



One Nation Dream Makers founder and CEO Ronnie Forbes and others committed to making sure people have enough food on their tables are even more challenged than usual these days. The Trump administration's halt of food benefits through the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and its California program, CalFresh, has created a great deal of uncertainty. (File photo — Doug Jorgensen)

Pleasanton's Future Sewer Needs Identified as City Looks Long Term

Aging Infrastructure Will Require Upgrades Over the Next 20 Years

By David Jen

PLEASANTON — The city council last week approved a new long-term capital-improvement plan for its sewer system, identifying some \$170 million in capital projects to keep the system operating over the next 20 years.

Closed-circuit-television (CCTV) inspections of about 30% of the city's sewer pipes found that the system can currently support the city's future predicted sewage flows, but the aging infrastructure has begun to degrade.

A 300-foot section of sewer line at Danker Road, for example, recently collapsed due to age.

"We found about four to five percent of the pipes that had CCTV data needed some sort of rehab/repair action, and it ranged the full spectrum of potential deficiencies," Chris Van Lienden, project manager at city consultant Woodard & Curran, said at the Nov. 4 city council meeting.

Inspections of the city's remaining 70% of pipes will continue and possibly result in updating the plan, Van Lienden added.

The city's 253 miles of sewers, 4.9 miles of pressurized pipes, eight siphons and 11 pump stations carry about 6 million gallons away from Pleasanton homes and businesses every day. The Dublin San Ramon Services Dis-

trict treats most of Pleasanton's wastewater, while the Ruby Hill service area in Pleasanton sends its effluent to the City of Livermore's treatment systems.

"Over the next 20 years, replacement and rehabilitation projects will be needed to renew piping and pumping systems to extend the useful life of the conveyance systems and maintain reliability," city staff wrote in its report.

The plan identified \$59.9 million in high-priority projects, meaning those that present health and safety risks, criteria violations, high failure risk or involve the inspection of critical assets. Medium-priority projects, where

(See SEWER, page 6)

Dublin Adopts New Rules on ADUs To Align With California's Housing Laws

Amended Ordinance Alters Definitions, Clarifies Fire and Parking Standards

By Sanestina Hunter

DUBLIN — The City Council on Nov. 4 adopted an ordinance amending sections of Dublin's zoning code to comply with new state accessory dwelling unit (ADU) laws.

The update revises city definitions, parking standards and development regulations, repealing and replacing Dublin's previous Accessory Dwelling Unit chapter to align with legislation intended to streamline local permitting and reduce barriers to construction statewide.

ADUs — often called "in-law units" or "granny flats" — are

small, self-contained homes built on the same lots as existing residences. They can be attached or detached and include full living, cooking and bathroom facilities. Meanwhile, junior ADUs (JADUs) are smaller apartments of up to 500 square feet created within main homes.

City Manager Colleen Tribby said in a Nov. 4 staff report that the updates reflect Dublin's ongoing effort to comply with evolving state law while giving residents more flexibility to create secondary housing.

Dublin Special Projects Manager Kristie Wheeler, who presented the ordinance, said that

staff members have seen a steady increase in ADU applications among homeowners seeking ways to accommodate extended family or generate rental income.

ADUs are considered an essential part of California's housing supply, serving seniors, students, caregivers and others who need affordable or flexible housing options.

The revised ordinance incorporates recent state legislation — including Assembly Bills 2221 and 2533, and Senate Bills 477, 897 and 1211 — that standardize definitions, streamline local approvals and address issues related to unpermitted units and parking.

(See ADU, page7)

SNAP Interruption Hits the Tri-Valley, Leaving Uncertainty

Local Nonprofits Organize Food Drive in Response

By David Jen

TRI-VALLEY — Local food pantries have experienced a surge in demand following the Trump administration's halt of food benefits through the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and its California program, CalFresh.

In the Tri-Valley, 9,460 residents rely on CalFresh benefits, according to Alameda County Social Services' September report. The program provided households with several hundred dollars per month for food staples, depending on household size and income.

"Many parents have shared their fears that they will not be able to put enough food on the table for their children," Christine Dillman, executive director of Tri-Valley Haven, told The Independent. "Some have admitted that they skip meals so their kids can eat."

Tri-Valley Haven's food pantry, which distributes free groceries, fresh produce and household essentials to low-income residents, saw a 20% uptick in residents visiting the pantry in October.

"That upward trend has only accelerated," Dillman said. "In just the first week of November, a significant number of new families came

(See SNAP, page 6)



A ceremony presented by Livermore's Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7265 was held on Nov. 11 last year inside the Veterans Hall on South L Street in Livermore. The ceremony honored all who have served in the United States' military in observance of the Veterans Day holiday. (File photo — Doug Jorgensen)

TVNPA Hands out Annual Power of Giving Awards

Outstanding Community Contributions Recognized

By Vivien Wencker

LIVERMORE — The Tri-Valley Nonprofit Alliance (TVNPA) on Nov. 6 held its fifth annual Power of Giving: A Night of Inspiration and Impact Awards at the Bankhead Theater.

The milestone celebration brought together local leaders, including the mayors of Livermore, Pleasanton and Dublin, philanthropists, and the heads of some of the region's prominent nonprofit organizations to celebrate the power of giving and its lasting impact on the community.

"The Power of Giving Celebration showcases the extraordinary generosity and commitment that define our Tri-Valley community," said Kathy Young, the CEO of TVNPA. "Each finalist exemplifies the very best of service, leadership and compassion, and we are honored to recognize them."

Since 2020, TVNPA has hosted the Impact Awards to honor the achievements and outstanding contributions of individuals, organizations and businesses whose dedication and service have made a profound difference in the Tri-Valley.

This year's awards ceremony was led by Mark Orcutt and Katie Marcel, both CEOs of regional leadership groups. There were six categories for award recipients.

The first award for contributions to Arts & Culture went to the Livermore Amador Symphony for making orchestral music accessible to the Tri-Valley through its performances, school programs and scholarships geared toward empowering young people and inspiring a lifelong love of the arts.

The UNCLE Credit Union was recognized as corporate/philanthropic partner of the year for its steadfast investment in the

(See POWER, page 7)



Franc D'Ambrosio, who earned the title of "the World's Longest-Running Phantom" in Andrew Lloyd Webber's Tony Award-winning musical "The Phantom of the Opera," will take the Bankhead Theater stage on Friday, Dec. 5 in support of the Livermore Valley Opera. D'Ambrosio will share songs, stories and unparalleled star quality with Livermore fans, old and new. (Photo courtesy of Livermore Valley Opera)

D'Ambrosio's Star Power To Light Bankhead

World-Famous Tenor Returns to Livermore for a Night of Song and Stories

By Christina Cavallaro

LIVERMORE — The name Franc D'Ambrosio is synonymous with "The Phantom of the Opera," and the lead role in Andrew Lloyd Webber's Tony Award-winning musical. D'Ambrosio performed as the famed masked man more than 2,100 times during his six-and-a-half-year run in the San Francisco production before passing the torch. But the man behind the mask possesses a star power and charisma so expansive that his appeal transcends well beyond lovers of opera

or musical theater.

Singer, actor, storyteller, philanthropist, educator, painter, baker — the Renaissance man D'Ambrosio will return to the Bankhead Theater stage on Friday, Dec. 5 to give a benefit concert for the Livermore Valley Opera (LVO).

Well before his rise to Phantom stardom, D'Ambrosio captivated audiences in his first movie role, as the opera-singing Anthony Corleone, son of Al Pacino and Diane Keaton's characters in the seven-time Academy Award-nominated film "The Godfather, Part

III" (1990).

D'Ambrosio commented on Keaton's recent death.

"It came out of the blue," he said. "Talk about generosity of spirit."

While filming, Keaton was aware that "The Godfather" was D'Ambrosio's first movie. Prior to that, he had been working on Broadway in "Sweeney Todd."

"She took me under her wing," D'Ambrosio said. Keaton, who was versed in both film and stage work, gave the young actor some tips he'll never forget during a scene

(See FRANC, page 7)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Classifieds	11
Editorial	4
Mailbox	4
Obituaries	9
Sports	10

Fremont Police Arrest Suspected School Burglar	2
Las Positas College Offering Winter Intersession	2
Expert Panel Discusses Medical Misinformation	8
Four Tri-Valley Teams Headed for Section Football Playoffs	10
Livermore Product Eyeing New Pro Women's Baseball League	12

PET OF THE WEEK



PRINCESS BUTTERCUP

It's "Inconceivable!" that anyone could resist Princess Buttercup — a sweet, clever and cuddle-loving pup who's ready to make every day a fairy tale. Well-mannered and delightfully affectionate, she's the loyal companion you've been seeking. Adopt Princess Buttercup today and let true love win the day — as you wish! Call Valley Humane at (925) 426-8656 or email info@valleyhumane.org to get started with the adoption process. (Photo courtesy of Valley Humane)

Suspected School Burglar Nabbed by Fremont Police

By Vivien Wenneker

LIVERMORE — The Fremont Police Department (FPD) on Nov. 3 arrested a suspect in connection with a series of October school burglaries that occurred throughout the Bay Area, including in Livermore.

The suspect, Christopher Britton, is a resident of Fairfield and was wanted by law-enforcement agencies in Alameda, Contra Costa, Solano, Marin and Yolo Counties for similar thefts occurring on school campuses, according to Fremont police.

The thefts typically involved the suspect trespassing onto Bay Area school campuses, including at least four in Livermore, and stealing personal belongings and credit cards from classrooms.

Specifically, FPD said Britton was targeting teachers' credit cards inside the classrooms and had been making fraudulent purchases at various retail stores.

“Our educators come to work each day to teach and support our children — they

should never have to worry about being targeted by criminals,” Sgt. Richard Hamblin, a Fremont police school resource officer (SRO), said in a statement. “The dedication of our SROs and their collaboration with neighboring agencies made this arrest possible, helping ensure the safety of our schools and staff.”

Fremont police started investigating the case when, on Oct. 3, a Fremont elementary school reported a suspicious individual walking around campus. When confronted by staff, the suspect provided conflicting explanations for being on the property and left shortly thereafter.

Following the incident, Fremont SROs began receiving additional reports of missing items from classrooms at multiple schools across the district. They soon identified the suspect as Britton, who had been arrested in Lafayette in April on multiple charges, including stealing credit cards from several Lafayette schools.

An arrest was soon made

while conducting follow-up activity in Walnut Creek. A Fremont SRO spotted Britton returning a rental vehicle believed to have been used during one of the burglaries. Working in collaboration with the Walnut Creek Police Department, FPD officers arrested Britton when he attempted to flee.



Christopher Britton

“We appreciate the swift action and collaboration of our law-enforcement partners, including the Fremont Police Department and the Walnut Creek Police Department, for apprehending the suspect,” the Livermore Police Department said in a statement.

Since the first incidents of trespassing and school thefts were reported in Livermore in late October, the Livermore Joint Unified School District (LVJUSD) has reviewed and taken measures to strengthen safety protocols. This includes evaluating site-access procedures, visitor-identification practices and general campus supervision during busy times of the day.

“While this situation has understandably caused concern, please know that our top priority remains the safety and well-being of our students, staff and schools,” LVJUSD Superintendent Torie Gibson said in an Oct. 30 notice sent to Livermore families.

Last week, all LVJUSD school principals communicated directly with their school communities regarding any specific changes to campus access for parents, volunteers and visitors. The adjustments are designed to enhance security while maintaining a welcoming environment for students

and families, according to Gibson’s notice.

“We have always valued the open and accessible nature of our schools and the strong sense of community it fosters,” Gibson said. “However, we also recognize that we live in an ever-changing world where we can never be too cautious. Our goal is to protect our staff and students and to strengthen the safety

of our school environments in every way possible.”

Fremont police are encouraging anyone who believes they may have been victimized to contact their local police department. To reach the Livermore Criminal Investigations Bureau, call (925) 371-4700, or visit: <https://police.livermoreca.gov/about-us/criminal-investigations-bureau-cib>.

Las Positas College Offering Students A Winter Intersession for First Time

By Vivien Wenneker

LIVERMORE — For the first time ever, the Chabot-Las Positas Community College District is offering a winter intersession, giving students at both Las Positas College in Livermore and Chabot College in Hayward the opportunity to take accelerated, fully-remote courses over winter break.

Running from Dec. 20 through Jan. 17, the intersession will give students the chance to catch up, get ahead or explore new subjects between semesters. The courses are designed to be completed in just four weeks, allowing students to earn one to three units and make progress toward their degrees, transfer goals or career pathways before the spring semester begins.

“We are always looking for new ways to meet students where they are,” said Ronald Gerhard, district chancellor. “The winter intersession offers an innovative and flexible option that helps students accelerate their progress, stay on track for graduation and use their time efficiently.”

The decision to launch a winter intersession at both Las Positas and Chabot grew out of an assessment of student enrollment data showing continued demand for flexible, year-

round learning opportunities, according to Chip Woerner, Las Positas’ director of communications.

“Many students balance work and family with ambitious transfer goals, and a short, fully online session gives them another way to make academic progress during the winter break,” Woerner said.

The winter intersession will operate as a “stand-alone,” independent of both the fall and

spring semesters. This approach, according to a winter intersession project implementation report from January, eliminates concerns related to the “67% law.” The California law limits part-time community college faculty from working more than 67% of a full-time teaching load and streamlines the process for finalizing and distributing student grades without waiting for a longer, combined term to conclude.

While winter sessions are already established at many California community colleges, both Chabot-Las Positas district colleges will offer winter intersession simultaneously, with the opportunity for students to take classes at either.

The introduction of winter intersession also reflects the district’s broader commitment to innovation,

equity and student success. According to Dionicia Ramos, Chabot’s director of communications, district graduates see significant economic benefits, with the average associate degree holder earning \$12,000 more annually than someone with a high school diploma.

Additionally, district programs rank among the best in California and collectively contribute more than \$800 million in added income and more than 7,700 local jobs each year.

“Launching a winter intersession at both Chabot and Las Positas colleges reflects our commitment to expanding year-round access to higher education,” Gerhard said. “It’s one more way we’re ensuring our colleges are meeting the needs of students.”

Registration for the winter intersession opened Nov. 11. Courses will be fully remote and asynchronous to ensure maximum flexibility for new and continuing students. Financial aid will also be available for eligible students, and both colleges will provide online tutoring and support 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

“Students are balancing work, family, and personal commitments,” Las Positas President Dr. Dyrell Foster said. “The winter intersession gives them a

fast, flexible way to move closer to their goals — whether that’s transferring to a university, finishing a degree or building career-ready skills.”

After this first winter intersession, the district will review enrollment, completion rates and student feedback to determine how it can best continue to respond to student demands and needs.

For more information on the Chabot-Las Positas winter intersession, and to view the courses available at Las Positas, visit: laspositascollege.edu/welcome/winter.php



SOLD!

\$1,135,000 with multiple offers!
5360 Celeste Avenue
3 bed 2 bath ~1475 sq ft,
~9134 sq ft lot



Linda Diaz Futral
Broker/Realtor
925.980.3561
linda@lindafutral.com
www.lindafutral.com
License #01257605

LUXICOR
REAL ESTATE

Pristine Home | Owned Solar



2845 Briarwood Drive
Livermore CA 94551
3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms ±1553 sq ft
on a large ±8560 sq ft lot
Offered at \$1,149,000
www.2845Briarwood.com



Leslie FAUGHT
REALTOR®, CRS, SRES®
COMPASS
925.784.7979
LeslieFought.com
SellingEastBayHomes.com
DRE#1927778
2018 Bay East Association REALTOR® of the Year

"I'll find a buyer for your home and a home for you to buy"

South Livermore Beauty



3080 Bresso Drive, Livermore CA 94550
5 Bed, 5 bath, 3184 +/- sq. ft, 11,528 sq. ft. lot
Pool/Spa, Owned Solar
Offered at \$2,275,000.00
3080Bresso.com



Leslie FAUGHT
REALTOR®, CRS, SRES®
COMPASS
925.784.7979
LeslieFought.com
SellingEastBayHomes.com
DRE#1927778
2018 Bay East Association REALTOR® of the Year

"I'll find a buyer for your home and a home for you to buy"

Dublin Police Officers Avoid Injury in a Bizarre Accident

By Sanestina Hunter

DUBLIN — Dublin Police officers escaped injury when a suspected drunk driver crashed into their patrol vehicle during a traffic stop late Oct. 30, the night before Halloween.

The impact flipped the driver’s vehicle, according to the California Highway Patrol (CHP). The driver suffered minor injuries, and no officers were hurt. The crash occurred at about 10:15 p.m., according to the CHP.

In an Instagram post, CHP Dublin shared details of the collision and reminded drivers to make

responsible choices, especially during holiday weekends.

“Why do people continue to drink and drive? It is easy to just call for a ride,” the post read.

The crash happened as law-enforcement agencies increased DUI enforcement to catch impaired drivers and keep roads safe leading into the Halloween weekend.

The incident is still under investigation. CHP Dublin did not respond to a request from The Independent for further information.

Dublin ranked second in California for speed-

ing violations during the Halloween Weekend Maximum Enforcement Period, which ran from 6 p.m. Oct. 31 to 6 a.m. Nov. 1. The 12-hour enforcement campaign resulted in six fatal crashes within CHP jurisdiction, according to the agency’s post.

As part of statewide enforcement efforts, CHP officers made 503 DUI arrests and issued 1,943 speeding citations to drivers traveling more than 96 mph. CHP also reported a total of 8,029 enforcement actions during the period, according to a recent post on its Instagram story.

Insurance Agency To Collect Winter Coats for Needy Children and Adults

The Gene Morgan Insurance Agency is collecting winter coats to benefit needy children and adults.

New or lightly used coats can be dropped off at the

agency’s downtown Livermore office, 2020 Fourth St., between 9 a.m. and noon, or 1 p.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Drop-offs can also be

scheduled by calling 925-447-2265.

The agency’s annual Warm Coat Drive will run through Dec. 5.



LAS POSITAS
COLLEGE

Invest in You

Start strong with **small classes, low tuition, and supportive faculty.**





ENROLL TODAY
laspositascollege.edu/welcome

Pleasanton School Board Weighing Difficult Budget Cuts

By Sanestina Hunter

PLEASANTON — The Pleasanton Unified School District (PUSD) board of trustees met Nov. 6 to refine a prioritized list of proposed budget reductions for the 2026–27 school year as the district works to close a projected shortfall.

Trustees continued discussions from a series of October workshops that outlined between \$10 million and \$15 million in potential

cuts. At the Nov. 6 special meeting, the board completed its “consensus weighting” process, ranking reduction options based on compliance, educational goals and impact on student programs.

Alysse Castro, Alameda County superintendent of schools, attended the meeting and commended the district for confronting its fiscal challenges directly.

“We deeply appreciate the continued dedication and hard work of the district

staff, the board, PUSD labor partners and the PUSD community,” Castro said. “I particularly applaud the outreach fiscal staff and labor partners have made to the county office to build capacities, safeguards and shared understanding. PUSD is taking all the right and necessary actions — with honesty and resolve — to confront its fiscal realities.

“Unlike many organizations that delay or defer difficult decisions, this district is

facing the challenge directly and transparently while acknowledging that this work will require continued effort and partnership over time.”

Proposed reductions include health-services specialists, intervention aides, program specialists, teachers on special assignments, counselors, parent liaisons, custodial staff and certain administrative positions.

Other options include reorganizing management roles, reducing administrator workdays and adjusting course offerings at the secondary level to improve staffing efficiency.

Board member Mary Jo Carreron expressed concern about potential cuts affecting school libraries, calling them “a safe haven for kids. “I don’t feel comfortable reducing the hours for that,” she said.

Board member Charlie Jones also voiced concern that the proposed cuts could limit student access to essential programs and safe spaces.

Some of these are vital programs — like having the parent liaisons, health specialists and libraries that give students access to a quiet place to study or de-

compress,” Jones said. “This affects all students, especially our Hispanic and African American families. We need to think about equity and inclusion.”

District officials said the shortfall stems from declining enrollment, the expiration of about \$40 million in one-time COVID-19 relief funds and the lack of a local parcel tax that supports many neighboring districts. Rising costs for salaries, utilities, insurance and special-education services have also added pressure.

To date, PUSD has implemented \$16.7 million in reductions across 2024–25 and 2025–26, and increased revenues by \$4.3 million through grants, facility leases and programs such as Kids Club. Another \$11 million from the sale of the Vineyard property was transferred to the general fund to meet the state’s 3 percent reserve requirement.

Prior to the board meeting, parents, students and teachers gathered outside the district office to protest the proposed cuts, urging trustees to preserve classroom programs and staff positions as the district continues its fiscal planning.

The board’s next special meeting is scheduled for Nov. 13, followed by the district’s first interim budget report on Dec. 11 and possible reduction-in-force resolutions in February.



Brass Over Bridges, a San Francisco quintet, will play the Bankhead Theater in Livermore at 3 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 15. The all-horns ensemble will perform an eclectic array of musical selections ranging from the Italian Renaissance to Broadway’s “West Side Story”. Tickets to the concert, presented by the nonprofit Del Valle Fine Arts, start at \$35. (Photo courtesy of Del Valle Fine Arts)

ARROYO
CELLARS

Tasting Room Open:
Saturday: 12 - 5pm,
Sunday: 12 - 5pm,
or by appointment

2270 Research Drive,
Livermore
(925) 292-9157

Woman Arrested after Abandoning Child

By Sanestina Hunter

TRI-VALLEY — A woman was arrested and faces multiple felony charges after allegedly leaving her 1-year-old daughter at the scene of a solo drunk-driving crash along Interstate 580 east of Livermore on Oct. 30, according to the California Highway Patrol (CHP).

CHP Dublin officials said the driver crashed her vehicle and then walked away, leaving her child behind.

Officers found the woman walking along Interstate 580 and, through question-

ing, backtracked to the crash scene, where they discovered the injured child.

The toddler was found outside the vehicle and was taken to a nearby hospital, where she is expected to recover from major injuries.

“The saddest part of this incident is that the child was left alone at the scene,” CHP Dublin wrote in an Instagram post. “Thankfully, the child will be OK.”

Officials said impairment can severely affect judgment and endanger others on the road. “Driving under the influence causes major judgment

issues — not only do you put yourself at risk, but you also endanger others,” CHP officials wrote in the post.

The case remains under investigation.

Pleasanton Fatality

PLEASANTON — A 56-year-old Pleasanton woman died as the result of injuries suffered when she was struck by a vehicle at the corner of Main Street and Neal Street on the evening of Nov. 4.

The woman, a pedestrian, received immediate medical care from responding Pleas-

anton Police Department officers, Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department personnel and Falck paramedics, but died after being transported to a nearby hospital.

The driver of the vehicle remained at the scene and cooperated with investigators. Impairment did not appear to be a factor in the collision, which remained under investigation.

Anyone who witnessed the incident or has additional information is asked to contact Pleasanton police at (925) 931-5100.

Viva!
Livermore Valley Opera

An Evening with Phantom Legend
Franc D’Ambrosio
Broadway’s longest running Phantom live in concert

December 5, 2025 at 7:30 PM
A Benefit Concert for Livermore Valley Opera
Bankhead Theater

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT LVOPERA.COM

SENIOR LIVING SHOULD BE WORRY-FREE LIVING!

HOME OWNERSHIP STARTING
TO FEEL OVERWHELMING?

Experience stress-free living on your terms.

Heritage Estates Senior Living Campus has something for every lifestyle!

Active Senior Apartments let you enjoy independence while cultivating meaningful relationships with other residents.

Independent Living Apartments with amenities provide 2 meals per day, fun activities and excursions, 24-hour front desk, and transportation services.

Caring Assisted Living with life-enhancing care services, 3 meals per day, activities, and excursions. Welcome home to Heritage Estates!

Call today to learn more about our current specials with Active Senior apartments starting at \$3,250 and Independent Living starting at \$6,950!

800 E Stanley Blvd | Livermore, CA 94550
925-371-2300 | HeritageEstatesSeniorApartments.com
LIC#015601095

900 E Stanley Blvd | Livermore, CA 94550
925-373-3636 | HeritageEstatesSeniorLiving.com
LIC#015601095



The Livermore Police Department (LPD) is teaming with Zephyr Grill & Bar at 1736 First Street for a Tip-A-Cop event Nov. 20 to benefit Special Olympics Northern California. Officers will trade their badges for aprons and serve guests from 5-8 p.m., with all “tips” going directly to support year-round sports training and competitions for children and adults with intellectual disabilities. (Photo courtesy of LPD).

MAILBOX

(Continued from page 4)

commitments and launched an expensive strategic planning initiative without fully understanding our structure, budget, or funding. A seasoned superintendent was promised, but remains unfulfilled. We’ve received surface-level projects, grumbling about past leaders and their administration, and now stand on the verge of a teacher strike. This past Friday’s email to parents highlights this and more: she used facts without context, told half-truths, pitted parents against their kids’ teachers, and again had to remind us how transparent she is; if you are, no need to say it.

Livermore’s students deserve better, and the Board of Education must act now — we cannot afford a Superintendent left unchecked. When the tail wags most of the dog, the tail wins. Meanwhile, our community, students, and all district staff lose.

Write the Board, attend School Board meetings, thank your teachers!

About Prop. 50 Article
John Lahommedieu, Dublin

‘California Voters Pass Proposition 50’ by Dan Wood; a front-page article that only tells one side of the story. Dan Wood, who may proclaim himself a writer, failed to tell both sides of the story on Prop 50. Prop 50 is a failed prop by a dismal failed corrupt self-serving imbecile named Gavin Newsom. Newsom has taken this great state and from north to south, hurt this state like no governor has ever done. Mr. Wood does not explain that in the end, if all states were to gerrymander like Texas and California, the Republicans would actually gain far more seats, which would be a very good thing in the end, but Mr. Wood, the so-called writer, does not mention that. He does not mention that in the city of Dublin, a portion of that city would be shifted to the criminal traitor known as Eric Swalwell, who has put a Chinese military officer ahead of country, but Mr. Wood only skirts that to make it sound like that is progress, when in fact it’s failure, especially to those who would now be in Swalwell’s failed district. It would be nice if writers like Mr. Wood were more open and honest, and less liberal and hateful of our president and half the country. Perhaps then we would trust writers like Mr. Wood, but alas, we cannot. Prop 50 will be challenged in court, and it will go down, and that is a great thing!

Our All-Star Team?
Terry McCune, Livermore

After watching President Trump’s remarks about immigration on 60 Minutes on Nov. 2, it got me thinking

In Major League Baseball and the NBA, we have an all-star team. In the NFL, we call it the Pro Bowl. The idea is to bring together the best players and let them compete on the world stage. For much of our nation’s history, we had much the same thing, allowing people from all over the world to immigrate to the United States and play for our team.

How significant were their contributions? Consider these all-stars; Sergey Brin, co-founder of Google; Satya Nadella, head of Microsoft; Hedy Lamarr, a Hollywood actress who, quite incredibly, was also a pioneering inventor behind Wi-Fi and Bluetooth; Elon Musk; Chien-Shiung Wu, who helped America build the first atom bomb; Alexander Graham Bell, the inventor of the telephone; Albert Vinicio Báez who co-invented the X-ray reflection microscope; Nikola Tesla, one of the most important minds behind the creation of electricity and radio. These brilliant people are just a small sample of the contributions of U.S. immigrants.

If our government spent the same money and effort to mend our broken immigration system as it’s currently wasting to deport people, we might be able to keep our edge in the world economy. As it stands right now, it seems unlikely that the United States will hang on to it, because aside from the personal tragedy we are inflicting on the families of immigrants, we are sending a message to the world that the U.S. is no longer interested in recruiting all-stars of the future.

Do we need controls in place? Absolutely. But deporting every undocumented person is not only cruel and vindictive, it’s a waste of tax dollars that will not serve our best interests as a nation.

I urge all Americans to get their heads in the game, and urge your elected representatives to start recruiting our all-stars of the future, and stop crippling our country by failing to fix our immigration policies.

Felicidades,
Californianos!
Paul Stone, Dublin

Congratulations, Californians, on voting away what little power you had left to the politicians in Sacramento by passing Prop 50.

A decade and a half ago we voted to take away power from Sacto and form the Citizen Redistricting Commission. Poof! Up in smoke. Histoire.

Despite what Prop 50 claims, that independent commission will never come back. The Sacramento Scalawags are loathe to surrender any power once they acquire it or, in this

case, re-acquire it.

Muy bien hecho, amigos! Oh, and guess what? After all the strutting and fretting, Trump is still president, er, king, and will be until Saturday, noon, Jan. 20, 2029.

As the Eagles once sang, “Get Over It”.

A Lifelong Democrat,
I Am Now the
Conservative
Marla Kirby, Livermore

In 1976, while in elementary school, I remember the excitement with which we wrote letters to the President proclaiming what the American bicentennial meant to us. I don’t remember what I wrote, but I recall the feeling of pride in being a young American.

Over the years, I learned about wretched chapters, and also uplifting periods, of our nation’s history; we haven’t always had the best leaders or made the best choices, but it seemed we pulled through to do the right thing in the end, calling to mind the famous (though incorrectly attributed) Winston Churchill quote. My youthful pride at being an American diminished, but it was never extinguished.

After President Obama’s election in 2008, my pride swelled once more. We CAN overcome stubborn prejudices; we CAN be the UNITED States of America. Back then, I didn’t understand the reactions of conservative family members; while I still consider their concerns to have been baseless, I can now view in a different light their worry about change.

Fast forward to now, as we approach the 250th anniversary of our country’s founding, and with images of large No Kings rallies juxtaposed with pictures of the demolition of the East Wing of the White House on the president’s whim and masked unidentified federal agents marauding our streets, my pride in being an American has once again diminished, and I’ve come to realize that I am now the conservative — I want to conserve the most traditional American value of democracy over monarchy, and the Constitutional pledges of a more perfect union, justice, domestic tranquility, promotion of the general welfare and securing the blessings of liberty.

I want to live in an America where we have a true democratic republic: the people have the power, and we elect public officials for whom there are checks, balances and accountability; an America where we revere equal justice under law and one person one vote, instead of obscene wealth wielded as a cudgel for hoarding still more money and power;

and where we strive to be the melting pot and shining beacon, with communities in which we look out for each other and treat each other with respect. These are the traditional American values that have always made America great and in which I can take pride and yes, seek to conserve.

Welcome to Trump
World: Is Trump Losing
It?

Rosario Milelli, Pleasanton

When a man who commands the world’s most powerful military starts threatening to bomb Nigeria because of a Fox News segment about Christian persecution, it’s not strategy — it’s cognitive decline exposed in public. Reports confirm that after watching an inflammatory TV story, Donald Trump demanded options for a military strike against Nigeria the very next day. It’s a red flag for serious executive dysfunction.

Another example: When Trump was asked who Changpeng Zhao is, despite pardoning the cryptocurrency multi-billionaire last month, he answered, “I don’t know who he is.” Oh my, so forgetful. This is the criminal who invested \$2 billion in his sons’ company,

The signs of decline have been visible for years, but we’ve become numb to them. Trump’s rambling speeches, word salads, and conspiratorial rants aren’t just stylistic quirks. In my opinion, a professional psychologist/psychiatrist would determine they fit a clinically recognized pattern of cognitive and frontal-lobe deterioration — the same regions that control judgment, inhibition, and coherent thought.

A ChatGPT analysis of

Trump’s public speech, language, and behavior from 2015 through 2025 using neuro-cognitive tools: the Mini-Mental State Exam, Montreal Cognitive Assessment, and Frontal Systems Behavior Scale. The findings were striking. His average sentence length, vocabulary richness, and logical sequencing all fell steadily each year. His Flesch-Kincaid reading level dropped from grade 8.2 to 5.5 — a decline well beyond normal aging.

Behaviorally, Trump scored in the impaired range for disinhibition and executive dysfunction, with scores climbing sharply after 2020. The public symptoms match those seen in neurodegenerative disorders: impulsivity, emotional volatility, and loss of insight. His inability to absorb correction, his delusional fixation on “rigged” systems, and his manic repetition of falsehoods are not political tactics — they’re cognitive breakdowns.

For comparison, Ronald Reagan’s language decline became visible only near

the end of his presidency, later tied to Alzheimer’s disease. Joe Biden, despite normal signs of aging, maintained a coherent syntax and policy depth. Trump’s regression is steeper, more chaotic, and behaviorally disinhibited.

When voters watch our leader unravel in real time, we can’t just call it eccentricity. This is what cognitive decline looks like: shorter sentences, erratic emotion, conspiratorial thinking, and reckless impulse. The pattern is unmistakable — and dangerous in anyone holding the nuclear codes. America needs to be on high alert. Almost any fact quoted by Trump is factually incorrect or a lie.

REED

PLUMBING INC.

(925)-371-5671

Commitment
Honesty &
Integrity



Peace of Mind
through Planning

Estate Planning can be an uncomfortable topic for many therefore it is often ignored until something bad happens. And that ‘something’ usually is an unexpected illness or death that then makes a difficult situation more complicated and expensive. Proper estate planning helps avoid this situation because it allows you to direct the management and distribution of your hard-earned assets upon your incapacity or passing without court intervention. My office strives to provide compassionate and knowledgeable legal advice to help our clients navigate these difficult decisions and obtain peace of mind through planning. Services provided in English and Español.

Law Offices of Jennifer E. Ramirez, A.P.C.
(925) 724-9190 | lawofficejer.com

LIVERMORE VALLEY
arts

LIVE AT THE BANKHEAD

**A CELEBRATION OF BOB & WILLIE
DUSTBOWL REVIVAL &
THE HOT CLUB OF COWTOWN
SUN NOV 16 | 7PM**

**THE PSYCHOLOGY OF
CULTS
A LIVE EVENT**

SUN NOV 23 | 3PM

Hosted by renowned cult interventionist Ashlen Hilliard, The Psychology Of Cults takes you inside how cults form, why people join, and what it takes to break free. From Jonestown to high-control groups in everyday life, Ashlen reveals the manipulation and coercion that draw people in. With real stories and expert insight, you'll learn to spot red flags and protect yourself.

GET TICKETS NOW!
LivermoreArts.org | 925.373.6800

Bankhead To Host Evening Musical Performances

Livermore Valley Arts will present four pre-Thanksgiving evenings of music at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore this month, starting with the vocals and choreography of Uptown, a celebration of the distinctly American sound of Motown on Friday, Nov. 14.

The following night, on Saturday, Nov. 15, the Bankhead Theater will host internationally acclaimed acoustic guitarist Luca Stricagnoli, accompanied

by his wife, German singer-songwriter Meg Pfeiffer, on rhythm guitar.

Making it three nights in a row, Dustbowl Revival and The Hot Club of Cowtown will collaborate in a celebration of music icons Bob Dylan and Willie Nelson on Sunday, Nov. 16.

Pianist and composer Keiko Matsui will also make a return visit to Livermore on Friday, Nov. 21.

Uptown is an all-male vocal group that offers a fresh approach to classic

soul and R&B hits by such Motown icons as Stevie Wonder, Marvin Gaye, Four Tops and The Temptations.

Tickets to the 8 p.m. Uptown performance start at \$50.

Known for his innovations, including a reversed triple neck guitar and the world’s first guitar with a reversed neck, the 34-year-old Italian-born Stricagnoli is returning to Livermore after a breakout showing at International Guitar Night in 2024.

Tickets to the 8 p.m. performance start at \$30.

After touring with the 2025 Outlaw Music Festival, the Hot Club of Cowtown, an Austin, Texas, Western swing band, and Dustbowl Revival, a Venice, California, Americana band, are continuing their celebration of music made popular by outlaw country icon Willie Nelson and singer-songwriter Bob Dylan.

Dustbowl Revival is known for its mix of New Orleans funk, bluegrass and

soul music and was once named the “Best Live Band in LA” by the LA Weekly.

The Hot Club of Cowtown is a high-energy trio known for its three-part harmonies.

Tickets to “Dustbowl Revival & Hot Club of Cowtown: A Celebration of Bob & Willie” start at \$55.

Matsui is a Japanese pianist and composer best known for her smooth jazz and soothing new-age music. She made her U.S. recording debut in 1987 with “Drop of Water.” in 1987

and was named Best Female Smooth Jazz Artist of the Year twice.

Matsui last performed at the Bankhead Theater in August 2024.

Tickets to her 8 p.m. performance start at \$35

All four shows are part of the Bankhead Presents 2025-2026 season sponsored by Livermore Valley Arts.

Tickets are available online at livermorearts.org, by calling 925-373-6800, or at the Bankhead Theater box office, 2400 First St.



Fall foliage in Pleasanton makes for a picturesque Tri-Valley sight. (Photo — Leah Silveira)

MLK Fellowship Breakfast Set for Pleasanton Venue

Three Valleys Community Foundation (3VCF) will host the 25th annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Fellowship Breakfast at the Palm Event Center in the Vineyard in Pleasanton on Monday, Jan. 26.

This is the first year that 3VCF is hosting the annual breakfast and awards ceremony.

Past fellowship breakfasts have been hosted by the Tri-Valley YMCA and the Pleasanton Community of Character Collaborative.

The keynote speaker for the silver anniversary breakfast will be motivational speaker and three-time Super Bowl champion with the San Francisco 49ers William “Bubba” Paris.

Tri-Valley Community Television sports broadcaster and former longtime Dublin mayor Tim Sbranti will serve as emcee.

3VCF said the theme for the fellowship breakfast will be “The Fierce Urgen-

cy of Now,” a phrase that King, a prominent Civil Rights leader in the 1950s and ‘60s, first used in his “I Have a Dream” speech during the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom.

“Dr. King’s call to embrace the ‘fierce urgency of now’ speaks directly to the heart of community philanthropy,” said 3VCF President Kelly Bowers.

“At 3VCF, we believe the time for positive action is always now: to give where you live, to strengthen connection, to lead with compassion and to build belonging across all three valleys.”

King was assassinated in 1968. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day became a federal holiday in 1983, the third Monday in January, and was first celebrated in 1986.

The 2026 fellowship breakfast will run from 8 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. and will include the first Young

Philanthropist Awards, in addition to the traditional Martin Luther King, Jr. Legacy Awards for community service.

3CVF said the Legacy Awards, in recognition of leadership and service that exemplify the ideals of justice, courage, and hope in action, would be presented to one person from each of the communities that comprise the Three Valleys region, including Alamo, Danville, Dublin, Livermore, Pleasanton, San Ramon and Sunol.

Tickets to the fellowship breakfast are \$75 through the end of the year, and \$95 after Jan. 1.

To purchase tickets, or to nominate someone for a Young Philanthropist or Legacy award, go to 3cvf.org/events.

3CVF is a nonprofit organization that manages donor funds and connects donors to other nonprofit community organizations.

SEWER

(Continued from front page)

the city expects replacements to be needed in the near term, totaled \$51.2 million, and low-priority projects, such as those that would replace equipment in good condition despite its age, would cost \$58.9 million.

The long-term plan also assumes the need for an additional full-time employee for every \$4 million to \$5 million in capital spending, an expense that Councilmember Craig Eicher questioned given the city’s plan to also hire contractors.

City Manager Gerry Beaudin said such staff increases are necessary and, given the current “aggressive” market for utility workers, he expected the city to struggle just to retain its workers.

Mayor Jack Balch, cognizant of several large development projects planned for the city’s east side, urged city staff to orchestrate the new connection and improvement projects to “somehow sequence these to avoid ripping up the streets multiple times.”

Later this month, city

staff will present the results of a financial-plan analysis to the city council and ask for direction on how to approach the slated projects.

The capital-improvement plan includes three spending scenarios that differ in whether projects are more frontloaded in an attempt to avoid deferred maintenance costs later or more spread out to spend less early on.

The council’s selection, in turn, will help determine new sewer rates, scheduled for consideration in 2026, and help decide what capital financing might be needed.

SNAP

(Continued from front page)

to Tri-Valley Haven’s food pantry for the first time ever. The increase underscores how essential community-based food-assistance programs are during times of benefit disruptions.”

Another Tri-Valley food-insecurity organization, Open Heart Kitchen, closed its two pop-up pantries earlier this year due to a loss of \$850,000 in federal funding. The organization then launched Open Heart Food Bank as a redistribution organization partner of the Alameda County Community Food Bank (ACCFB), helping distribute food to nine food pantries in the eastern portion of the county.

Open Heart Executive Director John Bost said that due to the “yo-yo effect with SNAP benefits,” coupled with fewer recovery options from grocery stores, a new anxiety has emerged around food pantries having enough groceries.

“If Alameda County Community Food Bank struggles to source the additional food needed to supplement a loss in CalFresh benefits for the more than 150,000 people who rely on CalFresh in Alameda County, then every downstream partner agency of ACCFB, including Open Heart Food Bank, is going to struggle to meet demand,” Bost said.

While Dillman said she is grateful for the community’s support that has stepped up in response to the lost benefits, her organization continues to face shortages of high-protein and perishable foods, such as dairy, eggs, meat and fish.

“Food pantries were never intended to replace SNAP/CalFresh benefits,” Dillman said. “They were designed to provide an additional safety net for those struggling to make ends meet. However, at Tri-Valley Haven, we refuse to allow anyone in our community to go hungry. Together, with the compassion and support of our neighbors, volunteers and partners, we will do everything in our power to ensure that every individual and family who comes to us has access to nutritious food in a dignified manner.”

Bost agreed. “Food banks and food programs can’t fill in for SNAP. Food programs like Open Heart Kitchen and nonprofits in general are almost always short-term fixes to market failures. The size and scale of food needs in the most affluent country in

the world are so significant that only a government-level response can address them. Communities can and should support nonprofit efforts to help, but this level of support is only a drop in the bucket of the economies of scale needed to address food insecurity in the U.S.”

The federal government shutdown, which had reached the six-week mark, has affected a raft of services ranging from social security verifications to national parks to the National Nuclear Security Administration. The Federal Aviation Administration last week issued an unprecedented order for airlines to reduce service as the shutdown has forced air traffic controllers and Transportation Security Administration agents to work without pay.

On the night of Nov. 10, a bill to reopen the government passed the Senate, with seven Democratic senators and Independent Maine Senator Angus King siding with Republicans in a 60-40 vote. The bill was awaiting a vote in the House of Representatives, which was expected to take place on Nov. 12 at the earliest, after The Independent’s deadline.

In what Senate Democrats viewed as an attempt to pin the shutdown on them, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, under the Trump administration, announced in October that it would, for the first time in the 86-year-old program’s history, halt SNAP funding on Nov. 1.

In late October, 23 states, including California, filed a lawsuit against the Trump administration for its refusal to fund SNAP despite possessing the funds to do so. Three days later, two federal courts found that the federal government must use previously appropriated SNAP contingency funds.

On Nov. 6, the U.S. District Court of Rhode Island ruled that the administration must restore full benefits immediately, with U.S. District Judge John McConnell accusing the Trump administration of withholding funds “for political reasons.”

In a statement following the ruling, Gov. Gavin Newsom said, “California will continue fighting to ensure that our families can access the food they need and deserve. The court rightly shut down the Trump administration’s attempt to use the well-being of American citizens as pawns in their sick

political game. As President Trump continues to create harm through self-inflicted wounds on our country, we will keep protecting Americans who are caught in the crossfire. I am pleased at the court ruling and that those food benefits are now beginning to flow back to California families.”

The Trump administration appealed the next day to halt the ruling only to meet a U.S. Appeals Court denial on Nov. 9, leaving the U.S. Supreme Court to block the lower courts’ decisions.

While Newsom’s office said last week that benefits were “beginning to be available,” food uncertainty continues to weigh down families.

“The partial restoration plan has not yet provided relief for local families,” Dillman said. “Most do not know when that assistance may materialize.”

How You Can Help

On Saturday, Nov. 15, a coalition of local nonprofits will host a food drive to collect food for those impacted by the federal interruptions and broader rising costs of living.

The Tri-Valley Nonprofit Alliance (TVNPA), in partnership with Open Heart Kitchen, Tri-Valley Haven, CityServe of the Tri-Valley and Assistance League of Amador Valley will host collection events from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Grocery Outlet locations in Dublin, Pleasanton and Livermore. Residents can learn more by contacting the TVNPA at tvnpa.org.

Livermore’s annual Mony Nop Turkey Drop will take place from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Nov. 23 in the City Hall parking lot. Started by realtor Mony Nop, the 10-year-old program accepts frozen turkeys, gift cards and cash to benefit Tri-Valley Haven’s Holiday Program.

Dillman said cash donations remain the most effective way to help the food pantry, as they allow the pantry to respond to the specific demands it encounters.

Bost added that in addition to donations, residents can volunteer, contact their elected representatives and get to know their neighbors.

“It’s possible that someone living next to you or across the street is struggling to put food on the table or make ends meet,” Bost said. “Find out what they need and ask how you can help.”

PLEASE HELP BRING MIGUEL HOME

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

Livermore Wenté Winery worker, married father of three and grandfather

Miguel Lopez

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

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

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

POWER

(Continued from front page)

arts and major philanthropic commitments — including a \$100,000 investment in the UNCLE Credit Union Art Gallery, and consistent sponsorship of nonprofit events and partnerships that support local artists.

Carolyn Siegfried won the Lifetime Achievement Award for her leadership at the Pedrozzi Foundation. For more than a decade, her work has strengthened educational opportunity and community partnerships in Livermore by expanding scholarship access, launching new student success programs and ensuring that young people are supported with compassion and equity.

The Unsung Hero Award went to two winners. Carrie Oldes, the program manager for Meals on Wheels at Spectrum Community Services, was recognized for her steady compassion and work to ensure that seniors receive nourishment, safety and dignity. Lisa Henderson, founder of Set to Thrive,

was honored for bringing comfort to thousands of children entering foster care or facing homelessness through hand-packing essential items into packaged bags and building community partnerships.

The Impact Award for Nonprofits with a budget of less than \$1 million went to the Alan Hu Foundation, founded by Xiaofang Chen and Chih-Ching Hu in memory of their son, Alan, who passed away due to mental disorders at the age of 15 in 2018. Their mission is to promote mental health, raise awareness and remove stigma surrounding psychiatric disorders, and to support fundamental research for cures.

The Alan Hu Foundation was also selected as a 2025 California Nonprofit of the Year by 16th California District Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan for its contributions to the Tri-Valley community.

“Mental health is one of

the most pressing issues facing our communities today, and the Alan Hu Foundation is leading the charge to break down stigma, raise awareness and support critical research into psychiatric disorders,” Bauer-Kahan said in a May statement. “Their work empowers families, educates the public, and brings compassion and science together in pursuit of hope and healing.”

The final award of the evening for nonprofits with a budget of more than \$1 million went to Tri-Valley Haven. For nearly five decades, the organization has been a lifeline for survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault and homelessness. It offers integrated, trauma-informed services, including shelter, legal advocacy, counseling and food assistance, and has been the only program in the Tri-Valley that allows teenage boys to stay with their families.

“I couldn’t be prouder of our incredible executive



Livermore City Councilmember Kristie Wang, left, Ann Brown of the Tri-Valley Air Quality Climate Alliance and Maggie Tufts of the Pedrozzi Foundation found a way to create their own souvenir during the Tri-Valley Nonprofit Alliance’s annual Power of Giving Awards ceremony Nov. 6 at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore. (Photo — Ron Essex Photography)

director, Christine Dillman, whose steady leadership continues to guide our mission with compassion and courage — and of our dedicated team of staff, volunteers and board members whose tireless efforts bring

peace, security and safety to the families who rely on Tri-Valley Haven every day,” said Sophaline Mao, Tri-Valley Haven board vice president. “This recognition belongs to our entire community — and to the

many nonprofits across the Tri-Valley who pour their hearts into creating hope, dignity and opportunity for others. It’s an honor to serve alongside so many organizations making a powerful difference.”

ADU

(Continued from front page)

Under the new rules, homeowners may build ADUs up to 800 square feet with four-foot side and rear setbacks. Larger units are allowed depending on lot size and the main residence. Detached units may reach 16 feet in height, or 18 feet if located within a half-mile of a major transit stop.

Dublin’s previous code allowed similar dimensions but gave the city more local discretion; the new rules standardize those limits to ensure at least one ADU can be built on every residential lot. Detached ADUs are often built above garages or as backyard cottages, while attached units typically extend from the side or rear of the main home.

Projects must still meet city building and design standards. For example, parking spaces for ADUs may now be tandem or uncovered and no longer need to be replaced if converted for an ADU. The 60-day ministerial review timeline reflects new state require-

ments intended to prevent permitting delays and remove the need for public hearings that cities once required.

Councilmember Jean Josey said it was encouraging to see residents getting creative with ADU design, converting detached garages and other underused spaces into livable housing.

When it comes to fire safety, the ordinance specifies that adding an ADU does not require sprinklers to be installed in the main home. However, the new unit must still meet all applicable fire and building codes.

The update clarifies rules for junior ADUs, continuing to require that property owners live in either the main or the junior unit and prohibit short-term rentals of 30 days or less.

The Planning Commission unanimously recommended approval of the ordinance in September, finding it consistent with state law and exempt from the California Environmen-

tal Quality Act, because it will not result in physical environmental changes.

While the city’s action streamlines local permitting, housing professionals note that homeowners still face broader challenges, including construction costs and long delays from utility providers. Contractors in the Tri-Valley report that electric and water connections can take months and add thousands of dollars in upfront fees — costs they say undermine the state’s goal of making ADUs a more affordable housing option.

Councilmember Kashef Quadri stated that while ADUs alone won’t solve California’s housing shortage, the ordinance moves Dublin in the right direction by promoting flexible, lower-cost housing options within existing neighborhoods.

Livermore and Pleasanton are also expected to update their ADU ordinances to remain consistent with state law.

Interfaith Thanksgiving Service Set For Livermore Methodist Church

Interfaith Interconnect of the Tri-Valley and the Livermore-Pleasanton Interfaith Clergy Association will hold their annual interfaith Thanksgiving service at Asbury United Methodist Church in Livermore from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 23.

The service will reflect how different faiths and cultures express gratitude.

There will also be a reception following the service with light refreshments.

The service is free, but organizers are encouraging donations to the Tri-Valley Bus Pass Program.

Sponsored by Asbury United Methodist Church

and other community organizations, including the Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority, the program provides free passes for those with limited financial means to use the

Wheels bus service to go to work or access community services.

For more information, email interfaith.connect@gmail.com.

**RETZLAFF**
Estate Wines
WINE TASTING AND
PICNIC TABLE RESERVATIONS
FRI 12pm - 6pm, SAT, SUN & MON 12pm - 4:30pm
LIVE MUSIC AND FOOD VENDORS
SATURDAY & SUNDAY 12pm - 4:30pm
WINE DAY FRIDAY - HAPPY HOUR ALL DAY 12pm - 6pm
\$10 GLASS, \$20 FLIGHTS, \$10 SPIRITZER & WINE SPECIALS
Make your online reservations at
RetzlaffVineyards.com

FRANC

(Continued from front page)

in which director Francis Ford Coppola had asked to keep the camera rolling for multiple takes in a row.

“Diane taught me how to say the same words, but each time give a different kind of subtle take on it (the scene),” he said. “And I remember one time I could see her head bouncing up and down, and Coppola said, ‘OK, Franc — great. Cut.’ And Diane came over to me and said, ‘That’s the way to do it.’ She was such a sweet, sweet person.”

It’s hard to believe that D’Ambrosio, who made famous the Academy Award-winning theme song “Speak Softly Love,” from the Godfather movie, didn’t discover he could sing until he was 16 years old — and it was totally by accident.

The teen D’Ambrosio was doing his best to pester his older sister as she listened to the new Carole King “Tapestry” album.

“My sister has an absolutely gorgeous voice, beautiful,” he said. “And I was just being a little annoying younger brother and mimicking her and all of a sudden, my voice came out. She and I looked at each other like, ‘What was that?’ Still, to this day, we both remember the moment I discovered I could sing.”

And was it not for that moment, D’Ambrosio would likely now be a baker in the Bronx.

“I’m a seventh-generation Italian Sicilian baker,” he said.

D’Ambrosio’s grandfather and all his uncles and cousins owned bakeries when they came to America, and he, himself, grew up in the family business.

“That was the trajectory

my family had for me — to take over the family bakery because it was what every one of my cousins did for seven generations,” he said.

But there was no denying his gift for the stage.

“I had a passion for acting,” D’Ambrosio said. “I had a passion for singing. I had a passion for being on stage. So, it became my love. It became my joy. It became my life.”

And a good thing, too.

“As romantic and wonderful as it is to be an Italian Sicilian baker, it’s a really, really difficult life, standing in front of an oven the size of an entire wall in the middle of the summer in New York City,” he said.

D’Ambrosio still finds time to bake, though, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. “Every one of my neighbors got a fresh loaf of bread every day — with a little Clorox wipe on top of the bag,” he said, laughing.

In addition to his outstanding work in Broadway musicals, opera, film and television, D’Ambrosio has also found time to give generously through his extensive philanthropic contributions and has received countless awards over the years.

“(Actress) Judith Light is a very dear friend of mine. And she said to me one time, ‘That’s one of the joys of being in the public eye. We get to make a difference,’” D’Ambrosio said. “I mean, everyone gets to make a difference. Everyone anywhere can make a difference. And everyone has the capacity to make a difference. But luckily, we have a platform to help us make a difference.”

D’Ambrosio is also renowned for giving generous-

ly of himself to his fans both on and offstage.

“When I’m on stage, it becomes all about the audience,” he said. “It’s all about being a gracious host to everyone and always giving your 100% to make sure that they’re having a good time. Whatever it is, it’s all about the guests. It’s not about the host.”

And like a fun Italian family gathering, D’Ambrosio aims to kick off the joy of the holiday season with his upcoming Bankhead show.

“I’m going to be weaving in stories of my Italian American family and singing songs, but not like a ‘park and bark,’” he said, laughing. “I’m not going to stand there and say, ‘For my next number, I would like to sing for you. ...’ No, it’s a full-on, one-man Broadway show.”

D’Ambrosio will be singing in English, French and Italian dialects, everything from the Godfather to Phantom of the Opera and Les Miserables, and even songs from Hamilton. And he’ll share over the course of the evening anecdotes and wisdom from his fascinating life and career, all in support of the LVO.

“I’m really looking forward to it,” he said. “The Livermore Opera is in great artistic hands (with LVO Artistic Director Eric Mills). You don’t get much better than that. Someone who’s been there, done it, been on the stage and also knows about running [operas]. That’s a great thing. That’s a great artist right there.”

Tickets to the 7:30 p.m. performance start at \$50 and are available online at livermorearts.org or at the Bankhead Theater box office, 2400 First Street.

New Art Exhibit
Collection of Light and Shadows
On Display At

THE
INDEPENDENT
“GALLERY”



FEATURING ARTIST
MELISSA MANDEGARIAN

GALLERY OPEN

Friday, November 14th
5:30pm to 7:30pm
and

Saturday, November 15th
5:30pm to 7:30pm

Art Gallery Sponsored by
LIVERMORE VALLEY &
arts

THE *Independent*
2250 First St., Livermore



Lead singer Adam Shapiro and the remainder of the cover band “Billy Nation” will bring their tribute to Billy Joel and his music to Pleasanton’s Firehouse Arts Center on Nov. 21. (Photo courtesy of Adam Shapiro)

Billy Joel Tribute Band Set for Show at Firehouse Arts Center

By Kiarra Bautista

PLEASANTON — With energy radiating throughout an enthusiastic crowd at a typical Billy Nation concert, the Billy Joel tribute band feels the music in a way that reminds the members of why they started this journey in the first place.

Billy Nation is heading to the Firehouse Arts Center in Pleasanton on Nov. 21 as part of a tour of California. This group of six musicians captures the essence of the artist through not only his repertoire of music, but also the looks and aesthetics that are part of what makes Joel special.

Rather than seeing themselves as “impersonators” of the artist, they imagine themselves as lovers of Joel’s art. By sharing their passion with diverse audiences, Billy Nation gifts Joel’s music to the world, creating joy for people to experience the full power of music and bring them closer together.

Adam Shapiro, the “Billy” of the band, grew up in the Bronx, New York, watching his late father, Eddie Shapiro, perform as a professional musician in gigs throughout the city. Joel’s music was always a crowd

favorite, as well as a favorite between the Shapiro father and son. Eddie Shapiro’s work drove Adam Shapiro to do something unique and different, a space where he could use his voice a little more.

Eddie Shapiro passed away from glioblastoma, an aggressive form of brain cancer, in 1998. Although he was no longer physically present, his legacy lived on through Joel’s music as a Joel cover band was brought into the spotlight to honor him.

Using his personal connections and networks, Adam Shapiro contacted his musician friends who would be good fits for the band.

“March 8th of 2020, at that first initial sort of meeting and jam session in my garage,” Shapiro said. “After that, it was kind of ‘Game on ...’ Then COVID hit, so that just kind of blew everything.”

It did not, however, discourage the band from moving forward. On July 29, 2021, Billy Nation made its debut in the Orange County city of Dana Point. Starting off playing before little more than family and friends, the band eventually expanded its audience nationwide.

The tribute band seamlessly blends in harmony

with six different instruments also dynamically blending together. Every member comes from a different background. Some have always envisioned themselves as musicians, and some have music as a side gig.

“It was the differences amongst all those people that kind of made the whole thing just work so well,” guitarist Joe Bingham said. “Everybody is able to be themselves in a kind of authentic way while still serving the music.”

Drummer Jules Stewart added to Bingham’s elaboration, emphasizing that everyone respects each other’s musicality and abilities, and that a good relationship fosters a better dynamic, ultimately leading to a better performance.

When performing, the members are united by the belief that they have the power to bring people closer together through Joel’s music. No matter what is on their set list — whether it is from Joel’s top-12 discography or a requested song from an audience member — Billy Nation strives to connect generations of fans, channeling Joel’s timeless truth and artistry through the melodies of a band playing as one.

Experts Offer Advice in Virtual ‘Medical Misinformation’ Talk

By Vivien Wenneker

TRI-VALLEY — Indivisible Tri-Valley on Nov. 9 hosted a virtual panel discussion titled “Understanding Medical Misinformation Through a Scientific Lens.”

The talk explored such topics as what medical misinformation is, how to identify it, its impact on public trust, and practical ways to counter it through fact-checking and improving scientific literacy.

A group of medical experts weighed in, bringing their own perspectives from the fields of psychiatry, social epidemiology, public health and medicine.

Among them was Dr. Joseph Pierre, a psychiatrist at UC San Francisco and author of “FALSE (2025),” which examines the psychology of false beliefs that lie at the root of contemporary media mistrust, science denialism and political polarization.

“I think the challenge today is that there’s so many forms and channels for information,” Pierre said. “Now, we have thousands of different informational sources, and so you could say we live in a free-information market, but it’s really a market where the voice speaking loudest or catching the most attention is the one being perpetuated.”

The first and central question of the talk was defining what medical misinformation is. The common consensus was that the difference between misinformation and disinformation has to do with the intention or knowledge of the sender. So, whereas misinformation is the spread of false information without the intent to mislead, disinformation is designed or spread with full knowledge of it being false.

Additionally, particular forms of disinformation or misinformation tend to appeal more to certain age groups and/or demographics. For instance, health information targeted toward millennials might be packaged in a certain aesthetic or language

that speaks to that generation, while for older generations it might play on nostalgia.

“It’s not that some people are more likely to fall for misinformation than others, but we live in an age of specialized advertising,” stressed Dr. Jessie Seiler, a social epidemiologist with the Center for Science in the Public Interest.

As for identifying misinformation, the biggest red flag to watch for is the channel itself through which the information is disseminated — whether it be through a platform that pushes content for engagement, or a person who stands to make a profit by producing reactionary content.

“Social-media influencers are definitely playing into this, and also the tendency to search out information that we agree with,” Seiler added.

Similarly, while conducting research for his book, “FALSE,” Pierre found that one of the better predictors of levels of misinformation is political affiliation, which wasn’t the case pre-pandemic. Within the past five years, however, he has observed that Republicans have increasingly become more likely to embrace beliefs surrounding anti-vaccination tropes.

“There’s the implication that the intention behind misinformation is mainly profit, but it can also be political, which is important to understand,” Pierre explained.

Another expert, Dr. Louise McNitt from the California Department of Public Health, reflected on the real-world consequences of medical misinformation playing out in this context, pointing to the COVID-19 pandemic as the most obvious example.

“It’s very complicated because there were a lot of things at play — politics, mistrust of government and many other elements which all came together at once to create the perfect storm for misinformation,” McNitt said.

The underlying reason highlighted for the proliferation of misinformation in our

current media landscape is a lack of trust, not only in government, but in the country’s healthcare system.

“Our healthcare system has a big integrity problem, being driven by insurance companies, which has really eroded people’s trust,” McNitt said. “That is an area where the medical community has backed itself into a corner.”

To safeguard against misinformation, a number of potential recommendations were given, beginning with the person consuming the information.

Maintaining a healthy amount of skepticism, according to Pierre, is the responsibility of the information consumer, and may sometimes require taking a step back to determine where the data is coming from and whether a scientific study is credible.

The next step is finding reliable sources. Seiler said that Stat News and KFF are both trusted, independent sources of information. Additionally, in a time of increasing government distrust, looking to state and local public health departments for trusted information can be beneficial, too.

Lastly, avoiding information that perpetuates generalizations, such as one person’s experience with a particular treatment or vaccine being applicable to the wider population, is advisable.

“People like to have an easy answer and be told that there’s an easy fix, or a big secret being revealed that everyone’s been keeping from them — that should be a red flag because things are rarely that easy,” McNitt said. “It’s true that a lot of public health information, and especially nutrition, like “eat your vegetables,” is super dry.

“So, the problem we’re up against is challenging because we don’t have a lot of flashy things to say on social media, but the best thing all of us can do is continue to promote fact-checked information rooted in science.”

Two Livermore Women Receive National Honors for Winemaking

By Christina Cavallaro

LIVERMORE – Two wineries in the Livermore Valley Wine Community have received national acclaim.

The Zoe Report recognized Darcie Kent Estate Winery and Rosa Fierro Cellars on a list of the top 10 women-owned wineries in the United States.

“The awards are spotlighting the women-owned wineries (that are) redefining what it means to sip in style,” according to the Zoe Report. “These nominees go beyond the glass, blending thoughtful craftsmanship with a fresh perspective that’s shaping the future

of wine. From chic coastal vineyards to storied estates tucked into rolling hills, each destination offers not only exceptional pours but also a glimpse into the passion and artistry of the women at the helm.”

Livermore’s own sisterhood of the vine, Kent and Fierro, took the No. 2 and No. 3 spots of the 10 wineries on the list, eight of which are from California. The other two are from Oregon.

Darcie Kent Estate Winery was ranked No. 2 for its “perfect blend of art, wine and community in Livermore Valley.” The estate was also lauded for its relaxed and inviting atmosphere and

“exceptional hospitality that feels personal and genuine.”

Rosa Fierro Cellars took the No. 3 ranking for its “friendly, down-to-earth atmosphere” and a “tasting-room experience with heart” where guests visit with each other and learn directly from winemaker Fierro.

Darcie Kent Estate Winery (darciekent.wine) is open from noon to 5 p.m. Monday-Thursday and from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday-Sunday at 7000 Tesla Road. Rosa Fierro Cellars (rosafierrocellars.com) is open from noon to 5 p.m. Friday-Sunday at 2245 South Vasco Road.

Tri-Valley Nonprofits Come Together To Hold Food Drive in Community

The Tri-Valley Nonprofit Alliance (TVNPA) and a coalition of local nonprofit organizations have launched a community-wide food drive to help families facing food insecurity.

TVNPA said the campaign will help stock local food pantries as rising costs and uncertainty around federal nutrition programs during the government shutdown continue to strain household budgets.

“We know food insecurity doesn’t pause for working families,” said TVNPA CEO Kathy Young. “Families across our region are under immense financial strain. This effort is about coming together to ensure every household has access

to healthy, nourishing food this season.”

TVNPA and its partners, including Open Heart Kitchen, Tri-Valley Haven, Assistance League of Amador Valley and CityServe of the Tri-Valley, will be accepting food and cash donations at Grocery Outlet locations in Dublin, Pleasanton and Livermore from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 15.

“This is what community is all about,” said John Bost, executive director of Open Heart Kitchen. “When nonprofits, local businesses, and neighbors unite with a common purpose, we can make sure no one in the Tri-Valley goes hungry.”

All food donations will be accepted, including

fresh, frozen and canned goods.

There are Grocery Outlets at 3550 Bernal Ave. in Pleasanton, 1320 Railroad Ave. in Livermore and 7991 Amador Valley Blvd. in Dublin.

Cash contributions can be made through TVNPA’s partnership with the Community Health and Education Foundation (CHEF). CHEF will match donations at 50%, up to \$50,000. To donate financially, go to tvnpa.org.

The nonprofit TVNPA is a “regional convenor” that advocates for and supports other nonprofit groups through education, skills training, workforce development and organizational resources.

TRI-VALLEY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Thursday, Nov. 13

LIVERMORE VALLEY LITHOPHILES

The Livermore Valley Lithophiles meet each month at 7 p.m. in Room A at the Livermore Civic Center Library. Join in for a vibrant gathering of rock and gem enthusiasts. These family-friendly events are packed with fun, learning, and opportunities to connect with fellow lithophiles. For the Nov. 13 meeting, lab geologist Derek Hoffman will give a talk on “Fossils in the Bay Area”.

Thursday, Nov. 13

LIVERMORE-AMADOR VALLEY GARDEN CLUB MEETING

The November meeting of the Garden Club will be an eco-friendly fall pest prevention, with speaker Kat Meler, who will be teaching techniques for learning how to prevent common cool season pests such as ants, slugs, snails, earwigs, rodents, gophers, moles, raccoons, cats, and squirrels. On Nov. 13 from 6 to 8 p.m. at Crosswinds Church, 1660 Freisman Rd., Livermore, at the red Farm Theater Building.

Friday, Nov. 14

BROADWAY CHORUS CONCERT

EBMS Broadway Chorus presents their Fall 2025 concert, singing songs inspired by our inner kings and queens spirit. The concert will be held on Nov. 14 at 7:30 p.m. at Asbury Methodist Church, 4743 East Ave., Livermore. Tickets available at www.eastbaymusicals.org/event-details/kings-queens.

Saturday, Nov. 15

DRESS A GIRL AROUND THE WORLD

Make simple dresses for girls in third world countries! Meetings are once a month, and the next Sew-Fest is Nov. 15, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 1020 Mocho St., Livermore. All kinds of help is needed: sewing, ironing, cutting; bring your sewing machine or serger, iron, ironing board, scissors, along with your helping hands. Kits that you can sew from home are also available. Contact Suzanne Beck, 925-352-8447 or suzbeck@yahoo.com, with any questions.

Saturday, Nov. 22

VALLEY CONCERT CHORALE TO HOST “MESSIAH” WORKSHOP

Need to brush up on your Messiah for the annual Sing-It-Yourself event on Dec. 5? Valley Concert Chorale, the Tri-Valley’s premier chorus, is hosting a “Messiah Workshop” for any singers who would like to work on the choruses from the Christmas portion of Handel’s masterpiece. The Messiah Workshop is on Nov. 22, 10 a.m. — 1 p.m. The Annual Sing-It-Yourself Messiah event is on Dec. 5 at 7:30 p.m., at Asbury United Methodist Church, 4743 East Ave., Livermore. Tickets

may be purchased at www.valleyconcertchorale.org or by calling 925-866-4003. The workshop is \$10 / Sing-It-Yourself Messiah event is \$15 (save \$5 if purchased together).

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.

COAT DRIVE

Gene Morgan Insurance Agency is holding its annual Warm Coat Drive to benefit local citizens in need. New or gently used coats, especially for children, will be accepted at their downtown office, 2020 Fourth Street in Livermore, now through Dec. 5. Office hours are 9-12, and 1-5 p.m. After hours drop-offs may be arranged in advance. Please call 925-447-2565 x2120 to make an appointment. For more information, contact Stacie Logan at stacie@genemorganinsurance.com.

ONGOING EVENTS

TRI-VALLEY RAINBOW NIGHT

An inclusive evening for LGBTQIA+ and their allies. The first Wednesday of every month. The next event will be Nov. 5 from 6-9 p.m. at Swirl on the Square in Livermore.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

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

SATURDAY PLEASANTON FARMERS MARKET

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

SUNDAY LIVERMORE DOWNTOWN FARMERS MARKET

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

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

OBITUARIES

Cherry Susan Patterson Resident of Livermore since 1966

Preceded by her husband James Patterson and survived by her two sons Mark (wife Debbie) and Duane (wife Heather) and grandchildren Zachary, Raegan, Drake, Brett and Ryan. Cherry worked at LLNL for 30 years and retired to enjoy her grandkids and kept busy with her hobbies; Red Hatters, Longaberger baskets, bridge, Elks, and her church St. Bartholomew's.

Services will be on Friday, Nov. 7 at 11 a.m., Callaghan Mortuary, 3833 East Ave., Livermore. Final resting place, San Joaquin Valley National Cemetery, with her husband, James. Callaghan Mortuary is honored to be serving the Patterson family. An online guestbook is available for condolences at www.callaghan-mortuary.com.



Robert Eugene Garcia July 14, 1949 — April 17, 2025

Robert Eugene Garcia passed away unexpectedly on April 17, 2025, in Tracy, California at the age of 75. He was born in Stockton, California to Lorraine Carbajal and Roperto Garcia on July 14, 1949. When Robert was three, the family relocated to Livermore, California. As a young boy, he enjoyed exploring the Livermore hills with his friends. He even kept American Kestrels as pets. Robert graduated from Livermore High School in 1967. He then attended Winona State University in Minnesota but left early to volunteer for the Vietnam War draft. He served in the U.S. Army from 1969-1971 as a member of an Army boat Unit 1 in I Corps. Upon his return home, he took advantage of the GI Bill and graduated from California State University, Hayward with a Bachelor of Arts degree. Following graduation, he entered Federal service, retiring in 2011 after 33 years. Robert was an accomplished sculptor, poet, and artist, having received



awards for his artwork. His poetry was published in a book of poems and displayed and sold at the Alameda County Fair. Throughout his adult life, he volunteered his time with several organizations (city clean up and hospice care) but much of which was on his own; he spent years keeping Stanley Blvd. in Pleasanton, California clean, and he completely revived a street

median in his Tracy neighborhood with new plants, wood chips, flags, and painted rocks. His generous and caring spirit also included donating to many charities, and he always took care of his friends and family, especially during difficult times. He was a loving spouse and father and always made sure his wife and daughter were well taken care of and safe. Robert enjoyed gardening, woodworking, bird watching, hiking, traveling with his family, and taking his grand-dog Jessie "truckin'." He was a proud veteran; over the years, he continued to support and stay in touch with many of his fellow veterans. Robert was preceded in death by his parents and his brothers Dennis Vea and Michael Silva. He is survived by his wife Janet Franchi, daughter Megan Garcia (Vince), brother Alfred Vea, and sister Melanie Terry. We love and miss him more with each passing day.

Carol Rose Zimmer June 25, 1941 — Oct. 11, 2025

Carol Rose Zimmer, 81, of Livermore, California, passed away peacefully on Oct. 11. Carol was born on June 25, 1944, in Yonkers, New York to Eleanor and Carmine Sutezzo. She graduated from Balboa High in South San Francisco, then finally settled at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory as a Project Coordinator, retiring in 1996. She also enjoyed her years of

bartending in Livermore at various locations. Carol raised three children with additional love and support by her late husband, Paul Zimmer. She is survived by her brother, Ralph Sutezzo; her children, Tina Gordon, Jodi Spears, and Chris Lujan; her stepson, Erik Zimmer; six grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.



Asta K. Dhont April 4, 1935 — Oct. 28, 2025

Asta K. Dhont, aged 90, passed away peacefully on Oct. 28, 2025, in Livermore, California. Her long and meaningful life was guided by her Christian faith, and her compassion and charity for others. Born on April 4, 1935, in Sweden, Asta relocated to the United States, where she met her late husband, Harold Dhont. They settled in Alameda County around 1960 and were both valued members of the Livermore community for many years. Asta's passing brings comfort in knowing that she is reunited with Harold in heaven. A woman of strong Christian faith, Asta was a devoted member of Cornerstone Fellowship of Liv-



ermore. Her spiritual beliefs helped guide her actions throughout her life. Prayer, compassion, and char-

ity were central to her personal life. Asta's life embodied hard work, kindness, care for others, and an indomitable spirit. Her presence will be deeply missed by all who knew her. May her memory bring peace and inspiration to those whose lives she touched. May she rest in eternal peace. A viewing will be held on Nov. 20, 2025, from 4-7 p.m. at Graham Hitch Mortuary 4167 First St., Pleasanton, California. Funeral services will be held at 1 p.m. on Nov. 21, 2025, at Roselawn Cemetery, 1240 N. Livermore Ave., Livermore, California. Donations in Asta's name can be made to Shepherd's Gate in Livermore.

Georgia Maryanna Quinlan June 10, 1943 — Aug. 18, 2025

Georgia "the Great" Maryanna Quinlan Georgia's story starts in Bakersfield, California, where she was born. She was a bright artistic child. She received art and writing awards in grade school and high school. After graduating from Garces Memorial High School, she moved to Livermore with her parents, George and Hazel Quinlan. She kept in touch with a circle of friends all her life, including her best friend, Margaret. Reconnecting and sharing the good and bad times, they regularly met on the coast, which she loved. She took a job in banking at Wells Fargo while attending San Jose State University, majoring in sociology and psychology. She joined book and shared interest groups. There she met a lifelong friend, Jim Oppenheimer. They became fast friends. They enjoyed the theater, dining out and had long discussions about everything, including the books they were reading, life and art. Banking and wanderlust took her to Berkeley, where she got her real estate license and started her



own business as an escrow coordinator. She was especially smart and meticulously organized. She had many clients that entrusted her with complex and detailed paperwork. Georgia made new friends in her professional endeavors, leading to new opportunities and lifelong friendships over the years. After many years in the real estate world, Georgia rediscovered her artistic side and earnestly began creating. She was a mixed-media artist and won awards at local art shows. Ultimately, that led to her selling her art at Studio 7 in

Pleasanton. She sold gorgeous handmade greeting cards, beautiful brooches and Asian inspired wall art. She was so happy the public shared the love of her creations. Tragedy struck in 2016; she suffered a devastating stroke. Although she had always hoped to get back to her art, she was not able to fully recover. However, Georgia was able to decorate and redecorate her home many times over. She had the help of friends and family. It was the perfect excuse to hang out with her. Georgia had a caregiver, Becky, for many years after her stroke. She was wonderful and Georgia loved her. They had long talks, and Georgia enjoyed her company. We had her for nine years after her stroke. She is survived by her dearest sister, Carol Colette Flores, and her younger brother, Stuart Michael Quinlan. Also missing her are many friends and huge family; cousins, nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews. She was ours and we were hers. Rest in Peace Dearest Auntie, The COOL Aunt. We miss you every day.



Edward Paul Norris Dec. 1, 1937 — Oct. 22, 2025

Paul was born in Tarentum, Pennsylvania, to William and Bernice Norris. He could fix anything, as well as being adventurous, competitive, and fun-loving. He enjoyed trap shooting (Livermore Rod and Gun Club), golfing (Las Positas Senior Men's Club and Single Digit Golf Club), sprint and midjet car racing, hunting, fishing, traveling and many more activities. Paul worked for American Airlines in Chicago, then

San Francisco, owned a couple of businesses, then worked for Caterpillar Tractor and Select Sysco Foods. He and his wife, Sharron Norris, spent most of their retirement years in Mazatlan, Mexico, and traveling elsewhere in the world. He is also survived by his daughter and son-in-law, Brenda and Tom Abney (Marlin, Texas), and brother Keith Norris (Cathedral City). Brothers Don and Wayne predeceased him.

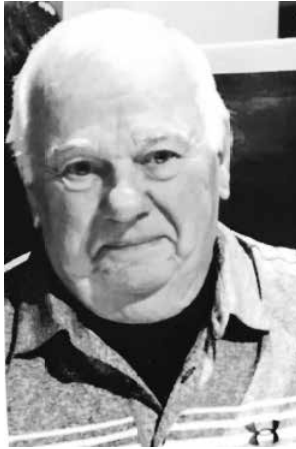
Ann Elizabeth Lafranchi May 30, 1932 — Oct. 28, 2025



Lawrence Livermore Lab brought them to Livermore in 1954, where she taught at Fifth Street School, and later as a substitute teacher at Jackson Avenue School. Ann was devoted to her Catholic faith and remained a parishioner of St. Michael's even after her move to Stoneridge. She was an avid reader of books and participated in various book clubs. Playing bridge was another of her favorite pastimes, belonging to several bridge clubs over the years, and she loved working crossword puzzles in the local papers. Ann volun-

teered for many years at Valley Care (now Stanford) Hospital in Pleasanton. Ann was blessed with three sons, Bruce (Judy) of New York City, Mark (Anabel) of Walnut Creek, and Paul (Mary Jo) of Torrance, California, all of whom survive her. She is also survived by her two sisters, Peggy Yetter (Bill) of Saratoga, and Jeanne Howard, of Los Gatos, in addition to four grandchildren, Brian (Rachelle), Brendan (Lisa), Daniel (Carley) and Melissa (Ryan), six great-grandchildren, and numerous cousins, nieces, nephews and their families. Visitation will be at noon, Friday, Oct. 31, at Callaghan Mortuary, and a Mass of Christian Burial will immediately follow at 1 p.m. at Saint Michael Church in Livermore. In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to Catholic Charities East Bay. Callaghan Mortuary is honored to be serving the LaFranchi family. An online guestbook is available for condolences at www.callaghan-mortuary.com.

John "Jack" O'Connor 1944 — 2025



packing with his family, including many years visiting Livermore's Camp Shelly at Lake Tahoe. Jack enjoyed woodworking and set up his own workshop, where he built quality hardwood furniture, building cabinets and furniture for his own home, as well as furniture

for customers. Following retirement, he enjoyed spending time in his garden growing vegetables and herbs. He also became a passionate golfer, spending many hours playing golf, especially at Wentle Golf Course. He is survived by his beloved wife, Patricia, of 58 years; sons, Jeffrey O'Connor and Brian O'Connor; granddaughters, Jordan O'Connor and Ashley O'Connor; sister, MaryAnn Wood and brother, Thomas O'Connor; nieces, Christine Wood and Kelly Clark. He was preceded in death by his parents and his brother, Michael. The family is planning a celebration of life for family and friends to share memories of Jack. Callaghan Mortuary is honored to be serving the O'Connor family. An online guestbook is available for condolences at www.callaghanmortuary.com.

Jürgen D. Garbrecht March 29, 1952 — Oct. 16, 2025



reer awards, held positions on professional and honorary societies, and was frequently invited to join committees and present his work at professional conferences. In his personal life, Jürgen met his wife-to-be, Jan Kimzey, during graduate school in Fort Collins, Colorado. They married in 1983 and later welcomed their children, Erika and Karl, in 1987. Jürgen was a beloved husband and father and always brought novel excitement to the family. He encouraged a love of nature, sports, education, and discipline. The family moved to Texas and then to Yukon, Oklahoma, where they spent over 25 years. During this time, Jürgen was an avid athlete and enjoyed soccer, running, skiing, swimming, and hiking. He also enjoyed many hobbies that included model trains, stamp collecting, genealogy, gold panning, riding his motorcycle, and flying planes. He was a Lieutenant in the Colorado Civil Air

Patrol search and rescue while in Fort Collins and flew occasionally while in Texas. Jürgen and Jan moved to Livermore, California in 2021. In recent years, Jürgen faced significant health challenges, and during the summer of 2025 his Parkinson's disease and dementia progressed rapidly. Surrounded by his loving family, Jürgen passed away peacefully on Oct. 16, 2025. Jan, Karl, Erika, and Casey (his "hero" caregiver) were by his side, sharing precious moments, stories, and love during his final days. Although his passing leaves a deep void, his family finds comfort in knowing that Jürgen is now free from suffering and that he found peace through his faith in Jesus Christ. Jürgen is survived by his wife, Jan; children, Erika and Karl (spouse Lisa); cherished grandchildren, John and Amy; mother-in-law, Dodee Balandis; and many beloved brothers- and sisters-in-law, nieces, nephews, friends, and colleagues. He was preceded in death by parents, Günther and Gisela; sister, Angelika; and brother-in-law, Greg. In lieu of flowers, if desired, donations in Jürgen's memory may be made to causes close to his heart: Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research, or Shriners Children's Hospital. Callaghan Mortuary is honored to be serving the Garbrecht family. An online guestbook is available for condolences at www.callaghanmortuary.com.

Richard Frederick Enright Sept. 27, 1954 — Oct. 25, 2025

Richard Frederick Enright passed away peacefully on Saturday, Oct. 25, 2025, in Pleasanton, California. A Daly City native, he was born Sept. 27, 1954, to parents Robert and Cecilia Enright. With siblings Kathleen and Jack leading the way, Rich was the middle child, in turn leading the way for Bob and Mary Pat. An original WB (Westlake Boy), he attended Our Lady of Mercy Grammar School and graduated from St. Ignatius College Prep in 1972. He subsequently attended SF State, receiving his bachelor's degree in Sociology. In 1980, he married Linda O'Connor who joined him in Livermore, where they raised their son Michael, until separat-

ing in 1993. He graduated from the Alameda County Sheriff's Department 64th Academy Class in 1979 and served as a court bailiff and guard at Santa Rita for several years. Ultimately, his desire to serve the community in a different way led him to study fire science and to a career spanning 30 years beginning with the Castro Valley Fire Department on through its consolidation with the Alameda County Fire Department, where he served as a devoted firefighter, EMT, investigator, and inspector, retiring in 2014. He was a man known for his big heart, generosity, and sparkling blue eyes. He loved his son. He ran very fast. He really liked classic cars and the

Niners. He was a fisherman. He was our hero. He is survived by his son Michael F. Enright; his siblings Kathleen (Henry), Jack (Anne), Robert (Erin), and Mary (Jack); many nieces and nephews; the WB's and Windsor Drive Gang; and relatives and friends nearby and as far away as Ireland. He was pre-deceased by his parents and his life partner, Leighann Kimbrough Smith. The family thanks his helper, Melvin; the staff of Stanford Tri-Valley Healthcare and Vitas Hospice, in particular Kaitlyn Killian, NP; the Livermore Fire Department; friends Marianna, Larry and Lyle; and neighbors Steve and Jerry for their kindness, caring, and support.

Livermore Leads Tri-Valley Teams into NCS Playoffs

Granada, Amador Valley, Dublin also Qualify for Postseason

By Mitch Stephens

TRI-VALLEY — There was a vision, a thought, a dream of what it would all be like when Livermore High School’s football team finally won another league championship, and defeated cross-town rival Granada in the process.

Livermore senior quarterback Matteo Lortie said reality was even better.

When the final horn sounded Nov. 7, fans stormed the field, players embraced, and the trophies and banners were hoisted, celebrating the Cowboys’ 15-13 East Bay Athletic League Valley Division victory over the visiting Matadors.

Lortie said he and his teammates somehow floated above it all. It was the program’s first league title since 1993, a span of 32 years.

It was a long time coming and the celebration didn’t disappoint. It came almost a year to the day after the Cowboys watched the Matadors celebrate in much the same fashion following a 28-27 Granada home win for the league title.

“It was surreal,” said the 6-foot-1, 195-pound Lortie, a senior who threw two first-half touchdown passes to AJ Carey for all the offense the Cowboys needed. “It was a crazy good feeling. Euphoric. Fun. Fantastic. Really indescribable.

“All our training, our effort, our focus was for this one moment, to get this title, to turn around the losses last year to Granada. We definitely soaked it all in and enjoyed

every last moment.”

Now comes an even bigger challenge — rebounding from the euphoria to go after a first North Coast Section crown.

The Cowboys (9-1 overall, 3-0 EBAL), who also fell to Granada in an NCS opening-round rematch last season, have reached a section title game just once, losing to Foothill 29-14 at the Oakland Coliseum in 1993. Livermore did not receive any favors by getting the eighth seed in Division 2. The Cowboys will host top seed Campolindo-Moraga, a team that defeated Granada 42-7 to open the season.

The Matadors (5-5), meanwhile, received the fourth seed in Division 4 and will host Deer Valley-Antioch (6-4). Amador Valley (4-6), the seventh seed in Division 2, will travel to Monte Vista-Danville (5-5), and Dublin (6-4), the sixth seed in Division 3, will venture to third seed El Cerrito (8-2).

All games are scheduled for 7 p.m. Nov. 14.

The NCS placement and seedings are based both on win-loss records and MaxPreps computer rankings, which take into consideration strength of schedule. Had Livermore lost any of the nine games it won, the Cowboys likely would have been a high Division 3 seed.

“No looking back,” Livermore coach John Wade said. “Absolutely no regrets. This is a very special group. We told them (during the week leading up to the Granada game) that they are the team that should win

that first title in 32 years. They should be the ones to tell their kids that they were on that historic team that beat Granada for a league title, and the fans stormed the field. Honestly, I’m just so happy for them. They’ve worked so hard, done all the right things.”

Wade did the right thing by going for a two-point conversion following the game’s first score, a perfectly placed 21-yard Lortie laser to Carey in the back left corner of the end zone. A surprise direct snap went to Caden Romero, who sprinted into the end zone to make it 8-0. Right before the half, Lortie connected with Carey again, this one on a 24-yard catch-and-run, making it 15-0.

Granada, which fought back from a two-touchdown deficit to beat Livermore in last year’s regular-season finale, did its best to repeat with a 24-yard touchdown run by super swift sophomore Skyler Stuart, and a 2-yard TD burst by Cody Phillips with 6:02 left.

The Matadors went for two out of a kick formation, but Livermore junior Griffin Lee stopped Jeff Badger cold in his tracks. The Cowboys all but ran out the clock from there, leaving just 11 seconds and nearly the length of the field for the Matadors.

Amador Valley, as coach Danny Jones predicted, has gotten healthy and is peaking after upsetting Monte Vista (35-14) and California-San Ramon (42-35) in the final two weeks of the regular season.

Senior running back Vin-



Livermore senior AJ Carey’s second touchdown reception of the night was the game-winner in the Cowboys’ 15-13 victory over visiting Granada that delivered an East Bay Athletic League Valley Division championship on Nov. 7. (Photo — Adam J. Clark/Livermore-Granada Boosters)

cent Maiorana rushed 36 times for 322 yards and three touchdowns in the win over California, and ever-improving sophomore quarterback Nicco Kovacs was 14 of 18 for 251 yards, with touchdowns to Maiorana (four catches, 92 yards) and An-

thony Harrington (6, 79, 1).

In the win over Monte Vista on Halloween, Harrington had eight catches for 215 yards and touchdowns of 53 and 82 yards.

Dublin hasn’t played since a 52-7 win over Foothill on Oct. 24. A 21-day

break before going on the road to face a tough El Cerrito team is a heavy lift. The Gauchos have outscored their foes 345-80, including consecutive shutouts over Vallejo (56-0), Pinole Valley (47-0) and De Anza-Richmond (41-0).

Livermore’s McCullough Has Eyes On New Women’s Baseball League

By Max Chase

LIVERMORE — Growing up in Livermore, Arwen McCullough always had a love affair with baseball, even if she stepped away from the sport she had played since childhood for a two-year stint on the Granada High School softball team.

Upon arrival at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, inspired by all the student-run clubs on campus, McCullough turned her attention back to hardball. Three years after starting a women’s college club baseball team from scratch, McCullough is among 127 players in line to be selected in the inaugural Women’s Professional Baseball League (WPBL) draft Nov. 20.

The WPBL’s four founding teams — representing San Francisco, Los Angeles, New York and Boston — are set to draft 30 players each during the 5 p.m. (PT) event that is scheduled to be streamed live on the league’s Instagram, YouTube and TikTok channels. Live updates are expected to be provided on the WPBL website at WPBL: Women’s Pro Baseball League, as well as on social-media site X.

With only 15 roster spots allotted for each of the teams that are scheduled to begin play in May on the East Coast, drafted players will still face significant odds to become inaugural members of the WPBL. That is not likely to faze McCullough, who reached into her own pocket to finance travel to Washington for the league’s Aug. 22-25 tryouts, where she survived two rounds of cuts from a field that included more than 600 players.

Named after a character from “The Lord of the Rings,” and having grown up in a home featuring cats named Luke and Obi-Wan after the “Star Wars” characters, McCullough learned baseball right along with her father, Steven.

A planned trip to her family’s native Scotland for McCullough’s 13th birthday never took place because she was busy playing baseball. A San Francisco Giants fan from childhood, McCullough played baseball with boys despite feeling the extra pressure of being the only girl. She never stopped dreaming of pitching, even during her softball sojourn.

When McCullough went to Cal Poly as a freshman, the club baseball team she started numbered only three players. Now there are enough to field a full squad of nine. McCullough runs everything, and “it has been absolutely worth it,” she said.

The Cal Poly’s women’s club team captured this year’s national championship by beating Southern California twice and UC Davis once in the Baseball for

All college final in Petaluma. McCullough recruited all the team members.

“When she wants something, she’s committed,” Cal Poly teammate Kendra Wise said. “Like coming here (to Washington), training for something, training for marathons. It’s very motivating, because sometimes I get stuck ... on the idea of having to do this thing. Then she’s like ‘OK, so we have to go book our flights, go do this, start practicing once a day.’ It’s a good dynamic.”

On the field, McCullough looks the part, talks the part and means business.

During tryouts at the Washington Nationals Youth Baseball Academy, she wore a navy San Luis Obispo Blues baseball cap with the abbreviation “SLO” in yellow letters on the front. The cap covered most of her short, blonde hair. This summer, she interned with the Blues, a wooden-bat summer team that competes in the California Collegiate

and made sure the bottles remained in the shade. She used a spare bat to get balls unstuck from the top of the batting cages.

It was readily apparent that McCullough wanted to maximize everyone’s chances to succeed and have a good time, even if it had meant that she didn’t make the first round of cuts.

When McCullough’s try-out arrived, she gave it everything she had, on the mound, elsewhere on the field and at the plate.

One curveball she threw in the bullpen caused Japanese women’s pitching legend Ayami Sato to make the umpire’s strike call, in a sign of approval.

When McCullough’s pitching tryout was over, she sprinted from the bullpen on the right-field side to the third-base dugout to get the proper glove for the outfield. Then she raced to the outfield, looking very much the part of a ballplayer who belongs.



Arwen McCullough of Livermore, right, poses with Cal Poly San Luis Obispo club baseball teammates, left to right, Ginger Duncan, Kathren Hennig and Kendra Wise, during Women’s Professional Baseball League tryouts in Washington in late August. (Photo courtesy of Arwen McCullough)

Baseball League, as part of her recreation, parks, and tourism administration major requirements. McCullough picked sports management as her concentration.

Her pink sunglasses featured bright, solid gold shades. She wears them outside most of the time, as well as a Christian cross around her neck.

While very serious and focused on the task at hand, McCullough was also quick to joke, compliment and help others. If she was nervous, it was impossible to tell.

On the first day of the WPBL tryouts, McCullough was there to help three other Cal Poly players get ready. Her own tryout wasn’t until the next day.

She hit fungoes to her college teammates on one of the side fields used for shared warm-ups. She found time to buy packs of Gatorade so that players and coaches could stay hydrated in the heat —

She fired a laser beam from center field to home plate. Had it been a real game, a runner trying to score from second base likely would have been out by a mile.

Against a pitching machine that had been giving hitters fits for two days, McCullough was one of the few to make contact with every pitch. She put five of the six pitches into fair territory, with four reaching the outfield.

The next day, pitching in a simulated game, McCullough retired the side while allowing one run and walking one.

At Nationals Park the following day, Arwen wore a red WPBL T-shirt, dressed in a full baseball uniform, ready to take the field.

“Play ball!” the public-address announcer cried. The crowd cheered, and somewhere in the first-base dugout, McCullough did, too.



Emotional End for Granada Girls

By Mitch Stephens

CONCORD — The tears rolled freely from the very red, puffy eyes of most of the players on Granada High School’s flag football team.

The final result — a 14-7 defeat to East Bay Athletic League rival San Ramon Valley-Danville in the North Coast Section Division 1 championship game at Clayton Valley Charter-Concord on Nov. 6 — didn’t go their way.

The senior-dominated Matadors, with many who had been there since the program’s inception in 2023, played their best at the end of the season and were in control of the game for nearly three quarters. But a talented, young San Ramon Valley squad, without a senior on its roster, produced two 25-yard touchdown passes in a five-minute window. Both were from sophomore Gia Ryan to freshman Tatum Prindiville.

EBAL offensive most valuable player Katie Vail, a Granada senior who completed a 20-yard touchdown pass to two-time All-EBAL receiver Marin Lnenicka on the game’s opening drive, tried gallantly to get her team back into the end zone. But three drives in the fourth quarter fell just short, as did the Matadors after a 15-7 season.

“Of course, it’s sad that we lost the game. But what really hurts is losing all of this,” Vail said, choking back tears while pointing to her teammates. “I love all these girls, and I’m not ready to lose all of this and all we accomplished together.”

Although Granada coach Jared Muela knows the program’s future is bright, even with 16 of 26 girls graduating, he was also having a hard time letting go. The difference between the ultimate and secondary prizes was miniscule, though the emotional states were drastic.

Granada had defeated San Ramon Valley by the same margin (13-6) one month earlier.

“It was two really good teams playing their best football at the end of the year,” Muela said. “Sometimes it breaks your way and sometimes it doesn’t. ... The girls played their hearts out. That’s why you see so much disappointment. It wasn’t for a lack of effort or preparation. We just didn’t win tonight.”

It sure looked like the Matadors would, especially behind a superb defensive effort that featured three quarterback sacks from first-year player Giselle Badilla and six solo tackles from sophomore Liv Lnenicka.

Vail finished the season 462 of 685

(67%) passing, for 4,316 yards and 49 touchdowns. She also rushed for 582 yards and four scores. Isabelle Dunn (131 catches, 1,428 yards, 17 touchdowns) and Marin Lnenicka (102, 1,298, 21) were the team’s primary receivers. The Lnenicka sisters, Liv (97) and Marin (94), were the team’s top tacklers. Badilla had 21 sacks and Marin Lnenicka added a team-high nine interceptions.

EBAL CROSS COUNTRY

Dublin’s boys cross country team (46 points) edged Granada (49) for the EBAL championship Nov. 8 at Newhall Community Park in Concord thanks in part to the individual championship of Daniel Santhiapillai, a senior who covered the rolling 3-mile course in 15 minutes, 21.5 seconds.

Granada junior Sade Bumpus (17:44.2) won the girls individual championship.

Santhiapillai edged De La Salle-Concord senior Heath Salter (15:25), Amador Valley senior Sattvik Raju (15:33.1) and Dublin senior Justin Feng (15:37.7). Other Dublin team scorers were Jeremy Imbo (eighth, 15:55.4), Lucas Lipman (13th, 16:03.6) and Gabriel Gonzalez (20th, 16:18.1).

Senior Neil Ajeesh led the Granada brigade in seventh (15:54.6) before his teammates finished all in a row, starting with ninth-place Nicolai Barron (15:55.9), Matthew Bertrand (15:56.4), Keshav Manavala (16:00.0) and Ryan Peart (16:02.9).

Foothill junior Connor Buscho (16:07.9) and Amador Valley seniors Aiden Versteeg (16:08.9) and Thomas Hekl (16:14.8) all finished in the top 20.

Bumpus and Carondelet-Concord senior Gretchen Yakaitis (17:49.6) battled closely throughout the race, with the rest of the pack more than 30 seconds behind. Foothill sophomore Macy Mullins (18:39.6) and Amador Valley senior Kacie Wong (19:08.7) each finished in the top 10.

San Ramon Valley won the girls team title (75) edging Danville rival Monte Vista (78), followed by Granada (86). Foothill (165) placed sixth, Dublin (194) eighth, Amador Valley (223) ninth and Livermore (228) 10th.

All teams qualify for the NCS Championships Nov. 22 at Hayward High, with qualifiers advancing to the state meet Nov. 29 at Woodward Park in Clovis.

Have high school varsity sports news of note? A good human-interest story? Email Mitch Stephens at mitch@score-booklive.com

LEGAL NOTICES/CLASSIFIEDS

www.independentnews.com



LEGAL NOTICES

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 618315

The following person(s) doing business as: SmartCloudConnects, 530 Escondido Cir, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Vargas HVAC, 530 Escondido Cir, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Devinder Bhardway, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 16, 2025. Expires October 15, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6587. Published October 23, 30, November 6, 13, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 618296

The following person(s) doing business as: Buuiworks, 607 Maple Street, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Eric Bui, 607 Maple Street, Livermore. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 10/15/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Eric Bui, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 15, 2025. Expires October 14, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6588. Published October 23, 30, November 6, 13, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 618212

The following person(s) doing business as: Models Inc Alent Agency, 3290 Maguire Way #200, Dublin, CA 94568 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Models Inc Talent Agency, 3290 Maguire Way #200, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 2005. Signature of Registrant/s/: Sherrie Neves, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 10, 2025. Expires October 9, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6589. Published October 23, 30, November 6, 13, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 618157

The following person(s) doing business as: Above All Surface Cleaning, 5837 Badger CT, Castro Valley, CA 94562 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Jeffrey Zimmerman, 5837 Badger CT, Castro Valley, CA 94562. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Jeffrey Zimmerman, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 7, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6590. Published October 23, 30, November 6, 13, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 618055

The following person(s) doing business as: Constellation Bio, 626 Bancroft Way, Suite A, Berkeley, CA 94710 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Stephen Skolnick and Company, 626 Bancroft Way, Suite A, Berkeley, CA 94710. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 7/31/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Stephen Skolnick, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 3, 2025. Expires October 2, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6591. Published October 23, 30, November 6, 13, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 618270

The following person(s) doing business as: Safari Kid, 1253 A Street, Hayward, CA 94541 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): SM Schools Inc, 2674 Admiral Circle, Hayward, CA 94545. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 10/1/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Kathleen Banke, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 9, 2025. Expires October 8, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6593. Published Oc-

tober 23, 30, November 6, 13, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 618180

The following person(s) doing business as: Free To Be Me Child Care, 1040 Florence Rd, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): FTBMKIDS, LLC, 1040 Florence Rd, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 1991. Signature of Registrant/s/: Janette Billingsley, Director. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 9, 2025. Expires October 8, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6594. Published October 23, 30, November 6, 13, 2025.

SUMMONS

(CITACION JUDICIAL)
CASE NUMBER (Número del Caso):
STK-CV-UBC-2022-9400
NOTICE TO DEFENDANT
(AVISO AL DEMANDADO):
JNL MARBLE AND GRANITE, INC. A California Corporation,
JOEL VASQUEZ HUERTA AKA JOEL V. HUERTA AKA JOEL HUERTA, an individual
YOU ARE BEING SUED BY
CROSS-COMPLAINANT
(LO ESTÁ DEMANDANDO)
EL DEMANDANTE
MIKE GLAZZY, ANTHONY SOUZA, as Trustee, GLORIA SOUZA, as Trustee, AND SOUZA REALTY & DEVELOPMENT, INC.
You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the cross-complainant. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court. There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. NOTE: The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of \$10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case. Tiene 30 DÍAS DE CALENDARIO después de que le entreguen esta citación y papeles legales para presentar una respuesta por escrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia al demandante. Una carta o una llamada telefónica no lo protegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estar en formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta. Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y más información en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.sucorte.ca.gov), en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le quede más cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentación, pida al secretario de la corte que le dé un formulario de exención de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le podrá quitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin más advertencia. Hay otros requisitos legales. Es recomendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a un servicio de remisión a abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado, es posible que cumpla con los requisitos para obtener servicios legales gratuitos de un programa de servicios legales sin fines de lucro. Puede encontrar estos grupos sin fines de lucro en el

sitio web de California Legal Services, (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California, (www.sucorte.ca.gov) o pidiéndole en contacto con la corte o el colegio de abogados locales. AVISO: Por ley, la corte tiene derecho a reclamar las cuotas y los costos exentos por imponer un gravamen sobre cualquier recuperación de \$10,000 o más de valor recibida mediante un acuerdo o una concesión de arbitraje en un caso de derecho civil. Tiene que pagar el gravamen de la corte antes de que la corte pueda desear el caso. The name and address of the court is (El nombre y dirección de la corte es):
SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA, 180 E. WEBER AVE STOCKTON, CA 95202
The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is (El nombre, la dirección y el número de teléfono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abogado, es):
CHAD J. WOOD WILLBANKS & WOOD, PLC 1047 S Tracy Blvd. Tracy, CA 95376 209-830-9191
DATE (Fecha): December 19, 2024
STEPHANIE BOHRER Clerk (Secretario)
The Independent, Legal No. 6595. Published October 30, November 6, 13, 20, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 618349
The following person(s) doing business as: Besties Boba & Bites, 4520 Las Positas Rd, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Three T. Corp, 4520 Las Positas Rd, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Monette Au, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 17, 2025. Expires October 16, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6596. Published October 30, November 6, 13, 20, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 618100

The following person(s) doing business as: Casa Di Vita Staging, 510 W Hornet Ave, Alameda, CA 94501 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Zanti Design, Inc., 4101 Dublin Blvd, Ste F PMB 1008, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 10/2/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Henry Chen, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 6 2025. Expires October 5, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6597. Published October 30, November 6, 13, 20, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 618401

The following person(s) doing business as: Stelo Enterprises, 1747 Locust St, Livermore, CA 94551-4642 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Stephe Rees, 1747 Locust ST, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by Co-Partners. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Stephen Rees, Genral Partner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 21, 2025. Expires October 20, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6598. Published October 30, November 6, 13, 20, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 618401

The following person(s) doing business as: Doggone Baking, 377 Santa Clara Ave, Apt 211, Oakland, CA 94610 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Jennifer Sterbenz, 377 Santa Clara Ave, Apt 211, Oakland, CA 94610; Elijah Prince, 377 Santa Clara Ave, Apt 211, Oakland, CA 94610. This business is conducted by a General Partnership. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Stephen Rees, Genral Partner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 21, 2025. Expires October 20, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6598. Published October 30, November 6, 13, 20, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 618175

The following person(s) doing business as: Doggone Baking, 377 Santa Clara Ave, Apt 211, Oakland, CA 94610 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Jennifer Sterbenz, 377 Santa Clara Ave, Apt 211, Oakland, CA 94610; Elijah Prince, 377 Santa Clara Ave, Apt 211, Oakland, CA 94610. This business is conducted by a General Partnership. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Stephen Rees, Genral Partner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 21, 2025. Expires October 20, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6598. Published October 30, November 6, 13, 20, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 618493

The following person(s) doing business as: Game On! Glitch Gone!, 2712 Highland Meadows CT, Dublin, CA 94568-7789 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Armani Gonzalez, 2712 Highland Meadows CT, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Armani Gonzalez, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 3, 2025. Expires October 2, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6604. Published November 6, 13, 20, 27, 2025.

listed above: 9/1/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Jennifer Sterbenz, Partner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 9, 2025. Expires October 8, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6599. Published October 30, November 6, 13, 20, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 618199

The following person(s) doing business as: McGrail Vineyards and Winery, 5600 Greenville Rd, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): McGrail Vineyards and Winery, 5600 Greenville Rd, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 7/2015. Signature of Registrant/s/: Ginger McGrail, Managing Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 9, 2025. Expires October 8, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6600. Published October 30, November 6, 13, 20, 2025.

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME ORIGINAL FILE NO. 592511

The person(s) listed below have abandoned the use of the following fictitious business name(s). Syscom Associates, 3245 Dublin Blvd, Apt 328, Dublin, CA 94568. Registered by the following owner(s): Eling Chai Tung, 3245 Dublin Blvd, Apt 328, Dublin, CA 94568. The fictitious business name statement was filed on 10/6/2022 in the County of Alameda. This business was conducted by a Partnership. Signature of Registrants: /s/: Eling Chai Tung, Manager. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 9, 2025. The Independent, Legal No. 6601. Published October 30, November 6, 13, 20, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 618495

The following person(s) doing business as: Verge Counseling, 1116 16th Street, Oakland, CA 94607-2804 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Alina Labrador, 1116 16th Street, Oakland, CA 94607. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Alina Labrador, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 24, 2025. Expires October 23, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6602. Published November 6, 13, 20, 27, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 617861

The following person(s) doing business as: Gulab & Gold, 351 El Caminito, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Gikgaje LLC, 33135 Lake Champlain ST, Fremont, CA 94555. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Kana Kshile Tandon, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 24, 2025. Expires September 23, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6603. Published November 6, 13, 20, 27, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 618083

The following person(s) doing business as: Game On! Glitch Gone!, 2712 Highland Meadows CT, Dublin, CA 94568-7789 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Armani Gonzalez, 2712 Highland Meadows CT, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Armani Gonzalez, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 3, 2025. Expires October 2, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6604. Published November 6, 13, 20, 27, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 618493

The following person(s) doing business as: Game On! Glitch Gone!, 2712 Highland Meadows CT, Dublin, CA 94568-7789 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Armani Gonzalez, 2712 Highland Meadows CT, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Armani Gonzalez, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 3, 2025. Expires October 2, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6604. Published November 6, 13, 20, 27, 2025.

The following person(s) doing business as: S K Flooring, 2116 Adams Ave, San Leandro, CA 94577 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Factory Direct Floor Inc., 2116 Adams Ave, San Leandro, CA 94577. This business is conducted by Co-Partners. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 10-24-25. Signature of Registrant/s/: Wai W. Li, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 24, 2025. Expires October 23, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6605. Published November 6, 13, 20, 27, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 618234

The following person(s) doing business as: Authentic Business, 1244 Roosevelt Ave, Hayward, CA 94544 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Authentic Beginnings LLC, 2648 International Blvd, STE 301 PMB 137, Oakland, CA 94601. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 9/1/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Charles Onyemem, Managing Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 10, 2025. Expires October 9, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6606. Published November 6, 13, 20, 27, 2025.

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME ORIGINAL FILE NO. 612951

The person(s) listed below have abandoned the use of the following fictitious business name(s). Authentic Beginnings Landing, 7594 Mayhews Landing Rd, Newark, CA 94560. Registered by the following owner(s): Authentic Beginning LLC, 2648 International Blvd, STE 301 PMB 137, Oakland, CA 94601. The fictitious business name statement was filed on 3/6/2025 in the County of Alameda. This business was conducted by a Limited Liability Company. Signature of Registrants: /s/: Charles Onyemem, Managing Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 10, 2025. The Independent, Legal No. 6607. Published 30, November 6, 13, 20, 2025.

Notice is hereby given that this is an Online Bid Process; only bids submitted through the online portal will be accepted. Please login or register at <https://procurement.opengov.com/portal/acgov>. SOQ #902643 Inspector of Record — Vendor Outreach: Wednesday, November 12, 2025 at 10:30AM To Attend Online: Join via Microsoft Teams — Call-in (audio only): (415) 915-3950 Phone Conference ID: 504 517 635# Non-Mandatory Networking Bidders Conference: Tuesday, November 18, 2025 at 10:00AM To Attend Online: Join via Microsoft Teams — Meeting ID: 282 764 694 323 2 Password: wx7Ek6Fs or Call in (audio only): +1 415-915-3950 Phone Conference ID: 552 774 861# Response Due by 2:00PM on December 16, 2025 County Contact: Lovell Laurente at (510) 208-9621 or via email: lovell.laurente@acgov.org. Specifications regarding the above may be obtained at the Alameda County GSA Current Contracting Opportunities Internet website at www.acgov.org. 11/13/25 CNS-398489#

The Independent, Legal No. 6608. Published November 13, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 618603

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Nevada Fence Builder; 2. Norcal Fence Supply, 5340 Brisa ST, Suite B, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Zelvaggo Inc., 5340 Brisa ST, Suite B, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 10/24/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Luciano Zelvaggo, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 30, 2025. Expires October 29, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6609. Published November 13, 20, 27, December 4, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 618709

The following person(s) doing business as: Pacific Medicine & Wellness, 15035 East 14th Street, San Leandro, CA 94578 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Nehal Ghevariya MD, PC, 15035 East 14th Street, San Leandro, CA 94578. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Nehal Ghevariya, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 6, 2025. Expires November 5, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6610. Published November 13, 20, 27, December 4, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 618696

The following person(s) doing business as: Critter Control of Fremont, 39116 Fremont Hub #1015, Fremont, CA 94538 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 date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Sridhar Kura, Manager. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 5, 2025. Expires November 4, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6611. Published November 13, 20, 27, December 4, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 618638

The following person(s) doing business as: Babe and the Moon, 2118 San Antonio Ave, Alameda, CA 94501-4327 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Lindsey Trueman, 2118 San Antonio Ave, Alameda, CA 94501. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 9/17/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Lindsey Trueman, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 3, 2025. Expires November 2, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6612. Published November 13, 20, 27, December 4, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 618572

The following person(s) doing business as: Game On! Glitch Gone!, 2712 Highland Meadows CT, Dublin, CA 94568-7789 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Armani Gonzalez, 2712 Highland Meadows CT, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Armani Gonzalez, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 3, 2025. Expires October 2, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6604. Published November 6, 13, 20, 27, 2025.

The following person(s) doing business as: Storied Getaways LLC, 2779 Vernazza Dr., Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Storied Getaways LLC, 2779 Vernazza Dr., Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 10/28/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Catherine Dawson, Principal. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 29, 2025. Expires October 28, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6613. Published November 13, 20, 27, December 4, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 618650

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Lucky Z Beats; 2. Rushluck Media; 3. Rushluck Publishing, 6119 Ledgewood Terrace, Dublin, CA 94568 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Rushluck LLC, 6119 Ledgewood Terrace, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 10/16/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Amitoz Dhillon, Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 3, 2025. Expires November 2, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6614. Published November 13, 20, 27, December 4, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 618612

The following person(s) doing business as: MGM Tax & Multi-services, 26250 Industrial Blvd, Suite 49, Hayward, CA 94545 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Marina Silva, 26250 Industrial Blvd, Suite 49, Hayward, CA 94545. This business is conducted by a Married Couple. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Marina Silva, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 31, 2025. Expires October 30, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6615. Published November 13, 20, 27, December 4, 2025.

CLASSIFIEDS

ANIMALS

CATS/DOGS

ADOPT A DOG OR CAT
For adoption information contact Valley Humane Society at (925)426-8656



Adopt a New Best Friend TVAR Tri-Valley Animal Rescue

Our current weekly adoption events include:
Saturdays — Dogs & Puppies at:
Dublin PetSmart
6960 Amador Plaza Rd. Hours: 10:00am to 1:00pm.
Visit our website: WWW.TVAR.ORG. To see adoptable animals, volunteer opportunities, and how to donate.

Follow:
TRI-VALLEY ANIMAL RESCUE on Facebook, and Instagram

EMPLOYMENT

HELP WANTED

SERVICES

Compassionate, experienced caregiver offering senior care, companionship, and support. Serving Tri-Valley area. Call (925)786-2162.
BE WARY of out of area companies. Check with the local Better Business Bureau before you send money or fees. Read and understand any contracts before you sign. Shop around for rates.

TO PLACE CLASSIFIED ADS go to bit.ly/Indy-Classifieds or call (925)243-8000

MERCHANDISE

FOR SALE

ESTATE/ GARAGE/ YARD SALES

FREE SECTION

LOST/ FOUND

NOTICES /ANNOUNCEMENTS

Goodfellow Brothers, CA LLC, on behalf of Isabel Portola Owner LLC, is soliciting union bids for the installation of wet utilities associated with the Isabel Portola Project located in Livermore. Electronic bids are due on 11/10/25 by 3:00 PM (PST). Electronic bids should be delivered to estimatingcapw@goodfellowbros.com and ben@veruxinc.com. For complete bid information, please contact Ben Rau at ben@veruxinc.com (916-930-6000) or Goodfellow Brothers, CA LLC at estimatingcapw@goodfellowbros.com (925-449-5764).

NOTICES

***NOTICE TO READERS:** California law requires that contractors taking jobs that total \$500 or more (labor and/or materials) be licensed by the Contractors State License Board. State law also requires that contractors include their license numbers on all advertising. Check your contractor's status at www.cslb.ca.gov or (800)321-CSLB (2752). Unlicensed persons taking jobs

Four Local Painters Will Host “Falliday” Art Show

By Christina Cavallaro

LIVERMORE — A small enclave of local painters is banding together to host a fall art show inspired by the popular Tri-Valley Artist Studio Tour (TVAST).

The TVAST event, held the first weekend in May each year, is sponsored by the nonprofit Alliance for the Visual Arts (AVA), to which each member of the group belongs.

AVA President Dennis Baker said that though this event is independent of AVA, the thought seed for it was planted on the heels of the group’s annual show.

Baker, along with painters Marc Casad, Wei-Ting Chuang and Tuan Karsevar, are inviting the public to a “Falliday” art show and sale at Baker’s home studio in Livermore from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 16.

“Our organization (AVA) is all about connecting artists with one another,” Baker said. “And then connecting the communities with the artists in the Tri-Valley, Danville all the way down

through Livermore.”

The first TVAST event took place in November 2021.

“A lot of artists were de-

pressed. There was COVID going on, and people were producing art, and everyone was down. Communities were down,” Baker recalled.

“So, we thought, ‘Oh, let’s start having studio tours.’”

There was a strong turnout at that first event, which has since moved from No-

vember to May, but Baker hasn’t forgotten some early requests he heard for more gift-sized formats at approachable prices.

“A lot of folks showed up saying they wanted to find gift items because holidays were coming up,” he said.

So, the “Falliday” event is a test run and a chance for Baker to see how the public will react to private home studio tours in the same vein as TVAST, but on a slightly smaller scale, and with more accessible price points.

“It’s an experiment I have discussed with other leaders of the local art organizations and if successful we are hoping it will be another way for the public to step into the homes and studios of local artists to explore their works and learn more about the visual arts here in the Tri-Valley,” he said.

It’s also an opportunity for shoppers to see artwork that is in process and talk directly with the artists about their methods and inspiration.

The group hopes it will also be a chance for buyers to make a real connection with the artists behind the works that move them, “and to learn the reason it was painted, and the why behind it,” Baker said.

“That’s what makes that piece of jewelry you inherited from your grandmother so special,” he continued. “When you really wouldn’t have purchased it in an antique store. ‘But that was Grandma’s. She brought it over from the old country.’”

All the paintings on display, many inspired by the Livermore countryside, will be for sale at greatly discounted prices for the holidays. Refreshments will also be available. Canned food will be accepted for local donations.

The “Falliday” Art show is free, open to the public, ADA accessible and located at 852 Old Oak Road in Livermore. For more information, contact Dennis@DennisBakerArt.net.



This small oil painting, with its bold impasto passages of vivid colors, was inspired by a scene painter Marc Casad observed in the Gold Country of the Sierra Foothills. Casad, along with three other local artists, will showcase a variety of genres and styles at their upcoming “Falliday” Art Show and sale in Livermore on Nov. 16. (Photo courtesy of Marc Casad)

Dublin City Council Finalizes Public Art Agreement For the New Francis Ranch Housing Development

By Sanestina Hunter

DUBLIN — The Dublin City Council on Oct. 21 approved an agreement with Trumark Homes to install a series of public artworks at the Francis Ranch development, marking the next step in bringing new cultural features to one of the city’s largest housing projects.

San Ramon-based Trumark Homes, a builder known for large master-planned communities throughout Northern California, is developing the 573-home Francis Ranch community in east Dublin.

City Manager Colleen Tribby said the Francis Ranch art plan builds on Dublin’s ongoing commit-

ment to integrating art into public spaces.

“We are proud of our long-standing commitment to public art in Dublin,” Tribby told The Independent. “We believe that artworks add value to the community by celebrating its beauty, history and culture, and we have been able to add some amazing pieces to our collection through collaboration with private developers”

“The Francis Ranch art project, created by artist Eric Powell, is a series of pieces that includes sculptures, archways and heritage-tree benches that together evoke the spirit of the surrounding hills and celebrate the history of the land.”

Powell, a Bay Area art-

ist known for large-scale public sculptures that blend natural materials and industrial design, often explores the connection between community, landscape and movement. Several of his pieces are featured in public spaces throughout Northern California.

The City Council approved Powell’s design concept at its Jan. 14 meeting. The Oct. 21 vote formalizes the public-art agreement and authorizes the city manager to execute it.

The artworks will be placed throughout two public parks totaling 11 acres within the 165-acre Francis Ranch site near Croak Road, bordered by Jordan Ranch to the west and Positano to the north. The development will

ultimately include six neighborhoods and a two-acre site designated for affordable housing.

The city’s public-art requirement is estimated at \$1.53 million, according to staff reports. In addition, Trumark will make a one-time \$50,000 payment to cover future maintenance once the city accepts the installation. After completion, ownership of the artworks will transfer to the city, which will assume responsibility for long-term upkeep.

“The installation of the artwork will coincide with the construction of the two parks, which is expected

to begin in early 2026 and take about 12 months to complete,” Tribby said.



MILLER'S

AIR CONDITIONING and HEATING
WE SERVICE ALL MAJOR BRANDS!
Residential & Commercial

Serving The Tri-Valley Since 1960 **925.447.3000**
www.CallMillers.com Lic. #253756

Souvenirs from Local Travelers on Display at Pleasanton Museum

A new exhibit at the Museum on Main in Pleasanton explores the connection between the experience of traveling and the souvenirs that travelers bring back with them.

The exhibit, “Greetings from Everywhere,” opened last week and runs through Saturday, Jan. 3.

On display are dozens of items acquired by Tri-Valley residents on their travels, including vacations and busi-

ness trips, with stories of the memories they represent.

Notable items include two molas (appliqué blouse panels) made by the Kuna people of Panama’s San Blas Archipelago and purchased by Gary and Pat Kirscher during a trip to that region; ticket stubs, brochures and other documents collected on a trip to Central Europe by museum curator Ken MacLennan; and a collection of antique

moose-head cream pitchers collected from various parts of the U.S. by Cheree Hethershaw.

The exhibit also includes souvenirs from the Golden Gate International Expositions in 1939 and 1940, and a vintage slide projector with images taken by earlier generations of Tri-Valley travelers.

The museum, at 603 Main St., is open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday.

Santa Arrives at Stoneridge Mall on Dec. 14

Santa Claus will arrive at the Stoneridge Shopping Center in Pleasanton on Friday, Dec. 14, and will be available for photographs until Christmas Eve.

Hours for the Santa Photo Experience will vary. To check when Santa will be available, or to make reservations, go to tinyurl.com/

e74e6m5n.

By booking online, families will receive 50% off their photo order, 10 free holiday cards and a three-month trial subscription from Crayola Create and Play.

The Simon Property Group-owned shopping center will also hold a sen-

sory-friendly opportunity for families with special needs children to meet Santa from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, Dec. 7.

Reservations are required.

Pets can have their photos taken with Santa from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 23.

Specializing in Fireplaces that beautify your home for over 40 years!

Gas Fireplaces
Gas, Wood & Pellet Inserts
Free-Standing Stoves
Sales & Installation of our Products Only

10TH ANNUAL MONY NOP TURKEY DROP

"Helping Tri-Valley Families...One Turkey at a Time"

SUNDAY, NOV 23, 2025
10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Drop-Off Location
Parking Lot of Livermore City Hall
1052 S. Livermore Ave
Livermore, CA 94550

You May Donate:
FROZEN TURKEYS
GIFT CARDS
CASH

10th Anniversary Challenge
Donate 10 Turkeys
or \$100 to TVH

All Proceeds to Benefit Tri-Valley Haven's Holiday Program

Throughout the month of November, Make a donation to Tri-Valley Haven at Grocery Outlet in Livermore & Pleasanton

SPONSORED BY