



State Senator Aisha Wahab has won the special election to succeed former Rep. Eric Swalwell in California’s 14th Congressional District, defeating BART Board President Melissa Hernandez. (Photo courtesy of Aisha Wahab) See story on page 2.

Ex-PUSD Trustee Jamie Yee Enters The Race for Pleasanton City Council

Promises a Fresh Vision for Priorities while Tackling Staff ‘Complacency’

By David Jen

PLEASANTON — Former Pleasanton Unified School District Trustee Jamie Yee shared thoughts on city governance and direction with The Independent last week. She is running for the city council’s District 3 seat this November, which covers the southwest portion of the city.

Yee faces entrepreneur Reena Gupta for the seat that Councilmember Julie Testa will vacate at the end of this year when Testa terms out.

Yee said, “I’m doing this for the right reason. I’m doing it really for the community, and I really feel very strongly that we need to leave the community better than we found it.”

She entered the city council race in April with a goal of bringing problem definition to the forefront of city decision-making.

“One of the issues that I think a lot of government agencies overlook is really getting clear on what it is we’re solving for, and getting everybody to understand what it is that we’re trying to solve for,” Yee said.

Through her experience on city commissions and committees, Yee said she noticed a form of complacency that has settled on city staff, stemming from a city council that “was a council for the last good while of kind of keeping things the same.”

“(Staff) kind of were creating questions and answers to just do the least amount of work and to

just keep the council happy and contained,” Yee said. “And I just didn’t like that.”

A continuous Pleasanton resident since 1994, she has worked for Alameda County Health for the past 18 years, and she currently supports communications and coordination in the Office of the Agency Director.

Yee served on the school board from 2008 to 2020, when she lost reelection. She began her tenure on the board in the midst of budget cuts to address the financial crisis. The experience, she said, forged skills relevant to the city’s current financial difficulties, such as the handling of deficit spending.

“My experience around being on a governance team, having hard conversations, doing bud-

(See YEE, page 8)

Reena Gupta Announces Candidacy For Pleasanton City Council District 3

Campaign Aims for a Global Stage, Addressing Local Business Complaints

PLEASANTON — Pleasanton entrepreneur Reena Gupta has announced her candidacy for City Council District 3, contending for a seat to be vacated by Councilmember Julie Testa, who will reach her term limit at the end of this year and is running for mayor.

District 3 covers the southwest portion of the city. Former school board trustee Jamie Yee has already filed her application for the same seat.

Gupta traced her roots to a multigenerational home in India,

where she grew up and earned her master’s degree in computer applications before moving to the U.S. She launched her first company focused on technical staffing in 2002 before founding a series of other companies in addition to the Mom Relaunch Foundation, a nonprofit that helps mothers and women returning to the workforce after career breaks.

She moved with her family to Pleasanton in 2011.

“Pleasanton needs an advocate and a salesperson, a vision-

ary and an innovator,” Gupta said. “I have experience in the business world. I have been on the global stage. In fact, I bring global delegations to the Bay Area and from other countries and am talking about how we can bring in (people) from other Asian countries as we speak.”

Gupta’s community work includes serving on the Economic Vitality Committee, Rotary Club and Leadership Pleasanton. She currently serves as a Pleasanton Connects ambassador, on the Pleasanton Unified School Dis-

(See GUPTA, page 9)

The Wente Vineyards Explore Potential Sale Of about 1,500 Acres

Family Operation Stays Focused Amid Slowdowns

Sanestina Hunter

LIVERMORE — About 1,500 acres of family-owned Wente Vineyards land are on the table as the longtime winery explores potential sales.

The Livermore City Council discussed negotiations involving 15 Wente-related parcels during its July 27 meeting.

The acreage consists of vineyards and undeveloped land, with some parcels near The Course at Wente Vineyards and others bor-

dering parkland and open space.

“We are always looking at our land holdings and land optimization and what the future generation holds,” Karl Wente, chief operating officer of Wente Vineyards, told The Independent. “We are committed to being a family-owned and operated winery going forward.”

As part of that process, Wente said he was asked to identify some of the company’s “noncore peripheral properties,” which prompted discussions with the City of Livermore.

(See WENTE, page 8)



Jamie Yee

Inertia Hits Key Fusion ‘Fast Fueling’ Milestone

Process Cuts Target Production Time, Hours to Days

By David Jen

LIVERMORE — Fusion startup Inertia Enterprises Inc. completed this month one of its major milestones needed to demonstrate commercial fusion power.

In partnership with Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL), the Livermore-based company brought down the production time of its fuel targets from days to

minutes. With plans to burn through roughly 10 targets per second once operational, Inertia’s envisioned power plant will rely on a fuel-production line that is both fast and low-cost without sacrificing manufacturing quality. “This milestone achievement for commercial target fueling in these very early days for the company would not have been possible without our close collaboration with LLNL, awarded through

(See INERTIA, page 10)



Reena Gupta



Livermore Girl Scout Katie Madsen stands before her collection of vests covered with merit badges. Building on years of Scouting service, her Gold Award project — launched in 2024 — replaced outdated water fountains at Granada High School with eco-friendly hydration stations. (Photo courtesy of Katie Madsen)

Scout’s Project Upgrades Granada Fountains

Local Teen Katie Madsen Raises Over \$16K for New Campus Hydration Stations

By Rain Hepting

LIVERMORE — Granada High School has replaced five outdated water fountains thanks to the fundraising efforts of recent graduate and Girl Scout Katie Madsen.

Madsen, 18, started her Gold Award project in 2024 to replace all six water fountains on campus. According to Granada students, the old fountains were unreliable and tended to leak, trickle or release large jets of water.

The Livermore Joint Unified

School District (LVJUSD), which oversees the maintenance of Granada’s campus, told The Independent in 2025 that it was in a budget deficit and could not afford to upgrade operational systems. District officials agreed to provide labor to install the fountains if Madsen purchased the equipment.

Madsen started fundraising in the spring of 2025 and finished up in January. Her campaign raised a total of \$16,939 toward her goal of \$19,000, enabling her to buy five fountains.

The remaining old fountain, located near the school’s track and football field, was a source of complaint from student athletes. Glenn Sherman, the Director of Operations and Maintenance for LVJUSD, told Madsen that replacing the fountain would be more difficult and potentially more expensive because it is freestanding rather than wall-mounted like the others.

“I didn’t quite make it to being able to install the one out on the field, but I made too much to be

(See SCOUT, page 10)

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PET OF THE WEEK



CONNECTICUT

This four-month-old charmer is named for one of the 13 original colonies. True to his namesake’s old nickname, the Land of Steady Habits, this easy-going guy keeps life calm and carefree, and he’s never met a friend he didn’t like, feline or human. Ready to make Connecticut part of your union? Call (925) 426-8656 or email info@valleyhumane.org to start the adoption process today.

Aisha Wahab Wins Special Election to Succeed Swalwell

By Jessica Zimmer

TRI-VALLEY — California State Senator Aisha Wahab defeated BART Board President Melissa Hernandez in last Tuesday’s special election to fill the vacant U.S. House of Representatives seat created by former Rep. Eric Swalwell’s resignation.

In the latest returns reported Aug. 22, Wahab held 51,610 votes to Hernandez’s 45,598 votes across all 323 Alameda County precincts as election officials finalized the remaining mail-in ballots. Wahab’s strong performance followed decisive primary victories in both June elections.

Hernandez shared a statement via email regarding the results on Aug. 20 with The Independent.

“I’ve been a fighter my whole life, and when I promised the residents of CA-14 I would fight for them, I never gave up,” Hernandez said, adding that her campaign closed a 20,000-vote gap by focusing on housing, jobs and public safety and pointing to 26,000 Dublin voters added under new district lines ahead of the November election.

Georgia Savage, president of East Bay Young Demo-

crats, praised Wahab’s performance, stating the group was “thrilled to see her leading despite millions of dollars in outside spending and interference by the American Israel Press Affairs Committee (AIPAC) and its affiliated groups aimed at defeating her.”

With the Aug. 25 deadline for receiving mail-in ballots now passed, the registrar is finalizing the vote count ahead of certification. The winner, Aisha Wahab, will serve until Jan. 3, 2027

In the election, Wahab ran with the endorsement of the Democratic Party, while Hernandez ran with the endorsement of the American Independent Party.

Multiple media outlets covered the fact that United Democracy Project (UDP), a nonpartisan super political action committee (PAC) established in 2022 by the American Israel Press Affairs Committee (AIPAC), a pro-Israel lobby group, donated hundreds of thousands of dollars to Hernandez’s campaign. BOLD America, a super PAC established by three former members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, also donated over \$1.4 million to Hernandez

after receiving disbursements from UDP. On her campaign website, Wahab claimed Hernandez received over \$90,000 from AIPAC-linked donors.

J Street Action Fund, an independent expenditure arm of the pro-Israel, pro-peace group J Street, donated a six-figure amount to support an ad campaign for Wahab.

On April 7, Indivisible Tri-Valley held a candidate forum where candidates were asked if what is happening to the Palestinian people is genocide. Wahab answered “yes.” Hernandez said Israel had a right to defend itself after the Oct. 7, 2023 terrorist attacks, adding that the destruction in Gaza had gone too far.

Wahab used the language “genocide in Gaza” on her campaign website and supported ending all U.S. aid to Israel during a livestream interview with Twitch streamer Hasan Piker

Theresa Drenick, Northern California regional director of the American Jewish Committee (AJC), told The Independent on Aug. 18 that Jewish communities face unacceptable rates of hate-fueled antisemitic incidents.

“Ensuring the safety of Jewish residents and working

to combat antisemitism must be a priority... AJC stands ready as a resource to the newly elected member of Congress,” Drenick said.

Neither candidate made Middle East politics a focus of their campaigns or advertising, which concentrated on public safety, economic affordability and personal backgrounds.

Potential complaints to the Federal Election Committee

On Aug. 9, a document signed by Alameda County District 4 Supervisor Nate Miley surfaced that appears to be a complaint to the Federal Election Committee (FEC). District 4 contains portions of the City of Oakland and the City of Pleasanton. It is unclear whether the document has actually been filed with the FEC. The document alleges that Wahab’s state senate campaign unlawfully contributed \$60,000 to the Alameda County Democratic Central Committee (ACDCC) for the purpose of hiding corporate donations from companies including Amazon and Google. Miley supports Hernandez.

On Aug. 13, the ACDCC stated it complies with federal election laws.

On Aug. 12, in a post on her campaign website, Hernandez characterized Wahab as taking “full advantage” of California campaign finance laws.

According to an Aug. 14 article in Pleasanton Weekly, the FEC did not confirm that Miley had filed the complaint. Wahab stated that the FEC has not notified her campaign of any complaint or violation.

Wahab stated the docu-

ment is retaliation for California State Senate Bill 1193 (SB 1193), proposed state legislation she authored governing county discretionary funding.

Wahab’s team is considering a separate complaint regarding Meta/Facebook posts made by accounts with minimal activity that suggested Wahab assaulted a former staffer, which Wahab called “vile and misleading,” during an Aug. 12 press conference.

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BASIS Independent Dublin Opens a New 150,000-Square-Foot Campus, Grades 5-12

By Sanestina Hunter

DUBLIN — As summer vacation ended, BASIS Independent Dublin opened Aug. 19 to serve students in grades 5–12, bringing the city a new private school option focused on advanced coursework, smaller classes and individualized student support.

The school is the organization’s third Bay Area campus, joining BASIS Independent Fremont and BASIS Independent Silicon Valley — part of a broader network of private and in-

science and physical geography to prepare for more advanced STEM coursework.

According to Min, parents considering enrollment wanted to know whether their children would succeed academically and socially. Those questions came from families whose children previously attended both public and private schools.

Some parents worried the campus would not enroll enough students to feel like a full school, while others wanted classes to remain small.

underway, Min said teachers will provide progress reports in the middle and at the end of each term, totaling six reports throughout the year. The Student Affairs team will support students academically and socially while encouraging them to become more independent.

“We strive to encourage independence and recognize that students are capable of more than they imagine,” she said. “We’re here to nurture that growth.”

Families also questioned whether construction would finish on time because they could not see the progress occurring inside the renovated building.

“They had to have faith,” Min said. “We would receive questions such as, ‘Will it be finished?’ ‘What will you do if the building isn’t finished? Do you have a Plan B?’ I’m happy to say that our process in completing construction, as well as their faith, paid off.”

School leaders will consider more than academics when measuring success during the campus’s first year.

“One of our biggest goals is to truly build a welcoming atmosphere in our school community—a place where teachers, staff and students alike feel excited to come to work and to school,” Min said. “We know that what is most impactful on student learning and student growth, and that includes academically and emotionally, is the connection they feel with the adults who are educating them. That is the basis for everything else.”

Although the Dublin campus has just opened, admissions are underway for the 2027–28 school year. The school has heard from many East Bay parents who want an educational option their children can attend from middle school through high school graduation.

“We hope to inspire young people to be true to themselves and to be fearless thinkers out in the world, contributing in their own way, whatever that may look like,” she said.



Shown above is a sweeping view of the new 150,000-square-foot BASIS Independent Dublin campus, which officially opened on Aug. 19 for grades 5–12. In the distance, the school’s 34,257-square-foot outdoor athletic field is visible, part of the extensive new facilities designed to support an advanced curriculum and individualized student growth. (Photo courtesy of BASIS Independent Dublin)

ternational schools founded in 1998.

More than 40 faculty members teach and support its inaugural class of about 130 students.

Located at 7950 Dublin Blvd., the 150,000-square-foot campus includes advanced science laboratories, music classrooms, visual and performing arts spaces, a theater and collaborative learning areas.

Students also have access to a full gymnasium and a 34,257-square-foot outdoor athletic field.

BASIS said it selected Dublin because of the city’s rapid growth and interest from East Bay families seeking another educational option. According to the school, the campus offers an internationally benchmarked liberal arts and sciences curriculum.

“We have a curriculum that’s been developed that uses a very thoughtful and direct approach,” Dr. Helen Min, head of school, told The Independent. “There are a lot of hands-on components, digital tools that the students use, as well as a lot of built-in discussion, visualizing concepts through models, simulations and many additional components that help students learn.”

As one example, 5th graders take Introduction to Pre-Algebra, 5th-grade

“One of the biggest aspects is that our class sizes are smaller, so students naturally receive more personalized attention,” Min said. “Secondly, we put an emphasis on frequent parent communication so that if there is an issue, especially early in the year, we reach out and vice versa.”

As the school year gets

underway, Min said teachers will provide progress reports in the middle and at the end of each term, totaling six reports throughout the year. The Student Affairs team will support students academically and socially while encouraging them to become more independent.

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Pleasanton Will Celebrate National Senior Center Month

PLEASANTON — The Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd., will celebrate National Senior Center Month in September with special events, wellness activities and opportunities for the public to learn what the center has to offer.

National Senior Center Month is sponsored by the National Council on Aging and spotlights the role senior centers play in helping older adults remain healthy, independent, connected and engaged in the community.

This year’s theme is “Powering Possibilities: Flip the Script,” and encourages communities to challenge outdated stereotypes about aging.

“Many people are surprised by everything the Pleasanton Senior Center has to offer,” said Nicole Thomas, the city’s recreation supervisor. “Whether someone is interested in fitness, lifelong learning, creative arts, technology, travel, volunteering or simply meeting new friends, there’s truly something for everyone. National Senior Center Month is the perfect opportunity to visit, explore, and see firsthand how today’s senior centers are helping older adults thrive.”

The Pleasanton Senior Center serves residents 50 and older.

Special events on the calendar for September include:

- A celebration Kick-Off Social on Tuesday, Sept. 1, with ice cream, games and a visit from the Valley Humane Society’s Canine Comfort dogs.
- An open house with community organizations, prizes, refreshments and opportunities to learn available services on Thursday, Sept. 10. The Museum on Main will also present a brief history of Pleasanton from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m.
- A presentation on “Living Your Best Life,” exploring wellness, healthy nutrition and practical strategies for aging well, on Tuesday, Sept. 22.
- A presentation, “Taste of Chocolate,” featuring artisan chocolates from around the world and sponsored by the Friends of the Pleasanton Senior Center, on Monday, Sept. 28.

The Senior Center will also hold its usual monthly lineup of social, creative and fitness activities.

For more information about National Senior Center Month activities or year-round programs at the Pleasanton Senior Center, go to cityofpleasanton-ca.gov or call 925-931-5365.

The Senior Center is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.



Future scientists, engineers, and innovators gather together. Sponsored by the AAUW Livermore-Pleasanton-Dublin branch, these bright eighth graders explored hands-on STEM fields — from aerospace engineering and astronomy to forensics — at Tech Trek summer camp. (Photo courtesy of AAUW)

AAUW Hosts Fundraiser for STEM Camp

TRI-VALLEY — The Livermore-Pleasanton-Dublin branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) will hold a fundraiser at the Darcie Kent Winery in Livermore on Wednesday, Oct. 14, with the proceeds used to send eighth grade girls to STEM camp next summer.

This year, the AAUW branch sponsored 10 campers, who attended week-long Tech Trek camps at one of three California colleges, including Santa Clara University, Sonoma State and the University of California, Santa Cruz.

The campers focused on learning about astronomy, chemistry, aerospace engineering, forensics, and structural and electrical engineering, according to the AAUW branch.

Tech Trek campers are selected through middle school teacher recommendations and AAUW interviews.

The fundraiser, from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., will include food and wine available for purchase, along with two silent auctions.

The AAUW branch has been sponsoring Tech Trek campers since 1998.

A NEW VISION FOR LIVERMORE’S DOWNTOWN CENTER

In 2015, Mayor John Marchand offered his vision for Livermore’s future:

“An iconic hotel in a remarkable community.”



Could building a Hotel on the Park fulfill that dream?

A high quality hotelier has expressed interest in developing a Four-Star hotel on L Street.

The Hotel on the Park could become a defining East Bay destination—an iconic focal point that reflects Livermore’s unique identity and brings together its wine country, innovation, arts, culture and community.



Rendering of the wooded Veterans Park



Livermore Arts & Science Center Rendering

WHY IT MATTERS: We have been told that a hotel won’t be built next to the Bankhead Theater anymore.

A HOTEL ON THE PARK COULD:

- Create a distinctive destination for the East Bay
- Support Livermore’s wineries, restaurants, shops, and cultural organizations
- Twice the currently proposed park size – featuring trees and winding paths that offer a natural escape in the heart of downtown.
- Reflect Livermore’s unique identity—wine country, innovation, arts and community

SUPPORT A NEW VISION FOR LIVERMORE’S DOWNTOWN

Ask Livermore’s elected leaders to consider the Hotel on the Park plan.

For a full description of the project, check our webpage.

LivermoreCommunityCoalitionSpeaks.com
To ask questions, email Safia Hasan at Thecommunitycoalitionlivermore@gmail.com



WHAT HAPPENED TO THE ORIGINAL DOWNTOWN HOTEL?

The original hotel developer no longer intends to move forward with the project. The location was the problem.

WHAT IS THE HOTEL ON THE PARK?

The proposed Four-Star hotel would be known as the highest quality resort in the Tri-Valley. It would provide 130 rooms in a two and three story facility. The EIFD financing described in detail in the Coalition report makes the project feasible.

WHY IS THIS LOCATION BETTER?

The proposed location would place the hotel directly beside Veterans Park and the existing L Street Garage—connecting hospitality, parking, public space, and downtown cultural amenities and businesses.

WILL THIS PLAN RAISE TAXES?

No new taxes will be required. An Enhanced Infrastructure Financing District (EIFD) is a mechanism to fund the necessary expense without increasing any tax rates.

Ad Paid for by the Community Coalition.

EDITORIAL

The Labs’ Partnerships with Business Yields Results, and Security

The Tri-Valley has been fortunate to have the two federal research laboratories — Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) and Sandia National Laboratories — as major employers. Together, they’ve been a magnet first for a highly educated workforce, then as a magnet for more businesses wanting to tap into that intellectual capital.

We’re seeing the results of that with LLNL’s partnership with a local company, Inertia Enterprise Inc., to develop technology that will lead to practical fusion power — marked by the announcement last week that they had developed a way to dramatically speed up the production of fuel pellets.

It’s a major milestone in science, even if it’s still just one of many steps that will have to be taken before a company gets to commercial-scale fusion power feeding our electrical grid. The importance of the partnership — a research-focused laboratory and a private startup company — provides not just a union of talent and business acumen, but also a bit of stability in an increasingly uncertain environment for science in the United States.

Science has long ceased to be the purview of lone, white-coated researchers in high-tech laboratories. Science, especially today, is a collaborative process, as scientists seek out publications and peers in their narrow specialized fields to help refine their own research. International conferences present opportunities for both learning and networking, and serendipitous connections made there have led to many a collaborative publication or project.

This has been changing at a rapid pace since President Donald J. Trump was returned to office in 2025. The U.S. has never had such an anti-science administration, marked not just by the president’s ignorance, but by a cabinet actively hostile to science that produces research that contradicts the president’s political message.

It’s easy to look at Health and Human Services Secretary Robert

F. Kennedy Jr. as the epitome of this anti-science culture, with his hostility to vaccinations posing a real danger to the lives of Americans. But the anti-science sentiment runs deep.

According to the National Science Foundation, about 42% of Ph.D.-holding scientists work in universities, 37% work in private for-profit businesses, and 15% work at nonprofit or government agencies. The U.S. Department of Energy’s network of 17 national laboratories alone employs approximately 75,000 full-time staff members, which doesn’t include post-doctoral researchers, graduate and undergraduate students and other staff. Nor does it include the approximately 30,000 outside researchers who make use of the labs’ specialty facilities, such as the National Ignition Facility at LLNL.

This system of cooperation was largely established during World War II as the U.S. poured all of its resources into the war effort, including the Manhattan Project at what would become the Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico. The system made the U.S. the pre-eminent nation for scientific research for decades, drawing students and scientists from all over the world.

Since the beginning of 2025, the Trump administration has been dismantling all that. Initially, Trump pulled the U.S. out of international climate treaties and ceased cooperating with decarbonization programs, canceling several projects that were already under way. There were orders out of Washington, D.C., to downplay work on climate change in public communications, for example, by prohibiting or limiting the use of certain phrases, such as “climate science,” “climate crisis,” and “pollution,” in addition to terminology at the center of the administration’s culture war.

But the efforts have accelerated. Scientific American has reported that in 2025, the National Science Foundation fired 10% of its staff and terminated \$1 billion in grants. The same situation played out at the

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. At the National Institutes of Health (NIH), 5 percent of its staff was fired and more than \$1.8 billion in grants was canceled. According to Science magazine, 10,000 people with Ph.D.s in science, technology, engineering or mathematics (a.k.a. STEM) had lost their jobs by the beginning of 2026 — about 14% of the overall federal scientific workforce in place at the end of the Biden administration.

In May of this year, NIH and NASA put unprecedented restrictions on staff seeking to publish scientific articles with co-authors from outside the U.S. According to Science, the NIH privately told grantees that they had to request permission in advance to work with non-U.S. collaborators, and NASA has told some grantees who co-authored papers with Chinese researchers that they may have violated the agency’s rules.

That’s having a chilling effect on scientific collaboration; an estimated 30% of all papers produced with NIH funding in 2017 had both U.S. and non-U.S. co-authors.

The real risk is that the U.S. is losing not just its leadership position in global scientific research, but that there’s a significant brain drain under way. The NIH alone lost 1,100 STEM Ph.D.s in 2025, more than double the 421 who left in 2024. Science magazine found that pattern was repeated across all 14 federal agencies that it surveyed. Hiring at those agencies also dropped precipitously.

The Department of Energy, which manages the national laboratories, was not immune, but it “only” lost 150 Ph.D.s in 2025.

Most of these departures are the result of attrition: retirements, quitting, and not layoffs (except for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which fired 16% of its researchers). But the number of scientists departing rose — more than doubling in many cases — because many fear being fired, are being lured with a buyout offer, or they disagree with administration policies.

At the same time, other countries are stepping up their recruiting of top scientific talent. An increasing number of U.S. scientists are departing for jobs in Canada, Europe, India and even China. Many early-career scientists and postdocs are considering moving abroad. One poll by Nature in March 2025 found about three-quarters of early-career scientists were considering such a move. Among those heading for the exit is Ben Santer, the former LLNL climate scientist (he retired in 2021), who in January was given a five-year visa to the United Kingdom to work at the University of East Anglia.

This only compounds the existing problem of one-quarter of U.S.-trained scientists eventually leaving the U.S. And this was before Trump returned to office. Now, with the gutting of the existing system that supports science in the U.S., political interference in funding decisions, and high-profile arrests and deportations of students who find themselves in the administration’s crosshairs, not only are we looking at a potential exodus of talent, but also foreign students may simply stop coming.

This can be changed. Universities are looking at new collaborations with businesses and other sources of funding to replace the lack of grants, or political strings attached to government grants. Business-government collaboration may still provide a layer of security, especially if the collaboration is producing science close to the government’s interests, such as energy independence.

Fusion falls into that category, as do other projects from the Department of Energy, which, along with Defense, has been seen as integral to national security.

We are still years out from a commercial rollout of fusion reactors, however. So in the meantime, we’ll need to be creative about how we as a society support science and research. We’ll need to make sure we can keep the lights on at least until 2028, and work to ensure that the next administration won’t be so driven to destroy the U.S.’s scientific prowess.

MAILBOX

Mailbox Guidelines:

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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.

The Great Train Robbery of 2026 — Part Two

Mark Palajac, Livermore

Part One pointed out BART performance that is contrary to the public’s interest. Now a look at some operational aspects.

BART operational personnel averaged 3,500 pre-pandemic and did not decline during the pandemic, while ridership dropped 95%. BART headcount increased by 300 in the past few years in spite of rider-

ship only rising to 42% of pre-pandemic levels. This 42% is the worst recovery by a train/subway system in the nation.

BART board voted 8-1 to approve the FY 2027 budget, which has a \$276 million LOSS. Liz Ames was the lone vote for reason. That is why we’re being asked to approve a 0.5% tax increase. This tax is expected to generate \$1 billion in 2028, and \$330 million of that will go to BART.

BART is building the 6-mile extension from Berryessa to Santa Clara at a cost of \$2 billion per mile. Should this continue if BART is not fiscally sound and is threatening to shut other stations; East and West Dublin stations?

I view the November vote as a hostage situation. BART has not been able or willing to make changes to accommodate riders. They are inwardly focused on unions and their considerable paychecks. The Dublin stations and Blue Line are being held for ransom. BART is threatening to close them if sales tax increase is not approved. I will vote to call their bluff. Sometimes we need major organizational disruption in order to facilitate meaningful change. It needs to start at the top. I would start with the people who appointed the board (Haubert), then the board (Hernandez), and

then the GM. That would be an appropriate message.

Project Genesis at LLNL: AI Oversight Gap

Felicia Ziomek, Livermore

The Department of Energy’s Genesis Mission will use artificial intelligence to speed up scientific research and “national security” work. The White House compares its urgency and ambition to the Manhattan Project: the program that created the first atomic bomb. Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, already a central part of the U.S. nuclear weapons complex, will play a major role.

That should alarm us. LLNL-led projects will use AI in many ways. DOE talks about working faster as though faster always means better. At a nuclear weapons laboratory, it does not.

Safety depends on careful human judgment and time. AI cannot understand the actual conditions inside an aging nuclear facility. It may miss failing equipment, inadequate staffing, poor training, waste-handling problems, or other work happening nearby. If LLNL uses AI to rush safety reviews, or experiments, workers and surrounding communities will bear the risk.

LLNL already operates behind enormous secrecy. AI could make its decisions even harder for workers, regulators, and the public to understand or challenge.

It could also allow the Lab to design and modernize nuclear weapons faster while avoiding meaningful public oversight.

This is especially dangerous now that New START, the last major treaty limiting U.S. and Russian strategic nuclear arsenals, has expired. Pope Leo XIV called for a concrete and effective replacement and warned leaders to do everything possible to prevent a new arms race. Genesis must not be allowed to fuel that race.

LLNL and DOE must publicly explain how AI will be used and require independent safety reviews for every high-risk decision. Technology should be used to protect life; not to build nuclear weapons faster.

The Potential Greater Gem of Livermore’s Veterans’ Park

Greg Scott, Livermore

Livermore has a greater opportunity to create a far more attractive regional and local community draw and increased vitality for Veterans’ Park than the current plan. One thing that needs to be done to do this is to move the majority of the downtown Eden Housing Project north of Railroad Avenue, instead of the currently planned two large four-story buildings’ placement. Livermore could do this if it desired to have a magnificent, prized legacy

and regional draw in Veterans’ Park resulting from better aesthetics. Yay for the individuals and groups who are fighting for this!

Also, what is needed is a downtown, upscale hotel. The southeast corner of Railroad Avenue and South Livermore Avenue was always a poor choice for this from space and traffic flow considerations. Better would be placing a hotel on the southeast corner of Railroad Avenue and “L” Street. “L” Street is far less a thoroughfare than South Livermore Avenue and this alternative location has the added advantage of easier pedestrian access for hotel patrons and guests to a parking garage. There’s also a hotel business interested in this location, who’s requesting sufficient surrounding open space.

Livermore needs a well-situated hotel for its wine tourist industry and for conducive walking access to its quaint and thriving downtown-core restaurant and retail businesses. Livermore also needs a well-placed hotel for businesspeople in what could be a technological hub for enterprise business development, given its location and well-educated personnel talent advantages.

All of this changed plan would have a much smaller footprint than the current

(See MAILBOX, page 6)

THE *Independent*

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Summer’s bounty is on display at the Livermore Thursday Night Market in Carnegie Park. The last night market of the season is scheduled for Oct. 8. (Photo — May Fraser)

MAILBOX

(Continued from page 4)

plan for the Eden Housing Project and make for a bigger open park space in the spirit of Frederick Law Olmsted and the urban parks created in the 1800s and 1900s. Veterans’ Park is too great a location to ignore this opportunity and legacy!

A Second Chance for Downtown

Don Milanese, Livermore

If only that referendum signed by 8,000 registered Livermore voters hadn’t been stopped by the city and kept off the ballot! If only the citizens of Livermore had been able to vote and show City Council they wanted more open space—not four stories of affordable housing on that precious piece of land in the center of downtown. If only we’d voted, we wouldn’t still be talking about it. But the conversation continues after more than 7 years and, fortunately, has now taken a hopeful turn that will benefit everyone. There’s a new and better plan.

Take a look at the new proposed plan at livermorecommunitycoalitionspeaks.com. We have a second chance to finally get this right.

It appears that the Presidio Hotel approved by the City 7+ years ago isn’t going to happen. The proposed plan includes a hotel in a better location. In addition, the plan relocates Eden Housing to just across the street—not some distant corner of the city as opponents seem to imply. I’ve heard the land across the street that wasn’t viable 7 years ago has become available. And, finally, the plan opens up a large green area on the last bit of undeveloped space in the heart of our downtown—a win for the citizens of Livermore and for the new residents of Eden Housing who will enjoy more park space for themselves and a place for their kids to play.

Please take a look to see what an amazing downtown we can still have. Then contact the Mayor and City Council and let them know it’s a winner.

Genocide Impacts All of Us

Hasan Hasan, Livermore

In December 2024, Amnesty International concluded that, “Israel has carried out acts prohibited under the Genocide Convention with the specific intent to destroy Palestinians in Gaza.”

The same month, Human Rights Watch said that, “Israeli authorities (were) responsible for the crime against humanity of extermination and for acts of genocide.”

Two influential Israeli NGOs recognized the genocide in Gaza in July 2025. B’Tselem detailed the unlivable conditions, attacks on educational and cultural institutions, arrests, and mass killings in Gaza.

The International Association of Genocide Scholars call it a genocide.

These are facts. The world witnessed a genocide, and we all know what we

saw with our own eyes.

So, how does a genocide impact us?

The Quincy Institute for Responsible Statecraft and the costs of War Project at Brown University found that the U.S. provided \$33 billion sent directly to Israel.

Imagine this \$33 billion stayed here in the United States and actually helped Americans. Average Americans trying to buy a house, put food on the table, pay for gas, and to allow teachers to be paid what they’re worth.

Geopolitical issues impact our community; we need political representatives who vote to keep our tax dollars here in America; not to drop more bombs on innocent people abroad.

Melissa Hernandez is financially supported by those who take our tax dollars away from us and keep spending them on endless wars and a genocide.

They spent millions on her campaign to keep their needs in front of yours. And they will try to convince you through fear, bigotry, and misinformation.

Enough is enough. The Tri-Valley needs leaders who put Americans first and will keep our tax dollars here.

Purpose Over Privilege

Julie Wild, Livermore

Scientists at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory work everyday and expect excellence. Teachers show up at our Tri-Valley schools and expect excellence from themselves and their students. What’s wrong with expecting excellence in our city planning?

We can have low-income housing AND a thriving downtown that ‘ticks all of the boxes’. The new downtown plan isn’t rooted in privilege, it’s rooted in purpose. Its purpose is to allow for multi-uses that serve a variety of needs within a realistic and workable budget and timeline. Anyone who says it can’t be done should actually read the plan. Here is a link: www.livermorecommunitycoalitionspeaks.com

And to be clear, those proposing the plan aren’t going to profit from any of it; they aren’t developers or investors. They simply want Livermore to be the best it can be. They propose with purpose, not privilege or profit.

When people are shown the proposed plan, they prefer it over the current plan.

And when they read the financial plan, they like it even more.

On the flip side, if the current plan moves forward, the likely reality will be thousands of ‘whose idea was this?’ in local conversations and social media posts years from now with elected officials who championed their own agenda long gone or no longer in office.

And we’ll be stuck with a bad plan, wishing it had been done differently when we had the chance.

We are a community that demands excellence; this should extend to our downtown too.

If we settle for what’s

planned, we may wish we had just done it right the first time and incorporated new ideas that are realistic and financially viable.

AIPAC

Kyoko Takayama, Livermore

There are Political Action Committees (PACs) of every shade. Yet the AIPAC is singled out and filling the air waves. Why is that? This is what they state on their website, AIPAC.org: “AIPAC is a grassroots membership organization with a PAC that supports pro-Israel Democratic and Republican candidates for Congress.” What it tells me is that the AIPAC is for Israel and for power to protect the country/land of Israel. From what we saw in ads attacking Senator Dr. Aisha Wahab, I might add they don’t care how they achieve their goal. I am not anti-Jew or against rights of Israel to exist. However, I have a problem with an “Israel first” approach, and I believe it doesn’t help people of Israel or supporters in the long run. I also have problem with how they use other PACs to hide. It means they know their tactics are not sound. Yes, anti-semitism does exist, and I am against that, but not everything is about anti-semitism. That is where we have to start the conversation. I am glad that some Jewish communities and friends are with me on this. Thank you for your level-headed approach. I know it is hard.

Just Do What the Mayor Wants

Richard Andrews, Livermore

Again, we are being victimized by the shortsightedness of the City Council. They pretend to listen to people, but just do what the Mayor prefers. It seems they are afraid to not obey. We desperately need a 4-star hotel in the downtown. Wineries are in tough times, and we are losing them. Since Wentle closed it’s 4-star dining we have nothing to draw people. Napa is hurting, too, but it has great hotels and spas to draw the people there. Tourists are drawn north and not to California’s ORIGINAL wine region, Livermore! But this seems not to concern our (the Mayor’s) Council. They have an outdated and totally unrealistic plan they are railroading over us. That will kill our smaller boutique wineries and not help the businesses.

Add that two major companies are working with the Lab to develop a fusion facility with a major complex that will bring good jobs to the Tri-Valley and you’ll see we desperately need a quality hotel for their guest visits. Discount brands do NOT count.

Look at the better idea that includes a park too!

https://www.livermorecommunitycoalitionspeaks.com/

You’ll see the thoughtful and workable “Community Coalition” plan that will enhance our downtown in every way, and draw the public we need to help our

wineries, as well as downtown businesses — not the ill-conceived plan of out-of-touch loyalists.

The Party of Affordability

Mark Frise, Livermore

This year, the Democrat Party has been running on the theme that they are the party of affordability. In California, the party has held a super majority in the legislative houses and has occupied the governor’s office for almost 16 years. Under Newsom, the state budget has increased from \$207 billion in 2019 to \$351 billion for the 2026-27 budget, a 70% increase in 8 years! According to Consumer Affairs Research, California is ranked 50th in affordability.

Currently, there are a number of tax hikes on the November ballot:

– Prop. 40, the “one time” billionaire’s tax. Between 2002-23, the top 1% paid 45% of personal income tax in California.

– BART sales tax increase. Despite decreased ridership, their budget continues to jump, and is grossly mismanaged.

– Not on the ballot, but voted by the legislature and signed by Newsom, are taxes on managed healthcare plans that will cost people \$106 per year, as well as another tax on software downloads, increasing costs.

– In Alameda County, there was a \$30 minimum wage (with annual increases), that has been paused by the County Supervisors (there’s a glimmer of hope), so it will not make the November ballot.

I give the legislator and governor credit as they have found hidden ways to increase costs on individuals, such as an annual automatic increase in our gas tax (highest in the nation), and burdensome regulations that increase business costs, which are then passed on to consumers. A lot of their taxation is done indirectly, then they blame oil companies, high tech, etc. of being greedy, when they are only passing on the costs to the consumer.

Think twice before you automatically vote for the person with a “D” next to their name. They are extremely good at finding ways to separate you from your hard-earned money.

Livermore’s Special Attributes

Rifka Seval, Livermore

I recently moved back to Livermore... and many readers will know why. This is a real “home town” that hasn’t lost its historical character, a walkable downtown, and sense of community spirit and support. The Urban Growth Boundary protected us from sprawling development and created surrounding open space.

When I last lived here, there was a robust discussion about the downtown development. I was excited to read in the last two weeks about a renewal of the idea of a “central park” with the opportunity for a green meeting space as the heart of our city center (submitted by Community Coalition; www.coalitionspeaks.com). In making decisions that affect our downtown far into the future, I hope the concept receives the attention it deserves.

The revised and refreshed concept celebrates the Livermore downtown experience and will welcome people there. It showcases vibrancy in our wineries, art and science along with the existing honoring of our ranching tradition and veterans.

I thank all the decision makers in the past that have preserved Livermore’s special attributes that make it a wonderful place to live.

ChatGPT

Glenn Stewart, Livermore

ChatGPT stands for Chat Generative Pre-trained Transformer.

Chat: refers to its conversational, chat-based interface.

Generative: indicates its ability to generate new text, code, or content rather than just analyzing existing data.

Pre-trained: means it was initially trained on a massive dataset of text before fine-tuning, allowing it to understand language patterns and relationships.

Transformer: refers to the specific dee-learning neural network architecture that allows the model to process words in relation to all other words in a sentence, rather than one by one.

Think of ChatGPT as that impossibly articulate friend who has read the entire internet, never sleeps, and speaks with absolute, unwavering confidence — even when making things up on the fly.

To break down the technical jargon for the rest of us...

Chat: it sits in a box on your screen waiting for you to talk to it, like an overly eager digital pen pal who replies in two seconds flat.

Generative: instead of just finding a webpage and handing it to you like Google, it manufactures brand-new sentences out of thin air. It’s essentially the world’s most sophisticated word-predictor.

Pre-trained: before you ever asked it for a dinner recipe, it was forced to read billions of pages of digitized books, websites, and arguments on social media. It already knows how humans talk; it’s just waiting for you to give it a topic.

Transformer: this isn’t a robot that turns into a truck. It’s just the underlying math engine that reads an entire sentence at once rather than word-by-word, allowing it to grasp context, subtle tone, and grammar without getting confused.

In short, it’s a hyper-efficient, digital chameleon that regurgitates human knowledge with the polish of a seasoned editor... and now you know.

Benefitting Livermore

Theodore Schaefer, Livermore

My wife and I recently spent delightful hours in Sonoma’s beautiful town square; just a peaceful area of grass, benches, and leafy trees surrounded by various shops, restaurants and local businesses. It reminded us that most American towns were built this way, an area for all to use and enjoy, not developed for any particular special group. It’s not too late for Livermore to create a similar plan and not pile on more downtown buildings.

Instead, it seems that Livermore is intent upon a low-character hotel with no traditional red brick style, no underground parking, no proven demand from outside visitors, just more street traffic. This is not a benefit for Livermore.

Our hope is for a future green town square versus the current proposed development that provides for only a very few (130 families) who earn up to \$80,000; that’s twice the minimum California wage of \$20/hour (\$40,000/yr.) Hardly low income.

Why not provide sub-

sized rent for a block of units in the condos of the soon-to-be trashed and rebuilt strip mall north of the City Hall complex? Providing low-income housing integrated into an established community makes more sense than a standalone development which doesn’t add to the ambiance of Livermore and uses up the last of very valuable land that could create a beautiful green space for the benefit of all Livermore residents and our visitors.

CA-14: Politics and Money, a National Disgrace

Rosario Milelli, Pleasanton

California’s 14th Congressional District has come down to two Democrats, Aisha Wahab and Melissa Hernandez. You would think that would produce a serious debate about who can best represent the East Bay. A win-win for Democrats, easy. Right? Wait for it...

Instead, our mailboxes, internet feeds, and television ads are filled with ugly attack ads.

The money is staggering. Through July 29, Hernandez’s campaign had spent about \$1.36 million, compared with about \$485,000 by Wahab. On top of that, outside groups have poured more than \$5 million into the contest.

About \$4.4 million has been linked to AIPAC and affiliated pro-Israel groups. Support for Israel is a legitimate policy position, but why should millions from a national special-interest network decide who represents the East Bay? I would ask the same question about any organization spending millions to influence our election.

I am also disappointed by For Our Values PAC and the participation of organizations including the Livermore Pleasanton Firefighters, Fremont Firefighters and Police, Deputy Sheriffs Association, and

(See MAILBOX, page 7)

IAFF Local Association. Both Wahab and Hernandez are running to serve us, represent us, give their time and energy for us; they are our neighbors. It is shameful how this and all PACs operate; their personal attacks, fear campaigns and distortion of positions.

Super PACs are legally independent of the candidates, and neither Wahab nor Hernandez controls their spending. But voters cannot ignore their enormous influence.

Neither Hernandez nor Wahab need to be destroyed for the other to win. Tell us where they differ.

Tell us what they will do in Congress. Tell us why you support your candidate.

By the time this letter appears, CA-14 voters will have spoken. But the larger question remains: Did the voters choose, or did money win?

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The Livermore Police Department's (LPD) Community Outreach Unit participated in an India Independence Day celebration at Las Positas College on Aug. 15. India Independence Day commemorates the nation's liberation from British colonial rule on Aug. 15, 1947. Police said participating in the annual celebration allows Outreach Unit members to strengthen relationships with members of the community. (Photo courtesy of LPD)

MAILBOX

(Continued from page 6)

Let's Get This Right
Janice Brovont, Livermore

As you have probably read, the City (City Council, Mayor Marchand & others) are again pushing low-income housing in the MID-DLE of downtown.

But the Community Coalition's concept for downtown, the area between Veterans Way and Railroad (where the dirt parking is) will be very exciting. They'd like to have a tree lined park twice or more the size of what the "city" wants. This would be a great place for a casual walk to build up your appetite before going to eat at one of the many good restaurants downtown. Or walk off a little after a yummy meal. Add a 4-star hotel within walking of our restaurants and a nice place to meet friends. The hotel would be great for the wineries and technology companies connected to LLNL. The Coalition proposal includes a Science and Arts Center, too. Eden Housing could be across Railroad Ave on the north side, still close by.

Let's get this right and don't make Livermore look like Dublin.

Though the U.S. News declares "Dublin Best Place to Reside in California" I would MUCH RATHER live in Livermore, or Pleasanton.

Fresh New Plan
Anne Giannini, Livermore

Hello Citizens,
Good news. Right now, there is a very interesting new plan for our continuing downtown development. Apparently, there is a proposal for a very upscale hotel on the corner of North L Street and Railroad, with ample nearby parking. The Eden housing would be built across Railroad Avenue to the north. The remaining open space will be a park for everyone and will definitely benefit the new business just completed.

Let's all support this fresh new plan.

The Fate of Our Country
Ron Sadler, Livermore

As we approach this year's crucial election, we face an important choice about the future of our nation. Voting for Democratic candidates is the most effective way to ensure a future built on shared prosperity, equality, and progress for all Americans.

Democrats consistently advocate for policies that invest in everyday citizens rather than concentrating benefits for corporations and the ultra-rich as Republicans policies do.

From lowering prescription drug and health care costs to supporting infra-

structure improvements and clean energy, Democratic leadership has focused on building a stronger, more equitable future.

Conversely, the current Republican platform has shifted away from consensus-building. It favors an agenda that threatens civil liberties and economic fairness, placing an unfair burden on the working class. Their national economic proposals consistently favor large corporations and the wealthy who spend billions of dollars per year lobbying Republican elected leaders.

No political party is perfect, and healthy debate is essential to a healthy democracy. However, at this pivotal moment, Democratic candidates offer the clearest commitment to protecting democratic institutions, personal freedoms, and economic opportunity for everyone.

Democracy works best when every voice is heard. I urge every eligible citizen to register, research the issues, and vote for Democratic leaders. The fate of our country is in our hands.

Let's REALLY Support Our Troops
Keith Jackson, Dublin

We all know our troops have always done whatever

they have been assigned to do with loyalty and courage. There is no question of their dedication. The problem is the leadership. Our system of government puts a civilian as the head of all the military. Our current president, being a demented sociopath, has blundered us into a war which he is losing and has no idea how to stop. Not that he cares about the damage he is doing. He never does. His only use for the military is to make him feel all powerful. To try to distract people from the fact that he is a coward and a weakling. He has no compassion, no morals, and no credibility. Forget the consequences. The real question here is do you support the troops, or do you support the war? You cannot do both. Do you want our troops to come home or not? Do you want to continue to deplete our weapon supplies to kill innocent civilians in Iran? Iran was years away from having a nuclear weapon, if at all, and any argument saying otherwise is baloney. There is no valid reason for this war. SUPPORT OUR TROOPS. BRING THEM HOME. Stop the madness. Also, let's vote out all the war-supporting congressmen when we can.

Government Corruption and How to Deal with It
Frank Cannella, Livermore

A recent opinion piece by Peggy Noonan of the Wall Street Journal really struck home for me. She started by referencing a poll from Reuters/Ipsos that reported 69% of Americans believe Donald Trump's presidential decisions are influenced by his personal finances. You would need to live in a cave without electricity to be unaware that Trump has made the presidency a personal piggy bank for him and his family. The meme coins, the crypto investments (some of which were foreign based), the 3,700 stock transactions in 2025, often in companies where government contracts land, the \$400 million airplane "gift", just to name a few. It is now possible to purchase a presidential pardon, regardless of the crime, if you have adequate resources. Or how about strong-arming media companies or law firms by using the Department of Justice to overpower any reasonable legal defense.

Somehow, the U.S. Congress seems to accept all this without undo concern. Perhaps, they also participate in similar hustles, of course on a much smaller scale.

But we as the public cannot ignore this sort of corruption, whether it is the executive, legislative or judicial branches of government. To quote Ms. Noonan, "If the public shrugs and looks away, Americans

will lose the habit of thinking of themselves as entitled to a clean government."

Our only defense is to vote with a clear understanding of who and what you are voting for and what the relevant public issues may concern. The midterms are coming in November. It's our best chance to reverse the trend. If we don't, we have only ourselves to blame.

GOP Protected Pedophilia

Barry Brynjulson, Pleasanton

Pedophilia is accepted and protected by the GOP in the Legislative and Executive branches of our government. Neither is questioning the enforcement of the Epstein Files Transparency Act of November 2025, which remains illegally redacted.

The U.S. Department of Justice is an accomplice of the Epstein pedophiles by illegally redacting the Epstein files, while continuing to show no interest in pursuing criminal charges against the rapists.

This is a corrupt and despicable Trump Administration.



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The Ballet Roots Dance Company Opens Its Season This Weekend

TRI-VALLEY — The Ballet Roots Dance Company, a professional ballet troupe based in Pleasanton, will kick off its sixth season this weekend with performances choreographed to "Celestial Melodies," a digital album created by an anonymous programmer who goes by the online persona of "DDRKirby (ISQ)."

DDRKirby (ISQ) is known for creating original chiptune

music and soundtracks for such games as "A Day in the Life of Death," "Colors of Your World," and "Samurai Shaver."

The ballet company said the performances, guest choreographed by Genoa Sper-ske, will reflect a "fusion of classical technique and modern movement."

"Entering our sixth season is a significant milestone for our dancers and artistic staff,"

said Artistic Director Talia Fal-lis. "This program captures the core of our mission, bringing high-caliber, innovative professional dance to our local stage."

The ballet company will perform at Livermore High School at 5 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 29, and at the Firehouse Arts Center in Pleasanton at 5 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 30.

Tickets are \$25 and are available online at balletroots.org/events.html.

Friday Night Markets Return to Dublin

DUBLIN — Night Market at St. Pat's Row has returned for a second fall of Friday events.

The Night Markets, from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m., will offer food, live music and street vendors selling a variety of products.

St. Pat's Row, which will be closed to traffic, is the stretch of St. Patrick's Way

between Golden Gate Drive and Regional Street.

The remaining three Friday Night Markets this year will be on Sept. 25, Oct. 23 and Nov. 13.

The city said it expects more people to attend the Night Markets this year with the opening in March of a

nearby outlet of the H Mart Asian supermarket chain in the Dublin Retail Center.

Parking will be limited and Dublin is encouraging visitors to rideshare, bike, walk or take public transit, with St. Pat's Row about a five-minute walk from the West Dublin BART Station.

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Reader Snapshots

Share Your Best Shot

We are looking for local photos to feature in The Independent’s Reader Snapshots section. Whether it’s a beautiful moment, a slice of Tri-Valley life or something that made you smile, we want to see it. Email your image, full name, city of residence and a brief caption to editor@independentnews.com for a chance to be featured in an upcoming issue.



A bird’s eye view of one of Livermore’s crowning jewels — free public parking! (Photo courtesy of Austin Pastrnak)

YEE

(Continued from front page)

get cuts, dealing with the unions, looking at the budgets, bringing programs back, (and having) a deep understanding of what the governance role is, really honed my skills in doing that for 12 years,” Yee said. She also viewed her time on the dais as an advantage over Gupta, saying that the skills of conducting business through public meetings can only be learned through experience, and elected officials often need several years before they hit their stride. “You really just need seat time,” she said. “It’s very different.” Yee supports maintaining the city’s current urban growth boundary. “Right now, I don’t see a reason to move it on the east side,” she said. “We still have opportunities for

housing and economic development within the existing boundary. If a specific proposal comes forward in the future, I would look at what is being proposed, why it’s needed, and what the impacts would be before making a decision.” While on the school board, she successfully pushed for an objective request-for-proposal process when selecting financial-audit firms, a departure from selections made by the district’s chief financial officer. She also worked to improve school health services, such as hiring the district’s first credentialed nurse, able to simultaneously teach classes and manage health clerks under their license. Since 2020, her time away from public office allowed more discussions with residents beyond just

transactional conversations, highlighting city concerns she otherwise may not have heard, she said. She added that she hopes to continue this type of dialogue if elected to the council. “We need to learn from our past, but plan for our future,” Yee said.

Sunflower Hill Sets Date for Hollywood-Style Fundraiser

TRI-VALLEY — Sunflower Hill, a nonprofit that provides affordable housing and support services for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities, will host a Hollywood-style fundraising gala at The Club of Castlewood in Pleasanton from 5:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 3. The gala will include a red-carpet arrival for guests with paparazzi-style photos, gourmet dining, live and silent auctions, VIP interviews by NBC Bay Area meteorologist and autism advocate Kari Hall. Sunflower Hill board member John Lengyel will be the featured speaker. “We are incredibly grateful to our amazing commu-

nity of donors and supporters whose generosity fuels our mission every day,” said Jennifer Oxe, development director for Sunflower Hill. “This is our biggest event of the year, and we are excited to celebrate.” Tickets to the gala are \$195 and are available at sunflowerhill.org.

Bordes to Lead Tribute to Louis Armstrong

PLEASANTON — Band leader Jeff Bordes and a group of Bay Area musicians will present “A Tribute to Louis Armstrong,” featuring recording artist Jackie Gage, at the Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 28. Bordes said the performance will celebrate the legendary Armstrong’s music and the spirit of New Orleans jazz. Armstrong, a trumpeter and vocalist perhaps best known for “Hello, Dolly” and “What a Wonderful World,” died in 1971 at the age of 69. Gage is a native of San Jose, while Bordes grew up in Pleasanton and continues to live in the Bay Area. Tickets to “Jeff Bordes & Friends: A Tribute to Louis Armstrong” start at \$31 and area available online at firehousearts.org.

WENTE

(Continued from front page)

“It’s about exploring options,” he said, adding that identifying the properties gives the company flexibility and could open opportunities involving open-space or park funding. The 15 parcels listed on the City Council agenda include, among others, 179 acres of vineyard land south of Wetmore Road, bordered by Sycamore Grove and Arroyo Road, and about 67 acres of hilly rural land east of the Marina Avenue-Wente Street intersection, much of which is planted with grapevines. Wente said the company does not intend to sell all of the properties listed on the agenda. He said the parcels represent possibilities for what the family could do as part of its stewardship of the land. Separate from the properties on the city’s agenda,

a 244-acre property at 6741 Tesla Road is pending sale after being listed for \$7.95 million, according to an online real estate listing. “We’re thinking about how we can continue for future generations, what vineyards we have, what varieties we have,” Wente said, adding that the company remains focused on offering visitors food, live music and other experiences that complement its wines. According to its website, the winery owns and operates about 3,000 acres of estate-grown vineyards across California’s Livermore Valley and Arroyo Seco wine regions, where it grows more than 20 grape varieties. The potential land sales come as the U.S. wine industry navigates declining demand. U.S. wine sales

fell an estimated 2% by volume and 1.6% by value in 2025, according to Silicon Valley Bank’s 2026 State of the U.S. Wine Industry report. The report estimated approximately 329 million cases were sold in 2025, down from 335.9 million in 2024. Wente acknowledged the broader challenges facing the industry, but said the family has weathered difficult periods during its long history. “There are headwinds in the wine industry right now,” Wente said. “My family has been doing this for more than 140 years, and so we’ve seen headwinds before.” Wente Vineyards and Concannon Vineyard, both founded in 1883, are among Livermore’s oldest wineries.

TRI-VALLEY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

EVENTS

August 1–31

ART RECEPTION AND EXHIBITION

Presented by the Livermore Art Association, The Art of Becoming is a solo exhibition by mixed-media artist Stefanie Sylvester. Explore a vibrant collection of abstract acrylic, collage, and mixed media works that celebrate experimentation, creativity, and the beauty of the artistic journey. Meet the artist at the free reception on August 14, from 6-8 p.m. at Robert Livermore Community Center Gallery Wall, 4444 East Ave., Livermore. See livermoreartassociation.org.

Thursday, August 27

AMADOR VALLEY LIONS CLUB'S TRIVIA EVENT

The Amador Valley Lions Club is hosting a fundraising trivia event from 6-9 p.m. at the Dante Robere Winery in Livermore. Teams will comprise of no more than six adults. The event will feature a buffet, trivia contest, silent auction, and raffle. The cost is \$150 per couple (\$75 per single) which includes a buffet dinner from Melo's Pizza and one bottle of Dante Robere Wine per couple (two glasses of wine for singles). Proceeds will benefit local non-profit charities serving the Tri-Valley area. For reservations and information, call 925-968-4800.

Saturday, August 29

ART TALKS AT CHOCOLATE FISH

Livermore Art Association will be hosting Art Talks at Chocolate Fish Coffee Roasters in Livermore from 9-10:30 a.m. Join fellow artists for a fun and casual creative meetup! Share your artwork, exchange ideas, discover new materials, and connect with others who love making art, whether you're a beginner or a seasoned artist. See livermoreartassociation.org for more information.

Saturday/Sunday, August 29 & 30

BALLET ROOTS: SEASON 6

Ballet Roots Dance Company Opens Season 6 with Dynamic Contemporary Program and World Premiere. The program highlights the company’s signature fusion of classical technique and modern movement. Performances will take place in both Livermore and Pleasanton: Saturday, Aug. 29, at 5:00 p.m. at Livermore High School Theater (600 Maple St.) and Sunday, Aug. 30, at 5 p.m. at Firehouse Arts Center (4444 Railroad Ave. Tickets are available at balletroots.org/events.html . Early booking is encouraged as seating is limited at both venues.

Sunday, August 30

OPEN HOUSE AT HAGEMANN RANCH

This is your opportunity to wander the historic Hagemann Ranch at your own pace, visit the gardens, and spend time with the animals. Docents will be on hand to answer questions and give tours. On Aug. 30 from 1-5 p.m. at 455 Olivina Ave. in Livermore.

Sunday, August 30

SHARING OUR MUSIC: AN INTERFAITH CONCERT

Interfaith Interconnect of the Tri-Valley will hold a special interfaith concert on August 30, 4:00-5:00 p.m. at Asbury United Methodist Church, 4743 East Ave., Livermore. All are welcome to attend this joyful and inspiring event. Participants from several local congregations including Baha’i, Christian, Hindu, Jewish, and Muslim will present a variety of sacred

and cultural offerings. Following the concert, all are invited to attend a reception in the fellowship hall. There is no cost to attend. Get more information at interfaith.interconnect@gmail.com and www.facebook.com/InterfaithInterconnect.

Saturday, September 5

DRESS A GIRL AROUND THE WORLD

Make simple dresses for girls in Third World countries! The next monthly Sew-Fest is on Sept. 1, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 1020 Mocho St., Livermore. Bring your sewing machine or serger, iron, ironing board, scissors, along with your helping hands. Come for an hour or all day! (Please bring a bag lunch if you plan to stay all day.) Cheerful cotton fabric donations are always welcome. Contact Suzanne Beck, 925-352-8447, or suzbeck@yahoo.com for questions or kits that you can sew from home.

ONGOING EVENTS

FALL GRIEF WORKSHOPS

Held at St. Elizabeth Seton Church, 4001 Stoneridge Dr., Pleasanton, on Sept. 3, 9, 17, 23, Oct. 1, 8, 15, and 22, starting at 7 pm. See catholicsofpleasanton.org or call Barbara at 925-846-3904 for more info/registration.

DROP-IN GENEALOGY ASSISTANCE

Assistance by members of the Livermore-Amador Genealogy Society. On the first Wednesday of each month, 10:30 — 12:30, at Livermore Public Library, Civic Center Branch, Room 135.

UNDERSTANDING ISLAM

On the third Saturday of every month from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. there will be a free class on Islam, and the followers of this faith, Muslims. Offered at Islamic Center of Livermore.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

To find a local meeting in person or online, visit valleysservice-centeraa.org or call the 24-hour hotline at 925-829-0666.

SATURDAY PLEASANTON FARMERS MARKET

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

SUNDAY LIVERMORE DOWNTOWN FARMERS MARKET

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

FOOD RELIEF SERVICES

Local residents can access vital food-assistance services to help meet basic needs. Food relief services can be found at: St. Vincent De Paul Food locker, 458 Maple St., Livermore (behind St. Michaels Church); Mon/ Tues: 7-8 p.m., Wed/Thu: 4-5 p.m. Children’s Emergency Food Bank; 7421 Amarillo Rd., Dublin; appointments M-F, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; 925-828-5363; St. Raymond Catholic Church, 11555 Shannon Ave., Dublin; third Sat. of the month, 8 to 11 a.m.; Open Heart Kitchen; M-F, noon to 5 p.m.; 450 N. Livermore Ave., Livermore; Tri-Valley Haven Food Pantry, 150 N. “L” Street, Livermore; 925-449-1664 – M-Th, 1 to 5 p.m.; Fri/Sat 12 to 4 p.m.; Alameda County Community Food Bank; 510-635-3663; M-F, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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

THE INDEPENDENT GALLERY

NEW ART EXHIBIT IN FORMING FIGURES

Figures, Fragments, and Connections by Thom See

Spanning years of artistic exploration, these figurative works bring together observation, memory, and imagination. Moving between realism and abstraction, the exhibition reflects an ongoing search for the connections that unite the many fragments of a life.

FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Gallery Hours

FRIDAY, AUGUST 28TH 6 - 8 PM

Art Gallery Sponsored by LIVERMORE VALLEY arts & THE Independent

2250 First St., Livermore

GUPTA

(Continued from front page)

trict Career Technical Education Advisory Board, on the Three Valleys Community Foundation Advisory Board and with the Tri-Valley Career Center.

She views the city’s economy and its need to find new revenues as one of its top priorities. Drawing upon her experiences with her own businesses, Gupta hopes to streamline city processes to make the city more inviting to businesses.

“It hurts me when I hear, ‘Oh, it’s so hard to do business with Pleasanton,’ when with other cities

I don’t get that,” Gupta said, adding that more can also be done to market the city. “I see Pleasanton as a huge opportunity to be that bridge city between Bay Area Silicon Valley because of this geographical location. What Pleasanton is not able to do is be on the global stage and say, ‘Hey, Pleasanton is open for business.’”

She has launched a civic engagement tool, available at reenaforpleasanton.com/share, that allows residents to leave voice memos related to city council agenda items. The system

summarizes submissions after Gupta listens to each one, and she relays the collected feedback to the city council.

“Civic engagement is the fabric that is broken,” Gupta said. “The same 20 to 30 people show up (at city meetings). They are the decisionmakers.”

She added that regardless of the outcome of this year’s election, she will continue her work to strengthen community engagement in the city, hoping to bring more voices to the decisions and actions of the city.

Art League Will Hold Its Scholarship Fundraiser

PLEASANTON — The Pleasanton Art League (PAL) will hold a scholarship fundraiser featuring the Bay Area band Aja Vu at the Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., from 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., on Friday, Sept. 4.

PAL’s scholarship program supports annual awards to art students at Las Positas College.

"This fundraiser is about investing in young artists while bringing

our community together through art and music," said PAL President Alana Shoars. "We want young artists in our community to know that their creativity matters and that there are people who believe their dreams are worth investing in."

Aja Vu is an eight-piece tribute band playing the hits of Steely Dan and Chicago.

The evening will also include a lobby art exhibi-

it, “Rhythm & Music,” showcasing works by PAL members and middle and high school students in the nonprofit’s youth art program.

Pleasanton Mayor Jack Balch will present awards recognizing winning artwork in the exhibition during intermission.

Tickets are \$75 and available at the Firehouse Box Office, the Pleasanton Library and the Pleasanton Senior Center.

OBITUARIES

Jesse Fallon Rasmussen May 31, 1960 — June 28, 2026

Jesse Fallon Rasmussen passed away peacefully at his home in Livermore, California, on June 28, 2026, after a courageous battle with cancer. Born on May 31, 1960, at St. Paul’s Hospital in Livermore, Jess grew up in the community he loved. He attended St. Michael’s Catholic School and graduated from Livermore High School in 1978. During high school, he worked for the Livermore Beverage Company, and after graduation he began an apprenticeship with Sheet Metal Workers Local 104. Jess went on to build a proud 34-year career in the trade before retiring in August 2012.

Deeply rooted in his hometown and its traditions, Jess was a proud member of the Native Sons of the Golden West, a lifetime member of the Livermore Pleasanton Rod and Gun Club, and a member of the Livermore Stockman’s Rodeo Association. He also belonged to the National Rifle

Association and the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation. Jess generously supported Purple Heart Outdoors, helping organize a special weekend that honored five service members by giving them the opportunity to hunt black tailed deer with local ranchers and landowners in Livermore and the surrounding area.

Jess was preceded in death by his parents, Russ and Mary Rasmussen, and his father-in-law, Jim Wells. He is survived by Terri, whom he met in 1987. They began their life together in 1989 and shared the next 37 years. Jess is also survived by his siblings Mark Rasmussen (Robin), Holly Petersen (Tim), and Sean Rasmussen (Heather); his mother in law Diana Wells; brothers-in-law Adam Wells (Kim) and Wayne Wells (Micah); and his nieces and nephews Nicole Helenihi (his goddaughter), Zach Rasmussen, Alyssa Rasmussen, Cody Petersen, Clint Petersen, Monica Rasmussen, Russell

Rasmussen, Andrew Wells (Kaitlynn), Matthew Wells (Jess), Ashley Tucker (Jason), and Katie Ridenour (Justin). He leaves behind many extended family members, lifelong friends, and his beloved dog, Jett.

Jess loved the outdoors — especially hunting, fishing, and gardening. He found his greatest joy simply being outside, and took immense pride in the garden he tended with such care. Known for his genuine kindness, strong work ethic, and warm heart, Jess never met a stranger. He was always the first to offer help. When someone needed a good listener, he made time without hesitation. His passing leaves an enduring void in the hearts of all who knew and loved him.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests donations in Jess’s memory to the American Cancer Society or a nonprofit organization of your choice. A celebration of Jess’s life will be held at a later date.

Lynell Marie Pratt Aug. 31, 1948 — May 17, 2026



Lynell Marie (Means) Pratt passed away May 17, 2026 at the age of 77.

Lynell was a beloved wife, mother, and grandmother. She is survived by her husband of 55 years Robert (Bob) Pratt; children Alisa M Lahrs (Eric), Dan (Katie LaBoy) and Brian Pratt; grandchildren Dylan (Audrey), Emily and Ryder Lahrs, Liv and Cruz LaBoy; sister Connie DeBernardi and nephew Jeff (Tina) DeBernardi, Lucas, Fiona and Aiden DeBernardi.

Lynell was born in Oakland and grew up in San Pablo. She graduated from Richmond High School and received her BA from UC Berkeley. She went on a three-month World Campus Afloat college cruise of Europe

and South America during her junior year in 1968, and met Bob when she returned to the states. She and Bob married in 1970 and lived in Hayward while she obtained her teaching credential from Hayward

State. She taught high school social studies until turning her attention to her growing family. Lynell lived in Pleasanton for 49 years and was a member of the Jr. Women’s Club and a Girl Scout Leader. She spent 35 years as a local Avon representative, gaining many awards, and was a sales leader in her district.

Lynell loved to visit family in Southern California, Oregon, Washington and Western Canada. She and Bob started sea cruising in 1975, and by 2020 had been on many cruises throughout the world, including the Med, Panama Canal, Hawaii and Alaska.

Her favorite pastime was having the family over for meals and card games.

John Thomas Miller, Jr. July 10, 1932 — Aug. 13, 2026



John Thomas Miller Jr. passed away after a long, well-lived life, in the early morning of Aug. 13, 2026. John was born in 1932 to an immigrant family. His father immigrated from Croatia (then Austria-Hungary), and settled in Oakland, California, where John was born. John graduated from Castlemont High School.

John and the love of his life, Loretta (Null), both attended UC Berkeley. John began his lifelong career as a journalist with the Oakland Tribune in 1954 and took great pride in working the “local beat” with an office in Livermore for most of his 36-year career. He married Loretta in 1956, and they moved to Livermore in 1958, where they remained and raised their three children.

John and Loretta loved to travel, and favored destinations such as Hawaii, New Orleans, Las Vegas, Cape Cod, Santa Fe, and Carmel-by-the-Sea, where they honeymooned. They were stalwart patrons of the arts and humanities, attending Mozart and Bach festivals annually. “Papa” never missed his grandchildren’s performances and sporting events, attending every musical, opera, ballet basketball, or soccer game each



were in.

John was passionate about political issues, including social justice and civil rights, and supported a number of political causes. In addition, John was an animal-lover, and he spent his later years supporting various

issues through philanthropy. In particular, he was a patron of the WWF and ICF (among others) throughout his life.

The Millers lived their lives surrounded by their children and grandchildren, and they positively relished each moment with their extended family. Each holiday was spent crowded at over-full tables in their home, with laughter and love filling every inch of space.

John is survived by his three children and their spouses, David (Janet) Miller, Carolyn (Philip) Reggiardo, and Steven (Satomi) Miller, his grandchildren, Chloe (James) Jaramillo, Sarah (Andrew) Winter, Jack (Minori) Miller, Allison (Adrian) Avobridge, Abigail Miller PhD, and John (Amanda) Reggiardo, and his great-grandchild, Lena Miller. He was constantly intellectually curious, and had a wide range of interests, including literature, music, art, and science. His bright mind, sharp wit, and generous, loving personality will be deeply missed.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a charitable donation to John and Loretta’s favorite charity, Diabetes Youth Families (DYF). Donations can be made at dyf.org/give.

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Angelina Marie Hermann Aug. 24, 2000 — July 24, 2026

In Loving Memory of Angelina Marie Hermann



It is with profound sadness and broken hearts that we announce the passing of our beloved daughter, Angelina Hermann, who passed away peacefully on Friday, July 24, surrounded by her loving family, at the age of 25.

Angelina was born on Aug. 24, 2000, in Pleasanton, California, to Paul and Gina Hermann. She was raised alongside her brother, Nick Hermann, and her sister, Isabella Hermann, in a home filled with love, strong family values, laughter, and a deep appreciation for the many sports, activities, and adventures they shared together. From an early age, Angelina brought joy, laughter, and warmth to those around her.

Angelina had a remarkable gift for making everyone feel seen, valued, and welcomed. Her compassionate heart, radiant smile, and quiet strength left a lasting impression on everyone she met. She loved deeply, gave generously, and found joy in celebrating the people in her life. Her kindness, warmth, and unwavering love will continue to live on in the hearts of all who were blessed to know her.

Angelina attended schools in the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District, including Croce Elementary School, Christensen Middle School, and Livermore High School.

Throughout her school years, Angelina embraced many extracurricular activities and treasured the friendships, experiences, and sense of community they brought into her life. She attended summer camps through ENN (Exceptional Needs Network) at Camp Arroyo, participated in and volunteered with Lil’ Pardners Rodeo (Livermore Rodeo Special Needs Rodeo), and played Challenger Baseball through both Livermore Little League and Granada Little League.

Angelina’s brother, Nick, and sister, Isabella, were always by her side, supporting her as coaches, buddies, teammates, and her biggest fans. They shared many special experiences together and helped Angelina feel included, encouraged, and celebrated in everything she did.

In return, Angelina was the best cheerleader for Nick and Isabella. She proudly supported them from the baseball and football fields to the rodeo arenas, always there to cheer them on, celebrate their accomplishments, and encourage them along the way. Their bond was filled with love, laughter, support, and countless memories that they will carry with them forever.

Angelina also absolutely loved her trips to Disneyland. Those visits were filled with excitement, laughter, and treasured family memories. She loved the magic of Disneyland and the happiness it brought her, and her enthusiasm made those trips even more special for everyone who shared them with her.

The love between Angelina, Nick, and Isabella was truly special. They were not only siblings, but each other’s supporters, companions, and biggest fans — a bond that will remain a cherished part of their lives forever.

In 2013, Angelina and her

impact she made on so many lives.

Memorial Donations;

In lieu of flowers, those who wish to honor Angelina’s memory may consider making a donation in her name to either of the following organizations, both of which were meaningful to Angelina and our family.

Livermore Rodeo Foundation Lil’ Pardners

Lil’ Pardners was a meaningful part of Angelina’s life, providing her with opportunities for friendship, participation, inclusion, and joy. Supporting Lil’ Pardners in Angelina’s memory would be a beautiful way to continue her legacy and help provide those same experiences to others.

Donations may be made in Remembrance of Angelina Hermann:

Livermore Rodeo Foundation Lil’ Pardners, P.O. Box 646, Livermore, CA 94551, Tax ID: 80-0272028

Exceptional Needs Network (ENN)

Exceptional Needs Network and Camp Arroyo were also special parts of Angelina’s life. Through ENN, Angelina had opportunities to participate in summer camp, build friendships, experience new adventures, and simply enjoy being part of a community that embraced her for exactly who she was. Camp Arroyo provided experiences that brought Angelina happiness and created memories that will forever hold a special place in our family’s hearts.

A donation to Exceptional Needs Network in Angelina’s memory would help provide meaningful opportunities and experiences for other individuals and families, continuing the spirit of inclusion, friendship, and joy that meant so much to Angelina.

Donations may also be made in Angelina’s memory to Exceptional Needs Network through its online donation page or mail:

Exceptional Needs Network, P.O. Box 3149, Livermore, CA 94551, Tax ID: 48-1301380, website: ennet-network.org

We are deeply grateful to everyone who chooses to honor Angelina in this way. Your generosity is a beautiful reflection of the love, kindness, inclusion, and compassion that Angelina shared so freely throughout her life.

Though our hearts are broken by the loss of our precious Angelina, we are grateful beyond words for the 25 years we were blessed to have her in our lives. We will forever treasure her beautiful smile, her laughter, her loving heart, her gentle spirit, and the countless memories she gave us.

Angelina’s life touched so many people. Her time with us was far too short, but the love she gave was immeasurable. The kindness she showed, the joy she shared, and the lives she touched will continue to carry her memory forward.

She will be deeply missed, forever cherished, and never forgotten. Her light will continue to shine through the countless lives she touched, and her memory will remain a blessing to all who loved her.

We love you, Angelina. Always and Forever.

Former Condor Club Bartender Sentenced in Manager’s Killing

By Sanestina Hunter

DUBLIN — Asia Lozano Morton of Dublin was sentenced to one year in jail in connection with the 2025 killing of Mark Calcagni, general manager of San Francisco’s historic Condor Club, a North Beach-area topless bar.

Morton pleaded no contest to being an accessory after the fact for assisting her boyfriend, Richard Lund, who is accused of killing Calcagni. She will also serve one year of mandatory supervision, according to multiple reports.

Lund has pleaded not guilty to murder and fire-

arm-related charges and is scheduled to stand trial Aug. 28 in Sonoma County Superior Court.

The sentencing comes nearly 10 months after Santa Rosa police arrested Morton and Lund in connection with Calcagni’s death.

As previously reported by The Independent, the Santa Rosa Police Department’s Violent Crimes Investigation Team (VCI) looked into Calcagni’s killing after police found him shot in the 2200 block of Brookwood Avenue early Oct. 3, 2025.

A motorist discovered him lying in the roadway. Police said Calcagni

had recently fired Lund and Morton from their jobs at the Condor Club — a move which investigators believe may have motivated the killing.

VCI detectives said Lund waited for Calcagni to return home before shooting him. Police initially alleged that Morton, who was in a romantic relationship with Lund, helped plan the attack.

Detectives initially faced limited evidence but pursued leads through witness interviews, surveillance footage and digital evidence. After identifying Lund and Morton as suspects, detectives executed a search warrant

at the couple’s Dublin residence.

Police arrested Lund at about 4:20 p.m. Oct. 24 during a traffic stop near the couple’s apartment in the 7500 block of St. Patrick Way in Dublin. He was charged with murder and being a felon in possession of a firearm and ammunition.

Officers arrested Morton about three hours later after she stepped off a plane at San Francisco International Airport.

Following her arrest, Morton initially pleaded not guilty to the accessory charge and was released under pretrial supervision.



A puppy eagerly awaits a forever family at Valley Humane Society in Pleasanton. VHS is waiving adoption fees through August as part of NBCUniversal’s annual “Clear the Shelters” drive. All adoptable pets are spayed or neutered, microchipped, and up-to-date on vaccines. (Photo courtesy of Raj Mathai)

VHS to Waive Through August Adoption Fees

PLEASANTON — Valley Humane Society (VHS) is waiving adoption fees during the 12th annual NBC Universal’s “Clear the Shelters” pet-adoption drive which extends through August.

VHS said all adoptable animals have been spayed or neutered, microchipped, and have received age-appropriate vaccines.

As part of the “Clear

the Shelters” campaign, local NBC affiliates and Telemundo-owned stations across the U.S. partner with animal shelters to promote pet adoption and raise funds for participating shelters.

VHS, 3670 Nevada St., is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday. For more information and to view adoptable animals, go to valleyhumane.org.

Chamber Slated to Host Its Annual Business Expo

LIVERMORE — The Livermore Valley Chamber of Commerce will host the seventh annual Business Expo & Mixer at the Garre Vineyards and Winery, 7986 Tesla Road, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 9.

“There will be food and drink and many networking opportunities and connections to be made,” said CEO and President Sherri Souza. “This event is one of the most fun events of the year and offers businesses exposure and promotional opportunity.”

The indoor Business Expo & Mixer is open to the public, and admission is free. For more information, go to livermorechamber.org.

SCOUT

(Continued from front page)

able to spend all of it,” Madsen said. She added that she will entrust the remaining funds — just under \$1,000 — to LVJUSD to replace the fountains’ filters and, hopefully, seed a campaign for the sixth fountain.

“It’s supposed to be sustained beyond my involvement, so once I finish my project, the district takes it over, and (it will) keep up maintenance and whatnot,” Madsen said.

The new water fountains

are “hydration stations,” which allow students to easily refill water bottles in addition to functioning as standard fountains. Madsen, who now studies environmental science at San Diego State University, said she chose this model to reduce plastic waste from disposable water bottles.

The Girl Scout Gold Award Committee confirmed the completion of Madsen’s project on June 19 following the fountain

installations. The Gold Award requires a teenage Girl Scout to spend over 80 hours researching a community issue and leading a volunteer team to solve it. As part of her project, Madsen also organized an educational event for younger Girl Scouts to teach them about water conservation.

A donation-matching program by the Community Health and Education Foundation (CHEF) donation boosted Madsen’s campaign

by \$1 for every \$2 donated. Aside from CHEF, Madsen’s largest donor was the Freemasons, which donated \$6,000.

The rest of the funds came from fellow Girl Scouts and community members. Madsen organized fundraisers such as filling donors’ yards with plastic flamingos or Easter eggs in exchange for smaller donations. She also partnered with restaurants for dine-out events where a percentage of sales benefit-

ted her project.

While Madsen is currently focusing on her studies, she said she will probably engage in further community projects in the future.

“It’s definitely daunting before you start and while you’re in the process,” she said, “but as long as you’re sticking with it and asking for help, you’ll find a lot of success.”



Creek Hill Farm
Horseback Ridding Lessons,
Training, Boarding
and Sales

925.337.5375
creekhillfarms.com

A R R O Y O
C E L L A R S

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

2270 Research Drive,
Livermore
(925) 292-9157

INERTIA

(Continued from front page)

both our Target Fabrication and Physics Design Strategic Partnership Projects,” said Annie Kritcher, co-founder and chief scientist of Inertia.

“Working with the leading specialists in target manufacturing, a new fast fueling method has been developed that enables moving from NIF (the National Ignition Facility) to commercial fusion energy production.”

The partnership performed the work at LLNL over the past several months.

Inertia hopes to commercialize technology proven at LLNL’s NIF in which a barrage of lasers, fired at a fuel pellet, causes the pellet to collapse with enough momentum to trigger nuclear fusion. But NIF, which has no power-production requirements, can take up to a week to handcraft its high-precision fuel targets.

The partnership’s new process speeds up a key step in fuel production — the formation of a thin shell of frozen deuterium-tritium — from multiple days to under three hours. Simulations show that the resulting quality of targets falls well within Inertia’s reactor design limits, which are specifically designed to handle more

target imperfections than NIF. Even when simulating more defects, the fusion-energy output remains high.

“The quality of these rapid ice layers (is) comparable in many ways to the NIF layers that take much longer to grow,” said Chris Weber, LLNL inertial confinement physicist and Capsule Modeling Team lead. “And Inertia’s target design, using a much

thicker ice layer than NIF, is more robust to ice defects.”

If successful, commercial fusion power could deliver stable, clean electricity to the power grid without fossil fuel dependency.

“Fueling targets quickly” represents one of 10 milestones outlined by Inertia to complete its first phase of feasibility demonstrations. The nine remaining tasks —

including increasing its energy yield to more than six times NIF’s and spinning up a new industry around solid-state lasers — each present significant and uncharted challenges.

When Inertia opened its manufacturing facility in July, it planned to take 18 months to streamline its fuel-production line, begin construction of its laser system, and start designing its pilot power plant.

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

Livermore Wente Winery worker, married father of three and grandfather

Miguel Lopez

remains in Mexico after having been illegally deported last June.

To donate to a GoFundMe account supporting the Lopez family, visit
<https://www.gofundme.com/f/bring-miguel-back-to-his-loved-ones>

LEGAL NOTICES/CLASSIFIEDS

LEGAL NOTICES

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 625050

The following person(s) doing business as: The Black Cat, 2241 1ST Street, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Kalle Nueva LLC, 1537 Marina DR, Lathrop, CA 95330. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s: Krista Monique Lucero, Managing Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 31, 2026. Expires July 30, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6958. Published August 6, 13, 20, 27, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 624693

The following person(s) doing business as: The Black Cat, 2241 1ST Street, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Kalle Nueva LLC, 1537 Marina DR, Lathrop, CA 95330. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s: Krista Monique Lucero, Managing Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 31, 2026. Expires July 30, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6958. Published August 6, 13, 20, 27, 2026.

This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 7/23/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Michelle Ha, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 29, 2026. Expires July 28, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6960. Published August 6, 13, 20, 27, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 624225

The following person(s) doing business as: Perfect Samples, 39149 Guardino Drive, APT 150, Fremont, CA 94538 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Harpreet Malik, 39149 Guardino Drive, APT 150, Fremont, CA 94538. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Harpreet Malik, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 23, 2026. Expires June 22, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6961. Published August 6, 13, 20, 27, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 624918

The following person(s) doing business as: David Family Dentistry, 148 Best Ave, San Leandro, CA 94577 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Vicente David Jr., 148 Best Ave, San Leandro, CA 94577. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 2/3/2003. Signature of Registrant/s/: Vicente David Jr., Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 13, 2026. Expires July 12, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6963. Published August 6, 13, 20, 27, 2026.

This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 6/23/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Michelle Rippy, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 13, 2026. Expires July 12, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6964. Published August 6, 13, 20, 27, 2026.

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
ORIGINAL FILE NO. 608261

The person(s) listed below have abandoned the use of the following fictitious business name(s). Entropy Cellars, 2720 Marina Ave, Livermore, CA 94550. Registered by the following owner(s): Jeffery Roberts, 2720 Marina Ave, Livermore, CA 94550. The fictitious business name statement was filed on 2/29/2024 in the County of Alameda. This business was conducted by an Individual. Signature of Registrant/s/: Jeffery Roberts, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 23, 2026. The Independent, Legal No. 6964. Published August 6, 13, 20, 27, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 624688

The following person(s) doing business as: Thai & Lao Language Services, 1442 A Walnut ST, #256, Berkeley, CA 94709 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Benjamin Terlecky, 1442A Walnut ST, #246, Berkeley, CA 94709. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 2/15/1996. Signature of Registrant/s/: Benjamin Terlecky, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 14, 2026. Expires July 13, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6966. Published August 3, 20, 27, September 3, 2026.

LEGAL NOTICES/CLASSIFIEDS

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 625085

The following person(s) doing business as: Eighth Crest Strategies, 4 Commodore Drive, Unit 321, Emeryville, CA 94608 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Eighth Crest Strategies LLC, 4 Commodore Drive, Unit 321, Emeryville, CA 94608. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Kok Seong Lim, Principal. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 3, 2026. Expires August 2, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6968. Published August 13, 20, 27, September 3, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 624960

The following person(s) doing business as: Amjmark, 2441 Euclid PL, Fremont, CA 94539 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Amjcore Inc., 46539 Mission Blvd #1007, Fremont, CA 94539. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 2/2/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Abdulhakim Abushaala, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 27, 2026. Expires July 26, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6969. Published August 13, 20, 27, September 3, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 625125

The following person(s) doing business as: Krizma Studio, 95 41st ST, APT 401, Oakland, CA 94611 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Nicholas Pierson, 95 41st ST, APT 401, Oakland, CA 94611. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 8/3/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Nicholas Pierson, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 4, 2026. Expires August 3, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6970. Published August 13, 20, 27, September 3, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 624983

The following person(s) doing business as: Livermore Valley Cottages, 3459 Arroyo Road, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): LWCI LLC, 220 S. Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: L. Michelle Boss, Managing Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 28, 2026. Expires July 27, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6971. Published August 13, 20, 27, September 3, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 625142

The following person(s) doing business as: Tri-Valley Solar Care, 363 Helen Way, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Chris Frago, 363 Helen, CA 94550. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 9/18/2023. Signature of Registrant/s/: Chris Frago, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 5, 2026. Expires August 4, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6972. Published August 13, 20, 27, September 3, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 625161

The following person(s) doing business as: Denviva Dental, 1402 Concanon Blvd, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Karan S. Randhawa DMD, Inc., 2473 Detert Street, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Karan S. Randhawa, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 5, 2026. Expires August 4, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6973. Published August 13, 20, 27, September 3, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 624871

The following person(s) doing business as: Northern Lights and Music, 4426 Pampas Ave, Oakland, CA 94619 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Aaron Spading, 4426 Pampas Ave, Oakland, CA 94619. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 7/22/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Aaron Spading, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 22, 2026. Expires July 21, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6974. Published August 13, 20, 27, September 3, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 625223

The following person(s) doing business as: Ms. Carmen's Kinder Casa, 860 Herman Ave, Suite #102, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Carmen Meneses, 860 Herman Ave, Suite #102, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by an Individual.

ual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 8/5/2013. Signature of Registrant/s/: Carmen Meneses, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 7, 2026. Expires August 6, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6975. Published August 13, 20, 27, September 3, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 625132

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Iron Horse Properties; 2. Ross Property Management, 280 Division Street, Pleasanton, CA 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Iron Horse Holdings, 280 Division, Street, Pleasanton, CA 94566. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 2/5/2024. Signature of Registrant/s/: Erica Starkey, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 4, 2026. Expires August 3, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6976. Published August 13, 20, 27, September 3, 2026.

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME ORIGINAL FILE NO. 603867

The person(s) listed below have abandoned the use of the following fictitious business name(s): Iron Horse Properties, 550 Main ST, Pleasanton, CA 94566. Registered by the following owner(s): Starkey Holdings, Inc., 550 Main ST, Pleasanton, CA 94566. The fictitious business name statement was filed on 2/5/2024 in the County of Alameda. This business was conducted by an Individual. Signature of Registrant/s/: Erica Starkey, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 4, 2026. The Independent, Legal No. 6977. Published August 13, 20, 27, September 3, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 625103

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Mel's Magic; 2. Mel's Magic Bags, 960 Shorepoint CT, Apt 311, Alameda, CA 94501 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Protigen LLC, 1401 21st ST, Ste R, Sacramento, CA 95811. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: L. Michelle Boss, Managing Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 28, 2026. Expires July 27, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6978. Published August 20, 27, September 3, 10, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 625215

The following person(s) doing business as: LBF Enterprises, 1264 Steath ST, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Powerrmatic Associates, Inc., 1264 Steath ST, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 7/1/1972. Signature of Registrant/s/: Frank Nudo III, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 7, 2026. Expires August 6, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6979. Published August 20, 27, September 3, 10, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 624544

The following person(s) doing business as: Mothers Kitchen, 1857 Rheem Court, Pleasanton, CA 94588 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Uma Annamalai, 1857 Rheem Court, Pleasanton, CA 94588. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 7/1/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Uma Annamalai, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 7, 2026. Expires July 6, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6980. Published August 20, 27, September 3, 10, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 624546

The following person(s) doing business as: Chettnad Kitchen, 1857 Rheem Court, Pleasanton, CA 94588 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): San-

jiv P. Annamalai, 1857 Rheem Court, Pleasanton, CA 94588. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 7/1/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Sanjiv P. Annamalai, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 7, 2026. Expires July 6, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6981. Published August 20, 27, September 3, 10, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 625178

The following person(s) doing business as: Willamette International Travel, 1677 Shattuck Ave, Berkeley, CA 94709 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Going Places Travel, Inc., 1677 Shattuck Ave, Berkeley, CA 94709. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 8/1/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Kevin Saxe, Managing Director. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 6, 2026. Expires August 5, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6982. Published August 20, 27, September 3, 10, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 625253

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Lunure; 2. Lunure Baby, 1313 Lincoln Avenue, Apt C, Alameda, CA 94501 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Jessica Murray, 1313 Lincoln Avenue, Apt C, Alameda, CA 94501. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 12/1/2024. Signature of Registrant/s/: Jessica Murray, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 9, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6983. Published August 20, 27, September 3, 10, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 625000

The following person(s) doing business as: Klean Karz, 4361 Technology DR, Unit B, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Klean Homes Inc., 4361 Technology DR, Unit B, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Hector Arana, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 29, 2026. Expires July 28, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6984. Published August 20, 27, September 3, 10, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 625034

The following person(s) doing business as: Party Printer, 111 Traynor ST, Hayward, CA 94544 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Silver Rainbow LLC, 1309 Coffeen Avenue, Ste 1200, Sheridan, Wyoming 82801. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Scott Johnson, Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 30, 2026. Expires July 29, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6985. Published August 20, 27, September 3, 10, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 625286

The following person(s) doing business as: Raphael Stone, 14694 Wicks Blvd, San Leandro, CA 94577 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Nuvira Stone Inc, 14694 Wicks Blvd, San Leandro, CA 94577. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 5/18/2018. Signature of Registrant/s/: Eidan Ben Hamo, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 11, 2026. Expires August 10, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6986. Published August 20, 27, September 3, 10, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 625350

The following person(s) doing

business as: Bhumetric, 2257 Minerva CT, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Soil Metrics Incorporated, 2257 Minerva CT, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Jagdish Girimaji, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 13, 2026. Expires August 12, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6987. Published August 20, 27, September 3, 10, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 625104

The following person(s) doing business as: Bubble Brite Laundromat, 183 S N ST, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Bubble Brite Laundry Group LLC, 400 Pimlico DR, Ste 114-104, Pleasanton, CA 94588. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 8/1/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Kevin Saxe, Managing Director. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 6, 2026. Expires August 5, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6988. Published August 20, 27, September 3, 10, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 625235

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Livermore Gymnastic Center; 2. Livermore Gymnastics, 1110 E Stanley Blvd, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Little Gymnastics Club, Inc., 111 E Stanley Blvd, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 6/1/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Kelsey Costello, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 7, 2026. Expires August 6, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6989. Published August 20, 27, September 3, 10, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 625093

The following person(s) doing business as: Tibetan Herb Tea, 2096 Merced Street, San Leandro, CA 94577 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Stella Phan, 2096 Merced Street, San Leandro, CA 94577. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Stella Phan, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 3, 2026. Expires August 2, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6990. Published August 20, 27, September 3, 10, 2026.

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME ORIGINAL FILE NO. 591622

The person(s) listed below have abandoned the use of the following fictitious business name(s): Mykitchencalculator.com, 3101 Barrett CT, Castro Valley, CA 94546. Registered by the following owner(s): Ernest Ray Lee, 3101 Barrett CT, Castro Valley, CA 94546. This business name statement was filed on 8/31/2022 in the County of Alameda. This business was conducted by an Individual. Signature of Registrant/s/: Erica Starkey, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 13, 2026. The Independent, Legal No. 6991. Published August 12, 20, 27, September 3, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 625420

The following person(s) doing business as: Black Sheep Theater Company, 1024 47th ST, APT 2, Emeryville, CA 94608 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Micaela Groman, 1024 47th ST, APT 2, Emeryville, CA 94608. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 8/30/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Micaela Groman, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 17, 2026. Expires August 16, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6992. Published August 27, September 3, 10, 17, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 625417

The following person(s) doing business as: Baitwo Studio, 6 Arundel DR, Hayward, CA, 94542 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Mstson Education LLC, 6 Arundel DR, Hayward, CA 94542. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 8/17/26. Signature of Registrant/s/: Ruomeng Bai, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 17, 2026. Expires August 16, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6993. Published August 27, September 3, 10, 17, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 625062

The following person(s) doing business as: Adi Opera, 35466 Eden Court, Fremont, CA 94536-3318 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Anusuya Sista, 35466 Edne Court, Fremont, CA 94536. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 5/5/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Anusuya Sista, MS3. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 31, 2026. Expires July 30, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6994. Published August 27, September 3, 10, 17, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 625530

The following person(s) doing business as: Molten Theory, 34383 Alvarado Niles RD # 314, Union City, CA 94587 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Syed Abidi, 34383 Alvarado Niles RD, #314, Union City, CA 94587. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Syed Abidi, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 21, 2026. Expires August 20, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6995. Published August 27, September 3, 10, 17, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 625340

The following person(s) doing business as: 2332 Chamber Chatters Club, Dublin, CA 94568 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Toasmasters International, 9127 South Jamaica ST, Ste 400, Englewood, CO 80112. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 11/20/2002. Signature of Registrant/s/: Angu Sundaresh Krishna Kumar, Treasurer. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 12, 2026. Expires August 11, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6996. Published August 27, September 3, 10, 17, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 625244

The following person(s) doing business as: For Aesthetic Value, 2390 Pasatiempo, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Mi-

kayla Henry, 2390 Pasatiempo, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 3/16/2024. Signature of Registrant/s/: Mkayla Henry, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 7, 2026. Expires August 6, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6997. Published August 27, September 3, 10, 17, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 625107

The following person(s) doing business as: MC & Associates Tax and Financial, 4049 First ST, STE 126, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Melissa Cook Tax Preparation LLC, 4049 First ST, STE 126 Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 3/1/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Melissa Cook, Managing Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 4, 2026. Expires August 3, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6998. Published August 27, September 3, 10, 17, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 625463

The following person(s) doing business as: JLS Tax Strategies, 4049 First ST, STE 126, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): James Settle, 4049 First ST, STE 126, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 6/1/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: James Settle, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 18, 2026. Expires August 17, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6999. Published August 27, September 3, 10, 17, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 625383

The following person(s) doing business as: Vine & Smoke BBQ, 1048 Glenn CMN, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Vine and Smoke BBQ LLC, 1048 Glenn CMN, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Jared Bitcon, Managing Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 14, 2026. Expires August 13, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 7000. Published August 27, September 3, 10, 17, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 625495

The following person(s) doing business as: Autochamp, 7000 Village Pkwy L, Dublin, CA 94568 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Bizchamp, 4599 Alta Terra Road, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed

ed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Anurag Ravijumar, CFO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 20, 2026. Expires August 19, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 7001. Published August 27, September 3, 10, 17, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 625482

The following person(s) doing business as: Spotlight Services, 7338 Quartz Cir, Dublin, CA 94568 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Gerald Gallardo, 7338 Quartz Cir, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Gerald Gallardo, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 19, 2026. Expires August 18, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 7002. Published August 27, September 3, 10, 17, 2026.

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME ORIGINAL FILE NO. 612056

The person(s) listed below have abandoned the use of the following fictitious business name(s): WP Cattle Co, 6999 Arroyo Road, Livermore, CA 94550. Registered by the following owner(s): Paul D. Banke, P.O. BOX 55, Livermore, CA 94550. The fictitious business name statement was filed on 1/28/2025 in the County of Alameda. This business was conducted by an Individual. Signature of Registrant/s/: Kathy Banke, Trustee for Paul Banke. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 18, 2026. The Independent, Legal No. 7003. Published August 13, 20, 27, September 3, 2026.

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Senior SAP Finance Analyst (Livermore, CA) Act as co. liaison b/w global org's Finan & IT teams & bus. stakeholders, providing SAP fin'l analysis knowl in SAP Fin'l Acctg (FI) & Controlling (CO) while ensuring integration w/ SAP modules & non-SAP Finan apps. Bach in Bus. Admin, Finan, Econ or Int'l Bus. followed by 5 yrs progressive exp in specialty field. \$180,000.00/yr. Std benefits incl medical, dental, vision, vacation, paid holidays, Retirement, life ins, etc. Topcon Positioning Systems, Inc., Cheryl Erickson, 7400 National Dr., Livermore, CA 94550.

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‘Pour Collective’ Launches to Support Downtown Businesses

By Christina Cavallaro

LIVERMORE — Nick Martinez, a 20-year restaurant industry veteran and Livermore resident, is taking a leap of faith on a new hospitality initiative: the Downtown Pour Collective (DPC).

rience with national brands, Martinez took his expertise into his own backyard at the urging of his wife, following the birth of their first child 21 months ago.

“It’s great that you love restaurants. It’s great that it’s a piece of you, but I want something more for

munity, launched Aug. 1 in downtown Livermore. The program connects members with eight independently-owned downtown venues through a monthly system built around the Pour, a membership benefit redeemable for a featured beer, glass of wine, or cock-

butts in seats during their off-peak hours.”

Martinez has since brought aboard founding partner venues including Dimitri’s Taverna, Swirl on the Square, The Cheese Parlor, Calamari Bar & Bistro, Stampede Bar & Grill, Bruno’s, L. Campo, and Wingen Bakery & Restaurant.

Michelle Braatz, owner of Swirl on the Square, shared some of her reasons for joining in the maiden voyage of the DPC. “I think his idea is brilliant,” Braatz said. “And I think that it will help a lot of people like me who are maybe on the outskirts or who are very small and need someone to know they’re there.”

Even after 17 years at her location around the corner from First St. at 21 S Livermore Ave. in Blacksmith Square, she said people still come in and ask how long she’s been there.

The other aspect, to which she gives kudos to Livermore city planners, is that most downtown businesses are not chains.

“So if we can form a network of people that get to know each other and are working together to get more people downtown to our little one-person (venues)...we become an actual network,” she said.

And given its structure to bring more people in during slower times, she sees real benefits for her customers, who as part of the collective can choose any glass of wine on her menu.

“I can introduce them to my place and take the time to find out what they really want.”

Brandon Wood, owner of the Cheese Parlor, shared his main draw to becoming a founding member.

“To support community. That is my only draw,” he said.

Wood admitted that join-

ing something like the DPC is not normally a move he would make because it’s an unknown business. And after 5 ½ years in his shop at 158 Maple St. he’s proud of the fact that he can wrap his arms around his business enough to be open seven days a week and pay his team.

So my brain and my passion (are telling) me to go against every business move that I would normally make and support him (Martinez) because so many people not only supported me to start this place but continue to support me,” Wood said.

“So it’s my way of paying it forward and giving back to some other small business.”

Founding member enrollment is open now through Aug. 31, with membership capped at 200 locals and monthly rates locked for five years starting at \$55. Beyond the monthly pour redemptions, members gain access to exclusive community gatherings—including a Sept. 15 kickoff party at Dimitri’s Taverna and fall networking events

across local wineries, breweries, and distilleries—plus a collectible 36-coaster series illustrated by Livermore artist Annette Frei. To secure one of the founding spots before registration closes, visit downtown-pourcollective.com.

The membership experience will also include custom etched glassware. “On one side is our logo for the Downtown Pour Collective, and on the other is literally downtown Livermore,” Martinez said. “You have the streets etched into the glass that showcase that you are supporting downtown.”

“The whole process is just about supporting Livermore,” Martinez said.



Founder Nick Martinez (top), creator of the new Downtown Pour Collective, collaborates with participating venue owners Michelle Braatz of Swirl on the Square (bottom left), Brandon Wood of The Cheese Parlor (bottom right), and a host of other local representative establishments on a members-only beverage community designed to support independent businesses in downtown Livermore. (Photos — May Fraser)

And he’s building his entire business model around one thing — Livermore community.

“This is what we are. We are a community that supports its own,” Martinez said.

After two decades of restaurant operations expe-

you. And I feel like this community has something to offer you,” Martinez recalled his wife telling him.

Martinez set out on a new path as a restaurant consultant and the idea for the Downtown Pour Collective was born — a members-only beverage com-

tail at a partner venue.

Martinez’s new consultant role led him to the community of small business owners in the downtown area where he discovered a lot of them were facing the same issue.

“Everyone’s trying to figure out how to get more

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