



During Saturday's Celebration of Life for former Alameda County Supervisor Scott Haggerty, District 1 Supervisor David Haubert paid tribute to Haggerty's decades of leadership across the Tri-Valley and greater East Bay. Speaking at the Alameda County Fairgrounds, Haubert addressed a crowd of Haggerty's family, friends, and community members who gathered to honor the late supervisor. (Photo — May Fraser)

Focus Shifts to ‘Open Area 3 Seat’ as LVJUSD Begins New District Elections

Lack of Applicants May Force Post-Election Board Appointment in November

By Vivien Wenneker

LIVERMORE — Come November, the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District (LVJUSD) Board of Education will hold its first-ever district area elections, with three seats up for grabs.

With candidate filing underway, particular attention is focused on Trustee Area 3, an open seat where no current board incumbent resides. Also, so far, no new candidate has filed. According to district guidelines, if no qualified candidate files to run in Area 3 before the deadline, the school board will be required to appoint a resident from that area after the election.

In the new system, voters elect trustees through votes from residents

living in the district where a particular candidate resides. The system was adopted between 2024 and 2025, when the board engaged in a public process to move from at-large school board ballots to “by-district” seats. The school board created five districts. Back in 2018, the City of Livermore created four districts in which to elect four council members. The mayor is elected by the whole community.

The new district maps show that trustee areas 2, 3, and 5 would be up for election this November, while the remaining areas — 1 and 4, would be up for election in 2028. Thereafter, each seat will be contested every four years.

The transition was designed to align the district with the 2001 Cal-

ifornia Voting Rights Act (CVRA), which discourages at-large elections if they hinder a minority group’s ability to elect preferred candidates. Adopting a district model provides LVJUSD with an accepted “safe harbor” against potential voting rights lawsuits — a path taken by numerous California districts, including Fremont Union High School District.

By proactively making the switch, LVJUSD sought to enhance local representation and board accountability, ensuring diverse community voices are reflected on the board, while establishing direct accountability between trustees and their specific geographic areas.

“Our Board of Education exists to serve Livermore and every student in the community,” said LV-

(See LVJUSD, page 6)

Hernandez and Wahab Ramp Up Efforts To Win Over D-14 Voters on August 18

Special Election to Fill Remainder of Swalwell’s Term Through December 2026

By Jessica Zimmer

TRI-VALLEY — Mail-in voting is underway for the Aug. 18 special general election between Democrats BART Board President Melissa Hernandez and State Senator Aisha Wahab to fill the 14th Congressional District seat until January 2027.

Ballots are due in person or postmarked by Aug. 18.

On November 3, voters will again cast their vote for either Hernandez or Wahab in the general election for this seat. This election will determine who will represent the district in a regular,

full two-year term.

The boundaries for the November 3 election will be different because the district lines were redrawn under Proposition 50. Residents in certain areas of Dublin and Fremont will not receive a ballot for the August 18 election. They will receive a ballot for the November 3 election.

Residents in certain areas of Castro Valley will receive a ballot for the August 18 election, but they will not be able to vote for the 14th Congressional District seat on Nov. 3. Instead, they will vote for a representative in the 10th Congressional District.

In both primary elections, Wahab finished first, followed by Hernandez: Wahab received 42.8% of the vote to Hernandez’s 16.8% in the June 16 special primary (with 28.7% Alameda County turnout, 98.4% by mail), and 38.3% to 17.2% in the June 2 general primary.

Wahab said her campaign focuses on direct voter contact through canvassing, community events, labor and Democratic organizations, digital outreach, and volunteer engagement.

“Going forward, the emphasis will be on meeting voters throughout Hayward, Fremont, Union

(See ELECTION, page 9)

Pacific Fusion Has Achieved Reliability Milestone at LLNL

Sirius Prototype Advances Novel Power Architecture

By David Jen

LIVERMORE — Another government-industry partnership with Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) has made its latest achievement public in the quest for commercial fusion energy. This month, Pacific Fusion celebrated significant progress toward bringing their goal of making energy on a large scale.

Beginning in 2020, the team designed, built and tested a prototype named Sirius, which demonstrates the impedance-matched Marx generator (IMG) concept — a new power-delivery architecture that could ignite fusion reactions in the cores of future power plants.

A dining table-sized tank housing electrical components submerged in insulating oil, the LLNL-based prototype delivers electrical energy with amazing speed in “shots” spanning only a hundred billionths of a second.

On July 16, the partnership announced Sirius’s 3,000th shot, signifying the technology’s reliability and readiness to scale up for future applications. This 3,000-shot milestone was reached through a collaborative effort between LLNL and Pacific Fusion. “We’ve established all of this at prototype scale,” LLNL project manager Kumar Raman said. “And we’re learning how this concept works as an architecture of a big pulse-power facility.”

(See FUSION, page 9)



Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and Pacific Fusion leaders and researchers gather around the SIRIUS pulsed-power prototype during a May 15 celebration marking the system's 3,000-shot milestone at LLNL. (Photo courtesy of Garry McLeod/LLNL)

The Livermore City Council Approves 2045 General Plan

But Study Area Triggers Opposition to Possible UGB Break

By Vivien Wenneker

LIVERMORE — The Livermore City Council has approved the Livermore General Plan 2045, a document five years in the making, which establishes a framework and vision to guide Livermore over the next 20 years.

The council also approved the General Plan Environmental Impact Report (EIR), another key document intended to support the General Plan, including revisions from the original Draft EIR that was circulated in March for public review.

Work on Livermore’s General Plan began in 2021, and through an extensive public engagement process was designed to address both state-required and locally significant topics such as land use, housing, mobility, infrastructure and economic development.

It will replace the 2004 plan,

building on longstanding priorities like open space, downtown and South Livermore vitality, and multimodal transportation while introducing a new emphasis on climate resilience, environmental justice and healthy communities.

“It’s been a great privilege for me to have started on this plan back in October 2021, and now here we are five years later,” Mayor John Marchand said. “This plan is intentionally flexible, allowing us to be nimble as we continue to grow, but, again, recognizing that this is a living document, we’ll continue to work on this.”

The plan comprises nine elements, with slight adjustments being made to reorganize some of the former elements into modern categories, like mobility (formerly “circulation”), and granting economic development, infrastructure and community services their own respective elements.

(See CITY COUNCIL, page 7)



Paintings by local artist and curator Linda Ryan are displayed at First Street Wine Co., one of the newest host venues for the AVA Art Circuit in downtown Livermore. (Photo — May Fraser)

Gallery Space Brings Art and Wine Together

AVA Expands Venue Options in Downtown Livermore with Rotating Exhibits

By Kathryn Stroud

LIVERMORE — Livermore residents have a new opportunity to enjoy local artwork and a glass of wine at a recently curated venue inside First Street Wine Co. downtown.

“It’s a really positive move, and I would like to see more of these collaborations,” said the exhibit’s curator and first exhibitor, Linda Ryan. “What could be better than bringing art and wine together in one space? It’s a perfect match.”

The collaboration is part of the Alliance for the Visual Arts’ (AVA) Art Circuit in Livermore. The idea is for local artists to mount solo shows on the wine bar’s walls, with the resident artist rotating every two to three months.

“The Art Circuit here in Livermore is part of the AVA mission to create support and community amongst the Tri-Valley artists. The other half of our mission is to bring our communities closer to their artists and their work. First Street Wine Company is helping

us with that endeavor and we are very grateful,” said Dennis Baker, president of AVA.

The venue also allows nudity in the pieces, something Ryan said can be difficult to exhibit at other art venues and events in the area.

“Nude art is hard to exhibit. I’ve curated a lot of shows, I can’t tell you how many shows I’ve hung. There are very few places to exhibit nude artwork,” she said. She added that “there is nothing wrong with being exposed to the human body through artwork.”

(See GALLERY, page 8)

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PET OF THE WEEK



SHAKE ‘N BAKE

Despite having “wobbly cat” syndrome (cerebellar hypoplasia), Shake ‘n Bake takes every opportunity to stir up trouble! It’s a good thing her luscious, creamy white coating of fur and patchy sprinkle of pale orange and grey tip the scales in this adorable 4-month-old kitten’s favor. Call (925) 426-8656 or email info@valleyhumane.org to start the adoption process today.

Trail Push Faces Resistance Over Committee’s Role

By David Jen

TRI-VALLEY —A push for regional trails in eastern Alameda County continued at this month’s Altamont Landfill Open Space Committee (ALOSC) meeting, although some questioned

the committee’s role in recreation advocacy.

Larry Gosselin, at the request of Supervisor and Committee Chair David Haubert, shared on July 17 a draft plan to fill in a lack of recreational trails in eastern Alameda County. Known

as the Murray Township Untrailed Zone, named after an older designation for that portion of the county — the area spans east from the Livermore Valley to the county border and lacks regional trails for hikers, bikers and equestrians.

Gosselin partially attributed the scarcity to multiple agencies holding responsibilities in the area, recently exemplified by a lawsuit brought by Livermore Area Recreation and Park District against East Bay Regional Park District, in which the

former accused the latter of misspending some \$110 million intended for regional trails in the area.

“What we have in the area is a fragmented jurisdictional structure without much collaboration,” Gosselin said.

The plan calls for the county board of supervisors to lead a unified trail-building effort across agencies. It would audit existing trail plans, establish new goals, request state and federal assistance and establish a working landscape trust administered by the county.

But the ALOSC’s function in such a plan was unclear to meeting attendees. Member David Furst said that the ALOSC was “not the place for this proposal.”

The committee manages some \$25 million dedicated toward the acquisition and preservation of open space in eastern Alameda County. It prioritizes native biological diversity and wildlife habitat over non-motorized recreation and visual resources. The committee supports open space by awarding grants to buyers of land or easements, and these buyers then take on the responsibilities of conserva-

tion management.

Rancher and conservationist Celeste Garamendi tried to avert any endorsement of the trails plan from the committee, asserting that recreation conflicts with other rural-land uses such as ranching.

“The potential that this committee is going to say, ‘Well, if you want a conservation easement, you have to allow public access or allow a trail through your land,’ is something that is, I think, unheard of,” Garamendi said.

On the other hand, the board of Visit Tri-Valley, the Tri-Valley’s nonprofit marketing organization, recently voted unanimously in support of the trail development. The trails plan lists economic activity, resulting from biking and e-biking access to Livermore’s downtown and wine country, as a benefit.

Remaining Committee Members Jeff Nibert and Kristie Wang did not take a strong position on ALOSC involvement in the trails plan.



Community members gather at the Pleasanton Peace Corner on Monday, July 27 to demand justice for Lorenzo Salgado Araujo, Johan Sebastian Guerrero, and all victims of ICE. Following last week’s cancellation due to the ‘Little Fire,’ local advocates continue to honor victims and prepare to make their voices heard at the rescheduled Pleasanton City Council meeting. (Photo — May Fraser)

Sutter Health Buys Former IKEA Site in Dublin

By Sanestina Hunter

DUBLIN — Sutter Health recently purchased the 27-acre former IKEA site near Martinelli Road and Hacienda Drive for a reported \$57.5 million.

The healthcare system has not publicly announced what it plans to develop on the property. Hazel L. Wetherford, Dublin’s deputy city manager, confirmed to The Independent that the city has not received a development application for the site.

The investment comes amid broader healthcare expansion in the Tri-Valley as demand for medical services grows. Sutter’s existing presence in the region includes the Dublin Center and Livermore Care Center.

The system is also adding two outpatient facilities in Pleasanton.

Sutter announced in 2024 that it had leased

nearly 87,000 square feet between the two Pleasanton properties. The Hopyard Care Center is scheduled to open Aug. 3, while a larger facility on Willow Road is expected to open in 2027.

The Dublin property, however, was originally intended for retail development. Under plans approved by city officials in 2018, IKEA proposed a 317,000-square-foot store and 93,000 square feet of additional shops and restaurants. Construction never began, and the approvals later expired.

IKEA abandoned the project in October 2025 as it shifted toward smaller locations. According to the city, the retailer said the strategy would improve convenience, reduce delivery costs and support its sustainability goals.

On June 17, IKEA opened a 2,100-square-foot plan-and-order loca-

tion at 5755 Johnson Drive in Pleasanton. Customers can receive design assistance and arrange for purchases to be delivered or picked up later.

Sutter is a Sacramento-based nonprofit healthcare system serving Northern and Central California. According to the organization, its network includes more than 600 locations and 27 hospitals.

In 2025, Sutter reported serving about 3.6 million patients and employing approximately 64,000 people. It also opened or expanded 31 care sites and added more than 1,100 physicians and advanced practice clinicians throughout the year.

Stanford Health Care Tri-Valley is also expanding to meet growing regional demand for medical services.

In May, Stanford Health Care Tri-Valley broke ground on a \$200 mil-

lion, 66,000-square-foot addition to its Pleasanton hospital. The East Wing will more than double the emergency department’s capacity, with phased openings expected to begin in 2029.

Stanford officials said Tri-Valley emergency department visits increased nearly 30% from 2013 to 2023. The health system is also planning an Orthopedics and Sports Medicine Center at the former LifeStyleRx facility in Livermore.

Sutter plans to open 25 new outpatient care

centers across California by 2027, according to the health system.



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Wente Family Estates Names Advisor Peter Yeung as CEO

LIVERMORE — Peter Yeung, the host of a podcast on the business of winemaking, has been named CEO by Wente Family Estates.

As CEO, Yeung will oversee all aspects of the privately owned winery’s operations for its diverse brands, which includes Wente Vineyards, Murrieta’s Well and the newly launched Cresta Blanca.

Yeung, a former advisor to the Wente board of directors, had served as interim CEO since January.

“Peter’s steady leadership, strategic mind and boundless energy are tremendous assets for our winery,” said Christine Wente, board chair and fifth-generation winegrower. “He is passionate about building on our legacy of quality and sustainability, while evolving to meet the demands of today’s market.”

Yeung, co-host of the XChateau Wine Business podcast since 2020, became a Wente advisor in 2024.

He is the also co-author of “Luxury Wine Marketing” and was named one of “Wine Business



Peter Yeung

Monthly’s” Wine Industry Leaders in 2020.

“It’s an honor to steward Wente Family Estates alongside the fourth and fifth generations of the Wente family, carrying on

the values of quality, value, innovation and stewardship of the land that have helped this winery span 143 years and counting,” Yeung said.

Established in 1883, Wente is considered the oldest continuously operating family-owned winery in the U.S. and is registered as a California historical landmark.

Yeung’s appointment as CEO follows other recent changes in the winery’s senior leadership team, including Aly Wente’s appointment as chief revenue officer and Karl Wente’s new role as chief operating officer. Both are fifth generation winegrowers.

Other fifth generation Wente family members also continue to serve in leadership roles, including Niki Wente as director of viticulture and Jordan Wente as senior brand ambassador.

LHS Class of 1996 to Celebrate its 30-Year Reunion at Da Boccery

LIVERMORE — The Livermore High School (LHS) Class of 1996 will hold its 30-year reunion at Da Boccery on Saturday, Sept. 19.

Da Boccery is a casual food and activities center at 175 E. Vineyard Ave., that offers ax throwing, bocce ball, arcade games and a golf simulator.

The reunion will also include a DJ, dancing, photo booth and a no-host bar.

Tickets are \$110 through Saturday, Aug. 8, when they increase to \$130. Tickets must be purchased by Saturday, Sept. 12.

The Class of 1996 Reunion Committee said

alumni and their guests will also have a family-friendly opportunity to tour the school on Sunday, Sept. 20.

For more information, contact the reunion committee at livermore96reunion@gmail.com or join the LHS Class of 1996 Reunion Facebook page.



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County Fair Drives \$312M Impact, Draws Nearly 400,000

By Sanestina Hunter

PLEASANTON — Nearly 400,000 visitors flocked to the Alameda County Fair this year for carnival rides, concerts, livestock exhibits and, of course, plenty of fair food.

Together, the annual fair and hundreds of year-round events at the fairgrounds generated \$312 million in economic activity, according to a study by Johnson Consulting, a firm specializing in feasibility studies and economic impact as-

concession workers and other local jobs supported through the direct, indirect and induced spending generated by the Alameda County Fair and year-round fairgrounds activities,” Moore said.

Attendance totaled 399,395, down nearly 3% from 410,159 in 2025. Even with fewer visitors, revenue increased 7% and spending per visitor rose 4%, fairgrounds officials reported.

Food remained the top reason visitors cited for attending — and visitors

guests consumed 82,766 corn dogs, 25,197 servings of cotton candy, 20,863 burgers, 20,400 funnel cakes, 11,418 barbecue turkey legs and 2,463 deep-fried Twinkies.

Meanwhile, vendors competed for the top prize in the annual Foodie’s Choice Awards. New entries included the Spam Wonton Taco, the Pickled Corn Dog and the “Elvis Presley,” a sour-dough sandwich made with peanut butter, sliced bananas and bacon.

Fairgoers selected “The

Auction closed out the fair July 12, raising \$1.3 million for youth agricultural education programs, including the National FFA Organization, formerly known as Future Farmers of America, and 4-H youth development programs. The amount increased 8% from the previous year.

Competitive exhibits in baking, crafts, flowers, jewelry, painting, photography and quilting received 19,422 entries, up 14% from the previous year.

The number of exhibitors

Power and others.

The series sold 25,204 tickets, a 19% increase from the previous year.

Other attractions included carnival rides and games for the whole family, Fiesta at the Fair and Wine Fest.

The Michelob Ultra Grandstand hosted demolition derbies, monster trucks, arena cross and tractor pulls, along with corgi races, a Rubik’s Cube competition and America’s Strongest Teen competition.

Crowds also browsed the new Fair Factory and the Artisan Market, where local makers showcased artwork, handcrafted goods and specialty items.

Giving back to the community was another focus of the fair, with food and pet food drives benefiting local organizations. The Feed the Need Food Drive collected 18,002 pounds of food for the Alameda County Community Food Bank, a 62% increase from the previous year.

Fairgrounds officials said the donation was equivalent to 59,221 meals.

The Pet Food Drive collected an additional 1,906 pounds and 7,330 cans of food for the Valley Humane Society. Donations by weight increased 33%, while canned donations rose 35%.

Honoring the past while looking to the future, the fair marked America’s 250th

anniversary with a time capsule and commemorative fountain.

On June 26, dignitaries, fair staff and board members buried the capsule with photographs, letters, flags, awards and other mementos offering a snapshot of life in 2026. It is scheduled to be reopened in 2076 for America’s 300th anniversary.

The fair also hosted the “Rising Together: In Remembrance of 9/11” exhibit. The memorial displayed an actual piece of the Twin Towers structure and honored the nearly 3,000 people killed in the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

Attendees left nearly 1,000 handwritten “notes of hope” and white roses at the exhibit’s survivor tree.

“From the grand celebration on 4th of July for America’s 250th Birthday to our fantastic rides, games, entertainment and foods, this was truly a year that will be remembered,” Hoban said.



Thrill-seekers take on a roller coaster at the Alameda County Fair, which drew nearly 400,000 visitors and generated over \$300 million in regional economic impact this year. (Photo courtesy of Alameda County Fairgrounds)

sessments.

Of that total, \$132.1 million was attributed to the annual fair, Angel Moore, chief operating officer of the Alameda County Fair, told The Independent.

The study also found that the combined activity generated 16,800 hotel room nights and \$14.3 million in sales-tax revenue throughout the region.

“The nearly 2,000 jobs include fair employees, event workers, vendors, contractors, hospitality employees, security staff,

came hungry.

“Fair food once again took center stage this year,” Jerome Hoban, CEO of the Alameda County Fairgrounds, said in a statement. “From nostalgic classics like corn dogs and funnel cakes to bold new culinary creations in the Foodie’s Choice Awards, our food vendors continued to raise the bar with flavors that surprised, delighted, and kept visitors coming back for more.”

During the nearly month-long summer festivities,

Main Squeeze,” a strawberry lemonade cookie from The Dough Show booth, as this year’s winner.

Family-friendly attractions continued at AgVenture Park, where racing pigs, hatching chicks and barnyard animals brought agriculture to life.

The Safeway Barn housed sheep, goats, dairy and beef cattle, piglets and a horse, while educational activities included sheep-shearing demonstrations and bottle feedings.

The Junior Livestock

reached 6,864, while fine art sales rose 51% to \$20,095, fairgrounds officials reported.

At the Cuervo Amphitheater, an open-air music venue at the fairgrounds, concertgoers enjoyed an eclectic lineup spanning generations and genres.

The Big O Tires Concert Series kicked off June 19 with The Gene Simmons Band and continued with performances by The Beach Boys featuring John Stamos, Flo Rida, Boyz II Men, En Vogue, Tower of

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EDITORIAL

Former Supervisor Scott Haggerty Is Recognized as a Champion for the Tri-Valley and Its Constituents

Scott Haggerty left behind a legacy that extended beyond his six terms of service on the Alameda County Board of Supervisors. Haggerty, who died last month, represented the Tri-Valley communities even as district lines were redrawn. District 1 is now represented by David Haubert, who as a speaker at a celebration of life for Haggerty this past Saturday at the Alameda County Fairgrounds, said that he would often ask himself in his office, “What would Scott Haggerty do?”

Haggerty was a champion for the values that define the region: transportation, smart growth, preserving the environment, protecting local agriculture/open space, funding

emergency services, and supporting civic arts.

For example, his specific accomplishments include pushing for the Edward R. Campbell Bridge connecting Sycamore Grove Park to Del Valle Regional Park and its extended trail system, clean energy initiatives such as the Ava Community Energy wind project in Altamont Pass that bears his name, supporting the arts through the Bankhead Theater, and the implementation of the East County Area Plan, which guided development in the Tri-Valley after voters enacted urban growth boundaries with Measure D in 2000.

He was also a supporter of the Youth in Nature program, seeking to

shape the next generations of environmental stewards.

Many of Haggerty’s accomplishments are secure, although there are still challenges. The Board of Supervisors recently floated an idea that could set the stage for undermining Measure D by removing the voters’ power to approve any changes to land use outside the growth boundaries. The authority would be given just to the supervisors.

Based on his record, Haggerty, who retired from the board in 2021, would have been unlikely to support this. In the past, amendments to land use in the countryside were handled on a case-by-case basis, not through undoing the will of the voters. When

wineries needed to be able to develop their property a little more, that was handled through specific initiatives. Better to address problems with surgical precision than with the blunt instrument of invalidating his 26-year contributions.

Haggerty championed many specific causes, but at the core of all of them was helping preserve the way of life we enjoy in the Tri-Valley. We hope that the supervisors who are supporting taking the voters’ power away would realize that this undermines Haggerty’s legacy, and that it isn’t too late for them to follow Haggerty’s example and do right by their constituents.

The Independent Endorses Aisha Wahab for Congress

For the Aug. 18 special election to fill the open seat for the 14th Congressional District, voters should choose State Senator Aisha Wahab. The election would fill the seat left vacant until January 2027 by former Rep. Eric Swalwell’s resignation. The general election on Nov. 3 will determine who will represent the Tri-Valley for the following two years.

Wahab served on the Hayward City

Council for four years before she was elected to the California Senate in 2022, where she quickly became assistant majority leader, led the Senate Housing Committee for a time, and now leads the Senate Business, Professions and Economic Development Committee.

Her tenure in the Senate has been marked by challenging entrenched special interests, for instance, intro-

ducing legislation to rein in discretionary spending by county supervisors and report such expenses on a quarterly basis. Her advocacy for affordable housing comes from the personal experience of her family losing their home in the 2011 financial crisis.

Wahab’s legislative record alone is enough to support her for Congress. Her opponent, Melissa Hernandez, is in her first term as a BART Board Pres-

ident, before which she served a partial term as mayor of Dublin. BART is a poorly run organization in desperate need of reform, and Hernandez should focus on achieving results there first before she should be trusted with a higher office.

For these reasons, we think voters should choose Aisha Wahab for the U.S. House of Representatives in District 14.

MAILBOX

Mailbox Guidelines:

Opinions voiced in letters published in Mailbox are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of The Independent. Anonymous letters will not be published. All letters are required to have the name(s) of the person(s) submitting them, city of residence and phone number, for verification purposes. Letters may not contain advertising. Abusive letters and letters containing ad hominem attacks may be rejected or edited. Letters are subject to verification and may be edited for clarity at the discretion of the editor. We reserve the right to decide whether or not the letter will be published. Headings for all letters may be edited at the discretion of the editor to properly reflect their content. A headline will be added to letters received without one. Frequent letter writers may have publication of their letters delayed or not run at all. Letters should be limited to 300 words or less and should be sent by email to letters@independentnews.com or submitted using the form below.

The letters to the editor deadline is Monday at 8 a.m. If you wish to submit a letter pertaining to a special event or meeting taking place on a Monday before any given Thursday print edition — and you would like your letter to run that week — please contact the editor (editor@independentnews.com) as soon as possible on Monday to discuss the content and publication options. Otherwise, all letters submitted after 8 a.m. on Monday must hold until the following week.

The New Pump Track Mike Ralph, Livermore

Bike riders, skateboarders, roller skaters, and scooter enthusiasts have made the new Pump Track at Sunken Gardens the hottest spot in town this summer! Since the ribbon cutting in June, the whole park has been busy every day, from morning to evening. It is great to see riders of all ages riding together and just having a blast. Thanks go out to the LARPD Board and leadership, the Livermore City Council, and everyone that made it happen. Livermore is a better place for it. If you haven’t taken a look or a spin, please make the time. And of course, wear a helmet.

Thank You, Fire Fighters Aine Fuller, Livermore

I just want to shout out to the fire service providers/Alameda County Fire personnel, Oakland, and all other associates for their wonderful sacrificial hard

labor on behalf of the citizens of the Tri-Valley for containing and putting out the Little Valley fire this past week. I am also so glad they get celebrated at least one day in the calendar year. They are such heroes. What on earth would we do without them? Thank you, ALL FIRE-FIGHTERS everywhere! You are worth your weight in gold! May God bless you ALL, and your families, and always keep you healthy and safe!

Push-Back Expected Richard Andrews, Livermore

I am a liberal who supports the LGBTQ+ community in almost all of its’ equality endeavors. A person has their “Rights” as long as it doesn’t damage another’s “Rights”. But along with “Rights” is the often ignored part: Responsibilities. And the far-left insistence on demanding we remove all barriers to entitlement for mem-

bers of this portion of OUR community has gone too far. Sexual preference is personal, and if it harms no one, should be accepted as choice, not some aberration to be derided nor discriminated against.

But when males decide to trans and then demand to be allowed to play in women’s sports, it makes no sense. It is blatant ignorance to have a person who is genetically superior due to male physicality at birth be allowed to compete in a women’s sports league. It is like saying that you can put a radio and a jump seat in a top fuel dragster and let it run in the modified street rod division.

We see Brian Griner, who was a male through high school and a decent basketball player decide to become Brittany Griner and pursue a female career in basketball with all the male advantages of genetics. As well as the male swimmer who “just identified” as female without any surgical alterations to compete on the Syracuse women’s swim team, AND use the women’s locker room to the detriment of the women. It just is not decently right for this to happen. You are born with sexually determined assets and we should not allow them to use this speciously gained advantage just because “they want to.” It is just physically and morally wrong.

This is a “woke” approach that needs to be stopped.

Dollars and Senseless (Part I) — The Economic Chaos

Greg Scott, Livermore

“It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of light, it was the season of darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair.” (Charles Dickens, “A Tale of Two Cities,” (1859)) “Eco” is from the Greek word for “household” and is used as a prefix in such English words as “economics” and “ecology.” Eco consideration is most prescient for our current

times, with too many homes having burned and in far too many households under financial strain.

If the reader wants a concise assessment of the financial stability vulnerability of individuals in a vast number of U.S. households, I would recommend reading and studying a report from the data analysis and credit bureau company Equifax regarding the Market Pulse Index, which primarily analyzes five main factors — credit, debt, income, assets, and spending capacity — utilizing generative artificial intelligence (GenAI) and machine language (ML).

(Note: Simplistically, ML is a subset of GenAI that includes a neural network architecture. GenAI has a Natural Language Processor module in addition to ML.)

The news gets worse. Insurance companies are highly vulnerable to their structured debt and have outflanked regulators of Credit Loan Obligations (CLOs). This puts \$10 trillion at risk systemically and jeopardizes pensions, 401(k)s, annuities, endowments, stocks, bonds, and the overall global economy. (Heather Geller, “Insurers Are Finding Workarounds On Risky Debt Amid New Rules,” The Wall Street Journal, 11/21/2026, page B5)

We can witness the coming disaster by the recent changes in ratings rules by Moody’s and Fitch ratings agencies so that CLO ratings could be upgraded.

Is it 2008 revisited...?

Community of Neighbors Sue Koopman, Livermore

Years ago, I noticed neighbors picking up trash along Concannon, starting at Tesla. I have joined them over the years. My route is along Concannon & Tesla (with Murrieta & Holdiner Park) and ending at Sycamore Grove Park, where there are trash containers and recycling bins. Along my route are trees, thanks to Jay Davis, who encouraged the city to replace the dead trees along Concannon (by the maintenance buildings) with live trees and water. I love being a part of this

community of neighbors picking up trash.

Less Anger and Fear, More Facts Larry Graves, Livermore

The Independent editorial on July 23, 2026, did its best to create more anger and fear between Democrats and Republicans.

Let me summarize the voting issue as follows:

Current federal law allows only citizens of the United States to vote in federal elections. The law also says that a person may show citizenship by simply declaring that they are a U.S. citizen; no proof of citizenship is required.

The Alameda County Election website (registertovote.ca.gov) follows federal law. Any resident of Alameda County 18 years old or older can register to vote on-line by simply clicking on the registration form affirming that “I am a U.S. citizen and resident of California”. No proof of U.S. citizenship is required, although proof of California residency is required.

Republicans are concerned that current federal law combined with the millions of people that have migrated to the United States could be used by the Democrats to fraudulently add millions of new voters to the Democrat party.

I personally do not think that significant voter fraud has happened, but it is a real concern by many Republicans. A noncitizen voting in a federal election is a crime, punishable by a fine and up to one year in prison (18 U.S. Code 611).

The SAVE America Act would require people to provide proof of U.S. citizenship, such as a birth certificate, REAL ID or a passport when registering to vote. A photo ID would also be required when voting. So instead of creating anger and fear, The Independent should ask its readers: do you want people to show proof of U.S. citizenship when registering to vote and proof that it is you when voting?

National Emergencies Frank Cannella, Livermore

On the front page of the July 24th edition of the Valley Times, you will find a story about the lawsuit that 22 states have filed against the Trump administration. The lawsuit maintains that FEMA now requires states change their election rules toward recent federal suggestions, (as you may know, the Constitution gives the individual states the exclusive right to handle their own elections) and that the states must cooperate with DHS no matter what. If they do not comply with this request, FEMA can withhold federal disaster relief money. Apparently, floods, earthquakes and wildfires are not national emergencies unless the particular state involved voted for Trump. The suing entities insist this is unconstitutional. Hopefully, the courts will find in favor of the states.

It is even more upsetting when you realize this is merely another form of intimidation that the current administration uses to extort specific behavior from states who didn’t vote for Trump. The Mafia would be proud.

Moving on, hopefully you have seen or will see excerpts of the president’s hour long speech at the Whitehouse correspondents’ dinner Friday night. He has no historical equal, and I don’t mean that in a positive way.

And how about that stellar job we are doing in Iran? You remember, we’ve announced half a dozen victories so far, destroyed their ability and will to fight, fixed the Strait of Hormuz, and we only need an additional 37.5 billion dollars to put it all to rest.

The biggest, most significant national emergency this country has is the man in the White House.

Voter ID Chet Patel, Livermore

I am disappointed with the editors writing about federal assault on our elections. The editors never mention about the election ID requirements,

(See MAILBOX, page 5)

THE *Independent*

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Two dozen students from Livermore High School, Granada High School, East Avenue Middle School and Mendenhall Middle School recently completed a two-week Summer Youth Academy taught by the Livermore Police Department (LPD). The students learned about patrol operations, DUI investigations, K-9 Units, the use of drones in law enforcement, crime prevention and community policing. LPD said the annual program strengthens relationships with local youth while providing insight into careers in public safety. (Photo courtesy of the Livermore Police Department)

MAILBOX

(Continued from page 4)

where anyone who is not a U.S. citizen can vote without an ID. There so many ID requirements in California, e.g. right to drive, boarding a flight, crossing borders legally, banking and cashing checks, and much more. Please explain to your readers why you have written a piece on voter ID?

Vote for Aisha Wahab for CA-14
Gerry Gire, Pleasanton

For the August 18 special election, I am voting for Aisha Wahab for U.S. Congress in California’s 14th District.

As California State Senate Assistant Majority Leader, Wahab has demonstrated the legislative experience needed to tackle difficult problems and pursue practical solutions. She has shown a willingness to challenge powerful special interests while also earning respect from colleagues across the aisle through bipartisan legislation. Her record includes work on housing affordability, lowering costs, strengthening public safety, and protecting our communities.

Beyond her legislative ac-

complishments, Wahab’s personal story is inspiring. She rose from humble beginnings, worked hard through education, and built a career in public service. She has taken the time to meet with Tri-Valley residents, answer questions directly, and listen to concerns. I have found her approachable, candid, and refreshingly straightforward.

Wahab has also earned endorsements from a broad coalition that includes labor organizations, law enforcement groups, health advocates, Democratic state and local leaders, and newspapers such as the San Francisco Chronicle and the Mercury News.

Recently, I received a campaign mailer from her opponent highlighting experience as a local mayor, but omitting current service as BART Board President. BART continues to face financial challenges, is seeking additional tax revenue, and has proposed service reductions affecting Tri-Valley stations. I believe voters should consider each candidate’s complete public record.

As campaign advertising be-

comes more negative, I encourage voters to examine the facts behind the claims rather than relying on attack ads alone.

I am voting for Aisha Wahab because I believe she is the strongest candidate to represent California’s 14th Congressional District and will work in the best interests of our communities.

Vote in the August 18 Special Election.

The Airbrush Candidate
David Jonas, Livermore

Melissa Hernandez’s campaign materials deliver a thick larding of lazy platitudes, vague promises, and empty-calorie boasts, along with one flagrant omission: Hernandez fails to mention that she currently serves as BART Board President.

I understand Hernandez’s reluctance to associate herself with BART, since BART continues to flounder under her leadership. Hernandez’s campaign website refers to her as “BART Board Director” rather than “President,” a self-demotion clearly intend-

ed to downplay voter perception of her responsibility for the BART mess.

I would have respected Hernandez had she addressed her BART experience head-on, by citing the challenges she faces, her accomplishments, her plans to address system problems, etc. Instead, she airbrushed away her BART leadership role entirely, an act of campaign cowardice.

I also wonder what other details the Hernandez campaign might be misrepresenting.

Please vote Aisha Wahab for D14.

Welcome to Trump World: Equal Enough to Die
Rosario Milelli, Pleasanton

The television displayed the photographs of the 18 American service members killed in Trump’s Iran war. Five were women: Sgt. 1st Class Nicole Amor, Capt. Ariana Savino, Tech. Sgt. Ashley Pruitt, Pvt. Isabella Gonzales and Sgt. Angel Rampersad.

Five of 18 — nearly 28 percent. Women make up roughly 18 percent of the active-duty military.

Iranian missiles, drones and the dangers of wartime aviation apparently do not recognize Pete Hegseth’s preferred gender roles.

These women served in logistics, aerial refueling and air defense. They did not ask the enemy to lower its standards for them. They accepted the same danger, performed the same missions and made the same final sacrifice as the men beside them.

Yet Hegseth once said women should not serve in combat roles. As an anti-woke defense secretary, he removed women from promotion lists and relieved Adm. Lisa Franchetti, the first woman to lead the Navy and serve on the Joint Chiefs.

The Trump administration

also removed Adm. Linda Fagan, the first woman to lead a military service, and Vice Adm. Shoshana Chatfield, then the only woman on NATO’s military committee.

Apparently, women are equal enough to deploy, equal enough to defend an air base, equal enough to fly dangerous missions and equal enough to come home beneath a flag.

They are just not equal enough to lead.

Perhaps someone should explain this contradiction to Hegseth. The battlefield already has.

Welcome to Trump World, where Hegseth follows Trump’s example: women may serve, sacrifice and die — but they are not trusted to lead.

Voting for Aisha Wahab
Daryl R Carlson, Livermore

Ads for Congressional candidate Melissa Hernandez are heating up like popcorn on local TV, even interrupting my movie on Tubi — kinda desperate. Someone is getting too much PAC money. Promises: “lower cost of living, build affordable housing, expand access to affordable healthcare and take on Trump.” Also touting her

record on affordable housing while Mayor of the bloated and ever exploding Dublin. Yes, but how many unaffordable housing units were built?

With a majority of elephants in the House of Representatives, the Democrats have a very weak history on the candidate’s stated goals. Offer people the moon, and then give them moldy swiss cheese.

In none of the ads does the candidate mention her position on the BART Board, the same body threatening to cut off service to the Tri-Valley if they do not get another sales tax increase, a burden on this area for decades — with no apparent guarantee that the service will be maintained. We deserve better representation than that.

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Pleasanton Youth Theater Set to Present ‘Mean Girls’

PLEASANTON — The Pleasanton Youth Theater Company will present “Mean Girls: The Musical,” based on the 2004 teen comedy, at the Firehouse Arts Center from Friday, July 31, through Saturday, Aug. 8.

The film, which became a cultural phenomenon, especially among female viewers, follows a naive teenage girl who transfers to an American high school after years of homeschooling in Africa, where she encounters vicious social cliques and befriends fellow outcasts.

The musical adaptation opened on Broadway in 2018 but was forced to close in 2020 by the COVID-19 pandemic. There were also several national and international tours.

The Pleasanton Youth Theater, a program of the

Pleasanton Library and Recreation Department, will present the “high school” version of “Mean Girls: The Musical,” with changes for a younger audience. However, Music Theater International (MTI), which licenses the musical, says it still contains adult themes, strong language and depictions of some mature situations.

The Firehouse Arts Center website also cautions that the PG-13 play “explores topics commonly faced by teenagers, including bullying, peer pressure, social dynamics, body image and relationships. While adapted for student performers and audiences, some material may not be suitable for younger children.”

More than three dozen performers will take the stage during the run of the play.

“I am ecstatic for audi-

ences to see the incredible young talent we have here in the Tri-Valley,” said director Mathew Glynn. “Every single day, our performers surprise us with their amazing acting choices, professionalism, and talent. This is not an easy show, and they have exceeded expectations in bringing the world of “Mean Girls” to life in a unique way.”

Performances are scheduled for 7 p.m. on Friday, July 31; 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 1; 7 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 7; and 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 8.

Tickets are \$13 for students and \$23 for adults. They can be purchased online at firehousearts.org, in-person or by phone at the Pleasanton Library and Pleasanton Senior Center, or at the Firehouse Arts Center box office two hours prior to each show.

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Dublin Voted to Change Salaries for City Council and Mayor

By Sanestina Hunter

DUBLIN — The Dublin City Council voted 3-2 on July 21 to introduce an ordinance that would increase councilmember salaries while reducing the mayor’s additional compensation.

Vice Mayor Jean Josey and councilmembers Michael McCorriston and Kashef Qaadri supported the ordinance. Mayor Sherry Hu and Councilmember John Morada opposed it.

The ordinance would increase councilmembers’ base monthly salary from \$1,600 to \$1,730.56, while cutting the mayor’s additional stipend in half (from

\$800 to \$400 monthly). As a result, the mayor’s total monthly pay would decrease from \$2,400 to \$2,130.56.

According to the staff report, the new councilmember salary reflects a 4% increase for each year since the last adjustment in December 2024. The city’s fiscal 2026-27 and 2027-28 budgets include sufficient funding for the compensation changes.

The proposal followed the passage of Senate Bill 329, which took effect in 2024 and increased the maximum salaries that general law cities may provide elected officials based on population.

The council initially approved the compensation compromise May 19, but the ordinance failed to advance June 2 after the council deadlocked 2-2. Qaadri was absent, leaving the four members present evenly divided.

On June 16, councilmembers agreed to bring the ordinance back for another vote.

With Qaadri present July 21, the ordinance gained the third vote needed to advance. He said councilmembers oversee complex issues, devote significant time to the community and remain accessible to residents outside regular meetings.

“I think this modest salary increase recognizes those responsibilities,” Qaadri said, adding that it could make public service accessible to people from a wider range of backgrounds, “not just those who can afford the financial sacrifice.”

“At the same time, any adjustment should be measured, fiscally responsible and balanced with the city’s overall budget priorities and long-term financial health,” he added.

Hu again proposed keeping the existing compensation structure. She said she had spoken with mayors from surrounding cities and argued that increasing councilmember salaries while reducing the mayor’s additional compensation would be inconsistent and unfair because the mayor has greater responsibilities.

“Keep the salary the same and don’t make an increase,” Hu said. “That’s my proposal for this.”

Morada also opposed

the ordinance, saying the council was reconsidering essentially the same proposal without substantive changes. His comments echoed his earlier position that although state law allows the city to increase councilmember compensation, it does not require an increase.

McCorriston acknowledged Hu’s right to bring the proposal back but said the council had already spent considerable time debating it publicly. He noted that councilmembers considered several options during the contentious May 19 discussion, including eliminating the mayor’s additional compensation, before reaching a compromise.

“We came to a reasonable conclusion,” McCorriston said. “We came to a modest increase.”

He urged the council to settle the issue and turn its attention to other city business.

“Let’s move forward and move on and get this settled,” McCorriston said.

Josey likewise supported the ordinance. She previously framed higher compensation as a way to ensure that residents from different economic backgrounds could serve on the council.

“We should raise the compensation of council to the maximum allowed by law every time that we are allowed to do so because we want to ensure a diversity of voices on this council,” Josey said.

She said residents do not run for office for a paycheck but should not have to lose wages, take unpaid time off or worry about covering childcare costs while serving on the council.

Tuesday’s 3-2 vote introduced the ordinance, which will return to the council for final adoption. If adopted, the compensation changes will not take effect until new council terms begin following the November 2026 election.

Reader Snapshots

Share Your Best Shot

We are looking for local photos to feature in The Independent’s Reader Snapshots section.

Whether it’s a beautiful moment, a slice of Tri-Valley life or something that made you smile, we want to see it.

Email your image, full name, city of residence and a brief caption to editor@independentnews.com for a chance to be featured in an upcoming issue.



Golden evening light frames a quiet streetlamp scene on a porch in Ironwood Village as captured by a Pleasanton resident. (Photo courtesy of D. Alan Hansen)

LVJUSD

(Continued from front page)

JUSD Board Clerk Christiaan VandenHeuvel. “The goal in transitioning to elections by trustee area is to strengthen connections between residents and trustees, encourage meaningful dialogue about the future of our schools, and inspire more community members to consider serving in roles that support public education.”

The specific seats up for election in November are currently held by trustees Steven Drouin, Craig Bueno and Emily Prusso, while the remaining at-large seats belonging to Deena Kaplanis and VandenHeuvel will be up for election in 2028.

Each trustee area comes with its own set of unique scenarios, as outlined on the district’s website, with none perhaps more complex than that of area 5, for which the current incumbents include: Prusso (term expires 2026), Kaplanis (at-large term expires 2028), and VandenHeuvel (at-large term expires 2028).

Because three incumbents live within Area 5 boundaries, the race creates several distinct outcomes:

If Prusso runs and wins: She retains the Area 5 seat through 2026. If she loses or chooses not to run, her terms ends in December.

If Kaplanis and/or VandenHeuvel run and win: The winner transitions from their current at-large seat to the Area 5 seat through 2030. They must forfeit their remaining at-large term through 2028.

If an at-large seat becomes vacant: If Kaplanis or VandenHeuvel wins Area 5, the school board must either appoint a replacement or hold a special election to fill the vacated at-large seat through 2028.

For those interested in running for a trustee seat, the official candidate filing period is, now open and continues through August 7. Filing documents are available from the Alameda County Registrar of Voters: Acvote.alamedacounty.ca.

gov/candidates/how-to-run.

Prospective candidates can view the interactive trustee area map on the district webpage to determine their trustee area: livermoreschools.org/board-of-education/elections.

Additionally, the district provides a candidate information guide detailing board roles, meeting schedules, campaign reporting requirements, and other information.

“Serving on the Board of Education is an opportunity to make a meaningful difference in the lives of students and help shape the future of public education in Livermore,” Sarah DeGroat, LVJUSD communications specialist, stated in a press release. “While a background in education or politics is not required, board members should have a strong commitment to serving the community and supporting student success.”

For further information or questions, contact Lori Rice, executive assistant to the superintendent at: lrice@lvjUSD.org or 925-606-3281.

CERT Offers Emergency Preparedness Classes

TRI-VALLEY — The Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department’s Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) will offer free Personal Emergency Preparedness (PEP) classes for residents from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Aug. 8, and Saturday, Oct. 10.

The classes will be held at the fire department’s training facility on Busch Road in Pleasanton and will cover how to be prepared for earthquakes and other natural disasters, when and how to shut off utilities, the proper use of fire extinguishers and smoke detectors, and how to shelter-in-place.

To register, or for more information, contact PEP instructor Chuck Guaraglia at 925-800-5540 or email lpfd.pedinfor@gmail.com.

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Miguel Lopez left in the photo, next to his son, Julian Lopez, and his wife, Rosa Lopez.

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Miguel Lopez

remains in Mexico after having been illegally deported last June.

To donate to a GoFundMe account supporting the Lopez family, visit <https://www.gofundme.com/f/bring-miguel-back-to-his-loved-ones>



Ruff Stock, which bills itself as “Livermore’s Favorite Country Band,” will take the outdoor Shea Homes Stage at Bankhead Plaza for a free “Tuesday Tunes” performance at 6:45 p.m. on Aug. 4. The band got its start in 1993 when former rodeo cowboy Michael Giannecchini gave up bull riding and team roping for country music. The band, which blends outlaw classics with the latest country hits, still features Giannecchini on the rhythm guitar, with drummer Scott Walker and guitarists Bill Sheridan, Patrick Martinez and Steve Cooper. Tuesday Tunes is presented by the Livermore Cultural Arts Council. (Photo courtesy of Ruff Stock)

CITY COUNCIL
(Continued from front page)

Notable highlights of the plan include growth projections in areas of population, housing and jobs. By 2045, the population is projected to rise to 131,750 residents, an increase of about 43,820 residents. The plan also anticipates 16,610 new housing units for a total buildout of 49,640 units, and an increase of 6,110 new jobs to reach 63,330 total by 2045.

Marchand emphasized that while these numbers may seem drastic, they are not estimates, but rather projections that will help guide the city in planning for future housing cycles and ensuring that there is the infrastructure to support such growth.

One of the main policies directing city growth and restricting urban expansion is the Urban Growth Boundary, under the land use element. Although the plan doesn’t explicitly propose to break the UGB, it does designate a 1,100-acre area east of Greenville as a future study area.

This has sparked community concern that the plan may allow the city to break the UGB. “It is very important to the citizens of Livermore not to change our urban growth

boundary unless it is absolutely needed,” expressed Livermore resident, Jean King. “I also want to make sure that you (the council) don’t exchange a lot of the commercial and industrial properties for residential—so that we have a good balance of population and jobs for the next 20 years.” At the council meeting, a number of people expressed the same concerns as King, and others disagreed.

During the March-April window, when the Draft General Plan was open for public review, feedback centered primarily on concerns regarding the UGB, future commercial space and industrial growth.

The council noted even though any expansion past the voter-approved UGB legally requires a public vote.

Following this period, the City Council reviewed the Draft General Plan in May, approved revisions recommended by the Planning Commission, and directed city staff to proceed with the adoption of additional minor revisions, but did not include the particular concepts expressed by King and additional residents.

These revisions include amendments to the Land Use

Map and policy language to provide greater clarity and respond to the needs of property owners, according to the July 27 staff report.

In addition, the planning staff presented conforming amendments to the Livermore Zoning Map in July, with property designation updates focused on three underdeveloped/vacant areas: Vasco Row, Laughlin Road and Midtown.

Subsequent to the approval of the General Plan 2045, the city will adopt concurrent amendments to the Livermore Municipal Code and Development Code to make local zoning consistent with the new plan designations.

Existing scenic corridor policies will remain the same until new scenic resource standards are evaluated and adopted. Lastly, the Midtown Specific Plan Area framework will become active to manage targeted regional growth.

“What this statement gives is hope for the future,” said former Livermore Council Member Trish Munro. “It represents who we want to be, who we want to include, and what we want to look like 20 years down the road.”



Caring for Aging Parents

A free educational event focused on helping families navigate decisions involved in supporting aging loved ones.

Wednesday, August 19
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Terisa Saravanan is pictured with her father, Saravanan Jayavelu, who has homeschooled her since the start of the pandemic. Terisa recently became one of the youngest students in the country, at age 11, to score a 5 on the AP Calculus AB exam. (Photo courtesy of Saravanan Jayavelu)

Homeschooled Pleasanton Prodigy Aces AP Calculus

By Samaiah Johnson

PLEASANTON — From doing 90-degree trigonometry at 6 years old to recently receiving a 5 on her AP Calculus AB exam at 11, making her one of the youngest students in the nation to do so, Terisa Saravanan, alongside her father, Saravanan Jayavelu, has been cultivating her gifted mind through home education.

Jayavelu, the sole caregiver and current primary instructor for his daughter, Terisa, decided to homeschool his children at the onset of Covid-19. His eldest daughter, Alexandra, was given specialized autism-related education, as well as medical and direct behavioral support from Jayavelu until October of 2024, when she joined a group home.

Even so, Jayavelu remains involved in Alexandra's safety and progress as she enters adulthood, and is currently enjoying her company at home during these summer months. In the future, he hopes to have her back home permanently with a more equipped support system.

"It has its challenges, but they are my children, right?" Jayavelu said in response to whether he found managing the education of Terisa by himself a difficult task.

"It has always been a pleasure, actually," he said. "I am an engineer by profession and I used to love math when I was in college. So I was really excited when I got this wonderful opportunity to teach math to a student who is so good at grasping things. It's a second chance for learning."

Completing the AP Calculus AB exam with a 5, the highest score possible for the College Board test, was not a surprise to the family. Terisa said that she knew she could do it, although she described a sense of nervousness. The test itself consisted of a multiple-choice section, which was done electronically,

and a free-response section, which was done on paper.

The family stayed in Hampton the day before the exam, so they could have a quicker trip to Elite Prep in San Jose for the examination. Terisa recounted being surrounded by an older age group, but that did not stop her from doing her very best.

"It's a great starting point," Terisa said, describing her accomplishment. When scores were released, the family celebrated with ice cream and Jayavelu rewarded Terisa with a \$75 Roblox gift card.

On a typical day of instruction, Terisa spends about two to three hours on mathematics and one or two on other subjects. However, come exam time, she puts in six to eight hours daily of preparation, as she did for AP calculus.

"You don't need to go to school for like eight hours and then come back and do more homework; this way is easier," Terisa said.

Jayavelu added: "She is the master of her destiny. She can choose her study hours. That has actually given her more independence and freedom to distribute study hours according to her likes."

Jayavelu saw no point in Terisa learning higher-grade math without understanding it intuitively. Instead of jumping directly into difficult problems, Jayavelu started teaching Terisa baseline concepts such as the meaning and use of dx, derivatives and integrals.

Using the principles of Isaac Newton and Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz, as a guide, Jayavelu built Terisa's comprehensive understanding of the methodologies of calculus — an incredibly strong foundation to take into the continuation of her mathematical explorations.

Terisa has utilized this foundation as well as her organic aptitude for numbers to complete Honors Algebra II and Honors Geometry, and is in the final stages of Honors Precalculus. She plans to take

multivariable calculus in the coming academic year, and Jayavelu hopes a university or community college will allow Terisa admission based on her undeniable potential.

In the future, Terisa hopes to be a quantum physicist — a career aspiration inspired by her love for the TV show "Young Sheldon" and the film "A Brilliant Young Mind." While mathematics is her primary passion, she also enjoys freehand sketching

and most recently drew a map of the Persian Empire.

In her sixth-grade personal narrative titled "My Journey with Math," Terisa wrote:

"This journey taught me that I can accomplish difficult goals when I remain curious, work hard and receive support from the people who care about me. My dad encouraged my love of math while allowing me to learn at a pace that was comfortable for me."

Dublin Author to Release Second Poetry Collection

DUBLIN — Local author Monique Rardin Richardson will release a new collection of poetry, "The Evolution of My Smile," early next month.

Richardson is the author of "When Then Became Now," a memoir about her friendship with a high

school friend whose life was cut short by homelessness and addiction.

She released her first collection of poetry, "Pieces of Me," in 2024.

"The Evolution of My Smile" will be published by Kelsay Books.

GALLERY

(Continued from front page)

That's why she appreciates that First Street Wine Co. not only allows the figurative artwork, but is encouraging it.

"It's art, it's not perverse," said Clive Harris, owner of First Street Wine Co. He said he's loved having the artwork and finds it "promotes conversation" between wine patrons. The exhibit will feature several of Ryan's abstract figurative paintings, something she is returning to after years of working with another medium. It is also something she is well-known for within the community, having exhibited widely at other venues in the area for the past two decades. She began exploring abstract figurative artwork "as a way to bring viewers an experience of the power of connection to humanity" 25 years ago, after the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. That work evolved into a series of large abstract

dancers, shown throughout the Tri-Valley, including an exhibit titled "Join the Dance" at the Danville Art Gallery in 2003.

"I see the figure as a celebration of form and our humanity ... a metaphor for truth and exposure," Ryan told The Independent in 2002, when debuting her abstract figurative paintings at a winery in Livermore.

There will be a reception Sunday, Aug. 2, from 4 — 6 p.m. to celebrate the artwork and the new venue at First Street Wine Co. Ryan's show will run through Aug. 18. The next artist to be exhibited will be Barbara Stanton.

"She'll be showing figurative artwork, too. Her work is very beautiful, very soft; it's a good fit," Ryan said. Stanton's work will be shown through mid-November.

For details on the reception visit AVA's website: allianceforthevisualarts.org.

TRI-VALLEY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Saturday, August 1

FREE DAY OF OUTREACH

Families are invited to a free day of fun, food & community! Enjoy backpack and school supply giveaways, fresh haircuts and braiding, a delicious BBQ lunch, kids' activities, raffles, resource tables, and more! On Aug. 1, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at The Well Community Outreach Center, 2333 Nissen Drive, Livermore. For more information, call 925-479-1414.

Saturday, August 1

DRESS A GIRL AROUND THE WORLD

Make simple dresses for girls in Third World countries! The next monthly Sew-Fest is on Aug. 1, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 1020 Mocho St., Livermore. Bring your sewing machine or serger, iron, ironing board, scissors, along with your helping hands. Come for an hour or all day! (Please bring a bag lunch if you plan to stay all day.) Cheerful cotton fabric donations are always welcome. Contact Suzanne Beck, 925-352-8447, or suzbeck@yahoo.com for questions or kits that you can sew from home.

Saturday, August 1

THE CASH BOX KINGS TO PERFORM LIVE IN LIVERMORE

The award-winning blues band The Cash Box Kings will perform live at the Almost Famous Wine Company in Livermore at 2271 S. Vasco Rd., on Aug. 1 at 7:30 p.m. Ticket price: \$33.85-\$49.87. The group, co-led by Chicago blues vocalist and songwriter Oscar "Mr. 43rd Street" Wilson, and harmonica giant, songwriter, and singer Joe Nosek, plays masterfully raw, unvarnished, old-school ensemble blues. More info at www.almostfamous.wine.

Wednesday, August 5

DROP-IN GENEALOGY ASSISTANCE

Begin your family history search with assistance by members of the Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society on Aug. 5, 10:30 a.m. — 12:30 p.m., at the Livermore Public Library, Civic Center Branch. 1188 S Livermore Ave, Room 135.

Saturday, August 8

QUEST SPARKS! WIND WORKSHOP

Join Quest Science Center for SPARKS!, a free monthly family science activity. This month, design and build a parachute device, then test it in a wind tunnel. Explore aerodynamics, engineering, and design through hands-on experimentation. Ages 5 and up. Free. Drop in anytime. On August 8, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 at Stockmen's Park, downtown Livermore. Learn more at quest-science.org.

Sunday, August 16

DUARTE GARAGE OPEN HOUSE

Come to the free Duarte Garage open house, on Aug. 16 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., located at North L and Pine on former Lincoln Highway 50 (Portola Ave). With vintage fire trucks, a machine shop, and interactive displays. Car of the month: TBA. Free parking on Pine. South half wheelchair accessible; tiny restrooms (not ADA).

Saturday, August 22

THE WIZARD OF OZ

Valley Concert Chorale and Vine Cinema & Alehouse partner to present the 87th Anniversary Screening of The Wizard of Oz. Experience the iconic music, adventure, and magic of Oz in a theater setting. Closed captions will be displayed throughout the film so patrons can easily sing along. Attendees will also enjoy complimentary coffee and donuts. Moviegoers of all ages are encouraged to come dressed in their favorite Oz-inspired attire for an interactive costume contest. On Aug. 22, at Vine Cinema & Alehouse in Livermore. Doors Open at 9:30 a.m., movie starts at 10:00 a.m. General admission: \$15, children (18 and younger): \$5. Tickets available at valleyconcertchorale.org.

Thursday, August 27

AMADOR VALLEY LIONS CLUB'S TRIVIA EVENT

The Amador Valley Lions Club is hosting a fundraising trivia event from 6-9 p.m. at the Dante Robere Winery in Livermore. Teams will comprise of no more than six adults. The event will feature a buffet, trivia contest, silent auction, and raffle. The cost is \$150 per couple (\$75 per single) which includes a buffet dinner from Melo's Pizza and one bottle of Dante Robere Wine per couple (two glasses of wine for singles). Proceeds will benefit local non-profit charities serving the Tri-Valley area. For reservations and information, call 925-968-4800.

Saturday, August 29

ART TALKS AT CHOCOLATE FISH

Livermore Art Association will be hosting Art Talks at Chocolate Fish Coffee Roasters in Livermore from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m. Join fellow artists for a fun and casual creative meetup! Share your artwork, exchange ideas, discover new materials, and connect with others who love making art, whether you're a beginner or a seasoned artist. See livermoreartassociation.org for more information.

Sunday, August 30

OPEN HOUSE AT HAGEMANN RANCH

This is your opportunity to wander the historic Hagemann Ranch at your own pace, visit the gardens, and spend time with the animals. Docents will be on hand to answer questions and give tours. On Aug. 30 from 1 to 5 p.m. at 455 Olivina Ave. in Livermore.

ONGOING OPPORTUNITIES

FOOD RELIEF SERVICES

Local residents can access vital food-assistance services to help meet basic needs. Food relief services can be found at: St. Vincent De Paul Food locker, 458 Maple St., Livermore (behind St. Michaels Church); Mon/ Tues: 7-8 p.m., Wed/Thu: 4-5 p.m.

Children's Emergency Food Bank; 7421 Amarillo Rd., Dublin; appointments M-F, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; 925-828-5363; St. Raymond Catholic Church, 11555 Shannon Ave., Dublin; third Sat. of the month, 8 to 11 a.m.; Open Heart Kitchen; M-F, noon to 5 p.m.; 450 N. Livermore Ave., Livermore; Tri-Valley Haven Food Pantry, 150 N. "L" Street, Livermore; 925-449-1664 — M-Th, 1 to 5 p.m.; Fri/Sat 12 to 4 p.m.; Alameda County Community Food Bank; 510-635-3663; M-F, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

ONGOING EVENTS

UNDERSTANDING ISLAM

On the third Saturday of every month from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. there will be a free class for those who would like to educate themselves about the world's fastest growing religion, Islam, and the followers of this faith, Muslims. Offered at Islamic Center of Livermore.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

In AA, we don't tell anyone to do anything. We talk about our own drinking, the trouble we got into, and how we stopped. To find a local meeting in person or online, visit valleyservicecenteraa.org or call the 24-hour hotline at 925-829-0666.

SATURDAY PLEASANTON FARMERS MARKET

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

SUNDAY LIVERMORE DOWNTOWN FARMERS MARKET

Open year-round on Sundays 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in downtown Livermore, on Second St. between J St. and L St.

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Coordinated Action Averts Disaster in ‘Little Fire’

PLEASANTON — The city issued evacuation orders for nearly 2,000 homes last week as the Little Fire threatened Ruby Hill and other neighborhoods, but residents were allowed to return home Wednesday evening.

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire) said the fire, which started Tuesday, July 21, and burned through more than a

thousand acres in Alameda County, was 85% contained by Friday.

However, at one point on Tuesday, the wildfire, which broke out in the Sunol area south of Pleasanton, threatened to close in on populated areas of the city, prompting mandatory evacuations.

Pleasanton also activated its Emergency Operations Center and opened the Pleasanton Senior Center

for evacuees.

Mayor Jack Balch later thanked firefighters and emergency personnel for their quick response.

“On behalf of the Pleasanton community and our city council, I want to express our deep gratitude for the extraordinary service of first responders, emergency personnel, the city team, mutual-aid partners and volunteers during the Little Fire,” Balch said.

“Their preparation, professionalism, courage, empathy and compassion were evident throughout the emergency and demonstrated what it truly means to be a Community of Character.”

The city and the Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department (LPFD) also thanked residents for responding promptly to emergency notifications, following evacuation orders and

cooperating with public safety personnel, allowing first responders to concentrate on protecting lives and property.

“This was the largest and most dynamic wildfire incident the (LPFD) has encountered to date,” said Fire Chief Aaron Lacey. “The communication and previous training across our organizations were key factors in successfully managing the incident.”

Lacey added that the Little Fire was a reminder that emergencies can develop quickly, and that preparing in advance can make a meaningful difference.

Residents were encouraged to register for AC Alert, the county’s free emergency notification system, and to access the Genasys Project system to check the status of evacuation zone and view current warnings and orders.

FUSION (Continued from front page)

Invented in 1924 by Erwin Otto Marx, a Marx generator magnifies electrical voltage by rearranging energy-storage components between when they are charged and when they are discharged. The setup is akin to charging batteries individually before stacking them together to form a single, high-voltage battery.

Around 2010, then-Sandia researchers Keith LeChien and Bill Stygar began discussing a concept to extend the Marx generator idea. Energy takes time to travel along a transmission line, and by synchronizing each component’s energy release with the line’s traveling energy wave, an IMG allows for an efficiency and speed unattainable by a conventional Marx generator.

“One way to think about a conventional Marx versus an IMG is we can think of a lightbulb and a laser,” Stygar said. “So, a light bulb generates light, and so does a laser. But a laser generates light in a coherent wave (compared to a mix of phases and wavelengths from a lightbulb). And in fact, an IMG

is a pulse-power analog of a laser.”

The speed enabled by an IMG is theoretically fast enough to trigger fusion.

Nuclear fusion forces two atoms together to form a single, heavier one. The process releases a large amount of energy with no long-lived radioactive waste. If the industry succeeds in harnessing the reactions, it will open a new, stable power source free of fossil-fuel dependencies and carbon emissions.

Stygar and LeChien shared their IMG invention in a 2016 paper and in 2020 began prototype work under a laboratory-directed research and development project at LLNL.

In 2023, LeChien co-founded Fremont-based Pacific Fusion with Eric Lander, Will Regan, Carrie von Muench and Leland Ellison. The company, which has facilities in Fremont, San Leandro and Livermore, hopes to apply the IMG concept to commercial fusion power. Their design would use the electrical current pulses of an IMG to generate magnetic fields that compress and heat

fusion fuel.

“If you can take something that you store in a capacitor, and you discharge it very quickly, and it’s super efficient, your machines can get smaller,” LeChien said. “They can cost less to get more and more fusion output. And it’s this topology that’s enabled this type of fusion to be buildable at a scale that can actually work for fusion energy.”

In September 2025, Pacific Fusion announced plans to build a demonstration facility in Albuquerque, New Mexico after also considering the cities of Alameda and Livermore. With groundbreaking planned for Aug. 25, the facility would house an IMG roughly 40 times the size of Sirius and ignite fusion reactions.

If successful, the project would rank as the world’s first to achieve net-facility gain, in which a fusion reaction produces more energy than that used by the facility to start it.

With data gleaned from the Sirius tests, Pacific Fusion completed and validated its own IMG prototype roughly 11 times the size of Sirius.

While Sirius delivered 60 gigawatts over a 100-nanosecond pulse, the Pacific Fusion prototype delivered 440 gigawatts over an 80-nanosecond pulse.

“One of the questions when we started this whole effort was, ‘Will we be able to build a system that adds those

electromagnetic waves as the system gets longer and longer?’” LeChien said, adding that the prototype proved that they could, enabling the company to scale-up to its full-size demonstration system in Albuquerque. IMG work has also continued at LLNL under Raman, who took lead of the

project in 2024 with support from a cooperative research and development agreement between LLNL and Pacific Fusion. The LLNL team has taken a few more shots past shot 3,000, but will soon stop Sirius operations to investigate new issues related to IMG scaling.

ELECTION (Continued from front page)

City, Castro Valley, Dublin, Pleasanton, Livermore, and the surrounding communities. I take my existing responsibilities seriously as I remain in (State) Senate leadership,” Wahab said.

Hernandez said her strategy is simple: show up.

“I have lived in this district for more than 30 years. This campaign is built the same way I have always worked here, neighbor to neighbor. Our volunteers are knocking on thousands of doors every week across our district,” Hernandez said.

Hernandez is also reaching voters through mail, television and digital advertising.

“(My) new ad ‘Lived’ tells my story as the daughter of migrant farmworkers who raised her kids here as a single mom, became the first Latina Mayor of Dublin, and now serves as BART Board President. I am also meeting directly with community groups across the district,” Hernandez said.

Wahab said she is pleased to have advanced in both the Aug. 18 and Nov. 3 elections. She is glad that voters have “a meaningful choice between two Democratic candidates.”

“There are important differences in experience, priorities and approach. Sharing a party designation does not mean the candidates are interchangeable. Voters still have a meaningful decision about experience, priorities, independence, governing style and which candidate is prepared to confront Washington’s dysfunction,” Wahab said.

Wahab said she respects Hernandez and intends to keep the campaign focused on their records and plans for the district.

“Unlike my opponent, I have been consistent on issues, open to all stakeholders and have passed meaningful bipartisan legislation and have been recognized as one of the most effective legislators in the (California State) Senate,” Wahab noted.

Hernandez said voters who supported other candidates in the primary and the leaders who backed them have consolidated behind her campaign, starting with former 14th Congressional District candidate Rakhi Israni.

“The choice in front of voters is between someone who has spent 30 years delivering for our community, running a city and running BART, and a Sacramento politician. I believe more Sacramento politics is not how we change Washington. As voters focus on that choice, this race has become very competitive,” Hernandez stated.

Hernandez said she is grateful to the voters who advanced her to the Aug. 18 runoff. She pushed back on the idea that two Democrats mean the choice doesn’t matter.

“Voters get to decide what kind of representative they want: a neighbor with a record of delivering on housing, health care, job creation, and public safety, or an ideological Sacramento politician. That is a meaningful choice, and I trust the voters of this district to make it,” Hernandez said.

Wahab said that her fundraising support comes from individual donors and organizations representing nurses, teachers, healthcare workers, labor, and working families. She said her significant endorsements include the California Democratic Party, National Nurses United, Service Employees International Union (SEIU), the California Labor Federation, the Sierra Club, Equality California, the Congressional Progressive Caucus Political Action Committee (PAC), and former State Senator Bob Wieckowski.

Hernandez said she is supported by grassroots donors across the East Bay. Many of whom are giving for the first time, especially small business owners and working families.

“I’m also proud to have

cluding some of our local ones in and around the Bay, Rep. Sam Liccardo, Rep. Adam Gray, and Rep. Zoe Lofgren, plus State Treasurer Fiona Ma,” Hernandez said.

Wahab explained that her message for readers is that the Aug. 18 election is about whether residents have a representative who understands the pressures they face and is willing to challenge the institutions contributing to those pressures.

“My public-service record includes work to limit insulin costs, increase renter tax relief, protect homeowners from excessive association fines, defend healthcare and education funding and demand greater government accountability. I have represented much of this region in local government and in the State Senate. I know the communities, the local governments and the organizations that serve residents. I would be ready to begin the work immediately. The district currently needs representation. The special election determines who can begin doing that work now,” Wahab said.



Aisha Wahab



Melissa Hernandez

the support of national organizations that vet candidates carefully: the Congressional Hispanic Caucus BOLD PAC, Elect Democratic Women, the New Democrat Coalition Action Fund, Latinas Lead California, and Teamsters Joint Council 7,” Hernandez said.

Hernandez added that since the recent primary, she has been endorsed by local firefighters, including Alameda County Firefighters International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) Local 55, Fremont Firefighters IAFF Local 1689, and Livermore-Pleasanton Firefighters IAFF Local 1974. She has also been endorsed by local police officers and deputies, including the Livermore Police Officers Association, the Fremont Police Officers Association, the Hayward Police Association, the Alameda County Deputy Sheriffs Association, and the National Latino Peace Officers Association.

“(In addition, I have been) endorsed by every mayor and every county supervisor who represents (the 14th Congressional District)...(and) by several members of Congress, in-

Hernandez said she wants readers to know why she is running.

“I am the daughter of migrant farmworkers, one of seven children, raised on the belief that hard work builds a better life. I raised my own kids here as a single mom while putting myself through Cal State East Bay. Too many families in this district are being squeezed by the cost of housing, health care, childcare, and everyday essentials. I have spent my career doing something about it: expanding housing at every income level as (the former) mayor (of Dublin), providing a first-time homebuyer program, fighting for reliable, safe BART service, and increasing healthcare access. That’s why firefighters and police officers overwhelmingly back me in this race. Local change is how we fix Washington. That is exactly what I will bring to D.C. when I’m elected,” Hernandez said.

For more information on Aisha Wahab’s campaign, visit: aishawahab.com.

For more information on Melissa Hernandez’s campaign, visit: melissahernandez2026.com.

OBITUARIES

Donna Jean Neuenschwander July 18, 1932 — July 3, 2026

Donna Jean Neuenschwander, a longtime and dearly loved resident of Livermore, passed away peacefully at home on July 3, 2026, with her daughter by her side. She was 93 years old, just 15 days shy of her 94th birthday.

Born Donna Jean McDaniel on July 18, 1932, in Nebraska, Donna moved with her family to Napa as a young girl. Shortly after World War II, she met Charles “Chuck” Neuenschwander at a local roller-skating rink. They married and began a loving partnership that lasted more than 65 years. In 1953, they made Livermore their home, where they raised their family and became a beloved part of the community.

Family was the center of Donna’s life. She devoted her early years to supporting her husband, caring for her daughters, and creating a warm and welcoming home. Later, she built a career with the City of Livermore, serving as Department Secretary for the Fire Department under Chief Jack Baird. She also generously gave her time to the First Presbyterian Church of Livermore and organizations including the Las Positas Women’s Golf Club.

Donna and Chuck embraced



life with enthusiasm. They enjoyed traveling, boating, water skiing, snow skiing, tennis, golf, dirt bike riding, and countless games of cards, including lively participation in the neighborhood Bunco group. Their early vacations included camping and water skiing at Lake Shasta, while later years brought cherished month-long stays in Hawaii. Donna often said those simple days at Lake Shasta were among the happiest of her life. Chuck loved building and fixing things; Donna made every house a welcoming home. Together, they were truly two peas in a pod.

Donna will be remembered most for her warmth, grace, and generous spirit. She loved a house filled with family and

friends, and welcomed everyone to her table, where her homemade cherry pie became a treasured tradition. She carried herself with elegance, kindness, and quiet dignity throughout her life.

Donna was preceded in death by her parents, Cecil and Hazel McDaniel; her husband, Chuck; her daughter, Sheran Lee; her son-in-law, Rusty Millar; and her siblings, Lova, Joe, and Royce. She is lovingly remembered by her daughter, Debra Neuenschwander Millar; grandchildren Benjamin Dumanowski and Laura Millar; and great-grandson Aiden Millar, who will carry forward her legacy of love, kindness, and hospitality.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, Aug. 1, 2026, at 11:30 a.m. at First Presbyterian Church of Livermore, with a reception immediately following. For those who cannot attend, live streaming of the service can be accessed via fpcl.online.church. In lieu of flowers, Donna requested donations to the Legacy Fund at First Presbyterian Church of Livermore. Please visit the Neptune Society obituary page to share a memory in her honor.

Harry Albert Levin March 22, 1939 — April 7, 2026



Dr. Harry A. Levin, age 87, of Livermore, California, passed away peacefully on April 7, 2026, surrounded by the love of his family.

He was born on March 22, 1939, to Sue and Abe Levin and grew up in Chicago. Harry attended The University of Chicago, and completed his postgraduate work at Northwestern University, where he earned his PhD.

Upon graduation, he was captivated by the beauty of California, and settled with his young family in Livermore. He spent his entire career as a nuclear scientist at General Electric, where he authored several patents. Harry also dedicated his time to volunteering at numerous charitable organizations throughout his life.

He was a true Renaissance man with a passion for photography, painting, bocce ball, fine woodworking, and fishing of all kinds. He was an avid griller, and in his spare time, he obtained the highest-level licensure for HAM radio operation, volunteering as an emergency

services radio operator. Most of all, he loved spending time with family and friends. Admired for his intellect and sharp wit, Harry loved nothing more than a good laugh.

He is survived by his beloved bride of 65 years, Judy Levin; his daughters, Amy Levin and Roberta Gabriel (Aaron); his grandsons, Joshua and Jacob Gabriel; his brother, Sydney Levin (Carol); and his niece and nephews.

A private burial was held shortly after his passing. If so inclined, donations in his honor may be made to the American Diabetes Association. Harry will be deeply missed as our proud patriarch and will forever be remembered by all who had the privilege of knowing him.

Dragonfly Yoga Presents Evening Flow at Retzlaff

By Samaiah Johnson

LIVERMORE — Tucked in a grassy cove of tall swaying trees between rows of grape-laden trellises, a few dozen yoga mats were spread out across the lawn at Retzlaff Vineyard on Thursday, July 23.

Led by Kim St. Clair and facilitated by Dragonfly Yoga and Wellness, the Yoga in the Vineyard gathering began with a calming savasana.

Yogis were first instructed to lie flat on their backs and take in the warm breeze, as well as guest musician Meredith McHenry’s performance. McHenry shared a combination of covers backed by either a piano or guitar sequence, notably beginning with “Harvest Moon” by Neil Young. Movement was far from limited, and some took up bent legs or supta baddha konasana, lying flat with knees raised

and apart, feet touching.

Guided by McHenry’s gentle voice, St. Clair took the group through an all-levels vinyasa flow. Vinyasa is a style of yoga that features a sequence of postures linked by breath, which can take practitioners from mountain pose to uttanasana (forward fold), to ardha uttanasana (half-standing forward bend), and back again through the series.

“Doing a yoga class in the grass under the pepper trees with the sun going down and soft music playing is a marvelous feeling. I think yoga is great for the mind and body. It was peaceful, and overall a lovely evening,” said Jean Shuler, a member of the Retzlaff Wine Club, who has lived in Livermore for almost 69 years.

St. Clair, an instructor at Dragonfly Yoga and Wellness for the past 18 months, as well as the lead

instructor for the event, completed her 200-hour teacher training in 2024 and has been teaching yoga ever since.

“I always have a general plan in mind before class; maybe it’s a specific pose that I want to build up to or specific areas I want to concentrate on. Sometimes I make changes based on who has come to class and what they may be needing,” St. Clair shared.

Anticipating a wide variety of experience levels, she offered several posture options, allowing yogis to move into positions based on what would work best for their bodies.

“When I practice yoga, it feels good to move, strengthen, and stretch my body,” Lia Venet, loyal Dragonfly practitioner said. “Yoga helped me heal my sciatica pain many years ago. It has also helped me in hiking and climbing rocks, because



Musician Meredith McHenry performs during a sunset vinyasa flow at Retzlaff Vineyards for Dragonfly Yoga and Wellness’s recent Yoga in the Vineyard event. (Photo shot on film by Samaiah Johnson)

I’m more flexible.”

Yoga practice, an ancient Indian discipline most associated with Hinduism and Buddhism, aims to align the physical self with the spiritual, a way to achieve moksha (liberation) and enlightenment. In an era of the Western modernization of yoga,

Suzanna Spring, a long-time instructor and owner of Dragonfly Yoga and Wellness, works to keep the history and philosophy of yoga at the forefront.

“The physical practice of yoga — the sequence of yoga postures — continues to evolve. What hasn’t changed are the deeper layers of the yoga practice, and the perennial philosophy: that we are all connected at heart and mind, and that this experience is there for everyone to discover with time and practice. And once we make that discovery, it changes who we are and how we are in our communities and out in the world,” Spring said.

“Yoga is India’s great gift to the world. Our students and teachers learn ‘The Yoga Sutra,’ ‘Bhagavad Gita,’ and ‘The Upanishads’: books that define the philosophy that we are all part of a greater consciousness,” Spring said, and added, “I’m very grateful to partner with Retzlaff Vineyards. Many people who attend Yoga in the Vineyard are completely new to yoga, and they discover Dragonfly Yoga & Wellness and the yoga practice through this event, and they are inspired to learn more.”

Serenaded by McHen-

ry’s cover of “Across the Universe” originally by The Beatles as performed by Fiona Apple, the group of yogis held prayer hands and shared Santosha, the Sanskrit word for peace and satisfaction. At the flow’s conclusion, guests headed towards the far end of the lawn for wine and charcuterie.

Retzlaff’s wine selection included a 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon with hints of dark cherry, berry, and spice; Isabelle’s Blush, a dry rosé made with merlot grapes; and a sparkling Chardonnay from Three Sisters Vineyard. These were paired with an assorted charcuterie of cheeses, fruits, bread, crackers and vegetables.

As the sun slowly set, casting orange and pink across cheery faces and trickling down wine glasses, a buzzing crowd of seasoned and novice yoga practitioners chatted with old friends or struck up conversations with new acquaintances.

Yoga in the Vineyard costs \$37.50, or 10% off for monthly and yearly Dragonfly Yoga and Wellness subscribers.

For future events or class information, visit dragonflyyogawellness.com or follow Instagram @dragonflyyogalivermore.



Guided by gentle acoustic music, practitioners move through postures under the pepper trees during the evening flow. (Photo shot on film by Samaiah Johnson)

Spectrum Continues Meals on Wheels Via Partnership with Open Heart Kitchen

TRI-VALLEY — The nonprofit Spectrum Community Services has partnered with Open Heart Kitchen (OHK) to continue its Meals on Wheels program for homebound senior citizens, following a 30-year collaboration with Stanford Health Care Tri-Valley.

Spectrum’s Meals on Wheels program provides free meals Monday through Friday to hundreds of older adults in Livermore, Pleasanton and Dublin. The nonprofit OHK provides free community meals five days a week at the Vineyard Resource Center in

Livermore and lunches for seniors at the Livermore Community Center, Pleasanton Senior Center and Dublin Senior Center.

The meals will be prepared by OHK in the commercial-grade kitchen at the Vineyard Resource Center, which is managed by the Housing Consortium of the East Bay and also provides overnight shelter for the homeless, shower facilities, mail room, laundry room, community room and areas where social service agencies can meet with their clients.

“As we begin this next chapter with Open Heart

Kitchen, our priority remains unchanged: ensuring that seniors continue to receive hot meals produced locally in the Tri-Valley by dedicated local neighbors five days a week,” said Lara Calvert, Spectrum Community Services executive director. “The knock on the door is more than a meal, it’s a smile, a wellness check and care for our seniors who want to remain healthy and independent at home.”

Spectrum said the transition to OHK was necessitated by the cessation of meal preparation at the aging Stanford Health

Care Tri-Valley facility in Livermore, which was closed recently because of seismic safety concerns.

The transition allowed the Meals on Wheels program to continue without interruption, according to Spectrum.

Spectrum is also relocating its Livermore office to the Common Point Nonprofit Center, less than a mile from the Vineyard Resource Center.

Operated by the Tri-Valley Nonprofit Alliance, Common Point is home to a dozen other nonprofit organizations.

Wheels Updates All Routes For New School Year

LIVERMORE — The Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority (LAVTA) will implement systemwide changes for all Wheels bus routes beginning Saturday, Aug. 8, coinciding with the start of a new school year.

LAVTA said the changes are part of an effort to improve on-time performance and transfers and include revised school tripper schedules in Dublin and Pleasanton.

The new schedules will ensure that Wheels routes mesh with a new BART blue line schedule and reduce transfer wait times at the Dublin/Pleasanton BART station, according to LAVTA.

Changes have also been made to accommodate updated school boundaries in Pleasanton, including the Del Prado neighborhood, and to expand service as more students attend Dublin’s Emerald High School.

Other changes include Rapid Route 10R service to the Pleasanton Civic Center, Route 580X service to North Canyons, consolidation of Route 609 and Route 607, and new Dublin Unified School District Route 202 service to Francis Ranch.

Complete timetables and a summary of changes are available online at wheelsbus.com.

Shelter Dogs to Get Grooming

DUBLIN — Boops N’ Bubbles, a San Ramon mobile dog grooming service, will be at the East County Animal Shelter in Dublin on Monday, Aug. 17, giving dogs baths, blowout styling and pampering “finishes touches” to help them make good first impressions with their

new families, according to owner Tammy Slettehaugh.

Slettehaugh said mobile grooming vans would be parked outside the shelter, 4595 Gleason Dr., which is operated by the Alameda County Sheriff’s Department.

“Everyone on my team is looking forward to meet-

ing and pampering the pups at the shelter,” Slettehaugh said. “We hope every dog leaves feeling happy, looking adorable and smelling amazing. If a fresh groom helps a tail wag a little more and helps a family fall in love, then we’ve done our job.”

SBC Reports Summer Blood Supplies Are Critically Low

TRI-VALLEY — With summer vacations and seasonal colds, blood donations have dropped, and supplies of O+ blood have fallen to critically low levels in the Bay Area, according to the Stanford Blood Center (SBC).

Type O blood is consid-

ered the universal blood type for surgery and hospital emergencies.

SBC, which has a donation site in Dublin, is urging potential donors to schedule an appointment online at stanford-bloodcenter.org, by calling 888-723-7831 or texting

999-777.

Walk-ins are also welcome at the Dublin Tri-Valley Center, 3738 Fallon Rd.

Those who donate blood during July will receive a “Grateful for Life” T-shirt.

The independent SBC provides blood to multiple hospitals in the Bay Area.

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LEGAL NOTICES

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 624194

The following person(s) doing business as: Akha Roots, 5501 Claremont Ave, Apt C, Oakland, CA 94618 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Nicha Goldman, 5501 Claremont Ave, Apt C, Oakland, CA 94618. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 6/22/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Nicha Goldman, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 22, 2026. Expires June 21, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6923. Published July 9, 16, 23, 30, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 623851

The following person(s) doing business as: Arete Arts Group LLC, 11921 W Vomac Road, Dublin, CA 94568 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Arete Arts Group LLC, 11921 W Vomac Road, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 6/4/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Timothy R. Salaver, Principal. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 5, 2026. Expires June 4, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6924. Published July 9, 16, 23, 30, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 624347

The following person(s) doing business as: Clarity Wellness, 473 Oriole Avenue, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Susan Green, 473 Oriole Avenue, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 2/5/2015. Signature of Registrant/s/: Susan Green, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 29, 2026. Expires June 28, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6925. Published July 9, 16, 23, 30, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 624370

The following person(s) doing business as: Hacienda Lavandula, 4570 Mines Road, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Micaela Garofalo, 4570 Mines Road, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Micaela Garofalo, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 29, 2026. Expires June 28, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6926. Published July 9, 16, 23, 30, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 624442

The following person(s) doing business as: Two Palms Hand Car Wash, 2645 Old First ST, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): JF Livermore Car Wash Inc., 4361 Technology DR, Unit H, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 6/30/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Harjinder Singh, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 1, 2026. Expires June 30, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6927. Published July 9, 16, 23, 30, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 624388

The following person(s) doing business as: Compuchild, 3736 Fallon Road, Suite 125, Dublin, CA 94568 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Nextgen Learning, LLC, 4061 E Castro Valley Blvd, Suite 465, Castro Valley, CA 94552. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Samareen Rafai, Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 29, 2026. Expires June 28, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6928. Published July 9, 16, 23, 30, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 624090

The following person(s) doing business as: Barker Maintenance & Consulting, 4086 Loch Lomand Way, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Christopher Ryan Barker, 4086 Loch Lomand Way, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 6/15/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Christopher Ryan Barker. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 15, 2026. Expires July 14, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6930. Published July 16, 23, 30, August 6, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 624056

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Alta Solutions; 2. Hemy Buddies, 6111 Fieldstore DR, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Altamont Solutions LLC, 6111 Fieldstone DR, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 12/2024. Signature of Registrant/s/: Brandon K. Bice, Managing Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 15, 2026. Expires July 14, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6931. Published July 16, 23, 30, August 6, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 624297

The following person(s) doing business as: Comfort Keepers #1199, 39652 Mission BLVD, Fremont, CA 94539 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): I3 Elementa LLC, 2369 Cantalisse Drive, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Satpal S. Dhilon, Managing Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 26, 2026. Expires June 25, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6932. Published July 16, 23, 30, August 6, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 624340

The following person(s) doing business as: iTrustNotary, 43301 Mission Boulevard, Fremont, CA 94539 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): iTrustNotary LLC, 43301 Mission Boulevard, Fremont, CA 94539. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 6/1/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Kern Singh, Manager. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 29, 2026. Expires June 28, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6933. Published July 16, 23, 30, August 6, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 624580

The following person(s) doing business as: Duke's Plumbing, 365 Lille Ave, San Leandro, CA 94577 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Rory McHale Jr., 365 Lille Ave, San Leandro, CA 94577. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Rory McHale Jr., Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 8, 2026. Expires July 7, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6934. Published July 16, 23, 30, August 6, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 624603

The following person(s) doing business as: Shadeloom Spaces, 7050 N Mariposa LN, Dublin, CA 94568 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Jaya Prakash Tondapu, 7050 N. Mariposa LN, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Jaya Prakash Tondapu, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 9, 2026. Expires July 8, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6935. Published July 16, 23, 30, August 6, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 624140

The following person(s) doing business as: Mcd of Livermore, 563 Leisure Street, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Timothy Morgan, 563 Leisure Street, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the

fictitious business name listed above on 4/7/1997. Signature of Registrant/s/: Timothy Morgan, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 16, 2026. Expires June 15, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6936. Published July 16, 23, 30, August 6, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 624391

The following person(s) doing business as: Pacific Hernia Institute, a Division of BASS Medical Group, 5901 Christine Ave, Suite 401, Emeryville, CA 94608 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): BASS Medical Group, 2637 Shadelands DR, Walnut Creek, CA 94598. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 6/1/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Rajiv Nagesetty, CFO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 30, 2026. Expires June 29, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6937. Published July 16, 23, 30, August 6, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 624763

The following person(s) doing business as: The Healing Porch Collective, 3500 Bernal Ave, STE 145, Pleasanton, CA 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Shocka Heights, 3500 Bernal Ave, STE 145, Pleasanton, CA 94566. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Shocka Heights, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 17, 2026. Expires July 16, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6938. Published July 23, 30, August 6, 13, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 624263

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Social Impact Advisor Network; 2. SIAN, 3525 Jorand Road, Oakland, CA 94619 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Fairlight Advisors LLC, 505 Montgomery Street, 10th Floor, San Francisco, CA 94111. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Shocka Heights, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 25, 2026. Expires June 24, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6939. Published July 23, 30, August 6, 13, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 624374

The following person(s) doing business as: Jango Works, 7685 Foothill RD, Pleasanton, CA 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Timothy Voss, 7685 Foothill RD, Pleasanton, CA 94566. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Timothy Voss, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 29, 2026. Expires June 28, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6940. Published July 23, 30, August 6, 13, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 624683

The following person(s) doing business as: Agape Enterprises, 7223 Avon CT, Dublin, CA 94568-2101 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Don Stoneham, 7223 Avon CT, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 1/1/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Don Stoneham, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 13, 2026. Expires July 12, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6941. Published July 23, 30, August 6, 13, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 624327

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Community Ownership for Community Power Fund; 2. COCP Fund; 3. COCP, 1624 Franklin ST, 11th FL, Oakland, CA 94612 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Community Ownership for Community Power Fund LLC, 1624 Franklin ST, 11th FL, Oakland, CA 94612. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 7/22/25. Signature of Registrant/s/: Emily Duma, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 29, 2026. Expires June 28, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6942. Published July 23, 30, August 6, 13, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 624602

The following person(s) doing business as: Fernando's Grill & Cantina, 2124 Railroad Ave, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Fernando Catering LLC, 5013 Scenic Avenue, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Fernando Corana Cruz, Managing Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 9, 2026. Expires July 8, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6943. Published July 23, 30, August 6, 13, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 624745

The following person(s) doing business as: Wonderflow, 481 McLeod Street, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Krisin Chapman, PB Box 214, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Kristin Chapman, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 16, 2026. Expires July 15, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6944. Published July 23, 30, August 6, 13, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 624758

The following person(s) doing business as: Neves Inked Boutique, 22618 Templeton ST, Hayward, CA 94541 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Jennifer Neves, 22618 Templeton ST, Hayward, CA 94541. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 7/15/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Jennifer Neves, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 17, 2026. Expires July 16, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6945. Published July 23, 30, August 6, 13, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 624438

The following person(s) doing business as: Jack B Long, 1619 Raddcliffe RD, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Sheryl Volkman, 6246 Mines RD, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 1/2015. Signature of Registrant/s/: Sheryl Volkman, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 1, 2026. Expires June 30, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6946. Published July 23, 30, August 6, 13, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 624729

The following person(s) doing business as: Q Bar Project, 5692 Stonelick Vista LN, Pleasanton, CA 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Clean & Collected, LLC, 5692 Stonelick Vista LN, Pleasanton, CA 94566. This business is conducted by a

Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Enrique Martinez Perez, Managing Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 15, 2026. Expires July 14, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6947. Published July 30, August 6, 13, 20, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 624633

The following person(s) doing business as: Shahinian Tashjian Architecture, 264 Harewood DR, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Ema Shahinian, 2464 Harewood DR, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Ema Shahinian, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 10, 2026. Expires July 9, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6948. Published July 30, August 6, 13, 20, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 624691

The following person(s) doing business as: Livermore Amador Symphony Guild, 583 Bell Ave, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Livermore Amador Symphony Association, 1216 Riesling Circle, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 4/7/2006. Signature of Registrant/s/: Judith A. McMurry, Treasurer. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 14, 2026. Expires July 13, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6949. Published July 30, August 6, 13, 20, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 624568

The following person(s) doing business as: Roto Rooter Plumbing & Water Cleanup, 5717 Brisa ST, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Roto Rooter Services Company, 255 East Fifth Street, Suite 2500, Cincinnati, OH 45202. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 6/1/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Brian C. Judkins, Secretary/General Counsel. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 8, 2026. Expires July 7, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6950. Published July 30, August 6, 13, 20, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 624792

The following person(s) doing business as: AJ Properties, 4900 Hopyard RD, Suite 100, Pleasanton, CA 94588 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): A & J Investment Solutions, Inc., 4900 Hopyard

RD, Suite 100, Pleasanton, CA 94588. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 7/20/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: John Wu, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 20, 2026. Expires July 19, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6951. Published July 30, August 6, 13, 20, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 624803

The following person(s) doing business as: Woof Gang Bakery & Grooming Livermore, 2050 Portola Ave, Suite E, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Grandmother's House LLC, 2618 S. Fresno Ave, Stockton, CA 95206. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 7/16/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Trina Sanders, Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 20, 2026. Expires July 19, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6952. Published July 30, August 6, 13, 20, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 624750

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Airsure; 2. Airsure Auto, 2323 Broadway, Oakland, CA 94612 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Airsure LLC, 2323 Broadway, Oakland, CA 94612. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Anthony Lee, Managing Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 16, 2026. Expires July 15, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6953. Published July 30, August 6, 13, 20, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 624836

The following person(s) doing business as: R & S Overhead Doors & Gates, 31298 San Antonio Street, Hayward, CA 94544 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): R & S Erection of Southern Alameda County, Inc., 31298 San Antonio Street, Hayward, CA 94544. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Gerald Trask Jr. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 21, 2026. Expires July 20, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6954. Published July 30, August 6, 13, 20, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 624850

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Hyprstart; 2. Bill-gone, 3099 Boardwalk Street, Pleasanton, CA 94588-2903 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): John Morse, 3099

Boardwalk Street, Pleasanton, CA 94588-2903. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: John Morse, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 12, 2026. Expires July 21, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6955. Published July 30, August 6, 13, 20, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 624315

The following person(s) doing business as: Seeker's Clinical Bodywork, 5980 Stoneridge Drive, Suite 105, Pleasanton, CA 94588 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Seeker's Soul Therapy LLC, 2242 Via Espada, Pleasanton, CA 94566. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Hubert Tai, Managing Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 26, 2026. Expires June 25, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6956. Published July 30, August 6, 13, 20, 2026.

PUBLIC NOTICE Four LVJUSD Schools Qualify for Free Meals Under Community Eligible Provision (CEP)

July 30, 2026 - Livermore, CA - For the 2026-2027 school year, four Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District (LVJUSD) schools qualify to provide no-cost breakfast and lunch meals to students attending Junction Avenue TK-8, Marilyn Avenue STEAM Academy, Del Valle Continuation High School, and Vineyard Alternative through the federal Community Eligibility Provision (CEP). Students attending the other 14 schools in the district also receive no-cost breakfast and lunch meals through the California Universal Meals Program. Sharing this information publicly is a requirement of districts participating in the CEP program. For additional information, contact Katie Crouse, Director of Child Nutrition, 695 East Jack London BLVD, Livermore, CA 94551, (925) 606-3200, childnutrition@lvjUSD.org.

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NOTICES

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Artist Thom See Explores Creative Purpose in Solo Show

By Christina Cavallaro

LIVERMORE- Artist Thom See is a familiar face around the Bothwell Arts Center where he has a studio and paints — a lot.

He can often be spotted in the main room on the west end of the building standing at his easel where the light streams from a

What do you think this is? A knitting class? It’s a painting class.”

“He’s a longtime Bothwell artist of extraordinary talent,” said Anne Giancola, Livermore Valley Arts visual arts and education manager. “Thom has built a body of work that explores the quiet depths of the human experience. Through ex-

downtown Livermore. His bold and colorful figure paintings fill the space in a dramatic wash of shadowy blues, ochres and ombres.

“Some folks say it looks kind of like a mural all set up alongside each other. So that’s kind of neat,” he said.

See didn’t pick up a paint brush with any seriousness until later in life, in his mid-

called Silicon Graphics in Mountain View, that See became interested in graphic arts. The company at the time specialized in Computer-Generated Imagery (CGI) for film and television.

“I was a software engineer, and I wrote some code to do graphic art and digital art and that sort of thing,” See said. “But the more I got into it, the more I got interested in art in general and got interested in more traditional art.”

It would be another 15 years before he decided “to learn from people who knew what they were doing.” While working for a tech company in San Francisco in his 50s he pursued a post-baccalaureate certificate in painting from UC Berkeley. After retiring, he turned to painting full time.

See is inspired by French and German Expressionism of the early 20th century and movements like Fauvism and Der Blaue Reiter (The Blue Rider) that sought to “liberate color from reality.”

“I really like that sort of art ... that very colorful, and kind of bold early 20th century art,” See said.

While studying at Berkeley, he was introduced to the Bay Area Figurative Movement of the 1940s and 1950s.

“They sort of took that German style and abstracted it more, so I got really into that,” he said. “I guess my art is an extension of all that.”

Because he still enjoys programming, See has written several custom software tools to use in his process.

“Sometimes I’ll scratch some compositions on the digital screen before I paint them and sometimes not. I try to mix it up,” See said.

His current show explores the intersection of fine art and modern digital tools while posing a fundamental question: Why do creators create?

“When you’re doing it for anything for a long time — especially if it’s not something that puts food on the table — you ask yourself, “Why, why am I doing this? What’s the point of all this?” See said.

He believes there are two answers.

“One is community. I like being around people and I like hanging out with other artists.”

On a more personal level he thinks it stems from a desire to be heard.

“From an artist point of view, you want to be heard in a way that is unique to you as an individual — maybe a style or a technique or a voice,” he said. “I like to call it a language. I guess through the kind of art I’m doing, I’m trying to be heard

in a way where ‘Tom speaks through his paintbrushes.’”

As for what he’d like people to take away from his work:

“You’re just like me. We’re not that different. I guess I’m trying to express some of those emotions that people share.”

As for what’s next, See said, “I have a painting at home on my wall, and I wrote a question mark next to it. So that’s always on your mind. What’s next? I’m not sure.”

“In Forming Figures” is open to the public through Sept. 5 at 2250 First St. in Livermore. Hours are 6 to 8p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays. Admission is free.



Artist Thom See bridges classical media and digital techniques in his current showcase at The Independent Gallery. His solo exhibit, “In Forming Figures” explores the fundamental questions of creative purpose and modern craftsmanship and runs through Sept. 5 at 2250 First Street in Livermore. (Photo — May Fraser)

row of windows along the wall. The meditative sound of his brush strokes moving acrylic paint across a canvas whisper in the space.

“It’s funny because I had an art professor who would come up and I’d be scratching away,” See said. “He’d say, ‘Why are you making so much noise with that brush? Put some paint on it.

pressive abstract figurative paintings, his work evokes introspection and emotional resonance, inviting each viewer to find their own meaning within the figures he creates.”

A prolific artist, See’s current solo exhibition, “In Forming Figures,” is on display at The Independent Gallery on First Street in

30s. Before that he was all about computers.

“I was attracted to computers at a pretty young age, at 17,” See said. “And when I was a child, I wasn’t really into art that much at all.”

He went on to pursue a degree in computer science from Indiana University of Pennsylvania. And it was while working at a company

Valley Concert Chorale and the Vine Hosts ‘The Wizard of Oz’ Sing-Along

LIVERMORE — Valley Concert Chorale (VCC) will partner with the Vine Cinema & Alehouse in downtown Livermore to host a screening of the 1939 classic, “The Wizard of Oz,” on Saturday, Aug. 22.

The doors to the Vine Cinema & Alehouse will open at 9:30 a.m., with the movie beginning at 10 a.m.

The presentation will include closed captioning so the audience can join in singing along to such well-known songs as “Over the Rainbow,” “Ding Dong! The Witch

is Dead,” and “We’re Off to see the Wizard.”

"We look forward to sharing another wonderful movie experience with our community," said VCC board member and event organizer Justin Beasley. "Bringing people together through music and timeless stories is at the heart of our mission, and celebrating 87 years of The Wizard of Oz at Vine Cinema promises to be a memorable morning for friends and families alike."

There will also be an Oz-inspired costume contest for moviegoers, with

the winner determined by audience applause, and complimentary coffee and donuts.

Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$5 for those 18 and younger and are available online at valley-concertchorale.org.

Proceeds will benefit the VCC, a nonprofit chorus founded in 1963.

The Vine Cinema, which opened in 1956, now offers classic movies and current releases, along with craft beers and wines and food service delivered to the moviegoer’s seat.

This is the third year

that VCC has hosted a showing of a classic musical at The Vine Cinema.

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Cultural Jews to Observe Kol Nidre

LIVERMORE — Tri-Valley Cultural Jews (TV CJ), a secular organization for those who identify as Jewish through family, culture or history, will observe Kol Nidre, a traditional declaration recited on the eve of Yom Kippur, on Sunday, Sept. 20.

Yom Kippur, or “Day of Atonement,” is a day of fasting and is considered the holiest day in the Jewish religion. The Kol

Nidre, chanted three times by members of a Jewish congregation, annuls any unintentional vows taken during the preceding or upcoming year.

The TVCJ observance, which begins at 5:30 p.m. and is open to anyone who identifies with Jewish culture and community, will include traditional music, readings and shared reflection.

TVCJ said the evening

will include quiet activities for children to help make Kol Nidre inclusive for families.

The location in Livermore will be available at registration. There is no cost to attend, but the nonprofit TVCJ suggests a \$25 donation for nonmember adults.

To register, or for more information, email CulturalJews@gmail.com or call 925-399-8029.

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