



Runners cross the starting line of the Livermore Valley Half Marathon and 5K at the intersection of First Street and South Livermore Avenue in downtown on Sunday, March 1. The annual event drew hundreds of participants, featuring a course through wine country. (Photo — Leah Silveira)

Dublin Goes Solo with AP Course Limits, Neighboring Districts Decline to Follow

PUSD, LVJUSD Emphasize Flexibility, DUSD Addresses Student Mental Health

By David Scholz

TRI-VALLEY — Dublin Unified School District is going it alone in regard to limiting Advanced Placement (AP) course loads compared with the rest of the Tri-Valley.

In January, the Dublin School Board approved a new policy limiting students to four AP or honors classes per academic year, or 11 advanced classes over four years of high school.

While officials maintained the move was done in the interest of serving the mental health and well-being of its students, students and parents balked at the action. Instead, its critics believe there will be a negative impact on getting into preferred colleges

and that this would put them at a disadvantage compared with students in other districts.

It is an ongoing debate among college readiness experts who are navigating this minefield whether AP classes help or hinder student college applications.

“If a student has a solid GPA (Grade Point Average), selected appropriately challenging courses, and demonstrated growth and engagement, that is not a deal breaker simply because they took fewer AP classes than someone else. Admissions officers are looking for evidence of readiness and intellectual curiosity, not just the highest number of weighted courses on a transcript,” said Julia Evans, an independent educational consultant and certified career

services provider with Guide Path Advisors in the Tri-Valley.

“Many students become highly skilled at navigating structured assessments, but feel less comfortable with open-ended, analytical thinking. Colleges and employers alike are increasingly emphasizing adaptability, communication, and complex problem-solving. Those skills don’t necessarily develop simply by increasing the number of AP courses a student takes,” she added.

Michelle Myers, with College Placement Advisory in Walnut Creek who has seen much in her 17 years offering guidance to families, noted the importance of GPAs in the eyes of prospective colleges and universities. Meyers said students may have

(See LIMITS, page 6)

The Livermore School Board Approves \$14.8 Million in Sweeping Budget Cuts

Plan Pairs Fiscal Solvency with Commitment to Core Education

By Vivien Wenneker

LIVERMORE — At a Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District (LVJUSD) board meeting on Feb. 24, the board approved a budget reduction plan of \$14.8 million spanning the next two years.

The plan authorizes \$11.6 million in cuts and adjustments for the 2025-26 school year and an additional \$2.4 million for 2026-27. To bridge the remaining \$800,000 gap and maintain required financial reserves, the district will draw \$3 million from its one-time savings. It passed 4-1, with board member Deena Kaplanis as the sole

dissenter.

In arriving at the proposed reductions, acting superintendent Melissa Pechette said the focus has been to look for ways to shift funds away from less essential programs and services in an effort to prioritize people.

While the budget reductions will cut some positions, such as 12 full-time equivalent (FTE) staff, a decision — which the entire Board acknowledged would be painful — Pechette stressed that everyone involved in the process did their best to keep cuts away from children. She said she’s confident in the work that’s been

done forming a comprehensive reduction strategy.

“Although we will be moving into a qualified budget, this plan reflects significant effort to minimize impacts while maintaining core educational services,” Pechette said. “I would like to extend sincere appreciation to the members of this group for their professionalism and commitment to the district’s long-term stability.”

Other significant reductions include a year-long freeze of “me too” increases for select employee groups, excluding health benefit contributions, instituting furlough

(See LVJUSD, page 7)

Crosby Property Representative Appeals Measure II

Dublin Urban Limit Line Remains in Question

By David Jen

DUBLIN — The legality of commercial development within the Crosby properties remains uncertain following a move to appeal a court decision ruling that the city should undo Measure II.

Livbor-Manning LLC, which represents the real estate interests of the Crosby family, filed a notice of appeal on Feb. 18. The Crosby family owns 80 acres of undeveloped land outside of Dublin’s urban limit line (ULL) between the cities of Dublin and Livermore. The Crosby land has become the center of the dispute, as well as a proposed extension

of Dublin Boulevard.

Livbor-Manning, along with the City of Dublin, have supported commercial development on the Crosby land, while open-space groups Save Mount Diablo and Friends of Livermore have opposed it. Measure II, approved by 53.11% of voters in November 2024, enabled the Dublin City Council to open the area outside the ULL to commercial development, in effect breaking the ULL.

The two groups, who wanted to preserve Dublin’s ULL, filed a lawsuit stating in April 2025 that the city was required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to give

(See LIVBOR, page 6)



Workbench True Value Hardware in Pleasanton’s Valley Plaza prepares to consolidate operations with its downtown Pleasanton location. The store has served the community for five decades. (Photo — Christina Cavallaro)

True Value Hardware Closes Its Santa Rita Road Location

As Planned, Legacy Shop to Consolidate on Main Street in Downtown Pleasanton After 50 Years

By Sanestina Hunter

PLEASANTON — Workbench True Value Hardware has closed its Santa Rita Road location, consolidating operations at its downtown Pleasanton store on Main Street, less than a mile away.

Owner Fred Nichandros said the February closure completes a long-term plan to centralize operations in the larger downtown space.

“About ten years ago, we were searching for a bigger space because the business was doing so well,” Nichandros told The Independent. “The largest space we could find was downtown, so we opened that location with the idea of eventually moving everything over.”

Strong customer loyalty kept both Pleasanton stores operating

for years, he said. Over time, however, more business shifted to the Main Street location.

“It’s time to do what we were trying to do ten years ago,” he said. “Transition to Main Street where we have more room, more parking and more space for inventory.”

Surrounded by restaurants, retail shops and other small businesses, the Main Street store offers a larger range of products and services, including plumbing supplies, tools, fasteners, paint and home repair materials.

Nichandros said the Main Street location also benefits from heavier foot traffic, including nearby apartment residents and tourists visiting the area, while the Santa Rita Road store traditionally served neighborhood residents and commercial contractors.

Since the closing on Feb. 28,

(See TRUE VALUE, page 7)



The cast of “Cosi fan tutte” stands with director Rob Herriot, center. From left are Samuel Kidd, Sid Chand, Meryl Dominquez, Megan Potter, Courtney Miller and Eugene Brancoveanu. The opera opened last Saturday at the Bankhead Theater and will run through March 8. (Photo courtesy of LVO)

Herriot Redefines Mozart’s “Cosi fan tutte”

Director Trades Historical Misogyny for a Modern Study of the Human Condition

By Christina Cavallaro

LIVERMORE — Livermore Valley Opera opened its production of Mozart’s two-act operatic comedy, “Cosi fan tutte,” at the Bankhead Theater this past Saturday evening. The humorous tale of love and mistaken identities is filled with clever twists and deeply heartfelt moments as carried out by the vocal talents of the opera’s ensemble.

“It was one of those nights when I sit back and I go, ‘I hope this goes okay,’” said Director

Rob Herriot. “And then as we got further into it, I was like, ‘Yeah, these guys are knocking it out of the park.’ So my gosh, it was a good night.”

The opera centers around two young officers, Ferrando and Guglielmo, who are engaged to two sisters, Dorabella and Fiordiligi.

Confident in their lovers’ faithfulness, they accept a bet from a cynical old philosopher who insists that all women are fickle. The two officers pretend to leave for war, only to return

in disguise and attempt to woo each other’s fiancée.

Initially, the sisters resist, but over time, they falter in their fidelity, leading to confusion, remorse, and ultimately forgiveness.

Herriot spoke directly to one aspect of the opera he has chosen to reframe in some ways. “The nature of the opera is very misogynist — it just rips women apart basically...saying they cheat and everything else.” Herriot said. This production shifts the perspective, seeking to

(See LVO, page 8)

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Pathways Program to Relocate to Shamrock Hills, 2026-27

By Sanestina Hunter

DUBLIN — Dublin Unified’s Pathways alternative education program will relocate from Murray Elementary School to the district’s new Shamrock Hills TK–8 campus in fall 2026. Pathways will continue operating at Murray through the 2025–26

director of the Pathways program. “Shamrock Hills is located in a more central part of Dublin, making Pathways more accessible to families across the city.” Shamrock Hills was designed as a TK–8 campus. District officials said the new setting will also allow Pathways to eventually expand beyond elementary

needs through the middle grades.” Pathways has operated at Murray Elementary on Dublin’s west side for more than two decades. While successful there, district leaders said the location has become less accessible for families living in central and eastern Dublin.

model centered on whole-child development and strong family involvement. The program is built on four pillars: parent participation, multi-age grouping, teacher collaboration and student-inspired learning, according to the district’s Pathways program overview video. Parents play an active role in the classroom, often leading specialty lessons such as cooking and foreign languages that reflect their diverse backgrounds.

grader might work alongside a third grader to solve a math problem,” Senf said in the video. “That collaboration reinforces learning for both students as they help each other problem-solve.” The program also incorporates “big buddy, little buddy” pairings and hands-on learning experiences, including hiking and camping field trips designed to extend learning beyond the classroom.

“The district’s priority is to ensure a smooth and thoughtful transition that preserves the integrity of the Pathways model while preparing it to thrive in its new, centrally located home,” Kovalevsky said.



Construction is underway at the future site of Shamrock Hills TK–8 campus, which is set to become the new home of the Pathways alternative education program in Fall 2026. (Photo courtesy of Dublin Unified School District)

school year before transitioning to the new campus. The move places the program in a more central location as Dublin’s population continues to grow eastward. “As our city has grown eastward, it has become increasingly important to evaluate whether the program’s location best serves the entire community,” said Sharon Kovalevsky,

grades. Currently, students transition out of the program after fifth grade. “Expanding Pathways to eventually serve TK–8 provides continuity for families who value the program’s unique instructional approach and strong home–school partnership,” Kovalevsky said. “A TK–8 pathway allows students to remain in the educational model that best fits their

As the Fall 2026 opening approaches, families can expect regular updates on timelines, enrollment and program development. Pathways was founded in 2003 by Kovalevsky and currently serves students in kindergarten through fifth grade. Inspired by her own daughters’ preschool experience, she said she sought to create a public school

Teachers collaborate to guide that exploration while ensuring students meet grade-level standards. Multi-age classrooms are another defining feature. Brian Senf, a Pathways teacher for more than a decade, said the structure allows students across grade levels to work together. “For example, a second

“Learning is a dynamic process,” one parent said in a video, describing the program’s emphasis on student-driven learning. Under that approach, students are encouraged to pursue topics that interest them, ask questions and investigate ideas more deeply. Teachers collaborate to guide that exploration while ensuring students meet grade-level standards. Multi-age classrooms are another defining feature. Brian Senf, a Pathways teacher for more than a decade, said the structure allows students across grade levels to work together. “For example, a second





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Harvest Valley Church Is Slated to Soon Renovate Valley Business Park Location

By David Jen

PLEASANTON — Harvest Valley Church has found its new home in the city. The church plans to renovate an 11,120-square-foot site in Valley Business Park at 1252 Quarry Lane to continue serving its congregation. The Pleasanton Planning Commission unanimously approved the church’s development application on Feb. 25. The project proposes adding parking spaces, building a new patio entryway, adding new pedestrian walkways, removing existing trees and adding new landscaping, in addition to various interior improvements. “Welcome to the city, Harvest Valley Church,” Commission Chair Brandon Pace said following the vote. “We’re thrilled you’re going to be part of our community. We love the way in which faith groups join our community and support our community, and the impact they obviously have in the city as well as on people’s lives.” The church, posting on its Facebook page on Feb.

26, wrote, “We are pleased to announce that the City of Pleasanton Planning Commission has approved our conditional use permit for our new church building. Thank you for praying and fasting with us, believing that God’s will would be done for our church. There is still a lot to do before we take up residence in our new building, but we’re excited to have you with us for the journey. More details coming soon! In the meantime, let’s celebrate together. God is so good!” In December 2024, the church moved to a temporary location in the Rosewood Commons Conference Center after Catalyst Development Partners LLC proposed building a residential project at Harvest Valley’s former site at 3200 Hopyard Road. The three-story residential project plans to provide 57 new apartment units, including nine affordable rental units. At its new Valley Business Park space, the church plans to use it as a meeting place, with around 50 congregants joining at a time during the work week and up to 200 congregants for

weekend services. The site already has 54 parking spaces, above the 34 spaces required by the municipal code for a religious facility of that size. City staff expect the church’s hours to complement normal working hours, which, when coupled with typical congregation patterns of family attendance and carpooling, should not cause traffic or parking issues. The project will remove 13 of the site’s 36 trees in order to reconfigure the parking lot, add a new patio entry and renovate the landscape and hardscape. Harvest Valley has proposed planting 13 replacement trees as a mitigation measure. Harvest Valley proposal includes a new light-brown stucco exterior and the addition of a steel pergola along the building’s north and east sides. Inside, the project plans to add a vestibule/sanctuary, lobbies, offices, classrooms, a mother’s room, nap room, storage areas and restrooms. City staff concluded that the proposal supported the city’s general plan, especially the efficient

reuse of existing buildings and infrastructure.

CERT Academy to Teach Disaster Response Skills to High Schoolers

TRI-VALLEY — The Livermore-Pleasanton Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) will offer a seven-week training program this spring designed to teach residents basic lifesaving and disaster-response skills. The CERT “training academy” is free and open

to adults and juniors and seniors in high school, who can earn 25 hours of community service/volunteer time by completing the course. Classes will be held from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. on consecutive Wednesdays, March 18 through April 22, at the Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department training grounds on Busch Road in Pleasanton. There will also be a full-day session from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on March 28. Participants must attend all sessions to graduate. To register, go to tinyurl.com/mmw3yys2, or email CERT@lpfire.org.

anton Fire Department training grounds on Busch Road in Pleasanton. There will also be a full-day session from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on March 28. Participants must attend all sessions to graduate. To register, go to tinyurl.com/mmw3yys2, or email CERT@lpfire.org.

Library Now Offering Genealogy Help

LIVERMORE — The Livermore Civic Center Library, 1188 S. Livermore Ave., is now offering a monthly Genealogy Help drop-in program. The program will be

offered from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on the first Wednesday of the month. Volunteers from the Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society will be available to provide

one-on-one research assistance. The library will also provide the use of laptop computers. This is a free program for adults, and registration is not required.

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Campbell Takes Lead on District Union Negotiations

By Sanestina Hunter

DUBLIN — As Dublin Unified School District continues negotiations with its two employee unions, Assistant Superintendent Matt Campbell is overseeing discussions

ahead of formally becoming the district's next superintendent.

Superintendent Chris Funk will remain in his position through the end of the 2025–26 school year before retiring in June.

"We are excited about

Dr. Campbell becoming our new superintendent upon Superintendent Chris Funk's departure at the end of June," board President Kristin Speck told The Independent. "Campbell and Funk will be working together to ensure a seam-

less transition."

Speck said Campbell has already taken responsibility for negotiations with the Dublin Teachers Association and the California School Employees Association and will oversee leadership hiring decisions for the upcoming school year.

The school board named Campbell to the position in February, pending successful contract negotiations. He will assume the role at the start of the 2026–27 school year.

"Dr. Campbell's main goals are to maintain a strong focus on student achievement, making sure every student meets grade-level standards," Speck said.

The 2026–27 school year will be the first with all four grade levels attending Emerald High School, requiring balanced course offerings and support across both comprehensive campuses.

The district also plans to open its new TK-8 campus, Shamrock Hills, beginning with transitional kindergarten through grade 6 in 2026–27.

Speck said anticipated enrollment declines in 2026–27 will require careful budget management while preserving fair staff compensation.

The board chose to appoint an internal candidate after reviewing district leadership and determining

that an outside search firm was unnecessary.



Matt Campbell

Speck said Campbell's familiarity with the district's instructional priorities, fiscal operations and leadership structure factored into that decision.

Campbell currently serves as assistant superintendent of educational services, a position he has held since 2019. He also served as interim superintendent that year during a previous leadership transition.

"It is an incredible honor to serve the Dublin community in this capacity," Campbell said in a press statement. "Dublin

Unified is a district built on strong relationships, high expectations and a shared commitment to student success.

"I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to continue the work we have built together, and I look forward to working collaboratively with our dedicated certificated and classified staff," he said. "Together, we will ensure that every student feels supported, challenged, and inspired to reach their full potential."

The leadership transition comes amid ongoing contract negotiations between the district and the Dublin Teachers Association.



Alise, lead singer of the band Moving Van, performs at Swirl on the Square in Livermore last week. She joined other singers for an open mic hosted by Tri-Valley for Black Lives to conclude Black History Month. (Photo courtesy of Kristie Wang)

Pleasanton Couple Collecting Books to Improve Literacy for Samoan Children

PLEASANTON — A Pleasanton couple, Marc and Leslie Barkdull, is asking families, schools and organizations to donate children's picture books to help children in Samoa build English literacy skills and develop a love of reading.

For more than a decade, the Barkdulls have worked with Rheumatic Relief, an outreach program sponsored by Brigham Young University to diagnose and treat rheumatic heart disease (RHD) in Samoan children.

RHD, which is caused by untreated streptococcal throat infections, can lead to severe heart damage and is a major cause of premature death in Samoa, an island country in the South Pacific.

The disease, which is treatable with early detection, is also prevalent in American Samoa, a U.S. territory that consists of five

small islands with a population of about 50,000.

Rheumatic Relief screens children for RHD in both Samoa and American Samoa.

The Barkdulls' role with Rheumatic Relief has been to provide books and school supplies to elementary school-aged children after they have been screened.

Leslie Barkdull said many Samoan children grow up with no books in their homes and have limited access to reading materials in their schools.

"Books open doors," she added. "For these children, a single picture book can spark imagination, strengthen language skills and create opportunities that last a lifetime."

The Barkdulls, who lived on the Samoan island of Savaii for 15 months, are asking for donations of new

or gently used children's picture books in English, with stories appropriate up to fifth grade.

The goal is to collect 10,000 books by Saturday, March 7, with a container ship loaded with Rheumatic Relief medical supplies scheduled to leave from Oakland for Samoa on March 23.

This year, Rheumatic Relief expects to screen about 2,500 children on Savaii, the largest island in the Samoan archipelago, and another 2,500 children on the island of Upolu. A second team will assess about 3,000 school children in American Samoa.

Books for Samoan children can be dropped off at M5 Services, 7020 Koll Center Parkway, Pleasanton, between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

The Barkdulls will be

making the trip to Samoa to help with distribution of the books and school supplies.

For more information, contact Leslie Barkdull at leslieb62@comcast.net.

Assemblymember Bauer-Kahan Drafts New Legislation

Bill Targets Deep-Fake Sexual Harassment, AI-related Abuse

SACRAMENTO — Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan (D-Orinda) has introduced legislation that would require California colleges and universities to adopt policies addressing deep-fake sexual harassment.

"Image generation tools like Grok are exposing our female students to new forms of sexual harassment and our laws aren't keeping pace," said Bauer-Kahan, whose district include Livermore and much of Pleasanton and Dublin. "When an intimate image of a student is fabricated and weaponized against them, that student deserves to know their school will take it seriously."

Although California colleges are required to address sex-based harassment and discrimination, a recent study by Survivors + Allies, a UCLA student organization, found that 70% of online harassment victims did not seek support from their home institutions.

AB 2212, known as the HEAR Survivors Act, would require colleges to adopt policies addressing

technology-facilitated sexual harassment, including deep-fake images and videos created with artificial intelligence (AI).

"We know that technology-facilitated sexual violence can have profound and long-lasting impacts on a student's mental health, academic success and emo-

tional well-being," said Survivors + Allies. "Our goal is to make sure universities are doing their part in explicitly prohibiting this form of sexual violence, updating campus training to reflect this growing issue, and providing more pathways to support for students."



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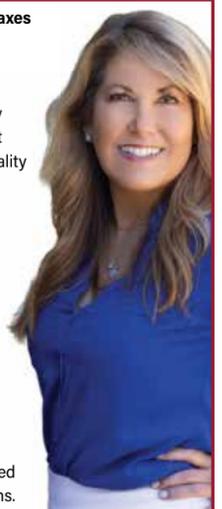
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EDITORIAL

Students Need More Than One Path to College and Beyond

A recent decision by the Dublin Unified School District to limit the number of Advanced Placement (AP) courses students can take is controversial, but it's a stab at solving a problem that has long beset secondary education: the overemphasis on numeric assessments rather than the development of the whole student.

For that reason, the school board should be commended for taking this step. It's a risk — we won't know how this plays out until several years have gone by. But the board seems to have recognized that students are more than just a Grade Point Average (GPA).

The Livermore Joint Unified School District (LVJUSD) and Pleasanton Unified School District (PUSD) have decided not to limit their students' AP course loads. And that's fine, too. Concerns that limiting the number of higher-level classes might make students less competitive for selection at elite schools may be justified.

Although the LVJUSD and PUSD do not limit the number of AP courses their students can take, they provide academic and social and emotional support for students who need to be guided through their academic careers. The varied services the districts offer may offset the risk of students taking on more than they can handle.

What all our local districts are doing is trying to adapt to an environment in which increasing numbers of students are arriving at college lacking basic skills: reading, writing, researching, critical thinking. The National Literacy Institute reports that 54% of American adults read at below the sixth-grade level. And 21% of all

adults are functionally illiterate.

Our 79% literacy rate does not compare favorably to the rest of the world. For all the public hand-wringing by political leaders about competing with other nations, we don't do so well. According to data from the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the U.S. spends on average \$20,387 per student, about 5.8% of our gross domestic product, from primary school to college. That's well above the average for the OECD. However, we only get middling results for that outlay: 28% of adults have only the lowest level of literacy. (The OECD, an international nongovernmental organization that studies policy and outcomes in economically developed countries, uses its own five-point ranking system for literacy.)

Meanwhile, many countries, including Japan, Germany, the United Kingdom and Canada, boast higher rates of literacy for less relative investment. Japan, for example, spends \$14,130 per student, or 3.9% of GDP, and only 11% of Japanese adults have the lowest literacy ranking in the OECD rankings.

There are many reasons why our patchwork secondary education system has arrived at this point. Among them are these: a national doubling down on test scores as the most important metric for evaluating student learning, increasing costs for college education, and fewer seats available even at in-state public universities, thanks to competition from international students who pay full tuition.

In addition, many people see that the primary role of colleges and uni-

versities is to prepare students for the job market. That's created a renewed focus on STEM skills at the high school level: science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Some more progressive systems have inserted an "A" for arts into the STE(A)M plan, but that's by no means universal.

But focusing on test scores leaves out a lot of skills necessary to make successful citizens. Employers may love it if new employees can check off a list of hard skills, such as programming, AI use, finance or sales and marketing. But most employers consistently say the skills they most value are things like critical thinking, emotional intelligence, and communication. And those are the skills that too often get short shrift in favor of more advanced math classes.

Competition for a space in college creates incentives in secondary education to maximize student achievement in the areas those colleges emphasize: more AP courses, more extracurricular activities, more community work requirements for graduation. Some of that is unavoidable for elite-tier universities, or those that are technology- or science-focused, for example. And students who dream of being a software engineer or a biochemist certainly need to plan their education accordingly.

And a rigorous academic load isn't necessarily a bad thing. Some students have no trouble balancing a high level of academic achievement with numerous activities outside class. Those students get rewarded with scholarship money and offers for those competitive seats available at

good universities. Schools shouldn't shortchange those students if they don't have to.

On the other hand, many students, faced with increasing demands from college recruiters and society as a whole, risk overloading themselves, leading to underperformance, elevated stress, and burnout. Few students will use that AP trigonometry in real life, but they nevertheless feel the need to keep up with their peers if they want to get into a decent four-year school.

These students — not remedial students by any means, but the majority of the future workforce — may benefit from other choices, school programs that work to develop the soft skills that are also in demand, and which develop the whole student, not just their test scores or number of math credits.

School districts have a choice as to how they want to serve their students. As districts cut back on expenses because of the loss of federal funding, the cost differential between the two approaches may become an issue as well.

With what we know now, all three districts deserve our applause. We should commend the Dublin Unified School District for trying something different in a challenging environment, and the Pleasanton Unified School District and Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District for providing in-depth support so that students can advance based on their specific needs. It will be interesting to see what the result of these choices will be in the future

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 400 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 Science of Doing Nothing

Michael Austin, Pleasanton

The science of doing nothing. A formal scientific study of doing nothing. The distinct aspects of "doing nothing" meaning cognitive, physiological, behavioral, or philosophical.

Cognitive science: The study of mind-wandering and resting states. In neuroscience, "doing nothing" is often studied through the default mode network (DMN), a set of brain regions that become active when you're not engaged in a task. Researchers look at mind wandering — spontaneous, unguided thought. Day dreaming — internally generated imagining and narrative. Resting state cognition — what the brain does when it's not directed towards a goal. Key insight: the brain is never truly idle. Even in rest it consolidates memories, simulating futures, and maintaining a sense of self.

Psychology: The science of rest, idleness, and recovery. Physiologists examine boredom — its causes, benefits, and risks. Idleness — how cultures value or stigmatize non-productivity. Mindfulness — intentional non-doing as a mental skill. Flow recovery — how down time replenishes cognitive resources. A major finding: periods of non-action often increase creativity, problem-solving, and emotional regulation.

Contemplative traditions: "non-doing" as a practice. In traditions like Taoism, Zen, and Stoicism, "doing nothing" is a discipline. Wu Wei (Taoism) — effortless action, or action without forcing. Zosen (Zen) — sitting without goal or object. Stoic apatheia — freedom from unnecessary striving. These aren't about laziness. They're about living with natural processes rather than fighting them. Behavioral science:

Strategic nonaction. Scientists and decision theorists' study when not acting is the optimum strategy. Option values of waiting — sometimes information gained by pausing is worth more than acting now. Inaction inertia — why people avoid acting after missing an opportunity. Minimal intervention strategies — in ecology, medicine, and policy, sometimes the best move is to let the system self-correct. This is "doing nothing" that is a deliberate choice.

Philosophy: The metaphysics of nothingness. Philosophers explore what counts as nothing? Is non-action a form of action? Can consciousness ever be empty? This is the most abstract branch, but it shapes how the sciences frame the question.

Putting it together: There isn't one unified "science of doing nothing," but there is a constellation of scientific fields that study different dimensions of it. Neuroscience — what the brain does when idle. Physiology — how the body restores itself. Psychology — how non-action affects mood and creativity. Economics — when inaction is rational. Philosophy — what "nothing" even means. Together they form a surprisingly rich and rigorous body of knowledge. The practical benefits of "doing nothing."

Grateful for Livermore

Luc Peterson, Livermore

I was both surprised and deeply grateful to see your recent article highlighting my upcoming Boston Marathon run in support of the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute.

Our family did not expect public attention when my father-in-law was diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia. We were simply focused on getting him through treatment. Thanks to extraordinary care and a successful stem cell transplant, he is now healthy and thriving. That recov-

ery is something we do not take for granted.

I am running this April to mark one year since his transplant and to support the Claudia Adams Barr Program in Innovative Basic Cancer Research at Dana-Farber, where 100 percent of funds raised go directly to early-stage scientific research and early-career investigators working toward the next breakthroughs in cancer treatment.

If readers would like to learn more or support the effort, they can visit: tinyurl.com/LucRunsBoston.

Thank you for helping share this story and for supporting the many families in our community who are touched by cancer.

Your unexpected article reminds me how fortunate I am to be raising my family here in Livermore.

In Times of Trouble, Question Assumptions

Patricia Munro, Livermore

As I write this, we are engaged in a war with Iran. Theories, speculations, blame, and anger are everywhere (well, mostly online). While ignoring what is happening is irresponsible, I want to argue for a pause to learn, rather than simply reacting. The reality is that many things are true, and, like the multiple stories told in Rashomon, they may appear contradictory. I am deliberately avoiding detailing those viewpoints — they would simply invite knee-jerk responses. Rather, I would encourage everyone to consider what your underlying assumptions are — and whether they apply to this situation, how you gather and verify facts, and what explicit or implicit comparisons you are making — and how valid they are.

Regardless of the many different perspectives, hopefully we can all agree to wish for a speedy end to the conflict, an end that results in freedom for the Iranians who have lived

under an oppressive and brutal regime for more than forty years.

Hospitality as a Way of Life

Judy Mackanic, Livermore

Two weeks ago, my siblings and I buried our mother, who lived to be 100 years old. As we reflected on her long and meaningful life, we asked ourselves what her true legacy was. We agreed without hesitation: she loved people, and she cared for them in practical, personal ways.

My mother practiced hospitality as a way of life. Our home was a gathering place for family and friends, and anyone who knew her knew they would eventually be invited to her table. What stands out most, however, was her care for those far from home. In the late 1960s and early 1970s, working with the chaplain at Travis Air Force Base, she regularly welcomed foreign soldiers training in the U.S. into our home for holidays. That hospitality eventually extended to housing and finding a job for a Vietnamese man who could not return home at the end of the war. My parents later assisted in legally bringing his wife and five children to the United States.

This was not unusual for her. My parents rented rooms to international students, but my mother was never simply a landlord — she became a second mother. She showed us that compassion is not a slogan, but a responsibility.

My siblings and I have tried to carry that lesson forward. My husband and I have housed and fed a newly arrived immigrant family who came here legally, helping them get established. We have also opened our home to teachers who could not afford the cost of living in Livermore.

That is why I am deeply concerned when I see parents and educators encour-

aging inexperienced and untried young people to confront law enforcement or dismiss the rule of law altogether. A free society depends on laws that are enforced fairly, and on respect for those tasked with enforcing them.

Compassion requires responsibility. If we truly care about immigrants — documented or undocumented — the answer is not rhetoric, but personal involvement: opening our homes, offering help, teaching responsibility, and encouraging lawful participation in our communities.

Let us teach our children that citizenship matters, that laws matter, and that real compassion requires more than words. Being part of the solution means having something at stake — and being willing to do the hard, human work ourselves. With all due respect, until we do, shouting and marching come across as a sham.

Honor Women's Ice Hockey

Richard Andrews, Livermore

My daughter is a DVM in Equine Veterinarian practices back East. She is barely 5' tall and 100 lbs. But she is determined and strong, and knows the limits. She has a 20 acre farm back there, which she maintains when not helping the equines and their owners. Very successful and "self made" is her job description.

While a student at Livermore HS, she went from playing roller hockey locally on boys teams and a traveling women's team, and finally Ice hockey in Dublin. Then came the Sharks. She became the first goalie for the 19 Y/O girls team, traveled extensively, including Vancouver BC for goalie school. She was 14 when she made the Sharks Jr. Hockey squad, although they had a 15 and under team. She wanted to "play up",

(See MAILBOX, page 5)

THE Independent

INLAND VALLEY PUBLISHING CO.
PUBLISHER: Joan Kinney Seppala
EDITOR: Christina Cavallaro

ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER: David T. Lowell (In Memoriam)
EDITOR: Janet Armatrout (In Memoriam)

THE INDEPENDENT (USPS 300) is published every Thursday by Inland Valley Publishing Company, 2250 First St., Livermore, CA 94550; (925)243-8000. Mailed at Periodical Postage Prices at the Livermore Post Office and additional entry office: Pleasanton, CA 94566-9999. THE INDEPENDENT is mailed upon request. For more information or to sign up visit www.independentnews.com. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Independent, 2250 First St., Livermore, CA 94550.

Advertising and subscription rates may be obtained by calling (925)243-8000 during regular business hours or by emailing info@independentnews.com.

Editorial information may be submitted by emailing editor@independentnews.com

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The opening crew of Slice House by Tony Gemignani, standing second from left, poses outside the new pizzeria at 1948 First St. in downtown Livermore on Friday, Feb. 21. The outpost of the popular San Francisco-based franchise features a variety of regional pizza styles, including New York, Sicilian and Detroit-style. The restaurant is open from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Friday and Saturday. It also offers takeout and delivery. (Photo courtesy of Slice House)

MAILBOX

(Continued from page 4)

as they say.

She credits a great deal of her success to the help and support she got from the encouragement, coaching and the esprit de corps of the women, as well as the men, both on the Sharks and traveling women's roller team, where she started off. Hockey taught her determination and teamwork, how to be strong yet follow rules, and success. She may have succeeded anyway, but the exposure to Women's Hockey sealed the deal. Her personal skills and methodology that were learned there are not available to women who don't get to play sports. Women's education needs this more today, and the best source is athletic competition. So when I saw Trump treat women's hockey like a joke, I became upset.

I congratulate all our Olympic athletes, including the incredible men's team...But our hard working women should be looked upon with equal pride, not childish derision.

God bless all who went, as well as those who have served this great country risking their lives. None of them are "losers" as the POTUS has said. They are true patriots.

The Invasion of Iran
Frank Cannella, Livermore

Some observations about the Feb. 28th air attack on Iran:

1. A truly evil head of state was killed.
2. Several American soldiers have already been killed, and the president says they likely will be more.
3. There has been no discussion of contingency plans by the administration.
4. What happens if it becomes a regional conflict?
5. What happens if Iran tries to close the Strait of Hormuz and an international economic problem ensues?
6. What happens if the congress refuses to declare war on Iran and Trump vetoes the bill and continues the attack?

Some other questions to ask:

1. How many loved ones of the "Epstein Class" will

be lost should this situation continue?

2. Are you happy with the administration's planning and approach to this problem?

3. Are you pleased with the people in the administration in charge of this operation?

Neither am I.

Tri-Valley CAREs Photo Contest

Milena Dovgal, Pleasanton

Hi! I'm Mila, an honors political science student at Las Positas College and an intern this semester at Tri-Valley CAREs. I'm organizing a youth environmental photo contest, and would love to encourage all youth to join in! It's a great opportunity; not only can you participate and win cash prizes, but your photos will also be showcased at the Tracy Library!

Livermore-based non-profit organization Tri-Valley Communities Against a Radioactive Environment (CAREs) is conducting its 2026 Youth Environmental Photo Contest. Funded by the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA), it is part of Tri-Valley CAREs' ongoing efforts to raise environmental awareness, encourage storytelling, and strengthen community engagement on environmental issues. Youth are welcome to participate from any city and community!

The competition offers a \$750 grand prize and a \$250 runner-up award. In addition, everyone from Tracy and West San Joaquin County is eligible for a separate \$500 Community Award. Applicants may win only one prize.

Anyone aged 10-25 is welcome to enter. If you are under 18, you can also participate; you just need your parent or guardian's permission to enter.

The contest invites participants to submit one original photograph focused on an environmental issue of their choice. Topics may include pollution, groundwater contamination, climate impacts, drought, wildfire effects, community action, or environmental justice concerns. Each submission must also include a caption or short essay of up to 250

words explaining the image and its significance.

Entries must be original work created by the participant. Photos must be submitted in JPEG or PNG format, and while basic edits such as cropping and color correction are allowed, AI-generated images are not permitted. Please submit only original photos. The submission deadline is March 20, 2026, and submissions should be emailed to anoushka@trivalleycares.org.

Tri-Valley CAREs work to stop nuclear weapons where they begin, keeping a close eye on the Livermore Lab — one of only two sites in the U.S. where all nuclear bombs and warheads are developed. Nuclear weapons are not just a distant issue; they impact local communities, local environments, and our shared future. That's why your participation in this contest matters. Through your photography, you help tell stories that raise awareness, inspire action, and bring fresh perspectives to the critical social, ecological, and economic challenges we face. Your voice, creativity, and vision are exactly what make our work meaningful and powerful.

For more information, go to the Tri-Valley CAREs website.

The End of Unchallenged American Dominance?
Omulangira n'Omwavu, Pleasanton

The world stands at a critical juncture in history. For more than seventy years, the United States has been the dominant global superpower — economically, militarily, and culturally. Yet signs increasingly suggest we are entering a multipolar era in which power is distributed among several major nations rather than concentrated in one.

In the coming decades, the United States may gradually shift from global hegemon to a power primarily focused on the Western Hemisphere. Meanwhile, China is expanding its influence across Asia through trade, infrastructure development, technological leadership, and military mod-

ernization. Russia, though economically smaller, continues to assert itself strategically, positioning itself as a third, albeit weaker, pole in this evolving order.

History suggests that such transitions are cyclical. The 14th-century scholar Ibn Khaldun, in his seminal work *Muqaddimah*, described how civilizations rise through strong social cohesion, what he called *asabiyyah*, and decline when prosperity breeds complacency, internal division, and fiscal strain. Empires weaken not only from foreign rivals but from internal imbalances.

A modern parallel appears in Ray Dalio's book "The Changing World Order", which outlines long-term cycles of debt accumulation, monetary expansion, and shifting economic leadership. Dominant powers, he argues, often accumulate unsustainable debt while rising competitors gain productivity and strength.

One controversial feature of recent American policy is the so-called "forever war" model. Over the past two decades, extended military engagements have largely been financed through borrowing. Critics argue this creates a cycle: war justifies increased spending, spending requires monetary expansion, and the resulting debt is borne by ordinary

Americans. Significant portions of that spending flow to defense contractors and politically connected corporations that manufacture military equipment, enriching large shareholders and reinforcing political incentives to maintain interventionist policies. The financial burden falls on the public, while the human cost is borne both by American service members and by populations in conflict zones.

At the same time, many Western economies face rising sovereign debt, demographic decline, and political polarization. In contrast, population

(See MAILBOX, page 6)

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At age 57, Matt Bogdanowicz completed a 148-pound Farmer's Mile around the Livermore High School track in 38:27 on Saturday, Feb. 28, setting a new world record for the 40-and-over masters category. Bogdanowicz, who has competed in more than 1,000 races, said he hopes the feat inspires others to stay active at any age. (Photo courtesy of Matt Bogdanowicz)

Nonprofits to Split \$80,000 From TVNPA Food Drive

TRI-VALLEY — The Tri-Valley Nonprofit Alliance (TVNPA) has awarded more than \$80,000 to a pair of Livermore-based nonprofit organizations as part of its Feeding Our Families Food Drive.

TVNPA presented checks for \$40,680 each to Tri-Valley Haven, which provides services for the homeless and victims of domestic and sexual assault, and Open Heart Kitchen, which sponsors several free meal programs and operates a warehouse that helps supply area food banks.

During the Feeding

Our Families Food Drive, TVNPA accepted food and monetary donations at Grocery Outlets in Livermore, Pleasanton and Dublin from Nov. 15 through the end of December.

In addition to the financial contributions, TVNPA said it collected more than six tons of donated food items, which were also shared between Open Heart Kitchen and the Tri-Valley Haven Food Pantry.

TVNPA said the food drive was organized quickly in response to last fall's government shutdown, which threatened federal

food assistance programs.

"This effort was about acting fast so families would not feel the impact of benefit reductions alone," said CEO Kathy Young. "Food insecurity does not wait, and neither did our community. We are incredibly proud of our residents, volunteers and partners who stepped up immediately to make sure people are not hungry."

TVNPA is a nonprofit that operates as a regional convenor helping to strengthen and advocate for other nonprofits in the Tri-Valley area.

LIVBOR

(Continued from front page)

voters an analysis of the environmental impacts of Measure II on the ballot, because it would lead to commercial development. The city did not do that.

Although the city argued that the authority granted by the measure was too vague to evaluate its environmental impacts, Superior Court Judge Michael Markman ruled in favor of the community groups in November 2025, a ruling that meant that the city must repeal Measure II.

The city announced last month that it would not appeal Markman's decision to avoid the costs of continued litigation.

"Friends of Livermore is disappointed but not surprised that Livbor-Manning LLC has appealed the Superior Court decision invalidating Dublin Measure II," Friends of Livermore president

Lee Younker said. "The Dublin City Council voted not to appeal because they knew the case was correctly decided, and appealing would be futile. FOL firmly believes that Judge Markman's well-considered decision will be upheld on appeal."

Back in July 2024, when the Dublin City Council voted to place on the ballot Measure II, enabling voters to grant the council the authority to develop commercial uses on the Crosby properties, the council presented its rationale. The \$154 million Dublin Boulevard Extension project, which plans to traverse the Crosby properties, needs the revenues expected from the commercial uses. Without such uses, the city has identified only \$76 million of its \$126 million share required for the project. What's more, its partner,

the City of Livermore, has said it will withdraw its \$28 million from the extension project if Dublin pursues commercial development.

A 2023 analysis by real estate advisors Keyser Marston Associates Inc. estimated that such commercial uses could yield almost \$16 million in one-time construction-related revenues plus an additional \$1.1 million per year in tax revenues for the city. The firm estimated that the Crosby properties could support 1.2 million square feet of industrial park development.

As an alternative to the Dublin Boulevard extension, Younker said an extension of Collier Canyon Road could provide a similar connection between the two cities at less cost and without the agricultural and wildlife impacts of the boulevard proposal.

MAILBOX

(Continued from page 5)

growth and resource concentration are increasingly centered in Asia and Africa. Central banks have accelerated gold purchases, signaling gradual diversification from sole reliance on the U.S. dollar.

This does not signal imminent collapse, but structural transformation. The era of unchallenged American dominance appears to be giving way to a more competitive and multipolar world order.

Welcome to Trump World: When "No" Means Punish Everyone

Rosario Milelli, Pleasanton

The Supreme Court says no to Trump's tariff scheme — so he reacts the way he always does when told no: he lashes out. When the Court rejected his unlawful attempt to unilaterally reshape trade policy, Trump's response was not re-calibration. It was retaliation. He pivoted to a blanket 15% tariff — a tax in everything but name. And who pays it? Not China. Not foreign governments. American citizens.

Tariffs are not magic punishment devices aimed overseas. They are taxes collected at our ports and passed directly into consumer prices. Every family buying groceries, clothing, electronics, or auto parts absorbs the cost. Every small business importing materials sees margins squeezed. If the stated goal is to penalize unfair trade practices, then target them precisely. Don't impose a broad domestic tax that undercuts your own economy.

Consider the administration's reported move to ban AI systems from companies that refuse to support autonomous weapons programs. Anthropic publicly committed that its software would not be used to power autonomous weapon systems. One may agree or disagree with that stance, but it reflects an ethical boundary. Instead of engaging, negotiating, or partnering elsewhere, Trump's reaction: ban them.

This is governance by grievance. If you don't comply, you're punished. If you assert indepen-

dence, you're excluded. The result? The United States loses access to cutting-edge AI capability because a president cannot tolerate conditions he dislikes.

And then there is the Constitution.

Trump, prodded by Israel and his Arab State benefactors, unilaterally declared war on Iran. History will judge whether this was a brilliant action or another disastrous intervention in the Middle East. But let's be clear; Article I is unambiguous: Congress declares war. Yet military actions are increasingly launched by executive decision alone. Each time that line is crossed without consequence, precedent hardens. What was once extraordinary becomes routine. What was once debated becomes assumed.

A president who taxes by impulse, bans by vendetta, and wages war without Congress is not expanding executive power — he is concentrating it. That is not conservative. It is not liberal. It is not constitutional. It is personal rule, a king, a dictator — call it what you will. Democracy dies when punishment is policy, disagreement is disloyalty, and the Constitution is optional.

No matter what happens, support our brave troops who faithfully follow orders.

A New Governor for California

Kyoko Takayama, Livermore

Who is the best candidate for the governor of California? I started to think about this because people keep asking me. And to me, the question should be, "Who is most qualified?" To answer this question, we have to think about the governor's job. I am not trying to explain legal descriptions here. Like president, the governor has multiple jobs: to sign or veto bills legislators bring forward, to balance the budget, to appoint and fill administrative and judicial positions, and to work with multiple departments and committees to run the state of California. If you are shaking your head about our current federal government leaders (appointed by the president and approved

by our U.S. Senate), you must agree that people who take responsibility for the administration are as important as the president or governor themselves. So while it is important to have vision and ideas, I would like to consider which candidate will bring the best people for those jobs into our state administration and judicial system. Who has access to a pool of talented, and trustworthy people that will run our beloved messy and huge state of California for the next four years? Nobody knows everything, so surrounding yourself with good people is imperative. The governor's job is not talking on TV or fighting the 47th, even though they are the most visible, and unfortunately part of our daily lives today. Their job is to govern with the team. Character also matters. Do they respect people, including women, people of color and their staff? Do they know how to listen? Do they answer questions straight? Are they walking their talk? It is much easier to eliminate candidates with these questions. The governor has power, and we want to give it to somebody who can do the job, don't we?

MAGA Exposed

Steven Rego, Pleasanton

With all the obsequious loyalty to a fascist starting to wane, one can only wish for any remaining stragglers to get mental help with deprogramming. Remember that the only reason this traitor is still in the office is the uber-wealthy and their vast resources. Peter Thiel, Jeff Bezos, Elon Musk, and a whole host of the dregs of society.

The very wealthy broke a trust with the vast majority of the American people by not paying their taxes.

In the 1940's, FDR persuaded the very rich to not kill the goose that laid the golden eggs. That worked very well and enabled the working class (our families) to purchase homes by getting the economic engines turning again.

We ALL need this to happen to reimagine what makes the U.S. the envy of the world.

LIMITS

(Continued from front page)

to take summer school classes and even consider doing self-study to take AP exams online to acquire those classes that weren't available or offered.

While Myers did not take a firm position on whether AP limitations were beneficial, she said Dublin students should state on applications to schools where the grade point average is given greater weight that the DUSD placed limitations on the number of AP courses available. "The biggest mistake I see is students don't give themselves credit for everything they are doing or have done," Myers said. She urges students to put forth as much information as possible to best define who they are and have been on their academic journey leading up to the college application process.

In response to Dublin's action, neither the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District (LVJUSD) nor the Pleasanton Unified School District (PUSD) noted plans to follow suit with its curriculum policies for AP courses.

During course selection, Suzanne Frey, PUSD's safety and communication coordinator, noted that

students and families are encouraged to thoughtfully consider overall workload and balance.

The district's high school counseling resources emphasize selecting courses aligned with a student's interests and strengths, while being mindful of the rigor of advanced coursework. "In addition, our academic support resources promote healthy time management and realistic expectations, reminding students not to overextend themselves and to maintain time for rest, extracurricular activities, and social connections," she said. "Our focus remains on supporting both academic achievement and student well-being, including promoting healthy balance and informed course selection through ongoing counseling guidance," Frey added.

Michelle Pechette, LVJUSD assistant superintendent of educational services and acting superintendent, echoed these sentiments.

"Our counselors and administrators do provide ongoing guidance that encourages students to create schedules that are rigorous, yet balanced, in order to avoid any mental health challenges that can

arise from extreme academic stress," Pechette said.

Should issues arise for students, Pechette noted that teachers are the first stop on the continuum of support for students and parents to reach out to if a student is experiencing difficulties in a class.

"If concerns persist, counselors and administrators can provide additional support and alternatives," she said. "Nearly every AP course offered has a non-AP course version available, so students interested in a particular subject have options available to them."

District school counselors are trained to provide both academic and social-emotional support to students, often helping them to develop coping skills for anxiety and stress. Pechette added that the district's comprehensive high schools also have wellness centers, which provide both drop-in and appointment-based access year-round.

Asked if Dublin's recent action could see changes in the future, DUSD spokesperson Chip Dehnert said it is not chiseled in stone and "can be changed as the board's composition or priorities evolve."



A festive entry marches down Dublin Boulevard during the annual St. Patrick's Day Parade last year. Presented by the Rotary Club of Dublin, the event features more than 60 entries — including marching bands, Irish dancers, and equestrians — along a route starting at Amador Plaza Road and concluding near the Dublin Senior Center. This year's event is Saturday, March 14. (File — Doug Jorengesen)

Tri-Valley Innovation Fair Returns in April

TRI-VALLEY — Quest Science Center will host the eighth annual Tri-Valley Innovation Fair at the Alameda County Fairgrounds from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, April 18.

The family-friendly fair will include more than 70 interactive exhibits, live demonstrations and perfor-

mances, along with opportunities to meet the scientists, educators and companies bringing new ideas to life in the Tri-Valley region.

"The Tri-Valley Innovation Fair is a cornerstone of Quest Science Center's ongoing mission and our promise to keep building equitable access to high-quality,

hands-on learning across the Tri-Valley and beyond year after year," said Michael Mosby, interim executive director. "We're thrilled to welcome thousands to explore, enjoy immersive exhibits and connect with the people and ideas shaping what's next for the Tri-Valley."

The Tri-Valley Innovation

Fair is free and open to the public.

Quest Science Center is a Livermore nonprofit that sponsors science-based community education programs, including the Science@Stockmen's Park program

For more information, go to quest-science.org.

Srinivas Earns a BSA Eagle Badge

PLEASANTON — Vishnu Srinivas, a member of Troop 908, will receive his Eagle badge at a court of honor on May 11.

To achieve the rank of Eagle, the highest rank in the traditional Scouts BSA program, a Scout must earn at least 21 merit badges and complete a community service project.

For his Eagle project, Srinivas built two permanent mounting steps in the equestrian area at Sycamore Grove Park in Livermore to help riders safely mount and

dismount horses, improving accessibility for older riders and others with limited mobility.

Park ranger Seth Eddings called it one of the largest Eagle projects ever at Sycamore Grove, with Srinivas leading a dozen Scouts and adult leaders who put 150 volunteer hours building the mounting steps.

Srinivas is a senior at Foothill High School and the son of Srinivas Sampath and Vijayanthi Vyakaranam.

Troop 908 is sponsored by St. Clare's Episcopal Church.

Minor Changes to Wheels Bus Routes

TRI-VALLEY — The Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority (LAVTA) said last week that it has made minor changes to several Wheels bus routes to improve on-time performance, including Dublin supplemental school service on 500 series routes, with pickup times moved ahead as much as 12 minutes on some runs to better align with bell times at Dublin High School.

LAVTA said buses have also been added to Route 10R on Sundays to improve schedule reliability.

In addition, the weekday schedules for Routes 2, 4 and 14 have been adjusted for

more accurate arrival times.

Updated timetables are available at wheelbus.com. Schedules are also available on all buses, at Wheels offices and at the Livermore Transit Center.



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New Bill Introduced to Block 3D Gun Printing

SACRAMENTO — Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan (D-Orinda) has introduced legislation that would require three-dimensional (3D) printers sold in California be equipped with features designed to prevent the

printing of gun parts and ghost guns.

"As gun violence continues to devastate our communities, we cannot allow 3D printing technology to become a new pipeline for untraceable weapons," said Bauer-Kahan, whose district includes Livermore and most of Dublin and Pleasanton.

According to the nonprofit Everytown for Gun Safety, law enforcement recoveries of 3D-printed guns increased by 1,000% between 2020 and 2024.

Under AB 2047, all 3D printers sold in California would be required to include firearm-detection algorithms and software controls that identify files designed to produce guns and gun parts, then block those printing requests.

CalKIDS College Savings Accounts Available for Alameda County High School Seniors

TRI-VALLEY — The California Kids Investment and Development Savings Program is urging high school seniors to check whether they are eligible for a CalKIDS scholarship to help pay for college or career training.

Funded by the state,

CalKIDS provides scholarships of up to \$1,500 for public-school students.

Seniors completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or the California Dream Act Application (CADAA) may already be

able to claim a CalKIDS scholarship.

More than \$52 million in CalKIDS scholarship funds are available to Alameda County students, according to the state.

CalKIDS scholarships can be claimed online by going to CalKIDS.org.

Students will need their Statewide Student Identifier (SSID), which they can get from their school or by going to CaliforniaColleges.edu.

Statewide, more than 60% of public-school students are eligible to claim a CalKIDS Scholarship.

LJVUSD

(Continued from front page)

days for select roles, and drawing on reserve funds of \$3 million for one-time use.

With these reductions, the district is expected to retain a qualified budget status for the next two years. However, to remain fiscally solvent after that would require another \$11 million in reductions for 2027-28, if no additional state revenues materialize for 2026-27.

For the time-being, the board, representatives from bargaining units and the community expressed their support of the district's direction and steps taken in recent weeks towards establishing a more collaborative, transparent budget reduction process.

"This is a pivotal moment for the district," said board member Craig Bueno. "In my opinion, the district could have gone in two directions: one that could be a very difficult path to recover from, and on the path we're currently on, I think it's a trust-building, forward path."

At Bueno's suggestion,

the board recently voted to form a budget work group to recommend reductions. The group included the district's cabinet — a leadership team consisting of acting Superintendent Melissa Pechette, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services Kayla Wasley, and other department heads. The committee also included representatives from each of the district's labor groups and bargaining units. Two board members attended each of the three sessions as observers, with various trustees alternating attendance throughout the process.

The group met for three sessions to create a plan for the 2026-27 school year, going through the budget to isolate expenses that could be released or shifted.

According to Aimee Thompson, president of the Livermore Education Association (LEA), the plan establishes a three-tier system for the cuts. LEA, the district's primary teachers union, represents edu-

cators, counselors, nurses, and other specialized staff. Under the plan, third-tier items would be restored if Gov. Gavin Newsom's May budget revision provides additional state funding. Second-tier items would be next in line, while first-tier cuts are considered unlikely to be restored. The reason the budget work group was comfortable planning to use \$3 million of the required reserves in the 2026-27 school year as a budget solution is due to the potential money in the governor's proposed state budget, not yet included in our district budget," Thompson said.

This state funding includes \$1.2 million in ongoing money for an increase to the special education base grant, \$6.2 million in one-time money for the student support and professional development block grant, and \$700,000 one time for the Learning Recovery Block grant. Additionally, there is \$11.1 million owed in Prop 98 funding.

LEA has encouraged its membership to write to state legislators, and request that all of these potential funding sources be included in the final adopted state budget. If any parents or community members are interested in joining this writing campaign, a draft letter and the contact information for California's state legislators on the LEA's website: livermoreteachers.org.

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PLEASE HELP BRING MIGUEL HOME



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

Livermore Wenté Winery worker, married father of three and grandfather

Miguel Lopez

remains in Mexico after having been illegally deported in early June.

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

TRUE VALUE

(Continued from front page)

most employees from the Santa Rita Road location have transitioned to the downtown store, Nichandros said.

"It's a win-win," he said. "We keep the workers, and the loyal customers follow them over. It's loyalty —

they know your name."

Workbench is a family-owned business that traces back to 1969, when Nichandros's father opened the company's first store in Dublin, a location that has since closed.

The Santa Rita Road

store followed in 1971, along with additional locations in Castro Valley and Patterson.

Nichandros said he looks forward to seeing familiar faces at the Main Street store as the family business enters its next phase.



MC-DJ, duo Faith Alpher, right, and Arthur Barinque, back left, presented during the annual Black History Month open mic night at Swirl on the Square on Feb. 22. Hosted by Tri-Valley for Black Lives, the event brought community members together for an evening of performance and celebration in downtown Livermore. (Photo courtesy of Kristie Wang)

LVO
(Continued from front page)

instead avenge the women. Rather than pointing a finger at them as if to say, all women are a certain way, Herriot points a finger at all of humankind and stresses that everyone has the capacity to behave in questionable ways.

“We all have the capacity to love more than one person and to fall in love with more than one person. We all have that ability,” he said. “It’s whether we act on it or not. That is where the lines become blurred.”

In Herriot’s interpretation, women have the last say and comment on the men’s “ridiculous behavior,” rather than just the women’s supposed infidelity, the director said. Floating atop the trials and tribulations of the opera is some of Mozart’s best music, he added. “So musically it’s stunning and beautiful, and the characters really do go through these moments of heartbreak where they have been duped into situations that are real to them.”

Two quintets in Act I are sung by each of the couples as they say goodbye to each other.

It’s some of the best music Mozart has ever written because it really does capture that stretching of your heart, pulling away from someone who’s going away,” Herriot said.

The beauty of the op-

era, as in life, is that often the release of laughter follows moments of heartbreak.

Herriot draws inspiration from popular culture and film to capture that feeling. He referenced a scene from the late 1980s movie “Steel Magnolias” when Sally Field’s character is crying hysterically over the death of her daughter. “She says, ‘I just want to hit someone and make them feel as bad as I do.’ And someone pushes Shirley MacLaine at her and says, ‘Hit her, half the county wants to.’ And everyone in the theater burst out laughing.”

Those moments that look at the juxtaposition of the human condition are sprinkled throughout the production. Herriot’s view of Mozart’s operatic work has changed over the years as he has gone through different personal life and relationship changes.

It’s his belief that the human condition and matters of the heart are the themes that continue to cut through time and find their way into his interpretations for the stage.

“There’s an aria in Act II,” Herriot said, “when Dorabella is in a struggle between loving Ferrando and this new guy she falls in love with.” Sung by Meryl Dominguez, “it’s probably the best I’ve ever heard anyone sing it—ever.”

For Herriot, the feelings that aria evokes are akin to those from another cinematic work he loves, “Brief Encounter” released in 1946, wherein two married strangers fall in love on a train platform. “At the end, the protagonist says, ‘Nothing ever lasts really, neither happiness nor sadness. Soon this will all just be a memory.’”

There are three opportunities left to see the opera. 2 p.m. matinees are on Sunday, March 1, Saturday, March 7, and Sunday, March 8.

Tickets start at \$65 and are available online at livermorearts.org or lvopera.com.

Las Positas EMS Program Earns National Accreditation

LIVERMORE — The Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Paramedic Education Program at Las Positas College (LPC) has received accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education

Programs (CAAHEP).

LPC said accreditation underscores the college’s commitment to providing education and training that meets national standards and ensures that EMS students receive the knowl-

edge and skills required for the job.

LPC added that graduating from a CAAHEP-accredited program can be a critical step toward licensure and professional practice.

Ruby Hill Winery VHS Donations Top \$100,000 Supporting Dogs

PLEASANTON — Ruby Hill Winery’s donations to the Valley Humane Society (VHS) since 2020 have now surpassed \$100,000.

In 2020, the winery introduced a cabernet, merlot, and Petit Verdot blend that it called Cuvee Dray, named for a Boxer owned by General Manager Eric Callahan.

Since then, the winery has donated \$10 to VHS

for every bottle sold.

Dray, who died in 2014, accompanied Callahan to work every day during the COVID pandemic.

Then, as Callahan explained, “as people went back to work, the news was full of stories about animals being returned to shelters. I was lucky enough to have Dray by my side, and I decided we needed to do something

to help.”

The winery said continuing to donate to VHS is a way of “honoring all the joy dogs have brought” to people’s lives and a commitment to support the local community.

Cuvee Dray, which features a sketch of Dray the Boxer on the label, is sold online and at the winery’s tasting room at 400 Vineyard Ave.

New Fairgrounds Study Shows \$312 Million Economic Impact

PLEASANTON — The Alameda County Fairgrounds has a \$312 million impact on the local economy, including the annual Alameda County Fair and year-round events hosted at the event center, according to a recent analysis by Johnson Consulting.

The Chicago-based consulting firm said the county fair alone generates \$132.1 million in econom-

ic impact.

With year-round programming, including more than 300 public and private events, the fairgrounds draws 1.44 million visitors annually, reinforcing its role as an economic engine for the region, including its impact on local businesses.

The study concluded that the fairgrounds supports 1,980 jobs and generates \$104.6 million in wages.

It also generates \$14.3 million in sales taxes and \$186,000 in hotel tax revenues.

Over 16,000 visitors annually book hotel rooms to attend events at the 267-acre fairgrounds.

The study was commissioned by the International Association of Fairs and Expos, with 1,392 fairs participating in the analysis.

Search Warrant Leads to Arrest On Narcotics, Weapon Charges

LIVERMORE — Police arrested four people and seized narcotics, ammunition, and equipment used in the manufacture of the hallucinogen DMT while serving a search warrant at a residence on Wagoner Drive earlier this month.

Police identified those arrested as Livermore

resident Spencer Bell, 60, charged with manufacturing a controlled substance and possession of a controlled substance, and Joseph Bozzie, 35, and Dezirae Lambertcase, 27, both charged with possession for sale of a controlled substance, prohibited person in pos-

session of ammunition and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Also arrested was Matthew Richardson, 46, of Patterson, charged with possession of a controlled substance.

All four suspects were booked into Santa Rita Jail in Dublin.

TRI-VALLEY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Monday, March 9

LIVERMORE-AMADOR GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY MEETING
Join via Zoom to hear Kathryn Lake Hogan speaking on “Finding your Canadian Ancestors.” Even if you think they were never in Canada, discover why your American or immigrant ancestors may have been there. See flyer on www.l-ags.org to register (click on Speakers & Topics on upper left). On March 9 at 7:00 p.m. No charge, visitors welcome.

Thursday, March 12

LIVERMORE AMADOR VALLEY GARDEN CLUB MEETING
Rose Loveall, with Morningsun Herb Farm and mail order nursery, will talk about tea gardens and about growing, harvesting and brewing herbal and flower teas. Plants will be for sale. On March 12 from 6 to 8 p.m. at Crosswinds Church, 1660 Freisman Rd., Livermore, at the red Farm Theater Building.

Friday/Saturday, March 13 and 14

VALLEY CONCERT CHORALE TO PERFORM “MASS FOR THE MILLENNIUM”

The Valley Concert Chorale is honored to perform the United States premiere of Margaret Shelton Meier’s Mass for the Millennium, titled “Millennium and Memory.” The concerts will also feature choral selections reflecting the American experience in this year of the country’s 250th anniversary. The two evening performances will be March 13, 7:30 p.m., at Lynnewood Methodist Church, 4444 Black Ave., Pleasanton and March 14, 7:30 p.m., at First Presbyterian Church, 2020 Fifth St., Livermore. Tickets are \$30. College students are \$10 with valid student ID. Children K-12 are free. Advance tickets may be purchased at www.valleyconcertchorale.org, or at (925) 866-4003.

Saturday, March 14

14th ANNUAL LIVERMORE HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION CRAB FEED

Come to a fun night of live and silent auctions, DJ, games and dancing! March 14 from 6-10 p.m.; doors open at 5:30. At Robert Livermore Community Center, 4444 East Avenue, Livermore. \$80 per person. Ticket includes crab, pasta, salad, bread and dessert. For more info, contact lhalumniassoc@gmail.com or Duane at 925-724-4251.

Saturday, April 18

8TH ANNUAL TRI-VALLEY INNOVATION FAIR

Quest Science Center is thrilled to announce the 8th Annual Tri-Valley Innovation Fair, on April 18 at the Alameda County Fairgrounds in Pleasanton from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. This community program brings together students, families, educators, and local businesses for a free day of 70+ interactive exhibits, live demonstrations, performances, and learning moments. Attendees can dive into everything from engineering challenges to creative tech, meeting the scientists, educators, students, and companies who bring big ideas to life here in the Tri-Valley.

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: 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, 1 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

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 valleyservice-centeraa.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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Zone 7 Water Agency Board Seats Up for Election

LIVERMORE — Four of the seven seats on the Zone 7 Water Agency will be up for election in June.

Candidates interested in serving on the board have until Friday, March 6, to file at the Alameda County Registrar of Voters office in Oakland.

If an incumbent board member does not file for reelection by March 6, the filing period will be extended to Friday, March 13.

Zone 7 Water Agency is one of 10 active zones of the Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, which was created

by the California State Legislature in 1949 to address issues of flooding, drainage, channel erosion and water supply and conservation in Alameda County.

In 1957, Zone 7 became a special district governed by an elected seven-member board of directors.

Along with flood protection, Zone 7 provides water to more than 270,000 residents in eastern Alameda County.

The agency sells treated water wholesale to local retailers, including the cities of Livermore and Pleasanton, the Dublin San Ramon

Services District and the California Water Service Company.

It also distributes untreated water to local agriculture operations and golf courses.

Candidates for the board must be 18 years of age or older and reside within Zone 7's service area.

Board members receive compensation for attending meetings and conferences related to their service. The full board meets once a month. Board members also serve on at least one subcommittee.

For more information, go to acvote.org/candidates/how-to-run.

PG&E Increases Assistance for Overdue Bills to Provide Relief

TRI-VALLEY — Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) will spend up to \$50 million this year to help customers pay overdue energy bills through its Relief for Energy Assistance through Community Help (REACH) and Match My Payment programs.

PG&E said customers who have received a disconnection notice can receive up to an \$800 credit on their bills through the REACH program, up from \$300 last year.

The Match My Payment program matches customer payments dollar-for-dollar, up to \$1,000, if at least \$50 is applied toward a past-due balance of \$100 or more.

PG&E said eligible customers can receive multiple Match My Payment credits during the year, and a disconnection notice is not required to qualify. REACH recipients are also prequalified for up to \$1,000 on a past-due balance through the Match My Payment

program, for a combined benefit of up to \$1,800 while funds last.

PG&E said eligibility for both programs is based on federal income guidelines.

For example, a family of four earning less than \$128,600 may qualify for the Match My Payment program, which has higher income limits than the REACH program.

In 2025, the two programs provided about \$23 million in assistance to over 64,000 customers.

Church Bus Pass Program Requests Donations

LIVERMORE — The Tri-Valley Bus Pass Program sponsored by Asbury United Methodist Church is asking for donations as it enters its 10th year of operation.

The program provides free Wheels bus passes to the homeless and needy Tri-Valley residents, helping them access shelters, food

programs, laundry facilities and health care.

Each pass costs the program \$3.75 and is good for an unlimited number of rides during a 24-hour period.

The program is funded by community donations and small local grants.

To donate, send a check made out to Asbury United

Methodist Church (AUMC) with "Bus Pass" on the memo line to the church at 4743 East Ave. The church asks that donors also write "Bus Passes" on the envelope.

Donations can also be made online by going to asburylive.org and clicking on "Serve."

Time to Nominate Honorees For Military Banners

Dublin is now accepting nominations for its 2026 Military Banner Program.

Established in 2018, the program honors local veterans and active-duty members of the U.S. Armed Forces who have a connection to Dublin with banners along Dougherty Road near the Parks Reserve Forces Training Area, also known as Camp Parks.

Each banner includes a photo, name, rank and branch of service for the service member being honored.

The banners go on display prior to Memorial Day and are taken down after Veterans Day, when they are cleaned and presented to the honoree or sponsor during a Dublin City Council meeting in December.

Sponsors pay a \$200 fee after a nomination is accepted by the city. For more information, go to dublin.ca.gov/militarybanners.

PUSD Superintendent Ghysels to Give the State of District Address

PLEASANTON — Pleasanton Unified School District (PUSD) Superintendent Maurice Ghysels will highlight district progress and priorities at the seventh annual State of the District event at the Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., at 8 a.m. on Tuesday, March 17.

Following his address, Ghysels will join PUSD

Board President Kelly Morkashi and Vice President Laurie Walker Whiteland in a question-and-answer session.

Andrea Wilson, executive director of the nonprofit Pleasanton Partnerships in Education (PPIE) Foundation, will also recognize the 2026 Pillars of Pleasanton award recipients for their support of local schools and

students.

This year's winners are Marcel Orthodontics, The Safeway Foundation and the Hoose family.

Pleasanton Mayor Jack Balch will give the opening remarks.

The State of the District event is open to the community. To RSVP, go to tinyurl.com/5y2jkbku.

OBITUARIES

Kenneth R. Boyden

March 31, 1946 — April 8, 2025

Kenneth R. Boyden, a long-time resident of Livermore and a Lab retiree, passed away on April 8, 2025. He was 79 years old.

Born March 31, 1946 in Fresno, California, he graduated from Fresno State where he earned a bachelor's degree in industrial technology. He served active military service with the U.S. Naval Reserve during the Vietnam war and continued service with the Naval Reserves. He retired

as a commander. He also obtained an MBA from Long Beach State while working full time as Hughes Aircraft Company.

He worked at the lab from 1981 to 2012 in mechanical engineering as a mechanical coordinator and a quality assurance associate. He worked on many of the lab's programs, including NOVA, AVLIS, MFTF, ATA, Brilliant Pebbles, and others. He had a dry sense of humor and en-

joyed interfacing with fellow lab employees using his humor. Before LLNL, he worked at Hughes Aircraft Company as a project manager on the F-15 Radar manufacturing program. He also was part-time instructor at Las Positas College while working at LLNL. Over the years, he enjoyed snow skiing, water skiing, racquetball, tennis, bird hunting and fishing.

No services are planned.

James "Jim" Henry Norcup

1954 — 2026



James "Jim" Henry Norcup passed away peacefully at home on Feb. 22, 2026, surrounded by love. He was a devoted husband, proud father, and deeply cherished grandfather whose life was defined by strength, loyalty, and unwavering love for his family.

Jim is survived by his beloved wife, Lynette Norcup; his daughters, Jennifer Diaz and Stefanie Valentine; and his seven treasured grandchildren: Alissa, Cameron, Noah, James, William, Charlie, and Stella. He is also survived by his sisters, Franni Goldstein and JoLynn Eala, and his brother Bill Norcup.

Jim was, at his core, a family man. His greatest joy came from being with those he loved. He could almost always be found on the sidelines of a game, in

the stands at a performance, or cheering from wherever he was able, proudly supporting his grandchildren in all that they did. Being "Papa" was one of the greatest honors of his life.

An Eagle Scout in his youth, Jim carried those values of integrity, dependability, and service

with him throughout his life. He was a man who believed in doing the right thing, keeping his word, and showing up when it mattered.

He enjoyed playing golf, especially the camaraderie that came with it. While he kept a small circle, he was a loyal and steady friend, the kind of person others could count on. Those who knew him appreciated his humor, his sincerity, and the depth of his character.

Above all, Jim was a loving husband to Lynette and a steady, guiding presence to his daughters. His life was not measured in grand gestures, but in consistent love, support, and devotion to his family.

He will be deeply missed and forever remembered in the hearts of those who loved him most.

Thomas F. Henry

Sept. 10, 1956 — Feb. 15, 2026



Tom was born in Antioch, California to Thomas Henry and Winifred Lester.

Raised in Livermore, Tom grew up surrounded by his family and friends. He was active in the 4-H and FFA organizations in his youth.

After graduating from Livermore High School, Tom found a career working at Orchard Supply Hardware. He thrived at this job until 2009.

Tom will be greatly missed by family and friends.

Tom is preceded in death

by both of his parents, his sister Denise Gouvaia and brother Matthew Henry. Tom is survived by his brother-in-law Mark Gouvaia, nephews Michael Gouvaia, Paul Gouvaia and Trenton Henry, and his niece Chyann Henry. Tom is also survived by three great-nephews and one great-niece.

On Thursday, March 12, 2026: Visitation (10:00 am-11:00 am) and Mass (11:00 am-12:00 pm) will be held for Thomas at St. Michael Catholic Church in Livermore.

In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to any stroke research or charity of your choice.

He will be deeply missed and forever remembered in the hearts of those who loved him most.

He will be deeply missed and forever remembered in the hearts of those who loved him most.

He will be deeply missed and forever remembered in the hearts of those who loved him most.

D Adam Young, Jr.

April 26, 1934 — Feb. 19, 2026

Adam was born in Durham, North Carolina and moved west to California with his family at age nine. He and his wife of 72 years moved to Pleasanton, California in 1967 where he passed

peacefully in his home in 2026. He was a Chabot College Hayward engineering instructor for 37 years, from which he retired. He is survived by his wife, two sons, and two daughters. He is

interned in Memory Gardens in Livermore, California in the Garden of Angels. He is home forever in heaven with his savior, Jesus, in whom he had complete trust and faith.

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Patricia Juanita Brown

Sept. 6, 1937 — Feb. 2, 2026



Patricia Juanita Brown, beloved mother, grandmother, and friend to many, passed away peacefully in her sleep at her home in Rocklin, California on Feb. 2, 2026, at the age of 88.

Pat was born in Los Angeles on Sept. 6, 1937, to Dora Druttman and Glen "Tex" Hilburn, the third of six children. During World War II, the family relocated to Hunters Point in San Francisco while her father served in the Navy and her mother worked at a cannery in Hayward to support the family. It was in Hayward that Pat would later plant her own roots, meeting and marrying Frank Dickinson in 1954. Together they welcomed three sons — Frank Jr., Steve, and Larry — before the marriage ended in 1965.

She soon met the love of her life, Emmett Brown, and the two married in 1966. In 1967, Pat and Emmett settled in Livermore, where they would spend over 30 years and welcome their son Emmett Jr. (George). Their home on Crane Avenue, complete with a swimming pool, became a beloved gathering place, always full of children, grandchildren, friends, and laughter. Despite raising a large family, Pat worked full time at



a glass manufacturer in Oakland throughout her children's childhoods, often managing rotating shift work, all while remaining a giving, warm, and joyful presence. She took tremendous pride in her grandchildren, even raising two of her granddaughters for several years.

Around 2004, Pat and Emmett retired to Dayton, Nevada, trading the busy Bay Area for a quieter pace — and closer proximity to the casinos she loved. After Emmett passed from mesothelioma in 2007, Pat moved to Rocklin, California to be near her children and grandchildren in the greater Sacramento area, where she remained until her passing.

Pat was a gregarious, fun-loving soul who cherished parties, family reunions, and time with the people she loved. One of her greatest joys was hitting the casinos with her sister Dora Mae. She leaves behind a legacy of warmth, resilience, and an open-door spirit that touched everyone who knew her.

Following a private family funeral, a Celebration of Life will be held on March 6 from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. at the Eagles Hall on North Livermore Ave. in Livermore. All who knew and loved Pat are warmly welcomed.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly asks that donations be made to VITAS Hospice, whose compassionate care brought great comfort to Pat in her final days, or to a charity of your choosing.

Shirley Welsh Stribling

Jan. 10, 1931 — Feb. 25, 2026

Shirley Welsh Stribling, age 95, passed away on Feb. 25, 2026, at Stonebrook Healthcare in Concord, California. Shirley was born on Jan. 10, 1931, in Lodi, California, the son of the late Shirley and Melissa "Welsh" Stribling. He graduated from Lodi High in 1949. While attending college, Shirley sought opportunity and adventure beyond the classroom. He began working for Coastwise Line in San Francisco as a Merchant Marine. In 1954, Shirley transitioned ashore and began working at Aerojet in Rancho Cordova, where he served as a supervisor. On Aug. 23, 1955, Shirley married the love of his life, Phyllis Elizabeth Wohl, in Reno, Nevada. Their marriage was a partnership that lasted through decades of change and growth. They were

blessed with five children: Keith, Rod, Lori, Lisa, and Lynette. Shirley began his life career at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. There, he worked as a mechanical engineer, contributing his talents to meaningful and complex projects. He retired in 1991. Shirley was involved with the Livermore RC plane club. He shared his enthusiasm with fellow hobbyists, mentoring newcomers and constructing planes with creativity. Shirley also enjoyed racing and working on go-carts. Shirley and Phyllis shared a love for the outdoors with their children. Camping trips were filled with how to bait a hook, pitch a tent. He was also an active participant in the Boy Scouts of America, supporting his sons through outdoor adventure. At home, Shirley

enjoyed growing his own produce from seed to harvest and sharing with those he loved. Shirley is preceded in death by his beloved wife, Phyllis; his sons Rodney and Keith; his sister Susan; and his brother Robert. Though he endured the sorrow of loss, he was grateful for the years he was given. He leaves behind his daughters Lori, Lisa, and Lynette; his grandchildren Jessica, Jennifer, Nicholas, Dakota, Taylor, Madison, and Christopher; his great-grandchildren Clayton, Meirabella, and Charlotte; and great-great-grandchild Havana. Ninety-five years is a long journey. Shirley lived it fully with purpose, passion, and perseverance. His story is one of dedication, adventure, and enduring love. Truly, it was a life well lived.

The Heartbreaking NCS Title Defeat Won't Deter Matadors

By Mitch Stephens

SAN LEANDRO — One by one, the 15-person Granada High School boys basketball team walked slowly, solemnly, and unitedly out of the locker room at San Leandro High School Saturday (Feb. 28).

Heads were up. Eyes were tired, drawn and bloodshot. There were few words.

It was close to 30 minutes after the Matadors had spilled their teenage souls out on the court. All before a sold-out, boisterous, impassioned, and evenly divided crowd cheering on Granada, with a history of one North Coast Section title, and the 19-time champion Bishop O'Dowd Dragons.

At stake was another crown, the 2026 NCS Division I championship. Though the title-game experience couldn't have been much different, nor could the schools' backgrounds — one a private school from the inner city of Oakland and the other a public school from the suburbs of Livermore — the effort, skill set and will of the teams

matched perfectly.

Almost like their black, gold and white team colors.

In what many considered one of the best top-division NCS title games in recent or any other history, the squads — which remarkably had never met — threw one collective, figurative haymaker after another for 32 thrilling, intense, nonstop minutes before O'Dowd eventually landed the last two blows for a wildly entertaining 79-76 victory that left fans, coaches and officials gasping for air.

The game was full of offensive flow, big runs and spectacular shot-making. "That was definitely one of the very best playoff games I've been associated with," said Bishop O'Dowd coach and alum Lou Richie, who has played and coached in NCS title games since the 1980s. "It's a shame someone had to lose, but I am glad it wasn't us."

While Richie's team rejoiced in the locker room, just down the hall approximately 100 feet, the Matadors

were licking their collective wounds, consoling one another while trying to figure out how such a joyous night, filled with heroic efforts, precise execution, fantastic team play and utter guts, came up just short.

The Matadors, behind a herculean effort from 6-foot-7 junior Brandon Hahn (36 points, 17 rebounds, three blocks), inspired play from freshman point guard Quaran Johnson Jr. (18 points, six assists, four steals) and gutsy, clutch, impassioned play by Damien Miles, Ethan Mitchell and Cordell Taylor (combined 21 points), led most of the game, especially after a 17-6 run that started late in the first quarter.

O'Dowd, behind their high-flying 6-5 senior Naas Griffin (20 points, 10 rebounds), and a strong supporting staff of Erick Thome (11 points), Kaiden Gibbs (10) and Aaron Casqueiro (8), stayed within touch, never trailing by more than 10.

That's when O'Dowd's GJ Hill-Thomas took over.



The Matadors' 6-foot-7 junior Brandon Hahn gave it his all with 36 points, 17 rebounds, and three blocks in painful NCS defeat. (Photo courtesy of Sam Stringer)

The 6-foot junior guard scored 25 of his 27 points in the second half, allowing the Dragons to finally catch up at 45-45, before looking like they took control. A pair of driving layups by Hill-Thomas sent Granada down 64-59 and all the momentum seemed to be on the Dragons side.

"We weren't backing down," Hahn said, "We'd come too far."

Indeed, an 11-5 run, keyed by a three-pointer by Mitchell, a pair of putbacks by Hahn and finally a driving layup by Johnson, gave Granada back the lead, 70-69. Some more nifty footwork by Hahn and three more buckets extended Granada's lead to 74-70 with 1:30 left. The game seemed destined for the Matadors.

But Granada managed just two free throws by Miles the rest of the way. A three-pointer, midrange jumper and layup by Hill-Thomas, plus a layup and key steal by Gibbs, proved decisive down the stretch, and the Dragons got their 20th title.

They skipped, hugged and rejoiced on the court, while Granada lined up, shook hands, and internally crushed waited, dejected on the court while accepting their second-place trophy. They remained tight as a team, and their fans contin-

ued to appreciate them.

Though they knew their effort was supreme, and they'd come much further than anyone anticipated — the Matadors were 8-19 last season — none were celebrating the climb. This was no morale victory.

"We got nothing to hang our heads about," Hahn said quietly. "We played hard and we played well for the most part. But I'm not gonna lie, this hurts a lot."

It would have hurt much worse had it ended their season.

The top three teams in each division advanced to this week's CIF Northern California regional tournament, and the Matadors earned a No. 3 seed in the Division II tournament and hosted a first-round game Tuesday (March 3) against Clovis (24-9). If victorious — the results were unavailable by press time — Granada will host another game Thursday (March 5) against the winner of Milpitas (26-1) and Oakland Tech (20-10).

"We'll be back at it in a day or two and rally to compete for a state title," said head coach Quaran Johnson Sr. "But this was an emotional loss for sure. I wish I could have helped take them over the hump and win. We were right there."

Coach Johnson fought tears often while talking to reporters after the game.

He led the Matadors to a Northern California Division I title in 2022 behind 7-foot center Andrew McKeever (now at St. Mary's College) and forward Tyler Harris (now at Vanderbilt) but after six seasons, he stepped away in 2024-25 to focus on a young family.

Johnson rejoined as head coach this season and is particularly close to the team because his son runs the point and he's best friends with all the players. When asked about Johnson Jr's play on Saturday, coach/dad managed a proud smile and noted his son's fearless nature. At 5-9 and not even 150 pounds, Johnson Jr. set the tone with a steal and two baskets in the first minute of play, and the intensity and excellence didn't stop the rest of the night.

"This team plays with no fear," coach Johnson said. "We're just as good as anybody and these guys don't back down from the challenge. They allow me to coach them hard. And that's what I asked them when I first came back. I told them that we'll get there. That we're going to play in some big games. ... I don't think a lot of people expected us to get this far. But here we are."



Granada, Livermore Wrestlers Shine

By Mitch Stephens

There's no bigger stage each year; no brighter lights for a high school wrestler, than Saturday nights late in February at the California State Meet in Bakersfield.

For Granada High School's SJ Martin, there was no longer wait as well.

The 120-pound senior whose full name is Stevie Joyce made it look easy last Saturday (Feb. 28) with a 12-0 win over Ava Ebrahimi of San Diego's Poway High in the state-title match at jam-packed Dignity Health Arena.

Martin won four previous matches during the two-day meet, all by pins in 59 seconds, 57 seconds, 1 minute, 37 seconds and 2:13. This came after losing in the 2025 state finals to Clovis East's Isabella Marie Gonzales via a pin.

It was a long road back. All in the name of history.

Martin became the first state champion in Granada history and only the second from the city of Livermore, joining Livermore High's 191-pounder Garen McDonald in 1980.

Martin wasn't the only standout in Bakersfield as teammate Maile Nguyen took sixth at 125s. She and Martin both finished off remarkable prep careers. Among their feats:

* Martin was the school's first four-time CIF state qualifier

* Nguyen was the school's all-time pin leader with more than 100, and had the second-most wins in school history

* Both were the school's first four-time NCS placers

* Both were the school's first two-time state placers

All-League boys soccer: The All-East Bay Athletic League boys soccer team was announced last week and Amador Valley seniors Nader Hanna and Atishay Sati earned first-team honors, along with Livermore junior Sean Gavin, Granada senior Zane Khairie, Dublin junior Ethan Tseng and Foothill senior Kevin Tippit.

Second-team members included Amador Valley seniors Avi Gorrepati and Jonas Ly-

ions, Livermore seniors Malik Guenouch and Cash Philbrick, Granada seniors Jacob Pratte and Seth Raborn, Dublin senior Dominic Daley and junior Siddhanth Natraj and Foothill senior Atlas Kading.

All-League girls soccer: The All-EBAL girls first-team soccer members included Amador Valley senior Kailee Walker and juniors Claire Morgan and Julia Wanis, Dublin junior Mikayla Ignacio, Foothill senior Claire Young, Granada senior Celeste Gaucin-Robles and Livermore senior Jenevieve Lundberg.

Second-team members included Amador Valley junior Morgan O'Brien and sophomore Addison Stout, Dublin senior Ammassa Rabi, Foothill senior Peyton Hasty and junior Kaia Wescott, Granada seniors Elle Eichenberger and Harper Hopcus and Livermore senior Isabella Hansen.

All-EBAL boys wrestling: First-team members included Livermore's Elham Hashimi (108 weight class), Dublin's Lytning Hazen (122), Granada's Isaiah Peterson-Moore (128), Jack Baker (134), Jack Bronte (140) and Jack Schwabenland (217) and Amador Valley's Evan Johnson (159) and William Chandler (192).

Second-team members included Amador Valley's Luke Staley (115), Roman Moore (128), Nathan Marek (140) and Daniel Borsody (146), Granada's Grant Langstaff (122) and Luke DeBenning (287), Dublin's Yousuf Amin (134) and Nick Green (167) and Livermore's Ronan McAllister (192).

All-EBAL girls wrestling: Besides Martin and Nguyen, first-team members included Granada's Piper Anderson (132), Elena Nguyen-Schertzer (147) and Isabella Tovar (172) and Amador Valley's Eliana Caro (102).

Second-team members included Foothill's Sydney Hsiu (112), Granada's Olivia Warren (117) and Sierra Monaghan (137) and Dublin's Lana Nguyen (132).

Have high school varsity sports news of note? A good human-interest story? Email Mitch Stephens at mitch@scorebooklive.com

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620405
The following person(s) doing business as: Redwood Creative Therapy, 4133 Mohr Ave, Suite I, Pleasanton, CA 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Brittany Tachkov, 2295 Camino Brazos, Pleasanton, CA 94566. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 4/1/2024. Signature of Registrant/s/: Brittany Tachkov, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 26, 2026. Expires January 26, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6708. Published February 12, 19, 26, March 5, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620572
The following person(s) doing business as: Covenant Assembly of Churches World - Wide, 230 Crollis Garden Ct, Alameda, CA 94501 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Goshen Faith Assembly MBC, Inc, 1740 yth Ave, Oakland, CA 94606. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Errol K. Bullen Jr., President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 30, 2026. Expires January 29, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6709. Published February 12, 19, 26, March 5, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620428
The following person(s) doing business as: CRE Shoppe, 4198 Remnellwood Way, Pleasanton, CA 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Lahkar RE Shoppe LLC, 4198 Remnellwood Way, Pleasanton, CA 94566. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 1/1/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Rick Lahkar, Managing Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 26, 2026. Expires January 25, 2031. The Independent, Legal

No. 6710. Published February 12, 19, 26, March 5, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 619853
The following person(s) doing business as: Alameda Perio and Implant Center, 2238 Santa Clara Ave, Ste C, Alameda, CA 94501 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): DU Dental Group, Inc, 2238 Santa Clara Ave, STE C, Alameda, CA 94501. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 6/1/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: David Du, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 5, 2026. Expires January 4, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6711. Published February 12, 19, 26, March 5, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620697
The following person(s) doing business as: Hawaii Industries, 321 Clay Street, Oakland, CA 94607 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Contance McComb, 321 Clay's street, Oakland, CA 94607. This

business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 1/28/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Contance McComb, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 2, 2026. Expires February 1, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6712. Published February 12, 19, 26, March 5, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620629
The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Youngworks; 2. Wonsknow; 3. Young Wonsks; 4. Proworks; 5. Edoptim; 6. Ed Optim; 7. Vinterview; 8. College. Dev; 9. Testvatch, 6920 Koll Center Pkwy, Ste 219, Pleasanton, CA 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Wonsknow LLC, 6920 Koll Center Pkwy, Ste 219, Pleasanton, CA 94566. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Vishal Raina, Managing Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of

Alameda on February 3, 2026. Expires February 2, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6713. Published February 12, 19, 26, March 5, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620513
The following person(s) doing business as: Wam Digital, 1050 Larkspur Drive, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Wam Digital LLC, 1050 Larkspur Drive, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Roy Solorio, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 29, 2026. Expires January 28, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6714. Published February 12, 19, 26, March 5, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620611
The following person(s) doing business as: Salon Du Monde, 37627 Niles Blvd, Fremont, CA 94536 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Minh

Chau Vo, 37627 Niles Blvd, CA 94536. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 4/5/2016. Signature of Registrant/s/: Minh Chau Vo, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 3, 2026. Expires February 2, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6715. Published February 12, 19, 26, March 5, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620405
The following person(s) doing business as: Volvo Construction Equipment & Services, 1944 Marina Boulevard, San Leandro, CA 94577 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): SABA Holding Company LLC, PO Box 60577 Fort Myers, FL 33906. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 1/1/2014. Signature of Registrant/s/: Sherry Lowe Johnson, Manager. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 22, 2026. Expires January 21, 2031. The

Independent, Legal No. 6716. Published February 12, 19, 26, March 5, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620145
The following person(s) doing business as: Echo Esthetics, 2690 5th St, Unit A, Alameda, CA 94501 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Cindy LU, 1777 Clement Ave, APT 227. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 1/13/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Cindy Lu, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 13, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6717. Published February 12, 19, 26, March 5, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620655
The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Kaneta Optometry; 2. Rachel Kaneta OD, 2800 Dublin Blvd, Dublin, CA 94568 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Rachel Kaneta, 2800 Dublin Blvd, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on

which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 2/4/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Rachel Kaneta, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 4, 2026. Expires February 3, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6718. Published February 12, 19, 26, March 5, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620425
The following person(s) doing business as: New Learning Grove Academy, 6680 Sierra LN, Dublin, CA 94568 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Shining Staarz, LLC, 6680 Sierra LN, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 1/26/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Maghe Premmanisakul, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 26, 2026. Expires January 25, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6719. Published February 12, 19, 26, March 5, 2026.

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620662

The following person(s) doing business as: Spa L & O, 3026 International Blvd, Oakland, CA 94601 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Lina P. Quevedo Chimilio, 3026 International Blvd, Oakland, CA 94601. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Lina P. Quevedo Chimilio, Owner This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 5, 2026. Expires February 4, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6720. Published February 12, 19, 26, March 5, 2026.

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME ORIGINAL FILE NO. 608925

The person(s) listed below have abandoned the use of the following fictitious business name(s). Tara's Organic Ice Cream, 3173 College Ave, Berkeley, CA 94705. Registered by the following owner(s): Sweet Society LLC, 3173 College Ave, Berkeley, CA 94705. The fictitious business name statement was filed on 8/27/2024 in the County of Alameda. This business was conducted by a Limited Liability Company. Signature of Registrants: /s/: Terence Ching, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on Jan 9, 2026. The Independent, Legal No. 6721. Published February 12, 19, 26, March 5, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620721

The following person(s) doing business as: East Bay Consultation and Therapy, 220 S Livermore Ave #7, Livermore, CA 94550-9998 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Vanessa Hernandez, 220 S Livermore Ave #7, Livermore, CA 94550-9998. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Vanessa Hernandez, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 9, 2026. Expires February 8, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6723. Published February 26, March 5, 12, 19, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620553

The following person(s) doing business as: Scented Stories Studio LLC, 5216 Modena Court, Pleasanton, CA 94588 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Scented Stories Studio LLC, 5216 Modena Court, Pleasanton, CA 94588. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 01/22/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Vanessa Harris, Manager. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 30, 2026. Expires January 29, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6724. Published February 26, March 5, 12, 19, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620800

The following person(s) doing business as: Kitty Hawk Dental Care Office, 53 Wright Brothers Ave, St C, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): King Dental Corporation, 53 Wright Brothers Ave, St C, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 01/01/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Kimberly King, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 11, 2026. Expires February 10, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6725. Published February 26, March 5, 12, 19, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620715

The following person(s) doing business as: Age in Wellness, 1048 Sherry Way, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Deborah Chestnut, 1048 Sherry Way, 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/: Deborah Chestnut. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 9, 2026. Expires February 8, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6726. Published February 26, March 5, 12, 19, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620582

The following person(s) doing business as: Melody Academy of Music, 1972 Driscoll Road, Fremont, CA 94539 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Melody Music Academy LLC, 9450 SW Gemini Dr., PMB 50196 Beaverton, OR 97008. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 06/11/2021. Signature of Registrant/s/: Alan Wong, Secretary. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 2, 2026. Expires February 1, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6727. Published February 26, March 5, 12, 19, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620206

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Cellotape; 2. Landmark Label; 3. Teklabel, 39611 Eureka Drive, Newark, CA 94560 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Resource Label Group, LLC, 2550 Meridian Boulevard, Suite 370, Franklin, TN 37067. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 01/01/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Hunter Rost, Secretary. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 16, 2026. Expires February 15, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6728. Published February 26, March 5, 12, 19, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620287

The following person(s) doing business as: Simbonga, 6999 Dublin Blvd #B, Dublin, CA 94568 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Daeboc Inc, 6999 Dublin Blvd #B, Dublin, CA 94568. 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/: Erin Suh, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 21, 2026. Expires January 20, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6729. Published February 26, March 5, 12, 19, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620832

The following person(s) doing business as: Fox and Belle Salon, 911 University Ave, Berkeley, CA 94710 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Fox and Belle LLC, 378 Holly Dr., San Rafael, CA 94903. 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/: Boris Chen, Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 13, 2026. Expires February 12, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6730. Published February 26, March 5, 12, 19, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620829

The following person(s) doing business as: Pillars Home Health Services, 7567 Amador Valley Blvd, Suite 306, Dublin,

CA 94568 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Pillars Home Health Services LLC, 7567 Amador Valley Blvd, Suite 306, 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/: Armida Fajardo, Manager. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 13, 2026. Expires February 12, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6731. Published February 26, March 5, 12, 19, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620748

The following person(s) doing business as: 334 Dutton Ave, LLC, 334 Dutton Ave, San Leandro, CA 94577 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): 334 Dutton Avenue, LLC, 334 Dutton Ave, San Leandro, CA 94577. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 01/01/2021. Signature of Registrant/s/: Michael Siu, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 10, 2026. Expires February 9, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6732. Published February 26, March 5, 12, 19, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620739

The following person(s) doing business as: Michael Siu, DDS, 334 Dutton Ave, San Leandro, CA 94577 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Michael Siu, DDS, Inc., 334 Dutton, CA 94577. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 01/01/2021. Signature of Registrant/s/: Michael Siu, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 10, 2026. Expires February 9, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6733. Published February 26, March 5, 12, 19, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620863

The following person(s) doing business as: Phive, 1940 Webster ST #720, Oakland, CA 94612 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Adonay Sebhathu, 1940 Webster ST, #720, Oakland, CA 94612. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 02/16/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Adonay Sebhathu, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 17, 2026. Expires February 16, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6734. Published February 26, March 5, 12, 19, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620878

The following person(s) doing business as: Water Wise Landscaping, 6138 Shattuck Ave, Oakland, CA 94609 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Sarah Clark, 6138 Shattuck Ave, Oakland, CA 94609. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 06/2010. Signature of Registrant/s/: Sarah Clark, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 17, 2026. Expires February 16, 2031. The

Independent, Legal No. 6735. Published February 26, March 5, 12, 19, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620661

The following person(s) doing business as: Jehova Sabaat Cleaning Services, 10202 Pippin ST, Oakland, CA 94603 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Maria I. Hernandez Flores, 10202 Pippin ST, Oakland, CA 94603. 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/: Maria I. Hernandez Flores, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 5, 2026. Expires February 4, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6736. Published February 26, March 5, 12, 19, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620648

The following person(s) doing business as: Down-Home Cookhouse, 348 N Canyons Pkwy, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Jennifer Valley, 809 N L 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 01/01/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Jennifer Valley, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 4, 2026. Expires February 3, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6737. Published February 26, March 5, 12, 19, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620780

The following person(s) doing business as: Sleep Apnea Testing & Treatment Center, A Division of BASS Medical Group, 400 29th Street, Suite 208A, Oakland, CA 94609 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 10/01/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Rajiv Nagesetty, CFO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 11, 2026. Expires February 10, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6738. Published February 26, March 5, 12, 19, 2026.

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER

Case No. 26PR170182
ESTATE OF: BARBARA ANNE FRAZIER AKA BARBARA A. FRAZIER AKA BARBARA FRAZIER
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of **BARBARA ANNE FRAZIER** aka **BARBARA A. FRAZIER** aka **BARBARA FRAZIER**. A Petition for Probate has been filed by: **LARRY FRAZIER**, in the Superior Court of California, County of ALAMEDA. The petition for probate requests that **LARRY FRAZIER** be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.)

The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority. A hearing on the petition will be held in this court as follows: **March 23, 2026, 9:45 AM** in **Department 201** located at **Superior Court of California, County of Alameda 2120 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley, CA 94704**

If you object to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney. If you wish to appear by remote video technology, you should contact the court or visit <https://www.alameda.courts.ca.gov/divisions/probate/hearings> for more information.

If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California Law. You may examine the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (Form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

Attorney for Petitioner: EDWARD W. GOLDKUHL and AMANDA R. GIMBEL 2315 Capitol Ave Sacramento, CA 95816
The Independent, Legal No. 6739. Published February 26, March 5, 12, 2026.

LEGAL NOTICE

The business records of the following customers of ACCESS INFORMATION MANAGEMENT (or any affiliates of ACCESS) located at 5785 Las Positas Road, Livermore, CA 94551 have been abandoned: **SPECIALTY'S CAFE & BAKERY**. All records will be shredded 9 days after publication of this notice. Anyone claiming to have an interest in the records should contact Access Information Protected in writing at the following address: 4 First Avenue, Peabody, MA

01960, Attn: Legal Department, Tel. No. (888) 869-2767 (Client Support); email: Collections@accesscorp.com.
The Independent, Legal No. 6740. Published March 5, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620924

The following person(s) doing business as: Emixmia, 40459 Landon Ave, Fremont, CA 94538 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Emillie-Anne Roxas, 40459 Landon Ave, Fremont, CA 94538. This business is conducted by Co-Partners. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Emillie-Anne Roxas, General Partner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 18, 2026. Expires February 17, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6741. Published March 5, 12, 19, 26, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620512

The following person(s) doing business as: Pillowcrave, 1050 Larkspur Drive, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Pillowcrave LLC, 1050 Larkspur Drive, 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/: Roy Solorio, COO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 29, 2026. Expires February 28, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6742. Published March 5, 12, 19, 26, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620972

The following person(s) doing business as: Realside Records, 11501 Dublin Blvd, Ste 200-466, Dublin, CA 94568 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Realside Holdings LLC, 11501 Dublin Blvd, Ste 200-466, 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/: Marcellus McCarver, Manager. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 19, 2026. Expires February 18, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6743. Published March 5, 12, 19, 26, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 621086

The following person(s) doing business as: Proflow Supply Chain Solutions, 7920 Wentworth Pl, Newark, CA 94560 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Emma Lara, 7920 Wentworth Pl, Newark, CA 94560. 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/: Emma Lara, Manager. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 25, 2026. Expires February 24, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6744. Published March 5, 12, 19, 26, 2026.

The following person(s) doing business as: Proflow Supply Chain Solutions, 7920 Wentworth Pl, Newark, CA 94560 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Emma Lara, 7920 Wentworth Pl, Newark, CA 94560. 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/: Emma Lara, Manager. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 25, 2026. Expires February 24, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6744. Published March 5, 12, 19, 26, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 621088

The following person(s) doing business as: Okaya Insurance Agency LLC, 783 Facon Way, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Okaya Insurance Agency LLC, 783 Falcon Way, 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/: Smirat K. Pabla. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 25, 2026. Expires February 24, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6745. Published March 5, 12, 19, 26, 2026.

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Retreats Dedicated to Women's Health, Well-being

Initiative Redefines Self-care, Provides Quiet Sanctuary Spaces and Resources for Individuals to Unplug Emotional Fatigue

By Kathryn Stroud

LIVERMORE — In a society where women often carry the bulk of caregiving and emotional labor, dedicated spaces for women to focus on their own well-being remain limited. That gap is one of the reasons behind the creation of WellSoul Retreats.

WellSoul Retreats is a women-led organization offering wellness retreats

from the chaos of life and come together," added fellow founder Michelle Borrero.

WellSoul Retreats was founded by three women with different professional backgrounds. Borrero has a lifelong passion for helping women heal and grow and has trained in yoga, massage therapy, esthetics and hypnotherapy. She is also nearing completion of a master's degree in human

when the trio came together, it became "clear that there's a strong need for healing in women's circles."

That shared vision led to the creation of WellSoul Retreats. The group has put on events ranging from one-hour sessions—what Borrero calls "bite-sized retreats"—to half- and full-day programs. Each gathering provides a safe, nurturing space for women

focus on themselves."

Borrero noted that self-care is often framed as selfish. "Society tells you that you're not doing the job you're supposed to be doing if you let your child cry a little longer so you can take a shower or put on makeup," she said. "But you need to put your oxygen mask on first so you can help others."

Lewis agreed, adding that self-care allows women to be more present. Reflecting on her own experience as a young mother, she said she wishes she had the tools she now teaches. "I probably would've been a much more present mom," she said. "And you can't get that time back."

"It's a powerful statement for women," Lewis added. "That it's okay to stop, take your shoes off, and put your feet in the grass. You don't need five hours, you might just need five minutes."

For Borrero, that perspective is why she sees the retreats, particularly the longer programs, as especially impactful. "It's more than a wellness experience," she said. "It's a movement rooted in community connection and transformation."

When asked about the changes they've witnessed, Lewis described the experience as "magical."

"When you see the emotions that surface and the responses from the women's circle, that's where I see the magic," she said. "When women give themselves permission to express what's inside, something powerful happens."

Borrero added that those transformations can feel unexpected. "We talk a lot about somatic healing and where emotions are stored in the body," she

said. "There are moments when someone is debating whether to share, and then suddenly the words come out. It feels like something beyond yourself is pushing you."

At its core, WellSoul Retreats is about empowering women to reconnect with their physical, mental and spiritual selves, and to remember their inherent strength.

"Women build things, whether it's a human being, an idea, or a collective," Borrero said. "As women,

we are creators by nature. We have that power. A lot of women just need to be reminded of it."



Michelle Borrero, co-founder of WellSoul Retreats, leads a group session during a past wellness program. Borrero, who is trained in yoga and massage therapy, helped establish the organization to provide women with a "container of stability" and a space to disconnect from daily demands. (Photo courtesy of WellSoul Retreats)

designed to give women time and space to focus on their mental, emotional and physical health. According to its founders, the retreats are intended to provide a break from daily demands while fostering connection and community.

"This is about women coming home to themselves—remembering who we are beneath the noise, the expectations and the constant stimulation," said co-founder Heather Lewis.

"We believed in this idea that women should find places to disconnect

services counseling.

Lewis describes her own path as less direct, referring to herself as a "spiritual wayfinder." She is a certified ritual healer, Reiki practitioner and yoga instructor.

The third founder, Cindy Mayne, represents what Lewis and Borrero describe as the organization's "clinical side." Mayne has worked as a substance abuse counselor for nearly three decades and holds a master's degree in professional counseling.

Lewis explained that

to learn, heal and connect, with the goal of taking those experiences back into their everyday lives.

"We're really providing a container of stability and peace," Lewis said. "All you have to do is be here. That's it. You get to present however you want to be."

Lewis and Borrero both emphasize how rare it is for women to simply exist without expectation. "Most of the time, women are expected to be the support, the holder, the nurturer of everyone," Borrero said. "They rarely get time to

LPC to Present the Stage Version of Austen Classic

LIVERMORE — The Las Positas College (LPC) Theater Arts Program will present a stage adaptation of the literary classic "Sense and Sensibility" over two weekends in March.

"Sense and Sensibility" was the first published novel by English author Jane Austen. It was published anonymously in 1811 and tells the story of an impoverished widow and her three daughters after the patriarch of the family dies, leaving his fortune to a son from his first marriage.

The stage version was developed in 2014 by playwright Kate Hamill, who is known for adapting classic novels that center on female characters. She has also adapted Austen's "Pride and Prejudice" for the state.

The play is directed by Cynthia Lagodzinski, interim coordinator for the LPC Theater Arts Program.

"This adaptation lets everyone enjoy the brilliance of Jane Austen," Lagodzinski said. "It's joyful, surprising and unapologetically sassy. You don't need to fall in love with all the characters."

"Sense and Sensibility" will be presented at the LPC Mertes Center for the Arts, 3000 Campus Hill Dr., at 7 p.m. on Friday, March 13, Saturday, March 14, Friday, March 20, and Saturday, March 21. Matinee performances are scheduled for 2 p.m. on Sunday, March 15, and

Sunday, March 22.

Tickets are \$20, with discounts for students and seniors, and are available online at lpc.ludus.com.

In the spirit of 18th century England, LPC is also offering a "Tea & Cookie" add-on during intermission for \$4.50 in advance or \$5 at the show.

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