



BollyDhoom 2026 performers light up the stage at the Mertes Center for the Arts at Las Positas College on Saturday, April 18. The annual showcase, hosted by Bollywood for Life, featured a vibrant mix of traditional fusion and modern high-energy dance, celebrating the Tri-Valley's diverse cultural arts community. (Photo — Leah Silveira)

Tri-Valley BART Ridership Surges Amid Threat of Station Closures

Service Hubs See Growth But Potential Tax Failure Could Shutter Blue Line

By David Jen

TRI-VALLEY — The Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) agency set post-pandemic ridership records last month, but it continues to roll toward a fiscal cliff that will lose \$376 million per year beginning in July.

In March, 3,465 people used the Dublin/Pleasanton BART station and 1,455 people used the West Dublin/Pleasanton station, representing 14.3% and 15.9% increases over the same month last year.

Systemwide, 5.4 million people rode BART in March, a 19.7% increase over last year. The month set post-pandemic records of the highest ridership day, the highest average weekday and the highest

average Saturday, but the agency lamented how long it took to beat the previous weekday record, last set in October, as well as the special events needed to drive Saturday business. With ridership still around half of pre-pandemic numbers, the agency faces massive financial difficulties. In a Feb. 12 BART board workshop, agency staff shared a proposal to begin drastic station closures, including the West Dublin/Pleasanton station as early as January 2027, if a \$1 billion regional sales-tax measure, known as Connect Bay Area, fails during this year's election. The plan would have discontinued the Tri-Valley's Blue Line entirely next July.

Then, on Feb. 26, the board adopted an alternative plan that

would use reserve funds to delay the station closures by six months, instead implementing the closures between July 2027 and January 2028 if the tax-measure fails.

If the closures actually befall the Tri-Valley, the Altamont Corridor Express (ACE) will stand as the only remaining commuter-rail service in the Tri-Valley. Owned and operated by the San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission (SJRRC), the line stops in Livermore and Pleasanton while bringing riders as far as San Jose, Stockton and Merced.

Ahdel Ahmed, SJRRC public relations manager, said that the impact of BART closures on ACE were too difficult to predict, but pointed to the current shuttle

(See BART, page 6)

Senator McNerney Brings Resources to Dublin with Debut of New District Office

Tri-Valley Can Now Access State Services Without Traveling Outside Area

By Sanestina Hunter

DUBLIN — State Sen. Jerry McNerney held a ribbon-cutting ceremony Thursday, April 16, for a satellite office in Dublin, expanding access to state services for Tri-Valley constituents.

Located at 6850 Regional St., Suite 210, the Dublin location is McNerney's third office, joining his district office in Stockton and his Capitol office in Sacramento.

"The Tri-Valley is a vital part of my Senate district, so it was very important to me to open a satellite district office here to serve local constituents who might find it too burdensome to travel to our main

district office in Stockton," McNerney told The Independent.

"Our Dublin office will ensure that residents of this area have their voices heard in Sacramento and receive any assistance they may need with any legislative or state issues," he added.

More than 100 people attended the ribbon-cutting, including Dublin Mayor Sherry Hu, Dublin City Councilmember Kashaf Qaadri, Livermore Vice Mayor Kristie Wang, councilmember Steve Dunbar, along with community members and regional leaders from local school districts, Las Positas College and Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory.

McNerney, a resident of Pleasanton, said the Tri-Valley is a hub for innovation, technology and research, with strong schools, vibrant downtowns and access to outdoor spaces, adding that he is proud to call the region home.

He said residents are raising concerns about affordability, environmental protections and the impact of federal policies.

"The top issues I hear from Tri-Valley constituents include protecting California from adverse federal actions, including deep budget cuts; helping make the state more affordable; ensuring that we have clean water; accelerating our transition to clean energy;

(See MCNERNEY, page 7)

LLNL Partners with Inertia to Develop Laser Fusion Power

Deal Focuses on Commercial Energy Production

By David Jen

LIVERMORE — Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) has partnered with Livermore fusion startup Inertia Enterprises Inc. to develop lasers, design fuel targets and explore fabrication technologies for Inertia's commercial-fusion power plant.

Founded in 2024 by LLNL scientists Annie Kritcher and Mike Dunne with Twilio Co-founder Jeff Lawson, Inertia reported raising \$450 million earlier this year, one of the industry's largest Series A rounds, along with plans to locate a production facility in east Livermore near LLNL.

Inertia declined to share the facility's exact location.

The company hopes to commercialize laser-fusion technology previously proven at LLNL's National Ignition Facility (NIF) by optimizing the efficiency of the lasers used and of the processes that produce the fuel targets.

Similar to NIF, Inertia's design plans to fire a barrage of lasers at a fuel target the size of a peppercorn to trigger nuclear fusion. But to operate as a power plant, Inertia must use higher-power lasers than NIF and at a rate of about 10 times per second in contrast to NIF's once-a-day shots.

(See FUSION, page 6)

Concannon Awarded TVC Vineyard Replanting Loan

Funds Support Revitalization of Historic Vines

LIVERMORE, CA — Tri-Valley Conservancy (TVC) announced its second Sponsored Replanting Program loan to support vineyard replanting at the historic Concannon Vineyard property in the heart of the Livermore Valley.

Originally established in 1883, Concannon Vineyard is one of the region's legacy properties. Under new ownership as of November 2024, the property is undergoing a significant revitalization effort focused on restoring both its agricultural productivity and historic significance.

"Viticulture is core to the region's identity, ecology, and economy," said Rebecca Spector, executive director of Tri-Valley Conservancy. "This project at Concannon represents exactly the kind of long-term investment our region needs. It reflects a deep commitment to preserving both the

land and the legacy of winemaking in Livermore Valley."

The loan from TVC will support the first phase of a multi-year replanting plan totaling 150 acres. This year, approximately 48 acres will be replanted, including 28 acres of Cabernet Franc across four clones and 20 acres of Sauvignon Blanc, which are varietals identified as well-suited to Livermore's terroir. The replanting project represents a major investment in the future of Livermore Valley viticulture.

"We're the current caretakers of a Livermore treasure," said Tom Lemmons, who along with his wife Paige Lemmons, is the owner of Lemmons Family Vineyards and the sole owners of the historic Concannon Estate and Winery. "We want to bring Concannon back to (its) original glory, and then some. And we're willing to do

(See CONCANNON, page 7)



Concannon Vineyard announces a new 150-acre vineyard replanting project in the Livermore's Valley's historic winegrowing region. The low-interest loan is the second in our wine country issued by the Tri-Valley Conservancy as part of its Sponsored Replanting Program. (Photo courtesy of Concannon Vineyard)



The Tri-Valley came out in full force for art and conversation at last weekend's Livermore Art Association Spring Art Show. Held at the Bothwell Arts Center, the annual exhibition serves as a vital hub for the community, bringing artists and residents together to explore creative expression and shared dialogue. (Photo — Christina Cavallaro)

Livermore Art Association Holds Spring Show

Artists Converge at the Bothwell Arts Center in an Expression of True Community

By Christina Cavallaro

LIVERMORE — A steady stream of visitors passed through the Bothwell Arts Center last weekend to take part in a beloved Tri-Valley tradition. The Livermore Art Association (LAA) presented its Spring Art Show, the organization's largest annual exhibition that brings together artists, collectors and community. The weekend-long event featured work across a wide range of media, including

painting, photography, mixed media and more.

At the west end of the building, visitors were greeted by Holly, a sweet little wire-haired terrier whose owner, Denise Leddon, is a member of the second violin section of the Livermore-Amador Symphony. Leddon explained that the 35 works of art on display had been part of a recent collaboration at the Bankhead Theater. The symphony's spring performance was accompanied by some of the pieces projected behind the

orchestra as a silent film.

Leddon was joined by LAA President Christine Watters.

"The artists were really excited about the opportunity," Watters said of the unique collaboration. "It's a different way to imagine music and for the artists to (experience) a different venue. But even with (the art) being big on the screen, seeing it in person is so different."

Leddon pointed to an oil painting and said, "I couldn't tell it was relief until I came here."

(See SPRING SHOW, page 6)

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PET OF THE WEEK



JERRY AND CLOVER

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LLNL Studies 40 Years Since Chernobyl

Risk Endures as Ukraine War Reaches World's Most Infamous Disaster Site

By David Jen

LIVERMORE — Forty years ago on April 26, 1986, a test at the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant formerly in the Soviet Union, now in Ukraine, caused one of its four reactors to explode, killing dozens and spreading radioactive material over Europe. The event remains the worst nuclear disaster in history.

In response to the event,

human-nuclide exposures, ARAC first became operational in 1979 following the Three Mile Island nuclear power plant accident in Pennsylvania.

But the team realized they were dealing with something very different when modeling Chernobyl.

The models “were designed for smaller scale events like Three Mile Island, something that

expanded for Chernobyl covering 1,250 miles by 1,250 miles.

Their work helped inform various governments and the International Atomic Energy Agency about the expected radiation dosages to people in Europe and around the world. The team’s assessment also helped detail secondary effects, such as those on the continent’s food supply, which can

More recently, the center responded to the 2011 Fukushima nuclear accident in Japan, when an earthquake and tsunami damaged the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant.

“Even though that was significant in Japan, it was not nearly as bad,” Glascoe said. “The other thing is that Japan, being an open society, and also being an ally, was very forthcoming about what was going on and actually requested U.S. and foreign assistance.”

Compared to 1986, NARAC differs from its earlier incarnations largely by the amount of data it processes. Glascoe said that the amount of weather data available during the Chernobyl event “pales in comparison” to what comes in today.

“We have to have larger and larger data centers,” he continued. “We have to use higher and higher performance computing to be able to do something with all this data. And then, increasingly, we are moving into using artificial intelligence methods, notably machine learning.”

NARAC has also worked to monitor the Russian invasion of Ukraine that began in 2022.

On Feb. 14, 2025, a Russian drone attacked Chernobyl’s containment dome in Ukraine, the massive steel and concrete shelter meant to shield the world from the radioactive remains of the 1986 disaster. More than 45 countries and organizations helped build the dome in 2016 following deterioration of the original sarcophagus built in 1986. The drone strike compromised the newer structure, risking the escape of radioactive dust.



ARAC Director Marvin Dickerson gives a media conference on April 28, 1986 about the Chernobyl disaster. The LLNL team worked 15-hour days for weeks to track the event’s radioactive plume. (Photo courtesy of LLNL)

the U.S. Department of Energy asked a group at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) known as the Atmospheric Release Advisory Capability (ARAC) team to track and predict the spread of the radioactive plume.

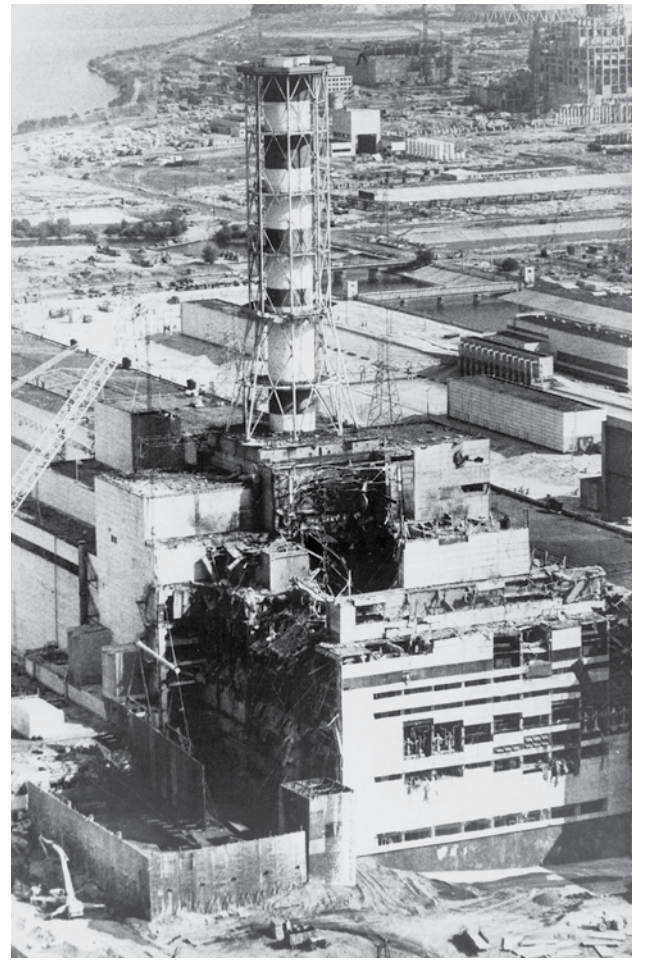
Initially conceived in 1973 as a system that could merge weather-prediction models and atmospheric-transport and diffusion models with what was known about

would go to the next county or something like that,” said Lee Glascoe, program leader at LLNL. “They had to modify the codes on the fly and make it so that it could be continental-wide, because this was such a big release.”

The team of roughly a dozen people worked 15-hour days for about two weeks to modify the original system, designed to model an area about 125 miles by 125 miles, to one

concentrate radioactive material that would otherwise not pose harm, Glascoe said.

Today, Glascoe leads the National Atmospheric Release Advisory Center (NARAC), which continues ARAC’s mission. Located at LLNL, NARAC provides emergency planning, real-time assessment, emergency response, and detailed studies of hazardous atmospheric releases.



Chernobyl’s Reactor 4 exploded on April 26, 1986, exposing the world to its harmful, radioactive core. (Photo courtesy of LLNL)

Last week, a Greenpeace report concluded that the dome, despite maintaining its structural integrity, no longer functions as a protective shield. Meanwhile, repairs remain complicated by the threat of continued attacks.

“This is part of our history, but it’s also part of our today,” Glascoe said.

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This Earth Day, One Organization Is Fighting for Tri-Valley Blue Skies

By Kathryn Stroud

TRI-VALLEY — Earth Day turns 56 this year on April 22 with a theme of “Our Power, Our Planet,” and one Tri-Valley organization is doing work that embodies exactly that.

The Tri-Valley Air Quality Climate Alliance (TVAQCA) goal is to bring practical, local and attainable climate and clean air solutions to the region.

“There are actions you can take right away that can make a huge difference, like using electric leaf blowers,” Terry Chang, TVAQCA’s director of operations said. He noted that running a gas-powered leaf blower for one hour produces the same emissions as driving a car for eleven hours.

“That’s like driving from here to Yellowstone National Park,” Tom Edmunds, TVAQCA’s co-chair added. It’s a comparison that tends to stop people in their tracks, and it’s part of why Pleasanton banned gas-powered leaf blowers in 2024. California also has a statewide ban on the sale of new gas-powered leaf blowers and lawn mowers, a sign that the small actions TVAQCA champions are gaining real policy traction.

“When you talk to people about air pollution and climate change, the problem just seems so massive, (that) some people just give up and say, ‘What can I possibly do to help?’ So we give them small actions they can take to save energy and reduce emissions,” said Edmunds. “Sure, their one action doesn’t

make much difference, but if one million people do it, that helps.”

These practical solutions matter because the Tri-Valley is more vulnerable to air pollution than much of the Bay Area. “Because of our topography, because of the 680 and 580 transportation corridors, we are more prone to air pollution than other places,” explained Chang.

That exposure is real: One in five days, the region’s air reaches pollution levels that put sensitive residents, pregnant women, those with respiratory conditions and the elderly at greater risk.

Many Tri-Valley residents likely remember the orange skies from September 2020, when nearby wildfires turned the air visibly, alarmingly unhealthy. But pollution doesn’t have to be that dramatic to do damage. Some of the biggest culprits are surprisingly ordinary — like the gas-powered leaf blower.

Another example of TVAQCA’s simple, actionable solutions focuses on tree planting, a big part of their mission. This year, the organization will hand out 50 hollyleaf cherry trees during its Earth Day event at the Pleasanton Library on April 25 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

This keystone species is native to California, attracts pollinators and thrives in a drought-tolerant landscape. Simple solutions not only showcase actionable steps, but they also help alleviate the feeling of powerlessness many feel about climate change.

“That cynicism, all

of the doom and gloom, makes people feel hopeless and then we don’t do anything about it,” Chang said. “Our approach is very positive, engaging and fun. It’s based on science and facts.”

“We are providing hope,” Edmunds added.

In a political moment when some feel pressure to go quiet on environmental issues, TVAQCA’s position is the opposite: Every negative story needs 20 more positive ones. Acknowledge the wins. Celebrate what’s working.

“Another positive thing — you go outside and look up and see beautiful blue skies,” Chang said. “Our chief scientist has been saying our air quality has been improving as more people are electrifying. We are seeing the results today. And we want to keep moving forward, protect that momentum, and keep going. We’ll keep fighting for good air. We’ll keep fighting for our blue skies.”

This is what Earth Day’s theme, “Our Power, Our Planet,” looks like on the ground, people in communities fighting for blue skies and clean air.

TVAQCA will be at the Pleasanton Library’s Earth Day celebration on April 25 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., joined by more than a dozen other environmental organizations. TVAQCA also launched its Breathe Better campaign, a partnership with the Community Health and Education Foundation, to support efforts to protect the Tri-Valley’s air quality. Find out more at tvaqca.org.

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Pleasanton Unified Opens New Kids Club Site at Fairlands

By Sanestina Hunter

PLEASANTON — The Pleasanton Unified School District added 50 new slots to its before- and after-school care program with the opening of a Kids Club facility at Fairlands Elementary School in early April, helping meet growing demand for childcare.

The Fairlands site provides space for homework support, enrichment activities and supervised social time for students in grades 3 through 5, according to district officials.

“This expansion allows us to serve more families

with high-quality care beyond the school day,” Ahmad Sheikholeslami, assistant superintendent of business services, told The Independent. “We’re especially excited to build on this momentum by expanding capacity and enhancing enrichment opportunities.”

The program is part of the district’s Expanded Learning Opportunity Program (ELO-P), which has grown in recent years as enrollment increases and the state requires schools to expand before- and after-school services.

The new facility doubles the program’s foot-

print on campus, providing much-needed relief for the growing waitlist.

Since 2022, Kids Club enrollment has nearly doubled, increasing from 486 students to about 850 as of March 2026, according to district officials.

To meet demand, the district has expanded capacity across multiple campuses, including opening a new facility at Walnut Grove Elementary School in August 2024, adding portable classrooms and repurposing existing campus spaces.

With continued facility investments, the district is on track to serve more than

1,000 students by this coming fall of 2026.

As part of the program’s enrollment process, priority is given to students with the greatest need, including those experiencing homelessness, foster youth, economically disadvantaged students and English learners.

Siblings of current participants receive additional priority, followed by general enrollment based on application timing.

In addition to Fairlands, the Kids Club program operates at eight other elementary schools across the district: Alisal, Donlon, Hearst, Lydiksen, Mohr, Valley View, Vintage Hills and Walnut Grove.

Funded through a state initiative administered by the California Department of Education, the Fairlands site and other Kids Club locations support after-school and summer enrichment programs for transitional kindergarten through sixth grade.

“This new space at Fairlands reflects our commitment to supporting families with safe, engaging and accessible care options for their children,” said Monique Liebhard, director of early and expanded learning.

“Kids Club is more than childcare — it’s a place where students can learn, connect and thrive outside of the school day,” she said.

Kids Club sites operate from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., with both full-time and part-time options available. Monthly

tuition ranges from about \$550 to \$800, in addition to a one-time \$150 registration fee, according to the district.

Established in 1985 through a local community coalition, Kids Club provides a safe, supervised environment for students during out-of-school hours.

The district serves about 13,000 students across 16 schools, including nine elementary schools, three middle schools, two comprehensive high schools,

one continuation high school and the Pleasanton Virtual Academy.



The new Kids Club facility at Fairlands Elementary School features dedicated areas for homework support and enrichment activities. The site, which opened in early April, added 50 new slots to the district’s before- and after-school care program to help meet rising demand. (Photo courtesy of PUSD)

Nakamatsu to Perform Again with PCO

LIVERMORE — Van Cliburn Gold Medal pianist Jon Nakamatsu will perform

at the Bankhead Theater with the Pacific Chamber Orchestra (PCO) at 3 p.m.

on Sunday, April 26.

The program will feature American composer Edward MacDowell’s Piano Concerto No. 2 and Tchaikovsky’s Fifth Symphony.

“MacDowell and Tchaikovsky offer two distinctly life affirming works,” said PCO Music Director Lawrence Kohl. “One is spirited and lyrical, the other soulful and blazing. Both are exhilarating.”

Nakamatsu, a California native, will also perform with the PCO at the Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church in Lafayette at 3 p.m. on Saturday, April 25.

Nakamatsu, a former high school German teacher in Mountainview, won the Gold Medal at the 10th Van Cliburn International Piano Competition in 1997.

Tickets start at \$25 and are available online at PacificChamberOrchestra.org.



Pianist Jon Nakamatsu will take the Bankhead stage on Sunday, April 26 at 3 p.m. (File photo — Doug Jorgensen)

LPC to Perform ‘Aesop’s Funky Fables,’ Adaptation of Classics

LIVERMORE — The Las Positas College (LPC) Theater Department will present “Aesop’s Funky Fables,” an adaptation of classic tales reimagined for a modern audience, the first two weekends in May.

With a script by playwright Dyan McBride especially for young audiences, the play blends whimsical characters, lively chore-

ography, and a creative approach to storytelling, while remaining true to the spirit of Aesop’s original fables.

McBride described the play as “a bold mash-up of the past and present, written for cool kids and awesome families.”

“I want people to laugh, dance and forget any troubles for an hour as they

watch the famous fables come to life,” McBride added. “Hopefully, there are important lessons to talk about in the car on the ride home or at lunch. Learning through theatre can be funny, fabulous and heartfelt.”

The play, written for children ages 4 to 12 and their families, revolves around a trio of bickering scientists who must recreate classic stories written by a time-displaced Aesop, including “The Stag and the Hounds,” “The Tortoise and the Hare” and “The City Mouse and the Country Mouse.”

Performances in the 150-seat Black Box Theater in LPC’s Barbara F. Mertes Center for the Arts are scheduled for 10 a.m. and noon on Saturday, May 2, and Saturday, May 9, and for 11 a.m. on Sunday, May 3, and Sunday, May 10.

Tickets are \$15, with discounts for children, students, LPC staff and senior citizens, and are available online at lpc.ludus.com.



Las Positas College students perform a scene from “Aesop’s Funky Fables” during rehearsals at the Mertes Center for the Arts. The family-friendly production runs May 2–10 at the LPC Black Box Theater. (Photo courtesy of LPC)

County to Observe National Day of Prayer

PLEASANTON — The seventh annual National Day of Prayer event, organized by Alameda County Supervisor David Haubert and the District 1 Interfaith Advisory Council, will be held at the Alameda County Fairgrounds on Thursday, May 7.

National Day of Prayer is an annual observance officially designated by

Congress in 1952 and held on the first Thursday of May.

The Alameda County event will begin at 5 p.m. with a reception and light dinner, followed by an hourlong program of patriotic music and prayers led by local faith leaders in keeping with the nation’s 250th birthday celebration this summer.

The event is free and open to the public.

To RSVP, go to tinyurl.com/natdayofprayer2026. Walk-ins are also welcome.

Free parking will be available across from the entry gate on Pleasanton Avenue.

For more information, email gloria.gregory@acgov.org or call 925-998-3785.

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EDITORIAL

Swalwell Is Just the Tip of the Iceberg

The speed with which former U.S. Rep. Eric Swalwell was erased from public life should be seen as a warning to powerful people who are given a pass for sexual abuse.

But we had that warning years ago when the MeToo campaign came to national prominence. Instead, this looks like a belated attempt to sweep up only the most visible mess, while not bothering with the deep cleaning we really need.

Swalwell was first accused of sexual assault by a former staffer, which was reported April 10 by the San Francisco Chronicle and CNN. Three other women soon stepped forward with allegations of sexual misconduct, and by April 13, Swalwell had suspended his governor's campaign and resigned his seat in Congress.

Investigations were opened by the Manhattan District Attorney's office in New York, where the initial assault was alleged to have taken place. The Alameda County District Attorney is also investigating allegations from 2024. Scores of political allies have been quick to sever ties.

His resignation was followed by that of U.S. Rep. Tony Gonzales of Texas, who had been under pressure to leave following revelations of an affair with a staffer who later died by suicide. Another staffer also accused Swalwell of sending her sexually explicit messages.

While it is good that these two men are out of Congress, they are only the tip of the iceberg. Congress, along with other halls of power in government and business, has long been a place where powerful men have enjoyed impunity for behavior that would get people fired in many other sectors.

It's still happening. One need only look at the multiple credible accusations of sexual misconduct levied against President Trump, who has so far avoided any consequences for his behavior. To this day, he has steadfastly refused to release all the files on criminal sex trafficker and abuser Jeffrey Epstein. Even in the ones that have been released, Trump's name appears at least 1,500 times.

The MeToo movement was supposed to highlight this festering wound in our society. Initially begun in 2006, it really took off in 2017 when disgraced film producer Harvey Weinstein was exposed for having regularly assaulted many high-profile actresses over the decades. The explosion of visibility, with thousands of women including the #MeToo hashtag in their posts, revealed just how widespread the problems of sexual abuse, harassment and rape culture are in our society.

MeToo was a refreshing moment of visibility for a problem that too

often gets hidden behind a curtain of shame, gaslighting and smears directed at women that dare come forward with accusations. Victims risked careers, families, and their personal safety when they spoke out, and yet some would still believe that a victim would risk all of that as a partisan political stunt. Yes, you can't convict someone in court without evidence beyond a reasonable doubt, yet it is still too difficult to get people in power to do the simplest thing and believe women when they risk everything to expose malfeasance by powerful men.

Swalwell's alleged crimes occurred recently, well after #MeToo became a phenomenon. To say he should have known better is an understatement. He was in Congress then, and he absolutely knew what was going on. He just thought he could get away with it, like so many others.

And it continues today. Even in the MeToo era, many victims are still afraid to speak out. Far too many powerful men have almost complete impunity to behave badly, and they have the tools to attack anyone who tries to hold them to account.

What's more, far too many of their colleagues know what's going on, and aren't speaking out, either to avoid attacks like those directed at women, or because they also benefit

from the silence. Congress, state legislatures, board rooms and other power centers are mostly nests of privileged male egos, and chummy camaraderie often takes precedence over safety and accountability.

Yes, criminal justice will run its course, for Swalwell, Gonzales, and others. That's the courts' job. That doesn't obligate the rest of us to give them the benefit of the doubt when the evidence is appropriate.

Making women equal to men in society means holding men accountable for their bad behavior. To do that, we not only need laws to punish that behavior, but we also need to create a system where victims are protected from retaliation. That includes passing laws, but it also includes monitoring how media report on these cases, enacting enforceable workplace policies, and reform of a court system that tolerates victim shaming and smearing.

Most of all, it starts with creating a space for victims who have the courage to speak out, and giving them the benefit of the doubt because of the circumstances with which they are dealing. When women risk everything to expose a man's sexual misbehavior, this environment almost certainly justifies our believing them.

MAILBOX

A Message from the Managing Editor

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

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

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

Mailbox Guidelines:

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

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

Every Day is Earth Day on the Range

Karen Sweet, Livermore

The United Nations declared 2026 to be the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists 2026, and it is supported by governments around the world. It's the perfect topic for Earth Day, when we express our interests in a healthy global community and showcase how people care for the land.

Sweet Ranch honors

Earth Day this year by sharing the UN's efforts to improve understanding of these vital lands and the amazing cultures and pastoral challenges around the world. I encourage exploration of the videos about reindeer, camel and horse herding and nomadic livestock management, and various issues facing rangelands and pastoralists: www.youtube.com/@GA4RP_IYRP2026.

Rangland covers up to 54% of Earth's terrestrial surface, a significant global

element. They are natural ecosystems in which the native vegetation is predominantly grasses and grass-like plants, forbs, shrubs and woodlands. The natural ecosystems in Alameda County include 18,000+ acres of private and public grasslands, shrublands, wetlands, woodlands, and chaparrals.

The 2024 Alameda County Crop Report further states livestock is the second largest agricultural commodity. Rangelands are economically, socially and culturally vital to human communities through an array of ecological services, including food and fiber production, water resources, biodiversity, wildlife habitat, and carbon sequestration and storage, renewable energy resources, and aesthetic and recreational opportunities for the citizens of Alameda County and the region.

Pastoralists are the people who raise livestock to manage the vegetation on these rangelands, including men and women ranchers, including me, who have stewarded these rangelands for many generations with knowledge and connection with the land. We utilize science, new technologies like virtual water monitoring and fencing, and other resources to manage the ranches.

Around the world, Every Day is Earth Day on the range.

Putting PUSD Land to Good Use

Ward Kanowsky, Pleasanton

Kudos to the 7-11 Advisory Committee appointed by the Pleasanton Unified School District! The committee reviews and analyzes property owned by the PUSD and determines what real property could be designated as "excess" or "surplus" because it will not be needed for school purposes. Their recent unanimous agreement to designate the 4.7 acres of land adjacent to Donlon Elementary School as surplus opens the door,

subject to the approval of the PUSD Board of Trustees, to providing affordable workforce housing. Such housing could be available to local teachers who could not otherwise afford the high cost of living in Pleasanton. As a 32-year resident living directly across from this parcel of land that has sat vacant for decades, I'm now hopeful that it could be put to use in a way that benefits those who have provided high quality education to our community. And I'm hopeful that concerns about increased traffic in the neighborhood can be addressed in a way that keeps folks safe, while also filling a long-time unmet need.

Follow Up to Sue Koopman's Letter on "Safe Sidewalks"

Virginia Frazier Livermore

I want to support Sue's comments about young bike riders in downtown Livermore.

I have had several bad experiences with mostly young boys (just a few girls) on electric bikes on the sidewalks in Livermore as well as in traffic all around Livermore.

On Tuesday, April 14, I had a close call with three young boys, middle school age, on First St. and L St. Another time on J St. near First St., as well as on First St. and K St. by the Ale House. I had made up my mind to contact the Chief of Livermore Police and request that the officers I see riding around downtown start enforcing the law with these young people and making their parents aware of their blatant lack of regard for the law. Then I saw Sue's committee reviews and analyzes property owned by the PUSD and determines what real property could be designated as "excess" or "surplus" because it will not be needed for school purposes. Their recent unanimous agreement to designate the 4.7 acres of land adjacent to Donlon Elementary School as surplus opens the door,

in the downtown area and the foot traffic is greater. On a few occasions, some of the young riders have no helmets on, which is also illegal. There are some adult cyclist offenders as well.

Enough is enough. With limited walking ability and the age of a lot of walkers in downtown, a fall could be very serious for so many of us. The Livermore Police Department needs to start enforcing cycling law and juvenile helmet law.

LLNL'S Priority is Nuclear Weapons

Tarvi Kardile, Pleasanton

The administration's Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 budget request for Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory has been released, and it is staggering. The one-year funding request for \$3,202,772,000 is the highest ever for LLNL.

After last year's elimination of LLNL's Energy Efficiency and Renewables Program, this year's budget contains a large reduction (-32%) in the "science" budget compared to what was enacted over the last two years.

LLNL announced in 2025 its proposal to "enhance plutonium utilization," to increase the allowable quantities of plutonium at the lab, showing its intent to increase the centrality of nuclear weapons activities to its mission, and repositioning itself as a full-service nuclear weapons laboratory, despite any potential security concerns. Civilian science that could help or solve some of the world's problems, like preventing climate change, biodiversity collapse, renewable energy technologies and contaminant remediation, are no longer pursuits of this national lab. Those areas are not given any priority. The priority is clearly nuclear weapons.

With nearly 90% of the Lab's budget going for nuclear weapons activities (\$2,836,353,000), the lab is positioning itself both as the

primary new nuclear warhead research and design laboratory and as the production coordinator of those warheads.

Despite these massive increases in nuclear weapons activities funding, the amount requested for the cleanup at LLNL remains stubbornly flat, at just .06% of the budget request. The lack of prioritization of the directly affected community surrounding the site is reflected in the lack of budgetary prioritization of the cleanup, which currently has an infinite timeline until completion.

Members of Tri-Valley CAREs, a local environmental nonprofit, have been raising the alarm federally and locally about these concerns. Our work in the coming future will seek to change what gets funded at LLNL, and achieve a safer, healthier future for our community.

A Fair Question: On Israel's Genocide of Palestinians

Greg Scott, Livermore

Contrary to Dr. Patricia Munro's Mailbox letter-to-the-editor, "Political Clickbait In CA-14 Forum," on last April 16: We have every right to ask the yes/no question, "Do you believe that what's happening to the Palestinian people is a genocide?" of the candidates for California Congressional District 14. The question is not unfair, nor representative of a "complex problem." Genocide is not all that "complex," for it is murder and consists of war crimes. The question is a simple "litmus test" of the moral rectitude of the candidates themselves, which is something we did not have with Eric Swalwell in the U.S. Congress.

In tantamount support for Israel's genocide of Palestinians, former Congressman Swalwell took large campaign contributions from the American Israel

(See MAILBOX, page 5)

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Even the littlest dancers get in on the fun as they take center stage during the BollyDhoom 2026 showcase. Held on Saturday, April 18, at the Mertes Center for the Arts at Las Positas College, and hosted by Bollywood for Life, the production featured a colorful array of traditional and contemporary high-energy routines. (Photo — Leah Silveira)

MAILBOX

(Continued from page 4)

Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) lobby, which was formerly part of the American Zionist Council. Why doesn't AIPAC have to register under the 1938 Foreign Agents Registration Act (FARA)?

If the reader is to educate themselves on the long Zionist history of genocide against the Palestinians, during both pre-Israel history in British mandated Palestine and Israel's history, then the reader can read Israeli historian Ilan Pappé's book, "The Ethnic Cleansing of Palestine," first published in 2006. If the reader is to have a more current account, then there is former New York Times journalist, Middle East bureau chief, and Pulitzer Prize winner Chris Hedges' book, "Genocide Foretold: Reporting on Survival and Resistance in Occupied Palestine," 2025.

I am beyond words to read that a simple question regarding the morality of Israel's genocide on the Palestinian people is referred to as "[p]olitical [c]lickbait."

Israel's actions in Gaza alone are what Israeli historian and Professor of Holocaust and Genocide Studies Dr. Raz Segal refers to as a "textbook case of genocide." There is no good moral "divide" on genocide.

Well-Deserved Joan Seppala

Richard Andrews, Livermore

Congratulations to your publisher, Joan Seppala. She earned the honor of being inducted into the Alameda County Women's Hall of Fame. She has earned that honor by being fair and assuring that both sides have the opportunity to be heard on any local subject.

With her undying devotion to honest publication, we are aware of the good deeds and the misdeeds of our local leaders. She insists that complainers about her stance are given fair exhibition. A rare trait.

She has posted many detractors statements in the letters section of the paper...even some which have been incorrect and patently

politically biased. While money has been shown to greatly affect the actions of certain politicians and pundits, she has never bent low to let money influence her position. She states it fairly when she speaks, and is always up front on who she is, and where her position is coming from. You do not see that much anymore, and we are fortunate to have her, this paper, to keep up with the local news.

No Representative Kyoko Takayama, Livermore

Due to the resignation of Rep. Swalwell, currently we have no representation. We have nobody to vote for us when the next war resolution or budget proposal is on the House floor. So, when can we get our representative again? The California governor set the date of a special election as August 18, and it automatically sets the primary election on June 16. If a candidate receives over 50% of the votes, that candidate will win the seat. The ballots should be counted by June 25, and the election should be certified by July 17. Then the winner needs to be sworn in by the speaker of the House. The House is scheduled to be in recess for two weeks in July and most of August. From what we have observed, the speaker is not in a hurry to swear in Democrats. So if we have a consensus, we might have our new representative in sometime in July. If nobody wins in the primary, the earliest we have our representative will be late September. I wish we had ranked choice voting since elections cost us, the taxpayers. It would have saved time and money for us to have representation again.

Elder Exploitation and Licensing Fraud

Susan Dickinson, Livermore

I am writing to sound the alarm on a sophisticated "nesting" fraud operating in a residential Livermore neighborhood. A professional exploiter has set up an illegal HVAC business in

the garage of a local senior, using her home as a tactical shield to evade state authorities.

This isn't a simple zoning issue; it is a calculated licensing fraud. The individual is conducting business using a license number that is not only suspended as of Feb. 27, 2026, but belongs to an entirely unrelated entity. By "renting" or misappropriating this legal identity, he bypasses all consumer protections and safety oversight.

The risk to the homeowner is catastrophic. Most homeowners' insurance policies contain clauses voiding coverage for undisclosed, illegal industrial activity. If a fire or chemical leak occurs, this senior — not the "phantom" contractor — will bear 100% of the financial ruin.

Despite providing these forensic details to Adult Protective Services, I was met with a dismissive shrug regarding "assumptions." How many red flags must a citizen raise before the "safety net" actually functions? We are watching a vulnerable resident be groomed into providing sanctuary for a criminal enterprise. It is time for our protective agencies to stop "monitoring" and start enforcing the law.

The British Crown and the Middle East

Rich Buckley, Livermore

The vast majority don't realize the Mullahs and dark forces pay war profit to the British Crown. The British Crown to this day still tries to thwart the US. based on 250 years of ontological evidence. Why do you think the British Crown is so slow to engage in this war?

The British Crown has started every war since WWI. So when they constantly criticize the U.S., I assume they will never awaken, of course, to the historic and dangerous task the U.S. is undertaking with Iran and will achieve in spite of the Brit's constant ankle biting. It is the Brits that messed up the Middle East, and once again, the U.S. will help correct it.

The Gulf that emerges will be different from the 300-year stranglehold of the Crown. We're in a treacherous long game resisting these dark forces. For context, watch YouTube video labeled "Gordon Chang: Why All Roads Lead to China".

A Short Message for Donald Trump

Keith Jackson, Dublin

Peace good, war bad. Release the Epstein files. Stop lying and stealing. Let the people vote. You are not Jesus.

Chavez, Swalwell, Trump

Barry Brynjulson, Pleasanton

Cesar Chavez had boulevards, parks, and honorary days renamed within a week following serious sexual allegations.

Eric Swalwell did, allegedly, horrific things to multiple women. Political pressure forced him to step down from Congress and walk away from his Governor candidacy...all within a few days.

President Trump? Convicted of sexual assault by a jury of his peers, was also accused by a woman who told the FBI in multiple interviews that Trump, when she was 14 years old, attempted something despicable and illegal, and that she bit him. He is named, also allegedly, thousands of times in the Epstein Files.

In November '25, Trump signed the Epstein Files Transparency Act, passed by both houses of Congress, to release all those files, unredacted except for the victims' names. To date, his personal tax-payer-funded-legal-team, the DOJ, has slow-walked the release of the files, redacting most everything related to DJT.

The greatest cover-up in U.S. history is occurring right now. Trump, himself,

should be demanding the files be released unredacted because the public deserves to know and because the Act that he signed calls for it. Instead, we have a stream of unsanctioned wars, tariffs on/off, the Strait of Hormuz open/closed, memes of the Obama's in Gorilla suits and he as Jesus Christ... anything to distract us from his redactions in the Epstein Files.

If released unreacted, and there are no more credible accusations against Trump, great. If there are, Donald Trump needs to meet the same, swift fate as Chavez and Swalwell. Until then, this is not a democratic-republic America. This is a dictatorship with different rules for one man.

Tariffs and Troubles

Frank Cannella, Livermore

Scott Bessent is the Treasury Secretary for the United States. He is a billionaire and completely devoted to Donald Trump. Let me explain; when asked if the Supreme Court's recent decision regarding tariffs would hurt the U.S. econo-

my, he is quoted as saying, "How could sending all that money to China help the economy?" He knows very well that China never paid those tariffs, we did, nor would China receive any of the tariffs we paid. He is taking the American people for suckers.

On Monday the 20th of April, the U.S. government is opening a website to return the tariffs it has collected so far. Those of us at the end of the economic chain are unlikely to see a dime of those tariffs collected, because it's far too complicated to refund money to the end consumer. Instead, the larger companies who more recently paid the tariffs will get the first refunds, because those payments are easiest to track. It is another example of a Trump policy ill-conceived and poorly executed, and the Treasury Secretary knew better in the first place.

This is what the American people get when the administration surrounds itself with weak advisors without spine. Iran policy is just another example.



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The Livermore Heritage Guild will host a Mad Hatter's Tea Party at Hagemann Ranch from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday, April 26, featuring performances by the Cantabella Children's Chorus. In addition to tea parties every half hour, the Sunday's at Hagemann Ranch program will include games of croquet and chess the way Alice played them. Alice in Wonderland-themed costumes are encouraged. Hagemann Ranch is a 19th century farmstead located at 455 Olivina Ave., Livermore, and managed by the Livermore Heritage Guild. The ranch includes a farmhouse, blacksmith shop and antique tractors. The family-friendly Mad Hatter's Tea Party is free and open to the public. (Photo courtesy of the Cantabella Children's Chorus)

Deadline Nears for 'Missy's Miracle' Scholarships

PLEASANTON — The deadline to apply for college scholarships offered by the Pleasanton-based Melissa A. Stoneberger Foundation is Friday, May 1.

The scholarships are designed to help under-

graduate students "overcome barriers or challenges through perseverance and empowerment."

More than \$125,000 in scholarships will be awarded this year.

The foundation, also

known as "Missy's Miracle," was created in 2017 by Sherri Stoneberger in honor of her daughter who survived brain cancer as a toddler and spent the rest of her life "spreading love, optimism, and positivity

to others in need through her creative artwork and thoughtfulness."

She died in 2013 at age 36.

For more information, or to apply online, go to melissastonebergerfoundation.org.

BART

(Continued from front page)

bus connection between the Pleasanton ACE station and the West Dublin/Pleasanton BART station as an important connection between the two systems today.

The latest SJRRC annual report projected 3,600 daily ACE riders in the current fiscal year, a 9% increase

over the previous year. If orphaned BART commuters turn to ACE, "in the short term, train sets can be lengthened to accommodate more passengers," Ahmed said. "As it is built out, the Valley Rail Program will increase overall service capacity. We anticipate that

the initial Valley Rail service expansion will serve more than a half million additional passengers traveling between the Sacramento region and the Bay Area."

Valley Rail plans to add 16 new ACE stations in the San Joaquin Valley, plus a

spur line to Union City to connect with the BART station there. Although Ahmed said the news of the BART closures have not changed those plans, the Union City connection remains in its early planning stages, with no connection to BART in the meantime.



Commuters at the Pleasanton ACE station board and disembark a morning train. ACE will serve as the only rail service in the Tri-Valley if BART goes ahead with its proposed station closures. (Photo courtesy of David Jen)

SPRING SHOW

(Continued from front page)

The painting featured a waterfall in which the relief was achieved with an impasto technique that added a thick layer of white to the cascading water that seemed to flow out of the painting.

"Taking a photo of something is so different. You don't get the full effect," Watters said.

Places like the Bothwell Arts Center allow for the community to come together up close and personal with art, and artists.

LAA Spring Art Show Chair Heather Dever, who was stationed in the east end of the building — which was filled with works from the show — spoke to the necessity of having these places devoted to art.

"Such an important part of this event is the artists talking to each other, learning from each other and getting affirmation, support and community — everything that community really means."

The show does not accept overtly political work, but the range of emotion seemed to occupy everything outside of that realm.

"We need that (even) more," Dever said.

Her own work in the show won second place in the 2D category. It was a deeply personal collage piece titled, "Collision," the first in a series of four in which she grapples with the car accident that caused her husband's death.

"It was very cathartic,"

she said. "I've addressed my grief in other works, but this series is the first actually about the accident."

Show judge Phillippe Gandiol, an award-winning Northern California painter based in Davis, said of Dever's work during a museum-style tour of the exhibit at Friday night's award ceremony, "You notice it from far back and it has depth and it draws you in, and you hit the center and it's like everything changes."

"That really moved me," Dever said.

A lottery for the artists

was a new addition to the event. Gandiol drew artists' names out of a hat and gave five minutes of personal feedback to each on their work.

"That was really popular and we've only heard positive comments from the artists about that," Dever said.

Wending one's way through each artwork was like passing through the many different aspects and emotions of life, from deep tragedies to everyday moments of joy.

One work by Ranjini Venkatachari stated in col-

ored pencil, "You are Awesome." The caption read, "A Note to Self."

Thirty-nine total works were awarded first, second and third prizes and some honorable mentions. Upcoming LAA events include the Paint Livermore Plein Air Festival, which will be held May 9-17 with a reception and awards ceremony open to the public on Sunday, May 17 from 4-6p.m. in the Bankhead Theater Lobby.

LPC to Host Seminar On Vaccine Hesitancy

LIVERMORE — Las Positas College (LPC) will host a seminar to address "vaccine hesitancy" from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 28.

LPC said the seminar, which is open to the public, is designed to provide students and the community with "clear, credible information and practical tools to navigate misinformation and make informed health decisions."

Topics will include vaccine safety and effectiveness, the impact on public health, common misconceptions and how to evaluate health information.

"Access to accurate, trustworthy health information is essential for student success and community well-being," said LPC President Dyrrell Foster. "This seminar creates space for thoughtful dialogue between students,

staff and healthcare experts at a time when clarity and confidence in public health matter more than ever."

Participating in the seminar will be Jessie Seiler, epidemiologist with the nonprofit Center for Science in the Public Interest, Dr. Louise McNitt, public health medical officer with the California Department of Public Health, Shelley Facente, with the University of California, Berkeley School of Public Health, and Dr. Dawnell Moody, Pleasanton pediatrician and chief medical officer for Axis Community Health.

The seminar, sponsored by LPC's Society of Aspiring Medical Professionals and the Biology and Nursing Integrated Club, will be held in Building 2400 on the LPC campus.

To RSVP, go to bit.ly/LPCVaccine.

FUSION

(Continued from front page)

The public-private partnership, signed into effect on April 14, includes a cooperative research and development agreement to develop the lasers, plus two strategic partnership projects to advance fusion target design and explore target fabrication, according to an LLNL announcement.

"Decades of public investment in fusion science have created a foundation that only America's national labs could have built," Lawson said in the announcement. "Inertia exists to take that foundation and do what the private sector does best: build at scale and deliver commercial impact. This partnership with LLNL ensures we're doing that with the full weight of their scientific expertise behind us."

The news ranks as one of the largest private sector-led partnerships in the history of the U.S. national lab system.

For the next 18 months, Inertia will study laser designs, fuel-manufacturing processes and plant-integration designs with the goal of producing a scalable plan toward a commercial power plant, Dunne told The Indepen-

dent. The company then hopes to enter a prototyping phase before starting plant construction roughly five years from now.

LLNL, meanwhile, has offered its support.

"We are committed to ensuring that the 60 years of public investment, fusion leadership, and scientific breakthroughs achieved here don't stay in the laboratory," said Kim Budil, director of LLNL. "This agreement, along with other public-private partnerships, is how we accelerate that effort. This partnership positions LLNL's world-leading expertise in inertial fusion science, laser technology, physics design, and target fabrication to directly inform the industrial-scale development that commercial fusion demands."

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

Livermore Wenté Winery worker, married father of three and grandfather

Miguel Lopez

remains in Mexico after having been illegally deported last June.

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

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

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Gubernatorial Candidates Address Immigrant Issues

From Abolishing ICE to Fixing Housing Laws, Running Mates Sharpen Their Platforms to Court Latino Voters

By David Jen

TRI-VALLEY — Democratic candidates in the crowded governor's race pulled no punches criticizing the Trump administration and the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agency at the Nuestra Voz 2026 candidate forum last week. All seven candidates present shared ideas for challenging Trump's policies and vowed to resist ICE.

Hosted by California Immigrant Policy Center, California Latina Legislative Caucus Foundation and ACLU California Action, the April 14 forum in Sacramento also sounded out candidates on topics ranging from equal opportunities, to affordable housing and healthcare, to the risks of artificial intelligence within the state's workforce.

The questions and candidates steered clear of making any references to former Tri-Valley Congressman Eric Swalwell, who resigned from

Congress just hours before the forum amid several allegations of sexual misconduct. Swalwell suspended his campaign for governor on April 12 after leading the open primary polls with about 17% of those polled in March.

His exit sent shockwaves through the race, with prior Swalwell supporters mainly splitting their votes between entrepreneur Tom Steyer, former Congresswoman Katie Porter, and former U.S. Health and Human Services secretary and former California Attorney General Xavier Becerra.

A Democratic shutout in June's primaries, when the top two candidates will advance to the general election regardless of party, remains a real possibility. Republicans Steve Hilton, a Fox News Channel contributor, and Chad Bianco, Riverside County sheriff, held the top two rankings in an April 16 poll of 1,000 voters by Emerson College Polling, although Steyer, the current top Democrat, only trailed

Bianco's 14.4% with 14.1% of respondents. Porter, Becerra and San Jose Mayor Matt Mahan came in behind Steyer with 10.4%, 10.3%, and 5.4% of the poll's participants.

Neither of the Republicans, Hilton nor Bianco participated in the April 14 forum.

"I'm for abolishing ICE," Steyer said to the audience of mainly Latino and immigrant-community members from around the state. "It's a criminal organization. It absolutely doesn't deserve to exist. But I also know that as the governor of California, I can't just wish it away with the stroke of a pen."

Steyer shared his plans to criminalize racial profiling, investigate detention centers, establish a legal fund to retrieve and represent detained Californians, and educate residents of their rights.

Porter said that she will "go toe-to-toe with Donald Trump" on issues such as workers' rights and healthcare coverage.

"With Donald Trump back in office, we need a governor who will be fierce, who will be fearless — someone who understands the struggles of families and hardworking people," Porter said.

Also addressing Trump, Becerra said, "Right now, we are facing a crisis. Whether it's a man-made crisis coming from Washington, DC or whether it's the cost-of-living crisis that we face here at home. We need someone who knows how to govern through crisis."

State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Tony Thurmond, former Los Angeles mayor and former State Assembly Speaker Antonio Villaraigosa, and former California State Controller Betty Yee also cast themselves as able opponents of the current White House.

Yee dropped out of the race on April 20.

Those present called for more housing to bring prices down.

Villaraigosa called the Cal-

ifornia Environmental Quality Act broken, saying it "makes it impossible to build in this state. You can sue from Richmond, Virginia for a project in Richmond, California, and it doesn't have to be for environmental reasons. You can sue because you don't like senior housing. You can sue because you don't like homeless housing."

Steyer proposed a tax credit for renters, rent-spike protection, and cheaper permitting to invigorate new construction. "We need these cities and counties to want to build housing again," he said.

Mahan, based on his San Jose experience, said that despite favorable zoning and approvals, the costs of construction remained a limiting factor. He floated impact-fee caps, building-code restrictions and reduced litigation risks in his first 100 days as solutions.

To address other affordability issues, the candidates touched on universal health-

care grants, saying how the entire community suffers when individuals are denied healthcare.

"People still get care; they just show up much sicker in an emergency room for acute care later," Mahan said. "It's self-defeating, it's cruel, it's wrong."

Becerra called for a freeze of utility-rate and insurance-rate increases in his first 100 days and to look carefully at where the money has gone. Comprising nearly 40% of California's population, the Latino and immigrant vote will exert a significant impact on the gubernatorial race this year. California will hold its primary elections on June 2.

LARPD Announces Camp Shelly Program Dates

LIVERMORE — The Livermore Area Recreation and Park District (LARPD) this summer will offer three weekend family outings to Camp Shelly, led by district rangers and open-space interpreters.

Camp Shelly is a 25-site campground operated by LARPD on land leased from the U.S. Forest Service on the south shore of Lake Tahoe in El Dorado County.

LARPD said the family-friendly overnight program, Destination Shelly: Community Camp, is designed for both new and experienced campers and will include a balance of guided activities and free time.

Campers can enjoy wildflower walks, crafts and games, campfire stories, and optional night hikes while also learning practical camping skills.

"Camp Shelly is a special place, and this program is about helping families feel comfortable and confident spending time outdoors," said Joseph Benjamin, LARPD recreation manager. "We hope to share that sense of connection to nature and give people the tools to enjoy it on their own."

Sessions will be offered from Thursday, June 25, through Sunday, June 28;

Thursday, July 9, through Sunday, July 12; and Friday, Aug. 7, through Sunday, Aug. 9.

Camp Shelly will be closed to other campers during the Destination Shelly weekends.

General camping will be available throughout the rest of the summer season, which begins on Friday, June 12, and runs through Monday, Sept. 7.

For more information, go to larpd.org or call 925-960-2400.

MCNERNEY

(Continued from front page)

fixing our campaign finance system; and ensuring that artificial intelligence is safe and beneficial," he said.

Turning to his legislative priorities, McNerney told The Independent that he is authoring 21 bills this year

inate the state sales tax on vehicle purchases for five years and replace it with a fee that can be deducted from federal taxes.

His water-related legislation includes the Protecting California's Water Act (SB

man oversight of AI systems in critical infrastructure, the workplace and California's power grid.

McNerney is also advancing the Boosting California Nonprofits Act (SB 1240), which would create a state-

wide Office of Nonprofit Empowerment, and the Campaign Finance Disclosure Reform Act (SB 900), aimed at strengthening transparency in political advertising.

"I also have legislation to help local farmers and schools reduce hunger, help veterans access services, accelerate the construction of low-cost housing, and make our tax system fairer," he told The Independent.

Both the new Dublin office and his legislative priorities are intended to better serve Tri-Valley residents and address the issues facing the region.

McNerney was elected to the California State Senate in November 2024 after serving 16 years in the U.S. House of Representatives. His 5th District includes the Tri-Valley area in Alameda County, as well as all of San Joaquin County.



Senator McNerney (center, in hat) and his wife (to his left) celebrate the grand opening of the new Dublin district office alongside local leaders and community officials during a ribbon-cutting ceremony on April 17. (Photo courtesy of Senator McNerney's Office)

focused on six areas: affordability, artificial intelligence, water, clean energy, non-profit support and campaign finance reform.

His affordability proposals include the Protecting Ratepayers Act (SB 327), which would strengthen oversight of investor-owned utilities and prevent them from using ratepayer funds to oppose efforts to create municipal utilities.

Another measure, the Data Centers Pay Their Fair Share Act (SB 1168), would require regulators to examine the energy demands of data centers to ensure consumers do not face rate increases tied to that consumption.

He is also backing the Reducing Californians' Federal Tax Burden Act (SB 1275), which would elim-

inate the state sales tax on vehicle purchases for five years and replace it with a fee that can be deducted from federal taxes. His water-related legislation includes the Protecting California's Water Act (SB

872), which aims to safeguard the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta and the State Water Project, and the Addressing PFAS Water Pollution Act (SB 1313), which would help remove "forever chemicals" from drinking water.

Clean energy proposals include the California Fusion Energy Roadmap Act (SB 925), directing the state to develop a strategic plan for fusion energy, SB 1120 to expand job growth in emerging industries, the Protecting the Future of Solar Power Act (SB 1329) and the Expanding Green Hydrogen Act (SB 1350).

In artificial intelligence, the AI Safety Standards Act (SB 813) would establish statewide safety standards, while SB 833, SB 947 and SB 1011 would require hu-

CONCANNON

(Continued from front page)

whatever it takes to restore and preserve the property."

The TVC Sponsored Replanting Program provides 15-year, low-interest loans of up to \$15,000 per acre. Concannon is the second recipient this year, following Scott Burkhart of Thatcher Bay Vineyards.

Beyond vineyard replanting, the new owners of Concannon Vineyard are planning a broader restoration of the property to support

agritourism, including the addition of new event spaces designed to host weddings, corporate gatherings, and community celebrations, expanding opportunities for visitors to experience the historic estate in new ways.

For more information about how TVC's Sponsored Replanting Program is supporting local winegrowers, visit trivalleyconservancy.org or contact TVC at info@trivalleyconservancy.org.

Heart of the Valley



We Are Not Alone

By Christina Cavallaro

TRI-VALLEY — I'm taking a writing class. It's online, but really I have no business doing so. The thing is, I have very little extra time and more than enough writing on my plate at any given moment. But writing is my thing.

And just behind writing is eating. I used to joke with a friend that my favorite thing to do while eating something delicious was to talk about eating something delicious. So why not write about writing while writing? Even though I hurl myself with gusto into doing it as much as I can, I inevitably face what my online teacher has coined the "WTF am I doing" stage. It is when you wonder why you even bother; it's hard, it takes time, it's sunny outside, it can be lonely, and the work is cruddy before it's not....

But then you get messages like the one I received recently from someone in our community.

"When I first heard that you were being promoted, I was so happy for you, but then suddenly realized you may not have time to keep up the 'Heart of the Valley.'" She added that the columns have felt like a good friend talking to her: "I hope you will be able to keep some of these columns coming as you get busier."

I have always loved the line delivered by Anthony Hopkins, playing C.S. Lewis in the 1993 movie "Shadowlands."

"We read to know we are not alone."

And I think we write, make art, make music, and drink wine together, all to that same end.

A Livermore woman recently posted on the app Nextdoor, "I feel a bit lonely because I don't have many friends here." She was hoping to meet some women about her age to chat with and share some hobbies. English, she explained, was not her first language, so she would understand if that precluded a path to friendship. Hardly. Her neighbors flooded her post with 113 reactions and 39 comments within 24 hours. It was like watching heartwarming kernels of popcorn as comments kept ping-ponging. People shared crochet groups, walking clubs, book clubs, Facebook groups, and library classes — and they shared themselves.

One woman messaged, "I'm also lonely. I like to bake bread. I live in Pleasanton."

Someone else said, "Me too. My friends moved."

Soon people were swapping photos of food, recipes and links.

What had started as one person's brave outreach became a space filled with people sharing personal stories, support, emojis and community.

The very idea that we can live next door to each other and not really know what our neighbor might be going through is deep.

And that something like an app, reading, writing or art can have the power to bring us together hit me very personally this past weekend at the Livermore Art Association (LAA) Spring Show held at the Bothwell Arts Center.

The show chair, Heather Dever, happens to be my neighbor. I have known for quite some time that she is an artist, and I've found her collage work so thoughtful and introspective. What I didn't know was that she lost her husband in a car-related accident some years ago.

I discovered this through her art on Sunday in a piece called "Collision." This weekend's showing of her work was the first time she had overtly shared her grief. And I was there to see it. And see her. Her art opened a door to knowing her more profoundly.

Stepping inside someone's heart and mind in a book has always been a powerful and intimate act, and something I've always treasured.

Stepping inside a whole room at the Bothwell filled with art and the hearts of my Tri-Valley community was something I won't soon forget.

My friend, who is a songwriter, shared last weekend over a glass of wine at Page Mill that she's been in a funk lately. "I need to get back into the music community." She's right. We need to play music, write, make art, and drink wine together; these acts of sharing bring us back to each other... and to ourselves. And they remind us that we are not alone.

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

American Legion Post 47 to Distribute Poppies in May

LIVERMORE — American Legion Post 47 will be giving away poppies and accepting donations to fund its community programs at Walmart, 2700 Las Positas Blvd., from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. the first three Mondays in May.

Poppies are traditionally passed out on Memorial Day

in remembrance of soldiers who have died in the service of the country, but Post 47 said it considers the entire month of May as Memorial Month.

The tradition is based on "In Flanders Fields," a poem written by Canadian Lt. Colonel John McCree

after seeing the bright red flowers blooming in the World War I battlefields of Belgium.

On Memorial Day weekend, Saturday, May 23, through Monday, May 25, Post 47, will be placing flags on veterans' graves at the three cemeteries in Livermore.



American Legion Post 47 observes the entire month of May as "Memorial Month." They will be at the Las Positas Walmart in Livermore the first three Mondays of May, 9 a.m. — 1 p.m., distributing poppies in remembrance of those who gave their lives. (Photo courtesy of American Legion Post 47)

TRI-VALLEY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Thursdays, April/May

GRIEF SUPPORT WORKSHOP

The death of a loved one is unlike any other loss. Although there is no right or wrong path, there are stepping stones that are part of each grief journey; they will be explored in this 8-week workshop. Held at St. Elizabeth Seton Church, 4001 Stoneridge Drive, Pleasanton. Meetings will begin at 7 p.m. on Thursday evenings; April 23, 30, and May 7, 14, 21 and 28. These meetings are open to all, regardless of religious affiliation. For more information, please call Barbara at 925-846-3904.

Saturday, April 25

REINS IN MOTION FUNDRAISER WINE HIKE

Come to Charles R Vineyards for a fundraising wine hike in support of Reins in Motion. The guided hike is approximately two miles round trip. At the top of the hill, enjoy two wine tastings and light bites while taking in beautiful views of the Livermore Valley. Upon returning to the tasting room, you will receive three additional wine tastings. After the hike, enjoy live music from Loren "O." and visit with the therapy horses. Registration: 9:30 a.m. / hike begins promptly at 10:00 a.m. No pets allowed. Cost: \$55. Tickets: reinsinmotionca.com/programs. Questions: Contact Jesse at 510-295-5365 or jjarvis1982@gmail.com.

Saturday, April 25

POLENTA & CHICKEN CACCIATORE DINNER

Raffles, prizes, and silent auction! Dinner includes antipasto, salad, rolls, dessert, wine and soft drinks. On April 25 at St. Augustine Hall, Pleasanton. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. / dinner at 7:00 p.m. Adult tickets: \$55 / children 12 and under: \$15. Tickets must be purchased by Friday, April 17. No tickets will be sold at the door. Contact Toni @ 925 557-6552 or manzettitoni7313@gmail.com. Proceeds benefit the ICF Scholarship Fund and various local charities. Sponsored by the Italian Catholic Federation Branch 285.

Sunday, April 26

MAD HATTER'S TEA PARTY

The Livermore Heritage Guild proudly presents the "Mad Hatter's Tea Party". On April 26 beginning at 1:00 p.m., Hagemann Ranch will be transformed into Alice's Wonderland. Formal tea parties will take place on the front lawn each half hour beginning at 1:30 (until 3:00). Cantabella Children's Chorus will perform twice during the afternoon. Play life-sized chess and croquet, like Alice, in the backyard. Make your own kaleidoscope. Always free and family friendly! 455 Olivina Ave., Livermore.

Saturday-Sunday, April 25-26

QUILT SHOW

Amador Valley Quilters is hosting their 19th quilt show: "Quilted Treasures XIX: Quilting with Friends", with an exhibit of over 300 quilts. The show is on April 25 (10 a.m.- 4 p.m.) and April 26 (10 a.m. — 3 p.m.), at the Trinity Church Gymnasium, 557 Olivina Ave., Livermore. Admission is \$10 (children under 12 are free); free parking.

Saturday, May 2

LIVERMORE-PLEASANTON ELKS EVENT

Join the Livermore-Pleasanton Elks Lodge #2117 on May 2 at the Larkspur Event Center in Springtown for "Evening at the Races". Participants will enjoy "horseless" horse racing with play money as well as dinner, dessert, a no-host bar, plus silent and live auctions for just \$40 per person or \$280 for a table of 8. All proceeds support local Elks community programs. Grab your friends and get your tickets at https://EveningAtTheRaces.com.

Thursday, May 7

ALAMEDA COUNTY NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

Join Alameda County Supervisors and other elected officials, District 1's Interfaith Advisory Council, and twelve participating faith leaders at this 7th annual

gathering to pray for our country. This year we will also be celebrating America's 250th birthday! 5 p.m. reception & dinner. 6 p.m. program begins. No charge for this event. At the Alameda County Fairgrounds Amphitheater, 4501 Pleasanton Ave., Pleasanton. Free parking across from the gate on Pleasanton Ave. RSVP at tinyurl.com/natdayofprayer2026. Walk-ins welcome. Contact Gloria Gregory at gloria.gregory@acgov.org or (925) 998-3785 with questions.

Saturday, May 9

DRESS A GIRL AROUND THE WORLD

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

Thursday, May 14

LIVERMORE AMADOR VALLEY GARDEN CLUB MEETING

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

Saturday, May 16

RICK ESTRIN & THE NIGHTCATS LIVE IN LIVERMORE

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

ONGOING OPPORTUNITIES

FOOD RELIEF SERVICES

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

ONGOING EVENTS

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

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

SATURDAY PLEASANTON FARMERS MARKET

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

SUNDAY LIVERMORE DOWNTOWN FARMERS MARKET

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

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

LFPD Unveils Redesigned Website

TRI-VALLEY — The Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department (LFPD) has launched a redesigned website, with the goal of strengthening communication and engagement with the community.

LFPD said the website, lpfire.org, will serve as a central hub for residents to access safety information, department programs and important updates in a clear and user-friendly format.

The redesign is part of a broader initiative to enhance how the department communicates both internally and externally, according to LFPD.

Over the past two years, LFPD has also expanded its communication efforts with annual reports, a bi-annual community newsletter and a more consistent social media presence.

"This new website is one

piece of a larger effort to improve how we connect with our community," said Fire Chief Aaron Lacey. "We are committed to providing timely, transparent, and meaningful communication."

LFPD worked with Ogden Costa Creative Group, a Pleasanton-based graphic design firm, to design and develop the website, which officially launched on Tuesday, April 14.

Country Singer Lyle Lovett Set to Headline LVA Annual Fundraiser

LIVERMORE — Four-time Grammy Award winner Lyle Lovett will headline Livermore Valley Art's annual fundraiser, Opening Night at the Bankhead, at 6 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 29.

Born in Houston, Lovett is known for a soulful blend of country, swing, folk and jazz. He won his first Grammy for Best Male Country Vocal Performance for the album "Lyle Lovett and His Large Band" in 1990.

He also shared two Grammys in 1995 for a collaboration with singer-songwriter Al Green and the American Western swing group Asleep at the Wheel.

Lovett received a Grammy for Best Country Album for "The Road to Ensenada" in 1997.

In 2012, he was inducted into the Texas Cowboy Hall of Fame.

Livermore Valley Arts (LVA) operates both the Bankhead Theater and the Bothwell Arts Center.

Proceeds from the fundraiser go to support events at both the Bankhead Theater and the Bothwell Arts Center, as well as LVA's educational and cultural arts outreach

programs.

In addition to Lovett's performance, the evening will include a live auction, raffle, champagne and hors

d'oeuvres, and dancing on the Bankhead plaza.

Tickets to the fundraiser start at \$295 and are available online at livermorearts.org.

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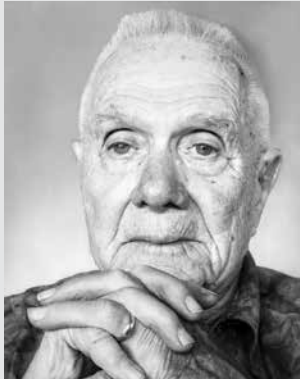
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OBITUARIES

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Richard Glenn Mallon
April 30, 1930 — Dec. 7, 2025



Richard (Dick) Glenn Mallon died after a long decline of Alzheimer's. He was the child of Myrtle May (nee Gotsch) and Henry Carl Mallon; and was born and raised in St. Louis, Missouri.

Before his decline, he was a loving husband and father, a brilliant scientist, an inventor, and creative Mr. Fix It. He graduated from Missouri School of Mines in 1947 in engineering, and received a secret master's degree in nuclear engineering from Oak Ridge in 1951. He worked as a consulting nuclear engineer on all sorts of projects for peace use, from building harbors, to submarines, to reactors. Often, he determined their projects were not safe or good ideas. In 1959, he was a consultant to the Lawrence Livermore Laboratory on developing the peaceful usage of nuclear fusion. He felt strongly that electricity should be produced by nuclear reactors. In 1965, he got a PhD in physics from Rice University in superconductivity. He then returned to LLNL and worked again on controlled fusion and finally ended his employment as a

chemical engineer on the oil shale development project. He has many patents and papers as a result of these endeavors.

Richard married Barbara Jean Hille in November 1965, in Houston. They have two children: Frederick Karl Mallon (1965) and Tamara Ann Mallon Klug (1970). He has three grandchildren: Allison Renee Klug (2000), Andrew Keith Klug (2003) and Richard Edward Mallon (2005).

In the early 1970s, Dick converted a Volkswagen bug into an electric car which was well-known around Livermore for its unusual sounds. He rode his bicycle to work.

He worked on many civic projects and enjoyed going to city council meetings. He loved sports cars and airplanes and had both. He was very careful; no accidents. He went camping, hiking and exploring with family and friends. He liked to read books and newspapers, and had strong ideas on many topics. Discussions were animated and fun. He loved symphony concerts when the music was classical, not modern. He took his family to Sydney, Australia (1986) for a sabbatical-year leave. He enjoyed living on Almond Circle. He could fix almost anything, and it worked afterwards.

Barbara tried hard to help him regain and/or retain his health and mind. Kaiser Permanente tried too. He had many caregivers, but the latest two were exceptional and should be thanked: Carol Lalone and Robert Varvuris. Also, Hope Hospice eased his last year.

There will be a celebration of his life on May 3. If you would like to share times with Dick, please contact Barbara.

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Kathleen "Kathy" Jean Tedford
Jan. 2, 1946 — March 20, 2026



Kathleen "Kathy" Jean Tedford died in intensive care on March 20, 2026, in Sparks, Nevada. She was 80 years old. In her last few decades, Kathy suffered from chronic pain incurred during her career as a nurse. In her final weeks, she came down with pneumonia and was unable to recover. In her final moments, she was surrounded by her husband, her children, and her youngest granddaughter, who entrusted her into God's care.

She was born Kathleen Jean Donnellson in Chicago, Illinois, on Jan. 2, 1946, to Roy Donnellson and Alice (née Valos) Donnellson. Her father, Roy, worked odd jobs, including with the Pinkertons, before settling into a factory job making Dial soap. Her mother, Alice, was a homemaker. Kathy began life in Chicago's Garfield Ridge neighborhood as the fourth of eventually seven siblings: one boy and six girls. Her oldest sister Vivian had passed away in 1940 at six months old. In 1950, the Donnellson family moved to Hayward, California. Kathy spent two years at San Lorenzo High School before transferring to James Logan High School, where her grades dramatically improved in her senior year. She excelled in French, and also earned an A in physiology. She graduated in June 1963. She followed her sister Joyce to work at Pacific Bell (where her younger sister Anita would later spend her whole career). In addition, Kathy enrolled at Merritt College in Oakland, where she earned an associate's degree in nursing in June 1966. She was soon licensed as a registered nurse.

Kathy remained close with her four surviving sisters throughout adulthood, who all raised families in the Bay Area. At a party she hosted with her roommates, she would meet Steven Clois Tedford of Fremont, a Navy veteran and surgical nurse at Washington Hospital in Fremont. He proposed after six months of dating. The couple was married on June 20, 1970, at the Little Brown Church in Sunol. Kathy made herself a long, white dress of satin with a lace bodice, and she decorated the church with white daisies and gladiolas. Her bridesmaids were Connie (née Donason) Eslinger, Beverley (née Donnellson) Keil, and Pamela (née Andrade) Smith. After a reception at the U.A.W. Hall in Fremont, the couple honeymooned in Montana and Canada, staying at the Many Glacier Hotel in Glacier National Park and the Chateau Lake Louise in Banff National Park.

An apartment in Fremont



awaited their return. In 1972, they bought a house in a new development in Livermore, where they would live for 46 years. Kathy and Steve had two children: James Steven Tedford (born in 1975) and Danielle René Tedford (born in 1977). While living in the Bay Area, Kathy was a member of the Evangelical Free Church in Pleasanton and Cedar Grove Community Church in Livermore. She nurtured her faith in Jesus through years of Bible Study Fellowship, enjoying reading scripture in a small group and keeping copious notes and journals.

Her nursing career was the inverse of her husband's. While Steve worked all 42 years at one hospital in one role, Kathy worked at many healthcare facilities in a variety of roles. She began her career at Washington Hospital on the orthopedic floor. At the time of her wedding, she was working in the intensive care unit at O'Connor Hospital in San Jose. After her children were born, Kathy returned to Washington Hospital to work in the ICU and the cardiac care unit, alternating day and night shifts with her husband to allow them to share childcare responsibilities. She left nursing for a few years to become the children's primary caregiver. Kathy eased herself back into nursing by joining a registry, covering open shifts here and there, before returning to full-time work at the pediatrician's office of Abbernath, Ackerman, and Lee in Livermore. The final leg of her career took her to the Vencor long-term care facility in San Leandro and the recovery room of the Fremont Surgery Center. In

2009, Kathy retired because she had hurt her back moving patients.

In the last few decades of her life, Kathy saw her children get married and have children of their own. In 2018, Steve and Kathy moved to a house in Sparks, Nevada, large enough to accommodate Steve's soon-to-be centenarian mother Irene Jensen and to comfortably host their two grandsons and two granddaughters. She enjoyed decorating for major holidays. What truly consumed Kathy was collecting lighthouses: wood and ceramic models; in paintings and lithographs and stained-glass windows; in sculpture; on plates and silverware, glasses and mugs; on placemats and salt and pepper shakers; on tapestries; on blankets; on towels; on pillows and bedding; on clocks; as soap dispensers and lampstands and cookie jars.

Kathy and Steve celebrated 50 years of marriage with a party thrown by their children in June 2021 — one year belated due to the COVID-19 pandemic. They would be married for 55 years.

Kathleen was preceded in death by her sister Vivian Donnellson of Chicago, Illinois; father Roy Donnellson of Hemet, California; mother Alice Donnellson of Hayward, California; brother Kenneth Donnellson and sister-in-law Judy Donnellson of North Las Vegas, Nevada; and sister Anita Rodrigues of Union City, California. She is survived by her husband Steve Tedford of Sparks, Nevada; mother-in-law Irene Jensen of Sparks, Nevada; sister Joyce Gebo of Carson City, Nevada; brother-in-law Dave Rodrigues of Union City, California; sister Beverley Keil and brother-in-law Mike Keil of Hayward, California; sister Diane DeCosta and brother-in-law Dennis DeCosta of Lodi, California; brother-in-law Chuck Tedford and sister-in-law Joyce Tedford of Bonners Ferry, Idaho; son James Tedford and daughter-in-law Julie Tedford of La Mirada, California; daughter Danielle Micale and son-in-law Dominic Micale of Antioch, California; four grandchildren: Kylie Micale-Abbott, Lewis Tedford, Colin Tedford, and Madison Micale; and many beloved nieces and nephews.

A private celebration of life service will be held in Antioch, California, on April 26, officiated by the Rev. J. David Matas. Kathleen's remains will be interred at Golden Gate National Cemetery in San Bruno, California, on April 27, in a graveside service officiated by Dr. James Tedford.

Marvin Benjamin Loll
Dec. 8, 1936 — April 2, 2026



Marvin Loll, beloved husband, father and grandfather, passed away peacefully at home on April 2, 2026, with family by his side. He was 89 years old. Marvin was born on Dec. 8, 1936, to Ben and Emma Loll in Breckenridge, Minnesota. He grew up on a farm near Great Bend, North Dakota surrounded by a close-knit community of farmers and extended family.

Marvin attended high school at State School of Science in Wahpeton, North Dakota, and enjoyed playing American Legion baseball during his youth. He received his BS in Mechanical Engineering from North Dakota State University in 1958. During his time at college, he was active in the Sigma Phi Delta fraternity and several honorary engineering fraternities.

After graduation, Marvin worked at North American Aviation Rocketdyne Division in Canoga Park, California until 1960 when he received an offer from Boeing in Seattle, Washington. He continued his mechanical engineering studies during this period and received his master's degree from the University of

Washington in 1964. Later that year, he was hired by Sandia National Laboratories in Livermore, California, and continued his career at Sandia for 42 years until his retirement in 2003. Marvin's engineering career was an integral part of who he was, and he always spoke warmly about the projects he was involved with.

During their time at North Dakota State University, Marvin dated his future wife and soulmate, Darlene. They married in August 1959 and continued a loving marriage for 66 years. Together they enjoyed long walks, skiing, hiking, traveling, going on cruises, and playing bridge. They

raised three children in Livermore — Bryan, John and Carrie. When the family was young, they made yearly trips back to North Dakota during the summers to help with the harvest. He loved driving the combine and tractors, and the children treasured their memories on the farm.

Marvin was a devoted husband and father and provided constant support to his children and grandchildren. They were his pride and joy. He coached Little League baseball and attended years of soccer games and ski races. He enjoyed attending Indy 500 races, spending time in the mountains, reading and watching Bay Area sports teams.

Marvin was a member of Our Savior Lutheran Ministries for 61 years and served as an usher and elder in his earlier years.

He was preceded in death by his parents and sister. He is survived by his wife, brother, three children, and nine grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, if you wish to honor Marvin's memory, donations can be made to Our Savior Lutheran Ministries or to a charity of your choice.

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Gyan Singh Sidhu Brard
July 14, 1964 — April 9, 2026



Gyan Singh Sidhu Brard, MD, 61, of Scottsdale, Arizona, passed away on April 9, 2026, at Hospice of the Valley after a brief but courageous battle with cancer. His departure came far too soon for the many people whose lives he touched.

Gyan was born on July 14, 1964, in Seattle, Washington, and grew up in Livermore, California. A gifted student with a curious mind, he studied physics at UC Santa Barbara before attending medical school at Washington University in St. Louis. After completing his residency in Kansas City, he pursued medical research in San Diego and ultimately found his calling in endocrinology. For nearly 30 years, he cared for patients at Valley Endocrine Associates in Mesa, Arizona. Gyan approached medicine not just as a profession, but as a true vocation — a way of caring for others that reflected the compassion he carried into every part of his life.

Athletics were woven into Gyan's spirit from an early age. After playing football and running track at Granada High School, he discovered a lifelong passion for endurance sports. He became an active and beloved member of

TriScottsdale, where he served on the board. Gyan was an accomplished and avid cyclist, known as a mentor, a motivator, and a steady source of encouragement. Gyan and his wife, Aliesha, shared countless triathlon and cycling adventures around the world — journeys that brought him immense joy. He remained a devoted football fan throughout his life and was a proud Arizona Cardinals season ticket holder, cheering alongside a close-knit group of friends.

Gyan was a man of many dimensions: brilliant, playful, curious, and endlessly kind. He loved perfecting recipes, sharing laughter, and bringing people together. His quick wit and warm

humor were matched only by his generosity of spirit. Those who knew him will remember not just his intellect, but the way he made others feel seen, supported, and valued.

Above all, Gyan was a devoted father. He showed up unflinchingly for his two beloved daughters, Rachael and Rhianna, and cherished the years he spent raising them with their mother, Karen Brard.

Gyan is survived by his loving wife, Aliesha Brard; his daughters, Rachael and Rhianna Brard; his father, Gurnam Brard; and his mother, Gail Gonsalves. He also leaves behind his brother, Apar Sidhu; his sister, Amrita Brard; his stepson, Jordan, and his step-daughter, Kyndal.

His passing was a profound shock to all who knew him — a reminder of how quickly even the strongest and most vibrant among us can be taken.

A celebration of life will be held at Moon Valley Country Club in Scottsdale on May 17, 2026.

A memorial fund has been set up at the American Association for Cancer Research: <https://donate.aacr.org/campaigns/Gyan-Brard-Memorial-Fund>

Carmen Johnson
April 12, 1947 — March 30, 2026



Carmen Johnson, of Livermore, California, passed away peacefully at home on March 30, 2026, following a long illness. She was born on April 12, 1947, in Colorado.

Carmen loved spending time with her family and had a passion for cooking, gardening, and animals. She also enjoyed garage sales, the Gilroy Garlic Festival, and trips to Lake Tahoe.

She is survived by her loving husband, George; her daughter, Roxanne Lockwood (Dan); her sons, Christopher Barrett (Jennifer) and Jason Barrett; her grandchildren, Darren, Troy, Justine, and Josh; three great-grandchildren; and her brother, Fred Salazar.

Carmen is now at peace, reunited with her father Manual Salazar and mother Rose Salazar and family members who passed before her.

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Mary Elizabeth Rasmussen
May 15, 1933 — August 2, 2025



Our beloved Mother, Mary Rasmussen, 92, passed away peacefully on August 2, 2025. She was born to William Foxworthy and Gertrude (Fallon) Foxworthy.

Mary, who was born and raised in Livermore, California, was a member of a pioneer family. She was the great-granddaughter of Jeremiah Fallon and Ellen Murray Fallon, the granddaughter of Daniel Henry Fallon and Margaret Reilly Fallon and Freeman Foxworthy and Serna Ellen (Furr) Foxworthy. Sadly, Mary was preceded in death by her older siblings: Tom, Margaret, Donald, Charles and Mark.

Mary graduated from Livermore High School in 1951. Right out of high school, Mary went to work for the Army at the Presidio in San Francisco and later worked for LLNL. She married her future husband Russell Rasmussen in 1956, and they were together until his passing in 2002. Together they raised four children: Mark, Holly, Jess and Sean. Mary also worked for Lox Equipment Company and later became an owner/operator of Mary's Flowers, joining the business community.

Mary was a businesswoman who found true passion in floral design. She was a talented florist

for many years and was the heart and soul of Mary's Flowers. Her creative spirit and eye for beauty shone through in everything she created. She brought beauty and comfort to others through her warm touch when she crafted elegant floral arrangements. At Mary's Flowers, she didn't just sell flowers; she shared her joy, wisdom and a listening ear with everyone who walked through her door.

As a true community member, Mary was involved with several local organizations which include: Garden Club, Red Hat Society, Alameda County Cattlewomen's, Native Daughters of the Golden West, Young Ladies Institute, Pocahontas Club, Livermore Heritage Guild, St. Michaels Church and the Livermore Rodeo as a

volunteer for the Little Partners.

As a wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, mother Mary loved spending time with her family and friends. They enjoyed family dinners, baking, cooking, playing cards, gardening and so much more. She was a devoted wife, loving mother and cherished grandmother and great-grandmother.

Mary is survived by her children, Mark Rasmussen (Robin), Holly Petersen (Tim), Jess Rasmussen (Terri) and Sean Rasmussen (Heather); grandchildren Nicole, Zach, Alyssa, Cody, Clint, Monica and Russell; great-grandchildren Elle, Reese, Hank, Nola and Riley; sister-in-law Jane Rasmussen; and many nieces and nephews.

We'd love for you to come and celebrate with us as we honor our Mother at a Memorial Mass on May 9, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. It will be held at St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church, located at 1315 Lomitas Ave., Livermore. Following the Mass, we'll have a celebration of life at Inderbitzen's Barn, which is at 6030 Dagwood Road, Livermore, CA 94551.

In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to one of your favorite charities.

Family Divide Won't Sway Foothill Baseball Coach Zeke Palma

By Mitch Stephens

It would have seemed like an episode out of "The Twilight Zone" or just a weird, bad dream for 50-year-old head Foothill High School baseball coach Zeke Palma.

Still sporting his blue and gray Falcon uniform — still stinging even hours after his team's second straight loss of the week to Granada and a few more hours drowning sorrows with fellow coaches at a local eatery — Palma opened the front door of his family four-bedroom, ranch-style home in Livermore only to take in a sea of black and gold Matadors, a whole house full of Granada players, celebrating with mouthfuls of pizza and root beer.

"Here I am still licking wounds from getting swept by these guys and now I have to endure this?" Palma said with a half-smile on his face. "There was a lot of ribbing going back and forth. It was the whole (Granada) team against me. All I could say was 'We'll get you guys at NCS (North Coast Section playoffs).'"

Palma probably wishes he could have woken from this apparent nightmare, but in fact it was and is his 100% reality. He lives in a house divided.

The third-year leader of the Falcons spent three seasons helping Granada and longtime coach Corrigan Willis. Palma's sons Luke and Tyler have been and currently are key players in the program.

Mixed emotions

Yes, that's right, Tyler, a senior outfielder, is the Matadors' leading hitter at 16 games this season at .341 with a team-high nine RBIs, 10 runs and a whopping 16 walks.

Luke, 20, now pursuing a firefighting career, put out fires from Granada's bullpen in 2024, the historic team that went 32-1 and won the program's first East Bay Athletic League,

North Coast Section and Northern California titles. Luke didn't allow a single earned run in 12 appearances and 11.2 innings of relief for a Matador team that finished ranked fifth nationally by MaxPreps.com.

That was Palma's first season coaching at Foothill.

He's had to endure some very mixed emo-

tions, though earnestly, there's nothing at all not to smile about, said the 1993 Amador Valley graduate, who not only was the Dons' starting quarterback for Rick Sira, but a standout pitcher, who went on to St. Mary's College to play.



Foothill baseball coach Zeke Palma (blue) and Granada coach Corrigan Willis exchange lineup cards with umpires before Granada's 8-2 win over the Falcons on April 17. Palma has some mixed emotions because his son Tyler is Granada's leading hitter. (Photo courtesy of Livermore-Granada Boosters)

goes for the 2024 team. Luke and Parker Warner, the Bay Area Player of the Year now starring at Stanford, are still best friends. "There's nothing but mutual respect in the household and lots of good-natured banter," Palma said.

There's also a pair of banners displayed inside the kitchen put up by Palma's wife, Summer. One

tradition is huge."

After a 13-13 campaign in his first season, the Falcons finished 21-8 and No. 28 in the state. The hitting and fielding were keen, but the pitching, led by current Cal freshman Kake Sato-Kreis (10-4 last season, 2.01 ERA), was elite. The team ERA was 2.34.

"Great, talented group," Palma said.

But with 12 seniors, sev-

en of whom played on the 2022 Tri-Valley Babe Ruth World Series championship team, the 2026 Falcons are loaded with promise, cohesion and talent.



Flora is hitting a team-best .444 with 20 hits and 12 RBIs, after hitting .360 with 32 hits and 25 RBIs as a junior. His brother Jackson, a junior at UCSB, is projected as a Top 10 pick in July's MLB Draft. Hudson, known as "Huddy" by teammates, is likely going to be drafted in July as well.

"He's everything you want in a leader, a player and a person," Palma said. "He's a great teammate, humble and all about the team. He sets the tone for

the pitching staff and the rest of the team. On top of that, he's just an amazing player offensively and defensively."

Schmitt, a 6-foot, 190-pounder, is right on Flora's tails with a .439 batting average in 15 games with 18 hits in 41 at-bats, with a team-best three home runs and 20 RBIs. In his 64-game, three-year career, Schmitt has seven homers, 62 RBIs and 48 hits.

"George is so gifted," Palma said. "He's very calm and poised at the plate and very, very strong. He's got great power and is very intelligent at the plate."

Fight to the finish

Other top senior position players are outfielder Grant Hoenninger (.333, 13 RBIs, six extra base hits), infielder Eli Davidson (.321, 17 hits, 17 runs), infielder-outfielder Carson Mendonza (.320), Dylan Souza and RJ Manicki.

Senior pitcher Ryan Cooney (6-0, 1.20) has been superb on the mound this year.

The lone non-senior in the field is super promising shortstop Aiden Tavares, who started as a freshman. He's hitting .372 with 16 hits, four doubles, a triple and two home runs.

"I want so much for these boys," Palma said. "They're like my own kids."

Hudson Flora believes the team's long line of friendship will help them prevail.

"I've had some of my teammates all the way since T-ball, right up to high school," Flora said. "It's been a great help having these guys around when you're young and when you're older. It's great for team chemistry and being able to win games. When it comes down to tough situations, you know you can trust these guys to have your back. We're all fighting for each other. We don't want this to end."

Encore Players to Present Play 'Expecting Isabel' at Bothwell

LIVERMORE — Encore Players, a Livermore community theater group, will present "Expecting Isabel," a play by Lisa Loomer about a couple trying to have a baby by any means, over two weekends in May at the Bothwell Arts Center.

When Nick and Miran-

da are unable to conceive naturally, they attempt to navigate the booming baby business, including weird fertility treatments, odd family members, quirky doctors and the burdensome costs, all of which leads them to realize that families are made in different ways.

Performances are scheduled for 7 p.m. on Saturday, May 2, Friday, May 8, and Saturday, May 9. Matinee performances are set for 2 p.m. on Sunday, May 3, and Sunday, May 10.

Tickets are \$25 and are available online at livermorearts.org.

Winery to Host Fundraising Hike For Kids' Horse-Riding Therapy

LIVERMORE — Charles R Vineyards will host a two-mile hike, including wine tastings and sprawling views of Livermore Valley, on Saturday, April 25, to raise money for the nonprofit Reins in Motion therapy riding program.

Livermore guitarist Loren O will provide entertainment following the hike, which begins at 10 a.m., along with a raffle and food available for purchase from Melyna's Mexican Food.

Based in Livermore, Reins in Motion offers

horse-riding therapy programs for children and adults to promote physical, mental and emotional healing and growth.

The cost of the hike and wine tastings is \$55. Tickets are available at tinyurl.com/47nd5frc.

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 621669

The following person(s) doing business as: Golden Nails Salon, 20862 Redwood Road, Castro Valley, CA 94546 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): S & J Nail Spa Enterprises, LLC, 93 Romani CT, Santa Rosa, CA 95407. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 2/2/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Scott H. Sebastian, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 19, 2026. Expires March 18, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6775. Published April 2, 9, 16, 23, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 621259

The following person(s) doing business as: VisionPoint Insurance Solutions, 32145 Alvarado Niles RD, Ste 201, Union City,

FILE NO. 621722

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Food Service Partners; 2. Downtown Pour Collective 2601 Horseshoe CT, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Table & Town LLC, 2601 Horseshoe CT, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Nicholas Martinez, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 20, 2026. Expires March 19, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6776. Published April 2, 9, 16, 23, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 621259

The following person(s) doing business as: VisionPoint Insurance Solutions, 32145 Alvarado Niles RD, Ste 201, Union City,

CA 94587 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): KNJ Management, Inc., 32145 Alvarado Niles RD, Ste 201, Union City, CA 94587. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Kevin Lee, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 4, 2026. Expires March 3, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6777. Published April 2, 9, 16, 23, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 621468

The following person(s) doing business as: System Change Strategies, 1106 Chesnut ST, Alameda, CA 94501 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Systems Change Strategies LLC, 2108 N ST, Ste N, Sacramento, CA 95816. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 2/1/2026 Signature of Registrant/s/: Tracey Patterson, Founder & Principal. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 11, 2026. Expires March 10, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6778. Published April 2, 9, 16, 23, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 621757

The following person(s) doing business as: Diatribe Productions, 336 Haight Ave, Alameda, CA 94501 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Michael Cavanaugh, 336 Haight Ave, Alameda, CA 94501. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 1/1/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Michael Cavanaugh, Owner. This statement was filed with the

County Clerk of Alameda on March 23, 2026. Expires March 22, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6779. Published April 2, 9, 16, 23, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 621758

The following person(s) doing business as: Studio EMC, 336 Haight Ave, Alameda, CA 94501 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Evan Cavanaugh, 336 Haight Ave, Alameda, CA 94501. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 3/1/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Preetta Garg, Managing Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 17, 2026. Expires March 16, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6781. Published April 2, 9, 16, 23, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 621788

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Key Mechanical

NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 621575

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Makers Art Studio Pleasanton; 2. Makers Art Studio, 1304 Stoneridge Mall Rd, Pleasanton, CA 94588 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Ditan Arts LLC, 6901 Syrah, DR, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 3/1/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Frank W. Leonard, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 23, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6782. Published April 2, 9, 16, 23, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 621788

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Key Mechanical

Company; 2. Key Mechanical, 747 Enterprise Court, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Key Mechanical Co of Washington, 19430 68th Ave S, Kent, WA 98032. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 7/1/2015. Signature of Registrant/s/: Frank W. Leonard, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 24, 2026. Expires March 23, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6783. Published April 2, 9, 16, 23, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 621821

The following person(s) doing business as: Sorek Cazimi, 25690 Lewis Drive, Hayward, CA 94544-2942 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Sonal K. Mann, 25690 Lewis Drive, Hayward, CA 94544. This business is conducted by an

Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Sonal K. Mann, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 24, 2026. Expires March 23, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6783. Published April 2, 9, 16, 23, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 621351

The following person(s) doing business as: Everyday Wellness Therapy, 246 Scott Street, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Kelly Kapis, 2150 Portola Ave, Ste D PMB 2032, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 3/8/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Frank W. Leonard, CEO. This statement was filed with

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the County Clerk of Alameda on March 9, 2026. Expires March 8, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6784. Published April 2, 9, 16, 23, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 621808

The following person(s) doing business as: Sentic Consulting, 493 Merritt Ave, APT 5, Oakland, CA 94610. This business is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Kevin Simmons, 493 Merritt Ave, APT 5, Oakland, CA 94610; Shelby Duncan, 493 Merritt Ave, APT 5, Oakland, CA 94610. This business is conducted by a Co-Partners. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Kevin Simmons, Partner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 24, 2026. Expires March 23, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6785. Published April 2, 9, 16, 23, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 621416

The following person(s) doing business as: FK Estate Realty, 43225 Mission Blvd, Fremont, CA 94539 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Qiao Kuang, 3736 Fallon Rd, STE 237, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 3/8/2026/N/Astrant/s/: Qiao Kuang, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 10, 2026. Expires March 9, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6786. Published April 2, 9, 16, 23, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 621054

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Perfect Nine Events; 2. Perfect Nine Mobile Golf Experiences, 2313 Valley ST, Berkeley, CA 94702 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Jacob Lange, 495 Jackson ST, #1033, Oakland, CA 94607. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Jacob Lange, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 24, 2026 Expires February 23, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6787. Published April 2, 9, 16, 23, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 621585

The following person(s) doing business as: PolyPom, 1765 Oxford ST, APT 8, Berkeley, CA 94709 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Megan Leann Gilland, 1765 Oxford ST APT 8, Berkeley, CA 94709. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Megan Leann Gilland, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 17, 2026. Expires March 16, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6788. Published April 2, 9, 16, 23, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 621749

The following person(s) doing business as: DAP Gems, 7063 Commerce Cir, Suite F, Pleasanton, CA 94588 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Marydean Patterson, 110 Badger Creek CT, El Dorado Hills, CA 95762. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 3/1/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Marydean Patterson, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 23, 2026. Expires March 22, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6789. Published April 2, 9, 16, 23, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 621787

The following person(s) doing business as: Lumo Foundation, 1065 Serpentine LN, Ste #300, Pleasanton, CA 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Youth With Vision Foundation, 1065 Serpentine LN, Ste #300, Pleasanton, CA 94566. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Angel Garcia. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 24, 2026. Expires March 23, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6790. Published April 2, 9, 16, 23, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 621805

The following person(s) doing business as: Pleasanton Flower Shop, 3120-C Santa Rita RD, Pleasanton, CA 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Min T. Tun & Matthew M. Sharpnack, 3120-C Santa Rita Rd, Pleasanton, CA 9466. This business is conducted by a Married Couple. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Min T. Tun, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 24, 2026. Expires March 23, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6791. Published April 2, 9, 16, 23, 2026.

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME ORIGINAL FILE NO. 605615

The person(s) listed below have abandoned the use of the following fictitious business name(s). Pleasanton Flower Shop, 3120-C Santa Rita RD, Pleasanton, CA 94566. Registered by the following owner(s): Milly T. Lwi & Maung K. Myint, 3120-C Santa Rita RD, Pleasanton, CA 9456. The fictitious business name statement was filed on 4/16/2024 in the County of Alameda. This business was conducted by a Married Couple. Signature of Registrants: /s/: Milly T. Lwi, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 24, 2026. The Independent, Legal No. 6792. Published April 2, 9, 16, 23, 2026.

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No. 26CV179367 SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF ALAMEDA TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

Petitioner:
Yongbum Lee
964 Cromwell ST
Livermore, CA 94551
filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:

Present Names:
Yongbum Lee
Proposed Name:
Jack Yongbum Lee

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

NOTICE OF HEARING
Date: May 22, 2026
Time: 9:00 PM
Dept: 514

The address of the court is:
Hayward Hall of Justice
24405 Amador Street
Hayward, CA 94544

A copy of this Order To Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation printed in this county:
The Independent Newspaper
2250 First Street,
Livermore, CA 94550
Dated: 04/02/2026 /s/: A. Michael Markman / Judge.
The Independent, Legal No. 6793. Published April 9, 16, 23, 30, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 621790

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Stamped and Branded LLC; 2. Stamped and Branded; 3. Stamped & Branded 3098 Chateau Way, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Stamped and Branded LLC, PO BOX 485, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 3/1/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Marydean Patterson, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 23, 2026. Expires March 22, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6794. Published April 9, 16, 23, 30, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 621647

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Kessler Elsewhere; 2. Kessler Ramirez Art, 1716 Second Street, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Kessler Creative LLC, 1716 Second Street, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 1/5/2021. Signature of Registrant/s/: Kessler Ramirez, Managing Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 18, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6795. Published April 9, 16, 23, 30, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 621969

The following person(s) doing business as: Bethel Family Christian Center, 501 N P Street, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Bethel Family Christian Center, 501 N P Street, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by an Unincorporated Association other than a partnership. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 1976. Signature of Registrant/s/: Roger Cook, Pastor. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 30, 2026. Expires March 29, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6796. Published April 9, 16, 23, 30, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 621738

The following person(s) doing business as: Spine & Pain Center of California, a Division of BASS Medical Group, 7031 Koll Center Parkway, Suite 105, Pleasanton, CA 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): BASS Medical Group, 2637 Shadelands Drive, Walnut Creek CA 94598. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 2/25/16. Signature of Registrant/s/: Rajiv Nagesetty, MD, CFO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 23, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6797. Published April 9, 16, 23, 30, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 621818

The following person(s) doing business as: Arte Nail, 6976 Village Pkwy, Dublin, CA 94568-2406 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Jennifer Baek, 6976 Village Pkwy, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 10/6/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Jennifer Baek, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 24, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6798. Published April 9, 16, 23, 30, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 622035

The following person(s) doing business as: Vineyard Hills Dental Care, 1819 Barcelona ST, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Hubbs Professional Dental Corporation, 1819 Barcelona Street, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 4/5/2016. Signature of Registrant/s/: Timothy D. Hubbs, DDS, Owner, Dentist, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 31. Expires March 30, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6799. Published April 9, 16, 23, 30, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 621771

The following person(s) doing business as: Evely Stitch Society, 2150 Portola Ave, Ste D #1220, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Hannah Lindner, 5519 Haggin Oaks Avenue, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by a Married Couple. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 3/17/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Hannah Lindner, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 23, 2026. Expires March 22, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6794. Published April 9, 16, 23, 30, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 622081

The following person(s) doing business as: H & Y Nail Art, 1518 San Pablo Ave, Berkeley, CA 94701 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Shenyi He, 1518 San Pablo Ave, Berkeley, CA 94701. This business is conducted by a General Partnership. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 4/2/2026. Signature

of Registrant/s/: Shenyi He, General Partner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 2, 2026. Expires April 1, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6801. Published April 9, 16, 23, 30, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 621978

The following person(s) doing business as: Caramba, 411 Main Street, Pleasanton, CA 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Nose Hoead LLC, 724 Main ST, Pleasanton, CA 94566. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 3/30/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: German Carlucci, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 30, 2026. Expires March 29, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6802. Published April 9, 16, 23, 30, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 622149

The following person(s) doing business as: RNS Plumbing & Backflow, LLC, 2150 Portola DR, 261D, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): RNS Plumbing & Backflow, LLC, 2150 Portola DR, 261D, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Ryan Branco, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 6, 2026. Expires April 5, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6803. Published April 16, 23, 30, May 7, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 622132

The following person(s) doing business as: Bombay Indian Pizza, 1524 N Vasco RD, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Powerstar LLC, 1524 N Vasco RD, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 4/2/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Bhaskar Maddi, Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 3, 2026. Expires April 2, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6804. Published April 16, 23, 30, May 7, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 622167

The following person(s) doing business as: Willow Tree Genealogy, 328 Michell CT, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Jennifer Herman, 328 Michell CT, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Jennifer Herman, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 6, 2026. Expires April 5, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6805. Published April 16, 23, 30, May 7, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 622207

The following person(s) doing business as: Bubbles Child Care, 653 Buckeye DR, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Nurturing Early Start & Teaching Inc., 653 Buckeye DR, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Maryann Aparicio, CFO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 7, 2026. Expires April 6, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6806. Published April 16, 23, 30, May 7, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 621994

The following person(s) doing business as: Bradley Restorative Massage, 1987 Santa Rita Road, Suite G, Pleasanton, CA 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Jennifer Eileen Bradley Anthony LLC, 2108 N Street, Suite N, Sacramento, CA 95816. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business

name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Jennier Anthony, Principal. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 30, 2026. Expires March 29, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6807. Published April 16, 23, 30, May 7, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 622062

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

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 622275

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

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 622237

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

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 622139

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

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 622091

The following person(s) doing business as: My PACE Academy, 25679 Paul CT, Fairview, CA 94541 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Frieda Alessi, 25679 Paul CT, Fairview,

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 622362

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

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 621836

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

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 622376

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

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 621480

The following person(s) doing business as: Kincova, 801 Tranquility Circle, Unit 10, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Centrieva Technology LLC, 30 Chimney Rock, Oakland, CA 94605. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 3/11/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Dick Akpan Nita Jr., Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 12, 2026. Expires March 11, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6815. Published April 23, 30, May 7, 14, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 622091

The following person(s) doing business as: My PACE Academy, 25679 Paul CT, Fairview, CA 94541 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Frieda Alessi, 25679 Paul CT, Fairview,

CA 94541. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Frieda Alessi, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 2, 2026. Expires April 1, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6816. Published April 23, 30, May 7, 14, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 621892

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. National Broom Company of California Inc, DBA JLR Gear; 2. JLR Gear, 2434 Research DR, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): National Broom Company of California, Inc., 2434 Research DR, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 9/17/2010. Signature of Registrant/s/: David Rothman, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 26, 2026. Expires March 25, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6817. Published April 23, 30, May 7, 14, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 622231

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

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Rose Show Returns with New Home at Museum on Main

By Sanestina Hunter

PLEASANTON — Beds of beautiful blooms, from decorative arrangements to hybrid teas and grandifloras, will be showcased at the competitive Pleasanton Rose Show on Mother's Day weekend, Saturday, May 9.

The beloved annual tra-

dition is celebrating its 86th year, with rosarians competing for the Top Rose award.

Located in downtown Pleasanton at 600 Main St., the Museum on Main (MoM) is spearheading the show this year. It is the first time in the event's history that the museum has hosted it.

"This year's Rose Show will feature more than just the competition itself," Tony Cruz, MoM executive director told The Independent.

"We will have student-led music, local community groups sharing information about their work, and local vendors offering Mother's Day gifts," Cruz said. "We hope these additions

make the event feel festive, welcoming and community-centered."

The annual show draws a wide range of participants, from regulars to local residents, and experienced growers to hobbyists and new entrants.

"That mix is part of what makes the event so special," Cruz said. "Our

goal is to honor the tradition while also helping it reach new people in the community."

In 2025, organizers raised concerns that the 85th event could be the last after the 16-year venue partnership with the City of Pleasanton and local real estate firm Compass ended.

Museum board member Rebecca Bruner brought the opportunity to the museum's events committee, Cruz said, prompting organizers to continue the tradition.

"We saw it as a chance to preserve a beloved community tradition and make sure it continued for future generations," Cruz said.

"Bringing the Rose Show to MoM will introduce it to new audiences thanks to our downtown location and regular foot traffic," Cruz said. "At the same time, we are committed to maintaining the quality and charm that past participants have valued."

Pleasanton's connection to roses dates back to the late 1930s. According to museum records, growers such as Jackson & Perkins planted an estimated 2 million rose bushes on land owned by August Hagemann west of Livermore, helping establish the region as a hub for rose cultivation.

The show began in 1938, when Harry J. Harding, then president of the First Na-

tional Bank of Pleasanton, expanded on an earlier tradition of gifting rose bushes to customers in 1935.

As the roses bloomed, recipients returned with their flowers, which were displayed inside the bank and eventually evolved into the annual event, connecting the community for decades.

Entering a rose to be judged will cost \$5 per person. On the day of the event, rosarians can bring their roses to the museum between 8 a.m. and 9:30 a.m.

The event is free and open to the public and will run from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Attendees can listen to live music, enjoy snacks and learn about rose care through demonstrations from Western Garden Nursery, a local family-owned garden center.

No prior entry forms are required, and volunteers will provide vases for single-stem entries. For more information, visit pleasantonroseshow.com.



Two rose enthusiasts take in the sights at the 84th annual Pleasanton Rose Show held at the Pleasanton Senior Center on Mother's Day weekend in 2024. This year's event, on Saturday, May 9, enters a new chapter as it moves to its new home in downtown Pleasanton at the Museum on Main. (File photo — Doug Jorgensen)

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Zone 7 Facility Receives Engineering Awards

LIVERMORE — The Zone 7 Water Agency has received two engineering awards from the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) for its Stoneridge PFAS Treatment Plant.

The plant, completed in 2022, was the first facility in Northern California designed to remove per- and

polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), often referred to as "forever chemicals," from drinking water, and recently received both an Engineering Excellence Honor Award and a National Recognition Award from the ACEC.

"The Stoneridge PFAS Treatment Plant represents an important investment

in protecting groundwater quality and ensuring a safe and reliable drinking water supply for the Tri-Valley community," said Zone 7 General Manager Valerie Pryor.

Located at the Stoneridge Well in Pleasanton, the facility treats up to 4,600 gallons per minute, or 6.5 million gallons

per day, for more than 250,000 Tri-Valley residents and businesses in Dublin, Pleasanton and Livermore. Funded by a \$16 million grant from the California Sustainable Groundwater Management Program, the facility was designed by Carollo Engineers and built by Conco-West.

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Stanford Blood Center Giving Away Luxury Suite Tickets to Giants Game

TRI-VALLEY — The Stanford Blood Center will be giving away luxury suite tickets to the San Francisco Giants game at Oracle Park against the Arizona Diamondback on Memorial Day to nine blood donors this month.

The blood center said people who donate blood at one of its blood centers or mobile blood drives in April will have their names entered in a drawing for the tickets. Nine donors whose names are drawn will each

receive a pair of luxury suite tickets, which include food and beverages.

The game on Monday, May 25, begins at 2 p.m.

Stanford Blood Center operates a blood center in Dublin at 3738 Fallon Rd.

LPD on Lookout for Distracted Driving

LIVERMORE — The Livermore Police Department (LPD) is reminding drivers to stay focused, keep their eyes forward and hands on the wheel.

April is National Distracted Driving Awareness Month, and LPD says distractions like checking a cell phone, using an in-dash touchscreen or car phone app, adjusting the radio or eating can have devastating consequences.

"Distracted driving continues to put everyone on the road at risk," said Motor Officer Douglas Griep. "When drivers take their eyes off the road, even for a few seconds, lives can change forever. We're reminding our community that safety starts with each of us. Put the phone down, limit distractions, and help people get home safely."

According to a 2025 California Statewide Public Opinion Survey, 71% of drivers said distracted driving, caused by texting or checking a phone, was their biggest safety concern.

In 2023, 158 people were killed in distracted driving crashes in California, a 6.8% increase from 2022. But police say those numbers are likely to be underreported because investigators may not always be able to determine if distracted driving was a factor in a crash.

LPD said it will be emphasizing the state's hands-free cell phone law this month.

Under current law, drivers are not allowed to hold

a phone or other electronic device while operating a vehicle, even when stopped at a red light.

This includes talking, texting or using an app.

Using a handheld cell phone while driving can result in a fine, and if a driver violates the hands-free law a second time within 36 months, an additional point will be added to their record.

LPD suggests drivers follow these steps to stay focused:

- Put away the cell phone. Silence notifications and

store the phone where it can't be reached while driving.

- Plan ahead. Set the GPS, adjust mirrors and finish any tasks before driving.
- Keep both hands on the wheel and eyes on the road. Avoid eating, grooming or adjusting controls while driving.
- Be a role model. Show passengers, especially young drivers, that focused driving is the norm. And for passengers, speak up. Remind drivers to stay focused.

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