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California State Senator Jerry McNerney speaks Aug. 6 during a town hall at the Shannon Event Center in Dublin. (Photo — Leah Silveira)

California Senator McNerney Speaks at Town Hall in Dublin

AI Infrastructure, Clean Air and Redistricting Among Top Issues Affecting the Tri-Valley

By Vivien Wenneker

DUBLIN — State Senator Jerry McNerney held his first Tri-Valley town hall meeting in Dublin on Aug. 6, during which he laid out top issues affecting the Tri-Valley that he plans to address in the coming year.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) infrastructure and clean energy were specifically highlighted in a series of bills the senator has either backed or helped draft. They are currently making their way through the state legislature.

These include SB 833: AI in Critical Infrastructure; SB 813: Third-Party Standards for AI; and SB 787: Industrial Policy and Equitable Clean Energy Supply Chains.

"AI is a force that's coming upon society in an aggressive way, and my priority is to protect our communities throughout this process," McNerney said at the Shannon Event Center. "One of my biggest concerns is the possibility of it displacing jobs and leading to unemployment. These AI bills will set a standard for regulation across the nation."

Public Transportation

Additionally, McNerney expressed his support for investing in public transportation in the Tri-Valley, and moving forward with the Valley Link Rail project, not only as a means to reduce traffic on Interstate 580, but also to cut carbon emissions.

The Valley Link Rail project,

(See TOWN HALL, page 6)

Livermore Receives High Marks in Ranking Of Safest Suburbs in California and Nation

Financial Technology Company SmartAsset Places City Second in State

By Ruth Roberts

LIVERMORE – The City of Livermore has been ranked the second-safest suburb in California and 37th-safest nationwide, according to a SmartAsset survey.

The closest city to Livermore to also be ranked was Brentwood, which came in 11th in the state.

The rankings examined 360 suburbs across the United States and analyzed various public-safety factors, including violent- and property-crime rates, automobile fatalities, drug-overdose deaths and excessive alcohol rates. The methodology focused on suburbs with populations of at least 5,000 residents, situated within a 15- to 45-minute drive of one of the nation's 100 largest cities.

SmartAsset is a New York-based financial technology company that offers a platform that provides financial education, advice and advisor matching.

"This ranking is a direct result of the hard work, dedication and professionalism of our team and our partnership with the community," Livermore Police Chief Jeramy Young said. "I'm proud of the men and women who serve this city every day."

Livermore Mayor John Marchand, a longtime city leader, said the accolades were well-earned.

"A safe city does not happen by accident," Marchand said in an email to The Independent. "This recognition is a tremendous tribute to the hard work and dedication of our entire city staff, our community partnerships and all of our residents. It reflects the city's unwavering commitment to public safety, which continues to be the

(See SAFE CITY page 7)



The City of Livermore is ranked second in California and 37th nationally among the safest suburbs in which to live, according to SmartAsset, a financial technology company based in New York. (Photo — Leah Silveira)

Trail Project Looks to Delta Tunnel Funds

Idea Is To Encourage Agricultural Tourism and Provide Water Education

By David Jen

TRI-VALLEY — The controversial, $20.1 billion Delta Conveyance Project, which plans to build a 45-mile-long tunnel to carry water from the Sacramento River to the Bethany Reservoir west of Mountain House, may help fund a new multi-use trail along the South Bay Aqueduct in the Tri-Valley.

Dick Quigley, chair of the trails subcommittee within the Alameda County Agricultural Advisory Committee, shared a plan with The Independent to build the aqueduct trail to encourage agricultural tourism in the region and to help teach residents where their water comes from. The project's first phase would run from where the aqueduct crosses Patterson Pass Road to its Mines Road intersection in Livermore.

Quigley, who served on the Zone 7 Water Agency's board from 2004 to 2020, said his committee is investigating the use of the Delta Conveyance Project's $200 million community benefits fund announced this month by Gov. Gavin Newsom.

In May, Newsom proposed to fast-track the Delta Conveyance Project, a move that would eliminate certain deadlines from existing water-rights permits and narrow judicial reviews of future challenges against the project.

Opposition to the project has centered on the harm reduced river flows will have on the delta's communities and ecosystems, such as the effects of increased salinity in the delta region. The tunnel's 15-year construction timeline has also caused residents to worry about the prolonged pollution it may cause.

Friends of the River, a watchdog group, called the governor's May proposal an attempt "to bypass public input and environmental scrutiny through a budget trailer bill. Instead of ensuring that the public can fully review and challenge the proposed Delta Conveyance Project through established permitting processes and the courts, the Governor is trying to ram it through the back door."

The group has criticized the project's ability to drain the estuary of fresh water and decimate already declining populations of delta fish and wildlife.

State Senator Jerry McNerney, who represents the Tri-Valley along with the entirety of San Joaquin County, has opposed the governor's modified regulations saying they would "eliminate environmental and judicial review of the project, while giving the state a blank check to float bonds to pay for the water tunnel."

Last week, Newsom announced an accountability action plan to publicly track the California Department of Water Resources' (DWR's) commitments to delta communities slated for damage from the tunnel's construction.

(See AQUEDUCT, page 7)

Head of Prominent Tri-Valley Accounting Firm Honored

Scouting Group Tabs John Sensiba as Top Citizen

By Vivien Wenneker

PLEASANTON – John Sensiba, managing partner of the Sensiba LLP accounting firm, has been recognized by the Golden Gate Area Council (GGAC) of Scouting as this year's Distinguished Citizen.

As the 19th recipient of the award, Sensiba joins a long list of individuals, such as Eagle Scout and Alameda County Supervisor David Haubert and former U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, who have also been chosen for their exceptional leadership, service and commitment to their community.

"To be recognized in a region with so many great leaders is humbling and, while I would not have chosen me with so many other more worthy leaders available, I am certainly grateful for the honor," Sensiba said.

Sensiba's record includes "guiding Sensiba LLP's strategic growth, advising top Bay Area business leaders and being a trusted voice on economic and tax matters nationwide," according to goldenstatescouting.org.

His contributions have earned numerous accolades, including the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Legacy Award, Accounting Today's Managing Partner Elite and Pleasanton's Man of the Year.

Additionally, Sensiba has served on the boards for Stanford Health Care — Valley Care, the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce, Las Positas College Foundationand Innovation

(See SCOUTING, page 7)



Livermore native Nicole King returns to the Bankhead Theater to star in the lead role of "Anastasia, The Musical" at 3 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 14. (Photo courtesy of Nicole King)

'Anastasia' at Bankhead for One Day Only

Homegrown Livermore Talent Returns To Star in Family-Friendly Performance

By Christina Cavallaro

LIVERMORE - The synergy of local talent and creative collaboration will come to beautiful fruition for one day only on Sunday, Sept. 14 at the Bankhead Theater in a unique production of "Anastasia, The Musical."

The 3 p.m. performance will mark a return to the stage for Livermore native Nicole King, and be the Pacific Chamber Orchestra's (PCO) second annual POPs Concert presentation. It will also be PCO's first artistic alliance with newly formed Broadway South Bay (BSB), an organization committed to bringing Broadway-style theater to regional audiences.

Based on the acclaimed 1997 animated feature — produced by Fox Animation Studios and later acquired by Disney — that inspired a full Broadway adaptation debuting in 2017, the creative tour de force will follow the story of an 18-year-old amnesiac. Known as "Anya," she believes she might be the surviving daughter of the Russian Romanov family. As she journeys from post-World War I Russia to 1920s Paris, she rediscovers her identity and her family, and finds true love.

"It's a full-circle moment for me. I love the story of finding family," said King, a mother of two, who plays the lead role.

The 28-year-old singer and actress rose through the ranks of the SmARTSunlimited youth-theater program based in Livermore, where she started her performance journey at age 7, honing her talents with other young Tri-Valley thespians.

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PET OF THE WEEK



GLITZ

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Future of AI Set for Discussion at Dublin Summit

By Ruth Roberts

DUBLIN 3 The future of Artificial Intelligence (AI), its role in the workforce and beyond are set to be discussed at the third annual Tri-Valley Summit from 4-7 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 20 at the Patelco Credit Union headquarters.

Presented by Start Up Tri-Valley, an organization dedicated to fostering growth and success among startups in the region, and in collaboration with the City of Dublin, the event's theme is "AI: The Catalyst for Change in Industries." Innovators, entrepreneurs, researchers and civic leaders are expected to explore how artificial intelligence is transforming various sectors, from life sciences to energy and beyond.

"The Tri-Valley is where deep science meets real-world application," said Dr. Yolanda Fintschenko, executive director of i-GATE, a non-profit organization focused on increasing economic prosperity through entrepreneurship in the Tri-Valley, and an organizer of the event. "This summit is about more than showcasing technology and expertise — it's about building a community that connects our AI innovators, startups and industry leaders. We're excited to convene the thinkers and doers who are using AI to solve meaningful problems across many industries."

Moderated by Stephen Lee, founding general partner of Carbide Ventures, and hosted by Patelco, the event is scheduled to feature panelists Leland Ellison, simulation and modeling lead for Pacific Fusion; Nikesh Kotecha, head of data science with Stanford Health Care; Cindy Gonzales, deputy director, Data Science Institute and group leader of the Intelligent Detection, Exploitation and Analysis Group at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory; and Dr. Dyrell Foster, president of Las Positas College.

The panelists will discuss the risks and benefits of AI uses and controls, and the Tri-Valley region's unique role in shaping AI innovation.

"At Las Positas College, AI is not just a technological advancement. It's a transformational force shaping how we teach, learn and prepare students for the future of work," Foster said in an email to The Independent. "AI is here and it's up to us to shape it, not just through policy or pedagogy, but by centering our values in how we lead educational transformation."

Dublin Mayor Sherry Hu said she is honored to be the host city for the AI summit.

"We are proud to welcome the Tri-Valley AI Summit to Dublin for a third year," Hu said. "This event reflects our city's commitment to fostering innovation and collaboration across the Tri-Valley. AI is transforming how we live and work, and this summit is a vital step in ensuring our communities are not only a part of that transformation but are leading the way."

Patelco Credit Union's corporate headquarters is located at 3 Park Place, Dublin. For additional information or sponsorship opportunities, email info@startuptrivalley.org. For tickets, visit bit.ly/4lfGBaT.



LLNL Artificial Intelligence Agents Create New Fusion Target Design in Milestone Achievement

By David Jen

LIVERMORE — The use of artificial intelligence (AI) in nuclear fusion reached a milestone this month, as AI agents at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) developed a new fusion-target design based on a diagram hand drawn by a human designer.

Scientists gave the agents autonomous programs that can understand natural language and perform domain-specific tasks — access to LLNL's El Capitan and Tuolumne supercomputers to design the new target. El Capitan ranks as the fastest supercomputer in the world, while Tuolumne ranks as the 12th fastest.

"We are putting AI in the driver's seat of a supercomputer, which is something that has never been done before," Jon Belof, LLNL physicist and group leader, said in a statement.

The results stem from a collaboration between the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) Tri-Labs — Lawrence Livermore, Los Alamos and Sandia National Laboratories — which have been building an AI framework known as the Multi-Agent Design Assistant (MADA). MADA accepts natural-language prompts from human designers and generates physics-simulation decks, or instruction sets, based on that input.

"Our customized LLM (large language model) is able to write these decks for us, in response to what the human user wants," Belof told The Independent. "This frees up the user to focus more on the problem they want to solve, which is the capsule design, with the agents taking care of simulation execution. … We imagine a future where the human scientist might also have something like an AI co-worker to perform scientific tasks — we are still far off from that vision, but that's where things might be heading eventually."

Similar to consumer AI models such as OpenAI's ChatGPT or Google's Gemini, MADA's agents were trained on a large data set from which they base their responses. But MADA's agents then received supplemental training to prepare them for their work on target design.

"We trained it on data that corresponds to user manuals and example files for our simulation code," Belof said. "In essence, this customized AI model now 'understands' how to run our ICF (inertial confinement fusion) code, which is not something that the original model was able to do."

In 2022, LLNL's National Ignition Facility became the first facility in the world to achieve fusion ignition, where a fusion reaction released more energy than what reached it, adding to a list of global fusion achievements that has spurred growing interest in the industry over the past few years.

NIF's inertial confinement design heats a fuel capsule to the point of imploding with enough momentum to initiate nuclear fusion. Because the shape of the target plays an important role in the efficiency of the reaction, the agents used their supercomputer time to explore variations in the target's geometry, running thousands of simulations, in the recent AI trial.

While the MADA workflow is still in the research and development phase, it shows promise for increasing researcher productivity and stands to possibly assist NIF experiments in the future, LLNL physicist Kelli Humbird said.

Beyond target geometry, Belof also sees the agents exploring the way in which a target ignites as well as the design of entire fusion facilities themselves.

"What are the best attributes needed for the next generation of fusion facilities, and what new approaches are going to allow the United States to most optimally achieve the goal of a fusion energy-powered future?" Belof asked. "These are the next challenges for AI systems to help us answer, and I'm confident that some exciting discoveries will be waiting for us."

NNSA's Advanced Simulation & Computing program funded the work.





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Burakovsky Earns Eagle Scout Badge

Naomi Burakovsky, daughter of Yana and Leonid Burakovsky of Pleasanton and a member of the all-girls Scout Troop 2942, has earned her Eagle badge, the highest rank in the traditional Scouting America program.



Eagle Scout Naomi Burakovsky (Photo courtesy of Leonid Burakovsky)

To achieve the rank of Eagle, a Scout must earn at least 21 merit badges and complete a community project.

For her project, Burakovsky, now a senior at Amador Valley High School, started Youth Voices for Mental Health, an initiative that focuses on enhancing mental health awareness among middle school students.

She organized and led a group of more than two dozen Scouts in creating various mental health resources for the Joe Michell School in Livermore, including bracelets, posters and bookmarks, and gave a presentation about mental health and wellbeing to the middle school students.

The organization she founded now has a goal of building a nationwide network of teen mental health advocates reaching out to youths in their communities.

For more information about Youth Voices for Mental Health, go to youthvoicesformentalhealth.org.

The former Boy Scouts of America, which began accepting girls in 2019, changed its name to Scouting America earlier this year. Troop 2942, sponsored by St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church in Livermore, was also charted in 2019.

USPS Unveils New Livermore Sorting Center

The U.S. Postal Service (USPS) recently unveiled a new Sorting & Delivery Center (S&DC) at the Livermore Post Office, 220 S. Livermore Ave., designed to enhance precision and improve service.

"These new, state-of-the-art facilities will help make the Postal Service more efficient, more capable and more competitive for the future," said Livermore Postmaster Simerjot Kaur. "The investments we've made here in Livermore represent ... a commitment to our employees, our customers and the future of the Postal Service."

The Livermore S&DC is one of 111 recently modernized sorting and delivery centers across the nation, according to the USPS, with 300 more planned to open over the next few years.

USPS is an independent federal agency charged with delivering mail across the U.S. The new sorting and delivery centers are part of a 10-year, $40-billion modernization program.

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Artists Invited To Seek Grants from City of Livermore

Program Supported Through Public Art Fund Offers $1,000 to Individuals and as Much as $10,000 to Community Organizations

By Ruth Roberts

LIVERMORE – The City of Livermore invites all local artists and artistic organizations to contribute to the cultural enrichment of the community through its grant support programs. From now until the beginning of September, interested residents are encouraged to apply for either the Mini Grant or the Project and Program Grant.

"This is a great opportunity for artists who have a project in mind, but might not always have the resources to put things in place," said Allen McFarland, management analyst for the Library Services Department. "Art is just so important to a community in so many ways."

Supported through the city's Public Art Fund, community-based public art activities are overseen by the Commission for the Arts. The Mini Grant program is available every quarter to artists and community organizations that provide activities and services that advance the overall mission and goals of the Commission for the Arts. Artists or organizations are eligible for grant awards of up to $1,000. The number of grants awarded each quarter varies depending on the resources available.

Past examples of the Mini Grant program, McFarland said, include the Tri-Valley Artists Studio Tour, which hosted a weekend of art studios that were free and open to the public, allowing them to see local artists at work and to purchase art.

The Project and Program Grant is available to artists and community organizations that offer projects, programs and services that align with the Commission and the Creative Livermore Framework's mission. Artists or organizations are eligible for grant awards up to $10,000.

The Livermore Valley Opera is an example of a previous recipient of the Project and Program Grant that brought musical performances to local elementary schools as part of an enrichment program.

The Commission for the Arts reviews Project and Program Grant applications twice each year, in March and September. The number of grants awarded each cycle also varies depending on available resources.

McFarland urged all interested applicants to apply and take advantage of the myriad offerings

"Not every city has these kinds of grants," McFarland said. "I really do think we are so fortunate here in Livermore to have a city that is so supportive of the arts."

The deadline for both applications is Sept. 1. For more information or to apply, visit http://www.livermoreca.gov/ArtsGrants or email arts@livermoreca.gov. Final grant approvals will be awarded within 30 days of the application deadline.



Taylor denBroeder, a representative of PFLAG, an organization of parents, families and friends of Lesbians and Gays, spoke during an Aug. 10 event at Lynnewood United Methodist Church in Pleasanton. Sponsored by Tri-Valley Indivisible, the function was an educational presentation about pronouns, gender identity and sexuality, inclusive language, nuance of LGBTQ+ life and how to support LGBTQ+ people. (Photo — Leah Silveira)

Two More Former Dublin Prison Guards Plead Guilty to Sexual Abuse Charges

By Ruth Roberts

DUBLIN — Two former Bureau of Prisons guards have pleaded guilty to sexually abusing female inmates at the FCI Prison in Dublin, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office.

Jeffrey Wilson, 34, and Lawrence Gacad, 33, were charged on June 25. Wilson also admitted to making false statements to federal investigators.

They are the eighth and ninth correctional officers to have either pleaded guilty or been convicted at trial as part of an ongoing federal investigation into sexual abuse of inmates at the since-shuttered FCI Dublin.

"There is zero tolerance for federal correctional officers who violate their positions of trust and authority," United States Attorney Craig Missakian said in an Aug. 7 statement. "And that is especially true where they use those positions to sexually abuse individuals in their custody. Our investigations remain ongoing, and we will continue to work with our law-enforcement partners to prosecute to the fullest extent of the law anyone who engages in these despicable acts."

According to his plea agreement, Wilson was employed as a correctional officer at FCI Dublin from July 2021 to September 2022, serving as a health technician/paramedic. He was responsible for providing emergency assessment and medical care to female inmates. Around August 2021, Wilson began interacting with a victim inmate after she started taking medication prescribed for her seizures. He encouraged her to transfer from the prison to the FCI Dublin Camp, where there were fewer medical staff to oversee their interactions.

Wilson admitted to engaging in sexual acts with the victim on multiple occasions. He also provided her with a $60 prepaid credit card and a cellphone, which she used to take and send naked pictures of herself to him.

When interviewed by special agents from the U.S. Department of Justice Office of the Inspector General, Wilson falsely stated that he had never had sexual contact with the victim and that he had never given her contraband.

According to his plea agreement, Gacad was employed as a correctional officer at FCI Dublin from July 2021 to June 2022. Between March and June 2022, Gacad kissed and groped a victim inmate who lived in one of the housing units where he was assigned as the guard on duty. He also admitted to exchanging handwritten notes and emails with the victim, some of which were sexually explicit. To conceal his identity, Gacad set up email accounts using fake names.

After the abuse was discovered, Gacad resigned from the Bureau of Prisons but continued to exchange emails and have video chats with the victim while she communicated with her parents.

"These guilty pleas mark yet another step toward accountability for a culture of predation that thrived for far too long behind the walls of FCI Dublin," FBI Special Agent in Charge Sanjay Virmani said. "Female inmates were exploited by those with power and access when they were most vulnerable. The FBI and our partners remain resolute in our work to expose every individual who used their position to harm, and to help restore the dignity stolen from the women who survived abuse."

Both Wilson and Gacad were released on bond. Wilson is scheduled to be sentenced on Nov. 6, and Gacad on Nov. 19. Wilson faces a maximum sentence of 15 years in prison and a fine of $250,000 for each count of sexual abuse of a ward. He also faces an additional eight years in prison and a $250,000 fine for making false statements to a government agency.

Gacad faces a maximum sentence of two years in prison and a $250,000 fine for the count of abusive sexual contact.

Lions To Co-Host Summer Festival

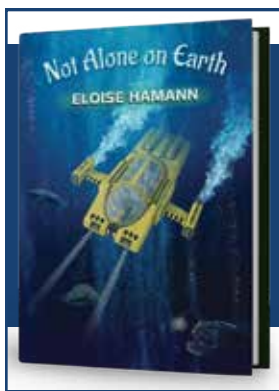
The Livermore Lions Club and Calafia Kitchen will host a summer festival, Saturday, September 6 at the Vasco Shopping Plaza, 1472 N. Vasco Road in Livermore, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Vasco Summer Festival will include food, craft vendors, classic cars and booths sponsored by StopWaste, a public agency working to reduce waste in Alameda County, and AVA Community Energy, which provides renewable energy to more than 33,000 residential and business customers in Livermore.

Califia Kitchen, a California fusion restaurant, opened in 2023 at 1502 N. Vasco Road.

Founded in 1924, the Livermore Lions Club is one of the oldest community service clubs in Livermore.





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

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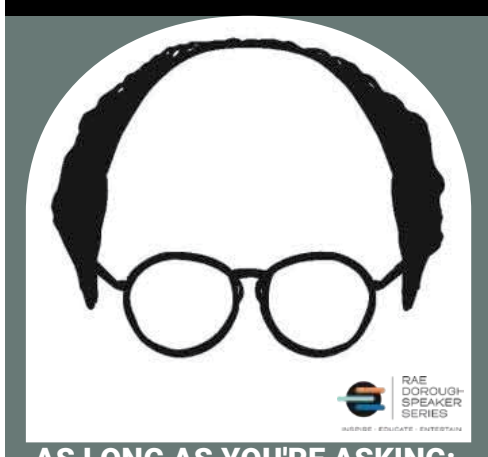
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EDITORIAL

Redistricting is a Radical Solution Whose Time Has Come

California Sen. Jerry McNerney attended a town hall meeting in Dublin last week. In addition to talking about his policy priorities, as you'd expect from these meet-and-greets, he noted that he supports Gov. Gavin Newsom's plan to redraw the state's Congressional districts.

That would seem like an unusual thing for a state legislator to weigh in on, but we live in times where the power of the state as a counter to the federal government has never been more important. In addition, McNerney spent 16 years in the U.S. House of Representatives, so he has firsthand knowledge of how Congress has changed.

In fact, when McNerney chose not to run for re-election to Congress, he said he wanted to run for an open seat in the California Senate, which "actually works together to get things done."

The years 2006-2022 also marked a sea change in the level of dysfunction in Congress. Those years saw the rise of the Tea Party as an anti-establishment movement that, with the election of Donald Trump in 2016 to the presidency, became the dominant faction in Republican Party politics. The years also corresponded to the Republicans' outright obstruction of President Barack Obama's agenda, and their doubling-down on voter suppression (especially after the Supreme Court gutted the Voting Rights Act in its 2013 Shelby County v. Holder decision).

Shelby County in Alabama is relevant now because many states in the South, including Texas, no longer had to get federal approval before they changed their Congressional or legislative districts. And many of those states wasted no time in pushing forward new laws and redrawing districts to suppress Democratic voters (which in many cases involved carving up majority-Black neighborhoods to dilute their votes).

In 2025, the second Trump administration's actions over the past seven months have been corrupt, criminal, autocratic and fascistic. He's underwater in the polls in all areas, including on his signature issue, immigration. If a fair election for Congressional seats were held in 2026, Democrats could be expected to win back a majority.

That's why Trump vocally demanded that Texas redistrict now to create five more safe Republican seats, without waiting for a new Census in 2030. Texas Gov. Gregg Abbott has enthusiastically endorsed the plan, to the extent that he called a special session of the Legislature to pass it. (Texas Democrats instead left the state to deny Abbott a quorum, but the fight is far from over.)

To be clear, this is akin to Trump on Jan. 2, 2021, demanding on the phone that Georgia Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger "find 11,780 votes" when it was already clear he'd lost the 2020 election. Trump went on to attempt a coup four days later to stop Congress from certifying Joe Biden's victory.

So, with Trump blatantly trying to rig the 2026 election in advance, it's only natural that Newsom and other Democrats respond in kind. If Texas goes forward, California would do the same and create at least five more Democratic seats. Other governors of both parties are no doubt watching this play out very closely.

Those wringing their hands over these blatantly partisan moves — mostly establishment Democrats — worry about setting a precedent for escalating partisan redistricting.

The point is, the precedent has already been set. The only thing that matters is the raw exercise of power, and until now, Democrats have been unwilling to play for keeps. The old line of never bringing a knife to a gunfight may hold, but in most cases, Democrats brought a casserole dish. But it's not a picnic, and bipartisanship extends to naming post offices and little else in today's Washington. We're in a fight for the survival of American democracy, and being the good guys shouldn't mean surrendering.

Newsom seems to understand that, and he should not be balked by worrywarts still playing by 20th century rules and norms. Democrats need to play hardball, as Republicans have been doing for the past several decades. Newsom needs to ensure that the challenges to democracy from the right will be met with an equal and opposite force.

But while Texas can go ahead with redistricting with a simple vote of the legislature, California (and other Democratic-led states) relies on an independent redistricting commission, which voters approved in 2008. However, the commission only is convened after the Census is taken every 10 years. How exactly Newsom or the state legislature would change the district map when the commission is not in session isn't known. We hope to hear soon what the plan is.

This is a case where good intentions can be their own worst enemy, because if only Republican-led states can draw the districts to gerrymander the opposition out of power, Congress will never be a true representation of the American people.

Fair rules only work if everyone follows them. If one side simply decides they no longer apply, the other can't continue to fight with one arm tied behind its back.

Our local legislators, Sen. McNerney and Assemblymembers Rebecca Bauer-Kahan and Liz Ortega, should work with the governor to enact changes and move forward with a plan. It isn't just California's future that depends on the outcome.

MAILBOX

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

Calling All Livermore High School Class of 1975 Cowboys!

Cindy Anderson, Livermore

The Livermore High School Class of 1975 is gearing up for its 50th reunion, happening the weekend of October 17–19, 2025 — and we want to see all our classmates there!

We have a weekend full of visiting, reminiscing, and celebrating planned:

Friday evening: Kick things off with a casual gathering and taco bar.

Saturday morning: Enjoy a guided tour of LHS and a class photo.

Saturday evening: Join us for a festive dinner at Callippe Preserve Golf Course.

Sunday morning: Take part in a Livermore history tour and picnic at Carnegie Park.

The Livermore Heritage Guild has graciously opened the Carnegie Building for a special display of 1970s memorabilia, which will be featured throughout September and October.

Classmates are traveling from across the country to be here, and more than 25 generous donors have helped make this an affordable, memorable celebration. Let's make sure no Cowboy is left out of the fun! Discounts are available for reservations made before August 17, so don't delay!

For details, email cowboysclassof75@gmail.com or visit www.cowboysclassof75.com.

Democracy Is Supposed to Be Local

Elizabeth M. Judge, Livermore

Personally insulting citizens who appear at Livermore City Council meetings has become quite a sport under the current mayor's leadership. He is likely to do such himself at a time during a meeting when victims cannot respond, and he is quite comfortable when other speakers do the same.

Many folks are not willing to subject themselves to such abuse. Therefore, fewer folks are willing to appear if they have an opinion opposed to that of the council. This gives the council a false impression when it counts how many speak in favor of an action vs. how many speak against.

The most recent council meeting is an example of this. Unfortunately, the mayor's leadership style is imitated by the vice mayor who called those in opposition liars who should be "genuine" and admit their true motives, as if he knew those motives. Other speakers did much the same thing, suggesting that those opposing the council action were bad people.

Democracy counts on civil discord. In Livermore, discord is not civil.

Jerry McNerney Proves Experience Matters

Eloise Hamann, Dublin

McNerney conducted a packed crowd at a Town Hall meeting in Dublin. He spoke about his proposed bills for half an hour. For example, he spoke about a bill that would disallow energy providers from using ratepayers' $ for advertising. He understood this bill is already on the books, but with no means of enforcement, which his bill will fix.

He spoke eloquently about Newsom's plan to suspend one time to redistrict, if Texas follows Trump's request to gerrymander. He does not like going against rules in general, but given Trump's not-to-follow the law behavior, he believes we need to fight fire with fire! The audience responded by clapping.

He spent an hour and a half answering questions. To a question about AI, which is McNerney's specialty, in forming appropriate guardrails, he answered re the concern over AI being an agent that can't be sued, that there still is a provider of the AI.

He agreed with the proposition that critical thinking be taught in K-12.

It was hard to hear the questions despite microphones, so I didn't catch all of the questions, but the audience seemed to approve of his responses although he said he would not respond to questions that fall under the purview of the Federal Government.

I was impressed with his knowledge about California law, and concluded experience counts.

Letter from the Sites Project Authority and Zone 7 Water Agency

Jerry Brown, Pleasanton
Valerie Pryor, Dublin

The Sites Reservoir Project is mischaracterized in your 7/31/25 editorial. It's an offstream reservoir that captures storm flows when they are high, and it includes strict environmental protections developed with state and federal wildlife agencies. It's designed to help fish and the environment during dry periods, not harm them.

The cost estimate has grown due to inflation and refined planning, but the project is funded by a broad mix of local, state, and federal partners — all who directly benefit from the project. Zone 7 Water Agency is evaluating this project as a means to help shore up water supply reliability for Tri-Valley residents during droughts.

Water use efficiency and recycling are vital, but we also need smart storage to manage droughts and extreme weather. Sites is a critical part of a balanced, climate-resilient water strategy. Visit www.sitesproject.org for more information.

A Poem from Gaza

Julie Wild, Livermore

The Israeli army has killed 18,592 Palestinian children in Gaza since October 2023. There are about 13,000 children in the Livermore or Pleasanton school district. Imagine if all of the children of Livermore or Pleasanton (and more) were killed. What if it was your child? What if you were a mother trying to keep your children alive? Every number is a name. Every child was a dream. All they needed was a meal, milk, or care.

As kids go back to school and teachers prepare classrooms, this poem is fitting:

A Letter From a Mother in Gaza to Mothers Around the World

To every mother who wakes her children with a kiss
And sleeps peacefully to the sound of their laughter,
To every mother who packs a school bag
Or waits by the window for her child's return,
I write to you from a place that no longer resembles life,
A place where motherhood is entangled with prayer,
Where love walks hand in hand with patience and fear is softened only by hope.

A mother just like you,

.

I dream only to see my children grow,
To prepare them a meal without first counting the airstrikes,
To dress them in clean clothes so they don't carry the scent of smoke,
To let them sleep without asking, 'when will the war end… or why us?'
In Gaza, we do not live.
In Gaza, we wait.
We wait for bread, for water, for the faint signal of safety.
We wait to count our children every evening and tremble at the thought that one may be missing by dawn.

Mothers of the world, we do not ask for pity, but for your witness.
We do not ask for silence, but for a voice besides ours,

So that your children, when they grow up, will know that we had children too,
That we had arms and hearts and fears just like you.

Let the world remember that in Gaza, mothers still give birth under fire,
Raise children in tents,
And teach them that love survives even in war.

From my small tent, I write to you with the voice of every mother who endured,
Every mother who grieved,
And for every mother that still dares to dream of peace.

— Munira El Najar,
teacher and mother
of four in Gaza

Be Careful What You Ask For

David Jonas, Livermore

Eden Housing opponents have fermented the sour grapes from their referendum petition into fuel for the group's favorite blood sport: Bludgeoning City Council.

In social media, letters to the editor and at Council meetings, they have bleated dire conspiratorial accusations about Council's processing of the petition: Council "ignored the will of the people," "disregarded the foundation of democracy," and "threw away 8,000 signatures."

This is mean-spirited gaslighting that betrays ignorance of the facts, as Council followed the law and principles of democracy to the letter.

Ironically, Move Eden Housing's petition did not ask to "move Eden Housing." Instead, it simply asked to repeal any legislative acts in the Council resolution implementing the EH agreement. The Courts determined that only the financing of Veterans Park was legislative. All the housing-related parts of the resolution were deemed administrative and therefore ineligible for referendum.

Per California Elections Code, Council repealed the resolution containing the legislative act, exactly as the petition requested.

By calling themselves "the people," MEH shows great hubris, as the 8,000 petition signers represent only about 16% of registered Livermore voters. Elections provide much more accurate gauges of community sentiment than petitions. The 2024 election, in which two pro-EH Council candidates trounced their MEH-certified opponents, indicates irrefutably how the voting majority viewed EH.

MEH supporters insist that passion for a downtown park, not aversion to affordable housing, drives their cause. To prove this point, Tom Soules writes that he and other MEH'ers "are involved in non-profits helping low-income folks." The voluntarism is commendable but provides little cover for the group's elitism. If MEH truly cared about "low-income folks," they would advocate for affordable housing rather than attack it wherever it is built: Downtown, Cornerstone Church, Isabel Avenue, and Pacific Avenue.

I hope MEH welcomes Eden Housing's future residents with open arms, appreciates the incremental increase in the supply of affordable housing units, and treats "those people" with the same respect they give

(See MAILBOX, page 5)

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www.independentnews.com



The Livermore Cultural Arts Council presents The Frankie Bones Project at the upcoming Tuesday Tunes on the Shea Homes Stage next to the Bankhead Theater at 6:45 p.m. Aug. 19. Bones' music gives nod to folk rockers James Taylor; Crosby, Stills & Nash; and Jackson Browne. He takes standards from musicians such as Jimmy Buffett, Paul Simon and the Beatles and makes them his own. Bones released a CD of original music titled "Living in a Bottle." The 2025 summer concert series comes to an end on Aug. 29 with a blues band, Evan Thomas & the Brotherhood. (Photo courtesy of Frankie Bones)

MAILBOX

(Continued from page 4)

to Eden Housing's $4,000+ per month rent-paying neighbors at Legacy Apartments. We are all Livermore.

Contemporary Politics in America

Owen Brovont, Livermore

Politics in America is in bad shape. Rather than seeking the best resolutions to the problems besetting the country, some members of the government diligently sidestep or duck their responsibilities to fulfill those campaign promises intended to do good and make the country stronger, safer, and more productive. From one side, their labors have been largely invested in criticism and attempts to stymie any efforts of the current administration to revitalize the nation by revising the foundation of its international trade relationships in the direction of seeking to function in a more equitable fashion with all of its trading partners. These ideas lie at the heart of driving the revitalization of America's industrial capacity and eviscerating the numerous obstacles that have been emplaced by previous administrations – largely at the behest of dominant owners and managers of the financial and commercial giants whose bottom lines were virtually always viewed in terms of their own best financial interests. They have found allies in many organizations proselytizing wholesale changes to social conventions and "scientific" interpretations of natural events and conditions including the weather and land usage.

There is no serious contention that President Trump has failed to make great strides in fulfilling his campaign promises to the American people. He acknowledges that there are two very serious issues which he contends will cement the progress the country has made heretofore. The first is giving him a strong Republican majority in both the House of Representatives and the Senate in the election of November 2026. The second is, those congressional majorities will enable conversion of Presidential Orders into formal bullet-proof legislation.

Government by Presidential Orders is not in the best tradition of the American system; in fact, it too closely resembles an autocratic state in its maintenance of power and control, and must be redefined as to its frequency and its reach into the heart of the American Republic. In short, the next mid-term election will be among the most significant of modern times, as it will hopefully undo the enormous mistakes of the past fifty or sixty years of misdirection and abusive mismanagement of the country.

Enough!!

Tom Meyer, Livermore

John Marchand and supporting team, what is it that you don't get?

The citizens of Livermore have made it clear that they want the Eden House Project on the ballot. Common sense prevails and speaks; there is more behind the curtain than revealed. There is a simple resolution: let the voters decide.

Putin/Trump Meeting

Barry Brynjulson, Pleasanton

On August 15, Trump is scheduled to meet Putin in Alaska to discuss ending Putin's unprovoked invasion and wide-scale destruction of Ukraine. This is wrong on multiple levels.

1. Putin has a warrant for war crimes issued by the International Criminal Court. He should be immediately arrested on our soil, but that seems unlikely.
2. A negotiated end to the war cannot happen unless Ukraine is part of the negotiations. Any "agreement" between Putin and Trump is meaningless until Zelenskyy is involved.
3. Trump will demand Ukraine mineral rights for helping to "negotiate" a cease fire. Putin has invested billions of rubles and lost thousands of lives. It's highly unlikely he'll give any minerals rights to Trump/the US. Besides, Ukraine deserves to keep everything.
4. Trump will claim it was an "incredible meeting", "much headway", or might even make-up specifics. We will never really know because his meetings with Putin usually involve no other staff, notes, U.S. interpreters, or scribes.
5. This meeting is simply another publicity stunt (or distraction from the Epstein/Trump files) that his efforts are Nobel Peace Prize worthy.

If Putin is arrested in Alaska, I will gladly stop writing this publication with my protestations against Trump's authoritarian administration. Expect my next letter soon.

The Shortest Sermon

Abdul Awwal, Pleasanton

Recently, in Gaza, an Imam delivered the shortest sermon for the Friday noon prayer. (While Muslims pray five times a day, the Friday noon prayer has additional significance because community gathers to hear a sermon in addition the prayer.) The Imam said, "I don't have the strength to speak due to hunger, and you don't have the strength to listen due to hunger. Establish the prayer."

Response to David Marco's Letter from 8/7

Sharon Wood, Livermore

You referenced those valid data analyses for Covid shots were ineffective and resulted in increased death and hospitalizations. I would like a list of your citations, because the data I reviewed from CDC, NIH, Journal of Infectious Diseases, Annals of Clinical Microbiology and Antimicrobials and STATISTICA indicates the opposite results. The efficacy and effectiveness are 94% -98% for the Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna vaccines.

There is no mercury or other toxic chemical in either the Pfizer/BioNTech or Moderna vaccines. There is no evidence that unvaccinated children or adults are healthier than vaccinated. There is data that indicates that unvaccinated people are more vulnerable to infection by the Covid virus

I can provide the citations.

Major Accomplishments Keep Pouring In

David Ott, Pleasanton

I recently returned from vacation to discover that the Trump administration has continued to make significant strides in improving America and strengthening global stability. Below are some key accomplishments that deserve recognition:

The border continues to be secure, while reducing the illegal crossings to the lowest number in five decades, and for the past two months, zero illegals were released into the country; the administration has prioritized deporting illegal alien criminals, including killers, rapists, gangbangers, drug traffickers, and other violent criminals; the administration has recovered over 13K unaccompanied migrant children so far from the 325K that were lost under the Biden administration.

Core inflation is near its lowest in four years, and gas prices have reached their lowest level in the same period; blue-collar wages have seen the largest increase in nearly 60 years, and the stock market is hitting record highs, reflecting strong economic confidence; the administration has implemented significant tax cuts for workers, and contrary to what the left has reported, these tax reductions benefit working- and middle-class Americans.

American energy independence has been unleashed by issuing drilling permits, reducing burdensome regulations, exporting to foreign countries, and expanding pipelines, which boosted U.S. oil and natural gas production, creating high-paying energy jobs and lowering global energy

(See MAILBOX, page 6)

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THE Independent

WE'RE HIRING:

Part-time Assistant Editor and Reporter

The Independent, a crusading weekly community paper with a print circulation of 25,000 located in eastern Alameda County, California, is seeking an enterprising and creative assistant editor/reporter to help cover our communities. We're a close-knit team of visionary individuals. We're looking for someone who will not just maintain the status quo, but help guide us into the future with new initiatives in print, on the web and in the community.

The Tri-Valley, which includes the communities of Livermore, Pleasanton, Dublin and Sunol, offers breathtaking landscapes covered with vineyards and open ridge lands, and serves as a vibrant cradle of arts, education, science and community engagement. Livermore is home to a well-regarded community college and two national laboratories, which are rich repositories of developments in climate science, fusion power, supercomputing, biology, health and other sciences.

The mission of The Independent, founded in 1963, is to champion and build upon what's best about the Tri-Valley: preservation of its surrounding open spaces and agriculture, its scientific achievements, its support for disadvantaged people, and its cultural and artistic amenities. We have never been shy about challenging those who would undermine any of the successes for which we are known.

The assistant editor/reporter will interact with a regular pool of freelance and staff writers covering local government, schools, science, arts and local community organizations, and multifaceted issues affecting the region, such as housing and homelessness, immigration, economic development and education.

The assistant editor will perform other duties as needed, for example, writing editorials on local news, or national issues that specifically affect the Tri-Valley. The assistant editor would also be asked to report and write a number of stories each week on local government, the courts, and other beats. These will be paid separately as freelance stories on top of the assistant editor salary.

The paper is seeking a journalist and advocate who can cover these beats and hone our reporting for maximum impact. The ideal candidate will possess a unique blend of investigative fervor with a love of journalism that can transform communities. The assistant editor will collaborate with the managing editor and publisher/editor to keep these issues in the public eye.

Duties:
- Edit stories written by a stable of freelance writers and staff
- Write editorials as needed
- Report news stories

Qualifications:
- A seasoned journalist with a strong ethical code
- Excellent time management skills
- Organized and adept at juggling multiple projects simultaneously

The ideal candidate is a versatile journalist with a curiosity and willingness to learn about everything from land use law to nuclear physics projects, and a passion for accuracy and holding the powerful to account.

We prefer that an assistant editor candidate live in or near the Tri-Valley, or be willing to relocate. Appropriate relocation expenses will be covered. Under some circumstances, a remote position may be considered.

The assistant editor role involves 20 hours per week, outside of time spent on freelance stories.

Night and/or weekend work is often necessary to keep pace with a dynamic news environment.

To apply, send a resumé, a cover letter detailing your experience and interest in the position, and a few recent examples of your writing and editing to the managing editor at jobs@independentnews.com.

Please apply by Aug. 27. We are an Equal Opportunity Employer.



On Aug. 6, Livermore Police and city leaders, along with partners including the Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department, Dublin CHP, Falck Alameda County, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, State Parks, Alameda County Sheriff's Office and Alameda County District Attorney's Office visited more than 40 National Night Out block parties. National Night Out is an annual event aimed at building stronger, safer neighborhoods. (Photo courtesy of the Livermore Police Department)

MAILBOX

(Continued from page 5)

prices to make America the dominant energy producer in the world.

Major trade agreements were secured with the EU and seven other countries, covering over half the world's GDP.

Secured Apple's $600 billion investment pledge, alongside commitments from AstraZeneca, Rolls-Royce, and a $200 billion UAE investment, which will create thousands of American jobs.

President Trump and private donors are funding a new 90K-square-foot $200M ballroom for the White House, ensuring no taxpayer money is used.

The administration brokered a ceasefire between Thailand and Cambodia, and facilitated peace and economic agreements between Armenia and Azerbaijan, ending 35 years of conflict.

The administration has protected Social Security and Medicare programs by eliminating aid for able-bodied working Americans and illegal aliens, ensuring their solvency for future generations.

Policies have been enacted to restrict men from participating in women's sports.

These achievements reflect a commitment to strengthening America and promoting global peace. It's disappointing that some people who write letters to this newspaper fail to recognize these successes, perhaps due their Trump Derangement Syndrome. I encourage everyone to consider these accomplishments and their positive impact on our nation and the world.

Gratitude and Good Wishes

Patricia Munro, Livermore

Next week, Livermore will say good-bye to our City Attorney, Jason Alcala, who has served our city for over 20 years. This letter is to thank him for those years of service and protecting the city. Before that, a bit of education on what a City Attorney does. Like so many public servants, most of that work—with a few notable exceptions—is invisible. So here is a quick introduction to what City Attorneys and their departments do.

First, they advise the city council and city staff about whether their words and actions are legally problematic. Second, they prosecute lawsuits on behalf of the city and/or defend the city when necessary. In these cases, the city council, an entity, becomes the City Attorney's client, meaning that attorney-client privilege applies to protect strategy or personnel's right to privacy. Third, City Attorneys write city ordinances, that is, local laws dealing with local issues that are not covered by or contradicted by state or federal law. Relatively recent ordinances include regulating home businesses, short-term rentals, political signs in public spaces, and banning the sale of vape materials. Fourth, City Attorneys work with city departments to ensure that their actions and regulations are clear, consistent, and legal.

Mr. Alcala has, over the years, worked with the utmost integrity, a sense of service, and a burning desire to improve the world. He subscribes to a philosophy of "well-informed decision making," and that has been the guiding principle for his office. It is also how he approaches any question: with care, kindness, and a sense of duty to provide enough information to make good decisions. Livermore is a better place for his years of service. As Mr. Alcala moves to the next phase of life, that sense of service, passion for justice, and caring for others will, no doubt, show up in other ways. We wish him well in this next stage — and will miss him here in Livermore.

Non-Political for a Change

Richard Andrews, Livermore

I don't know how many out there listen to the news etc. on KCBS-74, or watch ABC for News & Jeopardy, but I do. I find several things changed I dislike immensely;

First, KCBS obviously has a software package that makes virtually every ad and most local broadcasts have a lisp. Not sure what marketing fool put it in, or motivation, but it is annoying as heck, and I'm going to stop listening.

Next, after Disney captured ABC, the ads for big Pharma are like a plague of locusts. A full 1/3 of news time is ads now, with ONLY cutesy or Banner things covered. Almost no substance. Jeopardy has been compressed to make room for more ads.

Disney has ruined the programming and even regularly features splashes of "Disney News" as part of their broadcast, which leaves out important subjects. They are pathetic and unwatchable. I go elsewhere now.

Welcome to Trump World

Rosario Milelli, Pleasanton

Donald Trump calls it a "strategic win." In reality, his $750 billion U.S.–EU energy deal is a brazen pick-pocketing of the American public — a stealth tax you'll pay not once, but twice.

First, through the tariffs that inflate the cost of imported goods. Economists have shown again and again that these costs fall squarely on U.S. consumers, not foreign exporters. The Congressional Budget Office and Penn Wharton Budget Model both estimate the 2025 tariff package will cost the average household thousands per year.

Second, through higher energy prices caused by the very exports our leaders are celebrating. Liquefied natural gas (LNG) exports aren't free — they burn up to 20% of their own energy content before reaching foreign buyers. The Department of Energy warns that in tight supply years, these exports can spike wholesale natural gas prices by 30% or more, and those costs trickle down: roughly 60% into your gas bill and 30% into your electricity bill.

In California's PG&E service area — already one of the nation's most expensive — household-level modeling shows annual increases of $350 to $650 in electricity and gas bills, before even counting higher gasoline prices. If oil exports push crude up by $10–$20 a barrel, you'll pay another $115–$230 a year just to drive to work.

And for what? The biggest winners are upstream oil and gas producers, LNG terminal operators, and foreign-owned energy investors — industries that spent more than $130 million lobbying Washington in 2023 alone. The biggest losers are ordinary consumers, and the long-term stability of our own energy supply.

At current production rates, America's oil reserves last barely a decade, natural gas less than two. Binding ourselves to massive export deals accelerates depletion, ensuring that our children will face higher prices, deeper import dependence, and greater vulnerability to hostile suppliers. This is intergenerational theft — stripping tomorrow's energy security to pad today's corporate profits.

The irony is painful: the energy we burn shipping fuel overseas could power all projected U.S. artificial intelligence and data-center needs several times over by 2030. Instead, we're exporting it — along with the jobs, innovation, and resilience it could support here at home.

Congress should cap strategic exports, tax windfall export profits to offset household costs, and require transparent cost-benefit analyses for every trade-linked energy commitment. Trump's tariff-linked export deals steal from our children to enrich the wealthy.

Let's Harden Our Power Grid

Rich Buckley, Livermore

The Shield Act has the money sourced. The Act protects our power grid from sneak attack...an attack that has catastrophic consequences.

David Adair now heads THE SHIELD ACT project.

David Adair, explains the cascading failures in just one attack: https://tinyurl.com/nfu7826b

Adair pioneered space based cancer cures and diabetes cures blocked by NASA… yes NASA!

David's life can be investigated https://tinyurl.com/35rj8aub

Taking Care of Dogs in Parks

Liam Walkenhorst, Livermore

I was recently at a parks district meeting, and the issue of dog bowls at water fountains was brought up. I believe that they should be installed to keep dogs from drinking water out of the human fountains.

Response to "Two Negatives Make a Positive?"

John Lahommedieu, Dublin

Mike M, you are absolutely correct that the Alameda County Fair Board lied to us all. There was no increase in attendance, no making up for the lost revenue lost by not having horse racing. This out-of-control self-serving board has destroyed, and continues to destroy, a tradition of entertainment. Soon that land will either be sold or gone to backdoor politics with Eric Swalwell and Newsom's dirty hands allowing condos to fester all over. A historic racetrack, along with Pleasanton history, urinated on by incompetence and greed along with stupidity. Mike, you were spot on. It's the board of directors who lie, but soon they will have to answer for, because something comes this way that they may not have anticipated, and it's always the little things in the end that take the greedy down, each and every time.

Stoneridge Center Hosting Nightly Outdoor Light Festival

Stoneridge Shopping Center in Pleasanton is now offering a family-friendly outdoor walk-through light festival every evening, Wednesday through Sunday.

"Glowtopia," presented by Imaginarium, encompasses more than 1.5 acres of illuminated mazes, infinity mirror rooms, carnival rides, rose gardens with thousands of LED blooms, a fantasy zone with more than 25 larger-than-life creatures and storybook characters, interactive art zones and photo-box vignettes where visitors can pose on glowing moons, swings, thrones and couches surrounded by flowers, stars and surreal scenery.

Tickets to "Glowtopia" are $21, with discounts for children 3 to 12, seniors over 62 and military with valid ID. Children under 2 are free.

"Glowtopia" with more than 5 million lights, will be open from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. on Sunday, Wednesday and Thursday, and from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. on Friday and Saturday.

The show will run through Sunday, Oct. 12.

The shopping center is also sponsoring free performances by the Cirque Legacy Medieval Thrill Show, featuring a variety of traditional circus acts and historical characters on stage.

There will be multiple performances each night of the light show.

For tickets or more information, go to imaginarium360.com or call 725-272-2700.



TOWN HALL

(Continued from front page)

which was proposed in 2017, aims to construct a 42-mile rail line connecting the Dublin-Pleasanton BART Station with the North Lathrop ACE Station in San Joaquin County, according to the project overview on valleylinkrail.com.

The service also plans on using self-produced green hydrogen to operate its trains, which, if it were to go ahead, would make it the first passenger-rail system in the U.S. to utilize self-produced green hydrogen fuel.

"I support high speed rail. I think it's necessary – we see it in Europe, Asia, and we need to have it here in California," McNerney said.

Looking ahead, the senator also touched on his plans for expanding clean energy and bio-economy initiatives in order to prioritize economic growth in a direction that will reduce carbon emissions. At the same time, though, he added that it's a difficult balance, as he doesn't want to scare the gas companies out of the state.

Together with the Valley Link Rail project, McNerney also expressed his interest in the potential of fusion energy as another avenue that would put the Tri-Valley ahead of the rest of the country when it comes to paving the way toward a carbon-free future.

"Fusion is going to be big, and as no one else has it, only the Lawrence labs in Livermore are working on it," he said. "I want to make sure we're going to be in the lead, right here in the Tri-Valley."

Redistricting Issue

At the state level, one of the pressing issues McNerney was asked to address was his stance on Governor Gavin Newsom's plan to redistrict. This decision has come in the wake of dozens of Texas Democrats leaving the state to protest a Republican redistricting map, a move that has sparked national outrage over gerrymandering.

"The current president is doing things that I think are detrimental to the health of our democracy, so I feel that we need to do everything to protect democracy right here in California," McNerney said. "Seeing that they (Republicans) are going to fight dirty, we're going to fight fire with fire. We can redistrict the state without breaking the Voters Rights Act, so I support this temporary redistricting."

Deportations by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents were another issue McNerney was asked to address. He said that since it is concerning to see what's been happening in Los Angeles and across the rest of the country, he's going to keep providing the state Attorney General with the resources needed to make sure ICE officers aren't breaking the law.

He also stated that his office will continue to supply people with information so they can know their rights, especially in situations where it may be unclear whether the officer detaining them is adhering to legal immigration protocols.

"The other most effective thing we can do is to win the House of Representatives in 2026, which is why I support the redistricting effort," McNerney said.

For a summary of his 2025 legislative package, visit: https://sd05.senate.ca.gov/.

PLEASE HELP BRING MIGUEL HOME



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

Livermore Wente Winery worker, married father of three and grandfather

Miguel Lopez

remains in Mexico after having been illegally deported 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



Clusters of purple Lantana dot the Tri-Valley landscape, attracting butterflies and hummingbirds. (Photo — Leah Silveira)

SAFE CITY

(Continued from front page)

city council's top budget priority.

"This commitment enables us to invest in a range of initiatives, from cutting-edge technologies such as the Real-Time-Awareness Center and the VirTra training system for our police department, to robust community programming and nonprofit partnerships. A safe city is also built on high-quality, passionate staff who are focused on the well-being and quality of life of the community they serve."

Marchand was first elected mayor in 2011 and served through 2020. After a two-year break, he was re-elected in 2022 and 2024.

City Councilmember Ben Barrientos said he is proud of his city and its honors.

"Under the guidance of our esteemed Police Chief Young and his three captains, Ms. (Julie) Cochran, Mr. (Jason) Boberg and Mr. (John) Reynolds, we deserve the ranking of one of the top safest cities in California and the country" Barrientos noted. "I believe that the police department is a proactive unit. With their community outreach and visibility, they are well respected."

Data for the safety study were sourced from the FBI's 2023 Uniform Crime Reporting Database, the U.S. Census Bureau and the University of Wisconsin's County Health Rankings & Roadmap project.

In addition to safety rankings, SmartAsset also included Livermore in separate data studies, such as the "Most Livable Small Cities" for 2024. That study researched statistics such as population, income, housing costs, poverty and unemployment rates, as well as the number of local businesses and health insurance coverage.

Livermore ranked 93rd nationally and Pleasanton was 114th in the study based on 281 cities with populations between 65,000 and 100,000 people.

AQUEDUCT

(Continued from front page)

The new accountability plan creates an ombudsman office to receive project-related grievances, a program to monitor mitigation regulations and community advisory groups to collect community input. It also establishes the $200 million community benefits fund to "provide tangible, lasting and valuable economic and social benefits to the residents, businesses and organizations affected by the Delta Conveyance Project," according to the fund's implementation plan.

Quigley said at the July 22 Agricultural Advisory meeting that the aqueduct trail would likely qualify for the community benefits funds.

"The Bethany Reservoir is literally up the hill and is the first holding pond for our water that comes through the valley," Quigley said at the meeting. "Seventy to 80 percent of it comes from (Lake) Oroville through the delta."

Water siphoned from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and stored in the Bethany Reservoir currently feeds the South Bay Aqueduct, which then travels 42.9 miles to supply Zone 7, the Alameda County Water District and the Santa Clara Valley Water District. The Dyer, Patterson, Del Valle and Santa Clara reservoirs store water and manage water demand along the aqueduct's route.

DWR's State Water Project uses the aqueduct to provide the Tri-Valley with up to 90% of its water needs.

SCOUTING

(Continued from front page)

Tri-Valley Leadership Group.

Sensiba LLP is also a Certified B Corporation (B Corp), which is a for-profit corporation certified for its social impact by B Lab, a global non-profit organization. To achieve and maintain this status, companies must score high enough on an assessment of social and environmental performance, integrate B Corp commitments to stakeholders into company governing documents and pay an annual fee based on sales.

Through his professional achievements and volunteer leadership, "Sensiba exemplifies the values of character, service and citizenship that Scouting strives to instill in youth every day," according to the GGAC website.

"I wasn't a scout, but I've always believed in their motto, to be prepared," Sensiba said. "The scout law is also something I've admired for the positive attributes it requires of scouts."

The GGAC of Scouting is one of the 10 biggest Scout Councils in the U.S., with reported growth in 2022 and 2023, according to the GGAC website. It serves more than 13,000 young men and women across seven Bay Area counties – Alameda, Contra Costa, Lake, Napa, San Francisco, southern Solano and the northernmost portion of San Mateo.

While former recipients of the GGAC's Distinguished Citizen award have often had ties to Scouting, the award recognizes individuals who embody Scouting ideals in their broader community involvement.

"So many great leaders in our country have started their leadership journey as scouts," Sensiba said. "Two leaders that I have always admired were involved in scouting: Fred (Mr.) Rogers was an Eagle Scout and Martin Luther King Jr. was also a scout."

Sensiba added that his two daughters, who are both in



John Sensiba

scouting, have gained valuable lessons and memories that in addition to their shared experiences, they'll carry together for the rest of their lives.

The award will be presented at an annual Distinguished Citizen Award Dinner on Sept. 17 at Nella Terra Cellars winery in Sunol. Funds raised from the dinner will be used to support local Scouting's leadership development training, summer camp scholarships for disadvantaged youth, and self-reliance and citizenship programs.

"I hope the proceeds from the dinner help inspire future leaders to be like Martin Luther King Jr. and Mr. Rogers — that would certainly make the world a better place," Sensiba said.

For further information on the 2025 Distinguished Citizen Award and event details, visit: https://goldengatescouting.org/distinguished-citizen-award/#:~:text=This%20prestigious%20annual%20event%20recognized,ac%20ullamcorper%20curabitur%20venenatis%20vulputate.



Tri-Valley Haven To Sponsor Annual Fundraising Run

Tri-Valley Haven (TVH) will sponsor the 28th annual Pace for Peace fundraiser on Saturday, Oct. 5.

Proceeds from the 5k/10k fun run will support the Livermore nonprofit's programs to aid child and adult victims of domestic and sexual abuse, including emergency housing, counseling and legal services.

"Domestic violence remains the leading cause of homelessness for women and children," said TVH Executive Director Christine Dillman. "There is also an increase in demand for these services."

TVH is also rebuilding its domestic violence shelter.

The annual event is held in October in support of Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

The races will follow a wheelchair-accessible course from the TVH Community Building, 3663 Pacific Ave., through Livermore vineyards along Concannon Boulevard, Wente Street and Holdener Park.

There will be under-18 and adult divisions in both the 5k and 10k races. Also, new this year will be a 1K Kids Dash for those 8 and younger.

Check-in will be at the TVH Community Building at 7 a.m. The Kids Dash will start at 8 a.m., followed by the 10k at 8:30 a.m. and the 5k five minutes later.

There will be an awards ceremony starting at 9:45 a.m.

To register, go to trivalleyhaven.org. Early bird pricing ends Aug. 31.



Racers cross the finish line at last year's TVH Pace for Peace fundraiser. (Photo courtesy of Tri-Valley Haven)

iSmash Franchise Set for Pleasanton

East Bay business owners Michael Hardman and Herman Yang will open an iSmash franchise in Pleasanton later this year.

Originally known as "Smash Therapy," iSmash venues offer black light splatter painting and rage room stress-relieving experiences.

Inspired by a viral video of people venting their frustrations by smashing things, founder Steven Shortino, opened the first iSmash location in Rochester, New York, in 2018 and began selling franchises in 2022.

The Pleasanton location will be the first iSmash franchise in California.

"We've visited other rage rooms over the years, and while the core idea is exciting, we knew there was room to enhance the experience," said Hardman, who will oversee day-to-day operations. "iSmash's modern design immediately stood out to us as the perfect setting for our community to let loose. We're building something that feels polished, safe and energizing, while also encouraging repeat visits."

The Pleasanton location will include multiple splatter paint and rage rooms for individuals and groups, including birthday parties and corporate team-building events.

Children as young as 3 will be allowed in the splatter paint rooms, while 8-year-olds will be allowed in the rage rooms, according to a corporate announcement.

For more information about the Pleasanton iSmash, go to ismashusa.com/locations.

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New Art Exhibit On Display At
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and
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LIVERMORE VALLEY arts & THE Independent
2250 First St., Livermore

New Training Simulator Helps Livermore Police Replicate Real-Life Stress Faced in Everyday Interactions on Job

By Ruth Roberts

LIVERMORE – On any given day, a routine traffic stop or a call for assistance can present law-enforcement officers with an array of tense situations and subsequent judgment calls. What might begin as a simple request to help a business owner with vagrants or an urgent plea for help from a citizen in need can lead to critical decisions that impact whether the situation escalates or is de-escalated.

Fortunately, the Livermore Police Department (LPD) has a valuable tool at its disposal: the VirTra VR.

"Officers out on the street are hit with a certain amount of stress, a chemical stress that is hard to replicate," LPD Sergeant Tim Lendman said. "But we can replicate that stress here with this training simulator. It simulates life-like situations for officers, much more so than regular training exercises or just looking at a screen. It's completely immersive."

VirTra's VR police training simulators are designed to prepare law-enforcement officers for real-life incidents, ensuring the safety of both officers and the community. Each simulator situation features immersive and intense scenarios based on human performance.

The simulator has three screens arranged to surround the trainee, creating a 180-degree view of the simulated environment. The goal of the simulator is to create a realistic and intense training experience that helps develop real-world skills.



Livermore Police Sergeant Tim Lendman demonstrates how the department's VirTra training simulator works. The simulator features immersive and intense scenarios that allow officers to interact in a virtual, real-time environment. (Photo -- Leah Silveira)

Scripted scenarios include firearms and taser training using real weapons, which are modified for safety. Examples include firearms training, verbal de-escalation, crisis intervention, empathy building and effective communication. These scenarios might include situations such as an active shooter, mental-health crises or domestic disputes, among others.

Training scenarios are filmed in high quality and feature real actors, eliminating the feel of "video-game' training. Additionally, VirTra offers extensive options that enhance realism by allowing scenarios to evolve based on decisions made by the instructor, trainee or team.

"The key to its believability is in large part due to the operator or driver," Lendman said. "The operator reacts to the officer's reactions throughout the situation."

Before LPD acquired the simulator, training sessions were more live-action and exhaustive, requiring actors to repeat scenarios, such as a shooting, for each officer participating in the training.

"So, you fall down and stand up potentially 100 times," Landman said. "With the simulator, it allows us to simply hit the reset button."

Officer Mike Ramsey, who is also a training officer for the department, said the simulator is an unprecedented tool.

"No call we go on is ever the same," Ramsey said. "With the simulator, it makes us better prepared because we are practicing with a variety of situations, such as a couple that is fighting. We get a ton of domestic calls, and it assists us in learning how to de-escalate a situation."

Ramsey added that the simulator, while beneficial for experienced officers, is unmatched in training new officers before they hit the streets for the first time.

"If I'm not as experienced an officer or not, I'm not saying the right things, it (the simulator) is a nice in-between that will lead the officers before they hit the streets," Ramsey added. "We've all had a traffic stop that didn't go so well, and this is a chance to practice, a chance to say 'Hey, let me handle this.' It's invaluable in so many ways."

The department installed the simulator in 2021 for $250,000, which was funded by the City of Livermore. It is the only known simulator in the Tri-Valley, according to Azenith Smith, police media and community relations analyst.

"We want to promote this more now because we want to be a leader and we want people to know how great this training is and how beneficial it is," Smith said. "It's an investment in saving lives."

"It's really neat stuff," Lendman added. "But more than that, it's letting the public know that we are super invested in doing a good job for them and the community."

ANASTASIA

(Continued from front page)

The wildly popular program at its height from 2001-2014 was the mastermind of a master's student mind.

"It really started with that graduate program back in the day (the late 1990s, at California State University East Bay in music performance)," SmARTSunlimited founder Deborah McQueen said. That, and time spent with her then-3-year old-daughter sparked the kernel of an idea that ultimately became her master's thesis and led to the start of her performing-arts business.

McQueen was learning "Tosca" at the time and would play the opera's CDs in her car. Her daughter, Erin, would listen from the back seat.

"She'd say, 'Mama, that's the bad guy's music. That's Scarpia's music,'" McQueen recalled. "So, she knew that Scarpia was the bad guy, and what lyrics went with what song whenever she heard that thematic information."

As one who had always believed that children were much more capable of learning complex concepts than they were usually given credit for, she said to her daughter, 'Well, what are we doing watching Disney? Let's bump up our game." She went on to write an educational program to teach opera to preschoolers and launched what would become SmARTSunlimited, which included a broad range of childhood theater and early childhood music classes.

"Deborah's summer classes were my favorite thing to do," said King, who starred in numerous productions before advancing into the professional realm.

"I had seen in Livermore a need for programs for children in the arts, period," McQueen said. "So, at the time — we're going back to late 1997 — there just weren't any. And so I had this vision in my mind that I would have a little house downtown and in every room we'd have different classes."

And while she didn't quite get to that, her company was occupying 9,000 square feet of space off Jack London Boulevard in Livermore by the time she downsized and sold some of the assets in 2014.

King, who hasn't seen McQueen in years, said with a laugh, "I'm sure she remembers how much I loved the spotlight and performing. "

McQueen said, "In the beginning, I saw her as a student who was extremely dependable. She always knew her lines. She always sang her songs correctly. She had an excellent memory and picked things up quickly. As time went on, I began to see the confidence that she had in herself, and she became somebody in the studio that every other child aspired to be like. There's no doubt about it. They all wanted to be as good as Nicole. And she didn't gloat about it. And children are quite capable of gloating. She was just matter of fact about her skills, as if, you know, 'I get up, I eat, I do these things — that's just me.'"

The audience figures to be in for a treat with the semi-staged production approach.

"It's an imaginative and unique experience," PCO Music Director Lawrence Kohl said. "This format brings the music front and center — beautiful songs, lush orchestra, theatrical storytelling — all woven together in a way families will find deeply moving."

Both on and offstage, King is keeping a focus on family.

"These are the songs of my childhood," she said, though admitting that she was more obsessed with the movie. "This version follows more closely the history of Anastasia and isn't quite as scary as the movie, which makes it perhaps even more appropriate for kids."

And that's what she holds the most dear about this upcoming performance at the Bankhead.

"I want people to know that this is very family-friendly," King said. "I like doing shows that my kids can see. This is a show for kids of all ages."

Children who dress up like their favorite Anastasia character will receive a free 11-by-17 poster with an inspirational message from the star.

Tickets are available at pacificchamberorchestra.org.



The Livermore Lab Foundation (LLF) honored its 2025 fellowship cohort, 39 undergraduate and graduate students from across the U.S. who are spending the summer conducting paid research alongside Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) scientists and mentors, at its annual Summer Social & Student Showcase on Aug. 7. Held at Poppy Ridge Golf Course in Livermore, the event included remarks by LLF Board Chair Dona Crawford, LLNL Director Kim Budil, LLNL data scientist and former LLF fellow Jason Van Tuinen and LLF Executive Director Sally Allen. Since 2018, LLF, a nonprofit supporting fundamental science and research, has welcomed more than 140 summer interns to LLNL, helping to remove financial barriers and foster the next generation of STEM leaders. (Photo courtesy of the Livermore Lab Foundation)

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TRI-VALLEY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Thursday, August 14
PIZZA, PASTA, AND TRIVIA
Amador Valley Lions Club is hosting its 4th Annual Pizza, Pasta, and Trivia fundraising event on Aug. 14 at 6 p.m. at Dante Robere Winery, Livermore. Come alone or gather your friends and family members for a team of no more than six adults. All are welcome. Enjoy a delicious buffet, compete in a couple rounds of trivia, bid on items in a silent auction, and participate in a heads/tails raffle. The cost for this event is $150 per couple, which includes the pizza and pasta buffet from Melo's Pizza in Livermore plus one bottle of Dante Robere wine. Profits will benefit local nonprofit charities. For tickets, call J. Chubb at 925 968-4800. For information on Amador Valley Lions Club, please email amador.valley.lions@gmail.com.

Thursdays, August 14 and 28
GRIEF WORKSHOP
The death of a loved one is unlike any other loss. Although there is no right or wrong path, there are stepping stones that are part of each grief journey which will be explored in this workshop. Held at St. Elizabeth Seton Church, 4001 Stoneridge Dr., in Pleasanton at 7 p.m. Space is limited, pre-registration is required. $20 donation is requested. For more information, please call Catherine at 925-846-8385.

Wednesday, August 20
UNBOUND ART NIGHT
Unbound Art Night is a stress-free time to make art just for the fun of it; no instruction, no pressure, all creativity. Explore mixed media including acrylic paint, watercolor, marker, and collage. All supplies are provided. No prior experience required. Space is limited to 24 participants, ages 18+ Attendance is on a first-come, first-served basis. At the Dublin Library, 200 Civic Plaza, from 6-7 p.m.

Friday, August 15
CHAT WITH DUBLIN VICE MAYOR
Join Dublin Vice Mayor Kashef Qaadri on Aug. 15, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., for a "Chaat Over Chai" event at Star Chaat Cuisine, 4930 Dublin Blvd. This is a great opportunity to learn about all of the things going on in Dublin from the City's Vice Mayor.

Thursday, August 28
WINE COUNTRY LUNCHEON – BUSINESS LEGISLATIVE UPDATE
Hear from CalChamber, the #1 advocacy group for small businesses in California. Get a legislative update on new, proposed and killed legislation that affects business in our state. We'll also hear from Phong La, a local resident and business owner, who serves as our Alameda County Tax Assessor. On Aug. 28 from 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. at Robert Livermore Community Center, 4444 East Ave., Livermore. $100 per person for LVCC members and their guests, $125 for not-yet members. Register online at livermorechamber.org.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH
The Unitarian Universalist Church is welcoming to all. Join in on Sundays at 10:30 a.m. for music, singing, and conversation. The church is located at 1893 North Vasco Rd. in Livermore. For more information, visit uucil.org.

ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Asbury United Methodist Church invites the community to join for worship at 10 a.m. on Sunday mornings. This community practices loving neighbors in daily life. The church has Sunday School and nursery care, and worship is followed by a fellowship time. The church is located at 4743 East Ave., in Livermore. For more information, visit asburylive.org.

THE BAY CHURCH
The Bay Church-Pleasanton Campus would like to invite the community to a weekly Sunday service beginning at 10:30 a.m. There is also a kids' program for ages 4-12 beginning at 10:30 a.m. Nursery care is provided for up to age 3. At 6656 Alisal St., Pleasanton, previously Faith Chapel A/G.

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

OBITUARIES

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Alan M. Frank
Dec. 22, 1944 — July 26, 2025



Alan Frank, family man, physicist, musician, train buff, and active figure in Livermore's arts and heritage communities, died peacefully at home aged 80, of congestive heart failure.

Alan was born in the Bronx, New York City. He was raised by parents Sol, a civil engineer, and Gert, an office administrator and social activist. Alan grew up with his younger brother Ray (Raymond) and paternal grandmother Rebecca. Alan and Ray had freedom to explore the city and have often shared memories of roller skating and playing with their Spalding balls on the Bronx streets. Happy summer vacations were spent at the family's cabin near the town of Mahopac, New York. The family instilled a love of music in both boys from an early age. Alan pursued classical music and opera, participating in local symphonies, choruses and opera companies most of his life.

Alan attended New York University, initially majoring in biology before switching to physics. An avid cyclist, he commuted by bike from the North Bronx to NYU and led American Youth Hostel cycling trips in New England. At college, he met art student Margaret (Peggy) Pearce. They married in August 1968, and moved to Colorado, where Alan was completing his master's degree at the University of Denver. Alan and Peggy bought a house in the small town of Eldorado Springs, near Boulder, and their daughter Rebecca was born in 1971. Alan served in the Eldorado Springs Volunteer Fire Department and more than once defended the town from flames.

In 1974, after several years at Ball Brothers Research Corp. in Boulder, Alan was offered a job at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, and the family relocated to Livermore. At the Lab, he worked on many experimental projects and specialized in the development of laser technology, optics, and high-speed photography. Alan's innovations contributed to biomedical, energy, space and defense-related industries. He authored dozens of articles and conference papers, and in 1995 was awarded the Harold Edgerton Award for High-Speed Micro-Photography. He retired from the Lab in 2007 and became even busier!

Alan, a true Renaissance man, had myriad interests. He began his musical life as a flute player, later taking up bass fiddle and singing in choral and opera companies. Across five decades, Alan performed with many ensembles in Colorado and the East Bay, including the Boulder Symphony, Livermore Amador Symphony, California Bach Society, Valley Choral Society, the Oakland and West Bay Opera Companies, the Berkeley Opera, the Berkeley Bach Cantata Group and others. He was a founding member of the Livermore Valley Opera and later served as President of the Livermore Amador Symphony Board. An energetic campaigner for the arts, Alan contributed to the early plans for the Bankhead Theater and pushed for the designation of the Bothwell Center as a home for the arts.

After moving to California, Alan bought a sailboat. He treated (or subjected) family and friends to many cold, wet trips around the Bay, and enjoyed racing with the Nordic Folkboat fleet. He became an accomplished photographer, focusing on black and white images of landscape features and vistas. Alan could often be found on Peggy's family's land in Colorado with his head under a cloth, using his large format camera. He and Peggy, a painter and art teacher, held several joint artistic exhibitions and open studio events.

Trains were another of Alan's passions. From the late eighties, he volunteered with the Pacific Locomotive Association in the direction and day-to-day operation of the Niles Canyon Railroad, serving as its vice president, historian and curator. He helped with the restoration of the historic line between Pleasanton and Niles and eventually achieved his boyhood dream of becoming a steam train engineer! Alan researched the history of the railroad, and because of his efforts, the Niles Canyon Railroad was put on the National Register of Historic Places. He spearheaded the relocation and renovation of the Sunol Railroad Depot and the Livermore Railroad Depot.

Involvement in the Niles Canyon Railroad sparked Alan's interest in local history. He researched and wrote two books about Livermore's railroad history, Depot and Parallel Paths. Only weeks before his death, he completed and published Livermore: Frontier to City. In 2024, the Livermore Heritage Guild honored him with the role of City Historian. Alan was a longtime member of the Livermore Rotary Club and enjoyed its meetings, songs and supporting its projects around town. Alan treasured the friendships he made in Rotary, his Thursday morning breakfast group, and other community organizations he loved.

Throughout his active life, Alan never sacrificed being a stalwart family man. A partner to Peggy for sixty years, he was a great support for her as arthritis increasingly affected her mobility. As a father, he loved passing on knowledge and curiosity to Rebecca. He supported her childhood activities, taught her how to drive a standard transmission car around San Francisco's hills and tried unsuccessfully to help her understand trigonometry. Alan was a loving brother and an ever-helpful son-in-law and brother-in-law to Peggy's parents, sisters and their partners, and became a grandpa to Jamie in 2002 and Susanna in 2007.

His family will never forget his enthusiasm, energy, talent for cracking witty and sometimes embarrassing puns, readiness to help with anything from schoolwork to car repairs, and his excellent Sunday morning pancakes. Some of the happiest days were when Ray visited and the two brothers would play music together or recount childhood stories. Alan was a fan of exploratory road trips, World War II movies and books on any historical topic. He doted on the family cats, and in his last years could be seen taking his orange cat Sunny for walks around the backyard (although maybe Sunny was taking him for walks!)

Alan is celebrated and sorely missed by his wife Peggy, daughter and son-in-law Rebecca and Craig McKinney, grandchildren Jamie and Susanna, brother Ray and his family, sisters-in-law Pat Jones and Nina Davis, and brother-in-law Raymond Davis. He is also remembered by many cousins, friends, colleagues and neighbors.

A memorial celebration will be held for Alan at the Bothwell Arts Center in Livermore, California, on Friday, Oct. 17 at 11 a.m. In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to the Rotarian Foundation of Livermore, attn: Rotary Music Scholarships, or to the Livermore Amador Symphony.

Robert Spiro Phillis
Aug. 3, 1934 — July 12, 2025



Robert Spiro Phillis of Manteca, California was born on Aug. 3, 1934, and passed away July 12, 2025, after a short illness, surrounded by his loving family. Robert was born in Sacramento, later moving with his parents to Hayward. After graduating from Hayward High School, Robert joined the United States Navy Seebees, serving three years in Alaska and Guam. Later, Robert and his brother Thomas opened the Robert Thomas Photography Studio in Pleasanton, California, where he became a well-known, award-winning professional photographer for 34 years. Robert also served as President of the Professional Photographers of the Greater Bay Area. Retiring to Twain Harte, Robert opened the Harte Dog Café and eventually moved to the Del Webb community in Manteca, where he met his partner, Harleene Bebout, in 2011. Robert is survived by his siblings Tom Phillis of Reno, Nevada, Frosa Christopher of San Leandro, and Diane Balloue, Payton Merwin, and Issac Williams, along with nine great-grandchildren of Livermore, Pleasanton and Tennessee, and several nieces and nephews. Robert enjoyed a full life traveling, RVing, dancing, football, cards, especially pinochle, started the pickleball club in Del Webb, and was a devoted Raiders fan. Robert's final resting place is in the San Joaquin Valley National Cemetery, Santa Nella, California.

Tarlton Eugene (Gene) Biggs
Jan. 16, 1936 — July 15, 2025



Gene Biggs, who was 89 years old and a resident of Dublin for 61 years, passed away peacefully in his home with his family on July 15 after a hard-fought three-year battle with pancreatic cancer. He was born in Rogers Arkansas, and had one brother and six sisters. He was the favorite uncle of his many nephews and nieces. After seventy years of marriage, he will join his wife Verna, who has been waiting in heaven for him for eight years. He leaves behind two sons, Doug and Larry, a grandson, Cory, and his beloved cat, Ellie Mae. Gene was a lifelong trucker who loved the road and providing for his family. Now he's jamming gears in a nice shiny Peterbilt in heaven; roll on, dad, you will be missed.

Serena W. Foxworthy
July 25, 1936 — May 29, 2025



Devoted mother, grandmother and family member, faithful friend, industrious employee, tireless community volunteer: Serena Foxworthy led a heart-centered life. The outpouring of love and friendship from her family and friends sustained her and directed her life. With strength, wisdom, and kindness, Serena celebrated the good in others and, above all, practiced the rare and powerful art of listening. She led by example "to pass on the love."

Born in Newark, New Jersey, to Helen Park Campbell and Ezra Sylvester Webb, Serena was the youngest of three siblings, Helen-Jeanne Frost and Duncan Campbell Webb (deceased). The family moved west to the small town of Livermore when Serena was 10. In a class of 85 students, Serena graduated from Livermore High School in 1954, where she was busy with swim team, cheerleading, marching band (clarinet) and working as a dental assistant after school. She was crowned Queen of the Junior class and the Livermore Rodeo!

Soon after graduation, Serena married Mark Louis Foxworthy. To be closer to Mark's work (Foxworthy Auto Supply), they moved to Castro Valley with their first two sons, Bill and Gordon. Like her commitment to family and friends, Serena invested full throttle in her adopted hometown. They found a property on Stanton Hill and began building her lifelong house that was home to so many. Douglas and Craig were born and the family opened Foxworthy Tire Pro Shop in 1972, where Serena worked part time as the bookkeeper and customer service rep—picking up parts, tires, and customers! When the boys weren't busy with their sports, they were at the shop after school. She credited this work at the shop with teaching her boys "how to work together, how to take care of people, and how to respect the human race." Later she worked as Branch Manager for Certified Personnel in Hayward for 15 years. She ended her professional career in administration at the Castro Valley Adult School from 1996 until retirement in 2012.

Spending time with her four boys and their families was always a priority. Travels included Africa and Israel and wonderful get-togethers at their cabin in Arnold. Believing in the importance of giving back to the community, Serena was active in CV Chamber of Commerce, CV Sanitation Advisory Council, CV Arts Foundation, Wings (Women In God's Spirit), and Transfiguration Church. Any time left over was joyfully spent in the garden with special attention to her beautiful rose garden.

Serena was predeceased by her son Doug. She is survived by her sons William Ernest Foxworthy II (Kim); Gordon Louis (Mary Dahl, M.D.); Craig Lewis (Sherri); daughter-in-law Sherry; eight grandchildren; ten great-grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews.

Please join in celebrating Serena's life at Transfiguration Church, Tuesday, Aug. 19, at 11 a.m. Donations can be made in Serena's name to American Macular Degeneration Foundation (AMDF), Castro Valley Arts Foundation, and Sutter Hospice (CPMC Foundation).

John and Marlynne Estes



John and Marlynne Estes shared a love that spanned over 60 years. A life built on family, kindness, and unwavering devotion.

Their story began while cruising down First Street in Livermore, California. Each was riding with a friend when John and his buddy noticed the ladies and decided to follow them to a nearby pizza place. A number was exchanged, and just six months later, they were married in a beautiful ceremony at St. Michael's Church in Livermore. Marlynne often said "it was the happiest day" of her life.

Marlynne graduated from Amador High School and stayed close with her classmates over the years. She joyfully helped to organize reunions, sent handwritten letters and emails, and kept her community connected with warmth and care, as she often did with extended family as well. Known for her sparkling blue eyes, contagious laugh, and loving spirit, she brought joy wherever she went. She treasured her dear friends, dancing, crossword puzzles, quilting, Scrabble, Bingo, and spending time with her beloved dog, Sici, though nothing brought more joy than time spent with family.

Marlynne had an incredible memory for birthdays and anniversaries and kept a meticulous calendar. Her cards were always on time, often handmade, and always heartfelt. She spent many years working at St. Augustine's Church before retiring to care for her grandchildren. She believed in celebrating and sharing with her loved ones while still earthside, so she could bring about smiles. Marlynne passed May 7, 2023.

John graduated from Livermore High School and proudly served in the United States Army. Afterward, he held a career of over 35 years at PG&E until his retirement. Known for his kind eyes, warm smile and social demeanor, perfectly styled hair (Mar's own proclaimed "Robert Redford"), and generous heart, John was always ready to lend a helping hand on the home front to a neighbor in need.

John loved the outdoors and was happiest in the sunshine. He enjoyed ping pong back in the day with his neighbors, a cool beer on a hot day, gardening (known for the greenest and softest grass in the neighborhood), reading and working around the home. What he valued most, however, was the time shared with family and helping them care for themselves and their own homes.

He shared a close bond with his late identical twin brother, Mike, and often fondly recalled memories with lifelong friends. On June 11, 2024, just over one year after Marlynne's passing, John reunited with his beloved bride.

Together, they built a warm and welcoming home in Pleasanton, California, where they raised their three daughters, Lori (Tom), Teresa and Stefanie (Steve).

As grandparents they were lovingly known as Gram-ME and Poppy. They loved their "grand-kiddies" dearly; Megan (Nick), Audrieana, Tyler, Paxton, Mason, and Stephen, and great-grandchildren, Nash and Cleo. Their children and grand-kiddies were at the center of their hearts. Each was survived by loving brother Joseph Giordano and Stephen Estes.

Their home became a safe haven, always open to pull up a chair for one more. It was where birthdays were celebrated, holidays were cherished, memories were made, and those in need found comfort and belonging.

Above all, John and Marlynne will be remembered as two of the most humble, loyal, generous, and deeply loving people one could hope to know. Their legacy lives on in the family they built, the lives they touched, and the love they shared.

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Maureen Kay Johnson
Sept. 21, 1950 — May 9, 2025



Beloved Mother, Grandmother, Sister, Aunt, and Friend to many, Maureen lived bravely with breast cancer for five years, and passed after a brief hospital stay. Maureen grew up in Durango, Colorado and lived in Seattle, Phoenix, and Reno before moving to the Bay Area in 1977. She lived in Marin and Solano Counties before moving to Livermore fifteen years ago. Maureen worked as a clerk for the U.S. Postal Service in San Rafael, California, and retired in 2008. She was an alumna of Sonoma State University where she earned her BA degrees in psychology and Spanish language. She was a lover of animals and the outdoors. She enjoyed traveling, camping, hiking, gardening, and snorkeling, and was a member of the Sierra Club. She loved baking, especially with her grandchildren. She spent time as a caregiver/companion for seniors, volunteered as a literacy tutor through the Napa Library's Grandparents and Books program, as a tutor for Spanish speaking English language learners, as a classroom volunteer for the LVJUSD, and as a Girl Scout volunteer for her granddaughter's troop.

Maureen was preceded in death by her parents Charles J. Hyland, and Ann (Kobera) Hyland, older brother Thomas F. Hyland, and long-time partner Victor A. Perez. She is survived by her twin brother Michael Hyland, only daughter Amber Johnson-Correa, son-in-law Vicente Correa, grandchildren Aurelia and Vicente Jr., and many nieces, nephews, and extended family. Maureen also leaves behind her rescue dog, Kira, who is being cared for by dear friend, Jan Kohnhorst.

Maureen was raised Catholic, but as an adult became a spiritual seeker who found strength in meditation, yoga, AA, gospel music, and Buddhist teachings. She believed strongly in kindness and in being of service to others. Please honor her memory through good deeds and acts of kindness. If you wish to make a donation in Maureen's name, both culinaryangels.org and hairtostay.org enhanced the quality-of-life Maureen enjoyed while going through treatment.

A Celebration of Life will be held Saturday, Sept. 20 at the Livermore Veteran's Hall, 2 p.m.

Callaghan Mortuary is honored to be serving the Johnson family. An online guestbook is available for condolences at www.callaghanmortuary.com.

‘Old-School’ Senior Badger Brings Versatility, Leadership As Granada Begins Pursuit of Repeat EBAL Valley Title

By Mitch Stephens

LIVERMORE – In rolled to the first Granada High School football offseason workout a bright, shimmering Ferrari of a quarterback, 6-foot-3, 200-pound Caiden Van Leer, a transfer from California of San Ramon.

“Super-impressive kid,” second-year Granada coach Brandon Black said. “Phenomenal talent. Pocket passer. Can really spin the rock.”

All eyes immediately focused on Jack Badger, the Matadors’ incumbent at the position, a 5-10, 170-pound Honda Accord — reliable, dependable and undeterred — who had turned around a failing 2024 season and drove it to an undefeated East Bay Athletic League Valley Division title.

“Jack didn’t bat an eye,” Black said of Van Leer's emergence at camp. “He came right to us and said, ‘Wherever you need me, that’s where I’ll play.’ “

As if Black didn’t already adore Badger, an incoming senior.

Black was the one who decided to pull the versatile athlete from his slot receiver and defensive safety positions midway through last season and make him the full-time signal-caller, where he was equally a threat on the run or pass.

Badger threw for 975 yards and eight touchdowns and led the team in rushing with 416 yards and seven more scores, guiding the Matadors to five straight wins — blowouts over Dublin (46-14), Foothill (41-7) and Dougherty Valley (48-20), before back-to-back wins over rival Livermore. First came a come-from-behind, 28-27 decision to finish off an undefeated EBAL Valley season, and then a 28-14 victory to open the North Coast Section Division 4 playoffs.

He was an easy first-team All-EBAL selection.

“The kid is just a freaking football player,” Black said. “We were struggling (through the teeth of a tough nonleague schedule) and we just had to make the move. He ran us through the league. He’s such a playmaker and so unselfish. There’s not much he can’t do as an athlete.

“When Caiden came in and we considered moving him right to starting quarterback, Jack could have easily said, ‘What are you talking about?’ Instead, he immediately recognized we could be so much better at two positions. He’s just one of those rare breeds you’d call an old-school kid. Whatever you need, he’s going to find a way to get it done.”

Black was himself an undersized running back and defensive back at Dublin and earned first-team All-EBAL honors both ways his senior year in 1994. He could sense Badger’s fearless qualities and “get-it-done,’ attitude.

He saw it most clearly in the first Livermore game, with the Matadors down 20-7 just before the half. “There were 29.7 seconds left, we had 80 yards to go and I told him, ‘We gotta get a score,’ to give us momentum heading into the second half.’”



Erstwhile quarterback Jack Badger plans to play “wherever” Granada High’s football team needs him this season. (Photo – Adam J. Clark)

Badger took the challenge and ran — and passed — with it, getting the Matadors to the Livermore 40 with 8.9 seconds left.

“It was like ‘bam-bam,’ and we were in striking range,” Black said. “He then threw an absolute dime to Peyton Richards in the back of the end zone for a touchdown, and we won the game in the second half. "He may not be a natural quarterback, but he’s a natural gamer and leader.”

That’s shown all summer as Granada prepares for its season-opener, Aug. 29 against visiting Campolindo of Moraga. Badger has been coaching Van Leer, an incoming junior, to learn a new offense.

“Jack’s right by his side every day, helping with reads, the playbook, everything,” Black said.

With 32 players graduated off last year’s team, and just nine returning starters, it’s going to take a lot of teamwork to repeat as champions. Van Leer’s transfer has been cleared by the North Coast Section, Black said, and there won’t be a sit-out period.

“I love this group,” Black said. “We have a lot of really electric skill players returning and are deep at those positions. We have only a couple linemen back, so we’ll have to rely on some young guys developing quickly in those spots. I’m confident in all of them.”

A Return Engagement

By Mitch Stephens

TRI-VALLEY – It’s been almost three decades since I covered high school sports exclusively in the region, at two now-defunct newspapers, the Tri-Valley Herald and Valley Times.

The demise of daily newspapers throughout the country triggers a large sigh not only from longtime journalists, but also from longtime planet inhabitants who miss the large letters pressed onto newsprint on paper made of wood pulp and recycled fibers.

The same folks reminisce and romanticize the literal feel of turning a page, soaking in slowly, meticulously the news of the day, relishing the flavor of a community in which they reside.

Thank goodness for The Independent, established 62 years ago as of next month.

Thank goodness, as well, for new managing editor Dan Wood, a former favorite boss of mine who invited me — I actually invited myself — to oversee sports duties left by mainstay Phil Jensen, who took a teaching job at his beloved high school alma mater, Redwood Christian in San Lorenzo.

I’ve returned to hopefully tell those deeply personal tales that are more difficult to relay remotely by phone or Zoom or Skype or Slack or any other one-syllable modern platform.

It’s what I’ve largely done after leaving the area while covering high school sports regionally at the San Francisco Chronicle and nationally for MaxPreps and High Schools on SI.

I’ve learned over the decades while traveling to pockets in Texas, Florida, South Carolina and Kentucky that kids are still kids, even a manchild like Derrick Henry in Yulee (Fla.), who just wanted to do right by the people and coaches who raised him while he set a national high school record for career rushing yards in 2012.

The future NFL All-Pro running back told us that November night that he wanted to set the mark at his home stadium, which he did, “because people have been so good to me my entire life here. Every time I go out on Friday night, I feel like I’m protecting (Yulee). I try to represent it the right way. This has always felt like home. I feel like Yulee is a part of me.”

That is exactly the sense I’ve always felt from players, coaches and community leaders in the Tri-Valley, over the years and in the past couple of weeks spent reporting for The Independent.

The Little League Intermediate 50/70 World Series at Max Baer Park in Livermore two weeks ago was one of the most impressive community events I’ve personally experienced – all envisioned, organized and dreamed up by local baseball lover, community organizer and longtime real estate professional Bill Aboumrad.

Aboumrad built and meticulously maintains an Intermediate field — with an unusual 50-foot pitching distance and 70-foot bases – just blocks from his own home, in order to bring 156 kids from around the globe, along with their families, an ESPN audience and locals for a weeklong venture that crosses between a State Fair and a championship sporting event, which it is.

Close to 2,500 folks came out for the championship game played Aug. 3 between teams from Venezuela and Hawaii. When a local District 57 champion Livermore/Granada Little League team made the finals in 2018, more than 5,000 fans flooded the small park.

“It’s a lot of work and a lot of passion put in by a lot of dedicated people,” Aboumrad said.

The same kind of passion and drive is displayed at local high schools, like that exhibited by second-year Granada varsity football coach Brandon Black, who for the second straight season scheduled his team’s first practice at midnight Aug. 11, something he experienced as a coach in North Carolina.

In the spirit of Midnight Madness events to start the college basketball season, the Matadors put on the pads the very minute the North Coast Section allows them to start the 2025 campaign.

“The neighbors may hate our guts, but our guys love the tradition,” Black said with a laugh. “We get a jump start on the season. It’s awesome.”

Even for two of his most experienced assistant coaches — 35-year veterans Ryan Seto and Warren Parker — who drive from Brentwood and Martinez, respectively. Both coached Black when he was a star player at Dublin High in 1994 and both showed every day at 6 a.m. for summer workouts.

Old coaches and old journalists still get a charge out of the local product.

“We called it our rise-and-grind session,” Black said. “It’s all part of the journey and dedication and being one big family.”

And one big/small community.

Tri-Valley Karate Students Ride Dedication to National Success

By Vivien Wenneker

PLEASANTON — Nine students from Tri-Valley Karate in Pleasanton brought home 13 medals, including three national championships, from the USA National Karate Championships held in Fort Worth, Texas, last month.

Rishi Manikandan (age 14) and Harshini Uppalapati (also 14), who both scored first in the Kumite (sparring) section, and Govardan Vadlaputi (age 17), who scored first in both the Kumite and Kata (forms) sections, became national champions at the July 9-13 event.

The other six students who brought back medals are Ami Mandal (age 9), Hridyansh Gorsia (10), Akhila Chippada (12), Atiriya Belagodu (13), Jocelyn O'Dell (15) and Sai Gautam Chippada (16).

“When they represent themselves and our dojo at this level, it reflects our shared dedication,” instructor and Tri-Valley Karate owner Sanjit Mandal said. “It reminds me why I teach — not to create champions, but to shape strong individuals who carry the values of karate into every part of their lives.”

As the largest karate competition in the U.S., the USA National Karate Championships is highly prestigious and often recognized as a key event for aspiring karate athletes. Winning at nationals can potentially lead to opportunities to compete internationally and even join the U.S. national team.

Preparation for nationals begins in February, according to Mandal, and on average the students put in about 4-5 hours of work per week. While some have been training at Tri-Valley Karate for longer than others, with the group being made up of both beginners and one intermediate, the fundamentals of training are still the same: building endurance, explosiveness, strategy, recovery, nutrition and learning to manage emotions.

“Preparing for karate nationals over the past few months was a challenging but rewarding experience,” Vadlaputi said. “It pushed me to stay focused and disciplined while improving both mentally and physically.”

Tri-Valley Karate teaches the Goju Ryu Karatedo system of karate, which, according to the dojo’s website, is based on the concept of hard (go) and soft (ju), always in consistent harmony, with one equalizing the other. It combines traditional Okinawan techniques with both internal and external Chinese principles.

The dojo also focuses on building strength of mind, body and character through its six core principles (S.T.R.O.N.G.): strength, tenacity, respect, ownership, nobility and growth. These are meant to foster an endurance mindset that students can apply to any situation in life and carry beyond their time at the dojo.

“If there is an opportunity, don’t wait for it, just go for it and hold on no matter what happens throughout the journey,” student Sai Gautam Chippada said. “Always remember to have fun through everything you do, whether it be intense training or having a fun dinner with your friends and family.”

For Mandal, the most rewarding part of the journey has been watching the students grow and improve to become better individuals, not just in terms of technique, but in their confidence, discipline, and character.

“Seeing them step onto the mat at the huge event was a powerful moment,” Mandal said. “It’s not just about competition. It’s about the months and hours put in on Saturdays, the setbacks they've overcome and the mindset they've developed.”

For more information on Tri-Valley Karate, and the 2025 USA National Karate Championships, visit: https://www.trivalleykarate.com/, and https://www.usankf.org/2025-karate-national-championships-u-s-junior-team-trials.



Members of Tri-Valley Karate in Pleasanton captured 13 medals, including three national titles, during last month’s USA Karate Championships in Fort Worth, Texas. (Photo courtesy of Tri-Valley Karate)

LEGAL NOTICES/CLASSIFIEDS

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LEGAL NOTICES

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 616194

The following person(s) doing business as: The UPS Store 5831, 230 Carrick Cir, Hayward, CA 94542 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Parashar Solutions Inc., 230 Carrick Cir, Hayward, CA 94542. 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: 07/16/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Mahesh Gupta, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 16, 2025. Expires July 15, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6492. Published July 24, 31, August 7, 14, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 616195

The following person(s) doing business as: The UPS Store 0447, 230 Carrick Cir, Hayward, CA 94542 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Parashar Solutions Inc., 230 Carrick Cir, Hayward, CA 94542. 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: 07/16/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Mahesh Gupta, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 16, 2025. Expires July 15, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6493. Published July 24, 31, August 7, 14, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 615440

The following person(s) doing business as: Grab & Go Vending, 7090 Dublin Meadows ST, APT A, Dublin, CA 94568 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Jose Carlos Ruiz Castaneda, 7090 Dublin Meadows ST, APT A, 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: 06/01/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Mahesh Gupta, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 18, 2025. Expires June 17, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6494. Published July 24, 31, August 7, 14, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 616169

The following person(s) doing business as: Delgado's Company, 19280 Carlton Ave, Castro Valley, CA 94546-3212 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Epifania Delgado Espinoza, 19280 Carlton Ave, Castro Valley, CA 94546-3212. 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/: Epifania Delgado Espinoza, Owner This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 15, 2025. Expires July 14, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6495. Published July 24, 31, August 7, 14, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 61619

The following person(s) doing business as: Rainbow Services, 4101 Dublin Blvd, STE F, Dublin, CA 94568 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Sivasubramanian Panneerselvam, 4101 Dublin Blvd, STE F, 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: 07/14/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Suvasubramanian Panneerselvam, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 16, 2025. Expires July 15, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6496. Published July 24, 31, August 7, 14, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 616028

The following person(s) doing business as: Pacific Moto Designs, 1082 Angelica Way, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Pacific Motorcycle Training Inc., 1082 Angeliza Way, 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: 06/27/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Christopher Meyers, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 10, 2025. Expires July 9, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6497. Published July 24, 31, August 7, 14, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS

NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 615686

The following person(s) doing business as: Nova Via Tours, 441 N N Street, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Bailey Noel Udoutch, 441 N N Street, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Bailey Noel Udoutch, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 26, 2025. Expires June 25, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6498. Published July 24, 31, August 7, 14, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 615914

The following person(s) doing business as: Cedar Oaks Residence, 1999 Harrison Street, Suite 1800, Oakland, CA 94612 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Patricia Avisa, 1999 Harrison Street, Suite 1800, Oakland, CA 94612; Rose Shikhule, 1999 Harrison Street, Suite 1800, Oakland, CA 94612. 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: 7/2/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Rose Shikhule, Partner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 7, 2025. Expires July 6, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6500. Published July 31, August 7, 14, 21, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 616282

The following person(s) doing business as: Paws and Relax Studio, 1264 Larkspur Dr., Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Aliyah Urizar, 1264 Larkspur Dr., Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 7/18/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Aliyah Urizar, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 18, 2025. Expires July 17, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6501. Published July 31, August 7, 14, 21, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 616428

The following person(s) doing business as: Johnny Fly CA, 156 South J Street, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Mark Codiroli, 156 South J street, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Mark Codiroli, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 25, 2025. Expires July 24, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6502. Published July 31, August 7, 14, 21, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 616407

The following person(s) doing business as: Girly Pop Sip & Co, 5860 East Ave, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Janessa Villa, 5860 East Avenue, Apt 147, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Janessa Villa, Owner This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 24, 2025. Expires July 23, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6503. Published July 31, August 7, 14, 21, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO.616373

The following person(s) doing business as: J Birdie, 1275 Hillview Dr., Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Gizmo Graphix LLC, 1275 Hillview Drl., Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Jorge L. Valle-Flores, Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 23, 2025. Expires July 22, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6504. Published July 31, August 7, 14, 21, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 615052

The following person(s) doing business as: Rock & Roll Auto Recycling, 3908 Old Santa Rita Road, Pleasanton, CA 94588 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): N.F. Incorporated, 3908 Old Santa Rita Road, Pleasanton, CA 94588. 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: 2/14/1996. Signature of Registrant/s/: Christina Fakiri, VP. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 3, 2025. Expires June 2 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6505. Published July 31, August 7, 14, 21, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 616375

The following person(s) doing business as: Mads Lifestyle, 837 Cloud Common, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Sirisha Gandhi, 837 Cloud Common, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Sirisha Gandhi, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 23, 2025. Expires July 22, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6506. Published August 7, 14, 21, 28, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 616577

The following person(s) doing business as: Pro-Craft Builders, 46000 Warm Springs Blvd, Fremont, CA 94539 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): ProMax Builders, Inc., 46000 Warm Springs Blvd, Fremont, CA 94539. This business is conducted by a Corporationl. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 11/2/2011. Signature of Registrant/s/: Jeffrey Draeger, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 1, 2025. Expires July 31, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6507. Published August 7, 14, 21, 28, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 616574

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. The Driveway Co.; 2. The Driveway Company; The Driveway Co. by Lancon; 4. The Driveway Company by Lancon, 2470 Tapestry CT., Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Lancon Design & Development, 2470 Tapestry CT., 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/: Jonathan Niemuth, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 1, 2025. Expires July 31, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6508. Published August 7, 14, 21, 28, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 616460

The following person(s) doing business as: Golf Envy, 7022 Village Parkway, Dublin, CA 94568 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Falkirk Wes, LLC, 1516 S Main Street, Walnut Creek, CA 94596. 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: 4/1/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: John Mccormick, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 28, 2025. Expires July 27, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6509. Published August 7, 14, 21, 28, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 616340

The following person(s) doing business as: Triple B Technologies, 3833 Canon Avenue, Oakland, CA 94602 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Bret Bodas, 3833 Canon Avenue, Oakland, CA 94602. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 7/21/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Bret Bodas, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 21, 2025. Expires July 20, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6510. Published August 7, 14, 21, 28, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 616449

The following person(s) doing business as: Integrity Remodeling & Construction, 7026 Koll Center Parkway, #211, Pleasanton, CA 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Cordial Home Services LLC, 7026 Koll Center Parkway, #211, Pleasanton, CA 94566. 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: 7/28/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Najib Rahmatti, President/Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 28, 2025. Expires July 27, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6511. Published August 7, 14, 21, 28, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 616593

The following person(s) doing business as: Pi PPL, 4500 Tassajara Rd, Suite C, Dublin, CA 94568 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Tazza Foods LLC, 4584 Dublin Blvd, 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: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Jatinder Grewal, Managing Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 4, 2025. Expires August 3, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6512. Published 14, 21, 28, September 4, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 616488

The following person(s) doing business as: Janken LLC, 1201 Pine Street, Unit 461, Oakland, CA 94607 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Janken LLC, 1201 Pine Street, Unit 461, Oakland, CA 94607. 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/: Cory Miller, Managing Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 29, 2025. Expires July 28, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6513. Published 14, 21, 28, September 4, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 616666

The following person(s) doing business as: Jest, 655 61st ST, Oakland, CA 94609 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Textclub, Inc., 2991 Sacramento ST #545, Berkeley, CA 94702. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 8/4/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Deyan Vitanov, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 6, 2025. Expires August 5, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6514. Published 14, 21, 28, September 4, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 616651

The following person(s) doing business as: A Fit Team, 330 Ansel Ave, Alameda, CA 94501 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Wenchang Albert Tan, 330 Ansel Ave, Alameda, CA 94501. 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: 3/1/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Wenchang Albert Tan, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 5, 2025. Expires August 4, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6515. Published 14, 21, 28, September 4, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 615777

The following person(s) doing business as: Crackerbox Vineyard, 2067 Buena Vista Ave, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Courtney Lynn Cooke, 2067 Buena Vista Ave, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 10/10/2000. Signature of Registrant/s/: Courtney Cooke, Owner This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 1, 2025. Expires June 30, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6516. Published 14, 21, 28, September 4, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 616589

The following person(s) doing business as: Laundry Buddies, 38918 Spicebush PL, Newark, CA 94560 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Soft-Rinse Group LLC, 38918 Spicebush PL, Newark, CA 94560. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/:Deric Walintukan, Managing Member This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 4, 2025. Expires August 3, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6517. Published 14, 21, 28, September 4, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 616595

The following person(s) doing business as: Calfornia Reflections Auto Body & Paint, 3575 1st Street, Suite D, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Masterpiece Enterprise, Inc., 2404 Saffron Court, Tracy, CA 95377. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 8/4/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Richard E. Davis, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 4, 2025. Expires August 3, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6518. Published 14, 21, 28, September 4, 2025.

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME ORIGINAL FILE NO. 605741

The person(s) listed below have abandoned the use of the following fictitious business name(s). California Reflections Auto Body & Paint, 3575 First ST, Suite D, Livermore, CA 94551. Registered by the following owner(s): Kevin Schell, 3575 First ST, Suite D, Livermore, CA 94551. The fictitious business name statement was filed on 04/22/2024 in the County of Alameda. This business was conducted by an Individual. Signature of Registrants: /s/: Kevin Schell, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 4, 2025. The Independent, Legal No. 6519. Published 14, 21, 28, September 4, 2025.

SUMMONS
CASE NO.: D-25-709746-D
DEPT. E
DISTRICT COURT
CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

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TO THE DEFENDANT(S): **SIEW PENG THEOH**

A civil Complaint for Divorce has been filed by the Plaintiff(s) against you for the relief set forth in the Complaint. 1. If you intend to defend this lawsuit, within 20 days after this Summons is served on you, exclusive to the day of service, you must do the following: 1. File with the clerk of this court, whose address is shown below, a formal written response to the Complaint in accordance with the rules of the court, with the appropriate filing fee. 2. Serve a copy of your response upon the attorney whose name and address is shown below, or upon the Plaintiff if Plaintiff is in Proper Person. 2. Unless you respond, your Default will be entered upon application of the Plaintiff(s) and this court may enter judgment against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint, which could result in the taking of money or property or other relief requested in the Complaint. 3. If you intend to seek the advice of an attorney in this matter, you should do so promptly so that your response may be filed on time. 4. The State of Nevada, its political subdivisions, agencies, officers, employees, board members, commission members and legislators, each have a 45 days after service of this Summons within which to file an Answer or other responsive pleading to the Complaint. STEVE GRIERSON, CLERK OF COURT
Celia Dixon, Deputy Clerk
Deputy Clerk
Date: 5/14/2025
Family Court Complex
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Las Vegas, NV 89101
(702) 455-2385
Submitted by:
JAMES E. SMITH
Attorney for: Plaintiff
Nevada Bar #0052
7251 W. Lake Mead Blvd., #300
Las Vegas, Nevada 89128
(702) 562-4209
jamesedwardsmith@aol.com
The Independent, Legal No. 6520. Published August 14, 21, 28, September 4, 2025.

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Great Work at Goodness Village Enters a Fifth Year

Formerly Unhoused Neighbors Find Sense of Community in Tiny-Home Neighborhood That Offers Support and Safety

By Ruth Roberts

LIVERMORE – In July 2021, a rare community of tiny homes was established on property owned by Crosswinds Church in Livermore, embodying the adage that it takes a village. Four years later, Goodness Village is celebrating its success in providing support and safety for individuals experiencing homelessness.

"The mission of Goodness Village is to provide the Tri-Valley's formerly unhoused neighbors a safe and supportive community to live independently, heal and thrive," Executive Director Kim Curtis said. "This milestone is a testament to what's possible when compassionate community and dignified housing come together."

The residents of the 28 homes, referred to as "neighbors," live in single-story houses that include restrooms, showers, kitchenettes, HVAC systems and front porches. The nonprofit organization provides wraparound services to support these residents, including mental-health assistance, vocational training and connections to resources such as Veterans Affairs and rehabilitation services, along with ongoing case management.



Jim, a resident of Goodness Village, celebrates his victory in the pie-eating contest during the community's recent anniversary festivities. (Photo courtesy of Goodness Village)

Residents recently marked the milestone with a cowboy-themed event hosted by Workday and catered by Hazy BBQ. The evening featured bingo, door prizes and an exciting pie-eating contest, which was won by Village resident Jim. His prize was a discount on his monthly program fees. Jim said he would use the unexpected savings to purchase some new clothes.

"I've been needing some for a while," Jim said. "Now I can treat myself."

It's moments like those, Curtis added, that highlight the freedom and confidence that come with stability and being part of a caring community.

"At Goodness Village, milestones like this serve as powerful reminders of the stability, community and healing that can grow when people are given the opportunity to live in a supportive environment," Curtis said. "From our perspective, celebrating a housing anniversary reflects the resilience of our neighbors and the depth of connection that forms when folks are no longer just surviving, but truly living. … It reinforces why we do this work and how transformative permanent, dignified housing can be."

Looking ahead, Curtis said Goodness Village will continue to make residents and their needs the top priority, along with a pledge to serve as many individuals as possible.

"Over the next four years, we hope to deepen our impact by continuing to cultivate a community where healing, dignity and stability are not just ideals — they're lived every day," Curtis added. "We've seen firsthand how this model changes lives, and we remain committed to creating spaces where our vulnerable neighbors can truly thrive."

For more information, visit gvlivermore.org.

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Library Having Reception for Floral Artists



Balinese Dream" by Tuan Karsevar (Photo courtesy of Meghana Mitragotri)

There will be a public reception for artists whose works are now on display as part of the third annual "Flora in Focus" exhibit at the Livermore Civic Center Library, 1188 S. Livermore Ave., from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 16.

The flower-inspired art display runs through Sunday, Aug. 31.

The exhibition features artwork in a range of media and techniques, including watercolor, acrylic, oil, gouache, colored pencil, glass, mixed media, ink and East Asian brush painting.

This year's featured artists include Monique Makepeace, Wei-Ting Chuang, Charlotte Severin, Jenna Hobbs, Helene Roylance, Tejal Shah, Lynda Briggs, Peggy Kervin, Usha Shukla, Tuan Karsevar, Rekha Joshi and Meghana Mitragotri.

For more information, contact Meghana Mitragotri at meghana.ms@gmail.com.

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Paws In Need Offers Creative Online Fundraising

Supporters of Paws In Need can now make "round-up" contributions to the San Ramon-based nonprofit dedicated to improving animal welfare in the Tri-Valley region by linking their credit card purchases to Elev8, an online fundraising program.

Paws In Need announced last week that it has signed an agreement with Elev8, which makes it easier for donors to support nonprofits with "spare change."

Once credit card users sign up with Elev8, their purchases are automatically rounded up to the nearest dollar amount which can then be directed and distributed to Paws In Need.

"We started Elev8 because we saw a gap in how organizations raise funds," said CEO Scott Holtkamp. "There needed to be a seamless, impactful way to connect donors with the causes they care about without friction or barriers. Elev8 [is] a movement to revolutionize charitable giving, making generosity effortless and turning every moment into an opportunity to make a difference."

Elev8 can also schedule regular donations to a nonprofit.

Paws In Need does not operate a rescue facility. Instead, it partners with veterinary providers, no-kill animal shelters and other nonprofit foster organizations in the East Bay area to provide pet owners with affordable care services.

For more information, go to paws-in-need.org.

Physicist Set To Discuss Top-Secret World War II Atomic-Bomb Project

Jeff Colvin, a research physicist and author of "Avoiding Apocalypse: How Science and Scientists Ended the Cold War," will give a presentation on the Manhattan Project, the top-secret effort to develop the first atomic bomb during World War II, at the Livermore Civic Center Library at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 7.

Covin, who spent much of his career working with veterans of the Manhattan Project, will presents an "insider's view," including a discussion of developments that led to the discovery of nuclear fission on the eve of the war, how the project came into being, what life was like at the atomic research lab at Los Alamos, New Mexico, and how the world has changed since the first successful atomic bomb detonation at Alamogordo, New Mexico, on July 16, 1945.

Colvin, a visiting scientist with the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, is also co-author of "Extreme Physics: Properties and Behavior of Matter at Extreme Conditions," a graduate-level textbook in the new field of physics that grew out of Cold War-era nuclear weapons development.

He and his wife, Mary Frances, divide their time between homes in Livermore and Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.

Registration is not required.

Bankhead Will Host '90s Nostalgia

Livermore Valley Arts (LVA) will present an evening of nostalgia at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore with 90s Mix Tape Live on Saturday, Sept. 13.

The live show features four Broadway vocalists, Jimmy Brewer, DeMarius R. Copes, Trista Dollison and Becca Kotte, putting their own spin on some of the biggest rock hits of the decade.

Tickets to the 8 p.m. performance start at $40.

The good times at the Bankhead will continue on Saturday, Oct. 11, with a performance by The Filharmonic, a Los Angeles-based a cappella group of young Filipino American singers with their own blend of hip-hop, pop and '90s nostalgia.

Members of the group include Vj Rosales, Joe Caigoy, Trace Gaynor, Jules Cruz and beat boxer Niko Del Rey.

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

Tickets are available online at livermorearts.org or by calling 925-373-6800.





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