THE Independent

Thursday,
SEPTEMBER 24, 2026

VOLUME LXIII, NUMBER 39 *Your Local News Source Since 1963* SERVING DUBLIN, LIVERMORE, PLEASANTON, SUNOL



Thomas Choi



Karen Fletcher



Brett Martinez

Pleasanton Unified School District's Area 5, which includes Hearst and Vintage Hills elementary schools and Pleasanton Middle School, has drawn three candidates this year to fill the seat that will be vacated by Trustee Justin Brown. The district 5 candidate will be responsible for all PUSD matters. Brown announced last month that he will not seek reelection. Voters will also elect a Trustee for Area 2 this year, while areas 1, 3 and 4 will hold elections in 2028.

Attorney Choi Sets His Sights on PUSD Seat, Targeting District Fiscal Recovery

Area 5 Candidate Targets Growth, Transparency and Local Industry Partnerships

By David Jen

PLEASANTON — Attorney Thomas Choi wants to transform the image of the Pleasanton Unified School District (PUSD) from one of declining enrollment and fiscal difficulties to one of growth and possibilities.

"We need to show that we are building, that we are creating more programs, (and that) we are creating new collaborations and partnerships," Choi said. "I think when people that are living in other areas start to see what's going on, hopefully they'll want to move. They'll want to move here, or they'll want to send their kids here."

Choi, along with engineering teacher Karen Fletcher and business owner Brett Martinez, is running for the PUSD Area 5 seat this November.

Area 5 Incumbent Trustee Justin Brown announced last month that he will not seek reelection.

Choi said he began his involvement in district issues last November, when the district floated staff layoffs to address its budget deficit.

"I basically went to every single meeting, and I spoke out in almost every single meeting," he said. "I told them how unacceptable it was that PUSD is one of only five districts in the entire state of California, one out of maybe 900 school districts, that are in negative certification, meaning we don't have the funds or we don't have the financial stability to be able to pay off our bills for the next three fiscal years."

The contrast between the district's academic excellence and its fiscal challenges prompted Choi to dive into PUSD finances. He traced a large part of their troubles to the new district office on Las Positas Boulevard.

PUSD bought the 113,000-square-foot property in July 2022 for $23 million with plans to sell its previous headquarters on Bernal Avenue for over $30 million. But the district then faced a $7 million to $8 million expense to bring one of the two newly acquired buildings up to code—the second of which is currently leased—before even moving in, according to Choi, and the previous headquarters have yet to sell. As a result, the district depleted

(See CHOI, page 12)

Fletcher Would Bring Her Engineering, Teaching Experience to PUSD Board

Local Parent Seeks Strong Funding, Staff Support and Academic Excellence

By David Jen

PLEASANTON — Engineering teacher Karen Fletcher is running for Pleasanton Unified School District's Trustee Area 5 seat this year with plans to focus on fiscal transparency, academic excellence and campus safety in the district over the next four years.

Fletcher, an 18-year Pleasanton resident and parent of four, has taught engineering and robotics at Livermore High School for the past 10 years. She also runs GravitechX, the school's robotics team that has won awards across the region.

"I'm running for Pleasanton School Board Area 5 to help Pleasanton schools stay excellent," Fletcher said. "I want to make sure that they're on sound financial footing. If we're able to keep our funding strong, we can hold on to all the teachers and classified staff that we have. We want to make Pleasanton a good place for teachers to work and for families to move to put their kids in public schools."

Area 5 covers the southeastern portion of the city.

In March, the Pleasanton Unified School District issued a negative certification in its 2025-26 First Interim budget report, having operated its general fund at a deficit for the past four years and allowing its reserves to fall to around 2%, below the 3% state minimum. The news followed a difficult budget cycle during which the district had cut 13.17 full-time equivalent certificated positions the previous month to save about $2.3 million.

With more reductions and added funding from the state, the district presented a balanced budget and restored 11.5 full-

(See FLETCHER, page 10)

Local Leaders Call To End the Tri-Valley Homelessness Crisis

With Unconditional Housing Regulations for Example

By Kathryn Stroud

LIVERMORE — Alameda County Supervisors Nate Miley and David Haubert called for an end to homelessness in the Tri-Valley at a Monday morning summit.

The event, "Tri-Valley Summit: Ending Homelessness Together," took place Sept. 21 at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore. It included a screening of the documentary "Beyond the Bridge: A Solution to Homelessness," followed by a brief panel discussion with people working on homelessness in the region.

According to initial point-in-time count data, the overall number of people experiencing homelessness in Alameda County decreased 13% between 2024 and 2026. But in the Tri-Valley, the trend moved in the opposite direction: Dublin, Pleasanton, and Livermore saw a 28% increase in people experiencing homelessness over the same period.

"I don't want to keep talking about ending homelessness," Supervisor Miley told attendees at the end of the summit. "Let's end homelessness in the Tri-Valley."

Supervisor Haubert echoed similar sentiments and called on the Tri-Valley to be used as an example for the rest of the county.

Together, the film and panel discussion emphasized the need for a coordinated network of support for people experiencing homelessness. They elicited a call to recognize the humanity of unhoused people, and a look at how the crisis plays out locally in the Tri-Valley.

Lucy Kasdin, deputy director

(See SUMMIT, page 8)



Gloria Gregory (far left), director of Tri-Valley Homeless, Housing, and Senior Services, moderates a panel discussion on local homeless outreach and housing solutions with regional leaders at the Bankhead Theater on Monday, Sept. 21. Hosted by Alameda County Supervisors David Haubert and Nate Miley, the summit brought together community members to address the region's rising homelessness level. (Photo—Kathryn Stroud)

Martinez Joins the Race For Open PUSD Area 5 Seat

Business Owner Focuses on Academic Excellence

By David Jen

PLEASANTON — Brett Martinez looks to take the Pleasanton Unified School District Board of Trustees seat for Area 5.

His campaign focuses on "transparency, accountability and community involvement," according to his website.

While Martinez did not return requests for comment, his election filing lists his ballot designation as a business owner.

"My priorities are academic excellence, fiscal responsibility, safe and supportive schools, and preparing every student for college, a skilled career, entrepreneurship or whatever path they choose," he wrote.

Martinez will compete against attorney Thomas Choi and engineering teacher Karen Fletcher in November for the seat.



Livermore Heritage Guild docent Harry Briley sits on the porch of a historic Livermore home during the May 2025 Harmony & Historic Home Tour. The second annual tour, pairing historic home viewings with live music, returns on Saturday, Oct. 17. (Photo courtesy of Janis Ardley)

The Harmony & Historic Home Tour Returns

All-Day Showcase of Regional Classic Architecture and Live Music in Livermore

By Jessica Zimmer

LIVERMORE — On Oct. 17, the Livermore Heritage Guild and the Livermore-Amador Symphony Guild will present the second Harmony & Historic Home Tour, an all-day event that pairs tours of eight historic homes with live music by more than 50 musicians. The event raises funds for the concert and outreach programs of the Livermore-Amador Symphony Guild. It also assists the Livermore Heritage Guild with restoring the Midway one-room schoolhouse in Hagemann Park.

"This is an amazing event that brings together people who love history, music, and Livermore," said Nancy Mulligan, volunteer coordinator for the Livermore Heritage Guild. Mulligan noted that sponsors, homeowners, and volunteers — including musicians — give back through service by acting as docents, opening their homes and performing.

"This is a relaxed event that lets you go at your own pace," Mulligan added. "You can enjoy many types of music,"

Seven of this year's tour homes are on J, K, and L Streets, along with one on Third Street. Fans of historic architecture can view the Oscar Meyers House on L Street. This 1894 late Queen Anne Victorian was likely co-designed by Oscar Meyers, a master contractor, and his brother, Henry Haight Meyers. Henry Meyers served as the Alameda County architect from 1912 to 1935. He designed hundreds of projects in

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PET OF THE WEEK



FISH QUEEN

All hail Fish Queen, the gracious ruler of Kitty City! This chatty, medium-sized monarch in a sleek black coat loves to entertain, greeting every guest with a royal reception. Now that her kittens have all swum off to loving homes, it's this queen's turn to find her forever pond. She rules well alongside fellow felines but would reign just as happily as the only cat in her court. Ready to hop to it? Visit valleyhumane.org, call (925) 426-8656 or email info@valleyhumane.org to start the adoption process today.

PUSD Unveils $25.3 Million in Early-Learning Upgrades

By Sanestina Hunter

PLEASANTON — Pleasanton Unified School District leaders celebrated the completion of modernized early-learning spaces at Donlon and Fairlands elementary schools with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Sept. 14.

The $11.8 million Donlon project added three transitional kindergarten (TK) and kindergarten classrooms with student restrooms, a new playground and parking lot improvements. The $13.5 million Fairlands project added four TK and kindergarten classrooms with student restrooms and two playgrounds, according to the district.

Both projects were funded through voter-approved general obligation bonds. Measure I, approved in 2022, authorized $395 million for school facility upgrades. Measure I1, approved in 2016, authorized $270 million in bonds.

"The early years provide an important foundation for everything that follows," Superintendent Maurice Ghysels said. "As access to Transitional Kindergarten has expanded, we have also invested in environments designed around the developmental needs of four- and five-year-olds, helping ensure that our youngest students begin their PUSD experience in spaces where they can learn, play, connect, and thrive."

Following planning and design that began in 2023, construction started in January 2025 and was completed in less than two years.

"These new spaces will be home to so many important firsts for our Donlon Cubs — first friendships, first discoveries, and countless moments of learning and growth," Kristina Brown, principal of Donlon Elementary, said.

The campuses are about 2 miles apart and are among PUSD's nine elementary schools.

"For many children, TK and kindergarten are where their relationship with school begins. These new classrooms and play spaces were created at the scale of our youngest learners, giving them welcoming places to explore, learn, build friendships, and begin to see themselves as part of a school community," Heidi Deeringhoff, principal of Fairlands Elementary, said.

The elementary upgrades are part of a broader series of bond-funded campus improvements across the district. Other completed projects include the Lydiksen Elementary rebuild, as well as a TK project and playground replacement at Mohr Elementary, according to the district.

"We are deeply grateful to Pleasanton voters for making these improvements possible through Measures I and I1, and to the many teams whose planning, expertise, and hard work brought these wonderful new spaces to life," PUSD Board of Trustees Vice President Laurie Walker said.



District leaders cut the ribbon on Sept. 14 to celebrate $25.3 million in new TK and kindergarten facilities at Donlon and Fairlands elementary schools. Among those attending are Donlon Principal Kristina Brown (holding scissors), Fairlands Principal Heidi Deeringhoff, Board Vice President Laurie Walker, and Superintendent Maurice Ghysels. (Photo courtesy of PUSD)

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Lucky Blood Donors to Win 49er Tickets

DUBLIN – Four lucky Stanford Blood Center (SBC) donors in September will each receive a pair of club-level tickets to the San Francisco 49ers game against the Washington Commanders at Levi Stadium on Monday, Oct. 19.

Blood donors at any SBC location, including Dublin, or any SBC mobile blood drive during the month will be entered into a drawing for the NFL game tickets, according to the independent community blood center, which provides blood to Stanford Health Care and other Bay Area hospitals.

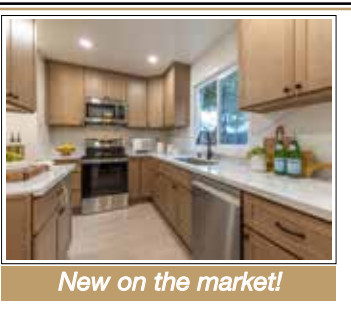
Blood donors will also receive $20 worth of points redeemable at an SBC Loyalty Store.

Appointments to donate blood can be made online at stanfordbloodcenter.org, or by calling either 888-723-7831 or sending a text to 999-777. Walk-ins are also welcome.

The SBC's Dublin location is 3738 Fallon Road.

DSBC said donors should be in good health with no cold, flu, or COVID-19 symptoms. They should also eat and drink fluids prior to giving blood and bring a photo ID.

Donors must be at least 17 years of age or 16 with a parent or guardian's consent.


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Wheels Celebrates Public Transport Month

TRI-VALLEY – The Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority (LAVTA), which operates the Wheels bus service, has partnered with two public transit advocacy groups, San Francisco Transit Riders and Seamless Bay Area, to celebrate California Transit Month throughout September.

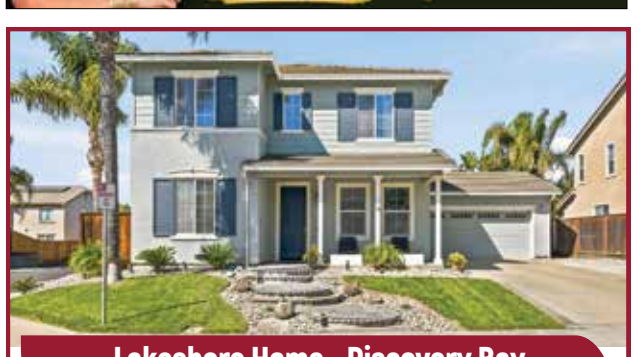
LAVTA called the month a celebration of the role of public transportation in local communities and the Bay Area economic, social, and cultural vibrancy.

As part of that celebration, San Francisco Transit Riders is sponsoring the ninth annual Rider First Awards, with riders encouraged to nominate people or projects that have made transit better over the past year.

Riders are also participating in an area wide ride contest, logging more than 19,000 trips with 87 transit agencies and covering 120,000 miles as of Sunday, Sept. 13.

To submit a nomination for a Rider First Award, go to tinyurl.com/3sm5h8rr. Nominations must be submitted by Sunday, Sept. 27.

For a calendar of Bay Area Transit Month events, go to tinyurl.com/4x-p4nh82.


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A Workbook on Homelessness Highlights Goodness Village's Tiny Home Community

LIVERMORE -- Goodness Village, a "tiny homes" community for formerly homeless residents, is featured in a new 220-page workbook by authors Kevin Adler and Donald Burnes to accompany their 2024 book, "When We Walk By: Forgotten Humanity, Broken Systems, and the Path to Ending Homelessness."

Built on land on property owned by CrossWinds Church in 2021, Goodness Village consists of 28 160-square-foot single-occupancy, 160-square-foot units that include a bathroom, kitchenette and central heating and cooling.

Goodness Village also offers vocational training and other support services as residents transition out of chronic homelessness.

In "When We Walk By," Burnes and Adler, a Livermore native, examined chronic homelessness in America and reframed the problem as a breakdown in social services and the erosion of human connections, rather than any personal failing by those experiencing homelessness.

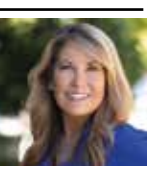
"When We Walk By: The Workbook" is described as "a 30-day guide" for communities that want to become part of the solution.

Goodness Village is showcased on "Day 2" of the workbook as an example of restoring relational health, dignity and connection for homeless people.

"Having our work highlighted on a national stage is a huge milestone, but having that recognition come from a Livermore native makes it exceptionally meaningful," said Kim Curtis, executive director of the Goodness Village nonprofit organization. "Kevin understands that solving homelessness isn't just about putting a roof over someone's head. It's about restoring a sense of belonging and community. We are honored to be included in a resource that will inspire people across the country to see unhoused individuals as our neighbors."

In addition to being an author, Adler is the founder and board chair of Miracle Messages, a San Francisco-based global nonprofit the homeless reconnect with family and rebuild their social and financial support systems.

His co-author, Donald Burnes, is cofounder of the Burnes Institute for Poverty Research at the Colorado Center for Law and Policy.

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Library Hosts Live-Streamed Talk With 'Divergent' Author Veronica Roth

LIVERMORE – Veronica Roth, author of the best-selling "Divergent" trilogy of dystopian novels for young adults, will give a live-stream presentation, "Courage, Choice, and What Comes Next," hosted by the Livermore Public Library, at 4 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 1.

The library offers three online talks every month featuring authors and thought leaders from around the world and sponsored by the Library Speakers Consortium.

The talks are free to join online and include an opportunity for the audience to ask questions.

As part of the program, the library will also present "Art in Flight: Reinventing Postmodernism" with Carolyn Russo, a curator at the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum in Washington, D.C., at 11 a.m. on Thursday, Oct. 8, and "Ghosts, Grief, and Growing Up: Young Adult Storytelling" with Cherie Dimaline, author of "The Marrow Thieves" and "Empire of Wild," at 4 p.m. on Thursday," Oct. 22.

Archived recordings of the author talks are also available online at libraryc.org/livermore.

For more information, go to library.livermoreca.gov and click on Online Author Talks under Events & Services.

POPS on the Green Set for Sept. 26 in Livermore

LIVERMORE—The Livermore-Amador Symphony, sponsored by the Symphony Guild, will host its annual "POPS on the Green" concert on Saturday, Sept. 26, from 3 to 4 p.m. The free event will take place on the lawn in front of the Bankhead Theater, located at 2400 First St. in Livermore.

Attendees are encouraged to bring lawn chairs, blankets, and snacks. The performance will also feature Element 116, a local teen jazz band. For more information, visit the Bankhead Theater lawn on the day of the event.

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Judge Dismisses Charges in Maurice Monk Death Case

By Sanestina Hunter

DUBLIN — An Alameda County judge dismissed the remaining felony dependent adult abuse charges against three current and former Alameda County Sheriff's deputies in connection with Maurice Monk's 2021 in-custody death at Santa Rita Jail, according to multiple reports.

In late July, Alameda County Superior Court Judge Clifford Blakely dismissed the charges against Robinderpal Singh Hayer, Thomas Mowrer and Donall Rowe.

Hayer is now the only one of the original 11 defendants still facing a criminal charge: one count alleging falsification of an official document by a law enforcement officer.

The dismissals followed a defense challenge alleging that prosecutors failed to properly instruct the grand jury on whether Monk legally qualified as a dependent adult, an essential element of the charges.

In court filings, defense attorneys argued that incarceration alone did not satisfy that legal definition.

According to reports, Alison Berry Wilkinson, an attorney representing Mowrer, said the judge determined that prosecutors did not properly explain the elements needed to support the charges when presenting the case to the grand jury.

Alameda County District Attorney Ursula Jones Dickson called the ruling disappointing but said her office respects the court's decision and the rule of law. Her office had previously acknowledged that prosecutors were pursuing a novel theory of criminal liability with little legal precedent, the reports said.

Court records indicate that Mowrer no longer works for the Alameda County Sheriff's Office, while Hayer and Rowe remain on administrative leave.

In response to the ruling, the sheriff's office said it remains committed to ensuring the safety, care and wellbeing of people in its custody.

Monk, 45, was arrested in October 2021 on suspicion of threatening an AC Transit bus driver following a dispute over whether he should wear a face mask on the bus, according to reports.

He was held on $2,500 bail on a misdemeanor charge and booked on a failure-to-appear warrant connected to an earlier misdemeanor case.

Attorneys for Monk's family said he had schizophrenia and diabetes and should have been treated as a dependent adult while in custody.

The following month, Monk was found dead in his jail cell on Nov. 15, 2021.

According to court filings and civil lawsuits, he had been dead for approximately three days before his body was discovered.

Civil lawsuits filed by Monk's family alleged that deputies and medical workers failed to intervene as his condition deteriorated. Body camera footage showed staff passing food and medication through an opening in his cell door without entering to check whether he was responsive.

His family reached a $7 million wrongful death settlement with Alameda County in 2023. Wellpath, the private company contracted to provide medical services at Santa Rita Jail, later agreed to pay an additional $2.5 million to resolve a related federal civil rights lawsuit.

In 2024, then-District Attorney Pamela Price charged nine current and former deputies and two healthcare workers in connection with Monk's death.

After taking office following Price's recall, Jones Dickson dropped the charges against eight defendants, including six current or former deputies and two healthcare workers. Her office cited insufficient evidence to establish criminal liability.

Prosecutors later presented evidence against Hayer, Mowrer and Rowe to a criminal grand jury, which indicted them in December 2025. Because grand jury proceedings are conducted privately without defense attorneys present, prosecutors secured the indictments without a public preliminary hearing.

The deputies later challenged those indictments, leading to the July dismissals.

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LIVERMORE INDIVISIBLE
Saturday, September 26, 2026
1:00 pm - 2:30 pm
Livermorium Plaza, Livermore
Voter Registration | Ballot, Proposition, and School Board Info | Kids' Activities

LVO Opens 35th Season with Puccini's 'Suor Angelica' at Bankhead Theater

LIVERMORE — Livermore Valley Opera (LVO) will present "Suor Angelica," a one-act opera by Giacomo Puccini featuring an all-female cast, at the Bankhead Theater over two weekends in October.

"Suor Angelica," or "Sister Angelica," is the second in a trio of one-act operas known as "Il trittico."

The opera, which will be sung in Italian with English supertitles, tells the story of a young noblewoman sent to a convent after bearing a child out of wedlock. Years later, a visit from her aunt brings devastating news about the child she was forced to leave behind.

Soprano Ann Toomey, who will perform the title role of Sister Angelica, said LVO is staging the original version of the opera, which premiered in 1918 at the Metropolitan Opera House in New York, including the rarely heard "Amici Fiori" or "Flower Aria."



Soprano Ann Toomey

Sister Angelica sings the aria after learning that her son has died and looking to flowers in the convent garden to make a poison so she can join him.

"This is something Erie (Mills, LVO's late artistic director) and I decided together, and it really makes it a unique production and performance of the piece," Toomey said.

Mills, who had been LVO's artistic director since 2016, died in June, after helping plan the opera's 35th anniversary season.

Opening night will be 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 3, followed by a 2 p.m. matinees on Sunday, Oct. 4, Saturday, Oct. 10, and Sunday, Oct. 11.

There will also be an opening night dinner at Uncle Yu's at the Vineyard prior to the performance, and a Q&A with the artistic team and soloists following the Oct. 3 performance.

Tickets start at $25 and are available online at livermorearts.org or livermorevalleyopera.com.

Founded in 1992, the nonprofit LVO presents a fully staged opera every fall and spring at the Bankhead and reaches thousands of Tri-Valley students and seniors each year through education and community engagement programs.

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Fundraising Drive Will Honor Country Music's Dolly Parton

TRI-VALLEY — The Three Valleys Community Foundation (3VCF) will hold a 24-hour online fundraising challenge for nonprofits on Friday, Sept. 25, coinciding with Dolly Parton Day, as recently designated by the California legislature in honor of the late singer, actress and philanthropist.

Parton, who died Aug. 25 at age 80, was one of the most successful country music performers ever and founder of the Dollywood Foundation.

The Dollywood Foundation operates Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, created in 1995, which provides children with a free book every month from birth to age 5.

According to the foundation, more than 330 million books have been given to 3.2 million children enrolled in the literacy program in the U.S., Canada, United Kingdom, Australia, and the Republic of Ireland.

California established an Imagination Library program in 2023.

The Dollywood Foundation also provides scholarships for high school graduates from Sevier County, Tennessee, where Parton grew up.

"Dolly Parton was a beloved music icon whose extraordinary talent has brought joy to generations, but her legacy reaches far beyond the songs she wrote and performed," said 3VCF CEO Kelly Bowers. "She understood the power of using her success to lift up others. From putting books directly into the hands of millions of children through her Imagination Library, to supporting education, health care, medical research, disaster relief and so many other causes, her generosity has changed lives."

The Pleasanton-based 3VCF said it would honor Parton's philanthropic legacy by designating the final day of its current 925 Gives campaign as a "9 to 5" challenge, named for the song written and sung by Parton for the 1980 comedy "9 to 5."

Named for the 925-area code, the 925 Gives campaign encourages donors to contribute to one of the hundreds of nonprofit organizations registered with the 3VCF, which works to connect local resources with local needs.

3VCF said it would award $925 to the nonprofit receiving the greatest number of donations between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. during the final day of the campaign.

To donate to the 925 GIVES fund, go to tinyurl.com/3y23wjuk.

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Library to Host Talk on Medical Mistakes

DUBLIN — Dr. Srilekha Deka, chief scientific officer at Script Molecular, a Pleasanton-based biotech consulting firm, will give a presentation on medical mishaps and their often-surprising outcomes at the Dublin Library, 200 Civic Plaza, at 3 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 27.

From the accidental discovery of antibiotics to the lessons that shaped medical ethics and patient safety, Deka will discuss how medicine has advanced by learning from its mistakes.

Deka has a medical degree from Gauhati Medical College and Hospital in India and a doctorate in biomedical science from East Tennessee State University.

Her presentation, "Medical Mistakes That Shaped Modern Medicine," is part of the Dublin Library speaker series. The program is free and registration is not required.

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EDITORIAL

Addressing Homelessness Requires More Than Words

At a Sept. 21 summit at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore, county, city and nonprofit leaders came together to talk about ending homelessness in the Tri-Valley, echoing a shared sentiment to tackle the issue head-on.

As has been clear for decades, the gap between words and actions on ending homelessness has been growing. While homelessness declined in Alameda County over the past year, it grew in the Tri-Valley communities. Goodness Village, for example, the community of 28 tiny homes in Livermore, has a waiting list of more than 200 applicants.

An estimated 480 total individuals are said to be experiencing homelessness in the Tri-Valley based on January 2026 point-in-time counts.

Nationally, homelessness is on the rise. According to the National Alliance to End Homelessness, the annual Point-in-Time Count saw the number of unsheltered people rise to 771,480 in 2024, 18% higher than 653,104 people in 2023.

The problem is manifold: There is an overall lack of housing in California (and the U.S. as a whole), which makes the market tight and disincentivizes building homes for people with lower incomes who, in turn, have less stable housing. Also, we underfund social services addressing mental illness, addiction, and chronic health issues that make people unable to work, and the financial assistance provided is often inadequate to meet housing needs for a protracted length of time. And we have a shortage of spaces devoted to people experiencing acute homelessness, either as temporary or permanent housing.

And if we manage to house and stabilize someone to the point where they can re-enter society, they're starting over at the bottom of the low-income ladder, which is already quite rickety. It isn't hard to just fall off again with a single turn of bad luck.

Most of all, there has been a lack of continuous, conscious political support to expand the services provided to unhoused people. The most successful model for ending homelessness, known as Housing First, has demonstrated its ability to get people off the street and into shelters where they can be offered services to deal with the other issues that contributed to their homelessness.

But Housing First only works when it has continuous support from government, institutions, and society. A hypothetical program may succeed in getting 100 people into shelters, but that's only 100 people.Our society has few safeguards to prevent people from falling into homelessness in the first place, let alone falling into homelessness again. Chronic illness can strike anyone at any time, and more than one-third of Americans couldn't pay an emergency $400 medical bill with cash or a cash equivalent.

And for the estimated 30 million people in the U.S. without health insurance in 2026, $400 doesn't go very far.

We'll always need more funding, for sure. A lot of the funds that support services for the unhoused come from the federal government, largely as pass-through funds via state, county and local governments and grant programs to nonprofit agencies. That source of money has been severely threatened since President Trump returned to office and his administration started eliminating government services whose beneficiaries are the low-income. Last November, with little notice, the administration eliminated $3.5 billion in support for permanent housing, called the Continuum of Care program, and shifted the money toward transitional programs that require recipients being in treatment before allowing someone into a shelter, and capping stays. Continuum of Care was the largest single source of funds for homelessness housing program.

So we need to focus locally, both for funding and for developing solutions. The state of California is already a major funding source for many programs helping low-income people, and we're going to have to keep relying on Sacramento — and keeping the pressure on our representatives there — to ensure we're spending tax money in the most effective manner.

Our local communities need to prioritize opening new spaces for the chronically unhoused, even if each individual program seems small. Another Goodness Village might create another couple dozen spaces, but that would still be only a couple dozen people sleeping indoors.

But we need other shelter options, both long- and short-term, and we also need to be thinking big, for larger numbers of people.

And we have to adjust our expectations. The goal of getting formerly unhoused people reintroduced into society, with jobs and homes and financial stability, is laudable. But the goal of a housing program should be to provide housing first, with everything else a bonus.

For that, we need to recognize that housing is a right, not a privilege for the few who are wealthy, or for those with stable jobs, or who manage to abstain from substance abuse and become productive members of our communities. Not everyone is going to be that model citizen, but that doesn't mean they must be cast out into the streets.

Solving homelessness is a problem that requires all-of-society solutions, and the hardest goal has been to convince society that this cannot be done on the cheap, or with market incentives only, or for a short-time with the understanding that the problem won't come back.

Fully funding Housing First programs at the governmental level is the only solution that works at the scale of the problem. If the federal government won't do it, then California must. Our homelessness problem is solvable, but it won't happen unless we commit to prioritizing it.

A healthy society is one that provides for its least fortunate, not just once, but always.

For that reason, perhaps a pep talk is just what we need at this point. But now let's take the next step, and follow words with action.

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. Letters are accepted from current or former residents of the Tri-Valley (Dublin, Livermore, Pleasanton, Sunol) writing on topics that directly pertain to the Tri-Valley area. Anonymous letters will not be published. All letters are required to have the name(s) of the person(s) submitting them, city of residence and phone number, for verification purposes. Letters may not contain advertising. Abusive letters and letters containing ad hominem attacks may be rejected or edited. Letters are subject to verification and may be edited for clarity at the discretion of the editor. We reserve the right to decide whether or not the letter will be published. Headings for all letters may be edited at the discretion of the editor to properly reflect their content. A headline will be added to letters received without one. Frequent letter writers may have publication of their letters delayed or not run at all. Letters should be limited to 300 words or less and should be sent by email to letters@independentnews.com or submitted using the form below.

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

A Poem

Glenn Stewart, Livermore

I prompted my AI buddy Gemini for a poem about Livermore's poet laureate, Faith Alpher.

Alpher is an actor, writer, comedian, and radio personality, and her term officially began on July 1, 2026. According to the City of Livermore website, "Alpher's signature initiative is Pop-Up Poetry, which brings impromptu readings to Livermore parks, markets, and sidewalks."

Beneath the shadows of the valley vine,
Where rolling hills meet oak tree and blue sky,
A voice steps forth to capture and define
The quiet wonders passing others by...

She weaves the spirit of our hometown streets,
The arroyo paths where summer light burns gold,
And in every line, local history meets
The timeless stories waiting to be told...

With gentle craft, she gathers up our days —
From dusty trails to quiet downtown nights —
And paints our community in honest praise,
Reflecting Livermore in new, poetic lights...

A keeper of words, a bard for our small town,
Holding our shared heart, and writing it down.

A Thoughtful Vision for Downtown Livermore

Michael Ferrucci, Livermore

I have followed the discussion surrounding the proposed Eden Housing development in downtown Livermore with great interest. I understand and respect the importance of providing affordable housing, and I appreciate those working to address that need in our community.

At the same time, I believe we should take a careful look at what this particular downtown location could mean for Livermore for generations to come.

Our downtown is more than a collection of buildings. It is part of the character and identity of our community — a place where people gather, businesses thrive, families walk, and visitors experience what makes Livermore special.

I find myself wondering whether there might be another solution that could accomplish both goals: providing much-needed affordable housing while preserving an important portion of our downtown core for public enjoyment.

One possibility would be relocating the proposed housing development to another suitable nearby site and considering the current location for an expansive natural park or open-space area. Imagine a beautiful green space in the heart of downtown — a place for families, walking paths, trees, gardens, community gatherings and simply enjoying the outdoors.

I realize there are significant practical and financial considerations, and I am not suggesting that finding an alternative would be easy. But perhaps this is precisely the time to think beyond the immediate proposal and ask what we want downtown Livermore to look like 25, 50 or 100 years from now.

This isn't about being "for" or "against" affordable housing. It is about asking whether we can find a solution that provides housing and creates something enduring for the entire community.

Sometimes the best decisions begin with simply asking, "Is there another possibility?"

Listening

Evelyn Mitschelen, Livermore

Do we listen above the noise? The earthquakes, the disasters, the stress, the heartaches? There is a desire for peace; no fear. Are these a warning for us to see there is more to life than day to day stuff? Open your heart and mind to listen, and look at nature, which God created for you to notice Him. In disaster, God speaks; He sees.

How blessed is the man whose strength is in God. I have set the Lord continually before me because God is at my right hand; I will not be shaken. The Lord is near the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.

God is listening, gave us His Son to free us, blesses us with His grace, teaches us to love and have eternity. Are you listening with your heart?

These things I (Jesus) have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace; in the world you have tribulation, but take courage, I have overcome the world.

Safia just said that she would make the changes shortly. (10:22am)

The City Should Be Candid and Open to New Ideas

Safia Hasan, Livermore

For almost the past decade, the City of Livermore has been working with Presidio Companies to build a downtown hotel.

A July 16, 2019 article from Patch.com reported that a development agreement between the City and Presidio Companies was expected to be approved by the City Council at its July 22, 2019 meeting. The agreement anticipated the opening of the hotel in September 2022. In another article from the Livermore Vine, published June 28, 2022, it was reported that the city council on June,13, 2022 stated in their approval vote that the hotel was "set to begin no later than May 2024 and the hotel opening would be no later than December 2025, according to City staff's current timeline."

The residents of Livermore deserve better than inconsistent information and unexplained delays. If the Presidio project remains viable, the City should provide a clear, current status update with a concrete timeline. If it is no longer moving forward, the City should be candid about that as well.

Most importantly, the City should be open to working with other qualified hotel developers if doing so could produce a project that serves Livermore better. Exploring these alternatives would make sure that the goal of a hotel downtown is achieved responsibly.

Disappointment with Our Mayors

Joshua Leines, Livermore

As a taxpaying resident and voter in Livermore, I am writing to express my deep disappointment with the Tri-Valley mayors who recently signed a joint letter opposing Assembly Bill 1383 (McKinnor). By taking a formal stance against this legislation, which addresses public employee retirement benefits, our local city leaders are sending the wrong message to the very people who keep our communities safe.

Our police officers and firefighters who are CalPERS members already contribute substantial portions of their own paychecks every year toward their pensions. Today's system forces these men and women to work seven years past that traditional mark—in professions that take an undeniable physical and mental toll. These heroes help us on our worst days; they deserve a fair retirement and good pay. Firefighters and police are at a significant higher risk of not only the risk of their job, but cancer, heart disease and post-traumatic stress. Both are also at a much higher risk of PTSD and both die typically ten years before others. Day in and day out, our emergency responders show up during people's worst moments, managing brutal situations and bringing calm to dangerous crises.

The first responders serving Livermore and the entire Tri-Valley deserve leaders who actively advocate for their long-term health, safety, and security. Opposing AB 1383 signals a lack of support for the personnel we rely on most, and it undermines the trust between our municipal leadership and our frontline public servants.

Tri-Valley Leadership should be about standing up for those who risk everything for our cities. Moves like this carry real weight with local voters, and I hope our mayors will reconsider their position. Moving forward, my family and I will be looking to support leaders who truly prioritize and stand behind our public safety personnel.

Lack of Integrity

Mayor John Marchand, Livermore

To see how far from journalistic integrity The Independent has fallen, one only need to look as far as the front page of the September 10th edition of The Independent. There are two articles about Eden Housing and the downtown. Neither contains a "by line", or an author. There's no accountability.

In high school journalism classes, students were taught the "Five W's", Who, What, When, Where and Why. In the articles, there is no "who". No one is identified.

No one representing "The Community Coalition" has spoken at a Council meeting. They have no spokesperson. No one from this latest, now eleventh, iteration of the "Group of Many Names" has ever been identified. Very simply, it is because it's the same people.

Two un-named members "of the Coalition" are referenced in one article. There is also an unnamed finance "expert" and an unnamed "hotel developer" who, the article claims, is waiting for the City to contact him. It would seem that if he were truly interested, he would contact the City.

Despite all of the drawings, letters and articles in The Independent, no one has ever submitted a proposal to the City for an L Street hotel. The fact is, during the public outreach on the downtown, 80% of the participants favored the hotel to have "an iconic presence on S. Livermore". The Independent has systematically corrupted the narrative in an effort to move the hotel, and it has failed. In the 2020 Measure P referendum, the overwhelming majority of voters agreed with the Council to keep the hotel next to the Bankhead.

The City sold those parcels. The Courts and the overwhelming majority of voters have agreed with the City Council's decisions. It is time for the "Group of Many Names" to move on.

Towards Making Amends

Patricia Munro, Livermore

The deadline for these Letters to the Editor is early Monday morning for a Thursday paper. When that deadline passes, I, along with most other Jews, will be observing Yom Kippur, the Day of Repentance. It is a serious day of complete fasting, serious reflection on mortality, and the requirement to repent. By the time this week's paper is out, Jews will be preparing for the next fall holiday (Sukkot, the Festival of Booths, since you asked). Yom Kippur is a specific holiday for a specific people. The concept — repenting and making amends — is universal. Particularly as we enter this consequential mid-term election season, it is worth thinking about what each of us says and does. It is easy to point fingers, to misconstrue meaning, to rely on hearsay rather than seeking out facts. It is harder, perhaps impossible, to look at all the places each of us has missed the mark and could do better. Nevertheless, the attempt is worth it.

What does it mean to atone or repent? It is not (of course) the "sorry if I offended you" deflection. Rather, it requires four steps. First, recognizing that your actions have hurt someone or made the world worse in one way or another, feeling remorse, and offering a real apology. Second, a commitment to do better. Third, doing what is possible to right the situation. That could be paying for something broken, learning more about a subject, or changing a harmful pattern of behavior. Fourth, committing to do better in the future; recognizing that doing better means continuing the attempt, not imagining perfection.

As we head into this consequential and hence divisive election season, may our actions make for more wholeness and peace.

(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 Armantrout *(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 94566-9998. 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 Great Elephant Migration is coming to Bankhead Plaza and Stockmen's Park from Oct. 10 through Dec. 6. Volunteer docents are needed for 3.5-hour shifts to help welcome visitors. To sign up or learn more, contact gallery@livermorearts.org. (Photo courtesy of Anne Giancola)

MAILBOX

(Continued from page 4)

More Housing in the Middle of the City

Edward Beuerman, Livermore

I'm a 53-yearr resident of the area. When I first moved here, the area between First Street and Railroad Rd. in the downtown area was virtually empty. There was some paved parking, and the rest was dirt parking. Eventually, there was a proposal to turn that area into a park and to include a 2,000 seat auditorium that was part of the Bankhead master plan. Since that time, that area has been continually whittled away by affordable housing projects leaving only one small parcel that is now threatened with the same demise as the bulk of the previous open space. I urge the city fathers to reconsider their plan and make downtown Livermore more enjoyable for the residents. Otherwise, the only remaining public area would be First Street, which is very congested! People need a place to relax and the city has an obligation to provide it.

Respect City's Plan and Vote of Community

Brian Powell, Livermore

With my first ever letter to the editor, I want to recognize the extraordinary lengths to which a small group of wealthy people will go to protect Livermore's downtown from the supposed menace of a mis-placed hotel, affordable housing, and a veterans' park.

To watch this well-funded faction operate is to witness a masterclass in Chicago style politics and obfuscation. They have hired paid signature gatherers to manufacture referendums, spent millions in FPPC documented campaign donations, funded numerous losing frivolous lawsuits, and routinely weaponized the pages of The Independent for their propaganda.

Most absurdly, they have hidden their deep pockets and narrow self-interests behind a maze of no fewer than seven political action committees, including the latest, the "Community Coalition". If you know your goals and desires are misaligned with the majority, you'll need seven different "grassroots" front groups to communicate your message.

What makes this ongoing charade particularly ridiculous is their refusal to accept the clear will of Livermore's voters. Their latest plan shows relocation of the downtown hotel in direct contradiction to Measure P, which was overwhelmingly approved by voters and is part of the city's overall downtown plan. I can't imagine the mental gymnastics required to render a 2 to 1 voter-passed measure merely a suggestion, but this small group is earning a 10.

Livermore thrives when our government and citizens create a community that makes room for the teachers, cooks, and working families who serve our city. It is time to retire this endless self-serving campaign of dark-money distractions, retract the new "plan", and respect both the city's plan for the downtown and the decisive vote of the community.

Pacing (or Not) Generative Artificial Intelligence's Genies

Greg Scott, Livermore

The 'genies' of generative artificial intelligence (GenAI) have left their 'lamps.' To pace or not to pace these genies is no longer a question. Slowing the pace among and between rivals isn't a prevalent behavior in globally dominant and adopted Western culture. The existential threat of human mass annihilation or extinction is real; however, the exercised priorities are to amass power and money. (And, being human, sex. I won't go there here. The inquisitive reader can research the exploits of the incredible Ms. Cami Clark.)

Dr. Dario Amodei, cofounder of the frontier GenAI lab Anthropic, posted a sophisticated, 3,829-word essay of propaganda titled, "We Must Pace the Frontier," on Saturday, September 12, 2026. (Yes, I read it.) As a result, a number of GenAI-related market equities lost tens of billions of dollars in their valuations by lunch the following Monday.

What Amodei is actually doing here is buying time by influencing the narrative of Anthropic's S-1 filings with the Security Exchange Commission ahead of Anthropic's more than $2 trillion planned Initial Public Offering (IPO). This IPO would make Anthropic's earlier investors very rich and exclude smaller GenAI rivals, while frontier U.S. GenAI models are losing their competitive lead over the People's Republic of China's GenAI technology, such as the astounding large language model DeepSeek V4.1 Flash.

We need some wisdom and wise actions here. There are none.

"Sons of bankers, sons of lawyers / Turn around and say good morning to the night / For unless they see the sky / But they can't and that is why / They know not if it's dark outside or light" ("Mona Lisas and Mad Hatters," lyrics by Bernie Taupin. Music and song performance by Elton John).

Beware of the Great Fall.

"OK, we're done… what about Shakespeare?" (Joe Sacco. Cartoonist and Journalist).

A Distraction

Paul Speroni, Livermore

Mayor Marchand's criticism of Joan Seppala is hard to make sense of. He seems to frame her as "wrong" simply because she has a different vision for Livermore. Dismissing her on the basis that she and her friends have money isn't a substantive argument. It's a distraction from the real issues.

It feels small to attack people for having a different perspective on Livermore's future. Personal wealth has little to do with different visions of Livermore.

Stanford Valley Care Staff

Eve Sprunt, Dublin

Stanford Valley Care staff communicate with patients and their families like the Mafia. They make unattractive proposals that you can't refuse.

While my husband was hospitalized in Stanford Valleycare, they asked me multiple times where we wanted him to go for in-patient rehab after his discharge. I always expressed a strong preference for a nearby facility in Pleasanton that they

(See MAILBOX, page 6)



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MAILBOX
(Continued from page 5)

suggested.

In the late afternoon, just after my husband finished his IV antibiotic treatment, they told me that he had to be transferred immediately and that he would be taken to a nursing home in Hayward, 22 miles from our home. I asked, "Why can't he go to the nursing home in Pleasanton?"

The nurse replied, "They can't take him until tomorrow. That means an unnecessary night in the hospital. You could be charged $7,000 because that night may not be covered by your insurance."

Hovering over me like a vulture, that nurse didn't give me any time to call our insurance company, so I reluctantly agreed. Two men with a gurney appeared almost immediately and whisked him away to an ambulance. I couldn't contact the new facility until after 9 a.m. the next morning. Needless to say, it was a sleepless night for me.

The Stanford nurse showed no compassion. She could have at least said, "I'll give you a few minutes to call your insurance company to check if they would cover the extra night." Instead, she just hovered over me like a vulture until I agreed to her terms.

Medical staff are under time and cost pressure, but they need to show compassion for patients' family members who are struggling with their loved ones' illness. Stanford Valley Care should be ashamed of how it treats elderly patients and their elderly partners.

Eden
Theodore Schaefer, Livermore

Eden has secured $94 million from California to build brand new rental apartments on Livermore's most valuable downtown land. Their total grants from California, Alameda and Livermore (i.e., us) exceed $100 million. This works out to $769,000 per apartment, so in reality they (Eden) could just buy existing condos spread around town as they come on market and disperse their renters close to free (except real estate tax), safer and more quiet neighborhoods, instead of creating a dense downtown trafficky 4-story Fortress Eden, which is nowhere near the resident children's schools.

BTW, who qualifies for a brand new luxury Eden Arms apartment? For example, I have lived here for 2 1/2 decades and don't need my house anymore, and my SSA is under $40,000/year, so can all my widow/widower friends and neighbors move in? (We have paid big Livermore taxes for decades so we should get #1 top priority.)

The Current Hype about AI
Randall Frost, Pleasanton

I want to share some thoughts about the current debate (panic) about AI in the media. But first, I want to preface these thoughts with some reflections about another "public concern" that lodged in the media back in the 1970s. At that time, the public was being encouraged to worry about plastics destroying the planet, and there was endless talk about ways to "Save the Planet." It took a comedian by the name of George Carlin only about 10 minutes to demolish these concerns. According to Carlin, the planet did not share people's concern about plastics taking over the planet, because it thought of plastics as just another one of its children. Carlin went on to suggest that the only reason humans were allowed to appear on the planet was to help the planet obtain plastics, something the planet did not know how to do itself. Then he pointed out that since Earth now has plastics, people are no longer needed here and can simply move on. Facetious as Carlin's observations may have been, there is still a lot of truth to them. The advent of "Earth Day" back in the 1970s always seemed to me to be just another excuse for young party goers of the time to gather and get high. But there was also a lot of self-serving in the Save the Planet era, i.e., people trying to make the planet a better place to drive their Volvos. By analogy, it is my opinion that a lot of the current hype about AI destroying humanity is coming from folks who want to prevent others from having access to AI, while retaining access for themselves.

Downtown Question
Maryann Brent, Livermore

Here is a downtown question for you: Do the wineries really care whether downtown attracts businesses and visitors?

If no, is it because some of them have their own event venues, making downtown irrelevant? They now also have adequate sewage infrastructure that they needed, thanks to the city's help.

If they cared about downtown, wouldn't the wineries support a central park with lots of trees and irresistible attractions? They would also probably want a comfortable central hotel within walking distance of the attractions.

If wineries cared, wouldn't the mayor and city council try to make decisions about land use that support them? That's why it is curious that the city has authorized rather plain-looking blocks of housing in the most valuable remaining downtown space which, with some effort, could be built just across the street.

I do not believe that the wineries are guiding city decisions about land use. And I am proud of the wine industry and its history. But Livermore is about more than wine. It is about the cattle tradition, big science, entrepreneurship, and very hard-working people. It is about kindness, tolerance, and an openness to new ideas.

I cannot answer my question. But I find Livermore to be an amazing place to live. Except, of course, for the proposed blocks of housing where there should be a park and other cool stuff.

City Council Elections Nov. 3, 2026
Steven Rego, Pleasanton

It's our opportunity to keep our communities in the Tri-Valley vibrant and beautiful.

You have the opportunity to throw out these City Council members who like to approve Pro-Stack and Pack buildings. These City Council members would like to sell off our open spaces, and would permanently harm our views of this lovely area that most all of us moved out here for. They would create a high-density traffic environment with very little in return. They are compromising what is, to most of us, our largest investment. It would put added pressure on water, power, security and other infrastructure needs creating a general malaise for everyone in the area.

Stop all the Stack and Pack now. Once it is built, it is no longer what we came here for.

Thank you for your attention to these matters.

Support Angela Brady for School Board
Teren Ruiz Frazier, Livermore

I am writing to support Angela Brady for the Area 3 seat on the LVJUSD School Board. Our district will face important choices ahead, and we need leaders who listen and put the students first!

I have known Angela Brady for five years. I was her daughter's teacher five years ago, and Angela still continues to come and read to my students for Read Across America day every year. This was happening before her run for candidacy, which shows her heart is in the right place and she had integrity even before she came into the public's eye.

Angela Brady focuses on the right priorities. For instance, she does many community outreach activities, such as planning community clean up days and continuously volunteering at our school site.

She is warm and welcoming with all students. Not only is she kind and compassionate, but her daughter is one of the sweetest students I have ever had the pleasure of teaching, which also shows her dedication as a parent to raise a daughter with similar qualities.

Her character and disposition are unmatched, and she will be an asset to our board and district. She is transparent in all interactions and communication and does not have her own agenda. Instead, she supports diversity and is compassionate to every student, especially underserved and marginalized students. She vows to keep all students safe and she is trustworthy.

Please join me in voting for Angela Brady on November 3rd.

Julie Testa for Pleasanton Mayor
Brian Arkin, Pleasanton

I have known Julie Testa for many years, and over that time I have had the opportunity to work with her on several community initiatives. I also consider Julie a friend, so my perspective comes not only from watching her public service, but from seeing firsthand how seriously she takes the concerns of Pleasanton residents.

What has always impressed me about Julie is her willingness to listen, ask questions, and stay engaged, even when an issue is difficult or controversial. She does her homework, she is accessible, and she is not afraid to speak up when she believes the city can do better.

Through the years, I have seen Julie devote substantial time and energy to issues affecting our community, including mental health services, public safety, responsible city finances and maintaining the quality of life that makes Pleasanton such a special place to live.

In working with her personally, I have found Julie to be thoughtful, sincere, and genuinely motivated by a desire to serve the community. I strongly encourage a YES vote for Julie for mayor.

Larry Bird for LARPD Board
Gina Rinetti-Marques, Livermore

I am proud to support Larry Bird for the LARPD Board.

Larry has been an incredible member of our Livermore community for many years, and his commitment to serving others is evident in everything he does. Many families know Larry through Livermore High School, where he has dedicated years to coaching girls' softball. As a coach, he has helped mentor young athletes, teaching them teamwork, responsibility, sportsmanship, and the importance of being part of something bigger than themselves.

Larry has also served in law enforcement, giving him valuable experience in leadership, public service, accountability, and working with people from all walks of life. He understands what it means to serve a community and to take that responsibility seriously.

In addition, Larry is one of the founders of the Tri-Valley Pickleball Club. His involvement in helping grow pickleball locally is another example of his passion for recreation and creating opportunities for people of all ages to be active, connect with one another, and enjoy our community.

What stands out most about Larry is that he genuinely cares about Livermore. He understands how important our parks, trails, sports fields, recreational facilities, and community programs are to the quality of life we enjoy. These spaces bring families and neighbors together and are an important part of what makes Livermore such a special place to live.

Larry brings a unique combination of community involvement, coaching, public service, leadership, and a genuine love for Livermore. I believe he will listen to residents, work hard, and make thoughtful decisions about the future of our parks and recreation programs.

I wholeheartedly support Larry Bird for the LARPD Board and believe he will do an outstanding job representing our community.

Pleasanton District 1 City Council Candidates
Steve Bachand, Pleasanton

I live in Pleasanton's District 1 and was looking through the candidate statements for City Council. I was aware of Kathy Narum because of her Zone 7 involvement and substantial involvement in other parts of our community. I am not familiar with Vin Kruttiventi. His candidate statement references his successes as a business leader, but I don't see any local community involvement.

Kathy Narum, on the other hand, is very connected to the community. Has Vin Kruttiventi had any local community involvement? Has he served on any city committees or commissions? Any involvement with the Pleasanton Downtown Association or other local groups?

Looking at the two candidate statements, it seems Kathy Narum has already done the listening and understands our local issues. I'm concerned Vin Kruttiventi doesn't have that level of understanding.

Please join me in supporting Kathy Narum for City Council, representing District 1.

Reader Snapshots

Share Your Best Shot

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

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

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



A golden glow lights the path to fall alongside Livermore's Holdener Park. (Photo courtesy of Christine Thompson)

Larry Bird for LARPD Board
Roger Lamb, Livermore

I am writing to share my support for Larry Bird for the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District Board of Directors.

I have known Larry for several years and had the opportunity to work alongside him on the board of the nonprofit Tri-Valley Pickleball Club. During that time, I saw firsthand his honesty, thoughtful decision-making, and willingness to listen to others before reaching a conclusion. He takes his responsibilities seriously and follows through on his commitments.

Larry brings community service, leadership, and firsthand recreation experience to this election. He has lived in Livermore for more than three decades, has coached softball at Livermore High School for 24 years, and spent 28 years in law enforcement. He has also been actively involved in local recreation programs.

What stands out to me most is Larry's genuine interest in the Livermore community. He understands that LARPD's parks, fields, trails, and recreation programs serve people of all ages, and he believes those resources should be managed responsibly and remain valuable to our community.

In my experience working with Larry, I have seen the integrity, transparency, common sense, and willingness to listen that he would bring to the Board. Those are the qualities I am looking for in a community representative.

More information about Larry's background and campaign is available at Bird4LARPD.com.

Who Is Deena Kaplanis?
David Jonas, Livermore

Through her words and actions, LVJUSD School Board candidate Deena Kaplanis has clearly established her core values:

In an email to the School Board, Kaplanis wrote:

"Please drop the mandates immediately; they are unscientific and obviously kept for alternative reasons beyond just keeping our children safe. This should be a parent's choice on how we should go about our child's health and well being."

In a comment to the School Board, Kaplanis said:

"Science shows we have a natural god-given immunity to fight off disease and infection… Science shows kids have less than 1% chance of dying from COVID19. Why force an experimental vaccination on children who are not at high risk of death?"

"The bible tells us in proverbs 12:17 that he who speaks truth declares what is right, but a false witness speaks deceit. I want you to know your stance on this. You will have to answer for one day and I hope you choose truth."

Kaplanis' participated as a featured speaker at an event co-sponsored by Turning Point USA, a political organization closely associated with the MAGA movement.

Kaplanis twice voted against celebrating LGBTQ+ Pride Month, defending her vote by asserting Pride Month "promotes an ideology that has been weaponized against children in our own district," and "I will not vote to advance an agenda that pushes children from telling the truth."

Kaplanis' positions on parental rights, gender identity, LGBTQ issues and school curriculum mirror the agenda of Moms for Liberty, a national conservative organization focused on parental control of public education, opposition to LGBTQ-inclusive policies and challenging books and curriculum it considers inappropriate.

Kaplanis' campaign materials give no indication of her extreme ideology, as if she's trying to conceal who she really is.

Vote Christiaan VandenHeuvel for School Board D5!

I Support Larry Bird
Diane Rinetti, Livermore

I am proud to support Larry Bird for the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District Board.

Larry is someone who has demonstrated integrity, character, and a true commitment to serving others throughout his life. He spent 28 years in law enforcement, where leadership, accountability, honesty, and sound judgment were essential. Those qualities have continued to define the way Larry serves our community today.

Larry has also dedicated many years to Livermore's youth as a softball coach at Livermore High School. He understands the importance of providing children and families with safe, welcoming places to learn, play, and connect.

As one of the founding members of the Tri-Valley Pickleball Club, Larry has also been instru-

(See MAILBOX, page 7)

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE® — **Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation (Requester Publications Only)**

1. Publication Title	2. Publication Number	3. Filing Date
The Independent		9-21-26
4. Issue Frequency	5. Number of Issues Published Annually	6. Annual Subscription Price (if any)
Weekly	52	

7. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication (Not printer) (Street, city, county, state, and ZIP+4®) — Contact Person
2250 First Street Livermore CA 94550 — Telephone (Include area code) 925-243-8000

8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher (Not printer)
2250 First Street Livermore CA 94550

9. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor (Do not leave blank)
Publisher (Name and complete mailing address)
Joan Seppala 2250 First Street Livermore CA 94550
Editor (Name and complete mailing address)
Christina Cavallaro 2250 First Street Livermore CA 94550
Managing Editor (Name and complete mailing address)
Christina Cavallaro 2250 First Street Livermore CA 94550

10. Owner (Do not leave blank. If the publication is owned by a corporation, give the name and address of the corporation immediately followed by the names and addresses of all stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of the total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, give the names and addresses of the individual owners. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, give its name and address as well as those of each individual owner. If the publication is published by a nonprofit organization, give its name and address.)

Full Name	Complete Mailing Address
Inland Valley Publishing Co.	2250 First Street Livermore CA 94550
Owned by Lynn Seppala and Joan Seppala	2250 First Street Livermore CA 94550

11. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages, or Other Securities. If none, check box. → ☐ None

Full Name	Complete Mailing Address

12. Tax Status (For completion by nonprofit organizations authorized to mail at nonprofit rates) (Check one)
The purpose, function, and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for federal income tax purposes:
☐ Has Not Changed During Preceding 12 Months
☐ Has Changed During Preceding 12 Months (Publisher must submit explanation of change with this statement.)

PS Form **3526-R**, July 2014 [Page 1 of 4 (See instructions page 4)] PSN: 7530-09-000-8855 **PRIVACY NOTICE:** See our privacy policy on www.usps.com.

13. Publication Title: The Independent — 14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below: 9-21-26

15. Extent and Nature of Circulation			Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
a. Total Number of Copies (Net press run)			24,110	23,655
b. Legitimate Paid and/or Requested Distribution (By mail and outside the mail)	(1)	Outside County Paid/Requested Mail Subscriptions stated on PS Form 3541. (Include direct written request from recipient, telemarketing, and Internet requests from recipient, paid subscriptions including nominal rate subscriptions, employer requests, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies.)		
	(2)	In-County Paid/Requested Mail Subscriptions stated on PS Form 3541. (Include direct written request from recipient, telemarketing, and Internet requests from recipient, paid subscriptions including nominal rate subscriptions, employer requests, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies.)	15,171	14,885
	(3)	Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Paid or Requested Distribution Outside USPS®	23	23
	(4)	Requested Copies Distributed by Other Mail Classes Through the USPS (e.g., First-Class Mail®)	23	23
c. Total Paid and/or Requested Circulation (Sum of 15b (1), (2), (3), and (4)) ▶			15,217	14,930
d. Non-requested Distribution (By mail and outside the mail)	(1)	Outside County Nonrequested Copies Stated on PS Form 3541 (include sample copies, requests over 3 years old, requests induced by a premium, bulk sales and requests including association requests, names obtained from business directories, lists, and other sources)	8,540	8,378
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	(4)	Nonrequested Copies Distributed Outside the Mail (Include pickup stands, trade shows, showrooms, and other sources)	120	118
e. Total Nonrequested Distribution (Sum of 15d (1), (2), (3) and (4))			8,660	8,496
f. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and e) ▶			23,877	23,426
g. Copies not Distributed (See Instructions to Publishers #4, (page #3)) ▶			234	229
h. Total (Sum of 15f and g)			24,110	23,655
i. Percent Paid and/or Requested Circulation (15c divided by 15f times 100) ▶			63.73%	63.75%

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16. Electronic Copy Circulation	Average No. Copies Each Issue During Previous 12 Months	No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
a. Requested and Paid Electronic Copies ▶	1,517	1,488
b. Total Requested and Paid Print Copies (Line 15c) + Requested/Paid Electronic Copies (Line 16a) ▶	16,734	16,419
c. Total Requested Copy Distribution (Line 15f) + Requested/Paid Electronic Copies (Line 16a) ▶	25,425	25,416
d. Percent Paid and/or Requested Circulation (Both Print & Electronic Copies) (16b divided by 16c l 100) ▶	65.82%	64.60%

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17. Publication of Statement of Ownership for a Requester Publication is required and will be printed in the issue of this publication. 9-24-26

18. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner: Thomas Sciarrino, Business Manager — Date: 9-21-26

I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including civil penalties).

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From left, Dublin Vice Mayor Kashef Qaadri, Dublin Arts Collective President Vanessa Thomas, and Dublin Mayor Sherry Hu gather with local student artists and community members at The Frame Company and Art Gallery during the opening reception for the inaugural Mayor Sherry Hu's Young Artists Showcase on Saturday, Sept. 19, in Dublin. The exhibition, celebrating National Arts in Education Week, runs through Oct. 3. (Photo — May Fraser)

MAILBOX

(Continued from page 6)

mental in growing recreational opportunities in our community. His involvement has given him firsthand experience working with LARPD and advocating for quality facilities and programs for residents of all ages.

Larry has a genuine interest in maintaining and improving our parks, trails, playgrounds, athletic fields, and recreation facilities. He also understands the importance of being fiscally responsible with public resources, listening to residents, and making thoughtful decisions that benefit the entire community.

Most importantly, Larry is trustworthy, hardworking, and approachable. He is someone who cares deeply about Livermore and has consistently demonstrated that commitment through his service, his coaching, and his involvement in local recreation.

Larry brings decades of public service experience, community involvement, and a genuine passion for making Livermore an even better place for families and future generations.

Vote Against Censorship!

Barry Brynjulson, Pleasanton

Banning CNN, MS NOW, and POLITICO from the White House because the President doesn't like their questions and what they report is censorship, against the First Amendment, and a clear sign of authoritarianism.

Vote early at drop boxes beginning October 6. Alameda County sites can be found at:

www.alamedacountyca.gov/rovapps/maps/ballotdropbox_map.htm

A Common Sense Response

Glenn White, Dublin

Regarding the letter that was outraged about allowing abortion in California and requested that Christians pray and vote to bring back common sense, may I remind the readers that the Christian Bible clearly says that the unborn, those who've never been that are dragged from womb to tomb per Job 10:19, are neither alive nor dead per Ecclesiastes 4:2-3. One cannot murder those who are not alive and have never been, as described in those two passages. That explains why Jesus says it would be good for Judas to never be born, that is: aborted, in Mark 14:21. If Judas' abortion is good according to Jesus, then abortion is not murder.

Common sense says contradicting what the Bible says, especially what Jesus says, is not Christian behavior, but anti-Christian behavior. Jesus expects his followers to treat immigrants, strangers, those in prison and the hungry and thirsty with kindness, even using that standard to separate those of Christ from those who are not of Christ in His judgment (Mathew 25:31-42). But Satan's Evangelists hide behind the cold-blooded cruelty and negligence of the Trump Administration, from shooting people in streets and then lying about what happened regarding the shooting to family separation in government camps. They practice their cold-blooded Satanic cruelty, hiding the teachings of Jesus that condemn their Satanic behavior and then lie about abortion being murder to implement their Republican Sharia Law. They use the morality of Trump, based on greed, corruption, fornication, lies and especially cold-blooded cruelty, to conceal their hatred of the teachings of Jesus, which are based upon love, compassion, and empathy.

"No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one and love the other; or else he will hold to the one and despise the other." (Mathew 6:24)

Trump's Passion for Lying

Eloise Hamann, Dublin

If you think that Trump's promise to give every adult $5,000 if Republicans keep their majority in Congress , I have a magic wand to give everyone.

Fact-checkers at The Washington Post documented 30,573 false or misleading claims during his first term. He hasn't changed. Remember the promise of "No Wars!" when he ran for his current presidency. One whopper that many people believe is that immigrants commit many crimes. The facts show that native born Americans commit many more crimes than immigrants.

Don't vote betting on the money. It's pure propaganda. If Republicans held the house, and if $5,000 were to be given, it would amount to 1.3 trillion dollars. Further, guess who pays for it through their taxes?

Welcome to Trump World

Rosario Milelli, Pleasanton

Some news snippets worth mentioning.

Trump on Sunday called on Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to halt strikes on Russian oil refineries and other infrastructure used to produce and distribute diesel, saying the attacks are causing a global shortage. So Russia is attacking Ukraine daily, raining missiles and drones on civilians and our leader says stop fighting back. Any evidence Trump asked Putin to stop killing civilians; probably not. For the record, the shortage is driven by the shutdown of the Strait of Hormuz.

Donald Trump Jr. and Bettina Trump acknowledged that their "dear friend" Umar Kremlev very generously hosted two nights of their post-wedding celebration in the Bahamas. Kremlev is a powerful Russian businessman with close ties to Vladimir Putin, has a criminal record, and recently accompanied Putin on a delegation to China.

Anthropic's alignment-science lead recently said he believes there is greater than a 10% chance that advanced AI could "kill all humans" within the next decade. Other industry leaders have called for stronger safeguards. Trump's response? "The only control or 'guardrails' that AI needs is a STRONG AND SMART (High IQ!) PRESIDENT, and the U.S.A. has that, in spades!"

While giving a speech on the second night of the 80-year-old president's midterm convention flop in Dallas, Trump called on his MAGA base to raise their hands and recite an unhinged pledge that amounted to demanding that they commit voter fraud. Trump started with: "I pledge, to the greatest president in the history of the United States,..."

And now the Kennedy Center. After a federal judge again blocked putting Trump's name on the building, Trump said renovations would not proceed if the courts ultimately refuse to permit it.

Totally out of control. Reflect on these snippets as we approach the midterms.

At Home with a MAGA Family

Frank Cannella, Livermore

Allow me to introduce my fictional MAGA family, discussing politics at their kitchen table. John Maga, just home from his job as a long-haul trucker, starts the conversation with his familiar refrain, "Thank heaven our president is going to send each of us $5,000 if the Republicans can hold the House and Senate! Those darn Democrats prevented us from receiving the tariff bonus and the DOGE bonus Trump previously promised!" John's wife, Marge, immediately chimed, "It's wonderful to hear; now maybe we can afford to pay for our health care. It's too bad your Mom passed away before she had that bonus and lived a bit longer, but at least she is with the wonderful God that gave us Donald Trump!" John added, "And now we no longer need to worry about the danger of A.I. since Trump has called such worry a hoax, much as he did with climate change, vaccines, affordability and the fake news. Only a truly strong president can disregard the opinions of computer experts, scientists, economists and medical experts." Then Marge jumped in, "Talk about strong!! Did you see the way he handled those ingrates in Europe who had the audacity to invite Canada into their organization? Their common goals are around climate change, concern about A.I., and democracy. Trump said he would regard Canadian joining the union as a hostile act and would go after them with higher tariffs. Now that is leadership!" "Don't forget the great job he is doing in Iran and controlling the Epstein files, dear!" said John.

This story is fictional, but unfortunately it has the ring of truth.

My Email to Trustee Kaplanis

Allie Felker, Livermore

Last night you brought up an issue that "weighed heavily on your heart," and I have not stopped thinking about it, especially as I dropped my daughter off at school this morning. I was raised in the same religion as you and brought up with similar values and principles. Some of those principles have remained with me, including being a voice for the voiceless, standing against injustice, loving my neighbor, and refraining from judgment. Your comments about the Title IX funding were a thinly veiled attack on our trans youth. Furthermore, the only protection my daughter needs is from policies that would have her undergo inspections to prove her sex in order to engage in sports. That is the logical conclusion of the policies you are advocating for, and while I do not think this would happen in our district, it is not unheard of.

Trans youth are at a much higher risk of suicide than their cisgender peers. Whether or not you agree with it, the evidence shows that gender affirming care greatly reduces that risk.

Your comments last night revealed that your alignment is with your chosen political ideology, not with what is best for children. It is your duty to put our children first, even if that goes against current political trends. It is also my understanding (which is limited, I'll admit) that Title IX funding is not available for employee pay. Commenting on this grant was completely irrelevant to the very important discussion of maintaining positions and programs. It was inappropriate and only served to reveal your allegiance to the current administration.

I ask that you set aside your political beliefs and defer to health professionals over politicians, to ensure your actions best serve the youth of Livermore.

Election and the Shariah Scare

Abdul Awwal, Pleasanton

When an individual, media outlet, or politician brings us information, we should verify it before forming an opinion. The Quran reminds us in 49:6: "If an evildoer brings you any news, verify it so you do not harm people unknowingly, becoming regretful for what you have done." A key question is: Who benefits from this, why is it being shared, and who is behind it?

After 9/11, a Sikh man in Arizona was killed because he wore a turban. A thoughtful person should have asked: Did he have anything to do with 9/11? Likewise, no reasonable person would blame everyone who looks like the Columbine shooters or shares his religion.

Fear is often used by politicians to make people act irrationally. Today in Texas and in the Federal level, some politicians and senators are using a buzzword many Americans barely understand: 'Shariah', to scare people. When I asked ChatGPT who is behind the Shariah scare, it identified David Yerushalmi as a leading figure. It also pointed to the Alan and Hope Winters Foundation and others connected to Yerushalmi as funders. I invite the readers to verify this.

The danger of such propaganda is that it pushes people to act without understanding, focusing on bogus fears. At times, even the apparatus of the state is used to create terrorism plots and try to recruit vulnerable Muslims, keeping hysteria alive. Funders of this manufactured scare try to distract from the ongoing genocide in Gaza. Gaza has awakened global awareness of Palestinian suffering over the past 75 years. Now, during election season, some appear to be manufacturing new "Shairah scare" to divert attention and win votes. As the Quran reminds in 29:13, "They will surely be questioned on the Day of Judgment about what they used to fabricate."


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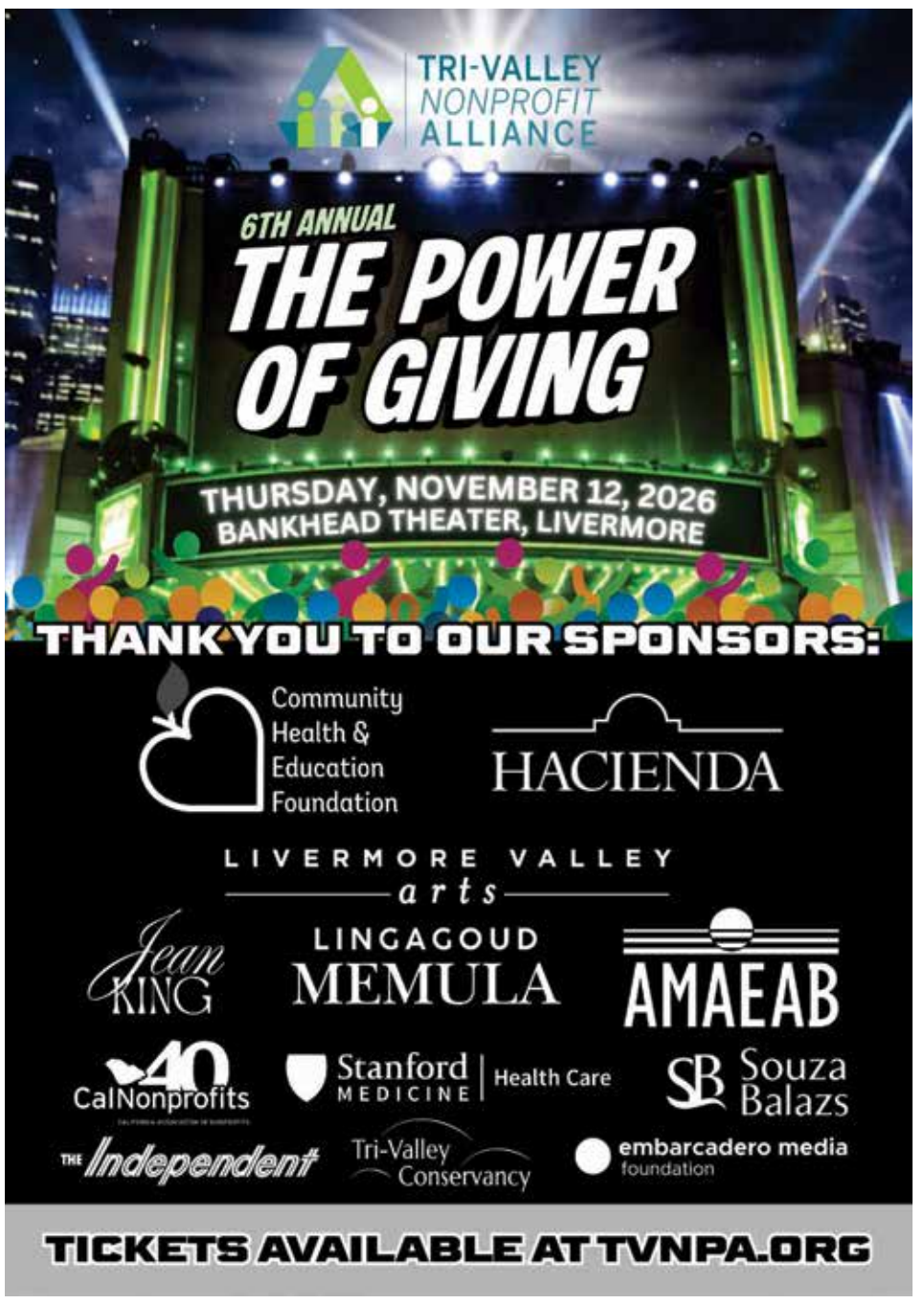
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Sunday October 11, 2026
5:00 PM - 8:30 PM
Concannon Vineyard, Livermore
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Emcee Juliette Goodrich guiding our evening:
- Exciting silent and live auctions
- Heartwarming stories from a valued recipient
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Tickets & sponsorships now available: https://bounty-of-hope.auctria.events





The Magic of Why

By Christina Cavallaro

I have always marveled at that moment between experiencing a random feeling of happiness and identifying the source of it.

What I find magical is that the fleeting sensation as it washes over me is not predicated on the source. When I am just walking down the street or brushing my teeth, and before I become aware of what is making me feel content — I just am.

Eventually I pinpoint that my subconscious has landed on the prospect of me playing tennis later, or of a new candle I'm excited to burn, or some delicious ingredient I'm planning to use in a future meal.

The point is, the moment of that good feeling of unknown origin — in those 30 seconds before it's attached to anything — is of equal value whether applied to a fancy, expensive dinner or a vase of handpicked wildflowers. The object of my joy is not important in that half a minute. It's simply the joy that matters and the fact that I am accessing it.

And in today's world when moments of sadness too can also hit us out of nowhere, I am eager to harness as many good ones as possible.

Lately, as conversations abound around AI's impact on the arts, I find myself applying this same principle of magic when it comes to the fate and raison d'etre of creative pursuits.

The Independent reported on a story earlier this month about Amador Valley High School senior Jeffrey Liu, whose photographs taken at the Dublin/Pleasanton BART station were recently selected for publication in two esteemed juried visual arts anthologies. I felt awestruck the first time I laid eyes on them for the feelings they evoked in me.

But this talented youth represents a new generation of artists as he looks ahead to college, where he plans to pursue both art and science — something that has caused him some existential turmoil, especially around the idea of generative AI. While he sees its potential as a tool, he has some concern about how it is being used these days and worries about the impact it might have on human creativity and what makes it meaningful.

"I would never want a software to make all of my art like Picasso," he said. "That's not what artists care about."

A pithy fellow editor I know emailed me his thoughts on the matter: "Real artists make art because they enjoy the process of creation; they don't want to automate the process; they want robots to clean their house so they have more time to make art." And in his opinion, aside from some usefulness in automating mundane tasks, the current iteration is "environmentally destructive and has allowed dishonest people to flood the market with quickly generated slop 'novels', 'music,' and 'art' which bear none of the soul, technique or thought that the arts require."

These grapplings are propelling a young person like Liu toward a future path that might include creating an AI literacy program aimed at teaching the next generation how to understand and responsibly use the technology.

Another local artist, Thom See, is on the other end of the artistic journey spectrum. See became a full-time painter in his retirement, after a career in computer programming. He often ponders the question of why we are compelled to make art in the first place.

"You ask yourself, 'Why? Why am I doing this? What's the point?'" On a personal level, he thinks it stems from a desire to be heard.

Famed record producer Rick Rubin wrote in his book, "The Creative Act: A Way of Being," that the reason we are alive is to express ourselves in the world. And he posits that creating art may be the most effective and beautiful way of doing so.

And by art, he doesn't mean only that which is housed in glass and hung on a wall. It can be a conversation, the solution to a problem, a note to a friend, or a new route home.

Or in the case of musician Lindsay Deutsch, it's playing stringed instruments owned by musicians during the Holocaust as part of the returning exhibit "Violins of Hope" at the Bankhead Theater this October

"It is an indescribable experience for me, as a performer, to try my best to channel their stories and transmit them to the audience," Deutsch said. "This is a powerful way of keeping their memory alive. There is no greater honor than this for me."

Because as Rubin wrote, "Art goes beyond language, beyond lives. It's a universal way to send messages between each other and through time."

So if art is the soul's passport to time travel, why wouldn't we protect the sanctity and magic of the process?

Do you have tidbits about the Tri-Valley or know of interesting people, places, events or unique perspectives that should be featured in the Heart of the Valley monthly column or podcast? If so, we want to hear from you. Please email me at christina@independentnews.com.

TRI-VALLEY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

EVENTS
Saturday, Sept. 26
POPS ON THE GREEN
Come to the free Livermore-Amador Symphony annual Pops concert, sponsored by the Symphony Guild, on the lawn in front of the Bankhead Theater, 2400 First Street, Livermore. Bring a lawn chair or blanket and snacks. Also featuring the Element 116 teen jazz band. Fun, family, and friends! On Sept. 26 from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Sunday, Sept. 27
JEWELRY & WEARABLE ART SALE
Livermore Art Association is presenting a Jewelry & Wearable Art Sale at Livermore Art Association Gallery, 2155 Third Street, Livermore, on Sept. 27 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Stop by to browse original pieces, meet local artists, and discover unique, handmade and one-of-a-kind jewelry and wearable art while supporting Livermore's creative community. Free and open to the public.

Sunday, Sept. 27
PRAIRIE SCHOOL AND 10TH ANNIVERSARY PARTY
Come to Hagemann Ranch on Sept. 27 from 1-5 p.m. for Prairie School and to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of Sundays at Hagemann. Kids can "go to school" in a model 1890s one-room school having lessons using slates and McGuffey Readers. Ice cream sundaes will be sold for $1. The Amazing Cervantes will delight families with magic tricks, the HistoryMobile will be open, plus visit the animals, tour the ranch, visit artists and learn to lasso. Always free and family friendly. 455 Olivina Ave. Livermore.

Saturday, Oct. 4
BLESSINGS AND BOW WOWS; A ST. FRANCIS CELEBRATION FOR PEOPLE & PETS
Join Asbury UMC for a fun, family-friendly celebration honoring St. Francis and a love for animals. The event will feature a petting zoo, pet blessing, dog adoption event with Tracy Dog Girls, cat adoption event with Feral Cat Foundation, and family activities. A donation drive will also collect towels, blankets, old newspapers, dog treats, and toys for animals in need. Free and open to the community. On Oct. 4, 11:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m., at Asbury United Methodist Church, 4743 East Ave., Livermore

ONGOING EVENTS
FALL GRIEF WORKSHOPS
Held at St. Elizabeth Seton Church, 4001 Stoneridge Dr., Pleasanton, on Oct. 1, 8, 15, and 22, starting at 7 pm. See catholicsofpleasanton.org or call Barbara at 925-846-3904 for more info/registration.

DROP-IN GENEALOGY ASSISTANCE
Assistance by members of the Livermore-Amador Genealogy Society. On the first Wednesday of each month, 10:30 - 12:30, at Livermore Public Library, Civic Center Branch, Room 135.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS
To find a local meeting in person or online, visit valleyservicecenteraa.org or call the 24-hour hotline at 925-829-0666.

WINGS-WOMEN IN GOD'S SPIRIT
WINGS a faith enrichment group of intergenerational Catholic women who meet October thru May on Thursday mornings at 9:30 am at St. Charles Borromeo, 1315 Lomitas Ave., Livermore. See www.stcharleslivermore.org/wings for info.

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.

FOOD RELIEF SERVICES
Local residents can access vital food-assistance services to help meet basic needs. Food relief services can be found at:
St. Vincent De Paul Food locker, 458 Maple St., Livermore (behind St. Michaels Church); Mon/Tues: 7-8 p.m., Wed/Thu: 4-5 p.m.
Children's Emergency Food Bank; 7421 Amarillo Rd., Dublin; appointments M-F, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; 925-828-5363;
St. Raymond Catholic Church, 11555 Shannon Ave., Dublin; third Sat. of the month, 8 to 11 a.m.;
Open Heart Kitchen; M-F, noon to 5 p.m.; 450 N. Livermore Ave., Livermore;
Tri-Valley Haven Food Pantry, 150 N. "L" Street, Livermore; 925-449-1664 – M-Th, 1 to 5 p.m.; Fri/Sat 12 to 4 p.m.;
Alameda County Community Food Bank; 510-635-3663; M-F, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Email non-profit events to calendar@independentnews.com for newspaper calendar and visit our website www.independentnews.com to promote all events online

SUMMIT

(Continued from front page)

of Health and Housing Services in Alameda County, said only about 100 people experiencing homelessness in the Tri-Valley are in a shelter out of an estimated 480 total individuals experiencing homelessness in the area, based on January 2026 point-in-time counts. This leaves the vast majority of the unhoused population living on the street or in vehicles.

"These are our neighbors, our community; they grew up here," Kasdin continued, noting that 86% of the homeless population lost permanent housing within the region.

While homelessness decreased across Alameda County overall, local officials attribute the Tri-Valley's rising numbers to local economic pressures. High housing costs, a lack of affordable inventory, and an aging population on fixed incomes leave residents vulnerable. This means a single unexpected expense, like a medical emergency or a car breakdown, could propel someone directly into homelessness.

Kasdin encouraged residents to get involved with the county's Home Together Plan for 2030, funded through Measure W. Alameda County voters approved the half-cent sales tax in 2020, but the funds were locked in escrow until 2025 due to a legal battle over tax classification. Now released, 80% of the measure's funding — projected at $1.4 billion through 2031 — will directly support housing and homelessness services. Residents can submit feedback on the plan's framework via Alameda County Health's website through Oct. 1.

The film "Beyond the Bridge" was created by filmmakers Don Sawyer and Tim Hashko. It's a follow-up to their 2015 film Under the Bridge, which explored the criminalization of homelessness through a group of people living under a highway bridge in Indianapolis that the city slated for demolition. The filmmakers said that during the screening of that film, the question they heard most often was: What do we do?

"Beyond the Bridge" is an attempt to answer that question. The film centers on the Housing First approach, which prioritizes providing the basic need of permanent, long-term housing to individuals without conditions, rather than requiring them to complete programs as a prerequisite to retain shelter.

The film also touched on the importance of affordable housing, using San Francisco as an example of what happens when a lack of affordable housing collides with other pressures. One stakeholder featured in the film compared it to musical chairs: When the music stops and someone loses, we blame them and forget that there weren't enough chairs in the first place.

Another stakeholder said: "If you don't want affordable housing in your backyard, you're going to end up with homelessness in your front yard."

After the screening of the film, Gloria Gregory, director of Tri-Valley Homeless, Housing, and Senior Services, moderated a short panel with local officials involved in varying degrees of homelessness response.

Livermore Police Chief Jeramy Young brought up the tension he sees in the voluntary nature of the Housing First model. While supportive, Young noted that "using the system as designed" means mental health treatment is voluntary and can be hard to navigate when individuals have severe and persistent mental health conditions. According to Young, 80% of the unhoused individuals in the area have chronic addiction or serious mental health issues. While slightly higher than national averages, Alameda County is countering this by expanding processes and programs, such as screening individuals for eligibility into support services instead of sending them to jail or prison. In the Tri-Valley, there are street teams that provide direct support to unhoused people, from food to mental health care. There are behavioral health treatment programs for long-term support.

"If they were someone with a knife in their chest, we'd help them out," he said, but the Housing First model requires the individual to 'come and ask for help.'"

For Jamie Almanza, CEO of Bay Area Community Services, the Tri-Valley has all the essential ingredients to end homelessness. "The gap is in all the leaders coming together," Almanza said.

Almanza echoed a theme from the film itself, which noted that Milwaukee and Houston's successes depended on buy-in from a wide range of stakeholders. The question as the film frames it: What can we do together?

The summit also highlighted local efforts already underway. Goodness Village in Livermore offers 28 tiny homes, each with a bathroom, shower, kitchenette, and porch, to provide permanent housing for unhoused individuals. The community currently houses 17 residents, with a waitlist of over 200 applicants for remaining and future openings.

Also discussed was Alameda County's Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment Court, or CARE Court, which is focused on stabilizing and housing individuals with severe and persistent mental health needs. The program was praised by Gov. Gavin Newsom and is considered the top-performing CARE Court program among California counties.

The number of people experiencing homelessness is rising in the Tri-Valley, but the region isn't starting from zero to tackle the issue. A key goal of Monday's summit was to connect community members with the resources that are already here.

OBITUARIES

Aase Soeberg Jensen
Feb. 20, 1937 — Sept. 7, 2026



It is with great sorrow and reverence that we announce the passing of Aase Soeberg Jensen at the age of 89. Aase was born on Feb. 20, 1937, in Holbæk, Denmark to parents Johanne and Carl Soeberg Nielsen. At age 19, she attended nursing school in Holbaek, where she earned her nursing certificate. During her schooling, she met Alex Jensen, a Dane visiting from the U.S., whom she became pen pals with for the following two years. In 1960, Aase bought a one-way ticket to San Francisco to join Alex. They were soon married and began their life in northern California, eventually settling in Santa Rosa. Aase and Alex built their own home where they shared many memories for 48 years. They were blessed with two children, Sonja and Bjorn, and became a tight family of four. Aase and Alex met many fellow Danes and grew a large community of friends in Santa Rosa.

Aase worked as a nurse proudly for 40 years across multiple hospitals in San Francisco and Santa Rosa, including Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital, Warrack, and Community (Sutter Health). She loved to travel, knit, sew, crochet, swim, listen to classical music, and attend operas and symphonies. Aase was well known in her community for her homemade Danish cookies every Christmas season. The family is very proud of their Danish heritage and have enjoyed multiple visits to and from Aase's homeland where they remain connected to her extended family. Aase's grandchildren called her by the Danish name for grandmother: Farmor/Mormor, meaning father's mother or mother's mother. Aase will always be remembered for her quick wit, and genuine love and appreciation for all of her family.

Aase moved to Pleasanton, California in 2013, to Stoneridge Creek/Creekview to live closer to her children and grandchildren up until her passing on Sept. 7, 2026. Aase was preceded in death by her parents, Johanne and Carl Soeberg Nielsen, her husband Alex Jensen and her older sister Greta Jorgensen. She is survived by her younger brother Kaj Soeberg Nielsen; her two children Sonja Sommer (Stanley) and Bjorn Jensen (Kristina); her five grandchildren Valerie Sommer, Andrea Sommer, Erik Jensen (Willow), Annalise Jensen, and Sofie Jensen; and her nieces and nephews in Denmark.

A memorial service will be held at St. Clare's Episcopal Church, Pleasanton, CA at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 26. A livestream of the service will also be available on the Church's Youtube channel @stclaresepiscopalchurch524.

Donations in her memory can be sent to The Parkinson Voice Project or the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research.

Madeline Rose Genoni Scullion
Sept. 12, 1928 — Feb. 8, 2026



Madeline was born Sept. 12, 1928, the third child of John and Maria Genoni, at the family ranch on Lomitas Avenue in Livermore. She followed older brothers, Joseph and Frank. They idolized their younger sister for their entire lives. She was a true native of Livermore and what many would term "old Livermore".

Her schooling included St. Michael's School and Livermore High School. Following graduation, she attended the Heald School of Business. Upon completion, she was employed by Coast Manufacturing and Supply Company until it closed. She then worked at Pleasanton Garbage Service until her retirement.

Madeline's greatest joy and blessing was her family. She was married to Don Scullion for 58 years, and they had two children, Jim and Ann. Joseph, Frank and Madeline's families all built homes within two blocks of each other in Livermore's southside, always close. She had a wicked sense of humor and was generous of time, talent and treasure. Many family celebrations were hosted by Don and Madeline with family, extended family, and friends. She loved to be outside gardening or inside often sewing. A large part of her time when she was still able was dedicated to St. Michael's Young Ladies Institute as an active member and officer. Many lifetime friendships were made there.

She is predeceased by husband Don; parents, John and Maria; and brothers, Joseph and Frank, as well as their spouses, Rosalie and Gloria. Madeline is survived by son Jim, and daughter, Ann and husband Mike Foreman, and her greatest joy, granddaughter, Kennedy. As per her request, there were no services.

The family wishes to thank the incredible staff and residents at Quail Garden, who provided wonderful care, support and friendship to Madeline and her family.

OBITUARIES

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Robert "Bob" Terry Livingstone

March 14, 1947 — April 24, 2025

Bob was born on March 14, 1947, in Oakland, California. He later made his home in Livermore and went home to be with the Lord on April 24, 2025.

Bob graduated from Calaveras High School in 1966, where he played football, participated on the dive team, and played drums in the school band. His love of music continued throughout his life. From October 1967 through April 1969, he was a drummer with Santana, where he earned the nickname "Doc."

Bob had an adventurous spirit and enjoyed motorcycles and deep-sea diving. Above all, he loved the Lord and his family. His baptism at Celebration Church of Livermore on March 5, 2023, was an especially joyful and meaningful moment in his life.



Bob is survived by his beloved wife, Carol; their four children, Melanie Byrne, Debbie Sweeny, Bobby Livingstone, and Jon Livingstone; his grandchildren, Chelsea Byrne, Lance Byrne, Ean Sweeny, Abilene Livingstone, and Liam Livingstone; and his sisters, Sharlene Lundin and Pat Short.

A celebration of Bob's life will be held on Saturday, Sept. 26, 2026, at 1:00 p.m. at Celebration Church of Livermore, 1135 Bluebell Drive, Livermore, California 94551.



Barbara Ann Marcum

Oct. 12,1948 — Aug. 29,2026

Barbara Marcum was born in Winslow, Arizona on Oct. 12, 1948. She moved to California when she was 18 months old. She grew up and attended Oakland and San Leandro schools. She graduated from San Leandro High School and Ohlone College as well as Santa Barbara Business College.

She resided in Fremont, California for 30 years.

She leaves behind her companion, Richard Ressler, two children, a son, Mark Lee Marcum, Jr. and daughter, Aria Pilar Jendreski, five grandchildren, and one great-granddaughter.

She also leaves behind one brother and three sisters, and several nephews and nieces.

At Barbara's request, a small, private service will be held for immediate family only.



Francis X. Geasa, Jr.

Nov. 5, 1937 — Sept. 12, 2026

Francis (Frank) was born in Bronx, New York to Francis X. Geasa Sr. and Anna Marie Dwyer Geasa. He passed away peacefully at his home of 51 years in Pleasanton at 88 years old.

Upon graduation from St. Mary's High School in Katonah, New York, Frank joined the Air Force when he was just 17 years old. While he was stationed at Lincoln AFB in Nebraska, he met Sonia Hershberger, his future bride. After a short romance, then a long separation due to Frank's military assignment overseas, they married at Spangdahlaem AFB in Germany in 1959.

Frank's time in the Air Force included a tour in Vietnam as an intelligence officer, for which he received a Bronze Star. One of the most significant honors in his military career was being asked to participate in Operation Homecoming where he welcomed and debriefed POWs returning from Vietnam.

Following Frank's active military service, he had a long career as a software developer and continued to serve in the Air Force Reserve until his retirement as a Major.

Beyond his career, Frank's life revolved around his family. He and Sonia raised five children





together, taking joy in family dinners, celebratory gatherings, and shared challenges over their 67 years together.

After retirement, Frank became very involved in his genealogy hobby. He spent many hours as a docent at the Family History Center in Livermore and was an active member of the Livermore Amador Genealogy Society (L-AGS.) In addition to researching his own family history, he was generous with his time in helping others do their own research. He also enjoyed the camaraderie of casual golfing and breakfast with his friends, as well as a bit of travel including some special trips with friends from his high school days and their spouses.

Frank was predeceased by his parents, his brother John Geasa, and his sister Genevieve Bieber. He is survived by his wife, the love of his life, Sonia, his five children Sara Perry (Mark Perry), Brian Geasa, John Geasa (Mary Geasa), Frances Powell, Vena Olsen (Neil Olsen), his eight grandchildren, Renee Ayer, Cameron Perry, Bailey Powell, Annie Brier, Jack Geasa, Joe Geasa, Carly Geasa, and Rachel Olsen, and one great-granddaughter, Ellie Perry.

Service for Frank will be private, and he'll be laid to rest at the Sacramento Valley National Cemetery in Dixon, California. Donations in memory of Frank can be made to fisherhouse.org, garysinisefoundation.org, or the charity of your choice that serves military families and/or veterans.

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Donald F. Hachmann

Sept. 9, 1931 — May 6, 2026

Don and his wife, Karen, passed away within 75 days of one another after sharing over 75 years of their lives together. Surrounded by family and loved ones, they left this life to enter the next in the comfort of their home, as was their wish.

Don was born in Livermore on Sept. 9, 1931, to Phyllis and Clarence Hachmann, followed by sisters Barbara, Darlene and Lynn. He attended Fifth Street School, St. Michael's School and then Livermore High School where he played on the school basketball team. Shortly after graduating high school, he was introduced to his future wife, Karen Bianchi, by his friend Wayne Avilla. Don served two years in the Air Force during the Korean War. Upon his return, he married Karen on Oct. 2, 1955, and he began working as a salesman at Howdy Chevrolet. The family grew to include daughter, Kim, and son, Craig. Don had a long career working at various car dealerships, and in 1980, he opened the Livermore Auto Exchange. He was also a cattle rancher for many years, raising cattle in the Livermore Valley as well as cutting and selling



firewood. Among Don's many talents and interests, he was a champion trapshooter and a founding member of the Livermore Pleasanton Rod and Gun Club. Through the years, he enjoyed playing golf, playing softball on a local team, and competing in Livermore rodeo team roping events. Don was an avid sportsman and took many local, as well as out of state, hunting and fishing trips with friends, often with trophy-winning results. Spending time with family was one of Don's greatest pleasures. At family gatherings, he held the official title of 'family bartender' as he served up the official family cocktail – The Manhattan. With the family gathered together, he would often tap his wristwatch and say "It's 5 o'clock," which was his way of saying time for cocktails.

Don and Karen enjoyed many family camping trips. Their travels repeatedly brought them to such places as Reno, Minden, Carson Valley, Tahoe, Hope Valley, and Groveland, along with visiting some of the national parks like Yosemite and Yellowstone.

Don was preceded in death by his wife Karen, and by his sisters Barbara and Darlene. He is survived by his sister Lynn. 'Dad' is survived by his children Kim Densberger (John) and Craig Hachmann (Deidre). 'Papa' is survived by his six grandchildren Ryan Densberger (Erica), Shaun Densberger, Kevin Densberger (Simone), Kelly Densberger, Tyler Hachmann, Maci Hachmann, along with three great-grandchildren, Ariella Densberger, Spencer Densberger and Harper Hachmann.

A Celebration of Life for Don and Karen will be held on Oct. 3 starting at noon at the Livermore Pleasanton Rod and Gun Club.

Lidwina "Lidl" Gillespie

Aug. 18, 1934 — Aug. 30, 2026

Lidwina "Lidl" Gillespie passed away peacefully at home on Aug. 30, 2026, at age 92. Born Aug. 18, 1934, in Mettenberg bei Rot an der Rot, Germany, she was the daughter of Anton and Mathilde Gapp.

Lidl is preceded in death by her dear husband Calvin Gillespie, who passed away in November 2020. She is survived by her son Brent and his wife Mary-Anne of Ann Arbor, Michigan, and their two sons; and by her son Walter and his wife Jennifer of San Diego, and their three children. Lidl is also survived by two brothers and a sister in Germany. One sister preceded her in death.

Lidl emigrated to the United States at age 19, arriving in New York City, where she worked as a nanny before moving to Oregon. There she attended high school to learn English and went on to earn an associate's degree in Secretarial Technologies from Oregon Technical Institute in 1958, where she met Calvin. After graduation, Lidl worked for a pattern and die company in San Jose. She and





Calvin married in Hawaii on July 17, 1962, and moved to Livermore, where they raised their sons. Lidl later worked in Travel Accounting at Vallecitos Nuclear Center and Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory.

Family, faith, and friendship were at the heart of Lidl's life. She was a longtime active member of St. Michael's Catholic Church and treasured its community. She enjoyed sewing, knitting, berry and peach picking, visits to Hawaii, and time with her close group of German friends in the Livermore Valley. She took pride in keeping her home immaculate. Among her favorite traditions was to dance polkas with Calvin at the Livermore Oktoberfest.

In her final years, Lidl was blessed by wonderful, loving caregivers, whose kindness brought comfort and dignity to her life. Her family is deeply grateful to them and to the St. Michael's community.

Lidl will be remembered for her courage, devotion to family and friends, faith, and the care and pride she brought to everything she did. She will be deeply missed and lovingly remembered.

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Nancy Lee (Nickerson) Sachau

Sept. 3, 1931 — July 20, 2026

Nancy Lee Sachau, 94, passed away peacefully at her home on Monday, July 20, 2026, surrounded by her family. She was born on Sept. 3, 1931, at St. Paul's Hospital in Livermore to Clarence (Nick) and Pauline Nickerson.

Nancy met the love of her life, Dan Sachau, while they were students at Livermore High School. They shared a beautiful marriage of 77 years, building a life centered on love, family, and friendship. Nancy enjoyed a long, successful career as a secretary at Bank of America, where she worked for 42 years before retiring. She was a loyal, hardworking, and highly valued employee who took great pride in her work.

Family was the center of Nancy's life. She was an exceptional cook who loved preparing holiday meals and birthday dinners for family and friends. Her home was a welcoming gathering place for countless celebrations over the years, and she took great pride in decorating it beautifully for every season and holiday.

Nancy and Dan loved to travel and enjoyed many cruises with their close circle of friends. Nancy was often the organizer of their adventures and served as the group's photographer. She



treasured capturing life's special moments and thoughtfully shared copies of her photographs with everyone. Through the years, she wore out several Canon cameras doing what she loved.

She also loved spending time around the water. Nancy and Dan hosted many swim parties at their backyard pool, creating lasting memories for family and friends. Her hobbies included sewing, knitting, reading, and shopping. She always kept a collection of thoughtful gifts on hand, ready to brighten someone's day whenever the opportunity presented itself.

Nancy was generous, kind, and always willing to help others. She will be remembered as a devoted wife, loving mother, cherished grandmother, proud great-grandmother, sister, aunt and friend. Her warmth, generosity, and unwavering love will be deeply missed by all who knew her. We are forever grateful for the many wonderful years and precious memories we shared with her.

Nancy is survived by her devoted husband of 77 years, Dan Sachau; her daughter, Karen Foscalina; her son, Dan Sachau, Jr. (Christie); four grandchildren, Amy Foscalina, Don Foscalina, Erin Wells (Sean), and Jeff Sachau (Missy); six great-grandchildren, Ryan, Rhett, and Reese Wells; Scott, Hadley, and Blake Sachau; her brother, Jim Nickerson; her sister, Mary Eldredge; and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Clarence and Pauline Nickerson, and her brother, John Nickerson. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorial donations be made to Hope Hospice or to a charity of your choice.

A celebration of Nancy's life will take place on Sunday, Oct. 4, 12:00 noon at Terra Mia, located at 4040 East Ave., Livermore, CA.

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Karen J. Hachmann

May 8, 1936 — Feb. 20, 2026

Karen and her husband, Don, passed away within 75 days of one another after sharing over 75 years of their lives together. Surrounded by family and loved ones, they left this life to enter the next in the comfort of their home, as was their wish.

Karen was born in San Francisco, California on May 8, 1936, to Josephine and Raymond Bianchi, Sr. The family soon moved to Oakland, where her brother, Raymond Jr., was born. Karen attended St. Jarlath's School until the family eventually settled in Livermore in the 1950's, where Karen attended St. Michael's School and Livermore High School. She met her future husband, Don Hachmann, at a football game during her freshman year of high school. They were married at St. Michael's Church on Oct. 2, 1955. Karen worked at American Trust Company before welcoming daughter, Kim, in 1957 and son, Craig, in 1962.

Karen devoted herself to her family and thoroughly enjoyed being a wife, mother, and homemaker. She prided herself on making her home a warm and welcoming place for her family, and especially liked decorating for various holidays. She took extra effort to make sure each family



gathering was memorable and enjoyed by all. Stacks of note cards were found chronicling the details for every holiday gathering, noting such things as size of the prime rib, how many bones, how long it cooked, with comments such as 'just right' or 'perfect', plus notations about side dishes and even the time guests arrived.

Although Karen never learned to drive, this did not stop her from enjoying one of her favorite pastimes – shopping! Either walking to local shops or being chauffeured by happily obliging family members, she was able to visit stores as she looked for bargains, gifts, and must-haves. Not having a computer didn't hinder her from taking advantage of online shopping thanks to the QVC shopping channel. A mini-TV in her kitchen was often tuned to QVC. Her family joked she was such a good customer that she had her very own personal QVC representative for when she called in her orders. In recent years due to her illness, Karen was no longer making purchases from her favorite online merchant. When QVC filed bankruptcy recently, it was said in jest it was because she was no longer shopping there. Going through her belongings after she passed, a stockpile of gifts was found that she had purchased for loved ones in anticipation of a special occasion or merely the joy of giving.

Karen was survived by her husband, Don. Karen is survived by her brother Raymond. 'Mom' is survived by her children Kim Densberger (John) and Craig Hachmann (Deidre). 'Nana' is survived by her six grandchildren Ryan Densberger (Erica), Shaun Densberger, Kevin Densberger (Simone), Kelly Densberger, Tyler Hachmann, Maci Hachmann, along with three great-grandchildren, Ariella Densberger, Spencer Densberger and Harper Hachmann.

A Celebration of Life for Don and Karen will be held on Oct. 3 starting at noon at the Livermore Pleasanton Rod and Gun Club.

Granada Flag Football Squad Grows in Experience

By Phil Jensen

LIVERMORE — The Granada High School flag football team is gaining experience week by week this season after graduating 16 seniors from last year's North Coast Section Division I playoffs finalist team.

Granada, which returns only three starters total from last season's squad, holds a 5-5 record following a 25-0 nonleague loss on Sept. 17 to Las Lomas-Walnut Creek, another top NCS team last year.

"Defense has always been steady for us ... I think offensively we've had games where things are clicking and we have ones when we just can't get out of our own way, and this is just one of those nights," Granada coach Jared Muela said after the Las Lomas game. "We'll learn from it, they'll fix it, and we will get better."

The loss broke a four-game winning streak for the Matadors, who started 0-3 this season. Granada has only seven seniors on its roster. "We have seven sophomores on the team this year, (whereas) we've never had more than one," Muela said. "We just want to get (to the NCS playoffs) and then anything's possible for us. … We think we have a shot at it. We've just got to keep getting better."

Muela said the team's goals are to do well in the East Bay Athletic League and qualify for the NCS playoffs. Granada held a 3-2 record in league action entering this week. The Matadors played Monte Vista on Sept. 22, after this article's deadline.



Granada's Jade Cabrera (4) defends a pass to a Las Lomas receiver as the Matadors' Lila Bishop (6) approaches the play. Las Lomas defeated Granada 25-0 in this Sept. 17, 2026, flag football nonleague game in Livermore. (Photo courtesy of Livermore-Granada Boosters)

Against Las Lomas, the Matadors' defense allowed only one touchdown and six points through the first three quarters. Seniors Beau Muela, Layla Martinez and Raelyn Clouser, and sophomore Shayna Stuart had multiple flag pulls in the game for the Granada defense. Clouser also stopped Las Lomas quarterback Maggie Kruger twice behind the line of scrimmage for negative-five yards to help stop a Knights drive in the second quarter.

Offensively, sophmore quarterback Bellamy Black rushed for 22 yards and passed for 55 yards. The Matadors' top receiver was senior Isabelle Dunn (two receptions for 20 yards), a returning second-team All-EBAL selection.

Las Lomas' Kruger passed for 137 yards and three touchdowns to help improve the Knights' overall record to 9-0. Her top receiver was Violet Keeperman (eight receptions for 89 yards).

Next week, Granada travels to face San Ramon Valley on Sept. 29 at 7:45 p.m. The Wolves defeated Granada 14-7 in last year's NCS Division I playoff championship game.

Girls Water Polo

Foothill, seeded 15th, advanced to the championship game of the gold bracket of the Chuck McCollum Sierra Shootout on Sept. 12. The Falcons were outstanding in the tournament despite having only one substitute available.

The Falcons edged Marin Catholic-Kentfield 7-6 in the first round, then beat Christian Brothers-Sacramento 8-2 in the quarterfinals on Sept. 11. Then in its semifinal game, Foothill edged Granada 6-5 in overtime. In the championship game, the Falcons fell to College Park-Pleasant Hill 12-8.

Foothill goalie Nandini Mondhe had 20 saves in the tournament, and the Falcons' top goal scorer was Ashby Clark with seven. Other top goal scorers for Foothill were Elise Chathman and Briana Gavril, with six each. Amelia Fowler led Foothill's defense in the tournament with eight steals.

San Leandro Football Team Edges Foothill High School

By Phil Jensen

PLEASANTON — The lead changed an amazing four times in the fourth quarter of the nonleague football game between host Foothill High School and San Leandro.

Twice Foothill held the lead in that period, and twice San Leandro had the lead, including the all-important end, as the Pirates won 31-28.

The game didn't end without controversy.

With 11 seconds left in the game, and the football on the Foothill 27-yard-line, Falcons quarterback Andrew Nelson threw a five-yard pass to Max Shuga, who immediately sprinted to get out of bounds with a defender pursuing him. Shuga appeared to get out of bounds with several seconds remaining on the scoreboard. But the referees let the clock continue running and the final seconds quickly ran out.

"It's all about momentum and then it's your interpretation of momentum. It's something that is officiated with a great deal of subjectivity. It is what it is. That's not the referee's fault the way things turned out," said Foothill coach Greg Haubner. "We lost the game. We couldn't get a stop there at the end. But at the same time, our offense was stubbing its toe and couldn't get out of its own way in the middle of the game. But we found our footing, we took the lead twice, we just couldn't finish."

Entering the fourth quarter, San Leandro had a 14-7 lead. But two plays later, Foothill's James Moitra bolted through a hole for a 13-yard touchdown run. Sasha Nazari's extra point kick put Foothill ahead, 21-17.

San Leandro reached the end zone five plays later on a 50-yard run by Giovani De Anda. But after a 24-yard kickoff return by Tiger Renk, Foothill drove 62 yards in nine plays, capped by a 15-yard run by Moitra in which he slipped a tackle to find room to score. Moitra rushed for a team-high 87 yards in the game. Nazari's extra point kick gave the Falcons a four-point cushion at 28-24.

But San Leandro then moved the ball 63 yards on 10 plays, with Deyar Crayton running the ball in from the 2-yard-line with 15 seconds remaining for the final touchdown of the game.

The game started great for Foothill (2-2). The Falcons ended San Leandro's first possession of the game when Nate Walinski returned a fumble 48 yards for a touchdown. Foothill increased its lead to 14-0 near the beginning of the second quarter on a Nelson one-yard run and a Nazari extra point kick.

But San Leandro chipped away at the lead and trailed by only 14-10 at halftime. The Pirates also had the only score of the third quarter on a Crayton 48-yard run.

Foothill's Shuga grabbed a game-high seven receptions for 95 yards.

Haubner said, "The good news is at certain points of the game, we righted the ship and so I'm proud of my guys for that fight."

San Leandro's Crayton led his team with a game-high 158 yards on the ground. The Pirates (3-1) have won all three of their games by three points or less, including 16-14 over Granada on Sept. 11.

Foothill now travels to face a powerhouse San Ramon Valley team on Friday at 7:15 p.m. The Wolves (4-0) have won each of their games by at least 27 points and outscored their opponents 189-41.

Dublin to Hold Outdoor Annual Fall Home Decoration Contest

DUBLIN — Registration is now open for the city-sponsored 2026 Fall Home Decoration Contest, with residents invited to showcase outdoor displays inspired by fall traditions around the world.

There will be four contest categories this year, including "Harvest, Heritage & Remembrance," celebrating the fall harvest and such cultural traditions as Día de los Muertos, "Spirits & Spooktacular Scenes" celebrating Halloween, "Cozy, Coven, & Lantern Loft," for the best decorated condo, apartment or balcony, and "Festival of Lights," inspired by the traditional Hindu Diwali celebration and other symbols of light, joy and renewal.

There will also be a "Great Fall Glow-Off" people's choice award drawn from all the displays.

Winning displays will receive a yard sign, local business gift card, and a certificate of recognition from the Dublin City Council.

Registration will be open through Monday, Oct. 12, for all categories except "Festival of Lights." Since Diwali will not be observed until Sunday, Nov. 8, the deadline for registering will be extended until Tuesday, Oct. 20.

For more information, go to dublin.ca.gov.

Tri-Valley Career Center to Host Job Fair Tonight in Pleasanton

PLEASANTON — The Tri-Valley Career Center (TVCC) will host a job fair from 3 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 24, with more than 45 employers expected to participate.

The job fair will also provide information on additional employment, education and transportation resources, including Clipper START, Community Education at Las Positas College, Treasure Island Job Corps and the Tri-Valley Nonprofit Alliance.

The TVCC, 5860 Owens Dr., is sponsored by the Chabot-Las Positas Community College District and the Tri-Valley Chamber of Commerce Alliance, which encompasses Livermore, Pleasanton, Dublin, San Ramon and Danville.

Job seekers are encouraged to register in advance at tinyurl.com/FallJobFair2026.

FLETCHER

(Continued from front page)

time equivalent positions in June.

A former NASA Ames engineer, Fletcher plans to leverage her analytical skills to hold ongoing district financials to additional rigor.

"I have experience with numbers, and budgets and being able to dive deep into making sure that our budgets reflect what we have to spend," she said.

While Fletcher supported the current board's efforts to keep cuts away from the students, she said one of her priorities would be to diversify the district's revenues, making it less sensitive to enrollment-based income. The district currently leases out some of its real estate, as an example, and she said opportunities exist to expand that business further.

Her experience as a teacher, she said, gives her insight into the interplay between the various professionals in the school system.

"I see the different demands put on administrators, teachers (and) the classified employees all working together to make the school a good place for students and families who send their students every day," she said.

Fletcher will face off against attorney Thomas Choi and business owner Brett Martinez this November for the Area 5 seat. The seat is currently held by Trustee Justin Brown, who announced last month he will not seek election.

PLEASE HELP BRING MIGUEL HOME



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

Livermore Wente Winery worker, married father of three and grandfather

Miguel Lopez

remains in Mexico after having been illegally deported last June.

To donate to a GoFundMe account supporting the Lopez family, visit

https://www.gofundme.com/f/bring-miguel-back-to-his-loved-ones

LEGAL NOTICES/CLASSIFIEDS

www.independentnews.com

LEGAL NOTICES

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 625054

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Fever Nap Studio; 2. Fever Nap Games; 3. Fever Nap, 2414 Tenth Street, Berkeley, CA 94710 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Fever Nap Studio LLC, 2414 Tenth Street, Berkeley, CA 94710. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Hongshuai Feng, Manager. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 31, 2026. Expires July 30, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 7004. Published September 3, 10, 17, 24, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 625175

The following person(s) doing business as: Orange Cap Rental Co., 6486 Alvord Way, Pleasanton, CA 94588 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): JBA Real Estate Operations LLC, 6486 Alvord Way, 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 8/5/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Dinaker Juvvadi, Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 5, 2026. Expires August 4, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 7005. Published September 3, 10, 17, 24, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 625574

The following person(s) doing business as: It Starts With Us Housing and Community Development International, 1900 Powell Street, Suite 700, Emeryville, CA 94608 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): It Starts With Us Foundation International, 1900 Powell Street, Suite 700, Alameda, CA 94608. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 8/24/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Willetta Heard, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 24, 2026. Expires August 23, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 7006. Published September 3, 10, 17, 24, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 625531

The following person(s) doing business as: Cupcake Castle, 4198 Rennellwood Way, Pleasanton, CA 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Srilekha Deka, 4198 Rennellwood Way, P leasanton, CA 94566. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 8/21/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Srilekha Deka, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 21, 2026. Expires August 20, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 7007. Published September 3, 10, 17, 24, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 625587

The following person(s) doing business as: Warner Place, 2404 Warner Ave, Oakland, CA 94603 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Alexandria Killingsworth, 2404 Warner Ave, Oakland, CA 94603. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 8/25/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Alexandria Killingsworth, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 25, 2026. Expires August 24, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 7008. Published September 3, 10, 17, 24, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 625640

The following person(s) doing business as: Texterra Studio, 11501 Dublin Blvd, STE 200, Dublin, CA 94568 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Noorfathima Magesh, 11501 Dublin Blvd, STE 200, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Noorfathima Magesh, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 27, 2026. Expires August 26, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 7009. Published September 3, 10, 17, 24, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 625664

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Econojunk; 2. Fastshred, 290 Rickenbacker Circle, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Pro Solar Inc., 290 Rickenbacker Circle, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious

LEGAL NOTICES/CLASSIFIEDS

business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Luna Gitas, CFO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 28, 2026. Expires August 27, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 7010. Published September 10, 17, 24, October 1, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 625586

The following person(s) doing business as: East Bay Lawn Mower, 729 West A Street, Hayward Acres, CA 94541 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Nobue Okano, 729 West A Street, Hayward Acres, CA 94541. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 2/1/1977. Signature of Registrant/s/: Nobue Okano, Sole Proprietor. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 25, 2026. Expires August 24, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 7011. Published September 10, 17, 24, October 1, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 625654

The following person(s) doing business as: Kestrel Safety Training, 2204 Normandy Circle, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Gerry Laird, 2204 Normandy Circle, 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/: Gerry Laird, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 28, 2026. Expires August 27, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 7012. Published September 10, 17, 24, October 1, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 625411

The following person(s) doing business as: Nail Fairy Mary, 157 S N ST, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Mariela Chacon, 3305 Foxtail Terrace, Fremont, CA 94536. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 12/1/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Mariela Chacon, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 14, 2026. Expires August 13, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 7013. Published September 10, 17, 24, October 1, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 625366

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. IronHorse Vetcare; 2. IronHorse Animal Specialty Hospital, 7660 Amador Valley Blvd, Suite E, Dublin, CA 94568 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): VSC Vetcare, Inc., 7660 Amador Valley Blvd, Suite E, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 7/1/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: John J. Haburjak, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 13, 2026. Expires August 12, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 7014. Published September 10, 17, 24, October 1, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 625813

The following person(s) doing business as: Ella Dopp, 2450 Rees Circle, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Elizabeth Crowder, 2450 Rees Circle, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 9/3/226. Signature of Registrant/s/: Elizabeth Crowder, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 4, 2026. Expires September 3, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 7015. Published September 10, 17, 24, October 1, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 625741

The following person(s) doing business as: Vallejo Sky, 21702 Vallejo ST, APT 7, Hayward, CA 94541 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Muy Kong, 21702 Vallejo ST, APT 7, Hayward, CA 94541. 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/: Muy Kong, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 2, 2026. Expires September 1, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 7016. Published September 10, 17, 24, October 1, 2026.

Notice of Preparation: Partially Recirculated Environmental Impact Report Carnegie State Vehicular Recreation Area (SVRA) General Plan Update. Scoping Period: September 17, 2026 – October 19, 2026. State Clearinghouse # 2022030810.

Project Location: Carnegie SVRA, 18600 West Corral Hollow Road, Tracy, CA 95376.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the California Department of Parks and Recreation is the lead agency in preparing a Partially Recirculated Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Carnegie SVRA General Plan Update. The OHMVR Commission is the decision-making body for the Plan and EIR. The 2024 Carnegie SVRA EIR and General Plan Update were rescinded after a court found the EIR did not evaluate a reasonable range of alternatives under CEQA. This Notice informs agencies and the public that a Recirculated EIR is being prepared to analyze alternatives to reduce air quality impacts. Agencies are invited to comment on environmental effects within their responsibilities. This scoping period is for comments only on alternatives that could reduce significant air quality impacts in the General Plan Update.

SCOPING PERIOD

Comments on scope accepted until 5:00 PM, October 19, 2026. Reference "Carnegie SVRA General Plan Update" and submit to planning@parks.ca.gov, or C/O Katie Metraux, OHMVR Division, California State Parks, P.O. Box 942896, Sacramento, CA 94296-0001

SCOPING MEETING

A virtual scoping meeting to discuss additional alternatives will be held on September 30, 2026, at 5:30 PM, via Microsoft Teams. The meeting link will be posted on the project website at https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=30807 on September 20, 2026, 10 days before the meeting. Please contact planning@parks.ca.gov if you need assistance or have questions about the virtual scoping meeting.

The Independent, Legal No. 7017. Published September 17, 24, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 625829

The following person(s) doing business as: Fobuless Automotive Locksmithing, 2568 Cherokee Avenue, Oakland, CA 94605 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): DTR Technology Services LLC, 2568 Cherokee Avenue, Oakland, CA 94605. 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/: Darren Roberts, Principal. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 4, 2026. Expires September 3, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 7018. Published September 17, 24, October 1, 8, 2026..

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 625829

The following person(s) doing business as: Fobuless Automotive Locksmithing, 2568 Cherokee Avenue, Oakland, CA 94605 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): DTR Technology Services LLC, 2568 Cherokee Avenue, Oakland, CA 94605. 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/: Darren Roberts, Principal. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 4, 2026. Expires September 3, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 7018. Published September 17, 24, October 1, 8, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 625858

The following person(s) doing business as: Moonlight Baking Co, 4971 Kathleen Ave, Castro Valley, CA 94546 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Kristin Gumina, 4971 Kathleen Ave, Castro Valley, CA 94546. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Kristin Gumina, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 8, 2026. Expires September 7, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 7020. Published September 17, 24, October 1, 8, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 625818

The following person(s) doing business as: Bulls I, 41829 Albrae ST, STE 120, Fremont, CA 94538 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Bulls I Halal Meats LLC, 41829 Albrae ST, STE 120, Fremont, CA 94538. 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/: Imraan Mohammed, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 4, 2026. Expires September 3, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 7021. Published September 17, 24, October 1, 8, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 625830

The following person(s) doing business as: Hiraya Craft Chocolate Studio, 30983 Periwinkle Drive, Union City, CA 94587-1735 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Sarahbeth Roquez-Co, 30983 Periwinkle Drive, Union City, CA 94587-1735. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 9/1/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Sarahbeth Roquez-Co, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 4, 2026. Expires September 3, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 7022. Published September 17, 24, October 1, 8, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 625862

The following person(s) doing business as: Legacy Dental Care, 43495 Ellsworth Street, Fremont, CA 94539 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Peter K Le. DDS. Inc., 43495 Ellsworth Street, Fremont, CA 94539. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 8/15/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Peter Le, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 9, 2026. Expires September 8, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 7023. Published September 17, 24, October 1, 8, 2026.

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME ORIGINAL FILE NO. 625530

The person(s) listed below have abandoned the use of the following fictitious business name(s). Molten Theory, 34383 Alvarado Niles RD, #314, Union City, CA 94587. Registered by the following owner(s): Syed Abidi, 34383 Alvarado Niles RD, #314, Union City, CA 94587. The fictitious business name statement was filed on 08/20/2026 in the County of Alameda. This business was conducted by an Individual. Signature of Registrants:

/s/: Syed Abidi. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 11, 2026. The Independent, Legal No. 7024. Published September 17, 24, October 1, 8, 2026.

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF SURPLUS PROPERTY FOR SALE NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN

pursuant to Education Code section 17464, subdivision (c) (2) that the Board of Education of the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District ("District") hereby solicits offers from all public districts, public authorities, public agencies, public corporations, or any other political subdivision in California, or of the federal government, and other nonprofit charitable or nonprofit public benefit corporations, to purchase certain District surplus real property. The subject property is located at 3278 and 3266 Constitution Drive, Livermore California 94551, commonly known as the Montevina Property ("Property"). Interested entities must notify the District in writing of their interest within sixty (60) days after the third publication of this notice. Please direct offers, questions, or requests for further information regarding the Property to

Kayla Wasley,
Assistant Superintendent of Business Services,
Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District
685 East Jack London Blvd.
Livermore, California 94551; Ph: (925) 606-3253.
Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District By: Kayla Wasley
Assistant Superintendent of Business Services
The Independent, Legal No. 7025. Published September 24, October 1, 8, 2026.

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No. 26CV210470 SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF ALAMEDA TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

Petitioner:
Kateland Olivia Rybacki
1283 Notre Dame Court
Livermore, CA 94550
filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
Present Names:
Kateland Olivia Rybacki
Proposed Name:
Kateland Olivia Stalkfleet
THE COURT ORDERS
that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.
NOTICE OF HEARING
Date:10/30/2026
Time: 9:00 AM
Dept: 514 - 2nd Floor
The address of the court is:
Hayward Hall of Justice
24405 Amador Street
Hayward, CA 94544
A copy of this Order To Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation printed in this county:
The Independent Newspaper
2250 First Street,
Livermore, CA 94550
Dated: 9/16/2026 /s/: Michael Markman, Judge of the Superior Court.
The Independent, Legal No. 7026. Published September 24, October 1, 8, 15, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 625972

The following person(s) doing business as: C Edwards Consulting, 1532 Lexington Way, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Christopher Edwards, 1532 Lexington 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 1/7/2020. Signature of Registrant/s/: Christopher Edwards, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 11, 2026. Expires September 10, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 7027. Published September 24, October 1, 8, 15, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 625515

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. First Choice Business Brokers #303; 2. First Choice Business Brokers Tri-Valley, 4695 Chabot Drive, Suite 200, Pleasanton, CA 94599 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): SF Bay Business Sales, Inc., 100 S Murphy Ave, Suite 200, Sunnyvale, CA 94086. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 8/1/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Eric Johnson, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 20, 2026. Expires August 19, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 7028. Published September 24, October 1, 8, 15, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 625870

The following person(s) doing business as: Snatched NY Beauty, 3462 Brookdale Blvd, Castro Valley, CA 94546 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): AllOne Infinity, LLC, 3462 Brookdale Blvd, Castro Valley, CA 94546. 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/: Bonnie M. Russell, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 9, 2026. Expires September 8, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 7029. Published September 24, October 1, 8, 15, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 625847

The following person(s) doing business as: Calcare Pharmacy, 4749 Bennet Drive, Suite F, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Calcare Pharmaceuticals, Inc., 10973 Stallion Way, Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91737. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 9/13/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Sameh Rokes, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 8, 2026. Expires September 7, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 7030. Published September 24, October 1, 8, 15, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 625854

The following person(s) doing business as: Clean925, 3922 Valley Ave, Suite A, Pleasanton, CA 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Lesly De La Cruz, 3922 Valley Ave, Suite A, Pleasanton, CA 94566. This business is conducted by Co-Partners. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 1/1/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Lesly De La Cruz, General Partner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 8, 2026. Expires September 7, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 7031. Published September 24, October 1, 8, 15, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 625788

The following person(s) doing business as: Compuchild, 2151 Haggerty DR, Dublin, CA 94568 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Best Blessingls LLC, 2151 Haggerty DR, Dublin, CA 94551. This business is conducted by a Limited Liablity Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Asna Alam, Managing Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 3, 2026. Expires September 2, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 7032. Published September 24, October 1, 8, 15, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 626114

The following person(s) doing business as: CampusView Insights, 6817 Hickory LN, Dublin, CA 94568 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Foxglove Meridian Group LLC, 2108 N ST, Ste N, Sacramento, CA 95816. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 09/16/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Christopher Hobbs, Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 16, 2026. Expires September 15, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 7033. Published September 24, October 1, 8, 15, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 626089

The following person(s) doing business as: Nifty Plumbing, 510 Sycamore Ave, Hayward, CA 94544 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Nifty Group Inc, 510 Sycamore Ave, Hayward, CA 94544. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Jose Lopez, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 15, 2026. Expires September 14, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 7034. Published September 24, October 1, 8, 15, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 625865

The following person(s) doing business as: Magpie Built, 3695 Spyglass Court, Castro Valley, CA 94546 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Jennifer Alderete, 3695 Spyglass Court, Castro Valley, CA 94546. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 8/6/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Jennifer Alderete, Founder. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 9, 2026. Expires September 8, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 7035. Published September 24, October 1, 8, 15, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 626142

The following person(s) doing business as: Squash Beetle Arts, 753 Traviso Circle, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): James Phillips, 101 E Vineyard Ave, Suite 119 PMB 312, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 7/1/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: James Phillips, Artist. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 17, 2026. Expires September 16, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 7036. Published September 24, October 1, 8, 15, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 626080

The following person(s) doing business as: Swinderman Olson Construction, 8516 G ST, Oakland, CA 94621 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Jack Olson Design and Construction, 8516 G ST, Oakland, CA 94621. This business is conducted by a Joint Venture. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 2003. Signature of Registrant/s/: Jack Olson, General Partner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 15, 2026. Expires September 14, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 7037. Published September 24, October 1, 8, 15, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 625446

The following person(s) doing business as: A1 Home Health Services, 4049 Fisrt Street, Suite #229, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): A1 HHS Inc, 4049 First Street, Suite #229, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 4/1/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Josekutty Jose, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 18, 2026. Expires August 17, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 7038. Published September 24, October 1, 8, 15, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 626043

The following person(s) doing business as: Tuan Essence Art, 4919 Redwood Ave, Dublin, CA 94568 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Tuan Ngoc Karsevar, 4919 Redwood Ave, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 1/7/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Tuan Ngoc Karsevar, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 14, 2026. Expires September 13, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 7039. Published September 24, October 1, 8, 15, 2026.

CLASSIFIEDS

ANIMALS

CATS/DOGS

ADOPT A DOG OR CAT

For adoption information contact Valley Humane Society at (925)426-8656

Tri-Valley Animal Rescue

Adopt a New Best Friend TVAR Tri-Valley Animal Rescue

Our current weekly adoption events include:
Saturdays - Dogs & Puppies at: Dublin Petsmart
6960 Amador Plaza Rd. Hours: 10:00am to 1:00pm.
Visit our website:
WWW.TVAR.ORG, to see adoptable animals, volunteer opportunities, and how to donate.
Follow:
TRI-VALLEY ANIMAL RESCUE on Facebook, and Instagram

EMPLOYMENT

TriNet USA, Inc. in Dublin, CA

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Cute Robots Begin Survey of Pleasanton Sidewalks

By David Jen

PLEASANTON — A team of 11 robots arrived in the city last week to inspect the city's 360 miles of sidewalk. Known as Daxbots, the short, semi-autonomous robots will survey the city's sidewalks for the next several months, taking note of the cracks and slopes of walkways to form a picture of accessibility within Pleasanton.



A Daxbot begins its workday on Division Street in Pleasanton just before sunrise on Sept. 18. (Photo by David Jen)

"This is Pleasanton's first comprehensive and systematic self-assessment of the public right-of-way using advanced technology," said Sharon Petrehn, city principal analyst. "The robots move at walking speed along pedestrian pathways while collecting information on sidewalks and trails, curb ramps, signalized intersections and transit stops. Using this technology helps gather consistent data across a large area."

The robots arrived in the city on Sept. 14 to perform setup activities and then began their survey the following day, inspecting about 13 miles of sidewalk per day from sunrise to sunset. If a robot has strong GPS signals, it can operate autonomously, traveling just below walking speed and surveying the ground with a battery of lasers.

A human operator monitors the robots remotely at all times, even while they recharge overnight in their trailer, and can step in to drive the robot, if needed.

Although the robots transmit video, "data collection will be limited to information related to pedestrian infrastructure, and robots do not store personal information," Petrehn said.

Pleasanton residents have so far proven friendly with the mechanized contractors. The robots are designed with human interactions in mind, displaying heart-shaped eyes, tilting their heads and emitting robotic warbles when people are around. Notes on the robots' vests encourage photos.

However, the robots have also experienced their share of trouble, including one tip-over that prompted a call to the police, and one robot that was unable to cross Main Street in time before the light changed. No robots had suffered severe damage as of Sept. 18.

Philomath, Oregon-based Daxbot began developing people-centric autonomous robots in 2015, designing its first robots with food-delivery applications in mind. In 2025, the company pivoted to ADA assessments and surveyed several cities across the country, including 950 miles of sidewalk in Irvine last year.

Gerry Parco, an associate civil engineer in Pleasanton, said that in the past, city surveyors pushed a lawnmower-sized cart to manually measure the sidewalk with levels and tape measures. The city had largely collected data only as it repaired sidewalks, relying on maintenance workers to provide the information as projects arose.

"With the more accurate information, we can prioritize where the biggest needs are that would affect the largest population," Parco said. An up-to-date, comprehensive survey will also allow the city to apply for grant funding for which it otherwise would not qualify.

Parco said Daxbot expects to complete the Pleasanton survey in January 2027, but the date is subject to weather.

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HARMONY

(Continued from front page)



Members of Blind Dog, a five-piece acoustic guitar group, perform inside a featured home during a past Livermore Home & Harmony Tour. Live music across multiple venues will once again accompany the tour on Saturday, Oct. 17. (Photo courtesy of Janis Ardley)

Northern California and was the main architect of the Caldecott Tunnel. The Oscar Meyers House has a hidden room as well as an excellent view from the upstairs turret room.

Matt Finders and Element 116 Jazz Band will play at the Carnegie Park bandstand between 10 a.m. and noon while tour goers pick up their tickets. The list of artists who will play at the homes includes acoustic duo J&ME, comprised of Mark and Janine Elster, the Livermore-Amador Symphony Woodwind Ensemble, and Blind Dog, a five-member acoustic guitar group that plays folk, rock, blues, and country.

All houses on the tour were constructed between the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The oldest is the Laughlin Moy House, built in 1870. This residence is composed of two smaller houses combined into one, signified by a hipped roof in front and a pitched roof in back. This house was inhabited by Laughlin Moy, a pioneer from Ireland who was a local butcher. Moy served as the town gardener for Carnegie Library Park from 1917 to 1925.

Two of the houses on the tour, the Bernhardt House, designed in the Prairie Bungalow style, and the Shenk House, designed in the Spanish Revival style, are the work of Samuel Bothwell. Bothwell is the contractor and Livermore City Council member for whom the Bothwell Arts Center is named.

The Shenk House, located on South K Street, has a tie to local music. The house was the home of Harry and Hazel Shenk, who lived there in the 1930s. Harry Shenk was a prominent member of the Livermore Band, a community band that played jazz and popular songs at many local events in the 1920s and 1930s.

Janis Ardley is an independent event coordinator who facilitates communication between the two guilds. She said it takes months to plan the tour. The steps include finding owners of historic homes who want to be on the tour, asking and signing up musicians to play, training docents to share information about the homes, and publicizing the event through the guilds' respective newsletters, social media, and word of mouth.

"Involved parties meet every week as we get close to the event. I love helping these two groups, which complement each other," Ardley said.

Tim Barry, vice president of the Livermore-Amador Symphony Association, is coordinating the 53 volunteer musicians for the tour.

"Musical artists choose their own music. Some of the homeowners are musicians playing on the tour, and play at their own homes," Barry said. "Smaller groups tend to play inside, in a front parlor. The larger groups tend to play in the backyard." said Barry.

Some musicians and groups will play their own compositions while others —like Barry's group, BLT Trio Plus One, an acoustic three-person band with special guest Jim Hurley, will perform folk rock, country and Celtic covers.

"For the musicians, it's both exhausting and exhilarating," Barry said. "You often have audience members coming and going for hours. But you can generate that applause and excitement. You're in a special environment, and you always have a good time."

The Harmony & Historic Home Tour runs from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Oct. 17. Ticket holders can pick up their tickets and home maps between 10 a.m. and noon in Carnegie Park before touring. Tourgoers should present their ticket receipt at Carnegie Park to receive a wristband, map, and informational booklet. Tickets purchased before Oct. 1 are $55 for general admission and $50 for guild members; after Sept. 30, prices increase to $60 and $55. For details and tickets, visit lhg.org or livermoreamadorsymphony.org.

CHOI

(Continued from front page)

$30 million in funds received from the sale of another property in June 2022.

"There are ways to be more fiscally responsible," Choi said. "I think if we didn't do that big move, we would be in a much different situation today."

Looking forward, he suggested looking more closely at the district's vendor contracts to see if any services can be moved in-house. He has also championed industry partnerships, with partners such as Las Positas College or local technology companies, as another possible revenue stream.

"There's great students that are coming out of our school," he said. "There should be a lot of synergies between us — local colleges, local businesses, local tech companies — to find ways to work with one another, so that we can help each other and help, especially our school district grow."

Choi also noted that lapses in district-parent communications around recent events, such as Amador Valley High School pool repairs disrupting school athletics, highlighted the need for greater transparency of school decisions and projects.

"I think there's a lack of communication," he said. "There's a lack of transparency, and as a result, what ends up happening is chaos and outrage. And that's not productive."

With two young children in the district, Choi sees his participation on the school board as a long-term investment.

"I think we have an opportunity right now where we can improve the fiscal state of the school district, but that's not the end; that's just step one," Choi said. "I think once we get in a better fiscal footing, we need to be able to grow. We need to be able to find ways to make this district more attractive."

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