

Experts Say

COVID Also Helped Start Businesses

By Dawnmarie Fehr

REGIONAL—Despite concerns over a weak economy as the Tri-Valley emerges from the pandemic with some popular local haunts shut down, some local experts are saying it wasn't all that bad.

A few flagship stores – Nordstrom's in Pleasanton, and Dom's Outdoor Outfitters and Van's Health Foods of Livermore – have shut down, victims of the shelter-in-place orders issued across the country last March. But many others have moved in to take their places.

"I'd say we haven't been victimless, just like our surrounding communities, but really, in this COVID-era, I've been seeing a lot of new businesses opening and taking over from businesses that have closed," said Hazel Wetherford, Dublin's

(See ECONOMY, page 12)

Specialist Covers ALS, Alzheimer's

By Dawnmarie Fehr

LIVERMORE — The Bankhead Theater hosted neurologist Dr. Richard Reimer last week in a virtual presentation to discuss Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) and the development of new therapies to combat these devastating diseases.



Dr. Richard Reimer

Presented as part of the Rae Dorough Speaker Series (RDSS) in partnership with the Livermore Lab Foundation (LLF), the well-attended "ALS, Alzheimer's and Parkinson's:

(See SPECIALIST, page 13)

City Reviews Historic Sites, Designations

By Larry Altman

LIVERMORE — About 1% of Livermore's buildings have been identified as historical or potentially historical, including sites like Hagemann Ranch, the Carnegie Library, Robertson Park's rodeo grounds and the original Concannon winery building.

The properties were identified during Monday night's council meeting, where councilmembers passed a resolution to update the city's earlier resolutions and documents for what might be considered historical sites in the city. The updates included adding history related to indigenous peoples and other cultures that lived in the Livermore Valley before the city incorporated.

The unanimous vote to essentially modernize previous preservation rules followed an extensive study of prop-

(See SITES, page 8)



From left, Rep. Eric Swalwell and Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center Executive Director Chris Carter stand beside the theater's ghostlight while discussing how the American Rescue Plan will help live venues throughout the nation. (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)

Advocacy Group Presents Findings for An Eden Housing Downtown Alternative

LIVERMORE — Since a Dec. 7 Livermore City Council workshop, Save Livermore Downtown (SLD) has been developing an alternative to the Eden Housing development plan for the community to consider.

The group is now issuing a press release to publicize its findings for a Downtown Alternative.

During the workshop, representatives of SLD noted that Eden Housing presented a development plan that was "dramatically different from the one that had been publicized ever since March 23, 2018."

"The new 130-unit residential development would harm the city center in ways

that were never imagined," said Ruth Gasten, SLD spokesperson.

In its press release, SLD outlines the major problems Eden's plan would bring to the downtown:

- Residential housing, 4-stories high, and up to a block long, would be moved closer to L Street, matching the massive development across the street.
- The narrowed park between the high apartment buildings appears to be private space, not a draw for the public.
- Parking would be inadequate, at least 43% less than City residential standards.
- Traffic congestion would

increase, as those circling the downtown look for empty stalls.

- The promised workforce housing for teachers, police and firefighters has been eliminated.

A look at the Downtown Alternative shows that ways can be found to avoid the damaging elements in the Eden plan by moving its housing units across Railroad Avenue to the north.

"Then, an exceptional park – a community gathering space – could be created on the old Lucky site," Gasten continued.

The Lucky site refers to the center of the downtown between Railroad Avenue and Veterans Way, and L

(See ALTERNATIVE, page 6)

School District Calls for Environmental Help

By Ron McNicoll

PLEASANTON — The Pleasanton Unified School District (PUSD) will celebrate Earth Day April 22 with an online version of 1 Small Act.

climate change. The issue had seemed overwhelming to her, but she decided to go to the store and come home with some garden tools. Perusse was rewarded with blooming plants and swarms

is to have the list of small acts add up to 10,000 or more, continuing beyond Earth Day.

Also backing the challenge is Jill Buck, who originally started the Go Green

The campaign is designed to encourage the community to think of the small actions they can do in their everyday lives that will help the earth.

The campaign is designed to encourage the community to think of the small actions they can do in their everyday lives that will help the earth. Kelsey Perusse, who is in charge of nutrition for all district students, brought the observance to PUSD.

Perusse said that when she was in the Santa Clara School District, she shared with others her feelings about

of bees, which are important for honey reproduction, as well as the pollination of disappearing plant species. Perusse's one small act offered a haven for bees that are often killed by farming pesticides.

PUSD students and their families are able to participate by submitting their small act virtually at http://bit.ly/Indy_Form. The goal

Initiative at a Pleasanton school, before it grew into a worldwide organization. Go Green stemmed from Buck's desire to find a way to recycle office paper when she was in the military.

Perusse said the staff has shown excellent support, with PUSD Assistant Superintendent Ahmad Sheikh-holeslami bringing high enthusiasm for the project.

Three Suspects Arrested Following Gunpoint Robbery

By Larry Altman

PLEASANTON — Two young men and a teenager have been arrested on suspicion of robbing a Pleasanton couple at gunpoint when the residents pulled into their driveway following a weekend grocery shopping trip, police said.

According to the couple, the robbers escaped with a bag of bananas, \$200, a Fitbit bracelet and the husband's wallet. The suspects charged \$800 on the stolen card at a San Ramon Target store, an act that resulted in

their arrests.

The husband and wife, both in their 50s, suffered bruises during the Saturday afternoon crime but did not require medical treatment. They asked that their names not be published.

"We feel so lucky," the husband said.

The crime occurred about 1 p.m. when the victims returned to their home in the area of Las Positas Drive and Hopyard Road from a run to a nearby Walmart to buy bread and

(See ROBBERY, page 11)

Bankhead Set to Reopen for Live Shows in July

By Aly Brown

LIVERMORE — After more than a year of remaining closed due to the pandemic, the Bankhead Theater is gearing up to reopen for in-person performances as early as July; a financial boost from the American Rescue Plan might help.

The Bankhead Theater has applied for about \$750,000 of grant funding through the Shuttered Venue Operators Grants (SVOG) program. The American Rescue Plan, which passed in the Senate March 6, in part amended SVOG, thus creating over \$16 billion in grants for venues that had to close during the pandemic.

During a press conference staged in front of the Bankhead Theater last week, Rep. Eric Swalwell (CA-15) and Chris Carter — executive director for the Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center (LVPAC), which operates the Bankhead — explained

how the American Rescue Plan will aid in the survival of live venues as they ramp back up.

"With the American Rescue Plan, the idea is you put shots in arms, money in pockets — especially employees who have been laid off — and then help small businesses so that, come this summer, we are essentially reopened," said Swalwell, who represents Livermore, Dublin, Pleasanton, Sunol and 11 Contra Costa County communities.

He explained that because the Bankhead has been in operation since 2007, the venue is eligible for grants equal to 45% of its 2019 gross earned revenue — or \$10 million, whichever is less.

Carter reported that the theater will open for films beginning next month; they're working now to set the stage for live performances in July.

"We were really debat-

(See BANKHEAD, page 9)

Investigation Ongoing in Second Suicide at the Jail

By Larry Altman

REGIONAL — Ongoing negotiations to improve conditions at the Santa Rita Jail in Dublin have revealed that another inmate took her own life earlier this month.

The unidentified woman died April 2, a day after she was treated by a clinician and a doctor, reported an affidavit filed at U.S. District Court in San Jose. The woman, who was held in the facility since July, was the second inmate to die by suicide this year.

No other information about the death was available from the Alameda County Sheriff's Department. The Coroner's Office said the Sheriff's Office had placed a security hold on the case; no information could be released, including the inmate's name.

The revelation of her death came as attorneys who filed a lawsuit against the county in 2018 on behalf of inmates presented an update on the case for Judge Nathanael Cousins, who is presiding over the matter. The lawsuit alleged that the Santa Rita Jail — where many inmates serve sentences or are housed while awaiting court proceedings — had a high suicide rate and required increased staff and mental health programs to address the problem.

No suicides occurred in 2020. However, the woman's death follows the Feb. 9 death of Jonas Park, a 33-year-old inmate who hanged himself with a bed sheet in his cell in the jail's 14-day COVID-19 quarantine area. Park had been in custody for six days following an arrest in Emeryville.

"I don't think we should have any suicides in our jails and prisons," said Kara Janssen, whose firm Rosen Bien Galvan & Grunfeld filed the federal lawsuit in U.S. District Court in San Jose. "I understand they do happen."

Janssen said she did not know details about the latest suicide but hoped the inmate had received help while behind bars.

"This speaks to the issue of the need for mental health at the jail," Janssen said.

Sheriff's Office spokesman Sgt. Ray Kelly said the department has invested time and energy into suicide prevention, noting that it was difficult to have two occur so close together following a year without a self-inflicted death.

"What's unfortunate is it doesn't take very long for someone to asphyxiate themselves," Kelly said. "In a matter of minutes, someone can commit suicide."

Last year, in an attempt

(See JAIL, page 11)



A cyclist enjoys a weekend ride amid beautiful warm weather and brilliant yellow wild mustard found along Carneal Road in North Livermore. (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)



AUBREY

PET OF THE WEEK

Aubrey may have been born into the wrong species; her gregarious and affectionate personality mimics that of a golden retriever. Like man's best friend, she wants to be by your side, on your lap and have all your attention. She even drools like your favorite mutt would do! Aubrey is a two-year-old shorthair tabby looking for a new bosom buddy. At this time, Valley Humane Society is coordinating adoptions by appointment only. If you are interested adopting Aubrey, send an email to info@valleyhumane.org for more information.

(Photo - Valley Humane Society /E. Scholz)

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Businessman Charged for Tax Evasion

By Larry Altman

A Bay Area recycling business president who purchased a \$1.6 million home in Pleasanton in 2014 has been charged in an alleged conspiracy to hide more than \$18 million in income from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), court documents showed.

Joseph Nubla, 69, of the Brisbane Recycling Co. in Brisbane, was indicted by a federal grand jury on April 6 of single counts of conspiracy to defraud the United States and tax evasion. His corporate counsel, Henry Ku of Foster City also faces a conspiracy charge.

According to the indictment filed in U.S. District Court in San Francisco, Nubla allegedly wrote checks totaling about \$18.4 million to Ku's companies — Pegasus Aggregate Inc. in South San Francisco and Jupiter Prime Monarch in Fremont — but retained control of the funds even after they were transferred to Ku's bank accounts.

"Upon Nubla's request, Ku returned the funds back to Nubla in various forms," the indictment stated. "Nubla placed the funds into Ku's entities to conceal his income from the Internal Revenue Service, creditors and other parties."

The indictment further alleges that Ku returned about \$11.9 million of the Brisbane monies to Nubla with transfers to Nubla's personal bank account, cashier's checks to purchase real estate for Nubla, and a fake loan.

In addition, from 2009 to 2014, Nubla falsely informed his tax preparer that the money he paid to Pegasus and Jupiter Prime Market were for legitimate business expenses, "causing inflated cost of goods sold and other false business deductions to be reported on Brisbane's federal corporate income tax returns filed with the IRS."

Prosecutors allege that Nubla directed Ku to spend nearly \$2 million of Brisbane's money to buy him a home in Foster City in

2009 and 2010, and another \$1.6 million for a nearly 4,000-square-foot house in the 7200 block of Rosecliff Court in Pleasanton. Records show that home is worth nearly \$2 million.

In 2014, Ku drafted a fake loan agreement to return \$7 million in Brisbane money to Nubla. Nubla then deposited cashier's checks worth \$4 million and \$3 million into his Bank of America account, the indictment alleges.

Nubla allegedly filed a false tax return for 2014 that didn't report \$5.8 million. His 2015 return, prosecutors allege, failed to report more than \$3 million in income.

The men, who were not arrested, are scheduled to appear before Judge Jacqueline Scott Corley on April 19.

The conspiracy conviction could result in a sentence of five years in federal prison. The tax evasion charge carries a three-year term. Each charge could include a \$250,000 fine.



Prepackaged groceries are stacked and ready for pickup in the Las Positas College parking lot. Each month, community members experiencing food insecurity receive free groceries at The Market, a food drive led by students. (Photo - Alan Lewis)

Las Positas Students Combat Food Scarcity

By Jesse Watson

Once a month at Las Positas College, student government officers and community volunteers come together to distribute free groceries as a part of the college's program, The Market.

The program takes place in front of the 1600 building at Las Positas College (LPC) every third Tuesday of the month, from noon to 3 p.m. Volunteers distribute pre-packaged bags of groceries to patrons on a first-come, first-served basis. Attendees don't have to fill out any forms or provide any proof of need; they just have to show up to receive food.

"Anyone is eligible to get food regardless of if they're an LPC student or not," said Saba Salehifar, LPC's student government president. "We want to provide food assistance to anyone who may be in need."

Salehifar and her fellow student government officers are responsible for organizing the event each month. They order the food, recruit volunteers and are present during the events to ensure everything runs smoothly.

Over the past year, the student government organizers adapted in response to the COVID-19 pandemic by offering contactless pick-up in which volunteers pre-bag items and load them directly into patrons' trunks. According to the LPC website, all patrons must wear a mask when picking up their food as well.

The Market's funding comes from Assembly Bill 453, better known as the Hunger Free Campus Bill. One of the key components

of this bill requires community colleges to host regular food distributions or to establish an on-campus food pantry. Although the state funds the program, organizers of the monthly distribution rely on community support to keep the program running.

"We are always looking for volunteers, since there is a lot of work bagging all the produce and canned items," said Salehifar. "It really is a team effort, and I am thankful for the students, LPC faculty, and community members who take the time to help."

One such volunteer is Rifka Several who works for the Las Positas College Foundation and has a grandson who attends LPC. Several volunteers at The Market each month bagging items and organizing the packing stations.

"Between 120 and 170 people drive to Las Positas College or arrive by public transportation every month to get food," she said. "This is a great example of Las Positas College students organizing and volunteering to make a difference in our

community."

According to Several, although there is a collection of food distribution services in the Tri-Valley, no single program can provide those with food scarcity with enough food for a month. That's why it's important, she said, for The Market to continue in conjunction with other programs and for community members to get the word out about The Market. This forum connects those experiencing food scarcity with students and community members ready and willing to serve their community.

"We are all here to help others, and if The Market has helped one family not have to worry about what food to put on the table or avoid a trip to the grocery store, we have provided a service to the community," said Salehifar.

For more information about The Market and other resources for food distribution, visit http://bit.ly/Indy_LPCTheMarket. Those interested in volunteering at The Market can sign up at www.bit.ly/Indy_Market-SignUp.

Joint Council, Planning Commission Meeting Set for Monday

On Monday, April 19, beginning at 5 p.m., the Livermore City Council will hold a joint council and planning commission meeting to review local land use authority and council goals.

Officials will further discuss the respective roles and responsibilities of the city council and planning commission. Adjournment will be to a planning commission meeting on April 20, at 7 p.m.; and a city council meeting on April 26, at 7 p.m.

To watch the meeting via YouTube, visit www.youtube.com/c/CityofLivermoreCalifornia. To participate via Zoom, visit us02web.zoom.us/j/89755082915. To dial by phone, call 699-900-6833 (ID: 897 5508 2915).

Dublin Pride Week to Be Held Apr. 24–May 1

Dublin will celebrate its annual "Dublin Pride Week" from April 24-May 1 with a series of events promoting volunteerism and environmental awareness.

Dublin Pride Week activities will include a volunteer day to clean up and beautify creeks, schools, and parks in the city; a virtual food drive; drug take-back day for residents to drop off unwanted or expired prescriptions; free compost pickup; hazardous waste drop-off; virtual bicycle workshops; a cooking workshop webinar to reduce food waste; and the third-annual "Nature in Our Backyards" photography contest.

Volunteers are needed from 8-11 a.m., on Saturday, April 24, for Volunteer Day. Volunteers will meet at Emerald Glen Park for a light breakfast and to receive their assignments. They will also receive lunch back at the park at noon. To

register, go to Dublin Pride Volunteer Day 2021 Tickets, Sat, Apr 24, 2021 at 8:00 AM | Eventbrite.

Unwanted or expired prescription drugs will be accepted from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., on April 24, at the Dublin Civic Center, 100 Civic Plaza. Liquids and syringes will not be accepted.

Residents can pick up free compost, or drop off household hazardous waste, including motor oil, paint, cleaners, batteries, light bulbs, herbicides, and pesticides, at 5601 Arnold Road from 7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., on Saturday, May 1.

Registration is required for picking up compost or dropping off hazardous waste by calling 925-557-1091 or emailing psc-appointments@answerquick.com. Appointments must be made by April 23, and there is a two-bag limit on compost.

More information on the

virtual bike workshops is available at <https://bikeeastbay.org/education>, while the "Make Soup Not Waste" webinar with Anne-Marie Bonneau, also known as the Zero-Waste Chef, is available at www.dublinpride-week.com.

Lastly, photographers can enter the city's "Nature in Our Backyard" photography contest by submitting photos of Dublin creeks, wildlife, and natural park settings by Monday, April 26.

Photographers do not need to be Dublin residents, but photos must have been taken within the last year and be of natural settings without showing any people. For more about submitting photos, go to www.dublin.ca.gov/niob.

For more information on any of the events, go to www.dublinprideweek.com, or contact Lauren Marriott at 925-556-4500.

Go Green Seeks Interns for Summer

The nonprofit Go Green Initiative will offer 38 high school and college-level students a seven-week, paid internship this summer to study the waste management infrastructure in Pleasanton.

Operating virtually, the students will research the city's past, present, and future waste management infrastructure, analyze waste management issues facing the region, and explore potential careers in the waste management industry.

For more information, contact Casi Herrera at casiherrera@gogreeninitiative.org.

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Granada High Crushes Dougherty Valley 41-7

The varsity Granada High School Matadors took on the Dougherty Valley Wildcats for their first home game



The Matadors stifled the Wildcats' offense throughout the night during Granada's recent win. (Photo - Sebastian Krinard)

of the season Saturday, and they were ready.

The running game was firing on all cylinders, as Leif Jensen scored two running TDs in the first quarter with help from Eric Hall, Anthony Pedretti, Kaleo Gomes, Nathan Lloyd, Hayden Williams, Logan Tucker, and Marc Fontanilla.

Jensen got his third TD on a 2-yard scamper to pay dirt. Cooper Meyer made good on the extra point, as he was five of six on the night.

The game settled down heading towards the end of the second quarter until the Wildcats connected on a couple of passes, and capped off the drive with a touchdown pass to #9.

However, Granada im-

mediately responded with an 80-yard touchdown pass from Zak Gooby to Malakai Mlay. Mlay also had an interception return for 30 yards.

Dougherty Valley tried to get its offense going but the Matadors' defense, supported by Brian Perez, Dylan McDonald, Jensen, Gomes, Lloyd, Yanik Anderson, Tucker, Ian Richardson, Josh Henninger, Miles Kluball, Anthony Molleson, Tanner Parker, and Colin Pearce stifled the Wildcats all night long.

In the end, the Matadors had the Wildcats number and capped off the victory with a TD pass from Gooby to MacDonald for a final score of 41-7.

TRACK NEWS:

Dublin Social Distance Fiesta

Dublin High junior Daniel Trampe placed sixth in the boys' 3,200 meters in the Dublin Social Distance Fiesta on April 10. His time was 9 minutes, 43.49 seconds.

Gaels' juniors Sharvin Manjrekar (eighth, 9:49.22) and Grayson Young (10th, 9:55.48) also made the top 10.

In the 800 meters, Dublin's Manogya Yara was second in a time of 2:01.91.

In the girls' 1600, Livermore's Viviana Valenton was third in 5:19.97. She was also seventh in the 800 in 2:28.58. Livermore's Emily Gnecco was 10th in the 1600 in 5:57.34.

In the 3200, Dublin showed off its depth with five in the top 13. Sophomore Elissa Delgado (12:55.37) and junior Katie Lai (13:00.47) led the Gaels in seventh and eighth.

Dublin Sprint and Field Meet

Dublin's Anish Kasam finished first in the boys' 110-meter hurdles in a time of 15.35 seconds on April 10 in a Dublin Sprint and Field Events 5-Way Meet.

Kasam also helped the Gaels' A team win the 400-meter relay in 44.17.

Dublin's Manyu Yara was first in the 400 in 52.59. The Gaels' Manogya Yara was first in the 100 in 11.44.

Amador Valley sophomore Jason Baudin was first in the 300 hurdles in 48.48. Dublin's Takehiro Masubuchi was first in the 200 in 23.55.

Amador Valley's Jad Khansa was first in both the shot put in 52-3 and the discus in 135-2.

In the girls' meet, Dublin won a tight battle with Monte Vista in the 4x100 relay, with a time of 51.30 to the Mustangs' 51.31.

In the 100 hurdles, Dublin's Emilia Liao cruised to victory in 15.57.

Dublin's Morgan Lee triumphed in the pole vault in 10-1, and Amador Valley's Kiana Lum sailed to victory in both the long jump in 15-11.50 and the triple jump in 33-5.

In the 100, Dublin's Alely Chavarria was first in 14.47.

Swimmers Head Back to the Water at Las Positas

By Mike Wood

Swimming and diving once again are making a splash at Las Positas College, which is welcome news for a program that's marking a storied first decade of success.

Practice is underway in preparation for a dual meet opener set for April 16 against Chabot. The Hawks aim to add to their considerable success story, which reached a peak in 2019 when they captured men's and women's conference championships for a fifth straight season. That season was capped by Esteban Perez Del Rio becoming the first Las Positas men's swimmer to win a state title. With a shortened season and a smaller-than-usual team for 2021, there's more opportunity for extensive instruction and for swimmers to stand out.

Drake Southern and Kendallyn Cox, both of Pleasanton, are making strides and have genuine next-level potential.

Southern, a Foothill graduate, is a backstroke and freestyle ace. Growth in both the physical and academic sense and a keen eye on goals have him on the upward trajectory.

"He's really learned how to grow and learned how to train," Las Positas head coach Jason Craighead said. "He's looking at possibly breaking some of our team records. We have some very respectable team records, so if someone has the potential to break one, that's something."

Southern is looking to vault to the four-year level much like Perez Del Rio, who won the men's 100 freestyle race in the California Community College Athletic Association State Championships with a school-record time of 45.01 seconds. Perez Del Rio is now at University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV), while Southern has his sights set on UC Santa Barbara, or possibly UNLV or UC Santa Cruz, his coach said.

Cox, a freestyler from Amador Valley, has flourished thanks to a more consistent training background. "Now, she has been able to figure it out in terms of training, gaining more experience, and what her goals are for swimming," Craighead said.

Cox plans to pursue a kinesiology major at Cal State East Bay, while continuing to ply her swimming skills.

"She has a really great

attitude and is a good hard worker," Craighead said. "She is now doing everything she can to excel, and Drake is doing the kinds of same things. If there's an extra workout, they will be there."

The Hawks are striving to make the best of their partial season, which will be without any invitationals or conference or state championships. Several programs throughout the state have opted out for the shortened season. This year, instead of a typical sizable Hawks dual squad of 40 or more, it's in the 20-range combined for men and women. There's the chance for more in-depth coaching.

"It's a reminder to ourselves as coaches what opportunity we do have," Craighead said. "We're really fortunate to be able to do what we're doing. It's nice to have a different focus and purpose."

The Hawks showed potential for more greatness in their brief spring 2020 campaign, which lasted about a quarter of a season before sports were shut down statewide due to the COVID-19 pandemic, crushing the hopes of adding to their collection of Coast Conference championships.

Craighead arrived at Las Positas in 2009 and founded the program, which he has led since its inception. He's thrilled to have the same coaching staff since Las Positas began full competition in 2011. It's a large reason why the Hawks have collected 11 conference championships in its nine full seasons.

Additionally, two alums achieved the ultimate in community college swim-



Las Positas' champion swim teams are seen here at the 2019 Coast Conference. (Photo - Loren Pearson)

ming, with Perez Del Rio's state title in 2019 and McKenna Stevulak winning a women's title in 2013. Others have a long lineage in the sport, extending beyond their years of dedication to Las Positas. Diving coach Monte Young has been involved in area diving since the 1980s, and assistant coach Loren Pearson has been dedicated to masters and youth programs in Pleasanton for many years.

"It's nothing short of excellence and commitment," Craighead said. "We enjoy the community connection, since that is what community college is all about."

With the status of sports mired in uncertainty for over a year, Craighead points to a moment in July when enough restrictions were lifted to engage in activity.

Craighead is also head coach for men's water polo, which faces more stringent restrictions since it's a contact sport. Even fewer community colleges have opted to compete, leaving Las Positas with a trio of matches with West Valley.

LIVERMORE CALIFORNIA

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

LIVERMORE RESIDENTS: Share your talents with the community by volunteering on one of the City of Livermore's advisory bodies. We are accepting applications now through Friday, May 7, 2021 at 5:00 PM.

Beautification Committee (1 Vacancy)

Join us in working to preserve the natural beauty and habitat of Livermore.

Next Meeting: May 5th - Virtual

Historic Preservation Commission (2 Vacancies)

Join us in identifying, protecting, and preserving Livermore's historic resources. The Commission's successes are visible in the beauty of Livermore's historic structures and landmarks.

Next Meeting: May 6th - Virtual

Housing Authority (1 Tenant Vacancy)

Join us in administering and overseeing low-income housing units and the Section Eight Voucher Program for subsidized housing.

Human Services Commission (1 Vacancy)

Join us in discussing community social needs, assisting local agencies in procuring grant funds, and more.

Library Board of Trustees (2 Vacancies)

Join us in helping to set goals and objectives for the broad variety of services and programs the Library provides and recommend policy modifications to City Council.

Next meeting: April 22nd - Virtual

Youth Advisory Commission (Youth & Adult Vacancies Available)

Join the commission in bringing together young people and adults, and private and public sectors of the community, to address responsibility for the care, health, safety, welfare, and education of Livermore's young people.

Next meeting: May 1st - Virtual

SAVE THE DATE! Interviews will be tentatively held the evening of May 13, 2021. For more information or to apply, please visit www.cityoflivermore.net/AB, call the City Clerk's office at (925) 960-4200, or email: cityclerk@cityoflivermore.net. Must attend at least one meeting of the advisory body applying before submission of an application.

GIRLS' LACROSSE

Alena Gurule had four goals as Foothill opened the season with a 19-2 win over Livermore on April 9 in East Bay Athletic League action.

The Falcons dominated the draw control with Sadie Brown winning the majority of the draws. Goalie Kailey Kwok had several outstanding saves that resulted in successful clears.

Katie Guerra led the Falcons by forcing turnovers and was able to find open players on the attack side. Four Foothill players had the most shots — two freshmen, Olivia Walinski and Gurule; junior Sadie Brown; and senior Anaya Kuttikkad. Sadie Brown led the team with most ground balls.

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EDITORIAL Support for Local Theaters Goes a Long Way

When the ball dropped in the final moments of 2019 and brought us into the 2020s, many of us lightheartedly welcomed another “roaring ’20s.”

The year 2020 certainly roared, just not in the way we had expected.

While health mandates prompted some to sneak a haircut behind paper-covered windows — a move reminiscent of the Prohibition-era speakeasies from 100 years prior — the performing arts did not see the same boost a century later. The pandemic darkened stages across the nation, leaving only traditional ghostlights to burn for hours on end in empty theater houses.

But now with funding from the Shattered Venue Operators Grants (SVOG) program through the American Rescue Plan, \$16 billion in grants is available for venues that had to close during the pandemic.

This, in combination with early relief packages for business, such as the Paycheck Protection Plan, helped keep many beloved theaters from going dark permanently.

This support has been critical, not just for artists whose livelihoods depended upon performing. The arts found at the Bankhead Theater have brought profound culture to the City of Livermore and the entire eastern Alameda County region. When the show goes on again this summer, in turn, we hope to see the community offer its support by getting vaccinated and getting a ticket.

We have been through a tumultuous, traumatic year, and performing arts can offer some of the medicine we need to start healing. After all, “Art washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life.”

MAILBOX

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

We Are Headed for Trouble

Richard Gonzalez, Livermore

For the moment, we are breathing easier.

The coronavirus lockdown has been relaxed. What if it comes back?

It probably will. The attitude of President Biden is not much different from Dr. Fauci's, whose public comments indicate that he believes the lockdown or some variation on it should go on forever. Both of them discourage Americans from wanting a return to normalcy.

If one looks for supporters of the lockdown, they seem to be very rare. They do, however, exist. Invariably, they are either government bureaucrats or elderly people. The latter group, those over the age of 65, are supposed to be at greater risk from dying if the virus infects them. They can be seen wearing their masks wherever they go. Many will wear a mask while driving.

The people in this group may want to think again about what really matters to them.

A few of us know a few who have contracted the coronavirus. Almost invariably, they are back on their feet after a week of laying in bed. A little rest is the cure for almost all. The number of coronavirus victims pales in comparison to the number of people who will be affected adversely if the lockdown comes back.

I would venture to say that far more of us know a recipient of Social Security than someone who died from the pandemic.

How do retirees imagine that the Social Security system will continue, if workers have to stay home?

The system is a pay as you go one. The money that retirees spend comes from today's workers. The government funded retirement system will already be under strain as the decade wears on. There have occasionally been

whispers about the possibility of a reduction in benefits because the next generation, far less numerous than the Baby Boomers who are going into retirement, will not pay into it to the same extent.

What if unemployment rates remain at current levels or go back to where they were a year ago? How can federal and state governments keep writing checks for retirees and today's unemployed workers also?

We are headed for trouble. But there is a solution. It is the one that the current President and his allies at CNN have relied on until now. It has worked. Blame Trump and the people who voted for him. Everything is their fault, after all. Right?

Instead of What You Voted For

Jeff Kaskey, Livermore

Thanks to the letter last week from Mr. Hutchins which helped to clarify the extent to which we all were misled during the Measure P campaign. We knew that the downtown plan described by the City as the Approved Plan was in fact just a drawing that would be modified. What we now learn is that with City help, at the very same time, Eden Housing was taking a very different plan to the county to apply for a grant. Still, they kept telling you that their pretty picture was the Approved Plan.

The question is how you would have voted if you had the truth instead. The David Binder Research survey reported last week gives a good indication that you would have been pretty unhappy with the City's (real) plan. Since the Measure P folks chose not to tell you about the real plan, they certainly guessed you would not like it. Make sure you let them know.

Citizens Take No Notice

Owen Bravont, Livermore

America is being deconstructed by the government with the easy acquiescence of the most benighted of generations, the members of which are identifiable as American citizens only by virtue of geography.

Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis said, “Experience should teach us to be most on our guard to protect liberty when the government's purposes are beneficent. Men born to freedom are naturally alert to repel invasion of their liberty by evil-minded rulers. The greatest dangers to liberty lurk in insidious encroachment by men of zeal, well-meaning but without understanding.” Was he anticipating Joe Biden?

There is something fundamentally wrong with the contemporary version of the government of the United States. Initially created by a revolutionary act of the inhabitants of the thirteen colonies, the country and government of the United States was created by the people for several purposes, among which was self-determination, security from external invasion, protection of the God-given right of the people to be free, and to manage its affairs as a sovereign nation. These rights were to be secured to its citizens by a governmental structure of unique design.

To formulate and administer its laws, it created a Constitution, which is a structure of distributed responsibilities assigning specific powers and authorities to three distinct branches: the executive, legislative, and judicial; we know these bodies as the office of the President, the Congress, and the Supreme Court of the United States.

The function of the democratic republican government of the United States is to devise solutions and to resolve issues and problems that occur in managing of the needs and desires of the citizens the country — not to create them! The current regime operates by tyrannical fiat flowing from the office of the President — the government of the United States of America was never intended to devolve into a pseudo-oligarchy, the face that it presently presents to the world. The individual freedom and self-determination of American citizens is on the verge of extinction — too many citizens have apparently taken no notice, have you?

There's Still Time to Move

Eden Housing

Mony Nop, Livermore

I have spent a tremendous amount of time thinking about the proposed Eden Housing development. As the city council approaches its final decision regarding the downtown development, I am asking that our leaders reconsider moving Eden Housing to the north side of Railroad Avenue or to another location in Livermore. I understand that the task will not be easy, but we should explore every possible alternative, if the possibility of a location change does exist. This is a once in a lifetime project and whatever we finalize and build, it will be permanent, forever changing the landscape of our beautiful downtown.

Being that downtown is one of the few pieces of prime real estate left in Livermore, I truly believe that our Mayor and city council should reconsider their decision and dedicate this land to the people of Livermore. They should move Eden Housing to allow for more open space in the form of a larger park. Without a doubt, a larger park in downtown Livermore would not only allow all of us to enjoy it now, but many future generations as well. We have waited long enough, so why not work together and do it right now? City Council, please move Eden Housing!

Save Livermore from Whom?

Meredith Hendrix, Livermore

I'm tired of seeing all these letters about “saving downtown Livermore” from the evil doings of the Eden Housing project, amongst other things.

What are you trying to save Livermore from? Whom are you trying to save Livermore from, exactly?

While it's easy for well-off residents to sit in their \$800,000 homes and furiously write about how terrible the downtown plan is, others in our community are in desperate need of affordable housing.

I'm 29 years old, work full-time as a manager at a local non-profit, have a bachelor's degree from a prestigious university, and I struggle to live in Livermore. The only way I have been able to afford to live here on my \$45,000-a-year salary is by living with three other roommates in the cheapest apartment we could find. Every year the rent increases, further pushing us out of the Tri-Valley.

I love this town. I don't want to move, but I have to move. I want to have a family one day, I would love to own a house one day, I want to be able to “settle down” and move forward in my life with-

out continuing to go into debt.

But I can't do that here. And I'm lucky compared to many other upstanding Tri-Valley residents that I know who are struggling, stuck in a perpetual cycle of increasing rent, those who are trying to navigate this housing crisis, while also supporting a spouse and multiple children. Let alone those like my 30-year-old roommates, who are saddled with six-figure debt from grad school.

For me and other members of our community, the negative rhetoric about “affordable housing being a bane on downtown Livermore” is alienating and petty. You're complaining about a building when so many of us are struggling to make rent, an already-present crisis made even worse by this pandemic.

I need to have a stable, affordable housing option, and there are many others who need it even more than I do. Please try to have empathy for those of us who are trying to remain, belong, and do good in the Tri-Valley, but are being forced out because a moderately tall apartment building is too unsightly for you to occasionally walk past.

Residents to be Forced to Use Only Electrical Heaters And Appliances

John Collins, Livermore

The city is working on a plan to demand that all building owners replace gas fired heaters and appliances with only electric ones.

This would cause owners to have to pay tens of thousands to electricians to install electric circuits to all of their heaters and appliances and to rewire a new, 200-ampere circuit breaker box to provide all of the current required by all of these electric items. Many older homes may also be required to replace their old, outdated wiring. Also, their PG&E bills will increase when they use only electricity instead of gas.

The current Climate Action Plan (CAP) uses voluntary programs to allow owners to retrofit their powered systems. In fact, it suggests that they replace their electric clothes dryers with those that use gas to decrease their PG&E costs. The new CAP instead calls for replacing that gas dryer with an electric one.

Access the new draft CAP online at <https://bit.ly/328uNkH>. Find Attachment 1 CAP Update, page 5 and 6, Energy. Read both pages.

Downtown Flipped

Jean King, Livermore

The City owns the downtown block known as the former Lucky site. As the owner, it has a great deal of say as to what it wants on that site.

During the 2017 Outreach on the downtown, the citizens said their first three priorities were Parking, Community Character, and Open Space. The lowest priority was Housing. The citizens did not say that they didn't want housing any place in the city, but they did not want it in this downtown location.

The latest Eden plan has completely flipped the priorities and put housing (massive 4-story) as the center of the block. Parking is less than required; community character has been ignored and open space has been reduced to a narrow area between massive residential units.

Have the citizens changed their minds about what they want? NO! A recent poll conducted by an independent polling firm of 300 city voters shows that the Eden Plan is opposed 4 - 1. The poll was conducted using a balanced sample by age, ethnicity, political views, length of residency, home ownership, and gender.

Why is this important

area of our downtown not being developed as the citizens want? As owners of the property, shouldn't the City Council follow the citizens' directions?

Reject the SunWalker Project

Merlin Newton, Sr., Livermore

Last month, Supervisor David Haubert voted to approve the Aramis solar power and battery storage complex along North Livermore Avenue from May School Road to and past Manning Road.

The Aramis industrial solar plant would be six times the size of the San Francisco Premium Outlets center in Livermore, constituting the largest solar facility ever constructed in the San Francisco Bay Area. Hundreds of acres in one of the last remaining agricultural districts in Alameda County will be cleared of vegetation and wildlife, graded, excavated, and covered with 300,000 eight-foot-tall solar panels.

Will Supervisor Haubert continue his support for bringing industrial development to rural Livermore in East Alameda County by approving a second utility scale solar facility later this month?

On April 22, 2021, at 9 a.m., the board of supervisors will review the SunWalker solar power plant. Although much smaller than the Aramis facility, it will be immediately adjacent to the Aramis plant on North Livermore Avenue. The SunWalker project will add to the environmental damage that the Aramis plant will inflict. The protected scenic corridor of North Livermore Avenue will exist only in our photos and memories.

The assertion by some with a financial interest in the construction or solar power industries that we must destroy open space, productive agricultural land, and wildlife habitat in order to expand renewable energy to fight climate change is flat wrong.

California is rapidly increasing its solar power production. In fact, the state produces so much solar power today that even during the hottest months of the year, state regulators must curtail the amount of solar energy fed into the power grid or sell the electricity to other states at a loss because the supply of solar power exceeds demand.

If the SunWalker project is approved, the floodgates to industrial development in North Livermore Valley and the East County will be fully opened. Nothing will constrain the eventual conversion of the rural areas and open space surrounding the City of Livermore into industrial solar plants.

Please call Supervisor David Haubert's office at 925-551-6996. Tell him to reject the SunWalker project.

Rework Eden Housing Plan

Carol Garberson, Livermore

We urge people to attend the Livermore Planning Commission virtual meeting on Tues. April 20th at 7 pm to voice your concerns about the changes to the downtown Eden Housing plan. It was changed without any public input. The new plan cuts down the number of parking spaces to a number below the city's own policy and decreases the amount of open green space that was supposed to be included between buildings for public use. It also greatly increases the footprint and height of the housing units and changes the income level for future residents in a way that will make them unavailable to teachers, firefighters and police.

The result of these changes means much less parking available in the public areas, since there won't be sufficient parking in the housing units, more traffic on L St. and Railroad Ave. due to residents

and their guests looking for parking, as well as the public trying to frequent businesses downtown. The open green space for public use, as well as for the apartment residents, will basically be limited to the small lawn area that you see there now, which is not much for a city park.

During the early planning stages, we were assured by both Bob Carling and Gina Bonanno that there would be a lot of open green space between buildings, which would be available for public use, similar to housing units in Menlo Park. That is not the case in this revised plan.

The tall buildings, limited parking, greater amount of paving and less open space make for an unattractive, crowded and inappropriate plan for the center of our downtown. Please urge the city council to work with Eden Housing to revise the plan for something that makes a more open, attractive and functional area, possibly moving at least some of the housing to another site and providing more parking and open green space on the current location.

Yes, you!

Maryann Brent, Livermore

In a recent East Bay Times letter to the editor (March 30), Veronica Stewart appealed to Livermore residents to save our city center from the Eden housing project, whose design is certainly incompatible with Livermore traditions. I agree with her. In my opinion, there's nothing about the current housing plan that looks like Livermore, that is inviting, or that draws people to downtown. However, the Livermore City Council will assume the community agrees with the current plan unless residents speak up. Livermore residents, please speak up!

Our Fuelish Fantasies, Hypocrisies and Dogmas

Greg Scott, Livermore

“Shall I not have intelligence with the earth?” (Henry David Thoreau).

Thinking that we may survive without fossil fuels soon is delusional. Our culture is based on fossil fuels for a number of reasons, mainly relative abundance, energy density, convenience, ease of transport and storage, and politics.

“Windmills and solar panels are proliferating fast, but not fast enough to stave off the worst of climate change.” (“New generation of carbon dioxide traps could make carbon capture practical”, Science, March 2021). We will have to turn to new technologies in carbon dioxide sequestration to solve our carbon dioxide emissions problem.

Considering fanatical and money-centric implementations of solar and wind renewable energy let's pose a question: How much destruction of biodiversity and ecosystems are we going to acquiesce beyond giving us sufficient ecosystem services knowing these technologies will not solve the major causality of human-induced climate disruption?

In the last 10 years solar-electric has doubled in supplying electricity in the United States - from 1% to 2% - while human-generated carbon dioxide emissions have stayed roughly the same at 5 million metric tons. We have greatly reduced our use of coal and we are ever more dependent on natural gas, as the Texas power outage imbroglio demonstrated. Globally we have met one-tenth of the emissions goal of Paris COP21.

Solar-electric avert California is an exception by reducing its emissions significantly. If solar-electric is such a great idea, then why should California lessen the

(See MAILBOX, page 5)

THE Independent

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MAILBOX

(Continued from page 4)

incentive for solar-electric on residential, commercial, and public spaces through initiating fees via the Net Energy Metering policy?

The Convention on Biological Diversity in 2010 drafted the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. The world has met none of them. The Aramis Solar Project and/or the Sun-Walker Solar Project in the North Livermore Valley will do what in this regard?

Once ecosystems are fragmented, as will be the case with these aforementioned solar developments, the broad ecosystem degrades. To paraphrase a UC Davis professor's comment on the Delta's fate: It is not that there will not be a remaining ecosystem, it is that the resulting ecosystem will be one we probably don't like, or be conducive to thriving, healthy human communities.

"Solar power and other renewables are the most sustainable forms of energy we possess. However, they are only sustainable if we harness them sustainably." ("There are grounds for concern about solar power", Aljazeera, April 2021).

It Will Never Be Reclaimed

Ariynn Grimm, Livermore

Yes, in Stan's tribute, veterans and Cowboys should remain a tribute to them. A maximum height of three stories of 8-foot ceiling apartments would be a great

compromise, considering the people of Livermore, myself included, do not want them there in the first place. I feel the developers are simply pressing the issue for their own maximum profit without regard for the future of Livermore and generations to come. This is our legacy to future generations. Once buildings occupy the space, it will never be reclaimed.

No Friends of Mine

Alan Marling, Livermore

Alameda County Supervisors unanimously approved the Aramis Solar Project last month, based on the support of local unions, the Sunrise Movement, and the Sierra Club.

The solar farm may be swamped in courts for years due to litigation from Save North Livermore Valley, backed by Friends of the Vineyard and Open Space and Friends of Livermore. I have some thoughts on these obstructionists.

They say they want clean energy from solar but not enough to build it in an empty field. They say they like empty fields but don't seem to care if they and the rest of California burn in the next fire season.

They say they're our friends, but they're no friends of mine.

Housing

Larry H. Thompson, Livermore

The recent telephone poll showing that about 80% of Livermore residents oppose the Eden Housing plan vindicates what many of us have been saying ever since the revised plan was publicly presented in January. Residents are truly appalled at the prospect of adjacent 4-story apartment blocks on L Street right in the center of downtown. Those who voted in favor of Measure Plast spring have learned that the revised Eden Housing plan has much larger buildings than the ones illustrated in the Yes-on-P literature, and the green space has all but disappeared. Residents may rightfully feel betrayed. Livermore's elected leaders have been dismissing those who oppose the Eden plan as a "fringe group", but they are the majority of the city's residents. The question now is whether our elected representatives will actually represent the will of the people by rejecting the flawed revised Eden Housing plan, and instead seek an alternative that enhances Livermore's downtown rather than degrading it.

The Livermore Planning Commission will be discussing the Eden Housing plan on Tuesday, April 20. Please let the Planning Commission and the City Council know that Livermore deserves a better

plan for downtown. Tell them to reject the unacceptable Eden Housing plan.

Misinformation on Eden Downtown Hurts Public Interest

Mini Chopra, Livermore

This is apropos of your article, dated April 8, 2021, reporting the key highlights of a recent privately sponsored public poll on Eden Downtown.

As a public-spirited citizen and a staunch advocate for affordable housing, I have some serious reservations about the veracity and credibility of the findings of this (so-called) public poll. I have outlined my three-pronged concerns as follows:

1. A Paid Propaganda?: The hosts and sponsors of this poll are none other than the Save Livermore Downtown citizens' group that has been tooth-and-nail opposing the development of Eden Downtown at its present site. Being nothing but a paid-for gimmick by the adversaries of Eden Downtown, the object, methodology, and findings, respectively, of this poll, therefore, are suspect and woefully reek of bias.

2. Selective and Targeted Interviewing: Given the polarizing views and disparate interests involved here, it is not clear if all stakeholders were given a fair opportunity to participate in this poll. It is

not clear, and seems unlikely, that the intended beneficiaries of Eden Downtown (e.g., low-income Downtown workers, teachers, retail employees, nurse assistants, et al.), too, were interviewed and that their perspectives were even considered while conducting this poll.

3. Twisted Facts and Skewed Findings: The background information presented to the respondents of this

poll, while interviewing and eliciting their response, was clothed with falsehoods that are inconsistent with the city's public record on Eden Downtown. As an example, respondents were inaccurately informed that the proposed design change to Eden Downtown will reduce the size of the Veteran's Park and that it will eliminate workforce housing for teachers, police,

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Why is the city tying its own hands on Eden Housing?

Livermore residents oppose the Eden Housing plan by a 4 to 1 majority. Yet the City Council and Eden say their hands are tied and they can't make any changes.

Here's why you shouldn't believe it. :

1: A new agreement is legally possible. The city council approved a Disposition, Development and Loan Agreement with Eden Housing on November 26, 2018. However, the agreement does not prohibit the parties from amending it and/or entering into a new agreement, if both agree.

2: Eden Housing could propose any changes it wants. No law prevents Eden Housing from proposing major changes in its plan, including moving housing north of Railroad Avenue. Instead, what an Eden Housing officer stated in a virtual meeting on January 4th was that they had been guided by the city to continue with their project without any changes.

3: The City is tying its own hands. During a March 1, 2021 Council meeting, Mayor Bob Woerner stated, "We don't really have a lot of discretion with respect to (Eden Housing)." However, it was the council's decision not to change Eden's current plan, not the other way around! In other words, a council member directed Eden to stay the course, and now the council is saying that the law requires the council to approve what Eden wants.

Save
Livermore
Downtown!

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SPEAK UP TO SAVE LIVERMORE'S DOWNTOWN!

SIGN THE PETITION AT SAVELIVERMOREDOWNTOWN.COM

COMMENT AT THE PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING APRIL 20TH AT 7PM!

ALTERNATIVE

(Continued from first page)

Street and the extension of K Street.

“The well-researched facts in the proposal belie dismissive statements that nothing can be done, and that, anyway, it’s too late,” said Gasten, referring to statements issued during various public meetings.

“Recently, Mayor Bob Woerner has been advancing the position that he has no choice but to approve Eden Housing’s current project proposal. In fact, he does,” Gasten said. “Let’s look at his argument, and what’s behind it.”

Gasten pointed to the Dec. 7, 2020, workshop that Woerner set up to address the Eden Housing project. At this meeting, he said that Eden’s plan was consistent with the city’s requirements; he urged the council to move forward with it.

During a March 1, 2021, council meeting, Woerner stated that Eden will likely “come in with a project that meets the requirements, and we don’t have a lot of discretion there.”

“In other words, Mayor Bob Woerner would have us believe that his hands are tied,” Gasten said. “The council can only make ministerial decisions, not legislative actions, such as requiring Eden to move its housing off the Lucky site.

“However, it was first the council’s decision not to change Eden’s current plan; then, it was Eden’s decision to follow the council.”

Last November, SLD members reported they learned that Eden was open to looking at the advantages of relocating its housing across Railroad Avenue to the north, although the move was complicated and the schedule tight. As a result, SLD stated that it promptly requested a meeting. On Jan. 4, an hour-long discussion took place with top Eden Housing executives, SLD said.

“An Eden officer stated that the nonprofit was not in a position to relocate its housing in opposition to the council’s wishes,” Gasten continued. “Without support from the council, Eden could not investigate moving Eden’s units across Railroad Avenue. The executive noted that instead of receiving support for a change in plans, they had been guided to continue with their current project on the Lucky site.

“In other words, a city representative directed Eden to stay the course. Now, the city is saying that the law requires the council to approve what Eden wants.

“In addition, Woerner is misquoting the applicable law; the council is not prevented from changing the Specific Plan so that Eden Housing would be required to move off the Lucky site.”

SLD is encouraging community members wishing both to preserve Livermore’s character, as well as create more affordable housing, to speak out.

“The public needs to make clear that the council and Eden need to work together to relocate the housing units,” the group stated in its release. “The Downtown Alternative presented here is just one viable option. SLD hopes that the alternative will begin a discussion with Eden Housing, the council and citizens that leads to a consensus, a win for both Eden Housing and the community.”

The elements of SLD’s Downtown Alternative are presented below.

A Downtown Alternative

The centerpiece of the Downtown Alternative involves the relocation of 130 units off the old Lucky site to seven parcels north of Railroad Avenue between L Street and Livermore Avenue. The buildings fronting the north side of Railroad Avenue between K Street and Livermore Avenue would remain as they are, as well as several next to Livermore Avenue on the southern half of the block between the railroad tracks and Railroad Avenue. The number of units on the seven parcels could be

(See ALTERNATIVE, page 7)

A Downtown Alternative

With a respected survey showing that Livermore residents oppose the current Eden Housing plan for downtown by a 4 to 1 majority, we need alternatives. Here is one viable option. By relocating 130 units off the old Lucky site to seven parcels north of Railroad Avenue, we can actually add 100 more units, protect our downtown character, create a beautiful park, provide housing for teachers, and ensure adequate parking without traffic congestion.

COMMUNITY BENEFITS

Massive Buildings Relocated

Massive residential buildings 4-stories high and up to a block long would be moved off the town center, retaining Livermore’s character.

Transferring housing to the north would stop the spread of 4-story buildings in the heart of the City. It would avoid placing out of proportion private buildings on the east side of L Street mirroring those now under construction on the west side. It would preserve the comfortable, open feeling and historic character of the downtown. Relocation of the block-long oversized buildings is the single most important community benefit. It is critical in itself; in addition, other benefits flow from it.

Innovative Open Space

A welcoming park is created in the heart of the community.

With the relocation of housing to the north, the park will no longer be placed between two long buildings, 4-stories high, appearing to serve just private residences. Instead, a unique public park could be developed on the Lucky site. The park would draw both residents of the Eden project and visitors, benefiting the general public, in addition to existing retail and restaurants and the City’s general fund. This destination park would also increase business for the proposed upscale wine country hotel, and the new retail and cultural uses planned for the area nearby.

After the City acquires the parcels along the southern boundary of the railroad tracks, it will have secured the rights-of-way needed to apply for grants that would fund construction of the Iron Horse Trail extension from Livermore Avenue to L Street. When completed throughout the Tri-Valley and beyond, the Iron Horse Trail running next to Eden Housing would provide its residents with bicycle and pedestrian access to recreation, as well as a convenient path to jobs and shopping.

Teacher housing

Workforce housing for teachers would be included.

The added 100 affordable housing units could be allocated as follows. With the potential contribution from the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District (LVJUSD), teachers and staff could occupy 45 of the units with income levels below 110% Area Median Income (AMI). The income of the residents qualifying for the other added 55 units would meet Eden’s current standards for low, very low and homeless populations – income levels below 60% AMI. The 130 units relocated from the Lucky site combined with the new units in this affordable housing category would total 185.

Sufficient Parking

With appropriate private parking provided, Eden’s tenants and guests would not impact public parking.

The Downtown Alternative includes a private onsite garage near the railroad tracks, on Oak Street and next to Livermore Avenue, leaving City-owned parking for the public. On this site, the normal parking requirements for Eden’s 230-unit development could more than be met in an above ground 450-stall robotic parking structure.

Because of the low cost per stall in a robotic garage, the size of the garage would be practical for Eden. The expense of a stall in a conventional underground structure is estimated to be roughly \$54,000 per stall, and \$41,000 per stall for a conventional above ground garage, according to a representative of International Parking Design, Inc. An above ground robotic stall costs only \$35,000 per stall, stated an executive with Robotic Parking Systems, Inc. Prevailing wage expenses have not been included in any of the estimates. Retrieval of a car in a robotic garage would average 3 minutes, far faster than the experience in a conventional garage – a boon for the residents.

Traffic Jams Avoided

Traffic jams caused by the Eden project on nearby streets would be avoided.

Thirty to fifty percent of traffic congestion in city centers is generated by drivers searching for a parking space, according to Robotic Parking Systems with information from numerous research studies by MIT, Transportation Alternatives and others. Insufficient parking results in drivers circling the downtown looking for empty stalls.

FEASIBILITY ISSUES

For the following reasons, the relocation of Eden Housing units is feasible.

Land Acquisition

Funding for land acquisition is reasonable.

Locally based Metrocal Appraisal provided preliminary low and high estimates of the underlying land values of the four parcels in the block bounded by L Street and K Street, and the railroad tracks and Railroad Avenue. The parcel at the corner of K Street and Oak Street, another at the corner of Oak Street and Livermore Avenue, as well as the City owned parcel just south of it next to Livermore Avenue, were also given a preliminary low and high appraisal range. Parcels fronting Railroad Avenue from K Street to Livermore Avenue would not be purchased, nor would the buildings next to Livermore Avenue located south of the City owned property. The high estimate of the seven parcels to be purchased totals \$9.3M.

A real estate development and sales consultant has provided rough calculations of demolition and business relocation expenses that add up to \$1.3M, leading to an acquisition expense of \$10.6M. However, unique circumstances could emerge that would increase the total, requiring additional funds. All but two of the seven parcels that the City would acquire are either for sale, have been involved in informal sale discussions, have no buildings on them, or are already owned by the City.

Three sources could fund the land purchase, demolition and business relocation expenses. The City’s Low Income Housing Fund could provide the first source. If Eden Housing relocated 130 units north of Railroad Avenue, and added 55 lower income units to its development as part of a 230-unit project, it could ask the City to cover 80% of the cost of the land and related expenses, amounting to \$8.5M. In the City’s Fiscal Year 2020-21 Projected Budget Summary report for the Low Income Housing Fund, the projected balance for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021 is \$12.8M, leaving a surplus of \$4.3M. Even if the balance ends up at a lower amount at the end of the City’s fiscal year, the City will continue to receive in lieu fees on an ongoing basis from market rate developers who prefer to pay fees, rather than build affordable housing.

As a second source, some of the \$3.2M remaining in the Housing Successor Fund (formerly known as the Low-Moderate Income Fund) would be eligible to purchase the parcels. As a result, the City should have sufficient low income housing funds in the near future to acquire the parcels for Eden Housing’s share of the cost.

The third source involves the potential to acquire land for teacher and staff housing with funds secured from the sale of LVJUSD property that has been identified as surplus. If this option were followed, according to Deputy Superintendent Chris Van Schaack, the door would be open to participation in the Eden Housing project. For instance, proceeds from the disposal of the surplus land could pay for 20% of the land and related costs of the new site, providing space for 45 affordable teacher and staff units at a cost of \$2.1M. Van Schaack notes, “The District is still in the exploratory stages, though the prospect of workforce housing has been met with great excitement.”

Should circumstances arise that add to the expected \$10.6M cost, the City could provide an additional \$4.3M from the surplus in its Low Income Housing Fund, and the school district another \$1.1M from the sale of surplus property, totaling \$5.4M. An amount from the \$3.2M Housing Successor Fund could also be added. Together, they would provide a reasonable cushion to cover expenses that cannot be predicted.

Density and parking standards

The city’s density and parking requirements can be met.

The Downtown Specific Plan’s density restrictions for residential uses would be inapplicable to the Downtown Alternative. If 230 units were built on these parcels, with at least 80% available to lower income households and 20% to moderate income households, the project could be developed without density restrictions, because it is within one-half mile of a major transit stop. In addition, standard City parking regulations for residential developments would be met, and then some, with the construction of the 450-stall robotic Oak Street parking garage.

Housing Relocation is Legal

Legal issues limiting the relocation of residential units are addressed.

The 130 Eden Housing units can be moved across Railroad Avenue to the north and meet applicable laws. The Notice of Affordability Restriction recorded January 2009 in connection with the CalHFA RDLP loan enables the City to allow a land use change under certain conditions. It states,



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ALTERNATIVE

(Continued from page 6)

increased by an additional 100 – for a total of 230 units.

Community benefits:

- Massive residential buildings 4-stories high and up to a block long would be moved off the town center, retaining Livermore’s character.
- A welcoming park is created in the heart of the community.
- Workforce housing for teachers would be included.
- With appropriate private parking provided, Eden’s tenants and guests would not impact public parking.
- Traffic jams caused by the Eden project on nearby streets would be avoided.

Feasibility:

- Funding for land acquisition is reasonable.
- The City’s density and parking requirements can be met.
- Legal issues limiting the relocation of residential units are addressed.
- With an increased number of units, Eden’s \$14.4M A1 County loan is likely to be retained.
- New County A1 loan deadline stretches out Eden’s schedule.

Eden Housing benefits:

- Enlarging the number of units increases Eden’s chances of securing additional grant funding.
- Residents would have easy access to a remarkable park and an extended Iron Horse Trail.
- Appropriate parking for residents would be provided at a dramatically reduced cost per stall.
- Proximity to transit, shopping and schools would remain.
- Providing a win-win, Eden would secure broad public support.

To view SLD’s complete Downtown Alternative, visit www.savelivermoredowntown.com.

“Although some improvements certainly will be made to future Eden Housing proposals on the Lucky site, the overriding problem would remain – a massive housing development on what should be a park at the focal point of the city. This will not be solved until the housing units are relocated,” Gasten said. “All parties will benefit from a plan that brings the community together. The mayor and councilmembers need to make clear to Eden that they and the community encourage Eden to look at the benefits of transferring its project to the area north of Railroad Avenue, or to any other appropriate site, and then, move forward with it.

“Decades from now, citizens will look back to honor those who preserved the quality of our downtown, and at the same time helped the disadvantaged – truly an accomplishment for all to celebrate.”

Pleasanton Seeks Teen Poet Laureate for New School Year

Pleasanton is looking for a high school student interested in serving as the city’s Teen Poet Laureate for the 2021-2022 school year.

The Teen Poet Laureate represents Pleasanton at various events, providing creativity and fostering an interest in composing, reading, reciting, and listening to poetry around the city.

Events may include assisting teachers with poetry programs at their schools, poetry readings at the Pleasanton Public Library, promoting open mic events, or working with the Pleasanton High School Music Collaborative.

Candidates should apply online at www.firehousearts.org/teenpoet/ by Friday, April 30.

For more information, contact Katie DeLang at kdelang@cityofpleasantonca.gov.

“Owner may propose a change of use only in the event that the Property is no longer needed for the purpose specified in this Notice & Declaration and the Property will be used to benefit individuals or families whose incomes do not exceed 120 percent of median income for the area.”

If the site north of Railroad Avenue accommodates the relocated 130 units, plus another 100, then the Lucky site would no longer be needed for affordable housing. Instead, the Lucky site could become an inspiring park that Eden’s tenants could use for their recreation. The park would benefit the community living north of the railroad tracks as well, many of whom have incomes below 120% AMI. The City could even convey a portion of the Lucky site to Eden Housing for open space and park purposes, so it could still be included in Eden’s affordable housing project site.

We also do not believe an earlier agreement between the City and Eden would limit the City’s ability to expand the project site. The City Council approved a Disposition, Development and Loan Agreement with Eden Housing on November 26, 2018. However, the agreement does not prohibit the parties from amending it and/or entering into a new agreement to include the seven parcels north of Railroad Avenue (provided those parcels are acquired or are now owned by the City), and then to redistribute the elements in the changed project site.

SLD has received advice on these legal issues from the law firm Latham & Watkins LLP.

Loan Retention

With an increased number of units, Eden’s \$14.4M A1 county loan is likely to be retained.

As Eden moves forward with changes to the Eden Housing plan – the relocation of 130 units across the street and the addition of 100 units – Eden Housing needs to hold on to its \$14.4 million A1 Alameda County Affordable Housing permanent loan.

On January 29, 2020, Linda Gardner, the Alameda County Housing Director, was asked whether the A1 permanent loan awarded to Eden Housing could be retained under a revised plan. In an email, she answered, “If the result of changes were higher scores on ranking criteria and a larger number of affordable units, it is likely that the funds would remain with the project...” This means that if Eden Housing were to provide information that the number of its units had been significantly increased, Eden is likely to keep its \$14.4M loan.

Linda Gardner retired in March 2020 after a 32-year career at the County’s Housing and Community Development department. Michelle Starrett, the new Housing Director, issued a letter on January 5, 2021 stating that Eden Housing would lose its \$14.4M loan if it relocated its project to another site. However, Eden and the City Council could decide to work toward a plan that relocates units across the street, increases the number of affordable units to 230, and perhaps, maintains Eden’s ownership of a portion of the acreage on the original site. Then, with the community behind a new plan backed by Eden and the Livermore City Council, it is reasonable that the County would agree that facts not previously known to Ms. Starrett do support Eden’s retention of the \$14.4 M loan.

Extended Deadline

New county A1 loan deadline stretches out Eden’s schedule.

Acquisition of funds from the federal Low Income Housing Tax Credit program administered by the state is critical. The funds would enable Eden Housing to secure sufficient financing to show that its project is viable. Eden can apply to the state this July, as well as in 2022, presumably in March and July.

According to Eden’s \$14.4M A1 County loan agreement, Eden must secure commitments for full project funding or provide other assurances of

adequate project financing within 24 months of the February 4, 2020 date of the agreement. However, according to Director Starrett in a January 5, 2021 letter, the County has now extended Eden’s deadline from February 2022 to February 2023 “to allow Eden an opportunity to apply for two or three competitive low-income housing tax credit rounds”.

Commencement of construction is not required in the original County A1 loan agreement, but Eden Housing must have evidence of sufficient funding for its project by the deadline. If Eden applied for Low Income Housing Tax Credit funds in March and July 2022, it should be able to meet the County requirements. This means that Eden could change its current plans, and move its units north of Railroad Avenue, with the expectation that the \$14.4M would be retained.

EDEN HOUSING BENEFITS

Eden Housing would reap significant benefits if its units were relocated.

Eden More Competitive

Enlarging the number of units increases Eden’s chances of securing additional grant funding. Because the federal Low Income Housing Tax Credits funding process conducted by the state is very competitive, adding 100 units would improve Eden’s scores.

Open Space and Parking

As mentioned before, residents would have easy access to a remarkable park, and in the future, an extended Iron Horse Trail. In addition, appropriate parking for residents at a dramatically reduced cost per stall could be achieved. The reduced site area needed for a robotic garage, almost half that of a normal garage, also advantages Eden.

Beneficial Location

Proximity to transit, shopping and schools would remain. The Eden Housing units moved north of Railroad Avenue would still be located within a half mile of transit, the Livermore Farmers’ Market and Safeway, and close to Livermore High School and St. Michael Elementary School, all destinations noted in Eden’s County A1 Loan application. Some have mentioned that the Tri Valley Haven Thrift Store on the NE corner of Railroad Avenue and L Street should be allowed to occupy the ground floor of the new Eden residential building planned for the site. It would continue to benefit the community at large, as well as Eden Housing residents.

The City-owned historic Housing Services Center building overlooking the railroad underpass on Livermore Avenue in the middle of the block should not be torn down. It could remain as a space for Eden to use for the classes mentioned in Eden’s County A1 application.

Win for All

Providing a win-win, Eden would secure broad public support. The Save Livermore Downtown group and a large number in the community strongly support additional housing for those who need assistance. By increasing the number of units, with adequate parking and nearby open space, transit and other services, citizens would be helping to meet Livermore’s low income obligations at a time when the pandemic and racial injustice has highlighted the demand.

If Eden and the Council worked with the community to meet everyone’s goals, Eden would be fully supported in all its endeavors.



LIVERMORE’S DOWNTOWN!

ATTEND THE PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING ON APRIL 20TH!

Local Assessments an Option If Statewide Tests Aren't Viable During Pandemic

By Sydney Johnson
California education officials have been told verbally that the state may not need to submit a waiver application to the U.S. Department of Education, thus opening the door for more flexibility this spring when it comes to standardized testing, as school districts continue to navigate reopening plans during the pandemic.

As vaccinations have ramped up and cases of Covid-19 have declined across the state, many California schools have started bringing back groups of students for in-person instruction. One part of the reopening puzzle recently has been how and when to administer statewide standardized tests, which in February the U.S. Department of Education said would be required.

Last spring, federal and state education officials removed the requirement that states had to test all students in their academic standards using statewide assessments like the Smarter Balanced tests in math and English language arts. But no such waiver was offered in 2021.

In lieu of a blanket waiver, the U.S. Department of Education this year said that states could apply for other ways to potentially ease the burden of testing this school year.

On April 2, State Board of Education President Linda Darling Hammond and State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond sent a letter to Ian Rosenblum, the deputy assistant secretary handling this matter, asking for written confirmation of con-

versations that California would not need a general waiver for it to proceed with its academic testing plan. Ultimately, U.S. Education Secretary Miguel Cardona would have to approve the decision.

Also on Friday, State Board of Education officials briefed state legislative aides and others in the education community about the likelihood of districts being able to use alternative assessments this year. California's plan would still offer the state's Smarter Balanced assessments in mathematics and English language arts, the California Science Test, as well as tests for English learners and other special populations. In situations where it is not viable for districts to administer those assessments due to challenges such as assuring Covid-19 safety or broadband limitations while students are at home, the policy would also permit school districts to select their own assessments if they met a set of criteria prescribed by the state.

These assessments would have to be aligned with Common Core state standards; be available to assess students in grades 3-8 and 11; be uniformly administered across a grade span, school or district; and provide disaggregated results for parents, educators and the public. It is not yet clear whether alternatives to the science test would be permitted.

California has already submitted a waiver request for other flexibilities, such as extending the timeline for all tests until July 30 and re-

moving the consequences of having less than 95 percent participation, to the U.S. Department of Education for approval, according to Linda Darling-Hammond, president of the State Board of Education. Because those flexibilities along these lines were suggested by the federal officials in guidance issued on Feb. 22, and have been agreed to in conversations with them, it is likely that the state will receive approval, state officials said. Darling-Hammond previously headed President Joe Biden's transition team for education before his inauguration.

Some states, including New York, requested blanket waivers to remove any obligation for standardized testing, but the Biden administration has said no to that.

In March, California's State Board of Education approved its plan to seek a waiver that would allow districts to choose a diagnostic, benchmark, or other interim assessment where it is not viable to administer the state summative assessments and laid out its criteria for alternatives. Then, last November, the state board approved a shortened version of the Smarter Balanced math and English language arts tests. Remote proctoring tools were also built into the Smarter Balanced testing system.

The California State Board of Education did not submit a general waiver with the local assessment options because it was told by Secretary Cardona's office that it would not be

necessary given the state still has plans to offer the statewide Smarter Balanced assessments, according to Brooks Allen, executive director of the State Board of Education.

After the U.S. Department of Education responds to the state's request, California school districts will receive communication from the California Department of Education with more information about what will be accepted, according to Allen. In the meantime, many districts have moved ahead with their own plans for assessing students.

As of March 17, nearly 14,000 English language arts and 8,000 mathematics Smarter Balanced assessments were underway. In addition, 11,000 California Science Tests are underway and 9,200 are completed, according to Mao Vang, director for the Assessment Development and Administration Division at the California Department of Education.

Fresno Unified School District in the Central Valley moved forward with plans to use the Smarter Balanced tests, but keeping its local assessment choice, i-Ready, as a top choice if the Smarter Balanced test isn't a viable option for the district. The district has already been using i-Ready assessments throughout the pandemic to check in on students and provide academic feedback to parents. There, administrators were preparing for both the Smarter Balanced test and i-Ready, and Scherrer said they would prefer to use i-Ready because the

district has already grown familiar with it in a distance learning setting.

"When Covid hit and we had to close, i-Ready was already in our system, and we were able to pivot to use those diagnostics," said Andrew Scherrer, executive director of equity and access at Fresno Unified. "That's been really helpful having a constant temperature check on where students are in both ELA and mathematics."

Other districts, including West Contra Costa Unified in the East Bay Area, have been reluctant to move forward with any testing plans while the waiver was still in limbo and cases of Covid-19 in some local communities remained high. Many districts struggled to nail down a plan for assessing students who could be either learning from home or in person.

"Right now, we are just focused on the English Language Proficiency Assessments for California, and that is landing with mixed reviews," said Ruben Aurelio, chief academic officer for West Contra Costa Unified. "We question the validity of the assessments in this environment, of course, but we are doing it."

California school districts will not be limited to a specific set of tests to choose from, but selected assessments must meet a set of criteria, including being aligned to the state's academic standards. Results would also have to be made public, regardless of the tests that are used.

About 77% of school districts said they used one of

five local assessments during the 2020 to 2021 school year already, according to a survey conducted in March by the California Department of Education, which reached 969 districts. Those include Star Assessments by Renaissance, i-Ready by Curriculum Associates, Measures of Academic Progress by NWEA, FastBridge by Illuminate Education and Reading Inventory by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt.

While many parents, researchers and education advocacy groups have applauded the U.S. Department of Education's decision to require standardized testing this year, other groups such as the California Teachers Association have pushed back. Many have raised concerns about the validity of data collected after a traumatizing year and while many students remain in a mix of reopening scenarios.

Allen said he shares concerns that the data could be a misrepresentation if districts use different assessments or participation rate is lower, but overall, he was pleased that the state may not require a waiver. But so far, the state has not been asked to provide a measure of comparability between districts, he said.

"When we look at all of this, we want to make sure we have meaningful information, valid and reliable information about where students are," Allen said. "The path that's been carved forward provides the opportunity to do that."

Man Killed in Solo-Vehicle Crash Along Highway I-580

By Bay City News Service

The California Highway Patrol is investigating a solo-vehicle crash that happened Sunday along eastbound Interstate Highway 580 east of Dublin that left a man dead.

The crash was reported

Sunday around 11:10 a.m. on the highway, just east of Flynn Road, CHP officials said. Witnesses told investigators a white truck was travelling on the highway at about 60 mph when the truck turned abruptly to the

right and went some 300 feet down an embankment, rolling several times before coming to rest.

Crews tried to rescue the male driver, but he was stuck inside. The driver was ultimately pronounced dead,

according to the CHP. The driver has yet to be identified.

Anyone who may have witnessed the collision is being asked to contact the Dublin CHP Office at 925-828-0466.

BART Provides Free Short-Story Dispensers at Three Stations

By Bay City News

If you are looking for something to read on BART, the transit agency has installed dispensers at the Richmond, Fruitvale and Pleasant Hill stations that spit out short stories for free.

Part of a partnership with Short Edition, the company that makes the

dispensers and puts together the short stories, the kiosks are like vending machines for creative writing, dispensing stories on eco-friendly recyclable, receipt-like paper. They're touchless; you just hover your finger over the button to get your story. The stories take less than five minutes to read.

Filmmaker Francis Ford Coppola is a fan of the dispensers. The first one in the U.S. was at his Cafe Zoetrope in San Francisco's North Beach.

"I read about it and thought it was a wonderful idea," Coppola told BART. "Art dispensed by machine, and for free."

Once the pilot program

is fully up and running, BART will create opportunities for local writers to have their work featured in the dispensers. Coppola said that writers interested in submitted stories should make them personal.

"Have a theme or point you need to express, and enjoy writing it," he said.

SITES

(Continued from first page)

erties built before 1975. The study found that 13,700 other properties were not considered to have historic value. Buildings younger than 50 years were not surveyed.

The council vote revised the city's "Certificate of Appropriateness" standards to clarify its historic preservation procedures — including how to apply them when reviewing authorizations for demolitions, rehabilitation and maintenance of historic properties. The revisions apply to about 290 properties in Livermore; they would allow the city and council to deny demolitions of historical sites and encourage rehabilitation.

The Downtown Specific Plan, which had its own rules to preserve history, also will come under the standards to create consistency throughout the city.

According to city reports, Livermore has for years worked on standards for preserving history, creating its first historic site inventory in 1988. That list focused on First Street and the city's core; it included Ravenswood and Hagemann Ranch.

In 2004, the city and architectural historians created another list adopted by the city council. In 2010, the council adopted historic review standards that applied to structures more than 50 years old. City officials decided the time was right to update the rules.

With its action, the council updated its "historic context statement," which covers the entire city for properties dating to 1839 when Robert Livermore settled on the Rancho Las Positas. The majority of the city's historical context statement covers the entire

city, putting properties into seven contexts: agriculture, transportation and infrastructure, residential, commercial, public and private institutions, ethnic-cultural development, and architecture and engineering.

The context statement also includes a description of the city's early history, its early inhabitants, the Ohlone tribes, Spanish colonization, and Mexican rule, including the rancho land grants from the Mexican government, one of which Livermore purchased.

The inventory identified about 70 properties deemed historical and 220 others that are potentially historical. Key properties included Ravenswood, Hagemann Ranch, the Bank of Italy building, the old City Hall and jail building downtown, Foresters Hall, the Schenone Building, the Carnegie Library, Duarte Garage, the rodeo grounds at Robertson Park, and the original Concannon winery building. The new inventory also identified the Trevano Road neighborhood as a historical district and the Almond Circle neighborhood as a potential historical district.

The updated preservation standards also would allow for the city's planning commission to deny historical structure demolitions. Previously, only the Historic Preservation Commission could delay them.

The council approved the changes with a short discussion that primarily praised the study, approving the thorough examination of the city's buildings.

Councilmember Trish Munro said 50 years did not seem long enough to consider

history.

"Fifty years to me is 1971. That to me doesn't feel very historic, but maybe I'm just getting old," she said.

In other action, the council unanimously adopted a resolution denouncing xenophobia and anti-Asian racism that arose because of fears of the COVID-19 panic. The resolution affirmed the "commitment to the wellbeing and safety of Asian Pacific Islander communities" and reaffirmed its support of a "culture of welcome, inclusion, and respect."

The Alameda County Mayor's Conference adopted a similar resolution in March and called upon other counties and cities to do the same to reaffirm solidarity with API communities and commit to combating hate and improving health equity.

Tri-Valley Haven Thrift Store Reopens

The Tri-Valley Haven's thrift store at 116 North L St. in Livermore is now open for indoor sales from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday.

Profits from the thrift store go to support Tri-Valley Haven, which provides services for children and adults who have been victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, or homelessness. Tri-Valley Haven's clients also shop for free at the store.

The thrift shop accepts donations from 10 a.m. to noon on Tuesday, and from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Thursday.

Save Lives at the TriValley Community Blood Drive!

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MAILBOX

(Continued from page 5)

and firefighters.

Consistent with public record, the truth about Eden Downtown is that it's an affordable housing project for our city's employed low-income workforce and their families, and that the proposed building design change does not decrease the size of the Veteran's Park.

Orchestrating an intentionally mala-fide and misleading public campaign damages public good. Willfully spreading misinformation through frivolous public campaigns, such as Save Livermore Downtown, obstructs the public's right of access to the truth, alters public perception, and creates public distrust for our local government. It also derails the effort, time and the millions of tax dollars spent so far to bring Eden Downtown to its present stage.

The citizens' group currently advocating against Eden Downtown must immediately stop their shenanigans to honor and protect public interest.

Beauty vs. the Beast Sam Stone, Livermore

Turns out the Planning Commission meets virtually on April 20 at 7 PM Turns out it's important to the housing controversy about the desirable empty lot between First and Railroad at L Street. That's the space where our City Council has planned box housing instead of open space. Tune in to see what the Planners say about beauty in the park versus the beast of crowded housing.

Talking About Unity Anthony Beckett, Livermore

As the Biden administration steamrolls over an already fragile post-pandemic economy, I was struck by the realization that there are basically two types of politicians: one who is dedicated to the needs and wants of their constituents, and one who is dedicated to the wants and needs of their party, where the people who elected them are merely tools to raise them to a level of power where they can disregard the promises that recruited their voters.

Biden made a series of promises during his odd base-cement-driven campaign, many of which have been outright broken. The situation at the southern border is a catastrophe that was easily avoidable; who tears down a system that works and replaces it with literally nothing? The frivolous printing of money for nebulous projects (what is infrastructure?) will undoubtedly lead to inflation, hyperinflation. Coupled with higher taxes, the average voter will be thanked with a more difficult life, across the board. The shameless drive to consolidate - cement - their power has driven the democrats to things they would have howled against if Republicans attempted it: packing the Supreme Court (another promise immediately broken) and eliminating the filibuster. Unity. Sure.

Case in point: Eric Swalwell, who has spent the majority of the past four years chasing the proverbial windmill. There are almost a million people in this district, with apparently a 75/24% Democrat majority. I have a hard time believing that it was serving the interests of ANY of his constituents when, I quote the Washington Post, "he used his position as member of the House Intelligence Committee to suggest that he had seen evidence the rest of us could not, that Trump was a Rus-

sian operative — when we now know no such evidence existed."

Power to the people, has become "power to the party." And God help us. Maybe Alison Hayden can end some of this madness.

And lastly, the Livermore City Council. Judging by letters to the editor, they seem to have somehow decided to disregard the desires of their constituents too. Maybe 'government' is the new pandemic.

The Deals Have Been Made Janet Chance Buckley, Livermore

It just seems like we go on forever, with Livermore residents asking for input on Downtown plans for housing and development. We go to community meetings, fill out forms, write letters and so forth and the feedback is conclusive with residents asking for open space in our main area, with housing not the emphasis and yet, the council and commission throw out a smoke screen of not even intending on doing anything that they ask response on. It is pretty well documented years ago, as now, that we don't want to fill up open area with high-rise beehive homes.

My family came to Livermore in the late 20's, lived in and made making Livermore residency something all people could enjoy. I know what my father, and uncles did. They worked hard in the downtown and watched it grow. They are now gone, but their properties remain, and my husband and brother are still an active part of making Livermore a good family town. Family livelihoods focused around a downtown and community growth that would still have a workable downtown. Cramming housing in an area in the center of business life is not what makes a community livable. The open space has been what all polls show. It is what is needed and wanted. Please let's not pretend to humor residents along asking for development input, when it seems, as has been done now in the past, the deals have already been made.

The Investing in Cures Before Missiles Act Mary Perner, Livermore

"With all of the global challenges we face, the last thing we should be doing is giving billions to defense contractors to build missiles we don't need to keep as a strong nuclear deterrent" - this according to California Congressman Ro Khanna, who recently joined Massachusetts Senator Ed Markey to introduce the Investing in Cures Before Missiles (ICBM) Act to the House and Senate.

The measure would stop funding on the proposed new missile known as the ground-based strategic deterrent (GBSD), projected to cost \$264 billion over its lifetime, and stop spending on a linked Livermore Lab nuclear warhead modification program, the W87-1. Monies would be redirected to extending the life of an existing intercontinental ballistic missile, the Minuteman III and a study commissioned on how best to do that.

The bill transfers \$1 billion in funding for the GBSD to the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (Niaid) for development work on a universal coronavirus vaccine to address the virus's many variants. It would also divert money from the LLNL based program to modify the W87-1 nuclear warhead to fit the GBSD and dedicate it instead to research and

preparations to combat future bio-threats.

Sen. Markey states, "The United States should invest in a vaccine of mass prevention before another new land-based weapon of mass destruction". "The ICBM Act signals that we intend to make the world safe from nuclear weapons and prioritize spending that saves lives, rather than ends them."

After the past year of pandemic, this is a sentiment many of us can, and hopefully will, support. For more information on this and related issues, visit, www.trivalley-cares.org.

Are Local Officials Listening? Carol Silva, Livermore

We are in a period of broken promises and not respecting zoning laws and the wishes of the majority of their constituents by local officials, to such a degree, that voting taxpayers must spend their own time and money to organize and fight the decisions made by these officials.

The Alameda County Board of Supervisors, led by former Dublin mayor Haubert, voted to approve Intersect Power's Aramis solar project. This industrial project has lots of local opposition since the land is zoned as agricultural; this area contains a scenic corridor; and the harm it would do to wildlife. Save North Livermore Valley was formed to organize opposition to this project and is now requesting funds necessary for litigation at <https://www.gofundme.com/ff/save-north-livermore-valley>

Likewise, a lawsuit was filed by Friends of South Livermore in regard to a Livermore Wine Country Inn project for violating planning and zoning laws, inconsistencies with the city of municipal code and the Livermore General Plan and having an inadequate Environmental Impact Report to study the project's potential impacts on biological resources, aesthetics, and traffic. These opposing points addressed in the lawsuit by the Friends of South Livermore are pretty much the same arguments as those addressed by Save North Livermore Valley.

Then there is opposition with the development of housing in downtown Livermore. In the December 7, 2020 workshop pertaining to the 130 multi-story housing units, Eden Housing presented a new Plan to the public, in which the housing footprint is approximately 42% larger than its original proposal, thereby reducing the size of the park. Its residential parking doesn't meet the city's requirement. Time and money by local residents were incurred to put Measure P on the ballot but our local officials lied and misled the public. James Hutchins letter, "Who Knew What When?" on April 8's edition of The Independent provides a good summary of events that took place. Now money has been spent on a polling firm. The results reflect what the community thinks of the revised downtown plan. A majority of the opposition, by 4 to 1, oppose Eden Housing's revised plan.

Lastly, there is opposition to the expansion of the Livermore Airport to allow 737s and 747s to land and take-off from there.

When will this madness end in which voting taxpayers pay stipends to local officials and then have to fight their decisions through litigation, referendums, and organization?

performances.

"Performing arts have been around for thousands of years. It's not like it's going to go away with one pandemic," said Eric Johnson, LVPAC director of operations. "It's survived lots of worse things, and I'm hopeful that people are reminded about how much they miss the arts and what it does for you and a community."

Swalwell went on to say that the SVOG program will act as a bridge of relief until the state can reopen, but he also gave a nod to the Bankhead's loyal supporters.

"The community has kept the Bankhead going," Swalwell continued. "It's a gem of Livermore and something that we want to see live on."

OBITUARIES

Nancy Koslow March 9, 1952 – April 2, 2021



Nancy Koslow was born in National City, California, as the first of four daughters to George and Marjorie Hill.

She grew up in Walnut Creek and graduated from Ygnacio Valley High School in 1970. She and the love of her life, Arnie, a New York native, met in 1973, when he was working in California and married the following year. They spent the beginning of their married life on the East coast for his work before settling in Massachusetts for a few years to start their family. They moved back to California, eventually settling in Livermore 35 years ago.

Nancy loved to hunt for antiques and to restore old furniture back to their former glory. She loved all things history and researching family genealogy. Family vacations included visiting National Monuments, points of American historical interest, as well as searching for old family records and homesteads.

Nancy ran a large daycare out of the family home, where she loved and helped raise many

children for over 20 years, many whom she was still close with. She co-owned the Picket Fence Floral and Gifts in Pleasanton for a number of years. She was an interior designer her entire adult life and for a short time taught Floral Design at Livermore High School.

Nancy thrived having a busy house, full of family and friends. She valued tradition and loved hosting all the holidays, having her guests sitting around the dining room table with old China and crystal. Nancy genuinely cared for everyone she

met and always made you feel special. She loved her family fiercely and cherished her close friendships.

Nancy is reunited in Heaven with her loving husband, Arnold "Arnie" Koslow. She is survived by her mother, Marjorie Hill; daughter, Amanda, her husband Mario Martinez; daughter, Melanie, her partner Darryl Gray; grandchildren, Brittany (fiancé Richard Wevill), and Dylan and her special boy Logan; sisters, Linda Duncan, Susan Richardson, and Kathy Dunn (husband Dale Dunn); her beloved nieces, Allison, Melissa, Nicole, Meghan, Kaitlin, and Chelsea; and nephews, Matthew, Benjamin, Jacob, and Alton; as well as dozens of extended family and wonderful friends.

A graveside service will be held at 1 p.m., on Friday, April 16, at Roselawn Cemetery in Livermore. Callaghan Mortuary is honored to be serving the Koslow family. An online guestbook is available for condolences at www.callaghanmortuary.com.

Jeanette Marion Mataras Jan. 25, 1932 – March 23, 2021



Jeanette Marion Mataras (née Fornaciari) was born in San Francisco on July 25, 1932, and died peacefully at her home in Pleasanton, on March 23, 2021.

At the age of 10, Jeanette's family moved to Livermore, where her parents opened their first of many restaurants and delicatessens. With her parents working 12- to 14-hour days, she learned responsibility at a young age by being tasked with taking care of the home, her younger brother, and serving her country. With the United States active in World War II, Jeanette proudly remembered doing her part as a cadet in the Civil Air Patrol, recording and reporting all aircraft movement to federal aviation authorities.

In 1950, she graduated from Livermore High School. Soon after, she moved to Hawaii, where she learned how to surf and aspired to continue her university studies. However, it wasn't long before her obligations at home required her to

return to Livermore to help her parents run their businesses. Regardless, Jeanette did not give up on her education. She earned her associate's degree in dental hygiene from what is now the University of the Pacific in Stockton, California, and began working as a hygienist at the VA hospital in Livermore shortly after receiving her diploma.

Her love of music and dancing led her to meet her future husband, Dimitrios Mataras, at a popular dance club in San Francisco in 1955. Two years

later, they began what turned out to be a marriage of 63 years, living throughout the Bay Area before settling in Pleasanton in 1988. Together, they became successful restaurant owners and real estate managers, perhaps known best for Dimitri's Delicatessen in the Irvington district in Fremont. In addition, they were dedicated parishioners of the Greek Orthodox Church of the Resurrection in Castro Valley, which they loyally supported for over 40 years.

Jeanette was preceded in death by her husband, Dimitrios, and is survived by their two daughters and their husbands, Natalie and Manos Pirounakis and Sandra and Alfredo Stefani; three grandchildren, Marco Stefani, Vincent Stefani, and Anthony Pirounakis; two great-grandchildren, Luca and Noelle Stefani; and her brother and sister-in-law, Robert and Karen Fornaciari and their children, Shelly and Neal Fornaciari, and their children and grandchildren.

Michael John Zyhylij Sept. 21, 1965 – March 16, 2021



Michael John Zyhylij was known affectionately as "Mikey, Mikus or Mike" to family and friends (also dubbed "Sunshine" as a child, Mike would sing his favorite songs like Knock Three Times, and Cecelia with joyful gusto at the top of his lungs while in the bathroom).

Michael's easy smile and twinkling eyes greeted strangers as warmly as if they were long-time friends. He offered an open mind and friendly conversation to all. With a heart bigger than his body could hold, he never stopped trying to be better, to do better. He was the proudest son, brother, uncle, nephew, grandson, cousin and friend you ever met.

Michael John Zyhylij of Fresno was born on Sept. 21, 1965, in Princeton, Minnesota. Mike died of natural causes in Fresno, on March 16, 2021. Mike is survived by sisters, Tamara and Lisa; and brothers, Richard (Flory) and

Mark; nephew, Xandar; and nieces, Sophie, Kaylene and Kimberly. Michael also leaves behind much-loved aunts, Sue, Barb, Bev, Kris and Patty; one uncle, Butch; many cousins and countless friends. He is preceded in death by parents, Kathleen Zyhylij (Gerdin) and Walter Zyhylij; and brother, Robert.

If you knew Mike, you know that he was content with the

simple things in life. Fishing, beer and good company were a perfect day. Loyal, always grateful, and generous to a fault, he would share his last dime and give away his last morsel to anyone in need. Mike was the kind of guy who saved baby birds from fallen nests, and fed the random stray or injured cat that wandered across his path, soon to become part of his family.

While he spent the vast majority of his life in California, his Minnesota roots remained strong. When it came to his favorite sport, he'd don his purple hat and logo jersey, yelling, "Go Vikings!"

While Mike had few worldly possessions, he was rich with love, giving it freely, receiving it with grace and gratitude. He had a way of making those who met him love him, and those who loved him will never forget him.

Details on his "Celebration of Life" will be shared at a later date.

Meridith E. Keating (Meridith E. May) March 20, 1956 – Nov. 25, 2020

Meridith passed away Nov. 25, 2020, in her home.

There were many things Meridith treasured throughout her life, many of those being her family and friends, as well as giving generously to causes she loved. She served our country as a staff sergeant in the Air Force, specializing in

explosive ordinance disposal. She also held many college degrees and spent most of her working years working for the Livermore Laboratories.

She was loved by many. She is survived by her three daughters, Chrys Anglesey, Melissa May and Lethe Kelsey; eight grandchildren;

siblings, Curtis May, David May, Raylene Palmer, and Denise Valentino; as well as many nieces, nephews and other family members. She is preceded in death by her parents, Denzel May and Iris Zens; and brother, Darrell May.

Interment was at the Los Osos Valley Memorial Park.

Lucille Delores Ratermann May 22, 1927 – March 26, 2021



Lucille O'Dea Ratermann passed away on the morning of March 26, 2021, in Lincoln, California, at the age of 93.

She was born in Sacramento on May 22, 1927, to William Joseph O'Dea and Elizabeth Mary O'Dea (Lynam). She was preceded in death by her husband, Andrew, to whom she was happily married for 67 years. She was also predeceased by her sisters, Katherine Lambert, Charlotte Montgomery, and Annie Odbert.

Lucille and Andrew met at The Newman Club at the Cathedral of Blessed Sacrament in Sacramento in 1946 and were married in 1948. Lucille and Andrew loved to dance and to travel, often capturing the world in their sketchbooks. As an accomplished artist, Lucille leaves a legacy of "Artful Creations" in oil, watercolor, and pastel. Just as Lucille brought scenes to life on canvas, she also brought color and joy to

the lives of all those she knew. She served as a chairperson of the Red Cross in Florence, South Carolina. She also taught children at both St. Anthony Catholic Church in Florence, South Carolina and St. Victor Catholic Church in San Jose, CA. Lucille was always dedicated to her family and will be remembered as she was in life: reading tea leaves, singing an Irish ditty, and taking care of others.

She is survived by two sons and their families, Andrew (Caren) and his two children, Andrew and Katie; and George (Dawn) and their children, Mary and (Nic) Carter (and their children Rhye and Avila Carter), William, Marie, and Molly. She is also survived by her sister, Jane Cook.

The funeral service is limited to only immediate family members due to the current community standards. A celebration of life will be held at a later date to allow for more of the community of people who loved Lucille. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made by mail at American Cancer Society, Relay For Life of Santa Clara, attn: Relay For Life of Santa Clara, participant code T4XDMC, 747 Camden Ave, Suite B, Campbell, CA 95008, or online at main.acevents.org/goto/Lucille.

A guestbook may be found at www.gormleyandsons.com.

BANKHEAD

(Continued from first page)

ing for a long time — do we keep (July performers) on the books, or do we move them — and we held on just in case we could open with 50% capacity," Carter said. "So now it looks like we'll be able to do those shows. We have to staff up pretty quickly and get them trained. There are new modifications and regulations, and we have to train our volunteers ... It's going to take at least six weeks."

LVPAC didn't let go of anyone during the pandemic, Carter further stated. Instead, the nonprofit was able to reduce hours to zero in an effort to retain employees' health care insurance. Most are planning to return, he said.

According to LVPAC Marketing Manager Roberta Emerson, surveys

distributed to the community revealed "cautious but confident" enthusiasm about returning to in-person events.

"We've been in contact with the community regularly," she said. "We've certainly promoted the fact that we've made some changes here that should make people feel more comfortable about returning from a safety standpoint."

Carter noted that the seats inside the theater are sanitized using an electrostatic sprayer, and a new MERV filtration system filters out viruses while recirculating air every 6.5 minutes.

For the LVPAC team, the hope is that the Bankhead will see a "roaring '20s" with a renewed appreciation of theater per-

Pleasanton Forum Addresses Discrimination and Public Safety

By Ruth Roberts

Hate crimes and community safety were the topics of a recent town hall meeting hosted by resident Chong Wang and moderated by Mayor Karla Brown and Chief of Police David Swing.

The virtual forum drew nearly 150 viewers who discussed ways residents can deflect crime and racial hostilities in the community.

According to city statistics, Asians comprise about 35% of the population in Pleasanton, and the recent uptick in hate crimes throughout the country has made some residents nervous.

"Racial discrimination has always existed, but based on recent FBI data, crimes targeting Asians has increased (in the past year)," said Wang. "This has deeply concerned me and others in our community. Our goal is to make our city safer and better."

Brown said the City of Pleasanton has a zero-tolerance policy toward hate crimes and noted that all the mayors in Alameda County recently signed a proclamation denouncing anti-Asian crimes.

"It is absolutely not acceptable," said Brown. "Pleasanton has no tolerance for hate of any kind."

Although Swing said he has not seen an uptick in hate-related crimes in the city, he added that the department continues to work to ensure the safety and well-being of all its citizens. He addressed one resident's question about diversity in the department.

"Someone asked does the PD (police department) have officers who speak Mandarin and other dialects," said Swing. "I know we have officers that speak Spanish, and we have one from Pakistan ... so we do have officers who speak languages other than English. (But) if we have a situation where someone is unable to communicate to us, we can call a language line and make the right connections for them. We want to increase and enhance the diversity of our organization."

General safety tips were also highlighted by Swing who noted there were a few simple strategies residents can employ to combat crime in the community at large and specifically at home.

"Pleasanton is one of the safest cities in the state, but residents still need to not leave homes and cars unlocked," said Swing. "The most common crime in Pleasanton is property crime ... and one of the best ways to avoid it is by doing things to harden the target."

Swing suggested tactics, such as not leaving computers, jewelry and cash in plain sight in cars. When out shopping, residents should lock their packages in their trunks and lock their car doors.

"At home, securing doors and windows and installing cameras and outside lighting are effective," he said.

If an emergency does occur, calling 911 is the quickest way to get help, said Swing, who added that the department's response times are among the nation's highest.

"Our goal is to have a four minute or less response time for any emergency," he said. "But four minutes can seem like an eternity ... and so it's important that while you are waiting for us you use strategies to keep yourself safe."

Keeping doors locked, not answering the door and staying out of sight at home were some key tips, as was the benefit of knowing your neighbors and participating in Neighborhood Watch Programs as a proactive approach to deterring crime.

Swing also suggested that those who witness a crime and shoot video or take photos, should not post them on social media but rather turn them over to

the police.

"Once someone has those photos or videos, the best thing to do is turn (them) over to law enforcement or turn over to the victim of the attack ... but don't post on social media primarily because if you are a witness, and if you record or take photos, you don't know how the victim is going to feel or react. Just be compassionate and aware... I

have been overwhelmed on a regular basis at what a special place Pleasanton is and the friendliness of the community."

Residents can report nonemergency issues to the police department at 925-931-5100. For emergency situations, citizens are urged to call 911.

To view the forum in its entirety, visit http://bit.ly/Indy_Safety.

County Urges Property Owners to Pay Taxes Online

Alameda County is continuing to encourage residents to pay their property taxes online.

"Our cash-paying taxpayers appear to have switched to online payments, which we love," said Henry C. Levy, the county's Treasurer-Tax Collector.

"They get processed faster and [online payment] offers quick confirmation of payment received back to the taxpayers," Levy said.

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, up to 60,000 county property owners paid their taxes in person every year. Since the outbreak, with cashier windows closed, online payments have increased even more than payments by check.

"We want taxpayers to use our online method, which can be free and easy and prefills the payment amount," Levy said.

As of April 2, the treasurer's office had processed about 50% of property tax payments.

For more information, call 510-272-6800. The county has also posted instructions for the Delinquent Secured Property Tax Penalty & Interest waiver for property owners who are unable to pay their taxes because of the pandemic at www.treasurer.acgov.org.

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

Amador Questers

1089 Geneva Street
Livermore, CA 94550-5661
925-292-8123
www.CalQuest.org
www.questers1944.org

Amador Valley Lions Club

P. O. Box 1764
Pleasanton, CA 94566
(925) 290-7592
Amador.valley.lions@gmail.com

Assistance League

Amador Valley

P.O. Box 11843
Pleasanton, CA 94588
925-461-6401

Assistanceleague.org/Amador-valley/

Axis Community Health

5925 W. Las Positas Blvd.,
Suite 100
Pleasanton, CA 94588
925-201-6068
Axishealth.org

Big Bay Ray, Inc.

Bigbayray16@gmail.com
925-523-3133
Bigbayray.com

Blankets For Kids

7580 Driftwood Way
Pleasanton, CA 94588
925-846-6155

Cantabella Children's Chorus

P.O. Box 131
Pleasanton, CA 94566
925-292-2663
Cantabella.org

Cheza Nami

5424 Sunol Blvd. Suite 10-15
Pleasanton, CA 94566
chezanami.org

Christian Youth Theater

Tri-Valley

P.O. Box 1586
Pleasanton, CA 94566
925-421-1351
cytrivalley.org

CityServe of Tri-Valley

P.O. Box 1613
Pleasanton, CA 94566
925-223-6947
cityservetrialley.org

Community Health Education Fund

CHEF/TVNF
C/O Maria Mancini
P.O. Box is 420
Livermore, CA 94551

Culinary Angels

4435 First St., #142
Livermore, CA 94550
CulinaryAngels.org

Exceptional Needs Network

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

Fertile GroundWorks

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

Friends of the Livermore Library

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

Friends of Open Space and Vineyards

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

Goodness Village

1660 Freisman Rd.
Livermore, Ca 94551
Goodnessvillage.community

Hively

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

Hope Hospice

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

Interfaith Sharing Inc.

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

Las Positas College Foundation

3000 Campus Hill Drive
Livermore, CA 94551
925-424-1010
LPCFoundation.org

Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society

P. O. Box 901
Livermore, CA 94551
l-ags.org

Livermore-Amador Symphony Guild

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

Livermore Area Recreation and Park District Foundation

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

Livermore Art Association

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

Livermore Filipino-American Organization, Inc.

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

Livermore Heritage Guild

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

Livermore Homeless Refuge

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

Livermore Lab Foundation

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

Livermore Lions Club

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

Livermore Pleasanton Fire Fighters Foundation

4847 Hopyard Road
Suite 4, PMB 303
Pleasanton, CA 94588

Livermore Valley Education Foundation

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

Livermore Valley Opera

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

Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center

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

Monthly Miracles

5211 Demarcus Blvd
Dublin, CA 94568
Monthlymiracles.org

Movements For The Mind

MovementsForTheMind.com
movementsforthemind@gmail.com

Museum on Main

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

NAMI Tri-Valley

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

Open Heart Kitchen

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

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

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

Partners for Change Tri-Valley

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

Paws In Need

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

Pleasanton Art League

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

Pleasanton Community Concert Band

P.O. Box 135
Pleasanton, CA 94566
info@pleasantonband.org
PleasantonBand.org

Quest Science Center

P.O. Box 2129
Livermore, CA 94551
925-292-8099
Quest-Science.org

Reins In Motion

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

Rotarian Foundation of Livermore

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

Sandra J. Wing Healing Therapies Foundation

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

School Of Imagination & Happy Talkers

9801 Dublin Blvd.
Dublin, CA 94568
925-829-9555
Schoolofimagination.org

Senior Support Program of The Tri-Valley

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

Shakespeare's Associates, dba Livermore Shakespeare Festival

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

Shepherds Gate

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

SPECTRUM Community Services, Inc/Meals on Wheels

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

Sunflower Hill

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

The Taylor Family Foundation

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

Tri-Valley Animal Rescue

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

Tri-Valley Conservancy

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

Tri-Valley Haven

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

Tri-Valley Nonprofit Alliance

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

Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre

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

ValleyCare Charitable Foundation/Stanford Health Care-ValleyCare

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

Valley Concert Chorale

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

Valley Dance Theatre

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

Valley Humane Society

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

FREE NONPROFIT LISTING FOR LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS.
If you would like to be added please email kim@independentnews.com

Nuclear Care Partners to Recognize Healthcare Heroes

Nuclear Care Partners, which provides services to former atomic workers who have developed serious illnesses due to workplace exposure to radiation or toxic chemicals, is marking National Nurses Week by recognizing local "Healthcare Heroes."

Each week in May, the organization will select a worker nominated by the Tri-Valley community to be recognized on social media for their "incredible determination and kind hearts for service."

National Nurses Week is May 6-12.
"This is just one small way

we want to bring the community together and say thank you to those who continue to demonstrate such compassion and devotion to our nation's healthcare industry," said outreach manager Laura Welsh. "As our patients battle various chronic illnesses and cancer, putting them in the high-risk category for COVID-19, we offer our heartfelt thanks to the dedicated Healthcare Heroes across our country who are saving lives and keeping our patients and our communities safe."

To nominate a Healthcare Hero, go to www.nuclearcarepartners.com/healthcareheroes.

Pleasanton Gains New Dispatcher



Michelle Pineda

Michelle Pineda has joined the Pleasanton Police Department as a dispatcher.

Pineda is a former dispatcher for the Yolo County Emergency Communications Agency, which handles calls for four police departments and 18 fire agencies.

She has a degree in social work from Sacramento State University.

High School Sports Return to TV30

High school sports are returning to TV30 with "Tri-Valley Final Sports Wrap" with Tim Sbranti.

The weekly show, which premieres this week, will include video highlights of local teams along with

comments from players and coaches.

The broadcasts will follow TV30's local news show, "Slipstream," on Comcast Channel 30, and can be viewed on-demand at www.tri-valleytv.org/?q=node/61.



Tim Sbranti

ROBBERY

(Continued from first page)

produce. The husband pulled into their driveway and stopped short of entering their garage to allow his wife to get out and remove the shopping bags from their back seat.

That's when he heard his wife "screaming hysterically."

used at a Sax Fifth Avenue store.

"They went on a shopping spree," the wife said.

Pleasanton Sgt. Marty Billdt said San Ramon police obtained surveillance footage from the Target store that showed the suspects and their getaway

Dublin City Council Adjusts Signage Regulations

By Ruth Roberts

In response to a Supreme Court ruling, the city council has adopted new criteria for signs permitted throughout Dublin.

In a 5-0 vote, the council's decision will amend restrictions on "content-based" signs, such as those of a political or religious nature, to avoid limiting freedom of speech.

The move follows the landmark case of Reed vs the Town of Gilbert, in which the high court ruled that political and other types of signs on residential prop-

erty are protected under the First Amendment. The case involved a traveling preacher who wanted to put up signs around a town in Arizona to let people know where he would be holding services. It had far-reaching impacts on sign regulations throughout the country. As a result, local jurisdictions have had to adjust to avoid legal challenges.

"The city has evaluated the (Supreme Court) ruling and decided that amendments are needed," said Michael Cass, Dublin's principal planner. "(The changes) primarily involve a zoning

amendment regarding sign regulations."

Dublin city staff proposed changes to provide greater clarity and to ensure consistency with the general plan. Items in this category include political signs, holiday lights and displays, A-frame signs, traffic signs and temporary signs such as event markers, to name a few.

The proposed amendments update the definitions and associated standards to remove any content-based regulation not consistent with the court's decision. For example, automobile/

vehicle sales and flags and seasonal flags will be reclassified as simply 'flags.'

According to the staff report, the amendments were designed to preserve Dublin's environment and community appearance while balancing economic development and aesthetic interests of the community.

"We're being specific on what we are bringing forward as we want to be in compliance," said Mayor Melissa Hernandez. "And we want to make sure the City of Dublin is keeping up its end of the job."

JAIL

(Continued from first page)

to meet demands in the lawsuit, the Alameda County Board of Supervisors approved spending \$318 million through 2023 to institute mental health programs. The funding would provide increased staffing to allow for inmates to spend more time out of their cells and for increased observation of suicide prevention cells.

A department spokesman previously said the hiring process is underway while deputies work overtime shifts to staff the jail. Last year, deputies saved at least two inmates from killing themselves.

The attorney's filing also revealed that an expert who inspected the facility in February found jail and county health officials — along with their health provider, Wellpath — have done an "excellent job" at preventing the spread of COVID-19 since an outbreak in December. On Monday, the jail reported that none of its inmates tested positive for COVID-19. No inmates have died from COVID-19 since the pandemic began. Health officials are now utilizing the single-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine instead of the Moderna vac-

cine for inmates, but 66% of inmates have refused to take it. Just 45% of inmates deemed in the higher risk category have accepted at least one vaccine.

According to the court filing, county officials are "concerned about the high

department's 34% acceptance rate was good, but officials would like it to reach two-thirds. Deputies disseminated education materials to inmates on tablets and television to encourage them to take the vaccine.

The court filing also in-

usual punishment."

Kelly said the one hour a week is not accurate, but officials are trying to improve the amount of time inmates in the quarantine area can leave their cells without cross contaminating people in other parts of the jail.

"What's unfortunate is it doesn't take very long for someone to asphyxiate themselves," Kelly said. "In a matter of minutes, someone can commit suicide."

refusal rate among the overall jail population." The filing further states that the officials are addressing vaccine hesitancy by working with the Alameda County Public Health Department to distribute a survey to the inmate-patient population. Wellpath will then use the survey information to create an education strategy.

Janssen suggested officials provide incentives to get inmates to accept the vaccine, including free phone calls or improvements at the commissary.

Kelly said providing incentives is a possibility, however, some might consider it a form of coercion. Kelly reported that the de-

icated that while an investigation of Park's suicide included the revelation that inmates in the COVID-19 area of the jail had received 30 minutes a day outside of their cell to make phone calls, shower or get exercise, "individuals in intake quarantine are receiving a shockingly low amount of out-of-cell time; one hour per week."

"The one hour a week out of cell time is truly an abhorrent out-of-cell time," Janssen said. "That is the definition of cruel and un-

Attorneys for the county and city will meet with the judge again on April 30 for an update.

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"These robbers are making big mistakes in their lives. At the same time, they cause great pain to the victims and to the whole community. I wish them to do honest work for their money. We hope they become better persons."

"I didn't know what was going on," the husband said. "This is when one of the robbers charged at me with a gun pointed at my head, and he was yelling, 'Give me the money!' I thought I was going to die."

His wife said she had screamed when she looked up from the back seat and saw a robber's face. She did not remember being pushed inside the car, but that is apparently what happened.

"I saw the other guy had a gun on my husband's head," she said. "That's the time I started screaming. I yelled, 'Help!'"

The husband, who had been sitting at the wheel with his right foot on the brake, pulled out his wallet and threw it at the gunman. Sitting with the door open and his left foot outside, the husband's leg became pinned when the car rolled forward. The door hit the garage and pushed closed, trapping his leg.

Fearing her husband might be shot, the wife pulled off her Fitbit and her jacket to give to the robber next to her. He grabbed a travel bag off the back seat — it contained the bananas — and the pair ran to a getaway car driven by another young man.

The wife's screams had brought out neighbors who saw the car race away. Police arrived quickly. Fortunately, the couple still had their phones.

About 20 minutes later, the husband received a text from his bank asking if he had charged \$800 at a Target store. The card was also

vehicle. San Ramon police soon located the car and arrested the men.

"Officers recovered the victims' wallet, credit cards, watch and groceries," Billdt said. "A loaded firearm was also located inside the vehicle."

Arrested on suspicion of robbery were Michael Walker, 19, of Richmond; Raymond Davis III, 18, of San Pablo; and a 17-year-old boy. Walker and Davis were held at the Santa Rita Jail in Dublin. The teen was held at Alameda County Juvenile Hall.

Billdt said there was no evidence to indicate if the victims were followed home or why the suspects targeted them.

The couple did not no-

make anyone following them or whether the suspects were waiting for them in the neighborhood.

The husband and wife expressed appreciation to neighbors who were able to provide a description of the getaway car for police and to officers for quickly

making arrests to put the community at ease.

"They also treated us with courtesy and professionalism," the husband said, adding Pleasanton officers sat in a patrol car outside their home for a few hours for protection.

"We really appreciate all the people who helped us," the husband said.

The victim also offered some advice to the robbers.

"These robbers are making big mistakes in their lives," he said. "At the same time, they cause great pain to the victims and to the whole community. I wish them to do honest work for their money. We hope they become better persons."

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FREE FOR YOUTH AGE 12 AND UNDER

This year's format is a little different, but the goal is the same: to **raise \$100,000** for patient care and community programs, including grief support services, dementia education, and caregiver resources for local families.

YOUR CHOICE

Single-Day Hike
Saturday, June 5

Week-long Challenge
Saturday, May 29, through Saturday, June 5

- 1 Choose between single-day or the week-long challenge. Find trail suggestions at the event website.
- 2 Register online as an individual, or join/create a team of your friends and family.
- 3 Ask your friends and family to pledge support. They can donate to Hope Hospice in your name at TheHikeForHope.com, or by check.

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ABOUT HOPE HOSPICE

Hope Hospice is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that has served the Tri-Valley and neighboring East Bay cities since 1980. HopeHospice.com.



VFW Set to Commemorate Bataan Death March

Pleasanton VFW Post 6298 will commemorate the 79th anniversary of the Bataan Death March on Saturday, April 17.

The VFW will lead a 26-mile hike through the Tri-Valley to honor the thousands of American and Filipino soldiers who suffered and died during the forced march in April 1942.

After surrendering to the Japanese after more than three months of fighting, an estimated 75,000 American and Filipino soldiers were forced to march more than 60 miles through the scorching jungle heat of the Philippines. Thousands died because of the brutality of their captors, who starved and beat them, and bayonet-

ed those too weak to walk. Thousands more later died in Japanese prison camps.

The VFW-led march will leave from Veterans Memorial Hall, 301 Main St., in Pleasanton, at 6 a.m.

The route will take the marchers past the Livermore Flagpole on First Street, then northwest to the Main Gate at Camp Parks in

Dublin. The final leg of the march will take the group back to Veterans Memorial Hall via the Pleasanton Veterans Memorial at Pioneer Cemetery.

The local commemoration is part of a series of events scheduled nationwide.

For more information, call Doug Miller at (925) 998-9905.

Holocaust Center Extends Contest Deadline

The East Bay Holocaust Education Center has extended the deadline to enter its art, writing and video contest to April 30. The contest is open to high school students in Alameda and Contra Costa counties. The theme is "Why is it important to remember the Holocaust?" The winners will be announced May 28.

For more information, go to www.ebhec.org/highschoolcontest.

Arts Commission Now Accepting Nominations for Leadership Awards

The Alameda County Arts Commission is accepting nominations for the 2021 Arts Leadership Awards recognizing outstanding achievements and contributions to the local arts community.

Nominations must be submitted online by Friday, May 24, at www.acgov.org/arts/awards.

This program recognizes one person from each of the five districts represented by the Alameda County Board of Supervisors.

Nominees must be residents of the county and involved in an arts discipline such as music, dance, visual arts, literature, theater, film and video, traditional crafts and folk arts, and new me-

dia. They must also be affiliated with a county arts organization as an artist, staff person, board member, teacher, volunteer, donor, supporter, or advocate.

Community members may submit one nomination each.

The Alameda County Arts Commission will review the nominations in June and the award recipients will be recognized by the Alameda County Board of Supervisors in October for National Arts and Humanities Month.

For more information, contact the Alameda County Arts Commission at (510) 208-9646, artscommission@acgov.org, or www.acgov.org/arts/awards.

Tri-Valley Writers Club to Discuss Plot Development



Author Martha Alderson

While the beginning of a book must captivate readers, author Martha Alderson believes it is the ending that creates fans.

Alderson, author of "The Plot Whisperer: Secrets of Story Structure Any Writer Can Master" and other books for writers, will discuss her "approach to plot development at a virtual meeting

of the Tri-Valley Writers Club on April 17.

The Zoom-based meeting will begin at 2:00 p.m.

In her talk, "Write Backward - Begin by Plotting from the End," Alderson, known in writing circles as "The Plot Whisperer," will discuss how the parts of a novel are interrelated and explain how the end informs both the begin-

ning and the middle of a well-written book.

The meeting is open to the public, but reservations are required by sending an email to president@trivalleywriters.org. The cost is \$5 for members, \$7 for nonmembers, and \$3 for students 14-22, and must be paid online at www.trivalleywriters.org by April 15.

ECONOMY

(Continued from first page)

economic development director. "We had a Mediterranean fast casual restaurant close and within a few weeks, Nick the Greek was already moving in. So, we are seeing a lot of those opportunities."

Pleasanton and Livermore have seen similar situations in their business communities. Adam Van de Water, director of innovation and economic development for the City of Livermore, said the pandemic may have given businesses on their way out a little extra push.

"In terms of pivots, the pandemic has been less a series of business closures than it is a generational change of business ownership," he said. "We have seen a number of our longer legacy businesses decide to retire, when they had been thinking of retiring in a couple years, so this might have moved things up in a few circumstances. We have seen others take advantage of that opportunity and open up."

Van de Water noted there aren't many vacancies in downtown Livermore, and new business creation is happening. Many of the city's new businesses are fast casual dining, industrial delivery and e-commerce, home remodeling stores and equipment, and neighborhood-serving grocery markets. In Springtown, the old PW Market building has sat empty for years but will soon be home to 88 Manor Market's newest location. Many East Bay residents were upset to see Campo di Bocce close after 15 years, but that too has already been purchased by another Livermore favorite, Sauced BBQ and Spirits; it will reopen as Da Boccery this summer.

Businesses are beginning to think about the future in more permanent terms now that local economies are opening, and Gov. Gavin Newsom has promised to abolish the tier system in June. While six feet of social distancing may soon be a thing of the past, other

changes wrought by the pandemic will likely become permanent.

"Some of the things we are seeing in this climate of post-COVID era is a shift in the retail world," said Wetherford. "We started seeing this before the pandemic, where a lot of the larger format retailers were switching to e-commerce, trying to downsize their brick-and-mortar footprint, and the pandemic accelerated that. Those that were ready did it, and those that weren't were pushed into it."

Another new normal will be permanent outdoor dining experiences at eating establishments, from coffee shops to restaurants. According to Wetherford, Dublin has been working with its business owners to create permanent outdoor dining spaces. In its efforts, the city is looking at options for creating that space in terms of weather, accessibility, parking ratios and how the new function will affect the Downtown Plan.

Van de Water said he and his team are speaking with their own downtown business owners to discuss their needs for parking, outdoor dining and other uses of the public right-of-way.

"It is, of course, limited," he said. "The more outdoor dining, the less parking, and the more parking, the less outdoor dining."

In addition to permanent outdoor dining spaces, many local businesses are making physical improvements to create permanent to-go windows, enabling customers who are not dining in to walk up, get their meal and leave without going inside.

Pamela Ott, deputy assistant city manager in Pleasanton, said the city is doing everything it can to help its small businesses.

"Without question, the pandemic has impacted our local economy, but at the same time, we have seen the resiliency of our businesses, many of which adapted their services to online ordering and curbside pick-up, and others

that developed creative new partnerships with other local merchants," Ott said. "Even with the pandemic's impact, Pleasanton continues to see positive economic development activity, most recently with the proposed expansion of 10X Genomics, the opening of a new grocery store and several new offerings in downtown."

Businesses and city officials in the Tri-Valley continue to work together to keep their community moving forward. Many city processes have been moved online to speed up review of new plans and permit issue. Representatives

from the three cities share a phone call every other week to discuss best practices and share information, and business owners are forming partnerships and joint ventures to help bring patrons to their locations.

"My personal comment on how I see the economy moving forward is a cautious optimism," Wetherford said. "People are optimistic about the future, as you can see with all these businesses opening, but they are cautious. But that doesn't stop them from moving forward. There is a cautious optimism in the air."

TRI-VALLEY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Now Until Saturday, May 8 Livermore Valley Opera Presents "Triple Treat 2021"

Livermore Valley Opera will again offer an operatic treat with a series of free online concerts on LVOpera Channel on YouTube. "Triple Treat 2021" features professional opera singers performing in three concerts premiering March 13, April 10, and May 8. All concerts begin at 6 p.m. and accompanied by LVO Music Director Alexander Katsman. English subtitles provided. Following each premiere, the concerts will be available on-demand on the LVOpera Channel so you can watch each any time. Though the Triple Treat virtual opera concerts are free, donations are always welcome. For more information, visit www.livermorevalleyopera.com.

Now Until Wednesday, May 19 Coffee Hour for Seniors

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

Now Until Friday, July 23 Art History in Action

A creative and varied monthly curriculum introduces some of art's major periods, artworks and architecture, as well as the impact of different cultures, theories, materials, processes, techniques and audiences. The instructor will be Thomasin Dewhurst. There are multiple class dates. For more information or to register, visit <https://sforce.co/3ktrnkY>.

Saturday, April 10 Granada Native Garden Open House

Livermore's best-kept secret, the Granada Native Garden is hosting a special viewing from 10 a.m. until noon or afterward. The event will feature native Californian plants. The garden is located near downtown Livermore, off Murrieta Boulevard. For precise directions on how to get there and parking options, visit granadanativegarden.org or email Jim at JIMatGNG@gmail.com. Volunteers will be available to chat about the plants and answer questions.

Sunday, April 11 Livermore Road Rally

Join Livermore Inner Wheel for an historic Livermore Road Rally. Get out of your homes and away from your screens for a day of exploration. Pick up your clues and start times at 1024 E. Stanley Blvd., in the front parking lot. Registration begins at 1 p.m. All cars need to be on the road by 2. Preregistration at ebell4830@sbcglobal.net is encouraged. Cost is \$25 (cash or check) per vehicle, and prizes will be awarded to the first three returning vehicles, with one prize per vehicle. All proceeds benefit the Inner Wheel USA Myoelectric Limb Project for children. Masks will be worn, and social distancing will be practiced. For questions and preregistration, email ebell4830@sbcglobal.net.

Monday, April 12 Genealogical Society Hosts Speaker

The Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society presents Gena Philibert-Ortega, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. She will be speaking about the little-known databases found on ancestry.com, including images, digitized books, and indexes. Philibert-Ortega holds a master's degree in interdisciplinary studies (psychology and women's studies) and a master's degree in religion. The event is free and will be hosted on Zoom. To register, visit <http://bit.ly/3cXQ0b1>.

Tuesday, April 13 EarthWeek Tri-Valley 2021 Planning Meeting

Organizers are inviting the public to a planning meeting, from 7 to 8 p.m., to coordinate events across the Tri-Valley region in recognition of EarthWeek Tri-Valley 2021. They will be building on their two-year history of hosting workshops, tours, arts, and films. As last year, most of these events will be virtual. To attend, visit citizensclimate.zoom.us/j/2520462079 and use passcode 123; or call in at 408-638-0968 with meeting ID 2520462079.

Wednesday, April 14 Choral Treats & Trivia Online Series

Each month, the Valley Concert Choral will share a pair of their recordings - some will complement each other, some will contrast - but all are beloved choral music from classical to contemporary. Plus, they will share interesting snippets about the songs and the compos-

ers. Watch your inbox for our Choral Treats & Trivia emails every second Wednesday of the month: April 14: Carl Orff's "O Fortuna" from Carmina Burana; May 12: A bit of Rossini and Anders Paulsson; June 9: Morten Lauridsen and more; July 14: Duruflé and more; and Aug. 11: A Mozart favorite or two. For more information, visit www.valleyconcertchorale.org or call 925-866-4003.

Wednesday, April 14 Senior Zoom Coffee Hour

Dublin Seniors are invited to a Zoom Coffee Hour at 10 a.m. The meetings will continue monthly through May. Seniors are encouraged to grab a cup of coffee and join friends for fun activities online. This activity will be led by Dublin Senior Center volunteers, and next month's meeting is scheduled for May 19. For more information, visit dublin.ca.gov/380/Special-Events.

Wednesday, April 14 Virtual Religion Chat

All are invited to attend the virtual April Religion Chat, which will be held on April 14, from 5 to 6:15 p.m. The discussion topic will be "How Does Your Community Provide for Those Who Come in Need of Forgiveness?" Scheduled speakers are Reverend Elli Kilpatrick, who will give the Unitarian Universalist perspective, and Bishop Roger Persson, who will speak about the position of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints on the subject of forgiveness.

Religion Chat is a free, monthly, interfaith forum held on the second Wednesday of the month by Interfaith Interconnect. The group's mission statement reads, "To enrich, educate, and inform ourselves and others about the great diversity of faiths and cultures in our Valley." In order to accomplish this mission, a variety of events are held each year. April's event will be a Zoom event, with the room opening at 4:45 p.m. For more information or the Zoom link, email interfaith.interconnect@gmail.com.

Thursday, April 15 Thursdays, May 13 Shaping Tomorrow's Visionaries

This art-infused multimedia adventure for students 13 and older will inspire them to examine and appreciate issues surrounding diversity, community, humanity, and the environment, and develop their own roadmap and action plan for the future. The curriculum was de-

veloped by artist Nova Stirling, Instructor Anne Giancola, Visual Arts Manager. To register, visit <https://sforce.co/3uFdkNR>.

Saturday, April 17 to Saturday, May 22 Drawing Nature with Pen and Ink

Using pen and ink, discover the pleasure of rendering objects from nature, learn techniques and employ your unique way of seeing. This will be a virtual class with Instructor Nancy Saltsman. To register, visit <https://sforce.co/3p-YuIPD>.

ONGOING WEEKLY EVENTS

Dublin Farmers Market Open for the Season

Open Thursdays, 4 to 8 p.m., at Emerald Glen Community Park, 4201 Central Parkway.

Livermore Downtown Farmers Market Open for the Season

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

Pleasanton Farmers Market Open for the Season

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

VIRTUAL ONLINE EVENTS -AVAILABLE ANYTIME

Pacific Chamber Orchestra Offers Musical Podcast

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

Sunflower Hill Online Activities

Sunflower Hill posts new Online Activity videos created for people with developmental disabilities each week. Our archive includes over 140 free videos on yoga & meditation, movement exercises, cooking activities, scavenger hunts, arts & crafts activities, and more! Visit www.sunflowerhill.org/onlineactivities

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SPECIALIST

(Continued from first page)

Who is at Risk? event also included a Q&A session for participants.

Reimer opened his talk by giving brief descriptions of Alzheimer's, Parkinson's and ALS. Then he discussed the case for studying them together or at least considering how insights into one disease could have implications for the others.

Next, Reimer covered the risk factors of aging, genetics and environment in the diseases and their progression. Despite certain links with these factors, he said most studies reveal an association but not a causation. For example, only

5% of ALS patients have a clear family history of the disease, and no study has shown exposure to any environmental element to be a cause. However, increased risk factors for ALS include smoking, trauma, rural residence, alcohol consumption and military service.

Reimer spent some time discussing the link between athletes and ALS. Studies seem to show traumatic brain injuries sustained while playing contact sports may explain the increased rate of ALS associated with physical activity, and even military service. The Veterans Health Administration designated ALS as a service-connected illness in 2008. Reimer is now part of a collaborative research project between Stanford Health, the Veterans Association (VA) and Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL).

"This means they have determined that someone who was in the military and developed ALS de-

veloped it in part because they served in the military," Reimer explained. "And because of that, the VA has provided financial and medical support to veterans with ALS."

Another reason for the collaboration is the fact the VA is in possession of the world's largest and most comprehensive electronic health record system. It dates back to 1999, making it a good place to start researching causes of and treatments for ALS and other neurodegenerative diseases. It includes medications, lab results, procedures and many other factors that may help explain a link between risk factors and the disease. Reimer said he and his team were able to leverage machine learning to identify environmental risk factors and disease modifiers for ALS using this information.

Reimer summarized his presentation by noting moderate physical activity and overall health may

reduce the risk for neurodegenerative diseases, while brain injuries may increase

ity, using its high-end data analytics, supercomputers and computational model-

"Dr. Reimer's presentation shed significant light on ALS, Parkinson's and

Only 5% of ALS patients have a clear family history of the disease, and no study has shown exposure to any environmental element to be a cause. However, increased risk factors for ALS include smoking, trauma, rural residence, alcohol consumption and military service.

the risk. His optimistic view of the future is one with new technologies to ameliorate the risks associated with genetics and aging.

Dona Crawford, board chair for the Livermore Lab Foundation, also spoke during the event to explain the connection between the Department of Energy-funded LLNL and the speaker series.

"When our foundation launched in 2016, health care was identified as an important focus area," Crawford said. "The Lab works on health care in as much as it relates to national secu-

ring along with bioassays, bioengineering expertise and high-resolution brain mapping. The foundation leverages those capabilities for ALS research."

Crawford said bringing the Lab into the fight against neurodegenerative disease has the potential to improve the world's understanding and accelerate the development of new therapies and treatments. She noted that the Lab was interested in taking on the project, because it helps build out broader neurodegenerative disease capabilities.

Alzheimer's neurodegenerative diseases," Crawford continued. "This is a rapidly changing field with many research avenues yet to be explored. That's one of the reasons our foundation feels it's important to fund work at LLNL in this area."

For more information on the Rae Dorough Speaker Series, visit RaeDoroughSpeakerSeries.org or facebook.com/RaeDoroughSpeakers. For more information on the Livermore Lab Foundation's ALS research initiatives, visit livermorelabfoundation.org/als.

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 577282

The following person(s) doing business as: ErgoBetter Consulting, 2741 Dwight Way, Apt L, Berkeley, CA 94704, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Benita Kim, 1003 Feather Circle, Clayton, CA 94517. 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/: Benita Kim, Ergonomic Consultant/Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 17, 2021. Expires March 17, 2026. The Independent Legal No. 4836. Published April 1, 8, 15, 22, 2021.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 577190

The following person(s) doing business as: Eyebrow Stylist, 2774 Livermore Outlets Dr., Livermore, CA 94551, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Ravneet Kaur Handa, 1981 Carogold Ln, Manteca, CA 95337. 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/: Ravneet Kaur Handa, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 16, 2021. Expires March 16, 2026. The Independent Legal No. 4837. Published April 1, 8, 15, 22, 2021.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 577261

The following person(s) doing business as: Excel Media, 33324 Jamie Circle, Fremont, CA 94555, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Hemant Kumar Sharma, 33324 Jamie Circle, Fremont, CA 94555. 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/: Hemant Kumar Sharma, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 17, 2021. Expires

March 17, 2026. The Independent Legal No. 4838. Published April 1, 8, 15, 22, 2021.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 577239

The following person(s) doing business as: Snow Squared, 7303 Parkwood Circle, Dublin, CA 94568, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Jemima Snow, 7303 Parkwood Circle, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Jemima Snow, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 17, 2021. Expires March 17, 2026. The Independent Legal No. 4839. Published April 1, 8, 15, 22, 2021.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 576860

The following person(s) doing business as: Be Still Crystals, 2418 Olive Ave, Fremont, CA 94539, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Anna Tsai, 2418 Olive Ave, Fremont, CA 94539. 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/: Anna Tsai, Individual. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 2, 2021. Expires March 2, 2026. The Independent Legal No. 4840. Published April 1, 8, 15, 22, 2021.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 577345

The following person(s) doing business as: All Pro Mortgage, 167 South P Street, Suite C, Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Lori Porter, 167 South P Street, Suite C, 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: 2002. Signature of Registrant/s/: Lori Porter, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 18, 2021. Expires March 18, 2026. The Independent Legal No. 4841. Published April 8, 15, 22, 29, 2021.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 577545

The following person(s) do-

NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 577051

The following person(s) doing business as: JD Land Development, 1419 Aster Lane, Livermore, CA 94551, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Miguel Jarvis, 1419 Aster 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/: Miguel Jarvis, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 9, 2026. The Independent Legal No. 4842. Published April 8, 15, 22, 29, 2021.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 577483

The following person(s) doing business as: Arora Tennis and Fitness, 4408 Healdsburg Way, Dublin, CA 94568, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Akshay Arora, 4408 Healdsburg Way, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 8/1/2010. Signature of Registrant/s/: Akshay Arora, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 23, 2021. Expires March 23, 2026. The Independent Legal No. 4843. Published April 8, 15, 22, 29, 2021.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 577061

The following person(s) doing business as: Beyond Gorgeous, 1553 Buttercup Ct, Livermore, CA 94551, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Tiffany M. Thomas, 1553 Buttercup Ct, 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/: Tiffany M. Thomas, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 9, 2021. Expires March 9, 2026. The Independent Legal No. 4844. Published April 8, 15, 22, 29, 2021.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 577545

The following person(s) do-

ing business as: The Make, 1201 San Luis Obispo ST, Hayward, CA 94544, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): James L. Goings, 2142 Sunleaf LN, Santa Rosa, CA 95403, Gene E. Orphanopoulos, 4529 Fisher CT, Pleasanton, CA 94588, William E. Warren, 48 Bayview Terrace, Mill Valley, CA 94941, Daniel W. Gazzano, 930 Montgomery ST, San Carlos, CA 94070. This business is conducted by a General Partnership. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: February 1, 2021. Signature of Registrant/s/: James L. Goings, General Partner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 24, 2021. Expires March 24, 2026. The Independent Legal No. 4845. Published April 8, 15, 22, 29, 2021.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 577635

The following person(s) doing business as: Weld-IT Unlimited Fabrication, 226 Joyce Street, Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Shane Orvis, 226 Joyce Street, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Shane Orvis, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 25, 2021. Expires March 25, 2026. The Independent Legal No. 4846. Published April 8, 15, 22, 29, 2021.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 577569

The following person(s) doing business as: B.A.C. Construction, 28688 Triton ST, Hayward, CA 94544, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): B.A.C. Construction, 28688 Triton ST, Hayward, CA 94544. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Bernardo Acuna, Manager. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 25, 2021. Expires March 25, 2026. The Independent Legal No. 4846. Published April 8, 15, 22, 29, 2021.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 577347

The following person(s) doing business as: D.L. Marketing, 167 South Street, Suite C, Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): All Pro Mortgage Inc., 167 South P Street, Suite C, 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: 2011. Signature of Registrant/s/: Lori Porter, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 18, 2026. The Independent Legal No. 4848. Published April 15, 22, 29, May 6, 2021.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 577342

The following person(s) doing business as: Tesla Real Estate Group, 167 South P Street, Suite C, Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): All Pro Mortgage Inc., 167 South P Street, Suite C, 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: 2011. Signature of Registrant/s/: Lori Porter, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 18, 2026. The Independent Legal No. 4849. Published April 15, 22, 29, May 6, 2021.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 577568

The following person(s) doing

business as: Lahless Creations, 7792 Coolidge Court, Castro Valley, CA 94552, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Laura Ma, 7792 Coolidge Court, Castro Valley, CA 94552. 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: 3/1/2020. Signature of Registrant/s/: Laura Ma, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 25, 2021. Expires March 25, 2026. The Independent Legal No. 4850. Published April 15, 22, 29, May 6, 2021.

CLASSIFIEDS

S/W DVLPMT OnDemand, Inc. has multiple job optpys in Dublin, CA for S/W Engrs (Ref #DUBDPA); Engrng Mgr (Ref #DUBPGA). Mail resume to Attn: HR, 1601 Cloverfield Blvd, Ste 600S, Santa Monica, CA 90404.

ANIMALS

2) CATS/ DOGS

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chi Park, 4501 First St. Hours: 10:00am to 1:00pm. Saturdays & Sundays - Kittens at Dublin PetSmart, 6960 Amador Plaza Rd. Hours: 11am to 3pm. Visit our website, WWW.TVAR.ORG, to see adoptable animals, volunteer opportunities, and how to donate. Follow TRI-VALLEY ANIMAL RESCUE on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. FERAL CAT FOUNDATION Cat & kitten adoptions now at the new Livermore Petco on Saturdays from 10:00AM to 2:30PM. We have many adorable, tame kittens that have been tested for FIV & FELV, altered & vaccinated. We also have adult cats & ranch cats for adoption.

EMPLOYMENT

65) HELP WANTED

57) SERVICES

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MERCHANDISE

114) FOR SALE

115)ESTATE/ GARAGE/ YARD SALES

18) FREE SECTION

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127) LOST/ FOUND

NOTICES / ANNOUNCEMENTS

155) NOTICES

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REAL ESTATE

170) LAND FOR RENT

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

165) HOUSE/ROOMS/RENTALS TO SHARE

160) BOAT / RV / RENTAL SPACE

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Author to Discuss Creating Windcliff Garden

Dan Hinkley, a writer and acclaimed nurseryman, will be the guest speaker for this month's meeting of the Livermore Garden Club. The meeting, in partnership with the California Horticultural Society, will be held virtually at 6:30 p.m., on Monday, April 19. Hinkley will talk about the "mistakes and miracles" in creating Windcliff Gardens, a 6.5-acre garden on a bluff overlooking Puget

Sound in Washington state and the subject of his latest book, "Windcliff: A Story of People, Plants, and Gardens," published in September 2020. Windcliff combines plants from western North America, South Africa, Australia, New Zealand, Chile and China. Hinkley holds a bachelor's degree in ornamental horticulture and horticulture education from Michi-

gan State University, and a master's degree in urban horticulture from the University of Washington. In 1999, Hinkley's "The Explorer's Garden: Rare and Unusual Perennials," was named book of the year by the American Horticulture Association. For access to the Zoom meeting, which is open to the public, contact president@lavgc.org. For club information go to www.lavgc.org.



Windcliff Gardens, created by writer and nurseryman Dan Hinkley, overlooks Puget Sound in Washington state.

Livermore Public Library Seeks Adult Literacy Tutors

The Livermore Public Library is seeking volunteer tutors for its adult literacy program. The library will offer a 3-session tutor training program via Zoom from 6-8 p.m. on May 3, 5 and 10. No previous experience as a tutor is required. After completing the training, including lessons on both in-person and online tutoring, volunteers will be paired with adult learners to help improve basic reading and writing skills. Tutors and students generally meet once or twice per week for 1- to 2-hours sessions. For more information or to sign up for tutor training, call 925-373-5507 or email literacy@livermore.lib.ca.us.

Truffle Shuffle "Shark Tank" Premieres April 16

By Laura Ness

Do you like drive-ins and frozen margaritas, success stories, and benefiting your local Food Bank?

If so, then head to the Alameda Fairgrounds on Friday, April 16, for the party of the year. Bring your favorite car, as it's a genuine drive-in experience, or you can join in from home.

Berkeley-based Truffle Shuffle is a pandemic pivot story starring two former sous chefs, Jason McKinney and Tyler Vorce, who worked in the kitchens of Michelin Star restaurants, including The French Laundry. Like all serious foodies, they love truffles and were building a business around selling gourmet truffle products when the pandemic hit. Suddenly, they found themselves shipping meal prep kits to con-

sumers and doing virtual cooking classes that doubled as entertainment. One dinner involved Hamilton cast members entertaining the audience while waiting for water to boil. They also teamed up with wineries to provide wine for special pairing experiences for club members and friends.

They have a full schedule of cook-along experiences, where they teach you how to make things like fried chicken, black truffle risotto, fresh tortellini in brodo, lemon ricotta gnocchi with brown butter sage sauce and saffron paella.

Chef Jason, Tyler and crew managed to get on Shark Tank, and they invite you to witness the premiere screening of their episode at a Shark Tank Premiere Party this Friday, April 16, at the Alameda Fairgrounds,

beginning at 6 p.m. Official festivities kick off at 7 p.m. and include pre-show footage and interviews of what it has taken to build Truffle Shuffle. This will be followed by the Shark Tank Premiere episode, accompanied by wine, beer, frozen margaritas, dueling food trucks and DJ's playing live music after the screening.

The best part is that it's a benefit for the Alameda County Community Food Bank, with 100% of the proceeds going to feed families impacted by the pandemic. You can purchase a ticket in the amount of your choosing, from \$1 to \$100. The venue is at 4501 Pleasanton Ave., in Pleasanton.

Visit trufflesufflesf.com to purchase tickets or to sign up for one of their live classes or view recorded episodes on demand.

Bankhead Theater Offering Live Courtyard Music Concerts

Tickets are now on sale for the first in a series of concerts planned for the Bankhead Theater courtyard in Livermore.

The early evening events will feature a comedy opener, followed by live music.

The first concert, at 5:30 p.m., Friday, April 23, will be emceed by Bay Area comedian Brian Maggi and feature guitarist James Robinson.

Capacity will be limited to 44 and face masks will be required. Concessions will be served individually.

"We're eager to bring live entertainment back to the Bankhead and are always looking for different opportunities to activate our spaces with the arts," said Chris Carter, executive director for the Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center.

"These intimate events in the courtyard will bring people downtown at the end of their workday or prior to dining out. The Courtyard Concerts are the logical next step in our ramp-up to opening again fully."

Maggi, who has been involved in several tech-company start-ups, is also a former writer for the Second City comedy troupe in Chicago. He later turned to performing his own stand-up comedy in San Francisco and has been a regular at clubs around the Bay Area.

Robinson grew up in Santa Clara County, where he learned to play piano before taking up the guitar at age 12. His music crosses genres from jazz and classical to blues, country, and rock. His multiple recordings include "New Begin-



Guitarist James Robinson

nings," released just before the pandemic hit in 2019, and a recent single, "Azul Sky."

Tickets for the courtyard concerts are \$20 and available online at livermorearts.org or by calling 925-373-6800. As county COVID-19 restrictions are eased, capacity will be increased.

In addition to the outdoor concerts, the Bankhead courtyard will host the traditional Livermore Drum Circle, led by music therapist Phil Didlake, on Thursday, May 6, and Thursday, June 13. Attendance will be limited to the first 25 to register at www.livermore-circle.com.

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