

Mouth of madness

Would you take a drink from this trio? You would at Sonoma’s Martini Madness. A13

Transportation: Get on the bus! Free shuttle sees ridership spike. A3

Sports: Dragons spear Trojans Varsity boys hoopsters beat Petaluma. A9



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Tuesday, February 4, 2020

The Sonoma Index-Tribune

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Sonoma Valley, California ■ SonomaNews.com

An edition of The Press Democrat

■ SUPER BOWL 54 ■

Slipping through their fingers



ROBBI PENGELLY/INDEX-TRIBUNE

Grace Williams, Amanda Gowing and Robert Langton react Feb. 2 to the twists and turns of Super Bowl 54, where the hometown San Francisco 49ers let a 10-point fourth quarter lead slip away to the Kansas City Chiefs, who won 31-20. The disappointed Steiners crowd called it a night soon after. Sunday, after all, is a work night – even for crushed Niners fans.

Changes in store for Tuesday night market

Vendor participation deadline of Feb. 10 draws near; City finetunes plans

By LORNA SHERIDAN
INDEX-TRIBUNE MANAGING EDITOR

A name change, new management, a new application process and new fees – those top the list of changes so far, as Sonoma’s 2020 Tuesday farmers market season approaches.

The former Valley of the Moon Certified Farmers Market (VOMCFM) will now be known simply as Sonoma’s Tuesday Night Market. The City of Sonoma and the Sonoma Valley Chamber of Commerce will partner to present the market in 2020, after Valley of the Moon market organizers last fall opted out of their contract, saying the increase in city operation fees rendered running the market financially infeasible for the

See Market, A4

School district may consider bullying in school transfer requests

Board trustees to look at inter-district transfer policy at Feb. 4 meeting

By ANNE WARD ERNST
INDEX-TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER

Changes to the inter-district transfer policy for the Sonoma Valley Unified School District should better reflect the district’s needs as a basic aid district, according to a report by district staff. The District board of trustees will consider revising the policy at Tuesday’s school board meeting.

A basic aid district receives funding mostly from local property taxes. Too many students in a district could dilute its funding pool, therefore basic aid districts are sometimes

See District, A4



ROBBI PENGELLY/INDEX-TRIBUNE

Mayor Logan Harvey walks the walk, or rides the rides in this case, when it comes to alternative transportation.

Logan Harvey pedaling toward a better Sonoma

Sonoma’s new Mayor wants to increase public transit, up development fees and add affordable housing

By CAROLE KELLEHER
INDEX-TRIBUNE CORRESPONDENT

A peek at Logan Harvey’s LinkedIn profile reveals his full-time position as a “waste zero specialist” with an environmental services company, seemingly the perfect job for a man who has trouble tolerating waste of any kind, be it time, energy or natural resources.

Elected to the Sonoma City Council in 2018 and chosen by his fellow council members to

serve as mayor in 2020, he’s a bike rider, public transportation cheerleader and obsessive recycler with a time schedule that rarely sees a free slot.

The only current councilmember raised in Sonoma, he has an ingrained love of the Valley where he grew up. His wife Lily loves to teasingly remind him that because he was born at

See Harvey, A7

Isabella Rossellini brings the circus to town

‘Blue Velvet’ star turns performance artist in celebration of animals and science

By CHRISTIAN KALLEN
INDEX-TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER

There’s a circus coming to town, but it’s unlike any circus you’ve heard of. There are no acrobats, no clowns, no lions or tigers, bears or elephants – just a dog, a guy dressed up in animal costumes, and an international movie star.

Isabella Rossellini’s “Link Link Circus” sets up on the Sebastiani Theatre stage on Feb. 8, in the

second year of the unusual puppet and evolution show, from an actor who veritably embodies cinema royalty. Her mother was screen legend Ingrid Bergman; her father Italian neo-realist director Roberto Rossellini. And her own career in movies, which launched in 1976 with the Liza Minnelli vehicle “A Matter of Town,” took off to unknown altitudes 10 years later with David Lynch’s “Blue Velvet.”

“I think that Blue Velvet is a very important film,” said Rossellini when the *Index-Tribune* reached her by phone last week at the Sundance Film Festival, where she is a juror. “David Lynch is an incredible artist, so all that work that I did with David has been wonderful – and certainly ‘Blue Velvet,’ because I had such a won-

See Circus, A5



JODY SHAPIRO

Isabella Rossellini brings the Link Link Circus to Sonoma on Feb. 8. She’ll perform with her dog Pan and puppeteer Andy Byers in an imaginative tableau on the subject of animal intelligence.

The Sonoma Index-Tribune
sonomanews.com

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| WEATHER | | | |
|--|-----------|----------|----------|
| REPORTED CONDITIONS | | | |
| Date | High | Low | Rainfall |
| Fri., 1/31 | 66 | 41 | 0 in. |
| Sat., 2/1 | 66 | 39 | 0 in. |
| Sun., 2/2 | 65 | 49 | 0 in. |
| Mon., 2/3 | 65 | 33 | 0 in. |
| FORECAST | | | |
| Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
| 59°/32° | 64°/36° | 65°/38° | 67°/40° |
| RAINFALL HISTORY | | | |
| Year-to-date: 11.70 in. Last-year-to-date: 16.79 in. Rainfall year calculated from Oct. 1 to Sept. 30. | | | |

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Free tax help is available to Sonoma Valley residents.

Get your taxes done for free

Taxes don’t have to be taxing – accountants here to help

INDEX-TRIBUNE STAFF REPORT

The AARP Foundation and the Internal Revenue Service are partnering to provide a program dubbed Tax-Aide at the Library, Tuesdays and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Sonoma Valley Regional Library during the tax season.

Sign up online at sonomacounty.libcal.com, or call the library at 996-5217 to make a free one-hour appointment. Tax assistance will be available Tuesdays and Fridays from Feb. 4 to April 14 (with the exceptions of Feb. 18 and 21). Tax appointments will also close early on Feb. 11 and March 10. Tax assistance is by appointment only.

“(The program) brings numerous dedicated volunteer tax preparers to serve the public,” said Sonoma Valley Library manager Diana Spaulding in an announcement of the program. “We hope and expect that the dozens of appointments available will be fully booked, but to offer equitable access to all we are staggering registration.”

Only February appointments are currently open for registration. In mid-February, the library will open March appointments, and in mid-March they will open the April

appointments.

The volunteer tax preparers can prepare most returns with wages, interest, dividends, capital gains/losses, unemployment compensation, pensions and other retirement income, Social Security benefits and self-employment income, according to library officials.

Not all tax returns can be handled by the free tax assistance program, say program sponsors. The program cannot assist in preparing self-employment returns if there are employees, losses, expenses that exceed \$25,000, depreciation, business use of home or other complicating factors.

The tax assistance is also unavailable if returns have complicated Schedule K-1; or rental income, except land-only rentals or rentals of personal residence less than 15 days.

Program officials urge participants to bring the following items to their appointments: photo ID; 2018 tax returns, both state and federal, if possible; proof of SSN or ITIN; and 2019 tax documents, including all income and deduction information.

Once an appointment is scheduled, people can obtain an intake booklet at the library and complete it before their appointments.

The library is located at 755 W. Napa St.

Lawyers in the library

As part of its ‘Lawyers in the Library’ program, the Sonoma Valley Regional Library is offering free legal consultations and referrals from volunteer lawyers from 6 to 8 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 10. No appointments will be taken, but registrations begin at 5:30 p.m. and are first come, first served. The library is located at 755 W. Napa St.



Reception for Betty Ann Bruno set for Feb. 11

Friday deadline to buy Treasure Artist event tickets

INDEX-TRIBUNE STAFF REPORT

The Cultural and Fine Arts Commission of Sonoma will host a reception to honor local dance teacher, performer and founder of Polynesian dance troupe Hula Mai, Betty Ann Ka’ihilani Bruno, the Sonoma Treasure Artist of the Year for 2020.

The event is at 6 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 11, at Vin-

tage House senior center, 264 First St. E., in Sonoma.

Reservations for the wine and hors d’oeuvres reception will be accepted until 5 p.m. Friday, Feb. 7. Admission is \$25.

Tickets can be purchased online on Eventbrite, or mail payment via check or cash to City of Sonoma, Attn: City Clerk, No. 1 The Plaza, Sonoma CA 95476.

For additional information, call City Clerk Rebekah Barr at 933-2216 or Rita Gipson at 933-2218.



Bruno is the founder of Hula Mai, and a former journalist.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR



A weekly listing of community meetings and events, typically free and always open to the public.

Tuesday, Feb. 4

The Sonoma Valley Unified School District board of trustees will meet at 5:30 p.m. in the district conference room at 17850 Railroad Ave.

Meet Sonoma Mayor Logan Harvey in partnership with the Sonoma Valley Chamber of Commerce, Sonoma Valley Vintners & Growers Alliance and Sonoma Visitors Bureau from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at Pangloss Cellars on the Plaza. Registration in advance is required by Feb. 3.

Wednesday, Feb. 5

The Schell-Vista Fire

Protection District Board will meet at 7 p.m. at Station #1 located at 22950 Broadway. See the district’s website, schellvista-fire.org, for details, the agenda, and past meeting minutes.

Thursday, Feb. 6

The Sonoma Valley Health Care District Board meeting is at 6 p.m. in City Council Chambers at 177 First Street West.

Saturday, Feb. 8

Homeless Action Sonoma will meet at 10 a.m. at the Sonoma Valley library. 755 W. Napa St.

Tuesday, Feb. 11

The North Bay Water District Board of Directors will meet at 6 p.m. at the Schell-Vista Fire Station #1 at 22950 Broadway. The agenda will be posted

on the Station’s front window.

Wednesday, Feb. 12

The Community Services & Environment Commission will meet in Council Chambers at 6 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 13

The Planning Commission will meet in Council Chambers at 6 p.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 18

Cardiologist and heart

disease specialist, Anita Szady, MD, will lead a conversation discussing “Women’s Health and Cardiovascular Disease: New Strategies for Prevention and Treatment” at 1 p.m. at Vintage House. The talk is sponsored by Sonoma Valley Hospital. To reserve a spot, visit vintagehouse.org/events.

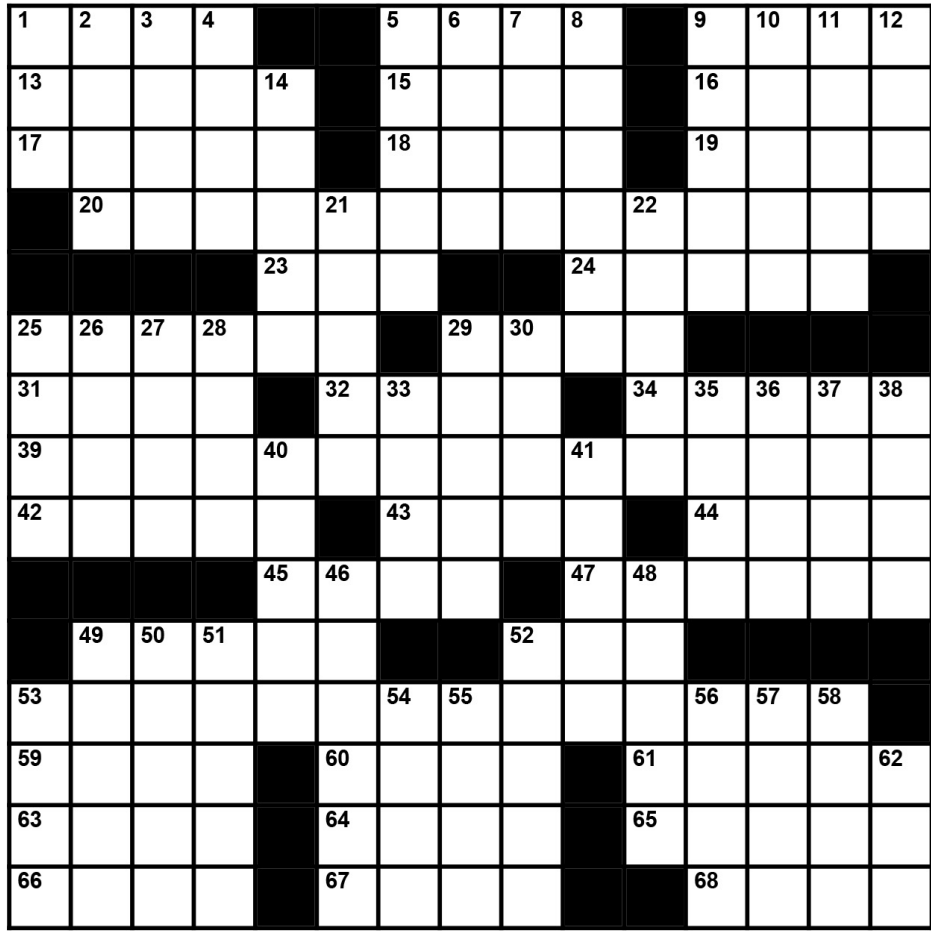
The Design Review & Historic Preservation Commission will meet at 6 p.m. in Council Chambers.

Note: City Council Chambers is located at 177 First St. W.

Send listings to managingeditor@sonomanews.com

CROSSWORD

By MYLES MELLOR



- Words before date and record
- Epithet
- It has zones
- Old Faithful output
- Five-time U.S. Open champ
- Yukon or Guam (abbr.)
- Noted TV street
- Squeals
- Èlève’s place
- Church singing group
- Song of praise
- Vision-related
- Short poem
- Sibling’s daughter
- Unassuming
- Grayish-brown sea eagle
- Explorer of kids’ cartoons
- “Beauty ___ the eye ...”
- “Pirates of the Caribbean” star first name
- Runners
- City light
- City in Italy
- Pinocchio, sometimes
- Milk prefix
- Pallid
- “We are the Champions” singers
- Big money game
- Big businessman
- Cut
- Conductor Zubin
- Annually
- Paddles, stencils, brushes, etc
- Vestibule
- Cold one
- “Lord of the Rings” singer
- Ukraine capital
- Skilled stalker
- Like French toast
- Luxury liner
- Bill’s co-adventurer, in the movies

‘Singers’

Across

- Kind of D.A.
- Some N.C.O.’s
- PC expert
- Driver Castroneves
- Squirrel’s home
- Bruised
- Buffalo
- Hammer sites
- Weaving frame
- Soul singer
- “___ Legend” (2007 Will Smith

movie)

- Molière comedy, with “The”
- Art patron
- Swiss artist Paul
- Piccadilly statue
- Often-injured joint
- Arum lily
- Latino singer
- “Matrix” actor Reeves
- In the vicinity
- Dashboard gauge
- Volcano
- Minimum age for a Senator
- “Aye ___!”
- Parisian summer

- Original name of one of the great rap and R&B singers
- Stat start
- “Put a lid ___!”
- Prime-time time
- Footnote abbr.
- Court hearing
- Motherless calf
- Crimean and Boer
- Admiral’s service
- “Blue” TV squad

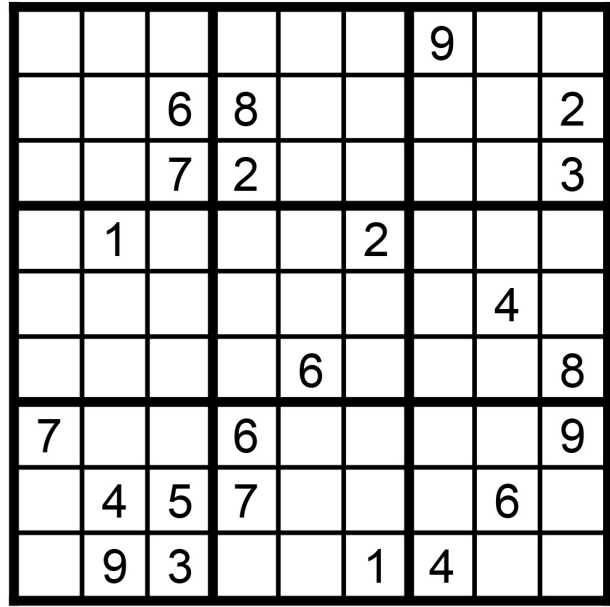
Down

- Contented responses

SUDOKU

By MYLES MELLOR AND SUSAN FLANAGAHN

Rules: Fill all empty squares so that the numbers 1 to 9 appear once in each row, column and 3x3 box. There is only one unique solution for each puzzle.



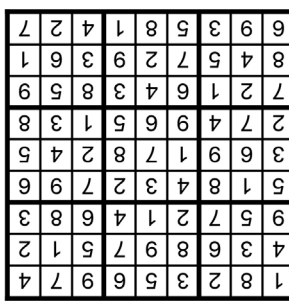
Myles Mellor publishes more than 100 puzzles a month in a host of newspapers, magazines and websites. You can reach him through his website: themecrosswords.com.

Today’s puzzle solutions

CROSSWORD



SUDOKU



To subscribe to the
Sonoma Index-Tribune, call 938-2215

Sonoma Shuttle ridership jumped 55 percent in 2019

When riding the local route, passengers no longer need to worry about having the correct change or a transit pass

INDEX-TRIBUNE STAFF REPORT

Bryan Albee from Sonoma County Transit presented an update on the Sonoma Shuttle Fare-Free Program and future electrification of the shuttle fleet at the Jan. 13 Sonoma City Council meeting.

Albee reported that the 55 percent increase year-over-year in average ridership on the Sonoma Shuttle in 2019 was “beyond expectations.”

The Sonoma County Board of Supervisors and the City of Sonoma approved funding to sub-

sidize fares for all riders on Route 32, the “Sonoma Shuttle,” through June 30, 2020. The city contributed 30 percent of the funding

ma, passengers no longer need to worry about having the correct change, having a transit pass or paying any fare, according to transit officials. The “Fare-Free” program is designed to make using local transit services easier and to encourage hop-on, hop-off, travel without the need to pay a fare.

In addition, Sonoma County Transit adjusted the Route 32 schedule, in part, to accommodate Sonoma Valley High School students who wish to use the free service to

The ‘Fare-Free’ program is designed to make using local transit services easier and to encourage hop-on, hop-off, travel without the need to pay a fare.

and the county contributed the remaining 70 percent for the program.

When riding the local route serving the communities of Agua Caliente, Boyes Hot Springs, Temecle and the city of Sono-



The No. 32 Shuttle Bus starts at Sonoma Plaza and is completely free to passengers.

ROBBI PENGELLY/INDEX-TRIBUNE

Legislation calls for use of ‘hi lo’ siren

Dodd introduces bill allowing responders to sound the alarm for evacuations

INDEX-TRIBUNE STAFF REPORT

State Sen. Bill Dodd (D-Napa) has introduced wildfire-inspired legislation aimed at improving emergency evacuations and public safety. The bill would authorize municipalities across the state to use European-style “hi-lo” sirens in emergency vehicles to alert people of evacuations.

“This distinct warning is proven to be effective and will save lives as California deals with the ongoing wildfire threat,” Dodd said in a press release announcing the bill. “It tells people to stop what they’re doing, gather their loved ones and get out now. When seconds



Sirens blast high- and low-pitched sounds in rapid succession.

count, that unmistakable blast, telling people to evacuate, is absolutely critical.”

The siren toggles between a high-pitched sound and a lower-pitched one about

once every second.

Existing law restricts the use of hi-lo sirens. However, a pilot program last year in Napa County showed the warning

popularized in England would be a powerful tool in getting people to flee encroaching wildfires. The Sonoma County Sheriff’s Office also successfully deployed the technique during the Kincadee Fire.

Senate Bill 909 allows all public safety agencies to use hi-lo warnings for evacuation purposes.

“The hi-lo audible warning alarm is an effective and efficient method of alerting the members of our communities when trying to evacuate them during a disaster,” added Napa County Sheriff John Robertson in the press materials. “Law enforcement agencies cannot go through another fire season without the ability to equip our vehicles to notify our vulnerable community members.”

Vintage House offering house-sharing program

SHARE program matches seniors with homes and seniors without

INDEX-TRIBUNE STAFF REPORT

Finding stable, affordable housing and being able to stay in one’s own home has become a growing challenge for an increasing number of local seniors, according to officials at Vintage House senior center. In 2019, Vintage House launched a new partnership with a program called SHARE Sonoma County (Shared Housing and Resource Exchange).

SHARE matches people 60 years and older, who may be “house rich, cash poor” and willing to share their home with an individual who is in need of affordable housing. The home provider may need additional income or assistance in order to remain home safely and thrive, according to an announcement of the program from Vintage House.

SHARE has tools to ensure the housing seekers are properly screened, and facilitates both the matching process and ongoing supportive services for as long as the match remains intact.

SHARE will host two workshops on shared housing, at 5 p.m. on Feb. 5 and at 1 p.m. on Feb. 7, at Vintage House, 264 First St. E. SHARE’s executive director Amy Appleton and Vintage House community resources coordinator Susan Holzer will lead the discussion. The program is also supported by the CSAA Insurance Group.



Learn about the benefits of house sharing.

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DISCOVER • LEARN • SHARE



Distinguished Speaker Series: Author Lisa See

Wednesday, February 5 from 6:00 - 7:30 pm

Join us for an evening with New York Times–bestselling author Lisa See. See will discuss her latest work, “The Island of Sea Women,” and sign books. Seats are first come, first served.

Children’s Story Times

Thursday, Feb. 6 and 13

Join Clare at 10:30 am for Wee Reads (0-36 months) or at 11:30 for Preschool (ages 3-6).

Lawyers in the Library

Monday, Feb. 10 from 6 - 8 pm

Free legal consultation and referral from volunteer lawyers. No appointments taken; registrations begin at 5:30 pm.

Spanish Family Story Time

Wednesday, Feb. 12 from 10:30 – 11:15 am

Join us for stories, songs, movement, and fun! (Ages 1-5)

All events are FREE

Sonoma Valley Regional Library

755 West Napa Street, Sonoma
sonomalibrary.org
707-996-5217

SVUSD

Sonoma Valley Unified School District

2020 - 2021 REGISTRO DE KINDERGARTEN

REGISTRO DE KINDERGARTEN

MIERCOLES, 5 DE FEBRERO, 2020

REGISTRARSE EN SU ESCUELA MÁS CERCANA

Dunbar | 11700 Dunbar Road

El Verano | 18606 Riverside Drive

Flowery | 17600 Sonoma Highway

Prestwood | 343 East MacArthur Street

Sassarini | 652 Fifth Street West

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Para más información comunicarse con las escuelas directamente Sonoma Charter, 707-935-4232, Woodland Star Charter, 707-996-3849

REQUISITOS DE REGISTRO

El niño debe haber cumplido cinco (5) años de edad en o antes del 1 de Septiembre, 2020. Se requiere el certificado de nacimiento.

Deben presentar la tarjeta de vacunas y las vacunas deben estar al corriente

Deben presentar dos (2) comprobantes recientes de su dirección actual (ejemplo: contrato de renta, factura reciente enviada a su dirección, etc)

Si su hijo va a cumplir 5 años entre el 2 de septiembre al 2 de diciembre del 2020, usted puede tener la opción de inscribir a su hijo en nuestro programa de transición al kindergarten.

INSCRIPCIÓN DE ESTUDIANTES NUEVAS ABRE EL 29 DE ENERO DE 2020

REGISTRARSE EN: SONOMASCHOOLS.ORG

Market Continued from A1

nonprofit.

Chris Welch, who managed the market for VOMCFM, will return to help with the transition. City special event manager Lisa Janson is serving as the point person for the market.

Janson said that due to City of Sonoma requirements and a “general updating of procedures,” vendors interested in participating in the 2020 market will find some changes in the application process.

Stall rental fees will change and both what vendors pay and whether they are selected will be based largely on how local they are.

“We’re proposing a local preference,” said Janson. “Specifically, entities that are located within city limits will receive preferential pricing and those vendors who are located outside of Sonoma County will pay the highest stall fees.”

The agricultural vendor application is for farmers, ranchers and fishers who grow and sell produce, flowers, meats, eggs, fish and dairy products. If their business is located within the city limits, vendors will pay \$25 (per 10-by-10-foot stall); within Sonoma Valley (south of Oakmont, north of Highway 37) \$29; outside of Sonoma Valley but within Sonoma County \$30; outside of Sonoma County \$32.

Artisan vendor stall fees will also be tiered, based on business location, and slightly higher than the farm vendors. A 10-by-10-foot stall will range from \$30 to \$42. Applications will be evaluated based on whether items are hand-crafted; how sustainable they are, quality and affordability.

Proposed food vendor stall fees will also be tiered and based on business location, and range from \$45 to \$63 for packaged food vendors and from \$65 to \$87 (or 10 percent of gross sales if greater) for prepared food vendors. Most prepared food vendors will be required to rent at least one and a half stalls. Small, local, affordable, sustainable food vendors who use fresh, in-season, locally-sourced ingredients will be prioritized.

Overall, prices are going down slightly for farmers/agricultural vendors except those outside Sonoma County; artisans and package food vendors are seeing an increase in their stall fees, as are prepared food vendors.

The biggest change is in how the beer and wine service will work.

Beer and wine will continue to be sold, but the city will be focusing on single servings with reusable cups.

Individual beer and wine companies will no longer apply to sell at the market; instead, the Sonoma Valley Chamber of Commerce will coordinate the sale of alcohol at the market.

Under direction from the city, the chamber will reach out to a range of local wineries and



Edward Bodagh, right, purchased organic kale from Luke Carneal, who manned Sweetwater Spectrum’s stand at Sonoma Plaza’s first Tuesday night farmers market of the season in 2018.

breweries to procure wine and beer for the adult beverage booth, but those companies will not be selling directly to consumers.

Mark Bodenhamer, director of the Sonoma Valley Chamber of Commerce, said he is not sure yet if someone will be hired to work the beer/wine booth or if local nonprofits will do so as part of a fundraising effort. According to the proposed market budget, the city expects to purchase \$24,000 in beer and wine during the season and to resell it for \$70,000.

He does not expect that full bottles of wine will be sold at the market.

“Focusing on single serving sales enables us to cut people off if they have had too much and to cut off sales at a certain time and steer people into town to patronize local businesses,” Bodenhamer said. “The goal is for the market to have less of a negative impact on downtown businesses and, hopefully, to eventually have a positive impact.”

Sonoma Springs Brewery has had a stall at multiple markets for the past several years and pub partner Rob Raney said he was surprised to learn that Sonoma Springs would no longer be able to serve at the market.

“This is disappointing, especially given how much work we

APPLYING TO PARTICIPATE

Market stall applications are available at sonomastuesdaynightmarket.com. They should be submitted by Feb. 10 with the \$45 application fee to Sonoma Valley Chamber of Commerce, Attn: STNM Market Advisory Committee, 651-A Broadway, Sonoma, CA 95476.

Stall fees will be approved by Sonoma City Council on Feb. 3 and final approved stall fees will be posted Feb. 4.

For more information, contact ljanson@sonomacity.org or manager@SonomaTuesdayNightMarket.com or call 694-3611.

have put in over the past five market seasons to manage our stall and support the market,” said Raney. “I’m afraid that this move will result in faux craft beer – big corporate-owned – at the market instead of locally produced, high-quality product.”

A volunteer Market Advisory Committee will review vendor

patrons and vendors, and a welcoming event for our community, including our Plaza merchants and restaurants,” according to the city’s website, sonomacity.org.

Janson said that the city has updated the market vendor rules and regulations but that there are no major changes.

vendors, priority will be given to musical groups that are based in Sonoma and the Sonoma Valley.

Tuesday Night Market Jazz, presented by Sonoma Valley Jazz Society, will return to the Grinstead Amphitheater on the second Tuesday of the month, June through September.

A full entertainment calendar will be posted in March.

The city will also be working on a new look and logo for its marketing materials, said Janson.

The 2020 market opens May 5 and runs every Tuesday starting at 5:30 p.m. through September (except Aug. 4) in the Plaza. There will be no changes to the dates or start time but Janson said the city is exploring setting a closing time rather than the current approximate end time of “dusk.”

“A fixed time makes much more sense,” said Bodenhamer. “It helps with the logistics of clean up after the event as well as to hopefully encourage people to make a dinner reservation or head into town.”

Market Manager Chris Welch said he’s excited to return and while there will be changes this year, most will be “barely noticed” by market patrons.

“The changes the city is making are all designed to make the market financially sustainable for the long-term and safer for all patrons and families,” he said.

Email Lorna at lorna.sheridan@sonomanews.com.

‘The goal is for the market to have less of a negative impact on downtown businesses and hopefully, to eventually have a positive impact.’

- Chamber CEO Marc Bodenhamer

applications in February. The committee members have not yet been announced, according to Janson.

Vendor applicants will be notified by March 13 if they have been accepted into the 2020 market; those not selected will be allowed to appeal.

“Any new changes and procedures are designed to ensure a fair, unbiased selection process, a safe and well-run market for

like its single-use plastics ban and the ban of polystyrene at events on the Plaza.

As for entertainment, Janson expects that Gerard and Mary Serafini will continue to book the bands, as they have the past several years.

“The city is in the process of working out details,” said Janson, adding that the music will remain on the lawn in front of City Hall. Like with market

COVERING SONOMA VALLEY SINCE 1879

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Trustees at the Feb. 4 meeting will consider revising the inter-district transfer policy.

District Continued from A1

judicious when accepting transfers from outside the district.

The district has a list of priorities of students who could be approved to transfer into Sonoma Valley, and a student who is the victim of bullying in another district is at the top of the list.

The superintendent may also approve inter-district attendance to children of current district employees, students whose family moved out of the district during that school year and wish to finish the school year at the current

school.

Similarly, students who are already enrolled and would like to complete their current grade span – transitional kindergarten to fifth, sixth to eighth, or

be given consideration to start in the district early.

The district reserves the right to deny any inter-district request due to limited resources, overcrowding or other considerations

on the receipt of the request and timing as it relates to the time of year, such as if it is the beginning of the school year.

Both Sonoma Valley Unified School District and the district of residence must approve the transfer, and are limited to a term not to exceed five school years.

Also on the agenda is a school safety update, a discussion of the process for “evolving” senior projects, a look at the district’s support to new students and a discussion of state and local assessment data.

The board of trustees meeting begins at 5:30 p.m., held at the district office, 17850 Railroad Ave.

Priority for interdistrict attendance shall be given to a student who has been determined, through an investigation ... to be a victim of an act of bullying.

—Sonoma Valley Unified School District

ninth through 12th – will be given consideration.

If a family is moving into the district and would like to get their child enrolled in the district before actually moving in, they can provide evidence of the pending move and

that are not arbitrary, school documents stated. However, if the student has been admitted prior to conditions of overcrowding, the student cannot be removed.

The policy of approvals or denials are dependent

Circus

Continued from A1

derful role.”

It’s the kind of film that isn’t easily forgotten, or perhaps hard to put out of mind would be more accurate. Rossellini pointed out that film was an early examination of the complex psychology of a battered woman, “when the woman can also experience Stockholm syndrome and become herself accomplice of the abuse to herself.”

As an actress, Rossellini has worked in over 70 movies – including one more with director David Lynch, “Wild at Heart,” and a number of other non-mainstream films. Often, though not always, her role is one of mystery, hidden depths, strange behavior and sex appeal.

Her allure – she was a long-time model for photographers such as Richard Avedon, Helmut Newton and Annie Leibovitz, and a spokeswoman for Lancôme – was certainly an advantage in her film career, but not her only talent. She’s worked with many of the top directors in today’s cinema, and continues to do so. (See sidebar).

But inevitably, as the glamor roles dried up, Rossellini took the unusual step of going back to school. She began studying Animal Behavior and Conservation at Hunter College in New York City; she recently completed her master’s degree. That led to the popular Sundance Channel series “Green Porno” – a whimsical yet informative look at insect sex, with a whale thrown in for perspective.

“I always wanted to make films about animals – there’s not an enormous audience, but there’s an enormous audience for sex,” she said in a 2010 interview.

Eventually three seasons of the show were produced, with Rossellini interacting with an actor dressed up as a mantis, dragonfly, snail, bee, spider and other creatures, demonstrating and discussing its sex life in a necessarily humorous yet scientifically-accurate way.

“Green Porno” morphed into a well-received stage presentation, touring 50 cities in 2015. Her latest project, Link Link Circus, takes off from that point – or, as she says, “The other was about animals from the waist down, how

ISABELLA ROSSELLINI ARRIVES

“Link Link Circus” takes the stage at the Sebastiani Theatre on Saturday, Feb. 8, at 8 p.m. Tickets \$45 at Sebastianitheatre.com or at the door, 476 First St. E., Sonoma.

Her screen highlights include:

- Blue Velvet (1986, David Lynch)
- Tough Guys Don’t Dance (1987, Norman Mailer)
- Cousins (1989, Joel Schumacher)
- Wild At Heart (1990, David Lynch)
- Death Becomes Her (1992, Robert Zemeckis)
- Innocent (1993, John Schlesinger)
- Fearless (1993, Peter Weir)
- Immortal Beloved (1994, Bernard Rose)
- Big Night (1996, Stanley Tucci)
- Crime of the Century (1996, Mark Rydell)
- Enemy (2013, Denis Villeneuve)
- Joy (2015, David O. Russell)
- Silent Retreat (2019, not yet released)

TV: “The Tracey Ullman Show,” “Tales from the Crypt,” “Friends,” “Chicago Hope,” “Napoleon,” “Alias,” “30 Rock,” “Shut Eye,” “Green Porno” and many others.

they reproduce. This one is from waist up, about animal intelligence.”

With its array of short mocu-docs with Rossellini portraying men of science, from Aristotle to Darwin, stage skits, costume changes, animal tricks, and her own role as ringmaster, Link Link Circus demonstrates that the screen siren has turned into a performance artist, the Laurie Anderson of pop science.

Naturally, there’s a dog

tricks while a costumed actor and puppeteer (Andy Byers, who also did the set design and music) embodies a chicken, a dinosaur and many others of the creatures we share intelligence with.

The Link Link Circus – the title might refer to internet navigation as well as sex, though there’s an element of linguistic playfulness for its own sake – debuted in May, 2018 at the Jerome Robbins Theater, and has since been staged at a number of locations, often as an animal rights benefit.

It’s not lost on Rossellini that her tour with the Link Link Circus

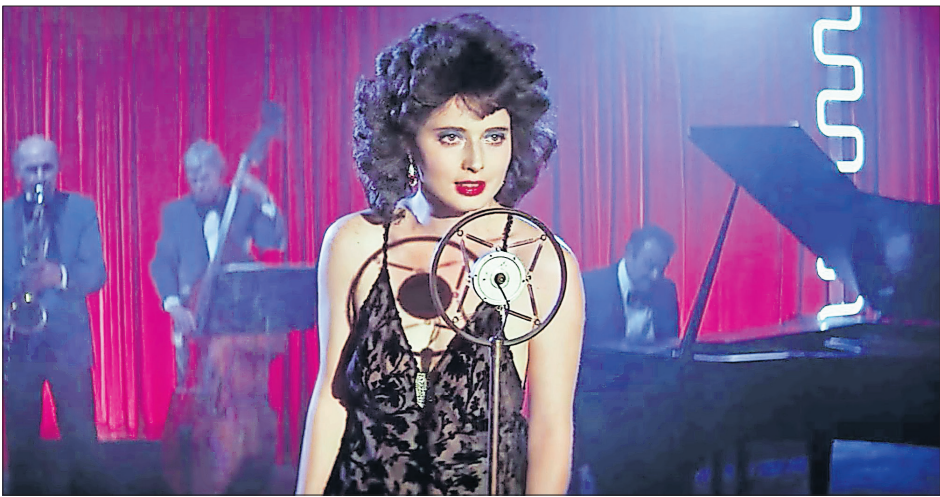
brings her back to Sonoma, an area she visited many years ago – “Just passing by, I forget what the trip was.” She remembered the attention to food and agriculture, “and of course wine, and all that knowledge – there was something very similar to Italy in your part of the world.”

The Link Link Circus is currently touring the United States for the second year, earning favor wherever it appears. In fact the Sonoma date comes mid-way through a six-performance run at the Chapel in San Francisco, Feb. 3-11, a Mission District theater that asked her to return to the City after last year’s shows.

But the “circus” is more a three-ring celebration of Isabella Rossellini’s creative spirit, of the wonders of science, and the animals she loves.

And there are no elephants. “No elephants – I’m bringing my lap dog, he’ll be sitting on my lap.”

Contact Christian at christian.kallen@sonomanews.com.



Isabella Rossellini’s most well-known role is as Dorothy Vallens, the abused chanteuse with a horrifying secret, in David Lynch’s legendary 1986 breakthrough film, ‘Blue Velvet.’

Women in Conversation

The Press Democrat

Laura Dern
Academy Award-nominated
Actress, Producer
and Activist

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Announcing our next
Women in Conversation event,
featuring Laura Dern

Academy Award-nominated actress and producer, Laura Dern is also an activist working with numerous organizations including Everytown for Gun Safety, Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) and Oceana. She also works with legal teams representing migrant children at the border. In 2019, she appeared in two critically favorite movies, “Marriage Story” by Noah Baumbach and “Little Women” by Greta Gerwig.

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6:30 p.m. Program

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FRI | February 7 | 8:00 pm
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The Sonoma Index-Tribune

Editorial&Opinion

Valley Forum

Show them what ‘smart’ is: Vote ‘no’ on Measure I

Train critic urges rejection of early renewal of quarter-cent sales tax

By MIKE ARNOLD

Proponents of Measure I – the SMART tax extension on the March 3 ballot – claim in their ballot argument, “Now’s not the time to pull the plug.”

Since the current tax doesn’t expire for nine years – until March 2029 – the statement is misleading. Voting No on Measure I does not “pull the plug” as they claim. It does, however, send the incredibly weak SMART board members a message.

That message is the same message that Marin’s Civil Grand Jury sent them in 2010. The politicians appointed to the SMART board are not sufficiently representing voters and taxpayers. They need

The poor oversight of staff by the board has also led to an outrageous compensation for its General Manager Farhad Mansourian, a man without any transit management experience prior to being appointed in 2011.

to exert control over staff. Instead, the board rejected the grand jury’s recommendations. A total of 328 of the last 332 board votes have passed unanimously, including compensation increases for one of the highest paid transit managers in the state.

SMART’s proponents have never faced up to the fundamental economic principles of the passenger rail transit.

First, trains that fail to serve a high-density employment center have zero chance of impacting peak hour traffic. They simply don’t and can’t carry many commuters close to jobs that are dispersed across suburban counties.

Second, trains are expensive to operate. When they serve high-density employment areas and generate significant ridership, those costs are distributed across a lot of riders and so operating costs per rider are low. When ridership is tiny, the operating costs per rider are high.

When these principles are ignored, the rail system delivers few riders at high cost per rider.

SMART has now been operating trains for two and half years, which is plenty of time to demonstrate these principles. What is the record?

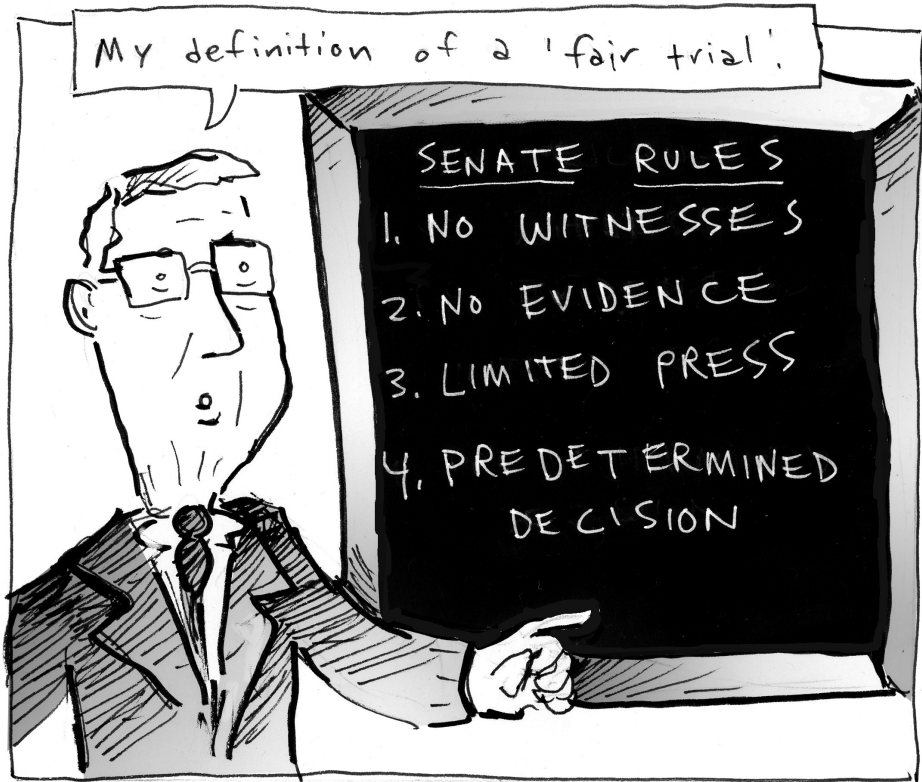
Ridership is tiny and declining a bit. While proponents tout the minor increases in weekday ridership, they ignore the total. Weekend ridership has declined by more than weekday ridership has increased.

As a consequence of SMART’s puny ridership, the operating costs per pas-

See Forum, A7



Due to low ridership, the cost-per-passenger for SMART is the highest in the nation, says Measure I opponent Mike Arnold.



PULSE OF THE PUBLIC



The raise in the minimum wage is still peanuts compared to what some business owners rake in, says letter writer.

Enraged by minimum wage complaint

EDITOR: I let the Valley Forum op-ed simmer for a day before deciding to respond (“Minimum Wage Increase Comes Due,” Jan. 28). I can’t help it but restaurant owner Manuel Azevedo’s complaint about paying minimum wage so enraged me I couldn’t keep my anger to myself any longer.

When did he ever have to live on minimum wage and tips? To pay more to his staff would cut into his family’s lifestyle? Too bad. You didn’t go into the restaurant business to live at the bottom of the totem pole as your workers must and I am betting you are not paying for their health insurance or offering any

I miss the Sonoma of the ‘70s. Then the locals ruled and were proud of it.

other benefits like a retirement account or vacation pay! They are probably part-time workers that you use just so you can get away with lousy pay and no health insurance coverage. They don’t have a lifestyle. They worry about going bankrupt because they can’t pay the rent.

Your employees don’t expect to live in what you own - probably a multi-million dollar house on the east side of town - but they do expect some respect. They work their asses off and live in rentals with multiple family members, shop at Grocery Outlet and send their kids to public schools, whose lunches are subsidized due to their low incomes.

Which one of your highly paid staff drives a luxury car? I’ll bet the answer is zero.

Go ahead and up your prices. Your food is nothing to write home about but your upscale patrons and tourists shouldn’t mind paying 10 percent more for a cheese plate and sausages.

I miss the Sonoma of the ‘70s. Then

the locals ruled and were proud of it. Now we wonder how we can possibly continue to live in a place that is so expensive we can’t even rent a decent home with the paltry wages you pay.

Charlotte Huggins
Sonoma

Is Sonoma bad for business?

EDITOR: With more than 30 new laws on the books affecting business in California, it is time to pause. Time to pause for business.

Many businesses are now facing increased regulation and mounting expenses. The hype about AB 5 – the tightening of the independent contractor relationships – encourages businesses to think twice about continuing to do business here. Under AB 5, an independent contractor relationship only exists when an employer can demonstrate three things: is free from the control and direction of the company in performing work *and* performs work that is outside the usual course of the company’s business; *and* is customarily engaged in an independently established trade, occupation or business of the same nature as the work performed.

AB 5 departs from the former test used - a list of factors weighing whether there was an independent contractor relationship.

The natural question becomes how will it affect our valley? Many of our local businesses rely on the independent contractors. Many local residents enjoy and want to continue being independent contractors touting increased pay, flexibility as well as varied business opportunities.

With this reality, it’s time to pause. What can our valley do? AB 5 was no surprise. Was increasing the minimum wage really a good idea? As the voices of businesses demonstrate, they now question whether it is worth it to even continue to operate here.

Do we really want more open vacant storefronts around our Plaza? Or should we pause and reconsider more ways to nourish and grow our business community.

Mary K. Piasta, Esq.
Sonoma

Ready to answer the call

EDITOR: I’m writing in response to Gina Mellinger’s letter (“Bring Back Middle School Writing Centers,” Jan. 7). I, too, have had the pleasure to be

See Pulse, A7

California Focus

PG&E report tells another electrifying story

What proper utility maintenance could have prevented

By THOMAS D. ELIAS

Back in the good old pre-2017 days when many Californians paid little or no attention to the approximately dollar-a-month maintenance charge on their electric bills, most customers figured their money was being spent to assure reliable power.

Actually, much of the maintenance money collected over six decades by big utilities like Pacific Gas & Electric Co., Southern California Edison and San Diego Gas & Electric was instead going to executive bonuses and other items never authorized by state regulators.

That happened, said the California Public Utilities Commission at the time, because it had too little manpower to fully inspect the books of those companies, let alone examine their

The PG&E equipment report might emerge as a historic document reshaping and making safer future energy supplies in all of California.

thousands of miles of overhead wires.

Things changed after the spate of massive wildfires that began in the fall of 2017, when state inspectors began fingering utility company lines as the ignition points of more and more blazes. Much of that would likely not have happened if maintenance money had been spent properly.

Now, with PG&E in bankruptcy court and Edison only one or two wildfires away from a similar fate, comes a remarkable report indicating more than anything before just how much the maintenance money paid by consumers could have accomplished if it had been property spent.

That document came from the felonious PG&E, answering questions from U.S. District Judge William Alsup on its equipment inspections before and during the multiple “public safety power shutoffs” (PSPS) the big company inflicted on millions of customers last fall.

Meanwhile, state legislators on Feb. 19 will consider for the first time investigating whether the PUC is capable of regulating the utilities’ safety efforts. “Government incompetence is part of the story,” said Democratic Assemblyman Adam Gray of Merced.

PG&E, America’s largest privately-owned utility, intentionally cut off power three times in October alone when it became concerned that dry and windy conditions might combine with its flawed equipment to start even more fires. Sure enough, there are strong indications that despite even those blackouts, a PG&E transmission tower may have started the massive Kincade Fire in the North Bay region.

See Focus, A7

REMEMBER WHEN

Parente is building a new hotel

98 YEARS AGO

(From the I-T of Feb. 26, 1922)

Louis Parente is having a beautiful modern hotel building of 30 to 40 rooms erected on his Verano property, the Tavern, and the work is now well underway, according to Contractor Ivan Andersen, who is enthusiastic over the fine improvement. ... The Sonoma Valley Golf and Country Club has its experts at work on the golf course adjoining the handsome clubhouse, formerly the Bigelow home and nine holes will be completed at once and nine more this summer. J. H. Clark of San Rafael is directing the work and is enthusiastic over

the course which he says will surpass that of any club in the northern part of California. ... At a fine get-together evening on Thursday at Ciucci’s Hotel, a delegation from the Santa Rosa Lodge of Elks met with their Sonoma brothers to discuss the financing of a handsome new home of the Order, to be erected at Santa Rosa. ... One of the largest attended masquerade balls held in Sonoma for many years was that given by the Red Men and Daughters of the Pocahontas Tuesday night. The affair was a big success both socially and financially, and Union Hall presented a true carnival appearance, with more than 200 dancers on the floor, many in the most

beautiful and fantastic costumes.

97 YEARS AGO

(From the I-T of Feb. 24, 1923)

An important conference of directors and leading spirits in the new \$750,000 Mission Inn project was held at Boyes Springs last Sunday. The architect, Kenneth McDonald, submitted his plans for the Mission Inn hotel which will be situated in a natural park in the foothills of the Valley of the Moon. It will be one of the show places of California. ... Frank M. and Jesse Burris, former officials and stockholders of the Sonoma Valley Bank which they recently sold to the Central Commerical and Savings Bank have applied for a charter to start a new National Bank in Sonoma. ... Jimmie

O’Connell, the baseball marvel, wanted to show the fans that he likes the cows and chickens, so on suggestion of one of the staff artists of a San Francisco newspaper, he got in touch with Pat McDonald of the Spreckels ranch and arranged for a snapshot while milking a cow. ... The great Rex Ingram production of “The Prisoner of Zenda, from the novel of Anthony Hope is coming to the Don Theatre next week. It is a wonderful and thrilling picture. ... Tuesday morning about 11 o’clock, the Sonoma Fire Department was called to Buena Vista to fight a fire which threatened the destruction of the Industrial Farm for Delinquent Women. A defective flue had started a blaze which ignited the roof of the main building of the former Kate Johnson mansion.

Beyond the Valley

■ STATE & COUNTY ■

Northern California reports 3 new coronavirus cases

Three more people in Northern California have been infected with coronavirus, two in San Benito County and one in Santa Clara County, health officials said. The total confirmed California cases is now six; five more confirmed nationwide.

A Santa Clara woman who recently traveled to Wuhan, China, where the coronavirus is a focal point of infections reporting more than 350 killed in the country. She was confirmed by officials to be infected after she returned to the United States on Jan. 23 after visiting family, but she has not been hospitalized.

The husband of a San Benito County couple also traveled to Wuhan, spreading the virus to his wife after returning home. Neither have been hospitalized.

PG&E pledges to shake up board in bid to placate California

Under pressure to make its bankruptcy court deadline and avoid a state takeover, PG&E vowed to reconstruct its board of directors, the utility company indicated Friday in a bankruptcy court filing.

Gov. Gavin Newsom

has threatened a state takeover bid unless the utility company made drastic changes including replacing the 14-member board of directors and CEO. Twelve of the 14 board members joined the board since last April. Newsom also wants the company to develop a plan to reduce its debt load and make major improvements to its electrical grid.

PG&E needs Newsom's support to qualify for a wildfire insurance fund that was instituted last summer. PG&E is blamed for the 2017 Sonoma Complex fires and the 2018 Camp fire in Paradise and faces more than \$50 billion in claimed losses due to the company's decades-long negligence.

Sonoma County Jail inmate dies after 'medical emergency'

A man is dead after being taken to jail Saturday in Sonoma County.

A Sonoma County resident identified as Rickey H. Estrada, 42, of Santa Rosa, had an unspecified medical emergency just before 5:20 p.m. in the booking area of the jail, Sonoma County Sheriff's Office said.

Estrada was in a holding cell in the jail booking area for several hours and had just been removed from the cell by correctional staff when the emergency occurred, Sheriff's Sgt. Juan Valencia said. The investigation is ongoing.

Tibbetts' missed votes multiply

SR council member runs up against conflicts with his nonprofit day job

By WILL SCHMITT
THE PRESS DEMOCRAT

The proposal had been in the works at City Hall for several years — mandatory inspections for rental housing across Santa Rosa, meant to root out squalid conditions endured by tenants and rein in landlords who allow their properties to deteriorate.

It had at least three votes Tuesday on the seven-member City Council. But the potential swing vote, Councilman Jack Tibbetts, was absent from the meeting and the initiative nearly four years in the making died, deadlocked in a 3-3 vote.

It was the latest vote among more than 160 that Tibbetts has missed or sat out in what is now his fourth year on the council, according to city records. Only one other incumbent, Ernesto Olivares, missed or sat out as many votes over that period, the records show.

Tibbetts said he had been called away Tuesday to fill in as a shuttle driver for the sanctioned Sonoma County homeless camp now overseen by the nonprofit he leads.

He acknowledged that his absence probably swung the fate of the proposed program — and said he likely would have voted for it. The inspection program stemmed from revelations of widespread dingy and unhealthy rental housing that had fallen through the cracks of the city's code enforcement system, a problem highlighted in a series of Press Democrat stories that ran in January 2016.

In the wake of Tuesday's outcome at City Hall, Tibbetts



CHRISTOPHER CHUNG / THE PRESS DEMOCRAT

Jack Tibbetts, executive director of St. Vincent de Paul Sonoma County and a Santa Rosa City Councilmember, walks the grounds Jan. 17 at the temporary homeless encampment near the Los Guilicos campus near Oakmont.

said the onus of finding an alternative to the failed proposal would now fall on him.

"Guess whose burden that's going to be to figure that out over the next six, seven months?" Tibbetts said Friday in an interview. "That's going to be me."

The defeat of the rental inspection program cheered real estate interests and landlords who decried it as unnecessary government intervention. But the outcome discouraged Ronit Rubinoff, executive director of Legal Aid of Sonoma County. Her organization works each year with hundreds of tenants, many of whom are afraid to complain about housing standards for fear of being evicted, she said, underscoring the need for mandatory inspections.

"We're really, really disappointed about what happened on Tuesday night," she said.

Julie Combs, who resigned from the City Council in November, missed 172 votes in the same three-year span, according to the records.

She stepped down under pressure after she and her

husband purchased a second home in Ecuador, where the couple have been living part time.

Avoiding conflicts Of the 160 votes Tibbetts sat out or missed, 51 were abstentions or recusals, generally stemming from concerns about potential conflicts of interest, because some votes related to homelessness that were bundled together with other routine, uncontroversial city business.

"That's really underrepresenting my actual votes," he said, adding that he was trying to be mindful about conflicts of interest to avoid problems.

"You never want to have a council or a council member mired in legal trouble," he said

The 29-year-old has sought to juggle his obligations as an elected official with his nonprofit work since he joined the council in late 2016.

His organization was chosen by the county in early January to oversee development and operation of the Los Guilicos Village sanctioned homeless camp in east

Santa Rosa. That put Tibbetts in another awkward position: fielding questions as head of St. Vincent from concerned neighbors in Oakmont, who are his constituents and will see his name appear on their ballots in November in the city's new district-based election system for City Council.

Tibbetts acknowledged that his impending reelection bid has been on his mind when he does outreach related to the Los Guilicos Village. "I definitely have thought about it when I'm in Oakmont."

'Not an average guy'

David McCuan, a professor of political science at Sonoma State University and local political observer, said the holes in Tibbetts' voting and attendance record seemed about average for a local politician.

The program was set to be funded by fees assessed to landlords. It would have required inspections once every five years at all Santa Rosa rental housing except units 10 years old or younger. Also exempted were single-family homes occupied by owners and homes leased to recipients of federal housing vouchers.

So many of the council's members either are renters or landlords when they studied the program in October that the city needed to invoke the so-called "rule of necessity" and pulled a name of a hat — Councilman Rogers, a renter — to form the minimum meeting amount of four council members.

The state Fair Political Practices Commission determined Monday that participation by Tibbetts and Sawyer, both of whom lease out a room in homes they own, would not have faced legal conflicts of interest in any deliberation or decision on rental inspection.

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Sports



Kennedy Midgley asserts herself on offense and defense at the Napa game on Tuesday, Jan. 28, in Pfeiffer Gym.

Girls barely lose to Napa, roll over Petaluma at home

Midgley a play-maker in both games but team effort triumphs in big Petaluma win

By CHRISTIAN KALLEN
INDEX-TRIBUNE SPORTS EDITOR

The basketball varsity girls battled through two VVAL games last week, ending up with a split and a 4-4 league record, with just a handful of games left to play.

On Tuesday, Jan. 28, they met Napa at the Pfeiffer Gym court, putting up a strong near-comeback before enthusiastic fans against the league's first-place Grizzlies. When the dust settled Napa had won, but only by a point.

The Grizzlies started strong and out-scored the Dragons 20-17 in the first half, but captain Kennedy Midgley made them work for every point with her unstoppable inside game. Napa still won at the end of three, but the Dragon girls poured it on in the exciting fourth period, outscoring the Grizzlies 11-8 and coming up only a point short, 36-35.

"The girls fought so hard this game," said Coach Jann Thorpe. "There was no quit in them at any point of the game." She pointed out that there were seven Dragons who ended up with points, showing their depth.

Midgley had 13 points and 13 rebounds, along with five steals. "Kennedy was once again all over the court trying to make things happen for us," said the coach.

Sophie Lucehetti had seven points and five rebounds, Jovana Saldana had five points, three steals and three assists, and Chelsey Crespo scored four points and rebound six times.

Other points came from Sophie Vogt with three, Kaliya Hensic with two, and Lily Hoban with a free throw. Campbell Rolston came up with four rebounds.

Two nights later, the Dragons played the Petalu-

ma girls, again at Pfeiffer Gym, again before a loud crowd of friends and family.

"Whenever we play Petaluma it is always a battle," said Thorpe, and that was again the case. The two teams traded leads much of the game – it was 13-12 Sonoma at the half, then 24-17 Petaluma at the end of three, based on a big 12-point quarter for the Trojans while they held the Dragons to only four points.

But the fourth quarter turned out to be a romp for the home team, as the Dragons outscored Petaluma 16-5, ending up on the winning side of a 33-29 final score.

"We just stayed locked in on the defense, we wanted to be the team that applied the most pressure," Thorpe said in review. "Our pressure seemed to bother them and we were able to get more opportunities to score off their turnovers."

Again Midgley was a force for the Dragon girls, scoring 12 with a like number of rebounds. Saldana matched her with 12 points of her own, plus five steals. Crespo had four points and five rebounds, Lucchetti had three and freshman Lola Martin dropped in a pair. And "Kaliyah Hensic brought her usual relentless tough defense for us," said the coach.

The Sonoma Valley girls varsity basketball team has an away conference game at Vintage (3-6 in the league) Tuesday, Feb. 4, then a home game against Justin-Siena on Thursday, Feb. 6. Tip-off time for both games is 7 p.m.

Dragons torch Trojans in hometown basketball

Energetic, loud fans push Sonoma Valley varsity to victory over Petaluma

By CHRISTIAN KALLEN
INDEX-TRIBUNE SPORTS EDITOR

Pumped up by hometown bleachers full of hometown fans, the Sonoma Valley Dragons made a statement to Vine Valley rivals with an electrifying 62-54 win over Petaluma High on Friday night, Jan. 31.

"The gym had an electricity and our players fed off our crowd's energy," said Coach Mike Boles. "Much appreciation and gratitude to our fans for showing up and supporting our team."

Support the team they did, with cheers for every basket and ovations for every 3-pointer. The ball was dropping the Dragons' way in the first half, putting them ahead 26-18.

High-jump champ Luke Sendaydiego flew above much taller defenders again and again in scoring his energetic 11 points. Meanwhile Dom Girish scored 23 points, Riley Phelan 14 and Andres Mathison 10 points.

Any winning game is won on defense as well as offense, and Boles credited Phelan and A.J. Riley on the inside, and counted five rebounds by Reed Hewitt, and four each from Phelan, Mathison and Sendaydiego.

Though the Dragons managed to keep an 8-point lead for much of the game, their run slowed in the third period and the Trojans, briefly, tied it up 28-28 and even more briefly jumped ahead on a 3-pointer from Ryan Sullivan.

Then the lead re-



Rollo Benstead (4) dunks home the final Sonoma Valley basket as Riley Phelan (24) watches and Luke Sendaydiego (10) leaps. The Dragons defeated Petaluma, 62-54 on Friday, Jan. 31, 2020.



CHRISTIAN KALLEN/INDEX-TRIBUNE

The hometown crowd gets into it as the Dragons seal the 62-54 win over Petaluma, on Friday, Jan. 31, 2020.

turned to the Dragons on a basket by Phelan to kick off a 13-3 run that shook Pfeiffer Gym with cheers.

The third quarter ended with Sonoma up 43-34, and the fourth quarter kept up the stand-shaking momentum, capped by a fast-break dunk by Rollo Benstead to seal the win at 62-54.

After the final buzz-

er – which sounded twice, as the ball had to be called back for a second-long play – the Dragons varsity celebrated like they'd won the championship, while the Trojans looked on, disappointed and perhaps somewhat mystified. It was their first league loss of the season.

"We have been playing some good basket-

ball and our players play with a competitive spirit as well as an appropriate level of confidence," said Boles, with what can only be described as modest understatement.

The win puts the 6-2 Dragons in a tie for second place in the Vine Valley league with the Trojans (who also lost on Saturday to Vintage). The Dragons' next game is Wednesday, Feb. 5, against the Vintage Crushers, now at first place in the league.

The Crushers will bring a three-game winning streak into the Wednesday night game, to match up against the Dragons' seven-game streak. Should be some good basketball, and a game worth watching.

Game time 7 p.m. at Vintage High, 1375 Trower Ave., Napa.

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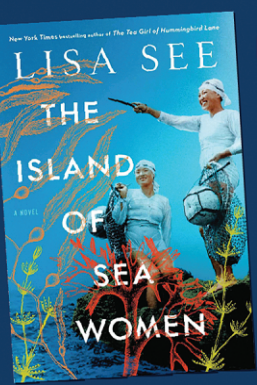
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Education Roundup

Lorna Sheridan

Financial aid help: The BGC Club Maxwell Village is offering free drop-in assistance with FAFSA and CA Dream Act applications for all high school seniors, from 5 to 8 p.m. on Feb. 12, 13, 19, 20, 26 and 27. For information on what you need to bring with you, email ytellez@bgcsonoma.org.

Reading mentors needed: Learn how (and why) to become a reading mentor at an information session at 4 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 4 at El Verano School, 18606 Riverside Drive.

Preschool Fair: The Sonoma Valley Mother’s Club is hosting a free Preschool Fair from 6 to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 11 at Presentation School. It is a great chance to learn about all the preschool options in Sonoma Valley.

Hands on history: The next Sonoma State Historic Park “Hands On History” event is a free, drop-in basket-making workshop from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 8. There is also a “Food at the Mission” event the same hours on Saturday, Feb. 22.

College advice: SVHS is offering a second four-year College Overview presentation for students and families who missed Dragon Expo last week. The presentation is on Wednesday, Feb. 12 at 6 p.m. in the CCC (in English) and library (in Spanish). The presentation is geared to juniors and sophomores who plan to attend a four-year college after graduation.



Family walk: There is a walk to explore the seasonal marshlands from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 8. Look for the State Park vehicle along the bike path near Third Street West and the ballfields for the free, drop-in program.

Kindness: Dunbar School last week participated in the Great Kindness Challenge - a week dedicated to creating a culture of kindness and compassion on campuses worldwide. All students received a Great Kindness Challenge checklist and were urged to complete as many acts of kindness as possible. There was also a family checklist.

Camps already: Enrollment is open for Camp EDMO at SRJC. The STEAM-infused day camp is for pre-K to eighth graders (with Leader in Training programs available for high school students). Visit campedmoo.org/locations/santa-rosa for more information.

Girls Who Code: Girls Who Code is offering a summer program for 10th and 11th grade girls interested in computer science. The free seven-week program is open for applications now at girlswhocode.com/summer-immersion-programs/.

Camps: Enrollment is open now for Sonoma Ecology Center’s one-week Spring Break Camp at Sugarloaf, four Wizard School Camps at Sonoma Garden Park and four Summer Science Camps at Sugarloaf Ridge State Park. Sonoma Academy of Dance’s Summer Camps for 2020 are now listed on its website. Its newest camp this year is Good Morning Sonoma — a Broadcast Journalism Camp. Transcendence Kids Camp registration is open now for ages

Peace, love and Heather



Heather Villasenor with her new Tongan friends she met through the Peace Corps.

Catching up with a Grad: Peace Corps volunteer Heather Villasenor, ‘12

By FAITH GATES
INDEX-TRIBUNE CORRESPONDENT

Before joining the Peace Corps, Heather Villasenor knew as much about the volunteer service program as most of the population - not much, and mainly from references in pop culture. Today, Villasenor knows the Peace Corps as the program that changed her life.

After graduating from Sonoma Valley High School in 2012, where she was very involved in drama and student leadership, Villasenor moved down to Southern California to obtain her degree in psychology from Chapman University. A recent Peace Corps volunteer came and talked to her class.

“I was really inspired, but I was like, ‘those people must be next-level dedicated,’ so I didn’t think much about it at the time. I just kinda kept checking on their website, getting more and more interested,” Villasenor said.

In order to serve in the Peace Corps, volunteers must have a bachelor’s degree, so by the time Villasenor graduated college, she decided to apply for the program. One can apply for a job or a place preference, but it does not have to be honored. For Villasenor, she was looking to be an English teacher somewhere tropical and stumbled upon an opportunity in the Pacific island of Tonga.

“First I had to Google where that is because I had never heard of this country; it was before the 2016 (Winter) Olympics when Pita Taufatofua came out all oiled up and wowed the world, so really nobody knew where Tonga was,” Villasenor said.

Villasenor put down Tonga as her first choice and the next thing she knew she was on a plane to Tonga with a 27-month commitment. First, all Tonga Peace Corps volunteers did three months of training together where they learned the language, how to adapt to living in a new place, tactics for community involvement and outreach, assessing what your community needs and more. Then Villasenor was assigned to her village and she was on her own.

While each Peace Corps location is different, in Tonga, Villasenor was given her own house in the village and an allowance for food and necessities, an amount just under a normal Tongan teacher’s salary.

“I lived in a cinder-block house with a concrete floor and a tin roof; I loved my house,” Villasenor said. “My shower was just a pipe coming out of the wall. I would have to boil water and have a bucket bath if I wanted warm water.”

Villasenor helped teach English at the local school, mainly with ages 7-14. “The goal is not to be the primary facilitator in the classroom, but to assist the local teachers in developing their student-centered teaching practices,” Villasenor said.

The biggest challenge during her service was learning the Tongan language. Because of the complicated sentence structure Villasenor was able to understand most of what she heard, but had difficulty responding. Other adjustments



Villasenor, in white, with the staff of the school she assisted at in Tonga.

ABOUT THE PEACE CORPS

Established: 1961

Volunteers since inception: 240,000

Current number of countries served: 61

Current number of volunteers/trainees: 7,334

Gender: 65 percent female, 35 percent male

Average age: 26

Most common placement: Africa: 45% (in 2019)

included adapting to the culture and the food.

Villasenor said the Tongan people liked staying up late celebrating, and waking up early the next morning, while taking naps during the day. She was also required to wear Tongan dresses which covered her shoulders and ankles.

Villasenor also tried many different foods while she was there, including

“I was like, “those people must be next level dedicated.”

- Heather Villasenor

cow intestine and lu, a local dish with taro leaves that are poisonous if eaten raw, but are cooked underground before consuming.

“My taste buds changed; I used to be such a picky eater, because in Tonga you just eat anything that someone hosting you or cooking for you offers, and I’m just not very picky anymore,” Villasenor said.

Asked if she would do Peace Corps all over again, she said, of course, but said if asked that a year into her service, she would’ve said no.

“I was at a really low point; I didn’t think I was being effective. I felt very isolated and I was watching my friends back home who seemed to be doing great things,” Villasenor said. But then one of

the women in the village asked for her help.

This woman had a very bright 11-year-old daughter who needed assistance getting into a good school. Villasenor helped her, and the young girl became the first student from that area in more than a decade to be accepted to the school. They became close friends.

“That’s why I would, hands-down, do Peace Corps again, no regrets, because I was able to hopefully impact her life,” Villasenor said. “I also made amazing friends and learned so much about being adaptable. I can live in a cockroach-filled, rat-infested concrete house with only cold water and I’m fine, I’m actually fine.”

During and following her service, Villasenor was also able to travel, racking up a travel log of China, New Zealand, Australia, Indonesia, Thailand, Cambodia and the Philippines. Upon returning home to Sonoma last year, she launched right back into work with two jobs, one at Scribe Winery and one as an instructional assistant at Sonoma Charter School.

Up next for Villasenor is a move to Orange County to obtain her master’s degree in marriage and family therapy from Chapman University.

Because of her low point, a year in, when she was comparing her life to her friends online; Villasenor said her advice to current high schoolers would be to not compare yourself to others. Because while she was envious of other people’s lives, they were envious of her.

“If you only ever use yourself as your measuring stick for success, you’ll never come up short,” Villasenor said. “Worry about yourself. I tell that to kids when I’m working with them: worry about yourself.”

Send suggestions of former Sonoma students to profile in our ‘Catching Up with a Grad’ series to ourschools@sonomanews.com.



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LOCAL MATTERS

Bars battle for big honors at Martini Madness

HopMonk sweeps three categories; Reel also snags an award

INDEX-TRIBUNE STAFF REPORT

Martini Madness returned to Sonoma Valley for its 20th year on Jan. 31. Nearly a dozen restaurants and bars competed for bragging rights to the best martini in town at the Lodge at Sonoma.

Bartenders from the Girl & the Fig, Layla, Sonoma Mission Inn, Bean & Bottle at the Lodge, Reel & Brand, Murphy's Irish Pub, Salt & Stone, Tips Roadside,

Almost a dozen restaurants and bars competed for bragging rights to the best martini in town.

Burgers and Vine, HopMonk, Picazo Kitchen, Sonoma Grille among others, served martinis in a variety of categories.

The big winner was HopMonk Tavern, which swept in three categories. Reel & Brand won for best garnish.



From left, Koko Geoffrey, Lolo Geoffrey and Sierra Ruelas from HopMonk offer one of their award-winning beverages on Jan. 31 at the Lodge.



Above, Ali Batchelder, left, and Jillian Carroll Martini represent Tips Roadside with their Orange Dreamsicle Martini at Martini Madness on Jan. 31.



Above right, Darek Hercs, Dylan Cheveirra and Vanessa Gilliam from Bean and Bottle prep for the coming onslaught of vodka-fueled crowds.

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SHOWCASE



Change in Leadership at Summit State Bank;
James Brush announced his retirement and Brian Reed to succeed as President and CEO

Santa Rosa, CA – (January 29, 2020) – Summit State Bank (NASDAQ: SSB) President and CEO, James Brush announced his retirement as of the Annual Shareholder’s Meeting scheduled for April 27, 2020. Brush assumed the role of President and CEO in April of 2016 and has led the Bank through its recent growth and staff expansion. He has served on the Bank’s Board of Directors since 2009 and will remain on the Board and continue to be active in Sonoma County, where he resides.

“On behalf of the Board of Directors at Summit State Bank, I would like to offer my sincere thanks to Jim for his years of service, leadership and vision to position the Bank as the high performing community bank it is today. He championed the change in our business model to position the Bank for growth. We are beginning to realize the benefits of realigning our infrastructure to support our future financial success,” said Allan Hemphill, Chairman of the Board of Summit State Bank.

The Board has named current Executive Vice President/Chief Credit Officer Brian Reed in the succession plan to fill the role of President and Chief Executive Officer. The succession plan informally began earlier last year and now has been ratified by the Board of Directors.

“The combination of Brian’s experience and his ability to attract the loan operations team needed to support our strategic objectives has been key to our success. I feel confident that Brian will continue to lead the Bank and ensure that we stay true to our commitment as a local community bank. It has been a terrific four years here at Summit State Bank and I expect 2020 loan interest income will have increased about 85% compared to 2017, all related to organic growth. The Board of Directors has been key in their vision and support in building this strong team, positioning the organization to compete successfully in the current challenging business environment,” said Jim Brush, retiring President and CEO.

Brian has been in banking since 1985. He joined Summit in late 2016 and has been instrumental in realigning the Bank’s loan operations. He earned his Master’s degree from the American Graduate School of International Management in Arizona, and graduated with a Bachelor’s degree in Business Economics from the University of California at Santa Barbara, with an emphasis in Accounting and Corporate Finance.

Mr. Reed is actively involved in the community and served as the President of the Santa Rosa East Rotary, as a Board Member of Children & Family Circle and Treasurer of Free to Be. Brian resides in Santa Rosa with his wife Alison and has two adult children.

Michael Castlio will replace Brian as Chief Credit Officer. He has over 25 years of banking experience and is currently leading our Credit Administration since joining the Bank in 2018. He earned a B.S. in Business Administration from San Jose State University with a concentration in finance. He has two children and has been involved in recreational leagues and other community activities.



About Summit State Bank

Summit State Bank, a local community bank, has total assets of \$696 million and total equity of \$67 million at December 31, 2019. Headquartered in Sonoma County, the Bank specializes in providing exceptional customer service and customized financial solutions to aid in the success of local small businesses and nonprofits throughout Sonoma County.

Summit State Bank is committed to embracing the diverse backgrounds, cultures and talents of its employees to create high performance and support the evolving needs of its customers and community it serves. At the center of diversity is inclusion, collaboration, and a shared vision for delivering superior service and results for shareholders. Presently, 75% of management are women and minorities with 60% represented on the Executive Management Team. Through the engagement of its team, Summit State Bank has received many esteemed awards including: Best Business Bank, Corporate Philanthropy Award and Best Places to Work in the North Bay. Summit State Bank’s stock is traded on the Nasdaq Global Market under the symbol SSB. Further information can be found at www.summitstatebank.com.



Summit State Bank Appoints Dawn Ross, Managing Partner at Carle, Mackie, Power & Ross LLP to Board of Directors,
replacing outgoing Board Member Bridget Doherty

Santa Rosa, CA – (January 29, 2020) – Summit State Bank (NASDAQ: SSB) appointed Dawn Ross to its Board of Directors replacing a vacancy created by Board Member Bridget Doherty.

“We are pleased to welcome Ms. Ross as a Director. Dawn’s extensive experience and dedication to local businesses and nonprofits makes her an excellent addition to our Board of Directors. In addition to her practice, she gives back to the community by having served on the board of the Volunteer Center and the California Parenting Institute,” states Allan Hemphill, Summit State Bank’s Chairman of the Board of Directors.

Ms. Ross is a Founding Partner at Carle, Mackie, Power & Ross LLP and currently serves as the Managing Partner leading the employment group and commercial litigation team. She serves as counsel to some of the leading wineries, as well as clients in the public and private sectors. Ms. Ross also works as a trial counsel in intellectual property and commercial litigation matters such as breach of contracts, real estate transfers, fraud and construction defects. She is Past President of the Sonoma County Bar Association, Sonoma County Women and Sonoma County Young Lawyers’ Association.

Down graduated from California State University at Fullerton and Juris Doctor, School of Law, from Davis.

Bridget Doherty who has served on the Board since 2016, announced her resignation to manage the recently expanded businesses, Encore Events and of Cal-West Rentals, she runs with her brother, Tyler Doherty.

“Bridget has significantly contributed to the vision and success of this organization. We appreciate her efforts in helping attract customers and providing leadership for the management team,” states Jim Brush, Summit State Bank’s President and CEO.

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Drawn to stories of women together

LA author to discuss her latest novel
Wednesday at Sonoma Valley library

By **DIANE PETERSON**
FOR SONOMA MEDIA

Writer Lisa See was born to two young, starving students and spent her first six weeks sleeping in a dresser drawer in a cramped Parisian apartment.

“It sounds romantic, but the reality was probably horrible,” See said. “They had three other roommates ... and no money.”

As an adult, See has planted herself firmly on the other side of the Atlantic, in the City of Angels. A proud fifth generation Angeleno, the 64-year-old author inherited the storytelling gene from both sides of her family. Her late mother, university professor Carolyn See, wrote 10 books, including a couple of popular novels with her daughter in the early '80s.

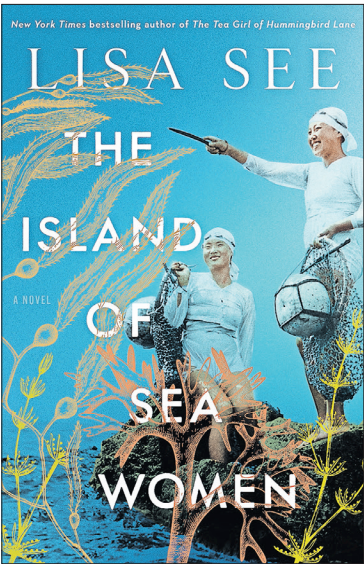
“I was looking through my mom’s papers at UCLA, and I found a letter from her father written to my mom when she was 20,” she said. “He said, ‘If you really want to be a writer, you have to write 1,000 words a day.’”

Now the author of 10 novels herself plus a 1995 family history, “On Gold Mountain,” See has stuck to the 1,000 words a day rule, a discipline that catapulted her from book critic to a National Book Award-winning author of women’s fiction, including “Snowflower and the Secret Fan” (2005) set in 19th-century China and her latest, “The Island of Sea Women” (2019) set on the Korean island of Jeju in the 20th century.

As part of the Sonoma County Library’s Distinguished Speaker Series, See will discuss “The Island of Sea Women” and her cultural roots at 6 p.m. Wednesday at the Sonoma Valley Regional Library.

See’s curiosity about Asian culture and history was whetted by her paternal side, especially her larger-than-life Chinese-American great-grandfather — a godfather of sorts for Los Angeles’s Chinatown.

“He died when I was 2, so



‘The Island of Sea Women’ is set in the 1930s in a Korean community where women are the primary breadwinners. The story follows two women over the course of several tumultuous years.

I didn’t know him,” See said. “But I spent a lot of time with my grandparents, going to work with them in Los Angeles. At the end of the day, they would gather in the antiques store and have a drink and chat and tell stories, and they loved to out-story the next person.”

“The Island of Sea Women” starts in the 1930s and hinges on the friendship between two women from different backgrounds. Mi-ja and Young-sook work in their village’s all-female diving collective (the Haenyeo, or “sea women,” who freedive for shellfish) and come of age in a community where women are the primary breadwinners, doing dangerous work in frigid seawater.

Over the course of several decades, the two friends experience horrors and losses beyond their control, from the Japanese occupation of Korea and World War II to the Jeju Uprising, a civil war that led to the massacre of innocents at Bukchon in 1949. As these forces unfurl, the



PATRICIA WILLIAMS

New York Times bestselling author Lisa See will be at the Sonoma Valley Library as part of its Distinguished Speaker Series on Wednesday, Feb. 5.

women’s friendship frays to a breaking point. Ultimately, they find forgiveness.

“When I learned about the massacre and also that the island (of Jeju) is known internationally as the Island of Peace ... really at the heart of the book is forgiveness,” See said.

Here is an edited version of our interview with See, who spoke from her home in Los Angeles.

Q: This is the first time you’ve set a novel in South Korea. What drew you to this country?

A: It was really about these divers, a matrifocal culture focused on women, that they did

this extraordinary thing, diving down 60 feet on a single breath for two or three minutes, and that they were older and the idea that they were the breadwinners, and the men were the ones who stayed home and did the cooking. I was interested in how they navigated all that.

This is something I had been thinking about writing for a long time. And about four years ago, UNESCO gave the divers a recognition ... because they are expecting this culture is going to disappear in about 15 years. I already knew the divers were in their 70s, 80s and 90s, and I felt like I couldn’t wait to interview them.

“THE ISLAND OF SEA WOMEN”
What: Author Lisa See will discuss her latest book as part of the Sonoma County Library’s Distinguished Speaker Series.
When: 6 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 5
Where: Sonoma Valley Regional Library, 755 West Napa St.
Admission: Free

Q: Book critics often praise your research. What did that look like for this book?

A: I try to do research in every way that you could think of. I went to the library at UCLA and found a dissertation that was written by a woman in the late 1960s who lived for two years in a Haenyeo village. I actually got quite a bit from that because it was so authentic.

All the biological aspects are fascinating, so I probably looked at 20 different scientific studies. I found that material so incredible. ... They had the greatest ability of any human group on earth to withstand cold. Was this an adaptation or genetic?

I always go to the places I write about, so when I was on Jeju, I talked to scientists at the marine institute there. I talked to a woman who was one of the first to study these women as a culture and also record all of their music. Then I interviewed the women themselves.

The majority of the time is spent on the research, the writing is the least amount of time, and then editing is the middle amount. It took about two years.

Q You write so much about women’s friendships. What fascinates you about them?

A What I’m interested in is that women will tell a friend something that we would not tell a husband or boyfriend or mother or child. It’s a very unique relationship and very unique type of intimacy. And whenever you have that kind of intimacy, you are vulnerable to being hurt and being betrayed. There are lots of things that have been written about female friendship, but I am interested in the dark, shadow side of mothers and daughters and sisters.

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