



Community Bids Adieu To Haggerty

By Heather Brewer

REGIONAL — The Dublin Chamber of Commerce recently hosted a virtual sendoff to Alameda County Supervisor Scott Haggerty, who will soon retire after 24 years of public service.

The chamber event took place Nov. 24 with members of the public and officials from the city, county and state in attendance.

"I've known Scott for over 25 years, both as a fellow elected official and a friend," said Guy Houston, a former Dublin mayor. "Being a county supervisor is not an easy job. The push and pulls of your time and energy is incredible. Scott has become well known as a real champion for transportation, but it does not end there. He has been a leader in agriculture, health care, energy and public safety, just to name a few. And Scott is diligent in figuring out a way how to make it all happen. He's (been) successful for his district and for Alameda County."

Haggerty was first elected to the Alameda County Board of Supervisors in November 1996. Over the years, he worked toward improving transportation throughout the region. He played a key role in an ongoing effort to extend Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) to San Jose.

Supervisor Haggerty participated on various boards and commissions with a focus on regional transportation and infrastructure.

Appointed by former Gov. Pete Wilson, Haggerty formerly served on the California State Seismic Safety Commission and on the board of the East Bay Regional Communications System Authority (EBRCSA). He worked to provide a fully interoperable communications system to all public agencies within Alameda and Contra Costa counties. Haggerty previously chaired the Alameda County Board of

(See Haggerty, page 7)

Groups to File Appeals on Solar Project

LIVERMORE — Save North Livermore Valley (SNLV), the Friends of Livermore (FOL), and the Friends of Open Space and Vineyards this week planned to file appeals to the Alameda County Board of Supervisors regarding a large solar project set for North Livermore.

All three urged City of Livermore officials to do the same before the deadline this Friday, Dec. 4. The Board of Supervisors will make the final decision.

Alameda County Planning Director Albert Lopez contacted at press time said the county planning department had not yet received

a formal appeal packet but was anticipating an appeal from project opponents based on prior statements.

While the applicant Intersect Power had not signaled a desire to appeal, Lopez said the developer could also choose to appeal the additional conditions of approval imposed by the

East County Board of Zoning Adjustments (BZA), once the ramifications of the changes are fully realized.

The code allows appeals to be made directly to the Board of Supervisors or to the planning department.

The groups' appeals and requests to the city followed a BZA decision last week to

approve a conditional-use permit and certify the environmental impact report (EIR) for the controversial Aramis Solar Energy Generation and Storage Project. The Aramis project is proposed for 580 acres of farmland — of which 410 acres would contain solar arrays

(See APPEALS, page 9)



A large Christmas tree greeted Black Friday shoppers at San Francisco Premium Outlets in Livermore. See more holiday photos on page 3. (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)

Students Contract COVID-19

Districts Address Reopening Plans Under Purple Tier

By Ron McNicoll

REGIONAL — Three Pleasanton high school students contracted COVID-19 after attending a party over the holiday break, ultimately leading to the closure of camp activities in the district.

Pleasanton Unified School District (PUSD) spokesman Patrick Gan-

non stated that the students' parents reported the news to the school district over the weekend.

Students from Amador, Foothill and Village high schools attended the party, suspected of being the source of the problem. To maintain the privacy of those infected, patients' names and conditions are not disclosed publicly.

Party attendees made up members of the schools' bands and athletics camps that previously met on campuses to practice. Due to the highly contagious nature of COVID-19, all of the camp activities have been suspended at least through the end of the semester, Dec. 18.

No adults connected with the activities have reported confirmed COVID-19 infections, said Gannon.

The district is continuing to learn more about who may have been exposed to COVID-19 in the informal social gathering.

A letter that went out to the Amador Valley com-

order to reduce risks.

Butterfield's letter closed with the statement, "Our thoughts go out to any students or family members who have been impacted by COVID-19, and we wish them a speedy recovery."

Newsom Hints at Deep Shutdown

The news of COVID-19 in the school district goes

"The ways in which we adjust activities and behaviors will pave the way for a return to some kind of normalcy."

hand in hand with health officials' decisions to tighten social interaction rules. Alameda County fell from the more permissive red tier on the state's COVID-19 risk map to the most restrictive purple tier.

Even more forbidding was a Nov. 30 press conference by Gov. Gavin Newsom, who signaled a possible return to a stay-at-home order similar to that in mid-March. Case counts are now trending upward again in most counties in the state.

According to Newsom, the seven-day average in new daily cases was 14,657 on Monday, compared to 9,881 at the height of the summer surge in July.

The letter reminded students that maintaining social distance and wearing masks will make everyone safer. It also referred to information from Alameda County Public Health Department about gatherings during the holidays. Officials encouraged students to find alternative ways to connect and celebrate in

hand in hand with health officials' decisions to tighten social interaction rules. Alameda County fell from the more permissive red tier on the state's COVID-19 risk map to the most restrictive purple tier.

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(See COVID-19, page 8)

Council to Contribute To Countywide Fund

By Ron McNicoll

DUBLIN — The city council unanimously voted during its Nov. 24 meeting to place \$200,000 from its general fund into a countywide emergency microloan program.

The microloan program aims to help a variety of merchants whose businesses have suffered during the pandemic. The funds will serve as Dublin's contribution to the Alameda County CARES Act Matching Grant Pool. Any unused portion of the \$200,000 will revert back to Dublin for its own microloan fund for local businesses.

The countywide pool funds will be dispensed via a lottery among all applicants in cities throughout the county, not including unincorporated areas. Deadline for applications was Nov. 30. The results were unknown at the time of The Independent's dead-

line. Councilmembers noted that as long as unused money reverts to Dublin, they viewed the \$200,000 as a worthwhile contribution.

The only public speaker, Jesus Orozco, a Dublin restaurateur, said that he would like to see more details about the size of the loan in relation to the number of employees at a given business. He pointed out that a \$5,000 loan makes up about 5% of his business's two-week payroll, noting it "should be significantly bigger than \$5,000 or \$10,000."

Restaurateurs in the Valley meet together regularly, Orozco continued. He said they are hoping the Biden administration will bring in another round of the CARES Act.

The council acknowledged that all businesses are worth saving, but Mayor

(See FUND, page 7)

Rap Artist Killed in Dublin BART Station Shooting

By Larry Altman

DUBLIN — A Bay Area rapper described as a "shining star" with mounting fame and a growing volume of work was shot and killed last week by an unknown gunman near the East Dublin BART station.

Known on stage as Lil Yase, Alexander Mark Antonyo Jr., 26, died Nov. 28 at Eden Medical Center in Castro Valley, police said. "They cost the world a shining star, someone who was selfless and kind," said Antonyo's friend and business partner, Justin Miranda. "He always had a smile on his face. He was always laughing and kidding and joking. He was a firm believer in God."

Friends suspect a botched robbery attempt for Antonyo's Rolex watch, but Dublin police Capt. Nate Schmidt said the motive was unknown. Police are investigating the robbery angle — reviewing se-

curity video and cell phone records to try to find why Antonyo went to Dublin and whom he planned to meet.

Schmidt said the crime appeared to be more targeted than committed at random, although that remained unknown.

"We continue to investigate," Schmidt said. "There (are) more questions at this point than answers."

According to police, officers went to Valley Care Medical Center in Pleasanton, where staff reported Antonyo had arrived on his own with gunshot wounds. He was taken to Eden, where he later died.

Officers found a crime scene in the 5100 block of Iron Horse Parkway, police said. They searched the area for a suspect, but did not find one. Investigators conducted interviews and examined evidence collected at the scene.

(See ARTIST, page 2)

Speaker to Cover Transcontinental Railroad

LIVERMORE — The Transcontinental Railroad, one of the greatest building projects in U.S. history, will be the subject of an online presentation next week.

Civil engineer and historian Paul Giroux will present historical photographs and animation, bringing to life the extraordinary project that made coast to coast travel possible in days rather than months. The railroad also sped the commercial, cultural and political development of a young nation.

Giroux's talk, part of the Rae Dorough Speaker Series, is scheduled to start at

7:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 10.

Giroux is an experienced engineer, who worked on projects such as Boston's Big Dig freeway tunnel project and the Oakland Bay Bridge.

He has given nearly 300 lectures on major projects ranging from the Panama Canal to the Hoover Dam. He speaks to engineering schools 20 or 30 times a year, as well as to audiences in other popular venues.

Giroux appeared as a featured speaker at the Transcontinental Railroad sesquicentennial celebration in Sacramento in May 2019. He was also a principal

speaker during the 125th anniversary of the New York Brooklyn Bridge's opening.

For the Rae Dorough presentation, he said he will aim to "fill the void" between the popular and the technical, emphasizing "construction and engineering ... but not so much in the weeds that people don't understand it."

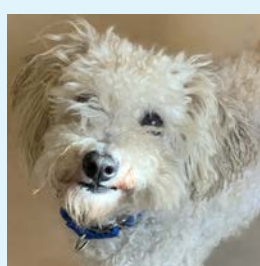
He considers the building of the Civil War-era Transcontinental Railroad a "transformative event in the history of the United States ... you could argue in the history of the world."

Popular author Stephen Ambrose points out that

(See RAILROAD, page 6)



A fire burned grassland behind Broadmoor Street on Saturday, Nov. 28. The blaze covered nine acres before it was extinguished by units from Livermore Pleasanton Fire Department and Alameda County Fire. (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)



Paddington

PET OF THE WEEK

Paddington is a sweet senior with an outgoing and friendly demeanor. He was found in rather neglected shape and has a few health issues to overcome, but he doesn't let his age nor health hold him back! He enjoys getting out for walks and meeting new people. While Valley Humane Society remains closed during shelter-in-place, adoptions are coordinated with approved adopters. Contact info@valleyhumane.org for more information. (Photo - Valley Humane Society / S. Reed)

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Dublin High School Robotics Club Designs Sanitation Drone

By Dawnmarie Fehr

The Dublin High School Gael Force Robotics Club designed a sanitation drone to clean the school's football stadium between events.

The group named the project TERSUS – the Latin word for “clean” – and encapsulated the design goal within the name: Technologically Efficient Rapid Smart Unmanned Sanitizer.

Niharika Suravarjjala, club president, said the idea was originally brought up by Assistant Principal Paul Faris, who mentioned the management and operations team was having a difficult time keeping up with current cleaning protocols.

“They were spending hours trying to sanitize and disinfect the bleachers for our Gaels’ football stadium,” said Niharika, who is 17. “Having extracurricular activities still continue is the only thing that really keeps some students going during this difficult time, so it’s important that we adhere to these health codes and allow students to go to extracurriculars, but that doesn’t mean that work isn’t hard, especially for a management and operations team.”

The robotics club be-

gan researching sanitation drones and came across products like the \$15,000 drone the Atlanta Falcons use in their stadium. Niharika and her team did not believe the Falcons’ drone incorporated modern technologies in terms of the ability to measure cleaning fluid and use coordinates in a flying pattern. It was also unwieldy and expensive.

“We decided to challenge ourselves and create something better that is not only cost effective and keeps our students safe and saves our management and operations teams time, but also uses technology to contribute in a positive way to our community,” Niharika said.

Vedant Agrawal is part of research and design management for project TERSUS. The 16-year-old said the drone design he and his fellow students came up with would allow them to clean their entire 6,200-square-foot stadium in 22 to 30 minutes. The product’s estimated cost is just \$2,600.

“We decided to advance this drone and implement an AI (artificial intelligence) system and use a GPS system to accurately plot the path the drone will

take,” Vedant said. “We will also have a manual control mode.”

He noted the design team found a perfect balance of fluid output and battery power, allowing it to remain airborne for 10-13 minutes on one charge and dispense three-fourths gallon of Ph7 sanitizing fluid. He noted this is the exact same flight time as similar drones on the market for 20% of the cost.

“The drone itself is made of carbon fiber, so it’s very light,” Vedant added. “We will have multiple batteries, and the time to charge each battery is low enough, and we will have enough on site charging so that it can run constantly.”

Once in use, the drone is designed to hover approximately 10 feet in the air, spraying its sanitizing fluid over the stadium seating. The club hopes to have its first prototype functioning early next year. Once their stadium-cleaning drone is airborne, work will begin on a design for a smaller, indoor version and community uses for the existing outdoor version.

Because the project has been completely funded by member and community donations, the club is com-

mitted to keeping quality high, costs low and looking for ways to give back to the community.

“The initial idea was just for Dublin High, but now we are looking at using these for elementary schools and city parks to help make things as normal as possible in this extremely un-normal time,” Niharika said. “So, we are still accepting donations,

and every cent goes to the project.”

The group’s original goal was to raise \$4,000 by Thanksgiving break. They have surpassed that, and plan to use excess funds to create more drones, optimizing the amount of time to sanitize a given area.

“The goal is to get this as cheap as possible and work with clubs at other schools and have this be a student

and tech kind of project where we created this for the community and support the community, with the funds coming from the community,” Niharika added.

The Dublin High School Gael Force Robotics Club is still collecting funds for Project TERSUS. For more information, or to donate, visit https://bit.ly/Indy_Robotics.



Members of Dublin High School's Gael Force Robotics Club recently designed a robot to help sanitize the school's athletic stadium. (Photo - Niharika Suravarjjala)

ARTIST

(Continued from first page)

As rumors of Lil Yase's death began spreading on social media, Antonyyo and Miranda's company, Highway 420 Productions, posted his song "Top Dog" and paid tribute on Instagram.

"We appreciate all the love and support," the post said. "Yase loved his fans; he worked every day for

saw around him. He rapped about what he saw in the Bay Area."

His topics included inequality in the Bay Area, comparing the wealth found in the Financial District to some of the neighborhoods surrounding it.

His videos on YouTube and the Internet in the last four years received millions

10:30 p.m. the night before the shooting, but for some reason he drove to Dublin, where his car was found near the crime scene. Miranda said he doesn't know who Antonyyo was with, but suspected it might have been a "young lady."

Following the shooting, Antonyyo saw someone coming and asked to be

rap. Another tragedy in a year filled with little else."

Even with Antonyyo's death, fans should expect more music. Miranda said Lil Yase's recorded songs will be released to continue his legacy.

"I want people to know he wasn't in any kind of trouble or rap beef," Miranda said. "He was a really kind-hearted person."

Dublin police asked anyone with information about the homicide to contact investigators at 925-462-1212.

Homicides in Dublin are rare. A man shot his former girlfriend to death in Janu-

ary when she and a male companion broke into his home. That shooting was deemed self-defense.

Before that, Schmidt said, the city had not recorded a homicide since 2009.



The investigation to find the killer of Bay Area rap artist Alexander Mark Antonyyo (aka Lil Yase) remains underway. (Photo - Justin Miranda)

y'all. We have hundreds of songs coming for you. Please repost and share; let the world know who the 'Top Dog' is. @yasemoney600."

In an industry where several rappers — from the well-established Tupac Shakur, Biggie Smalls and Nipsey Hussle to several up-and-coming names — have fallen victim to violence, Miranda said Antonyyo had no enemies. Antonyyo grew up in the Sunnydale Projects in San Francisco, where he continued to live with his mother, but was not involved in gangs or drugs or the politics involved in the rap industry.

"He was a really good kid," Miranda said. "He was kind of immune to the street life and didn't have to take part in it."

Antonyyo began writing lyrics and rapping when he was 14, hopping on lunch tables at school with a boombox to perform. He recorded a video on an iPad, gained notoriety and visited other campuses for after-school performances, Miranda said.

"People really liked it," Miranda said. "They liked his style."

Antonyyo, whom Miranda called Mark, brought a fresh delivery and a cadence fans had not heard before. His style attracted the attention of bigger artists, including the Shoreline Mafia and Drakeo the Ruler, rappers based in Los Angeles.

"He did songs for everybody. Every neighborhood, every city," Miranda said. "He rapped about what he

of views. As his success grew, Antonyyo moved beyond performances in the Bay Area, doing shows in Seattle, Los Angeles and Las Vegas. Miranda said they were planning a move to Los Angeles, where their enterprise could excel in the city's music business.

Despite his success, Antonyyo remained in the projects and drove a Honda Accord. Described as a "video game nerd," Antonyyo spent hours at home playing Madden football, NBA 2K and "Call of Duty." At 6 feet 4 inches tall, he loved to play basketball. Otherwise, he was in the studio, recording music, Miranda said.

Miranda recalled that Antonyyo had texted to say he would be in the studio by

taken to a hospital, Miranda said.

Miranda reported that Antonyyo's mother was a strong woman who was holding up well. Fans, meanwhile, expressed sorrow over the rapper's death and paid tribute to him on Twitter, Instagram and other sites.

"I still remember when 'Get it in' had dropped ... they had the whole bay fired up. Rest up Lil Yase," wrote @adotbronson on Twitter.

"All I know is Lil Yase had class of 2016 turn(ed) up all high school," tweeted @thesheidashow.

Said @passionweiss: "RIP Lil Yase. 'Pull Up' with Drakeo was a genuine Bay to LA classic, one of the first to really set off the next wave of West Coast

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Livermore Public Works employees Conner Johnston (left) and Wyatt Calkins add bows and garlands to lamp poles on Nov. 24. (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)



A large Christmas tree recently appeared in Dublin City Hall's lobby. The festive forest dweller is adorned with glittery shamrocks and colorful ornaments. (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)

Fire Department to Collect Toys for Tots

The Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department will again be collecting toys for the annual Toys for Tots program sponsored by the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve.

Unwrapped toys may be dropped off at any LPFD fire station between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., now through Dec. 15. Toys should be placed in a drop-off box outside the station, which will be emptied periodically by fire department personnel.

The Toys for Tots program distributes about 18 million toys at Christmas annually to 7 million less fortunate children. That includes almost 25,000 children in Alameda County who received toys from the Marines last year.

The program was created in 1947 by Bill Hendricks, a Marine reservist and public relations director for Warner Brothers Studios in Los Angeles. Walt Disney, a friend of Hendricks, designed the first Toys for Tots poster that included a miniature three-car train that subsequently

became the Toys for Tots logo.

The following year, the Marine Corps made Toys for Tots a national program by

directing all Reserve centers to join in the campaign. Since 1991, Toys for Tots has been run by the nonprofit Marine Toys for Tots Foundation.

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Pleasanton's Hacienda Drive arch by I-580 sports its traditional holiday decor. (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)

Police Department Receives Grant for Selective Traffic Enforcement Program

The Pleasanton Police Department has been awarded a \$32,500 grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) for a year-long program of special enforcement and public awareness efforts to prevent traffic-related deaths and injuries.

The department will use the funding as part of the city's ongoing commitment to keep roadways safe and improve the quality of life through both enforcement and education.

After falling to a 10-year low in 2010, the number of fatalities on California roadways has risen to 3,540 fatalities in 2019. Particularly alarming is the rise in pedestrian and bicycle fatalities. Traffic accidents killed 455 cyclists in California

from 2016 through 2018, according to new data from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

The figures translate to about 3.9 bike accident fatalities per million people, the highest rate over any three-year period since the mid-1990s, before many cities built extensive bike networks. This grant funding will provide opportunities to combat these issues and other devastating problems such as speeding and collisions in heavily traversed intersections.

The Pleasanton Police Department, with assistance from the Office of Traffic Safety, will use these tools to help keep Pleasanton streets safe. Specific enforcement activities that the

OTS grant will fund include DUI saturation patrols; distracted driving enforcement; traffic enforcement; and collaborative traffic enforcement with allied agencies within Alameda County. While alcohol remains the worst offender for DUI crashes, the Pleasanton Police Department supports the new effort from OTS that aims to drive awareness that "DUI Doesn't Just Mean Booze." Prescription medications and marijuana can also be impairing by themselves, or in combination with alcohol, and can result in a DUI arrest.

Funding for this program is from the California Office of Traffic Safety through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.



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EDITORIAL **Livermore City Council Should File An Appeal**

The Independent supports the decision of Save North Livermore Valley, Friends of Livermore, and Friends of Open Space and Vineyards to file an appeal to the Alameda County Board of Supervisors regarding the Aramis solar project.

Last week, the East County Board of Zoning Adjustments' (BZA) decided to push the utility-scale solar development forward without a comprehensive county solar policy in place. The BZA's members approved a conditional-use permit and certified the environmental impact report.

During its Tuesday afternoon meeting, the BZA listened to hours of detailed input from the public raising critical questions about the project's significant and unavoidable impacts on the scenic North Livermore Valley. Individuals, environmentalist groups and the City of Livermore have all previously weighed in, echoing the desire for a comprehensive solar policy, similar to those adopted in Contra Costa

and Santa Clara counties that specifically identify least-conflict areas most appropriate for siting utility-scale solar facilities.

Furthermore, any solar policy approved by the county should mandate that the applicant provide compensatory mitigation.

Instead, we have a rushed decision that could open Alameda County to protracted litigation.

We were disappointed with this move. The city, along with various environmental groups, saw the merit of establishing a policy that takes into account the lasting effects of depleting open space, while mitigating developmental impacts.

We encourage the council to join Save North Livermore Valley, Friends of Livermore and Friends of Open Space and Vineyards in their effort by filing an appeal as well. As we strive to procure green energy, we shouldn't have to destroy our environment in order to save it.

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.

Our Invisible Heroes

Patt Martin, Livermore

Over 16 million people in our country are family caregivers to someone with Alzheimer's Disease.

The disease not only robs those afflicted with the disease of their livelihood, social life, and health, it has similar effects on the entire family. I was a caregiver to my late husband, and we both left our jobs and entered into an isolated and stressful life with limited knowledge of what to do.

Care planning is essential to learning about medical and non-medical treatments, clinical trials, and support services available in the community, which leads to a higher quality of life for all affected. Medicare reimburses providers for care planning. However, too few providers and patients are aware of this benefit.

The Improving HOPE for Alzheimer's Act (H.R. 1873) would increase education and outreach to providers about Alzheimer's and dementia care planning services through Medicare and give clinicians the knowledge and the tools to better help their patients and families living with dementia.

Thanks goes to Rep. Eric Swalwell for co-sponsoring this bill. Now we need his help to ask the House leader-

ship to bring this bipartisan effort to a vote before this Congress concludes.

November is National Family Caregivers Month, so this is a great time to get it done!

Dino the Dinosaur Lost in North Livermore

Greg Scott, Livermore

It would be a shame if an unwitting wild creature stumbled into the planned Aramis Solar Project land in North Livermore and was not cognizant that it was not in a Wildlands, Inc. area.

The stupid creature might not even perceive that the rays of the sun fall somehow differently on this land than Wildlands, Inc.'s land. Wildlife, of course, should stick to the arbitrary, checkerboard designations and determinations of humans.

Brian Monaghan, in his Wildlands, Inc. defensive letter to The Independent published Nov. 12, writes, "that the site would provide marginal value for habitat conservation."

So, it should be paved over with solar panels? How does that affect marginality? By metaphor, this "disked" land is treated like a forlorn divorced human that cannot possibly ever have another loving relationship. Restoration? Biological enhancement? Forget it! Most apparently important is Wildlands, Inc.'s "crown jewels".

I commend Wildlands, Inc. for what they have accomplished. I do not commend them for the view on the planned utility-scale solar field in North Livermore, which will produce electricity at an average of \$100 a Megawatt-hour (MWh), or 10 cents a kilowatt-hour (kWh) in a state where the average cost from its diverse mix of electrical generation is \$74 a MWh, or 7.4 cents a kWh. (Go ahead electric utility-bill payer - take a real look at that bill!). Maybe environmentalists and 'conservationists' might figure economics into their considerations. (Source: USEIA - United States Energy Information Administration).

Certainly, we must do something about our carbon dioxide emissions. Destroying precious wildlands; ranchlands; biological resources, even if they are "marginal"; and potential food production areas to produce 1 MW for every 5 to 8 acres and to store electrical energy at double multiple and 2 orders of magnitude greater expense than other storage methods is problematic.

If we are to reduce carbon dioxide emissions, we had better look at recent agricultural technological innovations as well.

We have humans being compared to dinosaurs in John Johnston's letter to The Independent on Nov. 12. Wrong analogy. Dino the dinosaur did not see the large object from space coming. We humans track nearly everything coming at us in space, and we know what is coming with increasing atmospheric carbon dioxide concentration. It is more like the Permian-Triassic extinction event of 252 million years ago.

Unwise land use decisions are not going to solve the problem.

Weldhaas' Brave New World

Farrell Scott, Pleasanton

The Nov. 19, 2020, Independent printed two separate hateful screeds from Dublin's Patrick Weldhaas.

He articulates his most unhinged fantasies about Trump and the "deplorables," who prefer him to the available alternatives in terms simultaneously ignorant and arrogant. So, let's turn the looking glass around and examine the world Weldhaas and his ilk want:

Science: The U.S. must shut down its economy while modernizing economies in China, India, and the Third World ramp up their use of cheap, efficient fossil fuels in the name of saving the planet from "climate disruption."

Education: Kindergarten students must be taught that the myth of two genders is a social construct, that there are more than 50 genders, and that 5-year-old children are sufficiently mature to decide what medical treatments would best help them achieve their desired gender characteristics.

Health Care: So-called "universal health insurance" is a panacea; there are no trade-offs to consider when comparing it to a market system (which is not what is in place now).

Immigrants: National borders are yet another social construct that should be destroyed. Anyone from anywhere in the world is entitled to enter the U.S., become a citizen and vote themselves an ever-increasing share of an inevitably shrinking tax base.

Foreign Policy: Unlike Trump, who ignored tabloid reports of Russia paying bounties on U.S. soldiers, the new Masters of the Universe will unshackle the nuclear ambitions of Iran, which killed and maimed hundreds of U.S. military in Iraq and received billions in cash on palletes from Obama.

That's about it, a completely dumbed-down society dependent on the wisdom of the ruling class for its existence. No thanks.

Please Reject Aramis Solar Power Plant

Maenya Vlasoff, Livermore

The following is what The Independent presumes to be a letter directed to the county/city officials:

The scenic beauty, natural habitat and open space of North Livermore Valley belong to all of us and must be preserved for future generations

I respectfully request that

you reject the Aramis project for the following reasons:

1) No public need requires the construction of the Aramis power plant in North Livermore Valley. The Aramis plant does not increase Alameda County's energy resilience as it will be connected to PG&E's power grid and 75% of the power will be conveyed to San Francisco. Alameda County can generate greater renewable energy and preserve scarce agricultural land by promoting the installation of solar panels on rooftops of home and businesses, over parking lots and next to freeways.

At a minimum, Alameda County should first complete a solar-mapping project and study to determine what areas pose the least conflict with wildlife habitat, open space and agricultural land before authorizing any industrial solar power plants in unincorporated Alameda County.

2) The Aramis solar power plant is not properly related to other land uses in North Livermore Valley. Under voter-approved Measure D, the agricultural lands of Alameda County, including North Livermore, are to be preserved, enhanced and protected from "excessive, badly located and harmful development." Commercial electricity power generation does not exist today in North Livermore Valley and solar power plants are not an agricultural use of the land.

3) If permitted, the Aramis solar plant will be materially detrimental to the public welfare and injurious to property in the neighborhood. The Environmental Impact Report concludes the Aramis project will have a significant and unavoidable negative impact on the scenic beauty of North Livermore Valley. Moreover, the Aramis solar project will obliterate habitat for special-status species. The land is also a wildlife corridor important to the biodiversity of Alameda and Contra Costa Counties.

4) The Aramis solar plant is contrary to the character and standards established for North Livermore Valley. The valley is designated as an agricultural district. Farming, cattle grazing and the raising of other farm animals is impossible on land covered with solar photovoltaic panels.

In conclusion, North Livermore Valley is an agricultural area and should remain one. Please reject the application of the Aramis solar power plant and lithium-ion battery station.

Thank you for your time in this matter. May you and your families stay happy, safe and healthy.

Growing Kilowatts Instead of Food

Elizabeth Judge, Livermore

Prime agricultural land in North Livermore might be used for an industrial solar project, contrary to the intent of Measure D, but passing the laugh test when calling itself a solar "farm."

Leaders got bad advice five years ago when this huge project surfaced. There is no way it is appropriate under Measure D, which reserves

the land for agricultural use. Solar panels do not grow kilowatts and they certainly do nothing to solve the food shortage.

Solar power is important for the planet's environment, but not at the cost of the environment itself. It is better placed where land cannot be used for anything else. As the climate changes, food and wine production will become more difficult, putting water supply at the head of the list. Cleaning so many solar panels during elongated fire seasons would be a daunting task. Giant solar projects in another state used toxic cleaning solutions, contaminating underground water tables.

Leaders involved in this, who knew full well the ramifications of Measure D five years ago, and who also have influence over East Bay Community Energy, should recuse themselves in decisions regarding this proposed massive industrial solar facility.

A Bad Decision for North Livermore

Tamara Reus, Livermore

Last week, the Board of Zoning Adjustments approved the Aramis Project, a 100-megawatt solar facility that will include 320,000 solar panels, along with three acres of batteries.

The project is equivalent to 300 football fields and includes some environmentally sensitive lands. This decision will have devastating impacts on the future of North Livermore. This project was approved despite the fact that the EIR for the project identified significant and unavoidable impacts on the views in North Livermore.

The project is in a county-designated scenic corridor. We should not be ignoring important environmental policies that have been established for the benefit of the community in the rush to support renewable energy. The project area provides habitat for many special-status species, including the California Tiger Salamander, several raptor species, and many others. Numerous groups, notably including the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and East Bay Regional Park District criticized the adequacy of the planned mitigation measures. Yet the project was approved without implementing their recommendations.

Alameda County voters approved Measure D to protect the future of agricultural lands in the county. Measure D does not authorize utility-scale solar plants as a permitted use. Its goal was to preserve opportunities for agriculture. The project area has been dry-farmed and cattle-grazed for 100 years.

Utility-scale solar is not the same thing as wind farms or utility corridors, allowed by Measure D, which do not disrupt the traditional agriculture of the area. Two previously approved small solar projects located in a different area of East County that did not go forward are not precedent for agricultural compatibility.

The plan to graze sheep on the property for two

months annually is not agriculture.

Why did the county rush to complete responses to the hundreds of comments received? Why did they schedule a special meeting on the project right before Thanksgiving, when one of the board members was unavailable?

Several groups, including the City of Livermore, asked for a moratorium on solar projects until a planned solar policy is implemented. Why has the county been unwilling to consider this? What is the actual need for 100 megawatts of solar power in this area, especially where 75% of the power generated will go to San Francisco?

This is not a case of NIMBYism. This project is environmentally unsound, violates controlling land use laws and amounts to bad planning. Tell the supervisors you are against it.

Aramis Solar Power Plant

Carol Silva, Livermore

I am somewhat at a loss in regards to how this proposed massive Aramis Solar Power Plant project got so far along as it has with all the area protections that North Livermore has.

In 2000, voters passed Measure D to protect rural land from urban sprawl. This is an agricultural district in which the voters wanted to make sure that it wouldn't be zoned for industrial purposes.

Other protections of the land in the North Livermore Valley include designations or recognitions of the land as a Priority Conservation Area, a Botanical Priority Protection Area, a Scenic Corridor on North Livermore Avenue, and zoned as an Agricultural District under the Alameda County General Plan. Also, this mega solar project is in conflict with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's "East Alameda County Conservation Strategy," in which the purpose is "to protect native biological diversity, habitat for native species, natural communities, and local ecosystems in eastern Alameda County."

Sheep grazing alongside 320,000 solar panels, with extensive battery storage and other infrastructure, for two months of the year in this ocean of glass is a joke. Also, the feasibility of bee-keeping next to solar panels is questionable.

Have there been any studies completed involving bee-keeping next to solar panels? Will bees tolerate the increased temperatures? Will bees be visually confused by the reflective solar panels? Will the landscaping plants die with minimal water, thereby being unable to provide a source for bees.

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

I ask that Alameda County complete a good solar policy that isn't biased by the two solar projects currently being evaluated for north Livermore, and I ask the Alameda County Board of Supervisors to disapprove this proposed massive project.

THE Independent

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Health Officers Issue Statement in Support of Santa Clara's New COVID-19 Measures

Health officers from four Bay Area counties and the City of Berkeley today are expressing their support for Santa Clara County's new health order restricting higher-risk activities to reduce the likelihood of hospitals becoming overwhelmed with COVID-19 patients.

Santa Clara County officials estimate that hospitals in their county will reach or exceed capacity in the coming weeks if they do not take decisive action to stem the spread of COVID. Given their situation, Santa Clara

County officials announced they would enact new rules for businesses and residents, which went into effect on Monday, Nov. 30.

The new rules reduce the number of customers allowed in stores at a given time, limit hotels to only essential travel and require travelers coming into Santa Clara County from distances greater than 150 miles to quarantine for 14 days. They also temporarily prohibit youth, collegiate, and professional contact sports in Santa Clara County.

While health officials in neighboring Bay Area counties say they haven't reached the same critical point as Santa Clara, they may also have to take similar actions soon in order to preserve remaining regional hospital capacity to treat both COVID and non-COVID medical conditions, such as severe illnesses caused by flu. A month ago, there were 262 people hospitalized with COVID in the Bay Area; as of yesterday, that number had nearly tripled to 759. That's why Health

Officers in Alameda County, Contra Costa County, Marin County, San Francisco, and the City of Berkeley are expressing their unified support for Santa Clara County's decision.

"What we see in the South Bay today, we may soon see across the whole Bay Area. These actions will help slow the spread of COVID in Santa Clara County and beyond," said Dr. Nicholas Moss, Alameda County Health Officer.

Moss and other Health Officers urged people to

continue taking basic safety precautions to protect themselves and others from COVID:

- Wear face coverings when around people you don't live with.
- Stay home as much as possible. If you must go

out, limit yourself to essential activities, such as grocery shopping or getting healthcare.

- Avoid mixing with people from other households.
- Maintain physical distancing from others.
- Wash your hands regularly

Workshop Set to Teach Writers Compelling Story Elements

Author Linda C. McCabe will explain how writers can use symbolism and archetypes to add depth to their work in a Zoom virtual meeting on Dec. 19, at 2 p.m.

"The craft of writing a compelling narrative involves more than just plotting and pacing. Using symbolism and understanding archetypes will add complexity and resonance for your readers," said McCabe.

In her talk, "Using Archetypes and Symbolism to Create Compelling Narratives," McCabe describes archetypes and how they evoke unconscious emo-

tional responses. She reveals how a well-chosen character name enriches a story's meaning. Did you know that a word's symbolic significance adds to a descriptive passage? McCabe will unveil how.

McCabe is the author of the award-winning novel *Quest of the Warrior Maiden*. The novel was honored by the Bay Area Independent Publishers Association's (BAIPA) as Best Historical Fantasy and received an Honorable Mention from the Hollywood Book Festival. She based her *Fate of the Saracen Knight* on the legends of Charlemagne.

She has a master's degree as a historian of science from Sonoma State University.

McCabe loves to travel for historical research. She has scoured museums in Paris and trekked through medieval hilltop villages in the Midi-Pyrenees. Visit her at www.LindaCMcCabe.com.

The CWC Tri-Valley Branch invites writers of all genres and experience levels to learn about the craft at monthly meetings.

The Tri-Valley Branch of the California Writers Club (CWC) is hosting the meeting, and the session is open to all who reserve a place

and pay the fee by Thursday, Dec. 17. To reserve, email president@trivalleywriters.org, and pay at www.trivalleywriters.org with the PayPal button beneath the meeting description. Cost for CWC members is \$5; for nonmembers is \$7; and for students ages 14 to 22 is \$3.

For more information about the CWC Tri-Valley Branch, contact Deborah "Jordan" Bernal at president@trivalleywriters.org or visit trivalleywriters.org.

LLNL Team Makes New Findings on Climate

A team of Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) researchers has found that the global climatic consequences of a regional nuclear weapons exchange could range from a minimal impact to more significant cooling lasting years.

The five LLNL scientists examined the potential for global climate changes from large urban fires ignited in a hypothetical regional nuclear exchange of 100 15-kiloton nuclear weapons between India and Pakistan. This scenario, which has been examined in several other recent studies, was evaluated by lab scientists using two high-fidelity models for the first time and took new factors into account.

"One of the new aspects of our work is that we examined the dependence of the climate effects on different amounts of fuel available at the location of the detonation and subsequent fire," said LLNL mechanical engineer Katie Lundquist, the leader of the study and a co-author of the team's paper.

The team considered a range of possibilities for fuel loading at the site of the fire and plume characteristics, such as smoke composition and aerosol properties, resulting in an improved understanding of model sensitivity to these factors. The team's paper was published last week in the *Journal of Geophysical Research: Atmospheres* a publication of the American Geophysical Union. It is believed that if the detonation of multiple nuclear weapons causes large fires, the smoke emission could block sunlight and affect the global climate.

In their study, the Livermore scientists simulated the global climate impact using new models for predicting the fire-driven plumes of soot to the top of the troposphere and beyond. They found that when smoke from the fires remains in the lower troposphere (which has a height of about 6 to 11 miles), it is quickly removed, and the climate impact is minimal.

However, when fires inject smoke into the upper troposphere or higher, more smoke is transported to the stratosphere (the layer from the troposphere up to a height of about 30 miles), where enough light is blocked to cause global surface cooling.

"Our simulations show that the smoke from 100 simultaneous firestorms would block sunlight for about four years, instead of the eight to 15 years predicted in other models," the Livermore researchers wrote.

They believe that in this case, the blocked sunlight would likely cause a 1 to 1.5 degrees Kelvin global average peak cooling for about

four years, Lundquist said.

In studying fuel load impact on the global climate, the team found that if there were only fires in suburban areas, there would be little to no effect on the climate. Conversely, they concluded that fires in densely populated urban areas could produce a cooling three times the impact of the 1991 eruption of the Mt. Pinatubo volcano in the Philippines. Individual fire plumes are modeled using the Weather Research and Forecasting (WRF) model and the climate response is predicted by injecting the WRF-simulated black carbon emissions into the Energy Exascale Earth System Model (E3SM).

This study represents the first time the higher-resolution E3SM system, developed by the Department of Energy's (DOE) Office of Science, has been applied to look at the climate effects of a nuclear weapons exchange. Lee Glascoe, another co-author of the journal paper and the leader of the Lab's National Atmospheric Release Advisory Center (NARAC), said the two-year study showed that there is still much uncertainty about the global climate impact of a regional nuclear weapons exchange.

"Previous research has been inconclusive about what the consequences might be for the global climate from a regional nuclear weapons exchange,"

Glascoe said. "This paper highlights that many localized processes, such as fuel density and fire intensity, could drive the global results."

This also is the first time LLNL scientists from NARAC and the Climate Program have collaborated on a scientific study.

In addition to Lundquist and Glascoe, other authors of the papers are atmospheric scientists Qi Tang; David Bader, the Climate Program leader; and Benjamin Wagman, a post-doc now on staff at Sandia National Laboratories in New Mexico.

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Man Faces One Count of Murder in Girlfriend's Death

By Larry Altman

A Santa Cruz man with a history of abusing his Livermore girlfriend is now facing charges that he killed her, court documents said. Jacob Daniel Krzanski, nearly 39, faces one count of murder in the April 8 death of 47-year-old Corina Irene Lee. Lee held four criminal protective orders in Santa Cruz County and another in Alameda County to keep him away from her. Krzanski — placed on probation following four convictions in December 2019 — has been in custody without bail at the Santa Rita Jail on the murder charge since Sept. 9. He is scheduled to appear in court on Dec. 9 to enter a plea. From the time of Lee's death, her family suspected

Krzanski of killing her, a detective's report and media interviews show. In fact, the report indicated that Krzanski had choked Lee and threatened to kill her several times. Krzanski called 9-1-1 around 9 p.m., April 8, to report Lee was unconscious and unresponsive. Paramedics took her to Eden Medical Center in Castro Valley, where she was diagnosed with a severe head injury. According to a Livermore police detective's report, Lee died shortly after 3 a.m. The report, a detailed Declaration of Probable Cause for Krzanski's arrest, noted that paramedics told Detective Marco Esquivel they saw suspicious bruising on Lee's face. When Esquivel asked Krzanski

what had happened, Krzanski told him she had fallen off her bicycle and hit her head three days earlier. According to the report, Krzanski further told detectives Lee had suffered headaches and dizziness in the days that followed. During the day before her death, he said she required help to go to the bathroom. Krzanski told detectives that while sitting on the toilet, Lee slumped back and shattered the toilet tank lid. The detective said she weighed 110 pounds. Later that day, Krzanski called Lee's parents and said she was unresponsive. The paramedics, the report said, did not believe the story of a biking accident, because Lee did not have cuts or bruises on her hands, arms or face, which would

have occurred while trying to stop a fall. Lee's mother also didn't believe Krzanski. She steered detectives to one of the protective orders that Lee had obtained to keep him 100 yards from her, the report said. Esquivel's report said Krzanski provided inconsistent statements in the timeline of what happened, including when he called Lee's parents and dialed 9-1-1. He was also caught on video buying wine and toilet paper at a Lucky store at a time he claimed to be asleep. No video showed Lee ever leaving the apartment complex on a bicycle, the detective wrote. An autopsy showed Lee died from blunt force trauma to the brain that resulted in a hemorrhage and had

none of the injuries consistent with a fall, Esquivel's report showed. "Finally, per Krzanski's own admission, he was the only person with Lee at her apartment from April 3 through April 8," Esquivel wrote. "I believe that Jacob Daniel Krzanski is the sole suspect for the murder of Corina Irene Lee."



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A local farmer plows a field along North Livermore Avenue in anticipation of winter planting. (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)

FUND

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David Haubert underscored the desirability to keep the longtime restaurants open, since they have been popular for years with local residents. City Manager Linda Smith said she will take into account the council's preferences about how to handle the program.

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HAGGERTY

(Continued from first page)

Supervisors Public Protection Committee, remaining active in paramedic and trauma issues throughout his career. "I just want to say thank you for all your hard work and wish you well in your retirement," said former State Assembly member Catherine Baker during the meeting. "My family and I have been your constituents for over 20 years since we first moved to the Tri-Valley, and we have seen the product of your hard work around us every single day."

"Being a county supervisor is not an easy job. The push and pulls of your time and energy is incredible. Scott has become well known as a real champion for transportation, but it does not end there. He has been a leader in agriculture, health care, energy and public safety, just to name a few."

say, 'We did it' ... It was really a hard-fought battle. We've had a lot of wins." To view the video of the meeting, visit <https://bit.ly/3m1zi90>.

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Baker further thanked Haggerty for working toward regional transportation solutions — such as Valley Link and Dublin's autonomous shuttles — and enhancing the safety on Patterson Pass. "All of that hard work may not get the headlines every day, but it was an honor to get to work with you on them. I'm grateful for it," Baker continued. "Wish you well in your next adventure; you deserve it." Haggerty credited his staff, colleagues and constituents for their work and support over the years. "I'm humbled, you know. I wanted to be a good county supervisor," he said. "Back when I was 12 years old, and I was scraping gum off the sidewalk at the Fremont hub, I wanted to be the best gum scraper there was in town, too. It's just kind of been in my DNA, and I had somebody tell me once they were so proud of how hard I work." Haggerty noted that listening to constituents speak during public meetings was humbling. He thanked them for sharing their perspectives. He further recalled his happiness when cutting the ribbon at the housing development for the Dublin military base. "There wasn't a path to get that done, but we figured out a way," Haggerty continued. "I remember the day we cut the ribbon, standing up there able to

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Teachers Take Fifth-Graders on Virtual Camp Experience

A science-based outdoor educational camp experience is usually a rite of passage for fifth-graders across the country, but with the restrictions imposed this year by the coronavirus pandemic, the teachers at

Fairlands Elementary in Pleasanton crafted a week-long virtual camp so their students wouldn't miss out altogether.

"We wanted to ensure that our students did not miss out on the opportunity

they have been waiting for since kindergarten," said Taylor Newman. "As a team, we knew that we wanted to create a virtual outdoor experience. If we couldn't bring students to the mountains, we were determined to bring the mountains to them."

Fifth-grade teachers Jenny Eisenbies, Lizette Gianfortonue, Kelly Lack, Abbey Raymond, and Newman – with the help of science specialist Stacey Holder and physical education specialist Bryan Campiotti – led online experiences for 120 virtual campers, starting with a yoga class at the crack of dawn and running into the evenings to include the entire family.

Each of the teachers was responsible for planning one day of the virtual camp, Nov. 9-12, with an overarching theme: Monday was Water Cycle Day, Tuesday was Redwoods Day with a focus on the flow of energy, Wednesday was Ocean Life Day with a focus on interactions among living things, and Thursday was Oak Woodland Day with the emphasis on mat-

ter cycles, life webs, and energy flows to illustrate how all three are themes are connected.

Zoom-based evening activities included a sing-along campfire on Monday, astrology "star talk" on Tuesday, costume dance party on Wednesday, and teaching campers to prepare a pasta dinner for their families, taught by Fairlands Principal Heidi Deeringhoff, on Thursday.

The teachers also created t-shirts and backpacks with V-Camp logos for the students, prepared 120 daily science kits, art projects, and nature snacks, and the making for the traditional camp treat s'mores. Each of the students also received a Camp Chronicles booklet with worksheets, activity logs, and the lyrics for camp chants and songs.

"This week has been truly memorable for both staff and students," Newman said. "The atmosphere and learning experience we were able to create this week is more than any of us could have imagined and reaffirms why we do what we do each and every day."



Fairlands Elementary School teachers prepare for a virtual camp. (Photo - Patrick Gannon)

Sports Seasons Start Dates on Hold Until Further Notice

Due to the continued surge in COVID-19 infections, the California Department of Public Health has postponed the issuance of its updated youth sports guidance. The California Interscholastic Federation (CIF), the governing body for high school sports, does not expect the CDPH will issue any guidance allowing for schools to return to full practice and competition until after Jan. 1, 2021, at the earliest.

Thus, all full practice and competition start dates are officially on hold until updated guidance is issued. To provide the best opportunity to compete in Season 1 sports once allowed by the CDPH and local county offices of public health, the CIF State Office is removing all Regional and State Championship events from the Season 1 sports calendar.

By canceling Regional and State Championship

events, more student athletes will have the opportunity to participate in a longer season, rather than a truncated season with Regional and State post-season play for a limited number of schools. Additionally, boys' volleyball will be moved to Season 2 to avoid the loss of a second full season, and an updated Season 2 calendar to include boys' volleyball will be posted in January.

"The CIF is confident

this decision is a necessary and reasonable action for our member schools, student athletes and school communities in light of the current statewide crisis," officials wrote in a media release. "This revision to the CIF State 2020-21 Season 1 Sports calendar offers our Sections and Leagues the flexibility and needed time to plan for the return to practice and competition once updated guidance is provided by the CDPH."

COVID-19

(Continued from first page)

Newsom also said that as of Monday, 58% of Bay Area health care system beds were occupied. By Dec. 24, that will rise to 78% — numbers that are very close to those for the whole state. The Thanksgiving holiday will play its part in that increase, he said. In the Valley, as of Nov. 25, the Alameda County Health Department reported there were 1,365 cases of COVID-19 in Livermore, 733 in Pleasanton and 495 in Dublin.

What About a Return to School?

The Valley's three school districts are waiting to hear word about when they can have students back on campus. All three are using distance learning.

Some Dublin teachers show up for classes to teach online from their classrooms. Administrators also work on-site. All who enter the campus must sign in every day on district software and answer questions about whether they show any signs of coronavirus, said district spokesman Chip Dehnert. Personnel will not undergo testing until more people return to campus, at which time, the district will engage a testing company that can handle a high

volume of testing monthly, Dehnert explained.

The Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District (LVJUSD) will proceed in a similar fashion, implementing testing requirements once the campus sees a return of more students, Deputy Superintendent Chris Van Schaack reported. He said that there are about 200 students on campus in special education classes and in need of other intensive forms of help. The school board does not believe that it is safe for students to return before Jan. 19.

In connection with parent preferences on students returning to school, the LVJUSD released the results of its survey on Nov. 20. According to the analysis, most of the schools show that approximately 60% of the parents favor at-home learning; 38% would like their children to return.

Pleasanton will continue to ready the teachers for the day they can return students to campus. Like other districts, Pleasanton Unified School District will implement testing for staff.

"The state and Alameda County Public Health Department (ACPHD) announced a return to the highly restrictive purple

tier on the California COVID Dashboard," PUSD Superintendent David Haglund said. "This was due to the current rapid and widespread increase in COVID-19 cases. While this is disheartening, it should

serve as a vital call to action for us to adhere to current health guidance as the holiday season approaches. The ways in which we adjust activities and behaviors will pave the way for a return to some kind of normalcy."

TRI-VALLEY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Friday, Dec. 4 Community Blood Drive

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

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

For people who have experienced the death of a loved one, the winter holiday season can be painful, especially for those navigating the first year of loss. Hope Hospice has annually offered a special Handling the Holidays workshop to teach healthy coping strategies to help the bereaved during this difficult time. With physical distancing still essential in our region, Hope will present the workshop virtually this year through Zoom, from 2 to 3:30 p.m. As always, the program is offered

to the local public at no cost. Space is limited, so call 925-829-8770 as soon as possible to secure a spot.

Thursday, Dec. 10 Deck The Homes

Do you have the most festive home, apartment or condo in your neighborhood with the best holiday decorations? The City of Dublin invites Dublin residents to participate in the city's Holiday Home Decorating Contest. One winner will be chosen for each category: Best Use of Lights, Best Lawn Display, Best Holiday Theme, Best Apartment or Condo, and Best Neighborhood (three or more homes, either directly next door or across the street in the same block, promoting cooperation in their efforts). In addition to these five categories, the judging committee will also select a Best Overall award, based on curb appeal. Judging will take place Dec. 12 to 17, from 5 to 9 p.m. Winners will be notified on Dec. 22. All winners will receive a special Best Holiday Decoration yard sign. Deadline to enter is Thursday, Dec. 10.

Friday, Dec. 11 Virtual Hanukkah Celebration

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

ONGOING WEEKLY EVENTS

Livermore Downtown Farmers Market Open for the Season

Open Sundays, from 9:00 a.m. to 1 p.m., at Carnegie Town Square (South K Street between Third and Fourth St.) 2155 Third St.

Pleasanton Farmers Market Open for the Season

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

Livermore Valley Opera airs Friday Episodes

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

Six Feet Apart Productions Shares Art From a Distance

Sunday Night Stories is an on-line 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/](https://www.facebook.com/pg/Six-Feet-Apart-Productions/) or [eventbrite.com/e/sunday-night-stories](https://www.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.ebprpd.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 beautiful music made in-sightful. 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.



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LIVERMORE CALIFORNIA

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

LIVERMORE RESIDENTS: Share your talents with the community by volunteering on one of the City of Livermore's advisory bodies. We are accepting applications now through Sunday, December 27, 2020.

Alameda County Mosquito Abatement District Board of Trustees (1 vacancy)

Join us in determining general policies to be followed controlling mosquitoes and limiting the transmission of mosquito-borne diseases.

Beautification Committee (2 vacancies)

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

Commission for the Arts (3 vacancies)

Join us in promoting Livermore as a vibrant and stimulating environment for artists and audiences, young and old, to experience the performing, visual, and literary arts.

Historic Preservation Commission (1 vacancy)

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

Housing Authority (1 tenant vacancy)

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

Youth Advisory Commission (1 youth vacancy)

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

SAVE THE DATE! Interviews will be tentatively held the evenings of December 28 and 29, 2020. For more information or to apply, please visit www.cityoflivermore.net/AB, call the City Clerk's office at (925) 960-4200, or email us at: cityclerk@cityoflivermore.net.

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APPEALS

(Continued from first page)

and support facilities — located about 2 miles north of Livermore along Cayetano Creek, just west of North Livermore Avenue, with another section extending

The SNLV letter noted that county planning staff repeatedly ignored the city's request to develop a county solar policy and accelerated the review of the Ara-

project will set the precedent for the industrialization of North Livermore Valley from the foothills in the northern portion of the valley down to Springtown

“The Aramis project is an example of unsound environmental analysis, bad planning, and poor public policy choices. It will significantly impact the views in the scenic corridor and the rural character of North Livermore.”

north of Manning Road.

The project evoked different responses from environmentalists, as proponents of Aramis pushed for renewable energy, while others advocated for protecting agricultural land, endangered plants and animals, and Measure D — a measure passed by voters in 2000 to protect the valley from urban sprawl.

“The City of Livermore has called upon Alameda County officials in three letters ... not to approve any utility-scale solar facilities, including the Aramis project, until the county adopts a comprehensive solar plan for the appropriate siting, scale and operations of large-scale solar power facilities in the East County,” stated the letter signed by Chris O’Brien, Sue & Steve Springer and Merlin Newtown — leaders of the SNLV steering committee.

mis project by the BZA to Thanksgiving week.

“Furthermore, because the City of Livermore representative to East Bay Community Energy recently voted in favor of a conditional power supply agreement with Intersect Power for 25% of the power from the Aramis project (the other 75% of the power is contracted to San Francisco), an Aramis spokesperson asserted at the BZA hearing that the City of Livermore supports the Aramis project,” the SNLV letter continued. “The Aramis project is massive; its project area is greater in size than Livermore Airport. The county should not needlessly pit the important environmental goal of greater renewable energy against preservation of open space, wildlife habitat, agricultural land and scenic resources.

“Moreover, the Aramis

and Highway 580. The city will lose its voice in shaping the future of North Livermore Valley.

“County planning staff have displayed a flagrant disregard of the city's respectful request to forego approval of the Aramis project prior to establishing a comprehensive solar policy. The only option remaining is for the city to file an appeal.

“We believe the Alameda County Board of Supervisors will take the city's position seriously. If they do not, the fact the City filed an appeal to the Board of Supervisors will secure the option for the City to exercise its right to commence litigation to stop the Aramis project.”

Representing the FOL, Michael Fredrich's letter to the city contained a similar message, which outlined concerns that the county

PG&E Offers Holiday Light Safety Tips

Pacific Gas and Electric is reminding homeowners to avoid hanging outdoor lights and other holiday decorations within 10 feet of overhead powerlines.

“Holidays are a great time to remind our customers about how to practice holiday lighting safety,” said PG&E Vice President Aaron August. “First and foremost, be aware of your surroundings to avoid electric hazards.”

The company is also urging homeowners to check strands of lights for cracked or broken plugs, frayed insulation, or bare wires to avoid the risk of fire.

PG&E recommends the use of LED lights, which the company says are 75% more energy efficient and last up to 25 times longer than traditional incandescent C4 and C9 lightbulbs. The company says up to 25 strings of LED light can be strung end-to-end without overloading a wall socket.

has yet to develop a solar policy.

“I understand my request may be difficult for you, but the future of the North Livermore Valley is at stake,” Fredrich stated in the letter. “Many have worked for many years to preserve North Livermore. I strongly encourage the City of Livermore to file an appeal of the BZA decision in order to safeguard and preserve the valley for future generations of Livermore residents.”

The Friends of Open Space and Vineyards' letter to the city, signed by Ta-

mara Reus, further pointed out concerns around the project's lack of compensatory mitigation, which have been echoed by other opponents.

“The Aramis project is an example of unsound environmental analysis, bad planning, and poor public policy choices. It will significantly impact the views in the scenic corridor and the rural character of North Livermore,” Reus wrote. “It violates County Measure D and other county policies. It fails to provide adequate mitigation for species. In fact, County staff and the

applicant totally disregarded the recommendations of several organizations concerned about special-status species protection. Most significantly, they ignored the mitigation measures designated by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.”

Lopez, the county planning director, confirmed a hearing date for appeals was being considered for the Board of Supervisors' Dec. 15 meeting. But he said any appeal hearings are more likely to be heard later in December or in January.

OBITUARIES

Lucille Lennier (Lara)

May 5, 1948 – Oct. 10, 2020



Lucille Lennier was born at St. Paul's Hospital and was a longtime Livermore resident most of her life, before moving to Patterson after her 23 years of marriage to her surviving spouse, Charles Lennier (Chuck).

Surviving family include her mother, Lucy Perez (Lara); brother, Steve Lara and wife Debi; sister, Patsy Lara; daughter, Margie Lara; granddaughter, Lavina Soto-Lara; grand-

son, Nickolas Navarro; great grandson Darian Hernandez; nephews, Daniel Caraveo, Dino Caraveo and family; and her stepchildren, aunts, cousins and friends.

She adored her grandchildren and loved every moment that they spent with her. She loved cooking big holiday dinners and having family around her. Family would fight over her delicious potato salad, which was a favorite dish she'd make

for them all the time.

She was a very hardworking, loving and caring person who was always ready to help her senior neighbors. They will surely miss her.

She will definitely be missed. God took her home.

A private family service will be held at Veterans Memorial Cemetery in San Anselmo, with date and time to follow.

Donna Hayes

Feb. 26, 1950 – Nov. 10, 2020



Donna Hayes, age 70, passed away unexpectedly on Nov. 10, in Livermore, California, due to heart failure.

She was born on Feb. 26, 1950, in Sacramento, California. She was a Tri-Valley small business owner and loved being a part of the Delta lifestyle.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date due to COVID restrictions.

Robert Kaifer

Feb. 28, 1927 – Nov. 23, 2020



Robert (Bob) Kaifer, 93, passed away on Nov. 23, 2020, in Livermore.

Bob Kaifer was born in Alameda, on Feb. 28, 1927, to Clarence Robert Kaifer and Mary Christina Meiss. Bob was class valedictorian at San Leandro High School. During his senior year, he went to night school and studied radio science. After high school, Bob served two years in the United States Merchant Marine as a radio operator and also served in the Army during the Korean War. He received a Bachelor of Science degree in electrical engineering from the University of California Berkeley in 1950.

Following his military service, Bob married Barbara Ghiselli of Alameda. Bob worked as an engineer at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory for 37 years. Bob was an engineer to the core and could fix anything. He was constantly working on a project around the house or helping out at a relative's house.

When he wasn't tinkering with a car or fixing things around the house, Bob could

be found working in his garden. He particularly loved his beautiful roses in front of the house. Bob took his family on regular vacations to Lake Tahoe, where he skied in the winter and swam in the lake in the summer. Bob relaxed listening to music and particularly enjoyed going to see the opera, the symphony, and musicals.

Bob was also a sports fan, and he and Barbara were longtime Cal Bear football season ticket holders through good seasons and less good seasons.

Bob was a compassionate and caring man who found comfort in his religion. He was a member of Saint Michael's

Church for over 60 years and was one of the first eucharistic ministers and lectors. He was also a member of the Saint Michael School Board, Parish Council, and Grief Support.

Bob is survived by his loving wife of 67 years, Barbara Kaifer; his three daughters and their husbands, Roberta Bandy (Tom) of Livermore, Margo Miller (Bradley) of Woodland, California, and Alison Peterson (Steven) of Arlington, Massachusetts; and eight grandchildren, Joe Bandy (Michelle), Melissa Bandy, Amy Bandy, Brandon Miller (Maritza), Holly Miller, Heidi Miller, Lauren Peterson and Andrew Peterson.

A funeral mass will be held at 11 a.m., on Thursday, Dec. 3, at St. Michael Catholic Church (outside in the courtyard), 458 Maple Street, Livermore. There will be a one-hour visitation prior to the mass. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to ValleyCare Charitable Foundation or to University of California Berkeley – The Berkeley Engineering Fund.

Monroe Dexter Reitz

Feb. 18, 1927 – Nov. 14, 2020



Monroe (Monty) D. Reitz was born in Hancock, Minnesota, to German parents whose families established their new lives in America at the turn of the century, and where Monty grew up to love farm life and the woods and wilderness of the northern plains state.

After Monty's military service at the end of WWII, when he first came to California to be stationed at Fort Ord, he graduated from Moorhead Teachers College in Minnesota, where he met and married Gladys Sheer in 1950. Their first assignment was on the Red Lake Indian Reservation, Minnesota, to teach and coach Native American students.

In 1952, they moved to California, where Monty received his master's degree at UCLA. Their two daughters, Michelle Claire and Cheri Diane, were born before the couple's divorce in 1965, when they lived in San Mateo.

Monty worked in San Mateo, Belmont, Sonoma and Livermore school districts be-

dearly loved by his family, Ramona, Diane Hunter, Michelle and Rory Glaubert, and Cheri Cerna; stepsons, Jeff and Lyn Toquinto, Steve Toquinto and Tim Toquinto; grandsons, Ryan Glaubert and Casey Cerna; granddaughters, Signy, Kyra and Alya Toquinto, Andrea and Kaden Toquinto; and great-grandchildren, Blake and Carson Glaubert, Ripley and Rowyn Toquinto and Mara Toquinto.

He will be missed by his friends in education and dog training, and although many were unaware of Monty's love of poetry, he wrote these last words:

*Here he lies
Where he longs to be
Near to the mountains
Close to the sea
Wicky and Hero
Searching with me
We've reached
the headlands
Where we are finally
Free*

Robert Lee Worley

March 30, 1946 – Nov. 19, 2020



Robert Lee Worley was born on March 30, 1946, in Philo, Ohio, to Don and Virginia Worley, and he died peacefully in his sleep on Nov. 19, 2020.

He joined the Navy on Dec. 16, 1965, and later transferred to the Marines as a medic. He served in Vietnam for 11 months and was honorably discharged. He was the recipient of several medals, one being the Purple Heart and another one the National Defense Service Medal.

At the time of his passing, he was married to his third wife, Vivian. They were married in May of 2016.

Bob is survived by three children, Dan (Kim), James (Susan) and John (Yolanda); stepdaughter Holly (John) and her son Sean; 11 grandchildren, Andrew James, William, Anthony, Charles, Aidan, Anya,

Elias, Ella, Kirsten and Sibley; and two great grandchildren Braiden and Taylor.

*Bob Worley
We love you
Thank you for your bravery in serving our country
At the age of 19, you left for the Navy
You came back alive, but definitely have scars.*

*You are such a generous person
How many cars and motorcycles have you
Given to friends and family
Motorcycling was your passion
We remember all the joy rides
You were so full of love
All your family and friends will miss you
But we know, you will not be far
We will always feel you in our hearts.*

Services will be at Callaghan Mortuary on Tuesday, Dec. 15, at 1 p.m., and a military burial will follow immediately at Memory Gardens. Callaghan Mortuary is honored to be serving the Worley family. An online guestbook is available for condolences at www.callaghanmortuary.com.

Vivian "Vi" Marie Schneider

March 13, 1926 – July 10, 2020



On October 30, 2020, the family of Vivian Schneider bid a final farewell as her ashes were spread at sea in Newport Beach, California, at the same coordinates as her beloved granddaughter Kacie, who passed in 2001.

Vivian was a cancer survivor for nine years, until it recurred in December 2019. Vivian shared her last goodbyes with loved ones and then went peacefully on July 10, 2020.

She led a full active life and enjoyed fishing, bowling, cooking, traveling, going to casinos with friends, craft fairs, Oakland A's games, reading, visiting with family, friends, neighbors and so much more — it was hard to believe she was a woman in her 90's. She was an inspiration, confidante, role model, and loved by many who knew her.

Vivian was preceded in death by her loving life companion, Jack Magel. She leaves behind two sons, Bernice Schneider (Janet) of Corona Del Mar, California, and Gary Schneider, of Laguna Woods, California; sisters, Gloria Matsie of Oldfield, Missouri, and Joanna Baldwin of Lockport, Illinois. She was the proud grandmother of trip-

lets Matt (Aleid), Brad (Lark), and Heather; and Michael and Katherine.

She is also survived by five great-grandchildren; her special niece, Jacqueline Marie Horvath (Mike), who lovingly nicknamed her "Sarge" and was born on Vi's birthday and loved like a daughter; nephew, David Wilson (Roni); other nephews and nieces; four stepchildren and their grandchildren and great-grandchildren; and many dear and treasured friends - especially Teresa Hauck (Ron), who was by her side throughout this journey.

At Vivian's request, no local services are planned. Plans are in process for a memorial bench located in Livermore, date and location to be determined. Donations in her memory can be made to the American Cancer Society.



Braden Pelledrini checks on his bike at the Sunken Gardens Neighborhood Park's newly installed maintenance stand in Livermore. (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)

Bicycle Repair Station Installed at Sunken Gardens Park in Livermore

A free-to-use bicycle repair station, including an industrial air pump and tools, has been installed at the 9-acre Sunken Gardens Skate and Bike Park at 3800 Pacific Ave., in Livermore.

The repair station was paid for by the Livermore Area Bike Park Facebook Group with support from the non-profit LARPD Foundation and the Superfly Wheels Bicycle Shop in Pleasanton.

Sunken Gardens, operated by Livermore Area Recreation of Parks Department, includes a skate park and bicycle stunt course, as well as hiking and biking trails.

Local Scout Qualifies for Eagle Status

Anirudh Adhikary has qualified to become an Eagle Scout at an Eagle Scout Board of Review, held on Nov. 13, 2020.

He is the son of Kiran and Ranjit Adhikary of Pleasanton and is a member of Troop 911, sponsored by the Rotary Club of Pleasanton. In addition to his Eagle award, he has qualified for a Silver Palm, by earning 15 merit badges beyond the 21 required for Eagle, becoming only the second scout in his troop's 18-year history to receive the award. His Eagle Court of Honor will be held later due to Covid-19.

Anirudh has lived in Pleasanton since he was 3 years old. He began his Scouting adventure as a Tiger Cub in Pack 910. He has held many leadership positions in his troop, including patrol leader, senior patrol leader, crew leader for the Philmont backpacking trip, and chaplain's aide. In addition, he has been recognized for showing exemplary leadership under adverse conditions by the general manager of the Philmont Adventure Camp.

He is grateful for the adult leaders in his troop, who constantly encouraged and guided him, most notably, Mr. Buchenauer and Mr. Kamigaki. His father, Ranjit, is also an assistant scoutmaster for the troop.

Anirudh is a senior at Amador Valley High School and is a member of the AVHS Quizbowl team. He is also a member of the Seahawks Swim Team, Tri-Valley Stargazers and the Audubon Society. Other interests include chess, basketball, swimming, camping, bird watching and astronomy. He was

introduced to nature, animals and birds at an early age by his mother and has always been in love with the outdoors, an interest which was reinforced in his journey as a Boy Scout.

In college, he would like to combine a passion for basketball with a major in STEM and pursue a career in sports analytics. On com-

provided by Mr. Joshua Butterfield and his staff. Mr. Rajabzadeh from the Pleasanton Unified School District also gave valuable input for the final installation.

To earn the rank of Eagle Scout, a Scout must be active in their troop, provide leadership, earn 21 merit badges including the areas



Anirudh Adhikary

pleting his Scouting journey, he has a desire to help others and wants to contribute by being involved with volunteer groups that help preserve the outdoors or help people in need.

For his Eagle project, he made four campus map stands for Amador Valley High School, which will help new students and visitors navigate the school easily. He raised funds and even created Covid guidelines while executing and leading the project. Anirudh appreciates the encouragement and help

of citizenship, camping, communications, cooking and lifesaving or emergency preparedness as well as demonstrate that they live by the principles of the Scout Oath and the Scout Law. They must also plan, develop and give leadership to others in a service project benefiting a religious institution, school or community group.

Anyone interested in joining any level of Scouting can contact Twin Valley District Executive Matt Lindberg at matt.lindberg@scouting.org.

Fire Displaces Four Dublin Residents

A fire at a Dublin house Sunday displaced two adults and two children, firefighters said.

Alameda County firefighters responded to the

fire in the 2400 block of Kimball Avenue just before 3:30 p.m. Although firefighters doused the blaze quickly and prevented it from spreading, it

had extended into the attic, firefighters reported.

The cause was under investigation. Nobody was injured.

Livermore Ford Donates Face Masks to Schools

Livermore Ford has donated more than 11,000 medical-grade face masks to the Livermore Joint Unified School District.

The donation is part of the Ford Motor Co's pledge to provide more than

100 million face masks to schools and community groups across the country through 2021.

Dana Dodge, the school district's child nutrition director, was among those who picked up the face

masks at the dealership last week.

"Our staff interacts with the public daily as we provide meals to children in Livermore," Dodge noted. "These masks will be greatly appreciated."



The Livermore school district recently received thousands of masks from Livermore Ford. (Photo - Livermore Ford)

Notice of Availability of a Draft Environmental Impact Report and Public Open Houses for the Valley Link Project

Public Review Period: December 2, 2020 – January 21, 2021

What: The Tri-Valley – San Joaquin Valley Regional Rail Authority (Authority), acting as lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the Valley Link project (Project).

The purpose of this Notice of Availability (NOA) is to notify agencies, organizations, and individuals that the Authority has published the DEIR and are inviting comments on the environmental analysis presented in the DEIR from all relevant public agencies that are germane to each agency's statutory responsibilities regarding the Project. We are also requesting interested individuals' or organizations' comments on the environmental document.

To view the full NOA, which contains more information about the Project, please visit www.valleylinkrail.com.

Viewing the DEIR: Copies of the DEIR are available for download and review online at www.valleylinkrail.com/environmental-ceqa.

Hard copies of the DEIR will also be made available by appointment only at the Authority office at 1362 Rutan Court, Suite 100, in Livermore. Please note that at this time, libraries in Alameda and San Joaquin Counties are closed due to public health and safety concerns regarding the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). Please check the project websites listed above for the most up-to-date information on the availability of the DEIR at local libraries. To schedule an appointment, please email info@valleylinkrail.com or call the information request line at (925) 455-7591 and leave a message.

About the Project: The Authority proposes to establish a new 7-station passenger rail service along a 42-mile corridor between the existing Dublin/Pleasanton Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) Station and the approved Altamont Corridor Express (ACE) North Lathrop Station, which is included in the ACE Extension Lathrop to Ceres/Merced Project.

The limits of the proposed project span Alameda and San Joaquin Counties. The Project would use existing transportation corridors: the existing Interstate (I-) 580 corridor (11.7 miles) in the Tri-Valley; the Alameda County Transportation Corridor right-of-way (ROW) through the Altamont Pass (14.5 miles); and the existing Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) Corridor (16.1 miles) in Northern San Joaquin County.

Potential Environmental Impacts

The Proposed Project would result in overall regional benefits in terms of reducing regional traffic and vehicle miles traveled, improving regional transportation connections, improving operational air quality overall, lowering greenhouse gas emissions and reducing energy use.

The Proposed Project would result in the following significant and unavoidable impacts, even after implementation of mitigation: permanent conversion of important farmland; contribution to cumulatively significant air quality health risks related to particulate matter in the Tri-Valley; construction impacts relative to localized ambient air quality in the San Joaquin Valley; operational impacts to special-status species and wildlife movement associated with operation of the Greenville Station, Mountain House Station, and West Tracy Operations and Maintenance Facility (OMF) Alternative; land use inconsistency and potential inducement of localized unplanned growth in the immediate vicinity of the Greenville and Mountain House Stations; and construction and operational noise at certain locations.

The Proposed Project would result in less-than-significant impacts (including less than significant impacts with mitigation) on other resource areas: aesthetics (construction and operation); agricultural resources (construction); air quality (construction and operation, other than contributions to cumulative impacts); biological resources (construction and operation, other than operational impacts on special-status species and wildlife movement at the Greenville Station, Mountain House Station, and West Tracy OMF Alternative); cultural resources (construction and operation); energy (construction and operation); geology and soils (construction and operation); greenhouse gas emissions (construction and operation); hazards and hazardous materials (construction and operation); hydrology and water quality (construction and operation); land use and planning (construction and operation, other than the Greenville and Mountain House Stations); vibration (construction and operation); population and housing (construction and operation, other than the Greenville and Mountain House Stations) recreation (construction and operation); safety and security (construction and operation); transportation (construction and operation); and utilities and service systems (construction and operation).

Open Houses

Please note that the Authority staff are continuing to monitor developments related to the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) on a daily basis and participate in frequent updates from local, state, and federal public health agencies and local jurisdictions. Out of concern for public health and safety, the Authority will hold three online open house meetings to provide information about the DEIR and respond to general questions about the Project. A presentation summarizing the Project and the DEIR will be provided and staff will be available to answer questions.

Please check the project website at www.valleylinkrail.com for the most up-to-date information regarding open houses for the Valley Link DEIR. Information about how to join the online open house meetings will be provided on the Authority's website at this location: www.valleylinkrail.com/environmental-ceqa.

The three online open house meetings will be held on the following dates and times:

- Saturday, December 12, 2020, from 9:00 AM to 10:30 AM
- Wednesday, December 16, 2020, from 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM
- Thursday, December 17, 2020, from 5:00 PM to 6:30 PM

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Report

A 50-day public and agency review period pursuant to Section 150105 of the State CEQA Guidelines is scheduled from December 2, 2020 to January 21, 2021. Comments may be made by regular mail or email. Please note that you do not need to attend one of the open houses to comment on the DEIR. Please send comments submitted in writing to:

- Email: drafteircomments@valleylinkrail.com
- Mail: Tri-Valley San Joaquin Valley Regional Rail Authority
Attn: Valley Link Draft EIR
1632 Rutan Court Ste 100
Livermore, CA 94551

Comments on the DEIR must be received by the end of the public review period, which is **January 21, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.**



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Arts Center to Host Outdoor Sale on Saturday

The Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center will host an outdoor Mini Art Mart at the Bankhead Plaza on Saturday, Dec. 5. The art sale, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. will feature works by Nana-Dicta Graves, Jennifer Huber, Leta Eydelberg, and Topsey-Turvey Ceramics, as

well as other local artists. Shoppers will also be able to enjoy the temporary public sculptures, "Where Do We Go from Here," created for Art-Walk in October, and four new artscapes painted on the lower windows of the Bankhead Theater. The winter-themed artscapes

were recreated by volunteers led by Jennifer Huber, Leta Eydelberg, Thomasin Dewhurst, and Anne Giancola. The Art Mart is an extension of the "Handmade for the Holidays" online art fair hosted by the arts center on its website, livermorearts.org.



Shoppers at the outdoor Mini Art Mart this Saturday will find temporary public sculptures and four new artscapes painted on the lower windows of the Bankhead Theater in Livermore. (Photo - Roberta Emerson)

Nursery Owner to Discuss the Winter Garden

Jacque Williams-Courtright, who hosts "The Valley Gardener" on Tri-Valley Community Television (TV30), will be the guest speaker for the Livermore Amador Valley Garden Club's online meeting from 7-8:30 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 10.

Williams-Courtright, a Livermore native and second-generation nursery owner whose parents started the Alden Lane Nursery in 1955, will discuss "The Garden in Winter." She holds a bachelor's degree in ornamental horticulture from California

Polytechnic State University at San Luis Obispo and is a past president of the California Association of Nurseries and Garden Centers. The Zoom-based meeting is open to the public. For information about accessing the meeting, email president@lavgc.org.

Cities Adapt Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremonies

Dublin and Pleasanton will hold virtual tree lighting ceremonies this year because of pandemic restrictions on public gatherings, while Livermore Downtown, which has historically sponsored a holiday parade followed by a tree lighting at Lizzie Fountain, is also changing the usual script. Instead of a parade, Livermore Downtown encouraged groups that built floats in the past to create exhibits this year to be put on display around the city. As of Monday, at least

10 groups were planning stationary "floats," according to Rachael Snedecor, executive director of the downtown organization. Livermore Downtown was planning to publish a map of the displays on its website, www.livermoredowntown.com, this week. The nonprofit is also urging residents to spend Saturday, Dec. 5, downtown, dining at outside restaurant patios and supporting local business that will be open for "twinkle light" shopping until 9 p.m. Although no formal light-

ing ceremony is planned, the group is sponsoring a 25-foot artificial Christmas tree at Lizzie Fountain, at the intersection of Livermore Avenue and First Street. Meanwhile, Tri-Valley Community Television (TV30) will broadcast Pleasanton's pre-recorded Hometown Holiday Celebration and Tree Lighting at 7 p.m., also this Saturday. Dublin will follow with its own virtual tree lighting ceremony with a live Facebook presentation at 8:30 p.m.

Dublin Urges Shoppers to Report Suspicious Behavior

Dublin is encouraging holiday shoppers to be cautious and report suspicious behavior to the Police Department.

Police offered the following tips:

- When shopping, park your car in a well-lit area. Lock the doors and be sure all windows are tightly closed.
- Have your car keys in your hand when returning to your car and scan the interior of your car to be sure no one is hiding inside.
- Do not leave packages, shopping bags, or valuables in plain view inside your car. Lock packages, gifts, and valuables in the trunk if possible.
- While inside stores, never place packages on floors or counters or leave them unattended when purchasing additional items.
- Always be aware of your surroundings. Be cautious of strangers approaching for any reason.
- Do not get distracted by texting or talking on your phone. Purses should be carried under your arms and wallets carried in an inside coat pocket or front pants pocket.
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash. Whenever possible, pay for purchases with checks or credit cards.

The Dublin police will be deploying extra staff to target common criminal activities during the holidays, including additional patrol vehicles and officers on foot patrol and bicycles.

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
cyrtrivalley.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 Valley Education Foundation

849 East Stanley Boulevard
PMB Box 143
Livermore, CA 94550
LVEForG

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

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
pfcvt.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

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
Trivalleyconservancy.org

Tri-Valley Haven

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

Tri-Valley Nonprofit Alliance

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

Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre

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

ValleyCare Charitable Foundation/Stanford Health Care-ValleyCare

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

Valley Concert Chorale

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

Valley Dance Theatre

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

Valley Humane Society

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