

County Moves Ahead on Retail Of Cannabis in South Livermore

By Aly Brown

REGIONAL — At this week's Alameda County Transportation and Planning Commission meeting, the supervisors showed a preference for a cannabis retail operation in South Livermore rather than North Livermore.

During the Nov. 2 meeting, the Commission directed staff to proceed with bringing the draft ordinance amendments of the County Ordinance Code to the Planning Commission and subsequently to the full Board for consideration. The proposed amendments would allow the remaining unallocated cannabis retail permit to be made available in East County for a "boutique" operation.

Currently, the Alameda County Ordinance Code allows a maximum of five permits for cannabis retail in unincorporated Alameda County. The two allowed in East County were already issued through a Request for Proposal (RFP) process. Three (See CANNABIS, page 8)

Accusations and Denials Arise Over Bond Sale Plans For Delta Tunnel

By Ron McNicoll

REGIONAL — A declaration suit filed in Superior Court in Sacramento by attorneys for some of the leading environmental groups in America accuses the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) of trying to prevent anyone in California from filing a court action challenging the bonds after the bond sales are underway.

Referring to the DWR's court filing in August, the environmental groups' Oct. 29 suit says it amounts to the DWR writing a "blank check" to finance the project.

The controversy is connected to the financing of a single tunnel that would be built under the Delta for 35 miles. The tunnel would make it easier for the state to bypass sensitive times for spawning Delta fish so water can be pumped to water agencies without harming (See TUNNEL, page 8)

COVID Impact Stalls Zone 7 Fee Increase

By Ron McNicoll

REGIONAL — With a slowdown in construction during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Zone 7 Water Agency Board voted to block a scheduled increase in water connection fees in 2021.

At its Oct. 21 virtual meeting, the board decided unanimously that it won't be raising the water connection fee by 1.7%, as it had forecast last year. The agency sets a schedule for future raises, based on an analysis of projected water demand every three to five years. The board's vote adopted its Finance Committee recommendation to freeze the rates. Board Vice President Angela Ramirez-Holmes said she brought up the fee freeze at the committee meeting.

"I see our community struggling in terms of development and housing," Ramirez-Holmes said. "Also, our projects here at Zone 7 are down as well. In the past, our increases have (See ZONE 7, page 8)



Joshua Taburaza of Dublin cast his ballot at the Fallon Middle School polling place, on Nov. 3. The gymnasium was used for in-person voting and ballot drop off. (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)

David Haubert Positioned to Become Supervisor

Precinct reports showed David Haubert taking the lead for the District 1 supervisorial seat with 52.77% of the votes as of 11 p.m. Tuesday.

Haubert and opponent

other key issues that would address included the COVID-19 pandemic, affordable housing and smart growth, homelessness and traffic. He also strongly supported Measure X, which will fund

California State University, Northridge, and then an MBA from UCLA.

In a previous interview with The Independent, he noted that during his time as mayor, he balanced the city budget for eight consecutive

In a previous interview with The Independent, he noted that during his time as mayor, he balanced the city budget for eight consecutive years and built up reserves for the rainy-day fund — all without cuts to service.

Vinnie Bacon sparred in public debates on topics ranging from affordable housing and development to transportation and campaign funding.

As part of his campaign, Haubert — the outgoing Dublin mayor — developed an 18-Point Social Justice Plan focused on taking action to address social justice issues within the county. He outlined

fire services if passed in the election. As of 11 p.m. on election night, Measure X showed 51.87% "yes" votes.

Haubert serves on the Alameda County Transportation Commission, the Livermore-Amador Valley Transportation Authority, and the Alameda County Local Area Formation Commission (LAFCO). He earned an undergraduate degree in finance from

years and built up reserves for the rainy-day fund — all without cuts to service. He said he's proud to have brought more than 750 new jobs and 150 new businesses to the city, in addition to adding six new community parks, including an aquatics center, building two school sites in the Dublin Unified School District, and preserving over 1,750 acres of open space.

Hernandez, Woerner, Brown in Mayoral Seat Lead

Early reports on election night showed that Melissa Hernandez, Bob Woerner and Karla Brown had secured substantial victories over their opponents in the Tri-Valley's mayoral races.

Dublin
In the bid for mayor of Dublin, Councilmember Melissa Hernandez landed 52.47% of the votes. Current Vice Mayor Arun Goel followed with 37.94%. Regina Pangelinan was third with 9.35%.

Hernandez works on outgoing Alameda County Supervisor Scott Haggerty's staff in the area of health care and human services. She was endorsed by several other county supervisors, as well as Congressman Eric Swalwell, and the Alameda County Democratic Party. She has represented Dublin on various regional agen-

cies, including Valley Link, Wheels, East Bay Community Energy and county Stop Waste.

Livermore
Mony Nop and Woerner vied for the Livermore mayoral seat.

Woerner, the current vice mayor of the city, took 66.49% of the vote. Nop received 33.23%.

"Congratulations to Brittni Kiick and Bob Carling on their district elections to the city council," Woerner said. "I am looking forward to working with them and Trish Munro in the coming years to help our community. I am sincerely grateful to all those who contributed resources, time and endorsements to my own campaign for mayor. I deeply appreciate all the help and expertise of the campaign team volunteers who made

my success in this election possible. I especially want to acknowledge the support and encouragement of my wife, Nova Starling."

Pleasanton
In Pleasanton, the race for mayor ended with Councilmember Karla Brown leading at 47.73% and Councilmember Jerry Pentin netting 35.64% of the vote.

"I am very proud of the voters and residents that are ready for a change in Pleasanton's leadership," said Brown. "With well over 100 volunteers, my supporters formed a grassroots army working on my campaign by contributing to social media, walking their own neighborhoods to distribute door hangers, helping at Farmer's Market or installing yard signs. Together, we are a winning team with a goal of a better Pleasanton ahead."

Planners Showed Early Concerns for Solar Project

By David Chircop

REGIONAL — From the get-go, Alameda County planners were concerned that a proposal to build the county's largest solar power utility development in North Livermore included impermissible conflicts with the county's general plan. This is what can be learned from recently released emails.

County email correspondence and other documents obtained through a California Public Records Act request show that as recently as mid-August, county planners continued to voice concerns about the appropriateness of the 410-acre Aramis proposal, which if approved, would establish a controversial precedent.

"I absolutely disagree that this project — especially considering its size — is in conformance with the ECAP (East County Area Plan) policies or zoning ordinances, or

is compatible with ag in general," wrote Bruce Jensen, a senior planner, in an Aug. 13 email.

Jensen shared his assessment with County Planning Director Albert Lopez and other planners following his review of the Aramis Draft Environmental Impact Report that was being prepared for public release.

"Nothing in any document anticipates a land use of this magnitude across North Livermore or Mountain House, and in fact, must be read so loosely so as to ignore the spirit and intent of the policies," Jensen continued. "Their analysis does not pass the laugh test to me."

The Aramis developer, Intersect Power, contends its project squares with the General Plan and its only conflict with Measure D can be avoided through a feasible project alternative evaluated (See SOLAR, page 8)

2020 Election Results

(As of press time, Tuesday, 11 p.m.)

See updated results at www.independentnews.com

15th Congressional District:

Eric Swalwell: 73.93%
Alison Hayden: 26.07%

7th Senatorial District:

Steve Glazer: 68.79%
Julie Mobley: 31.21%

16th Assembly District:

Rebecca Bauer-Kahan: 68.98%
Joseph A. Rubay: 31.02%

1st Supervisorial District:

David Haubert: 52.67%
Vinnie Bacon: 47.07%

Alameda Superior Court Judge:

Elena Condes: 56.21%
Mark Fickes: 43.37%

Dublin Mayor:

Melissa Hernandez: 52.47%
Arun Goel: 37.94%
Regina Pangelinan: 9.35

Dublin Council:

Sherry Hu: 27.22%
Michael McCorriston: 17.16%
Dawn Plants: 13.05%
Sri Muppidi: 11.19%
Samir Qureshi: 10.64%
Kashef Qaadri: 7.24%
Shawn Costello: 5.16%
Razi Hasni: 4.71%
Lucrecia Deleon: 3.43%

Dublin Unified School District:

Gabi Blackman: 71.73%
Kristin Pelham: 62.07%
Dawn Nwamuo: 37.64%
Michael Utsumi: 28.11%

Livermore Mayor:

Bob Woerner: 66.49%
Mony Nop: 33.23%

Livermore Council:

Brittni Kiick: 61.62%
Peter Patterson: 38.17%

Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District:

Kristie Wang: 27.55%
Yanira Guzman: 21.56%
Kandiss Hewing: 17.17%
Charles Rogge: 16.82%
Asa Strout: 16.68%

Livermore Area Recreation & Park District:

Jan Palajac: 26.14%
James Boswell: 24.53%
Mike Ralph: 18.09%
Stacey Swanson: 17.55%
Richard Tarbell: 13.55%

Pleasanton Mayor:

Karla Brown: 47.73%
Jerry Pentin: 35.64%
Monith Ilavarasan: 9.33%
Druthi Ghanta: 4.91%
Tom Turpel: 2.16%

Pleasanton Council:

Valerie Arkin: 24%
Jack Balch: 22.15%
Nancy Allen: 20.68%
Randy Brown: 11.28%
Zarina Kizilglu: 8.51%
Chiman Lee: 7.31%
Jarod Buna: 5.92%

Pleasanton Unified School District:

Steve Maher: 30.17%
Mary Jo Carreon: 20.08%
Kelly Mokashi: 18.63%
Jamie Yee: 17.48%
Chong Wang: 13.45%

District 5 BART Board:

John McPartland: 37.79%
Steven Dunbar: 33.55%
Mike Wallace: 28.45%

Measure V:

70.37% Yes, 29.63% No

Measure W:

51.07% Yes, 48.93% No

Measure X:

68.3% Yes, 31.7% No



Pleasanton City Council candidate Jack Balch partnered with Salt Craft to thank his supporters with chocolate chip cookies and milk on Election Night. (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)

Clinton Advisor Tackles Equity Issues During Rae Dorough Speaker Series

By Jeff Garberson

REGIONAL — A former senior member of the Clinton White House last week gave her views on how to bring greater equity and opportunity to Americans of all backgrounds.

Maria Echaveste, deputy chief of staff for President Bill Clinton from 1998 through 2001, discussed the topics as part of the Rae Dorough Speaker Series. These talks are traditionally presented to live audiences in Livermore's Bankhead Theater but have been streamed over the internet during the

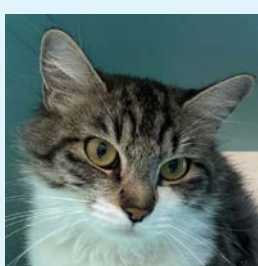
pandemic.

Today, Echaveste is president and CEO of the Opportunity Institute, a Berkeley-based organization that has been described as a "research-oriented nonprofit focusing on education policy and economic mobility."

For the discussion, she was interviewed by Don Johnston, a member of the Speaker Series board.

In her remarks, she expressed dismay over divisions that have separated Americans despite their clear interest in similar or even

(See EQUITY, page 8)



Calligraphy

PET OF THE WEEK

The swoop of her tail, the curve of her back and the arch of her ears will bring style and grace to your home. This artful two-year-old female cat is not only available for special occasions but any time you want a lap warmer! While Valley Humane Society remains closed during shelter-in-place, adoptions are coordinated by appointment. Contact info@valleyhumane.org for more information. (Photo - Valley Humane Society / K. Caughell)

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Christian Youth Theater (CYT) is a branch of a popular after-school theater arts training program for students ages 4 to 18. Since its founding in 1980, CYT has grown to be the largest youth theater program in the nation, with branches across the country training thousands of students a year. (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)

Theater Group to Hold Virtual Performances During COVID

By Dawnmarie Fehr

A local youth performing arts group has found a way for the show to go on in the Tri-Valley.

Christian Youth Theater (CYT) – an after-school theater arts training program for children ages 4 to 18 – is gearing up to stream two live shows this month. This is the group's first time streaming live shows, but everyone is excited for the new experience.

Actor Sean Flanagan, 15, said the whole group will work together to keep the energy level high.

"In acting for theater, a lot of the energy in a performance comes from the audience, and that helps feed the actors," Sean said. "Now that we won't have an audience, it will be a little bit different ... the actors who aren't in that specific scene will be our audience."

Sean joined CYT three years ago and said the group has helped him open up and become more confident. He is acting in both streamed shows, "All I Really Need to Know, I Learned in Kindergarten" and "Our Place."

"These two shows focus on personal connections and shared spaces," said Michelle Flanagan, a parent volunteer with CYT. "We are setting up the streaming capabilities; we are finding out about all this wonderful technology to get these great plays out and hopefully hit a lot of people from different states. We want to get them some good bang for their buck, and they can sit on their couch and be entertained."

Michelle is devoted to supporting the organization that has made her son bloom and appreciates the positive atmosphere the group creates.

Kristin Baer-Werder is serving as director of both shows. She said acting in front of a camera is not the only new thing the group will experience as they perform this month.

"These are our first straight plays that aren't musicals," Werder said. "We have not yet done a straight play, so it's a big change for the kids, but I have loved it, and our kids are really rising to the occasion."

With the need for a strong singing voice eliminated, Werder said many of the students who were relegated to supporting roles in previous shows could audition for lead roles. As the group members tackle rehearsals in open spaces, they are working on delving into their characters and growing as actors – a major shift Werder said is exciting to watch.

CYT was founded in 1980 to develop character and creativity in kids. The Tri-Valley chapter formed six years ago, putting on its first show in 2015. The yearly calendar consists of three 10-week sessions in the fall, winter and spring, each with classes and performances.

Michelle said CYT is a family affair, with siblings pitching in and parents volunteering to do everything from set and costume design to help with painting. Actors learn to apply their own makeup, and everyone has a hand in the backstage support work. Through it all, the kids have overcome the challenge of staging live

musicals and persevering in the face of a pandemic.

"We have overcome COVID," she said Michelle. "We started with online classes and activities; we did an online musical in the spring that was just for us; we did two in-person camps during the summer with social-distancing and masks; we did a huge talent-a-thon ... this group is amazing."

Tracy Whitney is the founding artistic director of CYT and still serves on the board of directors. She became involved because she values the group's mission. "CYT is about the entire family," said Whitney. "When kids audition for the shows, a family member has to sign up along with them to be on a productions team ... so they are owning a part of this production and working on it together. It's things like that that bring in a common goal within the family; that is just beautiful."

CYT's live shows will be streamed Nov. 20 to 22. For schedules, tickets, or more information, call 925-421-1351, visit cyttrivalley.org or email TriValley@cyt.org.

New Virtual Theater to Debut Eleanor Roosevelt Production

The pandemic-inspired New Deal Theater will debut its first virtual stage production, "Becoming Eleanor Roosevelt," at 8 p.m., on Thursday, Nov. 19.

Written by former Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory physicist William Lokke and directed by Misty Megia, the local production will be available online through Dec. 19.

It features Bay Area actors Loreigna Martin, Robyn Grahn and Anita Viramontes, who will each play the former First Lady at different stages of her life.

Grahn was most recently seen in Livermore Shakespeare's production of "The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged)" and Viramontes was featured in the Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre's production of "In the Heights" at the Bankhead Theater.

Martin, who plays the young Eleanor, is a graduate of the American Musical and Dramatic Academy's College of the Performing Arts and toured in an international production of "Dreamgirls."

Executive Producer Scott Kenison, who

headed the Tri-Valley-based production team, said he was especially inspired by Eleanor Roosevelt's work alongside her husband, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, during the Great Depression in the 1930s.

He said the New Deal Theater was an opportunity "to get artists working again during these unusual times which echo the challenges of that era. It was a chance to do something significant and impactful."

Lokke called Eleanor Roosevelt "a role model for today's woman."

"This, the real Eleanor Roosevelt, is the archetypal 21st century fully self-actualized woman," Lokke said, "equal to man in her ambition and challenges; industry, commitments and accomplishments."

Tickets are \$10 (\$15 for the debut, which includes a discussion with the three "Eleanors" after the show) and can be purchased at www.newdealtheater.org.

All proceeds will go to support the artists involved in the production and local venues that have been shuttered due to the pandemic, including the Bankhead Theater in Livermore.

Diversity Book-Sharing Site Opening

The Little Free Library will celebrate the opening of the first "Read in Color" book-sharing box in Livermore, at 1061 Bellflower St., from 1-3 p.m., on Saturday, Nov. 21.

The nonprofit book-sharing organization says its nationwide "Read in Color" initiative is intended to promote books for children that offer perspectives on racism and social justice, and that celebrate people of color and the LGBTQ community.

As part of the dedication, Livermore Mayor John Marchand will give readings at 1:15 and 1:45 p.m.

The dedication is open to the public and face masks are required.

Senior Program Seeks Additional Volunteers During Pandemic

By Ruth Roberts

For nearly 40 years, the Friendly Visitor Program has helped homebound seniors stay active and engaged.

Now, the decades old organization is looking for a little help of its own.

"We are very much in need of volunteers, especially now," said Pam Silliman, Friendly Visitor coordinator. "With the pandemic, everything immediately went to no-contact, and we have had to revamp the program to accommodate those changes."

Friendly Visitors operates under the umbrella of the far-reaching Senior Support Program of the Tri-Valley. It's an independent, nonprofit organization, serving those 60 and over throughout Dublin, Livermore, Pleasanton and Sunol. Funded in part by the Alameda Area on Aging, with additional support from the participating cities it serves, the premise of the Friendly Visitor Program is to reach out to cloistered seniors in need of a kind voice.

Friendly Visitors are asked to commit to visiting their clients for one hour a week, though many offer

additional time. Activities can include shopping and running errands with their clients, reading aloud or just simply visiting. But since the coronavirus shutdown in March, protocols for the program have changed dramatically, and for elderly individuals accustomed to the in-person meetings, it has been difficult.

"I have one volunteer that would take her senior to the movies every week, which was so lovely, but with the pandemic, that has all had to stop," said Silliman. "So now what we are looking for are volunteers willing to spend a couple of hours a week on the phone with clients, checking in and giving them whatever help and reassurance they can during these difficult times."

Cleo is a 102-year-old Tri-Valley resident who has been with the organization for 12 years. Spry and full of good humor and enthusiasm, Cleo said the changes in the program since COVID-19 have been challenging, yet she remains upbeat, positive and grateful for her Friendly Visitor.

"The biggest thing of all that the senior support

people have done is they have helped me feel independent in my own home," said Cleo. "To feel that independence is a wonderful, wonderful thing."

Although Cleo has not been off her property since the pandemic began, she does have daughters nearby who check on her, but having the additional support of the program chases away some of the depression and fear.

"My mind is ok, my hearing is good, and I'm very blessed," she said. "When the pandemic started, and I was asked if I needed food or anything, it felt awfully good to know someone was checking on you. They have added so much to my life."

Until pandemic protocols are lifted, Silliman said the program will continue with telephone check-ins, handwritten letters sent via the post office, as the majority of their clients are without internet or computers, and good, old-fashioned, neighborly support. With additional case workers on hand to spot clients who might be struggling with isolation or depression, Silliman believes the Friendly

Visitor program is meeting the needs of their over 100 clients; but additional help is always welcome.

"For our homebound seniors, the point is to get them socialization," said Silliman. "The majority do not drive anymore, and they don't have internet or computers so really, truly, the phone calls and cards and letters are their way of knowing what's going on and that someone out there cares. Seniors already struggle with a lot of depression and loneliness, and there is so much anxiety out there right now. Friendly Visitors is helping to bridge the gap for families who can't visit as much right now as they used to because of restrictions. The more help we get with that, the better."

For more information on the Friendly Visitor program or to become a volunteer, email psilliman@ssptv.org or info@ssptv.org or call 925-931-5388.

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Senior LLNL Manager Named VP of General Atomics

Anantha Krishnan, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory's (LLNL) associate director for engineering, was named senior vice president of the Energy Group at General Atomics, an international defense and technology company based in San Diego.

Krishnan was already leaving LLNL, having made plans to retire at the end of last month, when General Atomics named him to the senior position starting in November.

As LLNL associate director for engineering, Krishnan managed an organization of 2,200 employees, the largest in the laboratory. He was named associate director in 2014, after nine years leading a diverse range of laboratory efforts, such as counter terrorism, biosecurity, additive manufacturing, and nanotechnology. He also played an active role in diversity and education programs.

Krishnan worked as a program manager in the De-

fense Advanced Research Projects Agency before joining LLNL in 2005. He has a Ph.D. in mechanical engineering from MIT.

The General Atomics Energy Group is a leader in efforts to control nuclear fusion energy to generate electricity. It operates the largest U.S. magnetic fusion facility, the DIII-D facility in San Diego, while also supporting inertial fusion efforts at LLNL and elsewhere.



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Foothill High School Career Tech Education Department Chair Joshua Hill (left) and Amador High School Principal Joshua Butterfield (above) speak during groundbreaking events at their respective schools. (Photos - Doug Jorgensen)

Alameda County Middle, High Schools Given OK to Reopen

Middle schools and high schools in Alameda County that have completed a COVID-19 health and safety plan will be allowed to reopen for in-person instruction next week, according to the county Public Health Department.

Although COVID-19 continues to be a concern, the Public Health Department said Alameda had progressed to the "orange," or moderate-risk, tier of the state's color-coded Blueprint for a Safer Economy.

The department said "the sustained stability of local COVID-19 metrics in Alameda County and the surrounding Bay Area counties allows us to move to the next phase of school opening for in-person learning."

However, the department stressed that the "decision and timing of when to open rests with each school and school district, and schools are not required to open."

Elementary schools were allowed to reopen Oct. 13.



Pleasanton Unified School District Superintendent David Haglund; Board Vice President Jamie Yee; Board Members Valerie Arkin, Joan Laursen and Mark Miller; Amador Principal Joshua Butterfield; and Board President Steve Maher break ground for a new Amador Valley High School building. Both Amador and Foothill high schools celebrated new site developments in events held on Oct. 29. (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)

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Dublin Seeks Applicants for Commissions, Committees

The City of Dublin is seeking applicants to fill vacancies on the Heritage & Cultural Arts Commission, Human Services Commission, Parks & Community Services Commission, Planning Commission, and the Senior Center Advisory Committee.

Dublin residents interested in serving on one of

the boards must complete an application. Applications must be submitted to the City Clerk's Office at 100 Civic Plaza by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 13. Postmarks will not be considered. Applications may be submitted electronically or obtained by contacting the City Clerk's Office at 925-833-6650.

The Mayor recommends all appointments, subject to confirmation by the City Council. Appointments are four-year terms. It is anticipated that appointments will be made at a meeting of the City Council in January.

To learn more about each Commission or Committee and how to apply, visit

<https://dublin.ca.gov/1962/Commission-Board-Vacancies-Information>.

CAPE Inc. to Participate in Food Program

The Community Association for Preschool Education (CAPE Inc.) recently announced its participation in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP).

The CACFP is available at a separate charge for meals served. Free and reduced-price (F/RP) meals will be available at participating centers for children meeting the approved eligibility criteria (proper case numbers for households receiving CalFresh (formerly Food Stamps), California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids [CalWORKS], Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FD-PIR), or are enrolled and meet the low-income criteria of Head Start or Early Head Start). Children receiving these benefits are automatically eligible for free meals.

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or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at 800-877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-3027) found online at: http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call 866-632-9992.

Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

1. Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-

9410
2. Fax: 202-690-7442
3. Email: program.intake@usda.gov

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Jackson Center

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Fall/Winter Schedule

- NOV 12 Medicare: An Overview and Update
- DEC 10 Living With Dementia: Understanding Behavior as Communication
- JAN 14 Making Decisions About Caregiving
- FEB 11 Navigating the Healthcare Environment and Advocating for Your Loved One
- MAR 11 Living With Dementia: Managing Daily Care

Get class descriptions and register at HopeHospice.com/family

EDITORIAL Support Climate Research at LLNL

Our planet faces a grave challenge in the coming years as we deal with the consequences of rapid warming. How will we respond?

Ice sheets and glaciers are shrinking. Ocean rise is accelerating. Storms grow more intense. Drought dries out fields and forests, while heat waves and fires threaten human health directly.

There is no longer a serious question that these things are happening, but there is plenty of debate over details.

How fast are they happening and why? What factors make them more dangerous? What can we do to slow them down? What tipping points threaten to speed the process beyond our control?

These questions and many more deserve rigorous study. That's why we strongly urge the U.S. Department of Energy to strengthen its support for the climate program at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL).

Few places are better able to delve deeply into the complexities of climate change. The laboratory has been a leader in atmospheric research for decades, ever since it developed the world's first model of general atmospheric circulation more than half a century ago.

The move of a prominent laboratory climate scientist, Ben Santer, to Colorado reveals something of how this research is carried out in the age of the internet.

Santer is known for developing methods that identify the finger-

prints of human influence on climate change and analyzing data shared over the internet. Working from home in recent months, as most LLNL staff have had to do during the pandemic, meant dialing up LLNL's powerful computers. He will do that from a distance of 1,000 miles as readily as from his former home in San Ramon.

That will only be true if the Department of Energy continues its support for the laboratory's climate research efforts, however. Over the past two years, across the federal government, from the Department of Agriculture to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Trump Administration has taken steps to discourage climate scientists from reporting legitimate findings.

The administration has removed climate warnings from websites and appointed climate change deniers to positions of authority. Some established climate scientists have become discouraged, wondering whether their field of research has a future. For talented young people starting out, the question arises: Why move into climate research at all?

The politically motivated repression of science must stop for the sake of the nation and the world. The future health of our children and grandchildren, generations into the future, is at stake. The U.S. has long been an international leader in the effort to understand and limit climate change. And the world needs it to return to that role.

MAILBOX

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

Expansion Requires Amendment

Barry Balanda, Livermore

The Constitution of the United States describes the responsibilities of the federal government.

An amendment to the Constitution was required to enable the federal government to ban the manufacture and sale of alcoholic beverages.

The definition of socialism I recognize is the control of all resources, including labor, within the nation, its territories and its possessions by the federal government. Said resources to be administered for the benefit of the people.

Such a vast expansion of federal responsibilities requires a constitutional amendment. It is the only legal way to impose socialism upon us.

Any other avenue to socialism requires the overthrow and nullification of the U.S. Constitution.

Haubert for Supervisor

Scott Haggerty, Livermore

I have faithfully served Alameda County District 1 for the last 24 years.

Working together, we have accomplished so much. We have preserved open space, protected Alameda County's agriculture industry, improved transportation infrastructure, and cared for our most vulnerable residents through food banks, social services and emergency medical services.

As I retire, it is imperative that we elect the best possible replacement. I am proud to support Mayor David Haubert as the next county supervisor to represent District 1.

Mayor Haubert is the best candidate. He knows what it takes to lead. He has the respect and endorsement of the Alameda County Sheriff, firefighters, law enforcement officers and most of the mayors in Alameda County. David cares about and will work hard for all the people of District 1, not select areas or cities. His opponent lacks all of this.

Please join me in voting for David Haubert for Alameda County Supervisor.

Solar Energy Policy Forum - Multiple Perspectives

Ann Brown, Livermore

I greatly appreciate for the reporting that the Independent offers the community on issues including climate resilience, renewable energy, and land use.

Tri-Valley Citizens' Climate Education hosted a lively virtual forum, open to the public, on Oct. 28, that featured speakers with a variety of perspectives on solar energy development in the Tri-Valley. We would like to thank the speakers who shared their slides and information, and the participants, who contributed questions and comments. All are welcome to view a recording of the meeting through the link below.

We thank Dr. Larry Gosse, Alameda County Agriculture Advisory Committee; JP Ross, East Bay Community Energy; Marisa Mitchell, Aramis Renewable Energy; David Rounds, Friends of Livermore; Sue Springer, Save North Livermore Valley; and Dawn Argula, Livermore Valley Chamber of Commerce.

To view the meeting

recording, visit <https://bit.ly/3ebqYAt>. To join our mailing list and view future events, visit <https://bit.ly/3ebqYAt>.

Call Me Optimistic

Patricia Thorstad, Livermore

"I'll need a good Board of Directors and the feasibility to do the work, won't I?"

This is the question I eventually blurted out, when, walking past with take-out in downtown Livermore, I noticed MN/Compass Real Estate's office lights on and was able to ask an important question to me.

Mony and his clients, who were a young couple seemingly dealing with the end of escrow on their new home, were winding down the conversation and edging toward the door. I felt I could sneak in a few questions.

Our home will go to my eldest sister's eldest son, Tristan, and the liquid assets, when my husband and I die, if any amount of note remains, I felt, should be planned for. He enthusiastically congratulated me on thinking of starting a foundation and definitively acknowledged, beside a business plan, that that is what I needed to acquire.

I have been thinking about why I support Mony for mayor of Livermore, California, after this encounter; I knew he would be approachable, enthusiastic, and optimistic for me when I walked up to him, even as busy as he was.

Call me optimistic and the election may be over, and, I hope enthusiastically, that Livermore has elected Mony for mayor, because that's exactly what Livermore needs; an approachable and optimistic city council and a leader like Mony to guide them.

Solar Project in North Livermore

Jean King, Livermore

Climate change is a very important issue and more renewable energy is needed, but we must do it correctly and where it does the most good with the least damage.

Solar facility in North Livermore is not the place to do it.

Aramis is proposing a solar facility that will cover 350 acres of a 533-acre site in north Livermore. The draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) of the plan has many flaws and omissions and must be revised to address the problems with the Aramis proposal.

One problem is the protection during construction and operations of threatened, special concern and endangered species, including the western burrowing owl, western meadowlark, horned lark, California red-legged frog and San Joaquin kit fox.

Most of the area is prime agricultural land if irrigated which should not be lost for agriculture. Other areas are Resource and Water manage-

ment areas.

Most of the power produced will go outside the valley.

Mitigation of damage to the scenic corridor is not possible.

There are other problems also.

There needs to be a policy and a "least impacts / least conflicts" land study or mapping exercise before any siting of solar energy facilities takes place.

Make Your Thoughts Known

Johnna Thompson, Livermore

Imagine the one-square-mile campus of Lawrence Livermore Laboratory covered in solar panels from East Avenue to Patterson Pass Road and Vasco to Greenville.

Add in Sandia's campus as well, and you still won't have an area as large as that proposed to be covered by the two industrial-scale solar power plants that are proposed to be built on both sides of North Livermore Avenue, north of Interstate 580. In addition to the thousands of solar panels, there will be 10-story high transmission towers and scores of trailer-truck size lithium ion battery stations.

I consider myself an environmentalist and have been since before the first Earth Day in 1970. I'm a strong proponent of renewable energy, but I don't believe we should be covering agricultural land with solar panels. Ideally, we'd have panels on every house, business, warehouse, school, government building, and parking lot in the built-up environment, and any industrial-scale solar facilities would be sited on land that is more appropriate for such uses than the agricultural land of north Livermore.

Alameda County began a study nearly a decade ago to identify land that would be appropriate for solar facilities such as the ones proposed for north Livermore, but the study has not been completed. Contra Costa County and Santa Clara County have completed theirs. At the very least, Alameda County should not be considering approving large-scale solar facilities until it has identified the most appropriate places for them. Instead, there is a push to approve these two north Livermore projects before appropriate sites are even identified. That seems like very poor planning to me.

If you agree that north Livermore agricultural land is not appropriate for industrial-scale solar facilities, and that Alameda County needs to complete its solar siting study before approving any large-scale solar projects, please go to www.savenorthlivermore.com to find out how you can make your thoughts known to county decision-makers.

East Avenue Corridor

Jan Brovont, Livermore

There will be the second Zoom meeting regarding the East Avenue Corridor on Nov. 12, at 6:30.

Go to the site listed below. When you click on the RSVP, it shows options for more detail at the top. I find the possible solutions for East Avenue to be interesting and informative, especially the ROAD DIET. Please take a look and read this, if you are ever (on) East Avenue.

This is not an appropriate time to be running this survey, or even the city thinking of this, during Covid, when there are not as many cars as they normally would be. Makes the whole survey defective. Would be easier when they are working on the street, but gives inaccurate information.

I don't understand how the traffic flow will be as good as it is now, let alone better.

Taking away a car lane on each side of East Avenue will back up traffic at every stop light, stop sign, every time a pedestrian crosses the street, or homeowner turns left into their driveway. Especially, how will the fire trucks be able to get up and down the street.

Do we "really" have that many bicycles on East Avenue? Kids don't walk to and from school, they are picked up in a car. Moms with two or three small children couldn't all ride bikes. We must have a lot of people that either can't walk, or step up and down a curb, because the city has put in over 8,000 handicapped curbs, according to Mayor Marchand. I would (think) those people would use a car too. Please go to www.eastavecorridorstudy.com/event-details/community-workshop-2-2.

Solar in Livermore

Christopher O'Brien, Livermore

I appreciate the coverage the Independent has provided regarding industrial solar projects proposed for North Livermore.

I'm writing regarding Aly Brown's story about a public hearing on the projects.

In sum, Ms. Brown's story failed to mention that, by a wide margin, the number of public comments opposed to the Sunwalker project exceeded those in favor. This detail is important for the public to understand, particularly in the context of the project's effort to obtain a conditional use permit.

Regarding an Oct. 22 East County Board of Zoning Adjustments (BZA) review of the Sunwalker project, Ms. Brown's story notes, "The Board ... listen to public comment both in favor and against the project." During the meeting that saw over 500 participants the community... spoke out both in favor of and in opposition to these controversial projects."

What's missing from Ms. Brown's story is any mention that comments from the project's opponents - largely North Livermore residents - outnumbered those in favor of the project, by a margin of more than 50-1. The fact that there was far greater opposition to the project is a glaring omission from the story, considering that the BZA was reviewing whether the project should receive a conditional use permit.

The use permit process invites public comment to help determine whether a project meets the findings in Alameda County Code Section 17.54.130. Public comment is encouraged, in large part, because it is understood that those living and working near a project are in the best position to understand its impacts. The findings - which shockingly were not discussed during the hearing by county staff or the BZA - are:

The project A) is required by public need; B) will be properly related to other land uses and transportation service facilities in the vicinity; C) if permitted, will not materially adversely affect the health or safety of persons residing or working in the vicinity, or be detrimental to the public welfare or injurious to property or improvements in the neighborhood; and D) will not be contrary to the specific intent clauses or performance standards established for the district in which it is located.

County staff, the BZA and the Independent must give serious attention to the findings, and to the fact that the vast majority of those who have commented on the project, do not believe that the project meets the findings.

The Aramis Solar Project

David M. Rounds, Livermore

When I first heard about the Aramis solar project, I found it laughable that county leadership would believe that 320,000 solar panels in North Livermore was consistent with the language and the intent of Measure D.

More study only served to reinforce my incredulity around this development's compatibility with Measure D. Plus, there are many insufficiencies in the DEIR. Here is just one example from the Scenic Route mitigations proposed in the DEIR.

The DEIR says that scenic quality will degrade from high to moderately high and moderately high to moderate, depending on which view is being considered. This determination is inadequate.

Apparently, the assumption in the DEIR is that the hills can be seen over the top of the screening and the screening is visually attractive, so the impacts are not significant. The county's own description in the DEIR of Local Visual Character coun-

(See MAILBOX, page 5)

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Livermore Man Sentenced to Federal Prison for Threatening Students, Athletes

By Larry Altman

A Livermore man who told authorities he “sometimes gets angry about his sports teams” was sentenced last week in Columbus to a year and one day in federal prison for violently threatening the Ohio State University and its football team during a 2018 game against rival University of Michigan.

Daniel Lee Rippy, 29, a Michigan fan, sent a message over Facebook about a half hour into the Nov. 24, 2018, game, which triggered an immediate investigation and placed law enforcement officials at Ohio Stadium in Columbus on high alert, according to court documents filed in U.S. District Court.

“Your school is going to get shot the (expletive) up, and I’m seriously going to

hurt the students and all the players from the football team,” Rippy wrote, the documents said.

That afternoon, the Buckeyes scored a touchdown less than four minutes into the game to take an early 7-0 lead. About 100,000 people were in the stadium. As the game progressed and the score turned ugly for the Wolverines – who lost 62-39 – Rippy sent several other threats to injure or kill players, their family members and the head coach, authorities said.

Rippy’s whereabouts initially caused great concern for law enforcement officers, because he grew up in Michigan. As they investigated, they determined he was in Livermore and did not pose an immediate danger. However, they also found that Rippy had posted

similar threats against Gonzaga University’s men’s basketball team on the Spokane, Washington, college’s main Facebook page.

“Rippy’s tirade, which included comments such as, ‘Yeah and when I get my hands on the players from the basketball team there (sic) going to die one by one,’ ended with Rippy sending a message to the school apologizing for his actions, seeking forgiveness and acknowledging the stupidity of his actions,” the document said.

Rippy later admitted he was angry about the outcome of a basketball game between Gonzaga and Duke University. Gonzaga beat Duke, Rippy’s team.

FBI agents arrested Rippy in California in December 2019. He was released on bond but taken back into

custody after he failed to appear for a court hearing. U.S. Marshals took him to Columbus.

On Sept. 26, 2019, a federal grand jury in Columbus charged Rippy with one count of transmitting a threat in interstate commerce. Rippy pleaded guilty in July.

Rippy could have faced up to five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine, but Assistant U.S. Attorney Jessica Knight sought 15 months. In her sentencing memorandum to the judge, Knight wrote, “Rippy’s anger and frustration at the loss of his sports teams went beyond the usual shouting at the television as the clock ticks down the final seconds that many of us experience.”

“Rippy’s rage was transmitted thousands of miles – from California to Co-

lumbus, Ohio – where his threatening words caused panic for law enforcement,” prosecutors said.

In addition to imposing the 12-month sentence on Oct. 27, Chief Judge Algenon Marbley ordered Rippy to spend three years on supervised release.

According to the Knight’s memo, Rippy had a “good upbringing” in Michigan, but became dependent on marijuana. At 18, he began accumulating criminal convictions, including a domestic assault, providing false information to a police officer, and failing to obey a police officer’s lawful order.

Rippy moved to Livermore when he turned 27. He worked in fast-food, but was unable to maintain a residence, Knight’s document said.

Chris Hoffman, spe-

cial agent in charge of the FBI’s Cincinnati office, said threats like Rippy made are investigated by the Joint Terrorism Task Force and “result in significant consequences.”

In asking the judge for a strong sentence, Knight wrote that Rippy’s fate should serve as a deterrent to him and others.

“The sentence imposed must also serve to reign in the boldness of keyboard warriors who think that hiding behind a computer screen or cellular telephone gives them permission to send threatening and criminal communications,” she said.

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Quest Science Center to Host Four Women in Science and Technology

Quest Science Center, a nonprofit organization dedicated to connecting everyone to the value of science, is hosting a live-stream event for business leaders, educators, parents and students on Dec. 1, from 4 to 5:30 p.m.

The event, Paving the Way: A Virtual Conversation, will feature a former White House advisor, an innovator with 69 patents, an award-winning educator, and a STEM and drug-safety advocate, sharing stories and perspective to inspire the next generation of scientists and engineers. The conversation,

moderated by Quest Advisory Board member and former journalist Susan Houghton, will reveal the panelists’ paths to STEM careers and how they overcame obstacles. They will also provide insights to help attendees prepare young people to make a bigger impact when they enter the workforce, gain the skills they need for success, and help prevent stereotypes and other barriers from getting in the way.

“The Tri-Valley is home to more than 450 technology companies that need the next generation of scientists and

engineers to fill jobs of the future,” said Amy Aines, Quest Board member and co-author of Championing Science. “Quest is excited to have these accomplished, multi-generational STEM advocates share their stories and inspire students to stay interested in science and consider STEM careers. We hope families will enjoy this event together!”

Speakers include Patricia Falcone, the deputy laboratory director for science and technology at Lawrence Livermore National Labora-

tory (LLNL); Nan Ho, the dean of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics at Las Positas College (LPC); Camille Schrier, Miss America 2020 and the first to perform a science experiment on stage; and Jayshree Seth, a corporate scientist and innovator with 69 patents who leads Applied Technology Development projects for Industrial Adhesives and Tapes Division at 3M.

Tickets are free for students and \$15 for general admission. Proceeds sup-

port Quest Science Center community programs and outreach. To register, visit <https://bit.ly/34KSD8q>. For more information, visit quest-science.org

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East Bay Alliance Reaches Out to Support Manufacturers

The East Bay Economic Development Alliance is partnering with California Manufacturing Technology Consulting to provide support to manufacturers affected by COVID-19.

East Bay EDA said it will work with CMTC and members of the nonprofit company’s California Man-

ufacturing Network to help affected business navigate the challenges presented by the pandemic, including direct consulting, webinars, and virtual peer groups at no cost to the manufacturers.

“We recognize the critical importance of manufacturing companies in our region and are committed

to ensuring that they have access to resources that can help them sustain their current operations and be positioned for continued future success,” said Stephen Baiter, executive director of the East Bay EDA.

Baiter said the goal is to meet with manufacturers throughout the region

to identify and understand their specific needs, challenges, and opportunities, and provide them with assistance for recovery and growth.

The effort is being funded through the federal CARES Act.

MAILBOX

(Continued from page 4)

ters this assumption.

The grasslands sweeping up to the hills with occasional oak trees, cows and buildings is what make this a unique scenic route. The very act of putting solar panels covering the grasslands renders it impossible for the Aramis project to mitigate the significant impact to the scenic corridor. If putting up a screen of trees and shrubs to “hide” the panels is considered adequate mitigation, then Highway 880, back when the median and shoulders were covered with oleanders, must have been considered a scenic corridor too.

This draft EIR does not mitigate the visual impacts, because it is impossible to do so for this type of development on this unique landscape. And there are options in East Alameda County for solar development that do not involve covering scenic corridors and preserved agricultural land with solar panels.

The recent study conducted by an expert solar siting company for the Friends of Livermore identified significant areas of opportunity for both utility scale and distributed solar projects. Specifically, this study identified 16 parcels that could be grouped into three distinct areas totaling 756 acres with space for a potential of over 135MW of solar power. None of these parcels are on land that is protected and scenic like North Livermore. Additionally, five parcels of developed land totaling 233 acres were identified with the potential to produce over 38MW of distributed energy.

The county should be looking for solar energy solutions on already developed or marginal land, not in the North Livermore Valley.

How Desperate is Haubert?

Carol Silva, Livermore

As I write this letter, the deadline for the election will soon end, so I don’t know who will be elected to District 1 of the Alameda County Board of Supervi-

sors. I voted for Vinnie Bacon.

David Haubert has stated lies and misrepresentations of his opponent, Vinnie Bacon. On Vinnie Bacon’s website, there is a tab titled “Correcting the Record,” which corrects Haubert’s lies.

I have noticed that political signs supporting Vinnie Bacon have disappeared. This past weekend (Oct. 31 - Nov. 1), I noticed that some of the signs that I had placed for Vinnie Bacon have been moved and have been obscured to traffic by Haubert’s signs now being placed on both sides of Vinnie Bacon’s signs.

I assume that Haubert

directed his paid contractors or volunteers to do this. It is incredible how low Haubert will stoop to lie about Vinnie’s record and have Vinnie Bacon’s signs removed, moved, and obscured. Haubert is a desperate man who I pray will not be elected as a supervisor in Alameda County.

I feel the same way about our corrupt president, as he wants to be known as “the law and order president,” and pray that he will not be re-elected president. It’s ironic that the politicians doing the mudslinging are usually the individuals doing those unethical actions that they claim that their opponent is doing.

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Campaign of Caring

Missing Man Ministry provides assistance to families following the loss of a husband or father, connecting survivors to its network of care & services.

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didoyle@missingmanministry.org 925.399.5473

November 1st - December 12th







Proud fur-parents show off their four-legged companions at the East Bay SPCA, Dublin, Meow and Howl-O-Ween Drive Thru, on Oct. 31. The event was complete with candy for the kids and treats for the pets. At top, Cierra Wedd shows off pup Sydney, seen sporting a hot dog costume. Volunteers Lauren Chen and Nika Peratee hand out goodies (bottom left), while a fun-loving kitty goes for a cruise. (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)

Safeway Agrees to Pay \$140,000 Fine for Price Violations

Pleasanton-based Safeway has agreed to pay more than \$140,000 to settle a complaint that it violated Gov. Newsom's executive order against charging "unconscionably excessive" prices during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The complaint was brought by the Alameda County and Contra Costa County district attorney offices, which will each receive \$38,000 for future consumer-protection efforts, along with another \$2,500 each to recover the cost of the Safeway investigation.

The remaining \$61,000 will be paid into a trust fund managed by the state for consumer protection investigations.

Safeway, which operates more than 500 grocery stores in California, did not admit any wrongdoing in the settlement.

The executive order, issued on April 3, prohibited retailers from marking up the price of any products introduced after Feb. 4 by more than 50%.

The complaint focused on two products that Safeway introduced at the start of the pandemic when some products became hard to find -- Raff Distillerie Hand Sanitizer and Ocean Fresh Pump Gel Hand Sanitizer.

According to the complaint, Safeway paid \$3.68 per unit for Raff Distillerie, which it then sold for \$5.99, or 47 cents more than the

allowable mark-up. The store paid \$5.99 per unit for Ocean Fresh, which it then sold for \$9.99, or \$1.01 more than allowed. Safeway sold more than 22,000 bottles of Raff Distillerie and 65,000 bottles of Ocean Fresh at those prices.

Contra Costa District Attorney Diana Becton, whose office received the original consumer complaint, said the joint investigation with Alameda County did not find any other pricing violations at Safeway. She added that Safeway immediately lowered the cost of the hand sanitizers when the issue was brought to the company's attention.

However, she noted that Safeway was selling the san-

itizers at inflated prices at the same time public health officials were urging people to use them to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

"The violations at issue here are serious by their very nature," Becton said. "Little can be more serious than a violation of a governor's emergency order during a state of emergency. The ongoing pandemic has affected the lives and personal hygiene practices of millions of people in California."

As part of the settlement, Safeway also agreed to implement a process within 30 days to ensure that all price increases in its California stores comply with government mandates during a state of emergency.

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18th Annual Independent Watchdog Committee Report to the Public FY2018-19

Measure B and Measure BB Sales Tax Activities

In November 2000, Alameda County voters approved Measure B, which extended the County's 1986 half-cent transportation sales tax to 2022 and set forth a 20-year Expenditure Plan to enhance the County's transportation system. 2000 Measure B also established a Citizens Watchdog Committee (CWC) to review all Measure B expenditures for compliance with the Expenditure Plan.

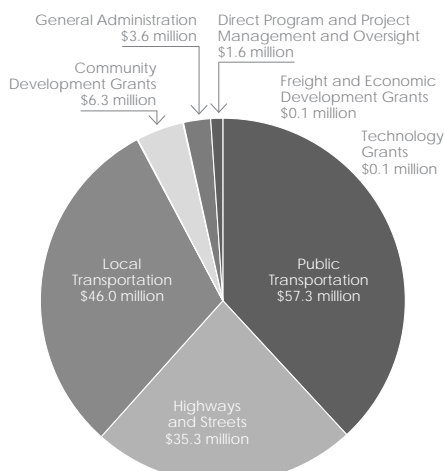
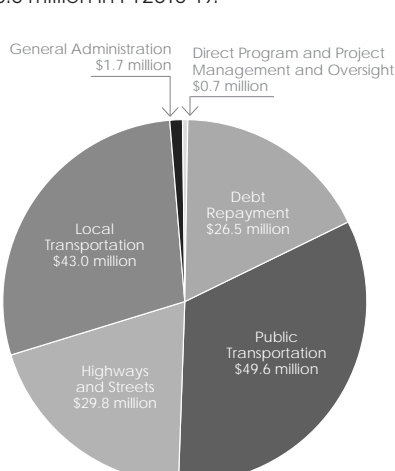
The IWC concludes that 2000 Measure B and 2014 Measure BB tax dollars were spent in accordance with the intent of the two measures during FY2018-19, **except as noted on the last page of the full report.** However, opportunities for improvement remain.

In November 2014, Alameda County voters approved Measure BB, which increased the County's half-cent transportation sales tax to one full cent, extended the tax through 2045 and set forth a 30-year Expenditure Plan for essential transportation improvements in every city throughout the County.

The 2014 Measure BB established an Independent Watchdog Committee (IWC) that reports its findings annually to the public to ensure appropriate use of sales tax funds and provides oversight by reviewing Measure B expenditures and Measure BB expenditures and performance measures. The IWC replaced and assumed responsibility for CWC activities in July 2015. The IWC does not opine on other funds the Alameda CTC manages and/or programs. This 18th annual report reviews expenditures and IWC activities during the fiscal year ended June 30, 2019 (FY2018-19). The full report is available at www.AlamedaCTC.org/IWC2020Report.

Summary of Revenues and Expenditures

The Alameda County Transportation Commission (Alameda CTC) is responsible for administering the Measure B and Measure BB transportation sales tax measures. In FY2018-19, Measure B revenues for Alameda CTC totaled \$167.2 million, and audited expenditures totaled \$151.3 million. Measure BB revenues totaled \$166.8 million, and audited expenditures totaled \$150.3 million in FY2018-19.



Measure B and Measure BB Funded Programs

Alameda CTC allocates approximately 60 percent of Measure B and 65 percent of Measure BB funds on a monthly basis to programs by formula and through competitive grants to Alameda County, cities and transit agencies for allowable transportation needs.

In FY2018-19, Alameda CTC expended \$90.9 million in Measure B funds and \$94.5 million in Measure BB funds on programs, including local streets and roads, mass transit, special transportation for seniors and people with disabilities, bicycle and pedestrian safety and other investments, and freight and economic, community, and technology development.

Measure B and Measure BB Funded Projects

Alameda CTC allocates approximately 40 percent of Measure B and 35 percent of Measure BB funds to capital projects. In FY2018-19, Alameda CTC expended \$31.6 million of 2000 Measure B funds and \$51.3 million of 2014 Measure BB funds on capital projects for transportation infrastructure improvements, such as BART rail extensions, highway and transit improvements, local street and road enhancements, intermodal projects and other local projects.

Independent Watchdog Committee Activities

IWC members performed the following activities from July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019.

- Ongoing Programs and Capital Projects Monitoring:** The IWC monitors specific programs, capital projects and issues of concern.
- Independent Audit of Alameda CTC:** The IWC reviews the independent auditor's plan for the audit before it begins and reviews the draft audited Comprehensive Annual Financial Report regarding Measure B and Measure BB revenues and expenditures.
- Audit and Compliance Report Review:** The IWC members review audited financial statements and compliance reports, including performance measures, received from Measure B and Measure BB direct local distribution (DLD) recipients to ensure expenditures comply with the requirements in the applicable Expenditure Plan.
- Issues Identification Process:** IWC members may request and receive information if they have concerns regarding Measure B and Measure BB expenditures. In FY2018-19, the topics of Measure BB implementing guidelines and Measure B and Measure BB annual revenues and expenditures were addressed using this process.
- Annual Report to the Public:** Each year, the IWC establishes a subcommittee to

How to Get Involved

Independent Watchdog Committee meetings are open to the public. If you are interested in vacancies on Alameda CTC's advisory committees, contact Alameda CTC. Visit www.AlamedaCTC.org or contact the IWC at IndependentWatchdog@AlamedaCTC.org to learn more.



Maodan Tohori of Tri-Valley for Black Lives addresses the public after members of the organization placed their second round of signs at the Tri-Valley Sign Garden at Pleasanton's Firehouse Arts Center on Nov. 1. At right, Dublin School Board candidate, Dr. Dawn Nwamuo, places a sign. (Photos - Doug Jorgensen)

Women's Hall of Fame Inducts 13 Members in Co-Sponsored Event

The Alameda County Women's Hall of Fame welcomed 13 new members this year in an online celebration on Oct. 30 that included video biographies and a message from County Administrator Susan S. Muranishi.

Inducted into the Hall of Fame, co-sponsored by the Alameda County Board of Supervisors and the county Commission on the Status of Women, were:

- Business and Professions** – Reign Free
- Justice** – Sonya L. Smallets
- Community Service** – Candi Thornton-McCreary
- Non-Traditional Careers** – Jean Bjork
- Culture & Arts** – Judith Smith
- Philanthropy** – Nicole Kyauk
- Education** – Susan A. Cota
- Science, Technology, Engineering** – Rashim Mogha
- Emerging Leader** – Nazineen Kandahar
- Sports & Athletics** – Teri McKeever
- Environment** – Fatemeh Shirazi
- Youth** – Valeria Cruz
- Health** – Cynthia Carey-Grant

The Women's Hall of Fame program raises funds to aid women and families in Alameda County and encourages education through the Mary V. King "Leading the Way" Youth Scholarship Fu

Rotarian Foundation Now Accepting Charitable Grant Applications for Student Scholarships

A weekend bag lunch program for hungry children, scholarships for girls for Tech Camp, an accessible planting station for special needs individuals, and a music healing program for hospital patients are just four of the 14 community grants distributed by the Rotarian Foundation of Livermore last year.

Applications are now being accepted for the new fiscal year.

Three decades ago, the two Rotary Clubs of Livermore formed the Rotarian Foundation for the purpose of making substantial charitable gifts to deserving projects within Livermore's sphere of influence. Since its establishment as a tax-exempt qualified charitable fund, the foundation has grown in value to over \$1.8 million. Its investment and donations program will allow the foundation to support major projects in Livermore for many more years.

The total amount anticipated to be available for grant awards this year is \$60,000; the "sweet spot" for each grant is in the \$3,000 to \$5,000 range.

The mission of the Rotarian Foundation of Livermore is to create opportunities for young people, promote community service, foster original ideas for new outreach,

and improve the quality of life for the Livermore Valley community.

Grant applications will be evaluated using the following criteria:

- Benefit the youth of Livermore
- Promote community service in Livermore
- Meet an important specific need efficiently
- Provide an enduring and extensive community benefit
- Leverage of the foundation grant through matching support or volunteer efforts
- Recognize the foundation's charitable efforts
- Respect the race, creed, and ethnicity of all beneficiaries.

A task force of Rotarians meets to read the applications and determine the winners. Last year, the grants given totaled \$65,022.

Applications must be received no later than Dec. 7, 2020. If necessary, interviews for award finalists will be held in February 2021, with the awards being announced and funded in April 2021. The application and supplemental information are available at www.rotarianfoundationlivermore.org.

Annual Turkey Drop Benefitting Tri-Valley Haven Set for Nov. 22

The fifth Annual Mony Nop Turkey Drop to benefit Tri-Valley Haven will be held Sunday, Nov. 22, in front of the Livermore City Hall.

Tri-Valley Haven, in partnership with Mony Nop Real Estate, is expected to provide turkeys and other food for the Thanksgiving holiday to more than 1,500 needy individuals and families

this year.

Nop, a Livermore Realtor, was born in Cambodia and grew up in refugee camps in Thailand and the Philippines. He created the Turkey Drop five years ago because "I know how it feels to go to bed hungry."

"This event is a fun and simple way for members of our community to give back to those that are less fortunate during the

holidays," Nop said. "We hope that no one will go to bed hungry during the holidays."

Frozen turkeys, along with gift cards and cash donations for Tri-Valley Haven, can be dropped off at city hall, 1052 S. Livermore Ave., between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Tri-Valley Haven is a nonprofit organization that focuses on providing services for

the victims of domestic abuse, sexual abuse and homelessness.

The Mony Nop real estate team will also donate \$5 to Tri-Valley Haven for every turkey dropped off by the community.

To learn more about the turkey drop, or to donate to Tri-Valley Haven, go to www.trivalleyhaven.org or email Christine@trivalleyhaven.org.

Author to Discuss Writing Historical Fiction

Author Gina Mulligan will discuss "Writing Historical Fiction for a Modern Reader" during a Zoom meeting of the Tri-Valley Writers Club at 2 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 21.

Mulligan, the author of "Remember the Ladies" and "From Across the Room," stresses that writing historical fiction is not the same as writing history and will

explain how to incorporate historical facts without sounding like a textbook. Writers will also learn how to tackle creating period characters, language and dialogue.

In addition to her two historical novels, Mulligan is the author of a nonfiction collection of letters called "Dear Friend, Letters of Encouragement, Humor,

and Love for Women with Breast Cancer."

The session is open to the public. Cost is \$5 for members of the California Writers Club, \$7 for non-members, and \$3 for students 14-22. To register, email president@trivalleywriters.org by Thursday, Nov. 19. To pay, go to www.trivalleywriters.org.

Quarry Lane Receives MIT InvenTeam Grant

A student-faculty team at the Quarry Lane School has received a grant from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology to create a device that allows coaches and referees to communicate more effectively with hearing-impaired high-school athletes during basketball games.

Quarry Lane, a private school in Dublin, was one of 13 high schools nationwide to receive Lemelson-MIT InvenTeam grants designed to spur creation of technological solutions to real-life challenges.

Instructors Richard Ong, Ainsley Laing, and Bora Shin formed an InvenTeam at Quarry Lane last spring and worked with nine students over the summer to prepare a proposal. As student-athletes themselves, the team found a common interest in helping hearing-impaired athletes compete.

Collaborating with local organizations, including the California School of the Deaf and Camp Pacifica, the Quarry Lane InvenTeam is working on a device to deliver touch or visual cues

to athletes when triggered by a coach or referee during a game.

Over the next several months, the team will build a working prototype to be showcased at a technical review in February, and again as a final prototype at EurekaFest 2021.

Jerome H. Lemelson, a prolific inventor himself, founded the Lemelson-MIT Program in 1994 to inspire young inventors.

"The InvenTeams program represents the future," said Leigh Estabrooks, invention education officer for the program. "We place an emphasis on STEM-focused projects to develop interest in these fields among youth. With InvenTeams, our primary goal is to foster high school students' passion for invention, in turn inspiring them to consider careers in science, technology, engineering or math."

The 13 high school InvenTeams this year received grants up to \$10,000 each. Other projects include a device for people using wheelchairs to better retrieve out-of-reach items, a

system to sanitize the boots of firefighters, a machine to record police-civilian interaction in personal automobiles, and a mechanism to detect embers and actuate a roof sprinkler system in the event of a fire.

SOLAR

(Continued from first page)

in the environmental impact report (EIR).

The draft EIR, prepared by Helix Environmental Planning for the county, was released this September. It concludes the project, as proposed, would conform with the county's General Plan, zoning ordinance and Measure D policies, except for more than 20 acres of the northernmost section of the project that calls for solar arrays on an area designated for Resource Management.

The public comment period ended Nov. 2, and a final EIR is now in the works. It next goes to the East County Board of Zoning Adjustments (BZA) for a vote on certification and approval or denial of a conditional-use permit. The BZA is expected to return with its comments in the coming weeks.

To understand the friction, it helps to take a step back to the initial phases of the environmental review process.

While the majority of the 410-acre project site is designated Large Parcel Agriculture in the ECAP, the Aramis proposal also includes areas with Resource Management (RM) and Water Management (WM) land use designations in the ECAP. According to the EIR, about 21 acres of the project site are located on WM land and 22 acres are RM land.

In an April 9 email to Andrew Young, the county planner preparing the Notice of Preparation (NOP), Intersect Power principal Marisa Mitchell challenged a county determination concerning the WM and RM areas.

Mitchell contends in her email the project was designed expressly to avoid resource conflicts, including hydrology, water quality, biological resources and agriculture, and suggests the maps the county used were inaccurate. She appeared to back up her claim in part based on a 2018 email she received from a planner noting the county had more than one map delineating the land use boundaries and that they were not at the time all in agreement.

EQUITY

(Continued from first page)

identical goals.

"There's a tendency to put people in constituencies — women want this, men want that," she said, making it clear that she was referring to reducing people to stereotypes. In reality, however, she noted that "people want the same things."

"It's really astonishing," she continued. "They want safe communities; they want good schools, decent jobs; they want to provide for their families; they want housing ... health care ... a dignified retirement ..."

"What vexes me is that, since we want the same things, how is it that we can't work together, to compromise to get us to that place where we are making progress?"

Much of her discussion revolved around ways for factions to find middle ground by listening to and treating others with respect.

In seeking educational opportunities for children of varied and often disadvantaged backgrounds, for example, her Opportunity Institute makes an effort to work with local school districts, state education officials, nonprofits and national policy organizations, like the Urban League and the American Institutes of Research.

"Coalitional work ... sounds like it should be easy, but it takes energy, working with partners," she said. "We need to put our institutional interests a little to the side ... to encourage schools to develop relationships with communities and families and have that trusting relationship."

"If it sounds exhausting and complicated, it is. But I think there is no more important work."

Echaveste considers a good education key to opening opportunities for success.

"Education is something that all of us should care about," she said. "No one can ever take a good education away from you."

She believes the nation needs "people who are empowered to engage in the civic life of our country to help it reflect our values, all of our values." That includes viewing children as the future and recognizing the importance of "investing" in them.

Echaveste pointed out that one reason that the U.S. has had to deal with large numbers of immigrants is that Central American countries

"We believe that the EIR analysis should be conducted prior to the Planning Department concluding that certain portions of the proposed project's footprint are immediately off the table for development because of a very rough line drawn on a 20-year-old map," she wrote.

Instead of sending the developer back to the drawing board, emails show the county planning department granted Mitchell's request to allow Intersect an opportunity to make its case that despite the RM and WM designations, the project was protective of resources and worthy of consideration.

Alameda County Planning Director Albert Lopez attempted to put the boundary question to rest by providing a more refined map of land-use designations within the ECAP, emails show.

Even so, Mitchell, in an April 20 email, once again raised the prospect of a boundary line dispute, stating "the origin of the lines in question" and number of acres the project encroached into undevelopable land were "subject to interpretation."

She asked for the NOP not to include a map showing the RM and WM lands in relation to the solar development. "I know either way we will have an opportunity to demonstrate compatibility; however, first impressions are powerful," she wrote.

Lopez again addressed Mitchell's boundary claim in a reply email.

"Hello there, the boundaries are not subject to interpretation, they are our official general plan map," Lopez wrote. "Your mission will be to demonstrate that despite the boundaries being where they are, your project in all other ways complies with the policies of the general plan. The CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act) document is the county's document ultimately, and the first impression we want to give our general public is that we are respecting the boundaries as

drawn. I hope we can get on the same page with this and get the NOP out."

The version of the NOP posted to the planning department's website does not include a map with different land use designations within the project site. A version on the state's CEQA clearinghouse website does.

After the exchange with Lopez, the emails show Mitchell requested from planners' additional wordsmithing.

"If you state 'The Project is therefore restricted from including solar panel development on portions of the Project site with RM and WM land use designations,' it will be very difficult for the Department to walk this back if you subsequently find that our arguments in favor of development in these designations have merit," she wrote in an April 22 email. "We are extremely creative, and I don't doubt we can develop novel project modifications that will be compatible with sensitive lands. Why not soften the language to give yourselves options?"

However, emails to one another show planners continued to find fault with the proposal.

"This is a can of worms, for the WM and RM designations, for the decisionmakers' perceptions of environmental protection, and for the legal status of Measure D, that I am not sure we want to open," Jensen wrote. "The developer could argue that the mitigation measures qualify as minor technical changes that are legally allowable under Measure D if made by the Board (of Supervisors), but that expands the can of worms yet again."

In a later email in August, Jensen said there would be no way to "hide this enormous project or protect the scenic quality of the area. It is a big, in-your-face project, and denial of that quality is disingenuous."

He concluded, "We need to let the politicians themselves say that a solar plant like this is acceptable or not and let them take responsibility if they want it."

lies headed by a single parent. "That's our future work force!"

Asked about immigration, she said she believes it will never be stopped completely, but the U.S. can help itself by helping the countries from which immigrants typically flee.

"No one believes in the concept of Open Borders," she said. "Every country has the right to determine how many people to let in, for how long and for what purpose."

Still, "our country hasn't done enough to invest in countries like El Salvador and Guatemala" and "we could have a whole discussion on interventions in Central America that made things worse, which is why we have Central Americans leaving the violence and dirty wars of the 1980s."

She believes that "most people want to stay in their own countries" and will do so "if there are (job and educational) opportunities for them."

As a result, "if you want to do something about illegal immigration, you have to build the institutions that create opportunities and economic growth in the 'sending' countries."

She is currently alarmed, however, at the challenges the U.S. itself faces.

"Until the last four years, this country could pride itself on having strong institutions, institutions that could weather shifts in political winds," Echaveste said. "We've seen such an attack on the institutions of this country that one of the questions we should be looking at post-November and for the foreseeable future is whether our institutions are strong enough."

She sees today as "a pretty scary, stressful time in America. Still, she considers herself an optimist.

"We couldn't anticipate how hard the last four years have been with (social and political) divisions," she said. "I have to believe the basic underpinnings of our democracy are strong enough to get us through this hard time."

"The basic decency of Americans and recognizing dignity and the right to be part of the American story ... I have to believe we'll get through this. It'll take a while, but I'm not going to give up on America."

"I hope you don't either."

CANNABIS

(Continued from first page)

are allowed in West County, with two already existing. The County Code Ordinance would need to be amended in order to allow the boutique cannabis retail operation to gain a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) in East County.

At present, a staff report of the county's operator permit application stats showed four cultivators and one retailer have applied for a CUP. The only cannabis retailer to have submitted an application, Larry Gosselin, is currently considering modifying his proposed cannabis operation.

In previous weeks, following a directive from the Board at the Transportation and Planning Committee's Oct. 5 meeting, staff prepared the draft ordinance amendments and presented them during a recent meeting of the Agricultural Advisory Committee for comment.

Proponents of the cannabis permit included David Kent, chairman of the Tri-Valley Conservancy, who said he attended the Ag Committee meeting, which had a focus on how to keep agriculture viability alive. He stressed the importance of rebuilding visitation in wine country.

"I would propose that you consider changing the ordinance slightly from what was recommended to say, 'Should a third permit be issued for a retail operation in East County, (then) that permit must be issued in the agritourism core of the South Livermore Valley Planning Area and include a boutique component,'" Kent said.

During the public comment period, a handful of residents from Morgan Territory Road in North Livermore expressed their concern regarding cannabis retailers in the area. Linda Jensen and Tracy Wood pointed out the increased danger to bikers and runners with large water trucks operating along the narrow roadways,

noting the residential area was no place for such business.

They also stated their concerns of crime associated with cannabis operations by pointing out an incident on Oct. 20. At that time, the Alameda County Sheriff's Office (ACSO) Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team responded to an incident at a current cannabis facility, where gunfire was reported. Speaker Brenda Morris said she was directly impacted by the SWAT investigation, when her ranch was used as a staging and interview area by officers for more than three hours.

ACSO Commander Kelly Miles stated that he is also opposed to more cannabis retail.

However, District 1 Supervisor Scott Haggerty said he only wants the CUPs to be made available in the South Livermore Area Plan, not North Livermore, which includes Morgan Territory Road. He said "bad actors" would have their permits revoked and the "five-mile rule" would not apply to these boutique retailers. The five-mile rule is the county's requirement that no permit shall be issued for retail operation within five miles of another retail operation in the unincorporated area. Heather Littlejohn, deputy county counsel, confirmed that the Board could make a policy decision to eliminate the five-mile rule for boutique cannabis retail operations.

Board Reviews Zoning Amendments for Event Centers

The Board directed staff to continue work on the proposed amendments to County Zoning Ordinance definitions for winery, microbrewery and olive oil mills in order for these businesses to expand on their service models.

"This additional flexibility is intended to promote agritourism to further economic development in the East Coun-

ty Area, including the South Livermore wine region," wrote the staff report.

Kent spoke during this item as well, stating the Tri-Valley Conservancy understood the county's desire to broaden business models to create CUPs for special events.

"But we're very concerned this might water down the provisions that favor bonded wineries who are struggling in the area, many of which are dependent on these events," Kent said.

He noted the Ag Committee proposed that non-bonded operations should have a minimum of 12 acres in local cultivation in order to become an event center site.

"If we're going to broaden the definition of who is eligible, it should be done for those who are cultivating here and making an investment in East County agriculture," Kent continued.

Haggerty expressed his support for intensive agriculture, along with a wariness of event centers becoming a dominant land use in the South Livermore Valley region.

"I'm interested in that 12 (acres), but I would like to work it through the committees," Haggerty said. "I am not interested in having a bunch of event centers scattered throughout the South Livermore Plan; I am interested in maybe a couple more; I am interested in making sure that there's some sort of minimum ..."

He told staff they were moving in the right direction. He would like to hear from the Planning Commission and Ag Committee for further input in time to meet the December deadline. Staff aims to report on the outcome of the Planning Commission meeting at the Dec. 7 meeting in anticipation of taking the final ordinance language to the full Board for adoption at its Dec. 15 meeting.

TUNNEL

(Continued from first page)

the fish.

Originally, two tunnels had been proposed by Jerry Brown when he was governor, but Gov. Gavin Newsom cut the plan to one tunnel. He estimates it will cost \$16 billion. Including interest, its backers say it will reach \$25 billion. Opponents, such as Restore the Delta (RTD), say it would be closer to \$40 billion.

Signers of the environmental declaration that said the DWR wrongly filed its declaration in August include representatives of the Sierra Club, Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), Center for Biological Diversity (CBD), and the Planning and Conservation League (PCL).

Tim Strohane, a policy analyst for RTD, said in a news release that DWR "put the cart before the horse." It's all right to file a declaration suit about bond sales, but in his opinion, the way DWR did it violates the law because it does not really have any project yet.

Strohane stated, "There is no final Delta tunnel plan, no environmental impact report, no permit from the State Water Resources Control Board, and no federal permits. They don't even have a federal partner for the project."

Strohane continued, "They don't know which route the tunnel will be built through, and they do not have a finalized community mitigation plan. Worse, they don't know how much water will be available to move through the tunnel."

The tunnel makes "less sense than ever," said Strohane.

He cited Los Angeles May-

or Eric Garcetti's criticism of the tunnel as being too costly and producing no new water." Strohane also said municipal water districts throughout the state are "financially strapped."

Ryan Endean, assistant deputy director of the DWR, responded to an email query about the environmental groups' accusations.

"The Department of Water Resources' validation lawsuit and the bond resolutions adopted are for the purpose of confirming the Department's legal authority to authorize and issue bonds," said Endean. "Confirmation of the Department's authority to issue bonds does not commit the department to any particular course of action. The department retains its full discretion to approve or reject a project following CEQA review."

There was also a clarifying statement from a publication of the State Water Contractors (SWC), the potential customers who will pay for a tunnel, if one were built. The Valley's water wholesaler, Zone 7, is one of the 29 state water contractors. It sells to the Valley's retailers: Livermore, Pleasanton, Dublin San Ramon Services District (DSRSD), and the privately owned California Water Service, which provides most of Livermore with its water.

The SWC responded to a comment in the NRDC blog published Sept. 28 about the "premature filing" of the DWR declaration suit. SWC said that NDRC knew "full well the contract agreement that was negotiated will ensure only willing participants will pay

for and receive the benefits to the project."

Further, the SWC states, "They know public agencies will be deliberating publicly in the light of each of their own needs, and on behalf of their own ratepayers. To imply every Californian will fund the project, or that a blank check is being sought, is simply dishonest."

The Valley water retailers and Zone 7 have been meeting over the past couple of years to learn more about future options for the water supply. A study has been underway addressing the cost and safety of treating wastewater with the reverse osmosis membrane, designed to filter out disease-connected impurities. This is one solution most members like, because it would keep Valley control of the water, instead of outside political forces, such as the DWR.

Also under consideration, but not discussed as much, is a plan for a network of pipes that would take brackish water from east of the Carquinez Strait, desalinate it, and bring it to the Tri-Valley and other locales that would share in the cost. The pipe network might be designed so that service interrupted by an earthquake, for example, could be provided from another location in the network.

The group is also looking at working out more water transfers from such places as Los Vaqueros Reservoir in Contra Costa County north of Livermore, and/or a new valley area northeast of Sacramento that would be called the Sites Reservoir.

ZONE 7

(Continued from first page)

been 3% or 4%. Now it's time to show support for our community."

Another study on rate-setting in 2022 will give fresh information about future needs, continued Ramirez-Holmes.

General Manager Valerie Pryor agreed that 1.7% won't make a significant impact on the various payments to which the agency is obligated.

"When we do the fee study in 2022, we'll have more information," she said.

Board President Olivia Sanwong said she supported Ramirez-Holmes' view that an increase in rates during a difficult economic time should not be approved.

The current, one-time only connection fee is \$29,440 per unit to be paid by developers in Alameda County. Developers pay \$28,250 per unit in Dougherty Valley, which is in Contra Costa County.

The discrepancy exists because in the early years of the 21st century, Dublin San Ramon Services District (DSRSD) asked Zone 7 to wheel developer-paid water to Dougherty Valley. DSRSD wanted to sell more water so it could lower the per-acre foot cost of its water treatment expansion, according to former DSRSD general manager Bob Beebe.

The fees will remain in effect until the board changes them.

In addition, the board heard a report on a Zone 7 effort to develop a virtual k-5 school program concerning water. For years, Zone 7 has conducted educational programs on the topic in all the Tri-Valley school districts. The new effort, which has run tests in some schools, will help students continue learning at home.

At the beginning of the school year, Zone 7 invited past participants into the virtual lessons. Teachers can assign water lessons as independent work for students to complete on their own or may choose to do the lessons virtually with their students. The lessons were developed by credentialed teachers who have extensive experience in water education.

The program will be expanded to other grade levels eventually, said Zone 7 spokeswoman Alexandra Bradley.

For the fourth consecutive year, directors heard news that Zone 7 has received a certificate of achievement for excellence in financial reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association. Assistant General Manager Osborn Solitei is employed as the head of finance for Zone 7.

LLNL Creates Bioprinted Aneurysms to Test Surgical Treatments

Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory has developed a way to create living bioprinted aneurysms that allow researchers to perform medical procedures and then observe how the artery walls heal.

Bioprinting is a form of 3D printing that uses cells and other biological materials as "inks" to create biological structures.

Brain aneurysms, a ballooning in an artery wall, affect about one in every 50 Americans and can lead to stroke, brain damage and death if they burst. Existing treatment options are limited, and surgical outcomes can vary widely from person to person.

But a team led by LLNL engineers William Hynes and Monica Moya were able to replicate an aneurysm by 3D printing

blood vessels with human cerebral cells. Hynes then performed an endovascular repair of the printed aneurysm by inserting a microcatheter and packing platinum coils inside the aneurysm sac.

The research team, which also includes scientists from Duke University and Texas A&M, was then able to introduce blood plasma into the aneurysm and observe the formation of a clot and cutting the aneurysm off from the artery. They were also able to observe the post-op healing of the cells lining the walls of the aneurysm.

LLNL said the bioprinting, combined with computer modeling, could be a significant step in developing patient-specific care for aneurysms. It also could speed up the time it takes

for new surgical techniques and technologies to move from the laboratory to the clinic.

"While there are a lot of promising treatment options, some still have a long way to go," said Moya, the project's current principal investigator. "Animal models aren't necessarily the best way to try out these options. Having this robust, human in-vitro testing platform could help facilitate new treatments. If we can replicate aneurysms as much as we need to, we might help accelerate some of these products into the clinic and essentially provide patients with better treatment options."

Hynes, the original principal investigator who proposed the project, realized researchers needed a way to confirm what they

were seeing with computer modeling.

"We looked at the problem and thought that if we could pair computational modeling and experimental approaches, maybe we could come up with a more deterministic method of treating aneurysms or selecting treatments that could best serve the patient," said Hynes, who led the project for its first year. "Now we can start to build the framework of a personalized model that a surgical practitioner could use to determine the best method for treating an aneurysm."

To create the bioprinted aneurysm, Hynes and team started by printing the blood vessel with a "sacrificial" ink, surrounded by a protein-based hydrogel. The ink dissolved as it cooled, leaving the vascu-

lature shape behind. Then they introduced human brain endothelial cells to coat the channels, forming the actual blood vessels and the aneurysm.

Hynes performed the coiling procedure with a microcatheter, believed to be the first surgical procedure ever performed on artificial living tissue.

Researchers said combining the 3D-printed process with computer modeling could allow surgeons to select the best coil types to pack an aneurysm and perform "test runs" before operating on the human patient.

"Essentially a clinician could literally look at somebody's brain scan, run it through the modeling software, and the software could show the fluid dynamics prior to treatment,"

Hynes said. "It should also be able to simulate that treatment and allow the practitioner to narrow down to a certain type of coil or packing volume to ensure the best possible outcome."

In addition to patient-specific care and serving as a testbed for surgical training, researchers said the platform has potential for improving the understanding of basic biology and post-surgery healing.

While early results are promising, researchers cautioned they still have a long way to go. The team's next step is to simulate how blood clots form in response to experimental shape-memory polymer coils designed to expand inside the aneurysm, compared to traditional bare coils.

OBITUARIES

Marilyn MacLeod Lane

April 12, 1933 – Oct. 27, 2020

Marilyn Lane passed away on Oct. 27, 2020, of complications from pneumonia - she was 87. Born in San Francisco on April 12, 1933, she also lived in Richland, Washington, and Honolulu, Hawaii, but spent most of her adult life in Livermore, where she raised two children, made many friends, worked at Sandia and Chevron, and participated in numerous community events and activities.

Marilyn loved and was a patron of the arts, especially theater, movies and music and she was an avid fan of the blues. For many years, she frequented the Pleasanton Hotel, where she enjoyed the live music and dancing on the patio. In her later years, she worked part time at the Independent Newspaper, and she attended the Unitarian Universalist Church.

Marilyn was preceded in death by her sister Roberta

Ferguson; son, Sam Lane; grandson, Joshua Lane; and former husband, David Lane. She is survived by her daughter, Catherine Lane; two grandchildren, Robbie and Leigh McKenzie; niece, Bobbe Miller; cousins Stacey Byham and Janet Mack; and many friends and other family members whose lives she touched.

Memorial services are planned for next year.

Jean Verry Pollard

Aug. 31, 1945 – Oct. 16, 2020



Oct. 8, 1977. Together, they built a beautiful life and enjoyed boating and fishing together with their family. They loved the holidays and started many traditions that have continued over the years.

Jean is survived by her daughter, Jennifer Herrick (Jason) of Pleasanton; stepchildren, Debra Pollard of Klamath Falls, Oregon, David Pollard, Jr. of Magalia, California, Ruth Pollard-Flores (Ron) of Livermore, and Shirley Pollard (Eric) of Livermore; 10 grandchildren and one great-grandchild. She was preceded in death by her husband, David, in 1999.

The beach was Jean's 'happy place.' She loved to collect seashells and walk barefoot in the sand. She loved to throw a

party for any reason, enjoyed baking holiday goodies and made the best fried chicken. She was a long-time member of GraceWay Church and treasured her bible study group. She enjoyed crocheting, winning at the slot machines and playing bingo and skip-bo. She was known for her beautiful handwriting and perfect hair-never a strand out of place. Her smile could light up a room.

A memorial service celebrating the life of Jean will be held at 1 p.m., on Saturday, Nov. 14, 2020, at GraceWay Church, 1183 Quarry Lane, in Pleasanton. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, there is no space available to the public. The service will be live streamed to allow for virtual attendance. Please use <https://youtu.be/3avLafX3wRk> if you wish to do so.

The family prefers donations in her memory be made to the staff at Sunol Creek Memory Care at www.gofundme.com/in-memory-of-jean-pollard-jean-bean-or-checks-can-be-mailed-check-directly-to-Sunol-Creek-with-In-Memory-of-Jean in the memo line.

Wayne Edward Harter

Oct. 19, 1955 – Oct. 29, 2020

Wayne Edward Harter was born Oct. 19, 1955, in Marshfield, Wisconsin.

He passed away on Oct. 29, 2020, at peace and surrounded by his immediate family.

Wayne was a no-nonsense son, husband, father, papa, and sibling. He lived life always planning the next day while enjoying the current day. A family Harley dealership led to a long career working for the Harley-Davidson Motor Company.

In the mid '90s, his good friend and co-worker, Dave, bought a dealership in San Jose, followed by two additional stores and a second



partner, Phil. He enjoyed many years of good times riding, meeting new people, and motorcycle trips around the world. Wayne also loved Livermore wineries, breweries, and live music, but most of all meeting up with friends.

Wayne had song lyrics for every situation.

He was always up for a party, especially family dance parties, usually ending with the B52's "Love Shack." Wayne loved all baseball and football, especially the Green Bay Packers. He so looked forward to Spring Training in Arizona.

He will be greatly missed by his wife, Debbie; children, Jackie (Mike), Kimberly, and Ryan (Christina); doting grandchildren, Rylie and Raegan; his parents; his mother-in-law; and many siblings, cousins, and friends, including his extensive Harley family.

Elizabeth "Betty" Meinken

July 31, 1929 – Oct. 18, 2020

Betty was born Elizabeth Anne Toole, daughter of Cameron and Maxine Toole, and raised in New Jersey, along with her younger brother, Bob.

She graduated from Chatham High School before earning her nursing degree from Skidmore College in New York, where the yearbook notes she was quick to respond to the call for "party" or "tennis." Motivated to serve patient's medical needs, but disliking the sterile atmosphere inherent in hospital work, she found her passion in assisting homebound families. She fondly shared stories of her exciting adventures while learning her way around New York City during her first job as a visiting nurse.

Soon after that, she met and married her eventual husband, Bob Meinken, with whom she raised four children. The family spent their early years in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, and developed many close, lifelong friendships in the welcoming community.

In 1969, Bob's job transfer to Sandia Labs landed the family in Livermore, far removed from their East Coast roots. Betty eventually reentered the nursing profession and worked her way to a management position at the Visiting Nurse Association of Alameda County. Her capstone career experience



was to serve as the founding director of the Home Health Agency for ValleyCare in Livermore where she was dearly loved and respected by her colleagues and staff, many of who continued to be lasting friends and supporters.

Away from work, Betty treasured sharing her interest in a wide range of activities that included organizing book clubs, gardening, card groups, tennis, skiing, symphony, cooking and travel. She particularly enjoyed her European adventures, an Alaskan cruise with friends and family trips to Maui. Nana, as she was affectionately called

by her family, was happiest relaxing with a book on the beach or sharing a glass of wine at sunset.

Betty was best known for her keen intellect, voracious reading, sharp wit, card playing skills, and sense of humor. But probably her most valuable attributes were a deep and steady resilience and sustaining strong will to persevere through life's most demanding challenges. Betty's inner strength was repeatedly tested by the early deaths of each of her three oldest children, Peter, Nancy and Richard. But, as was her nature, she gracefully transformed the pain from those experiences into a gift shared with others by later serving as a volunteer grief support minister.

Perhaps familiarity with loss provided her with a stronger sense of appreciation for the loving relationships she maintained with her surviving daughter, Barbara Miller, and son-in-law Scott, along with her much-adored grandson, Robbie, and granddaughter, Arin.

While her passing brings great pain, we are comforted knowing that her life stayed true to the line from one of her favorite poems, "...plant your own garden and decorate your own soul..." Indeed, nurturing life's garden was one of the things Betty did best.

Doris Beers

June 20, 1933 – Oct. 22, 2020



Sandra (Larry dec.) Dyer, Coleen (Manuel) Escovedo, and Shelly (Steve) Warner; grandchildren, Melissa Escovedo, Jill Saucier, Phillip (Nicole) Escovedo and Jodi

(Shane) Weiss; and nine great grandchildren.

Memorial services will be held on Thursday, Nov. 12, at Callahan Mortuary, 3833 East Ave., in Livermore. Visitation is from 9 to 10 a.m., with the funeral from 10 to 11 a.m. Doris will be laid to final rest in a private family ceremony at Sacramento Valley National Cemetery.

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

Robert Douglas Cook

1926 – 2020



Robert Douglas Cook, beloved husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather, passed away at 94 from a heart attack on Oct. 23, 2020.

A veteran of WWII, Robert was an educator for San Francisco Unified for 40 years, where he served as a teacher, coach, counselor, and administrator.

Robert is survived by Adela, his wife of 67 years. He was loved by his three children, Robert D. Cook Jr., Bonnie Morgan, and Susan Guerrero, as well as nine grandchildren and 16 great grandchildren. He is also survived by his sister, Dorothy Schwab, and her large extended family.

Bob received his Bachelor of Arts from San Francisco State University, where he

also earned two Masters Degrees in education - one in special education and the other in general Education. An experienced K-6 teacher, he served the full range of students and became an administrator. He was also a dedicated community mentor and leader. He inspired multiple generations of families, who lovingly called him "Cookie." As a playground coach, he

developed teams in basketball, volleyball and softball and took them traveling to compete across the Bay Area. On the playground where he supervised activities, he became a surrogate father for many of the city's children and an advisor for their parents. He was an advocate for all children, especially those facing physical and educational challenges. He organized events and camping activities to enrich their lives.

Bob's spirit, energy and loving manner will be missed by all who knew and loved him.

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

San Francisco State Pitching Coach Rowland to Work with High School Athletes

By Matt Schwab

San Francisco State pitching coach Cameron Rowland is looking forward to working with top high school players at an Identification Workout on Saturday, Nov. 7 at Islanders Field in Lathrop.

Rowland, a former baseball and football star at Foothill High, views the camp as important during COVID-19, when many campuses have been closed across the state.

"I think the guys are really looking forward to it," Rowland said. "They're able to kind of get out of their bubble a little bit with where they've been the past few months and go out and compete."

SFSU head coach Tony Schifano normally holds Identification Workouts at the college's Maloney Field, but the campus has been closed due to the pandemic.

Thus, Islanders Field, which opened in May 2019 and is part of the River Islands master planned community, is filling the void as a site for modified workouts in a safe, outdoor environment.

Schifano can't wait to check out Islanders Field, which has quickly become a magnet for college scouts and amateur talent.

"I'm excited. I've seen it online. I've read about it and I've talked to coaches that have been there," Schifano said. "Cameron Rowland has worked a few camps at Islanders Field... he says it's absolutely spectacular."

Saturday's Identification Workout is expected to draw over 60 high school prospects and will come on the heels of a Nov. 1 to 2 Future Stars Program 15 at Islanders Field, hosted by Jeremy Booth from Houston, Texas.

"We're (going to) have a great turnout," Schifano

said. "We'll probably have to break the day into two parts to make sure we get maximum evaluations and exposure for the kids. You want the kids to feel like they get the best opportunity to showcase their skills, but also to have a learning experience."

A coach on the rise, Rowland's baseball resume includes successful pitching stops at Foothill High, Diablo Valley and Chabot colleges, and the University of Nevada. Moreover, Rowland worked on Foothill baseball coach Angelo Scavone's staff before getting the job at SFSU.

"He's been amazing," Schifano said of Rowland's impact at SFSU. "We've been in the top three in every category that matters in pitching in the conference in the last two years, and I think that's a testament to Cameron and his development with the guys."

Rowland also has strong ties with Islanders Field site director Don Johns, known for his successful Danville HOOTS Baseball Club. Rowland pitched for the HOOTS during his high school years.

"When I was growing up going through the football and baseball in high school, it was tough for me to decide what I was going to put more focus toward," Rowland recalled. "I ran into Don with a family friend, Mike Piscotty. The (Piscotty) brothers



Former Foothill High School baseball and football star, Cameron Rowland, is set to coach student athletes during an upcoming sports camp. (Photo - Brandon Davis)

played for Don growing up for Connie Mack teams and really liked what he was all about and really liked how he developed players, and we have a great relationship. He's really helped me out through a lot of different things from high school to now."

Not surprisingly, Rowland gives Islanders Field high marks.

"I went out there last year for the first time when they were doing different showcases or events, and Don Johns has done a really good job with that field," he says, also noting the site's convenient location in the middle of the region.

At Foothill, Rowland was

a three-year letter winner in football and baseball. As a senior pitcher, he posted a .323 batting average and allowed just eight earned runs over 30 innings. In football, over his junior and senior years, he had a total of 146 receptions for 2,250 yards and 20 touchdowns, twice earning first-team All-East Bay Athletic League football honors.

Then, at Diablo Valley College, he played two football seasons, including catching 75 passes for 800 yards as a sophomore All-State pick, before playing baseball there. Next, at Chabot, he was an all-conference pitcher, striking out 72 over 57 innings.

This weekend, Rowland expects to see high school pitchers touching 88 to 90 mph and hitters pounding balls off the outfield fence, but the key aspect will be the players' mental approach.

"It's about the day-to-day development and really learning when you're there," Rowland said. "The biggest thing is soaking it in, soaking in all the information you can and learning on a daily basis, so you can put that into your daily development and, again, just competing on a day-in, day-out level."

For information about the Identification Workout, call Schifano at 530-219-1121 or email tschif@sfsu.edu.

Local Students Make Big Gains During South Carolina Match

Carter Bailey, wrestling for the Livermore Elite Wrestling Club, battled back after losing his first match at the Super 32 Challenge in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina last weekend to win his next nine straight matches

need seven straight wins to survive to the second day of competition.

That seventh match came against the No. 2-ranked wrestler in the nation at 126 pounds, Jordan Titus, from Center Moriches High



Granada High School's Carter Bailey (right) prepares for a duel during the Super 32 Challenge in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. (Photo - Rich Bailey)

over two days of competition. The Granada High School senior finished with a 10-2 record for the tournament, including a win over the No. 2-seeded wrestler in the 126-pound class, to finish seventh in his division.

Julian Victoria, also wrestling for the Livermore Elite, lost his first match in the 145-pound class to Michael Kilic, a two-time Georgia high school state champion, who eventually finished third for the tournament. Victoria won his first match in the consolation round but was eliminated with a second loss.

This was the first time the Livermore Elite sent wrestlers to the Super 32, considered one of the premiere high school tournaments in the country.

Bailey was one of 144 wrestlers to compete in the 126-pound division, including the two top ranked wrestlers in the country and nine others ranked in the top 20. His first-match loss to a wrestler from Illinois, Chris Moore, dropped Bailey into the consolation round, where he would

School in New York, who was coming off an upset, semi-final loss in the championship bracket. Bailey defeated Titus 5-2.

The second day for Bailey opened with a match against the 12th-ranked Nicolai Rivera, a two-time Wisconsin state wrestling champion, who he defeated 4-3. That moved Bailey into the Round of 12, also known in wrestling as the "blood round," where one more win would guarantee a top eight finish.

In the blood round, Bailey faced another California wrestler, Jack Gioffre, from Clovis, who is ranked 14th nationally in the 120-pound class, but who had moved up to the 126-pound class for the Super 32. Bailey defeated Gioffre 3-1 for his ninth straight win.

Bailey finally lost, 1-4, against Hunter Mason, a Tennessee state high school champion, but came back in his final match to defeat the 15th-ranked wrestler in the country, Kelly Dunningan, from Don Bosco High School in New Jersey, 4-0, to lock up seventh place.



Carter Bailey cuts a formidable figure at the Super 32 Challenge. (Photo - Rich Bailey)

TRI-VALLEY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Now to Wednesday, Nov. 11 Walk 2.2 for Vets

For 22 days, from Oct. 21 through Nov. 11, 2020, the Veterans First Program and Pleasanton Military Families will host a virtual 2.2 for 22 Walk for Vets to raise awareness that 22 veterans commit suicide daily. Organizers want to challenge participants with walking, running, hiking, or cycling 2.2 miles for 22 days, or to complete a daily challenge for 22 days. Funds will help bring mental health professionals to Las Positas College to stop suicide among veterans and promote mental health support services for student veterans and will also support pack out events for Pleasanton Military Families. Cost is \$22. For more information, visit <https://bit.ly/3iCmxAf>.

Now to Wednesday, Nov. 18 Food Business Entrepreneurial Training Academy Series

Are you thinking of launching a food product or opening a restaurant or cafe? If so, you can learn the critical aspects of how to start and succeed in the specialty food business. The Alameda County Small Business Development Center (SBDC) is offering a free, 10-part series on food business entrepreneurship for participants interested to launch and grow food businesses in Alameda County. In this series, you will learn the basics to start and grow your own food business, cookbook, catering and so much more. This series will help turn your ideas into a reality. Participants who attend eight of the 10 sessions will earn a certificate of completion. Attendees must register for each session individually. Classes will be held online on Mondays and Wednesdays, Oct. 19 to Nov. 18. A personalized Zoom link will be sent to registrants only.

Thursday, Nov 5 Mass of Remembrance

The Catholic Community of Pleasanton will celebrate a Mass of Remembrance at 7 p.m. The Mass is a special liturgy to celebrate the lives of loved ones' who have gone to live in the light of the Lord. Attendees will be able to view this celebration at catholicsofpleasanton.org, YouTube or Facebook. On the website, visitors will find the worship aid and the readings. For more information, call 925-699-0199.

Thursday, Nov. 12 Focusing On Nature

The Livermore Amador Valley Garden Club will host a Zoom meeting featuring Kate Frey, noted for designing gardens focusing on nature at 7 p.m. Club members, as well as interested members of the public, are welcome to attend. The short business meeting will be followed by Kate's presentation on 'Community Focused Garden

Design.' Her inspirational slide show will include many examples of the principles and practices of creating a sustainable garden, places of delight for humans and wildlife. She specializes in the design of sustainable organic habitat gardens that reflect the soils, climate conditions and biodiversity of their locations while providing abundant, year-round habitat for pollinators.

Thursday, Nov. 12 Coping with Loss During the Holiday Season

For people who have experienced the death of a loved one, the winter holiday season can be painful, especially for those navigating the first year of loss. Hope Hospice has annually offered a special Handling the Holidays workshop to teach healthy coping strategies to help the bereaved during this difficult time. With physical distancing still essential in our region, Hope will present the workshop virtually this year through Zoom, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. As always, the program is offered to the local public at no cost. Space is limited, so call 925-829-8770 as soon as possible to secure a spot.

Friday, Dec. 4 Community Blood Drive

The City of Dublin is supporting the American Red Cross at a Community Blood Drive from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Dublin Senior Center (7600 Amador Valley Blvd.) The Red Cross is currently testing successful blood donations for COVID-19 antibodies. Test results will be available within seven to 10 days on the Red Cross Blood Donor App or donor portal at RedCrossBlood.org. While the Red Cross is testing for COVID-19 antibodies, it is not testing donors to diagnose illness. Those who feel unwell for any reason should postpone their donation. To make a reservation, visit www.redcrossblood.org and enter the sponsor code, Dublin-Community, or call 1-800-733-2767. While reservations are encouraged to donate, drop-ins are welcome. The Red Cross has enhanced its sanitization process, and follows social distancing rules. The staff and volunteers sanitize in between every donor. Donors must have their temperature checked upon entry, and everyone must be wearing a mask. Any guests of donors (e.g., spouses, children) who are not donating, are not allowed in the room. Donors may streamline their donation experience by visiting www.redcrossblood.org/RapidPass on the day of the blood drive to complete pre-donation reading and health history questions.

Monday, Dec. 7 Coping with Loss During the Holiday Season

For people who have experienced the death of a loved one, the winter holiday season can be painful, especially for those navigating the

first year of loss. Hope Hospice has annually offered a special Handling the Holidays workshop to teach healthy coping strategies to help the bereaved during this difficult time. With physical distancing still essential in our region, Hope will present the workshop virtually this year through Zoom, from 2 to 3:30 p.m. As always, the program is offered to the local public at no cost. Space is limited, so call 925-829-8770 as soon as possible to secure a spot.

Friday, Dec. 11 Virtual Hanukkah Celebration

Join the Tri-Valley Cultural Jews for a Virtual Hanukkah Celebration that includes a secular humanistic menorah lighting and naming ceremony. Bring your menorah and candles. Organizers will also play dreidel virtually. A \$10 donation is suggested for non-member adults. For the registration link, contact Jamie at culturaljews@gmail.com. For more information, visit trivalley-culturaljews.org.

ONGOING WEEKLY EVENTS

Dublin Farmers Market Open for the Season

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

Livermore Downtown Farmers Market Open for the Season

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

Pleasanton Farmers Market Open for the Season

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

Livermore Valley Opera airs Friday Episodes

If you need a dose of opera while on lock-down, check out LV Opera on YouTube. There are new releases every Friday at 7 p.m. To subscribe, visit www.livermorevalleyopera.com.

Six Feet Apart Productions Shares Art From a Distance

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

Stress Relief Recovery International

A confidential, peer-led, self-help group for stress relief will take

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

VIRTUAL ONLINE EVENTS -AVAILABLE ANYTIME

Register for Virtual and Outdoor Activities

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

EBRPD Brings "Parks to People"

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

LARPD Now on YouTube

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

Music Together Tri-Valley Supports Early Childhood Development

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

Pacific Chamber Orchestra Offers Musical Podcast

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

Enter events online at www.independentnews.com/calendar or email calendar@independentnews.com for print.

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 573137

The following person(s) doing business as: Select Construction, 7024 Newport CT, Dublin, CA 94568, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Larry Leonard, 7024 Newport CT, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 09/01/2020. Signature of Registrant/s/: Larry Leonard, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 18, 2020. Expires September 18, 2025. The Independent, Legal No. 4780. Published October 15, 22, 29, November 5, 2020.

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No. HG 20075236

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF ALAMEDA

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner: Ryan Todd Burton 777 Katrina St Livermore, CA 94550 (925) 699-0108, filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Present Name: Ryan Todd Burton Proposed Name: Ryan Catastrophically Ossum

THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing. **NOTICE OF HEARING** Date: 11/13/20 Time: 11:00 AM Dept: 17

The address of the court is: Alameda County Administration Building 1221 Oak Street Oakland, CA 94612

A copy of this Order To Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation printed in this county: The Independent Newspaper 2250 First Street, Livermore, CA 94550 Dated: September 16, 2020 /s/ Judge Desautels, The Independent Legal No.

4781 Published October 15, 22, 29, November 5, 2019.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 573564

The following person(s) doing business as: C Waters Consulting, 1079 Eve Ln, Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Christine Watters, 1079 Eve Ln, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: January 2020. Signature of Registrant/s/: Christine Watters, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 6, 2020. Expires October 6, 2025. The Independent, Legal No. 4782. Published October 15, 22, 29, November 5, 2020.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 573696

The following person(s) doing business as: Mi Reina Co., 1263 Lakehurst Road, Livermore, CA 94551, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Leslie Amairani Carabajal Ramos, 1263 Lakehurst Road, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Leslie Amairani Carabajal Ramos, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 12, 2020. Expires October 12, 2025. The Independent, Legal No. 4783. Published October 22, 29, November 5, 12, 2020.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 573733

The following person(s) doing business as: Color Creations Body Shop, 727 Industrial Pkwy West, Unit S, Hayward, CA 94544, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Rene Garcia Ortiz, 329 Laurel Ave, Hayward, CA 94541. This business is conducted by a General Partnership. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Andres Gonzalez Garcia, General Partner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 13, 2020. Expires October 13, 2025. The Independent, Legal No. 4784. Published October 29, November 5, 12, 19, 2020.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 573738

The following person(s) doing business as: Gem's Mobile Notary, 1392 Fairbrook Ct, Livermore, CA 94551, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Gemma Houser, 1392 Fairbrook Ct, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which

the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Gemma Houser, by the individual. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 13, 2020. Expires October 13, 2025. The Independent, Legal No. 4785. Published October 29, November 5, 12, 19, 2020.

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No. RG 200774453

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF ALAMEDA

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner: Stacey Marie Aboujudom 994 Lisbon Avenue Livermore, CA 94550 (408) 799-0907, filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Present Name: Stacey Marie Aboujudom Proposed Name: Stacey Marie Aboujudom Younan

THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing. **NOTICE OF HEARING** Date: 11/6/20 Time: 11:00 AM Dept: 17

The address of the court is: Alameda County Administration Building 1221 Oak Street Oakland, CA 94612 A copy of this Order To Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation printed in this county: The Independent Newspaper 2250 First Street, Livermore, CA 94550 Dated: September 16, 2020 /s/ Judge Desautels, The Independent Legal No. 4786 Published November 5, 12, 19, 26, 2019.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 573509

The following person(s) doing business as: Beets + Eats, 316 Stealth Ct, Livermore, CA 94551, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Beets Catering, Inc, 316 Stealth Ct, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: Sep-

tember 25, 2020. Signature of Registrant/s/: Read H Phillips, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 5, 2020. Expires October 5, 2025. The Independent, Legal No. 4787. Published November 5, 12, 19, 26, 2020.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 573697

The following person(s) doing business as: Beautiful Green Plants.online, 4043 Guilford Ave, Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Delfina Calderon, 4043 Guilford Ave, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: October 1, 2020. Signature of Registrant/s/: Delfina Calderon, Sole Proprietor. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 12, 2020. Expires October 12, 2025. The Independent, Legal No. 4788. Published November 5, 12, 19, 26, 2020.

CLASSIFIEDS

ANIMALS

2) CATS/ DOGS

ADOPT A DOG OR CAT, for adoption information contact Valley Humane Society at (925)426-8656



Adopt a new best friend TVAR Tri-Valley Animal Rescue

Our current weekly adoption events include:

Saturdays - Dogs & Puppies at Farmer's Market in Pleasanton. The location is Delucchi Park, 4501 First St. Hours: 10:00am to 1:00pm. Saturdays & Sundays - Kittens at Dublin PetSmart, 6960 Amador Plaza Rd. Hours: 11am to 3pm. Visit our website, WWW.TVAR.ORG, to see adoptable animals, volunteer opportunities, and how to donate.

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

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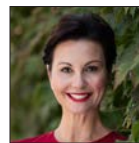
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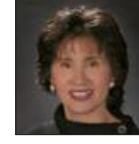
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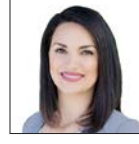
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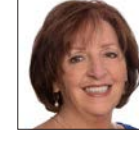
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Fall shows its colors in vineyard leaves as the 2020 wine country harvest comes to a close. (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)

Las Positas College to Administer New Annual Memorial Scholarship

Las Positas College Foundation has agreed to administer a new annual scholarship endowed by the Pleasanton North Rotary (PNR) Foundation in the memory of departed PNR past presidents, David Cherry and Ed Golden.

The PNR Foundation funded the \$500 annual Rotary Club of Pleasanton North David Cherry and Ed Golden Memorial Scholarship in perpetuity with a \$12,500 grant from a its endowment funds and donations from friends and family members.

The scholarship will be awarded to qualified U.S. military veterans enrolled at Las Positas College. Its first recipient will be announced in the summer of 2021.

Born in Oakland on

April 17, 1953, Cherry served a four-year tour of duty as an Air Force flight simulator specialist. He was honorably discharged in 1979. With spouse, Deborah, also an Air Force veteran, he returned to California, where he managed the family's Big O Tire Store in Pleasanton until his death on April 24, 2017, at the age of 64.

As a long-time PNR member and president from 2008 to 2009, Cherry was beloved for his wit, friendliness, and generosity. He was an avid San Francisco Giants fan and sportsman. He was survived by his wife Deborah and children, Joshua, Adrienne, and Kelsey.

A U.S. Army veteran and information technology engineer, Ed Golden was a

dedicated, hands-on kind of Rotarian, who led the club with humor, dedication, and considerable intelligence. He served as PNR president from 2015 to 2016.

Ed was devoted to causes benefiting veterans, including leading PNR's early financial support for the Veterans Memorial at Pleasanton's Pioneer Cemetery and direct involvement with the biennial East Bay Stand Down, an interventional program for homeless veterans.

A Texas native, Golden also brewed craft beers and was a fan of nearly everything associated with the Lone Star State. He died on March 2, 2018, at the age of 51. He was survived by his wife, Lara and daughter, Julia.

Dublin Plans to Paint the Town Green

City staff unveiled a plan that will bring back St. Patrick's Day community celebration, after it was previously cancelled to the pandemic.

The traditional celebration always occurred on the weekend nearest St. Patrick's Day, and drew 80,000 people thanks in part to a Bay Area-wide advertising campaign. In March, in its 38th year, there will be in-person events following the county's Public Health

Department COVID requirements.

The activities will include an Irish tea cottage in Heritage Park, where acoustic music will be performed all day on Saturday and Sunday, March 13 and 14. A Celtic rock concert will be at Emerald Glen Park in the evening on Saturday, March 13, and attendees must reserve a 10-foot by 10-foot 'shamrock,' suitable for a family or small group, to be seated.

The Civic Center Complex will host Irish dancers, crafts and games, roaming bagpipers and leprechauns, and feature recitals of Irish limericks and storytelling.

One event will go virtual. Participants in the annual 5k Fun Run will sign in online, run independently, and be tracked with a smart phone app. Prizes will be awarded in the different categories, and there will be a drive-through pick-up to get a T-shirt.

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It was a fabulous night as three Tri-Valley restaurant chefs and Culinary Angels Chef Claudia battled it out in an exciting cooking competition, along with music, special guest speakers, and raffle items. Videos of the event are on our website culinaryangels.org.



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