



Dancers groove to the sounds during Dublin’s Splatter Festival on Sept. 14, 2024. This year’s event full of entertainment options is set for Saturday, Sept. 13 at Dublin’s Emerald Glen Park. See story on page 12. (File photo — Doug Jorgensen)

Livermore City Council Approves Startup Pacific Fusion’s Demonstration Project

Facility Near Airport Could Provide Clean Energy, Economic Benefits

By David Jen

LIVERMORE — The city might well rack up more fusion-energy achievements in the coming decade if startup Pacific Fusion chooses Livermore for a proposed project and finds success here.

The city council’s Sept. 8 unanimous approval of the project included pitches to the company for how Livermore could address its goals, touting the Tri-Valley’s skilled labor pool, national labs and quality of

life. The council also approved a financial-incentives package intended to sway the company, which has also received an approved purchase option agreement to build in the City of Alameda.

While no timeframe on a decision was given, Livermore Principal Planner Andy Ross said previously that he expected Pacific Fusion to decide on its location soon after the Livermore City Council meeting.

“We created the sun in this city; we had ignition break-

through,” Vice Mayor Evan Branning said, referring to the 2022 fusion ignition achievement of Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory’s National Ignition Facility (NIF). “This is the place to be for Pacific Fusion. ... We’re here to say we want to build this; we want to support you through this project; we want to support ancillary businesses that will support you.”

Councilmember Kristie Wang added, “For Pacific Fusion, it would be hard for them to find

(See COUNCIL, page 6)

LVJUSD Forms Pair of Budget Committees

Variety of Participants Will Help District with Its Financial Considerations

By Ruth Roberts

LIVERMORE — The Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District (LVJUSD) is launching two new budget committees this year, one internal and one external, to provide education, input and feedback on the district’s budgetary considerations and needs.

The move, the first of its kind for the district, was born out of a desire to include the community in the budgetary process. Because the response was so great, LVJUSD Superintendent Torie Gibson decided to form two committees to include as many interested people as possible.

“We are committed to deepening our staff’s, parents’ and com-

munity members’ understanding of school budgets,” Gibson wrote in an email to The Independent. “School finance comes with its fair share of nuance and complexity. These committees represent a level of transparency and collaboration we value and intend to foster.”

The internal committee is comprised of 23 staff members representing all the district’s bargaining units and work groups, including classified, certificated and management employees, as well as district leadership and two school board members, according to Michelle Dawson, LVJUSD director of communications and engagement. Meetings began in August, and the group intends to meet monthly to discuss a variety

of budget-related topics.

So far, Dawson said, the focus has been on evaluating staffing ratios in comparison to neighboring districts and how those align with enrollment, the number of school sites and each district’s overall funding. Because staff members have a general understanding of school funding sources, fiscal vocabulary and budgets, this committee is able to engage in discussions and collaboration that do not start at the ground level.

The external committee is comprised of 34 members and consists primarily of parents and community members, with district leadership and board representatives serving as budget educators. This group will start at the ground

(See COMMITTEES, page 6)

Building More ADUs Could Add Affordable Homes in California

State Senate Sends Legislation Co-Sponsored by McNerney to Governor Newsom’s Desk

By David Jen

TRI-VALLEY — The California State Senate last week unanimously approved legislation co-sponsored by Tri-Valley Senator Jerry McNerney intended to streamline construction of accessory dwelling units (ADUs) in an effort to alleviate the state’s affordable housing crisis.

With the State Assembly’s approval of the bill last month, Senate Bill (SB) 543 now heads to Gov. Gavin Newsom for consideration.

ADUs offer independent homes complete with spaces for cooking, eating, sleeping and other activities on the same property as an existing primary home. Dublin and Livermore

limit ADU sizes to 1,200 square feet, while Pleasanton limits them to 1,000 square feet. All of the cities limit junior ADUs (JADUs), the smaller, accessory apartments contained within a main house, to 500 square feet.

“California needs to build housing to help make our state more affordable,” McNerney said. “And one of the most effective ways to address our housing affordability crisis is to accelerate the construction of low-cost housing, like ADUs and junior ADUs. SB 543 will make it easier to build ADUs and JADUs and help California meet its goal of building over 2.5 million homes by 2031.”

Of the millions of homes planned to be built in the next

(See BILL, page 6)



A close-up on two spiral galactic members of the Virgo Cluster (NGC 4301 on the left, and Messier 61 on the right), is imaged by NSF–DOE Vera C. Rubin Observatory. (Photo courtesy of NSF–DOE Vera C. Rubin Observatory)

Rubin Observatory Excites Scientists Around the World

LLNL Contributions are Key to Complex Telescope

By Jessica Zimmer

LIVERMORE — The Vera C. Rubin Observatory team in northern Chile finished installation of the giant Legacy Survey of Space and Time (LSST) camera in the 8.4-meter diameter Simonyi Survey Telescope in March. The project had involved researchers at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) since 2001.

The purpose of the camera is to take images of the Southern Hemisphere sky every night for

10 years. The effort will teach scientists more about dark matter and dark energy. It will also allow scientists to map the Milky Way and inventory objects, including asteroids, in the solar system.

“Over decades, Lawrence Livermore has established expertise in building large optics in support of the National Ignition Facility (NIF),” said Vincent Riot, project manager at LLNL from 2016 to 2023. Like the LSST camera, NIF required very

(See RUBIN, page 7)



Robert Philis, owner of Robert Thomas Photography in Pleasanton for more than three decades, died July 12 at age 90. Philis’ ex-wife and lifelong friend, Ardis Merwin, shares stories, photos and articles of the talented man who captured generations of Tri-Valley residents through his lens. (Photo — Leah Silveira)

Pleasanton Photographer Is Remembered

Artist Behind Robert Thomas Photography Captured Bygone Era of Tri-Valley

By Christina Cavallaro

PLEASANTON — Robert Spiro Philis, perhaps best known as “Robert Thomas,” the photographer and owner of Robert Thomas Photography in Pleasanton for 34 years, died on July 12 at age 90.

Robert and his brother, Thomas, opened the Robert Thomas Photography Studio at 520 Main Street in 1966. Philis’ brother eventually left the business to pursue another career path, but the Robert Thomas name stuck and, according to

Philis’ ex-wife and lifelong friend, Ardis Merwin, that occasionally created some comical confusion.

“Everybody thought our last name was Thomas,” Merwin said. “When we got married, all the neighborhood kids called me Mrs. Thomas.”

At the time, Philis was shooting mostly group photography and high school portraiture.

“A package was \$8 dollars or whatever it was at the time,” Merwin recalled. “I said, ‘Robert, you have more talent than this. You can

do better. And we’re not making a good living off of it.”

Merwin and Philis grew up together in Hayward and had known each other since the age of 11 but didn’t explore a romance until their 30s, after both had married and divorced other people and Merwin was a single mother of three.

“He was always very gifted, very talented,” Merwin said. “He could draw and paint. He could sing. He could dance. He was like a feather on the dance floor. He was just a remarkable young man.”

(See PHOTOGRAPHER, page 7)

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PET OF THE WEEK



MR. FANTASTIC

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Las Positas College Firefighting Camp Focuses on Girls

By Vivien Wenneker

LIVERMORE — Las Positas College is set to host the 2025 First Alarm Girls+ Fire Camp on the weekend of Sept. 20-21. The free, two-day camp is open to high school students interested in careers in the fire service.

Organized by NorCal Women in the Fire Service (NorCal WFS), a non-profit organization, the First Alarm camp is specifically designed to inspire young women wishing to learn more about the opportunities available in pursuing fire-service careers.

“These programs are necessary, especially now, to show young people that they can do physically demanding jobs,” said Captain George Freelen, coordinator of the Fire Service Technology Program at Las Positas College.

According to the NorCal WFS website, women make up approximately 4.5% of career firefighters nationwide. By connecting participants directly with professionals in the field, the First Alarm program aims to bridge the gender gap and improve diversity in the fire service.

Since 2018, nine First Alarm camps have been hosted throughout the Bay Area, including in Livermore-Pleasanton and Contra Costa County.

“These camps have been around for a little while,” Freelen said. “They’ve had

Las Positas College has hosted similar training camps, also geared toward recruiting

involved with NorCal WFS. “Many of our instructors will be volunteering



Hands-on firefighting training will be offered Sept. 20-21 during the 2025 First Alarm Girls+ Fire Camp at Las Positas College in Livermore. (Photo courtesy of NorCal Women in the Fire Service)

other names, too, but the intent is the same, where firefighters volunteer their time to help train young women and show them that they can do this job, too.”

Freelen added that while

high school students, this year the college decided to partner with NorCal WFS. This was due partly to the organization reaching out, but also because some of the college’s own instructors had previously been

their time, even as they work for other fire departments,” Freelen said. “We’ve had quite a few women use the Las Positas program to help them, and have been fortunate to hire a few who’ve gone

through it and come back to help teach.”

By focusing on youth development and offering training at an early age through programs such as the First Alarm camp, NorCal WFS hopes to provide people with a direct pathway for recruitment and entering the fire service.

“From my own experience, I know how powerful representation can be,” said Beverly Molina, a leader with NorCal Women in the Fire Service. “That’s why First Alarm Girls+ Fire Camp is so impactful. The camp creates a space where young girls can see themselves in the role of firefighter—learning the tools, skills and teamwork of the job, all taught and led by female and nonbinary firefighters.”

The 50-plus campers can expect to receive a big welcome from the more than 50 female and non-binary professional firefighters from across the Bay Area who will be staffing and running the camp, according to Molina.

“Campers will be placed in “crew” groups of 10 with a firefighter crew leader and begin their day participating in stations that run an hour the first day and 40 minutes the second day,” Molina said. “Groups will rotate to stations that include a physical-agility

confidence course, auto extrication, wildland skills, chainsaw use and safety, hose-line handling, aerial and ground ladders, EMS and CPR, and a fire-career station.”

All the topics are designed to give campers hands-on experience with the tools of the trade, with stations also including forcible entry, personal protective equipment and self-contained breathing apparatus, extinguishers, small tools, wildland firefighting, career-path discussions and a live-fire demo.

Day two will end with a live fire demonstration by firefighters, a career fair and graduation for campers and their families.

“The hope is that some of these young women who go to the camp will graduate high school and come to Las Positas to continue their path toward becoming a firefighter,” Freelen said. “We also hope that NorCal will come back in the future. We’d love for it to be an annual thing.”

For more information on the First Alarm Girls+ Fire Camp, visit: <https://norcalwfs.org/>.

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Childcare Providers Begin Receiving Measure C Funds

By Ruth Roberts

TRI-VALLEY — The Alameda County Board of Supervisors has approved nearly \$1 billion in Measure C funds for childcare under the First 5 Alameda County program. The five-year plan will immediately

of supervisors for facilitating the process and said she was grateful for the support.

“I’m a mom, a disabled veteran and an early childcare educator,” Vanessa Velasco said in a statement. “Without any family in this country, my partner and I

one-time emergency grants totaling more than \$80 million to an estimated 80% of providers who apply. The grants range in size from \$40,000 to \$100,000. In year two, an hourly rate of at least \$25 per hour will be implemented, with potential raises of up to

also help address basic family needs, enhance data collection and foster neighborhood partnerships.

The new funding includes support for caregivers who care for children within their families or among friends. In the first year, these caregivers will receive \$4,000 in relief-grant funding, and in the second year, they will get an estimated \$500 monthly voucher for improvements, which are expected to benefit approximately 2,500 caregivers.

Additionally, \$1 million will help families with inclusion support, \$5 million will go to community-based Family Resource Centers and \$1.5 million will fund navigation services to connect families with important resources.

Voters approved Measure C in 2020. The 0.5% countywide sales-tax funds the Children’s Health & Child Care Initiative. Specifically, it helps childcare providers stay open, expands access to preschool and early education, funds new parks and community spaces, supports early developmental screening and invests in the county’s pediatric trauma center.

The distribution of Measure C funds was delayed by legal challenges raised by the Alameda County Taxpayers Association, claiming that a two-thirds majority was needed to pass the tax initiative. Proponents argued that only a simple majority was required since the initiative was started by voters, and

the California Supreme Court ultimately upheld it.



First 5 Alameda County members at My Kids Klub in Livermore received a ceremonial check for \$40,000 from the county on Sept. 3. From left: Vanessa Cadeno, Kristin Spanos, Raiza Marciscano, Ana Apodoca and Heather Cartwright. (Photo — Leah Silveira)

begin distributing funds to childcare workers throughout the county.

“Providing families with affordable childcare and ensuring that childcare providers have the support they need is beneficial for our economy, families and residents throughout Alameda County,” said David Haubert, president of the Alameda County Board of Supervisors.

The funds will be used to help providers increase wages, upgrade facilities and improve working conditions, according to a press release. First Five is a state-run program dedicated to improving the lives of children throughout California.

Raiza Marciscano, who runs My Kids Klub in Livermore, will be receiving \$40,000 from the program, and said she hopes to implement changes soon.

“I plan to buy much-needed materials for the kids, as well as offset the cost of our new air-conditioning unit,” Marciscano said. “I also want to invest some of the money in a future playground for the kids that is both inclusive and educational.”

One Alameda County parent praised the board

face it all alone, raising our kids, staying strong and supporting our community. Like so many around us, we’ve been waiting, sacrificing, just trying to get by. Thank you to the board of supervisors for approving these Measure C funds. This plan brings access, healing and dignity to families like mine who’ve been holding on with hope.”

Funding plans include

\$25,000, according to officials. The measure will also help create 2,400 new subsidized childcare slots, increasing access for families and supporting local providers.

Officials say that over time, Measure C funds will extend beyond the classroom by integrating developmental screenings, fatherhood support, pediatric care and mental health services. Measure C will

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Main Street Brewery Closing Doors After Nearly 30 Years

By Sanestina Hunter

PLEASANTON — Main Street Brewery, a popular bar-style restaurant, is scheduled to close Sept. 21 after nearly three decades in business.

Bar owners Sharon and Matt Billings announced the closure in a Facebook post on Aug. 29.

“It is with heavy hearts that we will soon be saying goodbye,” they wrote, noting that serving families has been one of their greatest joys and that friendships and memories made at the bar will last a lifetime.

The post drew dozens of comments from longtime patrons, some shocked by the news and others sharing stories of friendships made there. Many congratulated the Billings and thanked them for supporting local bands and

hosting community events.

Sharon Billings told The Independent the decision was bittersweet but not tied to financial challenges. She

said it is simply time to move on.

“It’s time for the next chapter of our lives and to do the things we always

talked about — take vacations, spend more time with family and even play some pickleball,” she said. “When you run a business you love, you are always there, and sometimes it’s hard to step away because it’s your true love.”

The brew pub, located across from the historic Pleasanton Hotel, has long served as a downtown gathering spot. It offers indoor and outdoor seating, a traditional counter and a small stage decorated with memorabilia from the many local and touring bands that played there over the years.

Alongside its house-brewed beers, Main Street Brewery offered pub fare such as burgers, sandwiches, salads, and fish and chips.

Sharon Billings described the bar as more than a place to grab a beer or a quick bite. She said

it was never a rowdy or brawl-filled bar, but rather a place of camaraderie and friendship where people looked out for one another. For many, it became a home away from home.

Over the years, the bar hosted bridal showers, weddings and even celebrations of life. Sharon Billings recalled a 70th birthday party that included a Vegas-style show.

“We’ve had celebrations of every kind,” she said. “It’s a thread that weaves us all together.”

As the couple prepares to shut down, Sharon Billings said she hopes the community continues to have a place that fosters the same love and connection. She invites everyone to come share memories, raise a glass and say farewell.

“We are going out the way we came in, filled with

live music, good beer and great company,” she said. To mark its final weeks, the bar is featuring live music from bands including Jim Ashley, Red Hots and Inner-State 80s. The Cocktail Monkeys, a group special to the Billings that has performed there since the beginning, will close out the night on Sept. 21.

The closure marks the second downtown business to shut its doors this summer. In July, Starbucks ended its lease after a decade on Main Street.

No announcement has been made about what business might take over the space once Main Street Brewery closes.



Main Street Brewery, a downtown Pleasanton gathering spot for nearly 30 years, has served as a place of camaraderie and friendship where people looked out for one another. The establishment is scheduled to close Sept. 21. (Photo — Leah Silveira)

Dublin Opts Against Installing Red-Light Traffic Cameras

By David Jen

DUBLIN — The city council last week decided against pursuing red-light traffic cameras based on its perceived lack of need for the systems but remained cognizant of resident complaints regarding safety on the city’s roads and intersections.

The camera systems use either a radar unit, video camera or inductive loop — which senses large metal objects such as engines — to detect when a vehicle enters an intersection after a light has turned red. Photographs of offending vehicles and citations are subsequently sent to their owners.

“Studies show that the behavioral tendencies of drivers will change as red-light camera programs are implemented,” said Jordan Foss, Dublin senior management analyst.

Nationwide studies have

shown that the camera systems reduce fatal crashes by about 21%, with violations dropping by up to 50% in the first year of implementation.

A city-needs assessment, however, caused both staff and the city council to conclude the cameras are unwarranted. A city report cited California Office of Traffic Safety 2022 statistics, which ranked Dublin 85th highest out of 104 comparable jurisdictions in number of crashes, with first being the worst. Pleasanton ranked 84th and Livermore ranked 70th.

During the period from 2020 to 2024, Dublin recorded 237 intersection collisions, compared to Pleasanton’s 360 and Livermore’s 415, but the counts do not factor in the number of intersections per city.

Within Dublin, Dougherty Road at Dublin Boulevard ranked highest for number of collisions per

year, followed by Tassajara Road at Dublin Boulevard and Hacienda Drive at Dublin Boulevard.

Despite the drop in fatalities, the camera systems increase the frequency of rear-end collisions, “likely due to abrupt braking to avoid any citations in driving through the intersection,” Foss said.

“Through the data analysis conducted, staff does not believe that red-light cameras are warranted at this time,” Foss said, adding that other safety measures in the city’s local roadway safety plan do deserve focus. The plan emphasizes pedestrian collisions, nighttime safety, aging drivers, signalized intersections and aggressive and impaired driving.

Aware of an increase in traffic complaints and the number of stop-sign and traffic-signal violations, staff said it is currently focused on low-cost, high-impact im-

provements such as signing, striping and signal timing.

Councilmember Michael McCorrison, while agreeing with the lack of need for the camera systems, asked city staff to avoid overemphasizing the financials of the decision.

“I don’t want to get caught up in the economics of this,” McCorrison said. “It’s not an easy decision. We need to make the investment if it’s really warranted, and I think everyone here agrees with that.”

Councilmember Jean Josey stressed the need to improve the city’s signal timing, “really taking a look at are we moving cars efficiently on some of our major arteries,” and determining if the uptick in complaints can be traced to a lack of traffic efficiency.

Councilmember John Morada said he would like to revisit the possibility of

cameras once the proposed Dublin Boulevard extension project is completed.

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EDITORIAL

More ADUs Are Good for Low-Income Housing, But More Action from State and Cities Is Needed

Last week, a bill co-sponsored by Tri-Valley State Senator Jerry McNerney passed through the legislature’s upper chamber by a unanimous vote. The bill, SB 543, streamlines the construction of accessory dwelling units, or ADUs, on existing residential properties in a number of ways.

The bill is a much-needed piece of legislation to try to speed up the building of more housing units. The Assembly also passed the bill, on Aug. 28, with a unanimous vote of those present. The legislature should be applauded for passing the bill. Gov. Gavin Newsom should sign the bill into law when it reaches his desk.

The Problem

Before we slap ourselves on the back, however, SB 543 can’t be the end of it. The state has been permitting about 25,000 ADUs per year, but California is still mired in a housing crisis. McNerney estimates the state needs to build more than 2.5 million homes by 2031. Other estimates say the figure should be much higher than that. Even as 800,000 Californians moved out of state between 2020 and 2023, largely because of the cost of living, the California Housing Partnership has said the state needs 3.5 million more homes.

And SB 543 doesn’t actually

build anything. It just makes it a little easier for homeowners in residential neighborhoods to create more housing on their own property, if and when they choose to do so.

It’s also too soon to tell how much the budget law signed by Newsom in June, which overhauled the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), will spur more construction.

Waiting for the free market to work isn’t going to solve the affordability crisis that California has been stuck in for decades. We need more actions that will help the state reach those housing goals, not just make tweaks around the edges of the problem.

So far, the state and citizens aren’t leading in all the areas they could. In September 2024, Newsom vetoed a bill that would have made the state’s enhanced Low Income Housing Tax Credit permanent. And last November, voters rejected Proposition 5, which would have lowered the vote threshold to approve affordable housing bonds to 55%, from a two-thirds supermajority required under current law.

Also, cities across the state allow developers to pay in-lieu fees (some of them set very low) to avoid having to build affordable housing on their new developments.

We’re hoping the CEQA reforms

will help more housing projects move forward more quickly, just as we hope the ADU bill gets signed, even though it’s unlikely to lead to a surge in new housing in the near future.

But here are some actions that could also make a difference.

Solutions

The state should be asked for more budgetary support for low-income housing and for measures to fight homelessness. Making the enhanced Low Income Housing Tax Credit permanent is important, in addition to increasing it above the \$500 million per year already allocated. Allowing for speedier development of multifamily housing for poorer residents would also help.

In addition, we should encourage the state to bring a new version of last year’s Proposition 5 back to the voters, because we need to be able to build more housing, especially low-income housing.

Both the state and our cities should be lobbied to increase the density of urban and suburban communities. In order to build housing at the scale that is needed, we have two choices, grow up or grow out. The history of California, and the rest of the country, has shown that the costs of suburban sprawl are too steep: endless low-density hous-

ing developments that damage the environment and increase traffic congestion.

Cities have a role to play on their own. They should not allow developers to pay in-lieu fees to avoid having to build affordable housing in their new developments. Here in the Tri-Valley, let’s eliminate in-lieu fees, setting an example for other communities to do the same.

We are living in an exceptionally difficult time. The Supreme Court on Monday freed the Trump administration to racially profile people for immigration checks. We’re already seeing people missing work because of Trump’s attempt to deport immigrants.

That plays into our housing crisis, because 40% of workers in home building in California are Hispanic, according to the National Association of Home Builders. Trump’s tariffs on Canadian lumber, currently set at 35%, are also going to take a big bite out of our efforts to build more homes, even if the tariffs don’t increase (and they might).

But we shouldn’t let the difficulty of the task keep us from trying to do the right thing. We should celebrate the passage of SB 543, but we can’t rest on our laurels. If we want California to be more affordable for all Californians, we need to keep pushing forward.

MAILBOX

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Prioritize the Safety of Residents

Eve Sprunt, Dublin

I have lived in Dublin Ranch for over 25 years and am appalled at the failure of the city council to put a high priority on enforcing traffic rules to protect the safety of residents. Instead, the mayor and city council have wasted millions on frivolous things like The Wave waterpark.

Red light runners are a serious problem on Tassajara Road. After stopping at a red light, I’ve had multiple other drivers race past me to cross the intersection. Whenever I stop at a red light, I worry about being rear-ended by a driver who is ignoring that red light.

I have seen as many as three cars block traffic on southbound Tassajara at Dublin Corporate Way, because they turned left on a red light. Every time I see

that, I ask myself, “Where are the police?”

People who place a low priority on the safety of their fellow residents do not belong in city government. We need a safe city in which serious traffic violations like speeding on residential streets and ignoring red lights are not tolerated. Clean house at city hall. The current elected leaders have demonstrated that they do not prioritize the safety of residents.

Abuse of Funding

David Marco, Livermore

Va Lecia Adams Kellum, CEO of the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA), has come under fire for funneling money to her husband’s NGO, billing taxpayers for lavish personal events, and approving six figure payouts to silence whistleblowers, all while California’s homeless crisis

continues to climb costing taxpayers tens of billions of dollars.

Kellum, praised by Mayor Bass, makes about \$430,000 a year including salary and benefits, — among the highest-paid officials in the homelessness sector.

California’s homeless population is more than 180,000 (the highest in the nation), and state audits have revealed that \$24 billion in homeless spending can’t be tracked.

Whistleblower complaints and public records show that Kellum approved or oversaw at least one major contract worth \$2.1 million to a nonprofit where her husband is a senior leader.

Reports show multiple instances popping up of Kellum directing taxpayer money to family-linked entities.

In addition, accusations from former LAHSA staff detail how Kellum charged the public for open bars and other extravaganzas at agency-hosted events.

These included professional gatherings, where taxpayer dollars covered alcohol and entertainment that had little to do with serving the homeless.

In a city where basic shelter costs \$20,000 per person each year, many point to her lavish spending as an abuse.

She’s also facing misconduct charges after LAHSA authorized \$800,000 in settlements to two former executives, Kristina Dixon, the ex-chief financial officer, and Emily Vaughn Henry, a top IT official, who claimed they were wrongfully terminated for exposing wrongdoing.

Of this amount, \$200,000 came directly from city and county general funds (taxpayer dollars), with the rest covered by insurance.

The payouts, approved in March without commissioners reviewing the full complaint details, equate to the annual shelter costs for up to 40 homeless people.

Legal experts have slammed LAHSA for initially withholding and heavily redacting the whistleblower letters, violating public records laws and

shielding executives from scrutiny.

Kellum, who stepped down from her role in August after less than three years, was praised by Mayor Bass and LAHSA Commission President Linda Gruel even as her actions came to light.

Bass had personally pushed for her hiring, including a consulting gig at \$10,000 per week early in her administration.

Federal Judge David O. Carter recently criticized LAHSA for shielding elected officials from accountability over billions in homelessness spending.

Source: Christina Aguayo News

Face the Facts

David Ott, Pleasanton

Richard Andrews’ delusional comparison of Hitler’s genocide to U.S. immigration enforcement is absurd and offensive. Hitler’s evil was rooted in racial hatred and extermination. America, by contrast, enforces immigration laws that every sovereign nation does: enter legally, respect visa limits, or apply for asylum. This is not persecution — it is sovereignty. Richard, try sneaking into any country or overstay your visit; you’ll quickly learn how ridiculous your argument is. BTW, here is a Bible verse for you, Proverbs 18:2.

Will Bateson claims Trump’s worldview is destructive. How wrong he is. Trump has rebuilt the American economy and created employment opportunities for all legal citizens of every color and background. The only people who suffer under Trump’s policies are those who break the law.

Denis Telgemeier loves name-calling and spewing insults but collapses when it comes to facts. Children are not being “ripped away.” What is happening is the arrest and deportation of illegal alien criminals — exactly what the law requires. The majority of Americans demand laws to be enforced, not ignored. Meanwhile, the Veterans Administration, under new leadership, has

reduced case backlogs and delivered more quality service in months than Biden did in four years. Also, law and order is returning to cities once destroyed by sanctuary policies; the chronic degeneration of the blue sanctuary cities is no longer the norm. And world leaders are investing billions of dollars in America because this is the center of global commerce.

Rosario Milelli, Robert and Janet Lindgren, and other letters are so saturated with falsehoods they aren’t worth dissecting. Untruths and delusions don’t deserve oxygen.

Here are the facts: America is far stronger now than it was four years ago. GDP is up to 3.3%. Inflation is trending down to 2%. Gas prices are at a five-year low. Over 500K new private-sector jobs have been created. The border is secure, and criminal illegal aliens are being deported. All of these results in just seven months. That is excellent progress, whether you admit it or not.

For you that are still suffering from Trump Derangement Syndrome: your denial doesn’t change reality. You ignore facts, distort truth and cling to hysteria because admitting success under Trump would shatter your narrative. What a sad way to live your life. America is in a golden age of prosperity and security, and history will remember it that way—whether you agree or not.

Working People Have Power

Ward Kanowsky, Pleasanton

For the time being, and for the foreseeable future, we live in a two-party system. That means that Democrats are the only political party that can check the power of Trump, MAGA, and Republicans who choose to bow to a fascist regime. It also means that Democrats have to win in the 2026 midterm elections and the 2028 general election.

This is a tall order, given all the woes that currently beset the party: no clear leader, lousy messaging, an inability to connect with young people and, perhaps

most importantly, to recognize with the recent observance of Labor Day, the loss of working class voters including low-income and low-propensity voters.

Yet, this could also be an opportunity. To paraphrase NASA’s Gene Krantz during the Apollo 13 crisis in 1970, “This could be our (Democrats) finest hour.” Labor Day can serve as reminder to us that working people have the power to drastically alter the political environment. We have seen this time and again in our country’s history: think of the conditions that led to the New Deal, the civil rights movement, and the war on poverty. As Bishop William J. Barber from the Poor People’s campaign has noted, the combination of working people, moral leaders, and strong allies coming together can “reconstruct democracy.”

What Are They Doing?

Keith Jackson, Dublin

Now we have all witnessed the destruction of a speedboat in international waters in the Caribbean by U.S. forces. For starters, the boat was filled with eleven people, so it is unlikely that they were smuggling drugs, because with that many people on board, there was not much additional room for drugs. They were probably people trying to enter the U.S. illegally. But maybe it was drug smuggling. Either way, what is the penalty for smuggling drugs into the U.S.? It is NOT DEATH. If they were illegal immigrants, the penalty for that is NOT DEATH. They should have been apprehended and tried for their crimes after something called DUE PROCESS as we have done for many years in this country. This is where evidence of the crime is presented to a court to determine guilt or innocence before being sentenced to an appropriate punishment. None of this happened. They were killed without ever determining what crime if any was committed. Murder is the crime of “unlawfully killing a person.” This was murder. And

(See MAILBOX, page 5)

THE *Independent*

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A late-summer scene on Old Oak Road in Livermore reflects the area's beauty. (Photo — Leah Silveira)

MAILBOX

(Continued from page 4)

Donald Trump is responsible. We CAN NOT blow up boats in international waters and kill people with no proof that they were doing anything wrong.

Welcome to Trump World: Trump's Tariff News Items

Rosario Milelli, Pleasanton

A sampling of recent news items from around the country.

From AgAmerica:

Tariffs raise the cost of goods. In 2025, they're expected to push consumer prices up about 1.8 percent, which means the average household is predicted to lose around \$2,400 in buying power this year.

Tariffs have raised costs of some fertilizers by \$100 per ton. Steel and parts tariffs make tractors, combines, and repair parts more expensive. That means higher input costs.

In the first half of this year, exports to China dropped by more than half, falling from nearly \$12 billion last year to just \$5.5 billion. Rising tariffs from both the U.S. and China have made American products less competitive.

Soybeans are taking the hardest hit. China hasn't bought a single cargo of new-crop soybeans yet for the 2025/26 season, something that hasn't happened in two decades.

From AOL:

Arkansas farmers are sounding the alarm claiming that a deteriorating global economy and soaring costs are pushing them to the brink of disaster.

"If there's no emergency funding this year, there will be one out of three farmers who will file bankruptcy," said Chris King.

Prices for corn, soybeans and wheat have also fallen to their lowest levels since 2020, according to the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis.

As mentioned above, Trump's tariff policies are severely impacting our farmers. At an event at Ironstone Vineyards (Murphy, CA), staff revealed sales were off by 40% due to retaliatory tariffs and loss of markets. I suspect many of our local wineries, especially Wente, have also experienced sales declines, especially to Canada.

So I would encourage all of us to reach out and support our local wineries. Go to tastings, buy an extra bottle of wine as a gift. Let them

know you support them.

Also, perhaps, contact your Congressman and Senator to ask them to help small family farmers, even though many are possibly Trump's strongest supporters.

You Are Missing the Truth

Samuel Warner, Pleasanton

Many of the letter writers to The Independent have called out David Ott for reiterating the repeated lies that he hears. I can't blame Mr. Ott, or his Fox-watching ilk, for believing that what they see on "the news" is true. The manipulation is quite savvy. It's presented in the traditional style of a news station, falsely presents itself as "fair and balanced", edits accordingly, and repeats over and over.

However, anyone who steps outside of the Republican lie bubble and sees what is ACTUALLY happening knows otherwise. You can claim prices are down, but the reality in the supermarket, at the pump, etc. shows otherwise. You can claim that the government is helping solve crime, but reality shows that legal immigrants and American citizens are getting taken away. Right-wing propaganda outlets avoid these topics.

(Fox themselves admitted that they were only "entertainment" to avoid a suit about their lies. And remember the \$787.5 million settlement with Dominion Voting Systems for posting election lies?)

As I'm writing this, thousands of people are marching in DC to protest its takeover. I looked for it on Fox — could not find it, but there were plenty of distracting other articles avoiding the subject of our elected officials working toward creating a military state, toward ending democratic voting, toward legislating the private takeover of our national parks, etc., etc.

Republicans, try watching the online media that present truth with documented evidence of what you're missing; try Heather Cox Richardson, Robert Reich, or the Meidas Touch network. You might be shocked at what is actually happening out there. I believe that what the Trump administration is actually doing goes against true Republican values regarding law and order, fiscal responsibility, honoring the Constitution, and love of our country. You would actually

disapprove of what is happening, if you saw the truth.

Blind devotion to someone who repeatedly lies and works against your own best interest is dangerous and destructive to our beautiful country. Now Trump is threatening Chicago with military war! A U.S. president attacking America's cities! What will it take? If you still believe that this is about immigration and not about power and wealth, you are hiding your head in the sand. And if you believe that Trump really cares about people and the working class, you are truly being fooled. It's time to get some real information and admit that you've been lied to.

Take a look at the picture of now-convicted sex criminal Ghislaine Maxwell at the arranged marriage of Chelsea Clinton.

(Sources: Primarily: Webb, Whitney, "One Nation Under Blackmail," Volumes I and II, 2022. Also, The Wall Street Journal, The New York Times, and Financial Times.)

The Danger of Dragging Iron

Warren Massey, Livermore

Today in the early morning hours, I fell in behind and followed a pickup truck pulling a trailer loaded with what appeared to be containers of grapes, as it turned off Arroyo, onto Concannon, S. Livermore and Tesla roads before turning into a local winery facility. The entire time while I followed, I saw that something iron or steel was dangling below the trailer, contacting the

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be greatly embarrassed.

As horrible as the Epstein network of sex and child trafficking crimes are, they pale in comparison to the human suffering and killing by his financial crimes and his drug and arms trafficking. All of these activities yield a great deal of power and money, which allows for greater control and greed. Human lives and suffering are mere incidents to the avarice of these trans-nationals.

Donald Trump does not want to "drain the swamp." President Donald Trump is part of the swamp and wants to be king of the swamp. He is also part of the Deep State he says that he counters, but also wishes to dominate.

If anyone were truly concerned with the Trump depravity, they would be looking into the Trump Administration's Paolo Zampolli.

The impotent, corrupt Democratic Party is also steeped in this chicanery. Take a look at the picture of now-convicted sex criminal Ghislaine Maxwell at the arranged marriage of Chelsea Clinton.

(Sources: Primarily: Webb, Whitney, "One Nation Under Blackmail," Volumes I and II, 2022. Also, The Wall Street Journal, The New York Times, and Financial Times.)

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pavement and throwing off sparks. It may have been the trailer's safety chains or it may have been something associated with the tie-downs for the containers of grapes on the trailer. I followed the truck/trailer onto winery property and tried to inform the fellow driving, and I think I got my point across, but I am not entirely sure because I do not speak much Spanish and he did not seem to speak much English. Companies in this area need to impress upon their employees the dangers associated with dragging iron on pavement in an environment such as the one in which we live. Checks need to be made by everyone before a trip is started (and at any stop along the way) to be sure that iron is not in contact with the pavement and CANNOT come into contact with the pavement for any vertical excursion (bounce, lean, sway, loading) of the equipment being moved over the road.

What Would Jesus Do?

Brian Sanborn, Pleasanton

Just when it seemed Trump and his MAGA cultists couldn't be more heartless, they manage to plumb deeper depths of their casual cruelty. Whatever your view of the war on Gaza, from the bloodthirsty attack by Hamas on Israeli civilians to the disproportionate response by Israel, no one

should blame young children as if they were Hamas terrorists.

Thousands of young children have been killed in Gaza, but many more have been terribly wounded. Shrapnel, burns, amputations, all caused by the Israeli military using ordnance paid for by U.S. taxpayers. A U.S. aid organization is bringing some of those children to America to get the lifesaving care they cannot access in Gaza, all at no cost to the U.S. treasury. All care is donated, and not one traveler has overstayed their humanitarian visa. But not anymore. Trump has halted all visas, humanitarian or otherwise, to any Palestinian. Apparently, he sees a three-year-old with multiple broken bones as a security threat.

Many of your MAGA writers thank their god for Trump. One said he fell to his knees in supplication to God and Trump. So I ask... What would Jesus do?

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Community Can View STEAM Academy Improvements at Marylin Open House

The Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District will host an open house at the Marylin Avenue STEAM Academy, 800 Marylin Ave., from 4:40 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 17, for the community to view \$25 million in facility improvements, including new and renovated classrooms, STEAM labs, research center, and library.

Improvements at the magnet school, which offers an emphasis on science, technology, art and mathematics for students in transitional kindergarten (TK) through fifth grade, also include a new parking lot and drop-off area, a playfield renovation, futsal courts and TK playground. "We look forward to welcoming the community to our campus," said Principal

Joe Meunier. "These investments are making our STEAM magnet program stronger, our campus safer and bolstering the sense of pride our students and staff have in the school they learn and work in every day." Members of the community will be able to take self-guided tours of the campus and school and district staff will be available to answer questions.

LARPD Completes Upgrades at Mocho, Tex Spruiell Parks



The Livermore Area Recreation and Park District recently completed improvements on two area parks. Shown here is the upgraded Mocho Park, unveiled in June, while the Tex Spruiell project was wrapped up in August. (Photo courtesy of LARPD)

Police Promoting Safety for Pedestrians

The Livermore Police Department (LPD) is reminding drivers to slow down and be alert for people walking along roadways, as part of its Pedestrian Safety Month awareness efforts.

September is Pedestrian Safety Month in California. LPD said walking should always be an easy and safe option for getting around any community and by taking extra precautions, motorists can help protect pedestrians and reduce the risk of crashes and injuries.

“Every step we take towards greater pedestrian safety is a step towards

saving lives,” said LPD Sgt. Scott Harrison. “We want to remind everyone that safety begins with you, whether you’re behind the wheel or on foot. Small actions, like slowing down, putting away distractions and yielding at crosswalks can make a life-saving difference.”

The LPD recommended that drivers always slow down at intersections and be prepared to stop for pedestrians. Motorists should also avoid blocking crosswalks while waiting to make a right-hand turn and avoid distractions, such as texting or eating while driving.

Pedestrians need to be predictable, use crosswalks and make eye contact with drivers before crossing the street, according to the LPD. At night, they need to wear bright colors or reflective materials and use a flashlight.

According to projections from the Governors Highway Safety Association, 7,148 pedestrians were killed in traffic crashes across the United States in 2024. In California alone, pedestrian deaths make up more than 24 percent of all traffic-related fatalities.

Pedestrians do not have

the same protections as drivers and passengers. A difference of just 15 MPH (20 MPH to 35 MPH) significantly increases the likelihood that a person walking will be killed if struck by a vehicle.

The Livermore Police Department offers safe driving and walking tips, including staying off the phone when behind the wheel or walking.

For more safety tips, go to [gosafelyca.org](https://www.gosafelyca.org).

The National Highway Safety Administration observes Pedestrian Safety Month in October.

BILL

(Continued from front page)

six years, the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) aims to have at least 1 million affordable homes available to those with low and very low incomes. The current state-mandated Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) cycle requires that Dublin zone for 3,719 new housing units, Livermore 4,570 units and Pleasanton 5,965 units by 2031. ADUs count toward city RHNA numbers and with their smaller sizes, tend to fall in the lower affordability tiers.

While recent state laws regarding ADUs have facilitated more construction of accessory homes, the “laws contain provisions that have led to confusion and conflicts among some cities and counties,” according to McNerney’s office. About 25,000 new ADUs and JADUs are permitted in the state per year, compared to 800 permits a decade ago.

in 2024, compared to its five-year average of 48 per year.

SB 543 clarifies aspects of the new state ADU laws, such as application timelines, the definition of a JADU, protections from fees imposed on ADUs and explicit language stating that the permitting guidelines for JADUs are the same as for ADUs.

In April, HCD sent Alameda County an ordinance review letter listing 39 discrepancies between local ordinance and state law, such as the maximum number of detached ADUs per property, which state law increased to eight this year, and allowing the conversion of a home’s previously unpermitted space into an ADU.

Little Green Harvesters Receive \$5,000 Grant

The Little Green Harvesters program, a farm-to-school program run by Happy Hooves Equine Therapy & Teaching Farm in Livermore, received a \$5,000 grant last week from the Sprouts Healthy Communities Foundation. More than 500 campers participated in the sustainable farming program this summer, according to Happy Hooves. Students in the program plant, cultivate and harvest their own produce and prepare meals in the Happy Hooves teaching kitchen.

Happy Hooves said the grant will be used to buy tools and handwashing stations, and to build protective garden cages. The Phoenix-based Sprouts Healthy

Communities Foundation promotes nutrition education in conjunction with the Sprouts Farmers Market

grocery chain, including youth gardening and cooking programs that teach skills for healthy eating

and lifestyle choices. The donation was presented at the Sprouts Farmers Market in Dublin.



Livermore-based Happy Hooves Equine Therapy & Teaching Farm received a \$5,000 grant from Sprouts Market on Sept. 6 in Dublin. The funds will benefit the nonprofit’s Little Green Harvesters Farm-to-School program. (Photo — Leah Silveira)

Museum on Main Hosts Talk on Epidemics and Infectious Diseases

Dr. Srilekha Dekka, chief scientific officer at Script Molecular, a biotech consulting firm, will give a talk on the history of epidemics and infectious diseases at the Museum on Main in Pleasanton at 3 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 13.

In “Epidemics: A History of Humanity’s Plagues,” Dekka will discuss how infectious threats have shaped human history, tracing their spread across the globe, their

escalation into pandemics, and the scientific breakthroughs and lasting lessons they inspired.

Dekka earned her medical degree from the Gauhati Medical College and Hospital in India and a doctorate in biomedical science from East Tennessee State University.

She joined the Pleasanton-based Script Molecular in 2023. Dekka also spent nine years with Indianapolis-based Roche Diagnostics, including

five years at Roche Molecular Systems and Sequencing in Pleasanton.

Dekka’s presentation is in conjunction with a traveling exhibit, “From Earthquakes to Epidemics: How Disasters Transform California’s People and Places, that has been on display at the Museum on Main. The exhibit wraps up the day of Dekka’s talk.

To register for the presentation, go to [museumonmain.org](https://www.museumonmain.org) or call 925-462-2766.

COUNCIL

(Continued from front page)

a more qualified labor pool in any other city, perhaps in the world.”

The project proposes to build a 225,500-square-foot fusion-demonstration facility on a 14-acre parcel along Jack London Boulevard immediately south of Livermore Municipal Airport. The building would stand as high as 110 feet in certain areas to accommodate the technology’s specialized equipment. Its architecture would use concrete, glass and aluminum in grays and dark blue. The project would also include public art on the portion of the building facing Jack London Boulevard. City staff estimated that the project would bring to the city 250 jobs at varying levels, including technicians, engineers and scientists.

The city’s incentives package includes an 80% rebate on Livermore’s share of unsecured property taxes for the next 10 years, reduction or elimination of its one-time industrial construction tax and the formation of a community facilities district to fund city impact fees and public improvement costs.

“We’ve seen other cities overleverage themselves to get major innovation in,” Councilmember Steven Dunbar said. “I don’t think this qualifies. I think this is extremely reasonable. ... I hope it works, and it has my support.”

Representatives from

area groups, such as Innovation Tri-Valley and Visit Tri-Valley, added their support at the meeting.

“We believe this project actually represents a transformational opportunity for Livermore and the broader Tri-Valley region. Not only will it continue Livermore’s leadership in cutting-edge energy research, it will also bring significant economic benefits to the community,” said Tracy Farhad, president and CEO of Visit Tri-Valley, who listed benefits such as new investment, visiting leaders and collaborators, and small-business vitality that the facility would bring.

Commercial fusion power could supply the power grid with reliable and abundant energy free of greenhouse-gas emissions and foreign dependencies, but only if the industry succeeds at producing repeated fusion reactions in an efficient manner, so that energy would be feasible for commercial use.

In December 2022, NIF achieved, for the first time in the world, fusion ignition, a milestone in which the energy produced by a fusion reaction exceeded that which reached the fuel target. But the reaction did not yield a gain when accounting for the power used by the entire facility.

A powerplant’s reactor must produce more power than it takes to run

the entire plant. Pacific Fusion’s demonstration system seeks to prove that this level of gain is possible. The facility will direct large pulses of electricity to converge on a fuel target, causing it to collapse and start a fusion reaction. The design will achieve a gain 100 times greater than NIF’s at one-tenth the cost, according to the company’s website.

City Attorney Appointed

The City Council also approved the appointment of a new city attorney, Kimberly Cilley, who is scheduled to begin work Sept. 29.

Cilley, currently assistant city attorney for the City of Pleasanton, previously served as senior assistant city attorney for Livermore. Her 20-year career also includes stints working for the cities of Morgan Hill and Mountain View, according to her LinkedIn page.

“I’m thrilled to have the opportunity to serve as the city attorney for the City of Livermore,” Cilley said at the meeting. “I’m very much looking forward to being part of the Livermore team again.”

Cilley emerged after a one-month search that yielded 17 applications. She succeeds Jason Alcala, the former city attorney who retired last month after having worked for Livermore for 21 years, including as its chief legal adviser since 2014.

COMMITTEES

(Continued from front page)

level with a general “School Finance 101” agenda that will offer a chance to learn the cycles, structures and vocabulary that exist within school budgets. Gibson and Kayla Wasley, assistant superintendent of business, will sit on both committees.

Once the external committee becomes familiar with the terminology and basic concepts of school budgets, the two groups will create interconnected feedback loops for leadership to consult when making major budget-related decisions. Having both an internal and external committee, Gibson said, will provide diverse viewpoints and perspectives that will enhance informed and collaborative decision-making.

Eric Hom, an LVJUSD parent, volunteered to sit on the external committee after reading an email from the

district calling for participation in the new committee. Hom wrote in an email to The Independent that he sees the move as a way to participate and contribute to the community.

“Allowing school parents to participate and collaborate in the budget-planning process with district leadership is a wonderful way to get involved, and I appreciate the district extending the opportunity to parents,” Hom added. “It’s a way for me to support transparency and accountability, while advocating for academic achievement for all students and to ensure that we maintain the high quality of education our families deserve here in Livermore.”

Sarah Ledon, another LVJUSD parent who will sit on the external committee, said she was spurred to get

involved through a desire to better understand the budgeting process and to ensure that community voices are part of the conversation.

“The creation of these committees is giving community members both transparency into how the Strategic Plan and budget will work in tandem, and a space to share voices and perspectives,” Ledon told The Independent. “It’s a powerful step toward building trust and collaboration.”

Ledon said one of the biggest challenges facing the district is stretching its limited resources while working to meet a wide range of needs. She added, “But I believe that with open dialogue, diverse perspectives and a shared commitment to students, we can make thoughtful, equitable decisions that reflect the values of our community.”

Dublin Urges Residents to Prepare for Emergencies

As part of National Preparedness Month, Dublin is urging residents to take time to prepare for what they and their families could face in the event of a natural disaster. National Preparedness Month is sponsored by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and observed in September. This year’s theme is “Preparedness Starts at Home.”

As a start, Dublin encourages residents to sign up for emergency notifications through AC Alert, a system used by cities throughout Alameda County to send messages to cell phones, home and business phones, computers and other electronic devices. Contact information for landlines is already built into the emergency alert

system. However, residents must register mobile devices and email address with AC Alert to receive notifications. Step 2, according to the city, is for every family member to have an emergency “go kit” that includes food, water, tools and medical supplies for at least three to five days. To learn more about “go kits,” go to tinyurl.com/yrc6zs3.

Step 3 is to create a communications plan, so family members know how to contact each other if they get separated during an emergency, including an established location to meet up that is familiar and easy to find. Step 4, according to the city, is practice, practice, practice. Family members need to rehearse how to

safely evacuate their home in an emergency. Lastly, Step 5 is to know your zone. in the event of an evacuation order, Alameda County has partnered with Genasys Protect, an online platform, to help residents identify their evacuation zone on a map, stay up to date on their evacuation status, and follow incident progress.

In addition to synchronizing with AC Alert, the platform provides real-time weather, traffic and shelter information and models potential traffic and wildfire scenarios. To identify their evacuation zone, residents can go to the Genesys website, protect.genesys.com, and type in their home address.

RUBIN (Continued from front page)

large mirrors and optics that were extremely precise and required special mounting. Brookhaven National Laboratory, a U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) lab in Upton, New York; SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory, a DOE Office of Science facility operated by Stanford University; and LLNL part-

understand the threat to Earth from an asteroid standpoint. In a few hours, Rubin ... found thousands of asteroids that were unknown before.” LLNL’s part in developing the camera began in 2001. That year, LLNL became involved in designing the instrument that would later be called the Simonyi Survey Tele-

nuclear fusion. It involves rapidly compressing and heating a small pellet of fuel using intense energy sources. The fuel is typically a mixture of deuterium and tritium, both of which are isotopes of hydrogen. Lynn Seppala, a former optical scientist at LLNL, began contributing to the effort regarding the tele-

design further included three lenses and a set of six wavelength filters in the camera. After the optical design was finished, LLNL staff tested mockups that were smaller in size than the final components. Justin Wolfe, optical engineer at LLNL, said, “We did everything from structural analysis to pressure, vi-

LSST camera was later assembled, it was 1.6 meters in diameter and the size of a small car. The cost for the optics was about \$26 million. Brian Bauman, also an optical engineer at LLNL, said the work to create the lens and filters led him to begin new research on how to quantify the performance of lenses. The result of that research is now implemented in commercial optical design software. The assembled camera, a 6,600-pound instrument in a specially designed box, was then flown in a chartered plane to Santiago. Next, the Rubin team drove it up a winding mountain road to the summit of Cerro Pachón.

The final journey involved traveling 21.7 miles, with an ascent up a winding dirt road, accompanied by pilot and tail cars. Riot explained, “It took pretty much the whole day just to do the last 20 miles or so.” Approximately 20 workers eventually installed the camera into the telescope. Simon Cohen, an optical engineer at LLNL, explained the effort on the whole project involved more than 100 DOE staff at its peak. “That doesn’t include all the vendors. Each of the vendors had 20 to 30 people working on this,” Cohen said. The Lab’s team performed its job so well that the lenses and their filters

have worked perfectly. Riot is excited to see the observatory and its 10-year survey develop an “encyclopedia of the sky.” “One of the things that’s also unique with Vera C. Rubin compared to other observatories is that the data is going to be made public to everyone. It has a huge education and outreach program that makes the data available and provides a web-based tool to do your own research,” Riot noted. “Students as early as elementary school age can access and play with the data. It’s not unexpected that some elementary school classrooms may actually discover something that hasn’t been found before.” Companies, labs and classrooms around the world have expressed interest in the output of the surveys, Explaining the vision of the project, Riot stated, “The observatory is really intended to bring the science to the people.”



LLNL optical engineers Justin Wolfe, left, and Simon Cohen, right, are seen through the “r” filter. Frank Arredondo appears in the filter’s reflection. (Photo — Garry McLeod/LLNL)

nered to build the LSST. The Rubin Observatory, in which the camera is sited, is funded by the U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF) and the DOE Office of Science. “As you do a survey like this and ... look at things over and over again for 10 years, you’re going to see a lot of discoveries of near-Earth asteroids,” Riot said. “NASA has a mandate to catalog and

scope. The work was due to the scientific interest of the late Kem Cook, an astrophysicist who worked at the Lab between 1989 and 2009. Ultimately, the LSST camera was attached to this telescope. By 2001, the Lab already had decades of experience developing large laser systems as a result of its work on inertial confinement fusion (ICF). ICF is a method for achieving

scope in 2001. Seppala, who helped design the optics of NIF, spent four years refining the optical design of the telescope as the requirements of the project grew in complexity. This led to the 2005 baseline optical design, which included an 8.4-meter primary mirror, a 3.4-meter secondary mirror and a 5.0-meter tertiary mirror nested in the primary mirror. The

bration and shock testing of subscale assemblies. ... That was a huge endeavor and involved a lot of people putting in their best effort.” LLNL sent the final designs to vendors to fabricate the lenses and filters. The vendors mounted the lenses and glass. The LLNL team placed the filters into Lab-designed mechanical mounts to send them to SLAC. When the



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PHOTOGRAPHER (Continued from front page)

Though their marriage eventually ended, “I never stopped loving him,” Merwin said. “He’s still part of my life and has always been, even with his new girlfriend, his true love, who he’s been with for 14 years. We’ve all been friends.” With a background as an executive secretary, Merwin began to help Philis with the studio in 1969. They were married in 1971. “I told him, ‘Your job is to get out there and photograph. My job is to run the business, and you don’t worry about anything else,’” Merwin said. “So, that’s what he started doing. He didn’t have enough confidence in himself. And I could see he had so much talent.” To Philis’ chagrin, his wife raised all the pricing, considerably. “He had a cow,” Merwin said. And she encouraged him to pursue the more lucrative genre of weddings. “He said, ‘Nobody’s gonna pay that kind of money,’” Merwin said. “That first year, they did 150 weddings at a minimum of \$2,000 a package. “He had a wonderful personality. Everybody loved him. He did really well.” In 1979, the two purchased the studio building

that still exists today, though it is currently vacant. The couple’s exquisite Victorian-inspired restoration, to their surprise, the following year earned them the Downtown Association’s Community Development Award, alongside the likes of Stoneridge Mall. Merwin’s business plan for her then husband also included entering national photo competitions. The first photograph he entered won and made the cover of the 1980 issue of The Professional Photographer trade magazine. The photograph, captured at Castlewood Country Club, is of a bride and groom framed by a majestic arch. Philis had looked up and seen the rays of sun coming over the mountain and rushed the bride and groom outside. “There’s an arch, a palm tree, the hills and the rays of sun coming right onto the bride and groom as they’re kissing. It had everything,” Merwin said. “It had the architecture, the landscape and the romance.” The award-winning image was used all over the world. “And he caught it in just that instance. And that’s the way he could do it. He could get it done in no time. He

just knew what to do and could get it done quickly and get that party going,” Merwin remembered. Philis became internationally recognized for his work but perhaps more importantly, to his family, at least, he was well-known and loved in the area. “All the old-timers, if there are any left, would know him and remember him,” Merwin said. “And it’s amazing, but my kids will still go into a home and see portraits up on the wall and go, ‘You know, that was (taken by) my dad.’” And that means something to Merwin. “We grew with the community,” she said. “When we started here and when I came on board in 1969, I think it was like a population of 6,000 people in this whole area. So, we kind of grew with the area as it got bigger in the ’80s and ’90s. “And when digital came out, and all this other stuff, he kind of stayed in the old mode. He didn’t go with that, but he deserves a lot of credit. He was a good man — thoughtful and giving and very good to people. You know, he was just really a kind and gentle man, a delightful guy. He really was. I don’t think he had an enemy in the world.”



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One Woman’s Fun Quest to Keep Alive the Joy of Reading

By Christina Cavallaro

LIVERMORE — Linda Maggi, a Livermore resident, is a technology executive by day — “not an especially creative job,” she said.

Nor is it a job that leaves a lot of room for extracurriculars. But now that she and her husband are empty-nesters, Maggi has found something she rarely had before — a little free time when she’s not working.

“And I was looking for a way to fill that and also kind of thinking ahead to when I retire,” Maggi said. She started brainstorming what she might develop a passion around.

“When I was a kid in the ’70s and ’80s, we didn’t have cable TV. There obviously was no internet or cell phones. And by the time I was in middle school, like, you’re too cool to go play. You’re not going to the pool by yourself. So, I would read,” she recalled.

Maggi’s parents were avid readers, too, and she was reading their Agatha Christie books and her mom’s “Little Women” collection from childhood.

“And just anything and everything,” Maggi said. We’ve kind of lost that, right?

Like, nobody has down time. Nobody’s ever bored. So, I tend to use a lot of my flight time to read because I try not to work when I travel, even though I probably should.”

And the kernel of an idea was born for a roaming book truck that would bring the joy of reading to Livermore. While doing a bit of market research, Maggi came across something that pushed her budding vision into the

full-blown mobile business, “Word on the Street Books.”

She found that reading has fallen so far off a cliff in the 8- to 12-year-old age groups that professors will say they get college students who’ve

never read a book end to end while in high school. Maggi found that information shocking. But she has been heartened by what she sees as a resurgence in reading.

“I think people are com-

ing back to books,” she said. “And there is a call for independent bookstores again. You’re seeing them pop up in more communities.”

Maggi’s rolling bookstore is admittedly limited by the

space she has on her classic 1973 Steyr Puch Hafilinger truck. But in some ways, that constraint has helped keep her mission clear.

“I really wanted to focus on the books that people

are talking about,” Maggi said. “Not just the bestsellers, not the ones that are Pulitzer-Prize winners. But what are real people reading? What are they picking up at the airport? What are they grabbing

at the library? What are the books that they’ve read that have stuck with them and they keep thinking about? We all have those books.”

So, she landed on the idea of having a lineup of featured

readers who each month submit their five favorite books and a summary about why those books made the cut.

“It’s not a book report, right?” Maggi said. “Like, just go in and tell me what you like about the book. I read (some of) the descriptions. I want to read every one of those books. I haven’t read any of them, but I want to read them all.”

She is hoping to build a following as people get familiar with the curated concept and maybe one day open a brick-and-mortar bookstore.

“I would love to not only sell books but have a space where people feel welcome,” she said. “I think about having board-game nights or music or book clubs or poetry slams for teenagers. A place for people to hang out in the afternoon or evening ... maybe someday I’ll get there.”

For now, when the weather is nice, she envisions popping up around town at wineries and the Farmers Market.

“I can see maybe eventually doing some young-adult books if there’s a need or a request for them. I could see each month doing a special feature shelf focused on a particular culture or the holidays because it’s December. Cozy mysteries in the fall. I think I’ll have to see where it goes.”



Livermore resident Linda Maggi, left, is taking her love of books straight to the people with her new “Word on the Street Books” vintage truck. Her first official pop-up, housed in a restored 1973 Steyr Puch Hafilinger, will be from 1-4 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 20 at 3 Steves Winery. (Photo — Leah Silveira)

Omega Road Winery Set To Debut a New Monthly Speaker Series

By Sanestina Hunter

LIVERMORE — Omega Road Winery is debuting “Unfiltered,” a new monthly speaker series launching Sept. 18 to spark conversations and share ideas about Livermore’s future.

The series is set for 6:30-7:30 p.m. the third Thursday of each month at Omega Road’s tasting room on South Vasco Road. Each session is scheduled to feature a guest speaker who presents for 20 minutes on a timely topic, followed by a question-and-answer session where attendees can not only ask questions, but also network and exchange ideas.

Guests can also enjoy small bites along with complimentary tastings of Omega Road wines and nonalcoholic beverages.

“‘Unfiltered’ is our brainchild,” said Alexandra Henkelman, co-owner and winemaker of Omega Road Winery. “Our goal is to create a space where people can learn something new, share perspectives and connect as a community. These conversations are about awareness, knowledge and connection.”

The series kicks off with Mayor John Marchand, who plans to share his vision for Livermore’s future, including growth, new investments and what lies ahead for the community. Marchand has served on the City Council since 2005 and was first elected mayor in 2011.

Henkelman said the speaker series was created

to be a safe, approachable space for dialogue, not politics.

“Even when we see things differently, there’s always something we can learn from one another,” she said.

Livermore has seen steady growth in recent years, with industries ranging from science and technology to the arts and small businesses. Henkelman said “Unfiltered” is meant to reflect those changes and give people a chance to connect across perspectives.

In October, the focus will turn to LGBTQ+ history, with a representative from Livermore Pride invited to discuss the importance of inclusion and allyship.

Future themes are still in development but could include finance basics such as buying a first home, leadership lessons or the role of the arts in shaping the city’s identity.

Henkelman encouraged residents to suggest ideas for upcoming sessions.

“We want this to be a dynamic series that includes speakers of different ages, backgrounds and industries,” she said.

The family-owned winery has become a gathering place where neighbors, friends and visitors connect over a shared love of wine. Henkelman began making wine with her father, Ken, in the family garage before the two opened the Omega Road tasting room in 2017.

“Wine is always better when it’s shared with

friends,” Henkelman said. “‘Unfiltered’ is another way to continue that — creating

conversations that build connection and strengthen community.”

Tickets are \$15 to \$20 through Eventbrite and include wine and small bites.

For details and updates, visit Omega Road Winery’s website or Instagram.

TRI-VALLEY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Thursday, Sept. 11
LIVERMORE-AMADOR VALLEY GARDEN CLUB MEETING
At the September garden design meeting, Susan Ballinger will discuss how to incorporate colors, special plants and texture to create a sense of mystery! At Crosswinds Church, 1660 Freisman Rd., Livermore, at the red Farm Theater Building, on Sept. 11 from 6 to 8 p.m. Plants for purchase.

Thursday-Sunday, Sept. 11-14
PLEASANTON LIBRARY BOOK AND MEDIA SALE
Come to the Pleasanton Public Library, at 400 Old Bernal Ave., for the Fall Book and Media Sale, with books for all ages, CDs, DVDs, LPs, games and puzzles— in nearly new condition and at incredibly low prices! Proceeds from this sale directly benefit the library. Thursday: members early sale 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., open to all 2 to 7 p.m.; Friday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Sunday 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Fill a supplied bag for \$7. See www.friendsofthepleasantonlibrary.org for more info.

Saturdays, Sept. 13, 20, 27 and Oct. 4, 11
VEGETABLE GARDENING FOR BEGINNERS COURSE
The UC Master Gardeners of Alameda County are offering “From Seed to Harvest: Vegetable Gardening for Beginners” — a free, 5-week, in-person course designed for beginning gardeners in Alameda County. The course will cover how to plan, plant, nurture, sustain and harvest your garden. Saturday mornings from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Las Positas College in Livermore. Space is limited; for more information, go to acmg.ucanr.edu and scroll down to ‘classes’.

Saturday, Sept. 13
DRESS A GIRL AROUND THE WORLD
Make simple dresses for girls in third-world countries! The next monthly Sew-Fest is on Sept. 13, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 1020 Mocho St., Livermore. Bring your sewing machine or serger, iron, ironing board, scissors, along with your helping hands. Come for an hour or all day! (Please bring a bag lunch if you plan to stay all day.) Cheerful cotton fabric donations are always welcome. Contact Suzanne Beck, 925-352-8447, or suzbeck@yahoo.com for questions or kits that you can sew from home.

Monday, Sept. 15
OPEN REHEARSALS; AUDITIONS WITH VALLEY CONCERT CHORALE
The Valley Concert Choral, the Tri-Valley’s premier chorus, is seeking new singers for its upcoming 2025-2026 concert season, which includes a performance at Carnegie Hall, New York City in June 2026. The Choral is holding open rehearsals for singers and auditions on Sept. 8 and 15 from 7 — 9 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church, 2020 Fifth Street, Livermore. Schedule an appointment to audition at 925-866-4003. Singers should have sight-reading skills and must commit to the full season with Monday evening rehearsals. More info at www.valleyconcertchorale.org.

to attend the fundraiser and indicate the number of people in your party. You will receive an invitation with the venue address and other info.

Sunday, Sept. 21
HOUSE CONCERT: THE SYLVIA HEROLD ENSEMBLE
Songs of wit and romance by composers Cole Porter, Hoagy Carmichael, George Gershwin, and Harold Arlen are lovingly rendered in a voice the San Francisco Examiner calls “mesmerizing.” The ensemble is Sylvia Herold on voice and guitar, Mike Wollenberg on lead guitar and Cary Black on upright bass. Come to the house concert in Livermore, or livestream. Details are on the website at www.livermorejazzsociety.org/events. Suggested donation: \$20 per person.

Thursday, Sept. 25
925 GIVES
925 GIVES is a community-powered day of giving led by Three Valleys Community Foundation (3VCF). Rooted in the 925 area code, it unites donors, nonprofits, and local leaders to strengthen our region. Through Sept. 15, nonprofits can sign up to participate and rally community support. The donation window opened Aug. 25, building momentum to the 24-hour Giving Day on Sept. 25—featuring real-time donations, leaderboard showdowns, match challenges, prizes, and nonstop celebration. See 925GIVES.org

Sunday, Sept. 28
1900’S INNOVATION EXPO
Take a step back in time to the early 1900s on Sept. 28 from 1-5 p.m. at Hagemann Ranch, 455 Olivina Ave. Livermore. Win prizes at the scavenger hunt. Explore the old farm equipment and ponder the mystery objects. Joey T and Friends band will be performing, and The Amazing Cervantes will do two magic shows. Tri Valley Woodcarvers will be displaying their art, and Good News Bears are joining. Busy Buzzy Bots will have STEM projects for sale. Free and always family friendly.

Saturday, Oct. 4
TRI-VALLEY TEXAS HOLD’EM TOURNAMENT
CEI Foundation’s Tri-Valley Texas Hold’em Tournament is back! Proceeds benefit memory and dementia care programs at the Center for Elders’ Independence and mental health grants for seniors through Three Valleys Community Foundation. With every ticket, donation, and drink sale, you can help make a powerful difference! On Oct. 4 at 5 p.m. at Roundhouse Marketplace in San Ramon. See givebutter.com/4F4Z24

ONGOING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES
LIVERMORE HISTORYMOBILE
The Livermore HistoryMobile needs docents who are available during the day to guide and engage Livermore’s third graders. These visits take place during the months of April and May when the schools are visited. The kids love being in a “touch me” museum; something exciting in our virtual age. The experience is very rewarding. If interested, please contact Nancy Mulligan: n.mulligan@comcast.net.

QUEST SCIENCE CENTER
Quest’s vision is to connect everyone to the value of science. Volunteers are needed to facilitate science activities at community events. For more information or to volunteer, contact the Director of Education, Dan, at dgolub@quest-science.org.

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

THURSDAY DUBLIN FARMERS MARKET
The seasonal Dublin Farmers’ Market will run each Thursday, from 4 to 8 p.m., at Emerald Glen Park, 4201 Central Parkway, through Sept. 25, rain or shine. Come out to find your farmers’ market favorites, such as locally grown fresh produce, baked goods, honey, nuts, pasta, and more.

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

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

OBITUARIES

Gerald Edwin Beebe
Nov. 28, 1942 — May 29, 2025

Gerald (Jerry) Edwin Beebe, 82 (born Nov. 28, 1942) died on May 29, 2025, in Modesto, following a brief illness.
Jerry graduated from Livermore High School in 1960 and joined the Navy at 17. He became a jet mechanic and was stationed in Fallon, Nevada. Following his discharge, he worked as a jet mechanic at the Oakland

Airport. He also lived for a time in Reno, Nevada.
Jerry married Patricia (Pat) Kelly in 1978, and they both lived in Modesto together until Pat's passing in 2014. Jerry became a licensed real estate agent, broker and appraiser while living in Modesto.
Jerry always had a sense of humor and enjoyed a good laugh and having fun. He also

loved cats and dogs and generally had both around him all of his life (even bringing home many strays as a child).
Jerry is survived by his sister, Carol Beebe Mitchell of San Ramon, his stepchildren, and his nephews John Mitchell and Garret Mitchell.
Jerry is preceded in death by his wife, Patricia Beebe and by his parents, Cy and Evelyn Beebe of Livermore.

Michael Oberlin Larson
Feb. 13, 1937 — Aug. 30, 2025

Michael Oberlin Larson, loving husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather, passed away in his home on Aug. 30, 2025.
Michael was born to Roald and Helena Larson Allen on Feb. 13, 1937. He grew up in Salt Lake City, Utah, attended East High and graduated with a bachelor's degree from the University of Utah. He served a mission for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in the Finland, Helsinki Mission. He married his sweetheart, Julie Ann Earl, in 1963, in the Salt Lake Temple of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Michael completed his PhD in Nuclear Physics from the University of Utah and taught physics and astronomy for seven years at the University. In 1974, he began work at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. His career at LLNL spanned over 33 years, retiring in 2007, but consulting for several more years. An expert in nuclear weapons design, he worked on the W82, served as LLNL tactical navy military requirement officer and was project manager for the development of an Army nuclear weapons system. For over 19 years he worked with the Nuclear Emergency Support Team/Joint Technical Operations Team (NEST/JTOT), ensuring nuclear safety and national security. He twice received Distinguished Service Awards from the NNSA. He was widely admired for his hard work, expertise, cheerfulness and kindness. He was a lifelong learner, always reading and studying to improve himself. Mike loved his



work and would often say it helped protect the three things he loved most: his family, his faith, and his country.
Michael and Julie Ann were blessed with seven children, whom he loved very much. He was a patient father with a great sense of humor; always expressing sincere gratitude for any act of service. He loved movies, fireworks, good food, and sweets!
His love for his wife and children was matched only by his love for God and Jesus Christ and their Restored Gospel. He was an active

Jackie Louise King
Oct. 1, 1952 — April 26, 2025



Jackie Louise King was born on Oct. 1, 1952, in Alpine, Texas, the seventh child of Edward and Savilla King. In 1958, the family moved to California, where Jackie was raised alongside her six siblings in Livermore, California: Ron King of Dixon, California; Dan King of Paso Robles, California; Ginger Serpa of Central Valley, California; Ed King of Arkansas; Chester King, who died in Vietnam in 1970; and Brenda King Mitchell of Oceanside, California.
Jackie graduated from Granada High School in 1971 and later moved to Alaska, where she worked for the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District and then at the University of Alaska,

Fairbanks.
After returning to California, Jackie raised her two wonderful sons, Brian and Neil, as a single mother in Paso Robles. Once her sons were grown, she began working at Cuesta College in San Luis Obispo, where she also

pursued her education and proudly earned six associate degrees.
When Brian and his wife Kayla established their home in Apple Valley, Jackie joyfully moved to be closer to them. In Apple Valley, she embraced her role as "Grandma" with her whole heart—enjoying ice cream dates, park adventures, spontaneous trips to Big Bear, dance parties in the living room, and countless cherished sleepovers with her beloved grandbabies.
Jackie passed away on April 26, 2025, after a courageous battle with lung cancer. Her strength, kindness, and unwavering love for her family remain a lasting inspiration to all who knew her.

Elinor S. Cullen
March 20, 1941 — Aug. 8, 2025



After courageously fighting cancer for more than a year, Elinor S. Cullen passed away peacefully on Aug. 8, 2025, at home in her own bed, surrounded by family and loving caregivers. She was born Elinor Anne Steinfeld on March 20, 1941, in St. Louis, Missouri, to Harry Levy Steinfeld and Josephine Wolfner Steinfeld. Elinor grew up in Glencoe, Illinois, just north of Chicago, before heading to Manhattan to attend Barnard College, graduating with the class of 1962.
After graduation, she stayed in Manhattan, working for a news service in the United Nations Building and becoming a familiar face at the UN delegates' lounge. Later, she joined the Virginia Kirkus Library Service in Greenwich Village, reviewing books for libraries. Elinor was especially proud of her children's book reviews, including her review of Where the Wild Things Are by Maurice Sendak, and she cherished the personally autographed copy the author gifted her.
Shortly after graduation, Elinor met Dermott E. Cullen, a student at Columbia University, located across the street from Barnard. They married on Sept. 19, 1965, and welcomed their son, Roy Edward Cullen, on Jan. 7, 1967. The family soon moved to Eastern Long Island, where Dermott worked as a nuclear physicist

at Brookhaven National Laboratory. In 1972, they settled in Livermore, California, and in 1979, they embarked on an eight-year adventure living in Vienna, Austria, where Dermott worked at the International Atomic Energy Agency. In 1987, they returned to Livermore, where they built a vibrant life together.
Those years abroad gave Elinor and Dermott the chance to see the world. They traveled extensively through Europe—England, Germany, Finland, Italy, Hungary, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Poland, Yugoslavia, Russia, Turkey, Greece—and beyond, visiting China, Thailand, Egypt, India, Brazil, and Libya. In later years, their adventures continued with trips to Vietnam, Cambodia, Japan, and many joyful vacations in Hawaii. Wherever she went, Elinor made friends with her warmth and curiosity.
Elinor earned her master's

degree from California State University and devoted much of her life to teaching and community work. She taught English as a Second Language both in Vienna and at Ohlone College in California, and she worked at ECHO Housing in Livermore, helping people find affordable housing.
Her love of culture and art shone through in all she did. She was a docent at the Asian Art Museum of San Francisco, served on the board of Del Valle Fine Arts, and found joy and beauty in the art of Ikebana, Japanese flower arranging. Elinor not only studied Ikebana, but she also took great pride in creating elegant and thoughtful arrangements, bringing a sense of peace and artistry into every space she touched.
For over 30 years, Elinor also dedicated herself to training and competing with her beloved dogs—Aiko, Aslan, and Zorro. Together, she and Zorro earned the prestigious Star Award for both annual and lifetime achievements as the top Portuguese Water Dog team in Northern California.
When asked recently to complete the sentence, "Love is....," Dermott answered, "Love is forever." Elinor's love and spirit will forever live on in the hearts and memories of all who were fortunate enough to know her.

CELEBRATION OF LIFE
Olive Carmel Egan Greene

Olive Carmel Egan Greene was born on June 22, 1937, on Rockfield farm in County Offaly in the midlands of Ireland. The youngest child of Thomas and Winifred Egan, she was the much-adored and slightly bossy baby sister of Tom, Mary and Frank (an illuminative anecdote: she often said her older siblings put a feather on their tree swing, knowing she feared feathers and wouldn't want to use the swing; they were driven to do so because she would never allow them a turn on the swing). Farm life included carrying tea to the men working in the fields, riding her beloved pony Billy, and hiding in a big tree to read books; she was brave on the school playground, where she dared to steal a ball from a group of boys, eluding their chase until she dramatically hopped a fence and badly cut the palm of one hand when she landed on broken glass.
Olive's love of language started early in her school years with her participation on the Irish (Gaelic) debate team in secondary school; she was also the proud wearer of a Fáinne pin (worn to show fluency in, and willingness to speak, the Irish language). The pursuit of education in language studies brought her to the U.S. and landed her in Florida where she studied in a few places before heading north to Michigan. Her passion for language eventually led her

to complete an undergraduate degree in 1967 in Spanish Language with minors in English and Music at Siena Heights College in Adrian, Michigan. She then moved to Ann Arbor, Michigan, and completed a master's program in Spanish Language at the University of Michigan in 1972. After completing her master's degree, Olive began working as a Spanish teacher in the Livonia, Michigan school system, the first of many teaching positions in which she thrived and quickly found community.
During her first summer in Ann Arbor, Olive was at a party with some of her new friends in the Spanish Department when a couple of physics students showed up, only one of them actually invited. In a move rather uncharacteristic of the Jim Greene personae we all have known for decades, he rolled an ottoman chair into the center of a circle of girls who were seated on the floor, sat down, and began asking each one's name. When he called Olive at home a few days later, after having posed as a businessman seeking Spanish translations in order to obtain her phone number from the Spanish Department, she was wary but decided to give him a chance.
Leading up to their marriage on Aug. 9, 1969, there was talk of Olive keeping her maiden name, Egan, however Jim was amused at the prospect of a potentially

colorful name, and so she became Olive Greene. She was welcomed into the Greene family, a true-blue Midwestern/Michigan family of military veterans, entrepreneurs and outdoorsmen. Similarly, Olive's relatives in Ireland were excited to meet Jim, which finally happened the summer after the wedding. The couple lived the classic Ann Arbor college town life for the next couple years, surrounded by friends from school and often attending U of M football games together (Go Blue!).
Olive's first glimpses of Livermore, California in 1972 were a bit daunting and disheartening after leaving the life she loved in Michigan — First Street was far from blossoming into the lovely hub it is today. Jim had finished his PhD and accepted a position at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, and the couple had just driven into town from Ann Arbor. Livermore in 1972 was the kind of place where a young couple with a hippie-adjacent fashion sense struggled to find an apartment to rent, but once they found one and moved in, they quickly met many neighbors who became lifelong friends. Life changed a lot in the next few years: they welcomed a daughter, Lara, in August of 1973, bought a house very close to the Lab in 1975, and welcomed another daughter, Melodie, in 1976. They also

embraced their new state and all the outdoor adventures it offered, becoming enthusiastic backpackers, skiers, and kayakers (note: the whitewater version was more Jim's thing, but Olive held her own, while desperately hanging on). Over the years, they enjoyed all of these activities with their ever-growing circle of friends.
Olive began working in Livermore schools in 1981, teaching English and Spanish at the middle and high school levels. She really came into her own as a teacher of English as a Second Language at Livermore High School, where her language expertise and her own experience as an immigrant positioned her perfectly to help hundreds of newcomer students navigate the challenges of beginning life in a new country. She helped students become financially educated, happily going with them to open their first bank accounts and writing letters of recommendation to landlords so they could rent their first apartments. Many of those students became lifelong friends, inviting Olive and her family to weddings, graduations, and many other occasions. The latter part of Olive's teaching career at LHS found her teaching Spanish; she was a patient, fair, and encouraging teacher, and was adored by her students and colleagues alike. She was an important servant leader among her

peers, volunteering to take on the herculean task of chairing the reaccreditation process for LHS and filling roles such as Class Advisor.
When Olive retired in 2002, a year after Jim retired from the Lab, she seemed to be busier than when she worked full time, between multiple book and hiking clubs, teaching Spanish in a local program, and helping to administrate the Livermore Retired Teachers Scholarship. She kept furthering her language skills, learning Italian well enough to have conversations when she and Jim traveled to Italy. That was just one of a number of places Olive and Jim traveled in retirement — they also got to Fiji, New Zealand, Australia, Spain, France, Canada, Alaska, and Ireland/England to connect often with family.
Olive will be remembered as: a loyal and caring friend who would go far out of her way to help in times of need; a passionate and dedicated teacher with a gift for making students and young people feel heard and important; a proud mother, aunt, godmother and grandmother who adored and connected with every young person she met; and as the light in the room, with a sense of humor, wit, and laugh that brought people together. As her oldest niece, Mary, said, "Olive was the loveliest woman. Nobody, ever, had a bad word to say about her. We all have only the best



memories of her."
Olive is survived by her husband of almost 56 years, Jim Greene; their two children: Lara Greene of San Francisco, Melodie Greene and husband Jarrett Moe of Park City, Utah; grandchildren Marea and Theo Moe-Greene; sister-in-law Elizabeth Egan of Tubber, Ireland; and many nieces and nephews in Ireland, England, Australia, Michigan, North Carolina, and Nevada.
A Celebration of Life service will be held at Callaghan Mortuary in Livermore, California, at 3 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 12, followed by a gathering at 3 Steves Winery (also in Livermore). Contributions in remembrance may be made to the Alzheimer's Association or the California Retired Teachers Scholarship.
Callaghan Mortuary is honored to be serving the Greene family. An online guestbook is available for condolences at www.callaghanmortuary.com.

Multi-Talented Armendariz a Great Fit in Dublin's Backfield

Senior Running Back's Passion, Team-First Attitude Could "Make Some Waves" for Gaels, Who Travel to Brentwood This Week

By Mitch Stephens

DUBLIN — Dublin High School senior Andre Armendariz has played tackle football since he was 5 years old, starting as a wide receiver. He eventually moved to running back and found true love. "I love the contact. I love the blocking. I love everything that comes with it," he said.

The passion shows, said Dublin coach Napoleon Kaufman, who knows a little something about the position. He played running back for the then-Oakland Raiders for six seasons after an All-America collegiate career at the University of Washington. Kaufman likened the traits of Armendariz with a couple of his Hall of Fame contemporaries.

"He reminds me of a guy like Walter Payton or LaDainian Tomlinson in terms of he can do everything," said Kaufman, whose 1-1 team will travel to winless Heritage-Brentwood for a 7 p.m. game Friday, Sept. 12. "He can block, catch, run great routes and, of course, run the ball. He's got a really great skill set."

All were on display in the Gaels' 14-10 home loss to two-time state champion Vanden-Fairfield on Sept. 5.

The 5-foot-9, 195-pounder absolutely did it all offensive-

ly, with 20 carries for 102 yards and four catches for 108 more yards, including the team's only touchdown, a 74-yard catch and run after a long heave from junior quarterback

an opening in the middle of the field and (Trias) delivered a perfect pass," Armendariz said. "As long as (Trias) stays confident in himself, he'll go far."

arrived at Dublin at about the same time.

"He was a beast," Armendariz said. "And very fast."

And what are his impres-

immediately drawn to Armendariz beyond his being just a good, dedicated, versatile football player.

"He's just a special kid," Kaufman said. "It's hard to

His upbringing no doubt has much to do with Armendariz' relationship to the team. He puts the team first, Kaufman said, and encourages all.

The youngest of five children said he took a lot of good-natured lumps growing up, "but it's helping me now. I love my family. I like hanging out with them more than going out all the time."

He is closest to his 21-year-old brother, Anthony, who was Dublin's starting quarterback in 2021 and whom he lives with.

Anthony, who later played at Diablo Valley College before an injury ended his career, helped coach the Dublin freshmen team last season. Now he heads up a youth program. Armendariz attended all of Anthony's games growing up, and now Anthony is paying it back.

He watched with great pride, along with their grandparents and siblings, during his younger brother's big performance against Vanden.

"He's always been a special kid," Anthony Armendariz said. "We definitely put him through the wringer as a kid, but he definitely grew up strong and focused."

"Honestly, I believe if he keeps at it, he'll have a bright future, not only in the sport, but life in general."



Andre Armendariz of Dublin tightropes along the sideline while attempting to elude a Vanden defender in non-league football action Sept. 5 in Dublin. (Photo — Leah Silveira)

Lincoln Trias.

Armendariz made a nice snag between two defenders, changed directions and sprinted the last 40 yards untouched to tie the game at 7-7.

"I ran a seam route, saw

Armendariz grew up a Marshawn Lynch fan, but when he transferred from Foothill to Dublin before last season, he immediately checked out the highlight reels of his new coach. Both

sions of Kaufman as a coach?

"He's immediately brought a winning attitude," Armendariz said. "He's a great coach."

The feelings are mutual. Kaufman said he was

explain. When I got here, I really evaluated every player in the program, and he just really stuck out. Besides being so versatile, he's a great teammate. He's going to make some waves this season."

Christian Youth Theater Set To Perform "Flat Stanley Jr."

Christian Youth Theater (CYT) Tri-Valley, an after-school program for students 4-18, will perform one-hour musical versions of several popular children's books at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore during the 2025-2026 season, starting with "The Musical Adventures of Flat Stanley Jr." on Tuesday and Wednesday, Oct. 7 and 8.

The stage show is based on the Flat Stanley series of books in which Stanley Lambchop is flattened by a bulletin board, leading to adventures around the world.

In the first Flat Stanley book, written by Jeff Brown and published in 1964, the character discovers he can enter locked rooms by sliding under the door, is used by his brother as a kite, mails himself in a large envelope to visit friends in California, and catches art thieves by disguising himself as a painting on a museum wall.

There are now more than 20 books in the Flat Stanley series, written by Brown and other authors, with stories translated into French, German, Spanish, Italian, Japanese and Hebrew.

Tickets for the 6:30 p.m. performances on Oct. 7 and Oct. 8 are \$20.

There will also be student matinees at 10 a.m.

and 1 p.m. on Tuesday and 10 a.m. on Wednesday.

Tickets are available online at livermorearts.org.

CYT Tri-Valley will also present the musical "Seussical Jr." in February, with the Cat in the Hat narrating the story of Horton the Elephant, based on the Dr. Seuss book "Horton Hears a Who," and "Junie B. Jones: The Musical Jr." in May,

based on the children's series by Barbara Park.

Recently named the resident children's theater company at the Bankhead Theater, CYT Tri-Valley performed before nearly 3,000 students at the Bankhead last season during its matinee School Days program, which offers school groups a ticket price of \$16.



'Different' Flag Football Formula

By Mitch Stephens

LIVERMORE — The formula is different in girls flag football, Granada High School coach Jared Muela said.

The idea that only established, long-tenured seniors can lead the path to a championship season simply isn't the case for the nation's fastest-rising participant sport. According to the National Federation of High Schools, 29% of all girls high school flag football players participate in California.

"Every year there are first-year seniors — amazing, brand-new track or basketball or soccer athletes who want to try out for the sport," Muela said. "We find that their skills in those sports translate well to our sport."

The Matadors, hoping to make a deeper North Coast Section playoff run than last season, when they won one game before dropping a 28-26 decision to Alhambra-Martinez in the quarterfinals, are mixing the old with the new.

Among the established players are returning first-team All-East Bay Athletic League performer Marin Lnenicka, a high-level soccer player, and left-handed quarterback Katie Vail, a basketball standout who passed for 3,589 yards and 51 touchdowns during a 14-6 campaign in 2024.

The two are best friends, and Muela thinks that's a big reason they connect so well on the field. Lnenicka had 90 catches for 1,201 yards and 20 touchdowns last season and is also a standout on defense.

The duo plus newcomers Gisele Badilla (wide receiver, basketball), Victoria (Tori) Roa (defense, basketball) and Sophia Miller (pass rusher, track and field) will help lead the Matadors into a 7:30 p.m. Sept. 11 home game against Northgate-Walnut Creek and a 9 a.m. Sept. 13 matchup with visiting Amador Valley.

"Marin is a phenomenal athlete and does everything well," Muela said. "She has great hands, is very steady, never gets too high or too low, but no moment is too big for her."

"Katie's basketball skills really show in her ability to see the field and read defenses. She has a wonderful arm. She puts in the work and is fearless."

In the team's first four games this sea-

son — the Matadors entered the week 3-3 — Vail completed 83 of 130 passes for 851 yards and six touchdowns, and was also the team's top rusher with 80 yards and two more scores. Badilla led the team with 24 catches for 170 yards, while Lnenicka and junior Isabelle Dunn, also a softball standout, combined for 34 catches, 510 yards and five touchdowns.

Muela, a former tackle football coach for 12 years and the senior director of community impact in youth football for the NFL's San Francisco 49ers, started Wishbone Sports, a Livermore based youth flag football club, five years ago.

The Matadors carry about 50 players in the program, split evenly between the varsity and junior varsity squads. Among others on the varsity roster are Lnenicka's speedy sophomore sister, Liv, Muela's daughter, Beau, and Bellamy Black, the team's only freshman and daughter of varsity tackle football coach Brandon Black.

More flag numbers: Livermore (3-3 heading into the week) is scheduled to play three games Saturday — against Deer Valley-Antioch, Los Gatos and Foothill. The Cowboys feature 2024 All-EBAL first-teamer Addison Rippy. ... Foothill, which finished 10-6 last season, returns All-EBAL first-team selection Jessica Gadd and quarterback Brea Olsen (49 touchdowns, two interceptions in 2024). ... Dublin is off to a 4-2 start behind senior quarterback Samantha Botell (510 yards passing, eight touchdowns) and sophomore receiver Taylor Sullivan (16 catches, 244 yards, four touchdowns).

Friday night lights: Week 3 of the tackle football season kicks off at 7 p.m. Friday, Sept. 12 when Granada (1-1) hosts San Leandro (2-0), Foothill (1-1) entertains Kennedy-Fremont (2-0), Dublin (1-1) travels to Heritage-Brentwood (0-2), Amador Valley (0-2) hosts Downey-Modesto (1-2) and Livermore (2-0) travels to Gregori-Modesto (1-2). ... Last week, Livermore quarterback Matteo Lortie accounted for 267 yards and four touchdowns in a 30-27 win over visiting Sacramento. Mason Peters rushed for 130 yards. ... Granada gave up just 198 yards while recording its first shutout since a 49-0 victory over Newark Memorial on Aug. 30, 2019.



Two-way Granada flag football standout Marin Lnenicka caught 90 passes for 1,201 yards and 20 touchdowns last season. (Photo — Bob Bronzan, Livermore-Granada Boosters)

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PLEASE HELP BRING MIGUEL HOME



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

Livermore Wentle Winery worker, married father of three and grandfather

Miguel Lopez

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

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

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 616412

The following person(s) doing business as: Hamesha Project, 375 Van Buren Ave APT# 6, Oakland, CA 94610 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Pallavi Sarup, 375 Van Buren Ave APT#6, Oakland, CA 94610. 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: 10/15/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Pallavi Sarup, Founder & Artist. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 24, 2025. Expires July 23, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6522. Published August 21, 28, September 4, 11, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 616786

The following person(s) doing business as: Cardcolonel, 339 Bryant Ave, Alameda, CA 94501-3531 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Theodore Wismar, 339 Bryant Ave, Alameda, CA 94501-3531. 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: 7/1/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Theodore Wismar, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 12, 2025. Expires August 11, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6523. Published August 21, 28, September 4, 11, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 615919

The following person(s) doing business as: Makena Ino Media, 2473 Allegro Street, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Makena Inouye, 2473 Allegro Street, 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: 5/26/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Makena Inouye, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 8, 2025. Expires July 7, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6524. Published August 21, 28, September 4, 11, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 616707

The following person(s) doing business as: Abundance by Design, 1184 Hollyhook Street, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Liza, B. Walkup, 1184 Hollyhook Street, 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: 08/07/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Liza B. Walkup, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 7, 2025. Expires August 6, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6525. Published August 21, 28, September 4, 11, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 616311

The following person(s) doing business as: Continental Equestrian LLC, 3884 Delmont Ave, Oakland, CA 94605 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Continental Equestrian LLC, 3884 Delmont Ave, Oakland, CA 94605. 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/: Andrea Totten, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 21, 2025. Expires July 20, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6526. Published August 21, 28, September 4, 11, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 616730

The following person(s) doing business as: Bridges Organizational Consulting, 4463 Buckskin CT, Livermore CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Kimberly Curtis. 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/: Kimberly Curtis, Owner, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 8, 2025. Expires August 7, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6527. Published August 21, 28, September 4, 11, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 616583

The following person(s) doing business as: Haliyes, 39648 Embarcadero Terrace, Fremont, CA 94538 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Yuan Shi, 39648 Embarcadero Terrace, Fremont, CA 94538. 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: 7/17/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Yuan Shi, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 1, 2025. Expires July 31, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6528. Published August 21, 28, September 4, 11, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 616864

The following person(s) doing business as: Topology Drone Solutions, 2241 San Antonio Avenue, APT C, Alameda, CA 94501 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): The Reynolds Sales Company LLC, 2241 San Antonio Avenue, APT C, Alameda, CA 94501. 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/: Nelson Reynolds, Officer. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 14, 2025. Expires August 13, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6529. Published August 28, September 4, 11, 18, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 617017

The following person(s) doing business as: Cafe Massawa, 5501 Shattuck Ave, Oakland, CA 94609 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Simon Beyen, 5501 Shattuck Ave, Oakland, CA 94609. 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: 8/19/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Simon Beyen, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 19, 2025. Expires August 18, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6530. Published August 28, September 4, 11, 18, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 617092

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Awakening Skin Care; 2. Awakening Minreal Skin Care, 3143 Independence Dr., Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Olim Industries of Israel - North America, LTD, 3143 Independence Dr., 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/: Richard Burroughs, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 21, 2025. Expires August 20, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6531. Published August

28, September 4, 11, 18, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 617060

The following person(s) doing business as: Kaimo, 3055 Ridgefield Court, Dublin, CA 94568-7240 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Lanyard, Inc., 3055 Ridgefield Court, Dublin, CA 94568. 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: 8/20/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: David Amusin, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 20, 2025. Expires August 19, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6532. Published August 28, September 4, 11, 18, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 617052

The following person(s) doing business as: Jocelyn Feerman, MD, 520 3rd Street, Suite 105, Oakland, CA 94607 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Jocelyn Freeman, 520 3rd Street, Suite 105, Oakland, CA 94607. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 8/1/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Jocelyn Freeman, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 20, 2025. Expires August 19, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6533. Published August 28, September 4, 11, 18, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 616735

The following person(s) doing business as: The Flame Brush, 5300 Iron Horse PKWY, APT 376, Dublin, CA 94568; Caitlin Koski, 453 Buena Vista Avenue, APT 112, Alameda, CA 94501. This business is conducted by a General Partnership. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 8/8/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Gawn Musial, General Partner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 8, 2025. Expires August 7, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6534. Published August 28, September 4, 11, 18, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 617015

The following person(s) doing business as: Lynx Agricultural Solutions, 5281 Southfront RD, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Lynx Equipment Rentals LLC, 20269 Mack ST, Hayward, CA 94545, CA 94545. 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/: Roderick Fussell, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 19, 2025. Expires August 18, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6535. Published August 28, September 4, 11, 18, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 616964

The following person(s) doing business as: Moussauto, 1328 Fitzgerald ST, Emeryville, CA

94608 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Meseret Maascio, 4900 Shattuck Ave, Oakland, CA 94609. 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: 8/16/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Meseret Maascio, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 17, 2025. Expires August 18, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6536. Published August 28, September 4, 11, 18, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 616720

The following person(s) doing business as: Exposure Media Lab, 20153 Wisteria ST, Castro Valley, CA 94546; Oluyemi Alabi, 2469 66th Avenue, Oakland, CA 94605. This business is conducted by a Joint Venture. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 8/5/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Edgar Lagares, General Partner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 8, 2025. Expires August 7, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6537. Published August 28, September 4, 11, 18, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 617090

The following person(s) doing business as: Mitchell Katz Winery, 2915 S. Vasco Road, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Jackson Cellars, Inc., 2915 S. Vasco Road, 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: 9/5/2002. Signature of Registrant/s/: Wesley R. Katz, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 21, 2025. Expires August 20, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6538. Published September 4, 11, 18, 25, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 617190

The following person(s) doing business as: Overtone, 11843 Bloomington Way, Dublin, CA 94568 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Overtone Collective LLC, 11843 Bloomington Way, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 8/26/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Matthew Aaron Salit, Managing Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 26, 2025. Expires August 25, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6539. Published September 4, 11, 18, 25, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 616364

The following person(s) doing business as: Golden State Fresh, 325 Franklin Street STE B, Oakland, CA 94607 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Golden State Fresh Inc., 325 Franklin Street STE B, Oakland, CA 94607. 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: 1/27/2021. Signature of Registrant/s/: Najib Annwallah, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 23, 2025. Expires July 22, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6540. Published September 4, 11, 18, 25, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 617141

The following person(s) doing business as: Best Carz Deal, 2216 American Ave, Hayward, CA 94545 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Nguyen Nguyen, 2216 American Ave, Hayward, CA 94545. 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: 8/22/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Nguyen Song Nguyen, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 22, 2025. Expires August 21, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6541. Published September 4, 11, 18, 25, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 617237

The following person(s) doing business as: Driveza, 4047 1st ST, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Driveza LLC, 4047 1st ST, 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: 8/26/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Arulsenthilkumar Shanmugam, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 27, 2025. Expires August 26, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6542. Published September 11, 18, 25, October 2, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 617253

The following person(s) doing business as: Cooker & Cooler, 21335 Cabot Blvd, Hayward, CA 94545 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Restauranvan Inc., 21335 Cabot Blvd, Hayward, CA 94545. 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: 10/18/2022. Signature of Registrant/s/: Dongchen Geng, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 27, 2025. Expires August 26, 2030. The Independent, Legal No.

6543. Published September 11, 18, 25, October 2, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 617358

The following person(s) doing business as: Sol Investigative Agency, 205 Puddingstone Rd, Alameda, CA 94502 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Natasha Lopez, 205 Puddingstone Rd, Alameda, CA 94502. 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/: Natasha Lopez, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 3, 2025. Expires September 2, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6544. Published September 11, 18, 25, October 2, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 617182

The following person(s) doing business as: Leslie's Cookies and Treats, 870 Saturn Way, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Leslie Tregear, 870 Saturn Way, 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: 9/18/2023. Signature of Registrant/s/: Leslie Tregear, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 26, 2025. Expires August 25, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6545. Published September 11, 18, 25, October 2, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 617245

The following person(s) doing business as: Montiel's Mechanical Solutions LLC, 189 N K ST, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Montiel's Mechanical Solutions LLC, 189 N K ST, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Brianca Micri, Managing Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 27, 2025. Expires August 26, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6546. Published September 11, 18, 25, October 2, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 617405

The following person(s) doing business as: Meza N. Moka, 1116 East Stanley Blvd, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Nasnoor Enterprises LLC, 1116 East Stanley Blvd, 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: 9/3/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Abdelmounaim Fars, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 4, 2025. Expires September 3, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6547. Published September 11, 18, 25, October 2, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 617377

The following person(s) doing business as: Moment Us Bay Area, 35111F Newark Blvd, Unit 2042, Newark, CA 94560 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Under Quiet Light, 35111F Newark Blvd, Unit 2042, Newark, CA 94560. 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/: Charlene Granadosin, Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 3, 2025. Expires September 2, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6548. Published September 11, 18, 25, October 2, 2025.

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Multiple Entertainment Options Available As the Annual Splatter Festival Returns to Dublin’s Emerald Glen Park

By Vivien Wenneker

DUBLIN — The Splatter Festival is set to return from noon to 8:30 p.m.

multicultural aspect of Splatter, as well as the joy that I see in the crowd during the band performances. It becomes a real dance party

poetry, with performances by Madison Lauren, Sairaj Parva, Midnight Reruns and the August Reed Band. Roaming en-

rendered by high schoolers,” said Julia Tomtania, President of the Dublin Arts Collective. “This is probably one of my fa-

and other City Council members.

“One Dublin City Council member that has attended every show since the beginning is Jean Josie,” Tomtania said. “We have thoroughly admired her support. We also may have representatives from (Alameda County Supervisor David) Haubert’s office, along with representation from Congressman Eric Swalwell’s office. We also have many local professional artists come through in support, especially the members and artists of the Dublin Arts Collective.”

Strolling through the festival, families can also participate in a multitude of hands-on art activities, from Chalk Art Walk, Origami, Kindness Rocks and Paper Lanterns to Carnival Mask and Fans of the Pacific.

Food and beverage options are set to include food trucks and local craft beer and wine served by

the Rotary Club of Dublin. There’s also the Rose Lounge for those seeking a more food-centric option.

The Rose Lounge VIP Experience includes interactive food stations, elevated wine and beer tastings, unique roaming entertainment, a private dance floor and a front-row seat to the 250-light drone show. Tickets are \$49 each.

For more information on the Splatter Festival, its multicultural experiences, entertainment and parking, visit: <https://dublin.ca.gov/1145/Splatter>.



There figures to be no shortage of music and other entertainment options, as was the case on Sept. 14, 2024, at this year’s Splatter Festival at Emerald Glen Park in Dublin on Saturday, Sept. 13. (File photo — Doug Jorgensen)

Saturday, Sept. 13 at Emerald Glen Park.

Visitors can expect a day full of vibrant, multicultural activities, including a diverse lineup of live music, dancing, arts and crafts, a world craft bazaar, and local wine and beer tasting for those 21 and older.

“There’s so much going on at Splatter that it is hard to choose my favorite part of the event,” said Shelby Perry, the organizer of Splatter for the City of Dublin. “I do love the mul-

as the final bands take the stage.”

This year’s bands featured on the Main Stage are scheduled to include The Sun Kings, Cisco Kid, You Should Be Dancing and Boombox Heroes. The grand finale at the end of the evening, a 250-light drone show, is set to follow the Boombox Heroes.

The Side Yard Stage features a much broader array of performances by local talent. In addition to music, it is scheduled to also include dancing and

ertainers throughout the festival are also on tap.

For the fourth year, the “High Life” art exhibition, a show curated by the Dublin Arts Collective in partnership with The Lapis Lazuli Art Club, is on the docket. The show features some of the finest art from high schoolers across Alameda County.

“One of the most enjoyable parts of this show, for me, is the faces of the public audience that come to realize that the artwork they are admiring is all

vorite shows, and I help to curate many art shows for the members of the Dublin Arts Collective throughout the year in our main gallery at The Frame Company & Art Gallery in Dublin.”

The exhibition is set for 1-6 p.m. inside The Wave Community Room at Emerald Glen Park. A reception and award ceremony near the close of the evening is expected to feature distinguished guests of honor, including Dublin Mayor Sherry Hu

LVA Announces Spring Bankhead Presents Lineup

Livermore Valley Arts (LVA) announced this week that its spring 2026 Bankhead Presents lineup of performances at the Bankhead Theater in downtown Livermore would include the vocal group Kings Return; actor/singer Matthew Morrison; Natalie MacMaster, Donnell Leahy and The Celtic All-Stars; the all-female Mariachi Divas

de Cindy Shea; and the American Ballet Theater Studio Company dancers, among nearly two dozen new shows.

The lineup, beginning in March, will also include family entertainment, including “The Wizard of Oz on Ice” and “Dinosaur World Live.”

Times, dates and ticket prices were not announced,

but will be available online at livermorearts.org when tickets go on sale to the public starting Sept. 10. Tickets will also be available by calling 925-373-6800 or at the Bankhead box office windows, 2400 First St., from noon to 6 p.m., Wednesday through Saturday.

LVA is a nonprofit organization that operates the

Bankhead Theater and the Bothwell Arts Center.

Hope Hospice Will Host Golf Marathon

Hope Hospice will host its traditional Hope 100 Golf Marathon fundraiser at Castlewood Country Club in Pleasanton on Monday, Oct. 20, with 36 golfers attempting to play 100 holes in a single day.

Hope Hospice is a Dublin-based nonprofit that provides support services for patients with terminal illnesses and their caregivers.

Last year, Hope Hospice reported raising almost \$120,000 during its 10th annual Hope 100 Golf Marathon.

“Each year, I’m amazed by the heart this community brings to the Hope 100,” said tournament founder and director Jim Berriatua. “It’s never just about the golf. It’s about standing with families when they need it most. As we celebrate year 11, my hope is that more people than ever will join us so that no family has to face illness or grief alone.”

The Hope 100 was first held in 2015 in memory of Piper Wagner, a Castlewood golf pro who died of lung cancer.

For the second year, the fundraiser will also include a half-day Steve Thompson Skills Challenge, a test of putting, chipping and driving, named for a Bay Area businessman.

Golfers can register for the 100-hole marathon, or the skills challenge, at Hope100GolfMarathon.com or by calling Berriatua at 415-254- 0606.

In 2024, Hope Hospice merged with By the Bay

Health in San Francisco to become part of the largest nonprofit hospice network in Northern California.

Funds raised during the Hope 100 Golf Marathon support services in the Tri-Valley area.



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