



A picturesque double rainbow graced the skies over Livermore on Sept. 24. (Photo — Leah Silveira)

New Groundwater Model Predicts Clean Water in Southwest Portion of Pleasanton

Questions Remain About Long-Term Viability, Potential Contamination

By David Jen

TRI-VALLEY — A new model of the area’s groundwater basin suggests that new wells in southwest Pleasanton could supply PFAS-free water for at least 20 years if built, but questions remain on some of the model’s assumptions.

The update, performed by the Zone 7 Water Agency and its consultant, EKI Environment and Water, Inc., collected data from new geophysical studies, pumping tests and third parties to replace the previous 2016 model of the area’s aquifer.

The team rebuilt the groundwater model “from scratch so that it

reflects the latest and greatest data and understanding of the basin’s hydrogeological condition,” EKI hydrogeologist Aaron Lewis said at the Sept. 17 Zone 7 board meeting. “In doing so, we believe that the model is really ready for future SGMA (Sustainable Groundwater Management Act) and operation-decision-making and related analyses, and can be used as a reasonable predictive tool to evaluate the relative impacts of future injunctive-use decisions on the groundwater.”

Based on the new model, Zone 7 Water Resources Manager Ken Minn concluded that new wells in southwest Pleasanton would not

draw the PFAS plume into the area, nor would they adversely affect existing pumping operations elsewhere in the basin. PFAS, or forever chemicals, are a class of several thousand synthetic chemicals previously used in a wide range of applications. They have since been linked to adverse health effects, such as decreased fertility, immune-system damage and some cancers.

The model simulated the spread of one PFAS, perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS), the prevalent PFAS in the aquifer.

“The takeaway is that it did not indicate any occurrence of PFOS concentrations exceeding the four

(See WATER, page 6)

Dublin’s Updated Investment Policy Praised

Leading Muslim Civil Rights and Advocacy Organization Applauds City

By Sanestina Hunter

DUBLIN — The San Francisco Bay Area office of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR-SFBA), the nation’s largest Muslim civil rights and advocacy organization, praised Dublin’s Sept. 16 vote updating its Statement of Investment Policy to bar city investments in companies involved in war, mass surveillance and mass incarceration.

The revised policy prohibits investing in companies that develop or manufacture commodities that facilitate violence or war, operate in border or mass-surveillance industries or are involved in detention or incarceration. These new restrictions build on existing exclusions for fossil fuel, tobacco and firearm-related companies.

Dublin Vice Mayor Kashef Qaadri, who serves on the Finance

and Investment Committee with Councilmember Michael McCorriston, said in a statement to The Independent that the updates followed a year-long review with city staff, financial advisors and community members.

Qaadri explained that the Council decided in late 2024 to revisit the policy, which was outdated and no longer aligned with Dublin’s mission, vision and values.

“Councilmember McCorriston and I worked closely with the Finance Department, our investment manager, Chandler Asset Management (, Inc.), and city staff to develop a revised policy,” Qaadri said. “This review included examining ESG (Environmental, Social and Governance), SRI (Socially Responsible Investing) and BDS (Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions) considerations. The updated

policy clarifies language around ATF (Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives) investments and adds restrictions related to military-industrial, prison-industrial and mass-surveillance companies. Ultimately, we chose to incorporate an ESG screening process using S&P IQ.”

Qaadri also thanked residents for their participation during city council meetings.

“I truly appreciated the community engagement throughout this process,” he said. “We put a great deal of time, energy and thought into ensuring the policy complies with state law while reflecting the values and priorities of our residents as best as possible.”

CAIR-SFBA Policy Coordinator Musa Tariq said in a press statement, “Public budgets are moral documents. By updating its investment policy, Dublin is

(See MUSLIMS, page 6)

Las Positas College Set To Lose Federal Hispanic Grant Funds

School President Foster Vows Continued Prioritizing of Support for Every Student

By Vivien Wenneker

LIVERMORE — The “Developing Hispanic-Serving Institutions” (HSI) Grant, which strives to expand educational opportunities and improve academic attainment for Hispanic/Latinx and low-income students at Las Positas College (LPC), will no longer receive federal funding after 2026.

On Sept. 16, the college received word from the U.S. Department of Education (ED) that the five-year, \$3 million federal grant would end after Sept. 30, 2026. With the grant currently in its second year, the college will lose its final three years of federal funding, which, according to LPC President Dr. Dyrell

Foster, would equate to about \$1.8 million.

“These are significant, and will have an impact on our students, staff, college and overall campus community,” Foster told The Independent. “As a result, we will need to sunset this specific grant program, but are committed to leveraging non-federal state resources to prioritize our ongoing work to support students and their success.”

Allotted through Title V of the Education Code, the HSI grant helps fund LPC’s Guided Pathways Program. Guided Pathways focuses on providing comprehensive academic and personal support to all LPC students, spanning from personalized educational plans and dedicated

(See LPC, page 6)



Livermore’s Las Positas College learned it will lose about \$1.8 million in federal funding for its Developing Hispanic-Serving Institutions Grant. (Photo — Leah Silveira)

Populations in Tri-Valley Rose Only Slightly in 2024

Questions Abound with Growth Not as Anticipated

By David Jen

TRI-VALLEY — The region’s population rose slightly in 2024, according to data released last month by the U.S. Census Bureau, but it remains below the levels counted in the 2020 decennial census, raising questions about how many people long-term city planning should account for.

From 2023 to 2024, data from the latest American Community Survey (ACS) shows Dublin’s population rising 2.0% from 69,129 people to 70,544, Livermore’s rising 2.4% from 82,899 to 84,849, and Pleasanton’s rising 1.3% from 74,660 to 75,661.

Despite the growth, populations remain below Dublin’s 72,589 people, Livermore’s 87,955 and

Pleasanton’s 79,871 counted in 2020, representing declines of 2.8%, 3.5% and 5.3% respectively during the 2020 to 2024 period.

The ACS counts also fall below those estimated by the State of California Department of Finance, which cities recently used to plan for the current Housing Element cycle spanning from 2023 to 2031.

Every eight years, regional agencies assign California jurisdictions a minimum number of housing units that they must plan for, or face penalties that include fines, loss of funding and loss of local housing control. Cities then tailor their Housing Element plans to meet these requirements, rezoning parcels and establishing policies toward their housing goals.

(See POPULATION, page 7)



Screenwriter Charlie Huston, whose film “Caught Stealing” is in Bay Area theaters, grew up in Livermore and was a regular patron at the Vine Cinema during childhood. (Photo courtesy of Brian Calloway)

Ex-Livermorian Turns Book into Movie

Novelist and Screenwriter Huston’s Work, ‘Caught Stealing,’ Hits Big Screen

By Christina Cavallaro

LIVERMORE — Prolific Los Angeles-based novelist and screenwriter Charlie Huston enjoyed quite the full-circle moment not long ago.

Huston, whose pronouns are they/them, had a chance to see their newly released major motion picture, “Caught Stealing,” promoted on the marquee of their hometown’s very own Vine Cinema — the place where it all began.

“A big part of my childhood was the Vine Cinema,” Huston said

in a telephone interview from Los Angeles.

Born in 1968 in Oakland, Huston moved with their family to Livermore when they were 2 years old and lived there until heading to San Francisco State University at about age 19.

“So, I really, really grew up in Livermore,” Huston said. “And I was a very weird little kid. Like I was one of those kids that was, you know, walking down the street with a book in front of my face. And tripping over everything.”

Huston spent a lot of time on foot — and in their own imagination — first walking back and forth to school down Murrieta Boulevard to the then-Rincon Elementary.

“I just lived a lot inside my head,” Huston said. “And we weren’t a TV house.” The family had a small black-and-white TV, but no cable. “And my mom didn’t like TV anyway. So, I think a lot of the first stories I absorbed was stuff my folks read to us — and then it was going to the movies.”

When Huston got a little older,

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PET OF THE WEEK



ORIGINAL

Meet Original — the classic flavor of the Triscuit brothers snack pack. At 3.5 months and 22 pounds, this crunchy cutie lives up to his name as a true one-of-a-kind: social, treat-motivated and already mastering the basics like “sit” and “come.” He’s ready to stack up joy in your life. Don’t miss your chance to bring home some Original flavor and make him yours. Call Valley Humane at (925) 426-8656 or email info@valleyhumane.org to get started with the adoption process. (Photo courtesy of Valley Humane)

Pacific Fusion Chooses New Mexico Site Over Livermore

By David Jen

LIVERMORE — Fusion-energy startup Pacific Fusion has opted to build its new demonstration facility in Albuquerque, New Mexico following a selection process that included the cities of Livermore and Alameda in the running.

The Sept. 26 announcement cited New Mexico’s history in applied physics and the presence of Sandia National Laboratories as reasons for the company’s choice.

“The state’s expertise in advanced energy technologies, workforce that aligns with our future hiring needs and capital-efficient environment for large projects make it a natural choice for Pacific

Fusion’s strategic expansion,” said Keith LeChien, Pacific Fusion co-founder and chief technology officer.

Livermore Mayor John Marchand offered the city’s congratulations to Pacific Fusion and Albuquerque while pointing to the work Livermore completed through the application process that may invite similar businesses to the city.

“The hard work our staff put in trying to bring this company to Livermore has made an already innovative city even more efficient and ready for future investment,” Marchand said. “Livermore is firmly on the map as a global hub for science and technology, and every company looking to pioneer the next breakthrough should know

that our doors are wide open.” Livermore Director of Innovation and Economic Development Brandon Cardwell added, “The opportunity to host a world-changing project like the Pacific Fusion facility speaks volumes about Livermore’s competitive position.”

The city will launch a strategic program next year that provides new resources and processes to shorten development timelines and accelerate the path to market for innovative businesses similar to Pacific Fusion.

Last month, the Livermore City Council approved Pacific Fusion’s development application to build a 225,500-square-foot facility on a 14-acre parcel along Jack London Boulevard

immediately south of Livermore Municipal Airport. The approval included an incentive package offering an 80% rebate on unsecured property taxes for 10 years, reduction or elimination of the one-time industrial construction tax and the formation of a community facilities district to fund city impact fees and public improvements.

Albuquerque offered performance-based incentives that included \$10 million in local economic development funds, \$776 million in city-issued revenue bonds and abated property taxes over 20 years.

Had Pacific Fusion gone with Livermore, the location would have hosted its demonstration system designed to achieve net-facility gain for a

fusion reactor, where the energy produced by a fusion facility exceeds the total energy used to power the facility. The nascent commercial fusion industry has yet to demonstrate such a gain, and it is a prerequisite for putting fusion power on the power grid.

Pacific Fusion aims to achieve the milestone by 2030. Recent scientific papers published by the company laid out its plans to ignite reactions with pulses of high electrical current that compress fuel targets to the point of nuclear fusion. Compared to the National Ignition Facility at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL), which conducts fusion experiments by compressing fuel targets with lasers, the

pulsar-driven approach could improve energy efficiency by 100-fold while reducing capital costs by a factor of 10, according to the papers.

Although the company will build the demonstration facility elsewhere, other aspects of the business will continue here. Pacific Fusion, for example, tripled its Bay Area presence over the past year to 110 employees, currently distributed between its Fremont headquarters, a manufacturing facility in San Leandro and the LLNL Collaboratory, where it works in partnership with LLNL scientists.

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Pleasanton Will Hold Workshop To Help Families Prepare for Earthquakes, Other Emergencies

By Sanestina Hunter

PLEASANTON — Earthquakes, storms and floods can strike anywhere without warning. Pleasanton city officials on Sept. 23 held an emergency-preparedness

a disaster,” said Leo Lopez, Pleasanton’s emergency services manager. “Households are the first line of defense. Planning, building a kit and staying connected to emergency alerts puts families in far better shape than reacting

school or elsewhere during a disaster.

“Residents need to know where they are going and practice their family plan,” Lopez said. Families can identify potential hazards, plan how to contact each other if separated and establish a familiar, easy-to-find meeting place, such as a hotel, a relative’s home or a location in a nearby city.

Officials encouraged residents to sign up for Alameda County (AC) Alert, a free service that sends notifications about local emergencies. Other recommended alert systems include Everbridge/Nixle for local updates.

Genasys Protect and Watch Duty provide timely information during wildfires, while apps such as MyShake and Genasys Protect deliver real-time alerts for earthquakes and zone-specific emergencies.

“These alerts are vetted and provide reliable, life-saving information,” Lopez said. “It’s not just someone posting on social media. The information sent through these apps is researched, fact-checked and resourceful. If more of the community signs up for emergency alerts, families will be in far better shape than waiting until a disaster occurs to prepare.”

City officials advised hav-

ing a go-bag ready to grab if an evacuation notice is issued, or a home emergency kit if sheltering in place. Bags should include food, water, medicine, vital records, cash and a small battery-operated radio.

Families with children may pack books, games or other entertainment to reduce stress. Pet owners should prepare a go-bag for their pets with water, food, toys and medications.

Residents can also check their home’s flood risk by using the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s (FEMA) Flood Map Service Center and purchase flood insurance if they live in high-risk areas.

Lopez reminded residents to know how to turn off utilities and locate their panels.

“It can take several days for PG&E to restore power, so an adjustable wrench is helpful in emergencies,” he said.

“Residents need to know what emergencies could affect their area,” Lopez said. “We don’t want you to freeze when something happens. Have a plan, a go-bag, or be ready to shelter in place, and sign up for alerts.”

For more information on creating a family emergency plan and signing up for alerts, visit the City of Pleasanton



During a Sept. 23 emergency-preparedness workshop in Pleasanton, Michelle Crose, the assistant director of the city's Library and Recreation Department, displays the type of tool kit that could be critical during a disaster. (Photo — Leah Silveira)

workshop to help families be ready for both expected and unexpected disasters.

The event, hosted by the City of Pleasanton’s Division of Emergency Preparedness Management, took place at the City Council Chambers as part of National Emergency Preparedness Month.

“There is no guarantee the city can provide shelter or reach every household during

after a disaster.”

Lopez added that the most effective plans are reviewed regularly. The city recommends using Ready.gov to create a family emergency plan, which includes household information, medical needs, emergency meeting places and contact details.

This plan ensures family members know what to do if separated while at work,

Sunol Town Hall Addresses Concerns of People Living in Unincorporated Areas

By Vivien Weneker

SUNOL — A Sept. 23 budget-input town hall in Sunol addressed the growing needs for a community-engagement process and information gathering on what services residents want investments in from Alameda County.

This was one of six meetings sponsored by the Budget Justice Coalition in partnership with Alameda County Supervisor David Haubert’s office. Of the six, two are scheduled for Sunol, with the second set for Oct. 15.

The Sept. 23 event marked the first of its kind in Sunol, according to Lindsey Knight, an assistant in Haubert’s office. The closest previous meeting took place in 2024 at Pleasanton’s Alameda County Fairgrounds, where Haubert invited all his constituents, including those from unincorporated areas.

There are 147,000 residents in unincorporated Alameda County, approximately 10% of the total population, according to the Alameda Housing Element dated from November 2024, with 3,000-4,000 in unincorporated, rural District 1, which includes Sunol.

Knight added that this meeting was more an effort by the Budget Justice Coalition of Contra Costa and the Office of District 4, which represents the urban, unincorporated area of Cherryland. The other four meetings are scheduled to be held in Cherryland and Hayward Acres, which is represented by District 3.

The purpose of these meetings is to gather residents’ ideas, concerns and ask questions

about their lived experience with the services provided by Alameda County in the unincorporated areas.

The data gathered over the course of the six meetings, both with urban and rural unincorporated communities, will serve as a foundation for the development of a possible annual process with Alameda County agencies to ensure their budget priorities are sensitive to community needs, according to the meeting agenda.

“There is nowhere near enough information for residents of the unincorporated areas to know how to participate,” said Ana Rasquiza, a representative of the Budget Justice Coalition. “We’re trying to shape an offering for what that process could look like.”

The Budget Justice Coalition of Contra Costa has been working with the district offices of Alameda County, including those of Districts 4 and 1, to bring about a proposal for what a community-engagement process for unincorporated areas could look like.

The primary concern highlighted by Rasquiza is that within the entire 300-plus-page budget plan of Alameda County, nowhere does it outline a process for how rural, unincorporated areas can get involved.

“If the County is providing services, especially social-net services to these areas, why do we have such poverty in these areas?” asked Claudia Albano, representing District 4 Supervisor Nate Miley’s office. “There hasn’t been the attention to these unincorporated areas, so we’ve been trying to bring more structural changes to these communities.”

The first part of the meeting was dedicated to identifying the macro influences that Sunol residents felt were affecting the community as a whole, and then narrowing the list down to the micro influences that are manifesting at the local level.

Among the primary issues residents brought up were traffic, vandalism, illegal dumping, outdated infrastructure and lack of coordination/communication from county departments.

“The county government needs to consider giving appropriate services to the rural areas for what the rural areas are putting into the county,” Sunol resident Ken Horton said.

The outcome of the meeting was to produce a list consisting of the top, prioritized issues that matter most to residents. The list, along with data compiled

from the other meetings, will be sent to the Board of Supervisors and presented to the Unincorporated Services Committee in December.

“I came tonight because I went to another session last week in the Eden area, and really came to support this process for how to coordinate the discussion,” said Haldun Morgen, an outreach coordinator with the Alameda County Housing Provider Resource Center, which has increasingly shifted its focus toward unincorporated Alameda.

“I really like how this structure underscores the importance of going from the macro to the micro, and if we’re going to enact serious change in our communities, it’s going to be through this process,” Morgen added.

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Tri-Valley Students Tabbed as Scholarship Semifinalists

By Sanestina Hunter

TRI-VALLEY — More than 100 Tri-Valley high school students have been named semifinalists in the 2025 National Merit Scholarship Program, placing them among the top 1% of Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) participants nationwide. Across the country, the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) recognized more than 16,000 semifinalists from 1.3 million high school juniors who took the 2024 PSAT/NMSQT, according to a Sept. 10 press statement. The students can advance to finalist status and compete for nearly 6,930 scholarships totaling about \$26 million, which will be

awarded next spring. Pleasanton’s Amador Valley and Foothill high schools had 44 and 21 semifinalists, respectively, while Dublin High had 28. The Quarry Lane School in Dublin produced five semifinalists and Dublin’s Valley Christian one. Granada High in Livermore had eight semifinalists, and Livermore had two. “Our students’ exceptional performance reflects the guidance of our dedicated teachers and the support of our families and community,” said Susanne Frey, coordinator for safety and communications at the Pleasanton Unified School District. William Peng, a senior at Foothill High, said he and his fellow semifinalists are “very grateful and excited”

for the recognition. He highlighted the school’s English and math programs, along with family support. To reach finalist status, students must submit detailed applications, including academic records, extracurricular and community involvement, leadership experience, honors and awards, an essay, and SAT or ACT scores confirming their PSAT performance. Chris Funk, superintendent of Dublin Unified, celebrated the 28 Dublin High semifinalists. “We are incredibly proud of the Gaels from Dublin High,” Funk said. “This honor reflects their academic talent, dedication and resilience, as well as the guidance of our teachers and staff.” Clark Conover, Granada’s principal, said, “We’re

extremely proud of our students’ achievements. Their success reflects hard work and the dedication of our teachers and staff. Granada has seen an upswing in PSAT performance, and we hope more students continue to qualify while excelling in academics, extracurriculars, sports and the arts.” According to the NMSC, about 95% of semifinalists are expected to achieve finalist standing, and roughly half of finalists will earn a National Merit Scholarship. Aayush Gandhi, a senior at Dublin, said the recognition excites him as he explores college options. He noted the school’s supportive teachers, academic resources and practice exams that helped him succeed. Dr. Torie Gibson, Liv-

ermore Valley Joint Unified School District superintendent, praised Livermore’s semifinalists. “The recognition of these students is a testament to their exceptional talent and hard work,” Gibson said. “Their success reflects the outstanding support from their families and teachers, and is a source of immense pride for our district.” At Livermore, Anderson Schwarer has excelled in academics and leadership. “He is a standout in the science department,” said Renee Haugen, an AP environmental science and chemistry teacher. “Schwarer has taken every AP course available and serves as captain of the Science Olympiad team, helping plan practices and

competitions while mentoring teammates.” According to her teacher, Amandeep Khangura, Livermore semifinalist Su Hay Lin has distinguished herself academically and through leadership in the math and chess clubs, earning top American Mathematics Competition scores, volunteering as a peer tutor and ranking among the top 1% of students Khangura has taught. The National Merit Scholarship Program, established in 1955, is a privately funded, not-for-profit program that recognizes academically outstanding students across the United States.



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Family Seeks Support after Livermore Father Is Found Dead in Tracy Canal Following Car Crash

By Christina Cavallaro

LIVERMORE — The family of 48-year-old Roland Marcelo Peñamante is mourning his death from a

vehicle accident followed by days of search-and-rescue attempts. On the night of Sept. 17, Peñamante was a passenger in a vehicle with two friends

from Stockton. Peñamante, who had been legally blind since 2004, was being driven back to Livermore, where he lived with his mother, who was his caretaker. At approximately 10:30 p.m., the car veered into the Delta Mendota Canal in Tracy. One of the vehicle’s occupants was able to escape, but Peñamante and the third person went missing in the water, prompting days of searching by recovery dive crews. Dive teams searched the waters the day after the accident, recovering the submerged vehicle, but no bodies. The search continued through the weekend, with family and friends joining in, including Peñamante’s 30-year-old son, Roland M. Harris. On Sept. 21, the bodies of Peñamante and William “JD” Doyle of Stockton

were recovered from the canal. Peñamante’s family said in an emailed statement to The Independent that he “wanted to be the best ‘Papa Lolo’ to his three granddaughters (Rosaria, Charlie and Celeste). He loved to play with them and let them climb all over him. Roland will be remembered for always being there for his family, for his laugh and his beautiful smile. He was a bright light in the lives of everyone who knew him.” The family is reaching out to the community, friends and extended family for support and has created a GoFundMe account to help cover funeral expenses and memorial arrangements. A service for Peñamante is planned for Oct. 13 in Livermore. Donations may be made at gofundme.com/f/help-honor-roland-marcelo-penamantes-memory

help-honor-roland-marcelo-penamantes-memory



Livermore resident Roland Marcelo Peñamante's body was recovered from a Tracy canal following a Sept. 17 car accident. (Photo courtesy of the Peñamante family)

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EDITORIAL

Trump’s War on People of Color Will Affect All of Us

Last month, Las Positas College learned that grant money that had been approved by Congress was being withheld by President Donald Trump. The school had been awarded a five-year, \$3 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education. The funding for the final three years of the grant, totaling \$1.8 million, has now been blocked.

Our ability to be shocked by the administration’s actions has not diminished. The Developing Hispanic-Serving Institutions grant program supports 500 colleges and universities where at least 25% of the student body identifies as Hispanic. Las Positas is just one of that number, which also includes such prestigious schools as the University of Texas at Austin and the University of Arizona.

About \$250 million is being withheld from this program, even though federal law prohibits withholding funds that have been authorized by Congress. Another \$100 million in other grant programs, including those with high levels of Black, Asian or Native American enrollment, is also being withheld.

Having grants of this size withdrawn from local colleges may not

seem like much on a national scale. This is especially true because Las Positas, for instance, has come up with a creative way to support its Hispanic educational programs by funding them through a number of state projects where the money has already been allocated. But the federal funding is gone, and the blocking of funds is emblematic of this administration’s reach and its desire to harm people of color.

For example, just last week, Trump asked the Supreme Court to rule that birthright citizenship, guaranteed under the Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, isn’t valid. The Fourteenth Amendment was enacted in 1868 as one of three amendments coming out of the aftermath of the Civil War to ensure that no person born in the U.S. can be denied the rights of citizenship, nor deprived of life, liberty or property without due process of law, nor denied equal protection under the law.

The intent of the amendment at the time was to prevent state governments from denying rights to formerly enslaved Black Americans. Yet, the amendment is broader than that: it begins by stating “All persons.” There is

no ambiguity there — anyone born in the United States is a citizen, period.

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) has already been mounting an aggressive campaign to detain and deport immigrants, often hustling them out of the country before courts have a chance to rule on their cases. That was the situation with Miguel Lopez, a welder working at Wente Vineyards in Livermore, who was deported in June. Several U.S. citizens have also been deported, including a 4-year-old boy with stage 4 kidney cancer who was deported without his medication along with his siblings and immigrant mother.

Then on Sept. 13, the court ruled that ICE officers can detain someone simply because they appear to be Hispanic or are speaking Spanish. If citizenship can be stripped away, then no one is safe.

Gutting the Fourteenth Amendment will also have the effect of opening the door to declaring entire classes of people to be non-citizens without rights.

All LGBTQ+ people will be at risk, as will all nonwhite people. Religious minorities would also come under fire.

Not only is the revocation of a grant focused on Hispanics at Las Positas significant in itself, but it also illustrates where the president is heading nationwide. Yes, we should congratulate LPC for working around the federal government’s restriction and finding ways to continue supporting its Hispanic students. We should also be alert to the fact that in the future, not just Hispanics could be affected. Trump’s war on American democracy touches all of us. As Las Positas College has done, we can’t cave. Working together, we must find creative ways to fight back.

That’s why the clawing back of grant money is also dangerous: It deprives Congress, which represents the people, the power granted to it under the Constitution to control government spending. A legislature whose laws may be ignored by the president is no better than the legislatures of autocratic governments everywhere. Congress becomes a fig leaf behind which Trump and his allies can hide and pretend we are still a democratic system.

MAILBOX

Mailbox Guidelines:

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

In Response to ‘La Traviata’ Article
John Simon Lam, Livermore

My wife and I attended the opera tonight. Our impression is as follows:

“Enchanting, luminous, and exquisite! Avery Boettcher breathes passionate life into Violetta in La Traviata with transcendent artistry. Livermore Valley Opera delivers La Scala magnificence to our community. Don’t miss such jewel!”

A Counterintuitive Electorate
Paul Stone, Dublin

Everyone knows California’s infrastructure, like our roads, is shredded and cannot currently handle our population of 40 million.

Especially concerning is the water situation. No new water storage in decades. If nothing is done, the day will come when drought will reign again and we won’t be flushing toilets, taking showers, or drinking coffee.

Yet we have a billion dollars a year through 2045 to spend on an electric train that is many billions of dollars over budget now. We have at least 282 million dollars to conduct a one-issue special election in November.

We have 50 million dollars to fight the DJT administration.

Let us not forget that California has a budget deficit of 73 billion dollars (Legislative Analyst’s Office).

I understand that many readers of The Independent are not Trump fans. But what I don’t understand is why they keep wanting to elect politicians in Sacramento that have utterly failed them and their state. It’s counterintuitive.

What Happens in Texas Does Not Stay in Texas
Elizabeth M. Judge, Livermore

Texas decided not to wait until the 2030 census to redraw its district map for seats in the House of Representatives. By changing its map now, five formerly blue seats would most likely change to red in time for the 2026 election. This would give the current president a more comfortable majority in the House.

Governor Abbott’s stunt to increase red seats was not admirable, but if something does not change, what happens in Texas will affect the midterm election as the whole country slides into authoritarianism under the present administration.

So California decided to ask voters via Prop 50 to consider temporarily redrawing its U.S. Congressional district maps in order to offset the Texas red seats with California blue ones. Nobody is adding seats with Prop 50, just changing colors, and only until the 2030 census when the independent commission resumes its normal function.

Notice that funds for the campaign against California’s Prop 50 come from Charles Munger, Jr. His ads go against redistricting here in California, but he is not funding ads in Texas. He is in favor of red seats.

Push back against Texas/Trump; Vote “YES” on 50.

Correcting the Record on Zone 7 and the Delta Conveyance Project
Valerie Pryor, General Manager, Zone 7 Water Agency

The Delta Conveyance Project and Zone 7’s water supply are mischaracterized in your Sept. 18, 2025, editorial. Zone 7 receives 90% of our water supply from the State Water Project. The same State Water Project that pumps water into the California Aqueduct pumps water into the South Bay Aqueduct and delivers water to our region. State Water Project reliability is decreasing due to climate change and water quality and environmental regulations. Our analysis shows that without the Delta Conveyance Project, we can expect future water supply shortages in six out of every 20 years. The Delta Conveyance Project will significantly reduce future shortages in the Tri-Valley.

Remember When?
Keith Jackson, Dublin

Remember when there were so many questions about the cognitive decline of Joe Biden because of his performance in one debate? What about Trump’s lack of cognitive abilities which he displays whenever he opens his mouth? Whenever he talks, he is either lying or displaying his stupidity. He is a cowardly grifter who has never cared about anyone but himself his entire life. He is a disgrace and a danger to this country. He is a convicted felon who should be in jail. He has a long history of molesting women, and everyone KNOWS that

if there is a list of sexual felons, his name will be on that list. He is stealing money from this country to line his own pockets. He must be stopped using any legal means available. If we cannot stop him, he will destroy our democracy. This will be a long, difficult battle, but we cannot give up. Stay involved and keep speaking out for what you know is right.

La Traviata
Jean King, Livermore

For a wonderful musical experience, don’t miss Livermore Valley Opera’s production of Verdi’s La Traviata. Beautiful music, extraordinary sets and gorgeous costumes in the intimate Bankhead Theater in downtown Livermore. Performances at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 4 and Sunday, Oct. 5. Prelude talk at 1 p.m. Tickets at livermorearts.org.

PFAS Plume, Not a Joke
Jim Lehrman, Pleasanton

What’s six miles long, two miles wide, toxic, and moving beneath Pleasanton?

Recent data from Zone 7 shows that a plume of toxic PFAS in groundwater has already reached the location of proposed new wells in southwest Pleasanton, and beyond. State regulators are directing ongoing investigations into possible sources, including the Livermore Airport and the LPFD training center. Currently available data indicate the plume likely originated at, or near, the Livermore Airport and/or Livermore wastewater treatment plant, with contributions from the LPFD training center.

PFAS became widely used in fire-fighting foam in the 1960s. It’s very possible that spent fire-fighting foam is the source of the PFAS contamination in our groundwater. If PFAS was first released in the mid-1960s and the plume started growing at that time, then it’s growing at an average rate of about one mile every ten years, about one tenth of a mile per year. The movement of the groundwater plume is generally in the direction of the surface water flow (southwest), but groundwater movement is slower and complicated by pumping from wells. Install-

ing new wells in southwest Pleasanton and pumping them at millions of gallons per day would logically hasten the spread of PFAS in groundwater.

Pleasanton originally planned to deal with PFAS by treating water produced from their existing wells. Their current plan, devised in an attempt to save money, is to drill new wells and install new pipelines to avoid treating PFAS. But if drilled, the new wells would likely hasten the spread of PFAS, require treatment, and ultimately greatly increase overall PFAS cleanup costs, reversing any planned cost savings. This may also violate our environmental laws meant to protect groundwater quality.

But Pleasanton and Zone 7 need water, so what should be done? Going back to the earlier plan of treating water from Pleasanton’s existing well locations is the responsible thing to do. This will help control and slow the spread of PFAS, remove PFAS from our groundwater basin, provide clean drinking water and utilize existing infrastructure. Zone 7, the manager of the groundwater basin, is currently treating water from their wells for PFAS, and they plan to do more. As stewards of this precious natural resource, Zone 7 and Pleasanton should continue the strategy of wellhead treatment and not gamble on short-term cost savings that would degrade groundwater quality and increase long-term costs.

Guns, Gun Control, and Charlie Kirk’s Murder
Greg Scott, Livermore

“The recent tragic killing of a young man points to the urgent need for gun control laws in America. If the shooter had not had ready access to long range precision assault weapons, he would not have been able to take his life.” (Maya Gokhale, “Charlie Kirk’s Assassination: A Call to Gun Control,” Mailbox, 9/25/2025)

The purported gun used to murder Charlie Kirk, a Mauser .30-06, is a single-shot, bolt-action rifle. A Mauser .30-06 is not in a class of “precision assault weapons” as falsely stated in the above cited letter. “[A]ssault weapons” are

either semi-automatic or fully automatic. It is of no end of exasperation to me that many gun control advocates know little or anything about guns themselves they wish to ‘control.’ No additional gun control laws would have prevented Charlie Kirk’s murder, unless, perhaps if all sporting and hunting rifles had been taken away from civilians. This is unlikely to happen in a United States of America with the Second Amendment of the Bill of Rights as a crucial part of our country’s founding and existing governance.

If ‘gun-crazed’ United States citizens knew much about guns, there would be an uproar about the extremely unlikely scenario of Tyler Robinson shooting Charlie Kirk. The shooting scenario given is the shooter fired at 139 horizontal yards, or a hypotenuse shot trajectory distance of just less than 141 yards. This is an altitude of 9 degrees from the victim. This shooter would also be at 9 degrees to the side of the front axis of Mr. Kirk on the horizontal (azimuth). A .30-06 round would have hit Mr. Kirk with no less than 2,000 foot-pounds of energy, which is equivalent to dropping one ton of mass one foot. Given where Mr. Kirk was hit in the neck and the conjectured trajectory of the shot, there would have been nothing preventing the .30-06 round from exiting Mr. Kirk’s body. It’s reported that the round didn’t exit, therefore there is no likelihood that the FBI’s shooting scenario is reality for Mr. Robinson firing from the postulated position. The shot had to come from elsewhere.

Did most of United States adult citizens sleep through their high school class in Newtonian physics, or did they never take that class, or is it now that the public can be fed any preposterous propaganda imaginable and the public is numb to it, and simply doesn’t care?

Swalwell — A Follower, Not a Leader
Tom Murphy, Pleasanton

If you voted for Eric Swalwell to be a Trump hater and do all he could to block the efforts of the Trump administration, then you got what you voted for.

(See MAILBOX, page 5)

THE Independent

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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)

MAILBOX

(Continued from page 4)

Swalwell only has this one agenda and not one good idea of how to improve things for the country. He is truly dedicated to his party only, and follows the lead of whatever his party determines the theme of the day to be. He chases it like a puppy chasing a stick. If they say grow a beard, use profanity, dress down, use a particular word or phrase to attack the other party, he is all in and does everything possible to get in front of a camera in what is usually a juvenile, immature, unprofessional, and embarrassing display of hate. Is this really what you want from your Representative?

Has Swalwell introduced legislation to close our borders for your safety and security, reform our immigration system with a path to citizenship, reduce crime, restore law and order, reduce our huge national debt, reduce your taxes, reduce the number of homeless, strengthen our military and restore peace in the world, improve the quality of education, reduce inflation, make your homes more affordable, reduce the price of gasoline or utility costs, improve the quality of our roads and infrastructure, or bridge the gap between political parties and bring the country closer together? That would be a big no.

Would it be too much to ask a person who is elected to the House of Representative to work on legislation that benefits the majority of the people in his district from both parties? This would require an open mind, creative thinking, and the leadership to gain a consensus from both sides of the aisle.

Eric Swalwell and his fellow Representatives should take a look in the mirror and ask themselves if they are truly meeting their responsibilities to work for the good of all of the people in their district or are they only being sent to Congress to fight for control and power, the people be damned. Eric needs to ask himself, “Am I a leader or a follower?” He needs to decide to legislate, not agitate.

You, as voters, need to ask yourselves, “Am I getting what I deserve for my vote, or should I vote for a different Representative the next time I go to the polls?”

Frequent Letter Writers
Tom Bandy, Livermore

I’m writing to request reconsideration of the Mailbox guidelines, particularly regarding publication of frequent letter writers. I’m sick of reading letters from

the same authors practically every week. I’m sick of the running battles between authors. I’m sick of reading a subject line, a particular author with whom I’m altogether too familiar, and being convinced I could write the letter that follows before I even read the actual letter.

I can’t be the only one that feels this way. Mailbox has gotten stale. I suggest printing letters from one author no more than once a month... or some other limiting factor that the editor deems reasonable.

Thanks for your consideration. I truly think a change in guidelines would improve The Independent.

Yes on Prop 50
Barry Brynjulson, Pleasanton

Democrats generally despise gerrymandering, but we have no choice in California. Vote YES on Prop 50.

The need to redistrict in California is ONLY in response to the extreme gerrymandering in Texas demanded by Trump and passed by the Texas legislature. Other red states are expected to follow.

California’s Proposition 50 redistricting passage will be entirely up to California voters, unlike many other gerrymandered red states, and will sunset after the 2028 election...again, unlike red states.

Out-of-state GOP money is opposing the passage of Prop 50. Trump needs to win the House in the midterms to continue his unchecked assault on anyone he has a grudge against, Democratic-led cities, the media, free speech, universities, climate, healthcare, research, vaccines, government services, along with his blatant disregard for due process. YES on Prop 50.

Our Vindictive President
David W Coats, Livermore

Donald Trump is carrying out his promised threats to prosecute his perceived enemies and critics. This vendetta is well under way. Former FBI agents and Justice Department lawyers who were directed to investigate Trump for attempting to overthrow an election and for misappropriation of classified documents have been summarily fired at his orders. Officials who refused to carry out these illegal orders were in turn fired by Trump. Trump has recently demanded that Attorney General Pam Bondi step up efforts to prosecute his perceived detractors and enemies, posting on Truth Social a demand that she indicts three longtime po-

litical antagonists: Adam Schiff, James Comey, and Letitia James. Trump reminded Bondi that he had pushed out Erik Siebert, his own nominee as U. S. Attorney in the Eastern District of Virginia, for refusing to charge Letitia James with mortgage fraud, a not-so-subtle threat to Bondi. In theory, the Attorney General is supposed to enforce laws fairly, regardless of politics. Not surprisingly, Comey has now been indicted, with “more to come” says Trump. Bondi will do whatever Trump demands, even if she knows it’s wrong. Trump also files lawsuits and threatens license loss against media sources that criticize him, mock or make jokes about him. Anyone running for public office should expect that there will be those that don’t like them or their policies. Trump should heed Truman’s quote, “If you can’t take the heat, get out of the kitchen.” Taken as a whole, these are the actions of an autocratic and vindictive bully, not what one would expect of the President of the United States.

As President, Trump has avoided the litigation and potential jail time he was facing. Since his election, four separate criminal cases against Trump — including his hush money conviction, the Georgia election interference case, the Federal election interference case, and the classified documents case — have either been dropped, resolved, or put aside, because of longstanding Justice Department policy saying sitting Presidents cannot face criminal prosecution. This in no way proves him innocent of these crimes. The Appellate Division that recently threw out the large monetary penalty in the Letitia James lawsuit as being excessive, endorsed the lower court’s finding that he engaged in fraud by padding his wealth on financial statements to lenders and insurers, and that he and his two sons are not to serve in corporate leadership roles in New York for three years.

Acts of Kindness and Decency
Ward Kanowsky, Pleasanton

In the film “The Shawshank Redemption,” the character of Andy Dufresne writes to his friend Red, “Hope is a good thing, maybe the best of things, and no good thing ever dies.” I always loved these words, as they demonstrate that hope can be a powerful force that sustains us during turbulent and chaotic times; like the

times we all find ourselves in today.

Over the past couple of weeks, I have witnessed acts of kindness and decency that have instilled hope that we, and this country, will endure beyond the current dark times:

- Our member of Congress, Rep. Eric Swalwell, went to Mexico to visit his neighbor and our neighbor, Miguel Lopez, who was illegally detained and deported by ICE a few months ago and who has been separated from his family since then. Miguel should not be forgotten.
- Some colleagues and I canvassed several businesses on Main St. in downtown Pleasanton to ask if they would display signs of solidarity in their windows that read, “We support our immigrant neighbors.” Almost every business said yes.
- While knocking on doors to inform people of the upcoming special election and about Prop. 50, I spoke to a courageous and inspiring woman who had moved here from Texas some years ago. She knew about the election and supported the proposition and told me about her own canvassing days in the South for progressive ideas, where she often faced opposition and resentment.

There are more examples I could give. They happen a lot; we just need to look for them. In doing so, let us recall a poem from Tennyson that Bobby Kennedy used to quote frequently: “The lights begin to twinkle from the rocks. The long day wanes, the slow moon climbs, the deep moans round with many voices.

Come my friends — ‘tis not too late to seek a newer world.”

Regarding Khayari Organization Article
Noah Yaffe, Livermore

The Independent rarely prints unmitigated propaganda, but Christina Cavallaro’s article “Khayari Organization Mentors with Hope” is a striking exception.

I won’t dissect the entire Kairos Palestine Document that Cavallaro prominently mentions, but this anti-Israel screed — cloaked in the language of love—offers gems like: “We call on the Israelis to end the occupation. Then they will see a new world in which there is no fear, no threat but rather security, justice and peace.”

Given that Israel pulled out of the Gaza Strip in 2005, including the dissolution of all 21 Israeli settlements there, that sentiment certainly hasn’t aged well. Just last week, Hamas officials continued celebrating their actions as a “golden opportunity to change history.”

Another telling line from the Kairos document: “The roots of ‘terrorism’ are in the human injustice committed and in the evil of the occupation.” Putting “terrorism” in quotes is quite audacious. Was Hamas not a terrorist organization then nor now?

Is Cavallaro familiar with the content she’s platforming? In all fairness, it seems unlikely she has done any research.

But the truly distressing part of the article is Cavallaro’s illuminating sentence: “[The organizer] is now back in the U.S. on a brief fundraising mission for the Khayari Organization, which she founded three months before the events of Oct. 7, 2023 that triggered the latest onslaught against Palestinians in Gaza.”

Apparently the unnamed (but blamed) country of Israel wasn’t interested in destroying Hamas or rescuing hostages, but was simply waiting for any little excuse to launch an “onslaught against Palestinians.”

And her use of the word “events” is a curious stand in for the kidnapping, burning, murdering, and raping

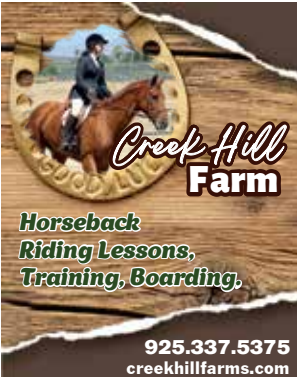
of men, women, and children in their homes or at a music festival celebrating peace. I would recommend viewing some of the horrific video proudly taken by the “terrorists” themselves and subsequently pondering whether “events” remains the best word choice.

The Khayari Organization may be doing good work—its sparse website and vague claims make it impossible to tell. Yet Ms. Cavallaro still includes a call to action for involvement and donations, linking to a passthrough donation service with a “Poor” Charity Navigator rating.

Don’t silence Cavallaro and her views. Simply note her abject bias and that the “events” she speaks of are more aptly named “horrors.”

Wrong Info on Kirk Gun
Barbara Dyer, Livermore

In a Sept. 25 letter to the editor penned by Maya Gokhale (Charlie Kirk’s Assassination: A Call for Gun Control), Maya describes the weapon used to kill Charlie Kirk as a “long range precision assault weapon”. In reality, the weapon used was a Mauser model 98 rifle, a decades-old, German-made gun used in both world wars. This type of bolt-action rifle requires manual reloading between shots, making it unusual in modern crimes. This type of rifle is a far cry from the non-definable, hysterically called “assault weapons”. Perhaps if the author had conducted a semblance of research, the rest of her letter would have held water. For instance, she suggested that there be a ban on the bullets used by these “assault weapons”, when in fact those bullets are commonly used in dozens and dozens of more “traditional looking” hunting rifles, you know, the ones without all the scary looking accessories on them.



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Demolition has begun at the downtown Pleasanton site of the former Barone's Restaurant, a longtime local fixture that closed permanently in October 2024 after nearly 30 years in business. The 2.3-acre parcel has been approved by the City Council for redevelopment, including new homes and a plaza. (Photo — Leah Silveira)

Several Las Positas College Journalists Named as Finalists for the Prestigious National Press Awards

By Ruth Roberts

LIVERMORE — Las Positas College (LPC) has received numerous honors and accolades over the years, establishing itself as one of the premier community colleges in California and the nation.

Now, the Livermore-based institution can proudly claim another honor. Several members of the school's Journalism and Media department have earned recognition as finalists in the 2025 Associated Collegiate Press Awards. The national organization for college students, among other programs, hosts the prestigious annual awards competition.

Finalists this year come from all three of the department's publications: the campus newspaper, "The Express," its magazine, "Naked," and the school's annual literary-arts book.

Notable mentions include "The Express" as a finalist for the 2025 Newspaper/Newsmagazine Pacemaker, with Camille LeDuc as editor-in-chief, and Jesse Naranjo's "Havik: Crosswalking" as a finalist for the Literary Arts Magazine Pacemaker. Olivia Fitts, a two-year Reporter of the Year finalist, is also recognized for her column "Liv on the Edge," her human-interest profile "The Mobley Twins," and a podcast episode titled, "The Blue Pill: All Hail Taylor Swift."

The awards ceremony will be held at the end of October in Washington, D.C. LPC journalism instructor Melissa Korber, who is also the advisor for all three publications, said the department is hoping to send some students to attend the festivities, where the winners will be announced.

"I'm so proud of all the

students, and I'm so impressed by all of them," Korber said. "It's very exciting to have these really talented students do such amazing work. It (the awards) is a big deal because this is a very prestigious national contest with people from all over the country, and this year we have a long list of finalists."

Fitts leads that list with four nominations. The former LPC student is now at the University of Missouri, studying in its prestigious journalism department.

"Olivia is up for so many awards; we are very proud of her," Korber added.

Now the managing editor of 'The Express,' Leduc is also a finalist as last year's editor-in-chief of the newspaper. She said being nominated and potentially winning is important and gratifying, especially given the competition.

"As for the awards, it

feels great to win," Leduc said. "But winning against really great universities and other four-year colleges makes it all the more motivating to keep the work up. For those of us who are discouraged from going up against some schools that are seen as so prestigious, it gives us a sense of belonging, and a reminder to keep going because in this type of work, it doesn't matter where you're from, but what you produce."

Korber agreed.

"We are getting really talented people here at LPC with really high aspirations, and many of them are doing amazing things after they leave here," Korber said. "I love seeing their interests develop, and it's very exciting to see them thrive. ... Journalism matters now more than ever, and I am impressed by the students' commitment."

Livermore Library Hosts Training for Literacy Tutors

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. Liv-

ermore Ave., from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 6.

The follow-up sessions will be held at the same time and place on Wednesday, Oct. 8, and Monday, Oct. 13.

Volunteers are needed to work with adults on a one-to-one basis a few hours each week. 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.

WATER

(Continued from front page)

parts per trillion (maximum contaminant level set by the Environmental Protection Agency)," Minn said. "We are pretty comfortable to say that we have water quality that meets the MCL without any treatments."

Motivations Behind the New Wells

The City of Pleasanton shut down the last of its three existing groundwater wells in November 2022 in response to PFAS levels exceeding regulatory drinking-water limits. The city has since relied on Zone 7, the Tri-Valley's water wholesaler and manager, for the entirety of its water, but it is searching for more cost-effective solutions.

Although the city initially floated a plan to install and operate wellhead treatment systems at a cost of \$46 million, inflation at the time drove that number up by more than 40%, causing the city to pivot toward the construction of new wells, which they believed were outside of the aquifer's contamination plume.

The resulting project, known as the Joint Regional Groundwater Facilities Improvement Project, looks to share between the city and Zone 7 the costs of building and operating up to three new wells at some combination of Pleasanton's Del Prado Park, Tennis and Community Park, and Hansen Park.

Since the project's inception, questions arose on whether pumping in a clean area of the aquifer would draw the PFAS plume toward it, ultimately requiring the costly

treatment systems that the project aims to avoid.

In September 2023, the Zone 7 board authorized an update to its groundwater model, the numerical simulation of how water flows through the various sediment types under the Tri-Valley, to better understand how the new pumps would affect the aquifer.

Criticisms

To gauge the model's reliability, Pleasanton resident, geologist and hydrogeologist Jim Lehrman asked at the meeting for the model to trace the plume's movement back through time, an exercise that the study team did not conduct. He has questioned the existence of a physical barrier, known as the Pleasanton Fault, which the model suggests would help slow the spread of PFAS to the new wells. A recent test well at Hansen Park revealed detectable amounts of a PFAS not simulated by the model at a depth that production wells would not use.

The model also relies on incomplete data on the contamination sources, as they have yet to be determined. The San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board began investigations into probable PFAS sources in 2021. It announced in March high concentrations of PFOS at the Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department training facility on Busch Road, about 750 feet from one of Pleasanton's groundwater wells. Further investigation into

the training center, as well as other potential sources, such as at Livermore Municipal Airport, remain ongoing.

The new groundwater model necessarily omitted this information because it is not yet available, Lehrman told The Independent. Without knowing where and when the plume started, or even if the sources remain active, he found issue with a model that "says it's never going to go another couple of tenths of a mile, even though it's gone six miles already."

Lehrman has advocated for installing treatment facilities at Pleasanton's existing wells, possibly through a Zone 7 partnership, as he thinks the wells' proven production levels and existing infrastructure outweigh the benefits of new wells that would only remain clean for an unknown duration.

The Need for Action

At the meeting, Zone 7 board members praised the level of detail provided by the new model and took its results as a greenlight for the new Pleasanton wells. The board also imparted a sense of urgency stemming from expectations of the next drought.

California's last drought lasted three years, from 2020 to the end of 2022. Zone 7 has yet to supply the whole of Pleasanton with water during a drought period, as the city's own wells previously provided up to 20% of its water during droughts, when the State Water Project scales back surface-water deliveries. With those wells currently

offline, board members expressed the need to diversify its local groundwater sources soon.

"It's important to continue with this model, and it's important to dig those wells," Director Sarah Palmer said. "I know we could continue forever to figure out, and go back in history, and do a little time travel, and figure out how fast stuff moved across the plume — and that would be really interesting information. But it doesn't change the fact that Pleasanton's wells are down. ... We need to think ahead; we need to move ahead."

Director Kathy Narum added, "Those numbers look pretty darn good. Are there going to be some issues? Sure, it's a model; we have to accept that. But it certainly looks like we're headed in the right direction. ... We have to keep moving forward."

Zone 7 General Manager Valerie Pryor said the agency's experience with PFAS treatment serves as a reliable backup plan should the model prove wrong on clean water at the new wells.

"(In the worst-case scenario, where there's PFAS or some contamination, we've got a proven track record in treatment," Pryor said. "With any new well facilities we pursue, we will make sure we leave room for treatment, if needed."

The joint-wells project team plans to complete its feasibility study and return to the Zone 7 board in November with total costs, cost-sharing options and a project timeline.

Dublin Senior Center Will Hold an Info Fair

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

The event will include information booths hosted by local agencies and ser-

vice providers; free health screenings and wellness resources; demonstrations, presentations and giveaways; and opportunities to connect with clubs, volunteer groups and activities at the Senior Center.

Livermore's Jarnac Receives Eagle Badge

Riley Jarnac, the daughter of Dean and Megan Jarnac of Livermore and a member of Troop 2942, received her Eagle badge at a court of honor on Saturday, Sept. 20.

Eagle is the highest rank in the traditional Scouting America program.

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

For her Eagle project, Jarnac Riley led 13 Scouts and adult volunteers in building two storage benches for Valley Humane Society in Pleasanton.



Riley Jarnac

Jarnac, a sophomore at Granada High School, was a founding member of Troop 2942, an all-girl troop sponsored by St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church.

LPC

(Continued from front page)

"success teams" to guiding students throughout their college careers.

The HSI grant, in particular, is aimed toward supporting Hispanic/Latinx and low-income students through helping them identify and follow academic and career pathways.

Some of the grant's first-year activities have included developing and implementing comprehensive student education plans through Degree-Works for Hispanic/Latinx and low-income students, and establishing a Guided Pathways communication system to ensure students receive timely, proactive support throughout their pathway.

With the loss of HSI funding, primarily for Hispanic/Latinx (roughly 28% of students, according to the LPC Spring 2025 Census) and low-income students, along with certain equity and support-service programs, LPC will no longer be able to rely on federal support to help close achievement gaps.

These cuts, though, will impact all students who benefit from the Guided Pathways Program and take advantage of its counseling, tutoring, and support provided through LPC's student success teams.

"Unfortunately, we are not able to replace these federal HSI dollars," Foster said. "While the cuts undermine inclusion and access, we remain committed to advancing access to academic opportunities and ensuring all students have the resources they need to succeed."

As of now, there are no protections that would allow LPC to hold onto its HSI funding. Foster, however, said there are steps the college can take to mitigate the effects internally to protect and continue the implementation of Guided Pathways and its student-success teams.

These would include expanding communication efforts so that students can

continue to receive thorough, consistent support throughout their time at LPC, and maintaining its counseling and student educational planning.

"The college will focus on braiding together funding from various state revenue sources and categorical programs to maintain its investment in Guided Pathways," Foster said. "This includes leveraging initiatives that align with equity, completion and student support to underwrite key components of the Guided Pathways model. The goal is not to sustain Guided Pathways as a standalone initiative, but to embed its core practices into institutional systems across the college. This approach emphasizes synergy and shared purpose across initiatives to maximize existing resources without diminishing the college's breadth of offerings."

Externally, there are members of Congress fighting for the continued investment of Minority-Serving Institutions, including HSI grants. Earlier this month, representative Joaquin Castro of Texas led a group of more than 80 U.S. representatives in sending a letter to the Secretary of Education, urging a reversal of the funding decision.

National organizations such as the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities, the American Council on Education and the American Association of American Colleges are also challenging the cuts. Since the litigation outcomes and timelines remain uncertain, Foster said LPC cannot afford to wait, nor base its operations on contingencies beyond its control.

"We remain committed to our mission," Foster stressed. "Our students will not be left without essential support. Our focus is protecting the student experience and supporting student access, equity and student success."

MUSLIMS

(Continued from front page)

sending a clear message that taxpayer dollars should not fund companies complicit in genocide, mass surveillance or mass incarceration."

Executive Director Zahra Billoo added, "We applaud Dublin for aligning city investments with community safety and human dignity. Our values are clear: protect civil rights, reject profiteering from oppression and keep public funds out of industries that endanger

our communities — at home and abroad."

While the Council did not adopt a formal Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions policy, advocates said the revisions mark an important step toward ethical investment.

CAIR-SFBA's mission is to increase public understanding of Islam, protect civil liberties, promote justice and empower American Muslims.



Approximately 45 students and parents from the STEM Club at Livermore's St. Michael School received a Sept. 27 tour of Livermore Municipal Airport from the local Experimental Aviation Association chapter. The tour featured two youth aircraft-build programs, several locally built award-winning aircraft and a pancake breakfast. (Photo — Socorro Painter)

HUSTON

(Continued from front page)

they were allowed to walk the two miles from home to the Vine.

"I would walk downtown and see whatever matinee was showing," Huston said. "And because the Vine was a second-run theater, any

of their screenplay "Caught Stealing," based on Huston's novel of the same name.

The Columbia Pictures film was produced and directed by American filmmaker Darren Aronofsky and features Hollywood actor

al world," Huston continued. "Where he lives. How he lives. Where he is in his life. And all of the kinds of characters that are a part of his normal life at the start of the movie. That's all very much me. And that's all very much

POPULATION

(Continued from front page)

Beyond its Housing Element, the City of Livermore is also currently in the process of updating its General Plan, the overarching document that will guide city decisions on topics such as land use, infrastructure and economic development through 2045. Discussions among the General Plan Advisory Committee community group over the past few years have questioned what population levels it should plan for over the next 20 years, with different models ranging from a 10% decrease to a 60% increase.

Last month's ACS numbers resurfaced questions on how realistic the Department of Finance's population projections are. Those estimate 1.9 million additional people in the state by 2040.

Livermore's Housing Element, for example, assumed annual population growth of 0.7% beginning in 2020,

reaching 104,300 people in 2040.

"Livermore's General Plan update process, and more specifically its population and housing projections, was based on the assumption that California's population, and therefore Livermore's population, would continue growing significantly," said Dick Schneider, co-author of the county's Save Agriculture and Open Space Lands Initiative in 2000. "That assumption has not materialized. In fact, Livermore's population has actually declined, albeit slightly, for the last five years. The significant overestimate of Livermore's future population has important implications for how much land within the city must be devoted to new housing development and therefore become unavailable for commercial, or light-industrial, or other types of uses."

The 2000 initiative established the county's urban growth boundary to encourage infill urban development and protect the open space areas surrounding the Tri-Valley cities.

The most populous state in the country, California grew dramatically during the last half of the 20th century, more than tripling its population to 34 million by 2000. Following the turn of the century, growth slowed and then declined during the four years following the COVID-19 pandemic, driven by residents moving away, fewer births, more deaths and lower international migration.

On Dec. 11, the U.S. Census Bureau is due to release ACS five-year estimates spanning from 2020 to 2024, including broad social, economic, housing and demographic comparisons across years.



Charlie Huston's novel, "Caught Stealing," was recently made into a major motion picture produced and directed by American filmmaker Darren Aronofsky. Huston's hometown movie theater, The Vine Cinema in Livermore, played the film that is now being shown in movie houses nationwide. (Photo courtesy of Don Huston)

new movies always got there much later."

So, Huston was weaned on 1960s and '70s movie classics such as "Take the Money and Run" and the Three and Four Musketeers movies, among others of that ilk.

"Just all this great stuff was there back then, and these were G and PG-(rated) movies," Huston said. "But I remember when I saw 'Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid,' and I was probably like 7 at the most when I saw it. The end of that movie, when they freeze-frame and you're like, 'Wait a minute; did they just get killed?' I was just so unsettled, but I think I was moved so deeply, and I was surprised so much that it kind of became part of my storytelling DNA. Which I think is really rooted in '70s moviemaking."

Those early movie influences can be felt in Huston's latest achievement, the black-comedy crime thriller adaptation

Austin Butler as a former star baseball player in the late '90s whose life as a bartender in the lower East Side of Manhattan has fallen into a bit of a depressive rut. To complicate matters, he unwittingly becomes entangled with New York City's criminal underworld while pet sitting for his neighbor.

There are some similarities between Huston and the film's main character.

"Austin's character is a bartender in New York but is a San Francisco Giants fan from a small town in Northern California. And he's around 30 and wants more from his life than he has, but he doesn't know how to do it. All this stuff was me," Huston said.

There are also some major differences.

"I mean, he's totally based on who I was, except that he's a stud, right? And I was not a stud," Huston said, laughing.

"It's more like his person-

where I was in my life. Once the guns appear and the car chases start ... no, that's just me inventing stuff."

Huston certainly had plenty of fodder to choose from beyond his time in Livermore.

"I couldn't wait to get out," they said. "I was desperate to be somewhere else, anywhere else."

There was a lot of "start-stopping" before becoming a full-time writer.

"I did lots of other things," said Huston, who experienced stints as a New York actor, restaurant manager and part of a tech startup before landing a run writing for TV that "was professionally successful, but personally, just not my world."

So, a couple of years ago, they got back to their roots.

"I acknowledged what I'd been in denial about for a long time," Huston said. "I didn't grow up wanting to be a TV writer. I grew up wanting to write books and movies.

I loved books and movies."

Flash forward to seeing their novel adapted to the big screen.

In what Huston describes as "a grateful circle," they spent five months filming in New York, just blocks from where they had written the book in their early youth.

"So, there we are shooting right on the street where I lived, around the corner from the bar where I worked. It was a surreal experience," Huston said.

Equally surreal was when Huston's parents sent a recent photo of the front of the Vine Cinema, where the movie was showing.

"And now the movie played in the movie theater that I used to walk to," Huston said. "My favorite part: 'Caught Stealing' is on the marquee and then (shown) below that is 'Taylor Swift Party Next Weekend' or something like that. I'm like, 'Cool. Not

only am I on the marquee, but I'm sharing it with Taylor. This is awesome."

Released in theaters world-

wide on Aug. 29, the film is being widely shown in movie houses throughout the Bay Area and across the country.



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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>

Dublin Resident Competes for a Good Cause To Become ‘Face of Halloween,’ Help Starlight Children’s Foundation

By Christina Cavallaro

DUBLIN — Terra Jarvis, a Dublin resident, is passionate about improving the health and care of children. She’s also passionate about Halloween. This month, she’s combining the two as part of a nationwide fundraising campaign that celebrates Halloween with heart.

Jarvis is currently competing in Colossal’s annual “Face of Halloween” competition, established in 2018. Colossal is a nationally registered professional fundraising company that operates the competition. Contestants are helping raise funds and awareness for the Starlight Children’s Foundation, which aims to deliver happiness to seriously ill kids and their families through toy deliveries, fun hospital wear, gaming and more.

Last year’s event raised more than \$2 million for the charity.

It’s Jarvis’s first year participating, and the competition is fierce, but fun, she explained.

“Basically, it’s people that really love Halloween,” she said. “Not just people that decide to do it just to do it. It’s actually authentic people that truly have always loved Halloween.”

And Jarvis was a shoe-in to make the cut for entry. She said she started watch-

ing “Fright Night” at 6 years old.

“I loved the stories and characters so much,” she said.

Jarvis read her first Stephen King book, “IT,” while in middle school. By the time she was a teen, she was a subscriber to all the horror special effects magazines of the time.

“My family loves Halloween,” Jarvis said. “My mother loved Halloween. She would always make us costumes. So, we’re a family of Halloween lovers. It’s our favorite holiday, and then second is Christmas. We’re very into Halloween, so that was kind of the draw (to enter).”

And the stakes are high. Participants are vying for a chance to fly to Los Angeles and meet the sponsors — horror legends Jamie Lee Curtis (“Halloween”), Matthew Lillard (Scream”) and Kane Hodder (“Friday the 13th”) — and be featured in Rue Morgue magazine. There’s also a \$13,000 cash prize on the line.

Jarvis said she’s not in it for the money, though.

“Even if I don’t make it to the end, whatever money that I’ve raised for this organization is all that matters,” she said. “Because in the end, it’s all about the kids. They need us. They need us to help them, to kind of come in and fill those gaps, because they can’t help themselves,

especially when they’re sick.”

Unfortunately, Jarvis experienced first-hand the terror of having a sick child when her own daughter

would not be harmful to her child. Instead, she found herself in the emergency room as medics worked to save her infant daughter, whose heartbeat had slowed



Dublin resident Terra Jarvis transforms into a werewolf, one of her many spooky disguises. She is turning her love for Halloween into dollars for charity and hoping to become the 2025 national “Face of Halloween.” (Photo courtesy of Terra Jarvis)

was just a newborn. Jarvis had wrongly been told by doctors following an emergency C-section that taking codeine for post-op pain

to a near-fatal rate from the effects of the opioid medication she’d ingested through her mother’s breast milk.

said. “This week, the assignment is to do something really kind of horrific and scary where your face is kind of peeling or maybe your throat looks like it’s open.”

She’s hoping she can maintain her lead and win the whole thing.

“You get 13,000 (dollars), and after taxes, it’s going to be a lot less than that,” Jarvis said. “So, it’s kind of just a fun little bonus. I’m really in it for this organization. This is really a great platform to bring people together for the same common cause. And I really think it’s important.”

If she does win, Jarvis is planning to give half the money to her favorite organization, Our Rescue, whose mission is to end child trafficking.

For now, she’s having a good time sharing her favorite holiday with other Halloweenophiles.

“It’s not like, ‘Oh, this is weird,’” she said. “It’s like, ‘Oh, I watch scary movies.’ This is a part of my tribe. This is a part of who I am. And they say your vibe attracts your tribe.”

To follow Jarvis’s journey to becoming the Face of Halloween or to cast a vote, visit faceofhalloween.org/2025/terra-jarvis

First Tee Tri-Valley Holding Fundraiser

First Tee Tri-Valley, a nonprofit program for young golfers, will host a “Fore the Kids” fundraiser at the Pleasanton Golf Center on Friday, Oct. 3, followed by a Fun Day Junior Golf four-some scramble on Sunday, Oct. 19.

While the fundraiser is for adult golfers, and almost sold out, according to Executive Director Brian

Amador, the scramble is a junior event organized and run by young golfers in the First Tee program.

First Tee is a nationwide development program for kids from 5 to 18.

In addition to golf, the program focuses on building life skills, such as character, confidence and resilience.

For more information, go to firstteetrivalley.org.

Pleasanton’s Sidetrack Hosts BBQ ‘SmokeFest’

The SideTrack Bar + Grill in Pleasanton will host a daylong “SmokeFest” on Sunday, Oct. 19, with its signature barbecue meats and side dishes, wine tasting, and entertainment provided by Pleasanton-born singer Maddy Hudson and the Bell Brothers Band.

The outdoor SmokeFest, under a tent in the restaurant’s parking lot at 30 W. Angela St., will also include Singo (singing bingo) games, line dancing and the Two Hat Chicks selling custom-made cowboy hats.

The menu will include baby back ribs, brisket, tri-tip, chicken and sausage,

with beer, wine and specialty cocktails available. Livermore’s Cuda Ridge, Mitchell Katz and Steven Kent wineries will offer complimentary wine tasting.

Hudson, who made her debut on American Idol in 2015, will take the stage at 12:30 p.m., followed by country music-inspired Singo games throughout the afternoon. Line dancing will start at 4 p.m., with the Bell Brothers taking the stage at 5 p.m.

Admission is free until 4 p.m., after which there will be a \$5 cover charge. Food and drink tickets will be available at the door.



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TRI-VALLEY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Thursdays, Oct. 2, 9, 16, and 23
GRIEF WORKSHOP

The death of a loved one is unlike any other loss. Although there is no right or wrong path, there are stepping stones that are part of each grief journey which will be explored in this workshop. Held at St. Elizabeth Seton Church, 4001 Stoneridge Dr., in Pleasanton at 7 p.m. Space is limited, pre-registration is required. \$20 donation is requested. For more information, please call Barbara at 925-846-3904.

Saturdays, Oct. 4 and 11
VEGETABLE GARDENING FOR BEGINNERS COURSE

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

Saturday, Oct. 4
TRI-VALLEY TEXAS HOLD’EM TOURNAMENT

CEI Foundation’s Tri-Valley Texas Hold’em Tournament is back! Proceeds benefit memory and dementia care programs at the Center for Elders’ Independence and mental health grants for seniors through Three Valleys Community Foundation. With every ticket, donation, and drink sale, you can help make a powerful difference! On Oct. 4 at 5 p.m. at Roundhouse Marketplace in San Ramon. See givebutter.com/4F4Z24

Saturday, Oct. 4
EXPLORE OHLONE CULTURE

Join naturalists from East Bay Regional Park District to explore the history and experience of the Ohlone, the more than two dozen tribes to first call the San Francisco Bay Area home. This program will provide an introduction to parts of Ohlone culture, their connection to the land and to its resources. Learn a traditional skill that is still in use today. This program is geared to adults and teens. At the Dublin Library, 200 Civic Plaza, on Oct. 4 from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Saturday, Oct. 4
GRAVEYARD GROOVES: A SPOOKY HALLOWEEN SPECTACULAR

Get ready for a spine-tingling night of fun at Graveyard Grooves, a Halloween Jukebox Musical Fundraiser, presented by Royal Theater Academy and the City of Dublin. Performers aged 7+ bring the best in Broadway tunes, musical films, and haunting Halloween pop culture in a concert-style showcase. With a light narrative weaving the songs together, this event skips fancy sets and costumes and focuses on what matters most — song, story, and chills for a cause. All proceeds help expand RTA’s Audio Technology Collection. At Dublin High School Center for Performing Arts and Education, 8151 Village Parkway, on Oct. 4, from 2 to 3:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Oct. 8
TRI-VALLEY RAINBOW NIGHT

Celebrate Livermore Pride and National Coming Out Day with an evening of true stories told live. Bring a story from your own life, or just come listen to the brave storytellers. Tri-Valley Rainbow Night is a monthly gathering for LGBTQ+ folks and allies on the first Wednesday of every month. At Swirl Wine Bar in Livermore, 6-9 p.m. Come for the good vibes and genuine community connection.

Thursday, Oct. 9
LIVERMORE AMADOR VALLEY GARDEN CLUB MEETING

The October Garden Club meeting speaker, Lori Caldwell, will be teaching techniques for building healthy soil. This will help with water retention, increased nutrition, higher yields and blooms for our gardens. On Oct. 9 from 6 to 8 p.m. at Crosswinds Church, 1660 Freisman Rd., Livermore, at the red Farm Theater Building.

Friday, Oct. 17
3RD ANNUAL ROADRUNNER RUN

Marilyn Avenue STEAM Academy PTO will be hosting the 3rd Annual Roadrunner Run — a school-wide, community-focused fundraiser that supports educational enrichment and STEAM programming for our Title I school. Students will be running through clouds of vibrant color powder in a joyful celebration of learning, movement, and school spirit. The Community Health and Education Foundation (CHEF) will match every donation made in August by 50% through the campaign page: cheffgivingcommunity.org/BrightFutures/

Sunday, Oct. 19
SMOKEFEST BBQ CELEBRATION

Downtown Pleasanton’s SideTrack Bar + Grill presents SmokeFest, a

Jarvis’ daughter is now a healthy 34-year-old, with a child of her own, but Jarvis still remembers her feelings of fear and helplessness, and empathizes with the parents of gravely ill children.

“It was very stressful to have my child ... and not know what’s going on and not be able to help,” she said. “Because as a parent, when your child falls and gets a scrape, you can pick them up and say, ‘Oh, let’s go get a Band-Aid. Let’s clean that up.’ But when a child has something that’s out of your grasp and you can’t really do anything to make it better ... That’s why this is so important to me.”

So, Jarvis is giving it her all in the competitive rounds that began at the end of September and will conclude Oct. 30, when a public vote determines the winner.

Participants are divided into groups each round of the elimination process and garner popularity through social-media campaigns of their own doing, with guidance provided by event organizers. Voting takes place through the competition’s website. Jarvis is currently in first place in her group.

“I’m so excited!” she

day-long celebration of BBQ on Oct. 19. SmokeFest invites guests to enjoy its signature BBQ fare with a full day, country western-inspired celebration including live entertainment from Maddy Hudson, The Bell Brothers, wine tasting from Livermore’s Cuda Ridge, Mitchell Katz and Steven Kent wineries, games and line dancing! From noon until 8 p.m. in the restaurant’s tented parking lot at SideTrack Bar + Grill, 30 West Angela St., Pleasanton. SmokeFest is free to attend with food and drink tickets available at the door; a cover charge of \$5 applies after 4 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 25
DRESS A GIRL AROUND THE WORLD

Make simple dresses for girls in third world countries! The next monthly Sew-Fest is on Oct. 25, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 1020 Mocho St., Livermore. Bring your sewing machine or serger, iron, ironing board, scissors, along with your helping hands. Come for an hour or all day! (Please bring a bag lunch if you plan to stay all day.) Cheerful cotton fabric donations are always welcome. Contact Suzanne Beck, 925-352-8447, or suzbeck@yahoo.com for questions or kits that you can sew from home.

Saturday, Oct. 25
FLOATING PUMPKIN PATCH

Float in and find the perfect pumpkin at the City of Dublin’s Floating Pumpkin Patch. There will be swimming, pumpkin decorating, games, and more! Each registered participant is allowed two spectators. At The Wave Waterpark, 4201 Central Parkway, in Dublin, from 1:30 to 6:30 (session one: 1:30-3:30 p.m.; session two: 4:30-6:30 p.m.) Pre-registration ends Oct. 21 to receive a pumpkin. One pumpkin per paid registrant. \$20 for residents; \$24 for non-residents. Go to dublin.ca.gov/calendar to find registration info.

ONGOING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES
LIVERMORE HISTORYMOBILE

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

QUEST SCIENCE CENTER

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

CANTABELLA CHILDREN’S CHORUS

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

ONGOING EVENTS
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

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

THURSDAY DUBLIN FARMERS MARKET

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

SATURDAY PLEASANTON FARMERS MARKET

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

SUNDAY LIVERMORE DOWNTOWN FARMERS MARKET

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

WINGS- WOMEN IN GOD’S SPIRIT

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

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

SPARC Offers Second Round of Introductory Improv Classes

The Shakespeare & Performing Arts Regional Company (SPARC) will offer a second series of six introductory workshops in improvisational theater for adults starting Wednesday, Oct. 8.

The first series of Level 2 workshops on long-form narrative improv begins on Thursday, Oct. 16.

The Level 1 introduction program consists of six

weekly classes.

The Level 2 program consists of eight weekly classes.

The classes are taught by Mark Duncanson, a veteran of the BATS Improv company in San Francisco and a former recreation supervisor at the Firehouse Arts Center in Pleasanton where he created the teen improv troupe Creatures of Impulse.

“The way I teach improv is not about learning how to be funny, but learning how to say ‘yes, and ...,’ Duncanson said, “supporting one another, building trust and communicating through active listening.”

Livermore writer Amy Pittel, who recently completed the inaugural series of introductory workshops, called Duncanson “a fantastic teacher.”

“He made every class fun and fresh, giving us a safe, nonjudgmental space to explore the world of improv and build new skills,” Pittel said. “As adults, we don't often get to play this way, and I found the hours I spent in his class a great way to get out of my head and let go of the day's stress.”

The cost of the introductory series of six workshops

is \$191. The cost of the eight Level 2 workshops is \$267.

SPARC will also offer an advanced-level improv class in March.

All classes will be at the SPARC Studio at 2172 Railroad Ave. in Livermore and run from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Founded in 2002, SPARC produces the annual Shakespeare in the Vineyard summer performances

in Livermore. To register, or for more information, go to sparctheater.org.

The nonprofit community theater organization also presents in-class productions for second graders in Livermore, hosts a two-week summer camp for students in grades 3-8, offers programs at local high schools and colleges, and teaches adult education classes at libraries.

Public Can Vote on Western Novel for Reading Program

The public can help the Livermore Public Library decide which novel to feature for its next Livermore Reads Together program by voting for one of six possible Western-themed titles.

The library said its community reading program next year will explore the spirit of the American frontier, and the book selected will be used as the

foundation for a series of programs, events and discussions designed to engage readers of all ages and celebrate the enduring stories of the American West.

The nominated books are “A Lantern in Her Hand” by Bess Streeter Aldrich, “My Antonia” by Willa Cather, “Upright Women Wanted” by Sarah

Gailey, “The Bullet Swallower” by Elizabeth Gonzalez James, “Silver Lies” by Ann Parker and “True Grit” by Charles Portis.

The community can vote online at surveymonkey.com/r/9QCZ65J or by submitting a paper ballot at any Livermore Public Library location. Voting ends on Friday, Oct. 31.

College Offers Free Catalytic Converter ID Etching

In partnership with Livermore Police, the Las Positas College Automotive Department will be etching license plate numbers on vehicle catalytic converters from 8 a.m. to noon on Tuesday, Oct. 7, to help deter theft and make stolen parts easier to trace.

The etching, done at the Livermore college's on-campus Automotive Center, 3000 Campus Hill Dr., is free and no appointments are necessary. All vehicles in line by noon will receive the etching service.

Quest Science Center Will Host Outdoor ‘Engineering for All’ Event

The Quest Science Center will host a free outdoor experience highlighting the connection between engineering and manufacturing at Stockmen's Park in downtown Livermore from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 4.

Quest said the Science@Stockmen's Park event would include more than 20 hands-on activities suitable for all ages.

Dubbed “Engineering for All,” the event is being held in conjunction with National Manufacturing Day, sponsored by the U.S. Census

Bureau to recognize and promote the American manufacturing and its importance in driving innovation and economic growth.

Local partners working with Quest Science Center include Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, Sandia National Laboratories, The Clorox Company, Stanford Health Care, GILLIG, Livermore Area Recreation and Park District, the American Association of University Women, Zone 7 Water Agency, East Bay Regional Park

District, Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers, Livermore Public Library, La Familia, Livermore Flying Electronics, Code Ninjas, Tri-Valley Air Quality Climate Alliance, The Gentlemen Initiative, and several high school robotics clubs.

This is a drop-in event and registration is not required.

Quest said it should take at least an hour to complete all the activities and Spanish speaking volunteers will be available to answer questions.

For more information, go to quest-science.org.

Habitat for Humanity Holding Annual Cycle of Hope Fundraiser in Dublin

Habitat for Humanity East Bay/Silicon Valley will host its eighth annual Cycle of Hope fundraiser on Sunday, Oct. 19, with hundreds of cyclists, from toddlers on tricycles to elite riders taking on the Metric Century, expected to participate.

Riders will leave from the Dublin headquarters of Patelco

Credit Union at 3 Park Place. Metric Century riders, looking to complete the full 100-kilometer route, will leave at 7:30 a.m.

There will also be a 13-mile and 33-mile route and an off-street Kids' Ride for those 10 and under.

Riders will also be able

to participate virtually now through Oct. 19.

There will also be family friendly activities, including bounce houses, face painting, a helmet-decorating station, games, food and music.

For more information, or to register, go to HabitatCycleOfHope.org.

Livermore Students Headed to Japan

A group of 20 eighth graders will leave this weekend on a two-week visit to Japan as part of Livermore's sister-city relationship with Yotsukaido.

Livermore formed a sister-city relationship with Yotsukaido in 1977.

The Livermore Yotsukaido Sister City Organization (LYSCO) launched the middle school exchange program in 2001, with students from Yotsukaido visiting Livermore in March and students from

Livermore visiting Japan in October.

The Livermore students will be staying with a Japanese family and will be attending school with a student from their host family. Although most of the Japanese students are learning English, the Livermore eighth graders have been learning key words and phrases in Japanese to help them communicate.

Five parent chaperones and eight LYSCO delegates

are accompanying the students to Japan.

Yotsukaido, a city of about 100,000, is just 30 miles from Tokyo, and the Livermore students will also spend time sightseeing and learning about the region.

The exchange program is open to all Livermore students, who must apply during seventh grade.

For more information, go to ly스코.org.wordpress.com or email ly스코2014@gmail.com.

Annual Spirit Run Set for Pleasanton

The Rotary Club of Pleasanton will host its 32nd annual 5K and 10K Halloween Spirit Run on Sunday, Oct. 26.

The Halloween Spirit Run is the Rotary Club's largest fundraiser, with the proceeds helping fund scholarships for Pleasanton students and other Rotary service projects.

The Rotary Club said it has

awarded more than \$1 million in scholarships and community grants since 1993.

The 5K and 10K races will get underway at 8:30 a.m. There will be a Kid's Challenge quarter mile and 100-yard dash at 10 a.m. for children 10 and under.

The start and finish lines for the races will be 652

Main St.

To register online, go to spiritrun.pleasantonrotary.org.

Runners can also register at Fleet Feet, 234 Main St., from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 25, or from 7 a.m. to 8:15 a.m. in the parking lot adjacent to the Workbench True Value Hardware the day of the race.

OBITUARIES

Margaret Susan Dentici Feb. 9, 1937 — Sept. 15, 2025



Dentici, Margaret Susan (Chancy), beloved wife, mother, grandmother, aunt and friend, passed away on Monday, Sept. 15, 2025, at the age of 88. Born in Russell, Kansas, on Feb. 9, 1937, Margaret moved to California in 1951. She graduated from Livermore High School in 1955. After graduating, Margaret moved on to work for Bank of America for 36 years, retiring in 1991. After retirement, Margaret traveled to Europe, Alaska, China, Australia and New Zealand. She and her husband Louis traveled in their RV across the United States before settling in Livermore in 2012.

Throughout her life, Margaret was a source of unwavering love, strength and guidance to her family and friends and will always be remembered by

those who knew her best. She was a loving and caring person, always thinking of others first. She loved to bake and cook. She loved God and shared her faith with others.

Preceded in death by her parents Earl and Susan Chancy, her brother Paul Chancy and

sister Corlene Steinle, Margaret is survived by her husband of 36 years, Louis Dentici, brother Joe Chancy, sister Marlene Coronado, her daughter Deborah McFain (Roger), grandchildren Jessica Sweeten and Clayton Parks, great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

Her legacy will live through the memories we shared, the values she instilled in us, and the love she gave. We take solace in knowing that she is now in heaven, reunited with the loved ones who have gone before her.

Private funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. at St. Michael's Catholic church. Burial to follow at St. Michael's cemetery.

Rest in peace, you will forever be our guiding light.

Joyce Ann Gels Jan. 22, 1933 — Sept. 23, 2025



Our mom passed away peacefully at home, with her children by her side, at 92 years of age, of natural causes. Born Joyce Ann Tester in New Weston, Ohio, to Clyde and Velma Tester, she was the youngest of three children. She married our dad, Kenneth Edward Gels, (June 22, 1931 — Nov. 25, 2017) on Aug. 16, 1958. They lived in Dayton, Ohio, and had their son David Gels. Later they moved to Albuquerque, New Mexico, and had their son Michael Gels and their daughter Jean Gels Heise. They moved to Livermore, California in 1968 and remained in their home here.

Our parents have been active members of St. Michael's Catholic Church since 1968. They really enjoyed the many activities, parties, short and long trips with the Knights of Columbus and The Fourth Degree and the monthly luncheon and trips

with the Golden Friends. They also really enjoyed traveling to Ohio to see their families and friends, exploring other states and taking cruises to different countries.

Our mom had a full life and loved being a wife and a mom to the three of us, and a grandma to Daniel Heise,

Jenna Heise Bidwell and Bryan Bidwell, and Kenny Gels, and a great-grandma. There are so many wonderful memories of family parties, school activities and spending time together. She had so much fun at her weekly hair appointments and eating lunch out. She really liked reading, watching birds and squirrels in her backyard. Her friendly, warm smile radiated her loving ways. We know our mom is in Heaven with our dad and many family and friends who have predeceased her.

A viewing will be held Wednesday, Oct. 1 at 10:00 a.m. at St. Michael's Catholic Church followed by Mass at 11:00 a.m. and burial at St. Michael's Cemetery at noon. In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to the City of Livermore Public Library Literacy Services or your favorite charity.

Roberta (Bert) Margaret Bonner June 19, 1935 — Sept. 15, 2025



Roberta passed away peacefully at the age of 90, Monday, Sept. 15, in Livermore at her home at Heritage Estates. She was born in Oakland, California, and grew up in Dublin and later in Oakland. Roberta worked for several years at Livermore High School in both the music department and the attendance department.

She is survived by her sons and daughters-in-law, Randal and Janet, Paul and Kerri. She is also survived by her sister Lila. She has six grandchildren: Chad (Maria), Nicole (Chris), Jessica, Kevin, Evan, Laura (Justin). She has three great-grandchildren: Alan, Jameson and Evelyn. She also has many nieces and nephews in California and Mississippi.

She was preceded in death by her husband Nolan (Bob). Bob

and Roberta were married 55 years before he passed away in 2019. She was preceded in death by her father Rudolph, mother Margaret, brother Richard, sister-in-law Sylvia, brother-in-law Daniel.

Roberta loved all of the hol-

idays when she could be surrounded by family. She enjoyed traveling by sea, air and travel trailer, even though she didn't like flying and didn't swim. She was a constant presence with her children and grandchildren growing up; scorekeeper, den mother and cheer leader. She loved her family that she had come to know at Heritage Estates where she was living.

Remembrances can be made to your favorite charity of your choice.

Services will be held on Saturday, Oct. 18, at 2:00 p.m. at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 1020 Mocho St., Livermore. A reception will be held at Heritage Estates, 850 E. Stanley Blvd., Livermore, California, in the Activities room.

Judith (Judy) Anne Wright July 1, 1936 — July 14, 2025



Judith Anne Wright, of Livermore, passed away peacefully at home, on July 14, 2025.

Judy was the kind of woman who made friends wherever she went, the kind of friendships that last a lifetime. Judy loved to entertain, she especially enjoyed hosting dinner parties. She would always go the extra mile, always thinking ahead. Her sense of style, humor, and unwavering spirit left an imprint on everyone who knew her.

She is survived by her son and daughter-in-law, Christopher and Annette Wright, her grandson, Adam (Melissa) Wright, great-grandson, Eddie

Mac Wright, granddaughter, Amanda (Samuel) Huebert, great-grandsons, Dustin James

and Landon Evan Huebert. She was preceded in death by her husband of 51 years, Edwin Wright, and her son Fritz Wright.

A celebration of Judy's life will be held on Oct. 10, 2025, at 11 a.m. at Blackhawk Country Club, Danville. Family and friends are invited to gather, share stories, and remember a woman whose life was full of determination and wit. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Tunnel of Towers.

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

Resurgent Granada Boys Water Polo Squad Making Tremendous Strides Under First-Year Coach Sridhar

Collection of Talented Players, Team Chemistry Leading to Success in the Pool and Better Performance in the Classroom

By Mitch Stephens

LIVERMORE — The sport of water polo — with all its whistles and underwater action — is foreign to most high school sports fans.

What is known around these parts is that the communities of Pleasanton (Amador Valley and Foothill high schools) and Danville (San Ramon Valley and Monte Vista) typically dominate the sport in the East Bay Athletic League.

First-year Granada coach Danush Sridhar and his Matadors, however, have dived in headfirst to buck that notion.

The 26-year-old has used an old-school approach, applicable to any sport — mainstream or not — to make a huge splash in the tightly knit water polo community with a sterling 9-3 start heading into a 6 p.m. Oct. 2 EBAL tilt at perennial power Foothill.

With a pair of stellar goalkeepers and a trio of dynamic co-captains, the Matadors have exactly doubled up on their opponents through 12 matches, with 188 total goals for, against 94 allowed.

Even matches the Matadors have lost, to Newark Memorial (10-9) and Amador Valley (12-11), were largely deemed victorious, considering that Granada lost last season by scores of 14-6 and 23-5, respectively.

Since reaching the North Coast Section playoffs in

2017 — that team went 12-13 — the Matadors entered 2025 with a combined record of 35-78. But that’s all in the rear-view mirror.

“It’s been especially fun

“Their record is a reflection of the hard work and dedication the team has put forth,” she said. “With our new head coach, there is a new energy and focus from

by the fast start because he’s familiar with the talent he inherited.

Before taking over for longtime coach Johnathan Newkirk, Sridhar coached

individual players into the pool, we were seeking a true team, a group with a high level of dedication and discipline to bring it all together.” The Matadors bought in

the team in assists (27) and was second in steals (31).

“I’ve coached Kaden since he was 14,” Sridhar said. “He’s always been fun, jovial, never takes anything overly serious. Even in tough situations, he’s always smiling and boosting morale.”

Berg, a versatile utility player and attacker, is largely the team’s No. 2 attack threat. He’s tied with junior Asher Steele for second on the team with 26 goals, to go along with 17 assists and 19 steals.

“Very motivated, great guy,” Sridhar said of Berg. “We set a lot of picks for him to take a lot of shots. He delivers.”

So does the team’s top player and college prospect, Woodward, a powerful hole set who leads the team with 64 goals to go with 20 assists and 24 steals. He scored at least five goals in nine of the team’s first 11 matches, with a high of eight in a 19-7 win over Dublin.

“Very strong, very agile,” Sridhar said. “He’s a great athlete, very motivated and leads the team in terms of aggressiveness. His attitude and love for the sport and for teammates set the tone for us.”

The defensive tone is set by junior Bryce Rivera, whose speed and ability to get to loose balls is uncanny. His 63 steals lead the team by a wide margin, and Sridhar believes he’s won every sprint-off to start a match.

“His hip action in the pool allows him to get the ball quicker than anyone else,” Sridhar said. “He’s just an amazing defender.”

That helps take the load off the team’s goalie tandem of Sam Nicholson and Dylan Bell, both juniors. Nicholson’s quick reaction time has led to 124 saves, while Bell, a middle blocker on the volleyball team, uses his length to force wayward shots. He has 84 saves.

The two, who have allowed fewer than 10 goals in every win, alternate play each quarter, keeping opponents off balance.

“Both are amazing goalies, and it’s a big luxury to have two,” Sridhar said.



Granada water polo co-captain Kaden Temores takes a shot during a 14-9 victory over Heritage-Brentwood on Sept. 3 in Livermore. (Photo — Bob Bronzan, Livermore-Granada Boosters)

and rewarding to see Livermore recognized as a water polo town,” Sridhar said.

Eileen Greenlaw, Granada’s athletic director, said students and faculty have noticed a new charge and confidence around the program.

the players, and it’s clear their teamwork is producing results. The whole campus is proud of all of them.”

Sridhar, a former player at Cupertino High, Las Positas College and San Jose State, said he’s not surprised

all 13 varsity players at the club level (Tri-Valley Water Polo Club) with Las Positas coach Nathan Brandon. He also watched their progression while serving as an assistant the past two seasons at Dublin and Livermore.

Sridhar helped coach the Granada swim team in the spring, when he applied for the water polo opening, and was named coach in June. Sridhar, a data scientist by trade, and assistant Robert Kathan, an on-campus science teacher, immediately developed a plan to turn around the program.

Predictably, team chemistry was building at the forefront.

“Every successful team I’ve been on or witnessed centers around getting along, working together, bonding and being accountable to one another,” Sridhar said. “We knew these young men had a lot of individual talent and skills. But rather than throwing a bunch of good

immediately, not only for early morning workouts and weight training, but also in the classroom. Beyond returning to the NCS playoffs — the top 36 teams make it (four in the Open Division and 16 each in D1 and D2) — Sridhar set a goal for every player to carry a 3.0 grade point average.

“If one of our guys is struggling in the classroom, another will help tutor,” he said. “It’s an amazing group of young men and talented players. They’ve developed and progressed, and every game we’ve had someone different step up.”

Three who always seem to stand out are senior co-captains Kaden Temores, Nate Berg and Mason Woodward.

Temores runs the show for the Matadors, like a point guard in basketball or a quarterback in football, according to Sridhar. Temores is also the team’s critical hole-set defender. In Granada’s first 11 matches, he led



Tough Football Tests Await

By Mitch Stephens

TRI-VALLEY — One of the more challenging regular-season moments for local high school football squads figures to arrive Oct. 3, with pairings against opponents from the East Bay Athletic League’s rugged Mountain Division.

Granada (3-2) and Livermore (5-0), coming off big wins last week, get two of the East Bay’s top programs, San Ramon Valley-Danville (3-2) and California-San Ramon (5-0), respectively. Dublin (3-2), meanwhile, plays at Amador Valley (1-4).

Foothill (3-2) was scheduled to host Dougherty Valley-San Ramon, but the Wildcats pulled the plug on their league season due to lack of players. Foothill replaced the game with a home contest versus Newark Memorial (0-4).

All games are scheduled for 7:15 p.m. Granada coach Brandon Black called his team’s 38-21 win Sept. 26 at previously unbeaten Las Lomas-Walnut Creek the best of the season.

Sophomore quarterback Ben Warner, just called up from the junior varsity, “managed the game flawlessly” and completed 16 of 22 passes for 185 yards and two touchdowns, both to Ethan Mitchell. Sophomore running back Skyler Stuart rushed 19 times for 133 yards and a score, and returned the opening kickoff 96 yards for another touchdown. Shamus McGrail led the team with seven tackles, Cody Phillips and Damien Miles added interceptions, and Nico Aumua, Owen Payne and Mitchell contributed sacks.

The defending EBAL Valley Division champs now get the defending Mountain Division winner in San Ramon Valley, which has eight straight wins in the series. Granada’s most recent win was 21-0 in 2010.

“Can’t spend much time to enjoy the win because now we get one of the most storied programs in the Bay Area,” said Black, whose team has played much of the season without its top all-around player, Jeff Badger, who has been out with a broken foot.

“We’ll have to build off (the Las Lomas win) to compete with these guys,” Black said.

Livermore remained unbeaten last week with a 27-14 road victory over winless Heritage-Brentwood by scoring two unanswered touchdowns in the fourth quarter. Matteo Lortie passed for 202 yards and two touchdowns, CT Harper had six catches for 117 yards and Caden Romero rushed 10 times for 80 yards.

The Cowboys now visit a California squad that figured to struggle with the transfer of Fresno State-bound running back Jhadis Luckey and graduation of four All-EBAL

offensive linemen, but has instead pulled out five close games, including 28-20 last week over Oakland power McClymonds.

Amador Valley, the only local EBAL Mountain Division squad, won its first game with a resounding 49-25 home victory over Foothill thanks to a monstrous game from senior running back Vincent Malorana. He rushed for 330 yards and six touchdowns, including two 47-yard runs. Foothill hung tough behind junior quarterbacks Gavin Brown and Andrew Nelson, who completed 19 passes to seven different receivers, including seven to Max Shuga (seven catches, 87 yards, one touchdown).

The remarkable senior season of Dublin running back Andre Armendariz continued when the 6-foot, 195-pounder rushed 24 times for 238 yards and four touchdowns in a 42-20 home win over Freedom-Oakley. Malachi Smith, a sophomore, and Tyler Gray each had 12 tackles for the Gaels.

Girls volleyball

The EBAL season continues Oct. 2 as Foothill (14-6 overall and 5-1 in the EBAL heading into the week) plays at Dublin (4-11, 1-5), Amador Valley (9-5, 4-2) hosts Livermore (7-13, 0-6) and Granada (10-8, 1-5) plays at Monte Vista-Danville (15-6, 5-1). All matches are scheduled for 6:30 p.m. starts. ... Foothill won for the 14th time in 17 matches on Sept. 25 with a 25-17, 25-19, 25-15 victory over Amador Valley.

Girls flag football

Granada (9-5, 3-3 heading into the week) hosts San Ramon Valley (8-3, 5-1) on Oct. 7 in one of the biggest EBAL games of the week. Other games that day are Amador Valley (9-3, 4-2) at Carondelet-Concord (6-6, 2-3), Dougherty Valley (3-6, 3-3) at Livermore (5-8, 1-3), California (9-1, 5-1) at Foothill (7-5, 4-2) and Monte Vista (4-11, 0-5) at Dublin (10-6). ... All games are scheduled for 7:30 p.m. ...

Granada is coming off a tough 18-12 loss to California despite 12 tackles and a touchdown catch from Marin Lnenicka. ... After two lopsided defeats, Dublin responded with a 57-13 win over Cornerstone Christian-Antioch last week. ... Amador Valley had won four straight games and six of seven heading into the week. ... Granada’s Katie Vail still leads all North Coast Section quarterbacks with 2,527 yards passing and 30 touchdowns, according to the MaxPreps leaderboard. Lnenicka ranks sixth with 60 tackles.

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

Portuguese Fado Singer Is Set To Perform at Livermore Library

Ramana Vieira, an American singer known for traditional Portuguese fado music, will perform a free concert at the Livermore Civic Center Library, 1188 S. Livermore Ave., at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 19.

Born in San Leandro to Portuguese immigrant parents, Vieira grew up listening to American pop music and Broadway musicals.

She became interested

in fado after visiting Portugal when she was 16. Fado is a genre known for its melancholy melodies and lyrics that speak to the often-harsh realities of everyday life.

Vieira, who has been called the new voice of Portuguese world music, is known for fusing the haunting soul of traditional fado with Brazilian rhythms and contemporary jazz.

Joining Vieira for her performance will be David Parker on bass, Vincent Tolliver on mandolin, viola and violin, Jeff Furtado on the 12-string Portuguese guitar.

This program is part of the Livermore Public Library’s Authors & Arts Series, sponsored by the Friends of the Livermore Public Library. For more information, call 925-373-5500.

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 617237

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

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 617253

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

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 617358

The following person(s) doing business as: Sol Investigative Agency, 205 Puddingstone Rd, Alameda, CA 94502 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Natasha Lopez, 205 Puddingstone Rd, Alameda, CA 94502. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Natasha Lopez, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 3, 2025. Expires September 2, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6544. Published September 11, 18, 25, October 2, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 617182

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

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 617245

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

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 617405

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

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 617377

The following person(s) doing business as: Moment.us Bay Area, 35111F Newark Blvd, Unit 2042, Newark, CA 94560 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Under Quiet Light, 35111F Newark Blvd, Unit 2042, Newark, CA 94560. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business

name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Charlene Granadosin, Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 3, 2025. Expires September 2, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6548. Published September 11, 18, 25, October 2, 2025.

LEGAL NOTICE

Case No. 24AD00093

NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION TO DETERMINE NON-EXISTENCE OF FATHER AND CHILD RELATIONSHIP PURSUANT TO FAMILY CODE SECTION 7630 To: **WARD ALLEN KECK** and to all persons claiming to be the father of Baby Girl Keller a.k.a. Baby Girl Edmonds a.k.a. Nova Rae Edmonds born to Danielle Ciera Keller on May 24, 2024, in San Francisco, California. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Petitioner Micha Maya Cardenas has filed a Petition to Determine the Non-Existence of the Father and Child Relationship which has been set for a hearing at 8:30 a.m. on the 17th day of November, 2025 at the Courtroom of Department 125 of the Superior Court of California, County of Sacramento, located at 3341 Power Inn Road, Sacramento, California 95826. Should you claim to be the biological father of said child or that your consent to the adoption of said child is necessary, you should appear then and there to show cause, if any you have, why the Court should not declare the non-existence of the father and child relationship or why such child should not be adopted without your consent. The Independent, Legal No. 6549. Published September 18, 25, October 2, 9, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 617357

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Iokmon Group; 2. Puzzywuzzi; 3. The Boba Hunter; 4. The Wonton Hunter; 5. N3me-sis.com; 6. Intuitive Percussion, 30701 Knight Court, Union City, CA 94587 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Richard Wong, 30701 Knight Court, Union City, CA 94587. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 10/1/2020. Signature of Registrant/s/: Richard Wong, Director. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 3, 2025. Expires September 2, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6550. Published September 18, 25, October 2, 9, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 617003

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

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 617332

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

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 617469

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

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 617476

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

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 617483

The following person(s) doing business as: Ma Chioprac, 4200 East Ave, Unit B, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Christopher Ma, 5239 Peacock Hill Drive, Castro Valley, CA 94552. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Christopher Ma, Chiopracor. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 9, 2025. Expires September 8, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6555. Published September 18, 25, October 2, 9, 2025.

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

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

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 617630

The following person(s) doing business as: Steven Kent on 2nd, 209 McLeod Street, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Out From Land Investor Goup, LLC 2245 S. Vasco Rd, Ste C, 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/: Steven Mirassou, Managing Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 15, 2025. Expires September 14, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6557. Published September 25, October 2, 9, 16, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 617577

The following person(s) doing business as: Bashful Union, 133 Cascades Circle, Union City, CA 94587 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Linda

Wang, 133 Cascades Circle, Union City, CA 94587. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 9/2/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Linda Wang, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 12, 2025. Expires September 11, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6558. Published September 25, October 2, 9, 16, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 617595

The following person(s) doing business as: My Kids Klub, 2458 Portola Ave, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Raiza Marciscano, 2458 Portola Ave, 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: 2/10/2022. Signature of Registrant/s/: Raiza Marciscano, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 15, 2025. Expires September 14, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6559. Published September 25, October 2, 9, 16, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 617666

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Antigua LLC; 2. Berryclean, 473 3rd Street, Oakland, CA 94607 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Antigua LLC, 423 7th ST #912, Oakland, CA 94607. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 9/16/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Stanley Chen, Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 16, 2025. Expires September 15, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6560. Published September 25, October 2, 9, 16, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 617722

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Railroad Re-ators; 2. Railroad Properties, 1048 Grant Ave, San Lorenzo, 94580 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Thomas J. Clements 23 Railroad Ave, #344, Dnlanville, CA 94526. 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/: Brendan Collins-Bride, Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 19, 2025. Expires September 18, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6566. Published September 25, October 2, 9, 16, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 617564

The following person(s) doing business as: Paper Artichoke, 830 Keystone Way, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Judy Tweten, 830 Keystone Way, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Judy Tweten, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 11, 2025. Expires September 10, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6562. Published September 25, October 2, 9, 16, 2025.

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME ORIGINAL FILE NO. 612820

The person(s) listed below have abandoned the use of the following fictitious business name(s): Lumina Bodywork and Massage, 4187 Piedmont Avenue, Oakland, CA 94607. Registered by the following owner(s): Helen Lee, 1415 Pullman Way, Oakland, CA 94607. The fictitious business name statement was filed on 2/28/2025 in the County of Alameda. This busi-

ness was conducted by an individual. Signature of Registrants: /s/ Helen Lee, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 15, 2025. The Independent, Legal No. 6563. Published September 25, October 2, 9, 16, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 617768

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Wolk Consulting; 2. Wolk Infotec; 3. Wolk Information Security; 4. Your Ciso, 1682 Maralisa CT, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Scott Wolk, 1682 Maralisa CT, 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: 1/1/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Scott Wolk, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 19, 2025. Expires September 18, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6564. Published October 2, 9, 16, 23, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 617783

The following person(s) doing business as: Craveable Eats, 880 Folsom Court, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Swetha Dareddy, 880 Folsom Court, 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/: Swetha Dareddy, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 19, 2025. Expires September 18, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6565. Published October 2, 9, 16, 23, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 617777

The following person(s) doing business as: Anam Cara Chiropractic, 1415 Broadway, Suite 29, Alameda, CA 94501 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Body Mind Chiropractic LLC, 1415 Broadway, Suite 29, Alameda, CA 94501. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Brendan Collins-Bride, Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 19, 2025. Expires September 18, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6566. Published October 2, 9, 16, 23, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS

NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 617843

The following person(s) doing business as: Lunera Bodywork & Massage, 4187 Piedmont Avenue, Oakland, CA 94611 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Lunera Bodywork & Massage, LLC, 4187 Piedmont Avenue, Oakland, CA 94611. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 9/5/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Helen Lee, Manager. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 24, 2025. Expires September 23, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6567. Published October 2, 9, 16, 23, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 617848

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Vanguard Marketing Group; 2. Vanguard Products, 169 Pullman ST, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Vanguard Sales, Inc., 169 Pullman ST, 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/: Ronald Fleener, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 24, 2025. Expires September 23, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6568. Published October 2, 9, 16, 23, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 617841

The following person(s) doing business as: Sushi Zone, 4094 East Ave, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Toro Management Enterprises, LLC, 2710 Crow Canyon Rd, #1176, San Ramon, CA 94583. 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/: Scott Wolk, Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 24, 2025. Expires September 22, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6569. Published October 2, 9, 16, 23, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 617584

The following person(s) doing business as: Adamson Police Products, 160 Airway Blvd, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Professional Police Supply Inc., 160 Airway Blvd, Livermore, CA 94551. This

business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 1/21/1980. Signature of Registrant/s/: James Cunningham, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 12, 2025. Expires September 11, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6570. Published October 2, 9, 16, 23, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 617839

The following person(s) doing business as: Querida Cafe, 1526 Dorothy CMN, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Sierra Solano, 1526 Dorothy CMN, 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/: Sierra Solano, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 23, 2025. Expires September 22, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6571. Published October 2, 9, 16, 23, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 617586

The following person(s) doing business as: Curryum, 83 Wright Brothers Ave, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Darwinian Foods LLC, 3998 Knightsbridge Way, San Ramon, CA 94582. 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/: Divya Nayak, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 12, 2025. Expires September 11, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6572. Published October 2, 9, 16, 23, 2025.

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Livermore Couple Celebrates 75 Years

LIVERMORE — Richard and Beth Patrick, Livermore residents for more than 70 years, celebrated their 75th wedding anniversary on Sept. 30.

Richard, 97, was born in Berkeley, and Beth, 95, was born in Oakland. They both graduated from Berkeley

High School, met in San Francisco and were married at the Piedmont Community Church in 1950.

The couple settled in Livermore in 1955, when Richard began a 45-year career working as an engineer at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL).

As an airplane pilot, he was also active in the Livermore Valley Airmen's Association.

Beth worked as a technical aid for the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District, spending time at Jackson Avenue, East Avenue and Arroyo Seco schools. She helped establish

a partnership with LLNL to provide computers for district students and was also active in the Beta Sigma Phi sorority.

The Patricks raised four children (Stephen, Melanie, Carol, Connie), have seven grandchildren and 13 great grandchildren.



Beth and Richard Patrick pose on their wedding day, Sept. 30, 1950, at the Piedmont Community Church.



Beth and Richard Patrick sit on a bench in downtown Livermore in late August 2025.



Beth and Richard Patrick, who raised four children during their 75-year marriage, walk hand in hand at the Kaiser Permanente Livermore Medical Offices in early September 2025. (Photos courtesy of the Patrick family)

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Pleasanton's Congregation Beth Emek Marks High Holy Days

By Vivien Wenneker

PLEASANTON — The Jewish New Year, better known as Rosh Hashanah, began at sundown Sept. 22 with prayer services and celebrations lasting through to the following afternoon for Jews across the globe.

“This is the beginning of the year 5786 on the Jewish calendar,” said Rabbi

Rosh Hashanah traditionally falls during September and has its roots in the Bible, in which the day is described as commemorating the creation of mankind. It is also described as a day of Judgement where humanity's status is reviewed for the coming year.

Rabbi Milder added that while the prayers that Jews recite from year to year

of Israelis who have been held hostage in Gaza for two years. We pray for a swift end to the war in Gaza, for the immediate release of the hostages, for relief to the suffering of Palestinians, and security for all.”

The most distinctive ritual of the holiday is the blowing of the Shofar, the ram's horn, which is also described in the Bible as

is the Tri-Valley's Reform synagogue. Reform Judaism is the largest movement of American Jews, according to a survey conducted by the Pew Research Center in 2020, and combines both tradition and modernity in its observance.

The synagogue was established in 1956 in Livermore, with a membership of approximately 18,000 people from both Livermore and Pleasanton (Dublin did not exist at the time). The Congregation relocated to Pleasanton in 2004, almost half a century after its founding, where it has remained since.

According to its website, Congregation Beth Emek currently serves about 210 families from Pleasanton, Livermore, Dublin, San Ramon, Tracy and other surrounding communities. Its worship services include Hebrew and English prayers, poetry, song and the reading of the Torah.

The Congregation also has its own Social Action Committee, which creates opportunities that align Jewish values, particularly those of Tzedek (Justice) and Rachamim (Compassion), with community social-action efforts.

A few of these include the School Backpack Project, which provides backpacks and school supplies to needy children in Livermore public schools, holiday food drives, and efforts to help secure low-cost senior housing for its members through Interfaith Housing, Inc. in Livermore.

For more information on the history, social initiatives and services (both

in-person and broadcasted) provided by Congregation Beth Emek, visit: www.beth-emek.org, or call the synagogue at (925)-931-1055.



Rabbi Dr. Laurence Milder of Congregation Beth Emek in Pleasanton prepares to blow the Shofar horn during Rosh Hashanah in 2022. (Photo courtesy of Rabbi Dr. Laurence Milder)

Dr. Laurence Milder of Congregation Beth Emek in Pleasanton. “For Jews, the New Year is a time of reflection, a time to consider our deeds and to resolve to live up to our highest ideals in the coming year.”

As the first of the High Holy Days that occur in early autumn, Rosh Hashanah sets off the Ten Days of Repentance, culminating with Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement, which this year began Oct. 1 and lasts until sundown the following day.

don't change, the concerns they bring often do, reflecting the world around them. This year especially, with much of the world's attention turned toward the Middle East, he stressed the importance of peace now more than ever.

“We gather together on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement, to find strength in one another,” Rabbi Milder explained. “This year, in particular, we are deeply concerned about the welfare

occurring around this time, and represents the “wake-up call,” encouraging Jews to repent and mend their ways.

“The dramatic focus of the morning service is on the blowing of the ram's horn,” Rabbi Milder said. “It is quite striking to people who hear it for the first time, and we blow it a bunch of times during the service.”

Congregation Beth Emek (meaning “House of the Valley”), which Rabbi Milder has been the spiritual leader of since 2013,

Abbey Road, Rocky Horror Picture Show Set for Bankhead Theater

Singer/songwriter Martin Sexton will perform his interpretations of classic Beatles music from the band's Abbey Road album at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore on Saturday, Oct. 18.

The Martin Sexton Abbey Road Show will also include original songs written by Sexton, who began his career as a street performer in Boston.

Sexton, who received an Artist of the Year award from the National Academy of Songwriters in 1994, has recorded more than a dozen albums. His latest extended play recording, “2020 Vision,” was released in 2021.

Tickets to the 8 p.m. show start at \$35.

The Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., will also host

“The Rocky Horror Picture Show 50th Anniversary,” a screening of the original, unedited movie, on Friday, Oct. 24.

The screening will be hosted by Nell Campbell, who played the groupie “Columbia” in both the classic 1975 film and the original stage production, “The Rocky Horror Show.”

The Australian-born Campbell is best known by her stage name, Little Nell.

“The Rocky Horror Picture Show” revolves around a young couple whose car breaks down during a rainstorm.

In their search for help, they encounter a mad scientist from the planet Transsexual in a castle filled with party guests

in elaborate costumes.

Conceived as a parody of kitschy horror films, “The Rocky Horror Movie” became a cult classic with moviegoers dressing up in costume and lip-syncing the actors' dialogue.

The Bankhead Theater screening will include a “shadow cast” mimicking the action on the screen, with audience participation encouraged. There will also be a costume contest for members of the audience.

Tickets to the 8 p.m. “Rocky Horror Picture Show 50th Anniversary” start at \$95.

Tickets to both shows are available online at livermorearts.org, by calling 925-373-6800, or at the Bankhead Theater box office.

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