



Two riders coordinate a seamless team roping run during the 108th annual Livermore Rodeo at the Robertson Park stadium on Sunday, June 14. The event brought fans of the "world's fastest rodeo" to the Tri-Valley this past weekend. (Photo — Jacob Clouser)

U.S. House, 14th Congressional District Special Primary Results

Unofficial Count as of 8:30 p.m. Tuesday

Vote-by-mail ballots must be postmarked by June 16, 2026, and received by county election offices no later than June 23, 2026, to be tallied. California counties must certify their local election results by July 16, 2026.

Results will be updated on The Independent's website: independentnews.com.

U.S. House of Representatives, 14th Congressional District (Special Primary)

- Alisha Cordes (D): 0.6%
- Melissa Hernandez (D): 16.8%
- Wendy Huang (R): 9.1%
- Dena Maldonado (R): 8.5%
- Sheriene Ridenour (D): 2.1%
- Rakhi Israni Singh (D): 13.3%
- Jot Thiara (D): 0.2%
- Aisha Wahab (D): 42.6%
- Tom Wong (R): 4.3%
- Jack Wu (R): 1.8%
- Victor Zevallos (NP): 0.7%

Editor's Note: This separate Special Primary Election was

conducted under the district's former boundaries (prior to the redistricting changes enacted by Proposition 50) to fill the immediate vacancy created by the resignation of Eric Swalwell for the remainder of the year. If no single candidate secured a majority (over 50%) of the vote on Tuesday night, the top two vote-getters will advance to a Special General Election scheduled for August 18, 2026.

Dublin City Council Weighs a Phased Hotel Tax Hike for the November Ballot

Could Generate \$7 Million for General Fund; Community Support Mixed

By Sanestina Hunter

DUBLIN — The Dublin City Council is weighing a proposal to increase the city's Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) on hotel stays from 8% to 12% over two years.

Under state law, any increase to the city's TOT must be approved by voters. If the City Council places the measure on the ballot, voters would decide whether to approve the proposed increase in the Nov. 3, 2026 election.

Some councilmembers and business representatives have raised concerns about the plan.

At its June 2 meeting, staff presented additional information on the proposed TOT increase, including outreach efforts, community survey results and hotel industry conditions.

Those efforts included meet-

ings with hotel management.

Felicia Escover, Dublin's economic development manager and interim public information officer, cited results from the city's 2025 Community Survey, which found that 52% of community survey respondents supported a potential TOT increase, 35% opposed it and 13% were undecided.

If approved, the TOT measure could generate about \$7 million in additional revenue over the next decade for the city's General Fund, according to city staff.

Using the Tri-Valley's average daily hotel room rate of approximately \$137 as of April 2026, visitors would pay about \$13.70 in TOT under the proposed 10% rate in the first year, compared with the current \$10.96, according to city staff.

"Hotels are facing unique chal-

lenges in the current market, and consumers are price-sensitive," Escover said.

"Many of the hotel managers are not thrilled about the increase, but they were not directly opposed," she added.

Data provided by the city shows Dublin currently has six hotels. Its 8% TOT rate has remained unchanged since 1984.

The following year, visitors would pay about \$16.44 in TOT per night under the proposed 12% rate.

Regionally, hotel tax rates across Alameda County average about 12%, with some cities charging as much as 14%.

Tri-Valley cities have taken varying approaches, with Livermore and Pleasanton currently maintaining TOT rates of 8%, while Pleasanton is considering an

(See TAX, page 8)

LLNL and UC Merced Forge New Strategic Research Partnership

Creates Linked Pathways for Students and Scientists

LIVERMORE — Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) and the University of California, Merced have signed a Strategic Partnership Agreement that is expected to expand opportunities for students, researchers and project scientists.

Under the agreement, LLNL and UC Merced will collaborate to advance scientific research, support national and energy security, strengthen California's innovation ecosystem and educate the next generation of scientists and engineers, according to a joint statement.

LLNL and the university will pursue coordinated research initiatives in four areas, including advanced materials and manufacturing, fusion energy science, smart agriculture and environmental biosciences, and biodefense and human health.

The two institutions will also explore the development of shared facilities and research spaces at UC

Merced, including workspace for LLNL employees.

"This is a permanent, visible, articulated and mutually beneficial partnership between the lab and UC Merced," said UC Merced Chancellor Juan Sánchez Muñoz. "My hope is that our futures are inseparable."

LLNL Director Kim Budil said the collaboration establishes "a deep and productive partnership that positions us both to advance scientific discovery and drive innovation."

She added that working closely with UC Merced "creates meaningful pathways for career development that enable our workforce to grow and excel."

Last spring, UC Merced also announced a partnership with Las Positas College (LPC) that streamlines the transfer of community college credits for LPC students looking to pursue a bachelor's degree at UC Merced.



NorCal Film and Media Summit organizers, from left, Tajiana Okechukwu and D'Adonis Moquette, are captured behind the scenes as they film promotional content on-site at Crosswinds Church in Livermore. The filmmakers will host a daylong creative summit there on Saturday, June 27. (Photo — Kathryn Stroud) See story on page 2.

PUSD Approves Student Climate Literacy Policy

District Integrates Curriculum Drafted by Local Teens

By Sanestina Hunter

PLEASANTON — The Pleasanton Unified School District Board of Education unanimously adopted a student-led climate literacy resolution May 26, following nearly two years of work by local students to bring climate education into classrooms across the district.

The resolution, "Advancing Climate Resilience Through Climate Literacy," supports the integration of climate-related concepts across subject areas and affirms the importance of educating students about the causes and impacts of climate

change and actions that can be taken to address it.

"Climate literacy is very unfamiliar to a lot of people," said Amador Valley High School incoming senior Pareena Gupta, who helped lead the effort. "A lot of people don't know what that is."

Climate literacy is the ability to understand the causes and impacts of climate change, evaluate climate information and make informed decisions about how climate issues affect communities, careers and daily life.

"We think that is important because climate change impacts every

(See CLIMATE, page 7)



Poet Laureate Faith Alpher, second from right, gathers with her husband of 30 years, Daniel, second from left, and her children, from left to right, Asia, Whitley and Josiah. Alpher, was recently sworn in as Livermore's first poet laureate of color. (Photo courtesy of Faith Alpher)

Livermore Names First Poet Laureate of Color

Writer and Performer Faith Alpher Officially Appointed to City's Top Literary Post

By Samaiah Johnson

LIVERMORE — Faith Alpher, the first person of color to be appointed Poet Laureate, was officially sworn in at the June 8 City Council meeting.

Alpher has been married to her husband, Daniel, for almost 30 years, and together they have three adult children — Asia, Josiah, and Whitley — who were born and raised in Livermore.

An actor, writer, comedian, and radio personality currently with

Pleasanton's KKIQ, Alpher has always aimed to bring value by showing up as her true, authentic self. And when it comes to building up the community, she is never too busy.

"You don't need to have a lot of money to give back, you can give your time, you can give a compliment," she said. "I hate the 'B' word, busy. When people say that to me, it just makes me cringe. Everybody is busy, but everybody can give back, because it is what you value. If you don't value uplifting

others, that's not going to be your thing. But that's my thing, and it always has been."

Amidst her honor and excitement about receiving the position, Alpher has already begun dreaming up ways to engage the community in literary arts and hopes to cultivate spaces where members can come together to learn from one another. These initiatives will begin rolling out sometime after July 1, when her position is finalized.

The program Pop-up Poetry will be an open-mic-style event

(See POET LAUREATE, page 9)

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One-Day Summit Brings Film Industry Pros to Livermore

By Kathryn Stroud

LIVERMORE — Two local filmmakers are hoping to give Northern California's creative community a dose of inspiration, and a few practical skills to go with it.

D'Adonis Moquette and Tajianna Okechukwu are organizing the NorCal Film and Media Summit, a daylong event in Livermore that will feature workshops, panels and networking opportunities for filmmakers and media professionals at all experience levels. The summit will take place from 11 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Saturday, June 27, at Crosswinds Church, 1660 Freisman Road. The event costs \$30 to attend.

"There's so much shifting, so much slowing down," Moquette said. "It's important to build a network, build friend-

ships and expand horizons."

The summit comes at a challenging moment for the entertainment industry. Moquette and Okechukwu point to two forces squeezing the field: artificial intelligence is eliminating jobs across the creative sector, and a tightening economy has pushed consumers and businesses alike to cut arts spending.

"There are lots of reasons it's slowing down, and that's why we do this — to stay inspired, to stay passionate and to stay connected," Moquette said.

The event is supported in part by a grant from the City of Livermore's Commission for the Arts Project and Program Grants, which funds initiatives aimed at promoting cultural enrichment within the city. One of the reasons Moquette

applied for the funding was to keep the ticket price accessible.

The summit's programming includes workshops and panels on directing, producing and cinematography led by working industry professionals. Attendees will also have access to vendor booths offering camera rentals, grip and electric support and other production resources.

"The purpose is to demystify the industry," Okechukwu said. "There should be avenues to access this information."

Moquette put it more bluntly: "Let us save you a few years of film school."

Moquette and Okechukwu will host the panels. Moquette was selected in 2025 for the Tyler Perry Studios Dream Collective Top 100

Directors, chosen from a pool of 2,500 filmmakers nationwide. He recently directed "Citizens of Planet Earth," a six-episode PBS docuseries produced out of Sacramento that chronicles how everyday Californians are confronting economic and environmental challenges. Okechukwu, a filmmaker, actor and producer, was named a 2026 SFFilm Filmhouse Resident. She also won the pitch contest at the BraveMaker Creative Multi-Hyphenate Summit for her short film "2%."

Among the industry professionals leading sessions is Rippin Sindher, a filmmaker whose short film "Flight 182" was executive produced by Ridley Scott. Her anti-hate film "SEVA," which examines the Sikh American experience, received recognition from

Congress. Also presenting is Robin Kincaide, a producer with credits including "The Amazing Race" and "Access Hollywood," and Jerry Henry, an Emmy-nominated cinematographer. Both organizers said they hope attendees leave with more than new knowledge. They want them to leave with new connections and renewed motivation to pursue projects they've been putting off.

"We know it matters who you know," Okechukwu said.

"This event is for everyone, from those newly interested in filmmaking who want to learn how to make their own stuff to film students who want to grow their networks," Moquette said.

Okechukwu offered a final word to anyone on the fence about attending.

"Never say no to the thing that wakes you up in the morning. That is never going away," she said. "Honor that calling by going to these types

of events. Invest in yourself. Invest in your community."

Those interested in attending should purchase tickets in advance. Tickets can be found online at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-northern-california-film-media-summit-tickets-1988948165504>.



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Leadership and Respect are Goals of Couple's Four-Day Soccer-Inspired Mentoring Program

By David Scholz

LIVERMORE — Two local nonprofit organizations founded by a husband and wife are joining forces to teach leadership skills to area boys and girls in a four-day program co-facilitated by teen mentors.

Girls Soccer Worldwide

munities. This includes those attending Title I schools — which receive federal funding — such as Junction Avenue and the Marilyn Avenue STEAM Academy. While no longer designated as Title I recipients, girls from Jackson Elementary School have also been beneficiaries of the organization's good works

begins about respect."

Area high school student athletes, including those from Granada and Foothill high schools, are serving as the mentors for the program. For the past month, the mentors have been working together to co-develop activities that are not only engaging and fun, but meaningful and centered

communication and understanding," Jacobsen said.

Attendees will participate in mixed-team challenges that encourage communication, cooperation and problem-solving. Rather than focusing on competition between boys and girls, the program emphasizes collaboration.

Participants will also take part in discussions and games that encourage dialogue on how to support teammates, friends and each other, on and off the field. "We want participants to leave with a greater understanding of how to lead in a way where their peers feel valued and heard," Jacobsen said.

No child will be turned away from participating due to financial need, Jacobsen said, adding that families should reach out to Girls Soccer Worldwide directly, and "we will find a way."

Families interested in learning more can visit girls-soccerworldwide.org.



Participants work together on an interactive activity during a previous Girls Soccer Worldwide workshop. The organization's upcoming summer program, scheduled for June 29 through July 2 at Kellman Park in Livermore, will continue to use these hands-on exercises and teach core principles of confidence and compassion. (Photo courtesy of Girls Soccer Worldwide)

(GSW) and Boys Impact Leadership Team have launched the Grassroots Leadership Program, a four-day experience that uses soccer, mentorship and interactive leadership activities to help boys and girls ages 8 to 12 develop skills they need both on and off the field.

The program will be held from 9 to 11 a.m. June 29, 30 and July 1, 2 and 9 at Kellman Park in Livermore. Families may register their children for either the entire period for \$125, or individual days for \$35 each.

The program is intentionally designed to help kids connect leadership concepts to real-life situations they encounter with teammates, classmates, friends and family members.

"This partnership was a natural fit because both organizations focus on character development, service, leadership and creating positive role models in our community," said GSW CEO and founder Pamela Jacobsen.

"They have worked together before and bringing the groups together again is allowing us to create an experience where young boys and girls can learn through their mentorship and example while developing their own skills to become future leaders themselves," she said.

"It is all about planting the seeds of who they can become," Jacobsen added.

Jacobsen and her husband, Walter Pratte, founded Girls Soccer Worldwide in 2016 to use the game as a platform to empower girls and young women locally and around the world. Two years ago they launched the Boys Impact Leadership Team organization.

Proceeds from the summer program support Girls Soccer Worldwide's free Grassroots Leadership Program, which was created for girls in underserved Livermore com-

and continue to be active participants. These workshops take place during the fall and spring seasons, creating a cycle of community impact.

"We use (the) game to bring people in," Jacobsen said. And from there, the even more important conversation

around four pillars: confidence, courage, character, and compassion.

"This has an impact because of the intentional mentorship that is created throughout the entire experience...in a collaborative environment centered on mutual respect,



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From Epstein to Swalwell: Civil Rights Attorney Talks Justice

By Vivien Wenneker

LIVERMORE — Lisa Bloom, a prominent civil rights attorney, gave a talk co-sponsored by Livermore Indivisible to discuss the fight for justice among victims of sexual assault.

Bloom has represented women in high-profile cases involving sexual harassment, abuse and discrimination. She is known for her work on behalf of victims and for shifting the conversation around sexual abuse and harassment.

Most notably she has represented victims of child sex offender Jeffrey Epstein. More recently, she gained national attention for representing a number of victims of former U.S. Representative Eric Swalwell, whose 14th Congressional District

includes the Tri-Valley. “Most of my clients at the end of the case feel very empowered and glad that they stepped forward,” Bloom said. “For many of them, walking through the fire, filing a lawsuit and ultimately prevailing can be very transformative and inspires us to do more hard things.”

Of the 11 cases in connection with Jeffrey Epstein, Bloom has prevailed on all 11, winning compensation for eight through a victim compensation fund that her firm, the Bloom Foundation, helped set up with Jeffrey Epstein’s estate after his death in 2019. The other three cases received funds from the estate itself.

Her work is still not done, however, as there is one more case that her firm

has filed against the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) for releasing the names of some of her clients in connection with the Epstein files. Since those names were released, she says that ordinary people have been reaching out to her clients, raising concerns around safety and privacy.

According to Bloom, the DOJ “made a mess of it (releasing the Epstein files) and still wants to withhold documents purportedly for client-attorney privilege.” To this day, only about 3 million out of the 6 million pages of the files have been released. Her aim is for the DOJ to release all the files, but to omit the names of her clients and those of other victims.

As for Swalwell, Bloom admits that it is deeply dis-

turbing to see the amount of people in Congress who have subsequently come forward saying that they had a feeling or knew something following the sexual misconduct allegations made by several women, including her client Lonna Drewes

she’s encountered in representing rape and sexual assault cases, especially more high-profile ones, is the statute of limitations, which in California gives adult victims 10 years from the time of the event to file a case.

“As attorneys, it’s harder for us to bring forward cases from many years ago but it’s not impossible and statutes of limitations should be done away with to make this process easier,” Bloom said.

For many reasons relating to trauma, stigmatization and fear of retaliation or intimidation from their abuser, it can often take years for victims of sexual assault to come forward and file a case, by which time it might be too late, especially for those who were abused as children.

However, despite all these challenges, Bloom said that considerable progress has been made in the last decade largely owing to the #MeToo movement, which has played a crucial role in shifting cultural views on sexual assault away from stigmatizing survivors and doubting their credibility toward centering their experiences.

“Media coverage has tended to be more sympathetic towards victims,” Bloom said. “We’ve taken a leap forward in terms of understanding and we now

know that it can take years for victims to come forward, especially if they were assaulted as a child.”

Through continuing to fight for the rights of victims of sexual assault, harassment and discrimination, Bloom hopes to not only empower her clients and bring justice to their abusers but also raise public awareness about systemic issues that have long protected the nation’s most powerful figures.

For more information and resources on sexual assault, there is a national network of community-based rape crisis centers and local organizations that support the needs of sexual assault survivors. For those in the Tri-Valley, Tri-Valley Haven serves adults and children who have experienced domestic violence, sexual assault or homelessness. Its 24-hour crisis line can be reached at 1-800-884-8119.



Attorney, Lisa Bloom

who agreed to have her name known in relation to the case.

Bloom emphasized that these cases are not politically motivated as she has represented both Democrats and Republicans throughout her 40 years of experience. Additionally, Congress has historically opted for a policy of looking the other way when it comes to scandals concerning the private lives of its members. Sexual assault occupies a gray zone that many politicians would prefer to ignore.

Although the sexual assault allegations brought against Swalwell were successful in pressuring him to resign from office and drop out of the governor’s race, Bloom said there is still a long way to go in terms of achieving greater transparency and passing legislation that could put an end to Congress’ policy of turning the other way.

Another major difficulty



The Livermore Cultural Arts Council will present *Crawdad Republic* in a free Tuesday Tunes performance in front of the Bankhead Theater in downtown Livermore at 6:45 p.m. on June 23. *Crawdad Republic* is a local American bluegrass and folk fusion band featuring Brandon Olivo on banjo, Adam Elliott on drums, Dave Haberman on mandolin, Doug Allen on piano, Dusty Boyle on bass and Jon Williams on guitar. (Photo courtesy of *Crawdad Republic*)

Jazz in July Tradition Returns to Livermore

LIVERMORE — Jazz in July, an annual tradition sponsored by Friends of the Livermore Public Library, returns this year with five scheduled performances.

The first four concerts will be held at 2 p.m. on consecutive Sundays at the Civic Center Library, 1188 S. Livermore Ave.,

including the Dave Rocha Quintet on July 5, Charged Particles on July 12, Mimi Fox with Jeff Denson on July 19, and the Leon Joyce Jr. Trio on July 26.

The final concert, the CoolTones Big Band, will be at 5 p.m. on Thursday, July 30, at Retzlaff Vineyards, 1356 S. Livermore Ave.

All Jazz in July concerts are free, and reservations are not required.

The outdoor CoolTones Big Band concert at Retzlaff Vineyards will include games, crafts and other family-friendly activities during the evening. Food will be available for purchase from Fratelli’s Pizzeria, or con-

certgoers can bring their own picnic meals.

Fair Association to Bury Time Capsule Celebrating 250 Years

PLEASANTON — In honor of the nation’s 250th anniversary, the Alameda County Agricultural Fair Association will bury a time capsule at the county fairgrounds at 1 p.m. on Friday, June 26.

The capsule, which the association said would

“capture the sights, stories, traditions and memories that make the Alameda County Fair a beloved community tradition,” will be lowered into the ground at Monument Lawn, adjacent to the Stella Artois Grandstand and the Lucky Amphitheater.

The association, which produces the annual fair, said the capsule would remain buried until 2076, when it will be opened for America’s 300th anniversary celebration.

This year’s fair opens on Friday, June 19, and runs through Sunday, July 12.

Tri-Valley Haven Offers Advocacy Training Program for Volunteers

TRI-VALLEY — Tri-Valley Haven, a Livermore-based nonprofit that provide shelter, counseling and support services for the homeless and victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, is accepting applications for its online summer advocacy training program.

The 70-hour state-approved program prepares volunteers for crisis intervention through the nonprofit’s Sexual Assault Response Team, crisis hotline, legal clinics and other support services.

“Our advocates are often the first people survivors turn to during some of the most difficult moments of their lives,” said Executive Director Christine Dillman. “This training equips volunteers with the skills, knowledge and compassion needed to provide meaningful support while helping build a stronger, more caring community.”

Volunteers also have an

opportunity to become certified domestic violence and sexual assault advocates.

The training will be held via Zoom from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays, start-

ing Tuesday, July 7, and running through Tuesday, Sept. 8.

To apply for the training, go to trivalleyhaven.org. Applications will be accepted through July 6.

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EDITORIAL

When It Comes to Climate Literacy, the Kids are Alright

Some welcome news as we enter the hot months of summer: today's youth know climate change is real, and want to do something about it.

At a time when the progress we've made is threatened by hostile politics from Washington, D.C., the next generations are demonstrating they are well aware how serious a subject this is. And they want to know more.

That's why it's such a welcome sight to see the students of the Pleasanton Unified School District create and advocate for a climate literacy resolution, which the district's board of directors adopted on May 26.

The resolution calls for climate literacy to become part of every student's curriculum. Climate literacy is not just about science, although it incorporates science into other fields. The resolution is designed to include climate literacy into the picture in many subjects. Climate change touches all of us in many contexts and will continue to do so, so treating climate as an integral part of our students' educations merely reflects that reality.

A survey conducted of district students found that 75% of them didn't feel confident in their knowledge. That tracks with a national survey conducted in 2025 by This is Planet Ed, an initiative of the Aspen Institute, and the EdWeek Research Center. According to this survey, only 12% of teens felt they know "a lot" about climate change's causes, and

only 10% feel they know a lot about solutions. Only a little more than half identified human-caused greenhouse gas emissions as having the biggest impact on the climate. And 57% of youth surveyed overestimated the impact recycling has, believing it has more impact than cutting emissions, changing policy. While helpful, true climate literacy points to a broader spectrum of solutions — such as waste management, energy efficiency and urban forestry. Students can take action now by learning how to properly sort waste at school and at home, monitor their energy use to identify and reduce inefficiencies, and plant more trees to expand benefits such as shade and carbon storage.

Climate literacy is important because knowledge — scientifically verifiable facts — is increasingly being politicized in the public sphere. Today's students need to learn about climate science as part of their education, so they will be better equipped to engage with the public debate when they are adults. Schools are one of the last places where we can hope to still insulate today's youths from the atmosphere of the national political scene, major media, social networks, and AI-generated slop and disinformation that is coming to permeate all three.

We need to prepare our youth even to become citizens of California, which has made more progress on addressing climate change than any

other state. Climate change is the single greatest challenge the human species has faced since we crawled out of the caves tens of thousands of years ago. We've never been more aware of how much we've already altered the climate, and we've never had a better opportunity to find solutions, whether they are technological fixes or making changes in our behavior.

Climate change touches many industries here, including agriculture and viticulture struggling with water shortages and drought, plastics manufacturers looking for biodegradable versions of their products, and car makers trying to create affordable emissions-free vehicles.

Meanwhile, the fossil fuel industry has been working to undermine California's plan to become carbon-neutral by 2040. Recently this manifested in a paring back of the Cap-and-Invest program, by creating new permits to pollute when the state should continue to reduce the overall number of those permits available.

And California is going to need to continue to lead the rest of the nation in automobile greenhouse gas emissions, which has been coming under concerted attacks from the Trump Administration. In March, Honda announced it was canceling its North American electric vehicle development, at precisely the time we need to be doubling down on electric vehicles.

Meanwhile, China now dominates

the global electric vehicle industry, comprising almost half the cars now sold in that country, the largest automobile market in the world, and two-thirds of sales around the world. That's compared to EVs making up only 10% of the U.S. market. The world's largest electric car maker isn't Tesla, it's BYD, based in Shenzhen. Their models start at the equivalent of about \$13,000, whereas the cheapest new EV in the U.S., a 2027 Chevrolet Bolt, has a price tag of \$28,995.

President Biden put a 100% tariff on Chinese electric vehicles in 2024, so good luck trying to find a BYD. President Trump not only kept the tariff in place, but has weakened emissions standards and canceled tax incentives to buy electric vehicles no matter where they are made.

Today's teens are tomorrow's leaders, but we are risking leaving them a world rife with problems of our making, that we didn't have the vision or the political will to solve. But with initiatives like the Pleasanton students' climate literacy resolution (itself based on a similar resolution in the Livermore school district), we are preparing youth for the world in ways older generations never were. We'll need more examples of the students' leadership in schools, our communities, and our economy, if we're going to take on the biggest challenge we've ever faced.

MAILBOX

Mailbox Guidelines:

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

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

Resolution Regarding ICE Facility at FCI Dublin

Laurie Herbert, Pleasanton

As a 48-year resident of Pleasanton, I am extremely disappointed in the city council's failure to make a resolution regarding a potential ICE detention facility in Dublin. An ICE detention facility is not welcome here.

It might be a different matter if:

* DHS was actually getting "the worst of the worst",

* conditions at ICE detention facilities were humane and subject to inspection at any time,

* detainees were given due process, as they are entitled to by law and by the constitution,

* were treated humanely, with dignity and all their rights were protected,

* immigrants doing it "the right way" were not pounced upon in courthouses,

* immigrants were TRULY a primary source of crime, rather than a group MUCH LESS LIKELY to commit crimes, and

* brutality and cruelty wasn't the point.

I peacefully protest in our community twice a week most weeks, as is my first amendment right. Some protests are small; others are several thousand strong. In the 75+ protests I have attended, I have never witnessed any violence, aggression, or angry provocation. However, in news coverage of protests where tear gas, rubber bullets and violent take-downs take place, there is one similarity: the presence of ICE officers, who have been trained to use these tactics without provocation. We have witnessed two murders by ICE agents with our own eyes with NO accountability, which results in license and permission to continue their brutality. We do

NOT want to invite ANY of this into our community.

The potential impact of an ICE detention center on our community is horrific. It is my fervent belief that this is the most consequential, most dire issue ever faced by the Pleasanton City Council. It takes precedence over all other issues.

ICE Out of Dublin Michele Brynjulson, Pleasanton

Several of our Bay Area cities are facing the possibility of the federal government building immigrant detention facilities within their communities. This has raised alarms for many residents, perhaps because history includes some cautionary tales of what might lie in wait for these communities should the detention centers be built.

In April of 1945, shortly before the end of WWII, American soldiers and a future president came upon a concentration camp two miles outside the city of Weimar, Germany, a camp that might be considered "local" for the citizens who lived in Weimar. The discovery of Ordruf Concentration Camp and the thousands of dead "detainees" so affected General Eisenhower that he called on Weimar's mayor, Mayor Schneider and Schnieder's wife to tour the camp the next day. Afterwards, the general told Schneider to prepare Weimar's citizens to provide decent burials for the dead the following day.

Schneider informed his citizens that work was to start the next morning and shovels were gathered. The mayor and his wife went home that evening. The next morning, American soldiers went to the mayor's home to begin overseeing the work, and found that the mayor and his wife had hanged themselves, leaving only a note that read, "We didn't know, but we knew."

We are well aware of the documented atrocities occurring in the immigration detention "camps" that are littering our once-great cities and towns across the United States. And, as a neighbor and

fellow citizen, I plan on doing all I can to avoid finding myself a member of a community that "doesn't know, but knows" in this "very local" situation. I urge our local city councils to carefully consider their votes and prepare to join their citizens' very loud and vocal opposition to these potential plans.

Pondering Language and Belonging Yang You, Livermore

Felix is our younger son, and Max is our older one.

When Max was young, I often felt we had not provided enough Chinese exposure. Living in an English-speaking environment, English naturally became his dominant language. Wanting to avoid repeating that mistake, we took a very different approach with Felix. We speak only Chinese at home and mainly provide Chinese books and television programs.

In many ways, it worked. Perhaps it worked too well.

Felix speaks almost exclusively Chinese and is reluctant to use English. During playdates, he struggles to communicate with English-speaking children and often chooses to stand aside rather than join in. As a sensitive child, he seems anxious and isolated, caught between wanting to connect and not knowing how.

As a first-generation Chinese immigrant, I constantly wonder how to balance preserving our language and culture with helping our children thrive in an English-speaking society. Sometimes I wonder whether I overcorrected with Felix. With Max, I worried there was too much English and not enough Chinese. With Felix, I may have gone too far in the opposite direction, creating a world where Chinese is everywhere while English is largely absent. Yet the reality is that school, friendships, and most social interactions around him happen in English.

I know starting school will be a major adjustment for him. There may be frustration and uncertainty. Yet I also know children are resilient. In time, he will adapt, learn En-

glish, and find his place.

Perhaps one day he will be much like his brother, naturally speaking English most of the time.

Maybe this is one of the challenges of being an immigrant parent: always searching for the right balance between preserving where we came from and preparing our children for where they are growing up.

Reflection on Livermore's Peace Memorial

Patricia Munro, Livermore

Forty-four years ago, the chemist Leon Smith, then dying of cancer, wrote a letter to the editor proposing that Livermore erect a monument to peace. He wanted Livermore to be known not only for its labs, but as a city that stands for peace as well.

Over the next two years, his widow, Blanche, worked tirelessly to fulfill that dream. In 1984, the teakwood sculpture, created by Don Homan, was placed in what became the sculpture garden in front of the City Council chambers. Homan's vision used the gentle curves of the hills surrounding Livermore as inspiration for the sculpture. The sculpture comprised two halves; one reflecting the curves of the other to remind people that peace is not unilateral, but needs at least two entities, whether those entities be individuals, groups in a community, or nations. The sculpture included a round hole, meant to encourage children to play on it. For 20 years, Livermore children, including mine, crawled over, and through the sculpture. Eventually though, rain and sun wreaked havoc on the wood, making it unsafe. In 2005, the original sculpture was replaced by one made from more durable bronze.

In each era — 1984, 2005, and now — peace has seemed fragile or non-existent. In Cold War 1984, I was pregnant with my first child and wondered if she would grow to adulthood without nuclear war. In 2005, with the U.S. still reeling from 9/11, still engaged in the bizarre Iraq

war, the world seemed dark indeed.

As extremism, division, and irrationality shape our world, especially online, the smooth feel of the peace memorial is a reminder that, however scary the world around us, we can still strive for peace and connection. We can still create a better world for our children.

Multi-Use Trails Inside Tesla Marilyn Russell, Livermore

I appreciate that Supervisor

Haubert and Supervisor Milely did not approve advancing the proposed letter from the Agricultural Advisory Committee (AAC) promoting Multi-Use Trails inside Tesla. The position taken by the AAC was uninformed, prejudicial and premature.

As a former field biology teacher at Livermore High, equestrian and rancher, I was especially disturbed to hear some on the Committee actually express that Multi-Use Trails for mountain bikes, electric motorized bikes and related development inside Tesla will have few environmental impacts.

The damage caused by such Multi-Use Trails is evident to the naked eye for anyone who goes to Del Valle. The scientific literature is equally clear about the habitat fragmentation and degradation such uses have on wildlife, soils, vegetation and water. The position taken by the ACC ignored the extensive documented evidence about Tesla's irreplaceable biological resources affirmed by leading scientists and university professors. This does not even consider the impacts to historic and cultural resources, or to other users, such as equestrians and hikers.

With a Tesla Reserve, our community, region and state have a rare opportunity to establish the first State Reserve in over 40 years; the first State Reserve in the Diablo Range; the first State Reserve in Alameda County. A Tesla Reserve can protect its irreplaceable biological resource-

(See MAILBOX, page 5)

THE Independent

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Keeping the 108-year tradition alive, the Livermore High School cheer squad showed up and showed out downtown for the annual Rodeo Parade on Saturday, June 13. (Photo — Christina Cavallaro)

MAILBOX

(Continued from page 4)

es, critical-linkage habitat corridor, and vital ecological values. A Tesla Reserve can honor its Indigenous cultural heritage, and its historic story. A Tesla Reserve can provide appropriate low-intensity public access to enjoy and learn about its wonders.

I am thankful that that Supervisors Haubert and Miley took a stand based on the facts and the overwhelming public support for a Tesla Reserve. Now I hope that the County will work with us to ensure that Tesla is established as a State Natural Reserve.

Getting Involved with Local Climate Action
Ann Brown, Livermore

I would like to thank The Independent for your continuing support of climate solutions. The June 4 article, "Tri-Valley Coalitions Will Hold Climate Superfund Town Hall" and the editorial, "Californians Must Keep the State on Its Decarbonization Track" were prime examples of the role that local newspapers can play in informing readers of effective actions that they can take.

I am very pleased to report that the Climate Superfund Town Hall was well attended, with about 20% youth participation out of 80 participants. Dr. Clair Brown delivered a galvanizing keynote address, highlighting the economic benefits to Californians of a Climate Superfund. The costs of damage caused by a warming climate, such as wildfires, sea level rise, air pollution, and extreme heat can and should not be only borne by vulnerable people and businesses. The fossil fuel companies, who knowingly have hidden and lied about their impact on greenhouse gases that their products cause, should also start to contribute to the financial burden of repair and building resilience in our state.

We were also inspired by our panelists addressing climate concerns and actions through the lens of health, faith, youth, civics, and local water supply. Our discussion tables on these topics fostered meaningful dialogue and connections. The Town Hall wrapped up with a circle of song, hope, and appreciation. I encourage all who would like to get involved with local climate action to join Indivisible Tri Valley's Climate Justice Committee. We look forward to planning future events to inform and spur action. Many talents are needed! Please visit www.indivisible-trivalley.org to learn more.

The Naivete of Municipal Government on Cyber Security
Greg Scott, Livermore

At the City of Livermore City Council meeting on June 8, 2026, the Livermore City Attorney presented on a resolution for adoption of California Senate Bill 707, (CA SB 707), which is an alteration of the Brown Act for greater teleconferencing and telephonic accessibility, and rules applying thereof, for public

meetings. This was under the agenda item 8.1 of "Matters For Consideration."

I spoke on this issue, citing that generally it is a good idea, with reservations that the resolution should receive greater consideration because of cyber security vulnerabilities, especially regarding the immense capabilities and threats of new generative artificial intelligence (GenAI) models, like Anthropic's Myths and OpenAI's Cyber GPT 5.5, which can readily identify cyber security vulnerabilities equally to those of good or bad intent.

Do we wait until these GenAI models or similar GenAI models 'crack' Livermore's firewall? The City Attorney, in discounting placation, stated that these concerns were addressed by CA SB 707. There is neither evidence of this, nor that the City of Livermore has any credible, sufficient policies in place to address these concerns.

I spoke at a recent General Planning Advisory Committee (GPAC) meeting and used GenAI as an example of GPAC's miscalculations on growth in the General Plan Update, since GenAI capital expenditures are in the hundreds of billions of dollars.

The committee later had a discussion on GenAI that was, frankly, inane. City staff commented that the General Plan Update was no place for GenAI policy of use. What about the policy of effects, such as on jobs, growth, energy, water, and capital (money)? Are these not under the General Plan Update purview?

This indicates that the City of Livermore has no adequate policies on GenAI, or cyber security policies involving GenAI and agentic GenAI. This makes us all vulnerable.

Here Are the Receipts
Julie Wild, Livermore

Meet Rakhi Israni, who was born into a family that in 1986, helped to build the Hindu Heritage Youth Camp under the banner of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad of America; part of the American network of India's Rashtriya Swayam-sevak Sangh (RSS), the paramilitary behind Hindutva (or Hindu supremacy).

Then her campaign was funded by these same networks. Q1 2026 FEC filing reveals that 111 of her 424 individual donors, one in four, hold leadership positions in or documented affiliations with RSS-linked organizations in America and represented 38.3% of her outside contributions. In March 2026, the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom recommended that the U.S. impose targeted sanctions on the RSS for severe violations of religious freedom.

This isn't guilt by association; it's guilt because Israni grew up in a family rooted in the Hindu supremacist movement, advocated for it as a lawyer, and was financially supported by people who support Hindutva.

On March 7, 2026, her

campaign held a fundraiser in Houston, Texas. The sponsors for that were the same sponsors that hosted a Houston 2019 rally at which Modi and President Trump appeared. As the saying goes, "Follow the money."

Hinduism and Hindu nationalism. Christianity and Christian Nationalism. One is a faith, the other a political ideology. The Hindu supremacist movement is not Hinduism.

Israni claims to support equal rights for every community in America, yet she doesn't want the same for Muslims, Christians, and Sikhs in India. Her actions have made this clear despite her words.

I have no problem with Hindus or those of any other faith, I have a problem with racism and political ideologies based on supremacy. Go to Hindusforhumanrights.org and learn more about this form of racism and how to combat it. Racism has no place in the Tri-Valley.

Boycott the Rodeo
Kay Ing, Pleasanton

Advocates for animal welfare and ethical treatment, consider boycotting the Livermore Rodeo for the following reasons: First, these animals do not have a choice. Animals are forced to get slapped around. Rodeo people give answers like, "The animals love to do this sport." Crap. Rodeos involve the use of fear and pain to control animals.

Many animals suffer injuries or stress during events. Again, people will say, "These animals are well cared for." So, we are talking about what you people make them do. Not what you do back at the ranch.

The practice promotes a culture of animal exploitation for entertainment. This reason is an easy one. Empathy is what should be practiced.

(See MAILBOX, page 6)

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- 1746 BUENA VISTA AVE
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- 583 CEDAR DR
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- 654 COLUSA WAY
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- 653 CURLEW RD
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- 750 DAISYFIELD DR
- 1598 DE LEON WAY
- 871 DEL NORTE DR
- 834 DEL NORTE DR
- 768 DEL NORTE DR
- 259 DONNER AVE
- 638 DOVER WAY
- 4265 DRAKE CT
- 319 EDYTHE ST
- 215 EL CAMINITO
- 310 EL CAMINITO
- 1733 ELM ST
- 223 ELVIRA ST

- 217 ELVIRA ST
- 324 ERICA CT
- 765 ESTATES ST
- 711 FALCON WAY
- 2645 FARNSWORTH DR
- 5111 FELICIA AVE
- 271 FENNEL WAY
- 5620 FIRESTONE RD
- 5522 FIRESTONE RD
- 4127 FLORIDA CT
- 4058 FORDHAM CT
- 1499 FRANKFURT WAY
- 4186 FREEDA CT
- 2259 FRENCH ST
- 4473 GALE ST
- 2099 GALLOWAY CMN
- 1089 GENEVA ST
- 1747 GENOA ST
- 527 HAGEMANN DR
- 204 HAGEMANN DR
- 1088 HALL CIR
- 2333 HAMPTON RD
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- 2497 PYRAMID ST
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- 1155 RIESLING CIR
- 1117 RIESLING CIR
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- 2415 ROBINSON CIR
- 632 RUBY RD
- 5823 RUNNING HILLS AVE
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- 1314 VANCOUVER WAY
- 1245 VIENNA ST
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MAILBOX

(Continued from page 5)

Boycotting raises awareness about animal rights and encourages humane practices. Pro-rodeo people don't care and are in denial of the truth.

There is no way a true animal supporter should attend. So, you are fake.

People in favor of rodeos need to educate themselves on the truth of what really goes on, and not look away. Let's not forget the big money families that support this cruelty. I just ask to do what's right.

Every year I post this boycott, and every year I get some that support, and some just talk back on how exciting it is. I say, for who?

This tradition is outright cruel. It's just like dog fighting. Where is your thinking? Cruelty and suffering at the animal's expense. There is no excuse. Bullies are bullies and come in different forms, This is just to educate people who can really listen and take in both sides. The good and the bad. So rodeo people, keep this civil. Everything I said is the truth and has been shown to me. Keep your anger to yourselves.

Cabinet Level Resume Requirements

Frank Cannella, Livermore

Acting Attorney General Todd Blanche has been nominated by President Trump to become the Attorney General of the United States. Of course he must be first confirmed by the U.S. Senate. That confirmation may be difficult to attain because of the requirements Trump demands of his candidates before their names can be confirmed. First and foremost, the candidate must firmly avow the election of 2020 was stolen, and in the case of Blanche, must also insist there is ample evidence sup-

porting that position. Once the core belief of fraudulent voting is asserted, the candidate must then agree that the pardons of the January 6th rioters was good for the country, which is then followed by organizing a plan whereby these thugs could receive restitution from U.S. taxpayers for their "horrible" treatment by the judicial system. Finally, Blanche must convince the president that the office of A.G. will actively pursue any and all critics of President Trump, regardless of any evidence of criminal responsibility. I guess I should expect an indictment if Blanche is confirmed.

Welcome to Trump World: It's the Little Things

Rosario Milelli, Pleasanton

In Trump World, the little things do not matter — until they do.

Disease detectives. Contact tracers. Lab workers. Vaccine programs. Meat inspectors. Livestock surveillance. These are not glamorous jobs. They do not fit on a red hat. But they are the quiet systems that keep ordinary Americans safe.

Now look at what is happening. The CDC was hit with termination notices affecting thousands of employees. More than a dozen federal health-tracking programs were eliminated. USAID cuts forced partner organizations to fire staff and stop disease-prevention work, including Ebola-related work in Uganda and Congo. Even basic outbreak tools — transporting samples and paying for contact tracers' phones — were interrupted.

Then the "little things" start becoming big things.

Ebola is spreading badly enough that the World Health Organization

launched a \$518 million emergency plan; recent reporting counted 550 confirmed cases and 101 deaths. Measles has returned in force, with CDC reporting 2,030 confirmed U.S. cases this year. New World screw-worm, a flesh-eating parasite that can devastate livestock, has now produced confirmed U.S. animal cases in Texas. Food-safety complaints involving meat, poultry, and eggs reportedly jumped nearly 40%.

This is what competent government is supposed to prevent.

But Trump World has other priorities. Public-health capacity can be cut. Global disease surveillance can be weakened. Meanwhile, the Senate found an additional \$70 billion for Trump's aggressive deportation program.

So, the message is clear: fewer disease detectives, more deportation officers. Fewer outbreak defenses, more political theater.

The problem with cutting prevention is that the bill always comes due. A measles outbreak costs more than vaccination. A livestock parasite costs more than surveillance. Ebola ignored abroad can become panic at home.

And in Trump World, the little things are what get broken first.

Kyoko Takayama, Livermore

Who Gets Your Vote?

First, I would like to retract a previous statement regarding a funding source of AIPAC. My source, TrackAIPAC.com, was not credible, and it was not verified. Second, in an article in the June 15th East Bay Times, State Senator Aisha Wahab was called "an extreme far-left legislator" by her opponent Hernandez. With her logic, her endorsers, the California



Cruising through downtown in a classic convertible, this year's Rodeo Parade Grand Marshal John Bost, executive director of Open Heart Kitchen, is joined by last year's Grand Marshal, Kelly Bowers, CEO and president of Three Valleys Community Foundation, on Saturday, June 13. (Photo — Christina Cavallaro)

Democratic Party, Indivisible, Our Revolution, Working Family Party, labor unions, and lots of elected officials could also be "extreme far-left."

Senator Wahab's record shows that she has been fighting for the people to lower the living cost, holding ICE accountable, protecting marginalized communities including LGBTQ+, and strengthening public safety and democracy. I have no problem being labeled as a "progressive" or an "extreme far-left" organizer, if her work is the example of the label. But some might, and they are the ones you have to work with if you are elected. Furthermore, the job of any elected official, especially in the U.S. House, is to represent ALL the residents, from "extreme far-left" to "MAGA", not just those who voted for you. Finally, the fact that super PACs and corporations are going against Senator Wahab is a testament to her good job. Who gets your vote?

Before Trump

Barry Brynjulson, Pleasanton

There was no fake news. Not every election the GOP lost was 'rigged'.

Reporters weren't called 'piggy', 'darling', and 'a horrible person' by the President. Measles were under control. The U.S. was respected and feared by other nations. Presidents understood the Emoluments Clause and weren't selling Presidential bibles, cologne, watches, and access. Cabinet members were chosen with qualifications. Presidents did not refer to previous presidents and most members of the other party by disparaging, juvenile names. No president had pardoned over 1,500 convicted insurgents who had attacked the Capitol and police officers, while attempting to derail the Constitutionally-mandated transfer of power. No president was suspected of being a pedophile

or hid the files that could exonerate him.

No sitting president had renamed monuments for himself.

No president had ever wanted a taxpayer-funded slush fund to reward his convicted allies.

How times have changed under DJT.

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Tri-Valley Haven Launches its Annual Student Backpack Drive

TRI-VALLEY — The Tri-Valley Haven (TVH) is now accepting donated backpacks filled with school supplies for students in pre-school through high school.

“Each year, our community’s generosity allows us to provide more than 600

backpacks to students in need,” said Carla Rosas, the nonprofit’s director of homeless services. “These supplies do more than prepare students for school, they help build confidence and support excitement for learning.”

TVH provides shelter,

counseling and support services to the homeless and victims of domestic violence and sexual assault in the Tri-Valley region.

Donated backpacks and school supplies can be dropped off at the TVH Tri-Valley Community

Building, 3663 Pacific Ave., between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

TVH said preschoolers and kindergarten students generally need pencils, crayons, markers, scissors, glue sticks and hand sanitizer, while elementary

students can use pencils, rulers, binders and spiral-bound notebooks.

TVH suggests that backpacks for middle school students include index cards, pens, highlighters, Post-it notes and correction fluid.

High school students can use scientific calculators,

subject dividers and mechanical pencils.

The annual backpack drive will run through Friday, July 24.

Volunteers are also needed to get the backpacks ready for distribution.

For more information, go to trivalleyhaven.org.

CLIMATE

(Continued from front page)

sector,” Gupta said. “No matter what field (in which) you want to work in the future, you’re going to be impacted by climate change.”

Gupta noted that the student group anchored its work on the definition of climate literacy provided by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). According

going budget considerations, the students collaborated with leadership to ensure the climate literacy integration would introduce zero additional financial costs and place no extra administrative demands on local teachers.

Vaughn Draggoo, a founding board member and mentor at Quest Science Center, said the resolution

including Sarah Knox, coordinator of assessment and instruction, and Josh Butterfield, director of secondary education, to develop their approach.

“There (was) some push-back during this process,” Gupta said. “We were hoping that the resolution would pass in February, but we learned that we had to keep

said the resolution strengthens the district’s commitment to preparing students for a changing world.

“Aligning directly with our district’s mission to foster resourceful, resilient and globally engaged citizens, this resolution strengthens PUSD’s commitment to expanding student climate literacy beyond science classes

The Climate Literacy Integration Committee (CLIC) is also working on cross-subject implementation for all levels of students. In math classes, word problems will incorporate climate-related data, while Physical Education (PE) lessons will tie local environmental impacts directly to the campus — such as examining how asphalt blacktops contribute to extreme heat during outdoor activities. By contrasting these extreme urban heat spots with the cooling attributes of urban forestry for shade and storing carbon, students learn how vital the simple act of expanding a campus tree line can be to climate defense.

Trustees praised the students and leadership throughout the process.

“You have now done something that few people have,” Trustee Charlie Jones told the students.

“Not only giving a presentation in front of us, but enacting policy change that will last long past when you graduate from here and will impact other students.”

“To ensure the work would continue beyond the passage of the resolution, we established the Climate Literacy Integration Committee,” Nicolas said. “This will (guarantee) that the initiative becomes an ongoing and collaborative process rather than a one-time policy adoption.”

For Gupta, the initiative

ultimately comes down to making climate science easier for students to understand.

“A lot of the reports in the media and policy documents are full of jargon and hard to understand,” Gupta said. Coming across terms like “carbon sequestration” and “photochemical smog” make the climate issues hard to understand. Lack of understanding leads to indifference and inaction among youth and communities. “That’s why I felt passionate about making climate science accessible and promoting climate literacy so that more people can understand it and then take action.”



Pictured left to right are Sarah Knox, PUSD coordinator of assessment and instruction, and Superintendent Maurice Ghysels with the student team behind the “Advancing Climate Resilience through Climate Literacy” resolution. (Photo courtesy of Pareena Gupta)

to NOAA, a climate-literate person understands the principles of Earth’s climate system, can assess the scientific credibility of climate information, and can make informed, responsible decisions.

“We envision that all PUSD students will graduate as climate-literate members of society, equipped with the tools and knowledge needed to address climate challenges,” Gupta added.

The effort was launched by Gupta and recent Amador Valley graduate Aurora Nicolas, who

began exploring climate literacy while interning with Quest Science Center in Livermore in 2024.

Inspired by a climate literacy resolution adopted by the Livermore school district, the students worked with Quest Science Center mentors Vaughn Draggoo and Amy Aines to bring a similar initiative to Pleasanton.

While the inspiration came from neighboring Livermore, Gupta emphasized that Pleasanton’s rollout required a distinct approach tailored to local district priorities. Unlike Livermore’s staff-driven framework, Pleasanton’s initiative was entirely student-led from its inception, beginning with a student survey to assess baseline climate knowledge.

The student group also had to design a strategy that respected PUSD’s current fiscal climate. Because the district was navigating on-

and across subject areas,” Knox said.

To achieve this the district aims to integrate climate concepts into upcoming curriculum adoptions, such as the new elementary English Language Arts (ELA) program. In practice, this means using ELA discussion questions that connect reading assignments to climate themes.

in mind the district’s priorities, schedules and budgets. We really learned how the school district’s governance process works.”

Students said conversations with teachers helped shape the proposal.

“We learned that every single district government is different,” Gupta said. “We had the challenge of coming up with an approach that didn’t add anything extra, but made it easier for teachers to integrate climate education and concepts into their everyday teaching curriculum.”

Rather than proposing a standalone climate course, students worked with teachers and district leaders to identify opportunities to incorporate climate-related concepts into future curriculum adoptions.

The young advocates also presented their proposal to the district’s Curriculum and Instruction Committee, which approved the formation of the Climate Literacy Integration Committee (CLIC) to guide implementation efforts.

The committee held its first meeting in April 2026 with 25 participants, including 20 students, three teachers and two community members. With the resolution now adopted, the committee will continue supporting the incorporation of climate-related concepts whenever a new curriculum is introduced.

Speaking during the Pleasanton board meeting, Knox

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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>

Juneteenth Celebration Will Feature Patton Leatha Band

TRI-VALLEY — The Patton Leatha Band, featuring a mix of Motown, R&B, funk and old-school hits, will headline the sixth annual Tri-Valley Juneteenth Festival at the Bankhead Plaza in downtown Livermore from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, June 20.

Organized by Tri-Valley for Black Lives, the year's event will also include performances by Oakland artist SAH Stewart and the RAW Band, a local funk music act.

Author, comedian and Livermore Poet Laureate Faith Alpher will serve as emcee.

Principle sponsors include Livermore Valley Arts and the Tri-Valley Non-Profit Alliance.

Juneteenth is a federal holiday that celebrates the end of slavery in the United States.

The holiday draws its name from June 19, 1865, when Union Major General Gordon Granger ordered the enforcement of President

Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation in Texas, the most remote state in the former Confederacy.

Lincoln, who had been assassinated two months earlier, issued the Emancipation Proclamation, freeing all slaves in the secessionist Confederate states, in 1863.

Although the first Juneteenth celebrations took place as early as 1866, the day did not become a federal holiday until 2021.



Livermore Mounted Police Cavalry lead the way at this year's Rodeo Parade. The annual event has been rolling through downtown since 1918, marking the 108th anniversary of the popular tradition. (Photo — Christina Cavallaro)



The sixth annual Tri-Valley Juneteenth Festival returns to the Bankhead Plaza in downtown Livermore this Saturday, June 20, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Organized by Tri-Valley for Black Lives, the free community event will feature a headline performance by the Patton Leatha Band, alongside local artists, food, and family activities. (Photo courtesy of Tri-Valley for Black Lives)

Filipino-American Nonprofit Awards Four Scholarships

LIVERMORE — Three recent Granada High School (GHS) graduates have been awarded college scholarships by the nonprofit Livermore Filipino-American Organization (LFAO).

Ethan Evangelista, who plans to attend Las Positas College for two years before transferring to pursue a bachelor's degree in business administration, received a \$2,500 scholarship.

A Principal's Honor Roll student for three of his four years at GHS, Evangelista is also part of a Filipino American dance troupe that performs during LFAO social events and at commu-

nity events. Maile Joy Nguyen, who plans to pursue a degree in entrepreneurship at North Central College in Naperville, Illinois, while continuing her wrestling career, received a \$1,500 scholarship.

Nguyen, who was a Livermore-Granada Boosters Olympian finalist, also served as president and social media manager of the GHS Women in Business Club and an officer in the school's DECA program.

Nicholas Baxter, who plans to pursue an associate degree in cybersecurity and network administration at Las Positas College, re-

ceived a \$1,000 scholarship. Baxter was a varsity wrestler and on the staff of El Avisio, a GHS Studio Broadcast Production.

A fourth student, Justin San Juan, received the LFAO's Crisanta Gallardo Legacy Award of \$500.

The LFAO scholarships are open to graduating high school seniors from the Livermore Joint Unified School District whose families are members of the 59-year-old organization, whose mission is to promote Filipino heritage and culture and enhance unity and friendship among Filipino Americans in the Livermore area.

TAX (Continued from front page)

increase to 10%. San Ramon has the lowest rate at 7.25%.

Several speakers voiced opposition to the proposal, including representatives of the Dublin Chamber of Commerce, Councilmember John Morada and Ron Gapol, general manager of the Dublin La Quinta Inn.

"Where do we agree with the constant desire to tax our citizens? There are other ways we can manage our budget and extend the deficit beyond four years," Morada said.

Morada argued that a TOT increase could have broader impacts on restaurants, local businesses and the local economy.

He also questioned the use of an additional \$250,000 for hotel marketing efforts, noting that Visit Tri-Valley already serves as the official destination marketing organization for the Tri-Valley and Danville.

"What makes us think that we can market better than they can?" Morada said. Morada also raised concerns about the existing Visit Tri-Valley tourism assessment, a \$4-per-night hotel fee that was recently extended, saying an additional TOT increase could further increase lodging costs for visitors.

Inge Houston, president

and CEO of the Dublin Chamber of Commerce, said the chamber's board of directors opposes the proposal after reviewing staff's recommendations.

"It focuses on an industry that has been stripped down, with low occupancy and high costs," Houston said.

Houston urged the council to maintain the current 8% TOT structure and work with the hotel industry on alternatives that would not further burden hotel operators.

Gapol said the hospitality industry has not fully recovered from the pandemic and argued that hotels contribute to the local economy beyond TOT revenues through spending at restaurants, entertainment venues and other businesses.

He said a jump from 8% to 12% was excessive and could influence where guests choose to stay.

Mayor Sherry Hu also expressed reservations about the proposed increase, suggesting a more gradual approach of 1% per year over two years to reach 10%, rather than increasing the rate to 12%.

"We are still in good surplus and have good revenues," Hu said.

Mike Grant, a longtime

Dublin resident and owner of Guns Unlimited Firearms Training, said the council should place the proposed TOT increase on the ballot and allow voters to decide.

"Send it to the ballot and let people vote on it," Grant said.

Grant argued that voters should have the final say on whether the increase is warranted. At a previous council meeting, he noted that hotel guests benefit from city services while staying in Dublin, but do not contribute to the local tax base in the same way as residents.

Vice Mayor Jean Josey acknowledged concerns raised by businesses and community members. Nevertheless, Josey noted that discussions surrounding a potential TOT increase have been ongoing since 2017 and were intended to address future fiscal challenges.

"We have to do what's in the best interest of the city and everything that we can do to enhance revenue," she said, adding that community surveys have shown support for the proposal.

Escover said the recommendation reflects the city's commitment to safeguarding Dublin's financial stability as communities across California face rising costs and growing service demands.

"The city is proactively evaluating options that help ensure it can continue providing high-quality services, maintaining infrastructure, and investing in community priorities over the long term," Escover said.

She added that structuring the measure as a general tax instead of a voter-approved measure would allow the city council to allocate revenue through the annual budget process based on the community's

evolving needs, including public safety, infrastructure maintenance, parks, economic development and other essential services.

Josey said hotel taxes do not necessarily deter travelers from booking rooms and noted that cities that increased their TOT rates did not experience significant declines in occupancy.

"It's not just a decision we make," she said. "Voters decide if they want this."

Councilmembers also discussed potential exemptions for military families and spouses staying in local hotels, including circumstances involving guests connected to Camp Parks.

In addition, Councilmember Michael McCorriston noted that Dublin's hotels primarily serve business travelers rather than tourists and suggested the city may have flexibility to consider exemptions for certain groups, while still

moving forward with the proposal.

"Dublin isn't a place that people come for vacations," McCorriston said. "These are businesses and corporations paying for overnight stays."

During the meeting, Escover also presented Tri-Valley hotel occupancy data showing the industry's recovery from the pandemic. Occupancy rates were 76% in 2017, 74% in 2018 and 75% in 2019 before dropping to 45% in 2020.

More recently, occupancy in the Tri-Valley has remained in the 60% range, according to city staff.

Escover said the hospitality industry is still recovering from pre-pandemic levels.

Staff is expected to return to the City Council with additional information no later than Aug. 7 as discussions continue ahead of the deadline to place the measure on the Nov. 3, 2026 ballot.

TRI-VALLEY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Saturday, June 20

DRESS A GIRL AROUND THE WORLD

Make simple dresses for girls in Third World countries! The next monthly Sew-Fest is on June 20, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 1020 Mocho St., Livermore. Bring your sewing machine or serger, iron, ironing board, scissors, along with your helping hands. Come for an hour or all day! (Please bring a bag lunch if you plan to stay all day.) Cheerful cotton fabric donations are always welcome. Contact Suzanne Beck, 925-352-8447, or suzbeck@yahoo.com for questions or kits that you can sew from home.

Thursday, June 25

STATE OF THE COUNTY, WINE COUNTRY LUNCHEON

Livermore Valley Chamber of Commerce is holding a State of the County, Wine Country Luncheon on June 25, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., at Garre Winery and Vineyard. The presenter will be District 1 Supervisor David Haubert. The luncheon will also celebrate the 2025/2026 Leadership Livermore graduating class from LVCC. Reservations and more information can be found at www.livermorechamber.org. \$90 for members and their guests, \$100 for not-yet-members.

Sunday, June 28

SUNDAYS AT HAGEMANN, RANCHO DAY

Sponsored by the Livermore Heritage Guild, Rancho Day at Hagemann Ranch on June 28 from 1-5 p.m. will celebrate western heritage. The LPD Mounted Patrol will demonstrate, and the Tim Berry Band is making its first appearance at Hagemann. Cynthia Patton and Nate McKenna will offer both serious and humorous cowboy poetry. Everyone will help with chores and learn to lasso. Always family-friendly and free. At 455 Olivina Ave., Livermore.

ONGOING OPPORTUNITIES

FOOD RELIEF SERVICES

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

ONGOING EVENTS

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

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

SATURDAY PLEASANTON FARMERS MARKET

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

SUNDAY LIVERMORE DOWNTOWN FARMERS MARKET

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

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POET LAUREATE

(Continued from front page)

delivered at various locations around town. Community members will be able to sign up and share their work.

Twilight Poets is a similar open-mic-style concept for individuals 65 and up; what's more, Alpher plans to incorporate a multi-generational poetry night for all ages in the Livermore community.

Poetry for Teens is an initiative that Alpher said will focus on building students' social and emotional learning through poetry.

Additionally, Alpher intends to carry on some of the beloved initiatives established by past laureates,

including the annual science poetry contest Poetry in a Test Tube and Verse on the Vine, a series of free poetry readings hosted at the Livermore Library.

On the horizon, Alpher is excited to announce that she will be launching her book, "The Voice You Forgot You Had: 25 Spoken Words from Someone Who Found Theirs," at Prodigy Fitness in Pleasanton this July. The work will touch on topics such as social justice, shared hurt, menopause, and liberation.

Viewing the poet laureate role as a reminder that ev-

eryone has a voice, Alpher welcomes the laughter, love and joy, choosing not to forget that looking a certain way does not dictate someone's ability to speak up. While Alpher is the first person of color to be appointed poet laureate, she trusts that she will not be the last.

"My hope for Livermore is that you see that everybody has a voice. We all matter," she said. "So let's respect each other, let's open up the door for other people, and let's not have a hateful or racist mindset of what you think people like me should be doing."

During the Livermore rodeo parade, Alpher said someone pulled her braid, an experience that caused her intense rage and anger. Rather than shrinking back, she chose to ground herself in the positives, believing that what you focus on is what grows. She works instead to lift up those around her.

"There is power in someone saying you can do it," she said. Despite being academically dismissed from community college twice, Alpher was able to graduate from her master's program at the top of her class, attributing her rigorous work ethic

to holding on to her mother's words of encouragement, a reminder to always keep her head up.

In the current political climate, Alpher shared that poetry is even more necessary. Its role is a mechanism of resistance, a way to share beliefs that expands beyond simply telling someone what they should do or feel.

"How you approach what you say, the words coming out of your mouth. You have a responsibility. I have a responsibility. I'm not going to get it right all of the time, but I am going to show up the best way I know how."

What can Livermore expect from Alpher's tenure as poet laureate? The further cultivation of a community based in love and joy, focused passionate work, and some very exciting plans for Juneteenth.

On the horizon, is Alpher's memoir "Chasing Faith," but for now, she is excited to announce that she will be launching her poetry book, "The Voice You Forgot You Had: 25 Spoken Words from Someone Who Found Theirs," at Prodigy Fitness in Pleasanton this July.

To learn more visit faithalpher.com.

OBITUARIES

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Larry D Howard
Jan. 20, 1942 — Dec. 29, 2025
In Loving Memory



Larry Howard passed away on Dec. 29, 2025, of natural causes surrounded by members of his loving family. He was born in Sylacauga, Alabama to Elizebeth Warbritton and George Harry Howard. His stepfather, Dewey Hudson, also played a prominent role in raising him from an early age. At the age of five, he moved to Livermore, California, where he resided all his life, graduating from Livermore High School in 1960. Growing up, he loved sports, especially football, and during his senior year in high school he was awarded the most valuable player award following Livermore High's undefeated season, which culminated in a local playoff victory. He joined the

Pleasanton Fire Department and was proud of his lifelong career as a first responder serving the community he loved. During the last few years of his career, he took on a leadership role in the Pleasanton Firefighters Union, successfully negotiating the merger

of the Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Departments (LFPD). In retirement, he spent time playing country and blues tunes on his guitar, gathering with family, fishing, BBQing, and enjoying the good life at his fishing shack in Oakley, California. He was a wonderful, caring father who put his family first, had many good friends, and always stressed the importance of doing the right thing. He is survived by his children Rebecca, Shawn, Holly and Phillip, and his grandchildren. Larry is reunited in peace with his daughter Sharon, who preceded him in death. Family and friends will be gathering for a celebration of life on June 27 at 11 a.m. at 2137 Buena Vista Ave., Livermore, California.

IN LOVING MEMORY

Mark Stanley Kaufman
July 19, 1965 — June 3, 2026



Mark Stanley Kaufman entered eternal rest June 3, 2026. Born July 19, 1965, in Shreveport, Louisiana, to Fredericka Conkerton and Stanley Kaufman, Mark was raised in New Orleans, where he began a life defined by service, leadership, and devotion to family.

Mark shared 38 wonderful years of marriage with his beloved wife, Donna Kaufman. He was a proud, loving father to William Kaufman and Ashleigh Kaufman Jeffreys (Jay), and a devoted grandfather to cherished granddaughters, Bella and Ava. His family was the center of his world and his greatest joy.

Mark began his professional career at the Louisiana Superdome, working in the security department. Through determination and hard work, he rose to become Director of Sales and Event Services. His passion for excellence and commitment to service shaped a distinguished career in sports venue management.

Mark proudly served his country in the United States

Marine Corps Reserves and was honorably discharged with the rank of Sergeant. He also served as a reserve lieutenant with the Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office in Street Crimes Unit and as a member of the Honor Guard.

After moving to California, Mark served as General Manager of the Alameda County Coliseum and Oracle Arena in Oakland. He continued his commitment to community service as a member of the Honorary Deputy Sheriffs' Association for the Alameda County Sheriff's Department, as Vice President

of the Livermore Rodeo Foundation, member of the Oakland Convention and Visitors Board and a Country Music Association Voting Member.

Mark returned to New Orleans to lead the Public Safety & Campus Logistics Department at the Ernest Morial Convention Center, where he worked closely with the Department of Homeland Security and FBI. In later years, returning to Livermore to be near family.

Mark formed lasting friendships and meaningful connections throughout his life. He will be remembered for his leadership, integrity, strength, loyalty, and love for his family. Though he will be missed, his legacy will continue in the lives of those he touched.

Services: Friday, June 26, 2026 — 10:00 a.m.

Callaghan Mortuary, Livermore

Callaghan Mortuary is honored to be serving the Kaufman family. An online guestbook is available for condolences at www.callaghanmortuary.com.

Melvin LeRoy Callabresi

Dec. 31, 1939 — Sept. 8, 2025



Melvin LeRoy Callabresi, a loving spouse, father, engineer, architect, and farmer, died peacefully in September 2025 at his daughter's home in Los Angeles surrounded by his two children. Mel lived an incredibly full life. His legacy stretches from the Midwest through to California; from his life on the farm, to his work on the St. Louis Arch, to his contributions to U.S. defense systems, to his "projects" with friends and family all over the western half of the U.S. He will be remembered as a kind and

gentle soul with an inquisitive nature and a boundless capacity to problem-solve.

Mel was born in Salina, Kansas, unceremoniously, on New Years Eve in 1939 to a farmer and wife (Earl and Josephine Callabresi). Mel was the youngest of three children, sister Helen and brother Richard 10 and 12 years his senior respectively. As the youngest member of the family, Mel enjoyed the freedom and independence of his childhood on the farm. Through perseverance, many toils of farm life were overcome, including fires, floods, tornados and life-changing injuries, skills which he carried with him throughout his life off the farm.

He shared stories of rabid livestock and feats of strength amongst fires, harvest thefts and shooting out his dog's tooth. But nothing was more significant in his very early life than teaching his mother to write left-handed with him in grade school following the loss of her right arm in a corn-picker accident. This cemented his close bond with his

mother and father, and his parents would later join him in Livermore throughout their retirement and passing. His love for building and fixing just about anything on the farm served him well his entire life, and propelled him to great achievement. He passed this model of self-reliance on to both his children and his grandchildren, who remain deeply grateful for his example and wisdom.

In college at Kansas State University, Mel became an accomplished student of civil engineering and drafting, and participated in extracurricular activities including becoming president of his fraternity. At college he met his beloved wife, Jane Edith McCaslin of Stockton, Kansas. Jane and Mel began a great and loving relationship that lasted nearly 60 years together.

Following Mel's college graduation, he accepted an exciting engineering and architectural opportunity in 1963 to design the scaffolding for the construction of the St. Louis Gateway Arch project. This historic project and

Mel's scaffolding design and construction were a great success. Prior to the completion of the Arch interior design, Mel and Jane moved to Tucson, Arizona where he earned his master's and PhD in civil engineering at the University of Arizona. Mel's daughter, Debra Lyn, was born in Tucson in 1968 just before he moved to his home of 55 years in Livermore, California, where his son Douglas Wayne was born in 1970.

Livermore (and the Tri-Valley area) was the perfect home for Mel and his family; a beautiful combination of scientists, farmers, and outdoor enthusiasts which mimicked his own background and interests. Mel started work at Sandia National Laboratories in 1969 as a civil engineer and research scientist where he remained employed until 1996.

Mel became an integral part of the community and made many long-lasting friends from work, the neighborhood, and particularly from his extensive youth sports coaching, volunteer work,

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Roger Marley
Sept. 15, 1946 — April 22, 2026



Roger Marley passed into eternal life on April 22, 2026, nearly 80 years a lifelong Bay Area resident. He is survived by wife, Linda; son, Jeremy; sisters, Debbie Roberson and Diana Marley-Givins; and nieces, nephews and cousins. He is a man of honor, integrity, and sense of duty and fairness; always sharing God's light and love with the world.

Born to father, Donald, and mother, Grace, in Richmond, California in 1946, he spent many summers hitchhiking down to his Granddad Tex in Pacific Grove. He graduated from Ravenswood High School, East Palo Alto, in 1964, where he met high school sweetheart and wife of 58 years, Linda Marley. He joined the US Navy in 1964 and served aboard the USS Carpenter with three tours in Vietnam. He was active in the Jaycees, 1971-1975, where he helped build the North Livermore Neighborhood Park,

supported seniors in the neighborhood installing deadbolts, and served on the Springtown Board of Directors. He then became active in the First Presbyterian Church as a deacon, choir member, and chaplain for Scout Troop 939 for over 40 years. As deacon, he served as Christmas Eve dinner chair, led the annual giving tree, and visited with elders and veterans in the community.

He spent over 40 years

Jonathan (Teresa) Aarvik, and Henry Davis, along with her four grandchildren, Addison, Jaxon, Aubrey, and Maddison, who meant the world to her and brought her so much happiness. Being a grandmother brought Christine immense joy, and she treasured every moment she spent with her grandchildren.

Our mom worked at Albertsons and later at Seaside as an accountant. No matter where she was, she was known for her caring nature, strong work ethic, and willingness to help others.

To us, she was everything—a wonderful mother, a constant source of love and support, and someone who always put her family first. Her love, strength, and kindness will remain with us always. She will be missed more than words can express.

Our family will be holding a private celebration of life to honor her memory.



Christine Ann Aarvik
Feb. 6, 1967 — Apr. 6, 2026

With heavy hearts, we share the passing of someone deeply loved and cherished. Our family has lost a beautiful soul whose kindness and love touched everyone around her. Though our hearts are broken, we are grateful for the time we had with her and the memories we will carry forever.

Christine Ann Aarvik passed away on April 6, 2026, at the age of 59.

Our beloved mother, Christine, was the heart of our family. She was kind, warm, and endlessly giving—always putting others before herself and making sure everyone around her felt cared for and loved. She had a gentle spirit and a generous heart, and she found joy in the simple things, especially spending time with family, playing bingo, and shopping, which she truly loved.

Christine was born to Robert and Irene Bishop, who preceded her in death. She grew

camping with Jeremy and Troop 939 at Wente Scout Reservation where he earned the Unsung Hero Award. He was a founding sponsor of the Bankhead Theater, loved the Oakland A's, Raiders, and 49ers. He traveled the world, with the love of his wife. Europe, Caribbean, Central America, South Pacific, Hawaii, Mexico, Canada, Panama; he always found a way to connect with locals over tourists, living the words of his cousin and musical mentor, Bob Marley, "The greatness of a man is not in how much wealth he acquires, but in his ability to affect those around him positively."

A celebration of his life will be held at the First Presbyterian Church in Livermore, California, on June 20, 2026, at 1 p.m. All are welcome to attend. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to livermorearts.org/support-the-arts in his name.

After retirement, Jane and he enjoyed traveling throughout Europe and the U.S. with their close friends. One of their highlights was their trip to Alaska, which they never imagined seeing, coming from small-town Kansas. Their greatest joy was spending time with their children, grandchildren, and extended family. Tragically, Jane developed Alzheimer's and Mel cared for her at home for over a decade before her passing. He will be missed greatly and is survived by his daughter Debra, son Douglas, grandchildren Lydia, Nathaniel, Kelsey, Anthony, and Nicholas.

A private memorial will be held for Mel in June, at one of the wineries he loved to tour with friends and family that visited. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Alzheimer's Association (www.alz.org) in tribute to his deceased wife Jane, or to the Parkinson's Foundation (www.parkinson.org) in his name.



10 Stories from 2025-26 Worth Cheering About

By Mitch Stephens

The stands at local high school stadiums and gymnasiums are largely vacant now, save for returning athletes climbing stairs and building endurance while dripping sweat.

It's all in preparation for when those stands are filled with parents, alumni and fellow students to cheer on their local teams.

Here are top 10 stories that kept local fans cheering throughout the 2025-26 school year.

10. Brave New World: Led by second-year head baseball coach Chris Gomez and a phenomenal freshman class, Brave Christian — formerly Valley Christian in the hills of Dublin — put together a phenomenal 22-1-1 season (9-0 in the Bay Counties League general) while outscoring opponents 301-37. That is not bad considering the Lions were a combined 2-29 the two seasons before Gomez, who led Fremont Christian to big success for more than a decade, arrived in 2025. Jadon Hart (.645, 43 RBIs), Legend Dorham (.615, 29 RBIs) and Caesar Cornelio (.552, 55 runs), all freshman, led the offensive charge while Hart, Cornelio and Dorham were a combined 18-0 on the mound, all with ERAs at 1.50 or lower.

9. Amador Valley girls water polo: First-year coach Drake Southern didn't waste any time — leading the Dons to the school's first North Coast Section title in the sport with a 9-7 win over Alhambra-Martinez on Nov. 15. Speedy senior standout Susan Swyers scored six second-half goals in the game and finished with a season-best 125.

8. Livermore softball: It was one big celebration after another for the Cowboys, who not only finished 25-4 and won the East Bay Athletic League round-robin title with a 13-0 season, but they also won their own Livermore Stampede Tournament for just the third time in the 32-year tourney history and first time since 2015. Fort Hays State (Kansas)-bound pitcher Kaci Norton won tourney MVP and All-tournament honors went to shortstop Lanie Macosky, a Northwestern signee, along with Cal commit Gianna Willes. Macosky (.537, 38 runs, 30 RBIs) was EBAL Player of the Year, Norton (20-3, 1.27 ERA) was Pitcher of the Year and Willis, Isabella Kelton and Payten Williams were first-team All-EBAL.

7. One city, tale of two baseball teams: Neither of the baseball teams at Livermore and Granada figured to be playing late in May, but both were. The Cowboys, despite a 12-19 overall record (1-8 in EBAL), were the last NCS team standing. Because of a 4-2 record against teams in its Division 4 enrollment, Livermore got into the postseason and then began to roll. The team took its second NCS title with an 8-7 Division 4 win over Newark Memorial thanks to a 4-for-4, four RBIs and game-winning home run performance by Nico Rodriguez. Livermore then won two NorCal playoff games only to lose in the finals to Half Moon Bay, 2-0. UCSB-bound Braden Ford was the team's only first-team All-EBAL performer. Granada, which had to replace 18 graduates off the 2025 team, started slow at 3-4 but finished 20-10, losing in the NCS finals to De La Salle, but winning a NorCal game at St. Mary's-Stockton. The Matadors finished No. 5 in the Bay Area behind All-League pitcher Braden Makley (7-3, 1.58 ERA). That prompted 18-year coach Corrigan Willis to say the squad was "one of my favorites I've ever coached."

6. Brother-Sister Act: Sibling forces Anthony and Riley Harrington made lasting impressions on the gridiron and campus for Amador Valley football and flag football playoff teams. Senior wideout and cornerback Anthony earned first-team All-EBAL honors for a second straight year with 69 catches for 1,196 yards in nine games. The lockdown defender signed a scholarship to Idaho State. His junior sister, Riley, was All-EBAL first team for a second straight year as the QB of the vastly improved flag team went 15-7. Riley accounted for 85% of the team's offensive touchdowns, said first-year coach Ryan Wittmer, who called her the "most spirited" player he's ever coached in 18 seasons. "I compare those two with 'The Incredibles,'" Amador Valley tackle football coach Danny Jones said. "They both share different yet similar superpowers. It's felt all over our campus."

5. Boys basketball bonanza: Trying to sum up the seasons for Livermore, Granada, Amador Valley and Dublin isn't easy. In a word: "bittersweet." All had huge highs and lows, but the last team standing was Amador Valley, which largely underachieved most of the season, because two of its three key transfers coming in weren't granted eligibility by the NCS. Coach Willis Gardner kept the squad cohesive, and All-Leaguers Jaylen Smith and Cade Krueger were outstanding late as Amador Valley reached the NorCal semifinals while finishing 21-13. The Dons did lose in the NCS D1 semifinals to Granada, which also peaked late, losing a tight NCS title game to Bishop O'Dowd (79-76) before being upset in the first round of the NorCal playoffs by Clovis (69-63). Junior 6-7 forward Brandon Hahn was the San Francisco Chronicle's Contra Costa/Tri-Valley Player of the Year, averaging 24.5 points and 14.8 rebounds per game. Dublin (19-9) over-achieved all season thanks to a dream team of players, according to longtime coach Tony Costello, including University of Colorado-Colorado Springs senior Izaiyah Romero, Aiden Li and Nick Lee. The Gaels were eliminated in the NCS quarterfinals by Liberty-Brentwood. The team that earned the most headlines but finished ninth in the EBAL at 3-6 (18-10 overall) was Livermore, which won its first EBAL game in 14 years to break a 121-game streak with a 74-63 home win over Amador Valley on Jan. 9. The Cowboys, led by one of the state's top sophomores Amare Chandler, also beat De La Salle-Concord for the first time in school history and recorded the school's first NCS road playoff win with an 81-78 victory at California-San Ramon when Chandler scored 40 points, hitting last-second 3-pointers at the end of regulation (to tie) and in overtime (to win).

4. Granada flag football: Led by EBAL offensive player of the year Katie Vail and 49ers Cal-Hi Sports NCS Player of the Year Marin Lnenicka, Granada's flag football team reached the NCS Division 1 title game, losing to San Ramon Valley-Danville, 14-7. Vail led all NCS passers with 4,315 yards to go along with 49 touchdowns. Lnenicka had 102 catches for 1,298 yards and 21 touchdowns. She also led the Matadors in tackles (94), interceptions (nine) and pass deflections (16). Granada was the fifth seed at NCS but beat defending champion Alameda (26-20), fourth-seed Heritage-Brentwood (33-0) and top-seed Las Lomas-Walnut Creek (13-7). Third-year coach Jared Muela's squad featured 16 seniors on a 26-person roster.

3. Double Granada trouble: As in trouble if you had to face the female wrestling duo of SJ Martin and Maile Nguyen, who each took home medals from the California state meet on Feb. 28 at Dignity Health Arena in Bakersfield. Martin, in fact, finished at the top of the podium, taking first in the 120-pound class to become the first Granada wrestler to ever win gold. Nguyen was sixth at 125s while finishing as the school's all-time pin leader and second most wins.

2. Livermore football: Setting the tone for a banner Livermore athletic year, the Cowboys (9-2, 3-0), led by All-Bay Area quarterback Matteo Lortie (3,355 total yards, 37 touchdowns) won their first EBAL title since 1993, clinching it with a typically heart-stopping, 15-13 season-ending win over Granada on Nov. 7. "It was a crazy good feeling," Lortie said. "Euphoric. Fun. Fantastic." CT Harper (61 catches, 1,164 yards) and A.J. Carey (52 catches, 758 yards) were his top targets. Said seventh-year head coach John Wade: "They were the team that should be the one to hang that banner up. They did all the right things."

1. Win one for coach Williams: It was a foregone conclusion that Dublin's experienced boys cross-country team would win a third straight NCS Division 1 title and eighth in nine seasons. But its dominating performance Nov. 22 at Hayward High School elicited more joy and perspective than previous titles. Popular 17th-year Gaels coach Chris Williams was seven months removed from having 13 cancerous lymph nodes surgically removed from his colon. The upbeat coach had to sit out the track and field season in the spring but returned to watch seniors Daniel Santhiapillai and Justin Feng finish 1-2 at NCS. "With his condition, he could have taken this season off, but he chose to be with us," Santhiapillai said.

Hu Foundation Announces Its 2026 Scholarship Recipients

TRI-VALLEY — The Alan Hu Foundation has announced that 19 graduating high school seniors and two students from Las Positas College will be receiving scholarships.

The scholarships are awarded to Tri-Valley students whose college and career aspirations are in mental health fields.

They honor both Alan Hu, the son of foundation founders Xiaofang Chen and Chih-Ching Hu, who died after struggling with mental health issues at age 15, and Sarah Rahman, a 40-year-old woman from Fremont who also died by suicide.

"We want to encourage students to pursue college majors and careers in mental health, as the need is so great for mental health

services and providers," Chen explained. "Our 2026 recipients aspire to be medical doctors, nurses, psychologists, psychiatrists, neuroscientists, teachers, police officers, firefighters and EMTs."

Nayeli Barajas, a student at Las Positas College, received this year's \$2,000 Superiority Award scholarship, while her fellow student Caleb Chang received a \$750 Meritorious Award scholarship.

The foundation also awarded \$1,000 Superiority Award scholarships to Atiqah Ghouse, Amador Valley High School, Anna Kim, Foothill High School, Cathy Chen and Akhil Venkatesh, Dublin High School, Angelina Harris, Granada High School, and Isabel Roy,

Livermore High School. (6) The foundation awarded \$500 Meritorious Award scholarships to Amador Valley High School graduates Mason Bona, Ayesha Gani and Haden Moe, Foothill High School graduates Avery Fink and Kanoa Markel, Dublin High School graduates Vihaan Dey, Tori Harrison, Sharanya Kesarla and Joshua Wu, and Granada High School graduates Raya Casselman, Kennedy Coli and Megan Lemler. (12)

Livermore High School graduate Madison Cerf received a \$250 Excellence Award scholarship.

The Hu Foundation was created to raise awareness of mental health struggles, remove the stigma associated with mental health issues and support research.

3VCF Announces Community Grants

TRI-VALLEY — Thirteen nonprofit organizations have been awarded Community Health Impact Grants by the Three Valleys Community Foundation (3VCF) for 2026.

3VCF said the grants, totaling more than \$160,000, focused on the areas of mental health and wellness, health equity and access, economic vitality and stability, and environmental health and sustainability.

"Communities across our region continue to face growing challenges related to mental health, economic stability, access to care, social connection and overall well-being,"

said Kelly Bowers, CEO and president of 3VCF.

The grant recipients "are addressing these needs every day with compassion, creativity and deep community knowledge," Bowers added. "Through this program, we are investing not only in individual projects, but in a healthier, more resilient future for our entire Three Valleys region."

Receiving grants this year were the Alan Hu Foundation, Axis Community Health, Connected Horse, Crisis Support Services of Alameda County, Down Syndrome Connection of the Bay Area, Empowered Aging, Livermore Valley

Arts, Love Never Fails, Marine Science Institute, Shepherd's Gate, Sleep in Heavenly Peace, Sumol Glen Community Club and the HomeMore Project.

3VCF said the grants ranged from \$5,000 to \$20,000; however, the size of individual grants was not announced.

The foundation is a Pleasanton-based nonprofit philanthropic organization that works to connect donors with community nonprofits in Alameda and Contra Costa counties. The Community Health Impact Grants are funded through the foundation's annual Power of Collaboration Corporate Challenge.



The Livermore High School softball team celebrates on the field after a 2-1 victory over St. Francis-Mountain View to win the 32nd annual Livermore Stampede on Saturday, April 11, 2026. The win moved the Cowboys to 15-1 and solidified their No. 1 ranking in Northern California. (Photo courtesy of Kiera Winslow/Livermore Granada Boosters)

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 623387
The following person(s) doing

business as: 1. Moon Flower Melts; 2. Grounded Growth, 577 Via Acalanes, San Lorenzo, CA 94580 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Miss Jessica Millett, 577 Via Acalanes, San Lorenzo, CA

94580. 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: Miss Jessica Millett, Owner. This

statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on May 15, 2026. Expires May 14, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6862. Published May 28, June 4, 11, 18, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 623494
The following person(s) doing business as: Falafel N Gyro, 501 Wright Brothers Ave, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered

by the following owner(s): Ahmad Masoud Faiz, 51 Wright Brothers Ave, 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: Ahmad Masoud Faiz, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on May 21, 2026. Expires May 20, 2031. The Independent, Legal

No. 6863. Published May 28, June 4, 11, 18, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 622996
The following person(s) doing

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business as: DrHussainYoga, 1133 E Stanley Blvd, Suite 103, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Tasmina Hussain, 1133 E Stanley Blvd, Suite 103, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 4/1/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Tasmina Hussain, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on May 4, 2026. Expires May 3, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6864. Published May 28, June 4, 11, 18, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 622956

The following person(s) doing business as: FBB Studios, 1940 Webster St, Ste 806, Oakland, CA 94612 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Ngo Bassong, 1940 Webster St, Ste 806, Oakland, CA 94612-2920. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 5/1/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Ngo Bassong, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 30, 2026. Expires April 30, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6865. Published May 28, June 4, 11, 18, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 622633

The following person(s) doing business as: Dandy Lion Florals, 727 Arbor Dr, San Leandro, CA 94577 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Jessica Parkyn, 727 Arbor Dr, San Leandro, CA 94577. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Jessica Parkyn, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 21, 2026. Expires April 20, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6866. Published May 28, June 4, 11, 18, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 623417

The following person(s) doing business as: Wanthave, 2155 Chateau Place, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Chateau Fiasco, LLC, 2155 Chateau Place, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 5/14/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Peter Hootman, Managing Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on May 18, 2026. Expires May 17, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6867. Published May 28, June 4, 11, 18, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 622786

The following person(s) doing business as: Mortgage Dynamics, 11501 Dublin Blvd #200, Dublin, CA 94568 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Dynamic Real Estate Services, 11501 Dublin Blvd, Ste 200, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 1/1/2004. Signature of Registrant/s/: Levy Barnes, President, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 24, 2026. Expires April 23, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6868. Published May 28, June 4, 11, 18, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 623413

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Lost Worlds; 2. I love Lost Worlds; 3. Lost Worlds Livermore; 4. Lost Worlds By Livermore, 6538 Patterson Pass RD, Ste E, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Playverse LLC, 6538 Patterson Pass RD, Ste E, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 7/16/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Kamran Chaudhry, Managing Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on May 15, 2026. Expires May 14, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6869. Published May 28, June 4, 11, 18, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 623197

The following person(s) doing business as: The UPS Store #1411, 6167 Jarvis Ave, Newark, CA 94560 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Rai Portfolio LLC, 2609 Cranston CT, Tracy, CA 95377. 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/: Aman Rai, Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on May 11, 2026. Expires May 10, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6870. Published May 28, June 4, 11, 18, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 623407

The following person(s) doing business as: Delford West Flowers, 10971 Clifford Dr, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Shana Draggoo, 10971 Clifford Dr, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business

name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Shana Draggoo, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on May 15, 2026. Expires May 14, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6871. Published May 28, June 4, 11, 18, 2026.

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME ORIGINAL FILE NO. 585641

The person(s) listed below have abandoned the use of the following fictitious business name(s): Delford West Flowers, 3070 Olivoro CT, Livermore, CA 94550. Registered by the following owner(s): Karl Raymond Eckel, 3070 Olivoro CT, Livermore, CA 94550. The fictitious business name statement was filed on 1/13/2022 in the County of Alameda. This business was conducted by an Individual. Signature of Registrants: /s/: Karl Raymond Eckel, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on 5/13/2026. The Independent, Legal No. 6872. Published May 28, June 4, 11, 18, 2026.

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME ORIGINAL FILE NO. 620918

The person(s) listed below have abandoned the use of the following fictitious business name(s): Black Cat Closet, 3917A Novel Way, Castro Valley, CA 94546. Registered by the following owner(s): Wen-Yi Wan, 3917A Novel Way, Castro Valley, CA 94546. The fictitious business name statement was filed on 2/18/2026 in the County of Alameda. This business was conducted by an Individual. Signature of Registrants: /s/: Wen-Yi Wan, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on 5/20/2026. The Independent, Legal No. 6873. Published May 28, June 4, 11, 18, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 623555

The following person(s) doing business as: L'Arcana, 4249 Fitzwilliam Street, Dublin, CA 94568 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Justine Valino, 3736 Fallon Road, #641, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 5/22/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Justine Valino, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on May 22, 2026. Expires May 21, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6874. Published June 4, 11, 18, 25, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 622877

The following person(s) doing business as: Bloom Craft Floral Co., 3833 East Ave, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Lukas Plato, 3833 East Ave, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 4/24/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Lukas Plato, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 29, 2026. Expires April 28, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6875. Published June 4, 11, 18, 25, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 623247

The following person(s) doing business as: Paradise Landscape, 1115 Rincon Ave, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Ivan Munoz Cardenas, 1115 Rincon Ave, 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/: Ivan Munoz Cardenas, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on May 12, 2026. Expires May 11, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6876. Published June 4, 11, 18, 25, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 623599

The following person(s) doing business as: Como en Casa Colombia Restaurant, 4336 San Pablo Ave, Emeryville, CA 94608 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Como En Casa Colombia Food LLC, 455 Buena Vista Ave, APT 102, Alameda, CA 94501. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant com-

menced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 2/6/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Olga Patricia Gutierrez Garcia, Managing Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on May 27, 2026. Expires May 26, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6877. Published June 4, 11, 18, 25, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 622712

The following person(s) doing business as: Bly Lee Designs, 7427 Mines RD, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Brenda Chambers, 7427 Mines RD, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 4/1/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Brenda Chambers, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 22, 2026. Expires April 21, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6878. Published June 11, 18, 25, July 2, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 622952

The following person(s) doing business as: Critter Control of Fremont, 34191 Whitehead Ln, Fremont, CA 94555 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Kura Pest Control Services LLC, 114 Bald Eagle LN, Kyle, TX 78640. 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/: Srihar Kura, Manager. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on May 1, 2026. Expires April 30, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6879. Published June 11, 18, 25, July 2, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 623659

The following person(s) doing business as: Juliana Amaya Esthetics, 2500 Central Ave #201, Alameda, CA 94501 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Juliana McWilliams, 228 Puddingstone RD, Alameda, CA 94502. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 5/27/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Juliana McWilliams, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on May 28, 2026. Expires May 27, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6880. Published June 11, 18, 25, July 2, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 623631

The following person(s) doing business as: Omni Mechanical Solutions, 6336 Patterson Pass Road, Suite B, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Thermo-tek Services Inc., 6336 Patterson Pass Road, Suite B, Livermore, CA 94550. 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/: James Mervor, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on May 28, 2026. Expires May 27th, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6881. Published June 11, 18, 25, July 2, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 623744

The following person(s) doing business as: I Smart Services, 1705 South Terracina DR, Dublin, CA 94568 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): I Smart Devices LLC, 1705 S Terracina DR, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Daniele Diodati, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 1, 2026. Expires May 31, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6882. Published June 11, 18, 25, July 2, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 623542

The following person(s) doing business as: California Sinus Centers, a Division of BASS Medical Group, 5924 Stoneridge Drive, Ste 108, Pleasanton, CA 94588 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): BASS Medical Group, 2637 Shad-

elands DR, Walnut Creek, CA 94598. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 12/18/2024. Signature of Registrant/s/: Rajiv Nagesetty, CFO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on May 22, 2026. Expires May 21, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6883. Published June 11, 18, 25, July 2, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 623722

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Ash N Dust Art; 2. Vincent Anton; 3. Story Our Life, 189 W Angela ST, Ste B, Pleasanton, CA 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): The Story of Our Existence LLC, 189 W Angela ST, Ste B, Pleasanton, CA 94566. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 4/8/2024. Signature of Registrant/s/: Anton Fair Schwaegerle, Principal. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on May 29, 2026. Expires May 28, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6884. Published June 11, 18, 25, July 2, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 622778

The following person(s) doing business as: Spotlight Services, 7338 Quartz Cir, Dublin, CA 94568 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Gerald Gallardo, 7338 Quartz Cir, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Gerald Gallardo, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 24, 2026. Expires April 23, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6885. Published June 11, 18, 25, July 2, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 623772

The following person(s) doing business as: Solstairs, 2313 Central Pkwy, Dublin, CA 94568 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Ma Althea Yanni Yanco Villareal, 2313 Central Pkwy, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Ma Althea Yanni Yanco Villareal, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 2, 2026. Expires June 1, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6886. Published June 11, 18, 25, July 2, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 623269

The following person(s) doing business as: Monarch Designs, 3856 Dartmouth Way, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): CNM Holdings Ltd Liability Co, 3856 Dartmouth Way, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 04/20/2022. Signature of Registrant/s/: Christine Noell Michalowski, Owner/CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on May 13, 2026. Expires May 12, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6887. Published June 11, 18, 25, July 2, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 624025

The following person(s) doing business as: Woven Health Co, 3169 Rodeo LN, Livermore, CA 94550-6817 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Adi Fish-Williamson, 3169 Rodeo LN, Livermore, CA 94550-6817. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 6/10/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Adi Fish-Williamson, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 11, 2026. Expires June 10, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6888. Published June 18, 25, July 2, 9, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 623888

The following person(s) doing business as: Revived Renewed Redeemed, 1141 Catalina Dr, #209, Livermore, CA 94550 is

hereby registered by the following owner(s): Chantel M. Antoine, 1141 Catalina Dr, #209, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Chantel M. Antoine, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 5, 2026. Expires June 4, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6889. Published June 18, 25, July 2, 9, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 623896

The following person(s) doing business as: Gokonda Investment Advisors, 1892 Via Di Salerno, Pleasanton, CA 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Sunil Vemulapalli, 1892 Via Di Salerno, Pleasanton, CA 94566. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 6/4/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Sunil Vemulapalli, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 5, 2026. Expires June 4, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6890. Published June 18, 25, July 2, 9, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 623902

The following person(s) doing business as: Nordic Estate Transition Services, 250 Whitmore Street #311, Oakland, CA 94611 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Andreas Berg, 250 Whitmore Street #311, Oakland, CA 94611. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 6/1/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Andreas Berg, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 5, 2026. Expires June 4, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6891. Published June 18, 25, July 2, 9, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 623632

The following person(s) doing business as: BLT Lab, 6886 Pinehaven Road, Oakland, CA 94611 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Mia Brice, 6886 Pinehaven Road, Oakland, CA 94611. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 6/27/2019. Signature of Registrant/s/: Mia Brice, Founder/CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on May 28, 2026. Expires May 27, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6892. Published June 18, 25, July 2, 9, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 623385

The following person(s) doing business as: Modrn Glow Medical Clinic, 1949 Mars Rd, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Modrn Glow Medical Clinic, PC, 1949 Mars Rd, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 4/21/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Ashley Silva, Secretary. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on May 15, 2026. Expires May 14, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6893. Published June 18, 25, July 2, 9, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 623800

The following person(s) doing business as: European Wax Center, 3359 Lakeshore Avenue, Oakland, CA 94610 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Ballast Was CA 5, LLC, 1050 Glenbrook Way, Suite 480 414, Hendersonville, TN 37075. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 5/29/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Heather Graham, COO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 3, 2026. Expires June 2, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6895. Published June 18, 25, July 2, 9, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 623547

The following person(s) doing business as: All Hands Home Health, 6269 Southfront Rd, Suite B, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Careplus Home Health Care Services, Inc., 6269 Southfront Rd, Suite B, 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/: Benjamin Schnur, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 5, 2026. Expires June 4, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6896. Published June 18, 25, July 2, 9, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 623547

The following person(s) doing business as: All Hands Home Health, 6269 Southfront Rd, Suite B, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Careplus Home Health Care Services, Inc., 6269 Southfront Rd, Suite B, 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/: Benjamin Schnur, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 3, 2026. Expires June 2, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6895. Published June 18, 25, July 2, 9, 2026.

of Registrant/s/: Ashley Silva, Secretary. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on May 15, 2026. Expires May 14, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6893. Published June 18, 25, July 2, 9, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 623800

The following person(s) doing business as: European Wax Center, 3359 Lakeshore Avenue, Oakland, CA 94610 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Ballast Was CA 5, LLC, 1050 Glenbrook Way, Suite 480 414, Hendersonville, TN 37075. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 5/29/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Heather Graham, COO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 3, 2026. Expires June 2, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6895. Published June 18, 25, July 2, 9, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 623801

The following person(s) doing business as: European Wax Center, 6820 College Avenue, Oakland, CA 94618 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Ballast Was CA 6, LLC, 1050 Glenbrook Way, Suite 480 414, Hendersonville, TN 37075. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 5/29/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Heather Graham, COO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 3, 2026. Expires June 2, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6895. Published June 18, 25, July 2, 9, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 623682

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Wow Signal; 2. Wow Signal Recordings; 3. Wow Singles, 5741 Vicente ST, Apt B, Oakland, CA 94609 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Brendan Glasson, 5741 Vicente ST, Apt B, Oakland, CA 94609. 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/: Brendan Glasson, Sole Proprietor. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on May 29, 2026. Expires May 28, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6896. Published June 18, 25, July 2, 9, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 623886

The following person(s) doing business as: Deepthi VR Collections & Arts, 5555 Dublin Blvd, Dublin, CA 94568 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Deepthi Venkata Ravikanth, 5555 Dublin Blvd, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 3/1/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Deepthi Venkata Ravikanth, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 5, 2026. Expires June 4, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6897.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 623886

The following person(s) doing business as: Deepthi VR Collections & Arts, 5555 Dublin Blvd, Dublin, CA 94568 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Deepthi Venkata Ravikanth, 5555 Dublin Blvd, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 3/1/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Deepthi Venkata Ravikanth, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 5, 2026. Expires June 4, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6897.

Published June 18, 25, July 2, 9, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 623860

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Pragmatic Sky; 2. Pig Pile Games; 3. Pig Pile, 46 Crane Court, Alameda, CA 94502 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Benjamin Schnur, Alameda, CA 94502. 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/: Benjamin Schnur, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 5, 2026. Expires June 4, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6898. Published June 18, 25, July 2, 9, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 623547

The following person(s) doing business as: All Hands Home Health, 6269 Southfront Rd, Suite B, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Careplus Home Health Care Services, Inc., 6269 Southfront Rd, Suite B, 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/: Benjamin Schnur, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on May 22, 2026. Expires May 21, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6899. Published June 18, 25, July 2, 9, 2026.

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME ORIGINAL FILE NO. 616589

The person(s) listed below have abandoned the use of the following fictitious business name(s): Laundry Buddies, 38918 Spicelush PL, Newark, CA 94560. Registered by the following owner(s): SoftRinse Group LLC, 38918 Spicelush PL, Newark, CA 94560. The fictitious business name statement was filed on 8/4/2025 in the County of Alameda. This business was conducted by a Limited Liability Company. Signature of Registrants: /s/: Deric Walintukan, Managing Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on 6/10/2026. The Independent, Legal No. 6900. Published June 18, 25, July 2, 9, 2026.

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Bid Underway to Bring Massive Art Installation to Livermore

By Christina Cavallaro

LIVERMORE — Livermore is on the task of becoming the exclusive West Coast host to a life-size herd of 30 traveling elephant sculptures, all part of a global public art phenomenon.

From the arts visionary who successfully brought the uber-popular ComiCon event to the Bankhead Theater three years ago comes another epic

“I’ve been at this for two years. And it’s nothing to do with my job, I don’t know why I’m just ... I have to do this,” Giancola said. “We are the only West Coast location for this run of the herd.”

They came across the country ending last year to huge acclaim and record numbers of visitors in each city they visited. Their inspiring story has raised millions of dollars to support

how incredible it is to be getting it (the installation) here,” Giancola said. Her persistence in making that happen includes actively beating out San Francisco to secure the herd.

“San Francisco was making noises about getting it. And they were getting difficult to work with and they hadn’t decided,” she said. When the elephant organizer called Giancola with the

invasive weed in India. Harvesting the material opens up farmland and wild areas for native wildlife to return. The grand-scale pieces resemble beautiful rattan-like objects.

“They are just such a draw when you see them,” Giancola said. “You will fall in love with these elephants. They’re so family-friendly and you walk up to them and you touch them. It’s everything that you can’t always do at public art.”

The intended visual march of the herd will begin downtown next to the Bankhead Theater and from there it will “migrate” across the lawn over to Livermore Plaza and then to Stockmen’s Park.

“We have all this free parking, and we’re going to need it,” Giancola said. “People will come out to see these things.”

All that’s left is to secure the funding and Giancola is halfway to her goal of \$140,000, \$100,000 of which is strictly for the herd rental. She has solicited the help of 333Arts, a San Francisco nonprofit that acts as a collaborative engine to bring accessible, large-scale visual art to local municipalities and public spaces.

“Because this is way big for me,” Giancola admitted. “And it’s got nothing to do with LVA, but I’m the driver behind this thing. Like it’s not benefiting (LVA), it’s benefiting the city and the downtown merchants.”

In fact, Giancola will be presenting to the City Council on June 22 and hopes to earn its official approval and a pledge for \$30,000. She has garnered support, including a \$15,000 commitment from Visit Tri-Valley. “They understand that this is gonna be big,” Giancola said. She has also received major verbal backing and letters of support from local leaders and community figures like Mony Nop.

Giancola sees the opportunities for cross-promotion and

collaboration as endless: from proposals including the placement of a prominent male elephant at the San Francisco Premium Outlets to another positioned in Livermore Wine Country to drive tourist traffic back and forth. She also sees opportunities for local school groups to visit, study and even “adopt” the elephants.


“It could go on and on. We haven’t even tapped into it (all) yet,” she said.

There are plans to create signage and a massive call for local docents and volunteers to share the conservation story with guests.

“It’s just a wonderful

story and on a number of different levels,” Giancola said. “And we’re getting them before anyone else in the whole West Coast.

And it’s completely free to the public.”



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Crafted from dried lantana camara, an invasive weed harming Indian ecosystems, these life-sized elephants are part of a 30-member herd organizers hope to bring to Livermore’s Bankhead Plaza this fall. (Photo courtesy of Anne Giancola)

undertaking — “The Great Elephant Migration,” slated for display throughout Livermore in September and October.

Anne Giancola, visual arts and education manager at Livermore Valley Arts, first saw the majestic sculptures with her family in Newport, Rhode Island, in 2024 and has been chasing down organizers ever since to bring them here.

human-wildlife coexistence projects and protect migratory animals. In 2024 and 2025, a 100-strong herd migrated across the U.S. with installations in Newport, Rhode Island; the Meatpacking District in New York City; Miami Beach, during Art Basel; Texas; Jackson Hole, Wyoming; and Beverly Hills, California. “Livermore has no idea

news that they’d give her and Livermore the exclusive, she jumped on it. “Because once San Francisco gets them there’s no need — it would take all of our thunder.”

The enormous collection of anatomically varied sculptures — each with its own name, distinctive look, and personality — is handmade from Lantana camara, an

TV 30 Giving Away Fair Tickets

TRI-VALLEY — The deadline to enter TV 30’s drawing for free tickets to the 2026 Alameda County Fair is midnight tonight (Thursday, June 18).

To enter the giveaway, go to tv30.org and click on the Lucky Fan icon. Winners will be announced on the TV 30 Face-

book page. The county fair in Pleasanton will open on Friday, June 19, and run through Sunday, July 12.

Australian Labradoodle ‘Lucy’ is Named Livermore Ambassadors

LIVERMORE — Lucy, a 9-year-old Australian Labradoodle, has been named Livermore “ambassador” for 2026 by the Valley Humane Society (VHS) and the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District (LARP).

Lucy, owned by Livermore residents Denelle and Eric Alexander, will represent VHS and LARP at community events.

In addition, Lucy already “volunteers” with the VHS Canine Comfort Pet-Assisted

Therapy Program, visiting local schools and assisted-living communities to provide comfort and companionship.


Australian Labradoodles were developed in the 1980s as service dogs for people with allergies by crossing Labrador retrievers, standard poodles and cocker spaniels.

Breeders describe them as friendly, affectionate, intelligent and highly trainable, making them excellent family pets and therapy dogs.

This is the third year

that VHS and LARP have partnered in naming an ambassador.

“We’re proud to continue this partnership with Valley Humane Society and celebrate the animals that help make Livermore such a welcoming community,” said LARP Board Chair Philip Pierpont. “Lucy has already brought comfort and smiles to so many people through her volunteer work, and we’re excited to have her representing Livermore as our 2026 ambassador.”



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READER SNAPSHOTS
Share Your Best Shot

We are looking for local photos to feature in The Independent’s new Reader Snapshots section. Whether it’s a beautiful moment, a slice of Tri-Valley life or something that made you smile, we want to see it. Email your image, full name, city of residence and a brief caption to editor@independentnews.com for a chance to be featured in an upcoming issue.