



Eduardo Altamirano of Superfly Wheels in Pleasanton poses with the type of street and paved-path E-bike that is available through a rebate program initiated by Ava Community Energy. (Photo — Doug Jorgensen)

Funding Assistance To Purchase E-Bikes Now Available To Help Decarbonization

Ava Community Energy Launches Rebate Program in Alameda County

By David Jen

TRI-VALLEY — The adoption of electric bikes – bicycles with electric motors that can help pedal – received a boost this week with funding assistance for those looking to buy e-bikes.

Ava Community Energy on July 8 launched a rebate program to help residents buy up to 9,200 e-bikes between now and September 2026. All residents of Alameda County who are 18 and older can apply for rebates worth between \$400 and \$1,500 each, depending on the type of e-bike and the applicant’s income.

Ava buys power on behalf of electric customers in Alameda County and the cities of Stockton, Tracy and Lathrop. It aims to provide 100% carbon-free electricity by 2030, but Ava customers today can source their power solely from wind and solar for a quarter-cent premium above Pacific Gas & Electric’s per-kilowatt-hour rate.

“We feel like this (e-bike funding) is a great way to address our decarbonization goals by trying to alleviate the need for our customers and communities to depend on vehicles and cars, (and) as a way to alleviate some of the congestion issues that one of our partners,

ACTC (Alameda County Transportation Commission), has,” Ava CEO Howard Chang said. “There is survey data that shows that over 50 percent of the trips in the U.S. tend to be less than three miles, so we think e-bikes would be very suitable for being able to replace a meaningful share of those trips.”

The \$10 million program is funded by Ava and a \$4 million contribution from ACTC.

The e-bike industry categorizes e-bikes into three classes. Class 1 e-bikes only engage the motor if the rider pedals, and Classes 2 and 3 have separate throttle controls for the motor. Classes 1 and 2

(See E-BIKES, page 6)

Townsend, New Site Manager at Sandia, Discusses Challenges at Livermore Facility

Uncertain Budget Projections, Job Cuts Create Abundance of Questions

By Jeff Garberson

LIVERMORE — Toby Townsend, the new manager for the Livermore campus of Sandia National Laboratories, considers himself a product of the Sandia system.

In the late 1990s, coming from a small town in northwest New Mexico, he studied electrical engineering as an undergraduate at the University of New Mexico, interning at Sandia’s main campus in Albuquerque while doing so.

On graduating, he took advantage of a Sandia program that helped support his further education. That led to a master’s degree in electronics engineering at Princeton University in New Jersey.

After that, perhaps not surpris-

ingly, he wanted to give back to the organization that had helped him start a career.

His motivation might have been gratitude at first, but he also enjoyed the work.

“I came back with a certain commitment to the institution ... but was having a lot of fun. Twenty-seven years went by, and I’m still here!”

Townsend, 45, takes over management of Sandia’s Livermore facility at a challenging time. Sandia is a national lab, and most of its support comes from the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA). Budget cuts from Washington are expected to lead to job losses of 1-3% in the coming year. There is so much uncertainty in the budget forecasts that managers

can’t be specific about where cuts will fall.

At least, that’s the response to a question about which programs will be cut.

“There is still incredible uncertainty in the federal budget for next year,” Townsend told The Independent. “We’re being proactive to ensure the long-term sustainability of the institution. ... We’re just positioning ourselves so that we can be responsive to what develops.”

Asked whether it is reasonable to assume that environmental and climate programs will be slashed given that the Trump administration has denounced such efforts generally, Townsend declined to say. The Independent reported last week that proposed budgets

(See SANDIA, page 6)

LLNL Partners With Companies on Plan To Power Reactors

Domestic Production of Low-Cost Fuel Could Be Important Development for Nuclear Industry

By Jessica Zimmer

LIVERMORE – Nuclear fuel developer Hexium and two companies that build nuclear reactors, Oklo and TerraPower, announced in late June that they will partner with Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) to encourage domestic production of a cleaner fuel for advanced nuclear reactors.

The fuel, High-Assay Low-Enriched Uranium (HALEU), is created when lasers separate isotopes of uranium. LLNL is involved because it helped develop the method, Atomic Vapor Laser Isotope Separation (AVLIS), that utilizes the lasers. Between 1986 and 1999, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) assigned LLNL the role of developing AVLIS technology.

A higher amount of HALEU will help the U.S.’s nuclear power industry move forward and meet rising demand into the early 2030s. HALEU is also beneficial because it produces less nuclear waste and allows the developers of nuclear reactors to design more efficient plants. These plants will be smaller, more flexible and less expensive than the plants currently in operation.

This year, Hexium plans to raise Series A funding, the initial stage of venture-capital funding for a startup. Instead of putting the money toward sales and marketing, typical costs for Series A dollars, Hexium plans to develop a pilot laser system. Hexium’s collaboration with Oklo, TerraPower and LLNL is expected to make the U.S. more

(See NUCLEAR, page 7)



Members of American Legion Post 237 and Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6298 presented the colors during Pleasanton's annual Fourth of July celebration, the first official event at the newly renovated Lions Wayside Park. The Pleasanton Community Concert Band played the first concert on the new bandstand in conjunction with the holiday festivities. (Photo — Doug Jorgensen)

Livermore’s School Board Unanimously Passes Budget

‘Significant Reductions’ Necessary for Solvency

By Ruth Roberts

LIVERMORE – The Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District (LVJUSD) Board of Education has unanimously approved its 2025-26 budget. There was no public comment or discussion from the board.

The 2025-2026 General Fund anticipates revenues of \$207,133,163, but expects expenditures to total \$213,158,587. This results in a projected deficit of \$6 million.

The ending fund balance – which represents the total amount of money available at the end of the fiscal period – is estimated

to be \$8,372,288, depending on future allocations from the state. Out of this ending fund balance, \$6,394,758 is required to be set aside as mandatory reserves in compliance with state regulations. This means that this specific portion of the funds is not available for spending on other expenses or purposes.

“We had to make some significant reductions, nearly \$6 million in ongoing expenditures, to overcome our qualified budget status and get us back on track for sustained fiscal solvency,” Torie Gibson, LVJUSD superintendent, wrote in an email to The Independent. “We are deeply grateful to

(See REDUCTIONS, page 7)



Ananya Akkaraju, the Dublin teen founder of EmpowerHer, a nonprofit dedicated to supporting women’s education worldwide, is joined in her crusade by an executive team of eight youth leaders. Pictured, left to right, are Roma Singh, Shivani Ramanathan, Ayeen Nautiyal, Madelyn Kris, Ananya, Lalar Rajpurohit, Mahima Palvai, Anika Kupper and Jasmine Yeung. (Photo courtesy of Ananya Akkaraju)

Dublin High Youth Leader Secures Grant

Teen Founded Nonprofit Supporting Women’s Education to Further Initiatives

By Christina Cavallaro

DUBLIN – At a time when many nonprofits in the Tri-Valley are tasked more than ever with securing funding, Ananya Akkaraju, a soon-to-be senior at Dublin High School and founder of the nonprofit EmpowerHer, has garnered a \$3,000 grant from the Riley’s Way Foundation and its Call for Kindness Fellowship program.

“It was kind of tough to get, so I feel really fortunate to have been selected for this kind of grant,”

Ananya said.

The Dublin 17-year-old heads an expansive youth-led 501(c)(3) global nonprofit organization that she started in her sophomore year of high school. With an executive team of nine students including Ananya, the group devoted to supporting women’s education worldwide has helped more than 50,000 girls internationally in countries such as Kazakhstan, Ghana and Italy. It has 40 chapters in the United States.

“The reason I chose to advo-

cate for this sort of issue is a very personal thing for me,” Ananya said. “In my culture ... well, nowadays of course my parents encourage me to get an education and be academic and go to college, but my mom’s ancestors used to see women as maybe not fit to pursue an education. I think it’s very related to South Asian culture.”

Ananya grew up hearing stories from her mother about discouraging attitudes towards women and education.

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PET OF THE WEEK



CASINO

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Livermore's Shiva-Vishnu Temple To Host 39th Anniversary Celebration

By Vivien Wenneker

LIVERMORE – The Shiva-Vishnu Temple, also known as the Hindu Community and Cultural Center (HCCC), is set to hold its 39th Anniversary Celebration from 8 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, July 12 and Sunday, July 13.

The weekend celebration will feature special prayer ceremonies beginning Saturday and culminating Sunday. The event will serve as a time for reflection on the temple's

1986. Its founders identified a need for a place where Hindus could pray, study religion and have access to a range of cultural and community services.

Thirty-nine years later, the Shiva-Vishnu Temple has grown to become the epicenter of Livermore's Hindu Community and evolved into an established institution that continues to serve as a vital cultural and community cornerstone. It regularly draws devotees from nearby cities such as Tracy,

as more than just a place of worship, consistently striving to foster social cohesion through inclusive community-service initiatives and by extending support to where it is most needed.

"Through our Grant-in-Aid program, we've assisted numerous Tri-Valley organizations and nonprofits in achieving their goals," Cyril said. "We host free health fairs, offer yoga and wellness programs, and maintain a health advisory center.

cil, HCCC works to promote belonging not only through its plethora of religious, human-services and community programs, but also through its young-adult mentorship initiative. HCCC also collaborates with Tri-Valley cities in organizing cultural events, such as the Diwali Mela, a celebration held in conjunction with the Hindu festival of Diwali.

More recently, in late June, the center hosted a celebration of International Yoga Day. It attracted nearly 100 participants from across the Bay Area and was recognized by Alameda County Board of Supervisors President David Haubert, who praised the event and the HCCC community for embracing holistic health and cultural awareness.

From serving as a place where Hindu traditions are preserved with reverence and grace, to where people of all ages can come together to pray, celebrate and participate in seva (selfless service), HCCC remains committed to building a compassionate, inclusive and resilient Livermore and Tri-Valley community.

"Our temple stands firm because of the people behind it, their faith, service and generosity," Surapaneni said. "This anniversary is not just about history. It's about honoring those connections and carrying them forward with devotion."

For more information on the Shiva-Vishnu Temple's 39th Anniversary Celebration and a comprehensive list of HCCC's programs and services, visit: <https://www.livermoretemple.org/>.



Nearly 100 participants from across the Bay Area visited the Hindu Community and Cultural Center in Livermore on June 21 for a celebration of International Yoga Day. (Photo courtesy of HCCC)

rich history and present an opportunity for its leaders to express gratitude to the broader community and public at large.

Among those scheduled to be in attendance are past presidents, chairpersons, longstanding volunteers and key management members, including HCCC President Sudha Surapaneni and Chairman Sainath Kala.

"The 39th Anniversary is a time to reflect on the blessings this temple has brought into our lives," Kala said. "I'm most looking forward to seeing families, volunteers and devotees come together in gratitude and unity. This celebration reminds us that HCCC is more than a place. It's a spiritual home built by the love and dedication of our community."

HCCC was founded in 1977, with the Livermore Temple opening in July

Mountain House and the broader South and East Bay areas.

Attendees have come from across the country and even internationally, including places as far away as Singapore, for major temple-hosted, once-in-a-lifetime events, according to Dimple Cyril, HCCC's public relations executive chairperson.

Architecturally, the Livermore Temple is known for its awe-inspiring beauty and is one of the few temples in the U.S. that combines the worship of both Lord Shiva and Lord Vishnu in a dual-sanctum design. HCCC is also unusual in that it integrates religious services with a robust lineup of cultural, educational, wellness and human services initiatives all under one campus.

Over the course of its history, HCCC has served

Our human-services team is dedicated to providing food, shelter and educational support throughout the year, including during times of natural disaster."

Additionally, HCCC provides ongoing financial support to local nonprofits and schools by offering scholarships to Livermore High School students, organizing opportunities for its volunteers to participate in campus clean-ups alongside Livermore schools, and collaborating with local law enforcement on youth-safety initiatives.

The organization also offers comfort to veterans and others by donating blankets and essentials during the Thanksgiving and winter holidays, and its members participate in community dinners at local shelters.

As an active member of the Interfaith Coun-

Livermore Police Kept Busy With July Fourth Incidents

LIVERMORE – A drive-by shooting, an assault with a knife and a fight involving perhaps 30 people were among the incidents Livermore Police reported responding to in the early morning hours of July 4, according to a post the department placed on social-media site X.

The shooting took place just before 2 a.m. in the 300 block of Chestnut Street, police said. A man in his 20s had sustained a gunshot wound. Officers rendered medical aid before the victim was transported to a hospital. He was expected to survive.

Police are continuing to investigate the incident. No information on a potential suspect was released.

Shortly before 12:30 a.m., officers responded to reports of a large fight near the intersection of Chestnut Street and North I Street. A witness reported seeing a person with a gun running toward Chestnut Street and North Livermore Avenue. Police eventually captured the suspect hiding in a nearby backyard and recovered a discarded handgun.

Police arrested a 17-year-old male suspect from Livermore who was booked into Juvenile Hall. He faces multiple charges,

including carrying a concealed firearm and being a minor in possession of a handgun. No serious injuries were reported in connection with the incident, police said.

Shortly thereafter, in the same area, officers responded to a report of a man who had been assaulted with a knife. The victim had visible injuries but was uncooperative, police said. A suspect has not been identified.

In all, Livermore Po-

lice reported responding to more than 90 fireworks-related calls for service overnight.

"I know the widespread use of illegal fireworks continues to frustrate many in our community, including public-safety personnel," Livermore Police Chief Jeremy Young said in a statement. "I want to thank all the officers and dispatchers who worked ... to manage an exceptionally high call volume while continuing to prioritize public safety."

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Community Rallies with Letter-Writing Campaign in Support of Livermore Father Deported to Mexico

By Ruth Roberts

LIVERMORE — Friends and supporters of Miguel Lopez have collected dozens of letters advocating for the Livermore resident who was deported to Mexico last month by U.S. immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents. The group plans to send the letters demonstrating his character and commitment to the community to the immigration judge overseeing Miguel’s case.

“Myself and a few other people decided maybe our next step would be to put some letters together for the judge to see what an excellent community member Miguel is,” said Laura Brown, a family friend and former teacher of two of the Lopezes’ children. “It is our hope that the judge might be able to fully understand what an important member of Livermore he is.” ICE agents grabbed Miguel in late May during a routine immigration ap-

pointment in San Francisco. Miguel, 46, is a married father of three and grandfather who has worked as a welder for Wente Vineyards for more than nine years. Miguel has been trying to obtain citizenship since 2007, when he applied to change his status to that of a permanent resident, but his initial request was denied due to a claim made when he was 18 that he was a citizen. In 2012, he was granted a green-card application,

but the government appealed it, citing the earlier lie as grounds for ineligibility. Despite being granted a temporary green card while the appeal was pending, it was later revoked. Since then, he has made several appearances at the immigration office. During one such visit in May, he was detained and deported without notification on June 7 to Mexico.

Today, Miguel is living in Mexico City with his wife, Rosa, who joined him after his deportation. She is helping him find a place to live and possibly work while they await updates on his case, which is being handled by immigration attorney Saad Ahmed.

Ahmed was scheduled to be in court this week for the first in a series of hearings regarding Miguel’s status.

“His district court case is still going forward,” Ahmed wrote in an email to The Independent. “The government’s motion to dismiss is due on July 11. Our response is due on Aug. 8. We look forward to successfully completing this case, which is very much alive.”

Rosa said she remains grateful to the community

for its support.

“We are so thankful for everything everyone is doing for my family and Miguel,” Rosa said in an interview with The Independent. “We have been depressed, stressed and trying to figure something out for Miguel. Miguel himself is just very worried about our kids and how we will get through without him at home.”

Miguel and Rosa are currently living in Miguel’s father’s home in Mexico City but feel unsafe in the neighborhood and have been searching for alternative accommodations for Miguel so that Rosa can return home.

“It is just hard to cope here,” Rosa said. “It’s so very different to what we are used to, especially not having our kids and grandbaby with us.”

Brown said she is worried about the effect all of this is having on the family.

“I can’t imagine what Miguel is going through,” Brown said. “I can tell Rosa is not well. She is very stressed and doesn’t know what to hope for, as it appears there is no end in sight.”

A GoFundMe account set up by Brown sits at

nearly \$55,000 and has been a lifeline for Rosa and her family, as Miguel was the sole breadwinner for the family.

“I really hope things get better soon,” Rosa said. “It will be hard heading back home and leaving my husband here. I will be worried all the time about his safety.”

To send a letter on Miguel’s behalf, mail it to U.S. District Court Judge Trina L. Thompson, San Francisco Courthouse, Courtroom 9, 19th Floor, 450 Golden Gate Ave., San Francisco, CA, 94102.

To donate to the GoFundMe account, visit bit.ly/3Gxwtfl

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



The always-popular Monster Truck show in front of the grandstand helped close out this year’s Alameda County Fair in Pleasanton on July 6. (Photo – Doug Jorgensen)

Highly Contagious COVID Variant a Concern

By Ruth Roberts

TRI-VALLEY — A new strain of COVID-19 has arrived in time for summer, and experts say it could drive up numbers in Alameda County.

The new variant, NB.1.8.1, also known as the “nimbus” variant, is a highly contagious mutation of the Omicron strain, the SARS-CoV-2 virus that causes COVID-19. It began spread-

ing rapidly in January, when cases were first reported in China. It has now become the dominant variant in the U.S. and California, according to Dr. Thomas Ken Lew. A clinical assistant professor of medicine, Lew practices at Stanford Health Care Tri-Valley, as well as other Stanford affiliates.

“It causes the same symptoms as all other COVID-19 infections we’ve heard about,” Lew

said. “Fever, fatigue, muscle aches, trouble breathing and loss of taste and smell. However, more people have been reporting extremely sore throats, often described as feeling like ‘shards of glass,’ or what is now commonly being referred to as ‘razor-blade throat,’ which sounds awful.”

Lew added that while the numbers of deaths and sickness are much lower than they were at the height

of the Pandemic in 2021, the Tri-Valley and Bay Area are ‘definitely’ seeing increased numbers of infections, especially among the elderly and those with pre-existing conditions.

“COVID-19 numbers tend to surge in the summer,” Lew said.

Dr. Cliff Quan, chief of infectious diseases for Kaiser Permanente Diablo,

(See COVID, page 9)

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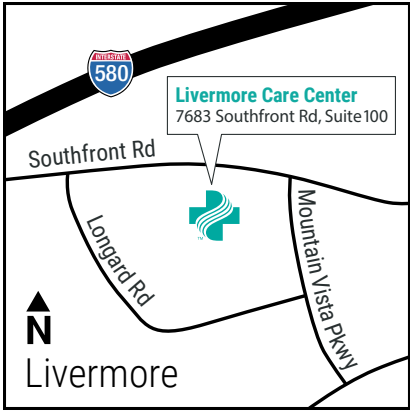
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EDITORIAL

Livermore Could Be a Hub for Commercial Fusion, If We Work for It

In the aftermath of World War II, the federal government decided to put a new nuclear weapons laboratory on Livermore’s outskirts, and then, a few years later, placed what was to become a second national laboratory across the street.

That turned out to be fortunate for the city, as the nuclear industry has evolved since the days of the early atomic bomb tests. One of the most significant changes has been the technology that has come to be adapted for non-military purposes. The missions of Lawrence Livermore and Sandia national laboratories have expanded to include research in fields that aren’t related to nuclear weapons, such as climate science.

Livermore’s proximity to the labs may come into play as the California Senate considers Senate Bill 80, which would establish three fusion research hubs in the state. One of the three will be located in the Bay Area. Sen. Jerry McNerney, one of the bill’s co-sponsors, surely had Livermore’s history of cutting-edge technology in mind. He has said Livermore would be ideal as the Bay Area hub.

Fusion Power Can Be Advanced Here

Last week, we learned of three new companies that have signed partnership agreements with Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory to develop low-cost fuel for advanced nuclear reactors. These kinds of partnerships are commonplace. In this case, the three companies happen to be located elsewhere in the country. Collaboration between

the labs and the private sector can yield positive results, but Livermore would benefit more as a city if those companies had been established locally, with local staff and offices. Making Livermore a fusion hub could make that more likely in the future.

Commercial fusion is still years off. The goal of establishing fusion hubs is to get the industry to launch a pilot commercial-scale fusion plant by 2040. We do need fusion power, because we’ll need carbon-free sources of electricity to avoid making global warming worse.

Such a radical transformation of the energy sector is necessary: California still sources 36.6% of its electricity from natural gas, and another 5.5% from burning oil, coal or other materials. The state already has 57.9% of its mix coming from non-carbon sources, such as solar, wind, hydroelectric and traditional fission-powered nuclear plants. California could be an example for the world by reaching 100% renewable power generation.

Clean Energy Under Attack

This is going to be crucial as the federal government eliminates climate programs across the board. National laboratories received direction from the U.S. Department of Energy earlier this year prohibiting their public communications to include certain words and phrases such as “net zero” and “carbon footprint.” And President Donald Trump’s new budget slashes energy programs at national laboratories by 25% while boosting spending on weapons development. The proposed 2026

budget for Sandia National Laboratories, for example, zeroes out funding for renewable-energy programs, which the lab has researched since the 1970s.

The enormous tax-cut bill signed into law by President Trump on July 4 also eliminates most of the climate programs enacted by Congress during President Joe Biden’s term in office, including subsidies for electric and hybrid vehicles, discounts on solar and battery projects, and numerous energy-efficiency credits relied upon by businesses and consumers alike.

Fusion power development might be spared future cuts, or it might not be, but its future might depend on spinning off the technology to the private sector for development and commercialization. SB 80 will help pave the way for that.

The City’s Role in Boosting Fusion

But designating Livermore as a fusion hub will also require the City of Livermore to make it easy on fusion businesses to locate here. That probably means speeding up the permitting process and finding ways to reduce business startup costs.

One company, Fremont-based Pacific Fusion, has proposed building a 225,000 square-foot facility near the airport to house a prototype commercial fusion power plant. The company’s application goes before the Livermore Planning Commission in September, but it has already received approval for a purchase-option agreement from the City of Alameda for property on Alameda Point on San Francisco Bay.

It’s a good thing that Pacific Fusion is willing to wait for Livermore’s evaluation before deciding where to site its facility. However, because other companies might not be willing to postpone their projects, Livermore needs to ensure fusion proposals are given timely consideration.

Working to help startups deal with their financial issues is also critical. To that end, SB 80 would establish a Fusion Research and Development Fund that would support direct and indirect investment in projects. The legislature would still need to appropriate money for the fund, so Livermore needs to lobby the state to give this new area of development the support that it requires.

When addressing the financial crises nonprofits are experiencing, we’ve said before that it will take all of us working together to weather this frightening period in our country. The same could be said for those building industries up locally, when the national government is interested only in tearing things down. Reducing and eliminating carbon emissions needs to happen despite our federal government’s hostility to environmental preservation.

Fusion power could help solve our energy needs in a carbon-free future. For us in the Tri-Valley, fusion power could also be a major economic boost, ensuring our communities’ prosperity for many years to come. We should use every tool we have to help that imagined future become a reality.

MAILBOX

Mailbox Guidelines:

Opinions voiced in letters published in Mailbox are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of The Independent. Anonymous letters will not be published. All letters are required to have the name(s) of the person(s) submitting them, city of residence and phone number, for verification purposes. Letters may not contain advertising. Abusive letters and letters containing ad hominem attacks may be rejected or edited. Letters are subject to verification and may be edited for clarity at the discretion of the editor. We reserve the right to decide whether or not the letter will be published. Headings for all letters may be edited at the discretion of the editor to properly reflect their content. A headline will be added to letters received without one. Frequent letter writers may have publication of their letters delayed or not run at all. Letters should be limited to 400 words or less and should be sent by email to letters@independentnews.com or submitted using the form below. The letters to the editor deadline is Monday at 8 a.m. If you wish to submit a letter pertaining to a special event or meeting taking place on a Monday before any given Thursday print edition — and you would like your letter to run that week — please contact the editor (editor@independentnews.com) as soon as possible on Monday to discuss the content and publication options. Otherwise, all letters submitted after 8 a.m. on Monday must hold until the following week.

Jews in Muslim Lands: The Jewish View

Patricia Munro, Livermore

Last week, Abdul Awlaw gave a couple of glowing examples of how well Muslims have treated Jews through history. The examples themselves are taken out of context.

More importantly, the very premise is that, under Muslim rule, the place of Jews was as a vulnerable supplicant.

That role — in both Christian and Muslim lands — has been the case since the Romans expelled the Jews from

Judea (renaming it “Palestina”). That vaunted Golden Age in Muslim Spain? Jews were treated relatively well sometimes. Sometimes not: the Granada massacre of 1066 wiped out virtually all the city’s Jews. Maimonides fled from Al-Andalus (Spain) to avoid forced conversion to Islam. True, Jews in Al-Andalus arguably fared better than Jews under Christian rule in Europe. But that is a low bar. (For a good summary, read Under Crescent and Cross, Cohen, PUP 1994.)

The Holocaust? Some Muslims protected Jews and some persecuted them. Morocco protected its then large Jewish population, while the Grand Mufti of Jerusalem collaborated with Hitler. It was a mixed bag.

What is not at all a mixed bag is how the Muslim world, particularly the newly created Middle-Eastern Arab states, responded to the creation of Israel. What should have happened in 1948 was the creation of two states: Israel and Palestine. The situation was not unique; there are many similar, sometimes agonizing examples (see under: India and Pakistan) that, in time, stabilized.

Yet when the UN proposed two states—one Jewish; one Arab—only Jews accepted the plan. The Arabs did not. After Israel declared independence, the surrounding Arab states declared war. They lost. Repeatedly.

They also expelled their Jewish populations — almost one million people — and confiscated their lands and monies. The new state of Israel absorbed them. No repa-

rations have ever been offered. Currently the Jewish population in those states totals around four thousand, with none at all in Syria, Libya, Iraq, and Yemen. By contrast, around 21% of Israel’s ten million people are Arabs — Christian, Muslim, and Druze.

There are well over two billion Christians and 150 Christian majority states worldwide. There are just under two billion Muslims and 50 Muslim majority states worldwide. There are 15 million Jews and one majority Jewish state. Yet the Muslim world is not willing to accept just one majority Jewish state in which the Jewish people have the right to self-determination. Why not?

Editorial of June 26th

Owen Brovont, Livermore

Reading the Independent’s “Editorial” in the June 26th issue nearly drove me to nausea! Evidently, whoever wrote the anti-Trump screed is far more interested in depicting President Trump as evolving headlong towards becoming a tyrannical dictator than providing facts and issues relevant to the background of contemporary international issues — specifically his military actions toward Iran. This screed, grossly misrepresented as an editorial, is full of distortions, and factual inaccuracies with which the author obviously intended to guide readers to assume the validity of a clearly anti-Trump opinion. One is tempted to speculate on his or her motives; it would be absent of specific knowledge to justify an opinion, so the readers must fashion their own

opinions based upon their interpretation of the editorial’s content.

Not satisfied with the criticism of Trump, the author goes on to call out several members of congress, Eric Swalwell, Adam Schiff, and Alex Padilla who could undertake activities, several of which the author suggested, that would further obstruct actions by President Trump, but they have failed to take any such actions. The author suggests several other avenues of obstructionism to retard Trump’s activities.

Recommendations:
1) Recall the number of times over the past several years that the United States has objected to the threat to world peace and stability represented by the on-going development of nuclear weapons by Iran; 2) review the aggressive and destructive military threats and behavior of Iran and its “proxies” against Israel; and 3) renew one’s knowledge of the threats made by the Iranian religious extremists regarding its disagreement with western culture and its many calls for its destruction.

It is to be noted that the letters to the editor section of the Independent consistently provides significantly more column space to writers in the three valley towns who predominantly dislike Trump and his administration

Finally, the editorial of June 26th ends by suggesting many ways in which “public pressure” can be persuaded to oppose Trump’s presidency through various types of civil disobedience and the use of debilitating obstructionism in an attempt to effectively stymie Donald Trump’s executive

leadership of the federal government, and influence in the world at large.

A parting question, as citizen residents of Livermore, at the very least, should we not expect a far more balanced social commentary, not predominantly negative politically or subversively motivated screeds against Trump supported by the careful selection of anti-Trump letters?

Editor’s note: The Independent prints all letters, unless they do not meet the criteria published every week in The Independent. If the letters pages are filled with more letters on one side of an issue than on the other, it’s only because The Independent has received more letters on that side.

The Largest Cut to Food Assistance Programs Ever

Ward Kanowsky, Pleasanton

The largest cut to food assistance programs ever just passed with the signing of Trump’s “big beautiful bill”. The Alameda County Community Food Bank (ACCFB) issued a statement saying that, “Hunger is about to get worse. Way worse.” And this is coming at a time when demand for food assistance is at its highest.

In Alameda County, one in four residents experience food insecurity; 10% of the county, or 175,000 people, receive benefits through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), known in California as CalFresh, which helps families put food on the table. Many of these people will lose their benefits due to the draconian age and work restrictions of the bill. Those

(See MAILBOX, page 5)

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Participants in the Fourth of July celebration at Lions Wayside Park in Pleasanton arrived with various personal décor to commemorate the occasion. (Photo – Doug Jorgensen)

MAILBOX

(Continued from page 4)

who retain their benefits will see them frozen, while the cost of living in the Bay Area continues to rise. Nationwide, the dismantling of SNAP by Trump and the spineless Republicans in Congress could result in a potential loss of nine billion meals annually, with the burden falling on food banks like ACCFB to compensate for the shortfall.

And there are huge spillover effects from the cuts. CalFresh provides recipients with some breathing room to engage more in the local economy that supplies food. Removing this capability means that stores and farmers will be impacted, as well as related jobs.

Why is this happening? To give tax cuts to billionaires and big corporations. A core component of what drives Trump is self-enrichment for him and his loyalists. The other 99% be damned.

Wanna fight back? July 17 is the fifth anniversary of the passing of civil rights leader John Lewis, the man who urged us all to, “Get into good trouble, necessary trouble and help redeem the soul of America.” In the spirit of the “No Kings” protests last month, which saw the peaceful resistance of five million people across the country, “Good Trouble Lives On” rallies are being planned nationwide on July 17 to respond to the cruelty of the Trump administration. Go to goodtrouble.org to sign up for the Tri-Valley event – see you there!

What Is Kristi Noem Thinking?

Keith Jackson, Dublin

A handy hint from our Homeland Security Chief Kristi Noem: “If you force those around you to their knees, it makes you look taller and more important. It’s also a lot of fun.”

Stay Calm and Soldier On

Paul Stone, Dublin

Historically, the minority party in Congress gains seats in the House in the mid-terms. If that holds true in 2026, the Democrats will retake the House of Representatives.

The first thing they will do is impeach Trump. The Senate will not convict him, however, because that requires a 2/3 majority, and that’s not happening.

Therefore, barring death, Trump will be president until twelve noon, Saturday, Jan. 20, 2029.

I mention this because I fear some of the Trump-hating Mailbox contributors are going to suffer strokes if they don’t calm down a bit. I can almost hear them muttering and sputtering as they furiously type away immersed in angst as their

blood pressure soars to new heights.

Trump could find a cure for cancer, broker peace between war-torn Rwanda and the Congo (as he recently did), perfect nuclear fusion, and, most important, find a remedy for baldness in our time, yet never get a lick of credit for it from Democrats because of their pathological vitriol toward him.

So please be patient, my Democratic amigos; you’ll get your turn again someday.

In the meantime, our national potentate, Donald the Great, will continue his work of making America great again. Yes Kings!

Land of the Free, Home of the Brave

Marla Kirby, Livermore

Hello, Livermore, do you have a few minutes? Because I have some questions about what is happening in our country – you know, the land of the FREE and home of the BRAVE – at this moment when we celebrate 249 years after our declaration of independence from a king.

Are we the land of the free when our longtime quiet neighbors suddenly are kidnapped off the street by our federal agents and deported to countries that our own government considered to be unsafe for travel?

Are we the home of the brave when those federal agents are masked and refuse to identify themselves or even what agency they are from? How are we supposed to know the difference between a “federal agent” and a criminal thug? Is there even a difference?

Are we free when we don’t know on what basis people are being swept up in these raids? Does the color of your skin matter? Or if you are a U.S. citizen? How can you even prove anything if you are given no meaningful notice?

Are we free when our military is patrolling our own streets?

Or when we build concentration camps in alligator-filled swamps?

Are we free or brave when we revel in the cruelty of all this? Or when we are indifferent to that revelry?

And are we free when we use tens of billions of our tax dollars to scale up all of this?

Are we free when our government lies about what it’s doing?

Can we be free if we do not have a “government of laws” but rather “of men”, as John Adams once wrote?

Are we free if nobody is held accountable for government violations of the Constitution or our laws?

Who will be brave enough to require accountability?

What kind of country do we want ours to be? Do we want to be the land of the free and home of the brave? Is that what we are now?

Land of the FREE. Home of the BRAVE. Can we be one without being the other?

Fireworks and American Flags

David Ott, Pleasanton

Last week, we celebrated the 249th anniversary of the United States of America. At the Alameda County Fair on Thursday, there was a fantastic fireworks show. On Friday, July 4, Pleasanton had a wonderful celebration at the new Lions Wayside Park. The community band played patriotic songs; the VFW and American Legion presented the colors; and fun was had by everyone. It was a wonderful program to honor the 249th birthday celebration of our beautiful country.

Celebrating our great country and the freedom that we enjoy is a beautiful and precious gift. We give thanks to God and to our forefathers for creating our constitutional republic and more thanks to the current President, who upholds the laws, defends the constitution and protects our freedom each and every day, as has been proven by the Supreme Court rulings in the President’s favor.

The hundreds of patriotic citizens in attendance at the Lions Park on Friday wore American flag shirts and hats and other red, white and blue clothing, while everyone was waving American flags. This was truly a beautiful celebration by patriotic citizens who love and respect our country.

This is in stark contrast to the anti-American protesters who decided that July 4th should be against having fireworks and displaying American flags. This ridiculous protest followed their idiotic “No Kings” protest. The freedom that we enjoy in America allows for these anti-American numbskulls to protest in this manner, because we have freedom and no kings. A far better use of their time would be for them to search for compromises and create solutions to bridge the gap of their descent. I am proud to say that I am an American and delighted that our beautiful Pleasanton and Tri-Valley neighbors still love and respect our country by hosting patriotic festivities honoring the 249th celebration of our independence.

It is now up to the dedicated Americans to preserve the unity and freedom of the United States

and to counter ideologies that threaten our values and freedom. Long live the free and prosperous United States of America.

And to the few letter writers who attempt to criticize my letters, just know that your words are weak and filled with the foolish rhetoric from CNN and MSNBC. Countless citizens inform me that they support my letters and that my views represent the voice of the silent majority. I appreciate their support.

Beware of ICE

Barry Brynjulson, Pleasanton

With the passage of the BBB, ICE is now larger than the FBI, DEA, and the U.S. border patrol combined, and bigger than most militaries in the world. Its masked agents without IDs detain, deport, and disappear people without due process. The courts have seemingly removed any guardrails.

Alligator Alcatraz was built in eight days, with many more to follow. DJT has said some ‘bad Americans’ need to be placed there. What we have seen so far from ICE has been the warm-up act for what is coming. Stephen Miller’s daily quota of 3,000 detainments will rise.

Not sure what it’s going to take to get more people off their couches and away from their devices. Maybe it’s the ICE detainment of the ‘bad’ Americans. Maybe it’s the cancellation of the mid-terms. Both are possible.

Nationwide protests will continue to occur, many organized by the Tri-Valley and Livermore Indivisible chapters. If you care about this country, find one, and protest loudly and peacefully.

(See MAILBOX, page 6)



Sci-Fi by Dublin author has 5-star ratings on Amazon. Future humans are testing living in sub-marines. You won’t believe what scientists on board discover! View the website below to access all of her publications.

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Ronalda Smitherman, who served 24 years with the Alameda County Sheriff’s Office, has completed field training as a Livermore police officer. Smitherman is a certified firearms and defensive tactics instructor and spent eight years on the sheriff’s office SWAT team. She decided to join the Livermore Police Department after retiring from the sheriff’s department. “This is the best decision I’ve made in a long time,” Smitherman said. “The police department is a true part of the community.” (Photo courtesy of the Livermore Police Department)

MAILBOX

(Continued from page 5)

Protesters Like Keith Jackson Need to Get Educated!

Mike Grant, Dublin

I read the response to my letter about the June 14th protest held in Dublin from Keith Jackson of Dublin. He questions my claim about a person in a small car that pulled across at the old Napa store and was pointed at myself and another Trump supporter. Then he again questioned the person following me across the street to the parking lot outside the Civic Center parking area and again this time driving at me from behind at a high rate of speed. Well Keith, maybe you should have come and set up next to the few Trump supporters and you would have got an education. For your comments on the peacefully protesting I guess yelling “F-Trump” on lowed speakers with young children around is good for the kids. Or is that what you Democrats think is good for children?

The driveway at the Napa was blocked several times and your people in yellow vests moved the sheep out of the way. The question Kieth again is, were you on the southside or northside of Dublin Blvd.? If you were on the southside with all the haters, then you didn’t see the blocking of the driveway. Now for the permit issue and liability insurance comment you made, Keith, it’s very obvious you have not read the California statues that a city can use if they choose.

In California, a city can require permits or insurance for protests on public property, but these requirements must be content-neutral and not infringe upon First Amendment rights. While the right to protest is protected, cities can impose “time, place, and manner” restrictions to maintain public order.

Here’s a more detailed breakdown:

Permits: Some cities can require permits for certain types of protests, especially those involving large groups, street closures, or the use of amplified sound.

Insurance: While cities can require permits,

they cannot impose exorbitant insurance costs or fees that are designed to discourage protests or disproportionately affect certain groups.

So, Keith, you and the AARP crew can protest all you want! Just think, you only have 3-1/2 more years till Trump is out. Enjoy the MAGA world, Keith! Lol...

Welcome to Trump World

Rosario Milelli, Pleasanton

In a recent Trumpian, highly political, propaganda email campaign, the Social Security Administration (SSA) is hailing the “One Big, Beautiful Bill” as a big win for seniors. But this legislation is more about BS than substance.

Claim: 90% of Seniors Will See Tax Relief on Benefits

The Truth: They’re talking about 90% of Social Security beneficiaries no longer paying federal income tax on their benefits. But it’s temporary, set to expire in 2028. And for many seniors, this relief is minimal. Most seniors who would benefit from this don’t even pay taxes on their benefits right now; others with higher income or other retirement funds will still be taxed.

Claim: A Historic Step Forward for America’s Seniors

The Truth: Claiming this is a “historic step forward” is a fallacy. It doesn’t address the long-term solvency issues plaguing Social Security.

Claim: Meaningful and Immediate Relief for Seniors

The Truth: So, eliminating taxes on benefits will give seniors “meaningful and immediate relief.” But that relief is temporary, and after 2028, it’s gone. Trump’s tariffs and Medicaid cuts will result in the average senior facing rising healthcare and living costs, which will more than offset any increase. It’s like putting a Band-Aid on a broken arm.

Claim: Trump’s Promise to Protect Social Security

The Truth: This bill doesn’t actually protect

or expand Social Security in any way. The relief offered is only a stopgap measure, and it expires in 2028. Without addressing the real issues — like solvency and benefit adequacy — this bill just kicks the can down the road.

Claim: Enhanced Deductions for Seniors 65 and Older

The Truth: It’s a temporary fix and doesn’t do enough to improve the economic outlook for seniors struggling to make ends meet. It’s just another small gesture that falls short of real solutions.

Bottom Line:

This “One Big, Beautiful Bill” is not the sweeping reform that seniors need. It’s a temporary, short-term gimmick — designed to sound good but offering little in the way of real, lasting relief. Social Security is in trouble, and this bill doesn’t do anything to secure its future. It’s more about the political theater than delivering anything meaningful for America’s seniors. And when those temporary tax breaks expire in 2028, seniors will be right back where they started, facing the same financial struggles. Unlike the massive tax cuts for billionaires, which will never expire.

Trump’s Favorite Song

Richard Andrews, Livermore

In 1930, the immortal Cole Porter wrote the brilliant and very sad torch song, “Love for Sale.” It is still a tragic classic, and many great singers have renditions of it. Tony Bennett and Lady Gaga did a great cover in 2021.

However, who would have thought Jeffrey Epstein and a future POTUS would think of it as a fun enterprise to get involved with and pursue with abandon. Even if the “singer” was underage, cute is what matters, not years. But now, we have proof that the Mango Man was a regular at Jeffrey’s island, when he wasn’t at Mar-a-Lago promoting his and Jeffrey’s own enterprise.

May the Lord have mercy on the poor girls they destroyed, and send the above men to the eternal flames of Hades.

E-BIKES

(Continued from front page)

limit the motor assist to 20 mph, while Class 3 e-bikes cut out the motor at 28 mph. Nothing in any class prohibits a rider from exceeding 28 mph on pedal power alone. Like traditional bicycles, e-bikes do not require a license and are distinct from electric dirt bikes or electric motorcycles.

Pleasanton limits all bicycles and e-bikes to 15 mph on trails and pathways, with posted speed limits applying to roadways. Dublin and Livermore allow up to Class 3 e-bikes “anywhere traditional bikes may ride,” although riders must be at least 16 years old to ride Class 3. The East Bay Regional Park District allows Class 1 e-bikes on all trails and Class 2 on paved trails only.

“There are speed-related risks with e-bikes, e-scooters and off-highway motorcycles,” Livermore Police Department Captain John Reynolds said. “Some of them are capable of reaching speeds in excess of 20 miles per hour. Riders may not be fully trained or capable of handling those speeds safely, especially children and novice riders.”

Reynolds added that riders of all bicycles must obey the same rules of the road as

other vehicles.

Compared to a traditional bike, an e-bike rider gets “the benefit of the fun of being on a bike without all that intensity and focus and connection (of a traditional bike),” said Jim Buck, co-owner of Pedego Electric Bikes in Livermore. “The motor (and) computer systems are basically monitoring what you’re doing and trying to fold into what you are doing, not taking you on a scary joyride. It’s just basically waiting for you.”

Buck’s retail store, located within Livermore’s Concannon Vineyard, is one of 14 bike shops participating in Ava’s program at launch. If awarded rebates, customers can visit one of these shops to discuss which model e-bike best suits them and ultimately obtain their rebates. In the Tri-Valley, Pleasanton’s Superfly Wheels is also participating.

The price of a “quality” e-bike will start at about \$1,500, Buck said, considering safety and longevity issues, and can run into several thousands of dollars. Several hours of charging will yield roughly 70 miles of range and cost 11 cents of electricity.

The rebate program offers a \$400 rebate for stan-

dard e-bikes or a \$900 rebate for cargo and adaptive e-bikes. Customers enrolled in California Alternate Rates for Energy, Federal Electric Rate Assistance or the Energy Assistance Program are eligible for \$1,000 rebates for standard e-bikes and \$1,500 for cargo and adaptive e-bikes. The program will allocate 40% of its funding to lower-income customers.

Chang said the rebates will be awarded by lottery in monthly waves of about 600 per month.

“By doing it that way, it’s not just the first come, first serve, get in line and everyone kind of races to it,” Chang said. “It also gives an opportunity for newer consumers that may not be as familiar to invest in an e-bike.”

Buck looked forward to the new interactions the rebate program will bring.

“We’re going to see more faces,” Buck said. “We’re going to be in a place where we can educate and let people try and go for a ride. Whether they rent or not, they’re going to understand the nature of it better and in our case, we get to do it in Livermore, which is one of the best places you can ride a bike.”

SANDIA

(Continued from front page)

for fiscal year 2026 show no Sandia funding for research in renewable energy, for instance.

What he would say is, “We have made a commitment to be efficient. We want to get all of our deliverables done and make sure that the missions we support, we enable.

“We are taking a positive and proactive step to be self-reflective, to make sure that every dollar we’re spending of the taxpayer is going toward enabling a mission delivery.”

Much of that effort boils down to cutting overhead.

“Trying to reduce our indirect costs so that our direct costs continue to go further,” he said.

Is there a chance that efficiencies can make layoffs unnecessary?

“We’re going to take a look at that,” Townsend said. “At the end of the day, we’re stewards of the tax money, and we have to be sure that we’re deploying that efficiently and effectively.”

In simple terms, in the nationwide nuclear weapons enterprise, Sandia is the engineering laboratory that turns designs from the physics labs into function-

ing nuclear weapons. The physics labs are Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) and Los Alamos in New Mexico.



Toby Townsend (Photo courtesy of Sandia)

In practice, of course, all three laboratories are big, multidisciplinary and complex, mixing science and engineering in ways that are applied to civilian as well as military problems.

At Sandia’s Livermore campus, with about 1,800 staff, approximately half the work is focused on defense, Townsend said. At the much larger Albuquerque campus, with about 14,000 staff, defense research predominates, at around 60%. That figure might grow to 70% with the current emphasis on defense spending, he suggested.

Townsend’s own expe-

rience has been mainly in national defense. The press release announcing his appointment as manager said that he has held “leadership roles in national security space programs, nuclear detonation detection and defense nuclear nonproliferation.”

Perhaps, his most prominent role has been to lead Sandia’s program to extend the service life of an aging nuclear warhead, the W80-1, first fielded in 1982 along with the cruise missile that it armed.

He said that Sandia is “incredibly proud” of its role in this “life-extension program,” carried out jointly with LLNL. The modernized warhead has upgraded electronics and new safety features and is now called the W80-4.

The first production units are scheduled for 2027. They are expected to arm the Long Range Stand-Off missile that the Air Force will deploy on aging B-52 bombers and, eventually, on the B-21 Raider stealth bomber now in development at Northrop Grumman, an aerospace manufacturer active in the arms and space industries headquartered in West Falls Church, Virginia.

Stuck Raccoon Rescued at Livermore Home

A baby raccoon rescued by Livermore police and the Alameda County Fire Department has been taken to the Lindsay Wildlife Experience rehabilitation center in Walnut Creek and is expected to

make a full recovery.

Police said they received a call last week about the raccoon, which was stuck between a fence and a storage shed at a home in East Livermore.

The city’s animal ser-

vices officer enlisted the help of county firefighters to free the baby raccoon.

Police said the raccoon was probably stuck overnight. It appeared dehydrated but alert.



This little critter got a new lease on life after being rescued by Livermore police and firefighters last week. (Photo courtesy of Livermore Police Department)

Food-Recovery Nonprofit Seeking Farming Partners

White Pony Express (WPE), a “food-recovery” organization, is looking to partner with farmers in the Tri-Valley area to provide fresh produce to nonprofits that help feed needy families.

WPE, a nonprofit based in Contra Costa County, collects surplus food from restaurants and grocery stores that would otherwise go to waste and delivers it to nearly 100

nonprofit partner organizations.

WPE said its Food Rescue Program collects an average of 12,000 pounds of surplus food daily from more than 80 food outlets. The food is then checked for quality, sorted according to the needs of each nonprofit partner and redistributed within 24 hours.

Despite its efforts, however, WPE said near-

ly 50 organizations remain on a waiting list seeking food assistance.

WPE said donated produce does not need to be flawless in appearance as long as it is safe and edible.

Growers who may be interested in partnering with WPE should contact CEO Eve Birge at 202-252-4174 or evibirge@whiteponyexpress.org.



A White Pony Express volunteer helps unload a truckful of produce for delivery to families and individuals in need of food assistance. (Photo courtesy of WPE)



Livermore's Wingen Bakery & Restaurant was recently awarded the 2025 Excellence in Sustainability at Work award from the Alameda County Waste Management Authority, also known as StopWaste. Pictured left to right are Anne Zamboanga, City of Livermore, owners of the business Aimee and Bryan Wingen, and Livermore Councilman Ben Barrientos. (Photo courtesy of the City of Livermore)

Livermore Bakery Cited for Sustainability

Wingen Bakery & Restaurant in Livermore has received the Excellence in Sustainability at Work award for 2025 from the Alameda County Waste Management Authority, also known as StopWaste.

StopWaste is a joint powers agency of the county, 14 cities and two refuse and recycling collection services. The agency said Wingen

Bakery, owned by Aimee and Bryan Wingen, was recognized for training its staff on the proper use of the restaurant's separate recycling, composting and garbage bins to avoid contamination.

The bakery also analyzes sales to adjust production and turn surplus baked goods into new products or donate them to Tri-Valley Haven's

food pantry.

The annual StopWaste Environmental Leadership Awards were announced June 12 at the Alameda County Recycling Board meeting.

Also receiving awards were Alameda Backyard Growers for Excellence in Community Engagement, Community Action for a Sustainable Alameda and

OKAPI Reusables for Excellence in Reusable Foodware Partnership, Oakland Unified School District for Excellence in Sustainability at School, Veev by Lennar for Excellence in Construction Innovation, and Fremont-based Washington Health for Excellence in Waste Prevention and Food Donation.

NUCLEAR (Continued from front page)

self-reliant in nuclear fuel production.

Shaping a new future for nuclear energy

Currently, 20% of the U.S.'s electricity comes from nuclear energy. DOE has encouraged the use of nuclear energy by promoting it as resilient, reliable and environmentally sustainable. But the current enriched uranium that nuclear power plants use as fuel produces more waste than HALEU.

Nuclear waste, which consists of burned-up uranium fuel, must first be stored in underwater cooling ponds because it is incredibly hot. After a five-year cooling period, the fuel is taken out of the pond and recycled or placed in a dry storage facility.

There are currently 54 nuclear power plants across the U.S. They produce waste at the rate of 2,000 metric tons each year. The U.S. has about 90,000 tons of spent

nuclear waste stored at more than 100 sites in 39 states.

Most of the waste is stored in underground steel tanks at Hanford, Washington and Savannah River, South Carolina. At both sites, the federal government has done research on nuclear power. At these sites, radioactive waste has escaped from storage tanks and leaked into the soil. Officials have said the leaks do not pose a threat to human health. The federal government, however, has not come up with a solution to safely store nuclear waste.

Hexium's other tie to LLNL

Hexium co-founder and CEO Charlie Jarrott worked in inertial fusion and plasma physics at LLNL between 2015 and 2022. He was first a postdoctoral research staff member and later a staff scientist.

After leaving the Lab, Jarrott became a senior scientist for Focused Energy

(FE). This German-American company was originally a tech spinoff of the University of Darmstadt and Texas-based laser developer National Energetics. At FE, Jarrott met Jacob Peterson, then FE's vice president of operations and finance. In 2023, Jarrott and Peterson jointly founded Hexium.

Oklo and TerraPower, the other partners in the collaboration, have ties to DOE, as well. TerraPower receives part of its funding from DOE and Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico. In addition, DOE has made a conditional commitment to provide TerraPower with HALEU from its own supply.

Oklo previously received support from DOE through vouchers from the Gateway for Accelerated Innovation in Nuclear (GAIN) program. Oklo is also set to build the Aurora powerhouse, a nuclear fission plant that will

be located at Idaho National Laboratory, a DOE complex in eastern Idaho.

As the three private companies and LLNL begin to work together, they should provide each other with insights about how to optimize HALEU production and use. The collaboration should also reignite LLNL as a leader in developing technology to create enriched uranium. This could offer LLNL new insights for government applications of HALEU. DOE is already exploring how to recover spent nuclear fuel and engage in a process called “downblending” to make it into reusable HALEU. The conceptual plan for this project was drawn up last year, to take place in future years at the Aurora powerhouse.

REDUCTIONS (Continued from front page)

all of our bargaining units and board for the time, energy, collaboration and shared sacrifice required to achieve this. We will now be in a position to renew our focus on competitive compensation for all employees, as we know it is necessary to attract and retain high-quality staff, and further support the long-term health and success of our organization.”

According to the staff report, the board is awaiting final numbers from the Governor's May Revise, which could affect the amount of money given to the district. As such, the 45-Day Revision will be presented in August with any substantial changes indicated.

In May, the board significantly reduced the proposed budget to comply with the county's requirements for the upcoming school year. The aim was to ensure that there are sufficient reserves of 3% for the next two years, which is part of the current planning. The County Board of Education warned last fall that it might have to intervene if the district didn't make the necessary cuts to maintain its 3% reserves.

Reductions included the elimination of one part-time certificated teaching position, as well as three full-time and two part-time classified positions, spread out among

various administrative and facilities departments. On the classified side of the house, the cuts include one executive assistant, one office specialist and one senior program assistant, along with 1.3 instructional specialist/PE specialist positions.

Since initially adopting its budget in December 2024, the district has experienced a \$1.3 million drop in outside funding due to reduced state funding, declining enrollment and the end of one-time COVID-19 federal funding.

The District Budget Advisory Committee is preparing to identify budget cuts starting in August to ensure financial stability.

Dublin To Stage Pair Of Family Campouts

Dublin will host family campouts at Alamo Creek Park the weekend of Saturday, July 12, through Sunday, July 13, and at Schaefer Ranch Park the weekend of Saturday, Aug. 2, through Sunday, Aug. 3.

The city will provide a barbecue dinner on Saturday nights and breakfast for campers on Saturday mornings, along with a community campfire, s'mores, arts and crafts, group games, and other activities.

Campers will need to bring tents and sleeping bags, flashlights and other personal items.

Campers should arrive

at 4 p.m. on Saturday, with checkout at 10 a.m. on Sunday.

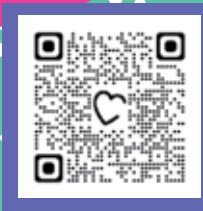
The cost is \$27 for residents and \$30 for nonresidents.

To register, go to dublinrecguide.com.

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National Night Out Registration Available

TRI-VALLEY – National Night Out will return Aug. 5, with police from Dublin, Livermore and Pleasanton all participating.

The annual event, introduced by the National Association of Town Watch (NATW) in 1984, began as a campaign to foster greater crime prevention across the nation. Today, more than 35 million people and more than 15,000 communities participate in National Night Out, according to <https://natw.org/about/>.

The campaign began

with front-porch vigils and symbolic efforts among neighbors to send a message of neighborhood unity. It has grown to include block parties, festivals, parades, cookouts and various other community events, with safety demonstrations, seminars, youth events, visits from emergency personnel, exhibits and more.

Now more than ever, National Night Out offers a prime opportunity to build safer communities through getting to know neighbors, law enforcement and rediscovering

surroundings.

Dublin, Livermore, and Pleasanton police are excited to meet with residents. To register an event, whether it be a potluck, barbeque or ice-cream social, and receive a visit from local police, fire and/or city officials, forms under the police department page of the cities’ respective websites need to be completed. The deadline to register is 5 p.m. Friday, July 18.

Links to register are as follows:

<https://www.dublin.ca.gov/FormCenter/>

Dublin-Police-Services-8/2025-National-Night-Out-Registration-366

<https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=E-Ar2Pug2Umn-pkvFTOegimyntyR8f-hL1ZKKIHbb2vhUNF-ZLNjAwUFlaNTdRWT-B-CRk9KVEpYUFB-WUy4u&route=shorturl>

<https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=FI1Wt980pUaRjJ5Z34hO1Fvor7uiv7hGUWIs7DmLkLBUMUoyTENZODVIVUxITkE3R-U1KQjMyOUIxSy4u&route=shorturl>

Dublin Recruiting Members for Sister Cities Board

Dublin is looking for residents interested in serving on the Dublin Sister Cities Association Board.

Dublin currently has a sister city relationship with Bray, Ireland.

The Dublin Sister Cities Association Board is tasked with maintaining ties with Bray, while also exploring possible relationships with other communities globally to promote cultural and

economic ties.

Dublin is a member of the Sister Cities International organization.

Members of the Dublin board will serve one- to three-year terms.

The deadline to apply

is 5 p.m., Friday, July 11.

To apply online, go to tinyurl.com/ywm4mcf9. For more information, contact management analyst Jordan Foss at jordan.foss@dublin.ca.gov.



The CoolTones Big Band is set to play at the upcoming “Tuesday Tunes” at 6:45 p.m. on July 15. The weekly summer outdoor 13-concert series on the Shea Homes Stage next to the Bankhead Theater is coordinated by the Livermore Cultural Arts Council. The CoolTones are a complete big band with vocalists performing jazz, swing, Latin, American Song Book and a bit of blues, funk, rock, R&B, pop and novelty tunes. Founded in 1997, the band has performed more than 150 times as part of a variety of festivities. (Photo courtesy of the Livermore Cultural Arts Council)

Park District Accepting Photos for Wall Calendar

Photographers have until Tuesday, July 15, to submit pictures of landscapes, plants and people enjoying nature for the East Bay Region Park District’s 2026 wall calendar.

Photos must have been taken in a district park.

Photographers whose photos are accepted for publication will receive \$100, photo credit and complementary copies of the calendar.

For more information, go to ebparks.org/submit-a-parkpic.

Dublin to Host Blood Drive

Dublin will host an American Red Cross Blood Drive at the Dublin Civic Center, 100 Civic Plaza, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 1.

Blood donors can register at redcrossblood.org, using the code “DublinCommunity” or zip code 94568.



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TRI-VALLEY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Fridays, June through July

PICNIC FLIX MOVIE SERIES IN DUBLIN

Dublin will be holding their Picnic Flix Movie Series through June and July. Movies will begin at dusk. Food and snack vendors will be on hand for meal purchases by 6:30 p.m., along with games and activities before the movies begin. Guests are encouraged to bring low-back chairs and/or blankets and to dress warmly. Sorry, but pets are not allowed. A flashlight will be helpful in finding your way back to your car following the movie.

The movie series features:

- July 11 — “If” at Emerald Glen Park, Field 3 & 4
- July 18 — “Kung Fu Panda 4” at Fallon Sports Park Softball Field
- July 25 — “Despicable Me 4” at Emerald Glen Park, Field 3 & 4

Thursdays, July 24, August 14 and 28

GRIEF WORKSHOP

The death of a loved one is unlike any other loss. Although there is no right or wrong path, there are stepping stones that are part of each grief journey which will be explored in this workshop. Held at St. Elizabeth Seton Church, 4001 Stoneridge Dr., in Pleasanton at 7 p.m. Space is limited, pre-registration is required. \$20 donation is requested. For more information, please call Catherine at 925-846-8385.

Saturday, July 12

CAR SHOW EVENT / FUNDRAISER

Livermore Valley Academy will be hosting a unique car show fundraiser event called “Tails and Tailpipes” on July 12, from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m., at the school parking lot. This free event will feature an impressive array of classic, custom, and unique vehicles. All proceeds from the event will directly benefit the creation of a new outdoor play area for Livermore Valley Academy students. There is a donation of \$25 from those who wish to showcase their own cars in the show. All makes and models are welcome, from classic cruisers to modern marvels! Vendor spaces are available for a \$40 donation, but space is limited.

Saturday-Sunday, July 12-13

FAMILY CAMPOUT AT ALAMO CREEK PARK

The City of Dublin is offering the wonderful opportunity to bring your family camping in the New American Backyard. At a Dublin Family Campout, you just bring your tent, sleeping bags, chairs, flashlights, clothing and personal items. The City of Dublin provides a hearty dinner and breakfast; entertainment around a campfire; group games; arts and crafts; and of course, s’mores! At Alamo Creek Park, 7601 Shady Creek Rd. in Dublin. Arrival: 4 p.m. on Saturday; depart at 10 a.m. on Sunday. Cost: residents, \$27; non-residents, \$30. Visit DublinRecGuide.com to register.

Monday, July 14

LIVERMORE-AMADOR GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY PRESENTATION

Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society presents Candice Buchanan, with “Look Locally: Finding the Women in Our History.” This free class will delve into the past with the women from our local history and family trees, and try to understand the challenges involved in uncovering their stories. On July 14 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Attend in person or via Zoom, at Congregation Beth Emek, 3400 Nevada Court, Pleasanton. For additional information, contact Tom Mathews at program@L-AGS.org.

Sunday, July 20

HOUSE CONCERT IN LIVERMORE WITH RHONDA BENIN

Vocal dynamo Rhonda Benin brings her band and blues-infused jazz laced with lyricism to the Livermore Jazz Society for a house concert. Live audience or livestream available. Details and reservations at www.livermorejazzsociety.org/events. If seats are available, you will receive an invitation with the concert address. Seating capacity is limited. \$20 suggested donation. Go to info@livermorejazzsociety.org for more info.

Thursday, July 24

DO BUSINESS LOCALLY & LEADERSHIP LIVERMORE GRADUATION

Learn how to manage the RFP/RFQ opportunities for your business, on July 24 from 3 to 5 p.m., at the Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. \$30 per person. Register at livermorechamber.org.

Sunday, July 27 and August 31

WALKING TOURS AT HAGEMANN RANCH

Walking Tours at Hagemann Ranch are for history buffs, all who love to visit the resident animals, and anyone who likes to spend time in a peaceful oasis in Livermore. Wander the ranch at your leisure and soak up the history of this national historic site. Docents will be available for questions and tours. July 27 and August 31 from 1-5 p.m. at 455 Olivina Ave., Livermore.

EMPOWER HER

(Continued from front page)

“She sometimes got comments from relatives saying things like ‘Oh, maybe you should spend your money on something else,’ and that’s what they would tell her parents. She really worked hard to get her own education and now she has two master’s degrees. So, I would probably say my mom has been a huge motivating factor for this. And she’s kind of my inspiration. So, this is something I really care deeply about, and I wanted to help other girls.”

Ananya had the opportunity in December to meet some of the people her efforts were directly affecting during a visit to a school in India.

“It really solidified my passion for this when I met those kids there,” she said. The students, some orphans or from single-parent families, came from varying backgrounds with one thing in common.

“They were just so passionate about learning, but they didn’t have any resources,” Ananya said. “That really struck me — like how much education matters in our lives. And I really felt like it should be more of a right than a privilege because, of course, you know, the more money you have, the better quality education you can get. And it really saddened me.”

One young woman left a particularly lasting impression on Ananya.

“She was talking about organic chemistry. She was like, ‘Oh, I love learning about The Big Bang theory. I had one book, and I learned about it. But you know, I want more books. I want science-fiction and science textbooks.’ And she told me all of this. And I was, like, ‘Wow, these kids,’ and I just wanted to find a way to help them.”

And now, with the \$3,000 project grant, she can.

Ananya and her team will be running a book drive over the remaining months of their summer break. They hope to collect a lot of books, including young-adult novels, dictionaries and grammar books, and use the grant money to promote the drive and pay for overseas shipping.

A little closer to home, the group just completed the assembly and distribution of 500 hygiene kits for young girls in underserved schools and minority communities in the East Bay. That initiative was supported by a string of smaller grants Ananya secured through organizations such as Hershey’s Inc., Youth Service America and Cornell University’s Contribution Project.

What’s next for the teenage wunderkind?

“I actually last November got appointed by the State Board of Education to serve as the Instructional Quality Commission Student Commissioner,” she said. The commission, as part of the California Department of Education, is responsible for the creation of curriculum that is implemented in districts across the state.

When Ananya’s 10-month term starts in September, she will go every two months or so to Sacramento.

“I’ll be speaking at the California Department of Education and kind of just providing youth insight and supporting the development of curriculum there,” she said.

As for her plans after high school, she said, “I’m very passionate about a career in law because I’ve been very involved in advocacy and, of course, helping women.”

East Bay Regional Park District Issues Coyote Advisory

The East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) has issued a coyote advisory for the summer months.

The district cautioned parkgoers that coyotes can be especially protective of newborn pups through August. Visitors may ex-

perience a type of behavior known as “escorting,” during which coyotes will follow humans at a closer distance than usual. They may also be more vocal, including barking and growling, and bare their teeth in ways that appear threatening.

However, EBRPD said “escorting” doesn’t usually result in aggression. The district urges parkgoers to “leave the area calmly and without running.”

Other tips for dealing with coyotes, which are native to California, include not hiking alone

and staying on designated trails, keeping children close by and dogs on a leash, and never trying to feed a coyote.

According to the district, documented coyote attacks on people are rare, but those that occur are usually related to hand-

feeding or the presence of a dog.

If a coyote does approach closer than 50 feet, EBRPD advises parkgoers to maintain eye contact and “be as big and loud as possible” by shouting and waving their arms.

If the coyote continues

to come closer, back away slowly, but do not turn and run.

To report a sick or injured coyote, or an aggressive encounter, the district said parkgoers should call EBRPD’s non-emergency dispatch number, 510-881-1833.

COVID

(Continued from page 3)

agreed that numbers are on the rise, referencing wastewater testing in Alameda County that suggests levels of infection are growing.

“Data from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) for the period from June 8-21, shows that NB.1.8.1 has become the predominant variant causing infections in the U.S,” Quan said.

As of April, which is the most recent data available, COVID-19 hospitalizations in Alameda County remain low, with an average of 1.9 hospitalizations per 100,000 residents, according to the Alameda County Health Department’s (ACHD) website.

The county, however, continues to monitor the new variant and all forms of COVID-19.

“Scientists and public health officials are studying variants to learn more about how to control their spread,” reads a statement on the ACHD’s website. “They want to understand whether the variants change the effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccines,

cause milder or more severe disease in people, spread more easily from person to person, are detected by currently available viral tests and respond to medicines currently being used to treat people for COVID-19.”

Those who have already received booster shots for 2024-2025 are protected against the nimbus variant and might not need another one at this time, although there might be a new COVID-19 booster for the 2025-2026 winter season.

Elderly individuals and those who are immunocompromised should receive booster shots to protect themselves with the latest vaccines released each year, according to Lew. He noted that the CDC recommends the COVID-19 vaccine for adults at least 18 years of age, adding that while the CDC previously recommended the vaccine for pregnant individuals and children as well, there is currently controversy surrounding this recommendation for reasons that

are not based on scientific evidence.

“We encourage people to stay up to date with their COVID-19 vaccinations in line with CDC recommendations,” Lew said. “This includes patients over the age of 65 and those with chronic medical conditions. We know that staying vaccinated helps protect against infection and can also reduce the severity of symptoms if someone does contract the virus.”

The current CDC guidelines also recommend vaccines for those at high risk for severe COVID-19, including those living or working in long-term care facilities, and those wanting to lower their risk of getting Long COVID-19, which is described as having COVID-19 symptoms for more than three months.

“Your best protection besides practicing caution in crowded areas is still being vaccinated and boosted with the COVID-19 vaccine,” Lew said.

For more information, visit bit.ly/44LwDJm

Pleasanton Adds Interactive Public Art Map on Website

Pleasanton has added an interactive public art map to the Firehouse Arts Center website that includes more than 60 public art installations in the city.

The digital tool includes photos, locations and information about each of the artists in the city-owned collection of sculptures,

murals, mosaics and other creative works.

“The map makes it easier than ever to discover Pleasanton’s incredible public art, whether you’re planning a walking tour or just exploring from your phone,” said city Recreation Manager Rachel Prater. “With photos and exact locations, it’s a

fun and simple way to connect with the artwork that brings beauty and character to our city.”

The interactive map is accessible on desktop, mobile, and tablet devices.

For more information about the city’s public art program, go to www.firehousearts.org.

Diverse Team of Researchers Study Liquid Carbon Structure

An international team of researchers, including scientists at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, has successfully measured the atomic structure of liquid carbon for the first time, according to a study published in the journal Nature.

Although carbon is one of the most abundant and most studied elements in solid form, it has been more difficult to explore the structure of liquid carbon because it exists only at extreme pressures and temperatures. The results of the study, which agree with theoretical predictions, show liquid carbon arranged in a tetrahedral bond structure with each atom having four neighbors, according to the published report.

“We’ve proved that you can open up a whole new area of research – low atomic number liquids at high pressures — that everyone wants to go to, but haven’t been able to so far,” said LLNL researcher Christopher McGuire, one of the authors of the study.

The experiments were conducted using a high-energy laser at the European X-Ray Free Electron Laser (XFEL) facility in Germany. The laser, known as a Diode Pumped Optical Laser for Experiments (DiPOLE), used high-energy bursts of green light to shock compress and liquify a glassy carbon sample specifically chosen to melt at an accessible pressure.

The XFEL system was then able to measure the liquid carbon’s structure by accelerating electrons to velocities near the speed of light before directing them through a magnetic field, according to the study. As they passed through the magnetic field, the electrons emitted trillions of photons in short, intense and coherent pulses of X-ray light.

LLNL said theoretical calculations predicted the tetrahedral arrangement, but experimental validation is a crucial foundation for further studies.

“Measurements of how a material responds to ex-

treme conditions allow people (who) do calculations to have better constraints,” said LLNL scientist and co-author Andy Krygier.

“Just a little bit of data tells them a set of calculations is right, and now they can use that to take it to the next step and try to understand material properties that we will never measure,” Krygier added.

LLNL said understanding how elements respond under extreme conditions could be useful in modeling the interiors of distant planets or understanding materials as part of its nuclear stockpile stewardship mission for the Department of Energy.

The researchers plan to continue using next-generation XFEL sources for better measurements of temperature during dynamic compression experiments and for direct imaging.

“There’s a lot of other experiments that XFELs can do, just like lasers can do a lot more than light shows,” Eggert said.

Vine Vibes Discussion To Cover Ranchers and Indigenous People

Nancy Calhoun Mueller, a fifth-generation Livermore rancher, will give a Vine Vibes presentation on local ranching families and the region’s indigenous people at the Charles R Vineyards at 2:30 p.m. on Saturday, July 19.

Mueller is the daughter of the late Merilyn “Tilli” Calhoun, an artist, local historian and author of “Early Days in the Livermore-Amador Valley,” written for the Alameda County School District

in 1973.

Mueller’s presentation will draw on her mother’s writings and other family resources and will explore the long history and enduring influence of the Muwekma, Lisjan Ohlone and Tamien people in the Crane Ridge region of Alameda County.

The afternoon event will also offer a selection of Muller family and indigenous recipes, each paired with a different Charles R Vineyards wine, including

toasted pine nuts with bay leaves, marinated olives, asparagus with walnut and thyme vinaigrette, Granny’s Cowboy Beans, and Great Grandma Ida’s Cream Puffs and Blackberries.

Tickets are \$55 and are available online at charles-rvineyards.brownpapertickets.com.

Charles R Vineyards, 8195 Crane Ridge Road, Livermore, has been owned and operated by the Bartlet family for 19 years.

Tri-Valley Mental Health Group Will Host Discussion on Police Response

The Tri-Valley chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) will host a panel discussion about psychiatric crisis response units with the chiefs of police from Pleasanton, Livermore and Dublin from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, July 22.

The session will be held at the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Road, and is open to the public. Refreshments will be provided.

The discussion, with Tracy Avelar, Pleasanton, Jeremy Young, Livermore, and Victor Fox, Dublin,

will also be available online at tinyurl.com/ntvgeneralmeetings2025.

NAMI is a nationwide nonprofit organization, with more than 700 local affiliates, working to improve the quality of life for those affected by mental illness.

Store Donates Box Fans to Salvation Army

Westlake Ace Hardware in Livermore recently donated 71 box fans to the Salvation Army to provide some relief from the heat for needy families.

Customers were asked to contribute by rounding up

the cost of their purchases to the nearest dollar.

The Livermore hardware reported raising \$1,300 during the register round-up campaign.

The donation was part of a nationwide Ace Hardware

Fan Drive, which raised more than \$1 million and provided 70,000 fans to the Salvation Army across the country this summer, according to the franchise cooperative.

Cultural Jews to Celebrate Rosh Hashanah

Tri-Valley Cultural Jews (TV CJ) will hold a Rosh Hashanah celebration in Livermore on Monday, Sept. 22, beginning with a potluck dinner at 6:30 p.m.

Rosh Hashanah marks the start of the Jewish New Year. Traditionally a two-day celebration, the observance includes the ceremonial lighting of candles,

festive meals with sweet delicacies, and prayer services marked by the sounding of a ram’s horn.

TV CJ, an organization for secular Jews in the East Bay who celebrate Jewish culture, values and holidays, said the potluck dinner will include “apples and honey to usher in a sweet and hopeful New Year.”

There will also be ceremonial music and Jewish readings in English.

The Rosh Hashanah celebration is considered child friendly and open to families, according to the TV CJ.

Reservations are required. For more information, email CulturalJews@gmail.com or call 925-399-8029.

Fallon Paved Trails Closed for Maintenance

Public access to the paved open-space asphalt trails in the Positano and Jordan Ranch neighborhoods of Dublin will be limited from Friday, July 11, to Wednesday, July 11, as the Fallon Village Geologic Hazard Abatement District (GHAD) conducts routine maintenance work.

The district, which is responsible for preventing or mitigating geologic hazards in a 675-acre area that includes both housing developments, said the work would consist primarily of cleaning, filling and sealing cracks to prevent water from damaging the trails.

DRYCO Construction

has been hired to perform the maintenance work.

The trails run along each side of a common drainage channel.

The Fallon Village GHAD is one of three hazard abatement districts in Dublin, along with the Fallon Crossing and Schaefer Ranch GHADs.

Zone 7 Releases Water Quality Report

Drinking water supplied by the Zone 7 Water Agency in 2024 met or exceeded all state and federal water quality standards, according to a report released by the agency.

Zone 7 supplies treated drinking water to Pleasanton, Livermore, Dublin and the Dougherty Valley area.

Also known as the Consumer Confidence Report, Zone 7’s Annual Water Quality Report for 2024 is now available online at zone7water.com.

“We encourage every Tri-Valley resident and business to explore our new Water Quality Report,” said Zone 7 General Manager

Valerie Pryor. “It’s an opportunity to see firsthand how Zone 7 meticulously ensures the safety and quality of your drinking water.”

In addition to drinking water, Zone 7 provides untreated water for agriculture and is responsible for flood control and ground water sustainability for the region.

OBITUARIES

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Sara Ann Gigliati
June 27, 1974 – June 17, 2025

Sara Ann Gigliati passed away suddenly on June 17, 2025, from complications of diabetes and chronic kidney disease. Sara was born on June 27, 1974, in Oakland, California. Sara is survived by her parents Lou and Joan Gigliati. Sara is also survived by her partner, Shawn Davis, and his children. Sara will also be joyfully remembered by her aunts, uncles, cousins and many friends. Growing up in Livermore, Sara attended Sunset Elementary, Arroyo Christian, Mendenhall Jr. High, and graduated from Livermore High School in 1992. She was a natural athlete, playing softball and basketball throughout her school years. Sara was very artistic and enjoyed writing poetry. Her strong work ethic had her working in her teens, including several years with LARPD’s program for preschool and afterschool care. She also spent 11 years working in the insurance underwriting business as well as having worked at both the Altamont and Stockton Racetracks. Sara was a social butterfly and enjoyed nothing more than keeping in touch with all her extended family and friends. Throughout Sara’s illness, she remained vibrant, caring and never complained. She touched so many

lives with her joyful appreciation of life — spreading her loving spirit, loyalty and great sense of humor to all. She was loved by many and will be missed by all who knew her!

A celebration of life will be held at 11 a.m. on Aug. 2, 2025, at the Sunset Community Church, 2200 Arroyo Rd., Livermore, California, with a reception to follow in the church hall. Memorial donations may be made to the American Diabetes Association or the National Kidney Foundation. If attending, please RSVP to gigliatijoan@gmail.com by July 20, 2025.

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

David Everett Jones
May 23, 1948 – June 25, 2025

Dave Jones crossed from this life to eternal life on the 25th of June.

He married Kathy in 1970, and they welcomed two daughters, Cindy and Kari, while living in Livermore, California.

He spent his career at LLNL as a Mechanical Engineer Technician, retiring in 2006.

He was a member of Holy Cross Lutheran Church for 50 years before moving to Eagle, Idaho, and joining Hope Lutheran Church.



His favorite hobbies included woodworking, traveling, and watching NASCAR races.

Dave is survived by his wife Kathy, daughters Cindy (Steve) deRosier and Kari (Brian) Estabrook, grandchildren Timothy, Trevor, and Allison, and many friends and family.

A celebration of life will take place at Hope Lutheran Church (331 N. Linder Road, Eagle, ID. 83616), on Tuesday, July 15, 2025, at 1:30 p.m.

Arrangements are under the direction of Bowman Funeral Parlor of Garden City. www.bowmanfuneral.com

Trash Pickup on Livermore Outskirts a Contentious Issue

By Rain Hepting

LIVERMORE—Local volunteer and Livermore Beautification Committee member Andy Wang indefinitely postponed a volunteer event to clean up trash on South Grant Line Road after the Alameda County Public Works Agency (ACPWA) denied him roadside pickup. A representative of the ACPWA said this was likely a mistake. The ACPWA picked up the trash on June 6 – 14 weeks after Wang’s request.

South Grant Line Road on the outskirts of Livermore in unincorporated Alameda County intersects with Interstate-580. Where it branches from the freeway, sections of the road are under the jurisdiction of Caltrans, the ACPWA and private owners, respectively. The parking lot at the crook of the road, on the isolated strip of land stewarded by the ACPWA, has become a recurring dump site.

John Medlock Jr., director of operations and maintenance for the ACPWA, described the trash as “anything people don’t want to pay to take to the dump.” He said he thinks one reason the site collects so much trash is because it keeps blowing in from the Altamont Pass landfill.

Wang said it is due to illegal dumpers intentionally exploiting the ambiguous nature of the area’s jurisdiction.

Wang, known as “Pengweather” in social-media forums, has lived in Livermore since 2020. His primary hobby is cleaning up Bay Area roadside dump sites. Wang said he was inspired to start in 2021 by videos of people doing acts of community service, as well as the “disgusting” state of the Altamont Pass during his commute on I-580.

“This is the route that a lot of people take to go to the Bay Area, and for them to be greeted by just so much trash — and we’re

talking about not just loose debris, but a lot of illegally dumped items like furniture, appliances — it’s kind of embarrassing,” Wang said.

Wang stopped cleaning up the Altamont Pass due to harassment from commuters, which he said included a racial slur and death threats.

“It’s not worth my life,” he said. “These are just

Line Road.

“It was disgusting,” Wang said. “We’re talking several tons of trash there.”

He opted to pay \$250 out of pocket to haul half of the bags to the Altamont Pass landfill. He spoke to the ACPWA on the telephone, and they picked up the other half of the bags he had filled.

In February, Wang cleaned up the same area

asking the agency to haul the collected trash to a nearby landfill. The following week, he said, he received a call from the ACPWA claiming the site he had identified was under Caltrans jurisdiction, and the ACPWA could no longer help him with it. The trash remained until June 6, when the ACPWA responded to a separate work request to pick it up.

records, the ACPWA responded to a pickup request at the site on June 6. However, on May 25, it denied pickup of a pile of trash in the same parking lot on the basis that it was “not county property.”

Wang said the ACPWA needs to be more consistent. He has been monitoring the area for dumping and noticed the recent ACPWA cleanup, but expressed

fying members of Public Works,” Medlock said.

“I don’t like shaming people, but I just didn’t know at the time what to do,” Wang said. “When I say the gloves are off, it’s not like I’m going to attack them or harass them. It’s more like, I’m going to stand my ground and say, ‘Enough is enough.’”

After looking at various cleanup locations Wang has posted about on his Reddit account, Medlock accused Wang of illegal dumping. He said he recognized some of the areas Wang had cleaned as private property.

“About a year ago, I think, I had this discussion with him,” Medlock said. “I commend him. I don’t fault him, but you can’t go and take stuff off of private property and put it in our right of way. That is illegal dumping. That is the problem.”

Wang said he pays close attention to the type of land he gathers trash from, as he has run into problems before. He denies picking up trash from private property in the past two years.

“I put in a lot of blood and sweat into this, and I kind of let my reputation speak for itself,” Wang said.

Wang said he has more support from the City of Livermore than the county. As a member of the Livermore Beautification Committee, he has been working on plans to reduce dumping in the city since April 2024. He wants to increase signage and public information about the dangers of illegal dumping.

“It’s been fun,” he said. “I’ve really enjoyed talking with the people – I’ve enjoyed working with Livermore Public Works. They’re really supportive of me. And I appreciate that. My hope is, if we can see a drop in illegal dumping with some of these ideas I have, that could serve as a potential inspiration for other cities, as well. Livermore is kind of going to be like the cradle of some of these ideas I have. It’s not expensive. It’s quite cheap.”

As for the ACPWA, Wang said he harbors no ill will.

“They’re putting in some effort,” he said. “I heard they’ve been putting up some enforcement cameras, so I applaud them. Taking steps, you know, so I have nothing really to complain about.”



A pile of trash sits in a parking lot off South Grant Line Road in Livermore on Feb. 28. The trash remained for 14 weeks before the Alameda County Public Works Agency picked it up. (Photo courtesy of Andy Wang)

nasty, nasty people by the truck stop, and I’m just minding my own business.” Instead, he changed his focus to offshoot roads such as Flynn Canyon and South Grant Line.

In 2024, Wang cleaned up the site on South Grant

-- the parking lot and the ditch next to it. The site had accumulated more than 50 bags of trash and three mattresses in addition to other large items such as furniture. Wang filed a work request with the ACPWA on Feb. 28

“I don’t know who told anyone that was Caltrans property, but that could have been a mistake,” Medlock said. “We’ve always known that to be our property.”

“Although, dealing with illegal dumping is not a primary function of Maintenance and Operations. Ours is to maintain our primary function – infrastructure, roadways, flood control, systems – and subsequently, we’re saddled with picking up illegal dumping, because people behave badly.”

Medlock added that the ACPWA cleans the site regularly and is investigating the source of the illegal dumping. According to its

concern over how it took more than three months for the trash to be picked up. By then, the dumping had grown.

Wang had a similar concern at the same site in 2023.

“What happens if it doesn’t get picked up promptly? Then it invites more dumping, because people start seeing a bunch of bags and being like, ‘Oh, I’ll just dump here,’” he said.

Medlock disagreed with Wang’s characterization of the ACPWA in his Reddit posts, where Wang said he intended to “shame” the agency.

“He shouldn’t be vili-



Local pizzeria owner Kira Zabrowski continues to wrack up accolades for her Much Ado About Pizza eatery in Pleasanton. (Photo courtesy of Kira Zabrowski)

Pleasanton Pizzeria Owner a Finalist in California Challenge

Kira Zabrowski, owner of Much Ado About Pizza in Pleasanton, has been named a finalist in the 2025 Real California Pizza Challenge, sponsored by the California Milk Advisory Board.

A dozen pizza makers will compete in a live bake-off in three categories at the Culinary Institute of America at Copia in Napa, California, on Tuesday, July 29.

Zabrowski will compete in the “Big Cheese” category,

which contest organizers describe as a “creative take on America’s favorite” cheese pizza using California-made mozzarella and at least two other California cheeses.

The other categories include “On the Menu,” featuring an innovative recipe already being served by a pizzeria, and “Innovative Wildcat,” testing the pizza makers’ creativity.

The winner in each category will receive \$5,000,

with the Grand Prize winner receiving an additional \$5,000.

Pizzas will be judged by a panel of award-winning pizza chefs.

The 12 finalists were selected from more than 200 entries from across the U.S.

Last year, Much Ado About Pizza finished second in a Best Traditional Sauce Competition sponsored by the Pizza Tomorrow Summit at the California Restaurants Show in Los Angeles.

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 614457

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. AAPFX Property Management; 2. Attorneys Property Management Group, 3526 Investment lvd Ste 212, Hayward CA 94545 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Apexnest Inc, 1001 Galaxy Way Ste 205, Hayward, CA 94520. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Donald Coons, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on May 8, 2025. Expires May 7, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6457. Published June 19, 26, July 3, 10, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 615250

The following person(s) doing business as: Kay's Cuts, 1486 N Vasco Rd, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Kkeg Company, Inc., 1486 N Vasco Rodad, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Edic Lo, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 10. Expires June 9, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6458. Published June 19, 26, July 3, 10, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 615247

The following person(s) doing business as: Tri-Valley Locksmith, 1882 Cortez CT, Pleasanton, CA 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): 1. Daryl Dana, 1882 Cortez CT, Pleasanton, CA 94566; 2. Sainaz Dana, 1882 Cortez CT, Pleasanton, CA 94566. This business is conducted by a Married Couple. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 11/20/1998. Signature of Registrant/s/: Daryl Dana, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 10. Expires June 9, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6459. Published June 19, 26, July 3, 10, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 614860

The following person(s) doing business as: Start Beauty Salon, 1360 Railroad Ave, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Navpreet Kaur, 1360 Railroad Ave, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Navpreet Kaur, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on May 27, 2025. Expires May 26, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6460. Published June 19, 26, July 3, 10, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 614895

The following person(s) doing business as: Yupick, 833 Tranquility CIR Unit 4, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Yujin Park, 833 Tranquility CIR Unit 4, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 5/22/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Yujin Park, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on May 28, 2025. Expires May 27, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6461. Published June 19, 26, July 3, 10, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 615387

The following person(s) doing business as: ABC Dano Electrical Services, 4435 N First Street #136, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Daniel Mitchum, 4435 N First Street #136, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 07/01/1996. Signature of Registrant/s/: Daniel Mitchum, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 13, 2025. Expires June 12, 2025. The Independent, Legal No. 6462. Published June 26, July 3, 10, 17, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 615383

The following person(s) doing business as: Taco Madre, 6955 Sunridge Drive, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): De-Barnes Catering, LLC, 220 S. Livermore Avenue, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 06/01/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Jennifer Barnes

CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 13, 2025. Expires June 12, 2025. The Independent, Legal No. 6463. Published June 26, July 3, 10, 17, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 615482

The following person(s) doing business as: EZ Tree Delivery, 2969 E 7th ST, Suite G, Oakland, CA 94601 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Jingtow Industries, 2969 E 7th ST, Suite G, Oakland, CA 94601. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 06/17/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Casey Knott, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 18, 2025. Expires June 17, 2025. The Independent, Legal No. 6464. Published June 26, July 3, 10, 17, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 615361

The following person(s) doing business as: Cheryl's Antiques, 37557 Niles Blvd, Fremont, CA 94536 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Cheryl Kelly, 37557 Niles Blvd, Fremont, CAN 94536. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 04/01/1992. Signature of Registrant/s/: Cheryl Kelly, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 13, 2025. Expires June 12, 2025. The Independent, Legal No. 6465. Published June 26, July 3, 10, 17, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 615455

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Ameribz Company; 2. Americasia Economic and Cultural Development Group, 24837 Joe Mary CT, Hayward, CA 94544 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Jie Yu, 24837 Joe Mary CT, Hayward, CA 94544. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: n/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Jie Yu, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 18, 2025. Expires June 17, 2025. The Independent, Legal No. 6466. Published June 26, July 3, 10, 17, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 615196

The following person(s) doing business as: The Poolmaster, 558 Olivina Ave, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Juan Rodriguez, 849 E. Stanley Blvd, STE 133, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 06/01/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Juan Rodriguez, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 9, 2025. Expires June 8, 2025. The Independent, Legal No. 6467. Published June 26, July 3, 10, 17, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 615193

The following person(s) doing business as: Yia-Yia's Cookies, 2435 Damuth ST, Oakland, CA 94602 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Jacob Sanders, 2435 Damuth ST, Oakland, CA 94602. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Jacob Sanders, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 9, 2025. Expires June 8, 2025. The Independent, Legal No. 6468. Published June 26, July 3, 10, 17, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 615160

The following person(s) doing business as: MAB Property Solutions, 5157 Norma Way, APT 234, Livermore, CA 94550

is hereby registered by the following owner(s): MAB Plumbing Specialty Corp, 5157 Norma Way, APT 234, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Marco Barriga, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 6, 2025. Expires June 5, 2025. The Independent, Legal No. 6469. Published June 26, July 3, 10, 17, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 614548

The following person(s) doing business as: Positive Plumbing & Drain Cleaning, 220 S. Livermore, AVE, Suite# 2472, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Seth Bortin, 220 S. Livermore Ave, Suite #2472, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 1995. Signature of Registrant/s/: Seth Bortin, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on May 12, 2025. Expires May 11, 2025. The Independent, Legal No. 6470. Published June 26, July 3, 10, 17, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 615496

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Precision Appliance Repairs; 2. Craftsmen Handyman Pros; 3. Dryer Vent Guys, 7026 Koll Center Parkway, #211, Pleasanton, CA 94506 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Cordial Home Services LLC, 7026 Koll Center Parkway, #211, Pleasanton, CA 94506. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Najib Rahmati, Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 20, 2025. Expires June 19, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6471. Published July 3, 10, 17, 24, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 615514

The following person(s) doing business as: Two Maids of Dublin, 5673 W Las Positas Blvd, ST 213, Pleasanton, CA 94588 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Mitrose LLC, 224 Rashelle CT, San Ramon, CA 94582. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Sridhar Verose, Managing Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 20, 2025. Expires June 19, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6472. Published July 3, 10, 17, 24, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 615339

The following person(s) doing business as: Lead and Be Well, 92 Camelford Place, Oakland, CA 94611 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Jess Boots Consulting LLC, 92 Camelford PL, Oakland, CA 94611. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 08/09/2022. Signature of Registrant/s/: Jessica Boots, Manager. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 12, 2025. Expires June 11, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6473. Published July 3, 10, 17, 24, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 615547

The following person(s) doing business as: Studio Wonder, 4408 Fitzwilliam ST, Dublin, CA 94568 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Christopher Wonder, 4408 Fitzwilliam ST, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced

to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Christopher Wonder, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 23, 2025. Expires June 22, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6474. Published July 3, 10, 17, 24, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 615417

The following person(s) doing business as: Dublin Ace Hardware, 7373 Village Pkwy, Dublin, CA 94568 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Lifestyle Alamo LLC, 9045 Adams Ave, Huntington Beach, CA 92646. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 05/27/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Eileen Advincula, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on May 27, 2025. Expires May 26, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6480. Published July 10, 17, 24, 31, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 615262

The following person(s) doing business as: Analytics Ark Consulting, 1121 Carrara Court, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): The White Rose USA LLC, 1121 Carrara Court, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 06/01/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Munish Arora, Managing Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 10, 2025. Expires June 9, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6476. Published July 3, 10, 17, 24, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 615337

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Karmen's; 2. Karmen's Hot Dogs, 3300 E. Castro Valley Blvd, #J, Castro Valley, 94552 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Karmen's Kaspers LLC, 3300 E. Castro Valley Blvd, #J, Castro Valley, CA 94552. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Carmen Wolf, Managing Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 13, 2025. Expires June 12, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6477. Published July 3, 10, 17, 24, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 615057

The following person(s) doing business as: Rodrigues Self Defense, 15800 Tesla Road, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Samantha Rodrigues, 15800 Tesla Road, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Samantha Rodrigues, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 3, 2025. Expires June 2, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6478. Published July 3, 10, 17, 24, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 614995

The following person(s) doing business as: Beezness ZZZ, 3259 Monahan ST, Dublin, CA 94568 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Chao Zhang, 4300 Black Ave Unit 123, Pleasanton, CA 94568. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 02/04/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Chao Zhang, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 2, 2025. Expires June 1, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6479. Published July 10, 17, 24, 31, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 614853

The following person(s) doing business as: Byrd Coop Customs, 21567 Mission Blvd, Suite 1, Cherryland, CA 94541 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Eileen Advincula, 353 Vista Roma Way, San Jose, CA 95136. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 05/27/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Eileen Advincula, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on May 27, 2025. Expires May 26, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6480. Published July 10, 17, 24, 31, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 615786

The following person(s) doing business as: Razir Ventures, 2759 Whitehall Court, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Nasa Lesley Cole, 2759 Whitehall Court, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by a Married Couple. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Nasa Cole, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 1, 2025. Expires June 30, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6481. Published July 10, 17, 24, 31, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 615803

The following person(s) doing business as: Mechatronic Autos and Oil Change, 25486 Mission Blvd, Hayward, CA 94544 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): One Stop Oil Change LLC, 25486 Mission Blvd, Hayward, CA 94544. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 07/02/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Khalid Niaz, LLC Member/Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 2, 2025. Expires July 1, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6482. Published July 10, 17, 24, 31, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 615763

The following person(s) doing business as: Coffee On..., 4570 Mines Road, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Micaela Garofalo, 4570 Mines Road, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Micaela Garofalo, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 30, 2025. Expires June 29, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6483. Published July 10, 17, 24, 31, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 615763

The following person(s) doing business as: Coffee On..., 4570 Mines Road, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Micaela Garofalo, 4570 Mines Road, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Micaela Garofalo, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 30, 2025. Expires June 29, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6483. Published July 10, 17, 24, 31, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 615763

The following person(s) doing business as: Coffee On..., 4570 Mines Road, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Micaela Garofalo, 4570 Mines Road, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Micaela Garofalo, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 30, 2025. Expires June 29, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6483. Published July 10, 17, 24, 31, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 615763

The following person(s) doing business as: Coffee On..., 4570 Mines Road, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Micaela Garofalo, 4570 Mines Road, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Micaela Garofalo, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 30, 2025. Expires June 29, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6483. Published July 10, 17, 24, 31, 2025.

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The following person(s) doing business as: Coffee On..., 4570 Mines Road, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Micaela Garofalo, 4570 Mines Road, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Micaela Garofalo, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 30, 2025. Expires June 29, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6483. Published July 10, 17, 24, 31, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 615763

The following person(s) doing business as: Coffee On..., 4570 Mines Road, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Micaela Garofalo, 4570 Mines Road, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Micaela Garofalo, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 30, 2025. Expires June 29, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6483. Published July 10, 17, 24, 31, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 615763

The following person(s) doing business as: Coffee On..., 4570 Mines Road, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Micaela Garofalo, 4570 Mines Road, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Micaela Garofalo, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 30, 2025. Expires June 29, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6483. Published July 10, 17, 24, 31, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 615763

The following person(s) doing business as: Coffee On..., 4570 Mines Road, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Micaela Garofalo, 4570 Mines Road, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Micaela Garofalo, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 30, 2025. Expires June 29, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6483. Published July 10, 17, 24, 31, 2025.

lished July 10, 17, 24, 31, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 615759

The following person(s) doing business as: Intention, 2818 San Pablo Ave, Berkeley, CA 94702 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Francesca Ferreira-Caruana, 1016 Cornell Ave, Albany, CA 94706. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Francesca Ferreira Caruana, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 30, 2025. Expires June 29, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6484. Published July 10, 17, 24, 31, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 615389

The following person(s) doing business as: Rolling Trends, 2150 Portola Ave, Ste D, #2053, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Matthew Pettersen, 2150 Portola Ave, Ste D, #2053, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: August 2007. Signature of Registrant/s/: Matthew Pettersen, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 16, 2025. Expires June 15, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6485. Published July 10, 17, 24, 31, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 615456

The following person(s) doing business as: Artisan Dental of Livermore Dental Office of Dr. Padadia, 87 Fenton Street, Suite 105, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Ushma Padadia, DMD, PC, 739 Alden Lane, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Ushma Padadia, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 18, 2025. Expires June 17, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6486. Published July 10, 17, 24, 31, 2025.

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
Case No. 25CV122276
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF ALAMEDA
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

Petitioner:
Ian Felix Bryan
110 Heligan LN, Unit #7
Livermore, CA 94551
filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
Present Name:
Ian Felix Bryan
Proposed Name:
Ian Felix Hernandez
THE COURT ORDERS
that all persons interested in

this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.

NOTICE OF HEARING
Date: 09/19/25
Time: 9:30 AM
Dept: 514

The address of the court is: **Hayward Hall of Justice**
24405 Amador Street
Hayward, CA 94544
A copy of this Order To Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation printed in this county: The Independent Newspaper 2250 First Street, Livermore, CA 94550
Dated: 05/13/25 /s/ A. Thomas J. Nixon, Judge of the Superior Court. The Independent, Legal No. 6487. Published July 10, 17, 24, 31, 2025.

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
The Independent Watchdog Committee reviews Alameda County Transportation Commission 2000 Measure B expenditures and 2014 Measure BB expenditures and performance measures. The IWC invites the public to comment on its Draft 23rd Annual Report to the Public at a public hearing on Thursday, July 17, 2025 at 2:00 p.m. Check the Alameda CTC website using the link listed below for the location of the public hearing. The draft report is available on the Alameda CTC website at <https://www.alamedactc.org/news-publications/annual-reports>. For more information, please call 510.208.7400.

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Tower of Power Bass-Guitar Player Shares His Story

By Mitch Grimes

PLEASANTON – Tower of Power took to the Alameda County Fairgrounds stage June 26 and immediately commanded the audience’s attention.

With Emilio Castillo front and center, the band’s signature horn-driven grooves reverberated throughout Pleasanton, setting an electrifying tone right out of the gate. Current lead singer Jerry Cortez, powerful and soul-stirring, seamlessly breathed fresh life into classic numbers, earned enthusiastic applause and affirmed Tower of Power’s enduring stage presence that spans more than five decades.

The band delivered a handpicked selection of beloved hits: “So Very Hard to Go,” “What Is Hip?,” “You’re Still a Young Man,” and “Diggin’ on James Brown,” all unfurled with tight precision

and playful improvisation. Mid-show highlights included a soulful rendition of “Soul With a Capital ‘S,’” and a full-throttle horn jam that brought the crowd to its feet. Every section of the ensemble, from rhythmic backbone to blazing brass, melded with infectious energy, resulting in a show that was soulful, vibrant and remarkably tight.

The experience was pure Tower of Power magic. The band’s chemistry was palpable, with several spotlight solos earning swift ovations and prompting “Encore” chants. As the evening wound down after nearly two full hours of funk, soul and unyielding groove, attendees left invigorated, proof that Tower of Power’s legendary sound remains not only relevant but transcendent.

The night wasn’t just a concert. It was a testament to the band’s stature as

masters of funk, delivering a performance that resonated on both a musical and emotional level.

The Independent caught up with Tower of Power bass-guitar player Marc van Wageningen, a



Bass player Marc Van Wageningen has been a full-time member of Tower of Power since 2018. (Photo courtesy of Tower of Power)

would you say are some of the more challenging and rewarding parts of making a career in music?

Wageningen: That’s a mixed bag of course, especially living in a place like the Bay Area. It’s not easy. When I first came to the Bay Area in 1980, my rent was \$120 in Berkeley. I could make a living doing \$35 gigs, but I didn’t have to do a whole bunch of them to make my rent. As you probably well know, the money hasn’t improved that much. Maybe you can make \$150 for a local gig, but the rent prices, meanwhile, have gone up significantly. It’s difficult in big cities. It’s expensive. You have to have faith and you have to be a little bit crazy, and be a fanatic. You know what I mean? To not want to do anything else. I totally understand. You get older. Maybe you get married. Maybe you have kids. Then all of a sudden, you know, things change.

I’m lucky enough to be in a band where it provides a living. It’s tough. Somehow, I’ve always been kind of lucky, but I’ve also been broke plenty of times — let me be honest. It’s so up and down, you know?. You can have a great gig, and then next time the gig is gone, all of sudden. I remember so well. I was doing the Wayne Brady television show. It was a daily talk show, with a great band, and it was an everyday-kind of gig. Then it ended and I was living in L.A., and I really didn’t have anything else going on.

Independent: Did you rely on your relationships that knew your value as a bassist to continue getting gigs?

Wageningen: When I was in the Bay Area, I worked with Pete Escovedo. He worked a lot, and I worked with him for many years, and people related to that. You always kind of scramble by. I played in bands with his daughter, Shelia, and it was always kind of doable. I’m married to somebody who’s also making money steadily. That helped a lot. I have to give her a lot of credit.

Tower of Power works all the time, and it’s quite amazing. As a musician, it’s almost the only way to really make money. You can do the merchandising thing. People still like to buy stuff.

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Three Livermore Scouts were recently awarded the highest rank in the Scouting America program. Pictured left to right are Nathanael Resong, Julien Toussaint and Tyler Streeter from Troop 939. Each earned their Arrow of Light. (Photo courtesy of Celine Resong)

Scouting America Troop 939 Awards Three Eagle Badges

Three Scouts from Livermore Troop 939 recently received their Eagle badges, the highest award in the Scouting America program.

Nathanael Resong, Julien Toussaint and Tyler Streeter received their awards during an Eagle Scout Court of Honor at First Presbyterian Church, which sponsors the troop, on Saturday, July 5.

To achieve the rank of Eagle, Scouts must earn 21 merit badges and complete a community service project.

Resong earned 39 merit badges and for his Eagle project designed and built a composting system for the school garden at Sunset Elementary School in Livermore.

Toussaint also earned 39 merit badges and com-

pleted an Eagle project at the Round Valley Regional Preserve campground in Oakland.

Streeter earned 26 merit badges and completed a community service project at the Tri-Valley Church of Christ in Livermore.

Troop 939 is the oldest Scout troop in Livermore. Scouting America was formerly known as the Boy Scouts of America (BSA).

native of Amsterdam who has been a full-time member of the band since 2018, for a question-and-answer session.

Independent: What inspired you to dedicate your life to music?

Wageningen: I come from a family of music. My father was a real jazz lover. He was playing records all day long whenever he was home. He would have jam sessions. He had a little band, and they would come over and jam. He was a photographer, as well, so we would take pictures of a lot of famous jazz musicians that came and did concerts in Holland. My brother, who was older than me, started first and was a really great drummer in the Bay Area. In the beginning, I was more into soccer, but when I was 16, I kind of picked up the bass because he had one. I was just messing around and in no time, it connected.

Independent: What does music mean to you, and how does it impact your life?

Wageningen: I kind of liken it to religion in a way. I’m not necessarily a religious person, although I don’t discard it, either. When I was a teenager listening to records for hours and hours, some songs would just stand out with that deep emotional connection.

Independent: What are some of the early influences that got you into funk bass?

Wageningen: When we grew up, my brother was one of those guys that bought a lot of records. Early on, we had all the Earth Wind and Fire, Rufus, Tower of Power and Average White Band records. In Amsterdam, they had a lot of nightclubs that stayed open really late that had a lot of funk bands playing.

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