



Families, individuals, schools and businesses competed in a new tree-decorating contest at the Dublin Civic Center. Decorated trees were on display through Dec. 28. (Photo — Jacob Clouser)

New Lab Partnership Looks to Improve Laser-Fusion Efficiency

LLNL, German Institution Seeking Clean, Commercial Electricity Source

By David Jen

LIVERMORE — A new partnership between Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) and the Fraunhofer Institute for Laser Technology (ILT) in Germany looks to perfect the amplifiers used in laser-based fusion reactors.

LLNL announced the three-year partnership on Dec. 18, emphasizing the work's potential benefits for commercial fusion power. The U.S. Department of Energy's STARFIRE program and Fraunhofer Gesellschaft's International Cooperation and Networking program will provide funding.

Fusion power, if adapted for the

power grid, stands to provide an abundant, clean and reliable source of electricity.

Despite LLNL successes in demonstrating controlled laser fusion, significant challenges, such as improving the efficiency of laser systems, remain before commercialization.

"The transition from basic research to power-plant development requires the rapid, robust development of rugged new laser systems," Tammy Ma, director of LLNL's Livermore Institute for Fusion Technology, stated in the announcement. "Fraunhofer ILT's expertise in industrial scaling of diode-pumped lasers is crucial for accelerating our (inertial fusion

energy) program."

The reactor designs pursued by the two institutions direct enough laser energy at a fuel capsule to cause it to implode with enough force to start nuclear fusion. Because the lasers require large amounts of power, their efficiency is critical to how much overall power can be extracted from a fusion power plant. Here, laser amplifiers play a key role in the process, adding to a small laser pulse the energies required for fusion but enduring enormous stresses in the process.

"Twenty-four-seven operation leads to heating, refraction effects and aberrations that could distort the laser beam," Fraunhofer

(See FRAUNHOFER, page 8)

Declining Rates for Electricity Present Financial Challenges for Ava Energy

Lower-Income Customers Losing Bill Credits That Were Previously Approved

By David Jen

TRI-VALLEY — The cost of electricity generation will fall in 2026, lowering customer bills by about 11%, according to Tri-Valley electricity provider Ava Community Energy. But the reduced electricity revenues prompted Ava budget actions last month, including the cancellation of a previously approved bill credit for lower-income customers.

The lower costs come in part from a number of wildfire-safety and emergency-response projects recently completed by Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E). The projects had previously added to the cost

of electricity, and those costs have now been removed, driving rates down.

But the financial stresses on customers act in reverse for Ava. The nonprofit energy supplier buys power on behalf of its customers to negotiate cleaner, cheaper power sources. When prices fall, Ava revenues fall with them, squeezing Ava's operating headroom, CEO Howard Chang said.

"The last few years, we've been contributing a lot to reserves — the rate stabilization fund — and obviously operating in a very healthy environment," Chang said. "Unfortunately, that's also when our customers have experienced

really high rates, given our indexing structure to PG&E."

Ava pegs its rates to fixed premiums or savings above or below PG&E rates, depending on the renewable-energy content of the Ava service plan. The supplier currently serves all of Alameda County and the cities of Lathrop, Stockton and Tracy. Ava plans to add unincorporated San Joaquin County this year.

To meet a projected \$246.8 million deficit in 2026, the Ava Board of Directors at its Dec. 17 meeting approved the authorization to cancel a planned bill credit for its lower-income customers. The credit, which would have

(See AVA, page 9)

Housing Homeless Before Treatment Gains Court Victory

Long-Term Impact of Decision Remains Uncertain

By Vivien Wenneker

TRI-VALLEY — A federal judge has blocked the Trump Administration's efforts to divert billions of dollars in homelessness spending away from permanent housing initiatives in California and other states, marking a temporary win for advocates of the housing-first model.

The decision came Dec. 19 from District Court Judge Mary S. McElroy in Providence, Rhode Island, and prevents the administration from redirecting the permanent housing grant money toward temporary housing and outreach efforts, at least for the time-being.

The expectation, however, is that the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), led by Secretary Scott Turner, will not back down on this new direction of policy and will likely seek ways around the District Court ruling, perhaps even taking the matter to the Supreme Court.

McElroy issued her decision in response to two lawsuits challenging the funding changes: one from a coalition of 20 states (most of which are Democratic, including California, Oregon, Washington, New York and Pennsylvania), and the other from a group of 11 local governments, including Santa Clara County.

(See HOUSING, page 9)



Even parents got into the "Noon Year's Eve" spirit at a party for those with early bedtimes held Dec. 31, 2024, at the Robert Livermore Community Center. The Noon Year's Eve party, held again Wednesday, was a kid-friendly event with snacks, dancing and ringing in the new year at a much more reasonable hour. (File photo — Doug Jorgensen)

PUSD Deficit Remains After Approval of Budget Report

Pleasanton District Faces More County Oversight

By Sanestina Hunter

PLEASANTON — The Pleasanton Unified School District Board of Trustees approved the district's 2025–26 First Interim Budget Report at its Dec. 11 meeting, formally acknowledging an ongoing budget deficit and advancing the budget for additional county oversight.

According to the report, the district projects a \$4.7 million deficit for the 2025–26 fiscal year, with expenses continuing to exceed revenues. As a result, the district expects to exhaust its unrestricted reserves and end the year with a negative unrestricted fund balance of approximately \$2.5 million.

District staff recommended submitting the First Interim Budget with a Negative Certification to the Alameda County Office of Education (ACOE), indicating the district will not meet its fi-

nancial obligations in the current or subsequent fiscal year without corrective action.

The First Interim Budget Report provides the district's first formal financial update for the 2025–26 budget and reflects actual revenues and expenditures through Oct. 31.

The report also includes the updated state funding, finalized 2024–25 financials, and the transfer of \$11 million in one-time proceeds from the sale of the district's Vineyard property into a committed stabilization fund.

While the transfer strengthens the district's overall financial position and allows for internal borrowing to address the current shortfall, staff noted the funds cannot be used to support ongoing deficit spending or resolve the district's underlying structural deficit. They can only address one-time cash flow support or stabilization.

(See PUSD, page 9)



The Yale Russian Chorus is scheduled to perform Thursday, Jan. 8 at St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church in Livermore. (Photo courtesy of Yale Club of San Francisco)

Yale Russian Chorus to Perform in Livermore

Historic Collegiate Choir's Rich Tradition Dates Back to Early Days of the Cold War

By Vivien Wenneker

LIVERMORE — The Yale Russian Chorus (YRC), North America's oldest Slavic choir, is planning to stop in Livermore for a 6 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 8 performance at St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church.

The chorus will also be in San Francisco the day before, Wednesday, Jan. 7, for a 6 p.m. performance at the Holy Trinity Russian Orthodox Cathedral.

Hailed by the Wall Street Journal as the "Diplomats of Song" in

2003, the YRC has a rich tradition, stretching back to its founding by then-Yale University student Denis Mickiewicz at the height of the Cold War to foster cultural understanding through Slavic music.

From the White House and Carnegie Hall to the streets of Berlin and Moscow, the chorus from the New Haven, Connecticut university has performed extensively around the world. It offers a wide-ranging repertoire of both sacred and secular music from Eastern Europe and Western Asia.

Throughout its history, the

chorus has toured the globe and was the first American group to visit the former Soviet Union as a private initiative in 1958. It has also performed for leaders such as former French President Charles de Gaulle, former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, former Russian President Boris Yeltsin and former U.S. President Bill Clinton.

Now in its 72nd season, the chorus began 2025 by touring Boston and Washington in the spring, followed by Armenia and Georgia in the summer, and is now closing out the year with a swing through

(See YALE, page 9)

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PET OF THE WEEK



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Grand Jury Indicts Three Alameda County Sheriff's Deputies in Santa Rita Death Case

By Sanestina Hunter

DUBLIN — A criminal grand jury on Dec. 16 indicted three Alameda County sheriff's deputies in connection with the 2021 in-custody death of Maurice Monk at Santa Rita Jail, according to Alameda County District Attorney Ursula Jones Dickson.

Deputies Robinderpal Singh Hayer, Thomas Mowrer and Donall Rowe face felony charges of dependent elder abuse.

All three deputies were arraigned following the indictment and remain free after posting bail. None entered pleas. They are expected to plead not guilty at a court hearing scheduled this month.

The case, which stems

from Monk's death while in custody at Santa Rita, drew widespread public scrutiny and multiple civil lawsuits.

Monk, 45, died in his jail cell on Nov. 15, 2021, after he was found unresponsive. According to court filings and civil lawsuits, he had been dead for approximately three days before his body was discovered.

Attorneys for Monk's family have said he suffered from schizophrenia and diabetes, and should have been treated as a dependent adult while in custody.

Records show Monk was arrested in October 2021 and held on \$2,500 bail on a misdemeanor charge following an argument with an AC Transit

bus driver over a facemask requirement.

Prosecutors said he was also booked on a failure-to-appear warrant tied to a prior misdemeanor case.

Body-camera footage released in 2023 showed deputies opening Monk's cell door repeatedly over several days without entering the cell or checking on him as he lay unresponsive.

Former District Attorney Pamela Price originally charged a larger group of defendants in connection with Monk's death.

Charges against eight other defendants — including sheriff's deputies and medical staff — were later dropped under Price's administration after prosecutors said there was

insufficient evidence to establish criminal liability.

Dickson, who took office in February following Price's recall, reviewed the case and continued pursuing charges against the three remaining deputies.

Civil lawsuits filed by Monk's family allege deputies failed to respond as his health deteriorated and that nurses employed by Wellpath, the private company contracted to provide medical care at the jail, delivered medication without intervening or providing treatment.

Wellpath agreed in June to pay \$2.5 million to settle a federal civil rights lawsuit related to Monk's death, according to court records and media reports.

A wrongful death lawsuit filed by Monk's family

against Alameda County was settled in 2023 for \$7 million.

The criminal case against the three deputies remains pending.

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Livermore Heritage Guild to Open Historic Sites to Public Each Month

LIVERMORE — The Livermore Heritage Guild will once again this year offer free entry to its two historic sites each month.

The Duarte Garage, at the corner of Pine Street and North P Street, will be open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the third Sun-

day of every month. A different car will be featured each month, as will Livermore's earliest fire engines and other classic

cars and machines.

Historic Hagemann Ranch, at 455 Olivina Avenue, will be open from 1-5 p.m. on the final Sunday of each month. Tours of the gardens and the opportunity to experience one of the earliest homesteads in Livermore will be available, with children aged 1-5 welcome to meet goats and pet horses.

Visitors may be part of Hagemann Ranch's plant exchange, join Alice's Wonderland tea party, enjoy a mix of artists and musicians, get hayrides, create crafts, get their face painted and do chores from the 1800s.

To see which events are happening each month, visit LHG.org.



Classic cars will be on display the third Sunday of every month at the Duarte Garage in Livermore. (Photo courtesy of Livermore Heritage Guild)

East Bay Park District Sets This Year's Trails Challenge

The East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) will launch a new Trails Challenge on Thursday, Jan. 1.

The district said its 33rd annual challenge will include 20 trails chosen to offer a range of experiences for different skill and endurance levels.

"The Trails Challenge is a great way to explore regional parks, not only a person's regular favorites, but also planning adventures to parks farther out," said Mike Moran, interpretive and recreation services manager.

"The district's 73 parks are spread throughout Alameda and Contra Costa counties, offering a range of landscapes to enjoy," Moran added. "Visitors can be on the beach today observing shorebirds, then tomorrow head into the

redwood groves found in the Berkeley and Oakland hills or tackle a long stretch of the oak-covered Pleasanton Ridge."

To complete the challenge, participants must finish any five of the featured trails, or log 26.2 miles on any trails in EBRPD system, by the end of the year.

Those who complete the challenge and submit a trail log online or by mail will receive a commemorative pin, while supplies last.

They will also be eligible for monthly drawings and other giveaways, including patches, Trails Challenge bandanas and prizes from the fitness and recreation app AllTrails.

There will also be drawings for those who post selfies on social media using the tag #TrailsChallengeEBRPD.

Guidebooks and T-shirts will be available at all EBRPD visitor centers while supplies last. The guidebook can also be downloaded at ebeparks.org/trailchallenge.

A Spanish edition will be available online and in visitor centers in mid-January.

The Trails Challenge was launched in 1993 in partnership with the Regional Parks Foundation and Kaiser Permanente to promote health by spending time outdoors. These two primary sponsors have returned for 2026, along with AllTrails, which is providing complimentary 3-month Plus-level memberships on its popular hiking app via a QR code in the Trails Challenge guidebook.

For more information, go to ebeparks.org/trailchallenge.

LIVERMORE LIONS CLUB

Crab Feed
All you can eat crab

Saturday, Jan 17, 5 pm.

Tickets: Ann (805) 405-8742 or Ben (805) 405-8743

Order now before January 12: \$75/person, \$420 for table of 6.
All you can eat fresh crab, with pasta, salad, bread and dessert.
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Local Woman to Speak in Livermore after Palestine Visit

LIVERMORE — Pleasanton resident, Muslim convert and international development professional Charity Hanif, who recently returned from Wadi Foquin, a Palestinian agricultural village in the occupied West Bank, is scheduled to speak on Saturday, Feb. 7 at the Islamic Center of Livermore.

Hanif plans to share reflections from her journey, including photographs, geographic context and personal stories during a presentation titled, “A Convert’s Journey: Social Justice and the Art of Neighboring in Palestine.”

The event, from 4:30-5:30 p.m., is free and open to the public. Doors are scheduled to open at 4:15, with dinner to follow the program at 5:45.

Hanif, who participated in a solidarity delegation focused on standing with the village during the annual olive harvest, plans to speak about her decision to travel to Palestine, which was shaped both by her professional background and her faith.

With three decades of experience working in international agricultural development in more than

25 countries, Hanif has long focused on problem solving and advocating for global farmers to support family and rural community resilience.

As a Muslim convert, she was also drawn to action by



Pleasanton resident and Muslim convert Charity Hanif participated in a solidarity delegation focused on standing with Wadi Foquin, a Palestinian agricultural village in the occupied West Bank, on Nov. 14. (Photo courtesy of Charity Hanif)

Islam’s teachings on justice and the rights of neighbors, both those next door and around the world.

“Islam’s teachings on social justice and being a good neighbor didn’t feel new to me,” Hanif said. “I grew up in a traditional American farming family, and Islam

reinforced the values I grew up with, as an active member in the United Church of Christ, where social justice was preached weekly.”

During her time in Wadi Foquin, Hanif observed how Palestinian families

growing Israeli settlement in the West Bank and new outposts and construction that restrict access to farmland and disrupt livelihoods. Residents described the daily choices they face between maintaining a phys-

— the practical power of showing up, maintaining presence and choosing relationship even under extraordinary pressure.”

Hanif traveled to Wadi Foquin with Friends of Wadi Foquin, a non-profit within the United Methodist Church’s General Board of Global Ministries. Friends of Wadi Foquin supports village-led community development, advocacy on behalf of the village and Palestinians, and solidarity trips that bring small groups to stay in Wadi Foquin.

Another solidarity delegation is being organized. To

learn more, visit <https://www.friendsofwadifoquin.com/>.

Further information on Hanif’s talk at the Islamic Center of Livermore, 3820 East Avenue, is available at <https://iclivermore.org>.



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A display at American Harvest was part of the Downtown Pleasanton Holiday Window Decorating Contest that ran through the end of December. Festive creativity sparked as downtown businesses decked out their windows and storefronts in holiday style. (Photo — Jacob Clouser)

Dublin Unified Sets Dates for Enrollment of New Students

The Dublin Unified School District (DUSD) will open new student enrollment for the 2026-2027 school year on Wednesday, Jan. 14, for children entering transitional kindergarten and kindergarten.

New student enrollment for those entering grades one through 12 will open on Wednesday, March 18.

DUSD is encouraging families with children who will be new to the district to begin the enrollment process as soon as the window opens.

Children turning 4 on or before Sept. 1 will be eligible for transitional kindergarten, and children turning 5 on or before Sept. 1 will be eligible for kindergarten.

Details are available on

the district’s website at dublinusd.org. The webpage also includes informational videos in English and Spanish that explain each step of the enrollment process and outline the required documents and immunizations.

DUSD serves approximately 12,800 students from preschool through adult education.

Patelco Volunteers Set Holiday Record for Gift-Wrapping Toys

Patelco Credit Union (PCU) employees donated 570 toys, books and gift cards to nonprofit organizations during various community events over the holiday season, according to the Dublin-based financial institution.

Patelco team members also set a credit-union record by wrapping 800 toys and household items for the Family Giving Tree, a Santa Clara-based nonprofit, and

73 Patelco employees volunteered as Santa’s helpers to deliver gifts to families throughout the Bay Area.

“This is one of our most attended team events each year,” Cara Houck, PCU community relations partner, said of the gift-wrapping effort.

“Making a difference directly in our communities is a value we all share at Patelco, and we’re proud to work with Family Giving

Tree to celebrate the season of giving by spreading holiday cheer to families across the Bay Area.”

Patelco teams also donated toys, books and other gifts to the Boys & Girls Club of Sacramento and the Valley Children’s Healthcare Foundation and participated in Bay Area radio station KMEL’s Santa Claus Food and Toy Drive live broadcast on Saturday, Dec. 19.

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Changes in climate, land use and population increases have led to higher potential flooding within the Zone 7 Water Agency (Zone 7) Tri-Valley area. To address current and future flood risks within the 37-mile network of streams and flood channels that protect the Tri-Valley community, **Zone 7 is developing a comprehensive Flood Management Plan (FMP)**. This high-level flood management strategy aims to improve flood protection and reduce flood risks for our communities and the environment.

Join one of our upcoming public meetings to learn more about the FMP and how it benefits your community!

Each meeting will be an open house format where you can view displays, talk with team members and provide input on the FMP.

Tuesday, January 13 | 5:30–7 p.m.
Zone 7 Administration Building, Board Room
100 N Canyons Parkway, Livermore

Wednesday, January 14 | 5:30–7 p.m.
Shannon Community Center, Multi-Purpose Room
11600 Shannon Avenue, Dublin

Thursday, January 15 | 5:30–7 p.m.
Amador Recreation Center
4443 Black Avenue, Pleasanton



Stay informed!

 zone7waterca.gov/post/flood-management-plan-1

 fmp@zone7water.com  925-454-5000



As the weather turns colder, the Livermore Police Department (LPD) is reminding residents to be aware of cats and kittens seeking warm places to hide. Motorists are advised to keep a lookout inside engine compartments and on top of tires for the furry critters. Lightly tapping the hood or honking briefly before starting a vehicle is advisable if you suspect a cat might be hiding. If you discover a cat or kitten inside your vehicle, call Livermore Animal Services at 925-371-4987. (Photo courtesy of LPD)

LAVTA Collects 50 Bins of New Toys

The Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority (LAVTA), which operates Wheels buses, said more than 50 bins of new toys were collected during its 14th annual Stuff-a-Bus event at the Pleasanton Walmart on Saturday, Dec. 13.

Shoppers were encouraged to drop off donations for a local charity Family Giving Tree.

This year, LAVTA said shoppers were able to purchase specific gifts from a “most needed” holiday list.

“Holiday spirit is alive and well in Pleasanton” said David Mark, LAVTA’s director of customer experience. “More than 50 overflowing bins of toys were collected.”

Pleasanton radio station KKIQ supported the toy drive with live broadcasts.

Jewish Storyteller to Appear at Beth Emek

British songwriter and storyteller Daniel Cainer will entertain Congregation Beth Emek in Pleasanton at 7:30 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 1.

Cainer is known for his slightly irreverent tales about his Jewish family and growing up in England.

He also wrote for the BBC, performing as the

“Singing Reporter,” and has composed scores for film and television. Some of his more contemplative material is regularly sung by cantors and rabbis in temples in the U.S. and the United Kingdom.

Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for youths, and are available online at bethemek.org.

Library to Offer Literacy Training This Month

The Livermore Public Library will hold the first session in a three-part training program for adult literacy volunteers at the Civic Center Library, 1188 S. Livermore Ave., from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 7.

Follow-up sessions will be at the same time and place on Monday, Jan. 12, and Wednesday, Jan. 14.

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.

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.

Community Job Fair On Tap in Livermore

The Livermore Civic Center Library, 1188 S. Livermore Ave., will host a job fair for members of the community 16 and older from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 22.

The fourth annual Opportunities Expo will offer job seekers the opportunity to meet with local employers. Representatives

from the Tri-Valley Career Center in Pleasanton will be available to offer resume assistance.

The first 50 attendees receive a free professional portrait courtesy of Ron Essex Photography. Children may accompany attendees. For more information, email lib@livermoreca.gov or call 925-373-5505.



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LARPD Collects Boxes of Food, Truckloads of Toys

A Livermore Area Recreation and Park District (LARPD) holiday food drive and Toys for Tots collection at the Robert Livermore Community Center garnered 24 40-gallon bins of food and two truckloads of toys for needy families during the holiday season.

“The amount of food and toys donated was incredible,” said Jill Kirk,

LARPD community service manager, who added “we hope it [made] a big difference for families and kids this holiday season. We’re really grateful for the community’s support.”

The food was donated to Tri-Valley Haven, a Livermore-based nonprofit that provides services for individuals and families affected by domestic violence, sexual assault,

homelessness and poverty. The toys were donated to the Marine Toys for Tots program for distribution throughout the Bay Area.

LARPD operates parks and recreational facilities in Livermore and unincorporated areas of eastern Alameda County. Its headquarters is in the Robert Livermore Community Center, 4444 East Ave., in Livermore.

OUR LOCAL NONPROFITS NEED YOUR SUPPORT, PLEASE DONATE IF YOU ARE ABLE!

Alan Hu Foundation
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Pleasanton, CA 94566
925-352-6844
Alanhufoundation.org

Allie’s Pals Cat Rescue
PO Box 1835
Pleasanton, CA 94566
925-226-8637
AlliesPals.org

Amador Questers
1089 Geneva Street
Livermore, CA 94550-5661
925-200-8750
CalQuest.org
questers1944.org

Amador Valley Lions Club
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Pleasanton, CA 94566
925-264-9197
Amadorvalley.lions@gmail.com

Amador Valley Quilters
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AmadorValleyQuilters.org

Amador Valley Scholarships, Inc
4764 Harrison St.
Pleasanton, CA 94566
amadorvalleyscholarshipsinc.org

American Association of University Women (AAUW)
Livermore-Pleasanton-Dublin Branch
P.O. Box 661, Livermore, CA 94551-0661
E-mail: info@aauw-lpd.org

Assistance League Amador Valley
P.O. Box 11843
Pleasanton, CA 94588
925-461-6401
AssistanceLeague.org/Amador-valley

Axis Community Health
5925 W. Las Positas Blvd.
Suite 100
Pleasanton, CA 94588
925-201-6068
Axishealth.org

Big Bay Ray, Inc.
Bigbayray16@gmail.com
925-523-3133
Bigbayray.com

Blankets For Kids
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925-846-6155

Cantabella Children’s Chorus
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Cantabella.org

Cheza Nami
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chezanami.org

Children’s Healthy Smile Project
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925-353-8832
www.childrenssmileproject.org

Christian Youth Theater Tri-Valley
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925-421-1351
cyttrivalley.org

Citizens for Balanced Growth
661 S. N St.
Livermore, CA 94550
CitizensForBalancedGrowth.org

CityServe of Tri-Valley
P.O. Box 1613
Pleasanton, CA 94566
925-223-6947
cityservetrivalley.org

Community Health Education Fund
CHEF/TVNF
C/O Maria Mancini
P.O. Box is 420
Livermore, CA 94551

Culinary Angels
4435 First St., #142
Livermore, CA 94550
CulinaryAngels.org

Conscious Touch Teams
ConsciousTouchTeams.org
650-513-8507

Daughters of the British Empire in Northern California
John McLaren’s Roses of Britain Chapter
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Dublin, CA 94568
dublincahistoricalsociety@gmail.com
www.dublinhistoricalsociety.org

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Feralcatfoundation.org

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Fertilegroundworks.org

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4501 Pleasanton Ave.
Pleasanton, CA 94566
FirstTeeTriValley.org

Friends of the Livermore Library
P.O. Box 2483
Livermore, CA 94551
friendsoflivermorelibrary.org

Friends of Open Space and Vineyards
P.O. Box 1191
Livermore, CA 94551
fov.org

Friends of Pleasanton Senior Center
5353 Sunol Blvd.
Pleasanton, CA 94566
925-931-5365
seniorcenterfriends.org

Girls Soccer Worldwide
P.O. Box 219
Livermore, CA 94551
925-200-4457
GirlsSoccerWorldWide.com

Goodness Village
1660 Freisman Rd.
Livermore, Ca 94551
GVLivermore.org

Hively
6601 Owens Drive, Suite 100
Pleasanton, CA 94588
925-417-8733
BeHively.org

Hope Hospice
6377 Clark Ave.
Dublin, CA 94568
925-829-8770
HopeHospice.com/donate

Interfaith Sharing Inc.
678 Enos Way
Pleasanton, CA 94551
925-366-5567
saintbartslivermore.com

Kids Bike Lane
P.O. Box 2534
Livermore, CA 94551
(925) 352-2557
kidsbikelane.org

Las Positas College Foundation
3000 Campus Hill Drive
Livermore, CA 94551
925-424-1010
LPCFoundation.org

Little Miracles Inc.
1039 Serpentine Lane Suite E
Pleasanton CA 94566
Littlemiraclespleasanton.org

Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society
P. O. Box 901
Livermore, CA 94551
l-ags.org

Livermore-Amador Symphony Guild
P.O. Box 1049
Livermore, CA 94551
925-447-6454
Livermoreamadorsymphony.org/guild

Livermore Area Recreation & Park District Foundation
P.O. Box 3403
Livermore, CA 94551
925-373-5730
Larpd.org/larpd-foundation

Livermore Art Association
P.O. Box 216
Livermore, CA 94551
925-449-9927
Livermoreartassociation.org

Livermore Filipino-American Organization, Inc.
P.O. Box 172
Livermore, CA 94551
Livermorefilam.org

Livermore-Granad Boosters
2117 Fourth St.
Livermore, CA 94550
livermoregranadaboosters.org

Livermore Heritage Guild
P.O. Box 961
Livermore, CA 94551
925-449-9927
Lhg.org

Livermore Homeless Refuge
4743 East Ave.
Livermore, CA 94550
925-895-4167
livermorehomelessrefuge.org

Livermore Jazz Society
info@livermorejazzsociety.org
503-459-2530
livermorejazzsociety.org

Livermore K9 Foundation
PO Box 1064
Livermore, CA. 94551
(925) 209-1029
livermorek9.org

Livermore K9 Foundation
925-495-1153

Livermore Lab Foundation
c/o UC Office of National Labs
7000 East Avenue, B661/L-794
Livermore, CA 94550
925-453-9382
Livermorelabfoundation.org

Livermore Lions Club
P.O. Box 975
Livermore, CA 94551
805-405-8743

Livermore Pleasanton Fire Fighters Foundation
4847 Hopyard Road
Suite 4, PMB 303
Pleasanton, CA 94588

One Go
2303 Wood Hollow Drive
Livermore CA 94550
925 980-4554
onegoeducationsupport.com
info@onegoeducationsupport.com

Livermore Valley Education Foundation
849 East Stanley Boulevard
PMB Box 143
Livermore, CA 94550
LVEF.org

Livermore Valley Opera
P.O. Box 1002
Livermore, CA 94551
925-321-6964
Livermorevalleyopera.com

Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center
2400 First St.
Livermore, CA 94550
925-373-6100
LivermoreArts.com

Monthly Miracles
5211 Demarcus Blvd
Dublin, CA 94568
Monthlymiracles.org

Movements For The Mind
MovementsForTheMind.com
movementsforthemind@gmail.com

Museum on Main
603 Main Street
Pleasanton, CA 94566
902-462-2766
Museumonmain.org

NAMI Tri-Valley
164 N. L St., Suite 104,
Livermore, CA 94550
925-344-4480
nami-trivalley.org

Next Step
1010 Murrieta Blvd.
Livermore CA 94550
(925) 425-0414
info@next-step.org
next-step.org
partnersofnextstep.org

Open Heart Kitchen
1141 Catalina Dr. # 137,
Livermore CA 9 4550
(mailing address only)
925-580-1616
OpenHeartKitchen.org

Pacific Chamber Orchestra
PO Box 3134
Livermore, CA 94551
925-324-2775
www.pacificchamberorchestra.org

Pacific Locomotive Assoc., Inc. Operators of Niles Canyon Railway
P.O. Box 515
Sunol, CA 94586-0515
510.996-8420
NCRY.ORG

Parkinson’s Network of Mount Diablo / Tri Valley PD Support
PNMD.net
trivalley@pnmd.net

Partners for Change Tri-Valley
4743 East Ave.
Livermore, CA 94550
510-773-6356
pfctv.org

Paws In Need
Info@Paws-In-Need.org
925-551-1877
Paws-In-Need.org

Pedrozzi Foundation
1141 Catalina Drive, #170
Livermore, CA 94550
925-456-3700
Pedrozzi.org

Pleasanton Art League
P.O. Box 23
Pleasanton, CA 94566
Pal-art.com

Pleasanton Community Concert Band
P.O. Box 135
Pleasanton, CA 94566
info@pleasantonband.org
PleasantonBand.org

Pleasanton Military Families
3111 Half Dome Dr.
Pleasanton, CA 94566
PleasantonMilitaryFamilies.org

Quest Science Center
P.O. Box 2129
Livermore, CA 94551
925-292-8099
Quest-Science.org

Reins In Motion
Therapeutic Riding Program
P.O. Box 1001
Livermore, CA 94551
reinsinmotionca.com

Robot Garden Makerspace
700 Terminal Circle
Livermore, CA 94551
RobotGarden.org

Rotarian Foundation of Livermore
P.O. Box 2181
Livermore, CA 94551-2181
rotarianfoundationlivermore.org

Runestone Ranch First Responder Wellness
hello@runestoneranch.org
runestoneranch.org

School Of Imagination & Happy Talkers
9801 Dublin Blvd.
Dublin, CA 94568
925-829-9555
Schoolofimagination.org

Shakespeare’s Associates, dba Livermore Shakespeare Festival
P.O. Box 2616
Livermore, CA 94551
925-443-2273
LivermoreShakes.org

Shepherds Gate
1660 Portola Ave.
Livermore, CA 94550
925-443-4283
ShepherdsGate.org

Sleep In Heavenly Peace Alameda Co.
Daniel.curtis@shpbeds.org
510-827-7033
Shpbeds.org

SPECTRUM Community Services, Inc/Meals on Wheels
2621 Barrington Ct.
Hayward, CA 94545
510-881-0300
SpectrumCS.org

Student Education Loan Fund SELF P.O. Box 2475
Livermore, CA 94550
info@selfloans.org
selfloans.org

St. Vincent de Paul Society
c/o St. Michael Church
458 Maple St.
Livermore, CA 94550
925-758-0126

Sunflower Hill
info@sunflowerhill.org
925-800-1042
SunFlowerhill.org

The Blankenship Program - AEMTAC
1863 Altair Ave.
Livermore, CA.
925-895-7059
mtac@alamedaast.org/blankenship-project

The Taylor Family Foundation
P.O. Box 2450
Livermore CA, 94551
925-455-5118 / TTFF.org

Three Valleys Community Foundation
5960 Inglewood Drive, Suite 201
Pleasanton, CA 94588
info@3vcf.org / www.3VCF.org

Tri-Valley Animal Rescue
P.O. Box 11143
Pleasanton, CA 94588
TVAR.org

Tri-Valley Community Television Foundation
4663 Bernal Ave., Suite B
Pleasanton, CA 94566
925-462-3030
TV30foundation.org

Tri-Valley Conservancy
1457 First St.
Livermore, CA 94550
925-449-8706
Trivalleyconservnacy.org

Tri-Valley Haven
3663 Pacific Ave.
Livermore, CA 94551
925-449-5842
TriValleyHaven.org

Tri-Valley Nonprofit Alliance
P.O. Box 2467
Livermore, CA 94550
TVNPA.org

Tri Valley Reach
P.O. Box 5564
Pleasanton, CA 94566
TriVallyReach.Org

Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre
P.O. Box 1445
Pleasanton, CA 94566
info@trivalleyrep.com
Trivalleyrep.org

Tri-Valley Seek and Save
P.O. Box 701
Livermore, CA 94551-0701
(925) 895-1041
TriValleySeekandSave.org

ValleyCare Charitable Foundation-Stanford HealthCare
1111 E. Stanley Blvd.
Livermore, CA 94550
925-373-4560
GiveValleyCare.org

Valley Concert Chorale
P.O. Box 286
Livermore, CA 94551
Valleyconcertchorale.org

Valley Dance Theatre
2247-B Second St.
Livermore, CA 94550
925-243-0925
Valleydancetheatre.com

Valley Humane Society
3670 Nevada St.
Pleasanton, CA 94566
925-426-8656
ValleyHumane.org

Wiesner Memorial Senior Fund
4444 East Avenue
Livermore, CA 94550
925-989-1765
info@wiesnerfund.org
wiesnerfund.org

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If you would like to be added please email kim@independentnews.com

The Year in Review



Characters arrived at the Bankhead Theater in all forms of dress for Comic-Con Livermore, presented by Livermore Valley Arts, on June 28. The event featured “an exhilarating celebration of all things geek culture” and “showcased a vibrant tapestry of artists in all genres, including graphic novel, manga, crime/noir, sci-fi, horror, fantasy, slice of life, adventure, humor and romance.” (Photo — Doug Jorgensen)

The Independent continues running some of the best photos of the year, taken by the newspaper’s photographers, Leah Silveira, Jacob Clouser and Doug Jorgensen. Jorgensen retired on Dec. 31, 2024, after nearly 43 years at The Independent. He continues to contribute his work on an occasional basis.



Participants in the Fourth of July celebration at Lions Wayside Park in Pleasanton arrived with various personal décor to commemorate the occasion. (Photo — Doug Jorgensen)



Community members gathered July 17 at the corner of First Street and South Livermore Avenue to join a national “John Lewis Day of Action.” Such events nationwide honored the legacy of John Lewis, the former Georgia congressman and civil-rights leader known for his activism, nonviolent protests and powerful speeches. The “Good Trouble Lives On” action was inspired by Lewis’ call to make “good trouble, necessary trouble.” Participants gathered “to demand an end to authoritarian attacks on freedom to vote, protest and organize — and to stand united against efforts to criminalize our communities, roll back our rights and slash vital public programs.” (Photo — Leah Silveira)

Tourists posed Aug. 26 in Sunol for a photo with the statue of Bosco Ramos, the famous black Labrador who was the unincorporated town’s unofficial mayor from 1981-1994. (Photo — Leah Silveira)



Kids played soccer in Dublin’s Emerald Glen Park on Aug. 25. (Photo — Leah Silveira)



Players from Flor Amarillo of Valencia, Venezuela celebrated their 12-7 victory over Central East Maui of Wailuku, Hawaii in the Aug. 3 championship game of the Little League Intermediate 50/70 World Series at Max Baer Park in Livermore. (Photo — Leah Silveira)



Community members gathered Aug. 3 at Delucchi Park in Pleasanton to protest mounting deaths and starvation in Gaza. (Photo — Doug Jorgensen)



Ponies Raspberry and Cowboy are part of the equine-therapy outreach program at Happy Hooves Farm in Livermore. The nonprofit sustainable farming school hosts hands-on-learning summer camps, and visits hospitals, schools and veteran and senior homes to spread joy and healing. (Photo — Leah Silveira)



JMC Cellars owner and winemaker Jessica Caroli, left, host of the 2025 “Blessing of the Grapes,” was joined at her winery on Aug. 26 by, left to right, Father Joseph Augustine from St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church; Rabbi Laurence Elis Milder, Ph.D., from Congregation Beth Emek; Pastor Steve Wilde from First Presbyterian Church and Brandi Lombardi, executive director of the Livermore Valley Wine Community. (Photo — Leah Silveira)

Participants from varying age groups took part in the 159th Scottish Highland Gathering and Games on Aug. 30-31 at the Alameda County Fairgrounds in Pleasanton. (Photo — Doug Jorgensen)



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



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

2025

July to December



Eager participants arrived in full force Oct. 1 for the annual Witches Night Out in downtown Livermore. The bewitching evening of moonlight shopping and dining featured magical specials with heavy doses of fun, cackles and enchantment. (Photo — Leah Silveira)



A rabbit drew rapt attention from two young visitors to the annual Harvest Fair on Oct. 11 at Dublin Heritage Park and Museums. (Photo — Leah Silveira)



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



Smiles and elaborate costumes were both plentiful at the 11th annual Tri-Valley Turkey Burn fun run Thanksgiving morning at Ken Mercer Sports Park in Pleasanton. (Photo — Jacob Clouser)



A young visitor appeared a bit uncertain exactly what to make of the surroundings during the City of Dublin's annual Tree Lighting festivities Dec. 4 at the Civic Center. The event featured performances by local school choirs and bands, arts and crafts, letters to Santa, hot chocolate and cookies. (Photo — Jacob Clouser)



Performers from Xiaopei Chinese Dance, Inc., in Dublin performed Sept. 25 during Visit Tri-Valley's annual showcase and breakfast at the Firehouse Arts Center in Pleasanton. (Photo — Leah Silveira)



The addition of a 1K Kids Dash for children 8 and younger was among the highlights of the 28th annual Pace for Peace fundraiser on Oct. 5 in Livermore. Sponsored by Tri-Valley Haven, the 5K/10K fun run supports the Livermore nonprofit's programs to aid child and adult victims of domestic and sexual abuse, including emergency housing, counseling and legal services. (Photo — Leah Silveira)



Ava Lashay was among those entertaining the crowd during the Oct. 18 Livermore Pridefest at Bankhead Plaza. The family-focused event connected and celebrated the LGBTQ+ community, honoring its diversity while highlighting the overlap of sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, race, religion, political ideology and economic status that contributes to oppression and discrimination. (Photo — Leah Silveira)



There was no shortage of enthusiasm Dec. 6 at the annual Livermore Holiday Sights and Sounds Parade. Floats, performances by local businesses, bands, schools and clubs were among highlights of the downtown festivities. (Photo — Doug Jorgensen)

Floats, marching bands, community groups, musical entertainment, a tree lighting by Mayor Jack Balch and the City Council, and a special appearance by Santa Claus were in the spotlight Dec. 6 during Pleasanton's annual Hometown Holiday Celebration. (Photo — Jacob Clouser)



Youngsters participated in Hanukkah Under the Stars festivities Dec. 20 in downtown Livermore. The event, organized by Chabad of the Tri Valley, featured the lighting of the city's menorah, a live Hanukkah music concert, hot latkes and Hanukkah donuts, glow-in-the-dark play and "chocolate gelt" raining down. (Photo — Jacob Clouser)



The Tri-Valley Theater Company (TVTC) will present cult classic-turned modern TV series, “The Addams Family,” as a musical comedy featuring, left to right, Gomez (Phillip Leyva), Wednesday (Jocie Purcell) and Morticia (Shelly McDowell) at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore over three weekends this month. (Photo courtesy of TVTC)

‘The Addams Family’ Coming to Livermore

The Tri-Valley Theatre Company (TVTC) will present “The Addams Family,” a musical comedy based on the eccentric and ghoulish family created by cartoonist Charles Addams, at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore over three weekends this month.

The nonprofit TVTC, formerly known as the Tri-Valley Repertory Theater, is a resident company at the Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. “The Addams Family,” with music and lyrics by Andrew Lipa, was a hit Broadway production running for more than 700 performances from 2010 to 2011.

The Addams Family cartoons first appeared in The New Yorker magazine in 1938 and were published regularly until the cartoonist’s death in 1988.

The Addams Family also spawned two live-action TV series, “The Addams Family,” from 1964-1966, and “The New Addams Family,” from 1998 to 1999, and four animated series between

1973 and 2019.

The Broadway play focuses on Wednesday, Gomez and Morticia Addams’ daughter, who has fallen in love with a “normal” young man from a good family and wants to invite him to dinner. It also includes all the usual characters from the spooky and kooky Addams household, including Lurch the valet, Uncle Fester, Grandma, and Wednesday’s brother Pugsley.

TVTC has scheduled Saturday evening performances for Jan. 17, Jan. 24, and Jan. 31.

Matinee performances are scheduled for Saturday, Jan. 18, Saturday, Jan. 25, Saturday, Jan. 31, and Sunday, Feb. 1.

Key roles include Jocie Purcell as Wednesday, Phillip Leyva and Shelly McDowell as Gomez and Morticia, Emma Marie Wall as Uncle Fester, Luca Varela as Pugsley, Keith Thompson as the valet Lurch, and Christopher Dean as the boyfriend Lucas Beineke.

Tickets are \$45, with

student and military discounts available by calling the Bankhead box office, 925-373-6800. Tickets are also available online at livermorearts.org.

FRAUNHOFER

(Continued from front page)

Project Manager Johannes Weitenberg said. “Even the smallest, unpredictable effects are significant here and lead either to efficiency losses or direct damage to the optics. We want to understand exactly what is happening in each individual (amplifier) slab so that we can then simulate complex slab stacks with precision.”

By cross validating their existing work with each other, LLNL and Fraunhofer look to simulate laser amplifiers with greater accuracy and detail, allowing engineers to better validate new designs before building expensive prototypes.

“Under the collabora-

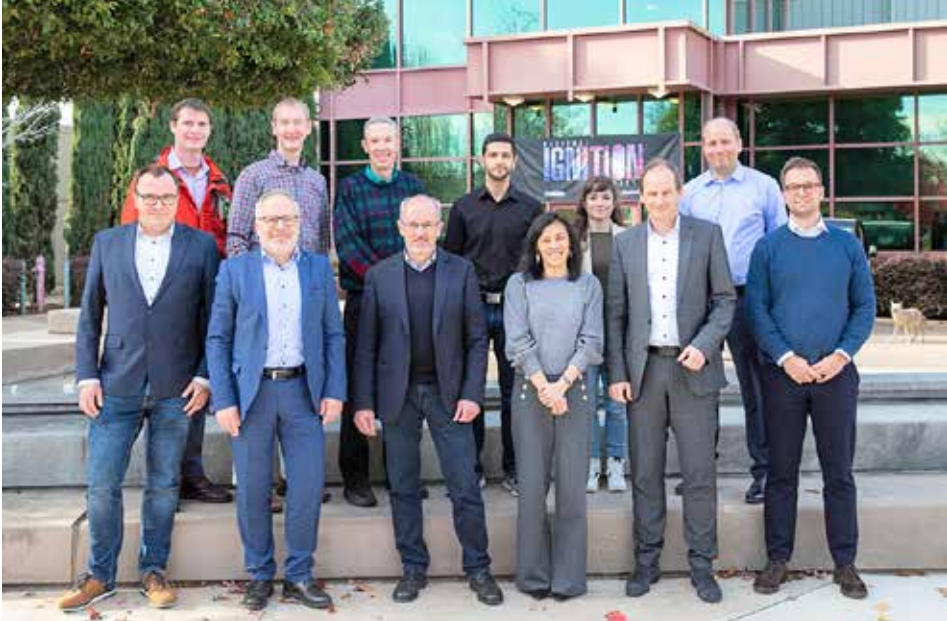
tion, LLNL and Fraunhofer ILT will each provide model validation of laser amplifier designs at high average power necessary for efficient drivers for ... (inertial fusion energy),” Ma told The Independent. “Together, LLNL and ILT will combine results to form a more comprehensive database and comparison of simulations.”

LLNL’s National Ignition Facility (NIF) made history in December 2022 when it demonstrated for the first time a controlled fusion reaction that produced more energy than the amount reaching the fuel target.

But NIF focuses on

weapons research and was never designed as a power plant. Its laser pulses start at a white-light flashlamp that can only fire once every few hours with low overall power efficiency, Ma said. In contrast, the new partnership will investigate more efficient diode-pumped lasers capable of firing 15 times per second, a rate required for a power plant.

According to the Fusion Industry Association’s 2025 industry report, more than half of worldwide fusion-industry companies expect the power source to begin delivering electricity to the grid by 2035.



Members of the International Cooperation on Next-gen Inertial Confinement Fusion Lasers team, a collaboration between Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and Germany’s Fraunhofer Institute for Laser Technology, visited the National Ignition Facility in December to kick off their partnership. (Photo — Mark Meamber/LLNL)

TRI-VALLEY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Now through Jan. 4

WINTER GLOW EXPERIENCE: A DRIVE-THRU HOLIDAY LIGHT SHOW

The Winter Glow Experience is now open in Pleasanton at Alameda County Fairgrounds and will run until Jan. 4, 2026. Enjoy a mile-long journey of more than 5,000 dazzling holiday light displays from the comfort of your car, while listening to festive music. Go to winterglowexperience.com/pleasanton for more information or to buy tickets.

Saturday, Jan. 3

THE DELTA WIRES AT FAMOUS WINE LOUNGE

Bay Area Royalty, the Delta Wires, are bringing their rockin’ Big Band Blues sound back to the Almost Famous Wine Lounge, at 2271 S. Vasco Rd. in Livermore, on Jan. 3, 7:30-9:30 p.m. Tickets start at \$12.51. Delta Wires are celebrating the release of two new singles that are both tributes to famed longtime label, Chess Records: “Devil Got My Woman” and “Searching for a Woman.” Info at 925-315-5355 or visit eventbrite.com/e/delta-wires-tickets-1736131288419.

Audition with Valley Concert Chorale Jan. 5 & 12

2026 Season Includes Performance at Carnegie Hall, June 2026 Livermore, Calif. — The Valley Concert Chorale, the Tri-Valley’s premier chorus, is seeking new singers for its upcoming March and May concerts and a June performance at Carnegie Hall, New York City. The Chorale is holding auditions for singers the first two Mondays in January. Details are as follows:

Monday, Jan. 5 and 12

VALLEY CONCERT CHORALE AUDITIONS

The Chorale is seeking experienced singers who enjoy exciting and challenging music, ranging from classical to contemporary, and folk to jazz. For its upcoming March and May concerts and a June performance at Carnegie Hall, New York City The 15-minute audition appointment will include some basic sight-reading, and a rhythmic exercise. To determine vocal range, auditioners should come prepared to sing a short song in any language. Singers must commit to the season with Monday evening rehearsals held at the First Presbyterian Church of Livermore, 2020 Fifth St., Livermore. Call 925-866-4003 to schedule an audition.

Thursday, Jan. 8

LIVERMORE — AMADOR VALLEY GARDEN CLUB MEETING

On Jan. 8, from 6 to 8 p.m., the Livermore-Amador Valley Garden Club will host their January meeting: “The Lifecycle of the Bee”. Ryan Howard of Sunrise Feed & Supply will discuss everything about the precious bee. A see-thru hive will be present and honey will be for sale for \$10. At Crosswinds Church, 1660 Freisman Rd., Livermore, at the red Farm Theater Building.

Monday, Jan. 12

LIVERMORE-AMADOR GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY MEETING

Come hear Lisa Vogelee speak on “Travel Your Tree: Where Ancestry Meets Adventure.” Discover how you can personally trace your ancestors’ paths; visiting battlefields, exploring ancestral villages, or connecting with distant relatives. In-person at Congregation Beth Emek, 3400 Nevada Court, Pleasanton, or via ZOOM (see flyer on website to register at www.l-ags.org, click on ‘Speakers & Topics’ on upper left). On Jan. 12 at 7:00 p.m. No charge; visitors welcome.

Saturday, Jan. 17

LIVERMORE LIONS CLUB CRAB FEED

An all-you-can-eat crab feed will be hosted by Livermore Lions Club on Jan. 17 at 5 p.m. at Bothwell Arts Center, 2466 8th Street, in Livermore. \$75 per person or \$420 for a table of six. Fresh crab with pasta, salad, bread and dessert. No-host

bar / no outside alcohol. Proceeds support Livermore Lions charities. For tickets, contact Ann at 805-405-8742 or Ben at 805-405-8743.

Sunday, Jan. 18

HOUSE CONCERT: SIXPENNY

The Livermore Jazz Society will host a house concert featuring Sixpenny, traditional Celtic music played on acoustic instruments. Sixpenny gives propulsive energy to the rhythmic beat of jigs, the dance music of reels, and rousing songs and ballads. On Jan. 18 from 2:00-4:00 p.m. Details at www.livermore-jazzsociety.org/events or email info@livermorejazzsociety.org. If seats are available, you will receive a written invitation with the concert address. Seating is limited, so advance notice is highly recommended. Livestream available. Suggested donation: \$20 per person.

Thursday, Jan 22 and 29

SQUARE DANCING LESSONS

Cactus Corners, a local nonprofit, is offering free introductory square-dancing classes on Jan. 22 and 29 to new dancers. Lessons will continue through the rest of the year. Anyone age 8 and up is invited. At Sunrise Mobile Home Park, 856 Sundial Circle, Livermore, in the Community Room. For more information and to be placed on the class notification list, email Margaret at mmiller1435@gmail.com or call 925-518-7624.

Sunday, Feb. 8

2026 LIONS SPEECH CONTEST FOR COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP

The Livermore Lions Club is holding its annual Student Speaker Contest on Feb. 8 at the Civic Center Library in Livermore. The contest provides scholarships for high school students after graduation. Each of up to six students presents a 5- to 10-minute speech on the topic, “Youth Mental Health: Overcoming Barriers to Well-Being.” The contest is open to high school students in and around Livermore. For more information and to enter the contest, call Ann at 805-405-8742.

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 valleyservice-centeraa.org or call the 24-hour hotline at 925-829-0666.

SATURDAY PLEASANTON FARMERS MARKET

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

SUNDAY LIVERMORE DOWNTOWN FARMERS MARKET

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

Three Ways to Recycle Holiday Trees in Dublin

Scouts BSA Troop 905 in Dublin will be collecting holiday trees for recycling on Saturday, Jan. 3, for a \$10 fee.

Trees must be free of flocking and tinsel.

To schedule a pickup, go to troop905.org.

Amador Valley Industries, which provides recycling services for Dublin,

will also be accepting trees from single-family homes on regular collection days from Tuesday, Jan. 6, through Saturday, Jan. 31.

Trees can also be cut into pieces and placed in Dublin residential compost carts for pickup with yard trimmings, food scraps, and food-soiled paper.



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

YALE

(Continued from front page)

Northern and Southern California.

Yale junior Audrey Kamena, a former Livermore resident, is the group's tour manager this year. She said the chorus is a tenor-bass ensemble consisting of Yale undergraduate students.

Kamena added that for many, including most of the group's members, the YRC is the first time they experience Russian or Slavic music of any kind.

"The club was the very first time we had any exposure at all to Russian music, Slavic languages and even music in general," Kamena said. "I had never sung before in my life, and now I can't imagine life without it. I think that's why the YRC continues to capture the public's fascination: it takes a bunch of young Americans who have never sung or spoken Russian before and transforms them into "Diplomats of Song."

The YRC has produced several alumni who have gone on to become professional singers, and at least two famous conductors: most notably, Mark Bailey and Mickiewicz, the choir's founding conductor whose arrangements form the core of the YRC repertoire.

"I first heard about the Yale Russian Chorus before I had ever stepped foot in New Haven," Kamena said. "A current student, Aarya Agarwal, was among the first I called when I got into Yale, and he told me, 'You must take Directed Studies (a one-year sequence on

the Western canon), you must join the Yale Political Union, and most of all, you must audition for the Yale Russian Chorus.'"

Not only did Kamena do all three, but the YRC has since become her main creative outlet on campus, and the source of her closest group of friends.

"I heard the chorus first perform in (Yale's) Woolsey Hall in September for their 72nd anniversary, and I was not only astounded by the beauty of the music, but by the fact that there were 18-year-olds singing hand-in-hand with 96-year-old alums," Kamena said.

Many of its alumni enjoy returning year after year, and the YRC has multiple very active alumni chapters across the country, all united under the Yale Russian Chorus Alumni Association.

Continuing Mickiewicz's project of cultural diplomacy, peace and understanding, this past year the chorus filmed its second documentary, "Tradition," which is viewable on YouTube. The YRC also enjoys being the most subscribed-to college a cappella group in the country, according to Kamena.

After concluding its tour of California, the Yale Russian Chorus plans to visit Chicago in the spring. To learn more about the chorus, its upcoming tours and listen to music samples, visit: <https://yalerussianchorus.org/>. Tickets for performances can be purchased through Eventbrite.

PUSD

(Continued from front page)

District officials said the updated projections show improvement from the budget adopted in June, when a \$7.7 million deficit was forecast, but still fall short of the district's 45-Day Budget Update issued in mid-August.

According to the report, increased costs associated with special education services contributed to the difference in projections. While the 45-Day Budget Update estimated that PUSD would end the 2025–26 fiscal year close to balance, with a small positive ending fund balance of about \$281,000, the First Interim Budget Report, using updated financial data, shows the district will not meet that projection. It instead projects a negative unrestricted ending fund balance

of about \$2.5 million.

Under the Negative Certification, the district will receive additional oversight and support from the ACOE, including a fiscal health risk analysis conducted by the Fiscal Crisis Management and Assistance Team.

To address longer-term fiscal challenges, the board has already approved \$11.2 million in expenditure reductions for the 2026–27 school year. Those reductions are now incorporated into the district's multi-year financial projections.

As the district moves forward, trustees said the focus will remain on implementing approved reductions, monitoring expenditures and working closely with county fiscal advisors as the district seeks long-term financial stability.

Dublin Knights of Columbus Council Gifts Money to Multiple Charities

The Fr. John C. Murphy Council of the Knights of Columbus donated \$2,500 each to 11 local charities during the Dublin Catholic fraternal organization's annual Santa's Breakfast in December.

Checks were presented to the Shepherd's Gate homeless shelter in Livermore, Hope Hospice in

Pleasanton, St. Vincent de Paul of Alameda County, St. Raymond Catholic Church in Dublin, the George Mark Children's House in San Leandro, and Open Heart Kitchen, which helps feed the needy in Livermore, Pleasanton and Dublin.

Checks also went to Scottie's Gift Foundation in Pleasanton, the Oakland Dio-

cese's Special Religious Education program, Dominican Sisters of Mission San Jose, the San Lorenzo Chapter of Birthright International and Walking with Moms in Need, a nationwide Catholic parish initiative to connect pregnant women and new mothers with local resources.

The Dublin-based Fr. John C. Murphy Council

raises funds for charity through safe-and-sane fireworks sales in July, an annual Crab Feed, kettle corn booths at the Dublin St. Patrick's Day celebration and other community events.

The annual breakfast, which included a visit from Santa Claus, was held Sunday, Dec. 14, at St. Raymond's Moran Hall.

AVA

(Continued from front page)

cost Ava \$13 million, would have returned about \$80 per customer to those enrolled in either the California Alternate Rates for Energy or the Family Electric Rate Assistance programs at the beginning of this year.

The authorization will also increase the premium for its Renewable 100 plan from 0.25 cents per kilowatt-hour to 1.75 cents per kilowatt-hour over PG&E rates.

Customers will still see a reduction in their overall electric bills because of the lower generation costs.

Ava staff had originally proposed drawing \$15.5

million from its reserves and reducing its renewable-energy procurement targets by \$10 million. Representative Jack Balch of Pleasanton, the city's mayor, proposed using the \$13 million previously earmarked for the bill credit to help address the projected deficit, reducing the draw from the reserves.

"I cannot in good faith use reserves to support the on-bill credit," Balch said.

Balch's substitute motion also added \$5 million back to Ava's renewable-energy procurement targets, allowing for cleaner energy contents.

Board members representing Dublin, Livermore,

Pleasanton, Albany, Piedmont, San Leandro, Union City and San Joaquin County voted in favor of the changes. Representatives from Alameda County, Emeryville, Hayward, Newark, Oakland and Tracy voted against the changes, while board members from Fremont, Lathrop and Stockton were absent.

Councilmembers John Morada and Ben Barrientos represented Dublin and Livermore, respectively.

Hayward representative and councilmember Julie Roche, who opposed reneging on the bill credit, said, "The customers paid this

excess, basically, and we're saying for this cycle, they paid this excess. So, I think the pattern (and) practice is paying them back, especially our lower income customers, for what we saw as surplus."

Berkeley representative and councilmember Igor Tregub, who remained undecided on the bill- credit issue until the very end, abstained from the vote.

"We did make a commitment several months ago on bill credits," Tregub said before the vote. "At the same time, we are in a much more precarious financial position than what we knew about that number of months ago."

HOUSING

(Continued from front page)

While the weight of the decision is still to be felt across the nation, local nonprofit leaders who are at the forefront of working to bolster permanent housing initiatives in the Tri-Valley have expressed support of Judge McElroy's ruling and are bracing for what the Trump Administration's shift in policy might mean for their programs if Trump were able to have the ruling reversed in a higher court.

"The Trump Administration is pushing the treatment-first model (sometimes called the "linear model" or "staircase model") over the housing-first model," said John Bost, executive director of Open Heart Kitchen.

"The treatment-first model isn't without merit, but it treats permanent housing as a reward for sobriety, not a tool for recovery or a basic human right," Bost said. "As important as transitional housing is, we still see physical and mental decline in congregate-style shelters. There really is no substitute for having a place of your own where you can prioritize privacy

and safety."

Open Heart Kitchen's 30-bed, year-round overnight shelter at Vineyard Resource Center in Livermore is part of the connective tissue between unsheltered/sheltered homelessness and permanent, supportive housing. Like most nonprofits in the region, it receives funding from a mix of individual donations, government grants, including both state and federal, and major partnerships, such as that it shares with the Alameda County Community Food Bank.

Although it is impossible to narrow down an exact number of people who benefit from the refuge services that nonprofits such as Open Heart Kitchen provide, according to Bost, 185 unduplicated unhoused folks received 10,172 nights' stay at the Open Heart Refuge and 1,065 unduplicated clients enjoyed 123,136 meals at Open Heart's Community Meal Program and Food Recovery Program in 2025.

"The reality is that there is both a shortage of market-rate and below-market-rate (affordable) housing," Bost said. "While we connect clients to housing navigation services at Vineyard, it's discouraging when affordable housing supply is absent. We use words like "transitional" and "interim," but these words are powerless if there isn't something waiting for folks beyond their current situation."

During the first year of President Donald Trump's

second term in office, federal housing officials have sought to prioritize funds toward homelessness programs if they impose work requirements, mandate addiction or mental-health treatment, and help police close homeless encampments.

Increasingly, nonprofit leaders are concerned that if these changes are allowed to continue, homeless housing sites across the Bay Area and California will be forced to close, ending rental-aid efforts and leaving the region's most vulnerable residents without a lifeline in one of the country's least affordable rental markets.

In November, the administration announced plans to overhaul the \$3.9 billion Continuum of Care program, the federal government's primary source of homelessness funding. As part of the announcement on the HUD website, Turner would require that 70% of projects be competed for, with the most successful programs receiving funds rather than the status quo that automatically renews funding without measuring success.

"Our philosophy for addressing the homelessness crisis will now define success not by dollars spent or housing units filled, but by how many people achieve long-term self-sufficiency and recovery," Turner said in a statement. "We are stopping the Biden-era slush fund that fueled the homelessness crisis, shut out faith-based providers

simply because of their values, and incentivized never-ending government dependency."

Under the plan, cities and counties would be reduced to only being allowed to use 30% of program grants for permanent housing. In California, 87% of Continuum dollars currently go toward long-term housing services, according to the California Budget and Policy Center.

Alameda County receives roughly \$60 million in Continuum funds annually, with more than half, about \$38 million, allocated to permanent supportive housing services. Officials estimate the proposed shift could result in a loss of \$250 million to \$300 million in permanent housing funding statewide in the coming year, according to Politico.

Despite the shift in federal policy away from permanent housing, local nonprofit and government leaders remain firm in their commitment to ensuring the ongoing development of affordable housing in the region and creating a permanent source of funding to support interim and shelter housing.

"At best, we put band-aids on bullet wounds," Bost said. "The reality is that every nonprofit was once started to address a market failure (food, housing, education, healthcare, etc.). Only at the (government) systems and policy level can we hope to mitigate the level of response required by nonprofits."

OBITUARIES

Gary Thomas Mattesich

March 22, 1941 — Dec. 1, 2025



It is with deep love and profound sadness that the family of Gary Mattesich announces his passing. Gary was a devoted husband, a loving father, a proud grandfather, and a steadfast friend whose warmth and generosity touched everyone who knew him.

Born to Tom and Dorothy Mattesich, Gary grew up in a home filled with love, encouragement, and a strong sense of family — values that shaped the man he became. Their influence remained a guiding light throughout his life.

Gary is survived by his beloved wife of 63 years, RoseMarie, his devoted partner in life. He also leaves behind his cherished children, Jill Mattesich Udoutch and Tom Mattesich, who carry forward his kindness, strength, and enduring love of family.

He was immensely proud of his grandchildren — Joel Udoutch and his wife Bailey, Aaron Udoutch, Sarah Udoutch, and partner Austin. Each brought him tremendous joy, and he treasured every moment spent with them.

Gary is also survived by his brother, Bob Mattesich, with whom he shared a lifetime of memories, laughter, and unbreakable sibling bonds; Bob's daughter Megan Bean and her husband Jimmy, as well as Bob's partner, Alishia Lopez-Rivera, whose care and love added comfort and brightness to his life.

A lifelong lover of the outdoors, Gary embraced adventure

and found joy in nature. He cherished summer camping trips with his family to Whiskeytown Lake, and was happiest on the water, where he spent countless hours boating and waterskiing. He taught many people to ski over the years where his kindness and patience were on display, sharing not only his skill but also his enthusiasm for the lake and the freedom it offered. In winter, he found exhilaration on the slopes, especially racing down The Wall at Kirkwood — one of his favorite challenges.

A man of discipline and perseverance, Gary was also a passionate runner who completed multiple marathons, with Hawaii standing out among his most treasured experiences. He was an active member of the bike club, The Valley Spokesmen, and rode his bicycle to work most days.

Gary was a lifelong Raider fan and season ticket holder since the team's inception in 1960, a

tradition instituted by his father, Tom. Gary was a strong Christian and attended weekly bible study with his men's group.

Professionally, Gary was an accomplished electrical engineer, with a specialty in radiation detection. He started his schooling at UC Berkeley and finished his master's at San Jose State and applied his expertise with pride and commitment. He started his career with Sandia and Lawrence Livermore Laboratory and contributed significantly during his years there. He later worked at Nuclear Data, Canberra, and finished his career with the Department of Homeland Security, leaving behind a legacy of innovation and excellence that helped to serve many people with applications in both the medical and security industries.

Gary will be remembered for his unwavering support of his family, his ready smile, and his gift for making others feel welcome and appreciated. Though he will be deeply missed, the memories he created and the love he shared will continue to live on in the hearts of all who knew him.

The family invites friends and loved ones to join in celebrating Gary's life at a later date, to be announced.

May he rest in peace, surrounded by the light and love he so generously gave.

Online obituary at neptunesociety.com/obituaries/castro-valley-ca/gary-mattesich-12635848

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Stories of the Year

By Mitch Stephens

TRI-VALLEY — Year-end, top-story perspectives are so subjective. What’s important to one person doesn’t necessarily apply to another.

So, considering I just dove into the Tri-Valley for The Independent after July, my perspective is certainly slanted to that period. But as a seasoned, but not salty, 40-year-plus high school sports reporter in the region, I’ve done my best to scour the first seven months of 2025 as well.

Here are 10 noteworthy storylines during one rich calendar year.

Livermore Football

The Cowboys were one rootin’ tootin’ good time every Friday night for nearly a dozen weeks en route to a historic 9-2 season. Led by one of Northern California’s top quarterbacks, third-year starter Matteo Lortie (3,355 total yards, 37 touchdowns), who threw to long, athletic receivers in CT Harper (61 catches, 1,164 yards, seven touchdowns) and A.J. Carey (52, 758, 11), Livermore averaged 32 points and nearly 400 yards per game while winning the program’s first East Bay Athletic League title since 1993, clinching it with a typically heart-stopping, 15-13 season-ending win over cross-town rival Granada on Nov. 7. “It was a crazy good feeling,” Lortie said. “Euphoric. Fun. Fantastic.” Said seventh-year head coach John Wade: “They were the team that should be the one to hang that banner up. They did all the right things.”



Granada softball slugger Delaney Aumua struck a Babe Ruth-like pose en route to setting a North Coast Section single-season record with 19 home runs and a Bay Area career mark of 47. (Photo courtesy of Livermore-Granada Boosters)

Win for Coach Williams

It was something of a foregone conclusion that Dublin’s experienced boys cross-country team would win a third straight North Coast Section Division 1 title and eighth in nine seasons, but its dominating performance Nov. 22 at Hayward High School carried much more weight and elicited more joy and perspective than previous titles. Popular 17th-year Gaels coach Chris Williams was seven months removed from having 13 cancerous lymph nodes surgically removed from his colon. The upbeat coach had to sit out the track and field season in the spring but returned to watch seniors Daniel Santhiapillai and Justin Feng finish 1-2 at NCS. “With his condition, he could have taken this season off, but he chose to be with us,” Santhiapillai said. “I really wanted to show him that I value him through my performance. We all did.”

Rise of Luke Mijatovic

There might not be a more accomplished NCS athlete in any sport than the Foothill junior. Swimming for the Pleasanton Seahawks at the Toyota U.S. Open Championships in Austin, Texas early last month, Mijatovic won the 800-meter freestyle. The 16-year-old clocked 7 minutes, 48.28 seconds, beating the second-place mark of 7:51.85. Earlier in the four-day event, he placed second in both the 400-meter freestyle and 400 individual medley. This came six months after he won two CIF State titles, setting a national high school record in the 500-yard freestyle (4:11.91) and a state-meet record while winning the 200 freestyle (1:33.52).

More Aquatics Excellence

Mijatovic wasn’t the only state champion in swimming as then-Granada junior Brooke Bennett won the girls 500 freestyle in 4:49.15 after placing sixth in the 200 individual medley. Foothill’s boys also took third at state in the 400 relay, and two freshmen — Amador Valley’s Lillyana Caples (500 freestyle) and Granada’s Isaiah Silver (200 IM) — each took fifth. In girls water polo, Amador Valley won Tri-Valley’s first NCS team title by taking the Division 2 title with a 9-7 win over Alhambra-Martinez behind six second-half goals from Susan Swyers. In boys water polo, Granada (19-8) set a program-record for wins and reached the NCS D2 semifinals. Both teams were led by first-year coaches, Drake Southern (Amador Valley)

and Danush Sridhar (Granada).

Granada Flag Football

Led by EBAL offensive player of the year Katie Vail and 49ers Cal-Hi Sports NCS Player of the Year Marin Lnenicka, Granada’s flag football team reached the NCS Division 1 title game, losing to San Ramon Valley-Danville, 14-7. Vail led all NCS passers with 4,315 yards while completing 462 of 685, with 49 touchdowns. Lnenicka, a receiver and linebacker, had 102 catches for 1,298 yards and 21 touchdowns, and led the Matadors in tackles (94), interceptions (nine) and pass deflections (16). Granada was the fifth seed at NCS but beat defending champion Alameda (26-20), fourth-seed Heritage-Brentwood (33-0) and top-seed Las Lomas-Walnut Creek (13-7). Third-year coach Jared Muela’s squad featured 16 seniors on a 26-person roster.

Brother-Sister Act

Sibling forces Anthony and Riley Harrington made lasting impressions on the gridiron and campus for Amador Valley football/flag football playoff teams. Senior wideout and cornerback Anthony earned first-team All-EBAL honors for a second straight year with 69 catches for 1,196 yards and six touchdowns in nine games. The lockdown defender signed a scholarship to Idaho State. His junior sister, Riley, was All-EBAL first team for a second straight year as the quarterback and leader of the vastly improved flag team that went 15-7, after having gone 7-14 in 2024. Riley accounted for 85% of the team’s offensive touchdowns, said first-year coach Ryan Wittmer, who called her the “most spirited” player he’s ever coached in 18 previous seasons.

Record-Setting Delaney Aumua

Granada senior first baseman Delaney Aumua capped a fabulous softball career in a class of her own. The Auburn-bound slugger blasted an NCS-record 19 home runs, bettering the previous single-season mark of 15. Aumua also finished her four-year career with a Bay Area-record 47 homers and led Granada to a 73-32 record over four seasons. She was a model of consistency in that span. From freshman to senior seasons: Batting average — .406, .443, .362 and .476; RBIs — 33, 30, 30 and 33; and home runs — 10, eight, 10 and 19.

Female World Series Star

For the first time, a Latin America team won the Little League Intermediate title at Livermore’s Max Baer Park in early August. Female pitcher Francys Sandoval led the way, winning three of her team’s five games, including a 2-0 gem over Mexico in the opener. The week-long nationally televised tournament featured 10 teams from throughout the globe, including District 57 champion Danville.



Brother and sister Anthony and Riley Harrington starred for Amador Valley’s football and flag football teams, respectively. (Photo courtesy of Harrington family)

Granada Baseball

A season after earning national rankings and its first NCS and NorCal titles, Granada’s baseball team won the rugged EBAL to take the No. 1 NCS Division 1 seed. The Matadors were stunned by Casa Grande 3-2 in the quarterfinals to finish 22-6, 11-2. The team sported a nifty 1.47 earned run average, led by Alex Piscott (8-0, 0.38) and Tyler Kennedy (6-2, 0.99). College-bound players Peyton Richards (Pacific) and catcher Tommy Brown (Arizona State) led the offense.

Amador Valley Girls Soccer

Between 1984 and 2002, the Dons won five NCS titles, and in 2025, after winning a second straight EBAL title, went for their sixth section crown, only to drop on excruciating 1-0 double-overtime Division 1 final to Monte Vista-Danville. Amador Valley outshot the Mustangs 18-6 and went on to NorCals, beating Rocklin 2-1 on goals from Maylen Montoya and Alden Hofstede. The Dons were eliminated in the semifinals, finished 14-5 and allowed just 12 goals all season.

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



Las Positas College men’s basketball coach James Giacomazzi talks to the team during a timeout. (Photo — Aria Afshar)

LPC Coach Wins Basketball Games While Touching Lives

By Matt Schwab

LIVERMORE — Las Positas College (LPC) men’s basketball coach James Giacomazzi keeps doing what he does best — winning games and shaping lives.

The charismatic head coach is fueled by the positive impact he’s had on players spanning decades. They appreciate his support.

“He makes me want to be better as a player, keeps me levelheaded, and holds me to a higher expectation,” Las Positas sophomore guard Richard Banks said. “Off the court, he just wants to see me succeed in life.”

Las Positas, 13-0 and ranked seventh in the Dec. 23 California Community College Men’s Basketball Coaches Association (CCCMBCA) state poll, will open the Coast Conference North season on Wednesday, Jan. 7 at Cañada College in Redwood City. The power conference boasts defending state champion City College of San Francisco.

After earning career win No. 400 on Dec. 5, Giacomazzi notched his 200th victory with Las Positas on Dec. 12. He has coached community college basketball for 28 years, 21 as a head coach.

What are the keys to winning so many games? The Livermore resident will say it’s having good players, strong family support and great assistant coaches. Not being married to one coaching philosophy is also important.

“I’ve had to adapt and adjust to my personnel, versus the personnel having to adjust to my style,” he said.

The Hawks have averaged 20 wins a season and sent 31 players to four-year programs on scholarships since Giacomazzi took the reins in 2015-16. They’ve made the regional playoffs every season.

Banks, who averages 11 points a game and is fourth in the state in steals with 40, is clearly opening up. He sees the world evolving to him, thanks in large part to Giacomazzi.

“From where I come from, not a lot of people get the opportunity that I have, but with him, he treats me as he would treat everyone. He keeps me on track to finish school and more,” said Banks, a graduate of Stockton’s Weston Ranch High School.

Jorren Edmonds, a National Association of Basketball Coaches’ All-American guard with Las Positas last season who helped the Hawks to quarterfinal berths in the California Community College Athletic Association state playoffs the past two years, looks at Giacomazzi as a mentor.

“I went to him a lot,”

recalled Edmonds, who like Giacomazzi, graduated from Washington High in Fremont. “We would have a lot of conversations outside of practice about things going on in my life. ... I went there (to LPC) straight out of high school, so it was a big change for me. He was always there for me every time I needed something.”

Former Hawks big man Anand Hundal played with NCAA Division I Seattle University after shining as a sophomore at LPC in 2017-18, when he averaged 14.6 points and 10.3 rebounds, and was an all-state selection. He now works as an investment consultant for Charles Schwab in Stockton and credits “Coach James” with helping him get scholarship offers.

“Kind of grew as a basketball player, as a man, being there with him for two years,” Hundal said. “Definitely a coach that has kept in contact with me after I left his program. That means a lot. He will check in with family, with life, how work is going outside of basketball. That’s how he treats all of his current players, former players, players to be.”

A year ago, the Hawks won 20 consecutive games to open the season and finished 26-5. They were ranked No. 1 in the state for five weeks. Elijah Mobley paced the offense with 19.3 points a game.

This year’s team is also on a special run. Jaden Woodard entered the holiday break averaging a team-high 17.5 points a game, and Kodey Weary was at 12.5 points and 9.2 rebounds. Freshman Ted Bigg-Wither, a 6-foot-9 gift from Australia, is an inside force with 11.1 points and 8.5 rebounds a game. He ranks third in the state in field goal percentage at 71.4 and is fourth in blocked shots with 30 — one spot ahead of Weary, who has 29.

The versatile Edmonds is excelling as a junior with Hope International University, a National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) program in Fullerton. With one game left before Christmas, he was averaging 9.0 points and 4.1 rebounds a game, and led the team with 48 assists and 21 steals.

Edmonds described Giacomazzi, who is also the LPC athletic director, as “very good at allowing everybody to do their own thing but still play for the win. It’s hard to do, but he did that well.”

Edmonds recalled Giacomazzi telling players not to worry about recruiting during the season.

“Just play hard and win, and let the staff take care of that afterward,” Edmonds said. “He was always play-

ing for the win.”

As a 6-7 former forward/center at San Jose City College and UC Riverside, Giacomazzi’s impassioned demeanor during Las Positas games can leave a lasting impression.

“It was definitely an adjustment from my previous coaches, who were not as intense on the sidelines,” said Hundal, a Manteca High graduate. “They were more mellow and chill. He’s walking up and down the sidelines, he’s yelling, he’s screaming and he’s really intense, but once you hear the message that he’s relaying, he’s just showing how passionate he is as a coach. He’s like ‘playing’ the game, but he can’t play anymore. He’s playing on the sidelines.”

Giacomazzi recruits players with a similar type of passion — and with chips on their shoulders.

“I don’t really relate to monotone, whatever happens, happens-type of guys,” he said. “I like intense facial reactions and intense passion.”

Prior to coaching at Las Positas, Giacomazzi headed the Cosumnes River program in Sacramento for 11 seasons, where his teams won two Big 8 Conference titles and reached the play-offs five times.

The 2021-22 Las Positas team, led by Edmonds and two-time all-state pick Jordahn Johnson as Coast North co-freshmen of the year, took things to a new level, earning a program-record 27 wins and 12-2 conference mark.

Current LPC assistant coach Ravi Bhambhra, who is in his second season, marveled at how Giacomazzi connects all the dots on campus.

“I recognize his impact when I see parents and people in the community, people on campus, the administrative people that have worked here for six, eight, 10 years, and see how they recognize and understand all the hard work and time he puts into the thing,” Bhambhra said.

Giacomazzi is also a devoted dad who said his family is “very much involved” in his career. He and his wife, Kristi, have two high-achieving teenage daughters, Addison and Devyn, who are both accomplished acrobatic gymnasts and Las Positas fans. Addison, a junior at Granada High, and Devyn, in the eighth grade at Christensen Middle School, are straight-A students who have traveled internationally to compete in Acro Gymnastics, and won national titles.

It’s safe to say the Giacomazzi basketball “family” is tough to beat, on and off the court.

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The following person(s) doing business as: Crown Thrift, 526 7th St, Oakland, CA 94607 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): David A. Ascencio, 170 7th St, Oakland, CA 94607; Eva Heredia Ambriz, 170 7th St, Oakland, CA 94607. This business is conducted by a Married Couple. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: David Ascencio, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 10, 2025. Expires November 9, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6632. Published December 11, 18, 25, January 1, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 619172

The following person(s) doing business as: ALT Reporting Services, 6488 Paseo Santa Cruz, Pleasanton, CA 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Audrey Philippe, 6488 Paseo Santa Cruz, Pleasanton, CA 94566. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 7/25/2007. Signature of Registrant/s/: Audrey Philippe, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 1, 2025. Expires November 30, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6633. Published

December 11, 18, 25, January 1, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 619134

The following person(s) doing business as: 645 N Livermore, 645 N. Livermore, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Albert Wilcox, 1201 Creek Trail, Pleasanton, CA 94566. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 10/1982. Signature of Registrant/s/: Albert Wilcox, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 25, 2025. Expires November 24, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6634. Published December 11, 18, 25, January 1, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 619169

The following person(s) doing business as: Global Education Strategies, 1123 Glen Drive, San Leandro, CA 94577 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Catherine M. Eagan, 1123 Glen Drive, San Leandro, CA 94577. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Catherine M. Eagan, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 1, 2025. Expires November 30, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6635. Published December 11, 18, 25, January 1, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 619102

The following person(s) doing business as: Shamieyah Plaza, 379 South Livermore Drive, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): 1. Anis Shamieyah, PO Box 254, Lafayette, CA 94549; Cheryl Shamieyah, PO Box 254, Lafayette, CA 94549; 4. Michele Gunnett, PO Box 254, Lafayette, CA 94549. This business is conducted by Co-Partners. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 1/1/2022. Signature of Registrant/s/: Michele Gunnett, General Partner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 24, 2025. Expires November 23, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6636. Published December 11, 18, 25, January 1, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 618944

The following person(s) doing business as: Yeezee Collects, 1626 Vancouver Way, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Christopher Yee, 1626 Vancouver Way, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by a Married Couple. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 10/24/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Christopher Yee, General Partner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 18, 2025. Expires November 17, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6637. Published December 18, 25, January 1, 8, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 619363

The following person(s) doing business as: Frugal Finds by Arukah, 1072 Batavia Ave, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Arukah, 1072 Batavia Avenue, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Joshua Jonas, Executive Director. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 9, 2025. Expires December 8, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6638. Published December 18, 25, January 1, 8, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 619383

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Tri-Valley Auto Interiors; 2. Tri-Valley Auto Upholstery, 3723 Old Santa Rita Rd #9-10 Pleasanton, CA 94588 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Mike S. Pauselius,

7940 Applewood CT, Pleasanton, CA 94588. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 06/03/1993. Signature of Registrant/s/: Mike S. Pauselius, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 10, 2025. Expires December 9, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6639. Published December 18, 25, January 1, 8, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 619283

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Vanguard Marketing Group; 2. Vanguard Products, 7888 Marathon Dr, STE B, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Vanguard Sales, Inc. 7888 Marathon Dr, STE B, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 11/24/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Ronald Fleener, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 4, 2025. Expires December 3, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6640. Published December 18, 25, January 1, 8, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 619384

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. D.L. Marketing; 2. Tesla Real Estate Group; 3. All Pro Mortgage, 167 S P ST, STE C, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): All Pro Mortgage, Inc., 167 S P ST, STE C Livermore. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 08/22/2011. Signature of Registrant/s/: Debra Rose, Secretary. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 10, 2025. Expires December 9, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6641. Published December 18, 25, January 1, 8, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 619331

The following person(s) doing business as: Sandra Zavala-Garcia, LCSW Therapy, 4435 First ST #261, Livermore, CA 94551-2215 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Sandra Y. Zavala-Garcia, 4435 First ST #261, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Sandra Y. Zavala-Garcia, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 8, 2025. Expires December 7, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6642. Published December 18, 25, January 1, 8, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 619440

The following person(s) doing business as: The Little Things Photography, 1508 Prescott ST, Oakland, CA 94607 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Mario Valdes, 1508 Prescott ST, Oakland, CA 94607. This business is conducted by a Married Couple. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Mario Valdes, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 12, 2025. Expires December 11, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6643. Published December 18, 25, January 1, 8, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 619343

The following person(s) doing business as: JC Tax Services, 3053 Castro Valley Blvd, Castro Valley, CA 94546 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): JC Tax Services Inc., 3053 Castro Valley, CA 94546. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 2004. Signature of Registrant/s/: Juan Carlos Bermudez, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 8, 2025. Expires December 7, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6644. Published December

18, 25, January 1, 8, 2026.

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME ORIGINAL FILE NO. 601899

The person(s) listed below have abandoned the use of the following fictitious business name(s). JC Tax Services, 3053 Castro Valley Blvd, Castro Valley, CA 94546. Registered by the following owner(s): Juan Carlos Bermudez, 24510 Surrey Way, Hayward, CA 94544. The fictitious business name statement was filed on 11/06/2023 in the County of Alameda. This business was conducted by an Individual. Signature of Registrant/s/: Juan Carlos Bermudez, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 8, 2025. The Independent, Legal No. 6645. Published December 18, 25, January 1, 8, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 619391

The following person(s) doing business as: FK Estate Realty, 6601 Owens Drive, STE 250, Pleasanton, CA 94588 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 date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Qiao Kuang, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 10, 2025. Expires December 9, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6646. Published December 25, January 1, 8, 15, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 619446

The following person(s) doing business as: Fat Pigeon Pottery, 2480 Magnolia Street, Oakland, CA 94607 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Lily Macher, 2480 Magnolia Street, Oakland, CA 94607. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 12/1/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Lily Macher, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 12, 2025. Expires December 11, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6647. Published December 25, January 1, 8, 15, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 619348

The following person(s) doing business as: Mila Coffee Roasting, 950 Flurry Dr, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Lusine Petrosyan, 950 Flurry Dr., Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 12/8/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Lusine Petrosyan, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 8, 2025. Expires December 7, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6648. Published December 25, January 1, 8, 15, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 619366

The following person(s) doing business as: At Romance Pleasanton, LLC, 3724 Stanley Blvd, Suite D, Pleasanton, CA 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): At Romance Pleasanton, LLC, 3724 Stanley Blvd, Suite D, Pleasanton, CA 94566. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Yan Zhou Huan, Managing Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 9, 2025. Expires December 8, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6649. Published December 25, January 1, 8, 15, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 619341

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. EMC2E Universe Publishing; 2. Relan Real Estate, 3051, Quantum DR., #4503, Fremont, CA 94538 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Rakesh Kumar Relan, 30510 Quantum Dr, #4503, Fremont, CA 94538. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant

first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 12/8/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Rakesh Kumar Relan, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 8, 2025. Expires December 7, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6650. Published December 25, January 1, 8, 15, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 619371

The following person(s) doing business as: Gym Doctors, 3488 Arden Road, Hayward, CA 94545 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): GymDoc, Inc., 3488 Arden Road, Hayward, CA 94545. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 1/2/2009. Signature of Registrant/s/: Koorosh Daniel Daneshvar, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 9, 2025. Expires December 8, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6651. Published December 25, January 1, 8, 15, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 618994

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. FLIP2Media; 2. FLIP2Agency, 1067 Serpentine LN, Pleasanton, CA 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Flip 2 Media, Inc., 1067 Serpentine LN, Pleasanton, CA 94566. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Doug Mann, Secretary. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 19, 2025. Expires November 18, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6652. Published December 25, January 1, 8, 15, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 619385

The following person(s) doing business as: Wylie Rental Properties, 2379 Palm Ave, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Gail M. Wylie, 2379 Palm Ave, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 8/2011. Signature of Registrant/s/: Gail M. Wylie, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 10, 2025. Expires December 9, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6653. Published December 25, January 1, 8, 15, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 619422

The following person(s) doing business as: The Independent, 2250 First Street, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Inland Valley Publishing Company, 2250 First Street, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 1963. Signature of Registrant/s/:

Joan Seppala, CFO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 11, 2025. Expires December 10, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6654. Published December 25, January 1, 8, 15, 2026.

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME ORIGINAL FILE NO. 615384

The person(s) listed below have abandoned the use of the following fictitious business name(s). Center for Lifespan Wellness, 3020 Bernal Ave, Suite 110 PMB117, Pleasanton, CA 94566. Registered by the following owner(s): Sarah Lombardi, 3020 Bernal Ave, Suite 110 PMB117, Pleasanton, CA 94566. The fictitious business name statement was filed on 6/13/2025 in the County of Alameda. This business was conducted by an Individual. Signature of Registrant/s/: Sarah Lombardi, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 19, 2025. The Independent, Legal No. 6655. Published December 25, January 1, 8, 15, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 619650

The following person(s) doing business as: Universal Landscape, LLC, 1881 Collier Canyon Road, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Universal Landscape, LLC, 1881 Collier Canyon Road, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Francisco Duarte Marron, Office. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 24, 2025. Expires December 23, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6656. Published January 1, 8, 15, 22, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 619658

The following person(s) doing business as: Revs Beauty Studio, 2222 Second Street, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Revu's LLC, 380 Misty Circle, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Revathi Battu, Principal. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 23, 2025. Expires December 22, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6657. Published January 1, 8, 15, 22, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 619555

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Hala Shawwama; 2. Hala Mediterranean, 1504 Webster ST, Alameda, CA 94501 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Global Tastes, Inc., 1504 Webster ST., Alameda, CA, 94501. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/:

Aimen Sharay, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 17, 2025. Expires December 16, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6658. Published January 1, 8, 15, 22, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 619502

The following person(s) doing business as: Weld-It Unlimited Fabrication, 23 E Airway Blvd, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Shane Orvis, 226 Joyce St, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 3/2021. Signature of Registrant/s/: Shane Orvis, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 16, 2025. Expires December 15, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6659. Published January 1, 8, 15, 22, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 619586

The following person(s) doing business as: Advantage Guild, 2247 Sixth ST, Berkeley, CA 94710 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Anne Szostek, 4025 New York Ave, Fair Oaks, CA 95628. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Anne Szostek, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 19, 2025. Expires December 18, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6660. Published January 1, 8, 15, 22, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 619577

The following person(s) doing business as: Opus Luxury Group, 2749 Fressia CT, Pleasanton, CA 94588 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Mahpiearal inc., 2749 Fressia CT, Pleasanton, CA 94588 This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Hamed Nawabi, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 18, 2025. Expires December 17, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6661. Published January 1, 8, 15, 22, 2026.

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Dublin Affordable Housing Community Receives Go-Ahead from the City’s Planning Commission

By Sanestina Hunter

DUBLIN — The Dublin Planning Commission has approved a site develop-

Susan Houghton, president of the Sunflower Hill board of directors, told The Independent the approval reflects a grow-

apartments designed to support independence in a setting similar to senior living. Units will include full

space, and we plan to partner with local arts organizations and artists for gallery showings.” As demand for afford-

According to a Planning Commission staff report, the Grace Pointe site is part of the larger Dublin Centre mixed-use development, formerly known as SCS Dublin, located north of Dublin Boulevard between Tassajara Road and Brannigan Street.

Commissioners also determined the project is covered under the previously certified environmental impact report for the Dublin Centre development, requiring no additional environmental review.

With approvals in place, Houghton said Sunflower Hill is focused on securing financing.

The project is expected to cost \$48 million, with \$5 million already committed by the city of Dublin. Rep. Eric Swallow has also included \$2 million for the project in proposed federal funding, pending approval of the final budget.

The organization aims to finalize financing in 2026, break ground in 2027 and welcome residents in late 2028.



An artist's rendering shows the planned Sunflower Hill at Grace Pointe affordable housing community in Dublin. (Rendering courtesy of Dahlin Architects)

ment review permit for Sunflower Hill at Grace Pointe, an affordable housing community for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The move allows the project to move into its financing phase.

The three-story development, led by Sunflower Hill in partnership with Satellite Affordable Housing Associates, is set to be built at the northwest corner of Dublin Boulevard and Brannigan Street.

Plans call for 60 units of permanent supportive housing, including one on-site manager's unit, along with shared amenities such as a makerspace, fitness room and central courtyard.

ing need for housing options tailored to adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

“There are more than 400,000 individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in California and about 26,000 in the greater East Bay,” Houghton said. “The need for this type of housing is very real.”

Founded in 2006, Sunflower Hill is a nonprofit organization that develops affordable, supportive housing communities for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities across the Tri-Valley and Bay Area.

Sunflower Hill at Grace Pointe will offer one- and two-bedroom

kitchens, allowing residents to maintain independent routines while having access to optional community programming.

In addition to housing, the development is designed to foster connection without requiring participation.

Optional daily activities will mirror those offered in senior communities and include cooking classes, art programs, social events and fitness offerings such as yoga and aerobics, Houghton said.

“We specifically focused on art in Dublin as a nod to the city’s strong arts culture,” she continued. “The Grace Gallery will serve as a maker-

able housing grows in California, the Dublin project marks Sunflower Hill’s third East Bay housing community.

Its first development, Irby Ranch in Pleasanton, opened in 2020 with 30 units and continues to maintain a waiting list of more than 130 people. A 48-unit project is in the works in Lafayette, Houghton noted.

Dublin Mayor Sherry Hu praised the approval in a statement.

“This development will provide not just housing, but dignity, independence and a true sense of belonging,” Hu said. “We are proud to support a project that strengthens the heart of our city.”



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Valley Chorale Holds Auditions For Multiple Spring Concerts

Valley Concert Chorale (VCC) is inviting singers to audition for local concerts in March and May and a June performance at Carnegie Hall, New York City.

Auditions will be held on Monday, Jan. 5, and Monday, Jan. 12, at the First Presbyterian Church, 2020 Fifth Street, Livermore.

VCC said the 15-minute auditions will include basic

sight-reading and a rhythmic exercise.

To determine vocal range, auditioners should also come prepared to sing a short song in any language.

Chorale members must commit to the entire season, including Monday evening rehearsals at the church.

To schedule an audition, call 925-866-4003.

VCC performs three con-

cert sets, which may include music ranging from classical to contemporary and folk to jazz.

In March, VCC will perform the West Coast premiere of Margaret Shelton Meier’s “Mass for the Third Millennium.” In May, the chorale will join with the First Presbyterian Church choir and the Las Positas Community College Chamber Choir to perform John Rutter’s “Requiem.”

The chorale will also perform Rutter’s “Requiem” at Carnegie Hall.

The nonprofit chorale is led by Bay Area native Joseph Castro, who holds a master’s degree in choral conducting and a bachelor’s degree in vocal performance from California State University East Bay.

For more information, go to valleyconcertchorale.org.



Valley Concert Chorale is holding auditions twice this month. Selected singers will be invited to perform at Carnegie Hall in New York City in June. (Photo courtesy of Valley Concert Chorale)

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

Livermore Wente Winery worker, married father of three and grandfather

Miguel Lopez

remains in Mexico after having been illegally deported 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>

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2026

THE Independent