



A rally to protest the shelter-in-place order in Alameda County took place in Livermore on Saturday, May 16. While some business owners were supportive of the idea, most felt that the demonstration sent the wrong message. To view more photos, visit [www.independentnews.com](http://www.independentnews.com). (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)

## Shelter-in-Place Protesters Said to be Irresponsible By Livermore Businesses

By Aly Brown

News cameras flocked to Livermore on Saturday to broadcast a rally set to protest the shelter-in-place order, but what wasn't captured was the frustration of many business owners who were looped into that message.

As the executive director of Livermore Downtown Inc., Rachael Snedecor expressed disap-

pointment that no rally organizer stepped forward to work with the city and the downtown businesses prior to the rally's launch. She went on to say the business owners are working hard to stay on top of guidelines from the state and county with regard to health safety practices and cleanliness. They're wanting to communicate

(See RALLY, page 6)

## Livermore Addresses Projected \$13 Million Budget Shortfall

By David Chircop

The City of Livermore is projecting a \$13 million general fund budget shortfall for the 2020-2021 fiscal year, amid lockdowns to contain the coronavirus that halted much of the economy and stemmed the flow of sales and hotel taxes to the city's treasury.

Details released last week from Livermore's proposed \$126 million

general fund spending plan, and updates to its current budget, offer a picture of the pandemic's impact on Livermore's finances to date.

The budget calls for cuts and postponements of projects and programs for the remainder of the 2019-2020 fiscal year ending June 30 and into the next fiscal year beginning July 1. It includes

(See BUDGET, page 7)

## Zone 7 Agency Reports Low Snow Levels in Sierras

By Ron McNicoll

The Department of Water Resources' recent snow gauge report has confirmed what many Californians suspected — this is a dry year for the state's snow melt water. That fact will impact water agencies throughout the state.

At Zone 7 Water Agency, the staff and board are ready for it. The agency creates a report every five years to notify the public whether Zone 7 will have enough water to meet demands over the following five years. This year's version will account for 2020 through 2024. The board was scheduled to discuss the version at its regular meeting May 20, with a virtual public hearing set for June.

Much of Zone 7's water comes from Lake Oroville, which with its dam, provides the major source of water for the State Water Project (SWP). As of March 31, the lake was measured at 53% of average level and 65% of capacity.

In the broader statewide picture, a survey taken April 30 at 99 electronically reporting monitoring stations in the Sierra showed 53% of average snowfall, the 11th driest in 71 years of record keeping.

By contrast, the average snow measured last year at the Phillips

(See SIERRA SNOW, page 5)

## Arkin and Balch Running for Pleasanton City Council

Valerie Arkin and Jack Balch announced they will run for the two open Pleasanton City Council seats this November, when the terms of councilmembers Karla Brown and Jerry Pentin expire. Last week, Nancy Allen also announced her intention of running for a council seat.

A Pleasanton Unified School District (PUSD) Trustee with a bachelor's degree in health science and an MBA, Arkin announced her candidacy this week. Arkin served on the PUSD board for 12 years on a platform of supporting the highest quality academic programs for students and transparency about school issues. If elected to the Pleasanton City Council, Arkin

stated her primary focus will be to guide the city as it emerges from the COVID-19 crisis, which has brought new and unique challenges to the world and to Pleasanton.

"My role on the school board and as school board president contributed to the top-rated education, academics and improved facilities in the Pleasanton school district," Arkin said. "Our students are consistently accepted by top universities and become industry, business, and community leaders. I want to bring this level of excellence to our city government."

Fiscal responsibility is another key target area for Arkin, who recognizes the multitude of budget decisions related to the operation

of a city. She served on the City of Pleasanton Library Commission for eight years and as the PUSD representative for the City Liaison Committee to address issues of mutual concern for the district and the city.

Arkin also promises to support transparency in government and the preservation of Pleasanton's historic downtown, as well as to evaluate the impact of future development on local schools, traffic and water supply, and to protect the local environment and hillsides.

Balch served as Pleasanton Parks and Recreation Commissioner from 2009 to 2014, and

(See CITY COUNCIL, page 6)

## Schools to Find Tough Time with Post-Virus State Budget

By Ron McNicoll

Gov. Gavin Newsom is proposing some long-range solutions designed to lift the state's economy out of a \$54 billion hole dug by the impact of the COVID-19 virus. However, school districts will face a fiscal blow.

According to Dr. Kelly Bowers, Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District Superintendent, the state's legislative analyst has informed school districts that it's likely that this will be the most challenging fiscal situation that

California public education has faced, including the 2007-2008 recession. All districts will have to deal with budget reductions or employee concessions, or a combination.

"Our board and leadership are fiscally responsible and prudent," Bowers stated. "Working together, we will weather this challenge, just as we have dealt with others in the past."

The shortfall in K-12 education money will make it tougher for teachers and classified personnel

to negotiate contracts. In K-12 education, Newsom promises growth in the Proposition 98 funding, which is shrinking by \$12 billion from the January version of his budget. He said he will move various revenue sources in the General Fund to ensure Prop. 98 funds after a three-year period won't fall into a permanent downward spiral.

Newsom will also move \$4.4 billion in discretionary money from the federal CARES Act to K-12 education. Newsom noted

(See SCHOOLS, page 5)

## Nordstrom Won't Reopen Pleasanton Stoneridge Shopping Center Store

Nordstrom, the Seattle-based luxury department store chain, is expected to close 16 of its 116 namesake stores across the U.S. this year, including the Nordstrom at the Stoneridge Shopping Center in Pleasanton.

The closures are due, at least in part, to the COVID-19 pandemic, which has temporarily shut down all Nordstrom stores across the

country. The now-shuttered store at the Stoneridge Shopping Center is not expected to reopen, even temporarily, when restrictions are eased.

Sears, Roebuck and Co. also closed its Stoneridge department store in 2018, and the JC Penny Co., another major Stoneridge tenant, filed for bankruptcy earlier

(See NORDSTROM, page 9)

## LARPD Aims to Improve Operations

By Tony Kukulich

Admittedly, it can be difficult to get excited to talk about modifying trash removal operations, but for the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District (LARPD), managing trash is a significant expense, and even minor process improvements can impact the bottom line in very real ways.

Trash management was a primary topic of a special board of directors meeting held May 13, along with discussion about returning the district's dormant aquatic

facilities to service.

"(The trash removal discussion) actually started out as a safety issue for maintenance workers," said Jan Palajac, LARPD board chair. "What we're currently using are these 55-gallon drums, so they hold quite a bit of trash. They have to pull the trash up and out of the barrels. That was causing some back problems for some workers, so they formed an ad-hoc committee to take a look at the situation and what they could do to improve practices."

(See LARPD, page 7)



Inflatable characters marched the streets of Pleasanton in a parade organized by Gina Woodard. As a massage therapist who has been out of work since the shelter-in-place took effect, Woodard hopes the parade of fun characters will promote positivity in a negative world. To see more photos, visit [www.independentnews.com](http://www.independentnews.com). (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)

## Top Tri-Valley Business Leaders Look to the Future

When top executives from dozens of Tri-Valley organizations gathered earlier this month to discuss the economic downturn caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the conversation soon turned to innovation and entrepreneurship.

"This is a time when people collaborate at high levels, build new companies, and pivot to reinvent success in ways never imagined before," said John Sensiba, managing partner of the Pleasanton-based accounting firm Sensiba San Filippo and former chair of the Innovation Tri-Valley Leadership Group.

Innovation Tri-Valley, a collaboration of business leaders, educational institutions, research labs and government leaders, organized the meeting to share ideas as the region fends off impacts of the pandemic and business closures caused by the statewide shelter-at-home orders.

Rick Shumway, CEO of Stanford Health Care - ValleyCare, not-

(See BUSINESS, page 9)



WONDER

### PET OF THE WEEK

After raising seven rambunctious male puppies, Wonder, a 2-year-old mixed breed mama, is ready to strike out on her own. Wonder loves going for walks and cuddling. While Valley Humane Society has closed the facility during shelter-in-place, it is coordinating adoption by appointment with approved adopters. If you are interested in adopting Wonder, email [info@valleyhumane.org](mailto:info@valleyhumane.org). (Photo - Valley Humane Society /L. Paladini)

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## COVID-19 Testing Expanded to Those Without Symptoms

COVID-19 testing at the Alameda County Fairgrounds is now available to all residents of Pleasanton, Dublin and Livermore, 10 and older, regardless of whether they display any of the symptoms generally associated with the coronavirus.

The testing site can be reached through Gate 12 at the fairgrounds, off Valley Avenue in Pleasanton, and is open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Monday-Friday. No appointment or physician's order is required.

While all health care insurance is accepted and will be billed, there is no out-of-pocket cost for residents, and those without insurance will have the cost of testing waived.

The test site is operated by the cities of Pleasanton, Dublin and Livermore in partnership with Stanford Health Care-ValleyCare and the Alameda County Fairgrounds.



Livermore High School senior baseball players received plaques, which were delivered to their homes. Seen here with his parents is Jacob Dennett. To see more photos of the event, visit [www.independentnews.com](http://www.independentnews.com). (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)

## Bringing Wine Country Into the Home

By Dawnmarie Fehr

The Livermore Valley is known for producing excellent wine, both white and red. Tasting rooms abound in the region and would normally be bustling with activity at this time of year. The COVID-19 pandemic has closed them all, but that does not mean wine enthusiasts can't enjoy a bottle with their favorite winemakers.

Many of the area's labels have moved their tasting rooms online, creating virtual experiences for customers to enjoy from the comfort of their homes as they shelter in place. In most cases, customers can choose to have wine shipped, delivered or brought to their cars for curbside delivery.

McGrail Vineyards and Winery begin the SIP club for people to enjoy wine together while apart. Members pay \$50 each week for two surprise bottles of wine to be delivered or picked up and meet for a Zoom call on Friday evenings to taste the wines together and discuss pairings. Heather McGrail said they try to keep the evenings fun.

"Anyone can join the virtual meetings, and every week we change it up," she said. "We always talk about the wines, but we also play games and have themes. At first, we were leaning toward the educational angle, but we have found that people want to talk . . . we get lots of questions and a great sense of community from being together."

McGrail added that the winery will also begin a virtual happy hour on Tuesdays that will be less interactive and more educational.

For wine enthusiasts interested in a more personalized experience for their group, Page Mill Winery has designed a VIP experience catered to the consumer. Interested groups of five or more will connect with the winery's winemaker, Dane Stark, to select wines for a tasting scheduled at their convenience. Wine is shipped or delivered to the participants; then, Stark hosts the tasting virtually, discussing the wines and answering questions.

"We wanted to be able to cater to the consumer's schedule," Debbie Cristiano, sales manager for Page Mill, said of the choice not to have a standing, public Zoom tasting. "People ask for recipes to go along with the wines, so each of the people in the group can all be tasting something with the wines."

Cristiano said they have had groups made up of people on both ends of the country, making the ability to schedule the tasting an important way to connect families separated by distance.

Page Mill also moved its Twilight Tasting fundraisers online, with the first to benefit the Alzheimer's Association of Northern California at the end of the month.

Another way for wine drinkers to learn more about a new bottle at a time of their own choosing is Wente Vineyards' new guided home wine tasting app, available through Amazon Alexa and Google Home devices.

"We are really looking to connect with customers and give everyone a chance to feel entertained," said Aly Wente, Senior Brand Manager for Wente Vineyards. "We know that everyone is at home and looking for new ways to be entertained at home, and we are really trying to provide more inspiration for that."

Wente detailed the brand's new app experi-

ence, a recording that offers listeners the opportunity to learn about three bottles of wine; two from their Livermore vineyards and one from Monterey. She said there is something for everyone in the recording, from the wine connoisseur to the ignoramus, as well as something of the history of Wente Vineyards in California. The three bottles are available for purchase on the website.

Wente Vineyards also offers Wine Wednesdays, a virtual tasting experience launched at the time the shelter-in-place orders took effect. Available through Zoom and Facebook Live, Wente and her sister host a 30-minute session each week, talking with other members of the Wente family, baking sweet treats or pairing their wines with a takeout meal from a local restaurant.

Larry Dino, proprietor and winemaker for Cuda Ridge Wines, has another option for bringing the wine country home. He plans his tastings every two weeks, scheduling them out far enough to allow people to obtain the wines he will be tasting each evening.

"We do two or three wines per tasting," Dino said. "We offer those wines at 25% off, and we do local delivery or curbside pickup."

Dino said he was pleased by the turnouts his virtual tastings have received, with more attendees every meeting.

Chris Ehrenberg of Ehrenberg Cellars chose not to limit his virtual options to



Many of the Tri-Valley's wineries are creating virtual experiences for customers and pivoting how they make sales during the shelter-in-place. (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)

tastings, but included bingo parties, trivia nights and taco Tuesdays. He has paired up with a local poke maker to create a poke and wine pairing evening on May 24. Participants can purchase a variety pack of poke with some Ehrenberg wines and taste everything in an online party.

"We have done some fun things and gotten some good responses," Ehrenberg said. At Big White House Wines, assistant winemaker Jessica Carroll said virtual tastings are likely here to stay.

"We are doing a virtual tasting every Friday at five," Carroll said. "Even after (the shelter-in-place) opens up, we are aware of how restricted we will be in the tasting room, so we might not do it every week, but we'll still do it at least once or twice a month. We know that we will still have customers who won't feel comfortable com-

ing in, and we still want to connect with them, so I think this might be a permanent thing we do."

Retzlaff Vineyards hosted an online music event during the early days of the shelter-in-place. As are many local wineries, they remain available to fill wine orders during regular business hours.

"We still have quite a few people coming in, club members picking up orders or just people wanting to buy wine," said Tina Rebello, Retzlaff senior associate. "We have drive-thru pickup for that."

For more information on these events and more, as well as events with wineries not mentioned, visit the Livermore Valley Winegrowers Association events page at <https://www.lvwine.org/events/>.

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## LIVERMORE CALIFORNIA

### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

**LIVERMORE RESIDENTS:** Share your talents with the community by volunteering on one of the City of Livermore's advisory bodies. We are accepting applications Friday, May 22, 2020 through Friday, June 19, 2020 at 5:00 PM.

**Beautification Committee (4 vacancies)**

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

**Commission for the Arts (2 vacancies)**

Join us in encouraging and facilitating cultural programs that enrich the community.

**Historic Preservation Committee (2 vacancies)**

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

**Housing Authority (2 at-large and 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.

SAVE THE DATE! Tentative interviews will be held the evening of July 1, 2020. For more information or to apply, please visit [www.cityoflivermore.net/AB](http://www.cityoflivermore.net/AB), call the City Clerk's office at (925) 960-4200, or email us at [cityclerk@cityoflivermore.net](mailto:cityclerk@cityoflivermore.net).



### Town Hall Webinar Series

The ongoing pandemic crisis elicits fears and concerns that many people didn't think about much before: The onset of a sudden, life-threatening illness; our own mortality; grief and loss of a loved one; and concerns about caring for and keeping safe our elders. Join Hope Hospice as we host a free series of three webinars in which our in-house experts discuss these issues and answer your questions. Visit [HopeHospice.com/townhall](http://HopeHospice.com/townhall) for details and webinar logon information.

**Wednesday, May 20, 5:30–6:30 p.m.**  
"Having a Higher Awareness of Your Mortality"  
You can—and should—make the most of your youth, but don't let thoughts of "I've got time" inspire procrastination when it comes to adequately preparing for the possibility that you could become incapacitated and/or terminally ill.

PANELISTS:  
Dr. Jatinder Marwaha, Hope Hospice Medical Director  
Dr. Kuljeet Multani, Hope Hospice Associate Medical Director  
Jennifer Hansen, Hope Hospice CEO

**Wednesday, May 27, 5–6 p.m.**  
"Understanding Loss and Grief"  
Leaders from our supportive staff will discuss how different kinds of loss can affect a person and how friends and loved ones can support one another during this time of uncertainty.

PANELISTS:  
Kathleen Brand, Hope Hospice Grief Support Center Director  
Melissa Tumaneng, Hope Hospice Supervisor of Spiritual Care

**Wednesday, June 3, 5–6 p.m.**  
"Understanding the Care Needs of Aging Loved Ones"  
Many families wait until there is a crisis to start discussing care needs, sharing of responsibilities, and finances, but you can save yourself a lot of stress by starting research early. You'll hear from the program manager of Hope's Family Caregiver Education Series and from our lead medical social worker about considerations.

PANELISTS:  
Veronica Martin, Hope Hospice Supervisor of Medical Social Workers  
Debbie Emerson, Hope Hospice Community Educator

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# A Memorial Day Tribute to WWII Veteran Walter Hughes

This Memorial Day, Livermore residents who got to know him will be missing the late Walter Hughes, who passed away April 26 at the age of 98.

Hughes, a WWII veteran, was once an active guest docent for the Collings Foundation's Wings of Freedom Tour put on each year,



**Walter Hughes, WWII veteran, recently passed away at the age of 98.**  
(Photo - Doug Jorgensen)

which brings WWII bomber aircraft to the Bay Area and stops at the Livermore Airport. From 2004 until 2018, he flew from Hawaii to Livermore for the annual Memorial Day bombers visit, during which time he donned his uniform and shared his experiences from the war.

Growing up, Hughes was a farm boy from Southern California. Born on Jan. 27, 1922, he lived through the Great Depression as one of five children while working on his family's dairy farm. The war hit home for him when a Japanese submarine shelled on the onshore oil field west of Goleta and some of the shells landed within a hundred yards of the pasture where his cows were grazing. He went into the United States Army Air Corps and completed his training and was assigned to fly the bombers.

After the war, Hughes returned to California and married the sweetheart he met at March Field, Cali-

fornia: East Coast native Violet Sasso, who was enlisted in the Women's Army Corps (WAC). The couple had three children, Robert, Tom and Patricia (Trisha). Hughes then completed his education at UC Davis and graduated with bachelor's degrees in animal husbandry and agronomy with enough credits for a third degree in chemistry. His career as an avian pathologist contributed to the development of vaccines.

Before his passing, Hughes was interviewed by The Independent for his participation in the Tri-Valley's Memorial Day celebration.

"It's a time for remembering when we were a nation united in our effort to uphold our commitment to truth and the rule of law," Hughes said in a 2018 interview. "It allowed us to be a leader in the advancement of the human species. I flew the B-24, though I was grateful to the P-51 and P-47 pilots who gave us cover."

Hughes' daughter, Trisha,

recalled her parents' love of participating in the Wings of Freedom Tour and their dedication to volunteering for the Collings Foundation and sharing their experiences of service. But she also remembered her father's interest in cosmology, his kindness and gentle listening ear.

"I could always run to Dad, and he would listen and discuss it and tell you where you went wrong, and set me on the right path again," she said. "He was my anchor."

Robert said his father was a servant to the world.

"One of his contributions to humanity is that he developed the world's first flock of chickens producing germ-free eggs," he said. "And his protocols for developing those flocks are still being used. Germ-free eggs have been used since the early 1960s to grow most of the vaccines in use in the world. Everyone in the entire world who has had their life extended, or avoided illness, because of being vaccinated over the

last 60 years, carries his work in their bodies. He was a humble man, who never sought the limelight, and his part in developing the media that vaccines are grown in, is not well known beyond his peers. He did not believe in licensing or patenting his work, and he shared his

protocols widely. He never made a single penny from those eggs. He did not even care who received the credit. His attitude was that there was a challenge to solve and people to benefit. It is not just family and friends who have lost his presence, it is the entire world."

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## Retail and Manufacturing to Reopen with Restrictions

Alameda County this week relaxed its shelter-in-place order to allow some retail businesses to reopen and allow "highly regulated vehicle-based gatherings."

Under the new orders issued Monday by interim county Health Officer Dr. Erica Pan, retail stores may reopen, but only for curbside/storefront pickup or delivery.

Manufacturing businesses in the county may

resume operations, along with logistics and warehousing, but only if they adhere to statewide "Resilience Roadmap" guidelines issued by Gov. Newsom earlier this month.

The order requires all businesses operating in the county to create or update a "Social Distancing Protocol" reflecting the guidelines for reopening and submit it to the Alameda Health Department.

In a news release, the county also said public and private gatherings "of any size" are still prohibited. However, vehicle-based gatherings, up to 200 cars at a time, will be allowed under certain conditions. Gatherings must be held outside, must not last more than three hours, and must be by invitation only.

In addition, no food or drink sales are allowed, and gatherings of more than 10

vehicles must have on-site security "arranged through law enforcement or a private security company," that will be responsible for enforcing social distancing and face-mask requirements.

The county Health Department orders are available at [www.acphd.org](http://www.acphd.org). The governor's Resilience Roadmap is available at <https://covid19.ca.gov/roadmap/>.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the public that the Pleasanton Unified School District (PUSD) seeks nine (9) volunteer community members to serve on the PUSD Local Control Advisory Committee (LCAC). Applications are due to the PUSD District Office by 5 p.m. on Monday June 1, 2020. The applications submitted will be reviewed by the Board of Trustees for possible approval. Selected individuals will serve a two-year term, from July 2020 – June 2022, and should reflect the diversity of the community and the student body. Additionally, at least three community members will be selected representing one or more of the following areas:

- Special Education
- Foster Kinship Youth
- English Learners

Interested parties can find membership requirements and complete instructions for applying on the PUSD website, <https://www.pleasantonusd.net>, or can contact PUSD Teaching and Learning Division, attn: Dr. Pam VandeKamp, Director of Assessment and Accountability, at email [lcac@pleasantonusd.net](mailto:lcac@pleasantonusd.net)

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## Local Students Recognized at State History Day Competition

Students from William Mendenhall Middle School in Livermore and Thomas S. Hart Middle School in Pleasanton were recognized in California's annual National History Day competition, which was held online this year because of the state's shelter-in-place regulations.

Hart Middle School students Ashwin Sriram, Tejas Prakash, and Yashwanth Kandula received a Special Award from the National Maritime Historical Society for their website project, "Steamships and Ironclads."

Mendenhall Middle School student Prisha Sheth was a runner-up in the Individual Performance junior division for "Albert Einstein: The Scientist Who Transcended Time."

National History Day is a yearlong educational program that encourages students to explore local, state, national, and world history. Students research topics, analyze and interpret

their findings, draw conclusions about their topics' significance in history, and create final projects ranging from posters for elementary school students to research papers, websites, exhibits, documentaries and performances for middle and high school students. Projects are judged by historians and educators.

This year's theme was "Breaking Barriers in History."

More than 1,500 students advanced to the state's National History Day, held May 8-10, after first competing in school and county competitions. State winners in each category advance to the national competition in June.

Other local students to have advanced to the state competition were:

Junior Group Documentary – Caitlin Dainas and Riley Young, Hart Middle School, "Harriet Tubman: Conductor of Freedom."

Junior Group Exhibit –

Megan Rivera and Payton Ray, Mendenhall Middle School, "A Woman Behind the War: Sarah Edmonds;" and Ishita Baghel, Ziyun Liu, and Parinitha Balaji, Hart Middle School, "The Women's Suffrage Movement."

Junior Group Performance – Megan Teczon, Grace Peterson, Katy Canaan, and Jasmine Branda, Mendenhall Middle School, "Women's Suffrage."

Junior Group Website – Claire Taulbee and Joely Wolf, Mendenhall Middle School, "Angel Island" and Jack Varagas, Tyler Parr, and Roman Phillips, Mendenhall Middle School, "The Transcontinental Railroad."

Junior Individual Documentary – Claire Sahn, Mendenhall Middle School, "Helen Keller," and William Hodges, Mendenhall Middle School, "The French & Indian War: Breaking into the Interior."

Junior Individual Exhibit – Sophia McGinnis, Mendenhall Middle School, "Jacob Riis;" Ashley Haar, Hart Middle School, "A Door to Racial Equality;" Jordan Sheehan, Mendenhall Middle School, "Smallpox;" and Justin Grumm, Mendenhall Middle School, "Barbed Wire."

Junior Individual Website – Allysa Eaton, Mendenhall Middle School, "Yellow Fever;" and Manasvita Venkatesh, Hart Middle School, "The World is Moving."

Senior Group Documentary – Jocelyn Tao and

Dayeon Jeong, Foothill High School, "Texas v. Johnson: Shattering the Indeterminate Boundaries of Freedom of Speech."

Senior Individual Documentary – Arnav Gurha, Foothill High School, "Japan: The Land of the Rising Economy."

To watch the California National History Day awards ceremony, go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jj6954aaC7Y>

## Academic Achievements

### Fan Receives Chinese Language, Literature Prize

Bryce Fan, a graduate of Foothill High School in Pleasanton, received the Sadler-Skinner Prize for Excellence in Chinese Language and Literature at the Hamilton College Class & Charter Day this year.

Hamilton College, a private liberal arts college in Clinton, New York, awards the Sadler-Skinner Prize annually at both an introductory and advanced level. Fan, a senior majoring in Chinese language and government, received the advanced-level prize.

Established in 1950, Class & Charter day combines a celebration of the end of classes with a commemoration of the college's charter granted in May 1812. The virtual ceremony was held May 11.

### Tri-Valley Students Inducted into Phi Kappa Phi

Justin Johal of Dublin, Michael Blanco of Livermore, and Elizabeth Sedlak of Pleasanton have been inducted into Phi Kappa Phi, an academic honor society established in 1897.

All three are students at Saint Mary's College of California, a private Catholic college in Moraga, California.

Membership in Phi Kappa Phi is by invitation only. Only the top 10% of seniors and 7.5% of juniors are eligible for membership and must be approved by a local chapter.

### Kilday Graduates Phi Beta Kappa at Kansas

Margaret Elizabeth Kilday, from Livermore, has graduated Phi Beta Kappa and with Highest Distinction from the University of Kansas with a bachelor's degree in psychology and minors in Spanish and anthropology. A virtual commencement was held May 17, with a traditional commencement to be held in the fall.

Phi Beta Kappa Society is the oldest academic honor society in the United States, founded at the College of William and Mary in December 1776

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LIC#0M28209

# EDITORIAL We Know Better

When immigrants poured into America in the early 1900s, the Irish, Greeks and Italians were among those who were blamed for stealing jobs, breaking union strikes and overcrowding America with “undesirables.” Political cartoons and help-wanted signs from the era showcase the accepted racism toward these immigrants, who were often looped in with drunkards in the “need not apply” category of job listings. We look back at that time and shake our heads, because now we know better.

After the bombing of Pearl Harbor, America found yet another scapegoat in Japanese Americans, who were then thrown into internment camps as a result of Roosevelt’s Executive Order 9066. Long after they were released in 1945 — set to return to homes and farms that were sold off or destroyed in their absence — we can now look back with clarity to see how the action was an atrocious civil rights violation. Because

now, we know better.

Equality for African Americans remains an ongoing discussion in American society, but the historic civil rights movement that began in the mid-1950s reflected a time of bringing awareness to the brutality, hatred and ugliness toward black people that has strained race relations in some form or another to this day. When it comes to scapegoats, African Americans have time and again been dealt a bad hand. As we move forward as a country, we can look back and see the unacceptable actions of the past paired with the ongoing hope that we as a society now know better.

After 9/11, even in the Tri-Valley, an area with a high density of Ph.Ds, firsthand stories emerged of witnessing racism against Muslims, such as people throwing French fries at a woman wearing a hijab while standing in line at the Pleasanton In-N-Out. That was one account of many. We will never forget that

tragic day, but we’ve recognized the scapegoating of Americans affiliated with a religion to be wrong. As a country that prides itself in many things — of them, religious freedom — we should have known better.

And yet here we are in 2020, when our vision should be more clear than it’s ever been, and there are reports of Asian Americans experiencing harassment as the new scapegoats of the coronavirus. People are being told to “go back to China,” while the Anti-Defamation League reports an alarming increase in incidents of harassment and threats toward those of Asian descent. Ignorant people do not represent the whole of a society that largely does not accept this kind of bigotry, but standing idly by is a form of complicity. Show up for one another, and refuse to ignore the kind of racism that has plagued us far longer than this virus. We are Americans. We have much to be proud of. And we know better.

## MAILBOX

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 should be limited to 400 words or less and should be sent by email to [letters@independentnews.com](mailto:letters@independentnews.com). To be considered, letters must be received by 6 pm on the Monday before publication. Changes to them can be made until 4 pm Tuesday.

### Protest Dangerous for Health and Businesses

Cristina Williams, Livermore

The protesters who rallied last Saturday in Livermore blatantly disrespected the rules of social distancing and wearing face masks when less than six feet apart, according to multiple social media and news reports. If any of them are unknowingly asymptomatic carriers of the coronavirus that causes COVID-19, in a couple of weeks, we will see a surge of cases in the Livermore area.

This has happened before in many instances in the U.S. and around the world. One well known case in our country is the Mardi Gras celebration in New Orleans and the consequent terrible outbreak there.

We all want businesses to open again and go back to normal life, but how does potentially spreading the virus help towards this common goal? Also, how can we trust the few business owners who were there and were shown acting hysterically and/or disrespecting the demanding restrictions that so many other people in our city are following?

The way to reopen businesses safely is by planning and organizing with the city and the county Public Health Department, and to follow what has been previously done in other cities and countries where the virus hit first.

I am very sad and upset and worried that what I think is a minority of people in Livermore and surroundings (and who knows, maybe even out of town instigators?) might have badly harmed our dear city.

### What Downtown Livermore Could Look Like

Jan Brvont, Livermore

On the east side of Livermore Avenue will be a large 3- or 4-story hotel with minimal to no onsite parking. It is likely to be four stories, as that is what the city and builder originally wanted. If so, it will be approximately the height of the Bankhead Theater and reach practically to the sidewalk. It will be directly across from Stockmen’s Park and Blacksmith Square. How that is not going to overpower Blacksmith Square is beyond me.

Hopefully we can persuade them to use a different exterior design and materials for the hotel, so it is more compatible with Blacksmith Square; not

with huge yellow brick corner pieces, which didn’t look like bricks, as was the original design. How does yellow brick look similar to Blacksmith Square? Remember in the early days of Livermore, we had a red brick foundry in town. What better way to suggest another historical part of Livermore’s early days?

As a side note, the city staff report that was presented at the Nov. 27, 2017, city council meeting with the results of the outreach program showed the majority of the people wanted the hotel to compliment Blacksmith Square, with similar building materials.

On the other side of the lot is L Street. The west side, where Groth Bros was, will have 3- to 4-story housing with some retail below. Don’t forget the 4-story garage where KFC used to be. It’s slated to have 65-foot pillars, which is higher than the garage. Maybe they want to later add another story or two to the garage.

If the housing is left on the Lucky site, even on the north side of Veterans Way, it will be a very crowded, high-density area, not like what most of us want. We want open space where we can go to visit, stroll after an enjoyable dinner downtown, maybe even watch the fireworks on Independence Day. We need to place the housing on the north side of Railroad Avenue to open up more space on the Old Lucky site for a larger park. Housing on the north side would be close to downtown, but not crammed in with the businesses, and those people would also be able to enjoy a larger, more useful park.

### Benefits That Will Remain

Patrick M. Lofft, Pleasanton

The editorial in the May 14 issue of The Independent (Benefits That Will Remain Once the Storm Passes) fails to include the hoped-for life-sustaining benefits for current employees and future occupants of congregate spaces, such as long-term rehab accommodations, involuntary confinements, etc.

During my teen years, I worked in hotel and restaurant kitchens. Every time my work spaces were examined by health department inspectors, I acquired useful guidelines to improve my performance.

It is apparent to me that municipal agencies responsible for permitting congregate facilities, especially those that cater to long-term residents, must mandate frequent hygiene and health assessments. The evaluations must assure that both employees and occupants abide by strict sanitation codes. To the extent that no such permitting currently exists or is minimally enforced it is immediately appropriate to originate or strengthen such codes.

### Be Responsible In Reopening

Marla Kirby, Livermore

I have sympathy for local businesses protesting the county’s continuing shelter-in-place order. This pandemic has turned our lives upside down in a short time, and while everyone has been impacted, the magnitude of the impact certainly has not been shared equally.

But when I saw on a news clip that protesters were not engaging in even minimal compliance (many had no face coverings and were not maintaining 6-feet distancing), I have to ask whether I would put my family’s health and safety at risk if

the business is not going to act responsibly.

Even when businesses open up, if they don’t have the public’s confidence that they will take their customers’ health and safety seriously, they are not likely to resume their business as usual. We need to be responsible in how we open up, or else the last two months spent at home will have been squandered, and we’ll be right back to square one. The virus is more patient than we are; we need to be smarter.

### Use Shutdown to Make Shops Nicer

Ann Giannini, Livermore

This Sunday, I took a walk downtown. To my dissatisfaction, First Street is a neglected mess. Shops and restaurants are closed, however, that is no excuse for the shabby appearance! Plants are drying up in front of the businesses and city areas.

With assistance from the city, merchants could seize the opportunity to paint and make small improvements. Paint

could be donated. Now is the time that some merchants could make their shops nicer, so when they are open again our downtown will be much improved to offset the restrictions forced on everyone.

### When It’s Safe Means Never

Christine Moruza, Livermore

I was not surprised that Mayor Marchand didn’t appear at the Save Our Town rally on Saturday. To appear would have been politically incorrect. I was also not surprised that he said rallies like this make no difference, because they don’t, to him. I was also not surprised when he told the press that businesses will reopen when the data show “it’s safe.” What I am surprised about is that he doesn’t know that “when it’s safe” means “never.”

### Don’t Ask Questions

Lee Edwards, Livermore

How dare Paul Stone (Mailbox, May 7) question Herr Newsom. We are too stupid to know how to take care of our-

selves, our families, our businesses. We should be forever grateful that we have such an intelligent, compassionate and well-coiffured person in charge of our lives.

So, don’t ask questions, don’t resist, don’t show any signs of independence. Newsom will take care of us, our kids, our grandkids. Submit and do as you are ordered. I am sure nothing can go wrong. Liber vivam aut moriar (I shall live free or die).

### Strange Times

Ken Bradley, Livermore

Prisoners are being released early. People trying to earn a living are being fined and jailed. Dictators declare that some people are essential and other people are not essential and can’t work to support their families. The dictators continue to collect their paychecks. Civil law cannot be enforced because the courts are shut down, but the judges still collect their paychecks.

The Livermore City council

also wants to control us. These nice people have passed an ordinance that makes you guilty if they cite you and can fine you three times for the alleged offense.

I served my country in combat, where many young Americans died. We believed in life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. We believed in government by the people, for the people. We never expected to see our country turned into a nation of people having to beg because they are banned from working. Governments at all levels have failed us.

### Well Done, Independent

Deborah McQueen, Livermore

Hats off to The Independent for taking the time to support the community and local businesses by printing a list of businesses that are open for service, complete with addresses, web links, personal contacts, phone numbers, and delivery options. This was done free of charge to those businesses.

Well done!

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mckahnfamilycellars.com  
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mitchellkatzwinery.com  
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rwinery.com  
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tenutawinery.com  
Pickup, Delivery & Shipping Available

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5143 Tesla Rd., Livermore  
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thesingingwinemaker.com  
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## THE Independent

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## Amador Valley Graduate Builds Computers for At-Home Students

Amador Valley graduate Ervin Young, now a computer science major at the University of California, Riverside, is working with his former high school in Pleasanton to build desktop computers with access to advanced technology and engineering software for students studying from home because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

With classrooms shut down, the Pleasanton Unified School District provided hundreds of students with laptop Chromebook computers that run mostly cloud-based applications. But that left engineering and computer-science students without access to the

more specialized software and technology available at the high school.

In response, the UC-Riverside freshman teamed up with his brother, Brighton, and other members of the New Nest student club at Amador Valley – Gavin Jiang, Nathan Tsui, and Alexis Huang – to build the computers with advanced processors needed by the school's engineering students.

They initially built six desktop computers, at a cost of about \$430 each, and have started a GoFundMe page so they can expand their efforts to provide computers to low-income students. The students who receive com-

puters through the high schools will be allowed to keep them even when in-person classes resume.

"Seeing the difficult state that the entire world is currently in, I really wanted to do anything I could for my community," Young said. "Working with my strengths in technology, I sought to do the most I could to benefit anyone I could. No matter how small the effort, if we collectively act as a team to help each other during this recession, a difference will be made, even if it's one computer at a time."

Paea LePendu, a computer science lecturer who taught an introductory course that Young took last

fall, said he learned about his student's project from a post on an electronic discussion board.

"First year computer science students, who often have a long way to go before they can contribute sophisticated algorithms and software, often feel like they are not ready to contribute to the world," LePendu said. "For Ervin to act creatively and put to such use the engineer's natural ability to tinker and create is just plain awesome."

In addition to the GoFundMe page, Young and New Nest are hoping to work with e-waste facilities to purchase computer parts that would otherwise

go to landfills. Each computer takes three to four hours to complete. To do-

nate, go to [www.gofundme.com/f/help-donate-computers-for-community](http://www.gofundme.com/f/help-donate-computers-for-community).

### The 2020 Livermore Citywide Garage Sale

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## State Reports First Case of Deadly Rabbit Disease

The first known case of Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease in California has been confirmed in a black-tailed jackrabbit found dead near Palm Springs earlier this month, according to the state Department of Fish and Wildlife.

The virus that causes RHD was detected in tissue samples sent to the National Veterinary Services Laboratory in Plum Island, New York. Multiple dead jackrabbits were discovered on the Palm Springs property.

The virus, known as RHD virus type 2, is highly contagious and has caused

the deaths of wild and domestic rabbits in several Southwestern states since March, including New Mexico, Colorado, Arizona, and Texas.

State wildlife veterinarian Deana Clifford said the virus could significantly impact California wild rabbit populations, especially those already at risk such as the endangered riparian brush rabbit and the pygmy rabbit, and ultimately could affect predator species that rely on rabbits as food.

However, the state Department of Fish and Wildlife said the virus is not

related to the coronavirus that causes COVID-19 and does not affect humans or domestic animals other than rabbits.

The agency is asking anyone hiking or camping in wild rabbit habitat to report any sightings of sick or dead rabbits to the state's Wildlife Investigations Laboratory at (916) 358-2790 or file an online mortality report through the CDFW website. The state is cautioning them to not handle or disturb rabbit carcasses to minimize the spread of the disease.

Hunting for jackrabbits in California is open year-

round, and hunters are being advised to wear gloves when field dressing rabbits, to bury the remains onsite, and to thoroughly wash their hands. The hunting season for brush rabbits and cottontails open July 1.

There is no vaccine for the virus and domestic rabbit owners are being encouraged to practice good biosecurity measures to protect their animals, such as not sharing equipment with other owners, keeping their rabbits isolated from wild or feral rabbits, and washing hands before and after working with rabbits.

## Water Systems Need Flushing Before Businesses Reopen

The Dublin San Ramon Services District is recommending that businesses clean and flush their water systems before reopening after lengthy closures because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The district notes that the water provided by the Zone 7 Water Agency is disinfected, but not sterile.

During long-term closures, the water left in pipes, water heaters and storage tanks can stagnate as the disinfecting chlorine dissipates, allowing pathogenic microorganisms to multiply.

Thoroughly flushing water systems is especially important for schools, gyms, hotels, factories, large buildings and other facilities with

complex water systems. should flush them thoroughly with fresh water before reopening, according to the Dublin San Ramon district.

The district also recommends disinfecting shower heads, faucets, and other plumbing fixtures, and checking temperature settings on water heaters, and ensuring that ice makers,

dishwashers, cooling towers, and other plumbing components are safe.

For more information, contact Dan Martin, water/wastewater systems operations and maintenance supervisor for the Dublin San Ramon Services District, at (925) 875-2367, or email [customerservice@dsrsd.com](mailto:customerservice@dsrsd.com).

## SCHOOLS

(Continued from first page)

it can be used for summer school and adjusting for learning loss due to the shelter-in-place order and virtual education.

It's not clear, though, whether the CARES Act will survive in the Republican-controlled Senate. President Trump called the bill "DOA" or dead on ar-

rival.

Tax revenue is down; the state has paid out unemployment benefits to 4.6 million applicants; and the unemployment rate in California went from under 4% to 24% in the second quarter of this year. Personal income has declined by 9% this year.

In looking at the overall

budget, Newsom said that it fell from \$222 billion in January to \$203 billion, an 8% decline. In a move to reduce the budget, Newsom also announced at a May 14 news conference in Sacramento that he, his staff and other state workers will take 10% salary cuts.



Alden Lane Nursery celebrated 65 years in business in Livermore on May 14. Founders Ruth and Jack Williams first opened the go-to place for plants and gardening advice in 1955 in the Livermore countryside. Their daughter, Jacqueline Williams-Courtright, continues to operate the business. (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)

## SIERRA SNOW

(Continued from first page)

station at South Lake Tahoe was recorded at 188%, one of the highest levels in recent years. There is plenty of water left from last year to serve Zone 7, caught by reservoirs, both in the Valley and at two water storage districts in the southern Central Valley, as well as in the Valley's underground water basin.

Zone 7 assumes that, from 2022 through 2024, snowfall levels will be close to normal, so the prospects look good for the entire five-year period, according to the report's draft. Looking at previous records, Zone 7 is confident there will be near-normal years of snow

melt following one dry year, despite climate change. If it does not turn out that way, Zone 7 will have various water and storage agencies from which it can buy more water.

In June 2017, Zone 7 approved a policy of conserving a minimum of 10% of its total demand to help serve as a back-up. However, actual conservation figures have reached 18%, because customers have been conserving at a higher rate than the minimum, said Zone 7 General Manager Valerie Pryor. A high amount of the voluntary cutbacks has come from reductions in landscape watering.

Zone 7 will receive an allotment from the SWP of only 15% in "new" water in the next calendar year, compared to 49% in 2016, a level published in the report. The lowest allocation in the driest year would amount to 10%, the report indicated.

Zone 7 will be diverting some of its stored supplies to usage in the coming calendar year and picking up more water from such places as the Semitropic Groundwater Bank in Kern County. If 2021 and 2022 turn out to be critically dry years — not the normal years the agency predicts — Zone 7 would seek more transfers from other districts to meet demands.

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 **FDIC**

## RALLY

(Continued from first page)

that to the public, so people feel comfortable returning to the area to shop.

“To have so much emphasis on ... getting everyone ready, while getting the messaging out, so people know they can feel safe coming back downtown as soon as we’re allowed to do that, and then you have the demonstration right in front of (those businesses) with none of the social-distancing measures in place, no masks...” she said. “It was a really unfair message, kind of heartbreaking for some of them.”

Livermore Mayor John Marchand supported the statement that the downtown business association was not included in planning the rally, noting that the board members seemed to be specifically excluded.

“Not one Livermore business owner reached out to me to support the rally,” he said. “I get it. We are all frustrated, but these are not the city’s rules. These orders were put in place by the county and the state. The county needs to be convinced that Livermore is ready to open, but ignoring social distancing and not wearing masks is not the way to do it.”

Marchand explained that the city’s office of innovation and economic development is working closely with businesses to ensure a

safe reopening.

Resident Stash McGuinness was one supporter of the rally, who, in a public Facebook post prior to the event, said he would attend the rally.

“The science is showing that the curve has been flattened and the death rate for COVID-19 is about 26.2/100,000 Americans; 99.97% chance you won’t die from the virus,” McGuinness wrote. “We have to reopen small businesses and get California’s economy open and rolling again ... If the county comes and tries to close your business down, take them to court. Time to take a stand for our rights. I will be there Saturday.”

Without disclosing names of business owners, Snedecor noted some approved of the rally as they recognized the community’s intent was to support the hurting downtown businesses. While she agreed in regard to the intent and stated she supports First Amendment rights, she also said she would have appreciated communication from those involved to share ideas about how it could have been handled more effectively.

“I would have loved to see them around the Christman tree area with masks, socially distanced, helping us show how comfortable

it’s going to feel when we reopen — that would have been awesome,” she said. “We want to be known as the downtown of business collections that’s going to be doing it right ... but instead what got reported on the news all across the Bay Area was making our downtown look like it was just going to be a free-for-all. So what did we lose through that? How many people are not going to feel comfortable coming down, because it was promoted as the businesses were feeling that way?”

In the wake of the rally, community members shared their concerns.

“I have sympathy for local businesses protesting the county’s continuing shelter-in-place order,” Livermore resident Marla Kirby said. “This pandemic has turned our lives upside down in a short time, and while everyone has been impacted, the magnitude of the impact certainly has not been shared equally. But when I saw on a news clip that protesters were not engaging in even minimal compliance (many had no face coverings and were not maintaining 6-foot distance), I, as a consumer, have to ask whether I would put my and my family’s health and safety at risk, if the business is not going to act responsibly.”

Snedecor further admitted her first fear was



The Livermore Farmers Market opened for the season. With social-distancing measures in place, visitors were able to select fresh seasonal produce. (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)

that the Alameda County Public Health Department (ACPHD) would see the news and deem Livermore as unprepared to reopen, but she said she communicated with officials and confirmed that the downtown businesses were not associated with the rally’s organization. She noted the businesses are in constant communication and said she looked forward to loosened restrictions that were later announced by ACPHD in a press release on Monday. Now retail and associated manufacturing businesses are allowed to offer storefront pickup. Dr.

Erica Pan, Health Officer for Alameda County, said the data is moving in the right direction and the county is monitoring the five indicators for reopening, which can be found at [https://bit.ly/Indy\\_5indicators](https://bit.ly/Indy_5indicators).

“There are people who are hurting, and we need to be a part of helping (the

reopening) through, not delaying it,” Snedecor continued, while also adding the silver lining has been a surge of volunteers looking to help business owners with website design, branding and marketing. “There are a lot of talented people in the community who are coming forward.”

## CITY COUNCIL

(Continued from first page)

later a member of the city’s planning commission, from 2014 to present. He was involved with the Kottinger Place Task Force, the Parks and Recreation Master Plan Steering Committee, and the East Side Specific Plan Task Force. Balch is also a licensed certified public accountant, an accredited chartered global management accountant, a licensed real estate broker and the financial officer at his family’s commercial real estate

and property management firm located in Hayward.

“I have lived in the Pleasanton area nearly all my life and love so many aspects of our community, from our parks and open space, to our downtown,” Balch wrote on his campaign website. “I want to continue giving back to this community that has given so much to me. There is no doubt our city will face tough decisions ahead related to the financial impacts of COVID-19

and the recently mandated shelter in place. With a focus on the future and achieving better than ‘back to normal,’ I believe my experience ... combined with my 11 years of past commission experience, can be put to work for the residents of Pleasanton.”

Balch further noted the tough issues facing the city will require leaders who approach decisions calmly and fairly.

“I believe we have a world-class community

worth preserving,” he stated. “That can only happen when we remember that tough choices have to be made and require civility, an open mind and a willingness to work together.”

For more information on Valerie Arkin, visit [www.votevaleriearkin.com](http://www.votevaleriearkin.com). For more information on Jack Balch, visit <http://www.jackforpleasanton.com/home>.

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Families out for walks on a trail located in Dublin, between Amador Elementary School and Jordan Ranch Park, wear masks while exercising. (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)

## SANTA RITA

(Continued from first page)

to staff the facility and are exhausted.

“We can’t expect them to do it forever,” Lucia said. “It’s just not sustainable.”

The additional funding of \$106 million in each of the next three years will include \$84 million for the Sheriff’s Office and \$22 million for Alameda County behavioral health services.

The Sheriff’s Office will work to hire 349 positions — including 265 deputies and 84 nonsworn staff. The health agency will be allotted 107 positions to work to help inmates deal with life behind bars and provide crisis intervention services to prevent suicides, Ahern’s proposal said. Services will include inmate assessments, medication management and ongoing treatment.

Lee Davis, chair of the Alameda County Mental Health Advisory Board, called the expenditure an “enormous financial request especially in light of the current economic crisis.”

“There should also be an assessment of alternative mental health infrastructure investments in the community that could be both more effective and more cost-effective,” Davis said.

Sheriff Gregory Ahern’s request for the massive budget increase came at a time when the jail has reduced its population from 2,500 to about 1,700 inmates during the COVID-19 crisis, but a department official told supervisors the facility will return to capacity when the crisis is over. Ahern did not attend the meeting.

Lucia told supervisors the improved staffing and mental health programs were needed to settle the federal lawsuit filed on behalf of inmates. The lawsuit alleged mentally ill inmates were subjected to inadequate care behind bars.

The facility has had a high suicide rate in recent years. More staffing will allow for inmates to spend more time out of their cells and for increased observation of suicide prevention cells, the studies said.

Consultants suggested renovations to create private areas for mental health interviews and recreation space.

During the last 20 years, Lucia explained legislation to reduce the state’s prison population has changed the county jail population to include inmates who committed more serious crimes, like murder and rape. More than

a third suffer from mental illness and other conditions, such as alcoholism or drug addiction.

Last week, two deputies saved two inmates from trying to strangle themselves to death, Lucia said.

Supervisor Richard Valle, the board’s president, voted for the measure, saying it was necessary based on what the studies showed. Supervisor Nate Miley agreed.

“I think public safety and public health are extremely important, and I intend to stand on the side of public safety and public health,” Miley said.

Supervisors Wilma Chan and Keith Carson voted against it, citing the budget crisis.

Chan said she agreed mental health services needed to be improved but said “the \$106 million doesn’t exist.”

“We don’t know where we are going to get it from,” Chan said. “It’s not sitting somewhere.”

She and Carson said the department already had 40 open positions and difficulty recruiting.

Supervisor Scott Haggerty voted in favor of the funding.

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## Livermore Refinances \$59 Million in Bond Debt While Rates Remain Low

Administrators managing Livermore's obligations are set to refinance nearly \$59.3 million in debt following a financial storm that shook the municipal bond market in March.

A plan approved by the city council last week anticipates issuing new tax-exempt securities called certificates of participation in June to pay off one outstanding certificate issued in 2011 and two from 2014.

The bond-like certificates have been used to pay for a number of municipal projects, including the Civic Center Campus, new Airport Administration Building, a 2-mile extension of Jack London Boulevard.

The strategy aims to lock in better terms for repayment for the life of the debt, while interest rates remain historically low.

For more than 80% of the debt, which is held in complex variable-rate demand certifi-

cates that reset daily, the debt restructuring plan means eliminating significant exposure to market volatility that could threaten the city's ability to borrow and see its cost of debt increase by millions annually.

The city estimates it will be able to refinance the variable rate certificates at a fixed rate of 2.8% for \$9 million that matures in 2041 and 1.6% for about \$35 million that will mature in 2030.

"Having some certainty around part of the equation is huge," said Douglas Alessio, Livermore's administrative service director.

In March, investors responded to the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic in the U.S. with a swift and dramatic selloff of billions of dollars in municipal debt.

To attract investors, short-term variable municipal interest rates skyrocketed to above 7%,

even as the central bank slashed its overnight lending rate to near zero. After paying the fees, the daily rate on Livermore's variable-rate debt reached 9% in March before declining back down to .02% as of the April 22 reset.

While the market for municipal debt has since stabilized, Alessio said his office has closely watched interest rates and it appears the prudent time to restructure the city's debt is now.

The city could wait to see if variable rates will remain low and adjust if they start to climb, Alessio said, but with that approach "by the time you realize it, it's too late."

The variable rate certificates kept interest costs low over the past nine years and helped the city regain its financial health coming out of the Great Recession.

"It feels like we're stealing,

it's been so low; it's been terrific," Alessio said. "Knock on wood, it's been so good.

The variable-rate demand certificates are payable on demand. Investors can request a repayment of the entire debt amount at their discretion — in Livermore's case more than \$44 million — and the funds must be repaid immediately, instead of on its final maturity date.

To avoid a liquidity problem if buyers for redeemed securities could not be found, the certificates are backed by a Letter of Credit, a bank guarantee of timely repayment of interest and principal on the debt.

While the most likely risk of staying the course is an increased cost of debt service, there are other factors to consider, like administration costs for the remarketing agent to adjust the interest rates, and other associated fees, including the cost for the letter of credit.

Livermore's current LOC, last updated in 2017, is set to expire soon.

The 2011 certificates were used to raise nearly \$17.5 million to fund the cost of design and construction of a new Airport Administration Building, a two-mile extension of Jack London Boulevard, including a bridge over Arroyo Las Positas, and water, sewer and electrical utilities.

They were financed with a debt repayment structure that started with 3% interest in the initial years and are set to gradually rise to 5.25% toward the end of the debt term in 2041.

Refinancing the existing fixed rate certificates is expected to result in an average annual savings of more than \$220,000, according to city estimates.

Beginning Aug. 1 this year, the city can without penalty prepay the outstanding princi-

pal of nearly \$15 million at the current interest rate of 3.4%.

The 2014 certificates of participation are split between Series 2014A certificates and Series 2014B certificates. Both are variable rate demand certificates.

The 2014A series raised an initial \$9.4 million that was used to purchase the Bankhead Theater in order to retain the facility as a community theater. The 2014B series raised nearly \$50 million and was used to retire 2008 variable rate obligations that were used to finance several essential city facilities, including the civic center campus.

These debts can be prepaid at the daily interest rate without penalty on any business day. The outstanding principal for these certificates is nearly \$9 million for the A series and around \$35.5 million for the B series certificates.

## BUDGET

(Continued from first page)

across-the-board reductions in city government spending, dips into rainy day funds to fill a gap in lost revenue, but it does not call for reductions in permanent staffing or city services.

"While this is a lean budget, and one, that ... essentially anticipates spending a sum of your unallocated reserves, overall, it is a balanced program that allows us to retain our level of service," City Manager Marc Roberts told council members during a budget workshop conducted via teleconference on Monday.

Because so much about the economy in the next year remains uncertain, the budget builds in flexibility and can be revisited as more becomes known, Roberts said.

Sales tax and Transient Occupancy Tax, which travelers pay when they stay in Livermore hotels, were the first and hardest-hit sources of city revenue impacted by the pandemic.

Sales tax projections were reduced by 11% or \$4.1 million for the remainder of the current fiscal year and 18% or \$6.8 million for next fiscal year. Transient occupancy tax projections were reduced from original projections by roughly 35% or a total of nearly \$3 million in lost revenue across the two years.

While the city's sales tax

portfolio has seen some diversification in recent years with the addition of industrial sales taxes from bus sales at Gillig and sales of forklifts and other equipment at Toyota Material Handling, Livermore's budget still relies heavily on taxes from retail sales of general sales goods.

In particular, the San Francisco Premium Outlets account for roughly 20% of Livermore's sales tax revenue.

Alameda County's shelter-in-place directives had an immediate impact there as shops closed in mid-March.

The corresponding reduction in tax revenue for Livermore is expected to continue into the next fiscal year due to a likely recession and loss of retail tourism from international visitors to the outlets as international travel restrictions are likely to persist after the shuttered retailers reopen.

According to a League of California Cities analysis, cities are facing a shortfall of nearly \$7 billion over the next two years due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Nine out of 10 cities report they will have to cut staff or decrease city services to residents, with most reporting likely cuts to police and fire services.

"Looking at this budget, it truly is remarkable that we were prepared for this — that since

the Great Recession, we have been putting money away in reserves in anticipation of the next recession," said Livermore Mayor John Marchand.

The proposed budget is expected to comply with the General Fund reserve policy, updated by the council in 2016, which requires maintaining a reserve of 30% of budgeted operating expenditures and outgoing transfers for debt service.

To make up for the revenue shortfall, Livermore plans to decrease nearly \$4 million in previously approved operating expenditures this year, by reducing \$2.2 million in labor costs through delays in filling vacant positions and reduced costs for temporary employees and overtime as a result of sheltering in place; and cutting \$1.7 million in spending for services and supplies.

It will also suspend a planned \$2 million contribution to a reserve fund for capital improvement fund for infrastructure repair and replacement. That fund, established by the council in 2016, will have an accumulated balance of \$10 million by the end of June.

In addition, the proposed budget reduces capital improvement spending by around \$18 million, going from \$109 million in planned spending to \$91 million over the two-year budget cycle, City Engineer

Cheri Sheets said.

The changes leave spending levels on street maintenance in place and make modest cuts to public safety, flood control and beautification projects, while making more substantial cuts to planned spending for downtown revitalization and work on trails and traffic control.

Although the pace of public investment in the Downtown Plan is expected to slow due to the downturn, the budget allocates general fund investment for significant yet reduced, work to continue, include con-

structing Livermorium Park, building I Street parking structure, some minor demolition and site prep work, and design work on the L Street Garage. Stockmen's Park is also anticipated to be completed during the budget cycle with non-General Fund resources.

The general fund shortfall over the two years reflects the short-term impacts of COVID-19, as well as additional spending on large-scale capital infrastructure improvements, state-mandated stormwater upgrades, and Livermore Police

Department's contributions to family counseling and crisis intervention services for at-risk youth.

The focus of Livermore's budget talks on Monday concentrated on the general fund, the largest and most flexible piece of the city's budget, which is expected to increase from \$116 million from the revised 2019-2020 budget to nearly \$126 million for the coming 2020-2021 fiscal year.

A final budget is scheduled for adoption by the City Council on June 8.

## LARPD

(Continued from first page)

LARPD Assistant General Manager Patricia Lord said discussion of the safety issue led to a wider conversation, including topics like environmental stewardship, public education and reducing trash in the district's parks.

The ad-hoc committee recommended continued training on safe lifting techniques and adopted a new, easy-to-empty trash receptacle design that will, over time, replace the current trash cans in the district. The district stated an intent to reduce the number of receptacles in neighborhood parks by 50%, a move that will help offset the higher cost of the new cans. Fewer receptacles will require some cooperation from the neighborhood park users, who will be asked to carry their trash out with them.

"Before we can be really be successful in making changes in our parks system, we discussed the need to launch a public education campaign on the benefits of 'pack it in, pack it out' — to promote a 'pack it in, pack it out' mentality and practice with signage, promotion on our website, social media, and we would garner support of our park ambassadors," said Lord. "We're also looking at creating incentives for participation in our program."

The district also opted to

discontinue the distribution of mutt mitts — plastic bags that make it easy for dog owners to clean up after their pet — a move that will deliver much-needed savings.

"The cost of providing the mitts and having to go out there and replenish them all the time, labor and materials and all that, is something in the neighborhood of \$75,000 a year," Palajac said. "We're having a real budget problem. We're going to supply what we still have on hand, and then at the end of that, we'll discontinue supplying mutt mitts."

Mat Fuzie, LARPD general manager, noted the district is working with the Alameda County Public Health Department (ACPHD) to find ways to use aquatic facilities that are currently shuttered due to the county's stay-at-home order. The district provided ACPHD a plan based on guidelines developed by USA Swimming that would allow controlled use of pools by swim teams or for senior lap swimming. Fuzie said that while ACPHD felt the USA Swimming guidelines were too permissive and asked for changes, they are collaborating with the district in an attempt to develop an acceptable plan.

"We're in a back-and-forth dialogue with county health as to what they will allow,"

Fuzie said. "They are being conversational. ... We're hoping that we can come up with a program that allows our pools to be used for appropriate, socially distanced recreational activities."

If an agreement with the county can be reached, and programs can be put into place this summer, the revenue generated will improve the district's financial outlook. During an emergency board meeting held April 28, it was disclosed that the district will suffer a \$900,000 operation loss for the fiscal year that ends June 30. The district is currently not forecasting any revenue until September. The district's 2020-2021 budget will be discussed during the June board meetings.

One bright spot in LARPD's financial outlook has been unplanned revenue from parking fees at Sycamore Grove Park.

"Our revenues at Sycamore Grove are up because our numbers have about quadrupled over our normal attendance," Fuzie said. "Our walk-ins are a huge number, and we're asking people to consider making a donation when they walk in. There's a donation station there, and all those donations will be returned to that park."



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# Report from My Foxhole During the Lockdown

By Linda Milanese

The coronavirus targets everyone, but I fall into that most vulnerable segment of the demographic: people over 65. My contemporaries and I are the ones everyone was looking out for in the beginning of the quarantine with slogans like, "Please don't kill my grandmother." But as this lockdown drags on, I'm sensing a weariness that might make them willing to barter their grandparents for a night out at a restaurant. I don't blame them — who wouldn't enjoy a good early bird special and a movie?

But who expected the lockdown to last so long?

I watched a lot of news in the beginning, feeling part of a national mission to "flatten the curve." When two weeks turned into two more and then another two, I set up a 6-foot puzzle table for the duration. What began as a self-medicating jigsaw journey soon

became my life's work. Whenever someone asked how I spent my day, I'd say, "Well, I have this puzzle..."

The first puzzle of Christmas stamps was a welcome distraction; before I knew it, another day was almost over. Part of the attraction of a puzzle is the sense of order and control it provides in solving it. There's the satisfying snap of the correctly placed piece, the gradual reshaping of a chaotic mound of pieces into the picture it was meant to be.

Then a friend loaned me a 1,500-piece puzzle of Van Gogh masterpieces. Van Gogh's bold colors and brush strokes make for beautiful art but an impossible puzzle. The sky looked like water, the fields like a beach of seashells, the faces were green. Was that an eye or a bird? So much blue on blue, distinguished only by the texture of the brush strokes. Van Gogh's chaos helped to shut out the larger chaos, and finishing

this puzzle two weeks later left me feeling accomplished.

My friend Suzanne received a gift in the mail in the early days of the lockdown: a 500-piece puzzle of the first Women's March. Suzanne has many talents and interests, but puzzles have never been one of them. She finally turned to it in desperation for something other than cleaning closets and Netflix. Hard to believe, but this was her very first puzzle ... in her lifetime! (She's 70.) I instructed her in the basics. When she finally sent a text with a photo, I assumed she'd finished, but it was a picture of the completed frame with a request for how to treat a sore neck. Later, Suzanne proudly showed off the frame to a family member who discovered quite a few misplaced pieces she had force-fit by pounding them into place.

So here we are nine weeks into the

lockdown, and still there's nothing but uncertainty in sight. Speaking as a representative of the most vulnerable segment of the demographic, I hope we find an antidote soon — your grandparents are running out of time. In the meantime, puzzles structure our days as we impose some order from chaos. Puzzles reinforce our appreciation for the scientists who rely on logic and patience to solve problems. Force-fitting a piece is a common mistake for a puzzle novice, but the doomed force-fit solutions of the Trump administration show their belief that being forceful is more important than being right.

In the back corner of my closet, I've got a puzzle that was once given to me as a joke. It's supposed to be a banana — nothing but yellow except for a red and white Dole label in one corner. Finishing it could occupy my time for weeks to come. I'd really rather not have to start it.

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#### Bella Roma Pizzeria

853 E Stanley Blvd., Livermore  
(925) 447-4992  
bellaromatogo.com  
Takeout & Delivery Available

#### Big Apple Pizza

184 South K St., Livermore  
925-606-1111  
livermorebigapplepizza.com  
Takeout & Curbside Available

#### Bruno's Italian Cuisine

2133 First St., Livermore  
925-371-3999  
brunositaliancuisine.com  
Takeout, Curbside & Delivery Available

#### Campo di Bocce

175 E. Vineyard Ave., Livermore  
925-249-9800  
campodibocce.com/livermore/  
Takeout & Curbside Available

#### Cake Delight

147 B North Livermore Ave., Livermore  
925-373-7786  
cakedelight.com  
Takeout, Curbside & Delivery Available

#### Canton Village Chinese Restaurant

1070 E. Stanley Blvd., Livermore  
925-373-3900  
cantonvillage.com  
Takeout & Delivery Available

#### Casa Orozco Mexican Restaurant

325 South L St., Livermore  
925-449-3045  
casarozco.com  
Takeout, Curbside & Delivery Available

#### Cattlemens

2882 Kitty Hawk Rd., Livermore  
925-447-1224  
cattlemens.com  
Takeout & Curbside Available

#### Checkers Catering & Special Events

83 Wright Brother Ave., Livermore  
925-457-5947  
Corporate Delivery Available

#### China Pavilion Restaurant

1460 N. Vasco Rd., Livermore  
925-606-6111  
https://www.doordash.com/store/chi-  
na-pavilion-livermore-53929/en-US  
Takeout & Delivery Available

#### Cuppa Cafe

53 Wright Brothers Ave., #A, Livermore  
925-447-6844  
Cuppa-cafe-cafe.business.site  
Takeout & Delivery Available

#### Demetri's Taverna

2235 First St., Livermore  
925-373-0306  
demitristavernalivermore.com  
Takeout & Delivery Available

#### Donut Wheel

2017 First St., Livermore  
925-447-8190  
Takeout Available

#### El Chaparrito Taqueria

939 Larkspur Dr., Livermore  
925-453-6080  
Elchaparritotaqueria.com  
Takeout & Delivery Available

#### El Charro Mexican Food & Cantina

186 Maple St., Livermore  
925-371-8297  
elcharrolivermore.com  
Takeout, Curbside & Delivery Available

#### Emil Villa's Hickory Pit

3064 Pacific Ave., Livermore  
925-449-1499  
emilvillaslivermore.com  
Takeout & Curbside Available

#### Espresso Rosetta

206 South J. St., Livermore  
925-800-5192  
espressoRosetta.com  
Curbside Available

#### First Street Alehouse

2106 First St., Livermore  
925-371-6588  
firststreetalehouse.com  
Takeout & Delivery Available

#### Fratello's Restaurant

2852 Kitty Hawk Rd., Livermore  
925-294-9771  
Takeout and Delivery Available

#### French Dips and More

2181 First St., Livermore  
925-447-0775  
Takeout Available

#### Garré Vineyard Restaurant

7986 Tesla Rd., Livermore  
925-371-8200  
garrewinery.com  
Takeout & Delivery Available

#### Jake's Cafe & Catering

51 Wright Brothers Ave., Livermore  
925-292-8088  
jakes-cafe.com  
Takeout Available

#### Lemongrass Thai Restaurant

2216 1st St., Livermore  
925-606-6496  
lemongrasslivermore.com  
Takeout Available

#### Lo's China Bistro

2059 First St., Livermore  
925-455-6878  
loschinabistrolivermore.com  
Takeout & Delivery Available

#### Los Caporales Taqueria

1316 Railroad Ave., Livermore  
925-455-8226  
Open Daily 10am to 8pm  
Takeout & Delivery Available

#### LV Fusion Eatery

174 South K St., Livermore  
925-292-4697  
lvfusioneatery.com  
Takeout Available

#### Melo's Pizza and Pasta

4433 First St., Livermore  
925-371-4499  
melospizzapasta.com  
Takeout & Dining Available

#### Monica's Livermore

2074 Second St., Livermore  
925-292-5568  
monicaslivermore.com  
Takeout and Delivery Available

#### Mountain Mike's Pizza

1472 N. Vasco Rd., Livermore  
925-455-8999  
mountainmikespizza.com  
Takeout & Delivery Available

#### Mountain Mike's Pizza

1304 First St., Livermore  
925-960-9555  
mountainmikespizza.com  
Takeout & Delivery Available

#### Mountain Mike's Pizza

1304 First St., Livermore  
925-960-9555  
mountainmikespizza.com  
Takeout & Delivery Available

#### Ofelia's Kitchen

850 Hillcrest Ave., Livermore  
925-449-5162  
ofeliaskitchen.com  
Takeout/Curbside Available

#### Panera Bread

4685 1st St., Livermore  
925-606-1456  
Panerabread.com  
Takeout & Delivery Available

#### Patxi's Pizza

2470 1st St., Livermore  
925-371-1000  
patxipizza.com  
Takeout & Delivery Available

#### Petra Middle Eastern Cuisine

4524 Las Positas Rd, Livermore  
925-371-0412  
petra-livermore.com  
Takeout & Delivery Available

#### Posada Restaurant

988 Murrieta Blvd., Livermore  
925-606-1004  
posadarestaurant.com  
Takeout & Curbside Available

#### Riata Diner & Tavern

190 South J. Street  
925-294-9170  
theriata.com  
Takeout & Curbside Available

#### Roya Afghan

2020 First St., Livermore  
925-447-0576  
Royaafghancuisine.com  
Takeout, Curbside & Delivery Available

#### Roppongi Sushi

2206 First St., Livermore  
925-245-9662  
roppongisushilivermore.com  
Takeout & Delivery Available

#### Sauced BBQ & Sprits

2300 First St.  
925-961-1300  
saucedbbqandsprits.com  
Takeout & Delivery Available

#### Shadow Puppet Brewing Company

4771 Arroyo Vista, Suite B., Livermore  
925-453-6498  
shadowpuppetbrewing.com  
Takeout Available

#### Simply Fondue

2300 First Street  
925-443-6638  
simplyfonduelivermore.com  
Drive thru Groceries Available

#### Star Anise

2470 First St. #108, Livermore  
925-454-9888  
Takeout Available

#### Strings Italian Café

2205 Las Positas Rd., Livermore  
925-373-1044  
stringslivermore.com  
Takeout Available

#### Strizzi's Restaurant

2205 First St., Livermore  
925-456-2200  
strizzis.com  
Takeout, Curbside & Delivery Available

#### Terra Mia Livermore

4040 East Ave., Livermore  
925-456-3333  
terramialivermore.com  
Takeout & Delivery Available

#### The Original Mel's Diner

1116 E. Stanley Blvd., Livermore  
925-371-6357  
originalmels.com  
Takeout & Delivery Available

#### Tin Thai Kitchen

235 S. Vasco Rd., Livermore  
925-960-1030  
tinthaica.com  
Takeout Available

#### Uncle Yu's At The Vineyard

39 S. Livermore Ave., Livermore  
925-449-7000  
uncleyusvineyard.com  
Takeout, Curbside & Delivery Available

#### Viet Noms Vietnamese Eatery

1100 E. Stanley Blvd., Livermore  
925-292-5539  
Takeout & Delivery Available  
vietmonseatery.com

#### Village Pet Shop

3008 Pacific Ave., Livermore  
(925)443-3015  
Mon-Sat, 12pm - 6pm  
Store or Curbside Pickup Available

#### Vitality Bowls

2175 First St., Livermore  
925-292-5697  
vitalitybowls.com/locations/livermore  
Takeout & Delivery Available

#### Yin Yin

2083 1st St., Livermore  
925-447-1240  
yinyinlivermore.com  
Takeout & Delivery Available

#### Zephyr Grill & Bar

1736 First St., Livermore  
925-961-1000  
zephyrgrill.com  
Takeout & Curbside Available

### PLEASANTON

#### Alberto's Cantina

435 Main St., Pleasanton  
925-462-2316  
albertoscantinapleasanton.com  
Takeout/Curbside Available

#### California Pizza Kitchen

1328 Stoneridge Mall Rd., Ste D122,  
Pleasanton  
925-251-9771  
www.cpk.com  
Curbside & Delivery Available

#### Chianti Reserve

436 Main St., Pleasanton  
925-484-3877  
chiantireserve.com  
Takeout & Some Delivery Available

#### China Lounge Restaurant & Bar

4220 Rosewood Dr., Pleasanton  
925-227-1312  
chinaloungeto.com  
Takeout Available

#### Cocina Mexico

55 W. Angela St., Pleasanton  
925-485-3010  
mycocinamexico.com  
Takeout Available

#### De La Torre's

6025 West Las Positas Blvd.,  
Pleasanton  
925-484-3878  
delatorres.net  
Takeout & Curbside Available

#### Dragon City

824 Main St., Pleasanton  
925-249-9448  
goldendragoncity.net  
Takeout & Delivery Available

#### Eddie Papa's American Hangout

4889 Hopyard Rd., Pleasnton  
925-469 6266  
eddiepapas.com  
Takeout & Delivery Available

#### El Molino

5321 Hopyard Rd., Pleasanton  
925-463-0428  
Takeout Available

#### Experience Burma Restaurant & Bar

221 Division Street, aka 600 Main St,  
Unit G, Pleasanton  
Phone: (925) 398-8219  
theexperienceburma.com

#### Gay Nineties Pizza Co.

288 Main St., Pleasanton  
925-846-2520  
gayninetiespizza.com  
Takeout Available

#### Hap's Original Steaks and Seafood

122 West Neal St., Pleasanton  
925-600-9200  
hapsoriginal.com  
Curbside Available

#### Inklings Coffee & Tea

530 Main St., Pleasanton  
925-399-6746  
Inklingscoffee.com  
Order Online/Walk In/Curbside

#### Jim's Country Style Restaurant

5400 Sunol Blvd. #1, Pleasanton  
925-426-7019  
Takeout & Delivery Available

#### Main Street Brewery

830 Main St., Pleasanton  
925-462-8218  
mainstbrewery.com  
Takeout Available

#### Mama's Pizza Take and Bake

1991 Santa Rita Rd. #E, Pleasanton  
925 417 751  
mamas-pizza-take-bake.business.site  
Curbside Pickup & Delivery Available

#### New Thai Bistro

4301 D Valley Ave., Pleasanton  
925-425-7333  
newthaibistro.com  
Takeout Available

#### Nonni's Bistro

425 Main St., Pleasanton  
925-600-0411  
Nonnibistro.net  
Takeout Available

#### P.F. Chang's Pleasanton

1330 Stoneridge Mall Rd.,  
Pleasanton  
925-224-9916  
pfchang.com  
Takeout & Delivery Available

#### Pasta's Trattoria

405 Main St., Pleasanton  
925-417-2222  
pastatrattoriapleasanton.com  
Takeout/Curbside Available

#### Prim Rosebakery

350 Main St., Pleasanton  
925-249-1261  
primrosebakery.com  
Takeout Available

#### Plucked Chicken & Beer

6762 Bernal Ave. #630,  
Pleasanton  
925-425-0795  
pluckedchickenandbeer.com  
Takeout & Delivery Available

#### Porky's Pizza Palace

2911 Hopyard Rd., Pleasanton  
925-417-1600  
porkypizzapalace.com  
Takeout & Delivery Available

# School Nurses Help to Keep Students Healthy

"My tummy hurts." When a child utters those words at school, the school nurse is there to offer care and comfort. When asthma attacks, the school nurse is there to alleviate breathing difficulties. When a student with Type 1 diabetes needs blood sugar monitoring or an insulin injection, the school nurse is there to ensure good health. And when a student is feeling depressed or anxious, the school nurse is there to provide mental health support.

Most Livermore families first meet school nurses when they register at the Kindergarten Fair, and they get to know the nurses over the years. Along with three health technicians – Kimberly Adams, Nola Rechten, and Denise Roberts – six school nurses coordinate their schedules to serve the students, staff, and families throughout the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District. They bring education, experience, and a love of children to their work, with the goal of keeping students healthy, safe and ready to learn.

Carolyn Reggiardo works at Altamont Creek Elementary, Jackson Ave Elementary, East Ave Middle, and Livermore High Schools. A registered nurse since 1990, Reggiardo provided acute care in a level 2 trauma center in San Jose, and was a labor and delivery nurse in San Jose and at ValleyCare in Pleasanton. For over 15 years, she has supported Livermore students from transitional kindergarten through the 12th grade.

"I love watching students grow and I am continually amazed by their resilience, maturity, and commitment to their education," said Reggiardo.

Depending on the day of the week, Julie Howard helps students at Christensen Middle, Junction Ave K-8,

Livermore High, or Arroyo Seco Elementary. School nursing has been her calling for 17 years, following 15 years as an RN with Children's Hospital and AXIS. Howard said she loves the daily camaraderie with staff as well as students and their families.

"I look forward to being back together in person at the earliest, safest opportunity," she said.

With schools closed because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the nurse's offices may be quiet, but that doesn't mean the district's team of health professionals hasn't

been busy. The nurses have continued to work closely with the superintendent and district leadership.

"I count on our nurses to provide public health expertise and advice as we navigate this pandemic," said Superintendent Kelly Bowers.

Nurses have been assisting with the procurement of Personal Protective Equipment and the distribution of school meals, and have been providing medical information and resources as the district maps out an eventual return to the classrooms. Just as teachers have been active online, nurses have continued to participate in virtual meetings, such as development of Individual Education Plans, Coordination of Services meetings, and parent liaison.

Jennifer Daily, who is assigned to Sunset Elementary and Granada High communities, said "I love working directly with students and miss that personal connection right now."

Daily has 22 years' experience in health care, earning a bachelor's degree in nursing at Brigham Young University and both a master's degree in nursing and her school nursing credential at California State University, Sacramento.

School nursing is a highly specialized area of nursing practice that requires advanced education and clinical preparation. A credentialed school nurse must have a bachelor's degree or higher, be licensed by the California Board of Registered Nursing, and complete an approved credential program consisting of 25 university credits and two years of clinical experience as a school nurse.

Cat Arthur, an RN and Certified Family Nurse Practitioner (C-FNP) uses her previous professional experience at Kaiser Permanente and Stanford ValleyCare to help meet the needs of the preschoolers at Croce Elementary and the communities of Marilyn Ave Elementary and Del Valle Continuation High.

"I wanted to work in my community assisting multicultural families, not only academically, but in a whole person approach as well," said Arthur when asked why she became a school nurse. "School nursing has allowed me to reach across Livermore utilizing my nursing skills, my bilingual education, and my love for students with special needs."

LVJUSD nurses work

with child welfare specialists and school administrators to ensure families have their basic physical needs met. Nurses usually know a student's family by name and know their housing, food, and medical care needs. They often know which students and families need mental health support, and routinely match families with community resources.

"It is so rewarding when you work with the family, student, school staff and other providers to put a plan in place to best support a student in the school setting," said Laura Curran, who works at Lawrence Elementary, Smith Elementary, Vineyard Alternative, and Mendenhall Middle Schools. For 17 years, Curran has loved the challenge and variety of serving as a school nurse. "No two days are alike, and I thrive on that," she said.

In addition to her previous hospital work as an urgent care and labor and delivery nurse, Curran has worked in an asthma clinic and was part of the team that launched the Student Health Center at Ohlone College.

For 11 years, students at Rancho Elementary, Joe Mitchell K-8, and Granada High have received the care and support of Shelley Casey.

"I'm inspired by helping students learn to cope with and grow from the health-related challenges that they face," Casey said. "To see them overcome obstacles and succeed is so rewarding."

An RN with 29 years of experience, Casey earned her bachelor's degree in nursing from San Diego State University and her School Nurse Credential from California State University, Fresno.

Although COVID-19 has interrupted the daily routines of school nurses, they continue to implement and oversee state-mandated programs such as vaccine compliance, vision and hearing, and oral health. They monitor and follow up on health conditions for current as well as incoming students. And they provide guidance so that teachers and para-educators know how to care for students in an educational setting.

"Our nurses and health technicians provide critical support so that our students can learn when school is in session, and especially now that we are distance learning," said Superintendent Bowers.

## Nonprofit Providing Meals to Families in Need

A new Pleasanton-based nonprofit, FreeMeals.org, is working with Bay Area restaurants to provide meals to local families in need.

FreeMeal.org was created by tech entrepreneur Reena Jadhav, who also operates HealCircle.org, described as an online health network.

The nonprofit has arranged for almost two dozen Bay Area restaurants, including six in Pleasanton and Dublin, to provide

meals for a family of four for \$25, including taxes and tips.

Families have a choice of a vegetarian or chicken dinner, with the cost covered by FreeMeals.org. After ordering online, families can either pick up their meals at the restaurant or ask to have them delivered, usually the same day.

"This is the time for humanity to rise above our individual needs to help those truly struggling,"

Jadhav said. "I believe no one should sleep hungry and started FreeMeal.org as a vehicle to deliver on that."

Local restaurants participating in the nonprofit effort are Brava Garden Eatery, Sultan's Kebab, De La Torres Trattoria, and the Oasis Wine Lounge in Pleasanton, and Beravino and Lazy Dog Restaurant & Bar in Dublin.

For more information, go to [www.FreeMeals.org](http://www.FreeMeals.org).

## BUSINESS

(Continued from first page)

ed that the hospital system has developed "strong new collaborations with Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) and Sandia National Laboratories working on coronavirus testing and treatment."

Stanford Health Care - ValleyCare was among the hospitals chosen by the National Institutes of Health to participate in clinical trials on Remdesivir, a broad-spectrum antiviral drug that has shown early promise in combating COVID-19. Stanford Health Care - ValleyCare also increased its overall capacity by 70% in response to the pandemic.

Rich Rankin, director of the Innovation and Partnership Office at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, said LLNL is now part of the Department of Energy's Virtual National Biotech Laboratory. LLNL is using its supercomputers to advance research into treatments and a potential vaccine for COVID-19 through a public-private consortium spearheaded by the White House, the DOE and IBM.

Jonas Moe, senior vice president at Ellie Mae, the Pleasanton-based software company that processes about 35% of all U.S. mortgage applications, said companies are rethinking the idea of work-from-home.

"Success with people working from home means that the tech sector is now thinking differently about

the need for corporate travel, major conferences and big events," Moe said. "In the future, if people can work from anywhere, it makes it even more attractive to live in a region with great schools, safety, and quality of life. Every company is rethinking what it takes to attract and retain key talent and this region will maintain strategic advantage by continuing to invest in our infrastructure, especially our schools."

Brandon Cardwell, executive director of iGATE, a Livermore nonprofit that partners with Tri-Valley businesses to encourage entrepreneurs, stressed that economy recovery needs to be broad based.

"We must work now to create upward mobility for everyone," Cardwell said. "Businesses and employees that are directly serving customers have been hugely impacted. While economic downturns are often when people take the time to create and build new companies, we need to be sure we have all it takes to support everyone equally in our Tri-Valley communities - entrepreneurs and employees alike."

Les Schmidt, founder of BRIIA, an "accelerator" program for new businesses, expressed the opinion that "for every start-up that stumbles in this crisis, I believe there will be another new company that emerges even stronger."

"The life blood of entre-

preneurs is solving problems," Schmidt added. "Our innovators have many problems to solve right now, including how to be most successful in this dynamic environment. BRIIA continues to be a big believer and investor in artificial intelligence, technology and innovation."

Greg Hitchan, co-founder and managing partner of Tri-Valley Ventures, the region's first venture capital fund, reported an increase in entrepreneurs moving to the Tri-Valley in the first quarter of 2020.

"In an environment like this, we see that people are largely going to invest with people whom they already have a relationship with," Hitchan said. "That means it is a great benefit to be integrally connected with our Tri-Valley innovation network."

Mark Triska, executive vice president of the real estate firm Colliers International, said he believes that bringing the public and private sectors together in innovative ways is creating long-term optimism in the real estate industry.

"Helping lenders who are working with businesses to keep them going, supporting key sectors like manufacturing and distribution operations that are doing well, and crafting regional approaches to economic development are all helpful strategies right now," Triska said.

## NORDSTROM

(Continued from first page)

this month.

In addition to the Stoneridge Shopping Center, Nordstrom is expected to close five other locations in California, including stores in Sacramento, Santa Barbara, Montclair, Escondido, and Riverside.

In a news release, Nord-

strom CEO Erik Nordstrom said the company has been "investing in our digital and physical capabilities to keep pace with rapidly changing customer expectations." He also acknowledged that the temporary pandemic-related shutdowns "is only accelerating the importance of these

capabilities."

The company is expected to focus more on internet orders, using its physical locations, including Nordstrom Rack stores, as fulfillment centers. Online commerce represented a third of Nordstrom's 2019 business.

## OBITUARIES



**Marie McDonald**  
Jan. 18, 1949 – May 8, 2020

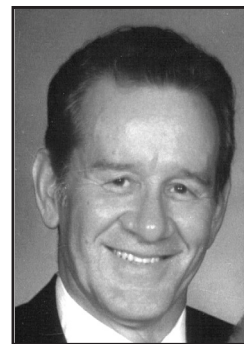
Marie "Nana" McDonald was born on Jan. 18, 1949, in Hayward, California, and passed away on May 8, 2020, at the age of 71. She was a resident of Livermore.

Marie brought love and laughter to all who knew her, and was the glue of her family.

She is survived by her brother,

Jack McDonald; daughter, Christine Chulata; son, Bob Chulata; grandchildren, Britany, Hayley, Brandon, Jake, Evan, and Joshua; and a great grandson, Ayden. She is now at peace with her "little man," her dog Bouncer. "Nana" will forever be in our hearts until we see her again one day in Heaven.

**Lennox "Barry" Green**  
Nov. 25, 1928 – May 3, 2020



Lennox "Barry" Green was born Nov. 25, 1928, in Brooklyn, New York, and passed away at home in Livermore, California, on May 3, 2020.

Barry's parents died in a tragic accident when he was just 4 months old, and he and an older brother and sister were raised by their German immigrant grandparents on a small farm near Bowling Green, Virginia. Barry joined the Army in 1945 and was deployed to Germany as a tank commander for two years. He then joined the Navy, serving four years aboard the aircraft carriers USS Franklin D. Roosevelt, USS Coral Sea and USS Midway.

After leaving the Navy, Barry moved to Albuquerque, New Mexico, in 1953 to work for the Sandia National Laboratory. Two years later, he transferred to Sandia National Laboratory in Livermore. Barry was a dedicated

electronic technician and worked on classified research until he retired on January 1, 1990, after 37 years of service.

Barry is survived by his wife of 44 years, Marianne, and his six children, Sharron Resides of Eugene, Oregon; Robin Green (Angie), of Medford, Oregon; Lorraine Green of Folsom, California; David Green (MaryJo), of Manteca, California; Lorne Green (Rainy), of Oroville, California; and Sheri Landgraf (Rick), of Alamo, California. He is also survived by 11 grandchildren and 17 great grandchildren.

Barry and Marianne loved traveling throughout the United States, and especially to Hawaii. They also visited British Columbia, Canada, and several European countries, including England, Austria, Switzerland, and Lichtenstein. Their favorite trip was to Germany, where Marianne was born, visiting members

of her family. They also took many cruises with friends to the Caribbean, Hawaii, Alaska and Mexico.

Barry had a sense of humor and was always playing jokes on his wife and friends. He also enjoyed cooking for his friends and family, especially his spaghetti and meatballs, red cabbage, and sauerbraten. Another joy was gardening, growing delicious tomatoes and cucumbers. He also loved to root for the San Francisco 49ers and his "Brooklyn" Dodgers. He will be remembered as a loving husband, father, grandfather, and great grandfather, as well as a patriot and a fine Southern gentleman.

In lieu of flowers, the family would appreciate donations to Life Springs Hospice Care, Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, or the American Kidney Fund. A celebration of life will be scheduled at a later date.

### Octavia Connolly

Longtime Resident of Pleasanton, Livermore



Octavia Braun Connolly, 86, a longtime resident of Pleasanton and Livermore, passed away on May 1, 2020, at her home in Livermore.

She was born in Richmond, Minnesota, in 1933, the only girl in a family with three older brothers. Growing up on a farm, Tave, as she was known, can be seen in pictures with a big smile on her face and holding one of the many cats that inhabited the barn.

After completing training to become a registered nurse, she moved to California in 1954 with a longtime friend from school. There she met and married Robert Connolly in 1957, giving birth to the first of their five children a year later.

In addition to being a wife and mother, Tave worked as a nurse while Robert attended the University of California, Davis, where he earned a degree in veterinary medicine. In 1967, Octavia, Robert and their family moved to Pleasanton.

Raising five children in Pleasanton, Tave was known and loved by a multitude of family, friends and acquaintances. She hosted many neighborhood Wiffle ball tournaments in her back yard, was an active member of her church community, first at Saint Augustine Catholic Church in Pleasanton, and later at St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church in Livermore, and was a stand-in mom to many of her children's friends. She was

always there for family with a smile, a hug or anything else that was needed.

Mrs. Connolly leaves behind a legacy of love, hope and kindness as evidenced in her children, grand-children and great-grand-children.

Octavia is survived by a brother, Jay Braun; four sons, John Connolly, Michael Connolly (Maggie), Brian Connolly (Carol), and Daniel Connolly Carmalt (Jean); and a daughter, Anne Scott (Mike). She is also survived by seven grandchildren, James Scheibli, Nicole Scheibli, Elizabeth Francesconi, Megan Sadou, Christopher Connolly, Max Carmalt, and Eleanor Carmalt; and two great grandchildren, Audrey and Lucas Francesconi.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Robert Connolly.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Saint Charles Borromeo Catholic Church in Livermore.

## Livermore Launches Merchant Application Process for Outdoor Dining

In anticipation that Alameda County will loosen restrictions in the coming weeks, Livermore City Council directed staff to work with Livermore merchants on ways to safely expand their operations into adjacent outdoor areas.

Merchants can apply for temporary use of outdoor areas to provide additional seating, retail space or

dedicated curbside pickup.

The city outlined goals for implementing a plan that is:

Flexible, to meet the varying needs of merchants in the downtown core and throughout the city;

Safe, such that it complies with state and county orders, accessibility and traffic safety requirements;

Adjustable, to adapt to changing circumstances;

Quick to implement, as the city recognizes merchants are eager to get back to offering their goods and services to the community.

Livermore merchants can fill out an application at [https://bit.ly/Indy\\_MerchantApp](https://bit.ly/Indy_MerchantApp).

For more information, contact the Planning Department at 925-960-4450 or [planning@cityoflivermore.net](mailto:planning@cityoflivermore.net).



The Robitaille brothers – Connor, 12, Ethan, 10, and Aidan, 7 – decided to thank first responders in their Pleasanton community by writing a giant thank-you note in chalk on their court. It ended up being so big, they needed their grandfather to take pictures with his drone. (Photo courtesy of Elizabeth Robitaille)

## Nonprofit Leaders Promote Advocacy Skills

By Dawnmarie Fehr

The Tri-Valley Nonprofit Alliance (TVNPA) recently held a virtual meeting to help local nonprofits learn the skill of advocacy.

Hosted by TVNPA president and founder Kathy Young, the meeting included former assemblymember Catharine Baker and advocate Jennifer Fearing. During the Zoom call, Baker and Fearing both discussed ways nonprofits large and small can represent their organizations and promote their causes. Young said support of nonprofits during the COVID-19 crisis is imperative.

"The nonprofits are such a critical part of the tapestry of our community, and they need to be able to speak out about their missions at the government level and the local levels and to donors, etc.," Young said. "A lot of nonprofits are intimidated by advocacy, so we have been trying to make it more accessible to our nonprofits."

Young opened the meeting by stating the importance of advocacy at a time when state and local budgets are being slashed and business is anything but usual.

"We need to learn to advocate for ourselves," said Young. "At this time, there are little to no volunteers, and programs are being cut. How do we keep going? We are going to explore how to develop deep relationships and broad networks with stakeholders."

Baker and Fearing both have experience in advocacy – Baker as a policy maker in the state assembly and Fearing as a cause advocate with Fearless Advocacy.

"Advocacy is exactly what nonprofits do and should do more of," Baker said emphatically. "Engage in your community, make sure people know you are there, and make an impact. Make sure your policy makers understand what you do, the impact you have and the contribution you make."

Baker spoke from her experience as an assemblymember when nonprofits came to her asking for support. She said it is important to develop relationships with key decision makers at the state, county and local levels, so when budgets are parceled out, your organization is on the list.

Fearing noted the state is facing a 25% budget shortfall this year and nonprofits

need to work harder than ever to make themselves and their impacts known.

"Imagine if those cut decisions get made without your input?" Fearing said. "We need compelling voices to address social problems."

Both women offered tangible steps nonprofit leaders and board members can take to build themselves an effective network. Getting to know legislators' staff members, going into meetings with a specific "ask," being able to articulate what your organization does and exactly how it impacts the community and respecting time limits on meetings were at the top of the list. They also encouraged nonprofit representatives not to pass up a face-to-face opportunity up, scheduled or not.

"If you run into them at an event, say hi, introduce yourself," Fearing suggested. "Get noticed when larger organizations are in front of you by building those relationships, being creative, planning and executing."

Young asked Fearing to touch on lobbying, as some organizations consider it unnecessary or off limits. Fearing said lobbying does have legal consequences, and nonprofits have a special set of regulations, but leaders should educate themselves and use the tools available to them.

"Avail yourself of readily available resources that will help you," she said. "Lobbying is a lot of walking and talking, and during COVID, it's a lot of talking, not so much the walking. Lobbying is like learning to play a game of 3D chess . . . nonprofits can't be scared to do that. Not only is it possible to be a principled and ethical lobbyist, it's a real possibility for nonprofits."

She finished by recommending any groups who were unsure how to lobby get advocacy education.

After the meeting, Young expressed her appreciation for the actionable steps given by Baker and Fearing.

"It's so important to pay attention to all the nonprofits," said Young. "One of my concerns right now is budgets are being cut tremendously, and a lot of our nonprofits are going to be struggling . . . many of their volunteers are in the vulnerable category, so they don't have volunteers and they have so much more need and services to provide . . ."

I really want to make sure people are caring for their nonprofits because they are such a critical part of our community."

For more information on TVNPA, visit <https://tvnpa.org/>.

## TRI-VALLEY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### Conscious Parenting Circle

Online Thursday, May 21, 6:30 – 8 p.m., Athena Rising will provide insight and active practices to become more aware of how you can be a better parent for you child and for yourself. This conscious parenting circle is about providing an inspiring space for parents to be supported and inspired to live and life you love. Hosted by Lia Venet, CHHC, Connector, Speaker, Women's Empowerment Leader, Life Change Catalyst & Transformation Initiator. Free to ALL to sign up log into the AROC and RSVP to the event <https://athenarising.mn.co/>.

### Guided Meditation for Relaxation & Boosting Immune System

Friday, May 22, at 8 p.m., Michelle Guelfand, Holistic Life Coaching, Lectures & Seminars with My Desired Outcome Academy wrote and recorded a meditation with love, to support our community in this time of uncertainty for men, women and children are welcome. Allow yourself some me-time to relax and stay strong from the inside out. For more information visit [www.myDesiredOutcome.com](http://www.myDesiredOutcome.com)

### Pleasanton Unified School District Film Festival

Annual film festival May 22. For the past five years, students K-12 have had a chance to share their voice and talents through film making. Due to the quarantine restrictions, this year's festival will be live-streamed. There will be two divisions of the festival on YouTube for you and your family to watch. The festival will play in two segments: The Matinee Premier at 1 p.m. (featuring students in Elementary and Middle School), and the Prime Time Premier at 7 p.m. (featuring Middle and High School). If you can't make the live stream you can still access after they air and watch whenever you would like. For more information visit <https://www.pusdfilmfestival.com/>

### TV30 Outstanding High School Athletic Awards

LTV30's Tenth Annual Outstanding High School Athletic Awards Program will air Friday, May 22, at 7 p.m. and again at 9 p.m. on TV30. Thirty-seven awards will be presented to high school students from Dublin, Livermore and Pleasanton to honor them for their outstanding athletic accomplishments. The sixth annual "Coach of the Year" award will also be presented. Viewers can watch the complete show broadcasting on Comcast Channel 30 or AT&T U-Verse via Chanel 99 and streaming live at tv30.org.

### Canabella Children's Chorus Sing Together but Apart – Spring 2020 Concert

"Dona Nobis Pacem," a virtual concert Saturday, May 23, at 4 p.m., on YouTube. Search "Canabella Children's Chorus Virtual Spring Concert 2020." "Dona Nobis Pacem" – Latin for "grant you peace" – was planned a year ago and has a powerful message for the times we find ourselves in. Now is your chance to hear Canabella children sing, concert is 45 minutes long and will be removed at 7pm. For more information visit [www.canabella.org](http://www.canabella.org).

### Live Event with Sister BK Shivani

"Sailing Through Turbulent Times" May 23, at 6 p.m. World-renowned spiritual speaker Sister Shivani has transformed

millions of lives through her inspiring life-changing talks. She has helped people overcome emotional stress, depression, addictions, low self-esteem and unhappy relationships. For more information and to register visit <https://svbrahmakumaris.org/bkshivani/>

### Granada High School Baseball Senior Night

Support your Granada High Varsity Players, Wednesday, May 27, at 6 p.m. Surprise drive-by parade as they hold their Senior Night in front of Granada High. Show your seniors who did not get to enjoy final baseball season, playoffs or an award ceremony how much you support them. Parade line will begin on Wall Street in front of Granada High. Please no exiting your car.

### Hope Hospice, Understanding Loss and Grief

Wednesday, May 27, 5 – 6 p.m., Leaders from Hope Hospice Supportive Staff will discuss how different kinds of loss can affect a person and how friends and loved ones can support one another during this time of uncertainty. Visit [www.HopeHospice.com/townhall](http://www.HopeHospice.com/townhall) for details and webinar logon information.

### City of Dublin Parks & Community Services Department

Summer Camps are for children ages 3 to 12 of essential workers who live and/or work in the City of Dublin. June 1 – 26, June 29, and July 27 – 31, camps are programmed with your child's health and safety in mind. Campers will be paced in small groups to enjoy fun and enriching activities. Space is limited, for more information and to register visit <https://dublin.ca.gov/250/Activity-Guide-Registration>

### Hope Hospice, Understanding the Care Needs of Aging Loved Ones

Wednesday, June 3, 5 – 6 p.m. Many families wait until there is a crisis to start discussing care needs, sharing of responsibilities, and finances, but you can save yourself a lot of stress by starting research early. You'll hear from the program manager of Hope's Family Caregiver Education Series and from Hope Hospice's lead medical social worker about considerations. Visit [www.HopeHospice.com/townhall](http://www.HopeHospice.com/townhall) for details and webinar logon information./

### Valley Dance Theatre's Celebrates 40th Anniversary Season

On Saturday Aug. 8, at 7 p.m., join Valley Dance Theatre in celebrating 40 years. Saint-Saëns' Carnival of the Animals offers a delightful menagerie, from playful hens and hilarious donkeys to a regal elephant and graceful swan. Masquerade and Less is More, inspired by Khachaturian's Gayane Ballet Suite with its famous Sabre Dance, use simple black and white costumes to highlight the precision and beauty of ballet technique. Live music will be provided by the Valley Dance Theatre Orchestra. For more information visit <https://www.valleydancetheatre.com/>.

### Starbright Entertainment presents Life in the Fast Lane

Sunday, Sept. 20, at 4 p.m. Tribute to one of the most successful bands of all times The Eagles. Brilliantly re-created the harmonic sounds of the legendary Eagles.

This production is truly the most authentic, spot on Eagles tribute yet. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. Contact [www.livermorearts.org](http://www.livermorearts.org) or 925-373-6800.

### ONGOING WEEKLY EVENTS

#### Christian Youth Theater Offers Online Program

CYT Tri-Valley has moved to online programming to a virtual format. Students receive unlimited access to both prerecorded Courses & Live Courses, geared for kids 4-18 ages. CYT online provides opportunities to learn about theater arts and build character, from the comfort of your own home. They encourage kids to take advantage of every class through June 6. Visit <https://www.cyttrivalley.org/>, call 925-421-1351 or email [trivalley@cyt.org](mailto:trivalley@cyt.org).

#### Dublin Farmers Market Open for the Season

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

#### Livermore Downtown Farmers Market Open for the Season

Open Sundays, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., at Carnegie Park, 2152 Second St.

#### Pleasanton Farmers Market Open for the Season

Open Saturdays, at Main Street and West Angela Street. Hours are 9 to 10 a.m. for seniors 60 and over, and 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. for the general public.

#### Livermore Arts Bankhead & Bothwell Hold Online Classes

Online art class for kids ages 5–10. All skill levels are welcome. Two online classes for just \$15 per week are taught by Visual Arts Manager Anne Giancola. Sessions run weekly through June 11. Sign up for one or more. Registered participants will receive a Zoom link each week via email for these monitored sessions. To sign up, visit <https://livermorearts.org/event/online-art-classes/>.

#### LARPd Announces Photo Contest

Submit your original photos to Livermore Area Recreation & Park District for its first summer photo contest. Entries may be submitted in one of three categories: Parks and Open Spaces, Built Environment and Community Life. All photographs must be taken in Livermore between May 1 and Aug. 31, and all participants must live or work in Livermore. Participants may submit up to three photos (one photo per category). It's free to enter and prizes will be awarded to the winner of each category. For contest rules, entry form and prize info visit <https://www.larpd.org/PhotoContest>. For more information, call 925-373-5746.

#### Livermore Valley Opera Airs Friday Episodes

Need a dose of opera while on lock-down? Check out LV Opera on YouTube. New releases every Friday at 7 p.m. Pacific Time. To subscribe, visit <https://www.livermorevalleyopera.com/>.

#### Six Feet Apart Productions Shares Art From a Distance

Sunday Night Stories is an online show with people telling true stories, poetry, comedy, music and who knows what else. An eclectic mix of entertainment to feel connected in times of social

distancing and self-isolation, live every week. Sundays, 7:30 p.m. Visit [facebook.com/pg/Six-Feet-Apart-Productions](https://facebook.com/pg/Six-Feet-Apart-Productions) eventbrite.com/e/sunday-night-stories.

### VIRTUAL ONLINE EVENTS -AVAILABLE ANYTIME

#### Bringing Back the Natives Garden Virtual Tour

Looking to break away from traditional "mow and blow" yards? For beautiful ideas on how to create a sustainable yard, visit [https://bit.ly/Indy\\_Native\\_Gardens](https://bit.ly/Indy_Native_Gardens). Or visit <https://www.bringingbackthenatives.net/>.

#### LARPd Features Stay & Play

Livermore Area Recreation & Park District virtual recreation program "Stay & Play" is loaded with opportunities for learning, exploration and fun while you shelter-at-home. This site will be updated weekly with new educational, activities to do at home, social media challenges and special events, check in often for new activities visit <https://www.larpd.org/Stay-n-Play>.

#### LARPd Now on YouTube

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

#### Livermore Shakespeare Festival Launches Video Series

Explore Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream" Video Series for second to fourth grade. New lessons added weekly. Visit <http://livermoreshakespeare.org/educates/>.

#### Pacific Chamber Orchestra Offers Musical Podcast

During this time of challenge, PCO continues to bring you beautiful music made insightful. Conductor Lawrence Kohl is pleased to announce the launch of a series of podcast of musician interview and talks about the music. Subscribe to listen at <https://www.pacificchamberorchestra.org/>

#### Music Together Tri-Valley Supports Early Childhood Development

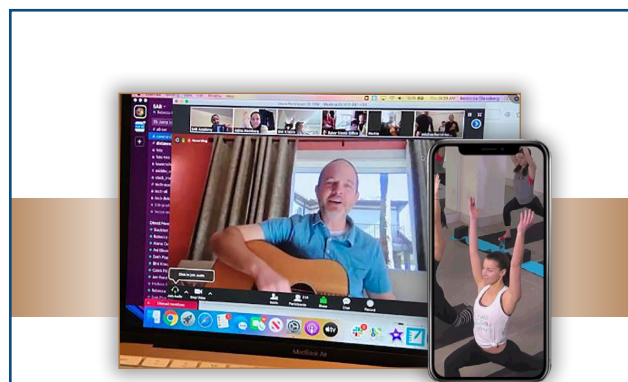
This international award-winning early childhood music program supports parents with songs and musical activities to enjoy with their children through play-based learning curriculum, designed to help everyone learn to sing in tune and keep a beat. For more information, visit <https://www.musictogether.com/>.

#### Online Yoga with Lakshmi Sajith

Find free online yoga live sessions or recorded on Lakshmi Sajith's blog. Specifically designed for those who are going through stress and anxiety, yoga practice creates a sense of well-being. For more information, email [lakshmi2sajith@gmail.com](mailto:lakshmi2sajith@gmail.com).

#### Sandra J Wing Healing Therapies Foundation Hosts Virtual Meditation

During these unprecedented times, SJWHTF continues to look to therapies for hope and healing. Ira Stein offers 30-minute meditation, entitled: Concentric Circles. Visit <https://www.healingtherapies-foundation.org/concentric-circles/>.



## ATTENTION LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS AND BUSINESS!

Let us know what activities, classes, entertainment and virtual events you are offering as we shelter in place.

Get the word out about your event by entering it online at [independentnews.com/calendar](http://independentnews.com/calendar) or emailing it to [calendar@independentnews.com](mailto:calendar@independentnews.com) for print.

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Social distancing was not a barrier to Dave Pitcher, Pleasanton North Rotary president-elect, as he presented a \$5,000 donation to Vicki Gordillo, president of the nonprofit Assistance League of Amador Valley, on May 20. Funds will support the league's Operation School Bell, which in 2019 sponsored shopping trips that enabled 325 disadvantaged children from Pleasanton, Livermore and Dublin to buy new school clothes. (Photo - Jim Brice)

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**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 569899**

The following person(s) doing business as: Shakespeare in the Vineyard, 2172 Railroad Avenue, Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Shakespeare's Associates, Inc. 2172 Railroad Avenue, 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: August 31, 2006. Signature of Registrant/s: Lisa A. Tromoriteh, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 15, 2020. Expires April 15, 2025. The Independent, Legal No. 4738. Published April 30, May 7, 14, 21, 2020.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 569898**

The following person(s) doing business as: Livermore Shakespeare Festival, 2172 Railroad Avenue, Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Shakespeare's Associates, Inc. 2172 Railroad Avenue, 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: August 31, 2006. Signature of Registrant/s: Lisa A. Tromoriteh, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 15, 2020. Expires April 15, 2025. The Independent, Legal No. 4739. Published April 30, May 7, 14, 21, 2020.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 569732**

The following person(s) doing business as: Interlude the Extension Salon and Barbershop, 2258 Third Street, Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Interlude The Salon LLC, 2258 Third Street, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s: Chrisanthi Sathines. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 8, 2020. Expires April 8, 2025. The Independent, Legal No. 4740. Published April 30, May 7, 14, 21, 2020.

The General Services Agency (GSA) of the County of Alameda is requesting information for the availability of hotel properties for sale meeting general requirements - RFI #05-FY-20 Hotels and Motels Properties for Sale. All information must be in writing and received via U.S. Mail or other courier service no later than 3:00 PM on August 31, 2020 at GSA-Real Property Department, 1401 Lakeside Drive, 6th Floor, Oakland, CA 94612-4305, or by email at [madeline.serafin@acgov.org](mailto:madeline.serafin@acgov.org). Facsimile information will not be accepted. County Contact: Madeline Serafin at (510) 208-9532. Specifications regarding the above may be obtained at the Alameda County GSA Current Contracting Opportunities Internet website at [www.acgov.org](http://www.acgov.org). 5/21/20, CNS-3366507# The Independent, Legal No. 4741. Published May 21, 2020.

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

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

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

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

**FERAL CAT FOUNDATION**

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

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# Anti-Asian Incidents on the Rise in Northern California

The Anti-Defamation League reported this month that reports of xenophobic and racist incidents targeting members of the Asian American and Pacific Islander communities are surging in Northern California cities and across the nation since the COVID-19 outbreak began, including reports of victims being threatened and harassed in the street.

The organization that tracks hate crimes said victims have been blamed for "bringing the virus" to the United States, told to "Go Back to China," and have been spat on, physically assaulted and called racial slurs.

"Statements by public officials referring to COVID-19 as the 'Chinese virus,' 'Kung Flu' or 'Wu Flu' may

be exacerbating the scapegoating and targeting of the AAPI community," the ADL reported May 4. "Meanwhile, extremists continue to spread antisemitic and xenophobic conspiracies about COVID-19, blaming Jews and China for creating, spreading and profiting off the virus."

The ADL created a list of about 100 incidents targeting Asians from media reports across the country. The incidents included Asians ordered to get off trains, shouted down with obscenities, and businesses hit with anti-Asian graffiti.

The list included these Northern California incidents:

April 22: In San Jose, five Asian-owned businesses were vandalized.

April 19: In San Francisco, an Asian American woman was harassed while walking her dogs. She was told to "Go back to whatever (expletive) country you came from" and that "nasty people should stay in (expletive) Asia."

March 24: In San Francisco, a man yelled at a Filipino-American man, using a derogatory term for Asians.

March 16: In Daly City, shoppers harassed an Asian man who coughed in a Target store.

March 9: In San Francisco, a woman told reporters that a man harassed her as she walked to a gym. He shouted obscenities about China and encouraged a passing bus to "run them over." He then spat at her.

Feb. 22: In San Francisco, an incident caught on camera showed people physically assaulting an elderly Asian man who was collecting recyclables near a housing project. One person said, "I hate Asians."

In response to the growing trend, San Francisco State University's Asian American Studies department, along with the Asian Pacific Planning and Policy Council (A3PCON) and Chinese for Affirmative Action (CAA), started a center to collect and track incidents of anti-Asian American and Pacific islander hate violence.

Victims can share stories at [www.a3pcon.org/stopaapihate](http://www.a3pcon.org/stopaapihate).

"First and foremost, we want community members

to know they are not alone," Cynthia Choi, co-executive director of CAA, said in a statement. "They can speak out and help stop the spread of bigotry. Secondly, the collected data will allow us to assess the extent and magnitude of these incidents and to develop strategic interventions."

Russell Jeung, chairman of San Francisco State's Asian American Studies department, said elected officials, including President Trump, who labeled COVID-19 as the "Chinese Virus," fueled xenophobia.

"In our research on news articles, we see that following inflammatory comments, there's an increase

of racist incidents against Asian Americans," Jeung said in a statement. "Clearly, with such political framing, Asians of different ethnicities are being racially profiled as a foreign threat."

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## Researchers Look at How to Rapidly Decontaminate, Reuse N95 Respirators

Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory is researching ways to rapidly decontaminate N95 respirator facemasks without compromising either their fit or their ability to filter airborne particles, so they can be reused during a pandemic.

As during the current COVID-19 pandemic, a shortage of personal protective equipment, including medical-grade surgical masks and respirators, can impede efforts to help infected patients and protect medical providers and first responders.

N95 respirators filter out 95% of airborne particles, as small as 0.3 micrometers, including viruses. Typically, N95 respirators are used only once in healthcare settings, before being disposed of, because they can become contaminated when treating infected patients.

Sal Baxamusa, who leads the LLNL team, said researchers are exploring ways

to deactivate the virus that causes COVID-19 using and inexpensive method readily available in hospitals, as well as field settings, to ensure the availability of N95 respirators during a crisis.

"In health-care settings, it is always preferable to use an N95 respirator just one time," Baxamusa said. "But in emergency situations, additional options may need to be considered."

Liquid disinfectants like bleach can damage the filter, while sterilization methods that rely on ultraviolet light may not penetrate deep enough to fully decontaminate the filter. Sending used masks offsite to be decontaminated may not be practical during a crisis.

Instead, the LLNL team is testing the use of heat to penetrate the outer cover of a respirator and deactivate the virus on internal parts, including the filter, without affecting the respirators effectiveness.

The first challenge was to determine whether the heat-treated respirators would still provide a secure fit, including metal nose clip, nose foam and neck straps. The team is now studying the effectiveness of viral deactivation.

Using a mouse hepatitis virus that is related to the virus that causes COVID-19, but does not cause disease in humans, researchers are investigating whether any live virus remains on the filter of an N95 respirator after heat treatment. The treatment does not completely decontaminate all pathogens, but the research team anticipates that it can deactivate viruses.

"We are thrilled to be part of this effort to explore options for field-based reuse of respirators," said Bob Maxwell, who leads LLNL's Materials Science Division. "This type of solution would make it possible to safely reuse respirators during a pandemic, or any other situation

where supplies are limited, and frontline health care workers need protection."

The multidisciplinary research team includes materials scientists, biologists and engineers. In addition to Baxamusa, the team includes Mihail Bora, Monica Borucki, Eric Duoss, Kyle Fuhrer, Razi Haque, Travis Massey, Samuel Paik and Maxim Shusteff.

## Rotarian Foundation of Livermore Announces 2020 Community Grants

On April 29, the Rotarian Foundation of Livermore (RFL) recognized its community grant recipients, awarding \$65,022 to fourteen community organizations at the Rotary Club of Livermore online meeting.

Founded in 1987, the RFL consists of members of The Rotary Club of Livermore (noon club) and the Rotary Club of Livermore Valley (morning club). As a public charity, RFL provides support to create opportunities for young people, promote community service and improve the quality of life for the benefit of all in the Livermore Valley.

From 1999 to 2019, RFL has awarded \$1.2 million in community grants. In 2020, in addition to the \$65,022 in grants to community organizations, RFL has given \$1,800 for Innovation in Education grants in a matching-funds partnership with the Livermore Valley Education Foundation. This brings the total from 1999 to 2020 to over \$1.3 million in donations to the community.

The following organizations were awarded funds from the RFL's annual grant-making program:

- American Association of University Women/ Livermore-Pleasanton: Tech Trek STEM Summer Camp Scholarships
- Arroyo Seco Elementary School: Math for All!
- Assistance League of Amador: Valley Operation School Bell - Clothing the Children
- Harmony and Healing: Harmony & Healing in Livermore, using music to help patients in hospitals and other care homes to heal
- Hope Hospice Inc.: Living with Dementia Patient Care and Family Support Program
- Livermore National Laboratory Foundation: "Girls Who Code BIG," Inspiring Future Scientists and Engineers with the Power of Supercomputing
- Livermore & Granada High School's Safe & Sober Grad Night: LHS and GHS - Safe & Sober Grad Night Class of 2020
- Livermore Valley Joint United School District: Children's Health Access
- Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center: Bothwell Arts Center - Audience Chairs
- Open Heart Kitchen: Children's Weekend Bag Lunch Program
- Partners for Change Tri-Valley: Weekly life skills training for clients in an effort to prevent homelessness
- Sunflower Hill: Accessible Planting Station
- Tri-Valley Conservancy: Youth in Nature Program - Connecting Kids to Nature and Science
- Valley Veterans Foundation: Valley Veterans Foundation Challenge Grants

Thanks to contributions, fundraisers, corporate sponsorships, bequests and professionally managed investments for long-term sustainability, the RFL will be able to continue support organizations serving the community.

Online Rotary Club meetings are part of how members stay connected in this time of the COVID-19 pandemic and the State of California emergency executive order directing people to stay home except for essential activities.

Donations to the RFL can be made online at: <http://www.rotarianfoundationlivermore.org> or mailed to: Rotarian Foundation of Livermore, P.O. Box 2181, Livermore, CA 94551-2181.

## Z-Cares Launches "What Makes Me Happy" Video Challenge to Address Mental Health

Z-Cares, a nonprofit foundation helping teens and families cope with severe anxiety, has launched a "What Makes Me Happy" challenge on social media for Mental Health Awareness Month during May, with the goal of receiving videos from every state.

The foundation is asking

to post videos on Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter with the tag #zcares and #whatmakesmehappy. A map on the foundation's website will track the videos.

Z-Care was formed by Bay Area residents Steve and Mannie Nimmo in 2019, after their son Zachary took his own life at 14

the previous fall.

The foundation offers resources for teens and families dealing with anxiety on its website, [zcares.org](http://zcares.org), including "Sit Down with Sam," one-on-one peer chat videos with Samantha Nimmo, Zachary's sister and a college student majoring in psychology.

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