

City Narrows Parking Stall Sizes, Begins I Street Garage

By Aly Brown

LIVERMORE — The city council this week voted 4-1 to amend the Downtown Specific Plan to create more spaces in parking structures.

The council chose to move forward with the staff recommendation to amend the plan to allow up to 50% of private and public structured parking spaces in the downtown core area to be narrowed to 8 feet wide. The width of the remaining 50% of downtown spaces would remain 8.5 feet wide at a minimum.

Staff estimated that, with 50% of the spaces at 8 feet wide, the I Street garage and the L Street garage could add 22 spaces each.

In the entire downtown core area, the width of approximately 840 spaces would be 8 feet. According to the city, 30% of all downtown parking spaces would now be narrower.

Councilmember Brittni Kiick said, "This is just paint.

(See PARKING, page 9)

Water Board Appoints Goel To District 5

By Ruth Roberts

DUBLIN — Arun Goel, former Dublin councilmember and mayoral candidate, has been appointed to the Dublin San Ramon Services District (DSRSD), District 5.



Arun Goel

Goel applied for the vacant seat after losing his bid for Dublin mayor in the Nov. 3, General Election. He will now serve the district that provides water services to San Ramon and Dublin.

The DSRSD board transitioned from an at-large election system in 2019. When no one filed to run for the DSRSD's District 5 board seat, the board decided to fill the empty seat through

(See GOEL, page 7)

City Amends Sierra Court General Plan

By Heather Brewer

DUBLIN — At a Feb. 16 city council meeting, all members voted unanimously to approve a resolution amending the general plan land-use designation at Sierra Court from business park and industrial to retail, office and automotive.

No physical development is proposed as part of the project. The change from "light industrial" to "general commercial" sets the stage for the 1.5-acre project site, located at 6207 Sierra Court at the intersection of Dublin

(See SIERRA, page 8)



The Alameda County Fairgrounds opened for vaccination services last week on Feb. 17. At present, only health care workers and residents 65 and older will receive vaccines by appointment only. (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)

Large Vaccination Site Gets Underway

By Dawnmarie Fehr

REGIONAL — Alameda County recently joined forces with Stanford Healthcare-

The large-scale, drive-thru vaccination clinic opened Feb. 17. It will serve county residents and health care workers by appointment

to make appointments for a vaccine either through Sutter Health or Stanford Healthcare-ValleyCare. Soon, essential workers in the food

"We are excited about the immediate success of this site and look forward to scaling up access to appointments as vaccine supplies permit. We are pleased to see efforts at the federal and state levels to increase supplies..."

ValeCare (SHVC) and Sutter Health to launch a new COVID-19 vaccine location on the Alameda County Fairgrounds in Pleasanton.

only, Wednesday through Sunday. All health care workers and residents 65 years and older will be able

and agriculture, education and child care, and emergency services industries

(See VACCINATION, page 8)

Bike Repairman Allowed to Resume Work At Home as City Reviews Business Codes

By Larry Altman

LIVERMORE — After more than 9,000 people signed a petition supporting him, a Livermore bicycle repairman was allowed Monday to reopen his garage to customers while officials conduct a review of the city's policies for home businesses.

A.J. Wright, who had been ordered to stop receiving clients on his residential street — a long-standing provision in the Livermore code — received support from Mayor Bob Woerner. Woerner suggested a compromise: let Wright work and receive customers while the city looks at

its codes. Once a report is completed, Woerner and his fellow councilmembers, who supported the plan, can potentially make changes. City Manager Marc Roberts stated that a review could be finished in late April or May.

"That's what I was hoping for," Wright said following the meeting. "I'm ecstatic right now. I really didn't think I would have a chance. I can get back to work."

The city's order in mid-February ignited a controversy that potentially could lead to changing laws in place for years that were designed to provide a dis-

inction between residential neighborhoods and business districts. Livermore's code for so-called "home occupations" requires that a business operated in a residence does not "adversely affect the public safety, health and general welfare of the neighborhood."

Following complaints from at least one unidentified resident, city officials recently told Wright he could operate A.J.'s Bike Service at his home on the 1000 block of Miranda Avenue, but customers could not come to him. Instead, he was told he would have to pick up and return

(See BIKE, page 11)

Solar Policy Work Remains a Focus For Ag Commission

By Larry Altman

REGIONAL — Alameda County officials on Tuesday, Feb. 23, considered the idea of combining solar facilities with agricultural production for proposed developments in the region's vacant lands.

But they decided that should not be their immediate focus.

Instead, the county Agricultural Advisory Commission voted 10-0 for its solar subcommittee to spend less of its time on the concept of "agrivoltaics" — a policy where solar panel farms are used to enhance crop growing — and spend the bulk of its time on other solar-related issues. This includes mapping areas where developers can build such facilities.

"I move that we do everything we can to recommend to the solar subcommittee, that they move forward to completion of a policy that may be presented to (county officials), and we leave the door open and we continue to work on agrivoltaics, as (part) of a comprehensive policy," Commissioner Karl Wente said. "This is just a sliver of

the pie."

The panel's discussion stemmed from the subcommittee's recent work looking at agrivoltaics as a county policy, one that would hope to unite the proponents of green energy projects with environmentalists concerned about destroying open land. Proponents of agrivoltaics believe acres of solar panels can generate power and be used as devices to aid crop growth underneath, including providing shade, humidity and moisture retention. Officially, the definition of agrivoltaics is "the design and operation of infrastructure necessary to enhance agriculture and agricultural lands while concurrently producing photovoltaic power for electrical grid distribution."

"There's a lot of new research going on with agrivoltaics," said commissioner Karen Sweet, a member of the subcommittee. "It's an industry that we wanted to bring to you for your discussion."

County Staff Planner Bruce Jensen said the idea

(See SOLAR, page 9)

Council Declines Fines For Mask Noncompliance

By Aly Brown

PLEASANTON — Assuming COVID-19 numbers continue to drop, Pleasanton will not enforce mask compliance with fines, as have Livermore and Dublin.

The decision followed City Manager Nelson Fialho's presentation, which outlined methods to support mask compliance to include continued education, additional signage at city-owned property, along with focused enforcement strategies that would allow officers to issue citations in areas of concern, such as city-owned property and downtown.

But the majority of the council declined to initiate an enforcement ordinance for later consideration. Mayor Karla Brown and Councilmembers Jack Balch and Kathy Narum agreed that education through city signage was a better path than issuing fines, especially since COVID-19 numbers have been on a downward trend.

Only Councilmember Julie Testa supported Councilmember Valerie Arkin's motion to have staff return

to the council with a draft urgency ordinance to implement a local mandatory mask requirement and adopt an administrative citation structure.

"We have been asked for the last 12 months to stand up for our residents," Testa said. "Many of them do not feel safe. I've heard often, during the summer, when our downtown was open and it was just a lovely environment, many people sent us emails and told me that they tried going downtown and there were enough people not wearing masks that they were not going to continue to support the restaurants."

Arkin agreed that the citation could offer a deterrent. She shared the story of her young child contracting COVID-19.

"It was very serious; made me very, very worried," she said. "I don't know what the long-term effects are going to be."

Arkin further said that even a \$1,000 fine would have been worth it to her if it meant her child never contracted the virus.

(See MASK, page 8)

Plane Makes Emergency Landing on Isabel Avenue

LIVERMORE — A small plane with engine failure landed and struck a car on a road near the Livermore Municipal Airport on Tuesday shortly after takeoff, but no one was injured, police said.

The pilot of the single-engine Mooney M20 reported a loss of engine power about 5 p.m. and made the emergency landing on the Isabel Avenue overpass above the 580 freeway, FAA spokesman Ian Gregor reported.

The aircraft, carrying the pilot and a passenger, struck a vehicle.

"The airplane lost power,

and we landed on the road," said a Napa man who identified himself as a passenger in the plane. "We contacted a car and got spun by the car as the car came to a stop."

He declined to give his name.

Livermore police reported that no one was injured in the car. No other vehicles struck the plane. The roadway was closed for an investigation. Gregor said the FAA and NTSB will conduct the probe.

Public records showed the fixed-wing single engine airplane was built in 1967 and is registered to a San Francisco resident.



The pilot of a Mooney M20 crashed into a car when the plane experienced engine failure and was forced to land on Isabel Avenue in Livermore. No injuries were reported. (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)



RAIDER

PET OF THE WEEK

Whether you wear red & gold or black & silver, you'll want to cheer for Raider! This 40-pound young adult mixed breed has the shoulders of a linebacker and is guaranteed to bring some fun to every game day. Make him a fan favorite and adopt today! 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 / E. Scholz)

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County Board to Hold Public Hearing on Aramis Project

The Alameda County Board of Supervisors will hold a public hearing next week to consider the appeals of Friends of Livermore, Friends of Open Space and Vineyards, IP Aramis LLC (applicant), and Save North Livermore Valley, from the decision of the East County Board of Zoning Adjustments on Nov. 24, 2020, to certify the final environmental impact report and approve the Aramis Solar Energy Generation and Storage Project.

The project is a utility-scale solar photovoltaic energy generation facility with a maximum energy output capacity of 100 megawatts with associated battery storage using photovoltaic panels over a mostly contiguous 410-acre site, in the agricultural district, located partly at 1815 Manning Road and 4400 North Livermore Avenue, both south of Manning Road and west of North Livermore Avenue. It is partly on two other parcels without street addresses north of Manning Road at its intersection with North Livermore Avenue. In total, it represents a combined parcel area of approximately 700 acres.

Since Nov. 24, 2020, one parcel has been withdrawn from the project.

If you challenge the county's decision in this matter in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the Planning Department, at or prior to the public hearing, which will be entered into the public record.

The virtual hearing will be held on Thursday, March 4, 2021, beginning at 9 a.m., for which all interested persons may participate by teleconference only, using the Zoom platform and the following guidelines. Teleconferencing Guidelines

For teleconference board meetings, members of the public may observe and participate in meetings by following the instructions in the teleconferencing guidelines posted on-line for the March 4, 2021, meeting at <https://bit.ly/3pPC0zz>.

To observe the meeting by video conference, visit <https://bit.ly/3bytAYb>.

All persons interested in this matter may appear and be heard at this hearing. If you have any questions, contact the Planning Department at 510-670-5400.

Livermore Resident Receives Letter from Deceased Father

By Dawnmarie Fehr

Many people would give anything to hear from a loved one who has passed.

Last week, Kimbrey Gruidl had that opportunity when a greeting card her now-deceased father sent a decade ago showed up in her mailbox.

“Curious if anyone else received mail almost 10 years old this week,” Gruidl said on a Livermore Facebook page. “We received a card yesterday dated Aug. 20, 2011. It was from my dad, who passed away almost five years ago. I almost passed out when I saw it. I’ve heard of snail mail, but OMG!”

Gruidl said the card looked brand-new and arrived in the middle of her regular stack of mail. It contained a congratulatory note from her father to her husband for starting a new job, a check for \$50 and a gift card to Outback Steakhouse.

"My husband had started his new job," Gruidl recalled. "We went through a lot; my husband ... had to retire early and then had to find another job because he was a deputy sheriff, so it was a congratulations letter ... if the gift card is still good, we are going to go out for cocktails and toast Dad."

When he sent the card, Gruidl's father, Dennis Parker, lived in Fernley, Nevada. While there is no way to know exactly what happened, United States Postal Service spokesperson Augustine Ruiz said there are a few possibilities.

“One thing that could have happened is that post office could have had it; that post office could have gone through some renovations, or they may have closed it down and opened up a bigger, newer post office, and what usually happens – and this has happened in the past – is when the new

owners take over the building and they start renovating and cutting out walls, they come across stuff," Ruiz said. "They come across letter mail that has somehow ended up between walls and they put it back in the mail and hopefully it gets to its address."

Ruiz said another possibility is the card could have ended up at the wrong address, been held for some time, then placed back in the mail system. He noted the post office will deliver a let



Nearly five years after her father passed away, Livermore resident Kimbrey Gruidl found a letter from him in the mailbox. It had been lost for about a decade. (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)

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Treasury-Issued Cards Raise Scam Fears

By Ron McNicoll

Debit cards loaded with money for the U.S. Treasury's second economic payment designed to stimulate spending in the COVID pandemic economy were sent to millions of people.

Various media sources reported that skeptical recipients thought the Economic Impact Payment (EIP) card — despite the VISA logo — was part of a scam to fool people into putting their own money into fraudulent accounts.

But the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) confirmed the validity of the cards in a Feb. 2 statement sent via snail mail to all recipients.

The glitch began last spring, when the IRS was faced with a decision about how to get the money to citizens. The service's own technology was antiquated, compared to that of some banks. People in the banking industry were recommending that the IRS use commercial banks to speed the payments.

Eventually the contracts were awarded to two institutions: Metabank and Fiserv (short for Financial Services).

Instructions Taped to the Card

According to national news reports, the majority of card recipients followed

instructions taped to the card and called an 800 number to activate it.

But part of the wariness for those who threw them away stemmed from an inconsistent money distribution method. Many who received a paper check in the mail from the first COVID-19 stimulus round last year expected the same thing in 2021.

People who thought it was a scam were in turn surprised when all 4 million recipients received a follow-up letter that stated the cards were not only real but can be used independently for up to three years as a Metabank debit card. They also had the option to deposit the funds into

their own accounts.

A financial analyst in the Tri-Valley, who did not want to be identified, said that such debit cards are not unusual, because many people do not have bank accounts of their own.

For example, people may have a roof over their head, but are still considered homeless by definition of the census conducted nationwide in January. Some are sleeping on a couch at a friend's or relative's house and use the home phone there to call around to find work.

The financial analyst further noted that the California Employment Development Department (EDD) also puts its payments on debit cards.

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The advertisement features a dark blue background with a pattern of lighter blue dots. The text is arranged in a clean, modern layout. The top section contains the company name in a serif font, followed by the brand name 'sereno' in a large, lowercase sans-serif font with a horizontal line extending to the right. Below this, three paragraphs of text in a sans-serif font provide details about the company's size, sales volume, and charitable contributions. The overall design is professional and minimalist.

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- Cold sweat

Chest pain is the most common symptom of a heart attack in men and women. Women are more likely to report some of the other common symptoms listed above. The hospital is still the safest place you can be in an emergency. Don't hesitate. Call 911.



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EDITORIAL

Absent a Solar Policy, Supervisors Should Reject the Aramis Project

The appeals hearing for the Aramis Solar Energy Generation and Storage project will take place next Thursday, March 4. We hope the Alameda County Board of Supervisors will consider the information that has come up since the East County Board of Zoning Adjustments (EBZA) approved the Aramis environmental impact report on Nov. 24, 2020.

We have heard disapproval from our federal agencies, environmentalist groups and many residents. The resounding concern is that by pushing forward with the project that will alter approximately 700 acres of open space in North Livermore, we are destroying the environment in order to save it.

In January this year, the Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office (SFWO) called out the county for failing to follow the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's "Revised Guidance on Site Assessments and Field Surveys." Had the county asked the Service if the surveys that planning staff had conducted were adequate, SFWO stated it would have confirmed that they were not.

The SFWO further called for the Aramis applicant, Intersect Power, to acquire an incidental take permit for the federally listed species likely to be killed during construction. This week, Intersect announced for the first time that it will pursue a voluntary incidental take permit. The company also proposed to provide compensatory mitigation.

However, even if implemented, the actions won't change the fact that a utility-scale development is not the intended use of this agricultural land. The loss of habitat is still a loss no matter how much money is paid to federal agencies. The project site is a designated conservation area. It must remain a preserved habitat in order to protect endangered species.

Furthermore, the Aramis project violates Measure D, which was adopted by county voters in 2000 to protect open space from development.

East Bay Regional Park District, Golden Gate Audubon Society, Save Mount Diablo, the Alameda Creek Alliance and Ohlone Audubon Society have all announced their opposition to the project that will cover hundreds of acres of grazing land with shimmering solar plates.

While some Sierra Club leaders outside the Tri-Valley support the project, it is largely backed by unions.

Scores of residents have sat in on lengthy county meetings to voice concerns about how this project would not only impact the ecosystem, but also decimate ranching and dry crop land.

The groups that filed appeals set to be considered by the board next Thursday include Friends of Livermore, Friends of Open Space and Vineyards, Save North Livermore Valley and Intersect Power. The first three believe the project would be detrimental to the region's ecosystem and the integrity of the land.

Intersect's appeal mainly objects to the conditional-use requirements spelled out by the EBZA, including setbacks from the road, which would result in reduced acreage. However, when they lost 38 acres from a soured lease negotiation with landowners Richard and Mary Stanley, they denied that the withdrawn acreage was a problem.

Before approving any solar projects, the county needs to approve a solar policy that would identify utility-scale sites appropriate for solar power generation. The county and cities should prioritize distributed scale solar opportunities on rooftops and parking lots. Open space should be a last resort.

If the county were to approve this project, it could set a precedent that would result in the loss of even more agricultural land in the Tri-Valley.

To represent its constituents, and respect well-established environmental and energy policies, the Board of Supervisors should reject the Aramis development.

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.

Green Energy Reality Check

David Pastor, Pleasanton

We are undergoing a government-forced changeover from fossil fuels to something called green energy.

At present, the United States generates 80% of its energy from fossil fuels and only 5% from renewable sources. Analysts at Wood Mackenzie estimate that there will be 741,000 megawatt-hours of battery storage word wide by 2030. The state of Minnesota uses about 72,000,000 megawatt-hours of electricity each year. Battery storage will meet only 1% of Minnesota's requirement by 2030.

This week, Texas had blackouts due to low temperatures, snow, and ice freezing windmills and covering solar cells. Last year, California experienced blackouts and brownouts due to high temperatures increasing usage beyond the power grid's ability to deliver sufficient energy. More than ever, we need reliable power sources.

According to the Manhattan Institute, a single electric car battery weighing 1000 pounds requires extracting and processing 500,000 pounds of material. There may be 1% or less of the desired mineral in the mined dirt and rock. Mine it, transport it, crush the rock, treat it with various chemicals to separate the good from the bad, dispose of the now toxic chemicals and rubble, purify and process the remainder into a usable form, then ship it to the various manufacturers needing it.

Now, the batteries can be built. All of this is done with fossil fuels. 17 of these minerals must be imported. A significant expansion of green energy will

result in an unprecedented increase in global mining with its own environmental issues.

I Feel Your Pain

Paul Stone, Dublin

In an article in The Independent from Feb. 11, by Dawnmarie Fehr, a number of people are cited as lamenting the closure of Campo di Bocce restaurant in Livermore.

Although I've never been there, I too lament its closure and also the closure of many, many businesses in California. Much, if not most, of the blame for this is due to the floundering, erratic, capricious, governance of Gavin Newsom in his handling of the Covid crisis.

Please take time to download a copy of the petition to recall the governor. You can sign it only for yourself if you wish - recallgavin2020.com.

Agree and Disagree

Lee Edwards, Livermore

Donna Bievin, wow!

We seem to have some similar family histories and upbringings. I do take exceptions to some of the assumptions you make. I never mentioned cages in my letter, but since you did, you might have forgotten that it was Obama and Biden that built these "holding enclosures" in 2014. Obama and Biden also began separating children that were brought over the border by human smugglers and non-relative adults.

Another of your assumptions is that I am against hard working migrants. I didn't say anything of the sort. I am totally in favor of legal immigration into the U.S. Here is my assumption. I assume you and your family immigrated legally to the U.S. True?

I don't believe I said anything about Black, Brown or LGBTQ people but since you brought it up let's look at that - school choice, lower minority unemployment, larger wage increases, less dependence on food stamps, opportunity zones, increased funding for Black colleges and universities, the First Step Act and prison reform all improved life for minorities.

From your statements you infer that I condoned the actions of the rioters in D.C. on Jan 6. I didn't even mention that in my comments. Please stay on point. I will state that anyone doing anything criminal should be held accountable for those actions. No one, right or left, conservation or liberal should get away with any violation of the law.

Lastly, I don't need you to feel sorry for me for "not getting it." I pay my taxes, I donate to worthy causes, I volunteer, and I thoroughly enjoy my blended, multi-ethnic family. Please don't put words in my mouth.

And If You Believe That!

James Sisco, Livermore

I'm just amazed at the utter ignorance and lack of sensible reasoning on display by Rep. Eric Swalwell on any subject matter he cares to blaviate on!

Like any far-left Democrat

from California, he constantly makes mountains out of mole-hills on any policy, action, non-action or whatever comes from his Republican or right-leaning fellow lawmakers and American citizens. I am further amazed that The Independent endorses Swalwell and that reporter Larry Altman continues to write glowing articles about Swalwell and what a wonderful job he does for our country and is such a superb and honorable lawmaker.

Personally, I don't believe one word spoken by Rep. Swalwell as he exaggerates the facts, lies about actual events, makes things up and inevitably lands on the immoral and non-sensible side of the fence.

I'm amazed (I suppose I shouldn't be surprised) that Mr. Altman failed to mention anything about Swalwell's recent China spy escapade. Really, not one word about the biggest news item in Swalwell's political career? Just because you don't mention it (hoping it will simply disappear if we ignore it) doesn't change the fact that Swalwell's actions represent a much more grievous violation and treasonous behavior than former President Trump will ever be.

To believe Swalwell's statement about having "won their case and have effectively prevented Trump from ever holding office again" is wishful thinking. No such determination has been made! Just because Swalwell speaks and Altman writes, doesn't make it truth!

So Independent, how about you change your newspapers name to "The Democrat Journal," so your readers won't be deceived into thinking they are reading a fair, balanced and truthful news and opinions newspaper, which the word "Independent" according to Merriam-Webster, means not subject to control by others, not affiliated with a larger controlling unit, not looking to others for one's opinions or for guidance in conduct, not bound by or definitively committed to a political party.

Politicians Living Up to Sleazy Reputations

Robin Hill, Livermore

Shame on the Independent for the piece on Rep Swalwell sharing his Trial "Perspective". Mr. Swalwell is a disgrace to our nation. He aided China with his relationship with the Spy for years and now is preaching ethics he stands for? The "evidence" at that mockery of a trial was completely fabricated by cutting out factual data. It was as good as a made for Hollywood drama movie ... Shame on these politicians for living up to their sleazy reputations. They are the reason an outsider like Trump was supported by so many, a good majority of the American people are sick and tired of the politician's rhetoric "do as we say, not as we do".

Single-minded Political Agenda

Maggie Lloyd, Livermore

Given the very left-leaning bent of The Independent, I wasn't surprised to see multi-column endorsements of a "national popular vote" (NPV). It's basically a work around to bypass America's electoral college (EC), which is foundational to our governance. Coastal democratic states have for years wanted to bypass or ignore states that don't think and govern as they do. All states should be represented and have a say as to who is president - the NPV does not do that.

We are divided in our thinking and always have been. Biden

(or any president) will not unify the nation - almost half the country didn't vote for him and disagrees with his policies. Any perceived unity under Biden will only be because big tech, most of all social and other media, and academia will silence any dissenting voices.

What would be more in keeping with the spirit of the EC would be for the EC votes to be prorated based on voting results within each state. That would ensure that all citizens are represented within our existing framework. It is crazy that the (more than) six million republican votes in California were not represented by a single electoral vote. Reading more about the supposed "Conservatives for NPV" - it seems like the funding trail is quite murky and ties back into Democrat organizations.

We do need changes, so the EC better represents our diverse country - the NPV does not do that. It is unfortunate The Independent devoted only two sentences to any critique of the proposal, but very in keeping with its single-minded political agenda.

Congrats to Governor, Staff Theodore Schaefer, Livermore

Some Californians want to remove the governor because of his early and tough handling of Covid, but the facts are quite different.

The death rate in comparable, large, dense metro counties like LA is 1 in 507 or 1 in 1,115 for Santa Clara, California, vs. 1 in 509 for low-density Mariposa County, Arizona. Another way of saying it is that statewide the death rate in California is 124/100K, Arizona 213/100K, and Texas is 146/100K, both of them way higher than California.

Compounding the issue is how the media reports nightly the total deaths per state, not taking population into account, so California looks much worse than Texas and Arizona, but really isn't comparably.

Congratulations to the governor and staff and our med professionals for his early and strong Covid response in spite of 'do nothing' WH.

Please Rethink This

Lisbeth Eltgroth, Livermore

Rarely do we in America look ahead beyond a few short years.

We have this one chance to look out 50 years and more. This is about the old Lucky land. Presently, it is wide open, but imagine a park where people can meet and share without feeling closed in. The latest plan will close it down, with no way to get it back for 20, 30 or more years. What a legacy to leave behind. Please rethink this. It's for all of us and our future.

Park Downtown

Thomas Soules, Livermore

Eden housing claims that it might lose \$14.5 million if it does not go ahead with its plan to build the proposed huge, 3 and 4-story housing complex on the downtown Lucky site.

Others say that it will not lose this money if a different site, such as north of Railroad Avenue, is chosen. I am not a lawyer, but clearly feel that making this area on the Lucky site a park, rather than huge 3 and 4-story residential buildings will greatly enhance the city. In fac, now that we have seen what has happened on the Groth Brother's site as a result of the building of large residential structures, I think it is imperative, absolutely necessary, that we preserve the area across the street as a park if we do not want

the character of our downtown to be destroyed.

Let's consider the worst case. Eden does not get the \$14.5 million, and the city puts up the money for building the housing elsewhere. Put this in perspective. The lab spends that amount of money every three to four days. There are single-family homes in the area that sell for more than that amount of money.

It seems to me that even in this worst-case scenario, if the city spent the \$14.5 million it would be the best investment it ever made for the good of the community.

Newsom Socialism

Mike Bland, Livermore

It was sad to read about the closure of Campo di Bocce.

I recall many fun times there and a great staff. We should all remember this as another failure of the Newsom handling of this virus. I am confident that his haunts - The French Laundry or his Plump Jack Winery (which both remain open - humm!) will not be forced to close. So much for his "science-based" policies. This is all about controlling what businesses and people support his policies.

That is the Newsom Socialism. Please remember this at the recall vote.

COVID Math Matters

Alan Burnham, Livermore

You've heard about herd immunity, but do you know what's behind the curtain?

Here is the math.

Remember exponential growth? If the exponent is positive, new cases increase; if it is negative, new cases decline; if it is zero, new cases are constant. But what is the exponent? It is simply the average number of people an infected person infects minus one.

Before social controls, the average person infected about 4 other people. Social controls have reduced the transmission rate (Rt) to between 0.8 and 1.5 over time as people got more and less careful. The average Rt from last March through early January was about 1.1, so controls were about 70% effective. That gives an average growth coefficient of 0.1 (i.e., 1.1-1).

Obviously, close to zero is not good enough. We really need a growth coefficient of -0.2 or less (Rt < 0.8) for COVID to die out. Fortunately, as more people recover or get vaccinated, the Rt will drop by the fraction of nominally immune people, and that is where we are now.

There are nearly 30 million confirmed cases, but the true number is about four times larger due to asymptomatic cases and ones too mild to bother getting tested. So about 120 million now have natural immunity (at least for a while). Nearly 65 million people have been vaccinated, but some not twice or have not developed the full immunity, and some might be in the 120 million. So perhaps another 45 million are nominally immune by vaccination. That means a total of about 165 million, or half the population, is nominally immune. Let's say 90% immune.

Combining the effects of immunity and social distancing reduces Rt to 4*0.5*(1-0.7)/0.9=0.7, which is about equal to the most recent Rt value of 0.8 reported by Harvard. This explains why the number of cases is falling so fast now.

However, we don't know how long immunity lasts, and we don't want to wear masks forever. Also, the more cases floating around, the greater chance for a more transmis-

sible variant. To achieve herd immunity, we want Rt to be less than 0.8 without social distancing. For 90% vaccination effectiveness, the critical value is 82%, because then Rt=4*(1-0.82)/0.9=0.8.

They are not a problem now, but as natural immunity wanes, too many anti-vaxers would threaten both the health and economy of others, which is a rather selfish view of freedom.

What About the Future?

Glen Stewart, Livermore

It's time for Livermore to put the downtown development plan approved by the former city council on hold, host an off-site business retreat (no distractions), and revisit the outdated 2004 Downtown Specific Plan. We need guidelines to help steer Livermore in the right direction for the upcoming 50 years.

I feel Livermore's 'revitalization' plan is being piecemealed together without a carefully thought out strategy for the future. Lines were drawn in the sand when the former city council took the downtown development plans drafted by citizens, approved by an ad hoc Downtown Steering committee, and presented to the residents at the Outreach Program.

Within months, this city council voted to adopt a plan that didn't carefully address the impact it would have on future parking, traffic congestion, community character, population growth, and providing open space, which is a fundamental requirement for downtown success, or how the land north of Railroad Ave between L St and North I St would be utilized.

Downtown revitalization requires collaboration between Livermore and an urban planning design company. The elements of urban planning are these: land use, traffic, sustainability, engineering, economic development, environmental planning, landscaping, building architecture, parks, open space, finance, construction and an urban management team. They need to be coordinated to give residents what they asked for - community character and a sense of pride in a town center that draws us together, and invites visitors to patronize local businesses and wineries.

The City is planning a conventional 4.5 level, 500-car garage on L Street and is preparing to move forward on building a 275-car conventional parking garage at North I Street, and restripe the parking spaces in the parking garage to squeeze in more cars.

It's a fact that a robotic parking garage can park vehicles door-to-door and bumper-to-bumper on 30-50% less land than needed for a conventional garage with the same capacity for less money. A robotic parking space cost \$35,000, a conventional parking space \$65,000, and underground spaces \$78,000. This means twice the number of available parking spaces in the same size garage. Vehicle retrieval time is less than 3 minutes compared to the time it would take to walk and find your car in a conventional garage.

Very large and very small robotic parking garages are feasible.

Consider building robotic parking garages in dispersed locations- for Eden Housing in various locations, the future hotel, and the L Street garage.

It's Never Going to Happen

Philip La Scola, Livermore

I read the editorial in the Feb. 18 edition of The Independent

(See MAILBOX, page 5)

THE Independent

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MAILBOX

(Continued from page 4)

discussing the merits of ensuring each vote counts.

However, this is not an editorial that achieves that end, as it disenfranchises voters in less populous states. This idea, by Barry Fadem, has been around since 2006, and it is no different than eliminating the electoral college system and allowing a president to be elected on the popular vote. Except, Mr. Fadem wants to keep the electoral college system, and states would pledge their electoral college votes to the candidate who wins the popular vote.

Excuse me, but I don't see any difference.

Whoever wrote this editorial is either poor at math or is extremely biased. The statement that makes this editorial destined for the trash basket states, "That those who previously felt that their votes wouldn't count in blue or red states would feel empowered when casting their ballots."

Please explain how accepting this premise empowers voters.

How is a voter in either a blue or red state going to feel "empowered" if the candidate voted for wins that state 60-40, but the state has to pledge their electoral votes to the 40% candidate?

Thank goodness the founding fathers had the foresight to see that certain states would be more populated than others and devised the electoral college system to avert these states from determining who would get elected.

The only way electing a president by the popular vote is going to be fair and equitable is for every state to have the same amount of people residing in each and every one of them.

That's never going to happen.

Preserving the Health of Livermore's Residents, and Its Future, with a Park Linda Centoni, Livermore

It's tempting for developers to deem parks as a nice-to-have, something easy to cut when plans must change, or budgets get tight.

Parks are synonymous with play, after all. They're frivolous, right?

Wrong. According to a 2017 brief from the World Health Organization, there is a direct link between urban green space and the improvement of public health.

Parks provide an opportunity

for residents to participate in an active lifestyle and alleviate stress — two important ways people can stay healthy and not overburden the medical system.

Parks provide an important place for social interactions and community cohesiveness — two things that are in short supply in this online era and that are crucial to maintaining a thriving, engaged citizenry.

Parks provide a buffer, reducing exposure to environmental hazards like air and noise pollution. They also provide habitats that preserve biodiversity. And they can also help mitigate the impacts of extreme weather, such as heatwaves or extreme rainfall.

A truly usable park — not just a glorified strip of grass — in downtown Livermore's urban core offers important accessibility for those unable to travel to find greenspace, people like seniors, differently abled citizens, children, and workers with limited time. In short, all of Livermore will benefit from access to nature in the city center.

A park in downtown Livermore will not only enhance and improve the city's livability in the aforementioned ways, but it will also enhance and improve the city's appeal as a tourist destination, which will bring a steady flow of income far into the future.

It cannot be stressed enough that Eden Housing's new plan to reduce park space runs counter to all that Livermore must do to sustain a healthy, thriving community for generations to come. Livermore is growing, and as the population expands, the need to prioritize and safeguard green space in the downtown core is more important than ever. The Eden Housing development must move or change its plans to accommodate the original park.

We cannot let one corporation's short-term goals devastate the long-term success of our city.

Is This How Livermore Treats Its Most Vulnerable? Carol Perry, Livermore

I want to bring to your attention an event that occurred on Jan. 24, 2021, in Livermore.

A pickup was pulled over by LPD for no current tags. The gentleman of color driving did not have a current California driver's license. He told the officer that he was living in his truck, looking for work and had all his trade tools in the truck.

At that time, the pickup was impounded, and this man was put out on the street.

Certainly, we need to have vehicles registered and drivers licensed. With social services such as City Serve, La Familia and Partners for Change available, were any of these services involved before the truck was impounded? Livermore officials talk as if homelessness is a primary concern, but on this day, the homeless population was increased by one.

My second issue is the fees levied against him. The city charges around \$100 per day, every day a vehicle is in storage, plus towing fees. The city could make this situation whole by waving all fees related to the impound if this man should try to claim his rightful property. Taking property, let alone someone's shelter, from a vulnerable person does not seem to "do the right thing, in the right way, for the right reason," to quote Livermore PD's stated values.

My primary concern is not this past event - the community has connected this gentleman to social services, and he can decide what direction he wants to go in. My primary concern is the policies and practices that allowed this to happen, and what LPD will do next time they come across a similar case.

I want to support LPD, but I cannot and do not support what was done in this incident. The famous Mahatma Gandhi's quote, "The true measure of any society can be found in how it treats its most vulnerable members," is appropriate here.

Is this how Livermore wants to treat its most vulnerable? I hope not.

No Need for Downtown Housing Mark Strauch, Livermore

The letter from reader Richard Sears (Creeping Urbanization) is spot on.

The Sage development is a blight on the hillsides. Time will tell, but the towering structures going up on the Groth site appears dominating. Instead of a committee on Equity and Inclusion, we need an "Anti-Dublin-fication" committee.

There is no need to put housing in downtown.

Wake Up Owen Brvont, Livermore

Most people don't like to think seriously because it becomes boring and commonly

leads to confusion and chaos — it is unsettling and sometimes perplexing — for others, a practice to be cultivated.

There are frequently insuperable problems with truth. While the realm of truth is ubiquitous, in a way it is small — though sometimes nuggets are conspicuous, at most other times, what is branded a truth is slippery and evasive and maybe not actually there! One defining characteristic of truth is that it is immutable! Truth often has a material aspect; for example, gold, light, hydrogen, water — the elements are truth because they are what they are in their pure natural state, nothing more and nothing less — shape, size, and use are irrelevant.

Other ideas, branded as truth, are neither immutable nor have a material aspect. Among people, universal agreement with an idea is often labeled a principle. Unfortunately, these "principles" are vulnerable like a brick or a watermelon, they can deteriorate, crumble, fall apart, rot away, or can simply disappear and pass away of death by neglect.

The immutable truths are the building blocks of the universe; the material out of which everything is made. Building on analogies derived from his perceptions, man continually attempts to use "mutable truths" to gestate his ideas, build his civilizations, and form his societies — and it sort of works — but neither permanently nor particularly well as evidenced by the fact that to date, for one reason or another, most human civilizations and societies have decayed and fallen.

Where is this going? It is because man's principles are insufficiently cherished, lack impregnable intellectual foundations, universality and allegiance, they are vulnerable. Many tactics and techniques have been brought to bear against our Western and American principles. Society has not maintained effective oversight, consequently unprotected principles have proved vulnerable to proclamations of new "Woke" ideas intended to supplant the "old worn-out truths" — regardless of their historically demonstrated successes.

Today, these tactics and attack techniques against society include assertions of white privilege and white supremacy, distorted issues around diversi-

ty, white guilt, systemic racism, critical race theory, denial of biologically determined gender, LGBTQ propaganda rapidly invading K-12 school curricula, and The 1619 Project, a wholesale distortion of American history. Wake up!

Thomas Sowell cautioned: "Some things are believed because they are demonstrably true, but many other things are believed simply because they have been asserted repeatedly."

Solar Power Plant Concerns Carol Silva, Livermore

In 2000, voters passed Measure D to enhance agricultural land and to protect it from the fragmentation of development.

It is the duty of elected officials to honor voter-approved measures.

The Alameda County Supervisors will hear the appeals pertaining to Intersect Power's Aramis Solar Power Plant on March 4. Prior to this meeting, I hope that the supervisors will take a second look at all the excellent letters addressing peoples' concerns of this proj-

ect. The concerns include, but are not all-inclusive, violation of Measure D, inadequate draft and final EIRs, lack of a solar policy for Alameda County, destroying North Livermore Avenue's Scenic Corridor, having an industrial facility in an agricultural-zoned district, risks of new wildfires both from high gusts of wind bringing down transmission lines and from trailer-truck size lithium-ion battery stations, the ugliness and biological harm to birds of overhead electricity lines in multiple locations, some 10 stories tall, and harming native biological diversity, habitat for native species, and local ecosystems in eastern Alameda County.

In an article entitled "A Shocking Toll" in National Wildlife's February and March 2021 magazine, it states that, "Electrocution on U.S. power lines has long been a significant cause of bird mortality, killing as many as 11.6 million birds a year ... It happens when two body parts ... come in contact with two wires or a

(See MAILBOX, page 6)



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Eden Housing's new plan causes a 60% loss of the green park between the buildings that was originally promised

What Was Promised



What We're Getting Instead



The new Eden Housing plan reduces public park space between the buildings by 32%. To make matters worse, almost half of the remaining public open space will now be hardscape rather than grass. This will cause a 60% total loss of the green park that was originally planned and promised.

- ✗ 32% less public park space between buildings
- ✗ 60% total loss of green park between the buildings that was promised
- ✗ Less park areas for Livermore children and families



Speak up to save Livermore Downtown!

Join hundreds of Livermore residents. [Sign the petition at tinyurl.com/Save-Livermore-Downtown!](https://tinyurl.com/Save-Livermore-Downtown!)

Check out our new website at SaveLivermoreDowntown.com!

PAID FOR BY SAVE LIVERMORE DOWNTOWN

MAILBOX

(Continued from page 5)

wire and ground source, shooting voltage through the bird. Because of their size, raptors are particularly at risk. From 2000 to 2015, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's National Forensics Laboratory analyzed 417 electrocuted raptors from 13 species and found that 333, or nearly 80 percent, were bald or golden eagles."

Not far from the proposed Aramis project, the density of breeding golden eagles is among the highest reported for the species. There is a breeding pair of bald eagles at Del Valle. My husband recently saw a bald eagle at the Livermore airport. There are a lot of raptors in north Livermore, including some hawks that land in our north Livermore yard.

There are so many concerns with this mega project, which other individuals and I have already stated, are the reasons why I strongly oppose this project.

Please contact Alameda County Supervisors to express your concerns by going to www.acgov.org/board and clicking on the districts represented by David Haubert, Richard Valle, Wilma Chan, Nate Miley, and Keith Carson.

Selling Us Out Again Cindy Jo Burrow, Livermore

Have (they) learned nothing after Texas?

Sure, we don't get that cold in years, but I was here when, yes, it snowed enough to stay on the ground. Wake up people, a promise was made to us to leave the North side of town to agriculture, not solar panels - that is just wrong on so many levels. Stick to what you said, city council.

You already lied to (us) about the housing and park, so guess I should (have) known that you would sell us out again.

No Industrial Power Plant in North Livermore

Johnna Thompson, Livermore

When I first read about the prospect of a solar "farm" in north Livermore, I thought it was a great opportunity to increase the amount of renewable energy in California and help in the urgent need to mitigate global warming.

I had seen only fallow fields in that area of north Livermore, and I had no idea of its agricultural potential or of its role as habitat for native species, including critically endangered California tiger salamanders and red-legged frogs. As I've read more about the issue in The Independent, my opinion has shifted.

Of course, increasing renewable sources of energy is important, but so is preserving increasingly scarce open space and wildlife habitat.

There are other locations suitable for solar panels, namely on rooftops and over parking lots; we don't have to sacrifice agricultural land on the altar of renewable energy. I would like to see incentives for rooftop solar with battery storage, so that we aren't covering hundreds of acres of agricultural land with industrial power plants.

I'll be writing to the Alameda County Board of Supervisors requesting that they deny conditional use permits for the Aramis and Sunwalker industrial scale solar facilities in north Livermore.

The Downtown Housing Project Vivian Guzman, Livermore

I think that the newest plans for Eden's Housing in Livermore's Downtown are deplorable!

I don't feel that the needs and views of most of the Livermore inhabitants were given careful consideration! Where is the green area (that we voted for), so that we would be able to enjoy walking, sitting, and visiting with friends and neighbors, and where the children would be able to play? What about the promised housing for teachers, firefighters, and police? Do our opinions, perspectives and votes count at all? Apparently not!

Also, adequate parking is a very big problem!

The plan should reflect the desires and needs of the community of Livermore residents, and this plan does not!

Industrial-Scale Solar coming to Livermore David Rounds, Livermore

Achieving our green-energy goal is important, but the (more than) 300,000 solar panels planned as part of the Aramis and SunWalker industrial solar installations are not critical to achieving that goal.

What these power plants will accomplish is the destruction of over 500 acres of agricultural land and a rural route that has been designated as scenic for over 50 years. These developments will also make Intersect Power (Aramis) and SunWalker millions of dollars, stuff the pockets of absentee landowners in North Livermore and enable San Franciscans to buy 'green-energy credits' (SF has contracted to receive 75% of the Aramis plants energy credits). There are better ways to get

clean energy.

Livermore has been approving 500 to 600 permits per year for residential rooftop solar. This is enough to generate two to three MW of clean energy per year. So, in two years, the residents of Livermore produce as much new solar as the smaller SunWalker solar plant proposed for North Livermore. East Bay Community Energy (EBCE), the counties' clean energy aggregator, has identified over 1,000 MW of solar potential on already-developed land.

According to a county supervisors office, the EBCE had the opportunity to contract for 100% of the power from the Aramis project, and they chose hawks that land in our north Livermore yard.

For a decade, the county has been promising to create a solar policy and to do a solar siting study to determine areas for solar in the county that will have the least impact on communities and the environment.

Again, why have they not accomplished this important study? Maybe they are afraid of the results. The Aramis decision goes before the county supervisors on March 4, and SunWalker will follow soon thereafter.

Contact your supervisors for the Tri-Valley (Dave Haubert at 510-272-6691 or dave.haubert@acgov.org, and Nate Miley at 510-272-6694 or nate.miley@acgov.org) and tell them no industrial scale solar without an honest solar siting study.

Supervisors Should Keep Their Word Jean King, Livermore

Alameda County needs to establish a solar policy before approving any solar installations.

Santa Clara and Contra Costa Counties have solar policies. San Joaquin has identified 'least conflict areas.' Alameda County should study, get the public's input on solar installations and have a comprehensive solar policy. Distributed solar must be included in the study. Industrial solar does not belong on agricultural lands, where it violates Measure D and does not protect threatened species. The supervisors should keep their word and not consider the Aramis Industrial project until there is a solar policy.

No One Is for The People Doran Burrow, Livermore

I'm very disappointed in our community leaders.

I went to meetings to let them know how I felt, but nobody listened to the majority of the people. We all recognized that we needed more housing, but to promise a beautiful park, and then fill more houses - this is just a giant knife in the back.

Are all of our governments money hungry? No one is for the people.

Sacrifice is a One-way Street for Intersect Tyler O'Brien, Livermore

Intersect Power, the company behind the massive Aramis industrial solar plant proposed for North Livermore, wants the public to believe its project is critical for meeting California's renewable energy goals and anyone opposed to the project is ignoring the threat of climate change.

That's not what is at stake. California is rapidly expanding renewable energy. Whether or not the Aramis Project is built, California is well on its way to meeting its clean energy goals.

What's really happening is Intersect Power is capitalizing on our legitimate concerns over climate change and the future of our planet in an effort to boost its bottom line at the expense of our open space and wildlife habitats. The company refuses to apply for take permits from federal and state environmental agencies and place other land under conservation easements to mitigate the environmental harm the Aramis Project will cause to endangered and at-risk species in Livermore Valley.

Intersect Power even filed its own appeal to the Board of Supervisors to overturn the modest setbacks it must establish between the North Livermore Avenue and Manning Road and the solar panels and the amount of distance it must provide to avoid disturbing any nesting golden eagles.

For Intersect Power, sacrifice is a one-way street - by the residents and wildlife of North Livermore alone.

The Community Will Work With You K.E. Froeschner, Livermore

It seems a real shame that a city whose population consists, at least to a fairly large extent, of some of the most brilliant minds on the planet cannot come up with a better plan for its City Center than standard, ugly,

multi-level garages, massive blocks of residential housing without adequate parking, park areas which are little more than token green spots and too small for any recreational use, and a constrained site for what had been hoped to be a wine-country hotel.

Everything about the Downtown Plan in its current altered state is wrong. The Council needs to rethink its downtown proposal. If Eden housing cannot meet the terms of the original agreement, the contract should be cancelled.

The community will work with you to come up with something that is inspiring and practical.

Let Them Know Where You Stand Fred Redeker, Livermore

The final environmental impact report (EIR) on the Aramis project found that the facility will have 'a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista.'

Furthermore, even with the proposed landscaping plan as a mitigation measure, the EIR found the impact on scenic resources remains 'significant and unavoidable. This matches what the county planners discussed among themselves prior to publication of the report.

In August 2020, Senior Alameda County Planner Bruce Jensen said, "There is 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. In fact, the mitigation itself introduces new significant impacts that cannot be mitigated." (The Aramis project has not materially changed in size since August.)

The Alameda County Board of Supervisors will review the Aramis project on March 4, 2021.

We need to expand renewable energy to address climate change, but in a thoughtful manner that safeguards the open space and agricultural land of Alameda County. We should never destroy the environment in order to save it.

Please let the supervisors know today where you stand on the Aramis project.

Save Our Valley Merlin Newton Sr., Livermore

Every independent public agency that has reviewed the Aramis Project environmental impact report has concluded that multiple threatened species that use the land for habitat or migrate across the land will be injured or killed during the construction and operation of the Aramis plant.

Why? Part of the reason is that the construction of the Aramis solar plant will require excavation, trenching, boring and grading of the land. Large, heavy construction equipment will be brought on site, including bulldozers, graders, rollers, compactors, loaders, backhoes, trenchers, cranes, water trucks and pile drivers. The land will never be the same.

Please contact Supervisor David Haubert at 925-272-6691 and ask him to reject the Aramis project. There is no reason to destroy the scarce remaining agricultural land in Alameda County, when we can easily obtain electricity from solar plants built elsewhere in the state.

In fact, East Bay Community Energy just celebrated the completion of massive solar plant in Kern County. Built on degraded agricultural land, the plant will provide EBCE 112 MW of electricity.

Let's be smart and save our valley.

Livermore is My Heart Jenny Reynolds, Livermore

I have been a Livermore resident for over 20 years.

I have raised two children here. I used to be an advertising executive, but a car accident in 2011 left me disabled. A divorce quickly followed.

Since 2013, I have clawed and scraped my way just to survive in this town with my children, going from a six-figure salary to under the poverty line and still not being able to qualify for food stamps. I am always a breath away from being homeless. I am renting, and come May, I will be homeless, unless I can find some low-income housing.

The truth is yes, working people like policemen and teachers are treated with more regard in this city. They are somehow more deserving than myself who would absolutely give anything to work and feel like a contributing member of society again. But I am not. I am basically considered by the public to be equal to homeless - or at least part of the crowd that is absolutely and abundantly clear that no resident in Livermore wants me here.

But I ask you why? Because I am poor?

I have produced two beautiful children that will soon be able to give back to the community in which they were born, grew up in, made friends in, fell in love in, had their first heartache in and suffered distance learning in. But soon enough,

they won't be able to live at home, because I will no longer be able to afford to live here. I have been looking and been on every wait list I can imagine. And why do I have to leave you ask? So the landlord can get \$400 more a month.

People working at least have the opportunity to get raises and have double incomes. Lots of people would like to live in a different place, but there are some people like me, who are good, honest, helpful, generous people that are friends with neighbors, who help and are involved as much as they can be, that need low-income housing!

Please don't take Livermore away from us! Where am I to go? Siberia? Is that fair to my children? I'm going to lose my physical home, but I'm also about to lose my home of home.

Livermore is in my heart and soul, and you all just want to break it!

Senators Must Oppose Vilsack Lex Manwill, Livermore

Tom Vilsack's nomination as secretary of agriculture does not belong within Joe Biden's progressive agenda.

Vilsack has served as governor of Iowa, secretary of agriculture under President Obama, and chief lobbyist for the dairy industry. His candidacy is opposed by a vast coalition of small and minority farmers, as well as consumer, labor, and environmental advocates. Here's why:

He presided over consolidation of Big Ag to take unfair advantage of small farmers. He failed to protect minority farmers and farm workers from exploitation by Big Ag. He supported location of highly polluting factory farms in minority communities. He promoted approval of numerous genetically modified food products. He allowed meatpacking employees to replace government food safety inspectors. He serves as a highly paid lobbyist for the dairy industry, a significant factor in the climate crisis. He failed to lead our nation's transition from a meat and fat-laden diet to a healthy, eco-friendly diet of vegetables, fruits, and grains. Even in crass political terms, he failed to deliver the Iowa caucuses to the Biden candidacy and the rural vote to the Biden presidency.

Our senators must oppose Tom Vilsack's nomination as secretary of agriculture.

God Isn't Pleased Anthony Beckett, Pleasanton

Despite the obvious dangers ahead with a Biden (administration), I was praying that once President Trump was out of office, things would settle down a little from the (four-year), ever-amplified hysterics and constant hounding of Trump (and by extension the American people) by the Democratic party. But sadly, it appears that will never happen. After harassing him for (more than four) years, they continue to chase him down the road, a month after he left office. Our representative, Swalwell, who has been brilliant in two (separate) impeachment charades, at grasping failure from the jaws of victory, announced this morning four(!) brand-new bills.

What are they doing for his district you may ask? As usual, nothing, because he is still somewhere down the road, pitchfork and torch in hand, right behind Trump.

Rep. Swalwell proposes the redundant "Duty to Report Act" (and) "Corporate Duty to Report Act," the hilariously ironic "Enhancing Protections for Whistleblower Anonymity Act", and the superfluous "Prevent Corrupting Foreign Influence Act." What is so sad about these attempts at relevance is the laws they propose are already laws and have been for decades.

But what stuns me the most, besides the recent months of partisan-drenched malarkey, is the fact that Swalwell, who appears to do nothing for this district, having been compromised by Chinese spies, and whose vanity and dishonesty have been the only tools in his shed for years in his party's nonstop attempt to take down Trump, is still employed by his constituents. Are we, proud residents of the 15th district, really that cynical? Do we really fall for any of this?

If God is watching, I'll bet He isn't pleased.

Contact Your Supervisors Donna Cabanne, Livermore

Want to save ranches, farmland, scenic vistas, and three endangered species?

Contact Livermore District 1 Supervisor Haubert and ask him to:

1. Uphold the appeal to Save North Livermore Valley - deny certification of the final EIR.

2. Ask supervisors to develop an Alameda County solar policy detailing which areas should be restricted from mega power plants - restrict areas with endangered species. Supervisor Haubert promised he would oppose approval of power plants until a county

policy was adopted. To protect open space, Santa Clara and Contra Costa have done this.

3. Require Aramis to follow Measure D - power lines can be built for ranchers, but not industrialized for San Francisco, who will purchase 80% of power generated; Livermore will get about 1%.

Aramis' claim of green energy is the wolf hiding under the sheep skin to maximize their profits.

4. Ask supervisors to follow a rooftops-first policy. Livermore has solar rooftop installations covering 11%. The total estimated capacity is 679 MW. Going from 11% to 25% will produce 100MW of additional capacity, the equivalent of Aramis. That leaves 75% of additional capacity. Imagine if all cities in Alameda did rooftops first - no transmission costs. Imagine if San Francisco did rooftops first - they would not need to destroy our valley.

5. Biological mitigations must be rewritten to conform to the Endangered Species Act.

6. USFWS requires Aramis develop mitigation for permanent conservation before the final EIR.

7. Required compensation for wildlife from incidental-take permits must be replaced as close to site as possible.

8. The project site has substantially changed - required setbacks; removal of the Stanley parcel and Water Management Parcel. The county must recirculate new maps and designs; stating a reduced project has reduced impacts is not allowed under CEQA.

We can achieve 100% renewable energy without destroying Livermore and protect biodiversity ordered by Governor Newsom. Start by contacting Supervisors.

New Plan Needed Jim Murray, Livermore

Eden's recent changes have significantly increased the footprint of the housing, which reduces the park area by 32%.

It also reduced the number of parking spaces for the housing to 98 less than the number required to meet the Livermore city parking requirements, which will force the housing residents to use spaces currently designated for downtown businesses. More open space and more parking were the two highest rated concerns from the outreach program, and Eden's plan cuts back on both.

Further, it reduces the income limits for the subsidized housing such that most teachers, firefighters, and police wouldn't qualify, contrary to promises. We need a new plan.

Why not move the housing elsewhere, where there's space for more housing and parking, like north of Railroad Avenue, and create a much larger park — the so-called win-win alternative that the mayor promised to keep an open mind about during his mayoral campaign?

Help Foster Well Being Rev. Heather Leslie Hammer, Rev. Kathy La Point-Collup, Rev. Chelsea Constant

Asbury United Methodist Church, Livermore

We want to live in a community we can be proud of - as pastors and community leaders, we detest the hatred and violence toward Asian Americans in Oakland and throughout the Bay Area in recent days.

Lunar New Year should bring hope in a dark time of pandemic. Instead, violence toward Asian Americans reminds us of the shameful legacy of racism in California history, including the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 and 'Yellow Peril.' The anniversary of the Japanese Internment Camps Executive Order, Feb. 19, 1942, is another painful reminder of our nation's unjust treatment of 120,000 American citizens of Asian descent.

We do not want to pass on a legacy of 'us against them.' Our church stands for acceptance and inclusion of all people. We are engaged in anti-racism work, as well as 'living room conversations' to learn to dialogue with people with whom we have difference of opinion.

We invite you to call 925-447-1950 to help foster the wellbeing of all people in our community.

Tiger Salamanders in North Livermore Michael Fredrich, Livermore

The people at Intersect Power, the developers of the proposed Aramis industrial solar power plant in North Livermore, have been telling us that North Livermore is essentially a barren wasteland devoid of any life worth preserving.

Through a superficial and inadequate biological study of the project site, Intersect's paid biologist claimed they were not able to find any species of concern, such as tiger salamanders. Now, a volunteer biologist, on her own time, has been able to identify the presence of tiger salamanders at the site.

Clearly, Intersect's environmental studies were intended to avoid finding any species of

concern. By limiting the study to a short period, at a time of year when it would have been unlikely to observe species such as tiger salamanders, they guaranteed they would not find species that would cause them problems. Don't look and you won't find.

Both the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and California Department of Fish and Wildlife have grave concerns about the environmental impact of the Aramis project. Yet, Intersect Power is ignoring these concerns and powering forward with the project without any meaningful mitigation of the environmental damage they would cause.

Several small failed solar projects in extreme East Alameda County are being used as precedent for the Aramis project. If built, the Aramis project will likely be used to justify additional solar projects in North Livermore until the entire valley is covered with solar panels. The preservation of open space, wildlife habitat, agricultural land and scenic resources should not take a back seat to achieving the also laudable goal of increased renewable energy.

The Aramis project will go in front of the Alameda County Board of Supervisors on March 4. Please call, write, or email your county supervisor, especially our local supervisors, Haubert and Miley. Tell them you do not want North Livermore destroyed by industrial solar plants. Tell them you do not want any such projects considered until Alameda County adopts a comprehensive solar policy.

You can find contact information for the supervisors at www.savenorthlivermorevalley.com/action or search for "Save North Livermore Valley". You can find more information on preserving North Livermore at the same site.

Agrivoltaics Enhances Agriculture and More for North Livermore Larry Gosselin DVM, Livermore

I am a working conservationist and rancher in North Livermore.

After a severe, life-altering injury, I left my career as a horse veterinarian and research consultant to recover in the landscape of the Tri-Valley. My statement is based on research, a deep understanding of county ordinance, and hands dirty from work in the soil since I was a child.

Agrivoltaics is concurrently managing the same area of land for solar power and enhanced agriculture. Research has demonstrated that microclimates beneath the solar arrays decrease water loss from plants, retain soil moisture longer through the growing season, and reduce the stress of excessive sun. When combined with regenerative soil strategies, a recurring cycle of carbon sequestration brings life back to soil that has been neglected by mono-cropping and poorly managed grazing. That new soil life creates opportunities for more jobs in agriculture and can serve as one pillar for the development of a vibrant farm-to-fork local food economy. Agrivoltaics permits stewardship of the land to return, allowing enhanced conservation and outdoor recreation to develop. Agrivoltaics is the green power that meets carbon negative goals now, not 30 years from now.

Agrivoltaics is necessary for Measure D to be fulfilled in North Livermore. It's been 21 years since North Livermore was designated an Intensive Agriculture Area tasked to withstand urban sprawl. Since then, there have been no sustainable high value agricultural activities in the area. Increasing commuter traffic, non-compliant urban businesses, junk yards, storage yards, and dilapidated buildings contribute to the 'scenic viewshed' that ranchette owners and commuters want preserved for their benefit alone.

Measure D provided the essential tools of managed resource production to allow North Livermore to prosper as a complimentary agriculture district to South Livermore. Those tools include intensive agriculture, and managed production of energy resources. Agrivoltaics synergistically combines these tools to create infrastructure necessary to save the North Livermore Valley, save the planet, and create sustainable agriculture opportunities. Throughout the United States and internationally, agricultural associations, universities, states, and nations are recognizing and building upon the strong pairing of solar power and enhanced agricultural production.

We can do the same, or we can continue to watch the land die, the forests burn, and the droughts to continue to decimate our rangelands. I encourage you to email Supervisor Haubert at david.haubert@acgov.org to support agrivoltaics in North Livermore.



Threatened California Tiger Salamander Sighted Next to Aramis Project Site

solar plant. The sighting occurred during a nighttime rainstorm on Feb. 11, 2021.

"Due to the many documented occurrences of the California tiger salamander in every direction near the Aramis project site, and 15 confirmed breeding sites within the dispersal area of the salamander and the Aramis project, it has always been clear that the California tiger salamander was highly

likely to be present at the site,” Swaim stated.

The Aramis Project’s environmental impact report (EIR) found that the conversion of over 350 acres of grassland and cropland into a solar generation facility would not significantly impact the threatened California tiger salamander because there was “only a low potential” for the amphibian to be represent at the site.

988.

The bill would require that calls to 911 reporting a mental health crisis be transferred to a crisis center staffed by mental health counselors who can dispatch mobile crisis support teams, instead of police officers. Operators for 911 and 988 call centers would be able to coordinate their response if a medical, fire or law enforcement response was required.

The Federal Communications Commission last year designated 988 as a national telephone number for suicide prevention and mental health crisis hotlines.

"The current system relies on law enforcement and confinement and puts people suffering from mental ill-

an appointment process. Goel prevailed over four other candidates: past Dublin council candidates Samim Qureshi and Kashef Qadri; information technology manager Dean Barnes; and retired civil engineer John Koltz.

"I am very excited to be here and to be working with this group," said Goel. "Everyone has been very welcoming."

The 18-year Dublin resident and married father of three daughters comes to the role with a background in civil engineering and a bachelor's and master's degree in hydrology and hydraulics. He also worked as a flood-control design engineer.

"I think for me, the focus is going to be on water quality, resilience and stability and looking to the future long term," said Goel. "Having been in business myself, I will bring an efficiency and vantage point for developing policy and legislation."

DSRSD director and former city historian Georgean Vonheeder-Leopold, believes Goel's background and enthusiasm for the position made him the perfect candidate and ultimate selection.

"I have known (Goel) for about 10 years as he became interested and involved with some community organizations," said Leopold. "And I think his prior employment provides him with a broad base of experience in many of the issues we deal with. Having been a city councilman, he has a lot of knowledge of how public agencies operate."

DSRSD directors receive compensation of \$195 per day for each day of service.

to the district, up to a maximum of 10 days per month. The district's current rate is below the maximum amount allowable by state law, which is \$211.70 per day of service in 2020.

Duties as a director include serving in a policymaker role at properly noticed meetings, representing the district, speaking at pub-

For his part, Goel is fully ensconced in the position. With two meetings under his belt, he expects the transition to be a smooth one.

"I'm already starting to see the value and excellence of the staff and what they are delivering to residents," said Goel. "I think this is

Pleasanton Mayor Karla Brown will deliver her first State of the City address on Tuesday, March 9, at noon. The online address, hosted by the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce, will be available to those who register in advance at www.pleasanton.org. Brown was elected mayor in November 2020, after serving two terms on the Pleasanton City Council. She has lived in Pleasanton, working in real estate, for

28 years.

She has also been a volunteer with the Pleasanton Rage youth soccer, Tri-Valley Conservancy, Hively, and the Valley Humane Society, and was on the School Site Council for the Pleasanton Unified School District.

"We're all excited to hear what Mayor Brown has to say in her inaugural State of the City address," said Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce President Steve Van Dorn. "Given the cur-

Sponsors of the online address include the Chabot-Las Positas Community College District, John Muir Health, Lawrence Livermore National Security, Sensiba San Filippo and Stanford Health Care-ValleyCare.



State Permits Return of Outdoor Sports

Counties in the two highest COVID-19 tiers, but with falling case rates and hospitalizations, will be allowed to resume youth and recreational adult sports under new guidelines announced last week by the California Department of Public Health.

"Youth sports are important to our children's physical and mental health, and our public health approach has worked to balance those benefits against COVID-19 risks," said Dr. Tomás Aragón, CDPH director and State Public Health Officer.

and purple (widespread) tiers with modifications, including weekly COVID-19 testing for high-contact sports. The guidance applies to all organized youth and adult sports, including school and community-sponsored programs and privately organized clubs and leagues.

High-contact outdoor sports will be allowed in counties with a case rate at or below 14 per 100,000. COVID-19 testing will be

required for football, rugby and water polo participants 13 and over, and their coaches, in counties with case rates between 7 and 14 per 100,000. Testing is not required for moderate-contact outdoor sports, including baseball, cheerleading and softball.

Local health officers may implement more stringent rules.

To review the guidelines, visit bit.ly/Indy_CIF4sports.

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VACCINATION

(Continued from first page)

will also be able to receive the vaccine at this location.

Neetu Balram, public information manager for the Alameda County Public Health Department, said the location's first week has gone well.

"We are excited about the immediate success of this site and look forward to scaling up access to appointments as vaccine supplies permit," Balram said. "We are pleased to see efforts at the federal and state levels to increase supplies to all providers including counties."

Currently, the fairgrounds are the only county-operated point of dispensing (POD) in the Tri-Valley. Balram noted other community-based PODs will be placed in neighborhoods with a heavier burden of disease. Community clinics and other health care providers throughout the county are providing vaccine doses as supplies permit.

The site was chosen as a vaccination center after it demonstrated the capacity to serve large numbers of people for COVID-19

testing.

Sutter Health anticipates vaccinating up to 2,000 patients each day once there is an adequate vaccine supply. The organization follows government guidelines by vaccinating its highest risk patients first.

At press time, Sutter Health had paused its scheduling of first-dose appointments due to a lack of vaccine supply.

"Our vaccination program relies on vaccine supply from the state," said Monique Binkley Smith, media relations manager. "Inclement weather has additionally impacted already allocated doses that were in route, causing further impacts to Sutter, as well as other health systems ... As soon as more (vaccines are) made available to us, we will reopen appointments."

SHVC started its run at the fairground with a few hundred appointments per day, with the goal of reaching 1,000 or more per day by early March.

"Stanford Health Care – ValleyCare is pleased to be able to offer COVID-19

vaccines to as many of our patients and community members as the supply will allow us to give through our ongoing partnership with Alameda County, Sutter Health and other community leaders," said Rick Shumway, SHVC president and CEO. "This is a continuation of our commitment to providing convenient access to care during the pandemic that honors our close connection to the Tri-Valley community."

Livermore Chamber Hosts Vaccine Update Webinar

Many residents have had questions about eligibility, efficacy and side effects. To help educate the public, the Livermore Valley Chamber of Commerce (LVCC) hosted a virtual COVID-19 update with information on vaccines, testing and the pandemic, including long-term effects.

SHVC presented the webinar with panelists Dr. Drake Scott, infectious disease specialist, and COO Tracy Taylor.

Scott discussed the declining number of COVID-19

cases this month, as well as the statewide decrease in the number of hospitalizations. He reported that the state has administered 6.4 million doses of the vaccine, with more than 200,000 of those in Alameda County. He also compared the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines and addressed concerns raised about the still unknown long-term side effects of the new vaccines.

The vaccines are largely similar in their effectiveness, side effects and need for two doses. Pfizer tested its vaccine on a larger group – 45,000 compared to Moderna's 30,000. Moderna included participants as young as 16, while Pfizer's youngest test subjects were 18. This led Scott to address the safety of the vaccines for children.

"I don't believe they won't be safe in children, but there's just not enough data for the FDA to approve it," he stated. "They are studying the vaccines in kids aged 12 to 17, and hopefully, we will have that data in a few months. For kids under 12, I think it will be a while

before we have any clear safety data."

"Historically, every serious complication related to vaccines has manifested within, on average, six weeks of administering the vaccine," Scott said. "When the FDA issued the emergency authorization, they already had eight weeks of data starting from the first dose ... since all vaccines with any complications are seen before then, I think we can rest assured there should not be any unanticipated consequences."

He also noted that unless a patient has a history of anaphylaxis – or extreme reactions to vaccines – they can be vaccinated with confidence of 95% effectiveness. As for the length of effectiveness, time will tell.

Discomfort following the vaccine, such as aches, pains and a fever, are often a sign of the immune system fighting the virus and the vaccine working.

"These vaccines really have been a home run in terms of preventing COVID-19 that would require

hospitalization or (cause) death," said Scott.

For information on the county's vaccination guidance, eligibility and resources, call 510-268-2101 or visit covid-19.acgov.org/vaccines#eligibility-hcp.

The Alameda County Fairgrounds are located at 4501 Pleasanton Ave. in Pleasanton.

Sutter Health patients can find more information on their eligibility or make a vaccination appointment by calling 844-987-6115 or visiting <https://www.sutterhealth.org/>. A video of how to book a vaccination appointment can be found at http://bit.ly/Indy_SutterInfo.

Stanford Health Care – ValleyCare patients can learn about eligibility or schedule appointments by calling 650-498-9000 or by visiting http://bit.ly/Indy_Appointments.

To watch a recording of LVCC's COVID-19 webinar, visit bit.ly/Indy_LVCCwebinar. For more information about LVCC, call 925-447-1606 or visit www.livermorechamber.org.

MASK

(Continued from first page)

Several public speakers addressed the topic prior to the decision, with all but one speaking in favor of stricter mask enforcement. Some shared stories of losing family members to COVID-19 or witnessing other residents refuse to mask up at the store. Others were teachers who stressed the importance of mask mandates in order to

lower the infection rate and return to the classroom.

Resident Paulette Salisbury stood out as the lone voice of public opposition to stricter mask enforcement.

"Since none of you are medical doctors, you're not in a position to dictate or advise on appropriate medical interventions for me and my family," she said.

Brown admitted that the decision was difficult.

"I'm so proud of the Pleasanton residents," she said. "There's a few here and there (not wearing masks), but in general, people are wearing their masks. That's

why your numbers are low."

Balch said that he believed in mask efficacy but expressed concerns about the government's "reach." Narum agreed, declining to second Arkin's motion. She noted that while Livermore

has an established citation structure for mask noncompliance, that city has been hit harder with COVID-19 than Pleasanton.

"I'm just not really convinced (fines are) a deterrent, and if I look at the Liver-

more numbers, it doesn't appear like it's brought their numbers down closer to ours," Narum said.

Balch said that if cases increased in Pleasanton, he would like the matter immediately revisited.

SIERRA

(Continued from first page)

Boulevard and Sierra Court, to house various industries in the future. Those listed in the staff report include adult business establishments, banks and financial institutions, car washes and detailing, copying and blueprinting, health services and clinics, hotels and motels, hospitals and medical centers, massage establishments, personal services, plant nurseries, repair shops, general and neighborhood retail, outdoor storage, service retail, shopping centers, tobacco retailers and similar related uses.

City Manager Linda Smith said, "This is something that staff initiated, not the property owner, in the sense that we've been working on it over the last several years to bring this back to (the city council) as part of a series of things we were trying to do to help stimulate economic activities along Sierra Court."

The city prepared an initial study for the proposed project, which found that there was no substantial evidence that the amendment and rezoning would have a significant adverse effect on the environment. A negative declaration, dated January 2021, reflects the city's independent judgment and analysis.

According to city docu-

ments, the study and declaration were circulated for 20 days for public comment from Jan. 6 to Jan. 26. No comments were received. During a public hearing on Jan. 26, the planning commission recommended that the city council adopt the resolution to amend the general plan and adopt the ordinance approving the rezoning.

"The city continued to process the application as an economic development tool," said Robert Smith, city planner. "The zoning is required in addition to the general plan amendment to ensure the zoning is consistent on the property with the general plan."

The site currently houses a 16,117-square-foot, one-story building. It is generally surrounded by industrial-use development to the north; public and semi-public uses to the south; and retail, office and automotive uses to the east and west. The change of the land-use designation at Sierra Court creates continuity along Dublin Boulevard between the project site and neighboring properties to the east.

The ordinance is scheduled to take effect 30 days following its adoption.

For more information or to watch the council meeting, visit bit.ly/3buUfTs.

TRI-VALLEY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Now Until Saturday, March 6 Give the Gift of Swim

American Swim Academy is offering its 2021 Winter Camps for age 6 months to 15 years. Camps run weekly for 30 minutes with class ratios as low as 2:1. Gift certificates are now available. The academy is also hiring for positions in Dublin, Livermore and Walnut Creek. For more information, visit americanswimacademy.com.

Now Until Wednesday, May 19 Coffee Hour for Seniors

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

Friday, Feb. 19 to Sunday, Feb. 28 Taste Tri-Valley

Visit Tri-Valley, the region's destination marketing organization, in partnership with the Cities and Chambers of Commerce of Pleasanton, Livermore, Dublin and Town of Danville, are launching their first annual Taste Tri-Valley, a 10-day delivery and take-out restaurant week promotion from Friday, Feb. 19 through Sunday, Feb. 28, for participating dining establishments ready to showcase their culinary talents. Prix-fixe menus will be available for take-out and delivery from diverse cuisines at various set price points (for lunch and dinner) for every taste and budget. For more information, visit visittrivalley.com/restaurantweek or follow @visittrivalley on Facebook and Instagram.

Monday, March 1 to Sunday, March 21 St. Patrick's Day at Home

This St. Patrick's Day, enjoy the rich sights and sounds of traditional Irish dancing, drums and fiddles. Recorded before a live audience in 2019 and never before seen on film, The National Dance Company of Ireland captures Celtic joy and delivers it right to your doorstep. A portion of all ticket sales benefits the Bankhead Theater. For tickets, visit <https://bit.ly/3tEJlzy>.

Friday, March 5 and Saturday, March 6 Virtual Dance Performance

Deborah Slater Dance Theater and Studio 210 will be hosting a virtual performance from 5 to 7 p.m. on Zoom. This event is a culmination of their eight-week winter residency program and features work by winter 2021 residents Cynthia Ling Lee and Bahiya Movement.

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Saturday, March 6 Annual Crab Fundraiser

Livermore-Pleasanton Elks Lodge #2117 is now taking orders for its Annual Crab Fundraiser on Saturday, March 6. This year's event will feature cold, fresh-cracked crab, pasta, garlic bread and coleslaw. Cocktail sauce and utensils provided. The "Grab your Crab" window will be from 3 to 6 p.m., on March 6, at the Elks Lodge, 940 Larkspur Drive, in Livermore. Social distancing will be observed, and all meals will be distributed via a drive-by and pickup opportunity in your own vehicle. Tickets are \$45.00, with advance purchase only, through Thursday, Feb. 25. Call the Lodge at 925-455-8829 to reserve your crab. All sales must be prepaid - no sales at the event.

Monday, March 8 Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society Presents Susan Goss Johnston

"The Records Behind the WWI Draft Registrations" - The 1973 fire in the National Personnel Records Center destroyed about 80 percent of World War I Army personnel Records. Fill the gaps in your WWI soldier's military life with the records behind the World War I draft registration cards, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. via ZOOM. Visitors are welcome to this free event. Susan Goss Johnston was a member of Yale University's first undergraduate class of women, graduating with a B.A. in physics. She is a 2011 ProGen alumna, has attended the National Institute on Federal Records, and completed the "Advanced Methodology and Evidence Analysis" course at the Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research. For more information or a Zoom invite, email Tom Matthews, program chairperson, at program@L-AGS.org. To register, visit <https://bit.ly/3s8qXTR>.

Saturday, March 13 City of Dublin St. Patrick's Day Celebration!

The 37th Annual St. Patrick's Day Celebration will be held Saturday, March 13, through Saturday, March 20. This week-long celebration will feature both virtual community events as well as in-person, reservation-based events throughout the City of Dublin. The festive schedule of events will be updated soon. Heck with the city for more information on how you can celebrate St. Patrick's Day all week long, at <https://bit.ly/3bbPSyl>. Contact Lauren Marriott by phone at 925-556-4508 if your business is interested in getting involved with the 2021 St. Patrick's Day Celebration.

ONGOING WEEKLY EVENTS

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.

Six Feet Apart Productions Shares Art From a Distance

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

Stress Relief Recovery International

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

VIRTUAL ONLINE EVENTS -AVAILABLE ANYTIME

Register for Virtual and Outdoor Activities

Do you want to learn a new skill, dabble in a new art form, get into shape, or finally take up that

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

EBRPD Brings "Parks to People"

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

LARPD Now on YouTube

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

Music Together Tri-Valley Supports Early Childhood Development

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

Pacific Chamber Orchestra Offers Musical Podcast

During this time of challenge, PCO continues to bring everyone 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.

Sunflower Hill Online Activities

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

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PARKING

(Continued from first page)

We're not investing in a building. We can walk this back if we need to."

Kiick further stated that reducing the size of the parking stalls was a cost-effective way to meet the community's needs. Vice Mayor Trish Munro seconded, while adding that the cost of parking was a significant factor to her.

Prior to the vote, Principal Planner Steve Riley answered Munro's question regarding the expense. He said staff estimates that the cost of structured parking equals around \$65,000 per parking space, with the average cost per space spread over the structure.

Carling, who cast the lone dissenting vote, had leaned toward the planning commission's recommendation. The commission had also supported the use of 8-foot-wide parking stalls, but it voted for a 35% maximum percentage. If 35%

of all the structured parking were 8 feet wide, it would create approximately 588 new 8-foot-wide spaces 21% of all downtown core parking spaces.

The three public speakers on the item all spoke in opposition to the space reduction, citing inadequate room to park large vehicles.

Livermore resident James Hutchins said his full-sized pickup truck already has difficulty fitting into standard spaces.

"2020 Chevy trucks are 96 and 97 inches wide at the mirror, and Ford trucks are wider than that," Hutchins said. "That means a 2020 Ford pickup with standard mirrors, not tow mirrors, is a couple inches wider than this (8-foot-wide) space and cannot even legally park there."

Resident Jackie Cota raised the issue of getting her disabled mother in and out of her vehicle

and her concerns that the new parking sizes would not comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

When Kiick and Munro asked how the new parking sizes would impact those with disabilities, Riley confirmed that if the city provides more spaces, the number of ADA spaces also increases, as requirements are based on a percentage.

Contract Approved to Build I Street Garage

During the meeting, the council also unanimously authorized an agreement with Roebbelen Contracting Inc. for construction of the I Street garage expected to provide 280 stalls in an amount not to exceed \$13.25 million. Access to the I Street Garage is planned from Railroad Avenue, which raised questions about the pedestrian and vehicular traffic. City Manager Marc Roberts

said staff reviewed various options.

"After running a bunch of different scenarios, the one that turned out to be the most efficient for both pedestrians and the vehicles was to have the right in/right out on I Street, and the model shows us that will actually take a noticeable amount of number of folks who want to turn right onto Railroad Avenue—they'll divert to that because they won't be controlled by the signal any longer," Roberts explained.

He said that the garage will have a separate pedestrian phase that's lengthened and then a left-hand turn phase, which is not in conflict with the pedestrian phase.

"By having the two entrances and by being able to adjust the phasing of the pedestrian cycle there, we ultimately were able to deal with both the auto traffic and the pedestrian traf-

fic," he noted.

Roberts confirmed that this is the first of two garages — I Street and L Street. He reported that I Street will be funded with cash on hand, whereas the L Street garage will be funded with debt financing — which has always been the plan.

Referencing the downtown Eden Housing Inc. workforce housing project, Mayor Bob Woerner asked Roberts if building the I Street garage was prudent during the pandemic, "knowing that in order to complete the housing element, we absolutely need to build the L Street garage as well."

Roberts noted that despite the pandemic, data has given staff a good idea about what the bottom of the recession looks like and where the city is in the recovery.

"We believe it is prudent to move forward with the I Street garage at this point," Roberts

concluded. "We do believe that we will have the financial capacity to move forward with L Street. However, the commitment to these two projects will take up most of your available discretionary spending for a period of time. We do want you to be aware that there would not be essentially the ability to do other large-scale, multi-year projects in addition to these."

In addition to adopting a resolution to award and authorize the agreement with Roebbelen Contracting Inc., the council unanimously approved a professional services agreement with Consolidated Engineering Laboratories for construction management of the I Street garage in an amount not to exceed \$328,700.

Based on the bids received, the current total two-year project cost estimate for FY 2020-21 and FY 2021-22 is \$15.9 million.

SOLAR

(Continued from first page)

blends ways to use land for productive agriculture with finding ways to reduce fossil fuel emissions going into the atmosphere.

Jensen showed photographs of berries growing under solar panels in a Chinese desert, generating solar power and food. He detailed how panels can help crops growing under them.

"Solar arrays can reduce heat stress on crops," he said. "Blackberries are one kind of berry that could be grown underneath."

Although many of the panel members who spoke appeared to find the topic interesting, most weren't willing to roll forward with agrivoltaics as the county's new solar policy.

"It would seem the field of agrivoltaics is really in its infancy, and given that I am

concerned from a scientific perspective, if we as a county were to move forward with implementation there may be multiple adverse effects of agrivoltaics in the region," Commissioner Katherine Boxer said. "I think we really are premature to even be discussing the integration of this language into any kind of county policy."

She noted that more research needed to be conducted, citing one study that suggested the temperature had increased in one area where the practice of agrivoltaics was used.

Commissioner Larry Gosselin disagreed, saying the concept was nearly 40 years old with extensive research in Germany, as well as Arizona and Oregon. Gosselin said UC Berkeley, UC Merced and UC Davis have strong programs that teach agrivoltaics.

"There is commercial application going on right at this time," Gosselin said.

Four of the six members of the public who called in to the virtual meeting to comment were against the idea. One said it had potential but cautioned against it.

Tamara Reus suggested that rooftop and urban solar should be the county's priority.

"It makes the most sense," Reus said. "It leaves agricultural lands alone... We've got time. We want to do our policy appropriately. We want to do what's best for the county."

Merlin Newton Sr. said he believed in distributed solar, with homes required to have rooftop panels and placing panels on large areas of land already covered with concrete.

"Those areas should be developed first," Newton said. Max Williams, a student

at UC Berkeley who studies agrivoltaics, said he found the committee's idea really exciting, one that can help crop production and raise farm revenues.

"I think opening the door to the policy really encourages the development and we can learn about agrivoltaics in Livermore," Williams said. "I've studied this a lot, and it has potential. Climate change isn't going away any time soon."

Chuck Moore, the commission's chairman, said the policy was something worth investigating. He believed in moving toward solar to help the earth. But, he said, there should be other priorities.

"I believe that solar belongs on roofs, belongs on parking lots," he said. "And before it ends up taking up any agricultural land."

The concept came up just before the March 4 date, when the Alameda County Board of Supervisors is scheduled to hear an appeal of a controversial decision to build a 410-acre solar farm on open fields north of Livermore. The Aramis Solar Energy Generation and Storage Project pits a clean energy development against environmentalists. During a six-hour meeting in November, the Alameda County Board of Zoning Adjustments approved the plan, saying renewable energy was important for the battle against climate change. Several opponents appealed the decision to the Board of Supervisors.

During that meeting, about 60 people spoke. Many said they were proponents of green projects, but against ruining open fields in a scenic corridor of the Tri-Valley and hurting

birds and other species that call it home. Others said the farm would violate Measure D, a ballot initiative passed 20 years ago to preserve agricultural land and wildlife.

Proponents, however, said the farm was necessary to produce solar power to support the nation's goal to move from fossil fuels to clean energy.

Intersect to Pursue Incidental Take Permit, Compensation Mitigation

In a letter dated Feb. 22, the Aramis applicant, Intersect Power, stated that it would pursue a voluntary incidental take permit with both the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The company also proposed to permanently project endangered species under a conservation easement.

OBITUARIES

Mary (Tolle) Strain

April 3, 1933 – Feb. 15, 2021



Mary Strain unexpectedly passed away on Monday, Feb. 15, 2021.

Mary was born on April 3, 1933, in Livermore, California. She attended St. Michael's School (K-8th grades) and graduated from Livermore High School in 1951, with her best friends Pat (Taylor) Broadman and Laverne (Sachau) Cardoza.

After graduation, the three of them went to work for California Research and Development (CR&D), later being hired by the University of California Radiation Laboratory (UCRL) and Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL). Mary left UCRL in 1960 to start her family, but returned to LLNL in the 1970s.

Mary's mother, Gioconda "Josephine", and uncle, Joe Caratti, emigrated from Switzerland, coming through Ellis Island in the early 1900s. As a young girl, Mary worked alongside her mother in the restaurant her uncle built (in Joesville), now known as The Rock House Bar and Grill and Castle Rock Restaurant.

While working at CR&D, Mary met Earl Strain. They married in 1958 and made their home in Livermore, where they raised their three daughters, Sandra "Sandy" Jackson, Laura Dunkerly (Bill), and Maria Strain (Dave Weaver).



Alan Madsen, their next-door neighbor since he was three years old, has always been family. Mary and Earl have seven grandchildren, nine great grandsons and three great granddaughters.

Gardening was one of Mary's favorite hobbies. Spring was her favorite time of the year with everything blooming for Easter. Mary and Earl loved to host every family gathering in their home and made sure everyone had their favorite food item on the menu.

Steve Longerbeam

Sept. 20, 1965 – Feb. 14, 2021



Steve was only 55 and in perfect health.

It makes no sense. We do not yet know the cause of death. He's survived by parents, Gordon and Esther; brothers, David and Michael; sister, Susan; and Lucy, his best friend and soulmate.

Shy, sweet, innocent, gentle Steve. Of all of us, he was the most childlike, the one with a contagious sense of wonder. The one who giggled at silly, sick, and inappropriate jokes. The one who never quite figured out how to talk to girls, even though they desperately wanted to talk to him. He always wanted to discover, to find out why and how, to understand. Because it did not

make sense. It never will.

Steve achieved his life purpose when he met Lucy. We all had the pleasure of experiencing two souls, ecstatic upon intertwining with one another. Steve had the love and support that Lucy fell for. Lucy had the

Paul Richard Newman

Aug. 10, 1966 – Feb. 6, 2021

Paul Richard Newman was born in San Francisco, California, and moved to Pleasanton in 1978.

There, he attended Harvest Park Middle School and Amador Valley High School. He later moved to Bellingham, Washington, and worked in the construction industry.

Paul was preceded in death by his father, Richard Neman; mother, Theresa Newman; and twin sisters, Heidi Newman and Kerri Rodgers. He is survived by loving stepmother, Carol Holm Newman, brother Jim Holm, Petra; sister, Peggy Rennick, Mike; nieces, Sta-

cey Johnson, Krista Rodgers and Molly Reynolds; and nephew, Colin Rennick.

Paul was a loving son, brother and uncle. He loved the beautiful mountains of Washington and had many friends. Paul would have appreciated any donation in his name to your favorite charity.

Jesse Elias Banuelos Jr. passed away at the age of 56, on Friday, Feb. 12, 2021, after succumbing to complications due to COVID-19.

Jesse was born in Mountain View, California, on Feb. 14, 1964, to Jesse Sr. (deceased) and Maria Banuelos. Jesse met his wife, Doreen, two years after high school, and they were married Sept. 17, 1988, in Sunnyvale, California.

Jesse worked in construction since his early 20s. He enjoyed spending his time coaching his kid's sports teams, going on motorcycle runs, going to car shows, dirt bike riding, and camping with

Jesse Elias Banuelos Jr.



his family and friends. Family (blood and otherwise) meant the world to Jesse.

Jesse is survived by his wife, Doreen; their children, Amanda and fiancé Matt, Ga-

riel and fiancé Mitchell, and Daniel and his wife Charlotte; Jesse's grandchildren, Izaak, Adrien, Tyler and Naomi; his mother, Maria; his brother, Joe; sisters, Lupe, Rosemary, and Bertha; and brother, Robert (Bob); along with his nieces and nephews, Joey, Al, Robert, Johnny, Carlos, Alex, Vanessa, Ariana, Joey, Leticia and Robert Jr. He was preceded in death by his father, Jesse, and nephew, Anthony.

Callaghan Mortuary is honored to be serving the Banuelos family. An online guestbook is available for condolences at www.callaghan-mortuary.com.

John Carstensen

April 16, 1929 – Feb. 8, 2021



wife, Marilyn, on a blind date. His work eventually led him to move his family from the Pacific Northwest to the San Francisco Bay Area.

Johnny was an easy-going

John Carstensen, 91, died peacefully of natural causes on Feb. 8, 2021, at his home in Livermore, California, surrounded by his wife and family.

John (affectionately known as "Johnny"), was a patient and loving family man, who is survived by his wife, his four children, his nine grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren.

A native of southern Oregon, Johnny served in the U.S. Air Force, where he was stationed in Japan during the Korean War. After earning a college degree in forestry, Johnny moved to Washington state, where he met his future

Frederick Anthony Lema

Oct. 12, 1921 – Feb. 18, 2021



Fred Lema, 99, of Newman, passed away peacefully Friday, Feb. 19, at his residence in Newman.

He was born Oct. 12, 1921, to Anthony and Anna (Silva) Lema, in Newman. He worked with his father for many years on the family dairy. He married Mary Mendoca in 1944. They had four children, Judi Lema (Bennie) Luna of Modesto; Ron Lema, of Wasila, Alaska; Karen Lema McWilliams of Livermore, and Kenneth Lema of Nevada.

He was drafted into the Army at the end of WWII, stationed at Camp Crowder, Missouri. On his return home, he worked for his father-in-law on his dairy, then for the Newman Sales yard, picking up cattle, and he trained quarter horses for people in the Newman rodeo. He had a unique talent for training horses - no matter how bad their habits were, he was able to fix them.

They moved to Livermore in 1963, where he went to

work as a structural maintenance manager at the Lawrence Livermore National Lab for 22 years. He retired in 1985. His wife, Mary, died in 1989. He has been retired for 35 years, longer than he worked.

He met Charolette Hevle, and they married Feb. 14, 1992, having just celebrated their 29th anniversary last week. Fred has two step children, James Hevle of Modesto, and Annette Hevle Lopez of Modesto.

Fred enjoyed hunting with

his boys, traveling in the RV, family gatherings and cruising. He was always a great gardener, with his yard being perfect. Fred and Char have 17 grandchildren, 22 great-grandchildren and four great great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents; sisters, Lorraine Lema Loenig and Anna Lema Cotta Jones; and brother, Eddy Lema. A visitation will be held from 8:30 to 10 a.m., followed by a Rosary and Mass of Christian Burial at 10 a.m., on Wednesday, March 3, at St. Joachim's Catholic Church, in Newman. Interment is to follow at Hills Ferry Cemetery in Newman. Services will be conducted by Hillview Funeral Chapel, Newman.

The family requests that in lieu of flowers, donations be made in Fred's name to St. Joachim's Catholic Church, 1121 Main Street, Newman, CA, 95360 or Seva Hospice, 2813 Coffee Road, Ste. C-1, Modesto, CA, 95355.

Culinary Angels Expands to Serve Contra Costa County

Culinary Angels — a nonprofit organization that provides meals to individuals facing serious health issues in the Tri-Valley cities of Dublin, Livermore and Pleasanton — is expanding into Contra Costa County.

“The goal of Culinary Angels is to prepare and deliver healthy and tasty meals to a broader segment of the population,” said Executive Director Lisa McNaney.

“We can now meet the needs of patients in San Ramon and Danville with our new kitchen at the Sunflower Hill at Irby Ranch residential community in Pleasanton.”

McNaney said Culinary Angels has prepared and delivered more than 5,300 nutrition-rich meals to Tri-Valley patients since its inception in 2016. Most of the recipients are undergoing treatment for cancer,

although the program is open to those facing other medical challenges as well.

Culinary Angels volunteers get together two days a week to prep, cook and package meals, with most of the locally grown organic fruits and vegetables donated by Fertile Groundworks and Sunflower Hill.

For more information, v www.culinaryangels.org.



The Tri-Valley's nonprofit group, Culinary Angels, will now expand to Contra Costa County. (Photo - Culinary Angels)

Students from Junction Avenue Win Climate Superstars Challenge

By Heather Brewer

All children are superstars in their own right.

But one particular group of Livermore's Junction Avenue students is being recognized as such by the National Environmental Education Foundation (NEEF) and its partners.

The students in Karen Weir-Brown's sixth-grade science class recently participated in the Climate Superstars Challenge, a 10-day online environmental challenge that gets kids excited about the environment and how they can take an active role in caring for its future. The program is presented by Samsung, Energy Star and NEEF.

During the challenge, middle school classrooms completed short tasks geared toward environmental literacy and energy efficiency. Tasks aligned with Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS).

“The Climate Superstars Challenge is an opportunity to introduce students to the connection between energy use and the environment,” said Weir-Brown, who teaches seventh- and eighth-grade STEM electives in addition to sixth-grade science. “It works nicely with the sixth-grade NGSS standards related to Earth's systems. I originally heard about the contest in 2019 through an (National Science Teaching Association) Reports post on events and opportunities. Since I participated in it last year — and won too — I knew to sign up for it this year. Because it was so on-point for sixth-grade science standards, I encouraged a couple fellow science teachers to consider signing up too.”

According to Weir-Brown, she participated because the resources provided matched the content she was covering; the challenges were perfect for discussion boards for asynchronous lessons and as warm-up discussions for live-session classes.

“The videos, graphs and questions were presented as short tasks for easy use in

class,” she said. “They also provided me with opportunities to address science practices like data interpretation and making claims. Also, the tasks worked nicely with the theme I wanted to focus on for this year, which is understanding the impacts wildfires have on living organisms and how human action contributes to the increase in wildfire occurrences.”

Each task engaged the students in a discussion, either during class with peers or asynchronously, and Weir-Brown had more students participate in the discussion board posts for these challenges than she did for most of my other discussion boards at the time.

“They loved the energy vampires video, and our class discussion could have gone on forever on whether they were willing to cut down on their gaming time to cut back on their energy consumption,” she said. “Many students were much more willing to help educate their household members to unplug devices not in use, rather than cut down on their own gaming time! Students were really surprised to see how much energy is used by gaming consoles. I expect this to come up again in the next couple of weeks as they are now looking at solutions to reducing individual contributions to greenhouse gas emissions.”

According to Weir-Brown, it is important for students to understand climate change, because they are already experiencing its damaging effects.

“We started the year with wildfires. We’ve had power outages due to wind events, and we’ve had winter temperatures in the 70s,” she said. “The beginning of the school year started with wildfires, and several of my students were impacted by the fires. It’s important for students to understand the world around them, and hopefully once students see the connections and can make scientific explanations for these events, they will want to be part of the

solution. That’s why I love the science standards — students have the opportunity to examine the world around them and ask questions to figure out what’s happening. By beginning with how students are impacted locally, it increases their engagement, and then they are more invested in seeking out changes and solutions.”

Thanks to their win, the class will receive a Samsung Flip 2 digital flipchart — an interactive, touchscreen digital display that allows teams or students to hold and recap meetings or classes — and the accompanying stand, worth about \$2,500. While the students really liked the challenges, they didn’t even know they were competing in the competition.

“Honestly, I never told them we were doing the lessons for a competition, and when I found out we won, I didn’t share the news, because we haven’t been able to use the prize yet,” said Weir-Brown. “I anticipate that the flipchart will be connected to our school’s WiFi soon, and then I’ll surprise the students with it.”

As she waits for her students to be back in the classroom full time, Weir-Brown urges other teachers, parents and caregivers to get the children in their lives involved in helping their communities.

“To encourage our students to get involved in solving the climate crisis, or any other problem, we need to support (their) natural inquiry, present opportunities for them to critically think through explanations, and encourage creative thinking,” she said. “Start conversations with ‘I wonder if’ and follow up with some action. Solutions do not need to be grandiose — small actions can have a ripple effect, so don’t count anything out. If we can help each other recognize how our actions have an impact, then we can encourage change.”

For more information about NEEF’s Climate Superstars Challenge, visit <https://bit.ly/3bvGztF>.

LLNL Pioneers Technology to ID Bombmakers

Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) is investigating whether terrorists can be identified by the skin proteins they leave behind on bomb components even after detonation.

Known as the Proteos program and part of the Lab’s Intelligence Advanced Research Projects Activity, the research focuses on whether forensic analysis can reliably identify unique genetically variable peptides (GVP) in skin cells following an explosion.

“If forensically relevant

information in shed skin cells survives conditions that compromise or destroy other evidence, such as latent fingerprints or DNA, this technology could be a game-changer in post-blast investigations,” explained Deon Anex, principal investigator for the Proteos program.

Researchers from the LLNL’s Global Security and Weapons Complex Integration teams recently detonated 26 explosive devices with various metal and wood components that had been handled by volunteers

and will now attempt to identify the “peptide mass fingerprints” using analytical chemistry.

“It has been shown that patterns of GVPs can be used to identify individuals,” Anex said. “The big question now is whether that information survives harsh environments such as explosions.”

The genetically variable peptide technology developed by LLNL could be expanded to identify victims of fires, explosions, or downed aircraft.

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

Amador Questers

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

Amador Valley Lions Club

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

Assistance League Amador Valley

P.O. Box 11843
Pleasanton, CA 94588
925-461-6401
Assistanceleague.org/Amador-valley/

Axis Community Health

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

Big Bay Ray, Inc.

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

Blankets For Kids

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

Cantabella Children's Chorus

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

Cheza Nami

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

Christian Youth Theater Tri-Valley

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

CityServe of Tri-Valley

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

Community Health

Education Fund

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

Culinary Angels

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

Drivers For Survivors

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

Exceptional Needs Network

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

Fertile GroundWorks

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

Friends of the Livermore Library

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

Friends of Open Space and Vineyards

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

Goodness Village

1660 Freisman Rd.
Livermore, Ca 94551
Goodnessvillage.community

Hively

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

Hope Hospice

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

Interfaith Sharing Inc.

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

Livermore-Amador Symphony Guild

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

Livermore Area Recreation and Park District Foundation

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

Livermore Art Association

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

Livermore Filipino-American Organization, Inc.

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

Livermore Heritage Guild

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

Livermore Homeless Refuge

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

Livermore Lab Foundation

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

Livermore Lions Club

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

Livermore Pleasanton Fire Fighters Foundation

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

Livermore Valley Education Foundation

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

Livermore Valley Opera

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

Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center

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

Movements For The Mind

MovementsForTheMind.com
movementsforthemind@gmail.com

Museum on Main

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

NAMI Tri-Valley

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

Open Heart Kitchen

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

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

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

Partners for Change Tri-Valley

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

Paws In Need

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

Paws-In-Need.org

Pleasanton Art League

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

Pleasanton Community Concert Band

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

Quest Science Center

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

Reins In Motion

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

Rotarian Foundation of Livermore

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

Sandra J. Wing Healing Therapies Foundation

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

Senior Support Program of The Tri-Valley

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

Shakespeare's Associates, dba Livermore Shakespeare Festival

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

Shepherds Gate

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

SPECTRUM Community Services, Inc/Meals on Wheels

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

Sunflower Hill

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

The Taylor Family Foundation

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

Tri-Valley Animal Rescue

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

Tri-Valley Conservancy

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

Tri-Valley Haven

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

Tri-Valley Nonprofit Alliance

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

Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre

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

ValleyCare Charitable Foundation/Stanford Health Care-ValleyCare

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

Valley Concert Chorale

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

Valley Dance Theatre

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

(Continued from first page)



After Livermore resident AJ Wright was cited for a business ordinance violation, residents came to his aid with an online petition that amassed more than 9,000 signatures. (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)

bicycles to clients at other locations.

Before opening to business in June, Wright, who lost his job after the COVID-19 pandemic began, had obtained a business permit and certification as a limited liability corporation.

He said he made little noise and was able to charge customers' lower rates for service during the

stay-at-home orders.

"People want to ride their bikes," Wright said. "That's what pushed me to open A.J.'s Bike Service and do this residentially."

Wright said everything was going well until the complaints. Wright shared that, while he does not know who complained, none of his neighbors approached him at home to discuss the business.

Paul Spence, Livermore's community development director, reported that the city investigated the complaints and informed Wright that according to established rules, he could not operate at home as long as customers arrived at the location. The city's code for home businesses includes about a dozen provisions, including "the home occupation shall involve no on-site clients except for home occupations in live-work transect zones, tutoring or musical instruction of children by appointment, and applicants with a demonstrated mobility handicap."

"This provision has been in place for quite some time," Spence said in an interview days before the council meeting. "We are applying the ordinance as it exists today."

In an interview, Wright shared that he could not afford a van to transport bicycles, so he closed, hoping he and the city could work out another solution. After all, he said, Amazon and FedEx delivery trucks paid visits to his street more often than he had customers.

In the meantime, Wright called Woerner for support. Friend Heather LeCon started a petition on Change.org (http://bit.ly/Indy_BikeRepair) that asked the city to allow him to meet customers at home.

"AJ's goal is to work on bikes and bring joy to his customers and the Livermore community — this goal is being threatened by the city," LeCon wrote on the petition. "We are pushing for the city to change the code to allow AJ's Bike Service LLC to continue his current business model of working during normal business hours and allowing customers to drop-off and pick up at AJ's garage."

Through Monday, more than 9,000 people had signed it. Eight people — including residents who said they lived across the street and around the block from Wright — then spoke in support of Wright during the council meeting, calling him honest, an "absolute joy" and an asset who provided a valuable service for the neighborhood. Nobody complained about noise or traffic.

Wright also spoke, tell-

ing councilmembers he never had more than 10 visits a day from customers who were respectful to the neighborhood. His air compressor, he said, was quieter than a lawnmower.

"I'm just trying to provide something good for the community here," he said.

Before Monday's council decision, Wright said he understood why someone might complain about a business run in a residential neighborhood and that he appreciated that the city was enforcing its rules. Still, he noted that there is a big push for people to work at home during the pandemic.

In an interview after the meeting, the mayor said times have changed since whenever the home business code was written. Delivery trucks zip around neighborhoods. The person who complained had every right to do so under the current rules, but it was time to take a look at them, Woerner stated.

And, he noted, the controversy was driven by the pandemic.

"It raised the larger is-

sue of 'how should we think about this stuff,'" Woerner said. "We are in a pandemic, and we'll let this guy survive while we figure it out."

Woerner and Spence said the review could result in people in other professions seeking the ability to receive customers and work at home. According to Spence, some city councils of the past have disallowed specific businesses, notably auto repair shops, where cars park on the street, engines run, socket wrenches make noise and gasoline emits fumes.

"Regulations are designed to balance providing some ability for some people to work at home while minimizing impact on the neighborhood," Spence said.

Wright said that whatever happens in the long run, he appreciates the support from the community. In the past, he's repaired bicycles and donated them to charity.

"I respect the city. I respect the mayor," Wright said. "I don't want it to seem I am mad at the city in any way."

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 575936

The following person(s) doing business as: Team 292-SOLD, 1686 Second Street, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Tammy Pryor Barstow, 1686 Second Street, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 2001. Signature of Registrant/s/: Adesh Kumar. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 21, 2021. Expires January 21, 2026. The Independent Legal No. 4815. Published February 4, 11, 18, 25, 2021.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 576191

The following person(s) doing business as: Manam Naturals, 1282 Gusty Loop, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Sathya Poosappan, 1282 Gusty Loop, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Sathya Poosappan, Individual Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 29, 2021. Expires January 29, 2026. The Independent Legal No. 4816. Published February 11, 18, 25, March 4, 2021.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 576043

The following person(s) doing business as: Persistent Athletics, 2970 Cabrillo Avenue, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Krystal Hill, 2970 Cabrillo Avenue, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is

conducted by an individual.

The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Krystal Hill, Individual Owner/Sole Proprietor. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 26, 2021. Expires January 26, 2026. The Independent Legal No. 4817. Published February 11, 18, 25, March 4, 2021.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 575758

The following person(s) doing business as: L & L Property, 4432 Enterprise St., Suite A Fremont, CA 94538, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Asmir Sojkic, 4432 Enterprise St., Suite A Fremont, CA 94538. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 2/1/2020. Signature of Registrant/s/: Asmir Sojkic, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 14, 2021. Expires January 14, 2026. The Independent Legal No. 4818. Published February 11, 18, 25, March 4, 2021.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 575759

The following person(s) doing business as: Vennergi Consulting, 1442 Allman St., Oakland, CA 94602, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): James Brett Stineman, 1442 Allman St. Oakland, CA 94602. 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/: James Brett Stineman, Principal. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 14, 2021. Expires January 14, 2026. The Independent Legal No. 4819. Published February 11, 18, 25, March 4, 2021.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 576594

The following person(s) doing business as: Dublin Kia, 4300 John Monego Ct, Dublin CA 94568, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): California Automotive Retailing Group, Inc., 4200 John Monego Ct, Dublin CA 94568. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Inder Dosanjh, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 10, 2021. Expires February 10, 2026. The Independent Legal No. 4820. Published February 18, 25, March 4, 11, 2021.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 576219

The following person(s) doing business as: Honey Blooms Co., 1668 Spruce St. Livermore, CA 94551, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Kelsey Jordana Szendurski, 1668 Spruce St. 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/: Kelsey Jordana Szendurski, Owner & Creator. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 29, 2021. Expires January 29, 2026. The Independent Legal No. 4821. Published February 18, 25, March 4, 11, 2021.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 576032

The following person(s) doing business as: Lick Your Eyeballs, 1712 Milvia St., Berkeley, CA 94709, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Audra Barrios, 1712 Milvia St., Berkeley, CA 94709. 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 1, 2015. Signature of

Registrant/s/: Audra Barrios, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 26, 2021. Expires January 26, 2026. The Independent Legal No. 4822. Published February 25, March 4, 11, 18, 2021.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 576558

The following person(s) doing business as: McRae Editorial, 402 Elmwood Lane, Hayward, CA 94541, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Michelle Ann McRae, 402 Elmwood Lane, Hayward, CA 94541. 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/: Michelle Ann McRae, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 9, 2021. Expires February 9, 2026. The Independent Legal No. 4823. Published February 25, March 4, 11, 18, 2021.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 576140

The following person(s) doing business as: Courtney Cutchener Photography, 886 Bellflower Street, Livermore, CA 94551, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Courtney Frisk, 886 Bellflower Street, 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: 2/29/2016. Signature of Registrant/s/: Courtney Frisk, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 28, 2021. Expires January 28, 2026. The Independent Legal No. 4824. Published February 25, March 4, 11, 18, 2021.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 576507

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Forest Nectar, 2. Hima Solutions, 1491 Cedarwood LN Ste A, Pleasanton, CA 94566, is hereby registered by the

following owner(s): Sakhi Naturals, Inc., 1491 Cedarwood LN, Ste A, Pleasanton, CA 94566. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Bhuvaneshwari Himakunthala, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 5, 2021. Expires February 5, 2026. The Independent Legal No. 4825. Published February 25, March 4, 11, 18, 2021.

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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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Center Offers Online Holocaust Education for Students

The East Bay Holocaust Education Center is offering an online exhibit designed to teach high school students about the mass murder of more than 6 million Jews under the German Nazi regime of Adolf Hitler during World War II.



East Bay Holocaust Education Center now offers an online exhibit to teach high school students about the murder of 6 million Jews. (Photo - East Bay Holocaust Center)

Larry Lagin, a board member for the education center, said the exhibit, which features artwork and video testimonies from Ho-

locaust survivors from the Shoah Foundation Institute in Los Angeles, was adapted for online viewing from a program presented at the Bothwell Art Center in 2019. More than 650 people attended the Bothwell presentation, including 350

world history students from Livermore High School.

A touring version of the exhibit was also taken to several East Bay high

schools in 2019 and 2020, including Granada High School in Livermore and Amador Valley High School in Pleasanton, before in-person classes were shut down because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

While the exhibit is geared toward high school students, Lagin said the free online presentation is suitable for anyone 13 and older. The recently formed East Bay Holocaust Education Center, a nonprofit based in Pleasanton, also offered two online training sessions for teachers earlier this month.

To view the exhibit, go to www.ebhhec.org/online-memorial-exhibit.

The East Bay Holocaust Education Center will also sponsor the online streaming of the Norwegian film, "The Crossing," from April 11-13, in connection with this year's virtual East Bay International Jewish Film Festival.

The film tells the story of two pre-teen children whose parents, members of the Norwegian resistance during the war, are arrested by the Nazis. Left on their

own, they discover two Jewish children hiding in their basement and decide to help them flee the Nazis and escape to neutral Sweden.

The EBHEC will also sponsor a second film, "Inside Hana's Suitcase," a theatrical documentary based on the book, "Hana's Suitcase," which tells the story of two young children who grew up in pre-World War II Czechoslovakia and what they endured because they happened to be born Jewish. No time has been set to stream the film.

For more information on the Jewish film festival, go to www.eastbayjewishfilm.org.

Finally, the East Bay Holocaust Education Center is partnering with the Livermore Shakespeare Festival to produce a virtual stage reading of a Holocaust-themed play this summer. Michael Wayne Rice, resident director for the Shakespeare Festival, is leading a community reading group that will select the play.

For more information on the East Bay Holocaust Education Center go to www.ebhhec.org.

Granada Student Wins Legion Oratorical Contest



Regina Molitoris

Regina Molitoris, a junior at Granada High School in Livermore, took first

place in the American Legion Oratorical Contest for Bay Area Legion posts held Feb. 21 at the Veterans Memorial Building in Martinez.

In addition to receiving \$500.00, Molitoris will represent Livermore American Legion Post 47 and Area 2 at the state finals to be held March 7 in Clovis, California.

Speakers were asked to address the 22nd Amendment to the Constitution, which limits presidents to two terms in office, while emphasizing the duties and obligations of citizenship.

Quarry Lane School Seniors Named National Merit Finalists

Five seniors at the private Quarry Lane School in Dublin — Prisha Bhadra, Geetika Gopidas, Minju Lee, Kanchan Naik, and Saahil Sachdeva — have been named National Merit Scholarship finalists for 2021.

About 15,000 finalists nationwide are eligible for about 7,500 scholarships worth about \$30 million offered by the nonprofit National Merit Scholarship Corporation and its business and academic partners.

Scholarship winners will be announced this spring.

Finalists represent about 1% of the more than 1.5 million juniors who entered the competition by taking the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. After qualifying as a semifinalist, based on their test scores, students must also perform well on the Scholastic Aptitude Test, submit an essay, and be recommended by someone at their high school.

Last Chance to Enter Livermore's Water Awareness Poster Contest

There is still time to enter your child's artwork in Livermore's Water Awareness Poster Contest, sponsored by the City of Livermore, California Water Service and Zone 7 Water Agency. The last day for submissions is March 1.

This contest provides Livermore third- to fifth-grade students the opportunity to visually portray the importance of natural resource. It aims to encourage the participating children and the public to think about how access to clean, fresh drinking water affects their daily lives.

Artwork submitted should fit with the theme of this year's contest, which is "Without Water, Life Would Be Pretty Dry."

Contest winners will receive fun prizes and have their artwork displayed in downtown Livermore. Visit www.cityoflivermore.net/contests for full contest rules and information on how to submit posters.

Blood Center Puts Out Urgent Call for Donations

Livermore will host one of Stanford Blood Center's (SBC) mobile blood donation clinics in part of the effort to recruit more donors.

The Livermore mobile clinic will be set up Friday, Feb. 26, at the basketball court located at 1119 E. Stanley Blvd. To make an appointment, email Angela Grisar at agrisar@stanfordhealthcare.org or call 925-454-6329.

Severe winter weather conditions in Texas and elsewhere around the country have dramatically impacted the nation's blood supply.

As a result, SBC is stepping up to help those Bay Area hospitals that rely on this national supply and are unable to get the blood they urgently need to support patients. SBC is currently

facing a critical need for all blood types, especially type O+ blood products.

"While SBC continues to collect blood for the primary hospitals we serve, we are doing our part to provide for additional hospitals that are being impacted by this national shortage. Though we're committed to helping as many local patients as possible, our ability to do so is dependent on support from our donors," said Renee Gipson, Donor Service Director at Stanford Blood Center. "We want to remind everyone that blood donation remains an essential activity, and we want to reassure you that the safety of our donors is a top priority, and we have measures in place to ensure blood donation continues to be a safe process for everyone onsite.

Your donation is an easy but powerful way to lend a hand to those struggling during this difficult time."

Over the past few weeks, blood usage at our partner hospitals has been higher than usual, and SBC has been supporting a number of patients who required large amounts of blood products.

"Last week, over 400 patients, including 75 children, required nearly 900 units (pints) of blood products, 450 of which were O+ red blood cells," said Dr. Suchi Pandey, Chief Medical Officer at Stanford Blood Center. "O+ is the most frequently needed blood type for patients and, as of today, we only have about a two-day supply. Our current collections of O+ cannot sustain our support

of our regular hospital partners as well as additional hospitals in critical need right now, so we need your help in the coming days."

Appointments can be scheduled online at stanfordbloodcenter.org or by calling 888-723-7831 for same-day appointments.

Donors should be in good health with no cold, flu, or COVID-19 symptoms. They should eat well prior to donation, drink fluids, and present a photo ID at the time of donation. Eligibility information can be found at stanfordbloodcenter.org/eligibility or by calling 888-723-7831.

To find a donation center or mobile clinic near you, visit sbcdonor.org/donor/schedules/zip.

Group to Discuss Forgiveness

Interfaith Interconnect will host a virtual March Religion Chat, set for March 10, from 5 to 6:15 p.m., on Zoom.

The discussion topic will be "How does your community provide for those who come in need of forgiveness?"

Speakers include Jim Ghilardi, who will give the Catholic perspective, and Parima Shah, who will share information about the Jain religion as well as how forgiveness is handled.

Religion Chat is a free of charge monthly interfaith forum held on the second Wednesday of the month by Interfaith Interconnect.

The group's mission statement reads, "To enrich, educate, and inform ourselves and others about

the great diversity of faiths and cultures in our Valley." In order to accomplish the mission, a variety of events are held each year.

The meeting begins at 5 p.m., but the room opening will begin at 4:45 p.m.

To request a meeting link, email interfaith.interconnect@gmail.com.

LLNL Research Reveals How Metals Solidify

In research published in "Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences," scientists at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) describe how liquid metals crystallize under immense pressure.

In 1879, Nobel-prize winning chemist Friedrich Wilhelm Ostwald discovered that liquids often first freeze into temporary, unstable structures before changing into their final, most stable equilibrium phase. This so-called "Ostwald step rule" has been a fundamental mechanism for the study and synthesis of new materials and is a textbook principle that all physicists learn in school.

But in their study, LLNL researchers Babak Sadigh, Luis Zepeda-Ruiz and Jon Belof describe a new mechanism of solidification in copper that provides a more detailed analysis of the Ostwald's step rule and alters the fundamental understanding of nucleation under ex-

treme pressure. They found that not only do metals first crystallize into an unstable or non-equilibrium phase, but that this phase can be stabilized by temperature.

A precise understanding of how "Oswald stepping" occurs at the elementary, or atomic scale, has long been a scientific mystery for liquids compressed to high density, such as the solidification of molten iron that is believed to occur at the center of the Earth.

But using simulations run on a supercomputer, the LLNL researchers were able to predict how crystalizing metals will react in dynamic experiments.

"Using modern simulation methods, we have tried to provide a framework for predicting how process conditions can be manipulated to design completely new materials using both a modern laser platform as well as classical heating in furnaces," according to lead author Babak Sadigh.

Jon Belof, principal investigator for phase transition kinetics and program leader for the Equation of State program at LLNL, said the results of the simulations were surprising.

"It has forced us to re-think the basis for phase stability at high pressure," Belof said. "Under these extreme conditions, such as in the center of Earth, the thermodynamic phase diagram sort of goes out the window in terms of predictive capability and one needs to turn to kinetic phase maps."

The research is funded by the National Nuclear Security Administration.

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