," said LPC President Dr. Dyrell Foster. "I'm pleased that the LPC community is receiving this recognition for our collective efforts to enhance student equity and success." LPC is one of two accredited colleges in the Chabot-Las Positas Community College District (CLPCCD) and principally serves residents from the communities of Dublin, Livermore, Pleasanton and several unincorporated areas, including Sunol. In line with its founding mission,

LPC offers a range of educational programs to satisfy the needs of residents in its service areas. The goal is to create an environment that offers educational opportunities and support for students to achieve their transfer, degree and career-technical goals while promoting lifelong learning. The college collaborates with local businesses and industries to strengthen and expand its educational offerings. These hands-on learning lessons provide students with the practical experience needed to give them a competitive advantage when seeking employment. A few examples of such specialized facilities and worksite learning locations include Fire Service Technology: students receive

applied learning at the Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department's fire training facility; engineering technology: students serve in paid internships at employers such as Lawrence Livermore National Labs, Lam Research and Sandia National Labs; and technical theater: students work in real-world performing arts productions at the Bankhead Theater and Livermore Performing Arts. Studies show that obtaining a degree increases income substantially, with graduates earning 84% more than those with only high school diplomas or those without a completed general educational diploma (GED). To view the complete ranking list, visit bit.ly/3R7QkCD.

Tickets Available for Lions Annual Crab Feed

The Livermore Lions Club hosts its annual Crab Feed on Saturday, March 4, 2023. This is the club's largest fundraiser of the year. It begins at 5:30 pm at the Bothwell Arts Center at 2466 Eighth Street in Livermore. The event features all-you-can-eat crab. Included on the menu are pasta, salad, bread, dessert and water. There will be a cash bar and no outside beverages allowed. Servers will be the Girl Scouts from Troop 33266 and the Leos from Livermore High School. There will be music for dancing, a 50/50 raffle, other raffle drawings and silent auctions for events, items, and activities, all donated by local businesses and wineries. Money raised from the Crab Feed will support community projects, local nonprofit organizations, and Lions charities, which help the visually and hearing impaired and diabetes and cancer research. The 2022 community projects included: Cooking breakfast for all the grads at Granada Grad Night, sponsoring and funding the Leos Club at Livermore High School, cooking breakfast for Sunset Elementary and East Avenue Middle Schools, serving meals at Special Kids Day, and sponsoring the Lions Student Speakers Contest for college scholarships. Tickets are \$65 and for a table of 8 the price is \$60 per person. Order your tickets now before March 1st by contacting Ann at (805) 405-8742.

Livermore High Student Musicians Invited to Play at Carnegie Hall

By Dawnmarie Fehr

Livermore High School's (LHS) Honors Symphonic Band and Honors Chamber Orchestra earned the distinction of performing at Carnegie Hall in New York City this April after both ensembles received the highest-ranking Adjudicator Awards at an Anaheim music festival last year. LHS Music Director Justin Enright said he was thrilled his students had won the chance to perform in the historic location and everyone was working hard to prepare. "This is a once in a lifetime opportunity for these students," Enright said. "It puts Livermore as a city on the map. I don't think that Livermore has ever been represented musically at this level before. It's up there with winning an international competition or the varsity football state championship. This is our championship." Enright joined LHS in 2016 and has been instrumental in the growth and development of the school's music program. There are six ensembles in the program,

and the top concert band and top orchestra will travel to New York to perform. The Carnegie Hall performance will be the culmination of an eventful performance season for both ensembles. Prior to their appearance at Carnegie Hall, the Chamber Orchestra will participate as featured performers in the 2023 California All-State Music Education Conference in February, and the Symphonic Band will play at the Music for All National Band and Orchestra Invitational at Sonoma State University in March. The Chamber Orchestra was also selected as one of only five California high school orchestras to perform at the State CMEA (California Music Educators Association) Band and Orchestra Festival in April. Enright noted the groups are working hard to prepare music for all their festivals and appearances, with an expectation students will practice daily in class, and on their own both solo and with their small group sections. "Just to give you an idea, our Chamber Orchestra is

in the middle of working on 24 separate pieces," Enright said. "These students are working hard. Some of the music is recycled at different performances, and some is unique. We can use a piece more than once, but different events call for different types of pieces, some serious, some fun. We are definitely preparing far more music than we normally would." To help ease the financial burden of traveling to New York, the two ensembles started a GoFundMe to raise money for families who could not afford the \$3,000 price tag. Once the initial goal was met, the group kept fundraising to cover costs for baggage fees, transporting instruments, bus rides between the hotel and concert hall, and to ease the overall financial burden of the trip on participants. Thus far, they have raised over \$31,000. LHS senior Annika Armstrong is the principal flutist in the Symphonic Band. She has been part of LHS's music program since her freshman year, and said she appreciates the relationships

she's formed and the joy of making music. "I am thrilled to have the opportunity to play in Carnegie Hall," Annika said. "Performing on one of the most famous stages in the world is something I will continue to take pride in for the rest of my life. It's still hard to believe that I will be achieving one of the greatest honors a musician can have before I even graduate high school." Enright and his students have been supported by their families and the LHS faculty and staff. LHS Principal Helen Gladden said she is "extremely proud" of everyone working to support the ensembles and their goal. "The talent and dedication of those involved make the program the incredible success that it is," Gladden said. "The fact that the beautiful sounds of our Honors Symphonic Band and Honors Chamber Orchestra will fill Carnegie Hall this April says more than my words can possibly express. I am so very honored to be the principal of Livermore High

School." For more information on the LHS music program, performance schedules and events, visit www.livermoremusic.com. To donate to the trip to Carnegie Hall, visit www.bit.ly/indy_LHSband.

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New Community Fund Will Assist Sunol Relief Efforts

Three Valleys Community Foundation has launched a philanthropic fund designed to help the greater Sunol community get back on track following the unprecedented January 2023 rains and flooding.

zations – the Sunol Business Guild, the Sunol Glen Community Club and the Sunol Citizens Advisory Council have joined together to prioritize the recovery and directly help local businesses and residents via the Sunol

warm and safe place for our students." While Alameda County, FEMA and private insurance are expected to cover some of the losses, a significant gap for both businesses, individuals, and organizations like the Sunol Glen school will remain. "We are delighted to stand strong with the greater Sunol community to help address these unmet needs," said Kelly Bowers, Ed.D., CEO/president of Three Valleys Community Foundation. "The rains may have dissipated, but the relief needs remain. This field of interest fund will provide that necessary long-term recovery assistance."

provide both breakfast and lunch. By working together, we can begin the process of recovery in Sunol." Philanthropic contributions to the Sunol Relief and Recovery Fund can be made via Three Valleys Community Foundation. Federal Tax ID # 87-1782380. For more information and credit card donations, visit 3vcf.org. Check contributions can be mailed to Three Valleys Community Foundation, 5960 Inglewood Drive, Suite 201, Pleasanton, CA, 94588.



Three Valleys Community Foundation has set up a fund to help the Sunol community get back on its feet following the unprecedented January rains and flooding. (Photo courtesy of Three Valleys Community Foundation)

"Sunol experienced a tremendous amount of damage," noted Alameda County Supervisor David Haubert, whose district encompasses the community. "The atmospheric river deluge devastated Sunol Glen school, creating extensive damage to classrooms, offices, the school garden and playground. When you combine that with the road and infrastructure damage, as well as the personal property losses for many residents, it's clear Sunol neighbors need our help." Responding to the need, three Sunol based organi-

Relief and Recovery Fund. "We are so grateful for the initial private contributions designed to help Sunol Glen school. The support of our community and the willingness to participate in the flood recovery efforts has been amazing," said Molly Barnes, Sunol Glen Superintendent/Principal. "But our recovery is long-term. At a minimum, we will need three new portable classrooms, a new fence, playground equipment as well as classroom materials, new rugs, books and garden supplies to fully restore Sunol Glen and make it once again, a

All contributions to the Sunol Relief and Recovery Fund are fully tax deductible to the extent of the law and will jointly benefit the Sunol Business Guild and the Sunol Glen Community Club. Both organizations, working closely with the Sunol Citizens Advisory Council, will prioritize the needs of the greater community and allocate the contributions. "Our three organizations are committed to helping our residents, school and local businesses recover from this emergency," said Andrew Turnbull, an officer with the Sunol Business Guild. "We hope residents in the greater Tri-Valley and East Bay will join our efforts and support the Sunol Relief and Recovery Fund." In addition to this special philanthropic fund, Supervisor Haubert announced plans for a community cleanup day designed specifically to benefit Sunol Glen school on Saturday, Feb. 4, 2023, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. "I encourage everyone in our district to come and assist our neighbors in Sunol," said Haubert. "Bring your rakes, shovels and gloves and we'll

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EDITORIAL

Special Needs Registry Helps the Community's Most Vulnerable

The City of Dublin's police department has recently implemented a Special Needs Registry (SNR).

Serving as an extension of the city's mental health programs, the SNR gives first responders information about individuals they might encounter during a mental health situation or other kind of emergency. Knowing ahead of time that a person might have sensory issues, behavioral disabilities, or mobility constrictions helps police, fire

and other responders better prepare to handle situations in a calm and safe manner.

The registry is voluntary and confidential, available only to first responders who have a reason to access the information and are authorized to do so.

SNRs are growing in popularity and scope throughout the country. Many states are also implementing the registry for use during natural disasters to find the vulnerable population most

urgently in need. For example, SNRs may help residents stranded in their homes during flooding.

Livermore went live with its SNR in May, and Pleasanton expects to have one up and running in the coming months. We look forward to seeing the full implementation and potential of this registry in the future and commend Tri-Valley officials for their compassion and foresight in bringing these SNRs forward.

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 Monday before publication.

Please Use Native Plants

Carol Garberson, Livermore

Native plants are both drought tolerant and provide vital food for wildlife, including birds, butterflies and caterpillars, which non-native drought tolerant plants do not. Populations of birds and butterflies have been plummeting for decades. Many species will be lost entirely if we don't change how we landscape our yards and other open spaces. Both birds and butterflies require caterpillars. If you don't have caterpillars, you don't have butterflies. If you don't have caterpillars, you don't have birds. Caterpillars are soft bodied – necessary for baby birds. One nest of baby chickadees requires 6000 to 9000 caterpillars during the 2 weeks before they leave the nest. Without enough soft bodied caterpillars, the nestlings will not survive, and numbers of birds will continue to decline.

Caterpillars evolved with specific native plants and can't eat other plants. Non-natives provide no food at all for caterpillars. Native plants have been replaced with non-natives and lawns which, along with the widespread use of pesticides and herbicides, have resulted in plummeting populations of both birds and butterflies. Butterfly/bird gardens need to include native plants with both flowering plants with nectar for adult butterflies and the specific native plants needed for caterpillars. Most caterpillars drop from the plants they feed on to form chrysalises in soil or leaf litter. To restore populations of birds and butterflies landscaping must have more than 30% native plants and layered planting with leaf litter to protect the soil needed for chrysalises to mature. Obviously avoid using pesticides and herbicides.

We can make a real difference by planting more than 30% of our yards with native plants, the more the better. Putting natives with layered planting along bike paths, around schools and businesses, in parks, etc. can create the interconnecting environment to support butterflies and birds.

Calscape.org has information about native plants in California including how many caterpillars are supported by each. Look for those that are food sources for the most caterpillars.

Bringingbackthenativesgardentour.net has links to native plant resources, as well as links to great talks by Dr. Doug Tallamy from the University of Delaware. You Tube has an outstanding talk by Doug Tallamy, "Nature's Best Hope." His talks are entertaining, full of information on why it is so very important to use native plants, and he is inspiring, showing that each one of us can make a real difference in restoring some balance in our environment.

Finding Better Solutions For Livermore Homeless

Greg Scott, Livermore

"Speak out, you got to speak out against the madness / You got to speak your mind if you dare" (David Crosby, "Long Time Gone")

Had I not been homeless

for seven years, I would know very little about homelessness. Had I not slept undetected in a field at Asbury Church for nine months, I would know little of that land and circumstances, or of Almond Circle and Buena Vista, or of some of the operations of the City of Livermore Police Department. Other homeless slept or tried to sleep on that property, although generally they were not as coy, sober or sanitary.

Several years ago, no earlier than 2018, I was in a Livermore City Council meeting listening to the discussion of tiny houses to be built at CrossWinds Church for \$115,000 each. There was recently a grant for another \$1 million for that tiny house community. Now the suggestion is to build tiny houses at Asbury Church for \$175,000 to \$225,000 each. This is an increase of \$60,000 to \$110,000 a piece over the original cost of tiny houses at CrossWinds Church no more than five years ago. Do we think plowing this amount of money into homelessness is solving the problem? Do we understand this rapid increase of financial resources allocated toward homelessness along with the increase in homeless numbers? Livermore is an educated and well-meaning community overall. I am confused as to how this community (and any other for that matter) addresses homelessness. Do we think the large amount of money we throw toward homelessness is a measure of results and magnanimity?

I ask a fundamental question: How do we get homeless to have "skin in the game"? Almond Circle and Buena Vista nearby residents have "skin in the game" through payment of taxes, insurance premiums, and maintenance costs and the best we can do is attribute the epithet NIMBY (Not In My Back Yard) to some of them?

At least \$20 million is being spent on Vineyard 2.0 on North Livermore Avenue, which will house twenty-two homeless and one residence manager. Do we surmise this could have been accomplished in a neighborhood with different socioeconomic demographics? There have been at least three shootings in this area in not much more than a year.

We seem to be going down a dogmatic path with little insight. We need to use resources more effectively to solve homelessness.

Goals, Priorities, and Stormwater

Trish Munro, Livermore

Back in early 2021, Livermore's City Council u

dated the City's Goals and Priorities for 2021-2023. Those included Asset Management and Stormwater, Downtown, General Plan Update, Homelessness and Affordable Housing, and Modernization, Training and Workplace Enhancements.

The process of determining those goals was a collective effort on the part of council—guided by an expert facilitator—to balance values, priorities, and resources of all kinds in order to get the best result for people who live and work in Livermore. Each goal chosen addressed a different area of work for city staff and had a different impact on the Livermore community. All help Livermore thrive.

Modernization is mostly invisible to Livermore residents but enables city staff to work far more efficiently. By contrast, completing the downtown enables the city center to remain an exciting place to be for residents and visitors alike. It will have an immediate impact on the city. The General Plan Update will prepare Livermore to meet the future and face the one constant—change—over a long period of time, with the effects not fully realized for twenty years.

But the recent December and January storms provide the starkest example of how council priorities and policies are implemented. In early 2021, when "stormwater" was chosen as a priority, the West was headed into another year of drought. Though storms would remain distant for the next season and more, the fact remained that when rain came, it would be torrents. Preparing for those torrents—which came this year—was essential.

Over the past two years, city staff worked to turn that policy into a plan and then to implement that plan. This year, Livermore, along with the rest of the state endured one monsoon after another. Did Livermore's streets flood? Sure. How could they not, given the quantity of rain that fell? But the work done in the past few years to identify problem areas enabled the public works department to manage flooding comparatively quickly and efficiently.

In 2022, Livermore elected a new council. In the coming months, that council will go through the process of adopting a strategic plan—a new process with the same goal: to guide the work of the city over the next two years. We, as residents, now can take the opportunity to reflect on our mutual vision as we approach the future.

Biden's Report Card

David Ott, Pleasanton

Biden and his administration have been in office for two years. Let's look at his report card:

Appoint cabinet members with business experience F; Exit from Afghanistan F; Reduce taxes F; Reduce business regulations F; Reduce inflation F; Curb the recession F; Stimulate the economy F; Reduce spending F; Secure the southern border F; Negotiate with China F; Unite American citizens F; Leadership F; Blame Republicans for his failures F; Accountability F; Lies A+

Biden is the worst President since Jimmy Carter. We need a President and an administration that can make sound decisions, unite the American people, lead the country to a path of success by reducing taxes and regulations, cut spending, secure the southern border and to be accountable in everything that they do.

The Referendum

Alan Marling, Livermore

Not only was the referendum against Eden Housing illegal, but it gathered signatures by lying. You may recall people lurking outside supermarkets last year, harvesting signatures. They would say things like, "Would you like to help house the homeless?" That sounds great. Then they would try to get you to sign the referendum by Move Eden Housing, which did the opposite of what you hoped. They then claimed their 8,000 signatures proved a mandate, when it was anything but.

The referendum's purpose was simply to delay affordable housing. Its proponents claimed otherwise, but those too were lies. The land where they claimed to want to move the affordable housing wasn't owned by the city, and construction couldn't have begun there for ten more years. If Move Eden Housing actually supported affordable housing, they would spend their time and money acquiring that land for future construction, instead of endlessly appealing court decisions to delay, delay, delay. In the meantime, Livermore workers continue to suffer, unable to live here.

Move Eden Housing and the majority of local special-interest groups receive over 90% of their funding from Jean King and Joan Seppala, who owns The Independent. An example of bias in this paper toward these groups can be found in the article titles. Each one could very well read, "Elites Continue to Harm Livermore Workers."

False Accusations Against Joan Seppala, Publisher of the Independent Newspaper

Rhonda Ryon, Livermore

Joan Seppala, publisher of this newspaper, and others have been accused in Letters to the Editor of being NIMBYS (Not In My Back Yard), propagating half-truths and lies, and even racism for their outstanding support for good planning in the Livermore Valley. Most recently, this kind of criticism is the result of suggesting that there are more suitable locations for low-cost housing than the now-vacant land in the heart of downtown Livermore.

In contrast, the 1/26/23 edition of the Independent has a nice front-page story about three deserving people who were awarded the Pleasanton Community of Character Collaborative's (PCCC) 23rd Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. award for their service to the community. Toward the end of the article are listed previous recipients of the award, including Joan Seppala. It is not reasonable to think of such an award being given to a "NIMBY, teller of half-truths and lies, and racism!"

I have known Joan since coming to Livermore in 1964. I attest to Joan's high moral character, social consciousness, and anti-racism without any reservation. Attacks on her character are either ignorant, or arrogant lies.

In The Words of Thomas Jefferson

Jan Brovont, Livermore

"If we are to guard against ignorance and remain free, it is the responsibility of every American to be informed." Thomas Jefferson.

Sycamore Grove Still Accessible

Daryl R Carlson, Livermore

After weeks of rain, Sycamore Grove Park was closed because of flood danger to everyone. Trapped in the house, dark chocolate caramels, ice cream and and virtually endless Mexican Cartel telenovelas streaming for days on end. During this depressing period, social media videos from a brave ranger offered visual evidence of the park in peril.

I hike in Sycamore Grove pretty much every day I can, trying to limit it to two hours—seldom succeeding. Rapping with the raptors, communing with the cats of the Bob persuasion, yodeling with the coyotes, photographing the beauty of Northern California in all seasons.

I want to thank all the brave staff at Sycamore Grove who worked so hard to make the park accessible in the safer areas.

THE Independent

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Bankhead Theater to Celebrate Black History Month With Three Performances

Livermore Valley Arts will celebrate Black History Month with three Bankhead Presents performances at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore that focus on Black artists and culture.

First up will be the Denver-based Cleo Parker Robinson Dance Ensemble at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 9, with “The Four Journeys,” a new ballet by Amalia Viviana Basanta Hernandez, artistic director for Ballet Folklorico de Mexico, that examines African, European, and Asian influences on indigenous Mexican culture.

The nonprofit Cleo Parker Robinson Dance is considered one of America’s foremost modern dance companies. The Ensemble is known for performing works inspired by the African American experience and rooted in ethnic and modern dance traditions worldwide.

Tickets for “The Four Journeys” range from \$20 to \$48, with discounts for students and military

personnel.

On Saturday, Feb. 18, the Bankhead Theater will present “The Cookie Book: The Music of Sam Cooke,” with singer/songwriter and Broadway star Darrian Ford.

Cooke, often referred to as “The King of Soul” had 30 Top 40 hits between 1957 and 1964, and three more posthumously, including “Chain Gang,” “Twistin’ the Night Away,” “You Send Me,” “A Change is Gonna Come,” and “Another Saturday Night.”

The son of a Baptist minister, Cooke was born in Mississippi but grew up in Chicago. He was shot and killed by a motel manager in El Segundo, California, in 1964. He was 33.

Created by Ford, “The Cookie Book” includes 20 of the legendary singer’s songs that highlight his musical journey from gospel to soul, pop, and his critically acclaimed jazz and blues interpretations for “Sam Cooke at the Copa,” recorded live during a two-week run

at the Copacabana nightclub in New York

Tickets for the Sam Cooke tribute, which begins at 8 p.m., range from \$20 to \$70, with discounts for students and military personnel.

The Bankhead Theater will round out its Black History Month presentations with Step Afrika! at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 23.

Step Afrika!, founded by C. Brian Williams in 1994, was the first professional dance company dedicated to the African tradition of percussive dance known as stepping, with participants using their entire bodies to produce rhythms and sounds through a mix of footsteps, spoken word, and hand claps.

Considered one of the top African American dance companies, Step Afrika! promotes stepping as an educational tool for young people, focusing on teamwork, academic achievement, and cross-cultural understanding. Its performances, including an annual tour of colleges and theatres, integrate stepping with songs, storytelling, and audience participation.

The group is also featured at the Smithsonian’s new National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, D.C., with the world’s interactive first stepping exhibit.

Tickets for Step Afrika! range from \$20 to \$85, with discounts for students and military personnel.

Tickets for all shows in the 2022-2023 Bankhead Presents season are available at livermorearts.org, by calling 925-373-6800, or the Bankhead box office at 2400 First St. Livermore Valley Arts is a nonprofit organization that operates the Bankhead Theater and the Bothwell Arts Center in Livermore.



The Cleo Parker Robinson Dance Ensemble will present “The Four Journeys” at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore on Feb. 9 as part of the Livermore Valley Arts Black History Month celebration. (Photo courtesy of the Bankhead Theater)

Library to Host Panel on ‘Black Women Who Create’

Local author Tina Jones Williams will moderate an online panel discussion on “Black Women Who Create,” hosted by the Livermore Public Library for Black History Month, at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 28.

Williams, who grew up in South Berkeley during the late 1960s, has written nine books that pay homage to the African American community. She is a past president of the San Jose chapter of Jack and Jill of America and is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority and the National League of American Pen Women.

Other panel members will include Dorothy Atkins, Queen Ann Cannon, Terry Cato, Stephanie Johnson, Shana Peete, and Kendra Williams.

Atkins is a retired banker and early champion of diversity. She is also a motivational speaker, storyteller, and self-taught artist, expressing

herself in acrylic, oil, and, more recently, ink.

Cannon is a professional life coach who specializes in project management and conflict resolution. She is also the executive producer and host of “Peninsula View,” which has won the Bay Area Cable Excellence Award for outstanding community television show.

Cato is executive producer and host of “Real Talk w/ Terry,” a Bay Area lifestyle and relationship TV show and podcast. She is also the author of “No Longer a Bridesmaid!,” which chronicles her seven-year journey preparing to go from being a forever bridesmaid to being the bride.

Johnson has spent more than 40 years as a theater lighting designer, following in the footsteps of her mother, Virginia E. Greene, who worked with the American Negro Theatre. Locally, she has worked with Cultural Odyssey, Afro Solo, Oakland

Theatre Project, Marin Theatre Co., TheatreFirst, and The Lower Bottom Playaz.

Johnson is also a professor in the Visual and Public Art Department at California State University, Monterey Bay, and a visual artist who has had two one-person shows in San Francisco.

Peete is chief executive for the Center for Excellence in Nonprofits in Redwood City. She is also a former practicing attorney, tennis professional at the Bay Club Company in San Francisco, and executive director of Partners for Change of the Tri Valley, a Livermore-based nonprofit.

Williams is a program manager for Google YouTube and founder of Black and Brown in the Middle, an Oakland production company.

To access the Zoom-based program, sponsored by Friends of the Livermore Public Library, go to bit.ly/3QrXNVX. For more information, call 925-373-5500.



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LIVERMORE VALLEY
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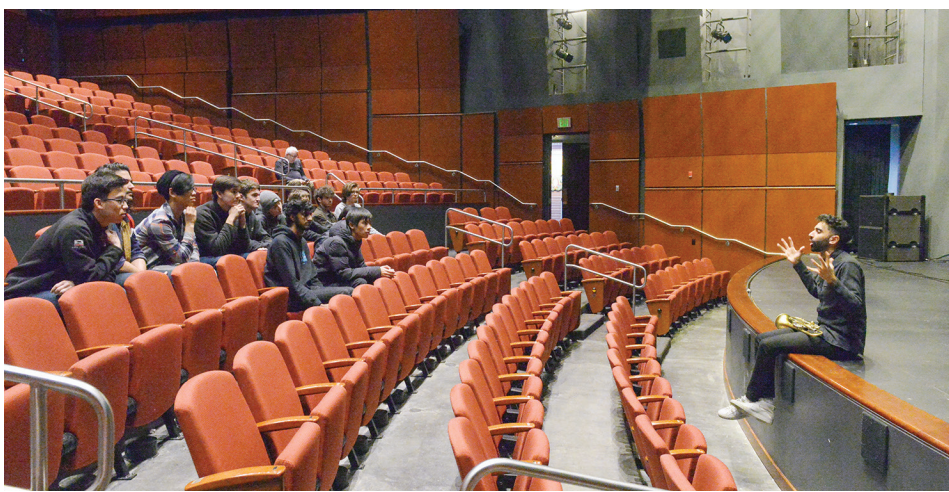
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Musicians from the Bankhead Theater and the Jazz at Lincoln Center recently invited students from the East Bay Jazz High School All Stars to attend a sound check for the upcoming performance of "Jazz at the Lincoln Center." The high school students were able to ask the professional musicians various questions about education, rehearsal and musical interpretation. [See photo gallery at www.independentnews.com/multimedia] (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)

Bankhead Hosts Violins of Hope Exhibit

Musical instruments from the Violins of Hope collection will be on display at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore now through Sunday, Feb. 12.

The Violins of Hope is a private collection of violins, violas, and cellos that belonged to Jews before and during World War II. Many were purchased from or donated by survivors of the Nazi concentration camps. The exhibit is sponsored by the Pleasanton-based East Bay Holocaust Education Center.

The UNCLE Credit

Union Art Gallery at the Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., will be open for extended hours during the exhibit, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily. Docents will also be available to discuss the exhibit from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Monday through Thursday, and from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Friday through Sunday.

The Livermore-Amador Symphony will also perform three concerts at the Bankhead Theater in conjunction with the Violins of Hope exhibit. Concerts are scheduled for 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb.

5, and 7:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 5, and Tuesday, Feb. 7.

The concerts will include performances of Prokofiev's "Overture on Hebrew Times;" selections from the movie "Schindler's List," composed by John Williams; and Max Burch's "Kol Nidrei." Cellist Peter Bedrossian and violinist Lindsey Deutsch will perform solos.

Tickets for the concerts range from \$35 to \$500 and include a donation for the Violins of Hope. For more information, go to livermorearts.org.

SWALWELL

(Continued from first page)

in an attempt to remove Swalwell from the committee after revelations that a Chinese spy tried to infiltrate his campaign. Despite Swalwell's denials that he committed any wrongdoing and had cooperated with the FBI when he learned the woman's identity, McCarthy promised to boot him from the committee if Republicans reclaimed the majority in November and elected him Speaker. His new role gave him unilateral power to decide who serves on the important committee.

In recent public comments, McCarthy denied that his decision to block Swalwell and U.S. Rep. Adam Schiff of Burbank from the Intelligence Committee was payback for the Democrats move in 2021 to remove Reps. Schiff served as lead manager during Trump's

first impeachment trial. Marjorie Taylor Greene of Georgia and Paul Gosar of Arizona from their committee assignments. At the time, Greene made incendiary comments against Democrats, and Gosar posted an animated video depicting him killing New York Democrat Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez.

McCarthy also wants to keep Democratic U.S. Rep. Ilhan Omar off the House's Foreign Affairs Committee, but will need a floor vote to do so. Omar, a Somalia native and Muslim, has angered members with comments about Israel. McCarthy also reappointed Gosar and Greene to committees. Greene is also serving on Homeland Security.

In a Jan. 24 letter to House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries, McCarthy said Swalwell and Schiff misused their positions on the committee during the previous four years, undermining national security and "ultimately leaving our nation less safe."

"If you want to talk about Swalwell, let's talk about Swalwell," McCarthy said while taking questions from reporters on Jan. 26. "You have not had the briefing that I had. I had the briefing, and Nancy Pelosi had the briefing from the FBI that Eric Swalwell had a problem with a Chinese spy until he served on Intel.

So it wasn't just us who were concerned about it. The FBI was concerned about putting a member of Congress on the Intel Committee that has the rights to see things that others don't because of his knowledge and relationship with the Chinese spy."

Swalwell has denied any relationship with the Chinese operative Fang Fang or providing her with classified information. In December 2020, Axios reported that the Chinese government sent the female spy to the United States to infiltrate the offices of politicians it deemed on the rise, including Swalwell. Fang, the report said, helped raise

intelligence Committee, alleging Swalwell had "had no place serving on the committee in charge of America's top secrets." McCarthy lost 218-200 in a vote on party lines.

Swalwell added that the Washington Post's fact checker examined McCarthy's claims, found them false and assigned them four "Pinocchios," given when something is flat-out untrue. (https://bit.ly/Indy_PinocchiosExplained)

Swalwell said he will continue serving on the House Judiciary Committee and return to the Homeland Security Committee, where he previously served. On Homeland Security, he will receive classified information pertaining to that panel's role in national security.

Schiff led the Intelligence Committee's hearings and later

Impeachment trial over Trump's attempt to withhold military aid from Ukraine unless Ukrainian president Volodymyr Zelenskyy announced an investigation into Joe Biden. Swalwell presented evidence during Trump's second impeachment trial over Trump's role in inciting the crowds that stormed the Capitol building Jan. 6, 2021. Swalwell also is suing Trump over the insurrection.

"It doesn't just feel like political vengeance. It is," Swalwell said. "You tell me how much sense it makes that McCarthy would make the claim that I'm not qualified to receive classified information on the Intelligence Committee, but somehow I'm qualified to receive classified information on the Homeland Security Committee. The fact that I'm going on that committee just demonstrates that this is just purely politics on his part."

Unlike the Intelligence committee, McCarthy does not hold the power to block Swalwell from other panels.

"I'll do my job on that committee," Swalwell said. "He's frankly going to regret giving me more time. I'm going to, in my free time, do everything I can to put (Democrats) back in the majority and make sure that he's the shortest serving Speaker."

During the last two

years, the outspoken Democrat has received numerous threats against him, his staff and his family. Swalwell said the threats are reported to Washington D.C. and local law enforcement, but he has had to take costly measures to protect his wife and children. The recent attack that seriously injured Pelosi's husband, Paul, in their San Francisco home, showed the "worst case scenario."

"We have metal detectors now in my townhouse, something I never thought would happen," he said.

Swalwell said he will continue to serve his constituents in the East Bay, working to bring dollars home for projects. He noted that it's unfortunate he and McCarthy, whose district is less than 250 miles from his, cannot work together for the benefit of all Californians.

Swalwell reported he will not run for Sen. Dianne Feinstein's U.S. Senate seat in 2024. Schiff and fellow Democrat Katie Porter from Orange County have already announced their candidacies, despite the fact Feinstein, 89, has not announced whether she will seek another term. Feinstein has served in the Senate since 1992.

Swalwell said he is part of the Democratic Party's younger generation of leaders that recently placed Jeffries of New York and Katherine Clark of Massachusetts in top positions. Each was elected to Congress in 2012, at the same time Swalwell, a former Dublin councilmember, was sent to Washington.

Swalwell said he plans to help "shape what's next for our party."

"I think I've established kind of a seniority and experience in Congress to keep delivering, but also have been an effective prosecutor against Trumpism and corruption," Swalwell said. "So I'll keep doing that. I'll learn on the job even more and try and take what I learned to help the people who have trusted me to do the job."

MILEY

(Continued from first page)



Supervisor Nate Miley

Measure D," said Miley. "We have been working on getting this amended for more than a decade ... this has been a wonderful thing for Alameda County, and we went about it the right way. Congratulations on something that will be important for many, many years to come."

Among others, Miley recognized Alameda County Assistant Planning Director Liz McElligott for her "indefatigable work" over many years of leading the planning process that got the measure to the ballot; Diana Hanna of Castro Valley for her support of the original Measure D and for signing the ballot argument for the amendment; and political consultant Larry Tramutola for the campaign that resulted in Measure D's passage. When asked to speak at the

podium, Tramutola said, in effect, that the campaign was easy because the measure was very well written and there was political consensus to make it happen.

Alameda County District 1 Supervisor David Haubert also praised the efforts of area lawmakers and municipalities for bringing the Measure D amendment to fruition. He thanked representatives from the cities of Hayward and Castro Valley, the Eden Health Care District, East Bay Municipal Water District, various school and recreational districts, as well as local community organizations.

"I look out here and see people like Dick Schneider and Joan Seppala and Lynn Seppala," said Haubert. "The Friends of Livermore really helped push this through, because teamwork makes the dream work. This was a measure everyone could vote for, and that's what made it so successful, and that's all due to Nate (Miley). I had very little to do with it; give it up for Nate. Thank you everyone for making it happen. Here's to the future."

McElligott outlined the next steps in the process.

"In terms of where we go from here, the ballot measure included some very precise, focused language, and the next thing is to process general plan amendments for both the East County Area Plan and the Castro Valley General Plan, to put that language that is in the ballot measure in those documents," said McElligott. "That's the most immediate thing that needs to happen."

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SLD

(Continued from first page)

publish the opinion means other city councils and governmental bodies can utilize the decision in SLD v Livermore to defend against similar lawsuits that challenge application of their design standards and CEQA requirements.

"Once the opinion becomes final, it then becomes binding law in California," Livermore City Attorney Jason Alcalá said. "That means it establishes a precedent that must be followed by other California courts when applied to similar questions of fact and law."

King said SLD has significant concerns that the published ruling will enable other cities to "use it as a basis to ignore mandatory, objective design requirements that apply to development projects and adopt boilerplate, generic findings of consistency when they approve projects."

"This," King said, "would have negative ramifications statewide, and we hope other groups share our concern."

After the Appellate Court ruling was released in early January, SLD said it believed the court had ruled incorrectly and filed for the rehearing. Alcalá said SLD could request that the California Supreme Court review the opinion, but he did not expect the justices to do so. Alcalá said the process, however, could take several weeks to months, "so I anticipate the petitioners may consider it an effort to continue their delay tactics."

The Appellate Court's actions were the latest developments in SLD's two-year effort to revise the Eden Housing project as it is currently planned. SLD filed suit in 2021 shortly after the city council approved the project at Railroad Avenue and L Street. SLD prefers the project be relocated to a nearby site where it could be larger and not damage the character of the downtown core with its two 4-story buildings up to a block long.

The group has asserted that the project fails to comply with many objective development and design standards in the DSP. For instance, the DSP requires primary entrances to multi-fam-

ily buildings to front onto the primary street. SLD argued that although there is an entrance to the building along Railroad Avenue, its primary entrance would be on the park side of the building, which is where the building's main lobby is located.

In addition, the DSP requires that multi-family buildings include windows with a greater height than width. SLD claimed that the project's plans "clearly demonstrated that a large number of windows would be wider horizontally than vertically, and that this is important to achieving a DSP objective that all windows have similar proportions."

The group raised several other arguments about conflicts between the project and the DSP's objective design requirements, including the location of parking spaces between Veterans Way and the project's south building and the inadequate provision of public open space. The city and Eden Housing, however, asserted that the project complies with all requirements of the DSP.

SLD also believes the city council's approval incorrectly relied on a 2009 EIR and that a new study was warranted to determine whether gas from toxic chemicals in the ground poses a danger. A Lucky supermarket, a Southern Pacific Railroad depot, and businesses including auto body shops and a dry cleaner once stood on or near the site.

But after arguments in his courtroom, Judge Frank Roesch ruled against the lawsuit in March, saying its contentions lacked merit. SLD appealed to the higher court but received the same response. A three-justice panel unanimously said the city council acted correctly when it assessed whether the project met the DSP and said the 2009 EIR was adequate in addressing environmental concerns.

YIMBY — "Yes In My Back Yard" — and the California Building Industry Association were among those who petitioned the court to publish the SLD decision. Each group advocates for quick action in affordable

housing developments to address the state's housing crisis.

"This case provides further support that cities cannot deny an affordable housing project if it merely has minor inconsistencies with an adopted Specific Plan," said Robin Baral, YIMBY's Sacramento-based attorney. "Such projects must generally be approved if they are consistent with the city's objective development standards, as required under the Housing Accountability Act (HAA)."

The ruling, Baral said, also upheld Roesch's order that required SLD to post a \$500,000 bond while the litigation was pending, because the court process posed a financial risk for Eden.

"Now that the case is published, it will provide binding and persuasive authority in future CEQA cases throughout the state," Baral said. "Publication of this case also provides further support for the strong protections under the HAA, while encouraging more courts to require that project opponents place a bond when challenging affordable housing projects, particularly in cases where the CEQA and other claims are weak, and where the NIMBY (Not In My Back Yard) or other opposition groups are well-financed."

The Attorney General's Office, encouraging the court to publish the opinion, said in a letter to the judges that the opinion "is an important tool to discourage lawsuits that target the provision of affordable housing, and to help offset the financial risk of delay."

"Timing is a critical issue for affordable housing projects, which often rely, as is the case here, on subsidies, tax credits, bond funding, or other time-sensitive financing sources," the Attorney General's Office argued in a court document. "While CEQA unquestionably serves important purposes, the Legislature has recognized that CEQA litigation also poses a risk of unduly delaying or blocking valuable projects. Six months ago, the trial court determined the appellant's CEQA claims to

be 'almost utterly without merit,' yet this litigation has already put the project's financing, and potentially its entire viability, at risk."

Livermore's attorney, Eric Phillips, wrote in the city's petition to publish the opinion that the court's decision served as a precedent for judges to require litigants to pay a bond while their case was litigated and established that CEQA's provisions cannot be used as a "formidable instrument of obstruction and delay."

"The opinion represents an important development in the law that allows public agencies and housing developers to defend themselves from baseless claims and continue with the important work of addressing California's housing crisis," Phillips wrote.

Linda Mandolini, Eden Housing's president and chief executive officer, said the court's decision to publish the opinion to make it available to be cited as precedent was a "big win for affordable housing." She added that it will "hopefully help prevent other needless lawsuits intended to stall worthy projects."

"(The case) greatly raised awareness of how CEQA should be interpreted and not abused to stop affordable developments, and equally important, it shed light on the statute authorizing affordable housing applicants to seek bonds when lawsuits are brought for the purpose of delay," she said.

King said the Court of Appeal overlooked many appellate court decisions that do not allow a city to approve a development project when it is inconsistent with a planning requirement that is "fundamental, mandatory and clear." King said "SLD presented evidence to the trial court and the Court of Appeal that the Eden Housing project is inconsistent with several design requirements in the DSP that are fundamental, mandatory and clear, but the Court of Appeal ignored these legal requirements in rejecting SLD's challenges to the City of Livermore's approval of the Eden Housing project."

project."

She further pointed out that litigation is not delaying the Eden project; the city's timeframe for opening the L Street parking garage is the holdup.

"The city needs to build the L Street Garage before construction of Eden's buildings can even commence," she said. "New parking spaces must be created to replace those that will be lost on the Lucky location when Eden contractors begin their work. Construction of the garage has not yet started. It will be about a year and a half before the garage opens. In conjunction with the garage, 16 wells must be built in order to address contamination on the garage and Eden Housing sites. So to blame SLD for the delay is incorrect."

King noted backers of the Eden Housing project in its current location have denigrated SLD and its supporters by calling them a NIMBY organization. She stated, "SLD is not a 'NIMBY' organization."

"SLD has never said that the Eden Housing project should not be built," King explained. "Rather, there are other options for a larger and better project, including directly across the street on

parcels north of Railroad Avenue or other nearby sites of the city's choosing. If moved directly north of the former Lucky site, an affordable housing project could provide more units to a wider range of residents."

Should SLD file a petition to the California Supreme Court, it would point out that the decision conflicts with court decisions that hold that cities cannot approve projects that are inconsistent with mandatory, objective policies, King said, adding SLD will discuss these concerns with other relevant community groups in the state.

King concluded, "SLD and the many Livermore citizens who want to revitalize downtown Livermore are not giving up."

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The EBRPD Issues Warning About Lethal Mushrooms

The East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) is warning parkgoers about mushrooms that may have popped up because of recent rains, especially *Amanita phalloides*, also known as the death cap, and *Amanita ocreata*, known as the western destroying angel.

“Both of these mushrooms can be lethal to humans and pets if consumed,” said naturalist Trent Pearce. “They are mainly associated with oak trees and can be found growing anywhere oak roots are present.”

The death cap and western destroying angel contain potentially deadly amatoxins. Symptoms of amatoxin poisoning begin as severe gastrointestinal distress and can progress to liver and kidney failure if treatment is not sought immediately.

Picking mushrooms is prohibited in EBRPD parks. The death cap is a medium to large mushroom that

typically has a greenish-gray cap, white gills, a white ring around the stem, and a large white sac at the base of the stem. It was accidentally introduced to North America on the roots of European cork oaks and is slowly colonizing the West Coast, according to the EBRPD.

The western destroying angel is a medium to large mushroom with a creamy white cap, white gills, a white ring around the stem that can disappear with age, and a thin white sac at the base. Unlike the death cap, it is native to California.

While the death cap and western destroying angel are responsible for most cases of mushroom poisonings in California, deadly toxins can also be found in *Galerina* and *Lepiota* mushroom species, which also occur in the Bay Area.

For more information about toxic mushrooms, go to bit.ly/3wCrTEc.



Mushrooms are an ecologically important part of the parklands and can look beautiful – but some of them contain dangerous toxins. (Photo courtesy of Unsplash.com)

STONERIDGE

(Continued from first page)

important decisions within 10 years — easily within many councils — revitalizing the Stoneridge Mall,” said Brown. “One of the reasons you’re going to see traffic impacts is because, quite honestly, traffic is very low there; the parking lot is empty.”

The landowners of the property, although supportive of the framework, continued calls from previous meetings to slow the process down, and referred to some of the city’s guidance as too prescriptive and too early, asking instead for trust and flexibility at this stage of the process. Councilmember Julie Testa previously explained that the city must eschew the 90-day grace period to submit the Housing Element due Jan. 31 to avoid rogue housing projects that do not conform to the city’s zoning and planning. In a special meeting last week, the council adopted the Housing Element.

In addition to flexibility, themes from past owner meetings also included equity across owners, concerns regarding the mall environment, and the desire to maintain a strong retail core on the site.

Chuck Davis, of the Simon Property Group, majority property owner, recalled how he has been working with the city since 2014 on Stoneridge development.

“We have been patient; we have adapted to many

changes in the political environment; we’ve suffered through COVID,” said Davis. “I’m asking that you trust us and, in so doing, that you hear us. In partnership with these (other owners), who we had no motivation to be in partnership with or trust a year ago, we will come forward with something that we think will exceed your expectations.”

Some disagreements arose between the property owners and the city. For example, the city proposed to include entry stoops in the project’s objective design standards. Owners viewed the requirement as too restrictive and premature in light of other design constraints that have yet to be considered.

The approved framework served to validate a significant portion of the city’s Housing Element, as the Stoneridge site provided over a quarter of the new housing units identified in the city for the 2023 to 2031 housing cycle.

Director of Community Development Ellen Clark noted that, despite the approval, the city and property owners still have a lot of opportunity to define details.

“I think it’s important to acknowledge that this is not all going to happen at once,” said Clark. “This may be a five-, ten- or fifteen-year development plan. The mall is 75 acres, and that’s a lot of land and a lot of investment.”

CONTRACT

(Continued from first page)

Teachers shared fears at a district board meeting last December that stagnant pay combined with staff shortages would lead to an exodus of talent in the school district; they urged the board to consider compensation levels more in line with the rest of the Tri-Valley.

Salary comparisons compiled by the LEA showed LVJUSD teacher pay at 77% of what an equivalent position would receive in Dublin, and 91% of one in Pleasanton, for the 2022-23 school year. The proposed increases would bump Livermore pay to 90% of Dublin’s and 107% of Pleasanton’s total compensation.

Last year’s inflation also weighed heavily on teachers’ minds, with the U.S. Bureau of Labor and Statistics reporting an increase of 6.5% for 2022.

Van Schaak, however, pointed to high retention

levels in the past.

“We recognize that there are many factors involved in employee satisfaction,” he continued. “Salary is one of them, but for many, not the most important one. Working conditions, consistent leadership, and doing valuable work are among those things that lead to high employee satisfaction and retention.”

Thompson also acknowledged the community impact, in the form of bond measures and parcel taxes, on the school system.

“Ultimately, all of it goes to our students,” she said. “Everything we’re doing is about getting the best we can for our students. So, we really appreciate the community supporting us.”

After the compensation agreement is completed, other contract negotiations, such as those defining working conditions and off-hour meetings, will begin.

TRI-VALLEY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Now to Thursday, Feb. 23

CACTUS CORNERS SQUARE DANCING LESSONS

Cactus Corners, a nonprofit, is offering free square-dancing lessons to new dancers. Anyone age 8 and up is invited to this great activity for the entire family. Meetings take place on Thursday, Jan. 12, 19, and 26, and Feb. 2, 9, 16, and 23, from 7 to 8:30 p.m., at 2253 5th Street, in Livermore, between south J and south I streets. This is at 5th Street School (now Del Valle Continuation High School). For more information or to be placed on the class notification list, email Margaret at mmiller1435@gmail.com or call 925-447-6980.

Saturday, Feb. 4

DEL VALLE FINE ARTS PRESENTS THE DOVER QUARTET

Named one of the greatest string quartets of the last 100 years by BBC Music Magazine, the Grammy nominated quartet has become one of the most in-demand chamber ensembles in the world. They will perform Haydn’s Quartet in C Major “Emperor”, George Walker’s String Quartet No 1, and Mendelssohn’s Quartet No. 5 in E-flat major. Tickets begin at \$35. High school tickets are free when obtained at the box office. For tickets, call 925-372-6800 or visit livermorearts.org.

Saturday, Feb. 4

CRAB SEASON: CLAWS FOR A CAUSE

The Assistance League of Amador Valley’s second annual crab feast will take place at the Pleasanton Senior Center. The feast will raise funds for Tri-Valley Haven; schools participating in back-to-school shopping; and birthday bags for children in shelters and foster care. The event will include gift baskets, desserts, and dancing. Tickets are available at bit.ly/3kjlwz0 until Jan. 20.

Sunday, Feb. 5

TU B'SHVAT SEDER AND POTLUCK

Celebrate the birthday of the trees at Tu B'shvat Seder and Potluck, at 10:30 a.m., at Creekside Park, in Pleasanton, for nature crafts and schmoozing. Please bring a dish to share. Masks are optional outdoors when social distancing is possible. The event is free to members, and \$15 per non-member adult if you are able. Tri-Valley Cultural Jews is a secular humanistic community serving those who identify with the Jewish people through family, culture, and history, rather than through religion. For more information, email culturaljews@gmail.com, call 925-399-8029 or visit trivalleyculturaljews.org.

Monday, Feb. 6

LIVE! WITH DUBLIN CITY COUNCIL

Join Mayor Melissa Hernandez and Councilmember Kashaf Qaadi from 6 to 7 p.m. for “LIVE! with Dublin City Council.” Hazel Wetherford, the city’s economic development director, will share information about new programs to support Dublin’s business community. The event takes place on the first Monday in February, May, August, and November. To register, visit bit.ly/3wDYmk3. The webinar identification code is 83118186758 and the passcode is 97400170. For more information, visit dublin.ca.gov/live.

Wednesday, Feb. 8

BRIGHT FUTURES FOR WOMEN CAREER SERIES

AAUW-Livermore-Pleasanton-Dublin presents three Zoom sessions featuring a panel of professional women sharing their career experiences, from 7 to 8 p.m. The second of three sessions, it will feature Carolyn Hall, an institutional biosafety officer at LLNL; Mekena Metcalf, a quantum computing scientist; and Anusha Iyengar, a PhD researcher of molecular biology. To register, visit bit.ly/BrightFutures2. The cost is \$5 per session. For more information or to request a fee waiver, email girlprograms@aauw-lpd.org.

Wednesday, Feb. 8

INTERFAITH INTERCONNECT RELIGION CHAT

All are welcome to join at 5 p.m. for this month’s Religion Chat topic: How does your religion adapt itself to reflect changing times? Speakers will be Rev. Sangye Hawke of the Unitarian Universalist Church in Livermore; and Rev. Kwame Assenyoh of St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church in Livermore. Optional breakout discussion groups will take place from 6 to 6:30 p.m., via Zoom at bit.ly/3XONWtx. The Zoom room opens at 4:45 p.m. Religion Chat is a free, interfaith forum presented by Interfaith Interconnect on the second Wednesday of most months. For more information, visit interfaith.interconnect@gmail.com or facebook.com/InterfaithInterconnect.

Thursday, Feb. 9 to Sunday, Feb. 12

PLEASANTON PUBLIC LIBRARY’S SUPERBOOK WEEKEND: BOOK AND MEDIA SALE

Over the Superbook weekend, the Pleasanton Public Library will host the Superbook Weekend: Book and Media Sale, at 400 Old Bernal Avenue. The event will feature books for all ages, DVDs, and CDs — all in nearly new condition; and a 10% discount on book sale purchases, except for Sunday’s bag sale, at which bags of books will be only \$7. New memberships and renewals are encouraged. Attendees are encouraged to bring their own boxes and bags. Payment options include cash, credit, or debit card. The event runs Thursday, from 2 to 7 p.m.; Friday, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; and Sunday, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information, visit friendsofthepleasantonlibrary.org.

Saturday, Feb. 11

LIVERMORE VALLEY OPERA PRESENTS THE ITALIAN AFFAIR

Be transported into an Italian dream for one night of glamour, fun, and drama at Livermore Valley Opera’s The Italian Affair. The event will feature music and entertainment at Pleasanton’s beautiful Club at Ruby Hill, located at 2400 Ruby Hill Drive, in Pleasanton. This magical evening begins with a sparkling wine reception, tasty hors d’oeuvres, games of chance and a musical concert featuring the three principal artists of Tosca. Purple and gold attire is encouraged for the glamorous night with black tie as optional. The event takes place from 4:30 to 9:30 p.m. Tickets are available at lvopera.com with a selection of reserved table seating options, such as Dine with a Diva or Divo. Deadline for purchasing tickets is Feb. 10.

Monday, Feb. 13

LIVERMORE-AMADOR GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY PRESENTS SARA COCHRAN

From 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., Sara Cochran will present “Shaky Leaf Syndrome: Using Website Generated Hints More Effectively.” Learn how to use indexing, optical character recognition, and computer algorithms to make finding obscure records easier than ever. Cochran is a full-time professional genealogist with more than 28 years of research experience and holds a Boston University genealogical research certificate and a bachelor’s degree in library science. The presentation is free. To register, visit bit.ly/3H3f0N6. For more information, email program@L-AGS.org.

Thursday, Feb. 16

BRIGHT FUTURES FOR WOMEN CAREER SERIES

AAUW-Livermore-Pleasanton-Dublin presents three Zoom sessions featuring a panel of professional women sharing their career experiences, from 7 to 8 p.m. The third of three sessions, it will feature Jessica Blois, a paleoecologist and associate professor at UC-Merced; Marylou Manzo, a mechanical technologist at LLNL; and Kyndra Cleveland, a developmental psychologist and lawyer. To register, visit bit.ly/BrightFutures3. The cost is \$5 per session. For more information or to request a fee waiver, email girlprograms@aauw-lpd.org.

Saturday, Feb. 18

RESPITE AND PARENT RESOURCE SESSION

Join in from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Valley Community Church to hear from Joni & Friends about their incredible family retreats that are truly a vacation for everyone. The Parent Resource Session will run until 11:30 a.m. in the upstairs seminar room. Light refreshments will be served. Respite will be until 1 p.m. for people of all ages with disabilities. Respite is filled with adaptive activities, fun, and quiet space, and all are hosted by a trained team. Neurotypical siblings are welcome to join. A light lunch will be served. Valley Community Church is located at 4455 Del Valle Parkway, in Pleasanton. Attendees are not required to participate in both events to attend or volunteer. To register or for more information, visit bit.ly/3Jn23LN.

Saturday, Feb. 18

BINGO BASH

Bingo Bash is back at Pleasanton’s St. Augustine’s Catholic Church, 3999 Bernal Ave. Doors open at 6 p.m., and games start at 6:30 p.m. The price is \$10 per card, and pizza, snacks and beverages will be available. Seating is first come, first served. Prizes and raffles will be awarded. For more information, call 925-519-0435.

Saturday, Feb. 18

DANIEL GLOVER PERFORMS

TO BENEFIT VALLEY CONCERT CHORALE

Experience a special musical event when concert pianist Daniel Glover performs musical selections of Rachmaninoff in celebration of his 150th birthday. Then concert takes place at 7:30 p.m., at First Presbyterian Church, located at 2020 Fifth St., in Livermore. Tickets are \$30 and can be purchased in advance at valleyconcertchorale.org. Proceeds from the performance will benefit the Valley Concert Chorale. For more information, visit valleyconcertchorale.org or call 925-866-4003.

Saturday, Feb. 18

TRI-VALLEY WRITERS PRESENTS BETSY GRAZIANI FASBINDE

Betsy Graziani Fasbinder will present “How to Be the Best Ambassador for Your Book: Pitfalls to Avoid, Practices that Pay Off” at the Tri-Valley Writers February meeting. Betsy is a communications trainer and licensed psychotherapist. The meeting will take place at 2 p.m., at Las Positas College, room 2470, 3000 Campus Hill Dr., in Livermore. Check-in begins at 1:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for CWC adult members; \$12 for nonmembers; \$5 for CWC student members ages 14 to 22; and \$8 for student nonmembers. To RSVP and pay, email treasurer@trivalleywriters.org by Thursday, Feb. 16, and register at bit.ly/3CpD0UC.

Sunday, Feb. 19

CHRIS BRADLEY’S TRADITIONAL JAZZ BAND

Chris Bradley’s Traditional Jazz Band is a New Orleans-style jazz band that also plays music from the 1920s and 1930s. The band features well-known musicians from the Bay Area and entertains fans from all ages with real, traditional jazz. The event will be available for in-person attendance and livestream. To request seating, email info@livermorejazzsociety.org or visit <https://bit.ly/3F7roFI>. If seating is available, a formal invitation including the performance location will be sent. The suggested donation \$20, but donations of any amount are most welcome. For more information, visit livermorejazzsociety.org.

Saturday, March 4

LIVERMORE LIONS ANNUAL CRAB FEED FUNDRAISER

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

Friday, March 10

TRINITY CONCERT SERIES: PATRICK BALL — THE CELTIC HARP

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

Saturday, April 1

LIVERMORE HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION 11TH ANNUAL CRAB FEED

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

ONGOING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

TOPSCIENCE

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

ONGOING WEEKLY EVENTS

PLEASANTON FARMERS MARKET

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

Email non-profit events to calendar@independentnews.com for newspaper calendar and visit our website www.independentnews.com to promote all events online.

OBITUARIES

Timothy William Regan Nov. 23, 1956 – Jan. 17, 2023

Livermore native, Timothy Regan, passed away on Jan. 17, 2023, after a battle with cancer. He died at his home in Oregon.

Tim will be remembered for his sense of humor, energetic pursuits in local Little League teams and his love for hunting and fishing. He attended Livermore High School and later went on to establish his home in Oregon, where he enjoyed living and working in rural communities.

He is fondly remembered by family and friends.

Ralph Takeo Matsumoto March 26, 1940 – Dec. 16, 2022

Livermore's Ralph Takeo Matsumoto, 82, passed away



peacefully at his home on Dec. 16, 2022.

He was born in Waimea, Kauai, where he attended high school and graduated in 1959. He continued his schooling at DeVry Institute of Technology, Chicago, where he graduated in computer engineering. After, he continued on to San Mateo College, where he majored in mechanical design.

Ralph worked for Sandia National Laboratories and Lawrence Livermore Lab in Livermore, specializing in lasers for cancer research,

and then in designing atomic weapons for the military. He ended his career in 1985, designing industrial computers for Xerox Corporation in Palo Alto.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Iyetake and Dorris Matsumoto. He is survived by brothers, Wallace Matsumoto of Los Angeles; Dennis (Alicia) Matsumoto of Lihue; one nephew, Mark (Paula) Matsumoto of Los Angeles; one grandnephew; and two grandnieces.

Private services will be held at a later date.

Ronald Leslie Wallace Dec. 4, 1931 – Jan. 24, 2023

In loving memory of Ronald Leslie Wallace, 91, husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather and brother. He passed away on Jan. 24, 2023, from complications of a stroke.

He was born Dec. 4, 1931, in Dallas, Oregon to George and Isabel Wallace. He moved to San Diego as a child. As an adult he moved to the East Bay and worked in the civil engineering field.

Ron is survived by his wife, Gloria, and six children: Janet, Mike, Claudia, Randy, Scott and Terry, his sister, Donna; 21 grandchildren, and 20 great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents and



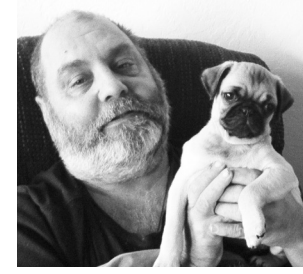
two children, Kim and Kurt.

Ron was very proud of his family and loved cooking for all of them. Ron was very active in the Holy Cross

Lutheran Church and served as chairman of the Property Committee. He loved woodworking, especially making furniture. Ron was a very kindhearted man who would help anyone.

Memorial service will be held at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Livermore on Thursday, Feb. 2, 2023, at 10:20 Mocho St, Livermore, California, 94550 at 10 a.m. A private graveside service will be held at a future date. In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to Holy Cross Lutheran Church at 1020 Mocho St., Livermore, California, 94550 (holycrosslivermore.org) or Hope Hospice at hopehospice.com.

David Richard Daniel Feb. 22, 1959 – Jan. 22, 2023



David passed away peacefully at Pleasanton Rehab where he was building up his strength to come home. David fought a long hard battle with kidney failure where he required dialysis three times a week since Feb. 14, 2008. Right before Christmas he coded from a blood clot that blocked his airway and he was down for over 17 minutes. The doctors did not think he would make it, but he did, and we were able to share our time together until his passing. The day before his passing, Linda his wife, and children Sean, Megan and their pug Lance shared a beautiful morning. He stated, "It felt so good to pet Lance and hear the stories of our children's recent trip to Disneyland. It felt like we were home at peace!"

David was born in Oakland and raised in Livermore and made Livermore his permanent home. During his high school years, he enjoyed stagecraft and produced many plays at Livermore High School and was an active member of the Livermore Del Oro 4-H club. In the 4-H club he met the love of his life Linda. They dated on and off in high school and while he was in the Navy. They married after Linda finished nursing school and David was at his final duty station at Naval Hospital Oakland. They were married for 36 years.

David first joined the Army when he was 17 and did three years. After one year out he joined the Navy and went to Corpsman school. Later in the Navy he became a Histopathology Technician. He was so smart and graduated second in his class! He was good at what he did, and hospitals were offering him jobs even after his stroke and dialysis. He had a great reputation and loved the recognition. He retired from the Navy in 1996, First Class, with several ribbons and medals. His medals were for Good Conduct, the Army Achievement Medal for Sharpshooting, and the Humanitarian Service Medal. He often talked about going

around the equator in both directions. He received the Imperium Neptunia Regis certificate for the crossings on Dec. 12, 1981, and June 24, 1985. David's last job in the Navy was closing Oak Knoll Naval Hospital where he oversaw all the closing supplies.

Three months before David's retirement from the Navy they were blessed with their son Sean. Later came Megan, Ryan and Madison. David was so proud of his children and what they have accomplished so far in their lives. David was so proud of his son Sean. Later in life Sean became his right hand and supported David through his illness and together joined many clubs including the Miniature Railroad Club, the Rose Club, and the Livermore Amateur Radio Klub. David received his Uncle Larry's call sign. He was able to attend Megan's graduation from Fresno State and he supported her in the 4-H club with all her animals, pigs, sheep, chickens, quail, and whatever Megan brought home. He just loved it! David was on the board of directors for B.A.S.S. (Building Church Leaders). His role was to coordinate the exhibitors for the convention every year. Megan became his junior board member, and the entire family supported him with the exhibitor's dinner. David also supported meetings for families who were interested in adoption and helped several couples build their families through adoption. He is also grateful he was able to see and hear his grandchildren from Madison and Jaydon, Lilly and James.

David loved to be involved and active. He was a soccer coach for Sean, a 4-H Leader,

a Boy Scout Leader, member of the Coast Guard Auxiliary where he was the storekeeper. He owned two businesses; the Institute of Natural Cleansing and the Tri Valley Vending Machine Business. He had a passion for cooking and BBQ and taught his children and nephews that passion. He was very smart and loved learning. He attended the University of Phoenix and was 6 months short of graduating when he first became ill.

He loved roses and raising sunflowers. He supported Linda with her nursing career and taking care of her parents Kenneth and Getra Beede who passed these past two years. He cherished them as his parents as his own parents Leopold and Mary passed early in his life.

David was blessed with family as a husband, father, grandfather, and an uncle. He is survived by his loving wife, Linda; children Sean, Megan, Ryan, and Madison (Jayden) and grandchildren Lilly and James. He is survived by his two sisters and their children and grandchildren: Beth (Peter) Bryan (Amber and Hailiegh), Kristin (Mike, Liam and Logan) and Andrew. Mary Ann (Ryan); Keith (Andrea, Cal and Maizie), Kyle (Angelica) and Brandon. His Uncle Ray and Nancy Daniel from New Jersey. Linda's Brother and Family: Kenny (Lynn); Ken IV, Blake, Jordon (Shay), Trey and Joel.

David loved family and especially being an uncle. He loved to listen to all his nephews and nieces and give them advice. He also cherished Linda's aunts. Linda's mom Getra had four sisters and they were always there for big events, as they helped with the wedding and Getra's twin Greta helped with David's Navy retirement party. He is survived by Helen, Alletta (Wendall) and Karen (Don).

There will be a private service amongst family members and then a Military Service in the springtime at the Sacramento Valley National Cemetery.

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Michael "Mike" Alfred Gatzman Aug. 2, 1944 – Jan. 18, 2023

On Wednesday, Jan. 18, 2023, Michael "Mike" Alfred Gatzman, of Livermore, a beloved husband and devoted father, grandfather and brother, received his wings at the young age of 78.

Mike was born in Oakdale, California, on Aug. 2, 1944, to Stanley Wayne Gatzman and Ruth Anne Corrigan-Gatzman. By all accounts, he was an energetic, mischievous and vivacious child.

After graduating from Oakdale High School in 1962, Mike attended and played football at the University of California, Davis, then transferred and graduated from Cal Poly, SLO, with his bachelor's degree in agricultural business management, where he was awarded the Outstanding Senior in California State Polytechnic College's School of Agriculture. Mike continued his graduate studies at Washington State University, earning his master's degree in agricultural economics.

After graduate school, Mike's career in agricultural business management and economics was quite diverse. He started off as an instructor at Cal Poly, then spent time as an investment cattle broker. From there, he moved on to manage a feedlot, then served as president of the Livermore Production Credit Association (PCA). Mike transitioned to roses as projects manager for Devor Nursery and went on to become farm manager for Wente Vineyards.

Mike semi-retired and started Gatzman Consulting Services, allowing him to spend more time with his wife and chase around his grandchildren. One of his honorable achievements was an acknowledgement by the Alameda County Farm Bureau, awarding him Agriculturist of the Year in 2007.

Mike will be remembered for being a humble man of his word, who had numerous significant contributions that impacted the agricultural community.

In high school, Mike met and fell in love with Meredith Jane Hawkins, the forever twinkle in his eye. They married on Aug. 21, 1965. The love they shared for more than 57 years gave them six children, Eric, Heidi (Tony), Nancy (Jason), Marcy (Kelly), Nick (Janie), and Cindi (Patrick). He will be forever cherished and remembered by his 17 grandchildren, Madison, Eric, Alexis, Kynsi (Zac), Kalli, Kayci, Sam, Jeremiah, Kelsey, Logan, Allison, Justin, Andrew, Katie, Syllas, Layla and Chase. Fond memories live on with his sisters, Jean (Jim) Crandal and Mary Trotter (Tom); his brother, Bob (Lillian) Gatzman; niece, Jamie; and nephew, Rick. Mike was preceded in death by his son, Eric Wayne; father, Stanley Wayne Gatzman; and mother, Ruth Anne Gatzman.

Not only did Mike have a strong work ethic, he unselfishly made time for others. He coached his children on numerous soccer, baseball, and softball

teams, as well as serving on league committees. When he wasn't coaching, Mike could be found firing up all the parents on the sidelines with the cowbell to celebrate exciting moments of the game. His children and grandchildren knew he was always there to fiercely support and encourage them.

Mike was a faithful man, which was evident in all that he did. He was an active member at St. Charles Borromeo Church since 1977. He spent many evenings cooking at Open Heart Kitchen, always making sure there was plenty of garlic! Mike's life created beautiful memories that will always be in our hearts, he will be loved forever.

Family and friends are welcome to attend a celebration of Mike's life. Mass will be held on Saturday, Feb. 11, at 11 a.m., at Saint Charles Borromeo Catholic Church, in Livermore. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to be mailed to Open Heart Kitchen, at 1141 Catalina Drive #137, Livermore, CA 94550. Please include a notation for Vineyard 2.0 Project.



Livermore Library to Offer Early Learning Classes Starting in March

The Livermore Public Library will offer a variety of free early learning classes this spring (Feb. 28 to May 27), exploring literacy, science, and math through music, stories, and play, to help children prepare for school. **Sing and Learn Babies** – For children from birth to 12 months old and their caregivers, the classes provide infants with an opportunity to hear language through song, stories, and playtime, and encourage young families to get to know one another.

Classes will be held outside at the Civic Center Library, 1188 S. Livermore

Ave., on Tuesdays at 10:15 a.m. and participants are asked to bring their own blankets. Classes will be followed by Stay and Play time to socialize. No registration is required.

Music and Movement – For children from 1 to 5, the 30-minute classes help build motor and social skills and increase independence and language development through songs and movement activities.

Classes will be held Mondays and Wednesdays at the Civic Center Library; Wednesdays and Fridays at the Rincon Library, 725 Rincon Ave.; and Thursdays

at the Springtown Library, 998 Bluebell Ave.

All classes will be held outside, and participants are asked to bring their own blankets. Classes will begin at 10:15 a.m., followed by Stay and Play time. Registration is not required.

Sensory Storytime for Children with Special Needs – Designed for children with special needs, classes include visuals, interactive preschool-level stories, and multi-sensory activities. The Saturday classes will be held indoors at the Civic Center Library at 11 a.m. on March 11, April 15, and May 13. To register, call 925-373-5505.

Storytime in the Park – Music and Movement classes will be held 10 a.m. at a different Livermore park every Saturday:

- March 4 - Almond Park, 1555 Almond Ave.
- March 11 - Maitland R. Henry Park, 1525 Mendocino Road.
- March 18 - Bruno Canziani Park, 5905 Charlotte Way.
- March 25 - Pleasure Island Park, 280 Pearl Drive.
- April 1 - Summit Park, 6332 Tioga Pass Court.
- April 8 - Mocho Park, 1130 Mocho St.
- April 15 - Vista Meadows

Park, 2450 Westminster Way.

- April 22 - Ralph T. Wattenburger Park, 1515 Honeysuckle Road.
- April 29 - Al Caffodio Park, 1294 Le Mans Court.
- May 6 - Tex Spruiell Park, 5411 Felicia Ave.
- May 13 - Jack Williams Park, 2041 Neptune Road.
- May 20 - Big Trees Park, 5470 Kathy Way.
- May 27 - Pleasure Island Park, 280 Pearl Drive.

Registration is not required. For more information, call 925-373-5505 or go to library.livermoreca.gov.

Naturalist to Explore Evolution of Fish

Naturalist Gisselle Hernandez will lead a program on the evolutionary path of fish at the Shadow Cliffs Regional Recreation Area in Pleasanton on Sunday, Feb. 5, from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. "Fish Tales," which will explore the diversity of fish that inhabit the park, is free and designed for anyone 10 or older. Shadow Cliffs is located at 2500 Stanley Blvd., east of downtown Pleasanton. Participants should meet at the Lakeside Picnic Area. For more information, call 510-544-3146 or visit ebpparks.org.

Foothill Girls' Soccer Beats Livermore High

By Nathan Canilao

The Foothill High School girls' soccer team defeated Livermore High School 2-1 on Jan. 28. The win moves Foothill to 5-4-2 on the season.

The Falcons struck first, scoring two goals in the first half. Foothill was able to move the ball up field to find open attackers and made

good on their opportunities.

At halftime, the Falcons led 2-0.

Livermore made a run in the second half when junior Juliette Salgado Garcia scored a goal to get the Cowboys to within one.

Foothill was on the ropes, but solid defense helped them close out the game. The Falcons' defensemen were able to keep the

ball out of the box which gave Foothill the win.

The Cowboys dropped to 6-6-3 with the loss. They have lost three straight games and will face Amador Valley at home on Feb. 2.

The Falcons bounce back after their loss to San Ramon Valley. They will face Dublin High at home on Feb. 2.



Dublin's goalkeeper McKenna Madden punches the ball away during a Jan. 28 match against Granada High School. The game was tied at 1-1. [See photo gallery at www.independentnews.com/multimedia/] (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)

De La Salle Boys Take Down Falcons 61-40

By Nathan Canilao

The Foothill High School boys' basketball team was defeated 61-40 by De La Salle High School on Jan. 26. The Falcons dropped to 13-10 on the season with the loss.

The Falcons got off to a slow start, scoring just five

points in the first quarter. Foothill started to pick up the scoring in the second quarter, but still trailed the Spartans 31-17 at halftime.

De La Salle had a big 20-point third quarter that shifted the momentum in their favor. Foothill's offense couldn't punch back and the Spartans took home s

21-point victory.

Foothill has now lost four straight games and have just one league win. They have lost each game by an average of 13.5 points during the losing streak.

The Falcons will face rival Amador Valley High School on the road Feb. 3.

Dublin High Outshoots Amador Valley 56-48

By Nathan Canilao

The Dublin High School boys' basketball team defeated Amador Valley High School 56-48 on Jan. 26. The Gaels survived a huge upset and improved to 16-7 on the season.

The Dons got up early and stretched the Gaels defense out with perimeter shooting. Dublin was able to weather the early storm and took control of the game in the second half.

Dublin's athleticism and shot making proved to be too much for the Dons and the Gaels escaped with an eight-point victory. Senior forward Courtney Anderson Jr. scored a team-high 19 points. Senior forward Mehki Thomas and senior point guard Donovan Cooks each had 15 points.

The Dons' defense held the Gaels to just 22% from behind the arc, but the Gaels won the rebound battle 32-29 and shot 45% overall from the field.

The Dons dropped to .500 on the season with a record of 11-11. They have just one game in league play and will face rival Foothill High School at home on Feb. 3.

The Gaels will face rival Dougherty Valley High School at home on Feb. 3.



Dublin's Mehki Thomas drives for a layup and 2 points during the Jan. 26 game against Amador Valley High School. Dublin High won 56-48. [See photo gallery at www.independentnews.com/multimedia/] (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)



Granada High's Andrew Mckeever tries to block a shot from Dublin High School's Mehki Thomas during a matchup on Saturday, Jan. 28. Dublin won 67-60. [See photo gallery at www.independentnews.com/multimedia/] (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)

Dublin High School Boys' Basketball Team Squeaks Out Win Against Granada High

By Nathan Canilao

The Dublin High School boys' basketball team defeated Granada High 67-60 on Jan. 28. The Gaels won their eighth regular season game of the season and honored their seniors in a pregame showcase.

Dublin took an early lead, ending the first quarter with an 18-14 advantage. At halftime, the Gaels led 28-23.

The Gaels controlled the third quarter and were able to score on the perimeter at will. Dublin eventually closed out Granada in the fourth quarter and cruised to a seven-point victory.

Senior point guard Donovan Cooks had a game-high 25 points. Senior forwards Courtney Anderson Jr. and Mehki Thomas combined for 32 points.

Granada extended their losing streak to three and dropped to 16-7 on the season. They will face Livermore High School in their regular season finale on Feb. 3.

The Gaels improved to 17-7 and are now 6-1 in league play. They will face rival Dougherty Valley High School at home on Feb. 3.



Alex Gutierrez, an eight-year veteran of the Livermore Police Department (LPD), has been assigned to Granada High School as School Resource Officer (SRO). Gutierrez is a Granada graduate and the father of two school-age children. Gutierrez was also a detective in the special operations unit, a member of the LPD and East County tactical units, and a field training officer. A Livermore native, Gutierrez served in the military, including two tours in Iraq. (Photo courtesy of Livermore Police Department)

Pedrozzi Foundation Accepting Scholarship Applications

The Pedrozzi Scholarship Foundation, the top provider of scholarships for graduates of the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District (LVJUSD), is now accepting applications for 2023.

The scholarships are open to LVJUSD students who will be graduating this spring, or who have already graduated. Students who were residents of Alameda County when they graduated high school and are now attending St. Patrick's Seminary and University are

also eligible.

Scholarships are awarded for technical/vocational education, undergraduate and community college, and graduate studies.

Scholarship recipients will receive at least \$1,000 per year up to a maximum of four years. In most cases, applications are due by Friday, Feb. 24.

The scholarships were es-

tablished by Mario Pedrozzi, a Livermore businessman who left nearly all his assets to the community, about \$8 million, when he died in 2002. According to the foundation, since the first scholarships were awarded in 2008, it has provided \$5.7 million in grants to nearly 1,600 students.

To apply, or for more information, go to pedrozzi.org.

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Former Lawrence Livermore Lab Intern Named Air Force Cadet of the Year

Second Lt. Hannah Fletcher, a former Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) intern at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL), was named U.S. Air Force Cadet of the Year for 2022.

The award recognizes the top cadet in an Air Force commissioning program based on military performance, academics, and physical fitness.

A graduate of North Carolina State University, Fletcher majored in international relations and mechanical engineering and minored in Chinese. She was also cadet wing commander for Detachment 595, leading the university's ROTC cadets.

In August 2021, while awaiting her active-duty assignment, Fletcher was offered an internship at LLNL, where she worked with staff scientists in the Energetic Materials Center to improve manufacturing techniques used to create weapons.

Project DarkStar, led by LLNL scientist Jon Belof, is a collaborative project with the Colorado School of Mines to control material deformation, or changes in sizes and shapes, during manufacture.

With Fletcher's assistance, the DarkStar team was able to improve its direct-ink 3D printing process, a manufacturing technique in which a viscous material is extruded

through a moving nozzle at a prescribed rate.

"Prior to working with real energetic materials, scientists conduct 3D printing tests using inert surrogates as practice materials," explained Dylan Kline, Fletcher's mentor and co-lead of the project.

He said Fletcher's fresh perspectives helped the team realize it needed a better formulation that was more representative of the materials they were interested in 3D printing, as well as something that was easier to clean out of the 3D printer after running the experiment.

After some brainstorming, Fletcher and Kline jokingly suggested they use cake frosting as the test material.

This seemingly whimsical idea led the team to a frosting-based formulation that enabled it to quickly make inert surrogates with tunable flow properties. Researchers could then evaluate how these flow properties were related to printing parameters, examine how the material extrudes from the printer's nozzle, and print more effectively as a result.

"Having Hannah helped us reframe our approach and provided us with new and interesting ideas," Kline said. "Not only did she help improve LLNL's additive manufacturing processes for energetic materials, but

she also provided the team with valuable insights regarding the most effective way to train someone to operate the lab's 3D printing equipment."

"We're a weapons lab, we support the military, and these students that come here are not just protected by the tools that we

develop but they are the users," Kline added "They are invested in them, and these are the people who should be learning about what we are doing. By working together, we can improve everybody's safety, enable a wider mission space, establish better connections, and enhance the stockpile."



Second Lt. Hannah Fletcher, a former Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) intern at the (LLNL), was named U.S. Air Force Cadet of the Year for 2022. (Photo courtesy of. LLNL)

LEGAL NOTICES/CLASSIFIEDS

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LEGAL NOTICES

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 593994

The following person(s) doing business as: PLLHB Inc., 5003 Crystal Ridge Ct, Oakland, CA 94605, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): PLLHB Inc., 5003 Crystal Ridge Ct, Oakland, CA 94605. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Preston Lew, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 15, 2022. Expires December 14, 2027. The Independent, Legal No. 5355. Published January 12, 19, 26, February 2, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 593995

The following person(s) doing business as: Makon Construction, Inc., 4343 E Castro Valley Blvd, Castro Valley, CA 94552, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Makon Construction Inc., 4343 E Castro Valley, CA 94552. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Henry Mak, CFO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 15, 2022. Expires December 14, 2027. The Independent, Legal No. 5356. Published January 12, 19, 26, February 2, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 594378

The following person(s) doing business as: eWOW, 5871 Dresslar Circle, Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Rashim Mogha, 5871 Dresslar Cir, Livermore, CA 94550; Shweta Mogha, 5871 Dresslar Circle, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by Co-Partners. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 1/14/2019. Signature of Registrant/s/: Rasim Mogha, Founder/CEO/General Partner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 28, 2022. Expires December 27, 2027. The Independent, Legal No. 5357. Published January 12, 19, 26, February 2, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 594460

The following person(s) doing business as: Optimal, 1111 Broadway, 4th Floor, Oakland, CA 94607, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): DSPolitical LLC, 1111 Broadway, 4th Floor, Oakland, CA 94607. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 6/15/2022. Signature of Registrant/s/: Michael Bassik, Managing Partner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 30, 2022. Expires December 29, 2027. The Independent, Legal No. 5358. Published January 12, 19, 26, February 2, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 594310

The following person(s) doing business as: Bobby G's Pizzeria, 2072 University Ave, Berkeley, CA 94704, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): JDyal Industries, Inc. 5660 Mount Day Drive, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A.

Signature of Registrant/s/: Jagandeep S. Dyal, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 23, 2022. Expires December 22, 2027. The Independent, Legal No. 5359. Published January 12, 19, 26, February 2, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 594300

The following person(s) doing business as: Iron Horse Buitoni, 550 Main Street, Pleasanton, CA 94566, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Starkey Holdings Inc., 305 Borica Dr., Danville, CA 94526. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Erica Starkey, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 23, 2022. Expires December 22, 2027. The Independent, Legal No. 5360. Published January 19, 26, February 2, 9, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 594301

The following person(s) doing business as: Jpar Iron Horse Real Estate, 550 Main Street, Pleasanton, CA 94566, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Starkey Holdings Inc., 305 Borica Dr., Danville, CA 94526. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Erica Starkey, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 23, 2022. Expires December 22, 2027. The Independent, Legal No. 5361. Published January 19, 26, February 2, 9, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 594379

The following person(s) doing business as: Olson Enterprises, 6500 Dublin Blvd Ste 200B, Dublin, CA 94568, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Jonathan M. Olson, 102 Madelia Pl, San Ramon, CA 94583. This business is conducted by Co-Partners. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 12/7/2015. Signature of Registrant/s/: Jonathan M. Olson, General Partner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 28, 2022. Expires December 27, 2027. The Independent, Legal No. 5362. Published January 19, 26, February 2, 9, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 594743

The following person(s) doing business as: Luxe Notary, 6768 Edgewater Lane, Livermore, CA 94551, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Elizabeth Cardona, 6768 Edgewater Lane, 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/: Elizabeth Cardona, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 13, 2023. Expires January 12, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5364. Published January 19, 26, February 2, 9, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 594497

The following person(s) doing business as: Show Dog Prep School, 1226 Victor Ave, San Leandro, CA 94519, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Rook T Holdings, LLC 1226 Victor Ave, San Leandro, CA 94519. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Com-

pany. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 1/1/2020. Signature of Registrant/s/: Victoria Ronchette, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 4, 2023. Expires January 3, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5365. Published January 19, 26, February 2, 9, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 594591

The following person(s) doing business as: Maggie Bakery, 1491 Chateau Cmn, Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Danitta O'Keefe, 1491 Chateau Cmn, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 2/2018. Signature of Registrant/s/: Danita O'Keefe, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 9, 2023. Expires January 8, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5366. Published January 26, February 2, 9, 16, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 594542

The following person(s) doing business as: Heavenly Care Home, 36857 Walnut Street, Newark, CA 94560, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Heavenly Care Home LLC, 2899 Bethany Rd, San Ramon, CA 94582. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 1/5/2003. Signature of Registrant/s/: Shahid Abbasi, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 5, 2023. Expires January 4, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5367. Published January 26, February 2, 9, 16, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 594608

The following person(s) doing business as: Move Better - Live Better, 4068 Walnut Dr., Pleasanton, CA 94566, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Joanne Olecko, 4068 Walnut Dr., Pleasanton, CA 94566. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Joanne Olecko, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 9, 2023. Expires January 8, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5368. Published January 26, February 2, 9, 16, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 594788

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Wandervans; 2. Wandervans - SF/Oakland, 1166 Killamey ST, Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Recreate Outdoor LLC, 1166 Killamey ST, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by a limited liability company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 1/13/2023. Signature of Registrant/s/: Isaiah Davis, Managing Director. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 17, 2023. Expires January 16, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5369. Published January 26, February 2, 9, 16, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 594854

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. True Rent Property Management; 2. TRPM, 1298 Blossom Cir, Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Truitt Enterprises, 1298 Blossom

Cir, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Aaron Truitt, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 19, 2023. Expires January 18, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5370. Published February 2, 9, 16, 23, 2023.

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME ORIGINAL FILE NO. 577239

The person(s) listed below have abandoned the use of the following fictitious business name(s). Snow Squared, 7303 Parkwood Circle, Dublin, CA 94568. Registered Owner(s): 1. Jemina Snow, 7303 Parkwood Circle, Dublin, CA 94568; 2. Eric Snow 7303 Parkwood Circle, Dublin, CA 94568. The fictitious business name statement was filed on 03/17/21 in the County of Alameda. This business was conducted by a Married Couple. Signature of Registrant/s/: Jemina Snow, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 10, 2023. The Independent Legal No. 5371. Published February 2, 9, 16, 23, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 594802

The following person(s) doing business as: Rye Humor Baking, 2783 Yountville CT, Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): 1. Laurel Jean Sutcliffe, 2783 Yountville CT, Livermore, CA 94550; 2. Mark Joseph Perez, 2783 Yountville CT, 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/: Laurel Jean Sutcliffe, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 18, 2023. Expires January 17, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5372. Published February 2, 9, 16, 23, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 595041

The following person(s) doing business as: MAC & Associates, 164 N L ST, Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Mari Carmignani, 1081 Hillcrest Court, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 1/1/2023. Signature of Registrant/s/: Mari Carmignani, Principal. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 25, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5373. Published February 2, 9, 16, 23, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 595066

The following person(s) doing business as: Great Renewal, 1479 Hudson Way, Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Teshala David, 1479 Hudson Way, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 1/1/2023. Signature of Registrant/s/: Teshala David, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 27, 2023. Expires January 26, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5374. Published February 2, 9, 16, 23, 2023.

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HOUSING

(Continued from first page)

at that number.

Earlier in January, the planning commission voted to recommend that the city council increase the maximum to 139 units, based in part on requests from the school district, with the condition that the district enter a developer agreement guaranteeing workforce housing.

No agreement, however, had been entered at the time of the meeting; Arkin preferred to have the agreement before increasing the unit density.

“This is the problem: market conditions can change, property values change. They’re already softening. We’re heading into a recession. Developer interest can change,” said Arkin. “There are so many unknowns.”

Indeed, City Manager Gerry Beaudin clarified that “the Housing Element itself is not the appropriate time to try to look at the project details and come up with an agreement.”

Mayor Karla Brown also questioned just who will become the eventual residents.

“How can we make sure these are teachers?” she asked. “Or Pleasanton teachers?”

But Vice Mayor Jack Balch and Councilmember Jeff Nibert favored increasing the maximum to 139 units.

“Why (is the school district) being put through so many hoops when 17 other property owners did not have to produce a plan either?” he asked, referring to the other sites included in the Housing Element. “I

have served for thirteen and a half years in this city, and I have never seen a better chance to actually achieving teacher workforce housing in our community than this one right now.”

Ultimately, Arkin and Brown agreed to increase the site’s unit count. The council voted 4-0, with Councilmember Julie Testa recused due to proximity to her home, to include the site at 139 units.

Regional Housing Need Allocation Met

The Housing Element, a component of the city’s General Plan, defines the policies, programs, land uses and zonings used by the city to guide housing activity. The state, through its Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) process, mandates that local governments provide for a certain quota, at specific affordability levels, of new homes within their housing elements.

For the eight-year housing cycle beginning this year, RHNA assigned Pleasanton a total of 5,965 new housing units. Of these, 1,750 had to be very-low income, 1,008 low income, 894 moderate income, and 2,313 above moderate income.

The approved housing element detailed 18 housing sites throughout the city that would provide for 3,468 new housing units on top of the 2,923 units already part of the city’s inventory or in development. The added sites brought the inventory to 426 units above the RHNA requirement.

Although Jen Murillo, director at Lisa Wise Con-

sulting, Inc., said that the state recommended a buffer between 15 and 30% above RHNA, Pleasanton’s 426-unit surplus provided only a 7% buffer, a statistic that the council kept in mind while deliberating possible site removals. The city hired Lisa Wise Consulting to assist with the housing element process.

Last week’s adoption marked a milestone for a process that began in March 2021 — a process that involved, among other steps, stakeholder meetings, environmental review and state comments on the list of properties that the city would rezone for housing. Although the process does not exclude non-listed sites from future housing development, the included sites enjoy the benefit of having both zoning and environmental review already completed in anticipation of housing.

Rogue Housing Projects Avoided

The adoption came five days before the Jan. 31 housing-element deadline set by the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD), a deadline that incited some confusion and rush among city staff last fall.

While the city had previously planned to take advantage of a 90-day grace period to complete the plan, reports arose from Southern California jurisdictions — whose housing element deadlines preceded Pleasanton’s — of developers taking advantage of an aspect of the Housing Accountability Act known

as the Builder’s Remedy to circumvent local zoning requirements.

“If a locality has not adopted a housing element in substantial compliance with state law, developers may propose eligible housing development projects that do not comply with either the zoning or the general plan,” read a technical assistance document released by the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG). “There is no grace period, even for the period when a housing element is being reviewed by the (HCD).”

The Builder’s Remedy forced rogue housing proj-

ects upon those cities that had tried to use the grace period.

The ABAG document went on to explain how substantial compliance did not require HCD approval, and that a city may find its own housing element to be compliant with state law.

Testa explained to The Independent, “We are hoping that HCD will, in fact, certify, but if they don’t, we will be able to show that we are in substantial compliance, which is a component of the (Builder’s Remedy). It’s a cure for the (Builder’s Remedy).”

Now approved and sub-

mitted, Pleasanton’s Housing Element will undergo a second round of HCD review before certification. The city plans to conduct follow-up hearings this spring, if needed.

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REGISTRY

(Continued from first page)

need to know, should we need to contact or interact with a member of our community,” Billdt said.

The goal of all SNRs is to help reduce emotional trauma, fear and conflict during

interactions between first responders and community members with special needs. Registries are both voluntary and confidential, and information is only shared with first responders responding

to calls for service.

Dublin’s SNR can be found at www.dublin.ca.gov/snr.

Livermore’s SNR can be found at www.bit.ly/indy_LIVSNR.



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