



Longtime fairgoer Carlos Cortez shares a moment with Gingersnap the llama at the Alameda County Fair petting zoo in Pleasanton. Cortez, who visits from Daly City with his family every year, was among the crowds following the fair's opening on Friday, June 19. The annual event runs Wednesdays through Sundays until July 12. (Photo — Kathryn Stroud)

BART Approves \$1.2B Budget Plan While Staring Down \$275M Deficit

Director Ames Casts Lone Dissenting Vote, Blasting Increased Operating Costs

By David Jen

TRI-VALLEY — Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) set on June 11 its spending plan for the coming fiscal year, one that may determine the future existence of the agency.

In an 8-1 vote, the BART Board of Directors adopted a budget that will spend almost \$1.2 billion in the fiscal year beginning July 1. Despite the elimination of 63 full-time positions that reduces labor costs by \$11 million and another \$18.2 million in cuts, operating expenses will increase over \$57 million compared to the fiscal year that ends this month. BART will operate at a \$275 million annual deficit

before outside assistance.

“At the end of the day, we are a transit system that’s trying to move folks around, keep our region running, and we do that through what we say in our budget,” Director Janice Li said.

The agency’s capital budget plans to spend \$828 million toward infrastructure improvement, most notably for rail cars, train-control systems and power systems.

Director Liz Ames cast the dissenting vote. She criticized the budget’s increased operating costs and lack of investment toward a \$1.4 billion backlog of needed capital projects.

“You cannot improve reliability for our customers if you re-

duce the infrastructure spending, which we have for Measure RR,” Ames said.

Approved by voters in 2016, Measure RR allowed BART to issue \$3.5 billion in bonds for system repairs and upgrades, paid for by increased property taxes in Alameda, Contra Costa and San Francisco counties. As a result of the pandemic, reduced ridership caused the agency to scale back on capital projects, and 40% of the bonds’ funds remain unspent, according to a June 5 report.

Ames pushed to downsize the agency. She asked for an organizational chart detailing position titles and links to cost centers as a first step.

(See BUDGET, page 6)

Livermore Wine Community Honors Longevity of Many Local Wineries

Toasting Decades of History, Innovation and Viticulture in the Valley

By Dawnmarie Fehr

LIVERMORE — Commercial wine production in the Livermore Valley dates back to the 1840s, but the hospitality side of the wine business — tasting rooms, food pairing events, winery tours and more — has picked up in the last two decades.

Where fewer than 20 wineries offered visitors wine-centered experiences in the year 2000, there are now 50, with a broad range of opportunities to taste and explore the winemaking industry. Several of those wineries are celebrating milestones this year, with three

commemorating half a century in business.

While pioneering pillars like Wente Vineyards and Concannon Vineyard — both founded in 1883 — formed the bedrock of the valley’s historic foundation 143 years ago, a newer generation of long-standing wineries is honoring major milestones of their own this year. Retzlaff Vineyards Estate Winery, Page Mill Winery and Fenestra Winery are each celebrating 50 years of pouring world-class wines. Darcie Kent Estate Winery and The Steven Kent Winery both began 30 years ago in 1996, ushering in an era of

significant expansion for the valley. Las Positas Vineyards marks its 15th anniversary this year.

Retzlaff Vineyards Estate Winery

Retzlaff claims the title of the only organically certified estate vineyard in the East Bay. Business manager and co-owner Salome Garau-Taylor said that’s “a big deal.”

“We were the third organically certified property in California,” she said. “There’s never been chemical intervention here. We are sustainable and organic.” True to that legacy, Retzlaff remains the region’s premier organic

(See WINERY, page 8)

County Takes Steps To Bypass Public On Tri-Valley Open Space

Critics Slam One-Bid Contract to Alter Measure D

By David Jen

TRI-VALLEY — Open space proponents have criticized a move by the Alameda County Board of Supervisors to fund a possible ballot measure with public funds. The measure intends to shift the authority to make general plan changes, including open space preservation, from public voters to the board.

In November 2000, 57% of Alameda County voters approved Measure D, also known as the Save Agriculture and Open Space Lands Initiative. This open space protection measure established limits on the amount and type of

development allowed in the county’s rural areas. Currently, general-plan changes beyond Measure D’s limits require a public vote.

On June 4, the board of supervisors voted to award a \$149,000 contract to TeamCivX LLC for polling, analysis and strategy services. According to a request for proposal issued in February, the county looks to analyze a possible measure “to re-establish the board of supervisors as the legislative authority in making general plan changes, in a defined and limited capacity.”

Supervisor David Haubert, Supervisor Nate Miley and Supervisor Elisa Marquez voted

(See MISSION, page 6)

PUSD and Cal State Help Facilitate College Access

Eligible Students Get Conditional Admission Early

By Sanestina Hunter

PLEASANTON — Pleasanton Unified School District (PUSD) trustees approved a memorandum of understanding and a data-sharing agreement with the California State University Chancellor’s Office on June 11, allowing the district to participate in the CSU Direct Admissions Program.

The program allows eligible students to receive conditional admission offers from 16 participating CSU campuses before they formally apply.

Currently PUSD is the first Tri-Valley district to engage in the partnership, though Dublin and Livermore many not be far behind. Chip Dehnert, director of communications for the Dublin Unified School District said officials are reviewing the CSU Direct Admissions Program and may bring it to the Board

of Trustees for consideration in the coming months. Michelle Dawson, director of communications and engagement for the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District, said the district has not yet signed a memorandum of understanding but is aware of the program and plans to explore the opportunity further during the upcoming school year.

District officials said the initiative is intended to reduce uncertainty in the admissions process, increase awareness of college opportunities and help more students pursue higher education.

“The CSU Direct Admissions partnership is designed to simplify the transition from high school to college,” Deputy Superintendent Ed Diolazo said during the meeting. “Rather than waiting for students to discover if they’re eligible, CSU proactively identifies students who are on track to meet

(See PUSD, page 7)



Guests enjoy an outdoor meal at Retzlaff Vineyards Estate Winery’s Full Moon Dinner in 2025, showcasing the vibrant hospitality of a generation of long-standing Livermore wineries celebrating milestone anniversaries this year. Retzlaff, which marks its 50th anniversary, will kick off its 18th annual “Comedy Uncorked” series at 7 p.m. Saturday, June 27, to benefit Open Heart Kitchen. See story on page 12. (Photo courtesy of Carman Hammond)



Downtown Livermore’s Bankhead Plaza fills with music and celebration on Saturday, June 20, during the sixth annual Tri-Valley Juneteenth Festival. Headlined by The Patton Leatha Band, the event — organized by Tri-Valley for Black Lives — brought the community together through music, poetry, and reflection to honor Black history and the spirit of freedom. (Photo — Jacob Clouser)

History and Legacy of Juneteenth Celebrated

Reflecting on Freedom and True Meaning of America’s Second Independence Day

By Sanestina Hunter

TRI-VALLEY — Juneteenth is rooted in Black history, but it’s an American story — one that continues to shape how the nation remembers freedom, resilience and community.

What began as a delayed message of freedom in Galveston, Texas, has grown into a nationwide celebration of freedom, culture and community. Through music, food, faith, poetry and storytelling, communities honor the past while

celebrating traditions that continue to shape American life.

Observed annually on June 19, Juneteenth marks the day freedom finally reached enslaved people in Galveston in 1865, more than two years after President Abraham Lincoln’s Emancipation Proclamation declared enslaved people in Confederate states free on Jan. 1, 1863.

At a time when news traveled slowly, many enslaved African Americans in Texas did not know they had been legally freed until

Union troops arrived in Galveston and delivered the news.

To honor the story of Juneteenth and ensure it would be recognized by future generations, educator and activist Opal Lee spent decades advocating for the holiday’s national recognition.

Often called the “Grandmother of Juneteenth,” Lee helped draw national attention to the holiday through years of advocacy, including a walk of more than 200 miles from Fort Worth, Texas, to Washington, D.C., in 2016.

(See JUNETEENTH, page 10)

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PET OF THE WEEK



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Livermore Council Approves 2025 Water Management Plan

By Vivien Wenneker

LIVERMORE — The Livermore City Council voted at its Monday meeting to adopt the City’s 2025 Urban Water Management Plan and 2025 Water Shortage Contingency Plan.

The urban water management plan, or UWMP, is a long-term plan that is updated and submitted to the state every five years. It addresses past, current and projected water demands, water conservation compliance, water resources reliability, recycled water

planning, demand management measures, and seismic risk assessment.

The 2025 UWMP shows that Livermore has a reliable water system and is taking proactive measures to effectively manage that system for the benefit of its customers, according to a June 22 staff report.

The plan projects water demand through 2050 based on land use across residential, commercial, industrial, and park sectors. Under Senate Bill X7-7, Livermore has met state conservation goals, achieving 190 gallons

per capita per day (gpcd) in 2020 — below the 192 target — and 184 gpcd in 2025.

Livermore relies entirely on the Zone 7 Water Agency for water; as such, Zone 7’s sources are extremely important. These include state water project imports (52%), Lake Del Valle local water and carryover (22%) and Livermore Valley Groundwater basin (10%).

Additionally, Zone 7 conducts both short-term and long-term reliability assessments to ensure that there’s enough water to cover different drought conditions. Short-term assessments are

conducted every year from 2026 to 2030, whereas long-term assessments are conducted at five-year intervals from 2030 to 2050.

The short-term assessment shows that under both normal, and single-dry year conditions there will be enough water. However, in the case of multiple dry years, if a five-year drought starts in 2045 or 2050, there will be a 14% and 20% shortfall, respectively, during the last year of each drought.

“This seems to be a lot, but I would like to point out that during our 2014 and 2015 drought, Livermore residents were able to save 32% on water, so if everybody works together, we can work to close the gap,” said Janming Zhang, technical programs manager for the city’s Water Resources Division.

Zone 7’s assessments show an adequate supply through 2040 under various conditions, though extended droughts beyond 2045 may cause shortfalls that would have to be mitigated through conservation.

Zone 7’s water supply will vary from time to time depending on the capacity of its water sources, as well as its operation strategy. The agency is also pursuing other water projects including the Sites Reservoir Project, which is expected to be fully operational by 2034, and the Chain of Lakes Project, a massive, multi-decade undertaking with distinct milestones that

have varying start dates.

Apart from Livermore’s reliance on Zone 7, the staff report also shows that the city maintains a strong recycled water program, meeting current demand and projecting a 25% increase, supported by policies requiring its use in new developments. Additional strategies include conservation programs, metering, pricing, public outreach, and system maintenance.

“I am very proud to see we’ve met its conservation goals,” said Mayor John Marchand. “I’d like to highlight too that we led the state in water conservation during the 2014-2016 drought even while keeping Lizzie Fountain on, so I’m very happy with how we’ve managed water here in Livermore.”

In terms of preparing for future droughts, and other water supply shortage events, the city updated and adopted its Water Shortage Contingency Plan (WSCP) as part of its aforementioned 2025 UWMP.

The purpose of WSCP is to identify six stages of water shortage and provide corresponding actions. There are six standard water shortage levels corresponding to progressively increasing estimated shortage conditions: up to 10%, 20%, 30%, 40%, 50%, and greater where the annual supply projection is more than 50% below demand projection.

Throughout each stage, the city will take different

measures to reduce water demands. One of the most important and earliest strategies is an expanded public education and outreach campaign.

During past droughts, public information campaigns — such as shared websites, development and distribution of social media, radio advertisements, newspaper outreach materials, and providing recycled water to residents for watering landscapes — have successfully reduced water consumption by more than 30%, according to the staff report.

A full list of other reduction measures, such as limiting landscape irrigation to specific days and times or prohibiting lawn irrigation can be found in the Livermore Municipal Code, which hasn’t changed since the last adoption. To learn more about the city’s water reduction programs, and explore water saving tips, visit: <https://www.livermoreca.gov/departments/public-works/water-resources>.



The Tuesday Tunes concert for June 30 will feature Evan Thomas and the Brotherhood with a mix of funk, soul and blues. Sponsored by the Livermore Cultural Arts Council, the outdoor concerts are free from 6:45 p.m. to 8:15 p.m. on the Shea Homes Stage in downtown Livermore’s Bankhead Plaza. Concertgoers are encouraged to bring blankets or lawn chairs and a picnic dinner. Food can also be ordered from nearby restaurants. (Photo courtesy of Evan Thomas and the Brotherhood)

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DUSD Approves New Superintendent's Salary

By Sanestina Hunter

DUBLIN — The Dublin Unified School District Board of Trustees approved a one-year employment agreement for incoming Superintendent Matt Campbell, who will assume the district’s top leadership role July 1 following the retirement of Superintendent Chris Funk.

Campbell takes over as the district continues to navigate fiscal challenges, leadership transitions, and the aftermath of lengthy labor negotiations.

“A key priority during his first year will be strengthening relationships and rebuilding trust across the organization following a challenging period that included complex labor negotiations and significant fiscal decisions,” Dublin Unified Director of Communications Chip Dehnert told The Independent.

The contract was approved in a 4-1 vote during the board’s April 28 meeting, with Trustee Gabi Blackman casting the lone dissenting vote.

The agreement provides Campbell an annual salary of \$351,000. According to Board President Kristin Speck, Campbell has served as acting superintendent since June 10 and will continue in that role through June 30, receiving a daily stipend of \$400.

District officials said the one-year term is intended to allow the board and Campbell to establish expectations and evaluate progress during his first year in the position. If he receives a satisfactory evaluation, the agreement could transition into a three-year contract.

“Evaluations will focus on areas including student achievement, organizational leadership, fiscal management, employee and community engagement, implementation of board priorities and overall district performance,” Dehnert said.

Another major focus will be ensuring a smooth leadership transition as Funk and Assistant Superintendent of Business Services Chris Hobbs prepare to retire.

“Dr. Campbell is working closely with district leadership to preserve institutional knowledge, maintain continuity in district operations, and ensure that key initiatives and services continue without disruption during this period of

change,” Dehnert said.

Dehnert said Campbell also hopes to bring together employees, families and community members around a shared commitment to students while creating opportunities for collaboration, partnership and meaningful dialogue.

Campbell has also expressed a commitment to strengthening support systems for students with a range of academic, social-emotional and educational needs.

As the district transitions from Valley High School to new student-support models, district leaders said they want to ensure students and families continue to have access to programs, services and individualized pathways that help students succeed and graduate prepared for their next chapter.

Dehnert added that Campbell plans to spend time in schools and classrooms during his first year, meeting with students, staff and fami-



Matt Campbell

lies while building on the district’s academic foundation and helping position Dublin Unified for long-term success and sustainability.

Before his appointment, Campbell served as assistant superintendent of educational services beginning in 2019 and also served as interim superintendent during a previous district leadership transition.

During discussion of the contract at the board’s April 28 meeting, Blackman, who cast the lone dissenting vote, raised concerns about provisions that would have allowed the district to cover membership dues for certain professional and civic organizations, including the Rotary Club of Dublin.

“I do not agree with having public funds used to pay for a private membership in a private club,” Blackman said, arguing that the Rotary Club is a private social organization rather than an educational group.

Campbell said Rotary

membership has traditionally been part of the superintendent’s community engagement role and noted that previous Dublin superintendents were members of the organization.

“I don’t care if the district doesn’t pay for it or not. I will join the Rotary and pay for it,” Campbell said.

Trustees ultimately removed the Rotary Club provision before approving the agreement.

Blackman also questioned language stating the contract would be binding upon successors, heirs and assigns, saying she was uncomfortable extending contractual obligations beyond the individuals directly involved in the agreement.

Among the other actions approved that evening was a 1.3% increase to the executive cabinet salary schedule, including assistant superintendents.

District documents state the adjustment reflects existing contract language tying salary increases to either the state’s cost-of-living adjustment minus 1% or bargaining-unit increases minus 1%, whichever is less.

Trustees also approved a tentative agreement with the California School Employees Association that includes a 2.3% salary increase for classified employees and increased district contributions toward health and welfare benefits. The board later approved a similar 2.3% increase for leadership and unrepresented employees.

Trustee Dan Cherrier cast the lone dissenting vote on the compensation-related items, citing concerns about the district’s financial outlook. He argued the district should be cautious about approving additional salary increases while continuing to address budget challenges.

Several public commenters urged trustees to prioritize classroom resources, student services and school-site funding as the district continues to address budget challenges.

Some parents and teachers questioned the decision to approve salary increases, arguing district resources should be directed toward students and classrooms rather than additional compensation for leadership positions already earning more than \$200,000 annually.

Dublin City Councilmember John Morada also called for greater transparency regarding district finances and criticized recent

board actions, saying they had contributed to declining trust within the community.

He suggested the district host a public town hall focused on budget issues and community trust.

“Let’s hold a public town hall focused on financial transparency and literacy,” Morada said during public comment.


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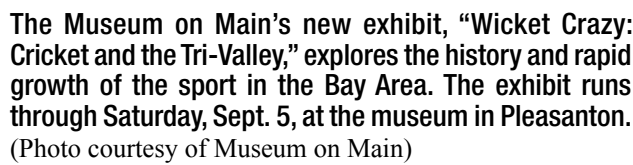
By David Jen

Open house guests toured the site's operations, includ-

testing facility," said Brad Wallin, deputy director for

The 11-square-mile Site 300 includes the world's largest indoor firing facility and the world's largest X-ray machine used to capture internal, dynamic details of explosives during tests.

For more information, go to museumonmain.org.



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Livermore police officers connect with local youth during a past National Night Out event. The Livermore Police Department is encouraging residents to register their neighborhoods for this year's event, scheduled for Tuesday, Aug. 4, to help strengthen community partnerships. (File photo — Doug Jorgensen)

MAILBOX

(Continued from page 4)

and cheats is sure to be accountable. I am not talking about trying to intimidate voters from getting a chance to vote; but a third, neutral agency overseeing the entire process. Maybe it would be in our ex-allies' best interest to step up and ensure that Americans have a legitimate election?

Upon researching "election monitoring", I discovered that: "Election monitoring involves the observation of an election by one or more independent parties, typically from another country or from a non-governmental organization, such as the Organization of American States, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), the European Union, the Commonwealth Secretariat, the Council of Europe, and the African Union, who all regularly deploy monitoring teams. Individual governments also participate in monitoring efforts, generally under the umbrella of an international organization."

So, how do we make this happen?

Some keep claiming the 2020 elections were rigged, although evidence proved otherwise. Well, let's get some evidence (or proof) for any future accusations!

When the Word "Peace" is Rendered Hollow

Greg Scott, Livermore

We in the United States mouth and memorialize the word "peace" in self-delusion, especially in the later twenty-twenties. We care little in practice — physically, emotionally, politically, militarily, economically, and spiritually — for the slaughters, sufferings, displacements, and general immiserations in the world, though we tell ourselves differently — or we are apathetic, and tell ourselves nothing in these regards. If otherwise, would they be occurring to the extent they are? Our created reality (or is Sapolsky right, and there's no free will?) seems to be a hybrid between George Orwell's "1984" (1949), where he wrote, "WAR IS PEACE" and "IGNORANCE IS STRENGTH," and Aldous Huxley's "Brave New World" (1932), where all is well with the happiness drug, Soma. Huxley was greatly astonished by the interim societal changes before "Brave New World Revisited" (1958).

Our times rhyme with then-British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain's comment of "Peace in our time," on 9/30/1938, after ceding the Sudetenland of Czechoslovakia to Hitler and the Nazis in the Munich Agreement. Were the winds of Kristallnacht not in the air for the British and U.S. leadership and public?

Who cared, as Britain promoted Zionism to shift the tide of Jews to Palestine; and British and U.S. banks, and the Bank of International Settlements (Basel, Switzerland) continued to finance Nazi Germany?

The 'Soma', more than ever out of fear in the new millennium, is our conditioning of fealty to power and money that denies effective solutions. Not helpful either is the general public's media, technology, and financial illiteracy. Are we zombies to fate?

The comfortable seek personal peace no matter the societal degradation. There is no overall peace in this, for a global catharsis awaits. Want worships power and greed. Needs become neglected. Power eats its tail seeking more power — peace and empathy be damned.

District 14 Needs Someone to Represent Everyone

Vijay Mishra, Dublin

Lived in Bay Area 23 years, haven't seen anything like the "Here Are the Receipts" letter from 6/18. Let's address some of the misleading information. Regarding the reference to VHPA, see www.newindiaabroad.com/english/opinion/it-is-time-to-stop-cleaning-the-mirror-and-confront-the-dust-on-ones-own-face. Regarding the RSS and US Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF), please see USCIRF's 2026 Annual Report and see ALL their Countries of Particular Concern, Special Watch List Countries, and Entities of Particular Concern. Regarding caste discrimination as described by the leading vote-getter in the California District 14 primary, please see www.instagram.com/reel/DYknf-WvcFB/. Regarding the related Cisco case, see castegate.org.

I just cherry-picked specific info from the internet. Others with opposing views have done the same. The reality is this: District 14 is filled with people (White, Black, Hispanic (of all races), Asian, etc.) and many religions (Christian, Muslim, Jewish, Sikh, Hindu, Buddhist, agnostic, atheist, etc). The vast majority of people in all these groups are good family-centric, law-abiding, tax-paying people. Only a very small minority of each group engages in bad behavior. The Muslim community in particular has had to deal with Islamophobia in this country. Bad people repeatedly say "sharia" or "terrorism", then with a knowing smile say it doesn't have anything to do with Islam. Those accusers know exactly what they're doing: they are demonizing an entire good Muslim community for the

acts of a tiny few, and that is unfair.

So is saying "Hindu supremacist" and "Hindu version of the KKK" and repeatedly referring to Hindus for Human Rights (which is actually an anti-Hindu group: don't be fooled).

Regardless of your ethnic or religious background in California District 14, we need someone to represent everyone, who does not appear to have animosity to some groups and divide us. Unfortunately, the leading vote-getter and her supporters use inflammatory rhetoric and divide us. Please vote wisely.

Welcome to Trump World: Powerful Women Need Not Apply

Rosario Milelli, Pleasanton

Welcome to Trump World, where every strong woman must either praise Donald Trump or be put in her place.

His latest performance came after he claimed Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni "begged" him for a picture. Meloni, one of Europe's most powerful conservative leaders, said the story was completely invented. Her answer was better than his insult: "Neither I nor Italy ever beg."

That is the pattern. Trump does not simply disagree with powerful women. He diminishes them.

Hillary Clinton became a "nasty woman." Nikki Haley became "birdbrain." Female reporters who press him too hard become "nasty," "stupid," "aggressive," or told to sit down. Letitia James and Fani Willis were attacked not because they were weak, but because they had authority over him. E. Jean Carroll was smeared after a jury found Trump liable for sexual abuse and defamation.

This is not strength. It is insecurity dressed up as dominance.

Trump loves women who applaud, pose, flatter, or stay silent. But when a woman questions him, prosecutes him, defeats him in court, interviews him too aggressively, or refuses to play the admiring extra in his movie, the mask drops.

And now we are supposed to believe that Giorgia Meloni, a sitting prime minister, begged Donald Trump for a souvenir photo like a fan at a golf resort?

Welcome to Trump World: where Putin gets respect, dictators get compliments, and powerful women get insults.

After Access Hollywood, E. Jean Carroll, the Epstein shadow, and years of public humiliation aimed at women who dared to stand upright, the real mystery is not why Trump behaves this way.

The mystery is why any woman still supports him.

Bring ICE to Dublin!

John Lahommedieu, Dublin

Bring ICE to Dublin! In retort to Michele Brynjulson's letter last week, she does not support I.C.E in Dublin? Why? What she never mentions in her letter is the forgotten victims of crimes by Illegals. In fact, her letter really does not make a whole lot of sense in opposition. For me, I hope the government builds the biggest incarceration center in the nation here in Dublin. We must end the needless tragic killings and crimes against American citizens by these Illegals who Biden and Obama welcomed to our country like a cancer. Perhaps if Ms. Michele had remembered Pleasanton resident Karen Steinle along with the countless other American victims of crimes brought upon them by illegals, she would welcome the agency of ICE, who by law are here to enforce immigration laws. One has to wonder, if a family member of Ms. Michele's were a victim of crime by an Illegal, would she be touting the same rhetoric? Of course not. It's time to end the BS and start prosecuting sheriffs and jail commanders who refuse to work with ICE; also the same must be said for any and all politicians who resist working with ICE. Any politician who refuses to work with and or hinders ICE in any way shape or fashion shall be removed from office and prosecuted. Citizens who put illegals before fellow Americans should be called out as well. Enough is enough; and it's time to take care of our own backyard. To the city of Dublin, please welcome I.C.E. They do a great job, often criticized needlessly for simply doing their job. It takes brave men

and women to protect and serve; support them, do not fight them.

The Same Scenario

Frank Cannella, Livermore

The famous Peanuts comic strip featured an ongoing struggle between Charlie Brown trying to kick a football held by Lucy. As Charlie ran towards the football, Lucy would invariably move it at the last second and Charlie would fall on his back. As I write this on Saturday June 20th, we are witnessing a far more tragic version of the scenario. The football is peace in the Middle East and it's being held by Iran, and of course the kicker is the world's worst diplomat, President Trump. At this moment, the memorandum of understanding scheduled to have begun yesterday has already been broken. And let us remember, the MOU was an agreement to stop shooting each other so that the strait of Hormuz could open while 60 days of negotiations towards a lasting peace go on. I wonder how many times the

football will get moved. And would someone please tell me ONE SINGLE thing the Iranians have given up thus far to even agree to the MOU in the first place? Before Israel and the U.S. began their tactically superior attack on Iran, the Strait was open and the Iranians were led by a religious fanatic. The massive tactical approach has proven to be strategically worthless. Today the Strait is closed, and Iran is led by a religious fanatic.

Well, at least Trump cleaned up the pond in Washington D.C. Two days ago, he was quoted as saying it was "crystal clear". You bet.



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From left, Pacific Chamber Orchestra (PCO) musicians Leslie Chin and Cybele D'Ambrosio appear with Music Director Lawrence Kohl in back. The nonprofit PCO is currently expanding its programming and seeking a part-time administrative director to oversee operations and concert promotion. (Photo courtesy of PCO)

The Pacific Chamber Orchestra Seeks Part-Time Admin Director

LIVERMORE — Pacific Chamber Orchestra (PCO) is looking to fill a newly created, part-time position of administrative director.

The PCO search committee said it is seeking a “strong generalist to provide administrative leadership focusing on concert promotion and development with community engagement and operational oversight.”

Music Director Lawrence Kohl noted that since the pandemic the nonprofit organization “has expanded our Classics Concerts and educational programs, added a family holiday concert, brought emerging young American composers from across the country to California and established a major community fundraising event.”

PCO is a resident company at the Bankhead Theater in Livemore and also performs in Lafayette and other Bay Area venues.

The position will require 20 to 25 hours per week, with annual compensation of \$25,000 to \$30,000, according to the PCO website.

To apply for the position, or for more information, go to pacificchamberorchestra.org.

Livermore High School Grads to Celebrate 50-Year Class Reunion

LIVERMORE — The Livermore High School (LHS) classes of 1976 and 1977 will celebrate their 50-Year reunions on Friday, Sept. 25, and Saturday, Sept. 26, with events open to alumni and their guests.

The weekend will begin with alumni attending the LHS homecoming football game against Hayward High School.

Former homecoming queens Ralana Meyers-Boulay, Class of '76, and Barbara Foreman Stisser, Class of

77, will be in attendance, according to the reunion planning committee.

On Saturday morning, alumni can choose between a "Blast from the Past" tour of the Livermore High School led by Class of 1974 alumni and former LHS coach Rex Anderson or a nine-hole scramble tournament at Poppy Ridge Golf Course.

The 50-year Reunion Dinner and Dance will be held in the Cresta Blanca Ballroom at the Robert Liv-

ermore Community Center from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. on Saturday night.

Dinner will be catered by Strizzi's Restaurant with Dan Wood, Class of '76, serving as master of ceremonies.

The committee has blocked rooms for the reunion at the Double Tree by Hilton, Hawthorn Suites by Wyndham and the Courtyard by Marriott.

To RSVP, or for more information, go to lhs50threunion.netlify.app.

BUDGET

(Continued from front page)

BART critics have pointed to poor financial management, such as a 64% increase in labor expenses between 2020 and 2026 even as ridership plummeted, a labor increase of \$376 million. But the other directors focused on recent upticks in ridership and commended BART staff for the budget iterations leading up to the final version.

“I believe this budget sets us up for success,” Director Victor Flores said. “The ridership, customer surveys and (quarterly performance reports) show the significant improvements that BART is making, and we still have more improvements that are coming down the pike.”

Board President Melissa Hernandez, who represents the Tri-Valley, added her vote of confidence that the ridership numbers would continue rising.

“I really, truly believe

that the people do want to make and see BART become and be successful in the future," Hernandez said.

To close its deficit, the budget plans to carry forward \$52.4 million in Senate Bill 125 funds, borrow \$88.5 million and collect an initial \$74.4 million for the partial first year from a regional sales tax increase that voters have yet to approve. A change in accounting methods will allow the agency to show an additional \$59.7 million in the coming fiscal year.

Should the sales-tax measure fail to pass this November, BART will pursue an alternate budget strategy that may involve permanent station closures, including the complete elimination of the Blue Line, which serves the Tri-Valley.

Even with success at the ballots — which would eventually bring over \$300

million in full-year revenue once completely implemented — projections estimate continued operating deficits ranging from \$28 million to \$57 million annually over the next five years.

But others have criticized BART for failing to come to terms with its lower, post-pandemic ridership. Former State Sen. Steve Glazer told The Independent this past April that instead of scaling back schedules and staffing to adapt to the new normal, BART has done the opposite by hiring more, increasing their labor costs by \$100 million in the past five years.

“While ridership is down 50%, overall expenses are up 43% in the past three years,” Glazer said. “That, to me, shows me that BART is not making any of the hard decisions to financially right-size the agency.”

MISSION

(Continued from front page)

in support of the contract. Supervisor Lena Tam voted against it and Supervisor Nikki Fortunato Bas abstained. Money from Haubert's District 1, which includes the Tri-Valley, will fund the contract.

Kelly Abreu of Mission Peak Conservancy, which advocates for regional parks in Alameda County, said in a June 6 email to the board that the county should not have deviated from the county's competitive bid process when it awarded the contract.

The board's vote included a waiver of the competitive process. The county only received one bid during the three-week request period: the one from TeamCivX. County staff reasoned that further bids were unlikely to come, and an August deadline to finalize a ballot measure for this year's election created enough urgency to sidestep the normal process.

But Abreu asked why the county simply didn't start the process earlier. He wrote, "That urgency was entirely of CDA's (the Community Development Agency's) and GSA's (the General Services Agency's) own making. The November 2026 ballot deadline has been fixed by statute for years."

Abreu cited a similar request for campaign analysis services from 2025, in which the county worked under the same ballot deadlines yet followed its standard procurement process, — including newspaper advertisements, public posting, vendor outreach, public conference and committee evaluation — without any claims of urgency.

“Had CDA or GSA initiated a formal solicitation

in January 2026, as they should have, given the known ballot calendar, there would have been ample time to comply with (the county administrative code)," Abreu wrote.

While Haubert's office had not formally responded to Mission Peak's email when this story went to press, Chief of Staff Shawn Wilson told *The Independent*, "Our county policies and procedures allow the board to exercise a sole source contract if only one bid is received."

While the measure has helped preserve open space over the past 25 years, members of the agricultural community have blamed it for stifling parts of the Tri-Valley economy, such as the struggling Livermore Valley wine region. The TeamCivX contract will study voter sentiment of a transfer of Measure D authority to the board of supervisors.

"The wine region of East County is dying," Haubert said just before the contract vote. "I will not have the death of the wine region on my hands, because we can only have one restaurant that pre-dates Measure D in all of East County."

Glenn Kirby, a retired county planning commissioner and resident of Hayward, supported Mission Peak's criticisms, calling any urgency a "self-created time constraint that they used to justify circumventing the normal competitive bid (request for proposal) process."

Kirby, who chaired the commission when Measure D went before voters, also took issue with using public funds for campaign services.

“The idea that county money, especially from a fund that’s not that trans-

parent, could be used to hire a vendor to essentially nullify or weaken Measure D really irritated me,” Kirby said. “That’s just not a good use of public funds.”

Miley pointed out that the polling process can be lengthy. By the time the board receives the results, it could be the end of July leaving less than six weeks to qualify a measure for the November ballot.

“As far as I know, the board has not voted on a ballot measure. This is just basically a study to determine whether or not we should move ahead,” Miley said, noting the tight timeline. “I just want everyone to know there’s been no vote to put this on a ballot measure for November.”

Mission Peak has asked the board to reject the polling services contract and explain why a bidding process was started when the standard process timeline was already “impossible.” The community group Friends of Livermore also questioned the use of public funds to possibly change Measure D.

Dick Schneider, a member of Friends of Livermore, offered other reasons for opposing changes to Measure D. “As Supervisor Lena Tam noted, the amendments to Measure D approved by the voters in 2022 have not been given sufficient time to work, to which we would add, neither have the amendments to the South Livermore Valley Area Plan adopted by the Board of Supervisors in 2025,” he added. “Without consensus moving forward, any measure to weaken Measure D’s open space and agricultural land protections will be vigorously opposed by voters throughout the county.”

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A young rider tries out Livermore’s brand-new Sunken Gardens Pump Track following its official opening last week. (Photo courtesy of LARPD)

Livermore ‘Pump Track’ Now Open

LIVERMORE — The city’s first “pump track” opened last week adjacent to the Sunken Gardens Skate Park with a ribbon cutting and remarks by Mayor John Marchand and Phil Pierpont, chair of the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District (LARPD).

LARPD said the Sunken Gardens Pump Track, 3800 Pacific Ave., “was developed in response to community interest in expanding opportunities for outdoor recreation and wheeled sports.”

A pump track is a concrete circuit of wavelike “rollers,” flat “tabletops” and banked corners that allow riders to build momentum through an up-and-down movement of the body, known as pumping, rather than pushing or pedaling.

The track is designed for bicycles, skateboards, scooters and roller skates.

“This project shows what can happen when a community comes together around a shared vision,” Pierpont said. “From the earliest public discussions to the riders, families, advocates and community members who supported it along the way, this pump track was shaped by the community and built for the community.”

LARPD said hundreds of residents and community leaders attended the ribbon cutting, while Mike Ralph, an LARPD Foundation trustee who advocated for development of the pump track, took a ceremonial first bike ride around the circuit.

The \$1.7 million project also included ADA-accessible pathways, synthetic turf, and shaded seating and gathering areas for families and visitors. The project was funded through Livermore’s Park In-lieu development impact fee.

PUSD

(Continued from front page)

admission requirements and communicates directly with (them).”

The agreement follows the statewide expansion of the program through Senate Bill 640.

The legislation, which took effect Jan. 1, 2026, expanded the initiative after a successful pilot in Riverside County and established direct admissions as a permanent strategy within the CSU system. The law also extended the CSU Transfer Success Pathway program through the 2035-2036 academic year.

According to data presented to the board, more than 17,000 students received direct admission mailers during the Riverside County pilot. The effort resulted in a 15.2% increase in CSU applications, a 15% increase in admissions and higher A-G eligibility rates among participating students.

“These results demonstrated increased student engagement and college application completion,” Diolazo said.

Student eligibility is based on successful completion of A-G coursework — the college-preparatory courses required for admission to California State University campuses — and a qualifying grade point average calculated at the end of a student’s junior year.

Students must still complete the Cal State Apply application process, but those who meet CSU requirements will receive early notification of admission opportunities.

District officials said the initiative could be especially helpful for first-generation college students and historically underrepresented groups by providing earlier information about admissions requirements, financial aid and college opportunities.

“The CSU Direct Admissions Program supports our equity goals by expanding opportunities to students

who may not pursue higher education otherwise,” said Josh Butterfield, PUSD director of secondary education.

According to Butterfield, CSU will tailor its outreach based on each student’s eligibility status, with students receiving one of three communications.

Group one includes students who are CSU eligible. They will receive a postcard notifying them of their conditional admission and encouraging them to complete the application process.

Group two includes students who are close to CSU eligibility. They will receive information identifying steps they can take to qualify, such as improving their GPA or completing missing coursework. Those in this group will also be encouraged to work with academic counselors to stay on track.

Group three includes students who are not currently eligible for CSU admission. They will receive information about the CSU Transfer Success Pathway, which provides an alternative route to CSU enrollment through community college transfer opportunities.

Butterfield also noted that some highly impacted CSU campuses and specialized programs are not included in the direct admissions process.

Applicants interested in those campuses can still apply through the standard CSU admissions process.

As part of the agreement, PUSD will enter into a data-sharing partnership with the CSU Chancellor’s Office through CaliforniaColleges.edu.

The district will securely submit limited student eligibility information so CSU can identify students who qualify for admission opportunities and send personalized communications directly to students and families.

District staff will review and verify student records,

According to district staff, participation in the program will not create any direct costs for the district.

Implementation is expected to occur over the next several months. The district plans to finalize agreements with CSU this summer, submit student eligibility data in the fall and begin mailing notifications to eligible students between September and mid-October.

Several members of the Board of Trustees expressed strong support and excitement for the CSU Direct Admissions Program.

Trustee Charlie Jones said guidance from a counselor helped him navigate the college admissions process when he was a student and believes the initiative will provide similar support for current students.

Board Vice President Laurie Walker said she wished a similar program had been available when her children were applying to college.

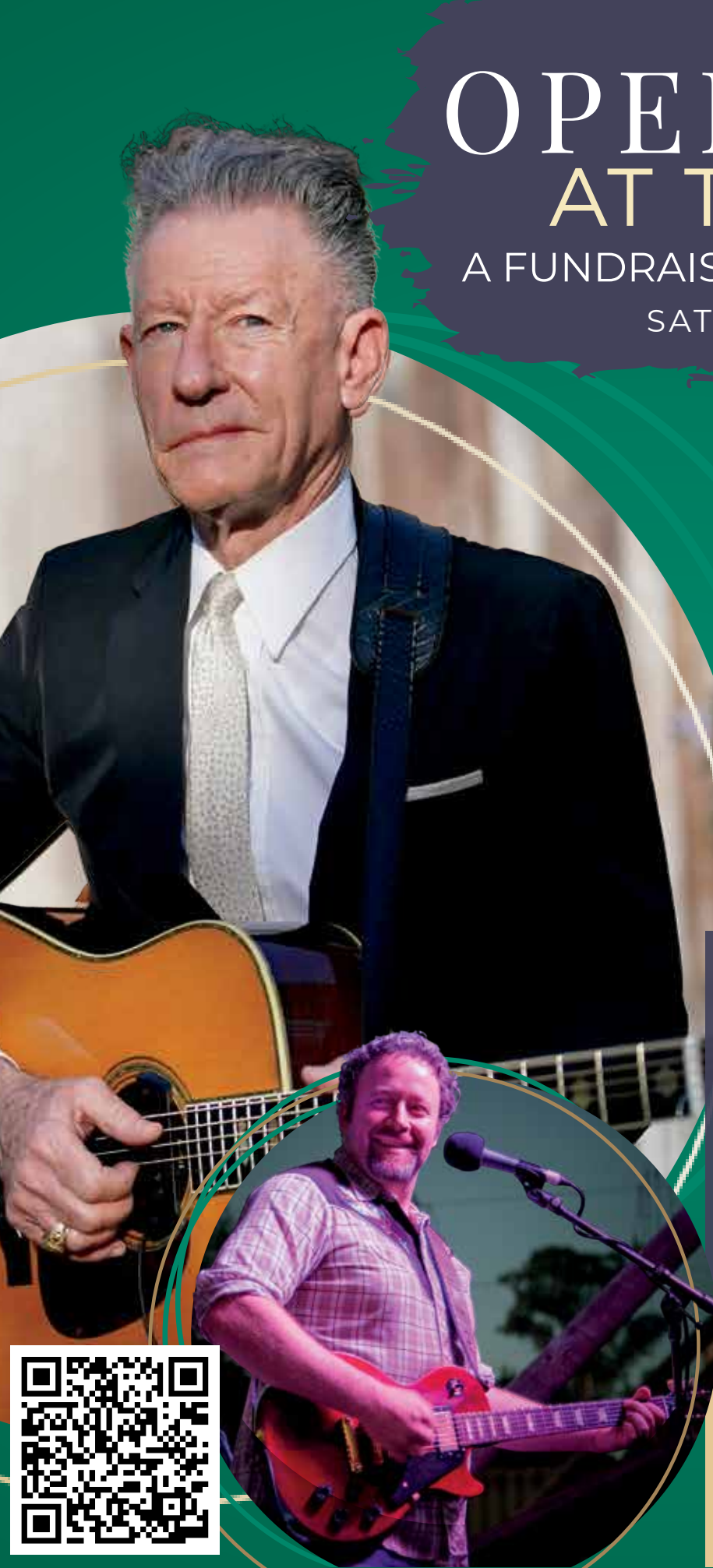
“Students need to know that college is obtainable,” Walker said. “That message really stood out to me.”

“This is really going to provide additional support for students who may not have been college-bound or ready to pursue college otherwise,” Trustee Kelly Mokashi said. “I’m super excited for this opportunity and the growth it can provide for students.”

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FREMONT BANK



Food, Pig Races and Remembrance at Alameda County Fair

By Kathryn Stroud

PLEASANTON — The Alameda County Fair in Pleasanton is back and bringing with it funnel cakes, pig races and a fragment of steel from the World Trade Center.

The fair, which runs Wednesdays through Sundays until July 12, according to fair spokesperson Liz Rosinski, draws crowds for its food above all else.

“The number-one reason people come to the Alameda County Fair is the food,” Rosinski said.

The classics are on hand, but the Foodie’s Choice Awards, now in their third year, bring in a new lineup of offerings each season. Fair attendees serve as judges, voting through the fair’s website or via QR codes at participating vendor stands. This year’s contenders include a Korean Churro Corndog, Spam Wonton Tacos and a Donut Smash Burger.

Will Vonpertz, who operates The Dough Show, knows the competition well. His Carnival Cookie took third place in last year’s “Crazy New Food” category. This year, he’s entered The Main Squeeze, a strawberry lemonade cookie, hoping to land on

the podium again.

“It’s fun,” Vonpertz said. “It’s something new and exciting. It keeps bringing people back.”



The “Rising Together: In Remembrance of 9/11” memorial brings a solemn moment of reflection to the Alameda County Fair. Featuring a steel beam brought from the World Trade Center, the new exhibit stands alongside traditional fair favorites this summer. The fair is open Wednesdays through Sundays in Pleasanton until July 12. (Photo — Kathryn Stroud)

The All-Alaskan racing pigs are also back, including Sourdough and Strawberry. While fair attendees

are asked to pick a pig to win, the pigs aren’t really in it for the glory. According to race operators, the real draw is the treat

ing them onto the track. Now operators use animal crackers, equally beloved by the pigs and, so far, less tempting to throw.

named Ruby to a donkey named Houston.

“From the young to the young at heart, everyone loves the petting zoo,”

The fair also marks two national milestones this year: America’s 250th anniversary and the 25th anniversary of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. “Rising Together: In Remembrance of 9/11” features a fragment of World Trade Center steel that arrived in Pleasanton last month in a procession of law enforcement, first responders and community members. The exhibit honors the nearly 3,000 lives lost that day and carries an inscription framing the wreckage as a symbol of resilience: Patriotism, it reads, is rooted not in exclusion but in empathy and the courage to rise together.

Beyond the food and animals, the fair includes an artisan market, family movies on the lawn, a concert lineup, World Cup viewing and fireworks.

“Whether you come for the food, concerts, animals or rides, there’s truly an experience here for everyone,” said Kristin LaPorte, the fair’s marketing and development director.

The Alameda County Fair runs through July 12, Wednesdays through Sundays, from noon to 11 p.m. Tickets and schedules are available at alamedacountyfair.com.

WINERY

(Continued from front page)

pioneer, paving the way for sustainable viticulture in both the Tri-Valley and the broader East Bay.

Garau-Taylor said Retzlaff places a heavy emphasis on sustainability, doing its part to ensure the beautiful Livermore Valley stays that way for future generations.

“We don’t take sides: no pesticides, herbicides or fungicides,” she joked.

To celebrate its golden anniversary, the winery hosted a ribbon-cutting event at its tasting room, located just off South Livermore Avenue.

Retzlaff was created by Bob and Gloria Taylor out of a former sheep ranch they purchased in the early 1970s. Their family restored the Victorian farmhouse and outbuildings and made the property their home. The Taylors planted their first vineyards in 1976 and opened their tasting room in 1985. The business has produced award-winning wines, supported the community through fundraisers for nonprofit organizations, and welcomed all to their tasting room. Some of their more popular events include live music, family-friendly picnicking and their Bridgerton Ball, part of their seasonal Wine Down Friday series and based on the Netflix period drama.

Retzlaff Vineyards Estate Winery is located at 1356 South Livermore Ave., Livermore. For more information, call 925-447-

8941 or visit retzlaffvineyards.com.

Page Mill Winery

When Page Mill Winery was founded by Dick and Ome Stark in 1976, there were only 300 wineries in California. Now, as Page Mill celebrates 50 years in business, there are more than 4,600.

Dick Stark was traveling the world selling lasers in 1975 when he saw small family wineries in Germany and thought a similar concept would work in California. After speaking with Ome, the couple made a monumental decision: Dick quit his job and started making wine on Page Mill Road in Palo Alto.

“We operated there for 28 years and then my parents retired and I was running things,” said Dane Stark, owner and winemaker. “In 2004, we needed to expand and I looked all over and we ended up in Livermore. I had come for the tasting room, but I stayed for the grapes.”

Before the move, Dane would drive around and purchase grapes from multiple regions in the state. But he said once he realized there was “serious fruit” in the Livermore Valley, he transitioned all his business to Livermore grapes. Now he grows some of his own and buys others from his neighbors. He said Livermore’s grapes pair well with his Old World style of winemaking.

Dane said he works to

be a good steward of the environment and does not add to the chemical load in the ground, preferring to grow organically.

As part of his commitment to sustainability, Dane is fighting a slowly winning battle for the screw cap.

“There is a prejudice against screw caps to overcome,” he said, noting most customers prefer a cork, but cannot tell the difference in wines with a screw cap. “Screw caps are recyclable and don’t have TCA (a chemical compound in cork responsible for cork taint), so even when you don’t get the cork taint in the wine, it can age into the wine, and you get more of an uneven aging.”

Page Mill also hosts BYOB, or bring your own bottle, on the third Sunday of each month. Customers can bring in their own wine bottle and fill it with a red blend for only \$11.99 per bottle, as part of the winery’s commitment to provide affordable table wine.

Page Mill is pairing up with Fenestra Winery, also celebrating 50 years, to host an event at Livermore’s Bankhead Theater

in November. The evening will include wine, food and music, and will raise funds for Tri-Valley Haven.

Page Mill is located at 1960 South Livermore Ave., Livermore. For more information, call 925-456-7676 or visit pagemillwinery.com.

Fenestra Winery

Fenestra Winery is marking 50 years on its historic Livermore property, where wine has been made since 1889. Founded by Lanny and Fran Replogle, the winery has thrived under family ownership and operation. A former chemistry professor, Lanny Replogle is known for his unique and varied blends. Though he’s 91 this year, Lanny still comes into the winery three days a week to check on things. His son, Eric Replogle, and Eric’s wife, Robin Replogle, cover much of the operation themselves.

“This is definitely a family-run winery,” Robin said.

Robin said the winery began celebrating its anniversary on Jan. 1, but a large event on the property will take place Aug. 15-16,

with music, food trucks and wine. There will even be a winemaker dinner with library wines — bottles held back in the cellar years after the initial release to allow the wine to reach peak maturity — from as long ago as 1980.

They are also celebrating with Page Mill in November at the Bankhead Theater.

In addition to their wines, the Replogle family’s other claim to fame is their historic property. When the couple bought the land, it had been neglected for decades. They hauled away trash, installed a new roof on the winery and retrofitted the building. They did a full refurbishment in 1997, and now the property is planted out with grapes that produce award-winning wines.

As they celebrate 50 years in business, Robin said the family will keep working at what it does best: affordable wines in a gorgeous setting.

“We make exceptionally good wines and we have always tried to keep them accessible to the public as far as price point,” she said.

“We are in a historic building; we are 10 minutes from downtown Livermore, in a beautiful bucolic setting surrounded by a creek and vineyards.”

Fenestra Winery is located at 83 Vallecitos Rd., Livermore. For more information, call 925-447-5246 or visit fenestrawinery.com.

Darcie Kent Estate Winery

Darcie Kent Estate Winery has been owned and operated for 30 years by Darcie and David Kent. The couple is known for producing estate-grown wines and focusing heavily on aromatic white wines and Cabernet Franc.

Darcie said they began with merlot in 1996.

“We bought a 20-acre vineyard and then built our home on it after a few years,” she said. “Merlot was all the rage back then. Now we are fully an estate winery: we grow, we ferment, we barrel age, bottle it, and store it, all within our property. We are one of the few fully estate houses in the Livermore Valley.”

(See WINERY, page 9)

TRI-VALLEY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Thursday, June 25

STATE OF THE COUNTY, WINE COUNTRY LUNCHEON

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

Sunday, June 28

SUNDAYS AT HAGEMANN, RANCHO DAY

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

July 2-26

SPARC PRESENTS HAMLET AT DARCIE KENT VINEYARDS

Experience Shakespeare’s Hamlet beneath the stars at Darcie Kent Vineyards in Livermore. As part of SPARC’s 20th Anniversary season, this outdoor production brings one of the greatest plays in the English language to life in a spectacular wine country setting. Guests are encouraged to arrive early, bring a picnic, and enjoy local wine before the performance. All performances begin at 7:30 p.m. At Darcie Kent Vineyards, 7000 Tesla Road, Livermore. See www.sparctheater.org/hamlet for tickets and 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.

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OBITUARIES

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Karilyn Rogers Followill
1962 - 2026
In Loving Memory

It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of Karilyn in March.

Karilyn leaves behind her immediate family, including Sean, Jamie, and Greg, her sister Nancy McEver and her brother John Rogers III, and their respective families. She is also remembered fondly by many beloved family members and friends.

Karilyn was preceded in death by her parents John and Rhonda Rogers.

Throughout her career, Karilyn dedicated herself to the Safeway Corporation as a corporate accountant, initially in Oakland and later in Pleasanton.



After Safeway, she applied her extensive experience and organizational skills in the property management industry.

Karilyn's legacy will be

cherished for her sweet sense of humor, her thoughtfulness, and her unwavering support for her children's various extracurricular activities, particularly their baseball, softball, and marching band events. Her creativity and talent extended to her crocheting, crafts, cooking, and baking, and she was renowned for her annual Santa's workshop of cookies.

A celebration of Karilyn's life will be held on Saturday, June 27, at 11 a.m. at the Tri-Valley Church of Christ, located at 4481 East Ave., Livermore, CA.

John William Dini
Nov. 11, 1936 - June 17, 2026



John William Dini, know to all as 'Jack', passed away at the age of 89 on June 17, 2026. He was born in Cleveland, Ohio on Nov. 14, 1936. The oldest of four children, he grew up in Cleveland, Ohio. Beginning in high school through college, he worked part-time for the Cleveland Supply Company (now PAVCO), a vendor that supplied services to the electroplating industry. After graduating from Fenn College (now Cleveland State University), he married Anne Pavlish in 1959.

With his background in electroplating, he joined Battelle in Columbus, Ohio. In 1962 he joined Sandia and moved the family to Livermore, California, escaping the harsh winters of Cleveland.

He spent 18 years at Sandia. Along with co-worked Rudy Johnson, he published over 150

technical papers and was active in the American Electroplaters Society (AES), serving as president during 1984-85. He was awarded AES's Scientific Achievement Award in 1985. In 1980, he moved across the street to a management position at Lawrence Livermore Laboratory until his retirement.

He published two books,

a technical book on materials science and coatings and another on environmental issues. In retirement, he wrote extensively on various environmental issues for online publications.

He was a skilled leaded glass hobbyist, creating more than 20 lamps and many panels. He was a jogger for many years, competing in over 300 long distance races. He was a slow runner, not wanting to take the glory away from others. His secret was to start slow and taper. He and Anne traveled extensively, visiting over 70 countries.

He is survived by his wife, Anne, of 67 years, and sons Mike, Steve, and Paul. If you were to meet him somewhere, he would sum up his life as 'peaches and cream'.

The family will have a private celebration of life.

Eugene Kenneth Frary Jr. (Ken)
Aug. 15, 1929 — June 6, 2026

Eugene Kenneth Frary Jr. (Ken) was born on Aug. 15, 1929, in Oakland, California, and passed away peacefully on June 6, 2026, in Jackson, California at the age of 96. He married the love of his life, Elsie Charlene Dabbs, in 1949, and together they raised five children in Livermore, California. Ken worked for Allstate Insurance until his retirement in 1984, when he and Charlene moved to Pioneer, California to

enjoy their next chapter.

Ken is survived by his wife of 77 years, Charlene; his son Steven Frary; daughters Janice McCurry, Susan Frary, and Nancy Frary; seven grandchildren; seventeen great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his son Timothy Frary (2012) and his grandson Matthew McCurry (1998).

Ken and Charlene shared a

deep love of travel. Together they explored every U.S. state, as well as Canada and Mexico, often in their motorhome, and enjoyed many memorable cruises. Ken leaves behind a legacy defined by devotion to family, unwavering integrity, a strong work ethic, and a generous spirit. He will be deeply missed by all who knew him. A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date.

Andrea Rachelle Looby
Sept. 11, 1963 - June 6, 2026

Andrea Rachelle Looby, 62, passed away on June 6, 2026. Born on Sept. 11, 1963, Andrea lived a life devoted to education, family, and caring for others.

Andrea was an extraordinary teacher whose passion for education touched the lives of countless students. She loved every student she taught and dedicated herself to helping them learn, grow, and succeed. Throughout her career, she earned numerous certifications and recognition as an educator, including a letter of recognition from President Barack Obama in honor of her contributions and dedication.

Outside of the classroom, Andrea had a vibrant personality and a wonderful sense of humor.

She was funny as heck and could always bring laughter to those around her. She had a deep love for collecting Coca-Cola memorabilia, enjoyed Star Wars, and was fascinated by history. She especially loved watching westerns, pirate adventures, and Civil War movies, and she never stopped learning new historical facts.

Andrea was a devoted family woman who cherished her loved ones and adored her cats. As the eldest of five siblings, she naturally stepped into the role of protector and caretaker, always looking out for her younger sisters. She consistently put the needs of others before her own, offering guidance, support, and unconditional love whenever it

was needed.

Andrea is survived by her stepfather, John Fuller; her sister, Jessica Fuller; her nephew, Joseph Hamblett; and her nieces, Alexandra Caraveo, Nevaeh Adams, Serenity Adams, along with more nieces and nephews.

Andrea's kindness, strength, humor, and unwavering dedication to those she loved will be deeply missed and forever remembered. Her legacy lives on through the many students she inspired, the family she protected, and the countless lives she touched with her generous heart.

Forever loved, forever remembered, FOREVER YOUR POOH BEAR

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



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

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

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

Christine was born to Robert and Irene Bishop, who preceded

her in death. She grew up in Livermore, California, and attended Livermore High School, remaining closely tied to the community she called home. She was a devoted sister to John (Mitzi) Bishop and Cathy (Scott) Rich, whom she loved dearly.

She leaves behind her children, Amber (Patrick) Campbell, Thomas Aarvik, Jonathan (Te-

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

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

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

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

Zone 7 Urges Conservation During Planned Maintenance

TRI-VALLEY—The Zone 7 Water Agency is asking Tri-Valley residents to reduce their outdoor water usage from Saturday, June 27, to Thursday, July 2, while the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) conducts seasonal maintenance on State Water Project facilities.

Zone 7 said local water retailers, including California Water Service, Livermore Municipal Water Service, the Dublin San Ramon Service District, and Pleasanton Municipal Water Service, have planned for the outage and will continue supplying water throughout the maintenance period using

locally stored water and groundwater resources.

However, water deliveries to Zone 7 will be reduced during the six-day maintenance period, the agency said, and reducing outdoor usage will guard against any shortages.

The request does not include properties that irrigate with recycled water, which is not affected by the planned maintenance.

Zone 7 also said residents and businesses can increase outdoor watering as needed, including deep watering landscapes using multiple short irrigation cycles and topping off swimming pools before the maintenance begins.

The agency emphasized

that the conservation request is not a reflection of the region's overall water supply but rather a proactive measure to ensure adequate supplies for essential indoor use, including emergency response and fire protection during DWR's planned maintenance.

The State Water Project, which includes canals, pipelines, and hydroelectric facilities delivering water from Northern California to urban and agricultural areas across the state, supplies about 70% of the water used throughout the Tri-Valley, according to Zone 7. Zone 7 is responsible for providing water to eastern Alameda County and more than 250,000 residents.

ComicCon Livermore Coming Saturday

LIVERMORE—The fourth annual ComicCon Livermore, sponsored by Livermore Valley Arts, will unfold from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, June 27, at the Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St.

This year's event will feature an author panel at 11 a.m. and an onstage costume

contest at 1 p.m., with guest appearances during the day by R2D2 and Ak-rev from the Star Wars franchise and John Morris, the voice of Andy in the Toy Story series.

The Ohana ComicCon will be set up on Bankhead Plaza, with interactive art stations, facepainting by Livermore's JOLLI Faces,

and vendors offering anime, comics and collectibles.

Judy Wheeler, from Towne Center Books, will moderate the author panel with Trevor Dutcher, TE McArthur, Jeffrey Hallett, Michael Spencer and Betsy Streeter.

ComicCon Livermore is free and open to the public.

WINERY
(Continued from page 8)

The Kents made headlines in 2024 when they jointly purchased Concannon Vineyards with Lemmons Family Vineyards. This year, they will transfer all operations over to the Lemmons family in late summer.

The couple also plans to build a tirage — a building specially designed for producing champagne — on their property.

"The tirage building has robots that turn the steel baskets full of bottles a little bit every month for a year," David explained.

Darcie noted sparkling wines have been the rage recently. With a tirage on site, Darcie Kent sparkling wines will be made, bottled and fermented on the property. Currently, they travel to a site in Lodi for fermentation.

Darcie's family have been American winegrowers since 1875, and last year Darcie Kent celebrated her family's 150 years in winemaking.

Her daughters, Amanda and Kailyn, are sixth-generation and currently help run the business. Two years ago, the Kents celebrated the arrival of the seventh generation.

The Kents are still working out details of their 30th anniversary festivities later this year.

Darcie Kent is located at 7000 Tesla Road, Livermore. For more information, call 925-243-9040 or visit darciekent.wine.

The Steven Kent Winery

Less than two miles northwest of the Darcie Kent Winery lies The Steven Kent Winery. Despite the similarity in names and founding years, the two wineries are unrelated. The Steven Kent Winery is owned and operated by Steven Mirassou, whose middle name is Kent. His first vintage dates to 1996, though the winery itself did not open until later.

Mirassou is a sixth-generation winemaker from America's oldest winemaking family, known for Bordeaux-style blends and single-vineyard Cabernet Sauvignons. His family began making wine in San Jose in 1854, and moved on to establish a sales company in the 1960s, and plant vineyards in Santa Clara County.

"We have been doing this longer than anyone else, continuously, in the U.S.," Mirassou said. "We've been in Livermore for close to 40 years, since my father came up."

Though his own winery isn't quite that old, wine

pumps through his veins and he pours all of the knowledge and experience that comes with six generations into his bottles. He is a driving force behind the push to make Cabernet Franc a signature varietal for the Livermore Valley. He and his wife, Beth, helped start the first CabFranc-a-palooza in 2023 and founded the Cab Franc Guild of Livermore Valley.

"There is a lot of energy promoting that variety as Livermore's grape," he said.

Mirassou is assisted in the business by two of his four children, and the eighth generation has already arrived.

"We are really hoping they get involved," he said.

The Steven Kent Winery is located at 2245 S. Vasco Road, Suite C, Livermore. For more information, call 925-243-6442 or visit stevenkent.com.

Las Positas Vineyards

Las Positas Vineyards marks 15 years in business this summer and continues to do what it does best: great wine and food in a beautiful, relaxing setting.

The winery was opened by Lisa and Lothar Mayer in 2011. Winemaker Brent Amos joined the team in 2013 and became a part-owner in early 2021. Now the trio operates the estate winery together.

"It's somewhat rare for a winery to be 100% estate," Amos said. "We have our own bottling line and we own our own warehouse where we store the wine, so from the grapes to the winemaking to the aging to the bottling, all the way to selling, we maintain control."

Amos said the luxury of that control is what drew him to Las Positas in the first place. Now he is part of the only winery in the Livermore Valley to win three sweepstakes at the San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition, and the first ever to win back-to-back White Wine Sweepstakes.

Such high accolades were not on the Maier's minds when they opened their doors. Their initial plan was to open a winery when they retired, so the couple purchased 20 acres, thinking they could build a home and someday, a winery. When the Las Positas property went on the market, they decided to switch tracks.

"This particular winery had a 20,000-square-foot building and vineyards around it, so we sold the 20-acre lot, and ended up buying a home elsewhere,"

Lisa said, noting the commercial kitchen was another perk.

Las Positas focuses on quality, a virtue Amos said is found abundantly in the region. Their full menu sets them apart from other wineries, where only small bites, or no food at all, are the usual options. They grow a wide range of grapes and make both white and red wines, with a focus on Spanish and Iberian wines. Amos said they are the only vineyard in the valley to grow Verdelho, a white Portuguese varietal that becomes an aromatic wine, similar to sauvignon blanc.

Las Positas is located at 1828 Wetmore Rd, Livermore. For more information, call 925-449-9463 or visit laspositasvineyards.com.

Rooted in History

According to the Livermore Valley Wine Community (LVWC) website, Robert Livermore is credited with planting the first commercial vines in the area in the 1840s, though Spanish missionaries had planted grapes as early as 1700. Livermore's success was noticed by others and more vines followed on other properties. By 1883, Charles Wetmore, Carl Wente and James Concannon had all established major estates, recognizing in the valley's soil a mirror to that in the Bordeaux region of France. In 1889, a bottle of Wetmore's white wine won the Grand Prix at the International Paris Exposition, the first time a California wine had topped the podium in France. This put the region on the global map. The rest was winemaking history, where different varietals and blends have cycled through the valley, winning competitions and supporting local winery owners, winemakers, and now, a gracious and welcoming hospitality industry. The growth was largely protected and nurtured by a boom sparked by the 1993 South Livermore Valley Area Plan and later reinforced by the 2000 South Livermore Urban Growth Boundary, established to preserve local vineyards and cap urban sprawl.

Though heavy reds were the area's initial stars, white wines have played their part, taking center stage in the 1990s. Now, the valley is making a collective push to celebrate Cabernet Franc, even hosting the CabFranc-a-Palooza, showcasing the wine as a signature varietal in the Livermore Valley.

Pleasanton Runner Takes First Place In New East Bay Area Ultramarathon

By David Jen

PLEASANTON — Two-thirds of the way through her trail race, Caitlin Boldt decided to go for gold. She still had 33 miles to go.

“I got a burst of energy, and I was like, ‘I’m gonna go for my trophy,’” Boldt said, recounting her thoughts after an aid-station volunteer told her how close she was to the first- and second-place runners. She had just come out of a section of difficult terrain between mile 40 and

mile 60 of the 100-mile race. “I wanted to see how long the burst of energy would take me.”

The burst took her past the race leader around mile 83, giving her the top position for the remainder of the course.

A Pleasanton resident, Boldt won on June 14 the women’s race of the Bay Area 100, a new 100-mile ultramarathon through the East Bay hills. She crossed the finish line just before 3 a.m., 21 hours, 52 minutes

and 12 seconds after she started.

“I sort of went into it thinking, ‘Oh, I could probably be, you know, somewhere in the top,’” Boldt said. “But I never really thought that I could win it.”

A casual runner until recently, Boldt ran her first marathon in 2024. After falling in love with trail races, she ran her first 50k — a 31-mile race — in January 2025, which quickly escalated to her first 100-miler that November. This month’s Bay

Area 100 was Boldt’s second 100-miler.

She trained largely with a Livermore running club called The Run Club, which organizes runs in the Tri-Valley. Two club members also ran as pacers alongside Boldt during portions of the race. She divided the race course, which spanned from Richmond to San Leandro, into segments for training runs leading up to the race.

In the Tri-Valley, she ranked the Courdet Trail in Pleasanton Ridge Regional Park as one of her favorite routes, running up and along the ridge, then descending down the Oak Tree Trail to the Foothill Staging Area before backtracking.

This month’s race marked the inaugural running of the Bay Area 100, adding a formidable event to a region already primed with ultrarunning history. Starting at the Cal Memorial Stadium in Berkeley, the course led runners through the gamut of East Bay landscapes, covering more than 18,000 feet of vertical elevation change through redwood forests, lake shores and exposed ridges before finishing on the track at Skyline High School in Oakland.

The East Bay weather pulled no punches. Although the morning started with a cool, 55°F fog, it gave way to clear skies and harsh sun for the middle of the race. The Las Trampas aid station at mile 46 recorded a high of



Pleasanton ultrarunner Caitlin Boldt claimed first place in the women’s race of the Bay Area 100 just before 3 a.m. on June 13 and 14. (Photo courtesy of Bay Area 100/Pen Perez)

95°F on June 13.

When Boldt entered some sunny sections, she thought to herself, “‘No, I’m melting. I don’t know if I can finish.’ There’s some point where I was like, ‘I don’t even know if I’m gonna finish this because it’s so hard.’ But you just sort of keep pushing.”

Of the 151 runners who started, 101 finished. The field included an estimated 51 first-time 100-milers. Patrick Rabuzzi of Oakland finished first overall with

a time of 16:54:56, while another Tri-Valley runner, Livermore’s Harshil Shah, took first in the 20 to 29 age group and sixth overall with a time of 21:32:59.

Boldt said she subsisted on electrolyte drink, M&Ms, jellybeans, part of a quesadilla, and a lot of Coca Cola over the race, during which she likely burned upward of 10,000 calories. Afterward, she celebrated with onion rings and ice cream at Fentons Creamery in Oakland.



21-Athlete Salute for the 2025-26 High School Season

By Mitch Stephens

A 2025-26 golden year of high school athletics in the Tri-Valley was highlighted by these 21 accomplished athletes, 10 of them girls.

Brooke Bennett (Granada), MckInley Scobie (Foothill) (girls swimming): Both won two individual events at the East Bay Athletic League championships. Scobie won the 100-yard butterfly and 100 freestyle, while Bennett captured the 200 individual medley and the 500 freestyle.

Amare Chandler (Livermore boys basketball): One of the best sophomores in Northern California led the Cowboys in scoring at more than 20 points per game along with 8.3 rebounds per game. A season-long highlight reel, the 6-foot-6 forward was at his very best in the team’s most historic win, an 83-80 overtime North Coast Section Division 1 road game at California, when he scored a career-high 40 points, making a three-pointer at the end of regulation to force overtime and another three-pointer to win it with less than five seconds to play in OT. It was Livermore’s first ever NCS road win.

Caesar Cornelio, Legend Dorham, Jadon Hart (Brave Christian baseball): All freshmen, the trio pulled off three of the greatest seasons ever for ninth-graders in Northern California, leading the Braves to a 22-1-1 record. At the plate, Hart (.645, 43 RBIs), Dorham (.616, 29) and Cornelio (.552, 55 runs) were outstanding, but they also combined to go 18-0 on the mound, all sporting ERAs at 1.50 or lower.

Hudson Flora (Foothill baseball): The EBAL Mountain Division Player of the Year was an easy choice really after hitting a team-best .405 with 10 stolen bases, 32 hits, 22 runs and 18 RBIs. The UCSB signee is considered one of Northern California’s top catches.

Tyler Gray (Dublin football, track and field): The EBAL Valley Defensive Player of the Year led the team in tackles at 8.8 per game, which is amazing considering he played at defensive end. He was the region leader with 16 sacks. In track and field, he was one of the region’s top shot putters (50 feet, personal best) and discus (162-0).

Brandon Hahn (Granada basketball, baseball): The San Francisco Chronicle’s Tri-Valley Player of the Year in basketball, Hahn, a 6-7 junior, averaged 24.5 points and 14.8 rebounds per game for the NCS Division 1 finalist. In the title game, a 79-76 loss to Bishop O’Dowd-Oakland, Hahn had 36 points and 19 rebounds. He also got out late for the baseball team and went 3-3 with a 2.10 ERA with 49 strikeouts and 20 hits allowed in 36.2 innings.

CT Harper (Livermore football, basketball): One of three game-breaking receivers for the Cowboys’ historic football team, one that finished 9-2 and won its first East Bay Athletic League title since 1993 — Harper had a team-best 61 catches for 1,164 yards and seven touchdowns. He was also the basketball team’s starting point guard and third-leading scorer, helping another historic season in which the Cowboys (18-10) broke a 121-EBAL losing streak and won the program’s first-ever North Coast Section road playoff game, an 83-80 overtime game at California-San Ramon.

Anthony and Riley Harrington (Amador Valley football, flag football): Yes, siblings, brother and sister were a true inspiration as siblings but were also exceptional players on the gridiron. Riley, a junior quarterback and linebacker, accounted for 85% of her team’s offensive touchdowns, was a tremendous returner and was considered the “most spirited player I’ve ever coached,” said first-year flag football coach Ryan Wittmer, who has coached tackle football for nearly two decades. Riley, an easy All-EBAL selection for the 15-7 Dons, said she was inspired by her brother, an Idaho State-bound wide receiver and defensive back who had 69 catches for 1,196 yards in nine games.

Lanie Macosky (Livermore softball): The list of contributors for a 25-4 squad that won the East Bay Athletic League round-robin title at 13-0 was long, but there was only one league Most Valuable Player and that was the senior shortstop headed to Northwestern on a full ride scholarship. Macoskey hit a team-best .537 with 38 runs and 30 RBIs to go along with impeccable defense. Said senior pitcher Kaci Norton, the league’s Defensive Player of the Year with a 20-3 record: “Lanie is amazing. She pushes me to always want to be better. I watch her at practice and she’s always hustling, never walking. She’s always taking those extra reps. She’s just awesome.”

Paige Nelson (Foothill girls volleyball): The 6-foot senior hitter loves team sports, which is why she gravitated to volleyball, but she definitely stood out as the team’s leading hitter (447 kills), with almost three times more spikes than anyone on the 25-9 team. The New Mexico State-bound standout also led the team in blocks (29) and was second in digs (287), aces (53) and had a hitting percentage of (23%).

Matteo Lortie (Livermore football, basketball): The EBAL Valley Offensive Co-Player of the Year was the San Francisco Chronicle’s Tri-Valley Player of the Year and first-team All-Metro quarterback. He not only led the team with 2,756 passing yards (196 of 293 attempts) and 27 touchdowns against just four interceptions, but he also led the team in rushing with 599 yards on 119 attempts (that includes sacks) and 10 touchdowns. In his final game, he accounted for 433 yards and all four touchdowns in a tough 28-26 NCS D2 loss to Campolindo-Moraga. “Couldn’t ask for a better quarterback or leader,” Livermore coach John Wade said. “It was a dream working with him all three years.” Lortie also showed his leadership skills playing a backup role on the Cowboys’ historic basketball team.

Marin Lnenicka, Katie Vail (Granada flag football): Vail, a senior quarterback and EBAL offensive Player of the Year, and also a starter on the Matadors’ basketball team, threw for a NCS-best 4,315 yards and 49 touchdowns. Many of her throws went to Lnenicka, who had 102 catches for 1,298 yards and 21 touchdowns and was selected as the Cal-Hi Sports NCS Player of the Year. Both led the Matadors to the NCS Division 1 title game with big upset wins over defending champion Alameda (26-20), fourth-seed Heritage-Brentwood (33-0) and top-seed Las Lomas-Walnut Creek (13-7) before losing in the finals to San Ramon Valley-Danville, 14-7.

SJ Martin, Maile Nguyen (Granada girls wrestling): This duo is considered two of the greatest female wrestlers in EBAL history after remarkable senior seasons. Martin was the first Granada wrestler ever, boy or girl, to win a state title by taking the 120-pound class. Nguyen was sixth at 125 pounds while finishing as the school’s all-time leader in pins and second in wins. Martin was also the first Granada wrestler to reach the state meet all four seasons.

Daniel Santhiapillai (Dublin cross country): The senior won the NCS Division 1 title at Hayward High School in 15 minutes, 51.8 seconds, over teammates Justin Feng (16:07.2) and Jeremy Imbo (16:12.9) to win the Gaels’ third straight championship and eighth in nine seasons. They dedicated the victory to longtime coach Chris Williams, who was seven months removed from having 13 cancerous lymph nodes surgically removed from his colon. “With his condition, he could have taken this season off, but he chose to be with us,” Santhiapillai said shortly after his championship. “I really wanted to show him that I value him through my performance. We all did.”

Susan Swyers (Amador Valley girls water polo): Swyers led the team with 125 goals as the Dons captured the school’s first NCS water polo title. In the NCS title game, a 9-7 win over Alhambra-Martinez, Swyers scored six second-half goals.

Jewish Culture School to Focus On Scientists Through the Ages

TRI-VALLEY — The Jewish Culture School theme for 2026-2027 will be “Jewish Scientists Through the Ages,” according to Tri-Valley Cultural Jews (TVCJ), a secular Jewish organization that runs the educational program for children from 6 through 14.

TVCJ said students will “learn about the lives of Jews in the diverse times

and places where these scientists lived, gaining insight into Jewish communities around the world while exploring the scientific discoveries and ideas that helped shape our understanding of the world.”

In addition, students will explore music, dance, food, literature, ethics and social justice in a humanistic Jewish environment.

Saturday classes will be held twice a month in Castro Valley, starting in August.

The school year will wrap up next May with a secular Brit Mitzvah ceremony for the older students.

The nonprofit TVCJ is open to anyone who identifies as Jewish through family, culture, or history.

For more information, go to trivalleyculturaljews.org.

JUNETEENTH (Continued from front page)

Her efforts helped pave the way for Juneteenth National Independence Day to become a federal holiday in 2021 when President Joe Biden signed the legislation into law. Lee walked 2 ½ miles at a time to represent the 2 ½ years it took for news of emancipation to reach enslaved people in Texas. In 2024, she received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation’s highest civilian honor.

“Juneteenth is not a Black thing. It’s not a Texas thing. It’s an American thing,” Lee said.

For generations, the traditions of Juneteenth have brought families and communities together through faith, music, storytelling and soul food.

Many celebrations feature both the red, white and blue Juneteenth flag and the red, black and green Pan-African flag.

Together, they symbolize freedom, heritage and identity while reflecting the holiday’s connections to both American history and the African diaspora.

Food also plays a central role in the celebration. Red foods and beverages — including red velvet cake, strawberry soda, hibiscus tea, watermelon and red beans and rice — are often served as symbols of resilience, remembrance and

survival.

Barbecues, soul food and family cookouts bring generations together to celebrate freedom, reflect on the past and share stories.

Across the Tri-Valley, local celebrations carried that tradition forward.

In Dublin, the city incorporated Juneteenth into its summer concert series and farmers market.

In Livermore, Tri-Valley for Black Lives hosted its annual celebration at Bankhead Plaza, bringing together residents, artists, community organizations and Black-owned businesses for a day of reflection and community.

Both events were emceed by Livermore Poet Laureate Faith Alpher, who recently became the first person of color appointed to the role.

An actor, writer, comedian and radio personality, Alpher hopes to use her platform to bring people together through storytelling and the literary arts.

“We want thousands of people down there,” Alpher said of the Livermore celebration. “The problem is people are going to say, ‘It’s too short.’ They want more music. So let’s hope that’s a good problem to have.”

After Juneteenth, Alpher plans to launch poetry programs and community gatherings designed to en-

courage residents of all ages to share their stories and connect through the literary arts and Black culture.

For decades, Black artists and writers have used poetry, literature and storytelling to preserve history, explore identity and inspire future generations.

From Maya Angelou and Langston Hughes to Toni Morrison and James Baldwin, their work has helped ensure that stories, struggles and achievements are not forgotten.

Across the nation, museums, libraries and cultural institutions continue to keep those stories alive.

The recent opening of the Obama Presidential Center in Chicago is another reminder that the stories, struggles and achievements that shaped the nation deserve to be remembered, celebrated and passed on to future generations.

Like storytelling, music has long played a central role in celebration. From jazz and blues to gospel, R&B and hip-hop, Black musical traditions have helped shape American culture while serving as expressions of resilience, joy and community.

“My hope for Livermore is that you see that everybody has a voice. We all matter,” Alpher said.

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 623555 The following person(s) doing	business as: L’Arcana, 4249 Fitzwilliam Street, Dublin, CA 94568 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Justine Valino, 3736 Fallon Road, #641, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by an Individual.	The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 5/22/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Justine Valino, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Ala-	meda on May 22, 2026. Expires May 21, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6874. Published June 4, 11, 18, 25, 2026.
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FILE NO. 622877 The following person(s) doing business as: Bloom Craft Floral Co., 3833 East Ave, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Lukas Plato, 3833 East Ave, Livermore,				
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The following person(s) doing business as: Como en Casa Colombia Restaurant, 4336 San Pablo Ave, Emeryville, CA 94608 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Como En Casa Colombia Food LLC, 455 Buena Vista Ave, APT 102, Alameda, CA 94501. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 2/6/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Olga Patricia Gutierrez Garcia, Managing Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on May 27, 2026. Expires May 26, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6877. Published June 4, 11, 18, 25, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 622712

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

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 622952

The following person(s) doing business as: Critter Control of Fremont, 34191 Whitehead LN, Fremont, CA 94555 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Kura Pest Control Services LLC, 114 Bald Eagle LN, Kyle, TX 78640. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Sridhar Kura, Manager. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on May 1, 2026. Expires April 30, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6879. Published June 11, 18, 25, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 623659

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

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 623631

The following person(s) doing business as: Omni Mechanical Solutions, 6336 Patterson Pass Road, Suite B, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Thermo-tek Services Inc., 6336 Patterson Pass Road, Suite B, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: James Mervet, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on May 28, 2026. Expires May 27th, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6881. Published June 11, 18, 25, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 623744

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

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 623542

The following person(s) doing business as: California Sinus Centers, a Division of BASS Medical Group, 5924 Stoneridge Drive, Ste 108, Pleasanton, CA 94588 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): BASS Medical Group, 2637 Shadelands DR, Walnut Creek, CA 94598. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 12/18/2024. Signature of Reg-

istrant/s/: Rajiv Nagesetty, CFO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on May 22, 2026. Expires May 21, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6883. Published June 11, 18, 25, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 623722

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

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 622778

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

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 623772

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

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 623269

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

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 624025

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

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 623888

The following person(s) doing business as: Revived Renewed Redeemed, 1141 Catalina Dr, #209, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Chantel M. Antoine, 1141 Catalina Dr, #209, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the

fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Chantel M. Antoine, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 5, 2026. Expires June 4, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6889. Published June 18, 25, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 623896

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

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 623902

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

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 623632

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

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 623385

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

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 623800

The following person(s) doing business as: European Wax Center, 3359 Lakeshore Avenue, Oakland, CA 94610 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Ballast WaxCA 5, LLC, 1050 Glenbrook Way, Suite 480 414, Hendersonville, TN 37075. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 5/29/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Heather Graham, COO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 3, 2026. Expires June 2, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6894. Published June 18, 25, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 623801

The following person(s) doing business as: European Wax Center, 5820 College Avenue, Oakland, CA 94618 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Ballast Wax CA 6, LLC, 1050 Glenbrook Way, Suite 480 414, Hendersonville, TN 37075. This business is conducted by a

Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 5/29/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Heather Graham, COO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 3, 2026. Expires June 2, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6895. Published June 18, 25, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 623682

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Wow Signal; 2. Wow Signal Recordings; 3. Wow Singles, 5741 Vicente ST, Apt B, Oakland, CA 94609 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Brendan Glasson, 5741 Vicente ST, Apt B, Oakland, CA 94609. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Brendan Glasson, Sole Proprietor. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on May 29, 2026. Expires May 28, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6896. Published June 18, 25, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 623886

The following person(s) doing business as: Deepthi VR Collections & Arts, 5555 Dublin Blvd, Dublin, CA 94568 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Deepthi Venkata Ravikanth, 5555 Dublin Blvd, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 3/1/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Deepthi Venkata Ravikanth, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 5, 2026. Expires June 4, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6897. Published June 18, 25, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 623860

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Pragmatic Sky; 2. Pig Pile Games; 3. Pig Pile, 46 Crane Court, Alameda, CA 94502 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Benjamin Schnur, Alameda, CA 94502. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Benjamin Schnur, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 5, 2026. Expires June 4, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6898. Published June 18, 25, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 623547

The following person(s) doing business as: All Hands Home Healing, 6269 Southfront Rd, Suite B, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Careplus Home Health Care Services, Inc., 6269 Southfront Rd, Suite B, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Mohammad Abdul Majid Siddiqui, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on May 22, 2026. Expires May 21, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6899. Published June 18, 25, 2026.

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

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

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 623992

The following person(s) doing

business as: 1. Hearts & Tails by Celestial; 2. Rustic Sun Gardens, 6271 Market Avenue, Newark, CA 94560 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Bhadouria Enterprises, LLC, 6271 Market Avenue, Newark, CA 94560. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 4/3/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Celestial M. Bhadouria, Managing Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 10, 2026. Expires June 9, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6901. Published June 25, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 624115

The following person(s) doing business as: Sarah Vanier Consulting, 2948 Chateau Way, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Sarah Vanier, 2948 Chateau Way, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 1/1/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Sarah Vanier, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 10, 2026. Expires June 15, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6902. Published June 25, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 623789

The following person(s) doing business as: Pacific Precision Surveying, 2265 San Jose Avenue, Alameda, CA 94501 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Craig Arthur Roberts, 2265 San Jose Avenue, Alameda, CA 94501. 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/: Craig Arthur Roberts, Principal. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 3, 2026. Expires June 2, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6903. Published June 25, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 624116

The following person(s) doing business as: Amos Productions, 5715 Southfront RD, C1, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Amos Pro Events, LLC, 5715 Southfront RD C1, 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 8/20/1997. Signature of Registrant/s/: Jody Amos, Owner/Managing Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 16, 2026. Expires June 15, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6904. Published June 25, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 624117

The following person(s) doing business as: Altamont Limo, 5715 Southfront RD, C1, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Amos Pro Enterprises, LLC, 5715

Southfront RD C1, 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 01/2017. Signature of Registrant/s/: Jody Amos, Owner/Managing Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 16, 2026. Expires June 15, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6905. Published June 25, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 624109

The following person(s) doing business as: Karina Padilla's Beauty Studio, 4326 Las Positas Rd, Ste 121, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Karina Cruz Padilla, 4326 Las Positas Rd, Ste, 121, 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/: Karina Cruz Padilla, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 16, 2026. Expires June 15, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6906. Published June 25, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 624113

The following person(s) doing business as: Blue Oak Portable Restrooms, 25509 Industrial Blvd, Hayward, CA 94545 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): ABS Sanitation Services LLC, 1401 21st ST #16278, Sacramento, CA 95811. 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/: Alexander Belykh, Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 16, 2026. Expires June 15, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6907. Published June 25, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 623410

The following person(s) doing business as: Comezza, 3600 Laguna Ave, Oakland, CA 94602 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Erfan Azadehnia, 3600 Laguna Ave, Oakland, CA 94602. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 1/1/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Erfan Azadehnia, Founder/Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on May 15, 2026. Expires may 14, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6908. Published June 25, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 623390

The following person(s) doing business as: KimberlyEspeland.com, 3573 Ballantyne Dr, Pleasanton, CA 94588 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Sharlyn Dreyfus, 3573 Ballantyne Dr, Pleasanton, CA 94588. 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/:

Sharlyn Dreyfus, Sole Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on May 15, 2026. Expires May 14, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6909. Published June 25, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 623274

The following person(s) doing business as: Tulip Land, 2362 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, CA 94704 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Adrian Reyes, 488 Berland Way, Chula Vista, CA 91910; Alia Kircher, 488 Berland Way, Chula Vista, CA 91910. This business is conducted by a General Partnership. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Adrian Reyes, General Partner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on May 13, 2026. Expires May 12, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6910. Published June 25, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 623884

The following person(s) doing business as: HLH Property Management, 1321 Russell Way, Hayward, CA 94541 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Xinyang Zhou, 181 E Tasman Dr, Suite 20 PMB# 108, San Jose, CA 95134. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 6/4/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Xinyang Zhou, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 5, 2026. Expires June 4, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6905. Published June 25, 2026.

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Leonardo Cuervo Keeps the Ancient Art of Etching Alive

LIVERMORE — Leonardo Cuervo feels like an artist born of another era. Inspired by the great classical artists, writers and musicians throughout history, Cuervo began his own career as a student in Havana, Cuba.

A realist painter whose focus is on the human form, he has mastered traditional oil painting techniques and applied them to modern subject matter, earning him international acclaim. Surprisingly, he said he actually studied etching, not painting, while at the Academy of Fine Art in Havana.

“Never painting,” Cuervo said. “Painting is like math for physicists. It was complementary.” While he was passionate about etching, it proved nearly impossible in Cuba to work in the medium as it required facing bureaucracy and limited resources.

“You cannot find acid, zinc plates...it’s complex to make.”

Cuervo and his wife, Belkis Cabrera, a physicist at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, moved to Livermore 13 years ago with their son, Ignacio. Cuervo had thought about pursuing engraving in San Francisco, but the cost was prohibitive. The roadblocks were similar to those in Cuba, and he learned he’d have to pay someone else to do the printmaking. “I am a master printer. I know

every technique.” He told his wife, who is also Cuban, that it was too expensive and complicated. “She said to me, ‘Leo, it’s America! Everything is possible.’”



Realist painter and printmaker Leonardo Cuervo in his Livermore studio, surrounded by the tools, metal plates, and historical inspirations that fuel his meticulous etching and printmaking process. Here he brings centuries-old etching techniques into the modern era. (Photo by Belkis Cabrera)

So he bought his own zinc plate, started to work again in the medium, and the rest is history.

Cuervo’s newest etchings are on display at The Independent Art Gallery, woven in with his works in oil and graphite in an exhibit called Oratoria. The show is free to the public and on view for one more Friday and Saturday only, June 26 and 27 from 6 to 8 p.m. at

husband’s work, which entails hours and hours of meticulously drawing with a fine-tip needle onto a metal plate that is then treated with acid for precise lengths of time. The acid eats into the places where the lines have been drawn, and a print is made from the detailed etching. Printmaking is an age-old discipline practiced throughout history by artists such as

Dürer, Rembrandt, Goya and others.

“It is a very difficult technique. It’s not something that anybody can do at a high level,” Cabrera

very precise, even though as a person he is a complete artist personality.”

Each exquisite etching traverses the richness of worlds found in classical music compositions, great works of literature and the Old World artists who have inspired Cuervo. These inspirations are juxtaposed with a modern sensibility.

Cuervo is especially passionate about Shakespeare and has read his entire collection of plays and sonnets in Spanish. He is currently at work on 12 new etchings in homage to the playwright. One powerful piece underway is inspired by “King Lear.” On a trip to San Francisco, Cuervo met a homeless man and, after a conversation with him, was moved, with his permission, to photograph him. “I have a wonderful picture,” Cuervo said. “And in my etching, I put him there with Cordelia, his most beloved daughter.”

One etching in Oratoria gives a nod to a work by Stravinsky. The aliveness of the lines represents a specific measure. “So a musician looks at that and they just hear the music,” said Cabrera. She said her husband is constantly listening to classical music. “He lives in that space and so his themes all come from that — from music, art and literature.”

As a physicist, she has

seen that there are many scientists who aren’t naturally inclined to see the beauty in art. Being with her husband, she said, has opened whole new worlds.

She disagrees with the idea of art as an investment. “It’s not an investment. It’s happiness for you,” she said. “And the first time that you buy something, when you bring it home, you will feel it and then you will go back and buy from somebody else. My husband is very good. Come and see him, because otherwise you’re missing out.”

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Uncorking the Laughs at Retzlaff Winery

By Lucie Ansell

LIVERMORE — Retzlaff Vineyards is no novice to the Bay Area’s performing arts scene, and neither is Nancy Lee.

Lee will take the stage at the Livermore winery in the opening show of Comedy Uncorked at 7 p.m. Saturday, June 27.

Now entering its 18th season at Retzlaff, the Tri-Valley’s longest-running nonprofit comedy series has benefitted the Open Heart Kitchen since the event’s inception in 2008.

Alongside Lee, comedians Cody Woods and Rhonda Gravador will help kick off a summer of laughs at the 50-year-old vineyard.

Raised in Daly City, Lee got her start on stage early. “My mom put me in dance classes and I’m sure she regretted it because I think that awakened the love of the arts,” she said.

The older Lee got, the less “traditional” careers attracted her. Her mom — a music major in college — urged her daughter to give a 9-to-5 a try.

Lee’s mom was afraid that Lee would be pigeonholed into certain roles due to her race and gender. The now-comedian noted that for the majority of her upbringing she saw Asian Women only in stereotypical roles.

In a compromise with her

mom, Lee agreed to attend college on the condition that she could study drama.

She did pursue that childhood love of dancing, for a while. Lee even made it on stage with Jay-Z, at the Soul Train Awards, but the toll of the work started to weigh on her. “I love dance,” Lee said. “I was in a few groups where I did some professional performances, but it took all day to practice and then my love for it started dissipating and it became work and I didn’t want that. So, I just started focusing on acting and comedy more.”

And that was no mistake.

It was an acting teacher who first saw the Korean mom character for which Lee has since gone viral.

“This mom character, I just thought was a one-off, you know, just funny to do,” Lee said. “And then it killed so hard in my acting class.”

Her teacher convinced her to try stand-up. Reluctantly, she did, and it worked. Audiences laughed and comedy club owners started inviting her back, but some were hesitant about the mom character. Lee recalls one owner telling her it was holding her back, that she needed to show more of herself.

Reluctantly, Lee obliged, throwing herself headfirst into a career on stage and in front of the camera. She was living in Los Angeles,

working with big-name Hollywood producers and performing all over the city.

Then, her mom got sick, and Lee returned to the Bay Area, putting her career on hold. The woman who had been the inspiration behind the comedian’s mom character passed away a year later, leaving Lee overwhelmed with grief and picking up the pieces of a fading career. “It’s like I had to start all over again,” she said.

Lee returned to Los Angeles with a new spark and a renewed purpose to bring laughter to as many people as possible.

“If I didn’t go through all those things, I wouldn’t be the person that I am now. I wouldn’t have the spiritual and emotional maturity that I have now to take on this sort of career,” she said. “It’s a circus life. You know? You don’t want to be taken away by the wind anytime you have a hard time in your career.”

Lee made it back into comedy clubs and production studios. She racked up credits in shows likes of “Grey’s Anatomy,” “Never Have I Ever,” and “Dr. Ken” with Ken Jeong.

In the end, Lee returned to Northern California, not to slow down, but to do more of what she loves.

“I’m just a gal from the Bay Area who knows how to make people laugh some-

times,” she said.

Tickets start at \$36 for general admission lawn seating and are available online at ComedyUncorked.com. The Matt Finders Jazz Trio will provide pre-show entertainment, with food available for purchase from Tasteful Catering & Events.

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PLEASE HELP BRING MIGUEL HOME



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

Livermore Wente Winery worker, married father of three and grandfather

Miguel Lopez

remains in Mexico after having been illegally deported last June.

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