



In addition to again notching high rankings among community colleges in California and nationwide, Las Positas College has been recognized for favorable returns on investments for its students (Photo — Leah Silveira)

Las Positas College Once Again Receives Favorable Rankings in California, Nation

Livermore School Also Lauded for Impressive Returns on Investments

By Ruth Roberts

LIVERMORE — Las Positas College (LPC) again holds a lofty position in statewide and national rankings, as the No. 2 community college in California and No. 4 in the country. But LPC can now also add a new recognition as one of the state’s top 25 institutions delivering among the highest returns on investment (ROI) for students.

“Las Positas College is proud to be recognized as one of California’s top community colleges for return on investment,” Dr. Dyrell Foster, president of LPC, said in a statement. “This distinction reinforces our mission to provide transformative educational experiences that not only prepare students for academic achievement, but also create lasting pathways to economic mobility.”

The statewide analysis, conducted by the College Futures Foundation in partnership with The HEA Group, a research and consulting agency focused on college access, value, and economic mobility, evaluated 327 institutions and more than 1.2 million students. LPC ranked 20th overall, with typical students able to recover their educational costs within six months of completing their programs.

(See RANKING, page 6)

Ongoing Support Strong for Deported Lopez

Congressman Swalwell Visits Him in Mexico City as Tri-Valley Rallies

By Ruth Roberts

LIVERMORE — Support for Livermore resident Miguel Lopez, who was deported to Mexico in June following a routine immigration appointment the month before, continues to be strong following a recent visit from Congressman Eric Swalwell.

In addition, community members held a grassroots freeway-banner event in support of Lopez last week.

Swalwell, whose district includes Livermore, Pleasanton and Dublin, visited Lopez in Mexico City on Sept. 11 to assure the married father and grandfather that he has not been forgotten. Lopez was flown off to Mexico without being allowed due process in court.

“Miguel Lopez followed the rules,” Swalwell told The Independent. “He went to his court date in good faith, only to be seized by masked men and deported, torn away from his family, his

job and his community in Livermore. That is not justice.

“As a country, our resources should be focused on the most dangerous individuals, not on tearing families apart. That’s why I’ve introduced legislation to grant Miguel naturalized citizenship, not only to correct this injustice, but to reaffirm that America must stand for due process, fairness and compassion.”

Swalwell made it clear that he views the situation as going far beyond Lopez.

“Unfortunately, President Trump is steering America into cruelty, chaos and a deeply misguided immigration policy,” Swalwell said. “Mass deportations and family separations don’t make us safer. They weaken our economy, divide our communities and betray our values. Immigration, when done fairly, has always been a cornerstone of America’s prosperity, innovation and global competitiveness. We are stron-

ger when we uphold our values and when we give people who contribute to our communities a chance to stay, thrive and build the American dream.”

Miguel’s wife, Rosa, who FaceTimed with her husband from home during Swalwell’s visit, said it was a tonic of hope and optimism for the family.

“He (Swalwell) went to let Miguel know that they are going to help him and to let him know he is not alone,” Rosa said.

Swalwell also took a piece of home, a supply of Miguel’s favorite pineapple ice cream from Pleasanton’s Meadowlark Dairy, with him to Mexico.

“Miguel loves Meadowlark,” Rosa said. “Every time we go, he gets two cones of the pineapple ice cream and a cup to go. He had the biggest smile on his face the whole time during the visit, and when I talked to him afterwards, he said, ‘This gives me so much hope. I haven’t had such a good

(See LOPEZ, page 6)

Governor’s Plans To Fast-Track Tunnel Project Fall Short

Tri-Valley Senator McNerney Applauds Defeat, Calling It a Major Victory for State and Delta

By David Jen

TRI-VALLEY — Gov. Gavin Newsom’s plans to extend special privileges to water projects built by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) died short of a vote in either house of the state legislature last week, spoiling the governor’s attempt to fast-track the \$20-billion Delta Conveyance Project.

The project, also known as the Delta tunnel, plans to build a 45-mile-long tunnel from the Sacramento River to the Bethany Reservoir, allowing the DWR to bypass the earthquake and climate risks of the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta as it feeds the State Water Project. Current estimates project its completion in 2045.

The State Water Project provides the Zone 7 Water Agency, which manages and supplies water to the Tri-Valley, up to 90% of Zone 7’s water.

Newsom introduced the proposal as a trailer bill in May with that month’s budget revision.

“For too long, attempts to modernize our critical water infrastructure have stalled in endless red tape, burdened with unnecessary delay,” Newsom said in a statement at the time. “We’re done with barriers — our state needs to complete this project as soon as possible, so that we can better store and manage water to prepare for a hotter, drier future. Let’s get this built.”

Critics of the bill have argued that the changes would have given the DWR too much latitude under environmental and judicial reviews, and made it too easy to shift financial obligations to water agencies participating in the State Water Project.

“Defeating the tunnel fast-tracking proposal is a major victory for California and the delta, and for the communities, farms and historic resources surrounding the

(See DELTA TUNNEL, page 6)



The Livermore Advocates for Public Education showed their support for deported Tri-Valley resident Miguel Lopez by hanging a banner from the Santa Rita Road overpass above westbound Interstate 580 on Sept. 12. (Photo — Leah Silveira)

Asteroid Sample Points to Genesis of the Solar System

LLNL Scientists Studying Otherworldly Rocks, Dust

By David Jen

LIVERMORE — Material collected from an asteroid via spacecraft closely matches the heavier elements of the sun, providing scientists with a physical sample of the solar system’s raw materials, according to a recent paper published by a team at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL).

NASA on Sept. 8, 2016, launched the Origins, Spectral Interpretation, Resource Identification and Security-Regolith

Explorer (OSIRIS-REx) spacecraft, which landed on an asteroid named Bennu on Oct. 20, 2020. During its visit, the spacecraft collected a sample of rocks and dust from the small asteroid, then safely returned it to Earth on Sept. 24, 2023. Last year, LLNL received 0.5 grams out of the 121.6-gram sample for analysis.

Bennu is composed mainly of “hydrated clay minerals, magnetite, sulfides, carbonates, organic matter, phosphates and small abundances of anhydrous silicates and oxides including olivine,

(See ASTEROID, page 7)



Fertile GroundWorks Executive Director Brenda Kusler welcomes Melinda Zettler Ballard with a warm embrace at the nonprofit’s 15th anniversary celebration and annual “A Taste for Giving” dinner held at McGrail Winery on Sept. 12. (Photo — Leah Silveira)

Fertile GroundWorks Celebrates 15 Years

Inspired by Founders’ Mission to ‘Teach, Grow, Give,’ the Nonprofit Expands

By Christina Cavallaro

LIVERMORE — It’s not every day that one leaves a fundraising dinner with goodie bags filled with fresh produce. But nonprofit Fertile GroundWorks (FGW), at its heart, has always had a profound need to feed — and has been doing so through its teaching garden, an invaluable community resource growing food for those in need and giving residents a place to learn how to garden.

Over the past decade and a half,

FGW has formed partnerships with community kitchens and food pantries. In 2024, the organization donated 28,000 pounds of organic, sustainably grown food to feed hungry neighbors in the Tri-Valley, all part of an effort to serve about 6,500 people.

So far, in 2025, FGW has been able to grow and share 15,162 pounds of produce — 3,273 pounds more than at this same time last year.

Guests were welcomed on Sept. 13 to McGrail Vineyards and Winery in Livermore with wine and

tomatoes from the FGW garden at the organization’s 15th anniversary celebration and annual “A Taste for Giving” gala.

A table was laden with yellow, orange, red and striped tomato varieties with names such as Rainbow Jazz Heart, Mortgage Lifter and Green Zebra. Guests were invited to sample and then vote on their favorites.

Angelo Ko, FGW’s board president, thanked guests and founders Chuck Johnstone, Bruce Campbell, Dory Campbell and Dave David for their initial vision. What followed

(See FERTILE, page 7)

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PET OF THE WEEK



LILLY

Lovely, lively Lilly is cheerio-chasing, toy-tugging, rope-romping, nap-nuzzling perfection. She plays hard, snoozes sweetly and is growing into a marvelous medium-sized pup. Ready to let this lovable lass light up your life? Come meet Lilly today. Call Valley Humane at (925) 426-8656 or email info@valleyhumane.org to get started with the adoption process. (Photo courtesy of Valley Humane)

Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department Hosts 9/11 Ceremonies

By Sanestina Hunter

TRI-VALLEY — The Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department (LPFD) hosted its annual Sept. 11 remembrance ceremonies last week, honoring victims of the 2001 terrorist attacks alongside local police officers and community members.

Police personnel joined firefighters at the cities’ 10 stations to reflect on courage, honor resilience and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

The ceremonies paid tribute to the nearly 3,000 people killed, including 343 firefighters and 72 law enforcement officers who died in the line of duty, when terrorists crashed two U.S. passenger airplanes into the World Trade Center in New York City, another into the Pentagon near Washington and another near rural Shanksville, Pa., on Sept. 11, 2001.

“Honoring those who made the supreme sacrifice ensures their memory lives on,” LPFD Battalion Chief Chris Jesberg said. “Continuing this annual tradition is important for newer generations of firefighters to see how vital it is to honor those who served before them and to carry forward the tradition and pride of the fire service.”

The observance also gives firefighters, police officers and residents a chance

to reflect and support one another. For Jesberg, the occasion is deeply personal.

“It’s about leadership through remembrance — it’s important to impress on newer firefighters the need to carry this tradition forward. Even though 9/11 happened 24 years ago, the legacy of

to affect the nation — not only law enforcement and first responders but also the families who lost loved ones.

us all remember those who have lost their loved ones and creates a space for families who continue to feel the loss years after 9/11 to feel

“Most people only meet us when something has gone wrong,” Jesberg told The Independent, adding that the ceremonies give people a chance to engage outside of emergencies and highlight the risks first responders face every day.

Marking the day across the Tri-Valley, the Dublin Fire Department also held a Sept. 11 remembrance ceremony at the city’s Public Safety Memorial, which included a moment of silence and the lowering of the flag.

Community support for first responders also extended beyond Sept. 11. On Sept. 9, members of Livermore’s Hindu-American community — including the Hindu Community and Cultural Center—Shiva Vishnu Temple, Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh Bay Area and Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh USA — visited the Livermore Police Department to celebrate Raksha Bandhan.

Officers received blessings and prayers for their safety and well-being, which the department described as a meaningful reminder of strong community bonds.

Next year will mark the 25th anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks, and LPFD officials said they are preparing a more formal public commemoration to honor first responders, military members and the nation’s ongoing resilience.



Firefighters from the Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department, as well as police officers from the respective cities, on Sept. 11 took part in ceremonies honoring the memory of those lost in terrorist attacks 24 years earlier. (Photo courtesy of Livermore Police Department)

making sure the ceremony is respectful, meaningful and impactful,” he said. “I was a young firefighter when 9/11 happened, but we have a young department, and

the firefighters lost that day will always matter.”

Never forget and always remember remains a lasting sentiment of how the Sept. 11 attacks continue

“We are all in this together, uniform or nonuniform,” Jesberg said. “We are still fathers, brothers, sisters, husbands and wives. Having a central gathering point helps

Dublin Planning Commission Recommends ADU Code Changes

By David Jen

DUBLIN — The city will soon bring its ordinances governing the construction of accessory dwelling units (ADUs) in line with state laws if the city council follows last week’s unanimous planning-commission recommendation on several municipal code amendments.

ADUs, also known as in-law units or backyard cottages, provide independent-living facilities in a new building on the same property of an existing residence, and are limited to an area of 1,200 square feet in Dublin. Homeowners can build them either attached or detached from the primary building. They can also build junior ADUs, repurposed spaces within an existing dwelling, which the city limits to 500 square feet.

“With the growing housing crisis in California, I

think the governor’s office is really trying to make it flexible for the local jurisdictions to make it easy for people,” Planning Commission Vice Chair Wahida Rashid said at the Sept. 9 meeting, referring to ADU projects. “We have multigenerational homes. We have adult children that are living with their parents because they can’t afford to live on their own in California these days.”

The amendments include updates to the definitions of ADUs, their parking requirements, and the limitations upon them related to maximum number of units, unit size and setbacks — the required distance from property lines and other structures. City staff has proposed repealing the entire municipal-code chapter on ADUs and replacing it with a new one because the changes are so numerous.

Planning-commission

discussion centered on the new definitions, such as the change from a “kitchen” to a “cooking facility,” which follows the wording of state law.

Commissioner Srinivas Badami questioned the effect on the school system, should families with school-aged children find ADUs more attractive, as ADU projects do not contribute school-impact fees to the city. Wheeler reminded the commission that it could not make planning decisions based on school-system effects.

The state has recently enacted a slew of new ADU laws designed to encourage their construction. For example, Assembly Bill 2221 and Senate Bill 897, at the beginning of 2023, removed “personal or subjective judgment” from the approval process, eased zoning and setback requirements, and waived certain nonconforming

zoning conditions and building-code violations.

Additional laws in subsequent years removed the need for ADU builders to replace any off-street parking removed by their construction, increased the allowed number of ADUs per property and introduced a state-exempt ADU free from other objective standards.

“The California Department of Housing and Community Development has noted that ADUs are a flexible form of housing that can help Californians more easily access job-rich, high-opportunity areas,” Dublin Special Projects Manager Kristie Wheeler said.

This month, the state legislature approved a bill co-authored by Tri-Valley Senator Jerry McNerney clarifying some parts of the recent laws — such as permitting timelines and the definition of a junior ADU — that have caused

confusion between local jurisdictions and the state. Gov. Gavin Newsom reviewed the bill last week but had yet to sign it into law.

Next, the Dublin City Council will consider the code amendments with the planning commission’s recommendation.

Dublin Surveys Business ‘Brand Positioning’

Dublin is conducting a survey to assess whether the city is seen as welcoming and supportive of new businesses.

The online survey covers such areas as zoning,

permitting, taxes and fees, and overall support for businesses. It also asks whether there is enough available commercial space or real estate land for development

and whether the city is seen as a safe environment.

Dublin said the survey is part of a “brand positioning” effort to better attract, retain, and support the busi-

ness community.

The survey is available at surveymonkey.com/r/8VX-FHLK. The last day to complete the survey is Friday, Sept. 19.

Hikers To View Park Cattle-Grazing Program

The Livermore Area Recreation and Park District (LARPD) will conduct a guided hike at Sycamore Grove Park at 9 a.m. on Sunday, Oct. 12, to learn about the district’s pilot cattle-grazing program.

LARPD said the 3.25-mile round-trip trek will take hikers into the upper section of Sycamore Grove where they can see the grazing program in action and learn how cattle are helping to care for the land.

“This is our third public education event about the grazing pilot at Sycamore Grove, and we’ve really enjoyed seeing the community come out, ask questions and learn the purpose behind what we’re doing,” said Community Services Manager Jill Kirk. “It’s a great chance to see the cattle up close and hear how grazing fits into the bigger picture of maintaining the park.”

EBRPD said the grazing program helps reduce

the threat of wildfires, while supporting healthy grasslands and wildlife habitat.

The two-hour hike includes some uphill and downhill sections, according to LARPD, and

is suitable for those 10 and up. Hikers should bring drinking water, wear sturdy shoes and dress in layers.

The free hike will begin at the Wetmore Road entrance to the park. To

register, go to larpd.org/events.

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

Livermore Wenté Winery worker, married father of three and grandfather

Miguel Lopez

remains in Mexico after having been illegally deported 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>

Epidemics, Infectious Diseases Discussed at Pleasanton Event

By Vivien Wenneker

PLEASANTON — Dr. Srilekha Dekka, a chief scientific officer at Pleasanton-based biotech consulting firm Script Molecular, on Sept. 12 gave a

the global health landscape.” For influenza, and more specifically the “Spanish Flu” of 1918, which claimed the lives of 675,000 Americans (more casualties than World War I, World War II,

and is constantly mutating, the success of vaccines can be seen in other areas, specifically polio and smallpox. For polio, which has no cure and can only be prevented, the development of a

ing to Dekka. Types 2 and 3 of the virus were eradicated worldwide. Smallpox, one of the more deadly and ancient diseases known to humans, with records dating to more than 3,000 years ago in Egypt, is the only disease to have been fully eradicated in humans. In 1980, nearly two centuries after the original vaccine was created by Dr. Edward Jenner in 1798, the WHO declared that smallpox had been eradicated worldwide.

The effectiveness of the smallpox vaccine, according to Dekka, can be boiled down to three components: universal childhood immunization, mass adult vaccination and targeted surveillance-containment.

Even with the great scientific leaps in vaccine technology, however, she pointed out that we are still just as susceptible to contracting infectious diseases as in the past, if not more so.

“We still have epidemics and pandemics, but it has become worse because we are more connected than ever,” Dekka said. “With more people living in closer proximity to each other and the interconnection of travel, it’s easier to contract diseases.”

To demonstrate this, she chronicled the timeline of Smallpox, which took roughly 18 centuries to spread globally, whereas COVID-19 took just three months. “Vaccines are important but they’re not enough, which is why we need to continue our research and anti-viral efforts,” Dekka said. “For sure, there is another epidemic on the horizon — history is a great teacher, but we need to be good students and

learn those lessons so that we can be better prepared.”



The history of epidemics and infectious diseases was the subject of a Sept. 12 presentation from Dr. Srilekha Dekka, a chief scientific officer at Pleasanton-based biotech consulting firm Script Molecular, at the Museum on Main. (Photo — Leah Silveira)

talk on the history of epidemics and infectious diseases at the Museum on Main.

The talk, titled, “Epidemics: A History of Humanity’s Plagues,” was given in conjunction with the traveling exhibit, “From Earthquakes to Epidemics: How Disasters Transform California’s People and Places.” The exhibit, which had been on display since this spring, wrapped up the same day as Dekka’s talk.

“This is a theme we thought would speak to our audience, especially following the COVID lockdowns, which were taking place at the time when we booked it,” exhibit curator Ken MacLennan said.

In her talk, Dekka discussed how infectious threats have shaped human history, tracing their spread across the globe, their escalation into pandemics, and the scientific breakthroughs and lasting lessons they inspired.

In particular, she narrowed in on three diseases — influenza (flu), polio and smallpox — that have not only played a key role in transforming U.S. history but also paved the way for our modern understanding of vaccines.

“We have made scientific advancements because of these epidemics, and how destructive they’ve been,” Dekka said. “Germ theory, antibiotics, rehydration and antiretroviral therapies have all been crucial in transforming

the Korean War and Vietnam War combined), according to the Pan American Health Organization, Dekka pointed out that the fatality rate was so high because there were no vaccines, nor the necessary public-health infrastructure to control the virus.

At the time, pharmaceutical companies worked around the clock to produce a vaccine to fight the Spanish flu, but they were too late. The virus disappeared before they were able to isolate it.

Influenza is still just as prevalent in the 21st century, with an estimated 40 million cases in the U.S. during the 2023-24 season, according to the National Centers for Disease Control (CDC). Widespread vaccination efforts, however, have made great progress in lowering fatality rates. The rate was roughly 0.07 percent for that same season, with about 28,000 deaths.

“Every year, the WHO (World Health Organization) tries to predict which strains are going to be the most prevalent each season, and based on a number of factors, such as global surveillance data and antigenic characterization of circulating viruses, the FDA then makes recommendations concerning the composition of the vaccines,” Dekka said.

Although influenza isn’t likely to ever be fully eradicated, as the virus is also found in other animals, such as birds and pigs in the wild,

vaccine, first in 1952 by Dr. Jonas Salk and then again in 1957, with the more cost-effective oral form developed by Dr. Albert Sabin, proved so successful that over the following decades cases dropped 99 percent, accord-

Suspect Arrested in BART Beating Case

By Ruth Roberts

PLEASANTON — A man suspected of the beating of a woman at the Dublin/Pleasanton BART station last year has been arrested on charges of assault with a deadly weapon and battery, according to BART authorities.

James Papay, 35, was arrested in connection with an incident that occurred in the bus zone outside the BART station on Oct. 13, 2024, according to BART spokesperson Chris Filippi. Papay allegedly used a baton to beat the woman, causing a

concussion and a traumatic brain injury.

“The BART Police Department has been working in coordination with partner law enforcement agencies, including the Danville Police Department, who arrested the suspect,” Filippi said. “The female victim in the incident was struck in the head with a hard object and suffered multiple injuries.”

Papay was being held at Santa Rita Jail awaiting his arraignment. The Danville Police Department declined to comment on the case, referring to BART as the lead agency.

Dublin Sets a Textile Recycling Pickup Day

Amador Valley Industries (AVI), the garbage and recycling provider for Dublin, will be collecting worn out bedding, towels and clothing the week of Monday, Oct. 6, through Friday, Oct. 10.

Residents should call AVI at 925-479-9545 at least one full week in advance to schedule a pickup.

AVI said unwanted textiles must be in a clear plastic bag and set out on the curb by 6 a.m. on the day of the scheduled pickup.

Bags must be visible

at the curb and not on or behind trash carts. Textiles will be collected separately and may be picked up earlier or later than regular trash pickup.

Residents of a multi-family complex must contact their property manager to schedule a pickup with AVI.

Acceptable items include clothing, shoes, stuffed animals, bedding and towels.

AVI schedules Dublin curbside textile recycling for the first full week of January, April, July, and October.

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EDITORIAL

Delta Tunnel Project Needs Replacing To Protect Local Waters

Last week in Sacramento, the state senate helped avoid a costly mistake: fast-tracking the Delta Conveyance Project. We can thank Sen. Jerry McNerney, who represents the Tri-Valley and parts of San Joaquin County, for helping stop the measure from getting to a vote. The project to build a 45-mile tunnel from the Sacramento River to the Bethany Reservoir is flawed and needs either major revisions or replacement to protect the San Francisco Bay Area ecosystem.

There is no doubt that California is experiencing a record drought, and that San Joaquin Valley agriculture needs water. We all need water, even in the more temperate Bay Area. The California State Water Project, which provides drinking water for more than 27 million people, is tasked with the ever-more difficult job of balancing the needs of people and agriculture. The Delta tunnel, which was championed by Gov. Gavin Newsom, was supposed to help rectify that

balance, but it risked causing more harm than good.

Right now, the river flows through the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta into San Francisco Bay and out to the Pacific Ocean. In dry years, low water flows lead not just to shortages for people and local agriculture, but also risk toxic algae blooms, such as the 2022 bloom that was the largest on record in the state. The delta is also susceptible to salt-water infiltration from the bay if the water drops too much.

Diverting water from the river into the California Aqueduct that serves the Central Valley would negatively affect our way of life and our environment. Zone 7 Water Agency, which supplies up to 90% of the Tri-Valley’s water needs, is dependent on uninterrupted supply from the Sacramento River. It’s even more dependent now, since plans to raise the height of the Los Vaqueros Reservoir were scrapped last September. Lower water levels

lead to higher water temperatures, which harm fish and other aquatic life.

Climate change is still happening, and thanks to the Trump Administration’s abandonment of U.S. efforts to fight it, the speed of change may well accelerate. If you think droughts are bad now, just wait until there is no snowpack left in the Sierra Nevada. A long drought season followed by a brief but intense rainy season in winter is a recipe for more flash floods.

Major changes would need to be made if we’re going to send more Sacramento River water south. For one, we need a cast-iron guarantee that water to the Bay Delta won’t fall below a minimum amount no matter what the demand is in the Central Valley. We also need guarantees that agriculture in the Central Valley uses less water — whether that means reducing production or moving away from water-hungry crops such as almonds and alfalfa toward more drought-tolerant

crops. Right now, big agriculture uses 80% of the state’s water, and 20% of that is going to tree nuts alone, according to the Congressional Research Service. CalMatters, citing a study from UC Santa Barbara and Caltech, has estimated that just getting away from the water hogs could cut agricultural water consumption by 93%.

We may not realistically be able to do that, but even shifting half of the growers from the thirstiest to crops with more average needs could cut 10%-11% of consumption, and a similar amount could be saved by implementing more water efficiency methods, the study’s author has said.

We also need to reduce our water use at home, but we can’t force the bulk of climate mitigation efforts on individual people. Big Ag needs to step up, too. And any plan to tap into more water from the Sacramento River needs to hinge on that.

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.

Livermore’s Connection to Saturday Night Live

Nicholas Williams, Livermore

Yes, Livermore, you do have a connection to the fabulous comedy show Saturday Night Live. One of Livermore’s own, and my granddaughter Miss Ashley Padilla, is a member of the Saturday Night Live cast. She was a member of our community for many years. She, her mother and three siblings, were Livermore residents. Ashley graduated from Croce Elementary School, Christian Middle School and Livermore High School. After High School, her mother and kids moved to the Santa Barbara area. While there, Ashley found her comedic passion while enrolled at “The Groundlings,” a comedic improve group in Los Angeles. She was a member of that group for about ten years. She eventually got the chance to audition for SNL, and was accepted as a Featured Player for the 2025, 50th anniversary, season. During her first season on SNL, she was both a cast member and a writer for many skits. I’m sure those who follow SNL closely know that the cast selection went through some major changes this season. We were happy

to learn that Ashley was invited back to SNL for its 51st season. The debut of the 51st season will be Saturday, Oct. 4. Be sure to tune in and listen for that famous opening line, “Live From New York, It’s Saturday Night.” Ashley would be thrilled for you to watch the show.

Response to a Letter on Gaza, Antisemitism, and the Right to Speak

Eileen Velen, Livermore

I appreciate your letter. It speaks to a truth many feel, but struggle to express: that empathy for Palestinians does not negate empathy for Israelis, and that calling for justice is not an act of hatred.

But I also believe we must name the horror of Oct. 7. Hamas’s massacre of over 1,200 people—mostly civilians—was an atrocity. Families were slaughtered. Hostages were taken. The trauma of that day reverberates still. To speak honestly about Gaza, we must also speak honestly about that terror.

Israel is fighting for its survival. For many Israelis, this war is not abstract — it’s personal. It’s the sound of sirens, the scramble to safe rooms, the fear that your children might not make it through the night.

The slogan “From the river to the sea” is heard by many as a call for the eradication of Israel. And Hamas’s original charter did call for the destruction of Israel and included antisemitic language that many have described as incitement to genocide. Though a revised charter in 2017 softened some language, it did not revoke the original, and Hamas has refused to release hostages taken on Oct. 7.

And yet, as Israeli peace activist Elik Elhanan said, “We’re grieving for two communities and fighting for two communities.” Elik lost his sister to a suicide bombing in Jerusalem. He now works with Combatants for Peace, a grassroots group of former fighters — Israeli and Palestinian — who have turned to dialogue and nonviolence.

Palestinian journalist Sameera Wafi, who lost her entire family in Gaza, wrote: “This war is different. It is perhaps the first war where victims themselves have had to tell their own story, not by choice, but out of necessity.” Her voice, and those of other Gazan writers in Daybreak in Gaza, are not propaganda—they are testimony.

Jewish groups like Jewish Voice for Peace, If Not Now, and Rabbis for Human Rights have long opposed the occupation and now demand a ceasefire. Rabbi Brant Rosen, co-founder of JVP’s Rabbinical Council, said after Oct. 7: “I grieve for fellow Jews who were killed, yet I maintain solidarity with Palestinians.”

This is not a binary. It is a tragedy unfolding on both sides. And it demands that we hold space for grief, for outrage, and for the possibility of peace.

So yes, it is human to say that all lives matter.

Thank You for Music in the Orchard

Carolyn Siegfried, Livermore

On behalf of the Pedrozzi Scholarship Foundation, I am writing to express our deepest appreciation to Derek and Rhiannon Eddy, owners of the Purple Orchid Wine Country Resort and Spa, for their steadfast commitment to the Livermore community through the creation and ongoing hosting of the Music in the Orchard Concert Series since 2013.

Each summer, the lawn

at the Purple Orchid transforms into a vibrant gathering place as multiple concerts bring together neighbors and visitors alike. The Eddys’ generous spirit is matched by the enthusiastic participation of local wineries, breweries, and caterers, who join the festivities by offering delicious food and beverages. Their collective efforts create an inviting and lively atmosphere, making the Purple Orchid an ideal venue for summer concerts under the stars.

This cherished tradition honors the legacy of Livermore businessman Mario Pedrozzi, who, in 2002, left his estate to establish the Pedrozzi Scholarship Foundation. Today, we are grateful that local businesses continue Mario’s vision by naming the Foundation as a beneficiary of concert proceeds, ensuring that support for local students endures and grows.

We wish to recognize all our community partners and local businesses whose generosity and partnership make these events possible. Their support empowers the Foundation to further its mission, and directly benefits Livermore students and families.

As the 2025 season draws to a close, we invite everyone to join us for the final Music in the Orchard concert on Thursday, Sept. 18, featuring the beloved Crawdad Republic. It promises to be a wonderful evening, and we hope to see many friends, old and new, celebrating together.

Thank you Derek and Rhiannon Eddy, and to all who make this concert series a highlight of the Livermore summer.

Debate Policies, Not Personalities

David Ott, Pleasanton

I have written to this newspaper recently about the achievements of President Trump’s America First policies. These include securing the border, deporting illegal alien criminals, strengthening the economy, negotiating fair trade, attracting investment, reinforcing law and order, and revitalizing our military. Whether one supports President Trump or not, these are real accomplishments with measurable benefits for all American citizens.

Unfortunately, many

of my critics avoid addressing these successes directly. Instead, they fall back on insults, personal attacks, and dismissive rhetoric. That approach may make them feel good, but it does little to advance an honest debate about the future of our nation.

The question is not whether one likes President Trump as a person. The question is whether his policies deliver results that improve American citizens’ lives. By nearly every measure—secure borders, lower inflation, higher GDP growth, more jobs, energy independence, improved trade agreements, stronger military and safer communities — the answer is yes. Ignoring these facts because of political grudges causes division and harms our country.

If critics sincerely disagree, I welcome their ideas. Don’t just oppose border security — explain how open borders will make America safer. And while you are at it, please share one country that has open borders. Don’t dismiss fair trade agreements — tell us how one-sided deals that benefit other countries help American workers. Don’t ridicule calls for law and order — show us how communities prosper when crime goes unchecked. If you have a better solution, bring it forward. That is how real debate works.

Our nation is at a crossroads. We face challenges that cannot be solved by bitterness, name-calling, or hatred of the president. We must be willing to recognize success when it occurs and build upon it, regardless of whether we personally like the leader who achieved it.

I am not asking my critics to abandon their opinions or stop disagreeing. What I am asking is simple: be honest, objective, respectful, debate with facts, propose constructive alternatives with real solutions, and acknowledge when something works. America deserves thoughtful discussion, not constant ridicule and insults.

For the sake of our future, let us focus less on personalities and more on policies. Many of President Trump’s America First initiatives have proven successful and can serve as a foundation for

continued progress. Be honest and embrace reality. Respectful and honest debate is how we move forward together. Debate policies, not personalities.

The Latest Attack on Scientific Progress

Eloise Hamann, Dublin

I couldn’t believe my eyes when I read the latest thing Trump wants to destroy, namely the two satellites our country has put into space to predict the weather including hurricanes, which seem to be becoming more frequent and more destructive. The U.S. at great expense has put them into orbit with at least one failure. The amount of money to keep them at their job pales in comparison. Previously, he has gutted NOAA’s budget. People’s need and desire to be informed about the weather is not political. Florida, in particular, has suffered greatly. It’s one thing to lose your home, but another to lose your life. Defunding the satellites will permanently leave people in the dark about hurricanes and excessive rain.

Trump has also proposed cutting funding for LIGO (Laser Interferometry Gravitational-wave Observatory.) Specifically, he would eliminate one of two antennas. LIGO studies waves, which have an impact on our world. I find myself dumbfounded about how physicists have discovered so much about the world we cannot see. Our president doesn’t understand that it takes two antennas to triangulate the origins of gravitational waves. He has no respect for scientific progress and its role in improving human life.

I recall watching a show years ago where a member of NOAA was being interviewed. She described testifying before a committee that was in charge of determining the budget for NOAA. When she mentioned the importance of being able to get weather predictions, one of the committee members said “Oh, if I want to know what the weather will be like, I just turn on the TV.” My mind boggles. I thought about Dr. Dean Edell, the TV/radio doctor, who advocated that members of Congress ought to be required to pass a basic science test.

(See MAILBOX, page 5)

THE *Independent*

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Children enjoying a fun slide represented just one of the myriad entertainment activities during the annual Splatter Festival at Dublin’s Emerald Glen Park on Sept. 13. (Photo — Leah Silveira)

MAILBOX

(Continued from page 4)

For a Sweet Rosh Hashanah and Beyond
Patricia Munro, Livermore

In the coming week, Jews around the world will be observing Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year. The holiday begins when the moon is new, on the first day of the Hebrew month of Tishrei. It is heralded by the blast of a shofar, a ram’s horn, sounded in three distinct patterns, each the same length: one long summons, one broken into three like sobs, and nine sharp, staccato blasts to action. Rosh Hashanah wishes are for a whole and sweet new year, with round and sweet foods that represent those wishes: challah (egg bread) shaped into rounds, a multitude of honey cake recipes, honey or date syrup to dip apples and challah into.

It is a holiday spent in community and reflection, a time to hope for the future and reflect on the past as individuals and as a group.

Rosh Hashanah does not stand alone: it is the first of the ten days called the “Yamim Nora’im,” the Days of Awe, that conclude with Yom Kippur, the Day of Repentance. These ten days are sober times of self-reflection, a time to try to mend the broken places in relationships and in ourselves.

In the Jewish calendar, these holidays, together with Sukkot (Booths) and Simchat Torah (Rejoicing in the Torah), take a full month to complete. These holidays are one of the two most important times of the Jewish year—Passover being the other one. (Note: not Hanukkah, a minor holiday pushed into heavy lifting by proximity to Christmas.) This year, Rosh Hashanah begins Monday evening, Sept. 22, and continues to Wednesday evening at sunset. You can wish your Jewish friends and neighbors “Shana Tova,” a good year. If you’re lucky, maybe you’ll get some honeycake to share.

Response to Last Week’s Letter

John Lahommedieu, Dublin

You are missing the truth, Sam Warner! You do not live in DC; you don’t live in fear nightly. The crime over the past 50 years there is unacceptable and allowed by poor democrat representation. President Trump said enough is enough, and I agree with him! You would rather see the citizens of DC suffer than see them enjoy safety and security. Your hatred for Trump is obvious. There is nothing he does that you would ever give him credit for. If he were to announce a cure for cancer, you would be up his arse for not curing diabe-

tes! What is your solution for the high crime rate that exists in DC and many of our cities, many of which are under democrat leadership? President Trump utilizes the national guard, and why not? Sam, your democrat liberal spew of poison is not productive, and frankly has no impact anymore. President Trump gains more supporters daily, and it’s your kind of rhetoric that helps that! But regarding DC, keep the guard there for however long it takes. Criminality in America must come under control and anyone who is against that stands alone. Sam, get smart, come over to the conservative common sense side and be on the winning team for once!

Light Glimmering Beyond the Rancor of Destruction

Greg Scott, Livermore

“If light is in your heart, you will find your way home.” (Rumi)

The students were travelling to Colorado’s Evergreen High School on September 10, 2025, and were in some part likely thinking of their day, perhaps of tomorrow, and maybe of their future lives. On a school bus to that school was a sixteen-year-old fellow student seething in hate and imaginings of violence — I call him here “boy-man” — who had in his possession a weapon and plenty of weapon feedstock. The weapon class is of weapons which are cultural icons in the United States. The boy-man went on with that weapon to critically injure one student and to wound another, who was listed in stable condition, and who probably has been released now from the hospital. The boy-man, who killed himself, could have done as much or more bodily harm, if he intended, with a knife, or an axe embedded in a bundle of sharp sticks bound with leather strips with the axe blade exposed — and called “fasces” in Latin by the ancient Romans.

How did this boy-man evolve to this? I am wondering: When was the last time this boy-man took off his clothes and jumped into a lake? I doubt that he would have been thinking of hate and violence as his body became submerged in the cool water. We look not deeply at the causalities, only at banal platitudes. Do we rationally analyze the shambles of morals, ethics, and trust? (See: Eliade, Mircea, “The Sacred and the Profane,” 1957)

President “Self” did not order the U.S. flag at half-staff for these victims or for those that experienced this trauma at this school.

Across the Rocky Mountains to the west, on the

same day as the incident above, a right-wing activist — I will call him here “man-boy orator” — was murdered. No matter what our political bent — left, center, right, or apolitical — our first response should be one of grief — grief for this man-boy orator, his two young children, his wife, those around his life that loved him, and those that did not. This is a great tragedy for all of us. No good objective can come of this.

Man-boy orator spoke in a mode of adolescence that largely advocated hate and falsehoods. Grieve for his death we must: Resisting a fear-mongering, some of us cannot be silent to his utterances.

A Sad Day
David Marco, Livermore

We had another sad day this past week, with the assassination of Charlie Kirk. He has visited hundreds of college campuses and spoken to thousands of students. He inspired them to join the dialog and support the values of First Amendment freedom of speech. He dialoged and debated, but was never condescending or threatening. He was a great example of our First Amendment rights, and his death is a loss to our country. Yet this has also inspired many people, and as of Sunday, Turning Point has logged 8,400 requests for new chapters. The response to Charlie’s death has been vigils and peaceful assemblies, not rioting.

There is a large difference between violent rhetoric and political opinions. One focuses on and encourages violence, the other encourages debate, which is the First Amendment right of legal citizens. Charlie and people like him continually discourage violence. The ones shooting children in church and schools in Minneapolis and Tennessee seem to be inspired by leftists and rhetoric from politicians.

Is it not time to tone down the violent rhetoric? To return to the attitude that “I may disagree with your opinions, but I will die defending your right to say it”?

Revised Assassination of Charlie Kirk

Richard Andrews, Livermore

I have always had a strong dislike for Charlie Kirk. His take on everything and promoting violence and hatred just rubbed me wrong. But I also always defended his right to state his opinions. His assassination is abhorrent at every level, and should be denounced. Free speech is fundamental to America and our Constitution that we respect this right in or-

der for us to exist. And for over 238 years it has been a guiding principal of our democratic Republic.

But as I see President Poopy Pants rant in his usual nonsensical way to damn everybody who doesn’t kowtow to his bizarre thoughts, I am disgusted. Not even trying to calm things down, but increasing the hate against the wrong people. Once again, we see the corporate media give him unfiltered time to rant, without a single detraction from the network. It appears, just like the nutcase who tried to kill Trump in Pennsylvania, he was from a strong RIGHT WING MAGA family, NOT A LEFT WING NUTCASE like Trump was claiming.

I again condemn this insane assassination as un-American hate. I feel sorry for his family, and

truly hope that somehow America can wake up and stop hating.

Welcome to Trump World

Rosario Milelli, Pleasanton

Responding to last week’s letter writer, who speaks his mind again:

Mr. MAGA has claimed (falsely) that my letters are “so saturated with falsehoods, they aren’t worthy of dissecting”. Perhaps a trip down memory lane might be instructive?

The Sept. 11th letter on tariff news items addressed the terrible tariff impacts on U.S. farmers. China imports of farm products halved, not a single soybean order. Directly quoted from the AgAmerica Website. Arkansas farmers, possibly a third will file bankruptcy as a result of Trump’s tariff policy. Directly quoted from AOL.com.

The Aug. 28th letter: The fact that the Biden Administration “handed over a strong economy, strongest productivity growth, lowest unemployment since the 60s, households saw

substantial wealth gains...” These were direct quotes from The Center for American Progress, a non-partisan policy institute. Trump’s approval rating of 38%. Quoted directly from the Pew Research Center, non-partisan fact tank.

The Aug. 14th letter addressed significant issues with the EU Energy deal. Tariff costs are borne by consumers, not exporters. Quotes the Congressional Budget Office and Penn’s Wharton School. Data showing PG&E bills and gasoline will add \$500 to \$890 to our bills. Huge exports of petroleum products and gas supplies represent intergenerational

(See MAILBOX, page 6)

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LIVERMORE CALIFORNIA

ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR CITY HISTORIAN

RESIDENTS OF LIVERMORE: The City of Livermore is accepting applications for City Historian. The deadline to apply is Friday, November 14, 2025.

The City Historian’s role is to increase public awareness of the history of the city and community of Livermore. The person appointed to this volunteer position will serve a two-year term. Qualified applicants will have experience presenting local historical information to community groups, teaching courses in local and regional history, or be affiliated with an organization associated with the advancement of the history of Livermore.

SAVE THE DATE! Interviews will be held the evening of December 4, 2025. For more information or to apply, please visit www.livermoreca.gov/AB, call the City Clerk’s office at (925) 960 - 4200, or email: cityclerk@livermoreca.gov.



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On Sept. 9, members of Livermore’s Hindu-American community, including the Hindu Community and Cultural Center-Shiva Vishnu Temple Livermore, Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh Bay Area and Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh USA, visited the Livermore Police Department to celebrate Raksha Bandhan. The department expressed gratitude for the heartfelt prayers and blessings for the safety and well-being of officers and first responders. (Photo courtesy of the Livermore Police Department)

MAILBOX

(Continued from page 5)

theft jeopardizing our energy security. (Source: Energy Policy and Economics eJournal, Vol. 8, Issue 175, “Exporting Inflation: The Domestic Cost of Tariff linked Energy Deals in the United States.”) The Aug. 7th letter addressed corruption in a bipartisan manner. Issues and facts regarding political in-

sider trading were provided by UC San Diego. The July 31st letter addressed Trump’s ambush attempts on Jerome Powell and President Ramaphosa. All quotes are from the public record, factually accurate, easily verified. The July 3rd letter comparing Trump to a crude vulgar mob boss? Yes,

comparing Trump to a mob boss is opinion, but every single Trump quote is a fact, easily verified and quite classless. You want facts? Here are some, courtesy of FOX Business: “U.S. debt tops \$37 trillion and the ‘big, beautiful bill’ allows it to rise trillions higher.”

“The U.S. federal government’s annual budget deficit has widened by \$109 billion so far this fiscal year despite an influx of tariff revenue to the government’s coffers. The CBO is currently estimating that the final budget deficit for fiscal year 2025 will total \$1.9 trillion.” Billionaire investor Ray

Dalio says, “The country’s mounting debt has it trending toward an ‘economic heart attack’.”

Flags at Half-Mast
David Muellenhoff, Livermore

Good on the Mayor and City Council to have the downtown flag at half-mast for the assassination of Charlie Kirk. I drove out of my way to see whether or not it was, because I had my doubts. Thank you.

“Face the Facts”
Lisa Rigge, Pleasanton

I wish to offer David Ott a self-lesson on projection. In his letter titled “Face the Facts” on Sept. 11, 2025, I suggest he try this simple exercise regarding the last paragraph: change the pronouns to first person. But I question whether David would be willing or able to do this for himself, so I will do it for him and for any readers of The Independent who would like to get a taste of how this works (The premise of projection is that one can only project upon others what is already unconscious in oneself.).

Here goes: “For I suffer from Trump Derangement Syndrome; my denial doesn’t change reality. I ignore facts, distort truth and cling to hysteria because admitting success under Trump would shatter my narrative. What a sad way to live my life.”

A second, but also important exercise is to turn on CNN for as many hours a day as he’d have a right-wing TV show or newscast

on. A friend of mine has a husband who would only have Fox News on most hours of the day. When they bought a new home and they were furnishing rooms with TVs, she finally put her foot down. She said they would have Fox News on for three hours, and CNN on for three hours every day. In less than a month, her husband was no longer a fan of Fox News, and he dropped his right-wing rhetoric and registered as a Democrat.

It’s amazing what can happen if we dare listen to ideas, thoughts, beliefs and convictions different from our own. It’s in front of David every day and week. It’s in these weekly letters, on CNN, NPR, CBS, MSNBC, KQED, the Guardian, BBC, NYT, Washington Post and more.

I think there has to be a reason that he keeps writing letters every week (it does get old reading them, but he does deserve some sort of an achievement award for writing so many). My thought is that he’s trying to convince himself of his own projections by continually casting blame (projection) on others, and the only way to expand one’s consciousness (wisdom) is to take an honest look at oneself (via one’s beliefs, biases, projections, ideas, behaviors, etc.) These two little exercises may be a helpful start. And I thank David for this letter. It was a perfect sample to use in demystifying projection.

RANKING

(Continued from front page)

The ROI honors reflect LPC’s ongoing commitment to providing affordable, high-quality education that leads directly to meaningful careers and transfer opportunities, said Chip Woerner, director of marketing and communications at LPC. With annual costs of less than \$5,000 and graduates earning significantly more than peers with only a high school diploma, LPC helps students see both immediate and long-term benefits from their education. The college’s accolades extend further with Niche’s 2026 rankings, which for the second time place LPC as the No. 2 community college in California and No. 4 in the nation among more than 600 two-year institutions. LPC enjoyed the same rankings in 2024, after having been No. 1 in California and sixth nationally in Niche’s 2023 rankings.

Niche is a company that assists individuals in finding information and making informed decisions about educational institutions via data, rankings and student reviews. Its website is Niche.com. “The fact that Las Positas College is recognized for both student return on investment and overall excellence shows that our students aren’t just getting an education — they’re gaining a foundation for long-term success,” said David Powers, math instructor and vice president of the Chabot-Las Positas Faculty Association. “As faculty, we’re honored to play a role in helping them achieve that.” Arya Ferozy, a student at LPC, said the recent rankings are proof of the college’s commitment to excellence. “Seeing LPC ranked among the very best community colleges in California and the nation makes

me proud to be here,” Ferozy said. “It confirms what I’ve experienced: that this is a place where students get real value and real opportunities for the future.” Foster said that LPC’s ongoing recognition underscores its dedication to student success, with consistently high transfer rates to University of California and California State University campuses. The college emphasizes career readiness through strong partnerships with regional employers by preparing students for in-demand jobs. LPC also works to prioritize equity and access by implementing programs designed to serve students from diverse backgrounds and support first-generation college students. “We are proud to serve as a model for what accessible, high-value education can achieve,” Foster added.



The charm of downtown Pleasanton was on full display during a late-summer day on Main Street. (Photo — Leah Silveira)

Community Can Observe STEAM Academy Improvements at Marylin

The Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District will host an open house at the Marylin Avenue STEAM Academy, 800 Marylin Ave., from 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 17, for the community to view \$25 million in facility improvements, including new and renovated classrooms, STEAM labs, research center, and library. Improvements at the mag-

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

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

LOPEZ

(Continued from front page)

day in a long time.” On Sept. 12, community members gathered on the Santa Rita Road overpass above Interstate-580 in Pleasanton to champion Miguel and the Lopez family. Supporters displayed a large banner reading “Bring Home Miguel Lopez” to draw attention to his case and the broader struggles of families living under the threat of deportation. “Deportations like Miguel’s tear families apart and leave students carrying enormous emotional burdens,” said Joanne Morrison, spokesperson for Livermore Advocates for Public Education, the group that organized the event. “Children in mixed-status families live with constant fear that their parents may not be there when they come home from school. That kind of stress makes it harder to focus, to learn and to thrive in the classroom ... This freeway-visibility action highlighted both the urgent need for Miguel Lopez to be reunited with his family and the importance of ensuring safe, inclusive communities where

children can learn without fear.” The journey has been a long one for the family and friends of Miguel since U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents grabbed him in late May during a routine immigration appointment in San Francisco. Miguel, 47, had worked as a welder for more than nine years. The sole supporter of his family, he earned \$44 an hour at Wentle Vineyards for more than nine years. The sole supporter of his family, he earned \$44 an hour at Wentle, but in Mexico City would be fortunate to make \$3 an hour doing the same job, according to Rosa. Miguel has been trying to obtain citizenship since 2007, when he applied to change his status to that of a permanent resident, but his initial request was denied due to a claim made when he was 18 that he was a citizen. In 2012, he was granted a green-card application, but the government appealed it, citing the earlier lie as grounds for ineligibility. A temporary green card granted while the appeal was pending was later revoked. Since then, he has

made several appearances at the immigration office. During one such visit in May, he was detained and deported without notification on June 7 to Mexico. Today, Miguel is living in Mexico City with his father in a neighborhood he says is unsafe and overrun with gangs. He awaits a status hearing on Oct. 8, where his attorney, Saad Ahmed, is hopeful Miguel will be allowed to return to the U.S. “We look forward to successfully completing this case, which is very much alive,” Ahmed said in a recent interview with The Independent. Rosa said she remains grateful to everyone for their continued support. “I am very thankful because it’s been a few months now and people have still not forgotten, and I think God every day for these wonderful people, and that his case is still being heard by the public,” Rosa said. “It gives us so much hope.” A GoFundMe account set up for the family sits at just over \$63,000. To donate, visit bit.ly/3Gxwtfll

DELTA TUNNEL

(Continued from front page)

largest estuary on the West Coast,” Tri-Valley Senator Jerry McNerney said last week. “The tunnel project not only would devastate much of the delta region, but is also unaffordable and unnecessary.” McNerney’s district includes delta communities in addition to the Tri-Valley. Environmental groups, such as the San Francisco Baykeeper, oppose the tunnel, saying the freshwater diversion will accelerate the extinction of native fish and damage ecosystems in the delta, harming the communities there. “These trailer bills bypass normal legislative and public-review processes,” the group wrote previously. “If enacted, they would sideline public input, raise costs for Californians, and undermine

environmental protections to serve the interests of a small group of powerful water agencies.” Although the trailer bill failed, the tunnel project itself continues forward. The Water Board is holding closed-session meetings this month to decide whether it will support the project. The governor hoped to streamline the tunnel project by eliminating certain deadlines from State Water Project water-rights permits. Intended to prevent speculation and water-right stockpiling, permits include construction start and completion deadlines, requiring that projects put the allotted water to beneficial use within a defined period, according to the California Legislative Analyst’s Office. Permit holders must meet

these deadlines or risk use limitations or loss of water rights. Newsom’s proposal would have exempted DWR projects from these deadlines, arguing “that the State Water Project should continue serving Californians’ water needs indefinitely.” In an effort to minimize legal delays, the trailer bill would have also stiffened the timeline for protesting water-right applications or water-right changes, requiring the California State Water Resources Control Board to cancel protests after a certain length of time, a period that currently it sets at its discretion. The change raised equity concerns, as it may have filtered out less-resourced community members from protesting DWR projects.

Developer Holds a Ribbon Cutting for Francis Ranch

Trumark Homes recently held a ribbon-cutting ceremony in Dublin for its Francis Ranch development, which will include nearly 600 homes in six distinct neighborhoods.

“Creating the master-planned community of Francis Ranch and honoring the land’s rich ranching history has been a very inspiring and rewarding journey for our team,” said Tony Bosowski, Northern California Division president for San Ramon-based Trumark Homes.

Bosowski said Francis Ranch would blend “high quality homes and modern

features with the natural surroundings and scenic hillsides, to create an idyllic, one-of-a-kind environment for families and individuals to thrive.”

Trumark Homes said it will build homes in four of the six Francis Ranch neighborhoods, including Marigold, Azure, Orchid and Jasmine.

Marigold will consist of 98 single-family motor court homes with prices starting in the upper \$1 million range, according to Trumark Homes.

Azure will consist of 98 four- and five-bedroom single-family homes, with two-car garages and 5.5

bathrooms, selling in the mid \$2 million range, while the Orchid neighborhood will consist of 101 slightly larger single-family homes with three-car garages, with prices starting in the high \$2 million range.

Trumark homes said the Jasmine community would feature two- and three-story townhouses. The sale price was not announced.

Model homes for the Azure and Orchid neighborhoods are now open.

Single-family homes in the Primrose and Larkspur neighborhoods will be built by Arizona-based Taylor Morrison.



A ribbon-cutting ceremony last week for the opening of Francis Ranch in Dublin was attended by Mayor Sherry Hu, Vice Mayor Kashef Qaadri, Dublin Chamber of Commerce President/CEO Inge Houston, community leaders and Trumark Homes representatives. (Photo — Michael O’Donnell Photography for Trumark Homes)

ASTEROID (Continued from front page)



LLNL scientists, left to right, Jan Render, Quinn Shollenberger and Greg Brenneka analyze material collected from asteroid Benu. (Photo — Garry McLeod/LLNL)

pyroxene and spinel,” according to the paper.

“To me, this is a really fascinating thing, because it really kind of gets down to our origins as a planet and humans,” author and LLNL scientist Greg Brenneka said. “If you’re trying to tell a story about how all the planets formed, in what order, and how the architecture of the solar system was formed, having that starting composition is extremely important. This is a very important sample for that, as well as understanding the building blocks of organic synthesis on the planet.”

Benu, an asteroid about a third of a mile wide at its equator, coalesced from the remnants of a collision involving larger asteroids some 1 billion to 2 billion years ago, according to

NASA. Its orbit brings it close to Earth, coming within 186,000 miles, every six years. In comparison, the moon orbits about 239,000 miles away on average.

“What we consider chemically primordial are basically asteroids that have never been heated too much,” Jan Render, author and LLNL scientist, said. “These asteroids, they just represent cosmic sediments that aggregated early in the solar system’s history, and then never changed considerably.”

Developed by scientists at the University of Arizona, OSIRIS-REx sought to learn from which raw materials the solar system, including life on Earth, formed. The mission’s samples will also help scientists better understand asteroids

that might impact Earth in the future.

Telescope observations of asteroids allow for only a broad level of understanding, while physical samples in a lab enable analysis of chemical and isotropic compositions to a level of precision infeasible with telescopes, Render said.

Just as is the case with meteorites, which are much smaller, typically up to 12 inches in size, asteroids endure drastic heating as they enter the atmosphere and mix with the terrestrial system before scientists can look at them. OSIRIS-REx, however, returned its asteroid sample in a pristine state.

Beyond the Benu samples, Brenneka hopes to at some point analyze the samples from Mars that

have already been collected by the Perseverance Rover, as well as future sample-return missions to a comet.

NASA’s Artemis program, which plans to land humans at the moon’s south pole in 2027, may also yield interesting samples, Render said, as the impacts in that area may have brought to the surface material from deeper within the moon.

Until then, the LLNL team continues to examine the Benu samples.

“This type of stuff is the gift that keeps on giving,” Brenneka said. “You can always find out new stuff as long as you have material to go through in the laboratory. We’re kind of doing the first wave right now, but this type of work will be ongoing for a long, long time.”

Author Will Discuss Walt Disney’s Passion for Trains

Michael Campbell, author of “Walt Disney’s Trains: A Grand Circle Tour through His Life and Legacy,” will discuss his book and sign pre-publication copies at the Livermore Civic Center Library at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 12.

The 148-page book, which documents Walt Disney’s passion for trains, is set to be released on Tuesday, Oct. 14.

Created in collaboration with The Walt Disney Family Museum in San Francisco, the book explores how railroading influenced Disney’s films, theme parks and personal life, and how his love of trains influenced the perception of railroading in America.

Campbell is considered an authority on Disney’s love of trains, having curated exhibits at Disneyland and the state railroad museums of California and Nevada. He also hosts the 10-part You Tube series about Disney’s love of trains, “Once Upon a

Train.”

The book includes images of Disney and model trains from his personal collection, trains from Disney films and theme parks, and those running throughout The Walt Disney Family Museum’s exhibit, “Walt Disney’s Trains.”

The program at the Civic Center Library, 1188 S. Livermore Ave., is free.

Pre-publication copies of Campbell’s book are available through The Walt Disney Family Museum website, waltdisney.org, for \$60, and goes on sale through other outlets on Oct. 14.



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FERTILE (Continued from front page)

was a clever telling of the nonprofit’s origin story that had the audience laughing throughout as the founding members shouted questions and answers back and forth across the outdoor patio.

“Dave, who had been working alongside Chuck, Bruce and Dory, stepped forward and spoke those six beautiful words that every pastor, gardener and visionary wanted to hear,” Ko said.

“I’ll help you with the paperwork,” David shouted out in response. The audience erupted in laughter.

While giving a nod to the past, Ko also spoke at length about the future and announced the creation of the organization’s first endowment.

“Growth is what connects it all,” Ko said. “To strengthen our impact across any of our programs, whether it’s our school gardens, harvest expansion or supporting our dedicated staff, we need sustainability at the core. This endowment does not replace the annual fundraising we still heavily rely on. Think of it as our nest egg, an investment for the next generation of gardeners, learners and changemakers. And it’s how we are going to make sure that Fertile GroundWorks continues to thrive not just today, but for years to come.”

Brenda Kusler, FGW’s executive director, also spoke on the theme of growth.

“We’re working on our next 10,000-foot expansion,” she said. “And you guys, as of June, our ‘garden’ officially became a ‘farm.’ We have a farm registration now. It feels really strange because a garden feels much more community. A farm is maybe not so much community, but we’re not going to change that part of it.”

What they also don’t plan on changing is FGW’s core mission, as laid out by its founders.

“Thanks to these guys for having the ‘teach, grow, give’ mantra that guides us to this day,” Kuster said. “You know, take a moment and think about your own life, where tomorrow morning we’re all going to be able to open our refrigerator and go, ‘Oh, what shall I have for breakfast? What shall I eat today?’” About 10% of our neighbors can’t do that. It makes me want to cry just thinking about it.”

John Bost, executive director of Open Heart Kitchen, spoke on behalf of an organization that has directly benefitted from the generosity of FGW over the years.

“The path we’ve walked together has changed in scale,” Bost said. “We’ve

gone from wheelbarrows to vans to box trucks, from cooking in a hall to filling our new 19,000 square-foot food bank and commercial kitchen at the new Vineyard Resource Center. But the core, the heart, remains the same — good healthy food shared with respect and love. What Fertile Groundworks does is more than just altruism. It is transformative. Teaching someone to grow a tomato isn’t just about the tomato. It’s about self-reliance and pride and roots in the land.”

Joelle Cook, garden director at Joe Michell, who established and actively leads a garden program at the TK-8 school said, “Thank you (FGW) for your support and your vision for getting every elementary-aged child in the garden once a month, and I really hope next year we’re standing here saying that it’s just every child in the garden in our communities.”

Livermore Mayor John Marchand was present with a surprise statement.

“I’m proud to announce the city’s proclamation to become a Monarch (butterfly) Sanctuary City in order to help our native pollinators,” Marchand said. “Sept 13, 2025, is Monarch Pledge Day in the City of Livermore and (the day) encourages all residents to participate in

community activities that support and celebrate monarch conservation.”

“So, imagine, without any politics at all, we’ve become a sanctuary city,” joked MC and auctioneer Jeff Kaskey of Hagemann Ranch.

For more information, visit fertilegroundworks.org.

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Sunol Rep Theater Donates Total Proceeds to Local Arts Education

By Christina Cavallaro

SUNOL — The Sunol Glen School (SGS) library was packed with district representatives, staff and parents for the school’s monthly board meeting on Sept. 9. The small, unincorporated town has only 922 people, and it seemed a healthy number of them were present in the modest reading room that evening.

Topping the agenda was a presentation by the Sunol Repertory Theater (SRT), which is in its 42nd season, coinciding with the 100th anniversary of the historic school that serves kindergarten through 8th grade and was built in 1925.

This year’s SRT production of “Robin Hood and His Merry Men” earned the nonprofit group \$11,000. The thespian troupe donates 100% of its proceeds each year to the Sunol Glen School in support of its arts programming, and has done so since its founding in 1982 by Tom and Vicki Harland. The group is closing in on the \$300,000 donation mark all told.

Shay Galetti, superintendent of Sunol Glen Unified School District and principal at Sunol Glen, thanked the group on behalf of the district.

“It is amazing that year after year you continue to give all proceeds to us,” Galetti said. “We use it especially with our arts program. It all goes back to the students. I think our relationship between SRT and the school is a model relationship of how school and communities can work together to make things better.”

And this is a town that knows all too well what it’s like for a small community to be divided. Last year, a heated school board debate led to a 2-1 decision to ban Pride flags at Sunol Glen, and ultimately to the recall of two board members. Those actions left the close-knit community emotionally reeling and divided for months.

“We know how to fight in this town,” said Mary Conant, a co-producer for this year’s production, along with Robin Spindler.

Spindler added, “It’s nice to see a picture of Sunol in the paper for a wonderful reason like this. We’re really thrilled. The collaboration with the school and the community ... when I started 15 years ago ... there really wasn’t much, and now it’s just so wonderful. It means a lot. The SGS and the SRT collaboration is growing, and may it continue.”

Despite the town’s very real public challenges last year, citizens have collectively always seemed to have a knack for not taking themselves too seriously. They are equally famous for having had a dog, Bosco, as their mayor.

When it came to check-presentation time, actors Peter Grayson and Claire Leick, as Robinhood and Maid Marian, burst onto the scene in full costume, singing and dancing their way into the room hoisting a jumbo-sized check.

Leick momentarily broke character to address the room directly.

“Thank you for letting us



Actors Claire Leick and Peter Grayson surprised participants at a Sunol Glen School board meeting on Sept. 9. Dressed as Robinhood and Maid Marian from this year's Sunol Repertory Theater production of “Robinhood and His Merry Men,” the two donated on behalf of the nonprofit, with all proceeds going to the historic school's arts program.(Photo — Leah Silveira)

serve our community in this way,” she said.

Grayson added, “Yes, thank you very much, and it's an honor for us to be able to present this (check) to you guys.”

SRT’s impact goes beyond the financial gift. The quirky theater group holds

a special place in the hearts of many in the community for other reasons, too.

Chris Bobertz, school board member and co-director with Meredith Sarbora of this year’s production said, “I think the really cool thing for me is that my two oldest boys were in

this play and so getting to direct them, be there with them, yell at them (more than I already do) and just spend that time together was really great for me. I love it. And it’s a good time. I mean, what else is there to say? All the money goes back to Sunol Glen.”

A Popular Pleasanton Fashion Boutique Pop-Up Closes Doors

By Sanestina Hunter

PLEASANTON — PRIMM Boutique, a boho-style clothing store, recently closed its downtown pop-up at 400 Main Street after the city ordered its original location at 520 Main Street to

showed signs of deterioration before the shutdown.

Heather Tiernan, Pleasanton’s communications manager, said Ringman contacted the city in March about possible mold at the property.

“When inspectors ar-

Main Street to address the structural issues, and the city is waiting for the property owner to submit the necessary documentation for repairs. After nearly a year of searching for a new storefront while operating the pop-up downtown, Ringman



Structural concerns in the building at 520 Main Street in Pleasanton have led to PRIMM Boutique owner Marissa Ringman closing her doors and moving the business to Paso Robles. (Photo — Sanestina Hunter)

shut down due to structural concerns.

Owner Marissa Ringman is relocating the business to Paso Robles, a city in San Luis Obispo County. She ran PRIMM at 520 Main Street for 12 years before opening the pop-up as a temporary solution earlier this year.

The 125-year-old building at 520 Main Street, where PRIMM operated,

rived, remediation was already underway and no visible mold remained,” Tiernan said. “During that work, contractors raised concerns about a basement wall, and staff recommended that a civil engineer review the building’s safety before it could be reoccupied.”

Tiernan also told The Independent there has not been any recent movement at 520

said she realized it was time to move to a space that truly inspired her creativity.

In an August Instagram post, she told customers she searched “high and low” throughout the Tri-Valley and the greater Bay Area for the right fit.

“Nothing was truly landing, and I did not want to throw myself into a space that didn’t inspire me and wasn’t going to be my forever home,” she wrote. “I knew it was time for the next chapter.”

Ringman described the move to Paso Robles as both a business and personal decision. She cited the town’s creative energy, family ties to nearby Lake Nacimiento and the opportunity to grow in a new community.

“The past eight months have been tough, but this next chapter feels like the right step forward,” Ringman wrote. “All I ask is that you give my team and me a little grace as we transition — this has been a deeply emotional and difficult decision.”

PRIMM’s departure leaves another vacancy on Main Street and adds to a series of business closures in Pleasanton’s downtown corridor. Main Street Brewery is closing Sept. 21, and Starbucks on Main Street closed in July after announcing it would not renew its lease.

TRI-VALLEY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Friday, Sept. 19

STAND-UP COMEDY DOUBLE BILL

Come to a bold and hilarious night of stand-up comedy, featuring two powerhouse performers sharing the stage. Clara Bijl (SF Punchline, Sirius Radio) brings her sharp, internationally unknown humor and clever storytelling, and Scott Capurro (Alice Radio with Sarah and Vinnie, Mrs. Doubtfire) delivers his signature provocative, no-holds-barred comedy with biting takes on politics, pop culture, race, and gay life. Sept. 19, from 8 to 9:30 p.m., at Gilman Brewing Company, 706 Main St., Pleasanton, \$25. Contact Clara at clarabijl@mac.com or 646-498-4330 for more info.

Saturday, Sept. 20

LIVERMORE JAZZ SOCIETY FUNDRAISER / CONCERT

On Sept. 20, from 6 to 8 p.m., a special fundraising event will be hosted by Livermore Jazz Society Director Chris Carter. It will feature musical entertainment by several LJS directors. If you would like to attend, please email info@livermorejazzsociety.org. Please state that you wish to attend the fundraiser and indicate the number of people in your party. You will receive an invitation with the venue address and other info.

Saturdays, Sept. 20, 27; Oct. 4, 11

VEGETABLE GARDENING FOR BEGINNERS COURSE

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

Sunday, Sept. 21

HOUSE CONCERT: THE SYLVIA HEROLD ENSEMBLE

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

Sept. 25; Oct. 2, 9, 16, 23

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 Barbara at 925-846-3904.

Thursday, Sept. 25

925 GIVES

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

Saturday, Sept. 27

MASTERCLASS/CONCERT WITH VIOLINIST ARIANA KIM

Grammy-nominated violinist and Cornell University professor Ariana Kim will visit the Tri-Valley to work with young musicians from the NorCal Symphony Orchestra. On Sept. 26, Friday night, she will work with orchestra students in a rehearsal and give a public masterclass at 9:30 a.m. on September 27 with four pre-selected young violinists from Bay Area at Lynwood United Methodist Church in Pleasanton. Later, on Saturday, Sept. 27 at 7 p.m., Ariana will perform a concert at the same venue, featuring a program half solo and half with the Bay Area-based Resonance Quartet. See calmusicinstitute.com/master-class/ for more info.

POPS ON THE GREEN

Enjoy POPS on the Green with the Livermore-Amador Symphony and Element 116 youth jazz band, Sept. 27 from 3 to 4 p.m., on the lawn at the Bankhead Theater, 2400 First Street, Livermore, with FREE, fun, family-friendly music for everyone! Hear a variety of music, from Mission Impossible to the Music Man! Bring your family and friends and a picnic basket, blanket or lawn chairs. Costumes welcomed. See LivermoreAmadorSymphony.org/pops.html.

Sunday, Sept. 28

1900'S INNOVATION EXPO

Take a step back in time to the early 1900s on Sept. 28 from 1-5 p.m. at Hagemann Ranch, 455 Olivina Ave. Livermore. Win prizes at the scavenger hunt. Explore the old farm equipment and ponder the mystery objects. Joey T and Friends band will be performing, and The Amazing Cervantes will do two magic shows. Tri Valley Woodcarvers will be displaying their art, and Good News Bears are joining. Busy Buzzy Bots will have STEM projects for sale. Free and always family friendly.

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.

CANTABELLA CHILDREN'S CHORUS

The chorus needs a volunteer bookkeeper to post income and expenses using QuickBooks. Approximately 8 hours/month from home. Volunteers are also welcome to join the fundraising team. Please contact president@cantabella.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.

WINGS- WOMEN IN GOD'S SPIRIT

WINGS, Women in God’s Spirit, is a faith enrichment group of intergenerational Catholic women who meet October thru May on Thursday mornings at 9:30 a.m. at St. Charles Borromeo, 1315 Lomitas Ave., Livermore. The WINGS 2025-2026 season begins Oct. 2. Enjoy a variety of speaker presentations, small group discussion, fellowship and more. All are welcome! For information, see www.stcharleslivermore.org/wings.

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



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Pleasanton Chamber To Host Mayors

The Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce will host the annual Tri-Valley Mayors’ Summit luncheon, with an opportunity to hear directly from the mayors of all five Tri-Valley cities, at Ruby Hill Winery on Wednesday, October 15.

Mayors John Marchand from Livermore, Jack Balch from Pleasanton, Sherry Hu from Dublin, Renee Morgan from Danville and Mark Armstrong from San Ramon are expected to attend, with 16th District Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan

serving as moderator for the discussion.

The two-hour program at the Ruby Hill Winery’s Casa Real event center, 410 Vineyard Ave., Pleasanton, begins at 11:30 a.m. and is open to the public.

To register, go to [tinyurl.com/2u3xcnn6](#). The cost is \$85 per person.

The annual event is sponsored by the Tri-Valley Chamber of Commerce Alliance, representing the Danville Area, Dublin, Livermore Valley, Pleasanton and San Ramon Chambers of Commerce.

Naturalist Giving Talk on Morgan Territory

Ashley Grenier, supervising naturalist for the East Bay Regional Parks District, will give a “Then and Now” presentation on the Morgan Territory Regional Preserve at the Livermore Civic Center Library, 1188 S.

Livermore Ave., at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 15.

The 5,323-acre preserve is named for Jeremiah Morgan, a former California gold miner from Tennessee who began ranching the area in 1857.

Known for its more than

90 species of wildflowers, the hill area was also part of the traditional homeland of the Volvon, a subset of the Bay Miwuk native Americans who lived in the East Bay region.

Then and Now: Liver-

more Stories is a local history lecture series sponsored by the Livermore Public Library and the Livermore Heritage Guild.

The presentation is free, and registration is not required.

Beth Emek Offers Beginning Hebrew Class

Congregation Beth Emek in Pleasanton is offering a year-long class, "Beginning Hebrew for Adults," designed to teach how to read and pronounce Hebrew.

The class is designed to provide adults the skills to confidently read from a Hebrew prayer book and is being taught by Janet Elis Milder.

“Hebrew is a remarkably

consistent language with 22 consonants and about a half-dozen vowel signs,” said Congregation Beth Emek Rabbi Laurence Milder. “It is fun to read, and anyone can master it.”

The class meets in-person at the synagogue, 3400 Nevada Court, on Sundays from 11:00 a.m. to noon.

For more information, call 925-931-1055.

Dublin Senior Center Holding Info Fair

The Dublin Senior Center, 7600 Amador Valley Blvd., will hold its annual Senior Info Fair from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Oct. 4.

The event will include information booths hosted by local agencies and service providers; free health screenings and wellness resources; demonstrations, presentations and giveaways; and opportunities to connect with clubs, volunteer groups and activities at the Senior Center.

Wheels Bus Service Marks Transit Month

As part of its Transit Month celebration, Wheels, the bus service operated by the Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority (LAVTA), will present awards to rider-nominated “Transit Heroes” at a Rider First Awards Party on Friday, Oct. 10.

Sponsored by San Francisco Transit Riders and Seamless Bay Area, an advocacy group, the Riders First Awards Party will be held at the Bay Area Metro Center in San Francisco.

Nominees for the awards can be individuals involved in providing transit services, such as drivers or station attendants, advocates for public transit, or projects that have made transit better in some way.

To submit a nomination, go to [tinyurl.com/3uheup69](#). The deadline for nominations is Sunday, Sept. 28.

For a list of other Bay Area Transit Month events, go to [luma.com/transitmonth2025](#).

OBITUARIES

Peggy Boerger April 7, 1933 — Aug. 26, 2025



Our beloved mother, Peggy Boerger died on Aug. 26, 2025, at the age of 90, following a long and happy life. She was born on April 7, 1933, to Harry and Kathryn Keay, in Hammond, Indiana. Family legend has it she was to be called Peggy, but the Mother Superior Nurse was not having a baby christened such a casual name on her watch. Our grandmother was ready to leave the hospital with Baby Girl Keay, but “Margaret Ann”, a tribute to their mothers Margarite Moran Keay and Anna O’Rourke Moore, was agreed to with the promise she would always be their Peggy.

Her childhood was spent in Calumet City, Illinois, during the Great Depression and World War II. She and brother Harry Jr. told stories of scrap collecting and victory gardens, listening to radio programs at night, and adventures with their Keay and Moore cousins.

Peggy attended St. Victor’s Catholic School where she participated in cheerleading, baton twirling, and was crowned Queen of the May during her 8th grade year. She attended Bishop Nol High School in Indiana, graduating in 1953. She planned to be a Wolverine at University of Michigan, but her dad did not want her so far away. Instead, she enrolled in Loyola University, taking the train into Chicago every day.

That decision was possibly the most consequential of her life. She was invited to use her baton twirling skills to lead Loyola’s ROTC Drill Team on the occasion of Chicago’s Columbus Day Parade. That day, she met a troop of handsome young men, but only one (that we know of) went home that night and told his mother he had met the girl he was going to marry. That man, Richard Boerger, was successful, and Richard and Peggy were married on Sept. 17, 1955, at St. Victor’s. They settled in Chicago and started a family, beginning with daughter Barbara Anne and son Richard Edward Jr. A move to Park Forest in the suburbs introduced son Thomas Christopher. Then daughter Judith Keay and son David Paul came home to the first purchased home in nearby Matteson. Peggy worked for the John Hancock Company prior to and during her first pregnancy, and in a different era might have become an executive, but she took motherhood seriously, always making time for volunteer efforts, like the St. James Hospital Ladies Auxiliary, which gave her the opportunity to wear fashionable suits and dresses for luncheons and galas.

As both Peggy and Richard were tired of mid-western winters, California beckoned and they answered, moving to Simi Valley in 1967. Peggy had picked out a lovely two-story home with Spanish style arches from a real estate ad. She was not prepared for the stark beige stucco edifice plopped on a bed of dried, caked mud, and after three days on a train with five children and her mother, she sobbed. We spent a few days at the Burbank Holiday Inn, waiting for our furniture to arrive, and emotions to subside. Upon settling in, Peggy found her groove volunteering and leading the Sycamore Elementary School PTA for many years, and helping us be successful in our sports, music lessons, and other creative endeavors. She stepped out of her status as a primarily Stay-at-Home-Mom, working at Sequoia Junior High in the library and lunch room.

In 1976, Richard was transferred to San Francisco, and the family relocated to Livermore. Only three children remained at home, so Peggy was able to take on full-time employment, starting first in the office of Dr. Joseph Mauritzen. She added part-time work at the Livermore Library, which eventually became fulltime, until her retirement at the age of 70. Peggy’s one regret was not having completed a college degree, and she was proud of having worked for so many years in a position that usually required one, but was waived due to her experience and competence.

Peggy and Richard, with their children all grown or nearly so, started going on adventures and having good times. They became annual visitors to Hawaii, and frequented the California coast and Reno, Nevada. They were happy to travel up and down the state or across country to attend the events

of their children and grandchildren. Despite Peggy’s first battle with breast cancer, they were able to go to Italy for a tour of cathedrals with a group from St. Michael’s. Peggy conquered breast cancer twice in her lifetime, and continued to contribute her time and energy to St. Michael’s for many years as the coordinator of Eucharistic Ministry.

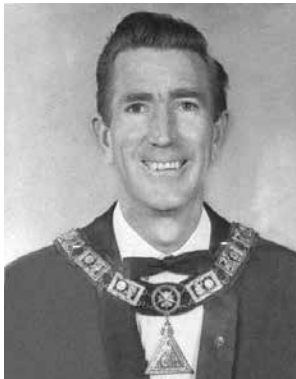
Peggy was preceded in death by her husband, Richard, in 2014. Additionally, by her son Richard Jr. in 2025, brother Harry Jr., granddaughter Emily, daughter-in-law Julie, son-in-law Steve, and her parents, as well as extended family including her in-laws, Cletus and Helen Boerger, sisters-in-law, Dorothy Boerger and Carol, her husband Paul, and their son, nephew Timothy Marti.

Peggy is survived by her children Barbara, Tom, Judi (Oscar), and David (Peggy). She will be missed by her grandchildren James Parmenter (Katy), Daniel and Michael Hackett, Samantha Gaytan (Samuel), Tiffany Lomeli (Ben), Amanda Memon (Ishaq), Richard III “Sharkey”, Sara Marquez Bradley (Michael), and Melinda, James, and Isabelle Bridgford, as well as niece and nephews Susie Ries, Paul, Peter, and Tony Marti, and their spouses and children. She also leaves behind great-grandchildren, Aurora, Gemma, and Julian Hackett, Harper Lomeli, Emmie Chavira, Ehsan Memon, as well as many dear friends from the St. Michael’s Parish community.

There will be a vigil at St. Michael’s Catholic Church on Thursday, Sept. 25 from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m., with rosary at 7:10. The funeral mass, also at St. Michael’s, will be at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, Sept. 26, followed by burial at 12:30 p.m. at the St. Michael’s Cemetery on East Avenue in Livermore. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation in Peggy’s memory to a local charity whose works directly benefit a local community such as a food bank or shelter facility.

The family would like to thank the staff at Rosewood Gardens in Livermore for the warm and loving care they provided our mom in her last years. Dementia is a cruel disease, but our mom remained pleasant and told us many tales of the interior life she was leading. May her memory forever be a blessing.

Doran Burrow, 89 July 12, 1936 — Aug. 14, 2025



Doran Burrow, 89, of Livermore, California, passed away peacefully on Aug. 14, 2025. He was born on July 12, 1936, in Arkansas, to Etta Louise and Leonard Burrow.

Doran is survived by his wife, Cynthia Burrow; his children, Timothy Burrow, Ty Burrow, and Tiffany Loushin; and his cherished grandchildren, Veronica Adams, Mikayla Burrow, Vivian Loushin, and Logan Loushin. He was preceded in death by his parents and his brothers, Mervin and Calvin Burrow.

A devoted family man and community member, Doran spent his life serving others and staying active in the

touched many lives.

A memorial service to celebrate Doran’s life will be held on Sept. 27 at 2:00 p.m. at the Elks Lodge in Livermore. Friends and family are warmly invited to attend and share memories.

Doran will be deeply missed and fondly remembered for his kindness, sense of humor, and unwavering commitment to his family and community.

Callaghan Mortuary is honored to be serving the Burrow family. An online guestbook is available for condolences at [www.callaghanmortuary.com](#).

Robert (Bob) Tranzillo Oct. 4, 1944 — Aug. 20, 2025



Robert (Bob) Tranzillo passed away peacefully Aug. 20, 2025. Bob was born on Oct. 4, 1944, in Brooklyn, New York, where he lived until joining the Navy. During his eight years of service, Bob traveled the world and saw combat in Vietnam. While in the Navy, he met his wife of almost 56 years, Marilyn, while stationed at Treasure Island. They married on Dec. 24, 1969, and had two children, Kat Tranzillo and Tiffin Leach (née Tranzillo). He is survived by his wife, two daughters, and grandchildren, Jena and Ashleigh Cisek, as well as his future son-in-law, John Busse, step-grandchild Payton Busse, and his grand-

dog, Ace. Bob spent 42 years working at AT&T before retiring in 2012. In his healthier years, he enjoyed camping, fishing, hunting, and golf. He also loved flying model

airplanes and tinkering in his garage with woodworking, his tools, and various projects. He could build or fix just about anything. Bob was as loyal as they come. His family was his world, and he would do anything for them, even offering a hand in the last weeks of his life. Bob passed away peacefully with his family by his side. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to St. Jude’s Children’s Hospital.

Callaghan Mortuary is honored to be serving the Tranzillo family. An online guestbook is available for condolences at [www.callaghanmortuary.com](#).

Carroll Sherman Potter Resident of Pleasanton Nov. 3, 1932 — Aug. 30, 2025



Carroll Sherman Potter passed away peacefully on Aug. 30, 2025, surrounded by his loving family. He was born on Nov. 03, 1932, in Lansing, Michigan, to parents Lyman and Madeline Potter. Carroll was preceded in death by his siblings: Jack, Gladys Mae, Sharlene, and infant grandson Christian. He is survived by his devoted youngest sister, Joyce.

Carroll was gifted with an analytical mind; academic concepts came easy, propelling him to class Valedictorian at Little Rock Tech High School, and onward throughout his professional management career at General Motors. This allowed him freedom to retire young and later start a successful business, which earned Pleasanton’s first ‘Spirit of Free Enterprise’ award. Carroll proudly served his country in both the National Guard and Army. His personal innate values were rooted in integrity, honesty, devotion and striving to do a good job

no matter what the task. He impressed such attributes and high work standards through his actions, inscribing them upon the hearts of his loved family: Patricia, his wife of 69 happy and devoted years, his children: Kenny, Cindy and Ronny, and his daughters-in-law: Barbara and Karen Potter. Carroll, early on, began solidifying strong family bonds with frequent vacations in the Aristocrat family trailer, family airline trips, and various power boating excursions. His passion for boats led him further into serving

as a past Commodore of the Diablo Yacht Club. Boaters socializing in their berths and cruising in general was a favored past time. The boat cruising later graduated into 18 ocean liner cruises, the first being a gift presented at his surprise 60th birthday party from his wife, Patricia, the love of his life.

Carroll’s legacy continues through his grandchildren: Sarah, Darri, Douglas, Devene, Jake with his wife Tricia, and Austin; and in his great grandchildren: Malachi and Lainey Mae.

Carroll, a good man, will forever be remembered for his Christian values, overall decency and love of family, while leading with a gentle kind strength. What a blessing he was while he walked amongst us on Earth! How heaven must be rejoicing that he is home!

The Memorial Service of Carroll’s life will be held on Sept. 20 at Graham-Hitch Mortuary Chapel in Pleasanton, CA, at 1:00 p.m.

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Edna Washburn May 30, 1948 — Aug. 22, 2025



Edna (Fagundes) Washburn passed away peacefully on Aug. 22, 2025. She was born on May 30, 1948, in Livermore, California, where she attended local schools and proudly graduated as part of Granada High School’s first class in 1966.

Edna was known for her warmth, strength, and unwavering love for her family. She cherished her work at Walmart, where she loved connecting with her customers and brightening their days with her kindness.

band, Glenn; and her sister, Barbara. She is survived by her twin sister, Ann (Bob) Wolfe; her sister, Joann (John) LaBrie; her daughters, Rebecca and Doni; eight grandchildren; and eighteen great-grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, Oct. 4, 2025, from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. at Eagles Hall in Livermore, where family and friends are invited to gather in celebration of her life.

Edna will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved her.

Deep Threat Harper Hauling in Some Big Numbers for Livermore

Undefeated, High-Scoring Cowboys Seek Fourth Consecutive Victory This Week in Home Matchup Against Arroyo-San Lorenzo

By Mitch Stephens

LIVERMORE — Livermore High School football coach John Wade describes wide receiver CT Harper as a quiet teen with a good work ethic and sense of humor. The CT stands for Chad Thomas, but many call him by his initials.

By nature, and name, he is understated.

“He doesn’t talk much about himself or ask to get the ball,” Wade said. “He’s just really down to earth.”

Unless the football is up for grabs.

Then the 6-foot-4, 185-pound senior is well above the earth, utilizing his length, speed and leaping ability to go over defenders to make tough 50-50 catches over largely defenseless defensive backs.

“He can really get after it,” Wade said. “He’s been good since he came into the program four years ago, but he’s really been phenomenal this year. He’s running by people, running through them and then jumping over guys, catching all balls at their highest point.”

He’s a big reason the Cowboys are off to a 3-0 start heading into a 7:15 p.m. home game against Arroyo-San Lorenzo (1-1) on Sept. 19. They’ve scored at least 30 points in every game, and outscored opponents 124-53 overall.

Harper had four catches for 67 yards, including a key 49-yard touchdown grab

near the end of the first half, in last week’s 43-7 win at Gregori-Modesto, giving him 11 catches for 298 yards — a whopping 27.1-yard average per reception — and two touchdowns this season.

Last week, Lortie was 19 of 24 for 204 yards and three touchdowns and he rushed for another, giving him five rushing scores this season. His top target was Luke Mederos (nine catch-

zone and that the team can attack from different angles. But Harper is the one who takes top flight, literally and figuratively.

That’s why late in the first half near midfield, Lortie

and younger brother, Tice, are also very athletic, Wade said.

“We needed a big play at the end of the half, and we just had him run a deep post,” Wade said. “Matteo put it out there. The cover-

each been three-year starters, but they are close friends off the field. That bond has been built through hard work, endless workouts and constant route-running.

“It’s pretty rare in high school to see a connection like they have,” Wade said. “It definitely carries over to the field. They have a keen sense of where the other is and where they are going. It’s very instinctive.”

Though Harper has yet to receive a Division I college offer, Wade strongly believes Harper can play at that level. The same goes for Lortie and Carey, another third-year starter.

“(Harper) isn’t going to win the state 100 meters, but he’s fast enough,” Wade said, noting that Harper ran past one of the fastest teams Livermore has faced in recent years during a 30-27 home win over visiting Sacramento on Sept. 5.

Harper had three catches for 91 yards the same night the Cowboys received touchdown catches from Carey and sophomore Chad Boskie, as well as 130 yards rushing from senior tailback Mason Peters.

“CT is one of several guys I think can play at the next level,” Wade said. “But all of them are bought in for the here and now. They’ve all worked incredibly hard in the offseason and that’s why we’ve had this success up to now and why we think we’ll get even better.”



Livermore senior receiver CT Harper is averaging 27.1 yards on 11 receptions this season for the Cowboys, who take a 3-0 record into this week’s game against Arroyo-San Lorenzo. (Photo courtesy of Livermore-Granada Boosters)

He’s the deep, big-play threat on a team filled with weapons at the disposal of senior quarterback and third-year starter Matteo Lortie, who has completed 48 of 67 passes for 777 yards and seven touchdowns.

es, 90 yards) and though AJ Carey had just two catches for 21 yards, he returned the second-half kickoff 99 yards for a score, and also added an interception.

Wade loves that six different Cowboys found the end

went to the two-sport stand-out, who starts on the basketball team and is also a former soccer star. His father, Chad, played four years of soccer at San Jose State and is the former girls coach at Livermore. His sister, Rebecca,

age was good, but CT stole it right from the guy. It was a phenomenal catch. He’s going to win almost every 50-50 ball.”

The connection between Lortie and Harper is special because they’ve not only



Gaels’ Girls Rockin’

By Mitch Stephens

DUBLIN — The resurgence in Dublin High School football isn’t relegated to the game sporting shoulder pads and chin straps.

The girls flag football squad for the Gaels, under third-year coach Nakisha Harris and four assistants, entered the week having won seven of its first 10 games this season, and on a three-game winning streak.

Dublin travels to Oakland Tech for a non-league game on Sept. 18, then hosts Freedom-Oakley on Sept. 22. The East Bay Athletic League season continues Sept. 23 as Dublin travels to Amador Valley (7-3), Livermore (4-5) hosts Foothill (5-4) and Granada (8-4) visits California-San Ramon (6-0). All games are scheduled at 7:30 p.m.

Coming off a 1-20 campaign that included a 0-8 mark in EBAL play, the Gaels have vastly improved in all departments, but especially on defense. They allow just 11.5 points per game and have registered two shutouts while scoring at a 21.3-point clip.

Last season, Dublin was outscored 619-245.

The Gaels have turned it around thanks to several players, including highly versatile sophomore Taylor Sullivan, who in the team’s first seven games was the leader in receiving yards (441), touchdowns (10) and interceptions (five). She also ranked second in rushing and also spent time at quarterback, completing 26 of 38 passes for 343 yards and three scores.

Another sophomore, Rayn Hazen, led the team through seven games in rushing yards (256) and receptions (23), while senior quarterback Samantha Botell had thrown for 770 yards and 12 touchdowns. Sophomore Jessica Verdier led the team in tackles (27) and juniors Kiren Shergill and Lyla Salemi shared the lead in sacks with four each.

“Our flag football team has been a pleasant surprise this season,” first-year Dublin athletic director Kristy Prasad said. “With the sport only in its third year in the state — and us coming off a challenging year — it’s been exciting to see both the team and the game continue to grow.”

Prasad has seen the ebbs and flows of high school teams and athletes for more than two decades while teaching and coaching at Hayward High School for 23 years.

She was the school’s athletic director the past 13 years before taking over in June for longtime Dublin athletic director Tim Sbranti, who took an executive director job for the Contra Costa Building and Construction Trades Council.

“The girls are learning how to win, understanding that success is a process, and they’re handling both victories and setbacks with resilience,” Prasad said.

“Week by week, they’re getting better, and it’s been a joy to witness their progress.”

Cross country: Foothill sophomore Macy Mullins and Dublin junior Jeremy Imbo were winners Sept. 13 at the 40th running of the Ed Sias Invitational at Hidden Valley Park in Martinez. ... Mullins won the large-school 2-mile girls race, covering the hilly course in 12 minutes, 10 seconds, well ahead of runner-up Dakota Saenz of Berkeley (12:29.8). Other Tri-Valley top-10 finishers were Granada junior Taylor Conover (fifth, 13:03.4), Dublin sophomore Isabella Geraghty (sixth, 13:05.70) and Foothill freshman Aubrey Liu (ninth, 13:26). Foothill (101) placed second to Berkeley (81) in the team standings, while Dublin (211) was 10th.... In the boys race, Imbo edged teammate Justin Feng, a senior, 10:21.2 to 10:24.3 to win the race and lead the Gaels (50) to a team title, just edging Granada (53). Other Tri-Valley top 10 finishers were Granada senior Nicolai Barron (fourth, 10:28.7) and teammate Matthew Bertrand (sixth, 10:31.6), along with Foothill junior Connor Buscho (seventh, 10:32.4). ... Most of the top Tri-Valley boys and girls runners will compete Sept. 20 at the De La Salle Nike Invitational at Newhall Community Park in Concord.

Tackle football: The nonleague schedule continues Sept. 19, with Livermore (3-0) the only Tri-Valley team playing at home, against Arroyo-San Lorenzo (1-1). ... Amador Valley (0-3) travels to Liberty-Brentwood (2-1), Foothill (2-1) visits San Leandro (3-0), Dublin (2-1) is at Windsor (3-0) and Granada (1-2) ventures to Berkeley (0-3). ... Dublin is coming off a 20-7 win at Heritage-Brentwood as junior quarterback Lincoln Trias completed 14 of 19 passes for 252 yards and a touchdown. For the second straight game, senior tailback Andre Armendariz surpassed the century mark in both rushing (23 carries, 102 yards, two touchdowns) and receiving (seven receptions, 143 yards). Sophomore linebacker Thunder Hazen led the Gaels with 13 tackles. ... After a humbling 49-23, season-opening defeat at Monte Vista-Danville, coach Greg Haubner’s Foothill squad won its second straight in decisive fashion with a 55-14 home victory over Kennedy-Fremont on Sept. 12. ... Down 33-8 in the third quarter to Downey-Modesto (2-2), Amador Valley made a gallant comeback on two touchdowns by Vince Maiorana and one from Anthony Harrington but ultimately lost, 40-28. ... Granada continues to struggle offensively after losing a tough 14-10 home contest to San Leandro last week. The Matadors have mustered just 31 points.

Have high school varsity sports news of note? A good human interest story? Email MitchMash at mitchstephens44@gmail.com.

Dublin Holds Creek Cleanup Day

Dublin will hold its annual Creek Cleanup Day from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Sept. 20.

City staff and volunteers will be concentrating on three locations: Dublin Creek along Regional Street, Creek Channel at Dublin Boulevard and Interstate 680, and Tassajara Creek at Emerald Glen Park. Volunteers can register at

dublin.ca.gov/2623/Creek-Cleanup-Day.

Dublin’s Creek Cleanup Day coincides with International Coastal Cleanup Day and is part of California Coastal Cleanup Day, considered the largest volunteer event in the United States.

Registered volunteers will receive more detailed information prior to the event.

Tools for the creek cleanup will be provided by the city, but volunteers should wear closed-toed shoes, long pants and a hat, and bring their own work gloves. Reusable water bottle and sunscreen.

For more information, contact the Dublin Environmental Services Department at 925-833-6630, or e-mail ES@dublin.ca.gov.



Wildlife inhabitants along the Marilyn Murphy Kane Trail in Pleasanton blend in to their surroundings quite nicely. (Photo — Leah Silveira)

EBRPD Holding Cleanup at Del Valle Park

The East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) will participate in the annual California Coastal Cleanup Day on Saturday, Sept. 20, at 11 sites, including the Visitors Center and Fiesta Grande picnic area at Del Valle Regional Park in Livermore.

District staff and volunteers will be picking up trash from 9 a.m. to noon.

Volunteers can register at ebpparks.org, although registration is not required.

Volunteers under 18 must have signed permission from an adult guardian. Those under 13 must be accompanied by an adult.

EBRPD will provide trash bags, although volunteers are urged to bring water bottles, gloves, and sun protection.

The district will also be conducting cleanups at Big Break Regional Shoreline, Contra Loma Regional Park, Crown Memorial State Beach, Hayward Regional Shoreline, Radke Martinez Regional Shoreline, Martin Luther King Jr. Regional Shoreline, Point Isabel Regional Shoreline, Point Pinole Regional Shoreline and Quarry Lakes Regional Recreation Area.

Last year, volunteers picked up an estimated 8,000

pounds at EBRPD sites.

Volunteers who find odd or interesting trash will receive an EBRPD cooling towel.

The district has also added a twist to its Trashure

Hunt this year: A golden trash grabber will be hidden at each cleanup site that can be turned up for a prize.

Call 510-544-2229 for more information.



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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 616864

The following person(s) doing business as: Topology Drone Solutions, 2241 San Antonio Avenue, APT C, Alameda, CA 94501 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): The Reynolds Sales Company LLC, 2241 San Antonio Avenue, APT C, Alameda, CA 94501. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Nelson Reynolds, Officer. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 14, 2025. Expires August 13, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6529. Published August 28, September 4, 11, 18, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 617017

The following person(s) doing business as: Cafe Massawa, 5501 Shattuck Ave, Oakland, CA 94609 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Simon Beyen, 5501 Shattuck Ave, Oakland, CA 94609. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 8/19/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Simon Beyen, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 19, 2025. Expires August 18, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6530. Published August 28, September 4, 11, 18, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 617092

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Awakening Skin Care; 2. Awakening Minreal Skin Care, 3143 Independence Dr., Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Olim Industries of Israel — North America, LTD, 3143 Independen Dr., Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Richard Burroughs, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 21, 2025. Expires August 20, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6531. Published August 28, September 4, 11, 18, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 617060

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

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 617052

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

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 616735

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

Published August 28, September 4, 11, 18, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 617015

The following person(s) doing business as: Lynx Agricultural Solutions, 5281 Southfront RD, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Lynx Equipment Rentals LLC, 20269 Mack ST, Hayward, CA 94545, CA 94545. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Roderick Fussell, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 19, 2025. Expires August 18, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6535. Published August 28, September 4, 11, 18, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 616964

The following person(s) doing business as: Moussauto, 1328 Fitzgerald ST, Emeryville, CA 94608 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Meseret Maascio, 4900 Shattuck Ave, Oakland, CA 94609. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 8/16/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Meseret Maascio, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 17, 2025. Expires August 18, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6536. Published August 28, September 4, 11, 18, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 616720

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

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 617090

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

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 617190

The following person(s) doing business as: Overtone, 11843 Bloomington Way, Dublin, CA 94568 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Overtone Collective LLC, 11843 Bloomington Way, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 8/26/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Mathew Aaron Sait,

Managing Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 26, 2025. Expires August 25, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6539. Published September 4, 11, 18, 25, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 616364

The following person(s) doing business as: Golden State Fresh, 325 Franklin Street STE B, Oakland, CA 94607 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Golden State Fresh Inc., 325 Franklin Street STE B, Oakland, CA 94607. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 1/27/2021. Signature of Registrant/s/: Najib Awnallah, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 23, 2025. Expires July 22, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6540. Published September 4, 11, 18, 25, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 617141

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

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 617237

The following person(s) doing business as: Driveza, 4047 1st ST, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Driveza LLC, 4047 1st ST, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 8/26/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Anulsenthikumar Shanmugam, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 27, 2025. Expires August 26, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6542. Published September 11, 18, 25, October 2, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 617253

The following person(s) doing business as: Cooker & Cooler, 21335 Cabot Blvd, Hayward, CA 94545 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Restaurantvan Inc., 21335 Cabot Blvd, Hayward, CA 94545. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 10/18/2022. Signature of Registrant/s/: Dongchen Geng, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 27, 2025. Expires August 26, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6543. Published September 11, 18, 25, October 2, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 617358

The following person(s) doing business as: Sol Investigative Agency, 205 Puddingstone Rd, Alameda, CA 94502 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Natasha Lopez, 205 Puddingstone Rd, Alameda, CA 94502. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A.

Signature of Registrant/s/: Natasha Lopez, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 3, 2025. Expires September 2, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6544. Published September 11, 18, 25, October 2, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 617182

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

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 617245

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

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 617405

The following person(s) doing business as: Meza N. Moka, 1116 East Stanley Blvd, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Nasnoor Enterprises LLC, 1116 East Stanley Blvd, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 9/3/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Abdelmounaim Fars, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 4, 2025. Expires September 3, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6547. Published September 11, 18, 25, October 2, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 617377

The following person(s) doing business as: Moment.us Bay Area, 35111F Newark Blvd, Unit 2042, Newark, CA 94560 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Under Quiet Light, 35111F Newark Blvd, Unit 2042, Newark, CA 94560. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Charlene Granadosin, Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 3, 2025. Expires September 2, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6548. Published September 11, 18, 25, October 2, 2025.

LEGAL NOTICE

Case No. 24AD00093

NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION TO DETERMINE NON-EXISTENCE OF FATHER AND CHILD RELATIONSHIP PURSUANT TO FAMILY CODE SECTION 7630 To: **WARD ALLEN KECK** and to all persons claiming to be the father of Baby Girl Keller a.k.a. Baby Girl Edmonds a.k.a. Nova Rae Edmonds a.k.a. Ocean

Nova Cardenas born to Danielle Ciera Keller on May 24, 2024, in San Francisco, California. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Petitioner Micha Maya Cardenas has filed a Petition to Determine the Non-Existence of the Father and Child Relationship which has been set for a hearing at 8:30 a.m. on the 17th day of November, 2025 at the Courtroom of Department 125 of the Superior Court of California, County of Sacramento, located at 3341 Power Inn Road, Sacramento, California 95826. Should you claim to be the biological father of said child or that your consent to the adoption of said child is necessary, you should appear then and there to show cause, if any you have, why the Court should not declare the non-existence of the father and child relationship or why such child should not be adopted without your consent. The Independent, Legal No. 6549. Published September 18, 25, October 2, 9, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 617357

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Ickmon Group; 2. Puzzywuzzi; 3. The Boba Hunter; 4. The Wonton Hunter; 5. N3meis.com; 6. Intuitive Percussion, 30701 Knight Court, Union City, CA 94587 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Richard Wong, 30701 Knight Court, Union City, CA 94587. 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: 10/1/2020. Signature of Registrant/s/: Richard Wong, Director. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 3, 2025. Expires September 2, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6550. Published September 18, 25, October 2, 9, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 617003

The following person(s) doing business as: Valhalla Fitness Center, 271 Fennel Way, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): VFP Enterprise LLC, 271 Fennel Way, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 8/18/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Corner Stockett, Manager. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 19, 2025. Expires August 18, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6551. Published September 18, 25, October 2, 9, 2025.

October 2, 9, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 617332

The following person(s) doing business as: Discover Landscaping, 15568 Tesla Rd, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Luis Ruiz, PO Box 2072, Livermore, CA 94551; Maria Ruiz, PO Box 2072, Livermore, CA 94551. 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: 9/1/1998. Signature of Registrant/s/: Maria Ruiz, Co-Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 2, 2025. Expires September 1, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6552. Published September 18, 25, October 2, 9, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 617469

The following person(s) doing business as: KAP Agro Products, 636 Enterprise CT, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): KAP Organic Agro LLC, 636 Enterprise CT, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Ajay Pahwa, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 9, 2025. Expires September 8, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6553. Published September 18, 25, October 2, 9, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 617476

The following person(s) doing business as: Jwalkin, 3923 Pestana Way, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Janet Brandi, 3923 Pestana Way, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 9/4/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Janet Brandi. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 9, 2025. Expires September 8, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6554. Published September 18, 25, October 2, 9, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 617483

The following person(s) doing

business as: Ma Chiropractic, 4200 East Ave, Unit B, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Christopher Ma, 5239 Peacock Hill Drive, Castro Valley, CA 94552. 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/: Christopher Ma, Chiropractor. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 9, 2025. Expires September 8, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6555. Published September 18, 25, October 2, 9, 2025.

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME ORIGINAL FILE NO. 596851

The person(s) listed below have abandoned the use of the following fictitious business name(s). Rodriguez Solutions, 5508 San Pablo Ave #5, Oakland, CA 94608. Registered by the following owner(s): Heather D. Rodriguez, 5508 San Pablo Ave, #5, Oakland, CAN 94608. The fictitious business name statement was filed on 4/4/2023 in the County of Alameda. This business was conducted by an Individual. Signature of Registrants: /s/: Heather D. Rodriguez, Principal. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 3, 2025. The Independent, Legal No. 6556. Published September 18, 25, October 2, 9, 2025.

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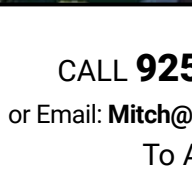
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Nonprofit Hively Offers Support and Hope, Including Child-Care Options, Supplies for Local Residents

By Ruth Roberts

TRI-VALLEY — Three years ago, Livermore resident Kayla Nerton was in search of childcare for her then-2-year-old son. As a single parent, Nerton needed care that was safe, affordable and conformed to her busy schedule as a working mom and nursing student.

Enter Hively, a nonprofit organization that offers a comprehensive range of services, including child-care options, food, supplies, mental-health services and more for families in need throughout Alameda County, regardless of their income.

“I reached out to Hively because I could not afford childcare on my own as a single mom,” said Nerton, who has since earned her RN license. “The process was super easy, and they were very supportive and non-judgmental.”

Hively’s subsidized childcare is made possible through contracts with the State of California, specifically the Department of Social Services and the Office of Education in Alameda County. The childcare subsidy program currently serves 890 children throughout the Tri-Valley, with 400 enrolled in Livermore specifically, Hively CEO Mary Hekl said.

“We enroll families and children into the program, allowing them to choose their preferred childcare providers,” Hekl said. “The challenge we face in the Tri-Valley region is significant. There are over 9,000 children who qualify for assistance, but we are only able to serve about 10% of

them. We believe that many families are unaware of their eligibility, which is why we are actively working to raise awareness about our

between \$3.5 million to \$4 million a month, supporting roughly 1,500 to 1,700 providers across the county, according to Hekl.

and respect and empathy. A lot of people we work with have been through a lot, and we are here for them.”

Hively partners with a

ditional settings, such as family members, friends or neighbors. According to Hekl, this system, which includes stringent background checks, offers excellent options for parents with irregular schedules or limited transportation.

“It’s great that parents get a choice,” Hekl said.

Hively’s services also include mental-health support, which is an area that is expanding. The group opened a new location in Pleasanton in 2023 and is in the process of growing a team of clinical professionals to assist with various issues, such as youth mental health.

Hekl said there has been a noticeable increase in eating disorders, depression, anxiety and other episodic issues such as bullying.

“It’s like an epidemic of loneliness, and everyone is susceptible, especially young people,” she added. “What I am grateful for is that mental illness is less stigmatized than it used to be, and people can get and ask for help now. Hively also has a program that allows us 13 trainees who are in school but learning how to be therapists under their clinical staff ... there is no other way to learn. We are really proud of that.”

Post COVID-19, Hively has seen an influx of applicants, and they are working to meet the growing need.

“I think it’s become more acute and intense, the needs for basic necessities like food and the pressures of affordable housing and childcare,” Hekl said. “And these things all add up. It seems like these things have always been hard, and then you add on

the mental health aspect, and it feels like things are just getting harder.”

Recent additions to the Hively family include Hive on Wheels, a mobile-resource center designed to take Hively’s services on the road. Whether it’s at a park, fair, festival or community event, the mobile center provides essential items such as diapers, wipes, children’s clothing and books. Additionally, it serves as an entry point for families to learn about Hively’s other services, including childcare assistance, mental-health therapy and family-support resources.

“We are part of the fabric for the Tri-Valley for everyone,” Hekl said. “Regardless of your income or your situation, Hively has something for you ... we want everyone who needs it to be part of our circle of goodness.”

For families like Nerton’s, Hively has quite simply been a Godsend.

“I honestly could not have done any of this if I did not have help and support for my son,” Nerton said. “Hively has changed my life.”

For more information, visit <https://behively.org/>.



Tri-Valley residents enjoy a recent visit from the Hive on Wheels van, which brings essentials such as diapers, wipes, clothing and books to locations throughout Alameda County. The traveling resource center ensures families have easy access to all of Hively’s services. (Photo courtesy of Hively)

life-changing programs.”

Hively’s annual budget allocates about \$60 million, of which approximately \$43 million is distributed to childcare providers. On average, Hively processes

“What makes Hively special are the people who work here,” Hekl said. “They are so dedicated to our clients and helping the community ... the whole leadership treats everyone with dignity

variety of childcare providers, including centers such as schools and in-home childcare services. Additionally, there are funds available for those who care for children in non-tra-

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Youth Orchestra To Perform at The Indy

By Christina Cavallaro

LIVERMORE — In a full-circle moment, violinist and music teacher Dana Anex, conductor of the Sycamore Chamber Orchestra and Sycamore String Ensemble, will lead a group of young musicians in per-

“I wish I’d gone through Suzuki, but I didn’t know about it (then).”

It now plays prominently in her teaching methods and is the guiding philosophy of the academy.

Anex characterized the jumping-off point of the educational philosophy of Dr.

cated musical interaction and cooperation you’d find in a jazz jam session, a bluegrass band or a symphony,” Anex said.

Sycamore Strings Academy partners with New World Music Academy (NWMA) in Pleasanton, Peace Lutheran Church in Danville and the

once,” she said.

The group will also, perhaps surprisingly, be playing some Swedish fiddle tunes.

“We play a lot of fiddle music because it’s very important to Mr. Berg, who’s from Sweden, and so he’s an expert in Swedish fiddle,” Anex said.

Berg has, in fact, compiled, edited and arranged several volumes of that genre of music.

“We play a lot of ethnic folk music, not just from Sweden,” Anex added. “We’re trying to expand that. We’ve played some American fiddle tunes, too.”

The Independent Art Gallery at 2250 First St. in Livermore, currently featuring artist David Gates, is open from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, and the Sycamore Chamber Orchestra performance will be from 6:15 to 7 p.m. on Sept. 19 and 20.

“The kids are really looking forward to it,” Anex said.

For more, visit sycamorestringsacademy.wordpress.com.



Göran Berg, artistic director and owner of the Tri-Valley-based Sycamore Strings Academy, conducts a group of young performers during a weekly rehearsal at the Bothwell Arts Center in Livermore. (Photo courtesy of Sycamore Strings Academy)

formance at The Independent Art Gallery on Friday and Saturday, Sept. 19-20.

She will do so as part of the Sycamore Strings Academy (SSA), a music school owned and operated by its artistic director, Göran Berg, Anex’s former teacher. SSA is rooted in the principles of the Suzuki Method, an educational philosophy that places a distinctive focus on the child.

Anex, who grew up in Livermore, completed bachelor (2019) and postgraduate (2021) degrees in music and humanities in Illinois before returning to her hometown after the birth of her son.

“I emailed Mr. Berg. I mean, I still call him Mr. Berg because he was my teacher when I was young,” Anex said. “(I reached out to him) out of nowhere, just like asking if he was still doing this Suzuki thing. He said he needed help. So, we started working together and it’s been going really well.”

Anex was a part of Berg’s orchestra but didn’t go through the Suzuki Method.

“I started pretty late and was in his (Berg’s) orchestra when I was older,” she said.

Shinichi Suzuki, who founded the “Talent Education Method” in Japan in the late 1940s, as an intuitive method that starts with listening and imitating.

“People might think that sounds really mechanical, but that’s how we learn to speak, right?” Anex said. “So, the founder, Dr. Suzuki, also called it ‘the mother-tongue method’ because it’s more like how a young child learns to speak. And it gives them a really good foundation of skills that then can be used for creativity. I think eventually they’ll come up with their own interpretation of music, but it’s going to start with developing control.”

The kids start by listening to recordings and imitating them while also learning to read music at the same time.

“So, they develop really, really good ears,” Anex said.

They learn in groups through the ensemble style of play, which makes way for a lot of camaraderie among the students.

“I believe that the collaboration they learn in these early violin group classes forms the foundation for more compli-

Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center (LVPAC), using the latter’s facility at the Bothwell Arts Center to rehearse on Wednesday evenings.

“I can’t always tell if we’re a welcome presence with the people (other artists) there because they know they’re going to hear sometimes very young kids playing,” Anex said. “And people are trying to focus, but there’s always so much going on there.”

Many of the kids start as early as 3 or 4 years old.

The Sycamore Chamber Orchestra, the group selected to play at The Independent, “is really our most experienced players,” Anex said. The oldest are teens around 16, while the youngest are age 9.

“So, it’s a range of experience and abilities and age.”

Though the emphasis of learning is ensemble-based, Anex said the group will be playing at the upcoming performances a concerto grosso by Handel that has three solos for strings.

“Some of our most experienced students will be playing the solo parts. So, there will be seven parts happening at

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