play site



TOS BY ALAN DEP - MARIN INDEPENDENT JOURNAL was scheduled to reopen next month



playground at Pioneer Park in Novato on

ed formation or video footage that could help the investigation can in- call 415-897-4361.

FAIRFAX

Town advances new ordinances for rent control

By Adrian Rodriguez

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Fairfax is on the verge of becoming the first Marin jurisdiction to have a rent control program protecting tenants from excessive annual in-

unanimously to approve ordiand just cause for eviction at a special meeting last week. A final vote is set for Nov. 2. If approved, both ordinances will take effect in 30 days.

Vice Mayor Chance Cutrano said Monday that Fairfax, with smallest municipality across the nation to take this step.

"I think it's indicative of the moment we're in with regard to concerns about equity, concerns about affordability, conin our community," Cutrano said. "It's just one piece of the nitely a historic moment."

spur has also begun discussing rent control, appointing an ad-hoc committee to study the issue. City officials planned an online forum Monday night to ing no-fault termination to solicit input from landlords on potential ordinances.

The San Anselmo Town of-lease qualifications. Council previously agreed to town of Fairfax's decision as a launching pad for delibera-

Over the past few years, Fairfax has taken a number of actions to bolster tenant protections. The council has adopted an income-based rental discrimination prohibition, mandatory mediation for rent increases exceeding 5% and a The Town Council voted just-cause-for-eviction law.

More recently, due to the nances for rent stabilization COVID-19 pandemic, the council adopted an urgency moratorium on evictions without cause through Sept. 30.

The rent stabilization ordinance caps annual increases at 60% of the percentage increase in the Consumer Price a population of fewer than Index. The annual adjustment, 8,000, is believed to be the however, cannot be greater than 5%. The cap is retroactive to Feb. 2.

The Town Council will serve as an appeals board. The town will work with Legal Aid of Marin and the city of Berkecerns about making sure that ley, which has a rent control we have working families that board, for support services as not only can survive but thrive the rent stabilization program gets off the ground.

The new just-cause-forpuzzle of making a Fairfax eviction ordinance would that's livable for all. It's defi-strengthen the existing law with additional protections Elsewhere in Marin, Lark- for elderly, disabled or terminally ill tenants. It would add school-year eviction protections for educators and students; require landlords seekmake relocation payments for tenants; and tighten breach-

The ordinance would also discuss rent control, using the establish protections against what fair housing advocates

RENT » PAGE 4

Edward Jones

> edwardjones.com | Member SIPC

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promotes exercise

Library has launched

a program called "Sto-

ryWalk," which runs

through Nov. 10.

neighborhoods.

The Marin County I

The program aims t

encourage exercise, ex ration and literacy by

ing story boards in loc

stories as they walk no

Residents will see th

By Alex N. Gecan

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Novato police arrested a man suspected of vandalizing a car in a "racially motivated" incident at the Novato Fair Shopping Center.

The victim, a Black woman, told police that shortly before 6:30 p.m. Saturday she was sitting in her car when a man "directed a racial slur at her" and spat on her hood as he walked by, said police Lt. Sophia Winter.

The woman drove after on her car, and he "continued to verbally assault the victim and used racial slurs against her," Winter said. He also kicked her car door twice, "causing moderate damage," she said.

a witness called police. About two hours later, police found a suspect at Di-Street near the shopping center, Winter said.

The suspect had "drug booking information. the man to ask why he spat paraphernalia and was heavily intoxicated at the an attack on the victims time of his arrest," Winter they target, they are also an said. She said police "determined this incident was racially motivated" and "an unprovoked attack."

Robert Lynn Thorne III, The man left the shop- 39, of Petaluma was arping center on foot and rested on suspicion of a felony hate crime and several misdemeanors and booked ablo Avenue and George He remained there Monday for the investigation to call is White, according to his case No. NP22-3788.

"Hate crimes are not only attack on our entire community," police Chief Beth Johnson said in a prepared statement. "We take reports of this nature very seriously. The safety and wellbeing of our community members is our top priority."

The department asked into the Marin County Jail. anyone with information in lieu of \$50,000 bail. He 415-897-4361 and reference

the Bolinas, Civic Cent Corte Madera, Fairfax verness, Point Reyes a Stinson Beach librarie and through Novato's wok Park.

Guides to the routes available at marinlibra org/storywalk, by scar ning the QR codes alo each route and at libra branches.

Rent

FROM PAGE 3

call loopholes in the Ellis Act, a law allowing landlords to remove residences from the market. The ordinance states that homes returned to rent within two years and five years would be subject to the same rental rate charged at the time of removal from market, and that the displaced tenant would have the option to return to the residence.

"A tenant's right to retime high enough to disoutside investors from using no-cause, just-cause evictions to get around rent caps," Lucie Hollingsworth, not raising rents too high,"

an attorney at Legal Aid of Prandi said. "I think what the books, "we feel the loss Marin, said at the council you're doing has great of local control." meeting.

gest protections possible, are greedy and some rely said. "It's anti-displaceadding that despite CO-VID-related moratoriums and rental assistance, her firm has defended 75 Fairfax residents in cases involving harassment, inability to pay rent and fraudu- ing to do the right thing." lent no-cause evictions.

Property owners and managers said they are concerned about the implications of such strong restrictions on increases.

Melissa Prandi, owner of turn must be a length of Prandi Property Management, said many of her cliincentivize bad actors and ents use the rental income for retirement, assisted living and other needs.

"We pride ourselves in

drove them away from their

weight to it, but I also think on the income to live on."

Councilmember Barbara the whole community." Coler said she supports the ordinance, but agreed with folks out there who are try-

Goddard said one of the rea- control across Marin. sons she supports the ordithe threshold when they ciated with larger municimaximum cannot cover cisco. "All renters deserve management costs.

man said that while the this really opens the door state continues to sign more for the small and medium and more housing laws into cities to follow suit."

"This is something that Hollingsworth urged the that we need to look at the we can do locally to support council to adopt the stron- fact that not all landlords housing stability," Hellman ment. It's thinking about

> Curt Ries is a San Anselmo renter and leader of Prandi that "there's a lot of the Marin Democratic Socialists of America, a group that is collecting signatures Councilmember Renee countywide to enact rent

> "I think we're really exnance is that it also allows cited and proud of Fairproperty owners to petition fax," he said, noting that for rental increases above rent control is usually assoare in situations where that palities such as San Franthese protections, regard-Mayor Stephanie Hell- less of where they live, and

> > Members of

the Tomales

Point tule

roam in the

Point Reyes

Seashore in

coastal Marin.

elk herd

National

FAIRFAX

Irish festival plann throughout weeke

The 11th annual Fai fax Irish Festival is se Friday, Saturday and day.

The event will featu food, music and danci showcasing more than 30 performers at venu around town. The fest val is sponsored by are businesses, the Fairfax Parks and Recreation partment and the Fair Chamber of Commerc

More information is available at fairfaxiris tival.com.

FROM PAGE 1

not a lack of drinking water, as some environmental organizations have asserted.

While the county received substantial rainfall in late 2021, the park service says January through August this year was the driest the park has experienced in 128 years of rainfall records.

Melanie Gunn, a park official, said the elk still have access to water at springs and seeps in the reserve. The troughs are meant to provide supplementary water as the park staff awaits the start of the rainy season.

"The park has found no deceased elk at Tomales Point this year and plans to conduct the annual census



JOURNAL the state, the tule elk were two winters. The Limangroups and activists have once thought to be almost tour herd declined from 164

for their hides and tallow or 138 to 139. In response to the die-off, in the seashore.

called for the park to remove extinct. Settlers in the 19th to 155 elk while the Drakes the Tomales Point fence as century had hunted them Beach herd increased from well as to remove private cattle ranches that rent land

ALAN DEP - MARIN INDEPENDENT

are freed from their zoo prisonment."

Others such as Ma Conservation League vironmental nonpre group and Rep. Jared H man said that tule elk ranches can coexist. N Dennis, a board mem of the Marin Conservat League, described the pa decision to provide wa was "humane and app priate."

The debate on whether keep the fence up escala Friday after park staff covered a 100-foot sectio the reserve fence had b toppled. Park staff for several wooden fence pe had been cut at their b Gunn said.

The park has found evidence that elk have the reserve. The park launched a criminal in tigation and has reques anyone with information