



Neighbors and activists rally at the corner of Black Avenue in Pleasanton on March 28 during the “No Kings 3” day of action. Organized locally to promote justice and inclusion, the event featured a sea of signs and flags advocating for change. (Photo — Jacob Clouser)

BART Survey Reveals a Deep Public Anxiety Over Safety and Cleanliness

Glazer Says the Agency Avoided Appropriate Decisions Despite Looming Deficit

By David Jen

TRI-VALLEY — A recent survey of BART sentiment suggested that the agency should maintain its focus on safety and cleanliness, but did little to address the hybrid-work model keeping commuters at home and off trains.

At a March 26 presentation of the survey results to the BART Board of Directors, BART staff and directors continued to bet that ride-experience improvements can outweigh the benefits of hybrid work and entice enough non-riders back into the system to restore the system’s financial feasibility.

The 53-year-old agency faces a \$376 million operating deficit beginning in July and has begun

planning for severe station closures and possible system shutdown if a financial rescue package fails to materialize during this year’s election.

According to the survey, 74% of respondents listed crime as a reason to not ride BART and 64% said the system is too dirty.

“I want to look at a way that we can address those riders for whom BART and all transit is a mystery,” Board Chair Robert Raburn said. “They’re just afraid to go there. It’s unfamiliar territory and they have an incomplete set of information.”

At the meeting, staff proposed that BART marketing continue with its themes of “clean, safe and satisfied” and focus on the system’s new, more secure fare

gates and more frequent cleanings.

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

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

In 2023, Glazer stepped down from the Senate Select Committee

(See BART, page 6)

Grid-Scale Battery Project Proposed East of Livermore

Boosts Promised but with Environmental Trade-Offs

By David Jen

TRI-VALLEY — A proposed grid-scale battery project in eastern Alameda County could help support grid-reliability and climate goals, while bringing some \$440 million in economic value to the region, if completed. But the new infrastructure would also inflict unavoidable damage to the area’s scenery and wildlife habitat, according to the California Energy Commission (CEC).

Proposed by national renewable energy owner Clearway Energy Group LLC, the Potentia-Viridi Battery Energy Storage System would add some 3,200 megawatt-hours of battery storage to the

grid, enough to power thousands of homes for a month. Potentia viridi is Latin for green power.

Located on a 236-acre parcel west of the Tesla Substation on Patterson Pass Road near the county’s eastern border, the 102-acre project proposes to build a battery system, substation, power-conversion system and generation-intertie line that connects to the grid through the existing Tesla Substation.

Although the project falls outside the Livermore and Alameda County urban growth boundaries (UGBs), both allow the development because it is related to infrastructure.

The system would store energy

(See BATTERY, page 6)



Since its grand opening on March 26, the new H Mart Dublin has continued to draw massive crowds, with shoppers lining up daily at 7884 Dublin Blvd. to experience the huge selection of Asian groceries and the popular Market Eatery food hall. (Photo — Leah Silveira)

New Dublin Cultural Arts Center Set to open 2026

A Dedicated Space to Create, Perform and Exhibit

By Sanestina Hunter

DUBLIN — A new arts center is underway to open in Dublin this year, expanding space for local artists and community programming.

Spanning 13,500 square feet, the \$15.4M cultural arts center will be located on the first floor of the Dublin Civic Center.

The project, funded through the city’s Capital Improvement Program, will serve as a multi-use facility offering cultural, educational and social opportunities, expanding access to arts programs for residents.

The Dublin City Council approved the conversion of the Civic Center’s former Police Services wing into a cultural arts center in October 2019, following the relocation of Dublin Police Services to a new headquarters at the city’s Public Safety Complex in Dublin.

Construction on the arts center began in November 2022 and is expected to be completed in 2026.

Bridget Amaya, assistant director of parks and community services, told The Independent that the project marks a significant step forward for local arts and culture.

“While Dublin has long offered quality facilities and programs, this allows us to move beyond general-use spaces and into a purpose-built environment designed specifically for the arts — with opportunities to create, perform, exhibit and experience art,” Amaya said.

The facility will feature year-round exhibitions, with gallery space extending beyond traditional walls into hallways and shared areas, as well as a dedicated “black box” theater for small-scale performances and productions.

The Precinct Black Box The-

(See ARTS, page 7)

Livermore Residents Challenge a 50% Growth Forecast in Draft General Plan

Fearing ‘Aggressive’ Population Data May Force Development Beyond UGB

By David Jen

LIVERMORE — Residents continued last month to question the population projections used in the city’s next 20-year general plan, fearing that the city may be unnecessarily committing to future development.

The city is nearing the end of a multi-year process of developing the plan, intended to guide city decisions through 2045.

“The projections of the population in Livermore are going to be very important for how we understand what we want to do with our land inside Livermore,

how we designate the land and what we might designate for the land outside our current urban growth boundary (UGB),” resident Jeff Kaskey said during the March 17 planning commission meeting.

At the meeting, the planning commission conducted a public hearing on the general plan’s draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR), which is intended to share the objective environmental consequences of the plan’s proposals.

Despite a stated goal of focusing growth within the city’s UGB, the draft general plan includes some 1,100 acres outside the boundary as a future study area

“to balance housing needs with job-generating land uses in the event that the city is unable to meet these objectives within the current city limits.” Any development in the area, known as East of Greenville, would require moving the UGB through a public vote.

The draft plan also assumes a current population of 87,930 people in Livermore and projects that number to climb to 131,750 people by 2045, a 50% increase. The additional residents would need 16,610 more housing units and 6,110 new jobs within the study area, according to the EIR’s notice of availability.

(See PLAN, page 7)



A sweet moment is captured at the 42nd annual Goodguys All American Get-Together on March 28-29 at the Alameda County Fairgrounds, as a family made new memories with vintage metal. (Photo — David Scholz)

Car Show Transports Fans to Simpler Times

Hot Rod Aficionados and Families Alike Flock to the Tri-Valley for Vintage Style

By David Scholz

PLEASANTON — A car lover’s time capsule of automobiles, running the gamut of memorable stylings through decades gone by complete with the distinctive throatiness of turning engines, welcomed thousands to the Alameda County Fairgrounds last weekend.

The 42nd annual Goodguys All American Get-Together drew thousands as car owners and hot rod aficionados showed off their

rides to attendees lapping up the craftsmanship that went into maintaining countless automobiles from bygone eras and more recent history.

For some, it’s the colors that these refurbished beauties now adorn, said Jaun Casto Jr., of Pleasanton.

“Sometimes they have a favorite car,” he said, noting some look for stock models while others have an affinity for modified ones, for example.

“Everybody is different,” said

Castro. “I enjoy looking at the cars.”

A visitor’s own history is showcased in the trappings of car shows like the annual Tri Valley event, which transports visitors back to less complicated times.

Henry Finch, of Moraga, spoke of “a lot of muscle” in these older cars that went by the wayside because of smog regulations.

“A lot of these people grew up in that genre,” he said. “Now they can come and see this old stuff that they grew up around.”

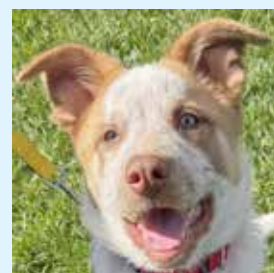
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PET OF THE WEEK



CHARLES

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Livermore Hits Record Housing Permits; Still Trails Targets

By Vivien Wenneker

LIVERMORE — The City of Livermore issued building permits for 422 new units in 2025, the highest annual number since the start of its 2023-2031 Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) cycle.

Of the 2025 total, approximately 34% (144 units) were in the extremely low, very low and low-income categories. The remaining units were concentrated in the moderate (28%) and above moderate (37%) categories.

included Cornerstone, with 253 units (114 affordable); East Avenue “Aboud” Townhomes, with 13 units (one affordable); and Pacific and Livermore Townhomes, with 115 units (17 affordable).

On top of its housing element programs, the city secured a \$1.6 million local housing fund award to help advance construction of the Pacific Avenue senior apartments. Officials also continued to implement its accessory dwelling unit (ADU) support

The 2025 housing report provides an overview of the city’s housing production and implementation over the past calendar year, which the city is required to submit to the state by April 1.

With five years left to meet the remaining 80% of its RHNA target, Livermore is behind on its state-mandated housing goals. However, it saw a noticeable increase in low- and very low-income housing. For the first time in 2025, the city

after years of effort, we still have communities that aren’t meeting the needs of their residents,” Governor Newsom said in a statement.

“There’s no carve-out here,” Newsom said. No community gets a pass when it comes to addressing homelessness or creating more housing access. We’ll keep pushing forward by enforcing the law, fighting NIMBY actions, and holding local governments accountable, because every Californian deserves a place to call home.”

Among the communities that received final warnings from California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) were Atwater, Avenal, California City, Corcoran, Escalon, Half Moon Bay, Hanford, Kings County, Lemoore, Merced County, Montclair, Oakdale, Patterson, Ridgecrest and Turlock.

According to an HCD press release, these communities remain more than two years behind schedule and have housing elements which do not demonstrate a near-term path to compliance with state law, “despite extensive and ongoing technical assistance from HCD.”

This crackdown reflects a stricter approach California has adopted in recent years.

Newsom established HCD’s Housing Accountability Unit (HAU) in 2021 to ensure each community meets its obligations. In 2024, the unit’s oversight was expanded to include monitoring efforts to address homelessness.

With seven of the warned communities located in the Northern Central Valley, many of the surrounding areas are feeling the pressure. In the Tri-Valley, homes remain

unaffordable even to moderate-income households without down-payment assistance.

“We’re in this catch-22 where our ability to find impact fees, which make it possible to have safe roads, working sewer systems, water and all the things that create a quality city, are being threatened by the state if we don’t build enough low and very low housing,” said Livermore Councilmember Evan Branning.

“It is a statewide issue, there is no easy solution and I want to really com-

mend how well our staff has done at trying to find as many solutions as possible and move forward with the housing that we need.”



Tri-Valley high school sports spring season is off to a running start. A group of local athletes were spotted near the Pleasanton Post Office getting after it. (Photo — Jacob Clouser)

Now in its third year of the current RHNA cycle, the city has permitted 908 units out of its total allocation of 4,570 — approximately 20% of its overall target.

Most of this progress has occurred in the above-moderate (467 units) and moderate-income categories (235 units). Comparatively fewer units were produced in the extremely low, very low and low-income categories, according to the city’s 2025 Housing Element Annual Report.

The major residential projects approved in 2025

programs in partnership with homeowners leveraging state accelerator rebates.

“There’s been good progress on the number of units,” said City Councilmember Steven Dunbar. “We’re not up to the percentage yet against the total number per year — almost no one is — but we are making progress in the right direction.”

The city’s 2023-2031 housing element is a state-required part of the city’s general plan that outlines how Livermore will accommodate the housing needs across varying income levels.

issued permits within the extremely low-income category, amounting to 39 units.

Livermore’s effort comes as many California cities face mounting pressure to keep up with the state laws.

On March 25, just days after Livermore adopted its report, Governor Gavin Newsom issued a final warning to 15 cities and counties noncompliant with state laws which require them to plan for the housing needs of residents across all income levels.

“I’m disappointed on behalf of the state and the people of California that

Pleasanton Names Nicholas Ajluni Environmental Services Director

PLEASANTON — Nicholas Ajluni has been named assistant director for Utilities and Environmental Services by the city’s Department of Public Works effective Monday, March 2.

Ajluni spent 15 years in various public works positions with San Jose, most recently as division manager for Utility Financial and Business Operations. He is also a board member for Bay-Work, a regional agency consortium that promotes careers in water and wastewater management.

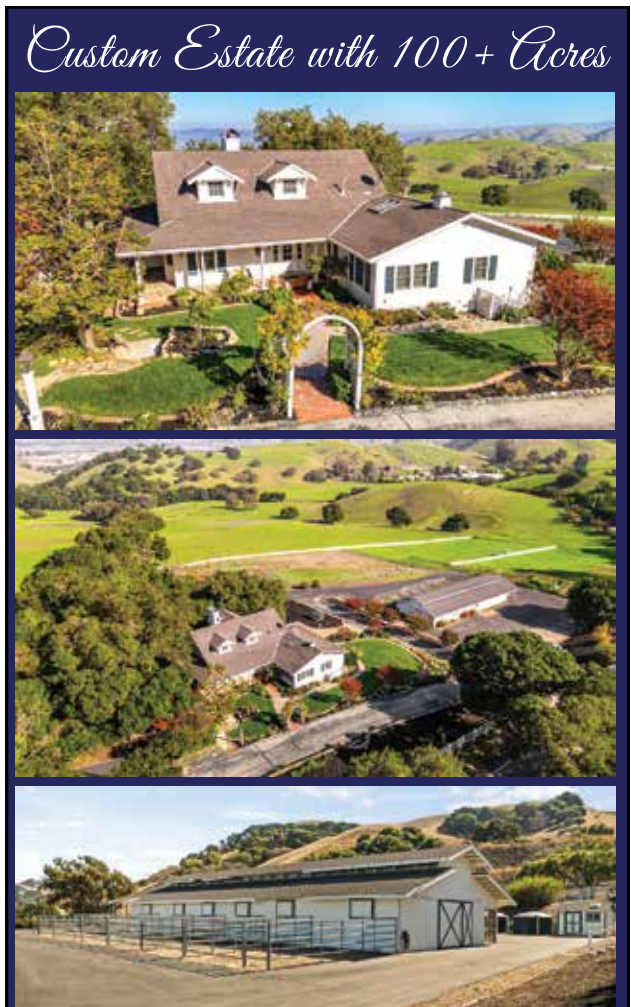
In his new role, Ajluni will oversee Pleasanton’s utilities and environmental services operations, including the city’s water, wastewater, stormwater and sustainability programs, and help with ongoing system improvements and long-term infrastructure planning efforts.

“We are excited to welcome Nicholas to Pleasanton’s Public Works leadership team,” said Public Works Director Siew-Chin Yeong. “His depth of experience in utility operations, financial management, and regional collaboration will support our continued focus on delivering reliable services while strengthening environmental stewardship in our community.”

Ajluni holds both bachelor’s and master’s degree in environmental studies from San José

State University, where his graduate research fo-

cused on water resources management.



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Dublin Council Updates Parking Rules for Housing

By Sanestina Hunter

DUBLIN — The Dublin City Council approved city-initiated amendments to the zoning ordinance Tuesday, March 24, to implement its Housing Element—a state-mandated, long-term plan outlining how the city will meet housing needs and comply with state law.

The changes focus on how parking is calculated for multifamily housing, specifically how many spaces are required based on unit size and housing type.

Kristie Wheeler, Dublin's special projects manager, presented the proposal, explaining the

amendments are part of the city's effort to implement its state-certified Housing Element.

The amendments also align with state housing requirements aimed at preventing the loss of existing housing units. Under the changes, new development projects that demolish housing must replace those units, particularly if occupied by lower-income residents.

The update eases development requirements by revising parking standards and removing rules for guest parking to support multifamily and affordable housing.

Wheeler explained the new rules tying the number

of spaces to unit size.

Smaller units, such as studios and one-bedroom apartments, require fewer spaces, while larger units require more.

She noted that the changes lower parking requirements for senior and affordable housing, including below-market-rate units.

Vice Mayor Jean Josey stressed that families living in condominiums often stay long-term and advocated for maintaining adequate parking, noting that demand can increase as children grow older and begin driving.

Wheeler recommended clarifying that senior housing standards apply to both

market-rate and affordable units.

The amendments revise zoning definitions, replacing "senior citizen apartments" with "senior housing," a broader term that includes both rental and ownership developments.

The council also voted to eliminate guest parking requirements and combine standards for apartments and condominiums into a single set of rules, simplifying the city's zoning code.

In 2022, the city approved its Housing Element before submitting it to the state for review. The California Department of Housing and Community Development certified the plan in 2024, requiring the

city to carry out specific housing programs.

City officials based the updates on a W-Trans parking study. "The city's existing requirements often exceed peak demand," Wheeler noted in the staff report, adding that the old standards could result in unused spaces.

Additional changes correct zoning rules related to single-room occupancy housing and low-barrier navigation centers.

The Planning Commission previously recommended approval during a public hearing in February.



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Murray Learning Center Aide Receives Herrington Award for Teacher Support

DUBLIN — Tracey Crisologo, a learning center aide at Murray Elementary School, has received the 2025-2026 Dublin Unified School Dis-

trict (DUSD) Teresa Herrington Memorial Award, which recognizes non-teaching staff for their integrity, dedication and compassion.

DUSD said Crisologo "is widely recognized across the Murray community and throughout the district for her deep commitment to stu-

dents, her advocacy for colleagues, and her willingness to step forward whenever support is needed."

DUSD added that Crisologo "brings energy, warmth, and positivity into every classroom she supports [and] is known for building strong, trusting relationships with students and for creating an environment where they feel seen, supported, and understood."

The Teresa Herrington Memorial Award was established after the death of the longtime school secretary in 2005.

DUSD said the annual award is presented to a classified employee who exemplifies the traits and qualities Herrington demonstrated throughout her career, including personal and professional integrity, respect from peers, dedication to students and the district, a helpful nature and a strong sense of humor.



Murray Elementary School Principal, Bethanne Witczak, left, presents the Teresa Herrington Memorial Award to Tracey Crisologo. (Photo courtesy of DUSD)



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Local Chefs Will Showcase Foodie Talents During Twist

TRI-VALLEY — Livermore Valley Arts (LVA) will showcase the culinary talent of the Tri-Valley during the Visit Tri-Valley Twist weekend in June.

Visit Tri-Valley Twist is a three-day event, Friday, June 5, through Sunday, June 7, that will feature multiple concerts, aquatic events at The Wave in Dublin, a hot rod show and a Bubbles & Boots country themed cocktail tasting in Pleasanton.

Visit Tri-Valley is a nonprofit destination marketing organization for Livermore, Pleasanton, Dublin and Danville.

LVA's contribution to the weekend activities, "Palate: The Art of Cuisine," will take place outside on the Bankhead Plaza and inside the Bankhead Theater lobby in Livermore from noon to 3 p.m. on Saturday, June 6.

By offering samples of their signature dishes and

desserts inspired by a single prominent color, LVA, the nonprofit that operates the Bankhead Theater and the Bothwell Arts Center, said local chefs would bring "a vivid palette of flavors to life."

Ticketed guests will receive small plates of food from each chef and one drink ticket, with additional drink tickets available for purchase. They will also be able to vote for their favorite dishes.

Bay Area jazz favorite Jeff Bordes will perform on the outdoor Shea Homes Stage at Bankhead Plaza during the culinary competition.

Tickets for the first-of-its-kind LVA fundraiser are \$195 and go on sale on Friday, March 27.

For more information, go to livermorearts.org.

The Visit Tri-Valley Twist weekend of events will get underway on Friday evening with a concert at

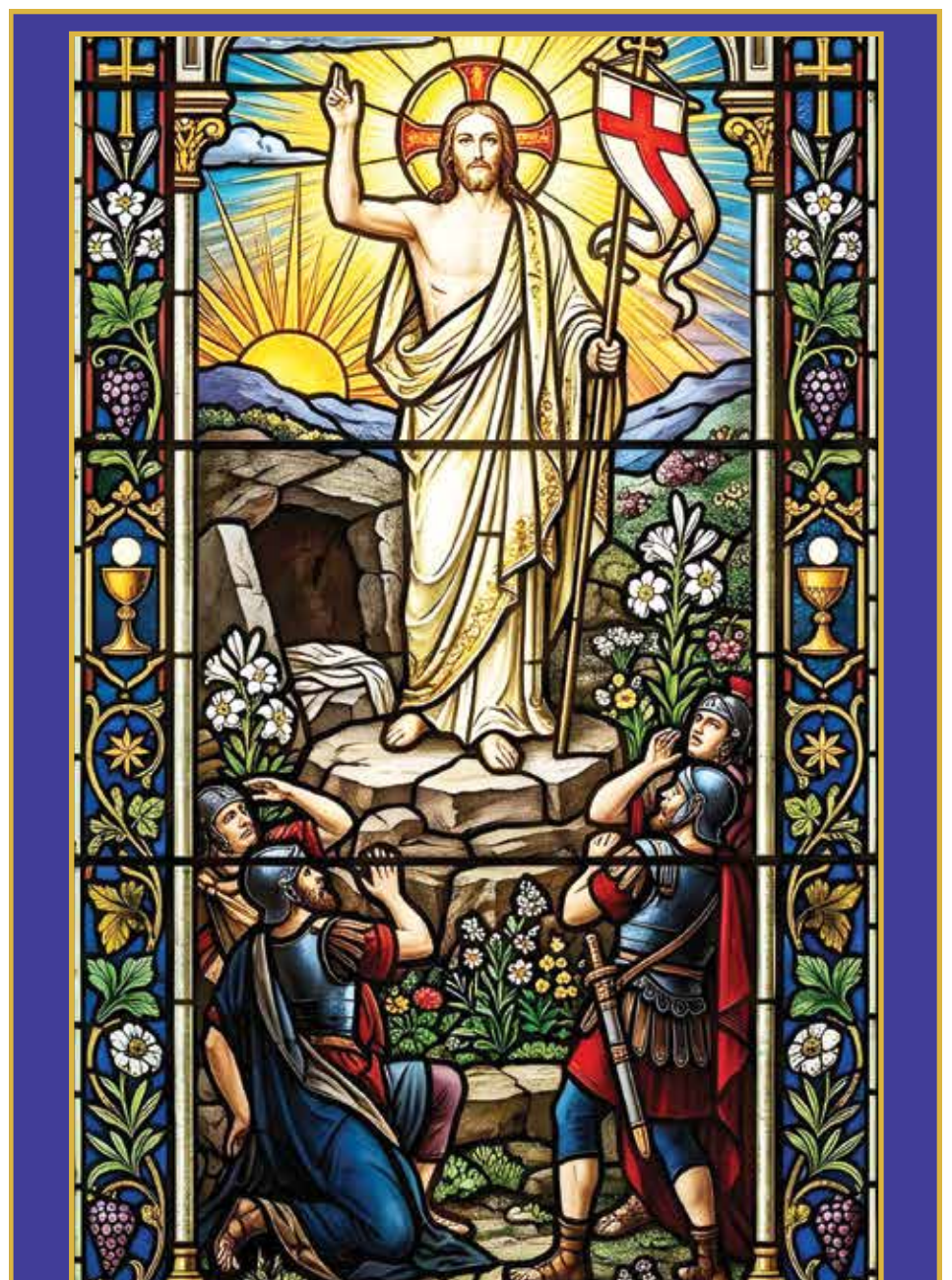
the Lions Wayside Park in Pleasanton, according to the Visit Tri-Valley website.

The marketing nonprofit has not yet released a complete list of events, but on Saturday, there will be a "musical retrospective" of Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young at the Firehouse Arts Center in Pleasanton and a "Dramatic Voices" presentation by the Livermore-Amador Symphony, with guest clarinetist Steve Sanchez, at the Bankhead Theater.

Outdoor concerts are also scheduled for Saturday at Emerald Glen Park in Dublin and Wente Vineyards in Livermore. Performers have not been announced.

Sunday will include Bubbles & Boots and a "Country Fest" barbeque with live music, both in downtown Pleasanton.

For updates on Visit Tri-Valley Twist, go to visittrivalley.com.



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EDITORIAL

Livermore Must Not Get Ahead of Itself in Planning

As the Livermore Planning Commission prepares its update to the city's next 20-year General Plan, there's a question hanging overhead about just how much the city will grow in the coming decades.

The reason that's important is that anticipated future growth will impact decisions made by the city council in the coming years. And with political leadership that tends to value more development over less, there's concern the city will use future growth to justify breaking the city's urban growth boundary.

We should all be vigilant in making sure that doesn't happen.

Right now, the draft general plan assumes the city population will grow by 43,820 people, or 50%, to 131,750 people by 2045, which would require more than 16,000 new housing units.

Critics of breaking the growth boundary state that figure is overly optimistic, especially since Liv-

ermore's population has actually shrunk in recent years. And if future growth isn't as dramatic as the current forecast, then that means there won't be a need for that much new housing either.

We can't predict the future. We won't know the rate of growth by 2045 until we get to 2045. The city needs to estimate a figure with the best available information, and because the plan sets in motion how the city will grow, it can be quite costly to underestimate the rate of growth.

The question for right now is if the city is using the best available information. We don't know that it is.

Barring some sort of disaster, Livermore's population will indeed grow, and the city will need to accommodate that growth. Furthermore, California is in the midst of an affordability crisis, brought on in part by there not being enough housing for everyone, which drives up costs for those units that are

available. We do need more housing. However, the California Department of Finance estimates that the population of Alameda County only grows by about 157,000 people by 2045. It's unrealistic to expect a quarter of the population growth for the entire county to take place in Livermore alone.

To handle the growth that we will have, there are ways of growing without breaking the urban growth boundary.

Some existing single-family housing could be converted to multifamily housing. In some areas, we should have more mixed use zoning, so that commercial uses can be located on the ground floor and residential on two stories above.

Residents in single-family homes could be incentivized to build accessory dwelling units, known as ADUs, or mother-in-law apartments. In other cases, infill development can take the form of duplexes or townhomes.

There are also tracts of vacant land within city limits that are of minimal economic use, areas used to store shipping containers along Las Positas Road, for example.

We can get more people into the existing space we have. Infill development is the potential solution. You don't need high-rises to get significantly more capacity.

The one thing we don't want is to see them settling in the farmland and open space outside the growth boundary, so that urban sprawl replaces the very reasons why many people choose to settle here in the first place.

So as the planning process continues, let's be careful. Let's make sure we're appropriately planning for future growth with the best available data. And then when we set policy, let's not fall back into the trap of sprawling out to the county line. We have other options.

MAILBOX

A Message from the Managing Editor

For years, our letters page has been a place for you to speak your mind. We've seen heartfelt thanks, sharp critiques, and passionate debates. But we've also noticed a trend that mirrors the world around us: one letter writer takes on another with harsh language, rather than a compelling argument.

At The Independent, we believe local journalism should be more than just a platform for complaints; it should be a tool for building a better community, even a better world.

Our goal is to create a space where neighbors can disagree on policy without attacking each other's character.

Mailbox Guidelines:

Opinions voiced in letters published in Mailbox are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of The Independent. Anonymous letters will not be published. All letters are required to have the name(s) of the person(s) submitting them, city of residence and phone number, for verification purposes. Letters may not contain advertising. Abusive letters and letters containing ad hominem attacks may be rejected or edited. Letters are subject to verification and may be edited for clarity at the discretion of the editor. We reserve the right to decide whether or not the letter will be published. Headings for all letters may be edited at the discretion of the editor to properly reflect their content. A headline will be added to letters received without one. Frequent letter writers may have publication of their letters delayed or not run at all. Letters should be limited to 300 words or less and should be sent by email to letters@independentnews.com or submitted using the form below.

The letters to the editor deadline is Monday at 8 a.m. If you wish to submit a letter pertaining to a special event or meeting taking place on a Monday before any given Thursday print edition — and you would like your letter to run that week — please contact the editor (editor@independentnews.com) as soon as possible on Monday to discuss the content and publication options. Otherwise, all letters submitted after 8 a.m. on Monday must hold until the following week.

Request to East Bay Regional Parks Michelle O'Neil Puryear, Pleasanton

On Sunday, March 15 at 7:00 a.m., I was hiking up the trail in Augustin Bernal Community Park. Approximately, ½ hour into the hike, my friend and I came upon a large female deer in distress on the side of the trail. We attempted to call several places that logically made sense to report an issue in the park. Each attempt resulted in a curt 'not my department' response. There is no non-emergen-

cy dispatch number available for the park. I have worked in a National Park for over 20 years, and I have never experienced or given guests the brush off. If I know how to find the correct person to handle the issue at hand, I take the information like a baton in a relay and give it to the person who can address the issue. Knowing that, I have more intrinsic knowledge about the local system than the person making the call. Today, March 20, I had a report from another friend that the deer remained in

the same spot, suffering until a bobcat attacked it and dragged its bloody body into the trail. It was still twitching when the riders passed it today. It is nature in action, and it is in a high traffic area. My request to the East Bay Regional Parks is to implement a non-emergency dispatch number that can be accessed quickly and efficiently so that the park users can assist in giving information that could prevent a problem.

Ava E-Bike Rebate Program Article Kristi Marleau, Dublin

Regarding your March 12 article, "Ava's \$3.1M E-bike Push Focuses On Reducing Area Vehicle Gas Emissions":

Bike East Bay is a supporter of e-bike rebate programs such as the one provided by Ava Community Energy mentioned in your article, as it increases access to electric bicycles as a clean and affordable transportation option. Through this program, individuals are required to purchase their e-bike from a local shop. This gives a boost to these businesses while establishing a relationship with the customer for on-going service to keep the bike running smoothly and safely.

Most of the concerns we are hearing from folks around the East Bay are about illegal e-moto devices, which are not street legal. These devices are not e-bikes, as they exceed California's speed and power limits. Assemblymember Bauer-Kahan's proposed licensing bill will put more restrictions on legal e-bikes, but it won't address continuing issues with e-motos.

Instead, we would love to see support from the Assemblymember's office for increased funding support for Ava's very popular e-bike rebate program, helping to get more legal e-bikes on our streets while cutting down on the number of illegal e-motos.

Former Principal Amy Taylor, Pleasanton

I looked up Jon Fey on the California Commission of Teacher Credentialing and could not find his credential. Does this mean the CTC conducted an investigation and re-

voked his credentials? If yes, please do a follow-up story. Make an example of him.

Dublin City Council Votes to Reduce Quality of Life Tom Evans, Dublin

No surprise here. That seems to be the City's purpose — make the developers more money by making the residents' lives worse. Today's topic: Off-Street Parking. Sadly, the State beats up cities on a regular basis regarding certain housing considerations in every city's general plan. The City in turn has to include in its General Plan/Housing Element how to accommodate the state's demand for low-income housing. Dublin's solution was to reduce constraints on low-income housing projects so that developers and builders will have an easier time (the State likes that). The way they did it last Tuesday night was to reduce the amount of covered parking required AND eliminate all guest parking. So now builders don't have to provide garaged or covered parking — just uncovered spaces. If you're a guest, good luck... you have to see what's available on the street. Also, just for affordable housing, the number of spaces required for one-bedroom affordable apartments is 0.5; one parking space for every two apartments. And just for a bonus they didn't eliminate guest parking for just low-income housing like the Housing Element agreed to; they made it for ALL multi-family housing and condos. (Way to sneak that in, Dublin.) No wonder Dublin is the fastest growing city in California; why would a builder go anywhere else when Dublin is so accommodating to your bottom line.

PFAS Questions Michael Austin, Pleasanton

PFAS questions:

1. What are the vertical and lateral hydraulic conductivities of the aquifer units intersected by the proposed wells?

2. Are the targeted production zones hydraulically connected to the PFAS impact zones through: discontinuous

aquitards, fault/fracture zones, paleo channel deposits, high-K lenses?

3. What is the anisotropy ratio (Kh/Kv) in the Bernal subbasin and how does it influence vertical PFAS migration?

4. Have continuous coes been collected to confirm the integrity and thickness of confining layers between the plume and the screened intervals?

5. Has the PFAS plume been mapped in three dimensions, including: What is the mass distribution of PFAS species, (PFOA, PFOS, PFHxS, PFNA, PFAS, GENX) across the plume?

6. Are there temporary trends indicating plume expansion, contraction, or seasonal oscillation?

7. What is the sorption behavior (Kd, retardation factor) for PFAS in local sediments, especially fine-grained units?

8. Have concentration surfaces been used to model the geometry of plumes and identify potential preferential pathways?

9. Do ground water flow models (MODFLOW, FEFLOW, or equivalent) show capture zones intersecting the PFAS plume under any pumping scenario?

10. Has a particle tracking analysis (MODPATH) been run to evaluate advective transport toward the new wells?

There are many more questions.

Calendar Algorithms are Hard. Sorry! Patricia Munro, Livermore

After last week's letter, I received an email from someone who might or might not be related to me (for lo, these many decades) and who explained in detail what I had gotten wrong about calculating the date of Easter. What can I say? Calendars are hard. Judaism has a nineteen-year cycle that includes a leap month for seven of those years, which is why I always check on hebcal.com.

Anyway...Easter. Here's a slightly edited correction from my correspondent:

"April 5 is obviously the third Sunday after the vernal equinox (Mar 20 or 21) this year.

The correct algorithm is that Easter is the first

Sunday after the first full moon after the vernal equinox; or the first Sunday after the 'Paschal full moon.'

"Actually, even 'the first full moon after the vernal equinox' is not astronomically correct. Apparently, the Church defines 'full moon' as thirteen days after the new moon according to its own Metonic calendar, which is almost but not quite identical to the Hebrew calendar — same seven leap months every nineteen years (but I'm not sure how the 29 and 30 day month lengths alternate). Also, the Church defines 'vernal equinox' as March 21, no matter when the astronomical equinox falls (it shifts around a couple of days depending on Gregorian leap years). So neither the time of the 'full moon' nor the time of the 'vernal equinox' has much to do with anything that can be defined by physical observations."

How we count time orients us to the world, whether that be through the sun, the moon, or some complicated combination—see Wikipedia's List of Calendars for the full scope.

And this week: Chag Pesach Sameach and Happy Easter to all who celebrate!

AB1998: Protecting Women's Intimate Spaces Sunil Wijeyesekera, Pleasanton

California has a policy called gender self-ID, which effectively means that any male who is not a registered sex offender can enter female locker rooms, showers, spas, and bathrooms simply by declaring that he/she is trans or nonbinary. The policy assumes that no male would take advantage of this provision for nefarious purposes, which makes no sense because it does not account for human nature.

In fact, there have been numerous instances of men entering female locker rooms and spas and exposing themselves to women. When women complain, these men get aggressive and threatening. There have also been cases of males photo-

(See MAILBOX, page 5)

THE *Independent*

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A protester joins thousands at Portola Park during the “No Kings 3” rally in Livermore on March 28. The event was one of over 3,100 nationwide demonstrations. (Photo — Jacob Clouser)

MAILBOX

(Continued from page 4)

graphing themselves and even performing sexual acts in women’s intimate spaces. These men get a thrill out of transgressing female spaces.

Recently, I was in Sacramento at a press conference promoting AB1998. This bill would require business establishments to separate intimate spaces (bathrooms, showers, changing rooms, locker rooms, dressing rooms) by biological sex, while also allowing for single-occupancy gender-neutral bathrooms. As explained by Assemblyman Carl DeMaio, a gay Republican, the bill is a compromise between the rights of women and girls and those of the trans community.

I strongly endorse single-occupancy gender-neutral bathrooms for those who need them. On the other hand, women and girls also deserve privacy and safety. Please contact your Assembly member and ask for a hearing to be scheduled on AB1998, which currently only has Republican support.

President Trump and the Iran War

Daniella Karo, Pleasanton

I fully support President Trump’s efforts of eliminating Iran’s ability to build a nuclear weapon intended to attack Israel and the U.S. Clearly, there are advantages in having both Israeli and U.S. elite military coordinating the attacks in sync. Double the power to quickly finish the job! Iran’s homicidal interests need to be completely annihilated, their nuclear capability reduced to ashes, and the regime who continues to hang its young with impunity replaced forever!!

Anybody who tries to advance the patently false notion of Israel dragging the U.S. in this war is only intended to advance discord and incite antisemitism in our nation. President Trump only acts to satisfy his and U.S. agendas.

It is in the U.S. interests to be successful in such a

critical endeavor, and we, Americans of all faiths and party allegiance, should be supportive of such grand scale humanistic intervention in our times! History is on our side!

Welcome to Trump World: Marking the Territory

Rosario Milelli, Pleasanton

There’s a familiar behavior among untrained alpha dogs: they mark everything. A tree, a hydrant, a fence — each becomes a declaration: this is mine.

In Trump World, the instinct looks remarkably similar.

American institutions are not stewarded; they are branded. The Kennedy Center has been renamed the Trump-Kennedy Center. The United States Institute of Peace becomes the Trump Institute of Peace (ironic). In December 2025, Trump announced a new fleet of U.S. Navy vessels to be called Trump-class battleships. A new fighter — the F-45. But it doesn’t stop there. We have Trump Savings accounts; how about an oversize Trump gold coin or now his signature on a dollar bill? How about his picture on the National Park pass? A Trump banner at the entrance of the Department of Justice?

This so reminiscent of North Korea’s Our Dear

Leader, or Iraq’s former Saddam Hussein. The goal is not to strengthen institutions, but to imprint them — to leave a visible, permanent trace of ownership, all to gratify his oversized ego.

The irony is hard to miss. The presidency, once understood as a temporary trust, is now reframed as Chairman of the Board. The reality, however, is that Trump is governing as a monarch. He is completely unfettered: knock down the East Wing, no problem; go to war, no problem; refuse to fund TSA agents and embrace the chaos, no problem. He answers to no one.

A Saddened Easter

Glenn White, Dublin

This Easter, I am saddened by the war in the Holy Land and the greater Middle East. Everyone, believers and unbelievers alike, know Jesus’s stance on peace and mercy and kindness to strangers or foreigners:

“Blessed are the peacemakers.”

“Love your enemies.”

“Love your neighbor as yourself.”

I know how the unbelievers see the hate-filled blasphemy of Satan’s Evangelists who reject the love of Jesus for the hatred of MAGA and its proclaimed savior: Donald Trump. But MAGA hatred is not of Christ,

the god of love, but rather, Satan the Accuser, the god of hatred and anger. In death, Charlie Kirk’s funeral delineated the love of Christ from the hatred of Satan, separating the Gospel of Love from the hatred of Satan: “That’s where I disagreed with Charlie,” Trump said. “I hate my opponent and I don’t want the best for them. I’m sorry.” His comments came after Kirk’s widow, Erika, said she forgave the man who killed her husband and that “the answer to hate is not hate.” Trump clearly promoted the hatred of Satan over the love of God. This clear mockery of Christianity was cheered on by Satan’s Evangelists in attendance.

To all the unbelievers: please understand that Christian Nationalism and their MAGA churches are anti-Christ and not of God. That’s why their blasphemy is unforgivable, because they make Jesus to be a god of hate and anger, deceiving the unbelievers, rather than presenting Jesus as the god of love and forgiveness that He is. So please don’t blame Jesus for MAGA hate and evil. Instead, open your heart to the love of God and his mercy this Easter.

Have a Happy Easter and remember to worship God in Spirit and Truth (John 4:24).

‘No Kings Day’ Demonstrations

Frank Cannella, Livermore

On March 28, our country saw an estimated eight million people demonstrate against the current administration. In my lifetime, only the Vietnam war generated a sim-

ilar reaction by so many Americans. For those of us old enough to remember, that war bedeviled several presidents, and demonstrations sprang up from the mid-sixties through most of the term of Nixon. In fact, the revelations buried in the Pentagon papers of some of Nixon’s pre-presidential comments to South Vietnam leadership led directly to Nixon’s decision to organize the “Plumbers” who broke into the Watergate building and the eventual resignation of President Nixon prior to his likely impeachment.

The current demonstrations against the administration of president Trump have no single driving force behind them. Yes, we are currently in the midst of an unpopular war, but that is only one of numerous reasons people took the time to protest on Saturday. A short list of some of the other issues would include the following: violation of the Emoluments Clause of the Constitution, wea-

ponization of the Dept. of Justice, tap dance around the Epstein files, tax cuts for billionaires, spineless cabinet officers, denial of climate change, denial of scientific data, the retribution of political enemies, the endless falsehoods, the economy, the tariffs, the continued denial of the election result in 2020, the pardoning of the January 6th rioters, and the apparent ability of wealthy convicted felons to “buy” a presidential pardon.

I wonder if Trump will post an image of himself flying over the demonstrators and defecating on the protestations this time.

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Hu Foundation to Host Seminar on AI's Impact on Youth

PLEASANTON—The Alan Hu Foundation will host a free, online seminar about artificial intelligence (AI) and its impact on young people from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 14.

The seminar will feature Celeste Campos-Castillo, an associate professor at Michigan State University,

who focuses her research on how digital technologies, from AI companions to social media, shape the health and well-being of children and adolescents.

In her presentation, Campos-Castillo will discuss what is currently known about how young people are using AI com-

panions and the benefits, risks and best ways to keep young people safe. She will draw connections to trends in young people's mental health and recent deaths by suicide among young people that have been linked to AI companion use.

The seminar, funded by a grant from the Tri-Val-

ley Nonprofit Alliance, will allow 15 minutes for questions after the formal presentation, "What Do We Know About AI Companions and Their Impact on Young People?"

To receive the Zoom meeting link, register by Monday, April 13, at alan-hu-foundation.org.

The Mental Health Association for Chinese Communities is partially funding simultaneous Chinese translation, while Spanish translation will be provided with support from Three Valleys Community Foundation.

The Alan Hu Foundation was created by Xiaofang

Chen and Chih-Ching Hu in memory of their 15-year-old son, Alan, who died in 2018. The foundation's mission is to promote mental health, raise awareness of and remove the stigma surrounding psychiatric disorders, and to support fundamental research for cures.



Team 6059 (System Overload) showing off "Arc-imeses," winner of the Design Creativity Award at the 2026 California District Silicon Valley Event. (Photo courtesy of System Overload Robotics, FIRST Robotics FRC Team 6059)

The Tri-Valley Robotics Team Earns Design Creativity Award for Innovation in STEM

At the 2026 California District Silicon Valley Event, System Overload Robotics (FIRST Robotics FRC Team 6059) was awarded the Creativity Award sponsored by Rockwell Automation. This award celebrates a creative robotic component, concept, or attribute that enhances

strategy of play and was intentionally designed and not discovered. This year's robot, "Arc-imeses", was recognized for its two-way shooter, color coding, custom bumper locks, 3D printed parts, and creative use of old gamepiece materials to stay within budget.

The team, lead by Grana-

da seniors Devin Seetho and Ira Pino, and Foothill senior Arnab Gupta, comprises about 30 students from 7 Tri-valley high schools. The team works out of a build space at the Livermore Airport, hosted by parent organization Robot Garden. FIRST Robotics Competition teams have

6 weeks to design, build, code, and test their robots according to rules that are released every January. The team also participates in STEM outreach and education activities throughout the year. You can find out more about the team at systemoverload.org, or @frc6059 on social media.

LVA Offering Two Family-Friendly Shows this Month

LIVERMORE — Livermore Valley Arts (LVA) is presenting two shows at the Bankhead Theater this month especially for families, starting with "The Wizard of Oz On Ice" on Sunday, April 12, and "Dinosaur World Live" on Friday, April 24.

"The Wizard of Oz on Ice" is a reimagined production of the classic tale

of Dorothy's adventures in the Land of Oz with original compositions by Disney music producers, extravagant costumes and Olympic skaters.

The show was developed by Ice Creative Entertainment, which also produced "Peter Pan On Ice," "Cinderella On Ice," and "Beauty & The Beast On Ice."

Tickets to the 3 p.m. per-

formance start at \$60.

"Dinosaur World Live," winner of the 2024 Olivier Award for Best Family Entertainment, is an interactive presentation featuring oversized dinosaur puppets, up to 32 feet in length, including a Tyrannosaurus rex, Triceratops, Giraffatitan, Microraptor and Segnosaurus.

The audience will help a

young paleontologist track a mysterious egg and wait for it to hatch, with youthful volunteers invited onto the stage.

There will also be a "meet and greet" with the dinosaurs and their puppeteers after the show.

Tickets to the 6:30 p.m. presentation start at \$55.

To purchase tickets, go to livermorearts.org.

CalWater Installing New Fire Hydrants

LIVERMORE — California Water Service (CalWater) is in the process of installing 855 feet of new 8-inch water main and three new fire hydrants in downtown Livermore, which the utility company says will enhance water supply reliability and fire protection.

"This infrastructure improvement project is a testament to our proactive approach of providing a reliable supply of safe, clean water to our customers in Livermore for generations to come," said District Manager John Freeman. "Whether it's for their everyday use or for an emergency need, we worry

about what it takes to keep our customers' water flowing so they don't have to."

The project, which began in February, is expected to be completed by the end of this month.

The new main is expected to last at least 100 years, according to CalWater, and replaces a section of pipe that was installed in 1949.

CalWater said its crews are working along Railroad Avenue, between First Street and P Street, from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., daily, with some work happening overnight to minimize traffic disruptions to the area.

DSRSD Redesigns Site

TRI-VALLEY — The Dublin San Ramon Services District (DSRSD) has launched a redesigned website that it says will make it easier for customers to access services.

The district, which provides drinking water, wastewater and recycled water services, stressed the website's "modern and simplified design" that targets different types of customers,

including residential, business and contractors.

The website, dsrsd.com, also adapts to various devices, including laptop computers, tablets and cellphones.

"Our website is often the first place DSRSD customers go for information," said General Manager Jan Lee. "This upgrade makes it easier for customers to connect with us and find what they need quickly."

Paws-In-Need to Hold Trivia Fundraiser Event

LIVERMORE — Paws In Need, a nonprofit that provides essential veterinary care for low-income families, will hold its first-ever Trivia Night Fundraiser, hosted by Home Brew Trivia, at 3 Steves Winery on Thursday, April 16.

Doors will open at 5 p.m., with trivia games beginning at 6 p.m.

Mexican food will be available for purchase from JulieAnna's Catering Food Truck, with wine available from the winery at 5700 Greenville Rd.

"Events like this provide a meaningful opportunity to strengthen community connections, spark curiosity and make a tangible difference,"

said Leslie Silberman, development and marketing director for the San Ramon-based animal welfare organization. "Every ticket purchased and every trivia question answered helps advance our mission to provide low-cost spay and neuter services, as well as urgent veterinary care assistance for pet owners experiencing financial hardship."

A portion of all food and wine purchases will also go to Paws-In-Need.

Tickets for the family-friendly trivia night are \$25 for adults and \$5 for children 12 and under.

To purchase tickets, or for more information, go to paws-in-need.org.

BATTERY

(Continued from front page)

when power generation is plentiful and feed it back to the grid when generation is scarce.

Because the project would add a semi-industrial facility to an existing rural space, the project's draft environmental impact report found that the project would degrade the quality of public views at the site.

"(The project's) surroundings would not conform with several principles and policies in the Scenic Route Element of the

Alameda County General Plan and the East County Area Plan as it pertains to sensitive viewsheds and scenic highways," said Eric Knight, CEC environmental branch manager, at a March 2 CEC workshop.

The project site also includes some special-status wildlife, such as the threatened California tiger salamander, the threatened California red-legged frog and the protected golden eagle. A take authorization to destroy those animals'

habitats will be required.

CEC supervisor Kaycee Chang said that CEC staff recommended that the commission move forward with the project.

"While staff concludes that there are significant and unavoidable impacts to visual resources, the project provides regional economic benefits, construction and engineering jobs, grid reliability benefits, support for California's renewable-energy and greenhouse gas emission reduction goals

and displacement of fossil-fuel generation and corresponding air pollution," Chang said.

As part of the CEC's community-benefits requirement, Clearway entered into an agreement with Tri-Valley Haven last October. The agreement outlines plans for Clearway to provide funding over 15 years to assist those experiencing homelessness, sexual-assault survivors and victims of domestic-abuse violence.

Combined with one more

planned community-benefit agreement, Clearway would contribute a total of \$1.1 million over 20 years, beginning with an initial contribution when the project begins operations plus annual contributions afterward.

Construction of the project, expected to last 18 months, would employ a workforce peaking at 127 employees per month, Chang said. And once operational, the facility would require a staff of 18 full-time employees. Overall,

she expected the project to generate more than \$440 million of net positive economic value.

CEC staff expects to make its final recommendation to the commission before April 24, and commissioners plan to make a formal decision on the project at their May 26 meeting. If approved, Clearway said construction would start in the spring of 2027 with commercial operation beginning in late 2028.

BART

(Continued from front page)

on Bay Area Public Transit, saying BART lacked the fiscal oversight needed for change.

"I didn't feel like it was going to be a committee that would do anything but reinforce BART's desire for continuing business as usual," Glazer said. But he stressed the importance of public transit, viewing BART as "a critical transportation link."

In the survey, remote work ranked seventh among the reasons nonriders choose not to ride BART, listed below service frequency,

parking difficulties, fare costs, unappealing destinations, service hours and crowded trains.

BART messaging about its financial difficulties, however, leads with remote work, describing the Bay Area as having the highest work-from-home rate in the country and the slowest downtown recoveries as the primary causes of its financial woes.

The survey consisted of 1,397 interviews conducted between Jan. 5 and Jan. 18 of residents in Alameda, Contra Costa, Santa Clara, San Francisco and San Ma-

teo counties.

At some point between 2016 and 2022, survey results flipped from more residents believing BART was headed in the right direction to more thinking the agency is "off on the wrong track." According to January's survey, 40% of respondents now believe the latter, and only 33% still think BART is headed in the right direction.

About 36% of Bay Area residents today ride BART less than once a month, 19% have never ridden the transit system and 17%

ride it three or more days per week, according to the survey. Another 26% rode two days per week or less, and 2% preferred not to say.

Last October, Gov. Gavin Newsom authorized a regional tax measure to rescue Bay Area transit systems, including BART, using funds from increased sales taxes. If passed this November, the measure would increase Alameda sales tax by 0.5%.

Then, in February, BART shared a tax-measure contingency plan that would close stations and increase fees if the measure fails.

Some residents have cast the plan, which would discontinue all BART service to the Tri-Valley, as a thinly veiled threat to pass the tax measure.

"It's a scare tactic to force people to vote for a regressive sales tax that will hurt the poorest of our residents," Glazer said.

"How can you go from growing your staff at a time in which they claim they're going over a fiscal cliff, waiting until you're over the cliff, and then say now we have to lay off a thousand staff?" he continued. "Where

are the interim steps that are required — not just interim steps to try to save money and lower expenses, but to prove to the voters they're a responsible governing board making hard decisions before they ask for new taxes?"

BART staff plans to present a two-pronged budget for adoption in June, including a base scenario for if the tax measure passes and another scenario for if it fails. If it fails, the board will adopt a revised budget in December and begin implementation of service cuts and layoffs on Jan. 11, 2027.

Arts Council Announces Youth Award Winners

PLEASANTON — The Pleasanton Cultural Arts Council (PCAC) has announced the winners of the 29th annual Youth Excellence in Arts (YEA!) Awards, celebrating outstanding student achievement in literary arts, music and visual arts.

In literary arts, top honors went to Yujin Shin, with Seah Kim finishing second and Jayden Hyun third. Suhana Verma received honorable mention.

In music, pianist Celicia Thendean was first, followed by flutist Aaron Jung and violinist Janet Chan. Violinist Yujin Shin received honorable mention.

In Visual Arts, Jeffrey Liu received top honors, followed by Dana Yang and Marie Chen. Niranya Botlagunta, Meera Joshi, Chloe Im and Ananya Bare received honorable mention.

Both the YEA! Awards and Say Yes to Music grants are open to high school students living in Pleasanton.

also received Don Lewis Say YES to Music grants, supported by the Rotary Club of Pleasanton Foundation, to pursue their music education. This year's grants went to award winners Shen and Thendean, along with violinist Meghna Yamarthy and pianist Xinqi "Emily" Wang.

Four young musicians



The winners of the 29th annual Youth in Excellence Arts (YEA!) Awards gather in Pleasanton. These high school students were recognized for their outstanding achievements in literary arts, music and visual arts by the Pleasanton Cultural Arts Council. (Photo courtesy of PCAC)

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Supervisors Will Vote on a Resolution Opposing ICE Detention Center at FCI

TRI-VALLEY — ICE Out of Dublin, a community organization that opposes reopening a former federal women's prison in Dublin to house illegal immigrants being held for deportation by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), to attend the Alameda County Board of Supervisors meeting in Oakland on Tuesday, April 7, when supervisors are expected to vote on a resolution to keep the prison shut. The meeting begins at 1 p.m.

ICE Out of Dublin said the resolution, sponsored by Supervisors David Haubert and Elisa Marquez, would create a roadblock to reopening the facility. Federal Detention Center Dublin (FCI Dublin) has been closed for 20 years.

ICE Out of Dublin is also urging community members to watch the meeting online if they can't attend in person, and to submit comments by email before 3 p.m., Monday, April 6.

access to hands-on creative learning opportunities. "Equally important will be the center's role in strengthening community connections," Amaya said.

ARTS

(Continued from front page)

ater and Gallery 180 are among the center's key features, alongside additional studios and program spaces intended to support a range of arts activities. The black box theater has flexible configurations, ranging from about 75 to 150 seats depending on setup.

Additional spaces at the center include a dance studio, music and art classrooms, a ceramics studio with an outdoor arts yard, and flexible meeting spaces.

Education will be a central focus, with classes in visual arts, photography, filmmaking, music and digital arts, giving residents

Building on that foundation, the Dublin Arts Center is expected to bring these efforts together in one dedicated space, expand offerings and create new opportunities for engagement. "This will be a long-term investment in youth development, community identity and bring people together through shared artistic experiences," Amaya said.



Shown here is a rendering of a new Dublin arts center slated to open this year. (Photo courtesy of the City of Dublin)

PLAN

(Continued from front page)

The U.S. Census Bureau, however, has shown a population drop in the city since 2020, estimating 84,867 people in 2024, the most recent estimate available.

meda County in the next 20 years?," asked King. "It's not realistic, nor do I believe most residents want our population to grow by 50%."

to lead the general plan update. "The other thing is that the programmatic EIR can be used as a tiering document down the line," Debies said.

level," Debies said. Other commissioners said they would investigate further the population-projection concerns.

Given the decrease, two speakers at the meeting questioned whether the growth anticipated by the general plan was overly aggressive.

But Commission Chair Tracy Kronzak at the meeting said that there were "several gears turning at once" with regard to population projections, each with its own objectives.

Under California environmental law, agencies conduct environmental reviews at varying tiers of specificity. Because the city's upcoming general plan involves broad policy changes for Livermore as a whole, the city prepared the general plan EIR at the highest, program tier.

While the planning commission held the March 17 meeting primarily to receive public comment, it plans to deliberate the EIR in more detail at its April 21 meeting. The public comment period will remain open until April 24, after which the city council will give its direction in May. Adoption hearings for the general plan are scheduled for July.

"I'm not here to predict the future," Kaskey said. "I can't say that (the projected growth) can't possibly happen, but if we're trying to plan for a reasonably plausible future, I'm going to suggest that you take another look at those numbers and see if this really is the most plausible future that we should be planning for."

These different metrics included state-imposed Regional Housing Needs Assessment estimates, which the city must plan for in each housing cycle; those calculated by the Department of Finance, used for state planning and budgeting; census counts conducted at the federal level; and those used by the general plan on a citywide level to plan for full buildout.

Future, more specific projects can save time and money by piggybacking off this city-level EIR instead of conducting a new environmental review from scratch, if they conform to the general plan.

If you underestimate, that can cause problems, and then you're having to do additional environmental (review) that you wouldn't have had to do had you done that programmatic analysis at the higher

Resident Jean King said, "I think the numbers in the EIR and the numbers that are being planned are much too high," adding that the general plan should continue the city's protection of its urban growth boundary and not consider East of Greenville for development.

Placeworks, Inc. project manager Liza Debies said that the general plan purposely uses the higher, more conservative analysis to prepare for future growth. The city has contracted with Placeworks

King later told The Independent that, with a countywide increase of just 157,000 people between 2024 and 2045, based on California Department of Finance projections, the general plan's estimate of 43,820 more people in Livermore during that period assumes a disproportionate share from the city.

"Why should Livermore, presently with 5% of the county population, absorb almost 28% growth in Ala-

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PLEASE HELP BRING MIGUEL HOME

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

Livermore Wente Winery worker, married father of three and grandfather

Miguel Lopez

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

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

Frederiksen Elementary Names DUSD Teacher of the Year

By Sanestina Hunter

DUBLIN — In Jericho Griffin's classroom, students are doing more than just learning — they're building confidence and connection while learning how to show up for each other as part of what she calls a "class family."

That approach, built on creativity and high expectations, has earned Griffin, a fifth-grade teacher at Frederiksen Elementary, the title of Dublin Unified School District's 2025–26 Teacher of the Year.

The peer-selected recognition honors educators for their impact both inside and outside the classroom.

"This recognition is not just about me," she said. "It represents my students, their families, my colleagues and so much more."

She said the moment was overwhelming, filled with pride and a deeper sense of responsibility.

"Winning District Teacher of the Year is both a celebration and a calling," Griffin said. "It inspires me to continue growing and to highlight

the joy that still exists in our classrooms."

"Being selected by peers is one of the highest honors an educator can receive," Superintendent Chris D. Funk said, adding that the recognition reflects instructional excellence, collaboration and a deep commitment to student growth.

The Dublin Unified School District serves approximately 12,800 students from preschool through adult education.

Griffin, a 12-year educator, began her career as an intervention specialist focused on literacy.

For the past two years, she has looped with the same group of students from fourth to fifth grade, helping build stronger relationships and consistency in their learning.

Teaching is personal for her, shaped by her own experiences as a student.

Growing up in Salina, Kansas, she said she didn't enjoy school and often resisted going, feeling like teachers didn't meet students where they were or hold high expectations.

"I didn't have a cookie-cutter story," she said. "I didn't always have the best educational experience growing up."

That experience shaped the kind of teacher she would become.

"I want to be the educator that I needed when I was



Jericho Griffin. (Photo courtesy of Jericho Griffin)

younger," she said, adding that she realized this in high school — something that surprised even her own family.

When her husband received orders to move, that path led her to Frederiksen Elementary in 2023. The school is a residence for military families, where many of

her students are connected to Camp Parks.

With her husband currently serving, Griffin said she understands what many of those students experience, including constant moves, transitions and starting over.

"When you come home and see all of your stuff in boxes," she said. "I knew I could connect with the kids and their families."

That connection shows up in her classroom, especially in how she builds inclusion and real-world learning into everyday lessons.

Incorporating American Sign Language (ASL) started as a way to support a deaf student, but it quickly became part of how the class communicates every day, with students signing full sentences and, in some cases, using it as a second or even third language.

"We refer to each other as a class family," she said. "We support each other and show love."

"ASL has truly become our class family's second language," she said. "Language is beyond the spoken word."

Earlier this year, two of her students, inspired by sign language in the classroom, took the initiative a step further and helped start an American Sign Language club, bringing that same sense of inclusion to the rest of the school.

Griffin said moments like that show what can happen when students feel supported and take ownership of their learning.

"Inclusion can work when it's done correctly," she said.

She also brings in project-based learning rooted in real-life experiences, including a unit where students used her son's track times to learn decimals, track performance, watch race footage and research college opportunities, all while building claim, evidence and reasoning skills.

That same approach carries into how she builds lessons around what students already care about.

In one project, students chose NFL teams and used them to learn math, reading, writing and geography, tracking stats, writing letters and connecting their learning to

real-world topics while also building social-emotional skills.

"The students were committed to their teams and excited to reflect on what they've learned," she said.

Over time, this approach sticks with students beyond the classroom.

Former students have invited her to milestones in their lives, including high school graduations, college celebrations and even weddings, which she said reflects the relationships built in her classroom.

She said her teaching really comes down to her students.

"It's having high expectations for my students that gives them the confidence to be their best selves," Griffin said.

In her classroom, she said, that means creating an environment where students feel supported, challenged and encouraged to grow — not just academically, but as people.

"I always want them to know they've impacted me too," she said. "And I hope they carry that with them."

CARS

(Continued from front page)



A car enthusiast inspects the hand-built details of a refurbished engine at the annual Goodguys car show at the Pleasanton Fairgrounds. (Photo — David Scholz)

The exhibition scattered throughout the fairgrounds reflected the unique evolution of the automobile industry. In just one sun-drenched patch alone, there was a row of 21st-century supercharged Corvettes owned by members of the Corvette Club. Steps away sat a 1933 Dodge and an even older 1928 Ford Model A tucked into a shady spot. In between was a diverse array of cars from other decades.

Bryce Eagle, who came down from El Dorado Hills, shared Finch's perspective.

"There is a certain amount of nostalgia with all of these cars regardless of what you liked growing up," he said.

Like others who spoke of working on cars from the ground up, Eagle said, "I appreciate craftsmanship."

"The cars from 100 years ago versus cars today, they are so much more high-tech. It's unbelievable," he continued. "It's amazing how far they have come."

Asked about classic cars being an art form, Eagle added, "I think they always have been."

In an era of nearly quiet electric vehicles and largely generic stylings, Pleasanton offered a place this past weekend where these sights and rumbling sounds were fully embraced and appreciated.

"These older cars — they all have personalities," said Dave Notari of Union City, who enjoyed the shade with fellow car owners with cars on display. "They all have a deep, throaty sound that puts a smile on your face."

Dublin Accepting Applications for the Don Biddle Memorial Scholarship Opportunity

DUBLIN — Graduating high school seniors who live in Dublin are eligible to apply for the annual Don Biddle Memorial Scholarship, a \$1,000 award recognizing academic achievement and a commitment to community service.

Applicants must plan to attend a college or vocational school next fall and demonstrate civic leadership through volunteer work or public service.

The scholarship is sponsored by the city and honors Don Biddle, a longtime pub-

lic servant who contributed to the Dublin community for more than 40 years, including serving on the Dublin City Council from 2008 until his death at age 80 in 2018.

The scholarship will be based on answers to three

essay questions and two letters of recommendation that address the applicant's interest in a career in public service.

To apply, go to tinyurl.com/2zshvr8j. Applications must be received by Tuesday, April 21.

TV30 Streaming Pleasanton Mayor's State of the City

PLEASANTON — Mayor Jack Balch's 2026 state of the city address is now streaming on tv30.org.

The address, "State of the City: Progress with Purpose," is also avail-

able on YouTube@tri-valleytv2341 and Comcast TV30.

Balch delivered the speech, which includes information on budgeting, infrastructure, water

management and newly established businesses, at the Casa Real Event Center at Ruby Hill Winery on Thursday, March 19.

Tri-Valley Community Television, with produc-

tion studios in Pleasanton, streams programming online at tv30.org and broadcasts over channels TV28, TV29, TV30 on Comcast Cable and channel 99 on AT&T U-Verse.

TRI-VALLEY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Saturday, April 4

DRESS A GIRL AROUND THE WORLD

Make simple dresses for girls in Third World countries! The next monthly Sew-Fest is on April 4, 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.

Thursdays, beginning April 9

GRIEF SUPPORT WORKSHOP

The death of a loved one is unlike any other loss. Although there is no right or wrong path, there are stepping stones that are part of each grief journey; they will be explored in this 8-week workshop. Held at St. Elizabeth Seton Church, 4001 Stoneridge Drive, Pleasanton. Meetings will begin at 7 p.m. on Thursday evenings; April 9, 16, 23, 30, and May 7, 14, 21 and 28. These meetings are open to all, regardless of religious affiliation. For more information, please call Barbara at 925-846-3904.

Thursday, April 9

LIVERMORE-AMADOR VALLEY GARDEN CLUB MEETING

At the April meeting, C.L. Fornari/ "The Garden Lady" will meet via Zoom from the East Coast. Her talk will be about entertaining in the garden. On April 9 from 6 to 8 p.m. at Crosswinds Church, 1660 Freisman Rd., Livermore, at the red Farm Theater Building.

Monday, April 13

LIVERMORE-AMADOR GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY MEETING

Come hear Dawn Kosmakos speaking about genetic genealogy. Dawn will share three different case studies (an unknown father mystery, identification of a John Doe, and her own great-grandfather's biological father.) Join via Zoom at 7 p.m. (see flyer to register: www.l-ags.org, click on Speakers & Topics on upper left). No charge, non-members welcome.

Thursday, April 16

'PAWS IN NEED' TRIVIA NIGHT FUNDRAISER

Enjoy fascinating trivia, food, wine, and fun prizes while supporting a great cause, at the Paws in Need first-ever Trivia Night Fundraiser. Doors open at 5:00 p.m., with trivia games beginning at 6:00 p.m. Delicious Mexican food available for purchase from JulieAnna's Catering Food Truck, and a selection of fine wines from the host venue. Tickets are \$25 per adult, \$5 per child, or \$100 for a table of six. At 3 Steves Winery, 5700 Greenville Rd., Livermore. To learn more and for tickets, visit paws-in-need.org.

Saturday, April 18

CRAFT FAIR AND USED TIQUE

The Philanthropic Educational Organization (PEO), Chapter XN, is hosting a Craft Fair and Useditique on April 18 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at 2539 Skimmer Ct. in Pleasanton. Shop for hand-crafted items and excellent quality jewelry and accessories. Delicious baked goods are also available for purchase!

Saturday, April 18

LIVERMORE-AMADOR VALLEY GARDEN CLUB PLANT & YARD SALE

The Livermore Amador Valley Garden Club will hold a plant and yard sale on April 18 from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 2450 Merlot Lane, Livermore. Great prices on plants from members' gardens, along with gently used pots and garden treasures. The sales tax will be paid! Rain or shine.

Saturday, April 18

8TH ANNUAL TRI-VALLEY INNOVATION FAIR

Quest Science Center is thrilled to announce the 8th Annual Tri-Valley Innovation Fair, on April 18 at the Alameda County Fairgrounds in Pleasanton from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. This community program brings together students, families, educators, and local businesses for a free day of 70+ interactive exhibits, live demonstrations, performances, and learning moments. Attendees can dive into everything from engineering challenges to creative tech, meeting the scientists, educators, students, and companies who bring big ideas to life here in the Tri-Valley.

Saturday-Sunday, April 25-26

QUILTED TREASURES — QUILTING WITH FRIENDS

Amador Valley Quilters (AVQ) are delighted to announce their 19th Biennial Quilt Show. The 2026 show promises a colorful celebration of creativity and craftsmanship, highlighting the deep community bonds formed through the art of quilting. Attendees will enjoy a stunning gallery of member-crafted quilts and a curated vendor mall featuring specialty goods. On April 25 (10 a.m.–4 p.m.) and April 26 (10 a.m. — 3 p.m.), at the Trinity Church Gymnasium, 557 Olivina Ave., Livermore. Admission is \$10 (children under 12 are free); free parking.

Saturday, May 2

LIVERMORE-PLEASANTON ELKS EVENT

Join the Livermore-Pleasanton Elks Lodge #2117 on May 2 at the Larkspur Event Center in Springtown for 'Evening at the Races'. Participants will enjoy "horseless" horse racing with play money as well as dinner, dessert, a no-host bar, plus silent and live auctions for just \$40 per person or \$280 for a table of 8. All proceeds support local Elks community programs. Grab your friends and get your tickets at <https://EveningAtTheRaces.com>.

ONGOING OPPORTUNITIES

FOOD RELIEF SERVICES

Local residents can access vital food-assistance services to help meet basic needs. Food relief services can be found at: Children's Emergency Food Bank; 7421 Amarillo Rd., Dublin; appointments M-F, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; 925-828-5363; St. Raymond Catholic Church, 11555 Shannon Ave., Dublin; third Sat. of the month, 8 to 11 a.m.; Open Heart Kitchen; M-F, 1 to 5 p.m.; 450 N. Livermore Ave., Livermore; Tri-Valley Haven Food Pantry, 150 N. "L" Street, Livermore; 925-449-1664 — M-Th, 1 to 5 p.m.; Fri/Sat 12 to 4 p.m.; Alameda County Community Food Bank; 510-635-3663; M-F, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

ONGOING EVENTS

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

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

SATURDAY PLEASANTON FARMERS MARKET

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

SUNDAY LIVERMORE DOWNTOWN FARMERS MARKET

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

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



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Juanita Haugen Scholarship 2026 Winners Announced

PLEASANTON — The Pleasanton Community of Character Collaborative (CCC) has selected 14 high school seniors to receive Juanita Haugen Memorial Scholarships for 2026.

The nonprofit organization said the recipients were chosen based on their commitment to the CCC values of responsibility, compassion, self-discipline, honesty, respect and integrity, as well as their personal experiences and challenges they have overcome and their service to the community.

The \$1,000 scholarships are open to graduating seniors at the three high schools operated by the Pleasanton Unified School District (PUSD), including Amador Valley, Foothill and Villages High Schools.

They honor the memory of Juanita Haugen, a co-founder of the CCC, who also served as a trustee and board president of the Pleasanton school district for 28 years.

First elected to the former Amador Valley Joint High School District in 1979, Haugen continued serving after the creation of the PUSD in 1988. She died of cancer in 2007.

Recipients from Amador Valley High School include:

• Advait Anand, son of Amritha Raghunathan, who

volunteered for three years with an immigration law firm, assisting with naturalization and asylum cases, and founded the Migrant Equity Initiative to connect immigrant families with legal and social service resources.

• Lucie Aparid, daughter of Aude and Chris Aparid, who has led several campus initiatives as an Associated Student Body officer, including a food drive that collected 1.5 tons of food for the Alameda County Food Bank. She also volunteers with Mini Cat Town, a San Jose-based animal rescue organization, caring for hundreds of kittens and supporting adoption events.

• Marielle Bernard, daughter of Sheila Gurtu-Bernard and Yannick Bernard, whose community service has centered on food security, including packaging thousands of pounds of donated goods for food distribution programs and serving meals at community centers.

• Aashvi Geddum, daughter of Shveta and Sitaram Geddum, who is president of Magnus United, a student-run nonprofit that has provided aid to families in 12 countries. She is also a Certified Peer Educator with the state-funded Tobacco-Use Education Program (TUPE).

• Diego Laredo, son of Horacio and Ka-

rina Cortes-Laredo, who co-founded and serves as president of Latinos in STEM, a student-led club at Amador Valley that seeks to increase Latino and Hispanic representation in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. He has also volunteered as a translator for families and children, assisted low-income families through local service organizations, and supported community programs at the Pleasanton Public Library.

• Smriti Mehta, daughter of Raveena Sarwal and Sandeep Mehta, who chairs the Nutrition Committee for the Student-Inter Action Council (SIAC), which worked with the California Department of Education's Nutrition Services Division to improve the breakfast programs at 16 Pleasanton schools. SIAC is a joint effort of Amador Valley and Foothill high schools. Mehta also served as the Dairy Council of California's first high school youth advisor and volunteers with Kids Against Hunger and Girls on the Run Bay Area.

Recipients from Foothill High School include:

• Emilio Benard, son of Angelina Badillo and Mauricio Benard, who volunteers with the Pleasanton League Boys Team Charity, part of a national service organization

for teen boys and their parents. He also participates in the Peer Advocates Program at Foothill, leading classroom discussions on stress management, mental health and peer support, mentors a Spanish-speaking teen with autism, volunteers with Habitat for Humanity and founded Smiles for Seniors, organizing students to create and deliver holiday cards to residents in nursing homes.

• Chloe Grijalva, daughter of John and Julie Grijalva, who became involved in community service in fifth grade, when she and her classmates sold jellybeans at the Pleasanton Farmers Market to buy supplies for students at an elementary school in Magalia affected by the destructive Paradise Fire. In middle school, Grijalva formed Coco's Creamery, selling homemade ice cream and donating 10% of the proceeds to area nonprofits. She is also involved in the National Charity League, a service organization for girls in seventh through 12th grade and their mothers, and volunteers with Meals on Wheels.

• Philippa Haney, daughter of Victoria and Stephen Haney, who has volunteered with the Special Olympics, Fertile Grounds Farm and the American Cancer Society Discovery Shop. Haney and her mother also participate in

the National Charity League, and Philippa has served as secretary and head of hospitality for the Pleasanton chapter.

• Anna Star Kim, daughter of Song Hee Kim, who founded the Pleasanton Letter Exchange Program (LEP), which sends letters to seniors in local care facilities. She has also been active in the Korean Parents Association, leading youth book clubs and supporting cultural events, and created sensory blankets for the elderly with the Foothill Hospice Care Club.

• Marian McConlogue, daughter of Joelle and Cary McConlogue, who serves as president of the Foothill Just Service Club, which supports both school and community service projects. McConlogue also volunteers through her church community and completed a humanitarian trip to San Pablo, Philippines, where she helped build a nutrition center for an elementary school and tutored children in English.

• Andy Morales, son of Brenda Hernandez, who volunteers in parish activities at St. Augustine Catholic Church. He has also been a Spanish translator with the Amador Valley Assistance League and cabin leader for Exploring New Horizons'

Bay Area outdoor schools program.

• Bruce Wyatt Wallace, son of Stephen and Barbara Wallace, who also received the PUSD Community of Character Integrity Award. Wallace has volunteered with the East Bay SPCA in Dublin, assisting with animal care and serving as a youth program assistant at summer camps, and with Special Olympics Northern California, assisting athletes during competitions and supporting event logistics.

The sole scholarship recipient from Village High School, the PUSD's alternative education program, was Kyle Farren-Bowen, son of John and Jessica Aronson, who was recognized for his personal growth, perseverance and commitment to self-improvement. The CCC said Farren-Bowen Village has focused on improving his attendance and strengthening his self-discipline since transferring to Village two years ago, including participation in after-school activities.

Scholarship recipients and other community award winners will be honored at the CCC's annual luncheon at Veterans Hall in Pleasanton on Wednesday, May 13. Tickets to the luncheon are \$45 and are available online at CommunityOfCharacter.org.

OBITUARIES

William "Bill" H. Dodd, Jr.



William "Bill" H. Dodd, Jr. was a man who could light up any room with his energy, laughter, and warmth. He lived life in a way that made everyday moments special, loving his family and friends with his whole heart and making everyone around him feel seen and valued. Knowing and loving Bill was a privilege.

Born on Oct. 25, 1963, in Hammond, Indiana, Bill grew up in a close-knit family with three siblings. He is now reunited in heaven with his younger brother and best friend, Mark, who passed in 2014. Bill is lovingly survived by his children, Carson (19) and Caylee (17)—his greatest pride and joy—his mother, Donna Dodd, his sister Kimberly Miller, and his brother, Michael Dodd.

Bill was one of the happiest, most energetic people you could ever meet. He was always there—whether sitting on the

couch watching a game, roaming around downtown, or simply spending time with friends and family. He had a rare way of bringing people together and turning ordinary moments into lasting memories.

He was known for his humor and could make anyone laugh, no matter the situation. He lived fully, laughed loudly, and made sure everyone around him did the

same. Famous for asking, "Who's having more fun than me?" The answer was always him.

Bill loved NASCAR, football, hockey, summer days by the pool, making his legendary chicken wings, and time spent with family at South Lake Tahoe. Above all else, he found his greatest joy in being with the people he loved.

Beyond his humor and energy, Bill's strength, courage, and positivity inspired everyone around him. He will be deeply missed, forever loved, and never forgotten.

Services will be held Friday, April 10, at 11:00 a.m. at Callaghan Mortuary, 3833 East Ave., Livermore, California.

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

David Hamilton Stillson Oct. 24, 1943 — March 14, 2026



David Stillson, beloved husband, father, grandfather, and friend, passed away peacefully on March 14, 2026, in Pleasanton, California, at the age of 82.

Born on Oct. 24, 1943, in Albany, California, David lived a life defined by quiet strength, resilience, and integrity. He proudly served his country as a member of the United States Air Force, where he met the love of his life, Karon, in Colorado. Together, they shared 62 years of marriage built on love, commitment, and family.

Following his military service, David built a career as an electronics technician, traveling the country and applying his skills with curiosity and dedication. His lifelong interest in electronics extended into amateur radio, and in his younger years, he even spent time working at a radio station. At one point, his adventurous spirit led him to chase tornadoes—just one reflection of his fascination with the world around him.

Later in life, David managed a wild bird store, where he combined his technical knowledge with his deep love for nature. He found his greatest joy outdoors—fishing, especially deep-sea fishing, observing birds and butterflies, and simply taking in the beauty of the natural world. He was happiest at home, tending to his backyard, caring for his fruit trees, and spending quiet moments in his garden.

David was self-reliant, strong-willed, and always willing to lend

a helping hand. He loved cooking and took great pleasure in sharing meals and conversation with those around him. His warmth, wisdom, and steady presence left a lasting impression on everyone who knew him.

Above all, David was devoted to his family. He is survived by his loving wife, Karon; his son, Dean (Jayn); his daughter, Carol (Don); and his cherished granddaughters, Danielle and Desirae; as well as his brother, Chris. He is also survived by many extended family members, dear friends, and neighbors who will miss him deeply. He was preceded in death by his parents, Dorris M. Stillson and Stanley D. Stillson, and his siblings, Jeanne, Kathy, and Patrick.

David will be deeply missed and forever remembered for his kindness, independence, love of family, and the way he found beauty in life's simple moments.

No services will be held at this time.

Rollin Charles Harding Mar. 9, 1941 — Jan. 15, 2026



Rollin Charles Harding, 84, passed away unexpectedly on January 15, 2026, in Livermore, California. He will be remembered as a devoted husband, father, and long-time member of the Livermore community.

Rollin was born to Ralph and Beatrice Harding and grew up trying to keep up with his older brothers Everett and Warren (predeceased) in Baraboo, Wisconsin. He was active in sports, music, and scouting, and graduated as valedictorian from Baraboo High School. Rollin received a BS in Physics from Wabash College,

where he was a member of the Kappa Sigma fraternity. He continued his education with graduate studies at the University of Iowa, where he met his future wife, Phyllis, in the fall of their first year. They married the following summer and began a long and happy life together.

In 1968, Rollin and Phyllis packed up their infant daughter and cat and moved across the country to Livermore, where Rollin had a postdoctoral fellowship at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. Rollin continued to work at the Lab as a

computational physicist until his retirement.

A man of deep faith, Rollin was actively involved in the First Presbyterian Church in Livermore, California. He served as an elder, was a member of the finance committee, a Stevens Minister, and long-time member of the church choir.

Music was one of Rollin's passions. As an adult, Rollin was the member of many singing groups in addition to the church choir, including the Valley Choral Society and the madrigal group, Sunday's Child. He was an ac-

tive supporter of Phyllis's many musical endeavors and frequently recorded performances of her concerts. His family has fond memories of Rollin playing the piano in the evening to unwind and relax, a practice he continued throughout his life.

Rollin was curious about everything. He enjoyed reading, collecting data (about EVERYTHING), solving puzzles, and writing programs to solve puzzles. He enjoyed shopping for bargains and repurposing materials he'd saved. Rollin was always happy to help people in any way

that he could, including tutoring in physics and volunteering with AARP's Tax-Aid.

He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Phyllis Harding, daughters Kerstin Harding (Steve Sweet) and Siri Harding, and five nieces and nephews. His life will be celebrated at the First Presbyterian Church, Livermore, California, on Friday, April 10 at 1:00 PM. Rollin will be remembered for his profound integrity, intellectual curiosity, and the kindness he extended to all who knew him.

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Sally Georganne Clark Nov. 23, 1950 — Sept. 25, 2025



Sally Clark left this earth peacefully on Sept. 25, 2025, surrounded by family.

A celebration of life will be held on April 11, 2026, 2:00 p.m., at Lynnewood United Methodist Church, 4444 Black Ave., Pleasanton, California.

Sally was born on Thanksgiving Day, November 23, 1950, in Chicago, Illinois, to Samuel and Mildred Katz. Her parents referred to her as their "Thanksgiving Baby." She had a stressful infancy, as she was an Rh baby, and had to receive numerous blood transfusions to survive.

She grew up in Maywood, Illinois, and Westchester, Illinois. Until kindergarten, Sally modeled for the Sears, Spiegel, and other catalogs. She remembered being absolutely miserable modeling snow suits in the hot, humid summer for the winter catalog issues!

In her youth, Sally's interests included art, ballet dancing en pointe, playing the French horn and piano, and sewing. Sally was also an excellent athlete, and her sprinting was exceptional. In her senior year, the Girls Athletic Association (GAA) presented her with the Outstanding Athlete Award. She served as the yearbook editor for Proviso West High School, Hillside, Illinois, from which she graduated in 1969.

In 1973, she graduated from Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana, with a bachelor of science degree. Her degree consisted of a double teaching major: child development, and high school home economics — now called consumer economics and family sciences. Her teaching credentials covered K-12. Sally played French horn in the Purdue Concert Band. From 1973-74, she served as Director at Saint Andrews Methodist Nursery School in West Lafayette.



In 1974, Sally and her spouse moved to Livermore. Initially, she did K-12 substitute teaching in the Livermore schools, then taught at a nursery school. Finally, she was delighted to teach her first love, kindergarten, for several years at the Ark Preschool in Livermore, until her daughter was born. She was affectionately known as "Mrs. Sally" to her students. Sally was naturally a nurturing mom. She volunteered tirelessly for her children's schools, scout troops, sports teams, and musical organizations. She especially enjoyed participating in the Fine Arts Mini Experience (FAME) program at Sunset School. Later, she adored her grandchildren, as she loved reading, singing, and playing with them.

Sally loved music, and her family has fond memories of her singing with them. She was a skilled gardener and took joy in sharing cuttings of her favorite flowers (particularly angel's trumpet), so her friends could

start their own plants. She was an avid reader, enjoying books on history, theology, politics, and mysteries. She took great pleasure in

her book club activities — especially book author signing events at local bookstores.

Those who were fortunate to know Sally experienced her gentle warmth, kindness, intelligence, and humor. With great inner strength, Sally supported her friends and family whenever she was needed, and she had a keen sense of when people could use some extra encouragement or cheer. She loved unconditionally and with all her heart. She taught her family to tell each other, "I love you" every day. She never missed a beat with her sense of humor, often using fun sayings she learned during her midwestern upbringing.

Sally derived great meaning from her volunteer work through Lynnewood United Methodist, supporting social justice, Wider Welcome, Interfaith, and refugee assistance initiatives. She cherished the friendships she cultivated through her Lynnewood and Bible Study Fellowship (BSF) communities throughout the years.

Sally is survived by her spouse (Grace), daughter Rose (Joshua) and grandchildren Paul and Heather; sons Scott and Brett; brother Edward Katz; nephews, their spouses and children Justin (Monica, Mia, and Hayden), Brandon (Wilbe and Luca), and Morgan (Avery and Brooke).

The world is a better place because of the lives she touched while she was with us. In lieu of flowers, please donate to Lynnewood United Methodist Church, the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS), or the Sierra Club. In her honor, please do all you can to spread kindness.

Brave New World of High School Sports in Dublin

By Mitch Stephens

TRI-VALLEY --- The landscape of high school sports in the Tri-Valley has a brave new world in the scenic hills of Dublin, especially around a baseball diamond, surely described as a "Field of Dreams" for those who have ever played on it.

Brave Christian, rebranded officially from Valley Christian Schools at the start of this school year, has turned into a Bay Area small-school powerhouse in many sports, especially this spring with an unbeaten baseball team (9-0-1 as of March 30) that has outscored foes by a head-scratching 143-9 count.

Led largely by a remarkably seasoned quartet of freshmen, the Lions, formerly known as the Vikings, have slugged 10 home runs, peppered opposing pitchers for 113 hits (43 for extra bases), whiffed 105 opposing hitters in 52 innings pitched and hadn't played a regulation seven-inning game — winning all by the 10-plus-run

mercy rule — until a 4-4 tie with Jesse Bethel-Vallejo on March 26.

Not bad by any standard, but considering Brave Christian was a combined 2 wins against 29 losses in the years before current head coach Chris Gomez took over last season, this is a turnaround of Lions proportions.

To any foes of the Lions: Hear their roar!

Though Gomez and his squad do so in an internal, humble sort of way.

"This is all a great blessing," Gomez said. "We have talented kids, who work hard, who understand the game and understand this program is about opportunity, about God and about academics. We're not just about winning."

GOING DEEP

Gomez, and his son Bubba, the associate head coach, have a much deeper connection to the school than just baseball, or winning.

But make no mistake, the 43-year-old head coach did nothing but win as the nine-year

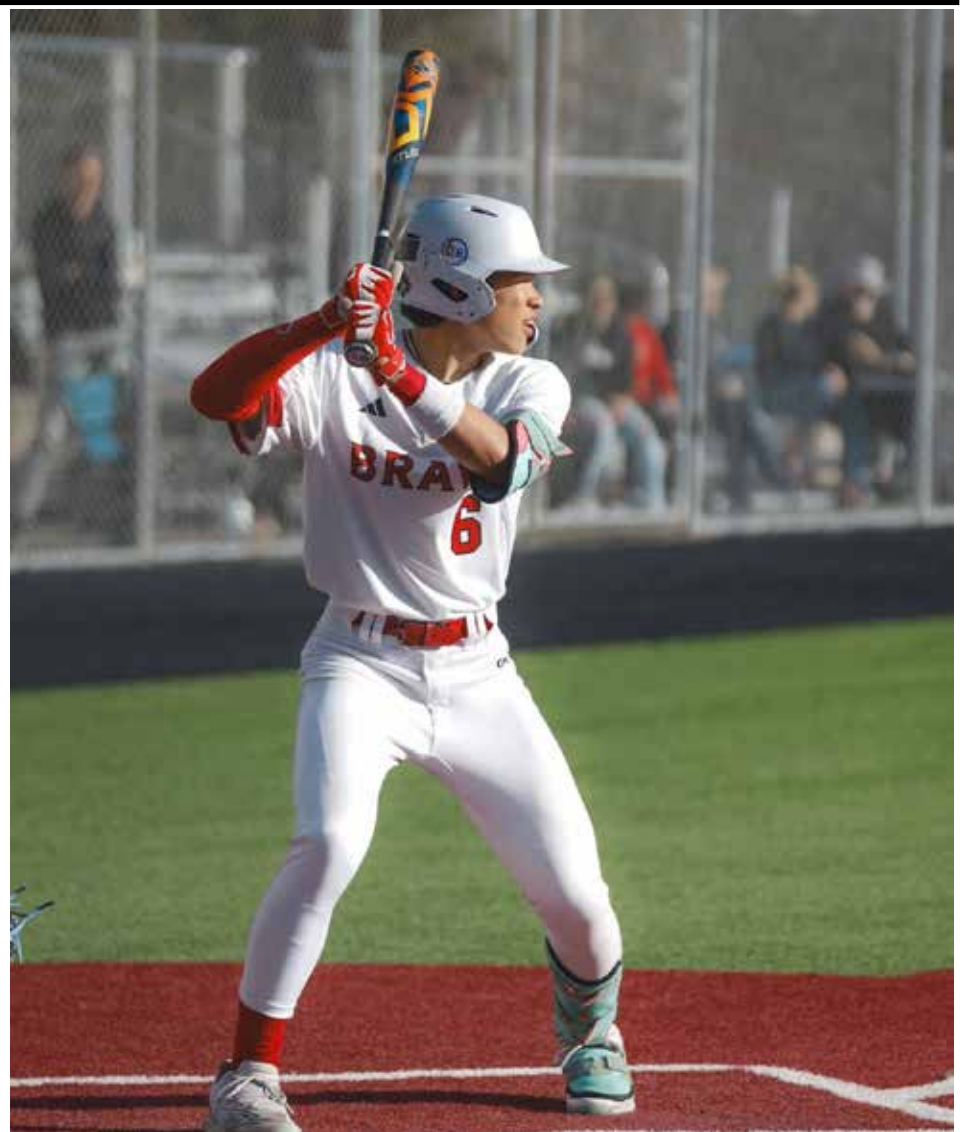
head coach at Fremont Christian starting in 2016. His teams went 140-45, won eight league titles and a North Coast Section Division 5 crown in 2019.

That 2019 team was led by Bubba, a MaxPreps Small Schools All-American, who racked up 189 hits (78 for extra bases), drove in 203 runs and stole 94 bases (in 96 attempts) during his illustrious four-year career. He also went 39-11 on the mound with a scant 0.83 ERA, helping to earn a Division I scholarship to Alabama A&M.

While Bubba pursued his baseball playing dreams, his dad continued to pour all his energies into Fremont Christian and the Keep the Faith Baseball Club started by Gomez and his own father Gary, who started him on the coaching path in 2000.

When Fremont Christian faced budget cuts in June of 2024, Gomez' full-time teaching job at the school was axed. Shortly after, with Gomez gone, so was the baseball program.

"I'm a very loyal person,"



Brave Christian's, Legend Dorham, more than lives up to his name on the baseball field. (Photo courtesy of Brave Christian High School)

Gomez said. "I was heartbroken to tears. I was never planning to leave. But God was in control. He had better things planned for me."

CRASHING DOWN

Also a basketball coach, Gomez was invited by some Fremont Christian students to a December game the next winter on the Valley Christian/Brave Christian campus.

While there, he learned of a baseball coaching vacancy. Things moved fast. He met with Brave Christian Principal Larry Lopez, and soon after school pastors Samuel and Daren Laws, and Executive Director Joe Fuca, who leads the school's highly successful boys basketball program.

All aligned. All fit. Even though the shoddy previous baseball record concerned Gomez, the heavenly campus — overlooking the entire Tri-Valley — the personnel, the Shangri La of baseball fields, the rebranding of the school — all was too good to pass up.

By Christmas of 2024, Gomez accepted the coaching and teaching position; his brave new world was all in front of him, brimming with hope, promise and beauty.

By Jan. 2 of 2025, it all came crashing down when Gomez's mom, Lynne, died suddenly from pneumonia. She was 65.

Lynne was the family's rock. Soul. Heartbeat.

FIRST LOVE

She attended all of her son's games, and those of her grandkids too. Bubba's sister, Leia, was a four-sport standout at Fremont Christian. Lynne, a nurse by trade, supplied two generations of support, love and cheers.

"What did Denzel Washington say: 'A mother is a son's first true love,'" Gomez said, still battling emotion. "That hit extremely hard."

The same Brave Christian personnel, who had wood

him to take over the baseball program, proved to be shepherds of strength and support during his time of grief. "They told me to take all the time needed," he said. More time with his wife of 25 years, Magan, along with Leia, going to nursing school, helped immensely.

Coaching with Bubba, after his own father brought him into the profession, perhaps mended Gomez's heart most. "It's been one of the biggest blessings of my life," he said.

As was coaching the Lions, who went from worst to first at 6-0 in Bay Counties League play and 11-7 overall. They earned a spot in the NCS playoffs for the first time in more than a decade.

SOARING LIONS

If last season was a jump, the 2026 season has been a full-fledged catapult, thanks in part to the influx of young talent, which includes these impressive freshmen with eye-opening numbers (all the comments are from Gomez):

Caesar Cornelio: The shortstop, pitcher and centerfielder is hitting a team-best .667 (18 of 27), with five doubles, two triples and three home runs. He's also stolen 18 bases. On the mound, he's 3-0 with 27 strikeouts in 15.2 innings. He hasn't given up an earned run. "He's got a lot of raw strength," Gomez said of the 5-foot-8, 160-pounder. "Watching him pitch, he looks like a three- or four-year letterman and not a 14-year-old. He's our leadoff hitter and shortstop when he doesn't pitch."

Jason Hart: A middle infielder and pitcher, the 5-7, 150-pounder is hitting .643 (18 of 28) and leads the team with 18 RBIs and is tied with Cornelio in hits. He has three doubles, two triples and two home runs. He's stolen 13 bases. Also 3-0 on the mound with a 0.89 ERA, Hart has struck out a team-best 30 in 15.2 innings. "He's our No. 3

hitter and really drives the ball to all fields. He's like a coach on the field with all his knowledge. He's got an older brother playing professionally."

Legend Dorham: Another middle infielder and pitcher, Dorham lives up to his Legend namesake on the mound with 26 strikeouts in just 9.2 innings. He's 2-0 on the mound and also hasn't given up a run. At the plate, he's hitting .640 with 16 hits, a double and home run. "He's probably our top all-around player. We use him as our closer. He's a very, very talented player."

Anthony Rotolo: A 5-9, 165-pounder, Rotolo is like a son to Gomez because he played at Fremont Christian as a middle schooler. He bats fifth, plays first base and is hitting .440 with 11 hits, 14 RBIs, a double, triple and two home runs. He's pitched four scoreless innings with nine strikeouts. "I'm really proud of him because he's worked extremely hard to get to this point."

Gomez is especially proud of his two seniors, catcher Tommy Peryman (368, 10 runs), and infielder Ansh Codavalli (.562, three doubles, triple) who endured a lot of losing their first two years in the program. Now they're rewarded with victories. Lopsided ones.

The Lions continue play Friday at home against Ygnacio Valley-Concord. First pitch is 4 p.m.

"Tommy is our team captain who didn't start playing catcher until his sophomore year because of a series of injuries," Gomez said. "He's put in tireless hours and now he frames pitches and blocks balls with the very best."

"Ansh was our MVP last season as a junior and is a professional cricket player. He also owns a 4.5 grade point average. The team loves him. We've won scholastic team awards, and all the players thank Ansh for pushing us over the top."



Duo Crushes NCS Home Run Lead

By Mitch Stephens

A pair of Pleasanton softball girls are at the top of the North Coast Section home run race.

Amador Valley senior Mai Falcone, a Cornell commit, and Foothill senior Naima Braham have each slugged seven home runs, which as of March 30 were tied for the top mark in the NCS along with Slesian-Richmond freshman Kendrick Jobe.

Falcone, a fourth-year starter who plays both infield and outfield, is off to a sizzling start with 13 hits in 23 at-bats (.565 average) with 15 RBIs, five doubles and seven dingers. Her on-base percentage is .706 (she's walked nine times). She committed to Cornell in September of 2024. Amador Valley is 4-5-1 overall and 1-2 in the East Bay Athletic League heading into the week. The Dons host Granada Thursday (April 2) at 4 p.m.

Braham, who can play catcher or the outfield, is hitting .385 in her first 39 at-bats in 2026 with 19 RBIs, a double, two triples and her seven RBI. Foothill (6-6, 0-3) is scheduled to play at home against California-San Ramon Thursday (April 2).

More softball leaders: Among the top hitters (by average) who have at least 20 at-bats, Falcone (.565) leads the way followed by Granada's Aubrey Ingram (.556), Leah Uelesa (.536) and Kaitlyn Cannella (.529). Foothill's Myra Galzie leads the Tri-Valley in pitching strikeouts with 60, followed by Livermore's Kaci Norton (49) and Payton Rohe (33), Dublin's Bailey Lowell (32) and Granada's Bella Gamache (31).

Baseball leaders: Among Tri-Valley EBAL leaders, Dublin's Ethan Thai (.500) leads the way, while Foothill shortstop Aiden Taveras leads in RBIs (10), Foothill seniors Hudson Flora and Eli Davidson lead in runs (11) and Amador Valley senior Elliot De La Torre has 25 strikeouts, which leads all local pitchers.

Track boys leaders: Heading into this week's Stanford Invitational, here are the top marks among all Tri-Valley athletes —

100 meters: Dublin junior Ladell Waiters

Jr. (10.74 seconds); 200: Waiters (21.55);

400: Waiters (48.97); **800:** Granada senior

Nicolai Barron (1:53.83), Amador Valley senior Thomas Hekl (1:54.30), which are

the top two times in the NCS; **1600:** Granada

sophomore Alex van Veen (4:17.87); **3200:**

Granada senior Neil Ajeesh (9:25.79), Amador

Valley junior Gavin Shimojima (9:28.28);

110 high hurdles: Dublin senior Cayden

Bennett (15.22), Dublin sophomore Dasanni

Goodspeed (15.24), Amador Valley junior

Dhruv Ranjit (15.55); **300 hurdles:** Bennett

(40.81); **4x100 relay:** Dublin (42.03); **4x400**

relay: Dublin (Logan Lane, Maddox Ayerdis,

Kazuma Meraz, Waiters) 3:24.04; **4x800**

relay: Granada 7:55.87; **Shot put:** Dublin

senior Tyler Gray (46 feet, 8 inches); **Discus:**

Gray (Dublin) 158-4; **High jump:** Foothill

junior Max Shuga (6-2); **Pole vault:** Dublin

senior Leo Chang (13-3); **Long jump:** Foot-

hill junior Amaree Hill (20-10); **Triple jump:**

Amador Valley junior Garrett Brown (39-6).

Track girls leaders: **100:** Dublin junior

Kayci Phillips (12.34); **200:** Dublin

junior Josephine Bayer (24.99); **400:** Bayer

(57.87); **800:** Livermore senior Lanie Hempel

(2:13.38); **1600:** Foothill sophomore Macy

Mullins (5:03.76); **3200:** Mullins (10:50.49);

100 hurdles: Dublin freshman Nia Chad-

iha (16.85); **300 hurdles:** Dublin junior

Nacemah Grant-Gurganious (47.76); **4x100**

relay: Dublin (Myers, Grant-Gurganious,

Phillips, Hargreaves, 48.13); **4X400 relay:**

Dublin (Ria Inamdar, Bayer, Grant-Gurgan-

ious, Phillips) 3:57.58; **4x800 relay:**

Foothill 9:42.64; **Shot put:** Granada senior

Sophie De Frenchi (33-3); **Discus:** Granada

junior Beau Muela (102-6); **High jump:**

Livermore junior Peighton Hanson (5-0);

Pole vault: Dublin seniors Cynthia Lin, Mi-

randra Howeth, Sinic Huo (all 10-0); **Long**

jump: Foothill junior Mira Diwan (16-7½);

Triple jump: Amador Valley junior Laasya

Vemula (31-7½).

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 621182

The following person(s) doing business as: Authentic Beginnings, 1244 Roosevelt Ave, Hayward, CA 94544 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Authentic Beginnings LLC, 2648 International Blvd Ste 301 PMB 137, Oakland, CA 94601. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 9/1/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Charles Onyemem, Managing Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 27, 2026. Expires February 26, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6746. Published March 12, 19, 26, April 2, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620414

The following person(s) doing business as: Bzy Bee Event Management, 249 W. Jackson ST #2055, Hayward, CA 94544 is hereby registered by the fol-

lowing owner(s): Shawn Renee Robinson, 249 W. Jackson ST # 2055, Hayward, CA 94544. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 6/6/2022. Signature of Registrant/s/: Shawn Renee Robinson, Founder, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 26, 2026. Expires January 25, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6747. Published March 12, 19, 26, April 2, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 621126

The following person(s) doing business as: Akha Collective, 5501 Claremont Ave, Apt C, Oakland, CA 94618 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Nicha Goldman, 5501 Claremont Ave, Apt C, Oakland, CA 94618. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 2/24/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Nicha Goldman, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda

on February 25, 2026. Expires February 24, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6748. Published March 12, 19, 26, April 2, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 621154

The following person(s) doing business as: Oh's Nail and Spa, 6635 Dublin Blvd, Ste C, Dublin, CA 94568 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): MK Beauty Corporation, 3455 Hillsborough Way, San Jose, CA 95121. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 2/26/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Mikki Nakayama, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 27, 2026. Expires February 26, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6749. Published March 12, 19, 26, April 2, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 621178

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Pleasanton Auto Repair, 2. Pleasanton Auto Repair and Service; 3. Pleasanton

Auto Service, 3880 Old Santa Rita Road, Pleasanton, CA 94588 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Pleasanton Auto Repair Inc., 3880 Old Santa Rita Road, Pleasanton, CA 94588. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 1/1/1991. Signature of Registrant/s/: James Bowen, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 27, 2026. Expires February 26, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6750. Published March 12, 19, 26, April 2, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 621030

The following person(s) doing business as: 2. Your Perks Passport, 701 S L St, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Lindsey Knight, 701 S L St, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Lindsey Knight, Owner. This

statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 23, 2026. Expires February 22, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6751. Published March 12, 19, 26, April 2, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 621197

The following person(s) doing business as: Golden Crumb Bakery, 16183 Ashland Ave, Apt. 102, San Lorenzo, CA 94580 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Nur Ivanov, 16183 Ashland Ave, Apt. 102, San Lorenzo, CA 94580. 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/: Nur Ivanov, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 2, 2026. Expires March 1, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6752. Published March 12, 19, 26, April 2, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 621279

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. East Bay New Parenthood Consultation and

Therapy; 2. New Parenthood Consultation and Therapy; 3. Bay Area New Parents; 4. EBCAT, 220 S Livermore Ave, #7, Livermore, CA 94550-9998 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Vanessa Hernandez, 220 S Livermore Ave, #7, Livermore, CA 94550-9998. 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/: Vanessa Hernandez, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 4, 2026. Expires March 3, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6753. Published March 12, 19, 26, April 2, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 621097

The following person(s) doing business as: Happy Body Connections, 1152 Farmington Way, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Lindi LaBine, 1152 Farmington Way, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on

1/1/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Lindi LaBine, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 25, 2026. Expires February 24, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6754. Published March 12, 19, 26, April 2, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 621102

The following person(s) doing business as: All Creatures Veterinary Hospital, 6612 Dublin Blvd, Dublin, CA 94568 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Dublin Veterinary Services Inc., 6612 Dublin Blvd, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 2/1/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Harinder Judge, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 25, 2026. Expires February 24, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6755. Published March 19, 26, April 2, 9, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620663

The following person(s) doing business as: Beauchamber Studio, 154 Jensen Way, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Loren C. Olk, 154 Jensen Way, Livermore, CA 94550; Elizabeth L. Olk, 154 Jensen Way, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by a Married Couple. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 2/29/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Loren C. Olk, Co-Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 5, 2026. Expires February 4, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6756. Published March 19, 26, April 2, 9, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 621397

The following person(s) doing business as: Maia Energetics, 1278 Asti Ct, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Rain Shine and Rainbows, LLC, 1278 Asti Ct, 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

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3/9/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/ Corey Vaduro, Manager. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 9, 2026. Expires March 8, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6757. Published March 19, 26, April 2, 9, 2026.

2, 9, 16, 2026. FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 621462 The following person(s) doing business as: Wings 4 Words Speech Therapy, 5375 Sandra Way, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Rachel Muldoon, 5375 Sandra Way, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 3/12/2024. Signature of Registrant/s/ Rachel Muldoon, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 11, 2026. Expires March 10, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6763. Published March 26, April 2, 9, 16, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 621589 The following person(s) doing business as: Livemore #2, 1025 North Vasco Rd, Livemore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): R.A.T. Oil, Inc., 1045 Airport Blvd, S San Francisco, CA 94080. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 3/12/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/ Jonathan Ariza Aguilar. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 17, 2026. Expires March 16, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6769. Published March 26, April 2, 9, 16, 2026.

Expires March 17, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6774. Published March 26, April 2, 9, 16, 2026. FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 621669 The following person(s) doing business as: Golden Nails Salon, 20862 Redwood Road, Castro Valley, CA 94546 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): S & J Nail Spa Enterprises, LLC, 93 Romani Ct, Santa Rosa, CA 95407. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 2/2/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/ Scott H. Sebastian, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 19, Expires March 18, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6775. Published April 2, 9, 16, 23, 2026.

N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/ Evan Cavanaugh, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 23. Expires March 22, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6780. Published April 2, 9, 16, 23, 2026. FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 621575 The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Makers Art Studio Pleasanton; 2. Makers Art Studio, 1304 Stoneridge Mall Rd, Pleasanton, CA 94588 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Ditan Arts LLC, 6901 Syrah, DR, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 3/1/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/ Preetla Garg, Managing Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 17. Expires March 16, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6781. Published April 2, 9, 16, 23, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 621416 The following person(s) doing business as: FK Estate Realty, 43225 Mission Blvd, Fremont, CA 94539 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Qiao Kuang, 3736 Fallon Rd, STE 237, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 3/8/2026/Astrant/s/ Qiao Kuang, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 10. Expires March 9, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6786. Published April 2, 9, 16, 23, 2026.

110 Badger Creek Ct., El Dorado Hills, CA 95762. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 3/1/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/ Marydean Patterson, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 23. Expires March 22, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6789. Published April 2, 9, 16, 23, 2026. FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 621787 The following person(s) doing business as: Lumo Foundation, 1065 Serpentine LN, Ste #300, Pleasanton, CA 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Youth With Vision Foundation, 1065 Serpentine LN, Ste #300, Pleasanton, CA 94566. 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/ Angel Garcia. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 24. Expires March 23, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6790. Published April 2, 9, 16, 23, 2026.

Adopt a New Best Friend TVAR Tri-Valley Animal Rescue Our current weekly adoption events include: Saturdays — Dogs & Puppies at: Dublin Petsmart 6960 Amador Plaza Rd. Hours: 10:00am to 1:00pm. Visit our website: WWW.TVAR.ORG, to see adoptable animals, volunteer opportunities, and how to donate. Follow: TRI-VALLEY ANIMAL RESCUE on Facebook, and Instagram

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620788 The following person(s) doing business as: Desserts and Doughs by Dana, 452 Windermere Cir, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Dana Youngblood, 452 Windermere Cir, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 1/16/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/ Dana Youngblood, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 11, 2026. Expires February 10, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6758. Published March 19, 26, April 2, 9, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 621523 The following person(s) doing business as: Pawse Pet Furniture, 567 Oak Ridge Lane, Alameda, CA 94501 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Hiu Tung Lai, 567 Oak Ridge Lane, Alameda, CA 94501. This business is conducted by a Married Couple. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 2/10/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/ Meaghan Mena, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 10, 2026. Expires March 9, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6770. Published March 26, April 2, 9, 16, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 621408 The following person(s) doing business as: Patch Ya Later, 1030 Centre Ct, Alameda CA 94502 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Meaghan Mena, 1030 Centre Ct, Alameda, CA 94502. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 2/10/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/ Meaghan Mena, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 10, 2026. Expires March 9, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6770. Published March 26, April 2, 9, 16, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 621722 The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Food Service Partners; 2. Downtown Pour Collective 2601 Horseshoe Ct, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Table & Town LLC, 2601 Horseshoe Ct, 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/ Nicholas Martinez, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 20. Expires March 19, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6776. Published April 2, 9, 16, 23, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 621788 The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Key Mechanical Company; 2. Key Mechanical, 747 Enterprise Court, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Key Mechanical Co of Washington, 19430 68th Ave S, Kent, WA 98032. 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/ Frank W. Loenard, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 24. Expires March 23, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6782. Published April 2, 9, 16, 23, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 621054 The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Perfect Nine Events; 2. Perfect Nine Mobile Golf Experiences, 2313 Valley ST, Berkeley, CA 94702 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Jacob Lange, 495 Jackson ST, #1033, Oakland, CA 94607. 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/ Jacob Lange, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 24. Expires February 23, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6787. Published April 2, 9, 16, 23, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 621805 The following person(s) doing business as: Pleasanton Flower Shop, 3120-C Santa Rita Rd, Pleasanton, CA 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Min T. Tun & Matthew M. Sharpnack, 3120-C Santa Rita Rd, Pleasanton, CA 9466. This business is conducted by a Married Couple. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/ Min T. Tun, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 24. Expires March 23, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6791. Published April 2, 9, 16, 23, 2026.

EMPLOYMENT HELP WANTED SERVICES BE WARY of out of area companies. Check with the local Better Business Bureau before you send money or fees. Read and understand any contracts before you sign. Shop around for rates.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 621300 The following person(s) doing business as: My Profit Gurus, Inc., 6436 Tiffany Common, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): My profit Gurus, Inc., 6436 Tiffany Common, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 2/13/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/ Harshavardhan Jadhav, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 5, 2026. Expires March 4, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6759. Published March 19, 26, April 2, 9, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 621357 The following person(s) doing business as: Mayacamas Weather Consultants, 4425 View Street, Oakland, CA 94611 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): John R. Monteverdi, 4425 View Street, Oakland, CA 94611. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 3/17/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/ John Paul Monteverdi, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 9, 2026. Expires March 8, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6765. Published March 26, April 2, 9, 16, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 621624 The following person(s) doing business as: HydroBlast, 2150 Portola Avenue, Suite D298, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Jeremy Laine, 2150 Portola Avenue, Suite D298, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/ Jeremy Laine, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 18, 2026. Expires March 17, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6772. Published March 26, April 2, 9, 16, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 621259 The following person(s) doing business as: VisionPoint Insurance Solutions, 32145 Alvarado Niles RD, Ste 201, Union City, CA 94587 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): KNJ Management, Inc., 32145 Alvarado Niles RD, Ste 201, Union City, CA 94587. 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/ Kevin Lee, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 4. Expires March 3, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6777. Published April 2, 9, 16, 23, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 621351 The following person(s) doing business as: Everyday Wellness Therapy, 246 Soott Street, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Kelly Kapis, 2150 Portola Ave, Ste D PMB 2032, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 2/1/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/ Tracey Patterson, Founder & Principal. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 11. Expires March 10, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6778. Published April 2, 9, 16, 23, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 621585 The following person(s) doing business as: PolyPom, 1765 Oxford ST, APT 8, Berkeley, CA 94709 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Megan Leann Gilland, 1765 Oxford ST APT 8, Berkeley, CA 94709. 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/ Megan Leann Gilland, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 17. Expires March 16, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6788. Published April 2, 9, 16, 23, 2026.

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME ORIGINAL FILE NO. 605615 The person(s) listed below have abandoned the use of the following fictitious business name(s). Pleasanton Flower Shop, 3120-C Santa Rita Rd, Pleasanton, CA 94566. Registered by the following owner(s): Milly T. Lwi & Maung K. Myint, 3120-C Santa Rita Rd, Pleasanton, CA 94566. The fictitious business name statement was filed on 4/16/2024 in the County of Alameda. This business was conducted by a Married Couple. Signature of Registrants: /s/ Milly T. Lwi, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 24, 2026. The Independent, Legal No. 6792. Published April 2, 9, 16, 23, 2026.

NOTICES "NOTICE TO READERS: California law requires that contractors taking jobs that total \$500 or more (labor and/or materials) be licensed by the Contractors State License Board. State law also requires that contractors include their license numbers on all advertising. Check your contractor's status at www.cslb.ca.gov or (800)321-CSLB (2752). Unlicensed persons taking jobs less than \$500 must state in their advertisements that they are not licensed by the Contractors State License Board."

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME ORIGINAL FILE NO. 611134 The person(s) listed below have abandoned the use of the following fictitious business name(s). Diablotis Tree Service, 66 Franklin ST, Suite 300, Oakland, CA 94607. Registered by the following owner(s): Carlos Heriberto Berumen Ornelas, 66 Franklin ST, Suite 300, Oakland, CA 94607. The fictitious business name statement was filed on 12/11/2024 in the County of Alameda. This business was conducted by an individual. Signature of Registrants: /s/ Carlos Heriberto Berumen Ornelas, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 3, 2026. The Independent, Legal No. 6761. Published March 19, 26, April 2, 9, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 621470 The following person(s) doing business as: Hella Dough, 1375 Pullman Way, Oakland, CA 94607 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Allison Northam, 1375 Pullman Way, Oakland, CA 94607. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 3/2/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/ Surfate Tensal, Managing Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 2, 2026. Expires March 1, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6760. Published March 19, 26, April 2, 9, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 621612 The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Casa Real at Ruby Hill Winery; 2. Casa Real; 3. Casa Real Event Venue, 410 Vineyard Ave, Pleasanton, CA 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Beet Catering, Inc, 316 Stealth CT, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 10/10/2008. Signature of Registrant/s/ Read Phillips, Vice President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 18, 2026. Expires March 17, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6772. Published March 26, April 2, 9, 16, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 621468 The following person(s) doing business as: System Change Strategies, 1106 Chesnut ST, Alameda, CA 94501 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Systems Change Strategies LLC, 2108 N ST, Ste N, Sacramento, CA 95816. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 2/1/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/ Michael Cavanaugh, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 23. Expires March 22, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6779. Published April 2, 9, 16, 23, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 621585 The following person(s) doing business as: PolyPom, 1765 Oxford ST, APT 8, Berkeley, CA 94709 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Megan Leann Gilland, 1765 Oxford ST APT 8, Berkeley, CA 94709. 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/ Megan Leann Gilland, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 17. Expires March 16, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6788. Published April 2, 9, 16, 23, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 621749 The following person(s) doing business as: DAP Gems, 7063 Commerce Cir, Suite F, Pleasanton, CA 94588 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Marydean Patterson,

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

REAL ESTATE LAND FOR RENT OFFICE/HOUSE/CONDO / DUPLEX / APT RENTAL HOUSE/ROOMS/RENTALS TO SHARE BOAT / RV / RENTAL SPACE Inland Valley Publishing Co. Client Code:04126-00001 Re: Legal Notice for Classified Ads The Federal Fair Housing Act, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and state law prohibit advertisements for housing and employment that contain any preference, limitation or discrimination based on protected classes, including race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin. IVPC does not knowingly accept any advertisements that are in violation of the law. 2144 Kala Bagai Way, Berkeley, CA 94704

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No. 26CV176009 SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF ALAMEDA TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner: Skyia Jennifer Brown 2772 Provenca Court Livermore, CA 94550 filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Present Name: Skyia Jennifer Brown Proposed Name: Skyia Jennifer Pineda THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing. NOTICE OF HEARING Date: 05/22/2026 Time: 9:00 AM Dept: 514 The address of the court is: Superior Court of California 24405 Amador Street Hayward, CA 94544 A copy of this Order To Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation printed in this county: The Independent Newspaper 2250 First Street, Livermore, CA 94550 Dated: 03/17/2026 /s/: Michael Markman, Judge. The Independent, Legal No. 6762. Published March 26, April

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 621555 The following person(s) doing business as: Schememetone Music, 726 E 24th ST, Oakland, CA 94606 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Marc Levinthal, 726 24th ST, Oakland, CA 94606. 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/ Marc Levinthal, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 16, 2026. Expires March 15, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6767. Published March 26, April 2, 9, 16, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 621612 The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Pal Event Center; 2. The Palm; 3. The Palm in the Vineyard, 1184 Vineyard Ave, Pleasanton, CA 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Beet Catering, Inc, 316 Stealth CT, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 10/10/2008. Signature of Registrant/s/ Read Phillips, Vice President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 18, 2026. Expires March 17, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6772. Published March 26, April 2, 9, 16, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 621757 The following person(s) doing business as: Diatribe Productions, 336 Haight Ave, Alameda, CA 94501 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Michael Cavanaugh, 336 Haight Ave, Alameda, CA 94501. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 1/1/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/ Michael Cavanaugh, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 23. Expires March 22, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6779. Published April 2, 9, 16, 23, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 621758 The following person(s) doing business as: Studio EMC, 336 Haight Ave, Alameda, CA 94501 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Evan Cavanaugh, 336 Haight Ave, Alameda, CA 94501. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 621585 The following person(s) doing business as: PolyPom, 1765 Oxford ST, APT 8, Berkeley, CA 94709 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Megan Leann Gilland, 1765 Oxford ST APT 8, Berkeley, CA 94709. 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/ Megan Leann Gilland, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 17. Expires March 16, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6788. Published April 2, 9, 16, 23, 2026.

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

REAL ESTATE LAND FOR RENT OFFICE/HOUSE/CONDO / DUPLEX / APT RENTAL HOUSE/ROOMS/RENTALS TO SHARE BOAT / RV / RENTAL SPACE Inland Valley Publishing Co. Client Code:04126-00001 Re: Legal Notice for Classified Ads The Federal Fair Housing Act, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and state law prohibit advertisements for housing and employment that contain any preference, limitation or discrimination based on protected classes, including race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin. IVPC does not knowingly accept any advertisements that are in violation of the law. 2144 Kala Bagai Way, Berkeley, CA 94704

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Amador Valley All-Girls STEM Team are NASA Award Winners

By Sanestina Hunter

PLEASANTON — An all-girls team of 11 students at Amador Valley High School is preparing to send its science experiment on a suborbital flight this summer after being named winners in NASA's TechRise Student Challenge.

The national competition selected 60 teams from across the country, giving

experiment, titled "VitalSense: Biomedical Sensor Accuracy in Microgravity," examines how biomedical sensors function in space, with the goal of improving how astronauts' vital signs are monitored.

Nicole Sun, STEP UP Club president and TechRise co-project manager, said she was exhilarated when she learned the team had been selected.

excited — I wasn't sure we'd be selected as winners again, considering NASA gives priority to new teams," said Rachel Schmidt, TechRise co-project manager.

For the Amador team, the project has meant navigating both technical and creative challenges, from building a mock human model for testing sensors to ensuring all components

and collaboration.

"I'm learning a lot about hardware engineering through this project and interdisciplinary collaboration," she added.

Other team members pointed to the complexity of simulating real-world conditions in space.

"Honestly, microgravity itself hasn't been the biggest challenge; we mostly just have to make sure everything is taped, bolted or screwed down securely," said Adwaita Mohanty, a team member.

"The real challenge has been figuring out the complexities of creating a sort of mock human for our sensors," she said, citing the use of silicone skin molds, heating pads and calibrated lighting to simulate a pulse for a pulse oximeter.

"I've learned so much about the tiny engineering details, especially in a biological context, that can make a huge difference in space experiments," Mohanty added.

Schmidt said coordinating the technical elements has also been a challenge.

"The most challenging part so far has been choosing components that will all work together, making sure the voltages, inputs and outputs of each are viable together," she said.

As an all-girls team, students say the experience stands out in a field where STEM spaces are often male-dominated.

"STEP UP's participation shows girls in our school that their involvement in STEM needn't be limited to the classroom,

and that there are many ways for them to explore and showcase their talents," said Advika Modi, a team member.

"Being here reminds us that our voices are valued, and that our contributions and research truly matter," she said.

Mohanty said the experience has been both empowering and inspiring.

"I feel proud to represent my school, and even prouder to do it as an all-girls team. There's still a very real gender gap in STEM, so it's refreshing to work alongside such intellectual, driven girls tackling a project this complex and exciting," she said. "I guess you could say I feel like I'm on the moon!"

For Schmidt, the team dynamic has also been a highlight.

"It means a lot to me, as I've represented Amador on other STEM teams that are majority male," she said. "I've definitely enjoyed being on an all-

girls team because there's a more comfortable team dynamic."

The 11-member, all-girls team includes Kavya Jain, Jenny Mao, Advika Modi, Adwaita Mohanty, Lyvia Peng, Rachel Schmidt, Aditi Shajil, Nicole Sun, Kavya Vijayabaskar, Yiyun (Evi-an) Wu and Jessica Zhang.

The group is advised by Bree Barnett Dreyfuss, a science teacher at AVHS.

As the team prepares for the flight test this summer, students say the experience has already strengthened their confidence and interest in STEM careers.



Members of the Amador Valley High School all-girls STEM team gather around their suborbital science experiment, titled "VitalSense: Biomedical Sensor Accuracy in Microgravity." They prepare for its space-bound journey following their selection as NASA TechRise winners. (Photo courtesy of STEP UP Club)

middle and high school students the opportunity to design and build experiments for a suborbital flight this summer, officials announced Jan. 20.

As part of the challenge, students develop experiments for flight testing, gaining hands-on experience in aerospace and engineering while working within real-world design constraints.

The STEP UP Club's

"This recognition is empowering because it shows that a small group of students like us can take on ambitious challenges, and it gives us the confidence to keep pursuing careers in STEM," Sun said.

This marks the second time AVHS has been named among winners in the TechRise challenge. A separate team earned the distinction in 2024.

"I was surprised and

function together within strict design constraints.

"The most challenging part is understanding how all the components function," said Advika Modi, a team member. "With every physical component, there are software packages and overall design constraints based on the size and environment of the payload."

Modi said the experience has expanded her understanding of engineering

Library Seeks Volunteers for Literacy Program

LIVERMORE — The Livermore Public Library will conduct a three-part training program for adult literacy volunteers at the Civic Center Library, 1188 S. Livermore Ave., in April.

Library volunteers are needed to work with adults on basic reading, writing or conversation skills for a few hours each week in small groups or on a one-to-one basis.

Training sessions are

scheduled from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on Monday, April 20, Wednesday, April 22, and Monday, April 27.

No prior experience is necessary, but volunteers are expected to complete all three

training sessions.

To sign up, or for more information, email literacy@livermoreca.gov or call 925-373-5507.

'Paws In Need' Redesigns Website

TRI-VALLEY — Paws In Need, a San Ramon-based animal welfare organization, has redesigned its website to "make it easier than ever for people to learn about our programs and support local animals in need," according to president and co-founder Lisa Williams.

Williams, who also serves as the nonprofit's medical programs director, said the new website "reflects who we are as an all-volunteer organization, compassionate, accessible to the public and focused on creating real change for animals and pet owners."

The website includes expanded content and more storytelling, along with how donations directly fund medical care, emergency assistance and preventive services, according to the nonprofit. The website, paws-in-need.org, is also compatible with multiple devices.

AVQ Will Host Two-Day Quilt Show

TRI-VALLEY — Amador Valley Quilters (AVQ) will host a two-day quilt show on Saturday, April 25, and Sunday, April 26, at Trinity Church in Livermore.

On addition to showcasing more than 350 quilts by members of the non-

profit guild, the show will include vendors selling a variety of quilting supplies and other specially artisan goods.

AVQ will also raffle off a quilt titled "A Garden of Diamonds," featuring a pattern by Sue Carter and made with

Kaffe Fassett fabrics.

Proceeds from the raffle will help fund the guild's Community Quilts program, which donates hundreds of quilts annually to local seniors, foster children and survivors of domestic violence.

Rotary to Present Fundraising Gala

PLEASANTON — The 37th annual "A Starry Night" dinner dance and charity auction, hosted by the Pleasanton North Rotary Club (PNR) and the PNR Foundation, will be held on Friday, April 17, at The Club at Castlewood in Pleasanton.

The fundraising gala, which starts with a cocktail hour at 5:30 p.m., "has always been about bringing together people who care deeply about their community," said PNR President Ryan Spuller. "It's a chance to have fun while making a real difference for people who need assistance."

The evening will also include a formal dinner, dancing, live entertainment and auctions, all supporting nonprofit organizations that serve the Tri-Valley, Spuller said.

Among the items up for auction will be a framed Team USA jersey signed by Golden State Warrior legend Stephen Curry, an opportunity to create the recipe and name a pizza featured at Pleasanton's Porky's Pizza, vacation packages and a

"Mayor for a Day" experience with Pleasanton Mayor Jack Balch.

For more information, and purchase tickets, go to tinyurl.com/mr4az7jc.

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