



The historic Concannon Vineyard estate, owned by Lemmons Family Vineyards, is purchasing Cuda Ridge Wines. The transition, scheduled to take place this August, brings the boutique label to the 141-year-old estate as part of a broader revitalization of the property. The Concannon Vineyard includes 50 acres of newly replanted vines and upgraded community event spaces. (Photo courtesy of Concannon Vineyard)

## Concannon Vineyard and Estate Has Acquired Livermore's Cuda Ridge Winery

Family Business to Relocate to Livermore's Historic Viticultural Property

By Christina Cavallaro

LIVERMORE — Concannon Vineyard will soon be home to Cuda Ridge Wines following the recent acquisition announcement by Lemmons Family Vineyards.

The move led by Tom and Paige Lemmons, owners of the Concannon estate, marks the expansion of the family-run business portfolio, while substantiating its commitment to Livermore Valley winegrowing.

"This is a natural fit for us. Bringing these two wineries together strengthens our portfolio and deepens our commitment to producing exceptional Bordeaux-style wines in Livermore Valley," said Tom Lemmons in a statement issued Thursday,

April 30.

Cuda Ridge's tasting room, at 2400 Arroyo Road in Livermore, will relocate on Aug. 1, 2026 to the Concannon estate at 4590 Tesla Road in Livermore. Cuda Ridge will continue to operate at its current location on Arroyo Road in the meantime.

In an emailed interview with The Independent, the Lemmons family stated that Cuda Ridge "will remain a small-lot, boutique brand. That's a big part of what makes it special, and we're committed to preserving that while supporting long-term quality."

The Lemmons family is also in the process of replanting nearly 50 acres of vineyards at the Concannon estate, focused on Livermore Val-

ley's signature varietals, Cabernet Franc and Sauvignon Blanc.

"Concannon helped pioneer Bordeaux varietals here after founder James Concannon imported vine cuttings from Bordeaux's great estates, including Château Margaux and Château d'Yquem. Cuda Ridge shares that same dedication to quality and is especially known for its Cabernet Franc, crafting beautifully structured Old World-inspired wines," Lemmons said in last Thursday's statement.

Cuda Ridge was founded 19 years ago by Larry and Margie Dino, who will remain actively involved in the business with Larry Dino continuing to assist with winemaking, officials said in the statement.

(See VINEYARD, page 9)

## Zone 7 Candidates Vie to Fill Four Seats

Challengers Detail Priorities for Tri-Valley Water Supply and Flood Oversight

By David Jen

TRI-VALLEY — Eight candidates, including seven challengers, will square off for four open seats on the Zone 7 Water Agency Board of Directors in June's primary election. The agency manages water and flood control in the Tri-Valley, while also acting as the area's water wholesaler after securing and treating the water from local and state sources.

While The Independent spoke with Alan Burnham, Jim Lehman, Rishabh Rao and Sean Roberts in last week's issue, the views of the remaining candidates on Tri-Valley water issues are presented here.

Seema Badar

Dublin resident Seema Badar looks to carry her experience leading nonprofits to the Zone 7 board, prioritizing safe, reliable water while also focusing on flood control, transparency and fiscal oversight.

She currently serves as an elected delegate to the Alameda County Democratic Central Committee in Assembly District 16, as vice president of the Parent Faculty Club at Fallon Middle School, on the board of Averroes High School and on the Parcel Tax Oversight Committee for the Dublin Unified School District.

Badar became interested in water after serving on the Dublin San Ramon Services District Cit-

izens Water Academy, a biennial program that educates ratepayers about their water.

"The more I learned about how our water system actually worked, the more I felt compelled to step up and serve," Badar said.

She supports Zone 7's efforts to diversify its water supply through projects such as Sites Reservoir — a 1.5-million-acre-foot reservoir in which Zone 7 has sought to share storage capacity — as well as the Delta Conveyance Project, which plans to add water intakes to the Sacramento River for the California Department of Water Resources State Water Project.

Badar also backs the Chain

(See TRI-ZONE 7, page 7)

## State Honors City of Livermore for 'Clean California Community'

New Ordinances Help to Secure Its Prestigious Title

By Vivien Wenneker

LIVERMORE — The City of Livermore has been named a "Clean California Community" by the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) Clean CA Initiative, making Livermore one of six Bay Area cities to earn the title. The other five cities include San Leandro, San Jose, Oakland, Pinole and Millbrae.

The designation is given to communities that show outstanding commitment to reducing litter, improving public spaces and fostering community pride. This reflects Livermore's role as a leader in California's Zero Litter movement, aimed at creating a cleaner, greener California.

"Livermore's strong sense of community pride and environmental stewardship is evident in the care we take to keep our city clean and welcoming," Mayor John Marchand said in a statement. "We are proud to be recognized by Clean California, and this accomplishment was made possible through the dedicated work of our staff, along with the support of our residents, volunteers, and community partners."

The Clean California Community Designation Program is part of a \$1.2 billion Clean California initiative launched in 2021 by Caltrans to clean up, reclaim, transform and beautify public spaces statewide.

To earn the designation, Liver-

(See CLEAN, page 9)



Artists May Yin Giang, left, and Zelda K, right, showcase their work in Zelda's home studio during last weekend's Tri-Valley Artist Studio Tour, which featured more than 80 local artists at locations across the Tri-Valley. Zelda's current exhibition, "In the Flow," is on display at the Firehouse Art Center in Pleasanton through May 9. For more information, visit [ZeldaK.com](http://ZeldaK.com) and [mayyingiang.myportfolio.com](http://mayyingiang.myportfolio.com). (Photo — Kathryn Stroud)

## New Wireless Policies Target Better Coverage

City of Pleasanton Aims to End Dropped Calls

By David Jen

PLEASANTON — New city wireless policies may entice cellular carriers to build more cell towers in Pleasanton. City staff hope the changes will help cure the many dead zones that currently exist in the city, while still providing some protection for neighborhood aesthetics.

The city council voted unanimously at its April 21 meeting to update the municipal code regulating personal wireless service facilities, as well as to introduce new fees and policies governing cell-facility applications.

"I think this is long overdue; this should have happened years ago," Councilmember Craig Eichler said, alluding to the many reports from residents of dropped calls. "It doesn't make sense. We need to get the problem solved,

and this is going to propel us in the direction to do that."

A review conducted in collaboration with the City Attorney's Office, the City Manager's Office, the Economic Development Department and the Public Works Department found the city's previous wireless policies to be "scattered" and "out of step with current state and federal regulations." The review also concluded that the policies were overly restrictive, preventing wireless facilities, for example, near dwelling units, parks, schools or senior-care facilities, which disqualified large areas within Pleasanton for cell facilities.

In 2013, when the city last updated its wireless ordinance, about 30 carriers operated installations in the city, said Assistant City Attorney Julie Harryman. Little has changed since then, with the

(See WIRELESS, page 8)



Livermore's Fat Pigeon won first place for best decor and a \$200 prize at last weekend's third annual Tri-Valley Craft Cocktail Competition on the Bankhead Plaza. Proceeds from the event support the Pacific Chamber Orchestra's public concerts and school music programs. The immersive pirate island booth transported guests to the tropics with a table laden with sand, flickering tiki torches and the acoustic island sounds of a live ukulele player. (Photo — Christina Cavallaro)

## Cocktail Competition Fundraiser Returns

Tri-Valley Event Supporting Music in Schools Sells out for a Third Year in a Row

By Christina Cavallaro

LIVERMORE — The third annual Pacific Chamber Orchestra (PCO) Tri-Valley Craft Cocktail Competition (TVCC) outside the Bankhead Theater on May 2 once again drew record crowds for a good cause.

The creative concoctions flowed thanks to the 18 participating Tri-Valley restaurants and bars. The event sold out at 400 people, said PCO music director Lawrence Kohl. "What an

incredible afternoon," he said. "The delicious cocktails and imaginative, over-the-top booth decorations set a friendly but still competitive bar."

Newbie competitor Wingen Bakery of Livermore showcased the Derby Dingler in homage to the Kentucky Derby that also took place on Saturday. Bartender Jeremy Troupe-Masi's "mint julep meets whiskey smash," with its elegant spearmint note, was neck and neck with the judges against another mint-inspired libation

from Sidewinder Spirits Co. in Vasco Row. "As a kid I loved mint Oreos, Thin Mints and Andes mints," Sidewinder's bartender David Hendrickson said. Clad in a white chef's coat and hat and stationed behind a large gin still and beakers, Hendrickson demonstrated a new technology for milk clarification he used in his "modernized grasshopper" for which he ultimately won second place and a \$400 cash prize.

Proceeds from PCO's outdoor benefit event will support the

(See COCKTAIL, page 12)

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### PET OF THE WEEK



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# Oracle Eliminates 158 Jobs at Its Pleasanton Location

By Sanestina Hunter

PLEASANTON — Oracle Corporation plans to lay off 158 employees at its Pleasanton campus at 5815 Owens Drive, with the cuts set to take effect Monday, June 1, according to state filings.

Oracle submitted a Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification Act (WARN) notice on Wednesday, April 1 to the California Employment Development Department, which generally requires employers to provide 60 days notice ahead of mass layoffs.

The Independent requested comment from Oracle through Anje Dodson, senior vice president of human resources, but did not

receive a response by press time.

The Pleasanton cuts are part of a broader reduction affecting 654 positions across the Bay Area, including 312 jobs in Redwood City and 184 in Santa Clara.

A range of technical roles are affected, including software and applications developers as well as product management positions. The Pleasanton campus is expected to remain open, according to the notice.

While the company is trimming its workforce, it is simultaneously investing heavily in emerging technologies. The move comes as Oracle continues to expand its artificial intelligence and cloud business.

In February, the company

said it plans to raise between \$45 billion and \$50 billion to fund the expansion of its Oracle Cloud Infrastructure business, according to an investor relations news release.

The company cited demand from major customers, including Meta, the parent company of Facebook and Instagram; NVIDIA, which designs chips used in artificial intelligence systems; and OpenAI, which develops AI software.

Last year, Oracle announced a partnership with Google Cloud to offer Gemini, a suite of AI models, to customers.

The company also signed a \$30 billion-per-year cloud infrastructure agreement with OpenAI as part of the

“Stargate” project, according to TechCrunch.

In October 2025, the tech giant cut 45 jobs at its Pleasanton campus and reduced its workforce by 244 additional positions across the Bay Area, including layoffs in Redwood City and Santa Clara, according to state filings.

Some Oracle employees said they were notified of the recent layoffs via email, according to Business Insider.

Located near the West Dublin/Pleasanton BART station, the campus is close to restaurants, coffee shops and other businesses that rely on weekday foot traffic. Fewer workers on site could mean less customer activity in the area, particularly during peak lunch and

commuting hours.

Pleasanton is home to several major technolo-

gy employers, including Workday, Medallia, Veeva Systems and 10x Genomics.



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# Outdoor Fitness Court Opens at Dublin School Campus Providing Free Access

By Sanestina Hunter

DUBLIN — Dublin Unified School District has opened a new outdoor Fitness Court at York Alternative Learning Center, providing a

new fitness resource for students, staff and the broader community.

Developed in partnership with the National Fitness Campaign (NFC), the project brings an outdoor gym system and digital wellness programming to campus.



Dublin Unified School District officials, including Superintendent Chris Funk (far left) and Board President Kristin Speck (sixth from left), celebrate the opening of the new outdoor Fitness Court at York Alternative Learning Center. Developed in partnership with the National Fitness Campaign, the project was supported by Fremont Bank and Roebbelen Contracting to provide health and wellness resources to the community. (Photo courtesy of DUSD)

ing Center, providing a new fitness resource for students, staff and the broader community.

Developed in partnership with the National Fitness Campaign (NFC), the project brings an outdoor gym system and digital wellness programming to campus.

The fitness space opened in April following a ribbon-cutting ceremony with district leaders.

“We know that access matters when it comes to health and wellness,” Superintendent Chris Funk said. “By bringing a Fitness Court and supportive programming into our community, we are helping

remove barriers and ensuring more students and families have the opportunity to engage in regular physical activity.”

Located at the west end

of the track between Wells Middle School and Valley High School in Dublin, the Fitness Court is accessible to a range of abilities and for ages 14 and older, serving individuals across the Tri-Valley.

It features seven body-weight exercise stations — core, squat, push, lunge, pull, agility and bend — supporting a full-body outdoor workout targeting major muscle groups. As part of its digital wellness support, the Fitness Court is paired with an app that provides guided workouts and coaching to help users navigate each station, while the layout allows users to move at

their own pace.

“We are proud to partner with the district to help bring that vision to life,” said Mitch Menaged, founder of the NFC. “By

bringing an outdoor Fitness Court and digital wellness programming to Dublin, the district is creating a lasting resource that supports physical and mental well-being while making fitness accessible to everyone.

“The addition of the outdoor Fitness Court and digital wellness programming reflects a meaningful investment in improving health outcomes and expanding opportunities for movement, connection and well-being across the Dublin community,” Menaged added.

Its Fitness Court system is part of a nationwide effort to increase access to

free public fitness spaces and encourage regular physical activity in local communities.

The organization aims to place a Fitness Court within a 10-minute bike ride of every American and expects to reach its 750th community in 2026.

The DUSD outdoor gym project was supported by local partners, including Fremont Bank and Roebbelen Construction, helping expand access to health and wellness resources, the district said.

DUSD serves approximately 12,800 students from preschool through adult education across multiple campuses in the Tri-Valley.

San Francisco-based NFC partners with cities, schools and sponsors to expand access to outdoor fitness infrastructure through public-private partnerships.

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# Local Choirs to Join in NY City June ‘Requiem’ Performance

LIVERMORE — Valley Concert Chorale (VCC) will perform John Rutter’s “Requiem,” in collaboration with the Las Positas College Chamber Choir, the First Presbyterian Church of Livermore Choir and the Tracy West High School Choral Leadership Academy at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, May 15, and at 4 p.m. on Sunday, May 17.

Both performances will be at the First Presbyterian Church of Livermore, 2020 First St.

VCC said the performances would serve as a local preview to its scheduled appearance at New York’s Carnegie Hall in June, when the nonprofit chorus will join with other choirs from across the country in performing Rutter’s “Requiem” and other selections.

“We’ve been looking forward to this all season,” said VCC Board President Sarah Allendorf. “It is a rare opportunity to perform with these three talented choirs. We are thrilled to bring the community together to share this beautiful, moving work.”

VCC Artistic Director

Joeseph Castro said Rutter’s 1985 composition is “admired for its clarity and heartfelt beauty” and “offers a moment of reflection and peace.”

Five of the piece’s seven movements are based on the Latin text from the Catholic Requiem Mass, while the second and sixth movements

draw from Psalm 130 and Psalm 23, respectively.

Tickets to the Livermore performances are \$30 and \$10 for college students with ID. Children 12 and under are free.

Tickets are available online at valleyconcertchorale.org or by calling 925-866-4003.

*Happy Mother's Day!*



To all mothers whether you are past, present, soon to be moms, mother figures and moms in heaven. May your Mother's Day be filled with joy and laughter.

It is on honor for me to give a tribute to my mom and grandma every year on Mother's Day. I fondly remember our annual mother daughter daughter trips together. Grandma Rae is no longer with us as she passed away at the age of 102. I wear grandma's necklace (pictured) on Mother's Day in her memory.

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# Balch Announces Run For Second Term as Pleasanton Mayor

By David Jen

PLEASANTON — Mayor Jack Balch announced on May 4 his candidacy for re-election to a crowd of over 100 supporters at the Oasis Restaurant downtown, looking to continue the long-term fiscal and quality-of-life projects he helped kick off in his first term as mayor.

Balch served one term as city councilmember from 2020 to 2024 before being elected as mayor in November 2024. Ideas around how to address the city's budget deficit, with Balch at the time opposed to a city sales-

tax increase, largely shaped that election.

"Two years ago, I was trying to communicate to the voters that I thought there was a different way Pleasanton could go forward," Balch said. "It was a known quantity with an incumbent mayor versus an unknown with myself as a chance. I basically communicated what I thought could be a vision forward."

The majority of voters opposed the sales-tax increase, leaving the city short of some \$10 million per year that the tax measure had promised. Balch took

the helm in the middle of a difficult budget process that ended up relying on significant service cuts and transfers from the city's pension and retiree funds to balance the budget.

Since then, the city has invested in long-term solutions to shore up Pleasanton's finances, Balch said. These include streamlined permitting to invite more businesses, updated impact fees to capture more development revenue, and new wireless policies to possibly tap cell-tower leasing revenue.

Residents can also experience permitting im-

provements, as the city has reduced the overall planning requirements for projects such as a new patio, siding or windows.



Jack Balch

The mayor also found encouragement in the number of 5-0 council votes recently, with councilmembers agreeing on issues such as the wireless policies and a plan to partner with the Zone 7 Water Agency for two new groundwater wells in west Pleasanton.

A recent budget check-in showed business-license revenues and development fees coming in higher than expected, and Pleasanton's Costco performance beating forecasts, although property and other sales-tax revenues continued to remain sluggish.

The vitality of Pleasanton's downtown and the future of the Stoneridge Shopping Center, both of which have struggled in recent years, remain top priorities for Balch, who admitted they present unique challenges.

"I really want to see some of the vacancies get addressed downtown. It's three steps forward and two steps back," Balch said, referring to the business churn there.

The city recently planted new trees along Main Street, along with repairing and power-washing the sidewalks. It also reopened the downtown Lions Wayside Park last June following construction of a new bandstand.

At Stoneridge, Balch said discussions continue on how to best use the 75-acre property, although disparate visions among the mall's multiple owners slow progress.

Looking forward, he pointed to the city's asset management plan and its organizational assessment, both of which will help the city better respond to resident needs when complete.

Balch urged voters to "hold me accountable for the last year and a half (or) two years and look at the real focus I've tried to have on actually improving or changing things. ... I offer a choice. If they would like me to continue, I would be honored to serve again."



Livermore Police Department officers and volunteers participated in a First Responders Appreciation event at Heritage Baptist Church in San Leandro on Sunday, April 26. (Photo courtesy of LPD)

## The Pleasanton Unified School District Rescinds Some Layoffs after Budget Agreement Funding

By Sanestina Hunter

PLEASANTON — Pleasanton Unified School District began rescinding preliminary layoff notices for classified staff and social workers after reaching a budget agreement and securing additional funding.

At an April 16 Board of Trustees meeting, the Board of Education approved a Memorandum of Understanding with the California School Employees Association (CSEA) that generated about \$909,850 in negotiated savings.

"I am very grateful to CSEA and management for working together as a district, especially listening — that gives me hope," said board member Mary Jo Carreon. "I appreciate the sacrifice they are making."

The agreement allowed the district to rescind notices for several roles on a contingency list created earlier this year, including elementary library/media assistant II, reading intervention support specialists, district parent liaisons and child welfare and attendance specialists.

"The sooner we can return people to their jobs and get them out of this sense of panic and pain, the better," said board member Charlie Jones. The district is moving to restore positions tied to student support and Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) priorities.

Many of the roles are connected to the LCAP, which directs funding toward improving student outcomes, particularly for higher-need students such as low-income students, English learners and foster youth.

Separate from the CSEA agreement, the district secured grant funding from the Alameda County Office of Education to prevent social worker layoffs.

"As additional funding becomes available, we will continue to rescind items on the contingency list," Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources Nimarta Grewal said. "We are working through those prioritized positions as funding allows."

Grewal added that while the district must still meet

a May 15 deadline for final layoff notices, employees may be rehired if additional funding is secured.

The rescissions follow months of budget planning. Earlier this year, the board identified approximately \$11.2 million in reductions for the 2026–27 school year to address a structural deficit driven in part by declining enrollment, reduced state funding and rising costs.

Because roughly \$5.4 million of those reductions depend on ongoing negotiations with labor partners, the district approved a contingency plan in February outlining potential staffing cuts, with most of the reduction list tied to employee positions.

Under state law, the district was required to issue preliminary layoff notices by March 15 based on that plan.

Moving forward, district officials said they will continue working to secure additional funding, including grants, community partnerships such as Pleasanton Partnerships in Education, and potential Proposition

28 arts and music funding, as they look to restore positions in the coming months.

PUSD serves more than 13,000 students across 16 schools. The next Board of Trustees meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 7.

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# EDITORIAL

## We Need More Public Outreach on Vaccines

Last week, Las Positas College hosted visiting medical professionals to talk about vaccines. A survey conducted by the Society of Aspiring Medical Professionals, one of the clubs on campus, found that the student body had questions.

Some of those questions were basic, such as how vaccines work, and some more pointed, asking about how to combat misinformation about vaccines.

More events like the Las Positas club would definitely help combat misinformation.

Vaccines are one of the modern marvels of civilization. Before we had vaccines, people died from tuberculosis, dysentery, cholera, typhoid fever, often before they left childhood.

In 1974, the World Health Organization launched the to make vaccines available around the world. Over the course of 50 years, vaccines prevented 154 million deaths worldwide, the vast majority of whom were children under 5 years, and 101 to make vaccines available around the world. Over the course of

50 years, vaccines prevented 154 million deaths worldwide, the vast majority of whom were children under 5 years, and 101 million of whom were infants, according to a study published in *The Lancet*, one of the world's top medical journals.

In the United States, vaccination has made rare or virtually eliminated polio, measles, mumps, rubella, hepatitis, tetanus and other diseases.

That's been changing, and not in a good way. Measles is making a huge comeback thanks to people deciding not to vaccinate their children. For example, South Carolina is in the midst of an outbreak, with nearly 1,000 measles cases confirmed, mostly in children 17 and under. Measles is also one of the most contagious diseases in existence, so that number is sure to rise.

Since January 2025, there have been 3,500 confirmed cases in 46 states, according to the Harvard Medical School. That's the highest number since 2000, when the disease was declared eliminated in the U.S.

There are many reasons why someone might not vaccinate their children, but only a tiny number of them are medically sound reasons. Instead, misinformation spreads rapidly online about perceived dangers of vaccines, how they work, how herd immunity works (or doesn't), and more.

On Monday, the New York Times reported that the FDA had blocked the release of studies that showed the COVID-19 and shingles vaccines were safe. In the case of the COVID vaccine, the agency withdrew the studies that had already been submitted for publication."

We are not being helped by the Trump Administration's openly anti-vaccine officials, especially Secretary of Health and Human Services Robert F. Kennedy Jr., who, to be charitable, is neither an expert in medicine nor in public health.

President Trump doesn't help matters when he engages in the same anti-vaccine language, even though he was president both during the greatest modern

health crisis, the COVID-19 pandemic, and the then-unthinkably rapid development of a functional vaccine against the coronavirus.

To be blunt, we are drowning in a sea of misinformation, and lifeboats are in short supply. Las Positas is to be commended for getting out in front of the issue and educating its students about vaccines and vaccine misinformation — something that seems to be lacking elsewhere in our educational system.

Our school districts should also be proactive about ensuring our students are getting medically accurate information and are learning how to push back against uneducated hot takes, snake oil salesmen, cranks, and bad-faith political actors.

We live in trying times, but we still have control over some important aspects of our lives. Providing vaccine education by respected medical professionals is one of those steps we can easily take.

## MAILBOX

### A Message from the Managing Editor

For years, our letters page has been a place for you to speak your mind. We've seen heartfelt thanks, sharp critiques, and passionate debates. But we've also noticed a trend that mirrors the world around us: one letter writer takes on another with harsh language, rather than a compelling argument.

At *The Independent*, we believe local journalism should be more than just a platform for complaints; it should be a tool for building a better community, even a better world.

Our goal is to create a space where neighbors can disagree on policy without attacking each other's character.

### Mailbox Guidelines:

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

### Human Condition

#### Evelyn Mitschelen, Livermore

The condition to the human condition is not better education or social programs or self-esteem. We seem to get along and enjoy life, but there is evil, hate, pride, and corruption that is running in our country. We are apart from God.

You have no power to change yourselves. Your life is not alive, even though you think so; you are dead, powerless to see, you see what you want to see. We need our lives changed, to see, be in the light. We need to be open to ourselves. How can that change? You

have missed the mark. You missed the step. You put your feet in the wrong direction. The result is that you stumble. Your intentions were ok, but your results were wrong. You follow the world. Sin is the result of human corruption. Christianity does not conform to society. BUT God, rich in mercy out of a great love, loved us even when we were dead, and in our sin made us alive together with Christ, by grace (unmerited favor) you have been saved.

God understands our condition; it is our guilt, our misery that God's mercy

and grace reaches out and show His love. God decided to send Jesus for our sake, so our past hate, anger, guilt can change. God is choosing to do that in everyone who lets Christ into their lives.

But do you know that "By grace (unmerited favor) you have been saved through faith (by believing) and that is not of yourself; it is a gift of God not as a result of (your) works, (so) no one should boast. For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that you should walk in them."

God knows what He intends to do.

### Livermore's Future Shock 2.0

#### Greg Scott, Livermore

"No matter how far you go on a wrong road, turn back!" (Turkish proverb)

A signal or function may be dissected and understood by a branch of mathematics called Fourier analysis, which separates a signal or function into trigonometric sine and cosine components. Inversely, this methodology can take components and reconstruct the original signal or function, as long as all the components are included and the analyses are valid.

By analogy, the same may be said for the considerations of growth in Livermore's General Plan Update. How is growth thus determined if components are neglected or some of the analyses are inaccurate?

In the previous Livermore Planning Commission meeting, last April 21, we were given the bureaucratic gibberish and edicts of the distinction of the growth labels of "capacity" and "prediction." We can be thankful we didn't get a definitive and distinctive growth label of "late-for-dinner," though perhaps it would be more appropriate.

How can you have a reasonable determination of any growth labels if you have omitted growth components or are lacking reasonable analyses of elements such as macroeconomics, resources (includ-

ing capital), technology, demographics, policy implications, and other factors?

Here is one example: I learned in the last General Plan Advisory Committee (GPAC) meeting that the General Plan Update does not consider generative artificial intelligence (GenAI) technology. Is Livermore an island? In the fiscal first quarter of 2025, 90% of the increase in the U.S. Gross Domestic Product was from GenAI capital expenditures. It is estimated that through the year 2030 more than \$5 trillion of capital expenditures will be made on GenAI. How are the parameter ranges for growth considerations of jobs, energy, water, and capital determined without thorough analyses of the likely effects of GenAI?

Without an adequate plan, Livermore, we aren't prepared for the future.

### Plutonium Bomb Cores

#### Marylia Kelley, Livermore

It's May. Spring is in the air. Breathe deeply. But more plutonium too?

The National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) plans to produce 80 or more plutonium bomb cores, called pits, each year to place inside new nuclear warheads.

NNSA wants to turn the Los Alamos Lab in New Mexico and the Savannah River Site in South Carolina into industrial scale pit production sites.

In the Tri-Valley, the NNSA proposes to increase the amount of plutonium that can be used in experiments and testing at Livermore Lab's many workstations. This includes the Lab's main plutonium facility and its "shake and bake" facility where plutonium bomb cores and materials undergo multiple tests.

If past is prologue, this means more plutonium in our local environment. Accidents and releases have occurred. Plutonium has been found in soils near Livermore Lab's main plutonium facility, in soils near the Lab's attorneys' offices, in an offsite air monitor to the east of the Lab, and in

nearby city parks, including Big Trees Park to the west of the Lab.

This is not about science, this is about new nuclear warheads and whether our air, land, water and health may be subject to future releases.

At issue, too, is the transport of plutonium in trucks between the Los Alamos Lab in New Mexico and Livermore Lab. And, there is waste. NNSA says the transuranic wastes will be trucked to Carlsbad, but the state of New Mexico disagrees.

Due a litigation brought by Tri-Valley CAREs and colleagues, NNSA is conducting a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement on its pit production plans.

Our hearing is Tuesday, May 12. Following a half-hour open house, the hearing will be from 5:30-8pm at the Garre Vineyard Winery, Santa Rosa Room, 7986 Tesla Road, Livermore.

For more information, visit [www.trivalleycares.org](http://www.trivalleycares.org) or <https://pitpeis.com/>

### Zone 7 Board Members Election 2026 Endorsements

#### Laurene Green, Pleasanton

As a resident of the Tri-Valley, I'm endorsing Sarah Palmer, Alan Burnham, and Seema Badar for the Zone 7 Water Agency Board. Being a Director on the Board, I know our most pressing challenges are water quality, flood management, reliable water supply, and financial stewardship. We have three members retiring with close to a century of professional experience; these three candidates are the best choices to continue their good work in these areas.

Sarah Palmer, the only incumbent candidate, is a skilled Biochemist. She is a very engaged and active member in our meetings, workshops, committees, and events. A previous Board President, Sarah is often a spokesperson in Sacramento and D.C. She is a member of many regional committees and interests benefiting Zone 7.

She was also the first to watch-dog PFAS and support efforts to eliminate it. Sarah is a valuable member we need to keep.

Alan Burnham brings a new face with many decades of scientific experience. This includes hydrogeology and water contamination. A chemist, Alan has worked at all levels: technical, financial, managerial, and as a business owner. He is also an engaged community member, e.g., Director and a Founding Member of the Quest Science Center. Alan will be an important experienced addition.

Seema Badar will bring a combination of interest in water utilities and organizational skills to the Board. She is a successful community leader and organizer. Seema has chaired several committees and boards with financial oversight responsibilities. She offers important skills like leadership, financial experience, demonstrated civic engagement, and a work ethic to keep pace with the many facets of Zone 7. Seema will be a complimentary new voice.

These candidates are ready to work for you. Join me in voting for Sarah, Alan, and Seema.

### Vote for Alan Burnham

**Monya Lane, Livermore**  
Our region will benefit by having Alan Burnham elected as a member of the Zone 7 Water Agency Board of Directors. Alan has an unmatched combination of deep technical expertise and long-standing civic engagement that is well-known to many of us in the community. He has an unwavering dedication and commitment to ensuring that decisions that affect the public are based on evidence and a scientific approach to problem-solving. I've worked with and observed Alan in the non-profit and community service space for the last eight years, and he will both take action and do the hard work as needed. With his background as a chemist, Alan

(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 94566-9999. THE INDEPENDENT is mailed upon request. For more information or to sign up visit [www.independentnews.com](http://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](mailto:info@independentnews.com).

Editorial information may be submitted by emailing [editor@independentnews.com](mailto:editor@independentnews.com)

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Sunflower Hill advisor Lynn Monica (l), Livermore Mayor John Marchand and garden manager Victoria Chavez were among those who helped kick off the 2026 spring planting season at the nonprofit's Sunflower Hill Garden at Hagemann Ranch in Livermore on Saturday, April 11. Despite the rain, members of the community helped plant squash, tomatoes and eggplant, spent time with the chickens and played garden bingo. Based in Pleasanton, Sunflower Hill provides independent living and support programs for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities, including the vocational gardening program that yields more than two tons of fresh produce annually for local food pantries. (Photo courtesy of Hagemann Ranch)

## MAILBOX

(Continued from page 4)

has an ongoing interest in our local water system and already provides public comment on occasion to be sure there is clear technical understanding of a topic involving our local water supply and flood protection system. I urge everyone to vote for Alan Burnham on June 2, to become a community representative on the Zone 7 Water Agency Board of Directors.

### Melissa Hernandez, Genocide-Denier Julie Wild, Livermore

During a recent Indivisible debate, Melissa Hernandez was the only candidate out of the four that wouldn't call what's happening in Palestine a genocide. Global genocide experts consider it a genocide. Melissa Hernandez is either ignorant or thinks that she knows better.

Yes/no questions tell us quickly where candidates stand. People want a fast NO on sexual assault, pedophilia, genocide, and apart-

heid. Just as pedophilia and sexual assault aren't a complex conversation, neither is genocide.

20,000 kids are dead in Gaza, and more dying each day, because Israel denies them adequate drinking water, food, medical care, and sanitation.

Palestinians here in the Tri-Valley have lost family members and more. To claim that they are somehow 'hurt' by the question of genocide is ludicrous. Palestinians are hurt by bombs being dropped on them, and living under occupation within an apartheid system. Nelson Mandela called it apartheid; Desmond Tutu compared Israel's treatment of the Palestinians to the apartheid regime that discriminated against Blacks in South Africa.

Zionists differ from the greater Jewish community who oppose genocide, apartheid and ethnic cleansing. "Zionism is racism", says Reverend Munther

Isaac, a Palestinian pastor in Bethlehem. When someone tries to 'educate' us about Zionism, remember his words. Molly Crabapple's, "Here Where We Live is Our Country" tells of Polish Jews who resisted Zionism. Watch "Palestine 36".

Thank you Indivisible for allowing Tri-Valley voters a voice to help us understand which candidates stand for all of humanity and which ones are genocide-deniers. Mandela stated, "If one has to refer to any of the parties as a terrorist state, one might refer to the Israeli government, because they are the people who are slaughtering defenseless and innocent Arabs in the occupied (Palestinian) territories, and we don't regard that as acceptable."

### No Coverage

Lee Edwards, Livermore

Once again, I wish to thank The Independent for their outstanding and unbiased coverage of the

third attempt to assassinate the president of the United States. I hope everyone will reread the article to get the true facts. Oh, wait. There wasn't any mention of the attack anywhere in this paper. I guess The Independent didn't feel it was worthy of informing its readers of such a trivial act. I, like so many others, am so very tired of the coverage or lack thereof that might help inform readers of all sides of our politics. Thanks again for showing your true colors.

I was born here in Oakland 74 years ago and can remember what California used to be. What happened? It should be pretty obvious to those with open minds.

### Climate Chaos

John Cameron, Dublin

Ecological activity around the entire world is rapidly changing. Our news outlets, driven by profit and special interests, have been negligent in keeping the public up to date. 'Drill baby drill' is like using kerosene to put out a burning building, and the press doesn't seem to be sounding the alarm. It feels as if the whole topic has been stuffed away in a dark cellar like it might go away if we ignore it.

It's not going to go away! In fact, these are the good old days we will reference as the last time we had a chance to act. We have used the resources of our unique and amazing world as if we all deserve as much as we can take.

We will eventually come to the point where weather, pollution, healthy food production and general quality of life will decay to the point where the only choice is urgent action. Our grandchildren will be using the majority of their money and efforts to just

keep things from getting worse.

It's not too late, but we need to act with more urgency than we are. We need an educated public focused on the need to change our individual behavior. There are things we can all do better, starting with being conscientious. Recycle; waste less; reduce plastic use; eat plant-based foods; use permaculture instead of monoculture; urge lawmakers to act with urgency; etc.

All this won't be easy, but the longer we wait, the harder it gets. The longer we wait, the less chance we have.

### Tri-Valley Pays a Price for Genocide

Hasan Hasan, Livermore

In response to Patricia Munro's April 16 letter, she stated that asking District 14 Congressional candi-

(See MAILBOX, page 6)

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James Homoelle and Jovie Klipa were among the students at St. Michael School in Livermore to donate “rice bowls” filled with spare change to Catholic Relief Services (CRS) during Lent. Since its inception in 1975, the CRS Rice Bowl program has raised an average of \$10 million a year to help alleviate hunger and poverty around the world, according to the CRS website. (Photo courtesy of St. Michael School)

## MAILBOX

(Continued from page 5)

dates about a genocide in Palestine would focus attention away from issues that matter to the state and country. Thank you, Patricia, for bringing this up so we can get clear on why a genocide in Palestine matters to the Tri-Valley. The Israeli military has dropped the equivalent of 13 Hiroshima atomic bombs on Gaza. Destruction on this scale impacts all of life on Earth, accelerating climate collapse. In 2025 alone, the U.S. government sent Israel about \$12 billion in military funding. We're all paying the price of this genocide — with our federal tax dollars. So, how does that \$12 billion spent impact the Tri-Valley? In 2025, Livermore taxpayers gave over 6 million dollars, \$6,301,894. That same amount could've paid for one of these for one year: 326 households with free rent, 67 Elementary school teachers' salaries. Pleasanton: \$5,620,712,291, 59 teacher salaries/households. Dublin: \$4,650,519 241, 49 teacher salaries/households.

Funding war and weapons reduces the greater good we can do on a local level. Americans need to do their homework, particularly Patricia Munro when she wants to defend a country that has demonized itself by showing the world how heartless and evil it can be. They bomb churches, mosques, and hospitals. [www.notmytaxdollars.org](http://www.notmytaxdollars.org) builds awareness of how our tax dollars are spent. Tri-Valley must invest ethically, so we're not aiding companies who ultimately don't serve us in the long run. The Livermore annual investment policy update is June 22nd. Pick one from each city and imagine what that future looks like. Vote for candidates who share this vision who invest in the greater good.

### Wake Up Call for The Independent

**Daniella Karo, Pleasanton**

Ms. Joan Seppala, owner of The Independent local newspaper, was recently inducted into the Alameda County Women's Hall of Fame. One recent letter writer to this newspaper declared that, “With her undying devotion to honest publication, we are aware of the good deeds and the misdeeds of our local leaders”. L'affair Swalwell turns this statement upside down. Only a short while ago, The Independent editorial fully endorsed Swalwell for the next Governor of California! Never mind

the awful Fang Fang affair, the “Useful Idiot” of Nancy Pelosi and Adam Schiff turns out to be a disgrace to society! The latest editorial is finally warning us that, “Swalwell Is Just the Tip of The Iceberg”! A wake-up call for Ms. Seppala and The Independent that political ideology bias should be avoided at all cost. For all our sake, play it square and fair, Ms. Seppala.

### Best Candidate

**Richard Andrews, Livermore**

I wrote here last week on why I chose Tom Steyer for governor. But I wanted to explain more. I think Katie Porter is also a good choice, and has many good traits. But feel California needs a good money manager, who knows how to spend appropriately and also knows where the money comes from — a business person with a proven record, and a clearly shown plan on how to run a complicated economy.

After listening to a long Q&A with tough questions it was readily apparent he has a level head and doesn't shoot from the hip, nor are his responses “canned” like so many candidates. He reminds me of the Canadian PM Carney, money smart, and beholding to none but the electorate.

As to Xavier Becerra, I know Newsome likes him, but I cannot abide his sell-out to big oil. They are his largest contributors and his treating them with favored actions, such as not prosecuting when they were in the wrong, clearly shows he can be and already is bought. I will never vote for someone blatantly “buy-able”.

Steyer cannot be bought and has proven so with his previous actions. He walks the walk!

### Alan Burnham — Leadership for Zone 7

**Glenn Stewart, Livermore**

As we approach the June 2026 election, the Tri-Valley faces a pivotal moment regarding our most precious resource: water. Between climate volatility and the increasing complexity of our local infrastructure, the Zone 7 Water Agency needs leadership that balances scientific rigor with a deep commitment to our community.

This is why I am supporting Alan Burnham for the Zone 7 Board of Directors.

Alan is uniquely qualified to tackle the technical and financial challenges of water management. With a PhD in Physical Chemistry and over 40 years of experience

at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and Stanford University, he doesn't just look at reports — he understands the underlying data.

His career as a scientist and project manager has trained him to ask the “hard questions” necessary to ensure our water supply is both reliable and cost-effective.

Beyond his professional credentials, Alan's 49-year history in Livermore demonstrates a profound dedication to our region. He is a community builder. From co-founding Partners for Change Tri-Valley to help the unhoused, to founding the Quest Science Center, Alan has consistently invested his time in improving the lives of his neighbors.

Alan's platform is clear... use finite resources wisely, balance long-term vision with practical realities, and listen to a broad range of perspectives. He recognizes that our retailers—including Livermore, Pleasanton, DSRSD, and CalWater—each face different circumstances that require nuanced solutions.

In a field of candidates, Alan Burnham stands out as someone with the “broad and detailed learning” required to meet today's water challenges. He has the skills to assess complex tradeoffs and the integrity to make decisions that prioritize the long-term health of the Tri-Valley.

I urge my fellow residents to join me in voting for Alan Burnham for the Zone 7 Board this June.

### Response to “No More Swalwell”

**Karen Smith, Livermore**

John Lahommedieu (Mailbox, 4/30/26) seems to be criticizing former Eric Swalwell supporters for “(...turning their) back on their golden boy...” As a Republican and critic of Swalwell, Lahommedieu thinks Democrats owe Swalwell their support because he championed liberal and progressive policies. Well, maybe that's how it works in MAGAworld, but Democrats have proven over and over again that they value integrity and character above all else in their leaders. They won't turn a blind eye to sexual violence and hypocrisy just because someone shares their political leanings. I am personally devastated by the claims made against Swalwell, but believe they are substantiated and legitimate. If anything, I believe the Democratic Party's

swift rebuke of Swalwell is something to be proud of, as it proves once again they won't tolerate leaders who put themselves ahead of the people they are supposed to be representing. In other words, although I no longer support Eric Swalwell, I will continue to support the Democratic Party, because they have proven once again that they will put people before politics.

### Cheryl Cook-Kallio for Area 7 Schools

**Robbie See, Pleasanton**

Cheryl Cook-Kallio is the right choice to represent Area 7 of the Alameda County School District. Cheryl focuses directly on student learning, and she does it with her sleeves rolled up to work.

During my 20 years at Mendenhall Middle School in Livermore, Cheryl visited my classroom several times. She served as a judge for our We The People hearings, she visited our National History Day competitions, she answered student questions, and she even voiced my concerns to the Alameda County Board of Education. Cheryl supports teachers, because she knows we support our students.

Cheryl is equally available to school leadership. If a local district has a conflict — as Livermore recently did with Superintendent Torie Gibson — Cheryl is available to listen to all sides.

Cheryl does her homework before voting on Board issues. For example, she researches the progress of charter schools. If a charter school is not meeting milestones, she suggests a path for improvement, and is not afraid to vote against those that do not improve.

Cheryl believes all students can learn. She taught diverse populations for decades and has seen the success of low-income and disadvantaged students. Cheryl knows that, with some hard work, schools can, and must, work for everybody.

Students, teachers, and leaders deserve a hard-working representative who understands and believes in our schools. Join me in supporting Cheryl Cook-Kallio for the Alameda County Board of Education.

### Katie Porter, Please

**Steven Rego, Pleasanton**

I don't buy that tired statement that a billionaire doesn't need the money, so he's going to do what's good for the general public. Let's see; are you aware of the previous running total (\$144,000,000) on Tom Steyers' election campaign?

The only thing more preposterous is anyone who would vote for a GOP candidate. You should be drug tested.

However, Katie Porter had an angry moment in a pre-interview that is being used as a hit piece to negate her campaign. It's a nonissue, considering what she brings to the average Californians' dinner table. The woman doesn't take corporate donations, and is a highly educated PhD, who studied under Elizabeth Warren, and who will take on all bankers and politicians that want to keep their hands in the public's cookie jar. She has been a Democratic congresswoman from Irvine whose record has been superlative.

### Cheryl Cook-Kallio for Alameda County Board of Education

**Christiaan VandenHeuvel, Livermore**

I serve on the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District Board of Educa-

tion. I know firsthand how important the relationship between a local school board and the Alameda County Office of Education is, especially when a district is navigating hard decisions. We have been and will be!

That's why I'm voting for Cheryl Cook-Kallio for the Alameda County Board of Education, District 7 (personal endorsement).

Cheryl represents the whole Tri-Valley, but she doesn't just represent us on paper. She knows this community. She taught here for 40 years. Her children attended schools in Sunol, Livermore, and Pleasanton. She served on the Pleasanton City Council for two terms. This is her home, and she has spent her career serving it.

What sets Cheryl apart for me is the depth of experience she brings to a role that most people don't think about until something goes wrong. ACOE oversees district budgets, reviews accountability plans, and sets the direction for the county office that supports and sometimes intervenes in local school districts. Having someone in that seat who really understands what districts like LVJUSD face on the ground is incredibly important. Cheryl has that understanding.

She has worked at the federal, state, and local levels to strengthen public education and protect the students and teachers who depend on it.

She is endorsed by many, including the California Teachers Association, reflecting a career of consistency and with integrity showing up for public education.

Ballots arrive this week, and I hope you'll take a few minutes to vote for Cheryl Cook-Kallio. I believe she's earned it.

### CA-14 Needs Melissa Hernandez

**Philip Tucker, Dublin**

The East Bay needs a member of Congress who is focused on affordability. That candidate is Melissa Hernandez. Melissa spent her time as Dublin Mayor focused on building housing, growing job opportunities, and keeping our community safe. In Congress, Melissa will utilize her knowledge in healthcare and housing to lower costs, increase housing supply, and protect CA-14 from Republican healthcare cuts. Our district needs a representative who puts us first.

As the Trump administration cuts healthcare funding, CA-14 needs an advocate in Congress. That is Melissa Hernandez. As Healthcare Services Director for a County Supervisor, Melissa has experience connecting our community with essential healthcare services. Melissa knows the importance of quality healthcare that is affordable and accessible. In Congress, she will be a champion for increased mental health funding, Medicaid funding, and funding for our community hospitals. CA-14 needs an expert in Congress, and Melissa Hernandez will be ready on day one.

### We Can See How Well He Has Done

**Jim Hannon, Livermore**

In his election campaign, President Trump shrewdly identified and inflated many voters' concerns: war, immigration and the economy, to name a few. His speeches spread anger and division. After his election, supporters and opponents alike hoped that the global impact

and responsibilities of the Presidency would lead to well-thought-out, fact-based decisions delivered with dignity.

Enough water has gone over the dam that we can see how well he has done.

War: He started one and participates in two; both containing events classifiable as war crimes. He helped the Russians by denying Ukraine critical military aid. As he has done this, he has insulted and belittled allies, weakened international alliances, and destroyed trust in the integrity of the U.S.; all with significant political costs.

Immigration: He deported law-abiding immigrants and U.S. citizens into often deadly conditions unworthy of human beings.

Most deportees were honest, hard-working contributors to U.S. society, NOT violent criminals. These deportations cost us the contributions of skilled people providing services in hospitality, construction, education and medicine, as well as the innovations and contributions of the world's best and brightest.

Economy: His tariffs and wars have raised the costs of gas, oil, food, and household items. Farmers lost markets, so he used our tax money to provide subsidies. His decisions regarding health, energy, and the national debt have significant future costs. As we pay all these costs, now and later, Trump and his family rake in billions.

These examples show that Trump has addressed issue he highlighted. However, what he has done and the rancor and vindictiveness with which he did them have and will have significant monetary and societal costs to us, our nation, and the world.

In short, Trump's water over the dam is costly and contaminated. We should not drink it.

### Petty Is as Petty Does

**Frank Cannella, Livermore**

It's happening in Indiana right now. Several Republican state senators had the unmitigated audacity to defy a request from Donald Trump to vote to alter congressional districts. These senators are die-hard Trump supporters, having worked hard to get him elected all three times he ran for president. Their sin was in believing the U.S. Constitution gave the right to every state to decide how congressional districts are formed within that state, so they didn't vote to squeeze out one or possibly two additional Republican congressional seats in the House of Representatives. So what happens as a result? The national Republican party pours millions of dollars to “primary” these state senators by supporting different candidates in a run against these RINO state senators. The negative ads the national party funds depict these individuals as traitors against true Trump supporters, in spite of the fact they have been with Trump since his first run at the White House. All of this is because Trump's popularity has fallen so much he fears a Democratic landslide during the midterm elections will cause his razor thin majority in congress to go away for the rest of his term. Donald Trump's insistence on total and complete loyalty to his every whim is both petty and pathetic, much like the behavior of a spoiled child.

# The Bankhead to Host Filipino-American Film Festival

LIVERMORE — The inaugural Arté Film Festival, featuring films that explore the Filipino American diaspora, will be held at the Bankhead Theater on Sunday, June 7.

Presented by Arté, a California marketing and production company, and Livermore Valley Arts (LVA), the film festival will include intergenerational stories of migration, resilience, culture and belonging.

The lineup includes three full-length features and two critically acclaimed Pixar short films.

“We warmly welcome the Arté Film Festival

and Filipino filmmakers to Livermore,” said LVA CEO Chris Carter. “Our mission is to offer a broad range of arts opportunities and experiences to engage, enrich, and inspire our diverse community, and we deeply value collaboration. I can’t think of a better way to demonstrate that than by partnering with Arté to bring these special films to our community.”

The feature films include:

“Diamonds in the Sand,” a 2024 film about grief, dignity and human connection across cultures. “Asian Persuasion,” a

2023 comedy set in New York about a lovable hustler trying to sell his wife’s luxury belongings before their divorce is final.

“The Road to Sydney,” a 2025 documentary about Jay Loyola, who was bullied physically and emotionally while growing up in the Philippines, eventually finding refuge in dance. After gender affirmation while living in the Bay Area, Loyola takes the name “Sydney” and returns to the Philippines to begin a personal journey of reconnecting with her roots and seeking to rebuild her relationship with her estranged father.

The Pixar shorts are: “Weekends,” an Academy Award-nominated film about a young boy navigating the divided world of his parents after their separation. Written and directed by Canadian-born animator Trevor Jimenez, the film is based on his own childhood shuttling between his divorced parents.

“Lava,” described as a musical love story that spans millions of years, is about a lonely Hawaiian volcano who spends his life singing a love song in the hopes of finding a volcano who will answer. The full festival pro-

gram will be announced in advance of the festival. Select filmmakers will be present for post-screening conversations and Q&As with the audience.

Doors to the Bankhead Theater will open at 10 a.m. with the first screening at 11:30 a.m.

The festival will also include muralist Venazir Martinez, a roving fashion show by La Union Filipiniana, and live performances.

General admission tickets to the Pixar shorts and individual films are \$20, with \$5 discounts for stu-

dents. All-day tickets are available for \$65, with a \$10 discount for students.

Tickets are available at the Bankhead Theater box office.

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## TRI ZONE 7

(Continued from front page)

of Lakes pipeline, which proposes to build a seven-mile-long pipeline to connect the Chain of Lakes area with the South Bay Aqueduct. The connection

viding water that is safe, clean and affordable to all, keeping flood control a priority given the recent rains and climate change, and being forward thinking

that to me just seems like a really good role.”

A biochemist, Palmer found her way to the water agency through the state’s Groundwater Ambient

PFAS plume to the new location for at least 20 years.

An updated Tri-Valley groundwater model, completed last fall, suggested that an underground obstruction would at least impede the spread of the plume. The new wells would also pump at a lower rate than those closer to the plume, Palmer said.

She said that the fears of spreading the plume were “a little disingenuous in terms of not paying attention to the qualifications of the folks who have been doing this study and what’s going on in terms of the amount of water that would be pulled through the new Pleasanton wells.”

Palmer looks forward to both the Sites Reservoir and Delta Conveyance projects.

### Heidi Turner-Zika

Candidate Heidi Turner-Zika did not return requests for an interview from The Independent. She works as an information security officer, according to Alameda County ballot information.



Sarah Palmer



Seema Badar



Patricia Muga

would add some 36,000 acre-feet of local water storage, enough to supply the Tri-Valley for about a year.

“For a region that’s growing the way the Tri-Valley has, that kind of infrastructure is not optional,” Badar said. “It’s how we make sure there is reliable water for the next generation of residents, even in dry years.”

Praising Zone 7’s past response to the area’s PFAS contamination, safety remains top of mind for Badar, with chromium-6, another carcinogenic contaminant, high on her watchlist.

Regarding flood protection, she would like to see the water agency’s flood management plan, currently under development, to “translate from a document into real infrastructure that keeps Tri-Valley homes and businesses safe.”

Badar would also like to strengthen Zone 7’s trust and transparency when it comes to financial stewardship, arguing that any rate increases should come with plain-language explanations of the board’s thinking.

She summarized her campaign on her website: “I feel that my strong leadership skills, prior board experience, knowledge of water policies, and being a community advocate would make me an asset to the Zone 7 Board. I have a deep concern for pro-

for drought water-supply reliability.”

### Patricia Muga

Candidate Patricia Muga did not return requests for an interview from The Independent.

According to her website, Muga supports more water storage statewide, especially in the northern and central regions, and has suggested that partnerships with the federal government could help modernize the state’s water infrastructure.

In addition to Zone 7, Muga, a Dublin real-estate appraiser, is also running for state Assembly District 20, which includes parts of the Tri-Valley. She has worked as an election worker for Alameda and Contra Costa counties for the past 12 years, and she has also lobbied at the county and state level.

### Sarah Palmer

Zone 7 Director Sarah Palmer has served continuously on the agency’s board since 2006, promoting resident education and resilient Tri-Valley water.

“I think it’s so important to make it clear, or at least make it clearer, for people who are wrestling with these ideas: where does my water come from, why are we concerned with PFAS, why are we worried about drought, and what’s our groundwater?” Palmer said. “If I can help make this clearer to people, then

Monitoring and Assessment Committee, and she then stayed for the policies and politics of water that came with the role.

“It was fascinating to me,” Palmer said. “I loved the community issues, and the environmental issues and the scientific issues. Geology has always been a passion of mine, too. I was really drawn to the issues of water.”

Her priorities focus on water sustainability and reliability in the Tri-Valley.

In October 2022, she voted to approve a \$16 million PFAS treatment facility at Zone 7’s Stoneridge Well in Pleasanton, which came online less than a year later to restore clean drinking water at one of the agency’s most productive groundwater sources, even as other water agencies across the state struggled to follow the changing PFAS regulations.

Palmer also highlighted Zone 7’s role as the groundwater sustainability agency for the Livermore Valley Groundwater Basin, a designation granted in 2014 that placed groundwater-management responsibility upon Zone 7.

She has advocated for a varied portfolio of water sources. She supports Zone 7’s current plans to partner with the City of Pleasanton in drilling new wells in Hansen and Tennis parks, reiterating the conclusion of Zone 7 staff that the wells will not draw the

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## PLEASE HELP BRING MIGUEL HOME



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

Livermore 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>



From left, Shifa Anif, Yasmeen Faquiran, Abigail Bvandel, Wakana Ohkawa, Azaan Asad, Jacob Reyes, Arjan Maan, Tiffany Huang, George Rizkalla and Mokshith Mullangi gather at Las Positas College for a panel on vaccine education. The event, hosted by the Society of Aspiring Medical Professionals (SAMP) and the Biology and Nursing Integrated Club (BioNIC), aimed to address student questions and counter misinformation regarding vaccine safety. (Photo — Kathryn Stroud)

## Las Positas College Students Host Expert Panel to Tackle Vaccine Hesitancy Issues

By Kathryn Stroud

LIVERMORE — Students and community members packed a lecture hall at Las Positas College last week to hear from experts on vaccines. The session covered vaccine basics: what vaccines are, how they move from theory to clinical use and how to counter misinformation.

“Vaccines protect us in three ways,” explained panelist Dr. Shelley Facente, an adjunct assistant professor at UC Berkeley. She used an illustration comparing vaccines to security features around a building. The security guards, or T cells, are patrolling for threats, and the repair crew is fixing a broken fence, representing B cells and the antibodies they produce.

The event was organized by two Las Positas student clubs: the Biology and Nursing Integrated Club (BioNIC) and the Society of Aspiring Medical Professionals (SAMP).

SAMP President Jacob Reyes said they had the idea for a presentation on vaccines for a while but weren’t sure if there would be any interest from the student body.

That uncertainty changed when the two groups launched a campus-wide survey in fall 2025 to assess the student body’s baseline knowledge, attitudes and

information-seeking behaviors around vaccines.

“The survey showed us that, while students are generally supportive, they still have questions. So we wanted to bring in experts to answer those questions,” Reyes said.

More than 500 students completed the survey. Nearly 90% of respondents said they were at least somewhat familiar with vaccines and how they work, though about one in six submitted substantive follow-up questions. Two main themes that arose in those questions were around safety concerns, including short- and long-term effects, and misinformation.

One respondent wrote, “I have a concern with the number of individuals that doubt vaccines, considering them more harmful than good. This simply comes from misinformation and not understanding the core principles behind how vaccines operate.”

The misinformation theme resonated strongly with members of both BioNIC and SAMP, who described conversations with family and friends who frequently rely on anecdotal evidence.

“When talking to my family about vaccines, I often hear two completely different sides,” said BioNIC President Arjan Maan. “But I know both of these things can’t be true. A lot of what we hear can

sometimes be wrong.”

Dr. Dawnell Moody, Chief Medical Officer at Axis Community Health, said “vaccines are often a victim of their own successes.” She used the example of measles, which has made a reappearance in the United States despite being eliminated for years. “The further we get from those outbreaks, the less we remember. That’s why we should listen to our elders and hear the stories they had about measles.”

The session also covered the basics of vaccines: how vaccines work, how they are developed, and what evidence supports them.

While complications can occur from vaccination, Facente emphasized that risk is relative. She cited the example of young men, between the ages of 16 to 29, who had a higher incidence of myocarditis after taking the mRNA COVID-19 vaccine. Myocarditis is the inflammation of the heart muscle. However, the risk of getting myocarditis from COVID-19 is up to six times higher than the risk of get-

ting it from the vaccine.

“It’s hard when something is being injected into your arm,” Facente acknowledged, “but it’s helpful to remember that risk is never zero.”

Dr. Jessie Seiler, of the Center for Science in the Public Interest, offered practical guidance on navigating misinformation, from asking probing questions to considering whether a source has a financial stake in what they’re promoting.

“Often you’ve followed someone because you really liked their gym setup, and now they’re trying to sell you a supplement,” she said.

Seiler explained that supplement companies rely on influencers and customer reviews to make health claims they cannot legally make themselves.

While one presentation might not change everything, Maan, Reyes, and the students at BioNIC and SAMP are hopeful it will start a conversation and make people “a little more wary of the information we’re receiving.”

## ‘Art Made Easy’ Instructor Retires

PLEASANTON — After 35 years of city-sponsored “Art Made Easy” watercolor classes, Bay Area artist Charlotte Severin is retiring from teaching.

Works by students in Severin’s last watercolor class will be on display at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd., from Monday, May 11, through Friday, May 15.

“I have been teaching this class for the past 35 years and will miss this very important part of my life,” Severin said. “I have students who have been taking lessons from me for many years.”

Among those whose

work will be on display are Cynthia Altman, Claudia Curran, Henry Murakami, Gerri Vegas, Ava Chinn, Judy Lundquist, Sue Inouye, Beth Green, Akila Venkat, Arlie Alford and Trish Adams. The exhibit will also include paintings by Severin.

“Painting is a celebration of life for me,” Severin said. “I love bringing joy to other people through my paintings.”

Severin, an award-winning plein air artist, began teaching classes at the senior center. The popular classes were later moved to the Fire House Arts Center.

### WIRELESS

(Continued from front page)

number of carriers having dropped slightly.

Vice Mayor Matt Gaidos called the holes in coverage a “flat out public safety issue when you cannot make a phone call in certain parts of town in today’s age.”

Two residents spoke during public comment in support of the new policies.

“The current cellphone coverage in Pleasanton is really unacceptable, particularly for a city size and location,” said resident Richard Bolf.

Resident Kevin Dugan said, “Overall, I think it’s not just a convenience issue. It starts to run into safety issues with not having the ability of teenagers, if they’re at home, to be able to call for services from the city if there’s an emergency, because they just don’t use landlines, and they’re not effective if the wi-fi is down.”

The new policies specify a ranking of preferred locations starting with industrial, commercial and office parcels before turning to other land-use types, such as agricultural, park and school parcels. They also discour-

age facilities within 500 feet of an existing tower, those that are visible from the freeways or a designated scenic corridor, within 200 feet of an historic resource or within the city’s Downtown Specific Plan Area. Exceptions exist for “stealth” facilities, where their design attempts to conceal them from view.

“I think this strikes the right balance protecting neighborhoods from not being overrun with cell towers and facilities, but on the other hand, providing the type of coverage that is really necessary for the city,” Councilmember Jeff Nibert said.

In general, federal law prohibits cities from preventing telecommunications carriers from building facilities to meet their coverage needs.

The updated code also allows the city to pursue its Cellular Lease Revenue Program, identified as a city council priority last August. The program would potentially lease city-owned property to host wireless facilities and open a new revenue stream for the city.

## TRI-VALLEY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Thursdays, May 7-28**

### GRIEF SUPPORT WORKSHOP

The death of a loved one is unlike any other loss. Although there is no right or wrong path, there are stepping stones that are part of each grief journey; they will be explored in this 8-week workshop. Held at St. Elizabeth Seton Church, 4001 Stoneridge Drive, Pleasanton. Meetings will begin at 7 p.m. on Thursday evenings; May 7, 14, 21 and 28. These meetings are open to all, regardless of religious affiliation. For more information, please call Barbara at 925-846-3904.

**Thursday, May 7**

### ALAMEDA COUNTY NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

Join Alameda County Supervisors and other elected officials, District 1’s Interfaith Advisory Council, and twelve participating faith leaders at this 7th annual gathering to pray for our country. This year we will also be celebrating America’s 250th birthday! 5 p.m. reception & dinner. 6 p.m. program begins. No charge. At the Alameda County Fairgrounds Amphitheater, 4501 Pleasanton Ave., Pleasanton. Free parking across from the gate on Pleasanton Ave. RSVP at [tinyurl.com/natdayofprayer2026](http://tinyurl.com/natdayofprayer2026). Contact Gloria Gregory at [gloria.gregory@acgov.org](mailto:gloria.gregory@acgov.org) or (925) 998-3785 with questions.

**Saturday, May 9**

### DRESS A GIRL AROUND THE WORLD

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

**Monday, May 11**

### LIVERMORE-AMADOR GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY MEETING

Sara Cochran will present “Missing: Reward! Locating Widows, Spinsters, and Bachelors.” She will present techniques to find ancestors who have limited public records using three case study examples. On May 11 at 7:00 p.m. No charge, non-members are welcome. Join via Zoom (register at [www.l-ags.org](http://www.l-ags.org), click on Speakers & Topics on upper left).

**Wednesday, May 13**

### INTERFAITH INTERCONNECT RELIGION CHAT

All are welcome to attend Interfaith Interconnect’s Religion Chat, on May 13, 7-8 p.m., at Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 950 Mocho St., Livermore. Gina Badura, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and Ustadh Feraidoun Mojadedi, Muslim Community Center, will speak on the topic: “What does your religion teach about the presence of evil in the world?” More information at [interfaith.interconnect@gmail.com](mailto:interfaith.interconnect@gmail.com) or [www.facebook.com/InterfaithInterconnect](http://www.facebook.com/InterfaithInterconnect).

**Thursday, May 14**

### LIVERMORE AMADOR VALLEY GARDEN CLUB MEETING

The May meeting will be on “Bringing Nature Home”, with Kathy Kramer, of the California natives garden tours, who will talk about how to create a beautiful garden that saves water, money, time and the planet! On May 14 from 6 to 8 p.m. at Crosswinds Church, 1660 Freisman Rd., Livermore, at the red Farm Theater Building.

**Friday/Sunday, May 15 and 17**

### JOHN RUTTER’S REQUIEM

The Valley Concert Chorale (VCC) is proud to announce a collaborative concert series featuring John Rutter’s Requiem, in a preview for the Chorale’s upcoming performance at Carnegie Hall this June. Joining the Chorale are the Las Positas College Chamber Choir, Tracy’s West High School Choral Leadership Academy, and Livermore’s First Presbyterian Church Choir. On May 15 at 7:30 p.m. and May 17 at 4:00 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church, 2020 Fifth St., Livermore. \$30 general admission; \$10 for college students (with ID); free for children K-12. Visit [www.valleyconcertchorale.org](http://www.valleyconcertchorale.org) or call (925) 866-4003 for tickets. A reception will immediately follow each performance.

**Saturday, May 16**

### RICK ESTRIN & THE NIGHTCATS LIVE IN LIVERMORE

Award-winning, modern blues legends, Rick Estrin & The Nightcats — three-time winners of the prestigious Blues Music Award for Band of the Year — will perform live the Almost Famous Wine Company at 2271 S. Vasco Rd. in Livermore on May 16 at 7:30 p.m. Ticket price: \$23.18-\$39.19. See [www.almostfamous.wine](http://www.almostfamous.wine) or call 925-344-5870 for more information.

**Thursday, May 28**

### BROADWAY CHORUS CONCERT

EBMS Broadway Chorus presents their Spring 2026 concert “Let’s Groove Tonight” featuring songs from the ‘60s. The concert will be held on Thursday, May 28 at 7:30 p.m. The location is the Firehouse Arts Center on 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. “Come groove with us!” Tickets available at [firehouse.vbotickets.com/events](http://firehouse.vbotickets.com/events).

### ONGOING OPPORTUNITIES

#### FOOD RELIEF SERVICES

Local residents can access vital food-assistance services to help meet basic needs. Food relief services can be found at: Children’s Emergency Food Bank; 7421 Amarillo Rd., Dublin; appointments M-F, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; 925-828-5363; St. Raymond Catholic Church, 11555 Shannon Ave., Dublin; third Sat. of the month, 8 to 11 a.m.; Open Heart Kitchen; M-F, 1 to 5 p.m.; 450 N. Livermore Ave., Livermore; Tri-Valley Haven Food Pantry, 150 N. “L” Street, Livermore; 925-449-1664 — M-Th, 1 to 5 p.m.; Fri/Sat 12 to 4 p.m.; Alameda County Community Food Bank; 510-635-3663; M-F, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

### ONGOING EVENTS

#### ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

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

#### SATURDAY PLEASANTON FARMERS MARKET

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

#### SUNDAY LIVERMORE DOWNTOWN FARMERS MARKET

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

Email non-profit events to [calendar@independentnews.com](mailto:calendar@independentnews.com) for newspaper calendar and visit our website [www.independentnews.com](http://www.independentnews.com) to promote all events online.



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# Pleasanton Museum Announces Its Summer Programs

PLEASANTON — As part of its free summer programming, the Museum on Main will offer monthly Family Day activities and walking tours from June through September.

Family Days, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., will include hands-on demonstrations, crafts and activities that relate to each

month's theme, including "Rollin' Through the Years," a look back at 1950s Main Street on Saturday, June 6, "Horsing Around Pleasanton," with "horse races" on the lawn and Gus, the former mascot at Christesen's Western Wear, on Saturday, July 25, and "It's Fall Coming Back," all about Pleasanton's

agricultural history, on Saturday, Sept. 12.

"Family Days are our favorite way to teach about Pleasanton's history while providing fun for the whole community," said Education Director Elizabeth Parker.

The annual Charles Huff Free Walking Tour Series will get underway at 9 a.m.

on Tuesday, June 16, with "A Storied Past: Exploring the Buildings in Downtown Pleasanton." The two-hour walking tour will be repeated at 9 a.m. on Saturday, June 20.

Other tours include "If These Walls Could Talk: Exploring Downtown's Historic St. Mary Neighborhood" at 9 a.m. on Thursday, July 9,

and Saturday, July 11, and "If These Walls Could Talk: Exploring Downtown's Historic Second Street Neighborhood" at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 11, and Saturday, Aug. 29.

The museum will also offer "Exploring the Buildings in Downtown Pleasanton" at 9 a.m. on Friday, Sept. 18, and

Saturday, Sept. 26.

The Charles Huff Walking Tours are named for the late Pleasanton architect, historian and community leader who helped preserve the city's historic buildings.

To sign up for a walking tour, go to [museumonmain.org](http://museumonmain.org) and click on Education/Programs.

## Registration Opens for Library's Summer Learning Sessions

LIVERMORE — Livermore Public Library's annual Summer Learning Program will run from Tuesday, May 26, through Tuesday, Aug. 4, with opportunities for readers of all ages to win prizes while keeping their minds active.

The Civic Center Library, 1188 S. Livermore Ave., will also host a Summer Learning Festival from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, May 30, with activities for the whole family.

The Summer Learning Program is open to children

and adults.

Children who register for the program will receive a free book; adults will receive a book-themed enamel pin.

The library said prizes would be tailored to each age group.

Throughout the summer, participants can also earn raffle tickets for a chance to win several grand prizes, including a Nintendo Switch 2, gift cards to Great Wolf Lodge and Alden Lane Nursery, and a SpongeBob claw machine.

Participants can register beginning Friday, May 1, either through the Beanstack app or by picking up a paper gameboard at any Livermore Library location.

The library emphasizes that reading over the summer can play an important role in helping children maintain and build their literacy skills, supporting continued academic success when school resumes.

For more information, go to [library.livermoreca.gov](http://library.livermoreca.gov) or call 925-373-5500.

## Wheels 10R Service Adjusted

PLEASANTON — The Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority (LAVTA) adjusted Wheels bus route 10R in downtown Pleasanton last week to alleviate congestion concerns on Neal Street and provide added service to key destinations, including the Civic Center, library and Alameda County Fairgrounds.

LAVTA said Route 10R buses will continue south to Bernal Avenue on both First Street and Pleasanton Avenue, before connecting northbound with established service.

Bus stops will be available at First Street and Neal Street.

Additional service was also added to Route 10R on Sundays.

The changes took effect on Friday, May 1.

## Stoneridge Creek Is Nationally Recognized for Top-Quality Care

PLEASANTON — Stoneridge Creek has been named one of America's best continuing care retirement communities (CCRC) for 2026 by Newsweek magazine.

"This recognition speaks to the genuine sense of belonging our residents create every day at Stoneridge

Creek," said Executive Director Ezekiel Griffin. "Our community isn't just a place to live. It's a place where people form meaningful connections and friendships, stay engaged and support each other."

Stoneridge Creek, which opened in 2013, was ranked 16th in the state and 162nd

nationally out of 330 CCRC to make the Newsweek list this year.

Newsweek said the rankings were based on reputation, visitor satisfaction, accreditation and online reviews, with feedback solicited from residents, families and industry professionals.

## Livermore Library Offers a Tour of City's Wastewater Treatment Plant

LIVERMORE — For Public Works Appreciation Week this year, the Livermore Public Library will offer a tour of the city's Water Reclamation Plant at 10 a.m. on Saturday, May 23.

The facility at 101 W. Jack London Blvd. treats about 2.3 billion gallons of wastewater a year, according to the city. Most of the treated wastewater is discharged into San Fran-

cisco Bay, but about 800,000 gallons annually receives additional treatment and is used locally for irrigation and fire protection.

The plant includes primary, secondary and tertiary treatment capabilities, along with ultraviolet disinfection, with solids undergoing thickening, stabilization and dewatering before being transported off-site to use as landfill cover.

The tour is open to anyone 12 and older, and all participants will be required to sign a waiver before the tour begins.

Most of the tour will be outdoors, including stairs and gravel walkways, and the library recommends wearing comfortable, close-toed shoes.

The register for the tour, call 925-373-5505 or email [lib@livermoreca.gov](mailto:lib@livermoreca.gov).

## Wheels Transit Service to Add a Photo Contest to 40th Anniversary Festivities

LIVERMORE — The Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority (LAVTA) has expanded its 40th anniversary Wheels celebration to include a Spot the Bus photo contest.

Residents can post pictures

of the 40th anniversary bus to win gift cards and Wheels gear.

LAVTA said winners would be drawn monthly from all eligible entries.

LAVTA launched its

Wheels 40th anniversary celebration earlier this year by offering free rides on its commemorative bus, which rolls out on a new route each week.

For entry rules and instructions, go to [wheelsbus.com](http://wheelsbus.com).

## VINEYARD

(Continued from front page)

Dino will join Concannon's award-winning winemaker Brett Fikse, forming a collaborative winemaking team across both Cuda Ridge and Concannon.

The Lemmons family noted that it would continue working with the growers and vineyards that define Cuda Ridge today, while also exploring how estate fruit may complement the portfolio over time. "Larry is especially looking forward to sourcing from the Concannon Estate Vineyards, because we have more control over the

fruit quality; and using the state-of-the-art winemaking equipment to continue to raise the bar on quality," the family told The Independent.

Could a collaborative winemaking team mean crossover wines or experimental labels?

"Larry Dino and Brett Fikse will collaborate where it makes sense, such as sharing ideas, blending together, and pushing each other creatively. You may see some special projects, but both brands will stay true to their style," LFV said.

When Cuda Ridge relocates, Lemmon Family Vineyards aims to ensure the boutique, intimate feel of the brand does not become lost within the expansive historic property. "Even within a larger estate, Cuda Ridge will have its own dedicated space and feel. The goal is to keep that intimate, personal experience people know and love," the Lemmons family said.

In the meantime, a temporary tasting room will open on-site while plans progress for a larger, redesigned Cuda Ridge tasting room. There will

be no disruption to current wine club memberships.

While the announcement confirms the relocation of business operations to the Concannon estate, it remains unclear whether the Lemmons family has also purchased the physical property at 2400 Arroyo Road or if that land will be sold or leased to a new party following the transition.

"Down the line, we see opportunities for added value, things like shared experiences or perks," the Lemmons family confirmed.

Cuda Ridge customers

will also have opportunities to explore Concannon wines and enjoy experiences across the estate.

News of the acquisition followed closely on the heels of the Lemmons Family Vineyards announcements of investments in significant enhancements to the historic property, including newly renovated event spaces such as the Vineyard Ballroom, Bubbles Lounge, and Barrel Room, with a new Olive Grove gathering space currently in development.

As for what that means to

the future of the Livermore Valley Wine Community, the Lemmons family remarked, "The new spaces are part of a bigger vision to make Livermore a true destination. It's about creating more ways for people to connect with wine, history, and each other in a setting that feels elevated, but still easygoing."

"Looking ahead, we're also exploring a Wine Country Visitor Center, something similar in spirit to the Ferry Building, that brings together local wineries, food, and community in one place."

## CLEAN

(Continued from front page)

more completed all 15 criteria, including expanding public education and youth outreach programs that reached thousands of students, according to Sonia Lee, communications analyst at the City of Livermore.

The city also strengthened enforcement efforts through local ordinances and code compliance programs. Some of these include the single-use bag ordinance (2026), which prohibits retailers from providing or selling plastic film bags at checkout, and the Organics Reduction and Recycling Ordinance (2022), which requires compostable materials be kept out of landfills.

Additionally, the city has expanded its sustainability initiatives by investing in wind and solar power, installing more electric vehicle charging stations and developing new programs to reduce organic waste through its environmental services. Programs include free compost hubs, reusable foodware grants through Stop-Waste, and community events such as compost giveaways, shredding events and reuse workshops.

Livermore's 2022 Climate Action Plan (CAP) outlines specific steps the city plans to take to prepare for climate impacts and achieve carbon neutrality by 2045. Efforts focus on reducing greenhouse gas emissions from transportation and buildings by adopting green construction standards such as the incorporation of sustainable materials, on-site

renewables like solar panels and upgrading to LED lighting.

"Livermore will leverage the community's greatest strengths, including cutting-edge research facilities, technical and agricultural expertise, and an engaged network of residents, businesses, and institutions, to establish itself as a climate leader and implement the actions outlined in the plan," the plan states. These efforts include promoting the electrification of existing buildings, reducing reliance on natural gas by promoting energy efficiency, expanding EV infrastructure and enhancing buildings to handle extreme heat.

Since creating its climate plan, the city has adopted additional initiatives, including an Active Transportation Plan, which provides a comprehensive set of policies, data, and programs to improve walking, biking and trails in Livermore. The Green Infrastructure Plan is aimed at guiding the development and tracking of green infrastructure projects in Livermore. It maps out and prioritizes both planned and potential green infrastructure projects, and ways to integrate green infrastructure elements into capital projects. The Tri-Valley Local Hazard Mitigation Plan is a collaborative effort between Livermore, Dublin, Pleasanton, and the Dublin San Ramon Services District to identify natural hazards such as earthquakes, floods, and wildfires and establish policies to reduce risks.

Approved by FEMA, this plan boosts regional eligibility for federal disaster grants and informs development to increase community resilience.

The city's Sustainability Program, housed within the City Manager's Office, is crucial in fostering an environmentally responsible community. By collaborating with residents, businesses and regional partners, it works to develop policies, projects and educational campaigns geared toward reducing greenhouse gas emissions, enhancing energy efficiency and supporting waste reduction.

The program also serves as a central hub for ensuring alignment with local, state, and federal environmental standards and monitoring progress of Livermore's sustainability goals — achieving carbon neutrality by 2045, with an interim target of reducing greenhouse gas emissions 68% below 1990 levels by 2030.

Livermore's 2025-2026 annual budget report shows that roughly \$36.4 million went toward water and wastewater treatment projects, and \$7 million to transportation projects. Over the next 10 years, the city is set to receive approximately \$24 million in Senate Bill 1 funds for road repair and environmental sustainability improvements.

While some sustainability priorities are already budgeted, other actions will require additional funding, according to the plan.

For example, infrastructure projects like microgrids and bike lanes can require significant upfront funding. However, many tools exist for cities to cover upfront costs, including federal and state grants, low-interest financing, bonds and public-private partnerships.

Another priority has been engagement with youth.

The Livermore Resilient

Hub helps identify everyday actions residents can take and provides access to free tips and resources to reduce energy and waste. A special feature includes the option to create a household profile where residents can check on their progress. To learn more visit <https://livermoreresilienthub.com/>.

With all the resources available to Livermore residents, there are countless

ways of getting involved and finding a cause that speaks directly to one's interests. Whether it be volunteering at the local food bank, participating in composting classes, or signing up for emergency preparedness classes through the Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department's Community Emergency Response Team program, there is sure to be something for everyone.

## OBITUARIES

### CELEBRATION OF LIFE

#### Cherie Jo Patenaude (Coombes)

July 11, 1940 — March 31, 2026

Cherie Jo Patenaude (née Coombes) passed away on March 31, 2026, of complications of COPD. She was born on July 11, 1940, to RW and Frances Coombes in Ft. Worth, Texas. She showed an early aptitude for mathematics, and after attending Stephens College, went on to get a degree in math from the University of Texas at Austin in 1962. She was hired by the Control Data Corporation in California, an early pioneer in computing, and spent several years helping develop the CDC 6600 and 7600 computers. She continued to work in computers through the '70s, '80s and '90s at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory.

In 1963, her roommate introduced her to a coworker, Steve Patenaude, and they fell in love. She married him the following



year. They had 62 great years of marriage and raised a son. She was a devoted partner and mother and spent many hours volunteering in her son's school. She was active in local politics and the arts, including the local Shakespeare festival.

She enjoyed many hobbies, liked to crochet and knit, and was an avid reader of many

books, especially mysteries and comedies. She loved to travel, both in the family airplane, and after retirement with a senior tour group. She was also an adoring grandmother to her granddaughter, with whom she often made cookies.

She is survived by her husband Steve, son Mitch, daughter-in-law Melanie, granddaughter Mia, brother Bill, sister-in-law Judy, cousin Glenn McNew, and many nieces and nephews. She is preceded in death by her parents, her sister Carol Ann, and her brother-in-law Bob.

There will be a celebration of life at 5 p.m., Friday May 15, at the 3 Steves Winery at 5700 Greenville Rd. in Livermore. In lieu of flowers, her family asks that donations be made to the Alameda County Community Food Bank or the Tri-Valley Haven.

# Matadors Undeterred by Double Helping of De La Salle Defeat

By Mitch Stephens

LIVERMORE — It would have been easy to be discouraged. Exhausted. Demoralized.

But Corrigan Willis has been coaching Granada baseball for 18 seasons. Been around baseball about twice as long as that.

More importantly, he knows his team, his coaches. And Livermore kids.

“We’ll be all right,” said Willis following an emotionally charged 10-3 East Bay Athletic League home loss May 1 to arch-dreaded-rival De La Salle-Concord. “Losses like this just happen. This won’t dissuade this group. We’ve got a tough group.”

This loss was a gut punch for many reasons.

The young Matadors, who had to replace 18 graduated seniors from last season — 16 of whom are now playing at the next level — had lost two days previously to the same Spartans in Concord, 3-0.

On Friday, before an overflow crowd at Granada’s beautifully maintained ballpark, the Matadors fought back from a 2-0 deficit to tie it in the fourth on an RBI single from Luke Creeden

to score speedy Logan Simonetti, who had walked and stole second. A passed ball eventually scored Creeden.

And after De La Salle pushed a run across in the fifth, Granada tied it in the seventh 3-3 on three walks and a hit-by-pitch RBI from Justine Levine. With the bases jammed, Max Rocheleau’s long fly to center was tracked down to send the game to extra innings.

“We’re never gonna back down,” said senior third baseman and reliever Jack Badger, who pitched two innings of scoreless relief with six strikeouts. “We’re always going to keep battling.”

## GRITTY BALL

Willis battled the umpires in the top of the eighth when the inning was extended due to an inadvertent third-out call. The home-plate ump called the batter out on a third strike on a ball in the dirt. The batter correctly ran to first; catcher Creeden rolled the ball back to the mound after the out was called. The umpires conferred and ruled the De La Salle batter was not out but safe at first, extending the inning.

Willis argued vehemently and filed a protest even

before Granada got out of the inning unscathed. After the Mats went quietly in the bottom half, De La Salle exploded for seven runs on six hits and a pair of uncharacteristic Granada errors.

The young Matadors, who opened the season 3-4 and 5-5 before rattling off nine straight wins, dropped to 14-7 and 4-2 in EBAL play.

(May 6) and will host the Wolves Friday (May 8), before finishing the EBAL season next Wednesday (May 13) at California-San Ramon.

“I have confidence in the character and grit with this group that they will come back for sure,” Willis said. “I have no doubt.”

With such a young, inex-

perienced group, he might

have had some doubts early in the season. But during the win streak, the Mats allowed just eight runs in nine games, buoyed by the pitching of Braden Makley (6-2, 1.17 ERA), Eli Radack (3-1, 1.48), Brandon Hahn (2-1, 0.51), Joseph Holt (2-0, 0.72) and Mac Churby (1-1, 2.10). Badger (.314, 16 hits), Tyler Palma (.298, 481 on-base percentage, 14 runs) and Creeden (five doubles, 14 hits) helped lead the offense.

And now they just have to figure out how to rebound. “It was kind of a down week for us obviously,” Badger said. “We didn’t play at our full potential. But we were still out here competing. We’re not giving up by a long shot. We’re going to keep going and make this a season worth remembering.”

Each senior has a life-size poster hanging on a fence directly behind home plate in the stands. There’s a plaque on a wall entering the facility with EBAL championships from 1978, 1992, 2013, 2024 and 2025, with the names of players who reached the



Granada High School ace pitcher Braden Makley delivers a pitch during the Matadors’ 10-3 home loss to rival De La Salle on Friday, May 1. (Photo by Krista Lund/Livermore-Granada Boosters)

They hosted San Ramon Valley-Danville Wednesday

performed group, he might have had some doubts early in the season. But during the win streak, the Mats allowed just eight runs in nine games, buoyed by the pitching of Braden Makley (6-2, 1.17 ERA), Eli Radack (3-1, 1.48), Brandon Hahn (2-1, 0.51), Joseph Holt (2-0, 0.72) and Mac Churby (1-1, 2.10). Badger (.314, 16 hits), Tyler Palma (.298, 481 on-base percentage, 14 runs) and Creeden (five doubles, 14 hits) helped lead the offense.

## PRETTY BALL

“We’ve improved a ton and it’s been fun to see,” Willis said. “They’ve gained a lot of confidence. After we got some games under our belts, it was like ‘OK, we’re going to be pretty good.’”

Badger, also an all-league football player, said the Matadors never lost confidence, even though they lost so much talent from last season.

That was based not only on Willis’ and the coaching staff’s experience and knowledge, but also because of the faith the players have in one another.

“We’re always going to have each other’s back,” Badger said. “We don’t just want it for ourselves, but we want to see others succeed and that’s why we push each other every day. Most of us have been playing together our whole lives. That’s always going to help us in

minor leagues: Jim “Jumbo” Alviso, Kevin Trudeau, Shorty Farfan, Jerome Alviso, Carlos Arellano, Jason Sekany, Paul Keck, Marcus Mastrobuoni, Richie McWilliams, Vince Fernandez, Ryan Kirby and Casey Soltis.

There’s a list of former Mats who made it to independent professional baseball: Justin Trejo, Kyle Holmstrom, John Sa, Ino Patron and Matt Richards.

Finally, there’s a list of three names who made it all the way to the big leagues: Mark Davis (Class of 1978), Erick Threats (1999) and Miles Mastrobuoni (2013), the latter is currently a utility man for the Seattle Mariners.

“All that stuff matters,” Badger said. “Our history. The players before us. The players now and in the future.”

Of all the banners, the 2024 banner is the only one with a North Coast Section and NorCal champs sign. That team went 32-1 and finished No. 5 in the country according to MaxPreps.

Even though it was just two seasons ago, nobody from that team is on this one. But Badger knows those Matadors helped put Granada on the map, as one of the best programs in Northern California, if not the state.

Certainly, one of the best public-school programs.

“A lot of us were sophomores when they accomplished so much and of course we looked up to them,” Badger said. “It kind of sucked because we played at the same time as them on the JV team, so we didn’t get to see them play a bunch. But it was fun watching them in the playoffs.”

“We all watched how they prepared themselves. How they practiced. How they carried themselves. We’re definitely trying to take after that. We’re trying to keep what they did going this season.”

## HISTORY LESSONS

There are plenty of reminders all over the facility, artifacts and photos and pennants of past successes.

Each senior has a life-size poster hanging on a fence directly behind home plate in the stands. There’s a plaque on a wall entering the facility with EBAL championships from 1978, 1992, 2013, 2024 and 2025, with the names of players who reached the



More than just a game—the baseball shrine at Granada High School serves as a reminder of the Matadors’ enduring legacy. (Photo — Mitch Stephens)



## Playoff Fever Hits Tri-Valley

By Mitch Stephens

### Boys Volleyball

There’s a case to be made that the most competitive boys sport in the Tri-Valley is boys volleyball. That’s a mouthful.

Four of the five schools landed in the Division I playoffs, which opened earlier this week, including No. 2 and 3 seeds, Livermore (32-4) and Dublin (23-5), respectively.

Fifteenth-seed Foothill (15-15) opened play Tuesday at Livermore — a team it lost 3-1 twice this season — and No. 13 Granada (16-11) played at fourth-seed Las Lomas-Walnut Creek (24-7) in first-round play.

Dublin hosted Washington-Fremont in other first-round play.

Second-round play was scheduled for Wednesday with semifinal action scheduled for Monday, May 11.

The fifth and final Tri-Valley squad Amador Valley (16-15) was moved to Division 2 but earned the second seed and traveled to No. 15 Redwood-Larkspur (18-8) for a first-round match on Tuesday, May 5.

Among the top players for the local squads are

\* Livermore’s Matthew Calaway (337 digs), a libero; setter Carter Macintosh (868 assists); and outside hitters Jacob Smithson (291 kills), Nicholas Manrique (191 kills) and Evan Amos (176 kills).

\* Dublin’s outside hitter David Dinh, middle hitter Rishab Gune, libero Brody Daquisto and setter Aaryan Boreddy.

### Softball Central

Livermore (21-1), ranked the No. 1 team in the NCS, has won 18 straight games. The Cowboys host Granada on Thursday (May 7) to close the EBAL season. Since winning its own Livermore Stampede tournament on April 11, the Cowboys have outscored opponents 39-15 en route to six straight EBAL wins. That included a 9-2 win over Monte Vista last week as Gianna Willes drilled a home run and Eliza Gerochi added three of her team’s 13 hits.

### Among other Highlights

\* Granada (12-10, 8-3 EBAL) is led by top hitters Aubrey Ingram (.429 average), Madeline Bittman (.397, 25 hits) and freshman Leah Ueelse (.392 average, two home runs, 15 runs, .667 slugging percentage).

\* Dublin (8-14, 4-7) had an excellent last week with wins over Granada (5-3)

and Amador Valley (16-6). Against Amador Valley, junior Sydney Salazar had three hits and four RBIs, while freshman Gabrielle Cooper added three hits and three RBIs.

\* Foothill (10-10, 4-7) has been led all season at the plate by .400 hitters Alexa Sponsel (.435) and Naima Braham (.418). Braham leads the team in runs (19), hits (30), RBIs (28), doubles (seven), triples (five) and home runs (seven).

\* It hasn’t been the best season for Amador Valley (7-10-1), but it was throwback day on April 23 in a 16-0 win over Dougherty Valley as Sarah Candland and Cori Schreiber each drove in four runs with four combined hits, including two doubles by Schreiber.

### Track and Field

**Top Tri-Valley marks (all conditions) in each boys event (courtesy athletic.net) 100** — LJ Waiters (Dublin) 10.68; **200** — Waiters (Dublin) 21.55; **400** — Waiters (Dublin) 48.97; **800** — Nicolai Barron (Granada) 1:53.11 (section leader); **1,600** — Alex van Veen (Granada) 4:14.62; **3,200** — Gavin Shimojima (Amador Valley) 9:16.81; **110 hurdles** — Dasanni Goodspeed (Dublin) 14.72; **300 hurdles** — Cayden Bennett (Dublin) 40.50; **4x100 relay** — Dublin 42.03; **4x400 relay** — Dublin 3:24.04; **4x800 relay** — Granada 7:55.87; **High jump** — Giovanni Tincolo (Livermore) 6-2; **Max Shuga** (Foothill) 6-2; **Pole vault** — Leo Chang (Dublin) 13-8; **Long jump** — Tyson Headley (Livermore) 21-5; **Triple jump** — Garrett Brown (Amador Valley) 41-3½; **Shot put** — Emmanuel Armas (Dublin) 47-4½; **Discus** — Tyler Gray) 158-4.

**Top Tri-Valley marks (all conditions) in each girls event: 100** — Kayci Phillips (Dublin) 12.34; **200** — Josephine Bayer (Dublin) 24.99; **400** — Bayer (Dublin) 57.44; **800** — Lanie Hempel (Livermore) 2:11.83; **1,600** — Sade Bumpus (Granada) 4:56.62; **3,200** — Macy Mullins (Foothill) 10:47.52; **100 hurdles** — Nia Chadiha (Dublin) 15.27; **300 hurdles** — Naemah Grant-Gurganious (Dublin) 44.45; **4x100 relay** — Dublin 47.99; **4x400 relay** — Dublin 3:57.58; **4x800 relay** — Foothill 9:42.64; **High jump** — Peighton Hanson (Livermore) 5-0; **Pole vault** — Miranda Howeth (Dublin) 11-0; **Long jump** — Mira Diwan (Foothill) 17-8½; **Triple jump** — Laasya Vermula (Amador Valley) 34-3; **Shot put** — Sophie De Frenchi (Granada) 34-6; **Discus** — Charlie Hertz (Granada) 103-4.

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### LEGAL NOTICES

#### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 622149

The following person(s) doing business as: RNS Plumbing & Backflow, LLC, 2150 Portola DR, 261D, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): RNS Plumbing & Backflow, LLC, 2150 Portola

DR, 261D, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Ryan Branco, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 6, 2026. Expires April 5, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6803. Published April 16, 23, 30, May

7, 2026.

#### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 622132

The following person(s) doing business as: Bombay Indian Pizza, 1524 N Vasco RD, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Powerstar LLC, 1524 N Vasco RD, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by

a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 4/2/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Bhaskar Maddi, Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 3, 2026. Expires April 2, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6804. Published April 16, 23, 30, May 7, 2026.

#### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 622167

The following person(s) doing business as: Willow Tree Genealogy, 328 Michell CT, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Jennifer Herman, 328 Michell CT, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the

fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Jennifer Herman, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 6, 2026. Expires April 5, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6805. Published April 16, 23, 30, May 7, 2026.

#### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 622207

The following person(s) doing business as: Bubbies Child Care, 653 Buckeye DR, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Nurturing Early Start & Teaching Inc., 653 Buckeye DR, Livermore, CA 94551. 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/:

Maryann Aparicio, CFO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 7, 2026. Expires April 6, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6806. Published April 16, 23, 30, May 7, 2026.

#### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 621994

The following person(s) doing business as: Bradley Restorative

# LEGAL NOTICES/CLASSIFIEDS

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Message, 1987 Santa Rita Road, Suite G, Pleasanton, CA 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Jennifer Eileen Bradley Anthony LLC, 2108 N Street, Suite 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 N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Jennier Anthony, Principal. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 30, 2026. Expires March 29, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6807. Published April 16, 23, 30, May 7, 2026.

## FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 622062

The following person(s) doing business as: Beezness ZZZ, 5828 Iron Horse Pkwy, Dublin, CA 94568 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Chao Zhang, 4300 Black Ave, Unit 123, Pleasanton, CA 94566. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 02/04/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Chao Zhang, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 1, 2026. Expires March 31, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6808. Published April 16, 23, 30, May 7, 2026.

## FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 622275

The following person(s) doing business as: Proper Dental, 6698 Amador Plaza RD, STE A, Dublin, CA 94568 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Seok Woo DDS Inc., 6698 Amador Plaza RD, STE A, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Seok Woo, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 9, 2026. Expires April 8, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6809. Published April 16, 23, 30, May 7, 2026.

## FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 622237

The following person(s) doing business as: Redwood Canyon Golf Course, 17007 Redwood Road, Castro Valley, CA 94546 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Kemper Sports Management, LLC, 500 Skokie Blvd, Ste 444, Northbrook, IL 60062. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 1/1/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: James E. Lawler, CFO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 8, 2026. Expires April 7, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6810. Published April 23, 30, May 7, 14, 2026.

## FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 622139

The following person(s) doing business as: Clean Sciences, LLC an Astro Pak Company, 301 Whitney Place, Fremont, CA 94539 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Clean Sciences, LLC, 301 Whitney Place, Fremont, CA 94539. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 3/16/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Ken Carroll, Member, Manager. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 3, 2026. Expires April 2, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6811. Published April 23, 30, May 7, 14, 2026.

## FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 622362

The following person(s) doing business as: Al Alchemist Solutions, 1236 Sherman ST, APT 1, Alameda, CA 94501 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Yvon Chausseblanche, 1236 Sherman ST, APT 1, Alameda, CA 94501. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 4/13/26. Signature of Registrant/s/: Yvon Chausseblanche, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 13, 2026. Expires April 12, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6812. Published April 23, 30, May 7, 14, 2026.

## FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 621836

The following person(s) doing business as: Haircraft 11, 22151 Redwood RD, Castro Valley, CA 94546 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Christina Robles, 22151 Redwood RD, 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 8/1/2011. Signature of Registrant/s/: Christina Robles, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 25, 2026. Expires March 24, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6813. Published April 23, 30, May 7, 14, 2026.

## FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 622376

The following person(s) doing business as: ABC Consulting, 2425 Diablo Pl, Union City, CA 94587 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Ashley Peng, 2425 Diablo Pl, Union City, CA 94587. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 4/10/261. Signature of Registrant/s/: Ashley Peng, CEO, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 13, 2026. Expires April 12, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6814. Published April 23, 30, May 7, 14, 2026.

## FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 621480

The following person(s) doing business as: Kincova, 801 Tranquility Circle, Unit 10, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Centrixa Technology LLC, 30 Chimney Rock, 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 3/11/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Dick Arkan Ntia Jr., Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 12, 2026. Expires March 11, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6815. Published April 23, 30, May 7, 14, 2026.

## FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 622091

The following person(s) doing business as: My PACE Academy, 25679 Paul CT, Fairview, 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/: Frieda Alessi, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 2, 2026. Expires April 1, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6816. Published April 23, 30, May 7, 14, 2026.

## FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 621892

The following person(s) doing business as: National Broom Company of California Inc, DBA JLR Gear, 2 JLR Gear, 2434 Research DR, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): National Broom Company of California, Inc., 2434 Research DR, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 9/17/2010. Signature of Registrant/s/: David Rothman, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 26, 2026. Expires March 25, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6817. Published April 23, 30, May 7, 14, 2026.

## FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 622231

The following person(s) doing business as: JJ Coaching, 288 3rd ST, UNIT 514, Oakland, CA 94607 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Jinan Jubayil, 288 3rd St, UNIT 514, Oakland, CA 94607. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 4/6/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Jinan Jubayil, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 3, 2026. Expires April 6, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6818. Published April 23, 30, May 7, 14, 2026.

**ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME**  
Case No. 26CV183661  
**SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF ALAMEDA**  
**TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:**

### Petitioner:

Dylan Thomas Tait  
895 Camella DR.  
Livermore, CA 94550  
filed a petition with this court

for a decree changing names as follows:

**Present Names:**  
Dylan Thomas Tait

**Proposed Name:**  
Dylan Thomas Mole

### 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: 06/26/2026

Time: 9:00 AM

Dept: 514

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: 04/24/2026 /s/: A.

Michael Markman, Judge.

The Independent, Legal No. 6819. Published April 30, May 7, 14, 21, 2026

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The Independent, Legal No. 68

# Livermore High Junior Empowers Youth with Skincare Project

By Vivien Wenneker

LIVERMORE — For young girls growing up in the digital age, where social media is an integral part of daily life and determines the routines and trends they choose to follow, it can be difficult to know which information, especially surrounding beauty, is accurate.

Recognizing the weight of this issue, Siyona Chamkura, a junior at Livermore High School, addressed the problem through her Girl Scout Gold Award project: “Glow and Grow: Empowering Young Girls Through Skincare.”

According to Chamkura, after noticing how many preteen girls were already worrying about their skin’s appearance—a position she had once been in—and how most online skincare advice is geared toward adults or is unreliable, she realized there wasn’t a space that focuses on both education and self-confidence in a way that makes sense for younger girls.

“I felt like I was in the perfect age range to understand and talk about this issue in a relatable way,” Chamkura said. “I’ve seen how early exposure to online beauty standards can influence younger girls, and that’s what pushed me to create something that helps them navigate it more thoughtfully.”

“Glow and Grow” focuses on empowering girls ages 10 to 13 through interactive workshops on skincare, media literacy and self-confidence. It includes

educational resources, such as a guidebook and website with dermatologist-backed information aimed at helping young girls build healthy habits and positive self-image in the face of social media influence.

For the skincare portion of her workshops, Chamkura teaches the basics of

can engage, ask questions, and relate the content to their own experiences. They were also given the chance to participate in a DIY lip scrub activity at the end to show that they can have fun with skincare while still being safe.

Through her five free workshops hosted at Liver-

sponsored or misleading content?”

By comparing results, Chamkura saw improvement by the end of the workshops. Ninety-six percent of participants understood the importance of daily sunscreen, and about 90% reported increased confidence in identifying misleading or

during the project’s progression.

“Throughout this process, she showed confidence, connected naturally with students and stepped into a strong mentor role,” McCormick said. “Watching her lead impactful workshops has been a truly proud moment.”

Chamkura has been a Girl Scout for 10 years. The gold award is the final and most prestigious award in Girl Scouts, and is awarded to roughly 5% of eligible Girl Scouts.

According to Chamkura, it’s usually given to girls who take on a real issue in their community and create a project with lasting impact.

“With social media and beauty standards showing up earlier than ever, a lot of girls start feeling pressure before they really understand what they’re seeing,” Chamkura stated on the “Glow and Grow” website. “I wanted to create something that makes that space less confusing and a lot more positive. My goal is for Glow & Grow

to keep growing through workshops, partnerships, and resources so it can continue reaching more girls over time.”

For additional information on “Glow and Grow,” visit <https://glowandgrow-skincareedu.my.canva.site/>.



Livermore High student Siyona Chamkura (at head of table) discusses dermatologist-backed skincare habits with workshop participants. Her project, “Glow and Grow: Empowering Young Girls Through Skincare,” reached over 30 girls across the Tri-Valley, helping them distinguish between real advice and misleading online trends. (Photo courtesy of Siyona Chamkura)

building a simple routine and how to understand ingredients without overcomplicating things. In the media literacy section, she talks about how social media can distort reality through filters, editing, and trends, and how to think critically about what one sees online.

Additionally, the workshops are designed to be interactive, with discussions and activities instead of lectures, so the participants

more High, Chamkura was able to reach over 30 girls from across the Tri-Valley. She incorporated pre- and post-workshop surveys to measure how much participants learned.

The surveys included questions such as, “How well do you understand the importance of daily sunscreen?” and “How confident are you in telling the difference between real skincare advice and

sponsored skincare content.

“The workshops were incredibly impressive and clearly well thought-out,” said Carrie McCormick, a Livermore High business teacher who chaperoned the workshops. “You could tell a lot of care and planning went into making them meaningful and engaging.”

As Chamkura’s business teacher and business club advisor, McCormick has seen her growth as a leader

## COCKTAIL

(Continued from front page)

orchestra’s public concerts and in-school educational programs.

PCO’s programs intro-

Tavern in Pleasanton did his establishment proud in a TVCC first, taking home the grand prize of \$600

in applause.

Parra’s winning drink, Guavacito, was rooted in a happy accident. “I burnt the guava paste for a margarita, but I saw potential in it,” he laughed. “You’ll see a little black char in there, but I’m gonna double strain it.” Parra’s quirky brand of alchemy blended toasted marshmallow — “like if you went camping” he said — with guava shrub, pisco, hibiscus pulp, Chandon, chile and house-made chamoy.

There was also a small noshing area for patrons to graze between drinks.

“The restaurants went all out with delicious bites,” Kohl said.

“All told, we raised \$36,000 for our educational programs and concerts,” he said and added, “Thank you bartenders, restaurants, silent auction donors, sponsors, judges and volunteers. And most of all, I want to thank everyone who attended for your support of PCO.”

To further show his gratitude when Kohl saw the lines were still full he announced an extension of 15 minutes, and the crowd cheered.

“We are so excited to go for year four,” Kohl said of

his now signature annual event on the first Saturday in May.

To stay informed visit [TVC3.info](http://TVC3.info)



Nina Rose Pujols, bartender at Pivot Craft Kitchen & Sports Bar in Dublin, presents the “Fresita” cocktail during the third annual Tri-Valley Craft Cocktail Competition held at the Bankhead Plaza on May 2. Pujols took home third place and a \$200 prize for her “strawberry on strawberry” creation, which featured gin infused with rare strawberries from Japan’s Awayuki prefecture. The sold-out event raised \$36,000 to benefit the Pacific Chamber Orchestra’s youth music programs and public concerts. (Photo — Christina Cavallaro)

duce classical music to more than 4,000 Tri-Valley elementary school children each year and provide clinics for middle and high school music ensembles.

Hundreds of patrons buzzed around the Bankhead Plaza, each with their own mini shot glass, moving from one pop-up bar to the next while sampling the specially crafted cocktails. A panel of judges determined first-, second- and third-place prizes of \$600, \$400 and \$200, respectively, and a first- (\$200) and second-place award (\$100) for the best table decoration that reflected the theme of each establishment’s crafted cocktails.

Dublin was represented by Pivot Craft Kitchen & Sports Bar and its nuanced Fresita cocktail, described as “strawberry on strawberry” by bartender Nina Rose Pujols. Infusing gin with a rare variety of strawberry found only in the Awayuki prefecture of Japan earned her a third-place win and \$200.

Felix Parra of Market

and, 30 seconds later also the \$300 People’s Choice Award. The crowd erupted

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