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More than 200 artists displayed their wares Oct. 11 during the Livermore Art Walk, billed as the Tri-Valley's premiere one-day art festival. Works ranged from contemporary to classical, abstract to realism and pottery to mixed media. Handmade bags, ceramic garden art and jewelry were among items on display. (Photo — Leah Silveira)

State Parks' Tesla Property Concepts Raise Key Objections

State Park, Natural Reserve, Cultural Reserve Options Carry Hugely Different Implications

By Vivien Wenneker

TRI-VALLEY — Workshops held by the California Department of Parks and Recreation on Sept. 20 and 30 gathered public feedback on two new draft concepts for the Alameda-Tesla property, better known as Tesla Park.

State Parks said both concepts for the property between Livermore and Tracy could be classified as one of three options: state park, state natural reserve or state cultural reserve.

A state park classification focuses on recreational experiences, such as hiking, biking, boating, birdwatching and camping, for example. Conservation is important, but not the top priority.

Cultural reserves are selected and managed to preserve and protect the integrity of places containing historic or prehistoric structures, villages or settlements, archeological features, ruins, artifacts, inscriptions, burial grounds, landscapes, hunting and gathering sites, as well as places of spiritual significance to California Native Americans.

Natural reserves are selected and managed to preserve native ecological associations, unique plant or animal characteristics, geological features and scenic qualities in a condition of undisturbed integrity. Natural reserves don't allow overnight camping or other night uses except when Native American tribes wish to engage in ceremonial or spiritual events.

(See TESLA, page 7)

Dublin Police Shutter Two Smoke Shops, Citing Sales of Illegal Tobacco Products

Owners Allegedly Targeted Students at Nearby Schools as Customers

By Sanestina Hunter

DUBLIN — Dublin police shut down the Royal Novelties and Smoker Friendly smoke shops Sept. 29 after discovering the sale of illegal tobacco products.

Roughly 4,100 units of contraband were seized in the raids, resulting in nearly $200,000 in fines, according to Dublin Police Services (DPS).

No arrests had been made as of Oct. 14, but the Royal Novelties case had been submitted to the Alameda County District Attorney's office for review, DPS Capt. Miguel Campos said.

In an effort to curb the sale of illegal tobacco products to minors, DPS's Crime Prevention Unit, alongside School Resource Officers, the California Department of Tax and Fee Administration, and Dublin Code Enforcement, worked together to shut down the operations.

During the September raids, officers found more than $135,000 in contraband, including banned flavored tobacco, products containing tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), the main psychoactive compound in cannabis, and psilocybin, or "magic," mushrooms, according to a DPS Instagram post. The citations addressed violations ranging from unlicensed sales to unauthorized advertising.

Because both shops are located near schools, officials believe the owners targeted students by selling illegal products to minors.

Campos also told The Independent that Royal Novelties had

(See SMOKE SHOPS, page 7)



Dublin Police Services (DPS) seized some 4,100 units of contraband in September raids on two smoke shops in the city. (Photo courtesy of DPS)

Newsom Signs Laws To Streamline Housing

McNerney Bill Accelerates Construction of Low-Cost Units, Such as ADUs

By David Jen

TRI-VALLEY — The California housing industry will gain some clarity on what to expect during the permitting and construction of accessory dwelling units (ADUs) with a new law signed by Gov. Gavin Newsom on Oct. 10.

Recent laws around ADUs, also known as backyard cottages or casitas, have generated some confusion and conflicts between local agencies and the state as cities and counties strive to interpret how to apply the laws to permitting timelines and other aspects of the homebuilding process.

Proposed by Tri-Valley Senator Jerry McNerney, Senate Bill (SB) 543 codifies several guidelines around ADUs from the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) into law. Among these, local governments now have 15 days to conduct an initial review of ADU and junior ADU permit applications. The permitting guidelines for ADUs also apply to junior ADUs.

ADUs offer independent homes complete with spaces for cooking, eating, sleeping and other activities on the same property as an existing primary home. Junior ADUs are accessory apartments contained within a main house.

"California needs to build housing to help make our state more affordable," McNerney said in a statement. "And one of the most effective ways to address our housing affordability crisis is to accelerate the construction of low-cost housing, like ADUs and junior ADUs. Gov. Newsom's signing of SB 543 will make it easier to build ADUs and junior ADUs and help California meet its goal of building over 2.5 million homes by 2031."

Along with SB 543, Newsom last week signed a slew of bills to streamline the housing development process in California. In an effort to create more numerous and more economically diverse housing in the state, the bills range from protections for farmworkers, to converting empty office buildings into housing, to incentivizing housing near public transportation.

"All Californians deserve an affordable place to live — close to jobs, schools, and opportunity," Newsom said in a statement. "Housing near transit means shorter commutes, lower costs and more time with family. When we invest in housing, we're investing in people — their chance to build a future, raise a family and be part of a community."

HCD has identified a need for 180,000 new homes annually in the state, far exceeding the 80,000 new homes produced per year on average over the past 10 years. The estimates have driven a spike of housing mandates placed upon local agencies by HCD, with the current 2023-2031 housing cycle requiring 62% more housing units in Dublin, 89% more in Pleasanton and 67% more in Livermore compared to the previous eight-year cycle.

Judge in Lopez Matter Will Consider Attorney's Case

Court Date Scheduled for Deported Livermore Man

By Vivien Wenneker

LIVERMORE — An Oct. 7 status hearing in the case of deported Livermore resident Miguel Lopez produced no definitive outcome as to whether he will be able to return home, but U.S. District Court Judge Trina L. Thompson declared she would consider arguments presented by Lopez's lawyer, Saad Ahmad.

Thompson scheduled a new court date for Oct. 30 in San Francisco. She is expected to issue a written decision thereafter.

"The (Oct. 7) hearing was on the government's motion to dismiss the case for lack of jurisdiction," Ahmad said. "The government is arguing that the court lacks the authority to hear Mr. Lopez's case."

Ahmad added that federal courts typically have limited jurisdiction and can only review cases that are authorized by Congress. If Thompson's decision was to favor Lopez's case, however, she would then have jurisdiction to hear the case to determine whether Lopez can return to the U.S.

"If we prevail, then the case will be adjudicated on the merits," Ahmad said. "I am hopeful that we will prevail at this stage, but we still have a long way to go in bringing Mr. Lopez back."

In the meantime, the Lopez family has been doing its best to remain strong despite Lopez

(See LOPEZ, page 8)



Nature bestows its seasonal gifts upon the Livermore Valley Wine Country. Wineries and winemakers welcome this year's harvest bounty with gratitude for the community that supports them — and a little ingenuity in the face of a challenging economy. (File photo — Leah Silveira)

Wine Community Shares Harvest Message

In Challenging Economic Times, Wineries Get Creative, Express Gratitude

By Christina Cavallaro

LIVERMORE — While skies were blue and spirits convivial during the annual Blessing of the Grapes at JMC Cellars in August, the reality of some major challenges facing the global wine industry loomed over the close-knit Livermore Valley Wine Community (LVWC).

LVWC Board President Gina Molinaro-Cardera of Livermore's Garre Vineyard & Winery said at the event, "I think we're fine as a region, and this is just Gina speaking, but I think the issues are with people who do big production because they've seen their sales drop dramatically."

Meredith Sarboraria, a consulting winemaker with Rodrigue Molyneaux Winery, told The Independent, "That's a story right there — the crappy wine market we're in."in an email exchange, "That's a story right there — the crappy wine market we're in."

The fallout recently claimed one of Livermore Valley's own. Owner Aaliyah Nitoto of Free Range Flower Winery, known for its unique wines made from flowers instead of grapes, recently closed the doors of her 4-year-old business that had shared a tasting room and production facility with Longevity Wines.

At a Women in Wine Collective tasting in the Bankhead Theater lobby in March, Nitoto feared her imminent closure, citing economic pressures and industry challenges increased by U.S. government-issued tariffs on imported goods. That included her glass bottles from

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PET OF THE WEEK



JUSTICE

Faster than a tennis ball in flight, Justice is the Superdog you've been waiting for. This 19-pound adventure pup loves hiking, swimming and car rides to her next adventure. Meet Justice at Valley Humane Society and make her your loyal sidekick today. Call Valley Humane at (925) 426-8656 or email info@valleyhumane.org to get started with the adoption process. (Photo courtesy of Valley Humane)

Two Las Positas Professors Lead Study-Abroad Program

By Kiarra Bautista

LIVERMORE — The Las Positas College (LPC) Global Studies Department is planning a study-abroad program to Seville, Spain in June, providing an opportunity for students to build long-term skills to prepare for the civic world, as well as personal skills that foster growth, independence and values.

The six-week program includes three weeks of exploring museums, Seville's culture and visiting historic sites from June 8-29 while gaining general-education credits in a Humanities and English class. The other three weeks would be independent online work to fulfill the college's summer session.

LPC English professor and Global Studies coordinator Catherine Eagan and LPC Humanities professor Elizabeth Brooks masterminded the study-abroad program. The idea was not only to bring this trip together, but to pave a gateway for students to "learn by doing" and bring the classroom beyond the walls and into the real world, where textbooks come alive through global experience.

Eagan and Brooks have studied abroad themselves.

"I've led trips with students and their relatives that have been outside of the Las Positas system," Eagan said. "Nobody was gaining units, but I was inspired to do that just by my experience of teaching abroad. … I really want to work with students on getting this proper experience."

The idea received positive feedback from LPC faculty, yet it lingered in a prolonged state of uncertainty before finally finding its footing.

A few college administrators questioned elements such as risk management, how to make sure that students will be safe and supported during the trip, all to make sure the program covers not just the benefits of traveling but also provides an overall positive experience.

"Addressing questions and concerns took a while," Eagan said. "But again, people really wanted to make it happen."

While the idea of studying abroad sounds appealing, finances can be a challenge.

The cost of the program is $4,195, which includes accommodations, cultural activities, medical insurance and round-the-clock American Institute for Foreign Study (AIFS) student services. It does not include airfare and personal expenses.

"That's a sticker shock for some students," Brooks said. "We've talked about doing GoFundMes, applying for scholarships, all these different ways that students can help offset that big cost. That said, there's been a lot of interest."

Naomi Mangini, an LPC student who spent a semester in Japan as part of a different program, said, "Studying abroad completely changed how I see the world. It pushed me out of my comfort zone, helped me grow more independent, and gave me a deeper appreciation for other cultures. I've been encouraging every student I meet to take advantage of opportunities like this — you learn so much more than what's in a textbook."

For LPC, this program marks a milestone in the college's efforts to broaden its educational horizons and global engagement.

As a part of its vision statement, "Las Positas College strives to support and empower students to develop the knowledge, skills, values and abilities needed to become engaged participants and leaders in their local and global communities."

Eagan and Brooks want to fulfill that statement by making the trip accessible to as many students as possible.

The coordinators have been promoting the trip since the beginning of the academic year. They've made efforts to reach out to different organizations on campus, such as Umoja, Puente, Asian American Pacific Islander and even their own students.

So far, 50 students have shown interest in travelling to Seville.

The deadline for the trip's deposit is set for February, though Eagan and Brooks are urging students to submit the deposit as early as possible to take into account saving and raising money while also applying for scholarships.

"October is a great time because we can start building a cohort, working together on ideas for fundraising," Eagan said. "By the time 2026 comes around, students are going to be in a good place, and they'll reach their financial goal by then."

Students from Livermore Performing Arts Studio off to Prague

By Sanestina Hunter

LIVERMORE — Fourteen youth tappers from Triple Threat Performing Arts (TTPA) are headed to an even bigger stage to compete at the 2025 World Tap Dance Championships, part of the International Dance Organization (IDO) competitions in Prague, Czech Republic from Oct. 22-26.



Fourteen young competitors from Livermore's Triple Threat Performing Arts (TTPA) are bound for the 2025 World Tap Dance Championships in Prague, Czech Republic. (Photo — Theresa Vargas)

The IDO hosts annual international events featuring top dancers from around the world in styles including tap, ballet, modern, contemporary and hip-hop.

TTPA's team is among 175 dancers set to represent the United States Dance and Sport Competition Federation at the championships, which will be held at the University of New York Arena in Prague.

The Livermore-based studio attracts students from across the Tri-Valley and surrounding areas. Six dancers are from Livermore, four from Pleasanton, two from Dublin, and one each from Mountain House and Lathrop. The studio is owned by Bill Langley and Brian Drogosch.

"We're thrilled to have 14 dancers participating in the World Tap Dance Championships," Langley said in a statement to The Independent. "This achievement showcases the hard work and passion of our dancers, as well as the expertise of our talented teachers. We're proud to provide top-notch training and opportunities for our students to shine on a global stage."

The youth team will perform 15 routines, including six solos, two duets, two trios, a small group of four, two formation groups and one full production.

TTPA Director Tamie Slader, who trains with the students, said the team's success reflects its dedication and growth.

"Just being invited to join this team is a huge accomplishment," Slader said. "Only three dances are selected for each age group and category, so having this many routines chosen for Worlds is an even bigger honor. Through hard work and dedication, they've perfected their performances and are ready to shine on the world stage."

Jeanine Pontes-Boelter, parent of Callie Boelter, pointed to the team's commitment. Callie, 11, will perform a solo in the children's under-12 division.

"I am incredibly proud of all these young tappers for how hard they work on their craft," Boelter said. "They are fierce competitors and incredibly supportive of one another. This sport helps build my daughter's resiliency and teaches her life lessons on how to be a better human being. I am excited to see her shine on a world stage."

Krista Gandolfo, mother of Junior 1 dancer Kennedy Gandolfo, who will perform a duet with Giselle Gervase, said her daughter has been tapping since age 2.

"Her commitment and focus have been so inspiring to watch," Gandolfo said. "After school, she heads straight to the studio and practices for hours — often without anyone telling her to. TTPA has truly become her second home. She's worked hard to strengthen her technique and timing, and her biggest growth has been in performance quality. She's learned to connect emotionally to her dancing, not just technically."

Kennedy, 13, encouraged other young dancers to believe in themselves.

"If you really love dancing, just keep going," she said. "Tapping takes a lot of time and practice, but it's worth it when everything starts to come together. I've learned that if you keep showing up, work hard and stay patient, you'll keep getting better every day. I always try to remind myself, 'Don't compare yourself to anyone else — just keep practicing and trust the process.'"

In addition to Callie, Kennedy and Giselle, TTPA dancers attending the IDO World Tap Dance Championships are Everleigh Amos, Ryan Paige Birkey, Zoey Carillo, Sana Ramalingam, Thomas Hauser, Adelaide Hauser, Maddie Rothi, Khloe Chan, Kayla Chan, Nayeli Guzman and Olivia Aberin.

Earlier this year, TTPA tappers were crowned National Grand Champions at a competition in Las Vegas. The studio provides an array of training including ballet, tap, hip-hop, singing, acting and music instruction.

The Tri-Valley continues to boast a thriving performing arts community, with programs attracting students of all ages.





San Ramon Man Pleads Out in Dublin Shooting

By Sanestina Hunter

DUBLIN — Richo Olive Crouch Richardson III, 19, of San Ramon has pleaded no contest to a felony charge of assault with force likely to produce great bodily injury.

The plea was entered during an Oct. 6 preliminary hearing, with all other charges — including attempted murder and shooting at an occupied vehicle — dropped as part of a plea agreement, Dublin Police Services (DPS) Capt. Miguel Campos told The Independent on Oct. 9.

Richardson is scheduled to be sentenced at 9 a.m. Nov. 3 in Department 705 at the East County Hall of Justice in Dublin.

Richardson was arrested Aug. 18 after turning himself in at Santa Rita Jail in Dublin. Authorities had gone to his San Ramon residence the day before, but his mother was reportedly uncooperative. According to court records, officials asked his grandmother to encourage Richardson to surrender.

The arrest followed Aug. 13 and Aug. 15 road-rage incidents in Dublin, with Richardson allegedly firing at the same motorist. No one was injured on either occasion, according to police.

In the first incident, Richardson allegedly fired at the motorist on Interstate 580. Two days later, the motorist reported seeing Richardson's Mercedes at a gas station and said Richardson allegedly fired at his vehicle again after parking his car ahead of the motorist, causing the driver to speed away.

As a 17-year-old in September 2023, Richardson was linked to a separate shooting in San Ramon. Police said the incident began when he allegedly fired into a vehicle after the driver made a gesture at him in a Safeway parking lot.

Richardson was additionally connected to a dispute three days earlier in a Walgreens parking lot, where he reportedly struck a man in the head during an argument over speeding.

Public records indicate that Richardson has no felony convictions, and it is unclear whether he faced formal charges as a juvenile for the earlier incidents.

Capt. Campos said DPS continues to investigate violent incidents and prioritize public safety. There had been no new developments in Richardson's case as of Oct. 9.

Livermore Author Publishes Poetry Chapbook

Livermore author Patricia J. Boyle has released a chapbook of poetry titled "response," which she describes as a "collection that calls the reader to look more closely at the world we inhabit."

Boyle is a former research meteorologist at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey and science teacher for the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District.

She is also a past president of the Tri-Valley Branch of the California Writers Club.

Her first novel, a young adult fantasy titled "A Traitor in the Realm," was published in 2021.

Livermore Poet Laureate Peggy Schimmelman called Boyle's 38-page chapbook "a tapestry of nostalgic reflections, keen observations, and delightful flashes of insight."

"Throughout, we are immersed in the poet's profound wonder and appreciation for both the ordinary and extraordinary aspects of our world and the creatures who inhabit it," Schimmelman added.

Boyle will give a reading from "response" at Towne Center Books in Pleasanton at 11 a.m. on Thursday, Nov. 6.



Pleasanton Water Rates Rising for Third Straight Year

Low-Usage Customers To Take the Biggest Hits, but Will Still Be Paying Less than Counterparts in Dublin and Livermore

By David Jen

PLEASANTON — Water users will endure a third year of rate increases next year, following a unanimous Pleasanton City Council adoption of a new fee schedule last week.

Beginning Jan. 1, average single-family customers in Pleasanton using about 300 gallons per day will see their bills rise 10.8%, from $176.05 every two months to $195.13. The rate hike arrives on the tails of a 30% increase at the beginning of 2024 and another 12% increase at the start of this year.

"As difficult as raising rates are, our rates are still lower and comparable to our neighboring cities and communities," Councilmember Julie Testa said. "We have to keep a healthy water enterprise and the priority being to make sure that we have quality and available water for our community. That requires us to reinforce our enterprise system with these funds."

The same 300 gallon-per-day family that will pay $195.13 in Pleasanton would pay $198.31 in Dublin and $208.06 in Livermore, according to a city report.

Mayor Jack Balch added that while no one wants to pay more for water, "we have to be honest with ourselves on where we're at and where we're going with the system."

The higher rates will help bolster the city's underfunded water enterprise, which has found itself regularly battling emergencies among the city's aging water infrastructure instead of conducting lower-cost, preventative maintenance because of insufficient funds.

"We're having major failures every week or two with our water program currently," City Manager Gerry Beaudin said. "This is a revenue-generating fund, but it is not a profit center for the city. The money that we collect goes back into the system to maintain it."

Pleasanton Director of Public Works Siew-Chin Yeong said that in the third quarter of 2025 alone, the city responded to five water-main breaks and 11 water-service breaks on top of other emergencies dealing with a water storage tank, fire hydrant and isolation valve.

Proposition 218

Complicating the city's need for more water revenues is Proposition 218, a 1996 voter-enacted ballot initiative intended to limit local governments' ability to raise taxes. The initiative presents legal challenges to those looking to implement tiered water rates that might reward lower water usage with lower per-unit rates and discourage higher usage with higher per-unit rates.

Instead, as a result of Proposition 218, the California Constitution requires that different rates be justified with differing levels of service. Sanjay Gaur, founder and president of the city's consultant, Water Resources Economics, LLC, recommended against tiered rates for the city due to an insufficient legal defense.

Low-usage customers will therefore feel the effect of the coming rate hikes most, as fixed charges make up a larger portion of their bills.

Those using only 60 gallons per day, for example, will see a 59% increase in their bills, compared to very high-usage customers using 870 gallons per day who will actually see a 14% decrease to their bills.

"It's just really hard to see that our lowest water users are getting hit so much more," Testa said.

Fixed charges — those billed to customers regardless of the amount of water used — will more than double with the new schedule. The city's fixed charge for a 5/8" meter will jump 115%, from $5.53 to $11.90 per two-month cycle, while Zone 7's fixed charge will increase from $18.48 to $46.43, a 151% change, for the same meter and cycle.

Looking ahead, Guar declined to say that this would be the last of the rate hikes before achieving financial stability.

"I don't want to give you a rosy picture that's maybe not necessarily there," Gaur said. "I think this is a better plan. It will help with the community. It will create some stability in the rate increases, but the rates will be increasing because of so many other factors."



Traditional Diwali dance will be part of the festivities at the Diwali Festival of Lights on Saturday, Oct. 18 at the Pleasanton Senior Center. (Photo courtesy of City of Pleasanton)

Pleasanton Kicks Off Cultural Celebration Series with Diwali

By Sanestina Hunter

PLEASANTON — Music, dance and lights are set to fill the Pleasanton Senior Center from 1-3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 18 as the city initiates its 2025–26 Cultural Celebration Series with a family-friendly Diwali Festival of Lights.

Hosted by the Pleasanton Library and Recreation Department, the series features cultural events for all ages and supports the city's ONE Pleasanton Strategic Plan, which seeks to create "a community where everyone belongs."

"We are honored to organize and host the Diwali celebration for the third year in a row as part of our larger cultural celebration series," said Cherie Buenaflor Cheung, the city's library and recreation coordinator.

"Diwali is a meaningful holiday for so many South Asian families in Pleasanton, and we're proud to see it grow each year. From the planning input to the local performers, volunteers and partner organizations, it has been a true community effort. We're excited to come together to celebrate the Festival of Lights."

Bollywood For Life, a Pleasanton dance company, is set to showcase traditional Diwali dances and explain the cultural meaning behind the performances.

Sneha Airani, the studio owner and founder who has taught dance for 15 years, said in a statement to The Independent that she is excited to perform traditional pieces.

"My students are performing Bolly Garba, a fusion of Bollywood and the traditional Indian folk dance, Garba," she said. "Our favorite part of the performance is when everyone gets up and dances with us for the flash mob!"

Airani said Diwali is about bringing in light and choosing it over darkness.

"It is a Hindu festival mainly to celebrate the existence of light because without light there is nothing," she said. The ancient, five-day festival, also observed by Sikhs and Jains, represents the triumph of good over evil and knowledge over ignorance — a spiritual victory celebrated across communities.

The Cultural Celebration Series continues with two events in November. Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) is set for Saturday, Nov. 1 at the Pleasanton Senior Center. It will feature art, culture and storytelling to honor and remember loved ones.

Next is the Native American Heritage Month Celebration on Saturday, Nov. 15 at Alviso Adobe Community Park. Attendees will learn stories, traditions and contributions of Native American communities.

"The Cultural Celebration Series is a meaningful way we show our commitment to a community where everyone feels they belong," said Rachel Prater, recreation manager. "These events invite residents of all ages and backgrounds to come together, celebrate traditions and create connections that strengthen the fabric of Pleasanton."

The series is set to continue in 2026, celebrating Lunar New Year, Black History Month and Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month.

For more information, including dates and times, visit firehousearts.org/celebrations.

Las Positas To Present the 'Rocky Horror' Stage Show

Las Positas College will present "The Rocky Horror Show," the original stage musical that spawned the cult film classic, "The Rocky Horror Picture Show," at the Barbara Mertes Main Stage Theater from Thursday Oct. 23 through Saturday, Nov. 1.

Written by Richard O'Brien, the musical debuted in London in 1973 as a counterculture nod to kitschy low-budget science fiction and horror films of the mid-20th century. It opened on Broadway in 1975 but closed after just 45 shows.

A low-budget film version, "The Rocky Horror Picture Show," was also released in 1975.

The film version became a hit when audience members began dressing up as movie characters and talking back to the screen actors. "Shadow casts" would also mimic action on the screen while lip-syncing their lines.

The movie, which cost about $1.4 million to produce, has now earned an estimated $166 million worldwide. The film is also currently enjoying a 50th anniversary tour.

The Las Positas Theater Department said the stage production will also welcome audience participation "in a bold celebration of individuality and self-expression."

"'Rocky Horror' is more than just a show, it's an experience," said director Dyan McBride. "We're inviting the audience to let loose, dress up and be part of a performance that breaks all the rules and celebrates freedom of expression."

However, rice, toast and squirt bottles, which are common props during midnight showings of the movie, will not be allowed in the Las Positas theater in Building 4000 on the Livermore campus.

Las Positas also said the stage production contains mature content, including risqué humor and partial nudity, and is recommended for audiences 16 and older.

Shows are scheduled for 7 p.m. Thursday through Saturday. Tickets are $20, with discounts for students and seniors.

Tickets are available online at lpc.ludus.com.









EDITORIAL

The State Parks Department Is Not Being Honest About the Uses It Intends for the Future Tesla Park

California State Parks and Recreation officials are in the process of determining what uses will be allowed at a future Tesla Park in the Diablo range between Livermore and Tracy.

Ostensibly, there are two draft concepts. The state says that both could be tweaked to designate the 3,100-acre tract as one of three classifications — State Park, State Natural Reserve or State Cultural Reserve.

State Parks typically are focused on providing a wide range of recreational uses, rather than conservation. Natural Reserves and Cultural Reserves, on the other hand, are areas of outstanding natural or scenic characteristics, or areas containing outstanding cultural resources of statewide significance.

The Tesla property has both outstanding natural and cultural amenities of statewide significance and could reasonably be classified as either a natural or a cultural reserve. A natural reserve, however, would provide better overall protection by not allowing overnight use, except by Native Americans for special occasions.

The draft concepts provided by State Parks staff at last month's Tesla workshops seemed to be oriented toward heavy recreational uses, ones typically provided in a State Park. An earlier plan to designate the land for off-road vehicular use was thankfully stopped in its tracks, but the planning process has been carried out as if development of an active recreational area is a foregone conclusion. For example, one of several questions in a survey sent out to area residents asked them whether they favored "clustered camping" or "dispersed camping." There was no option for "no camping."

The results of the survey have not been made public. The public has long supported creating a natural reserve. It's also not clear to what extent or if the state has consulted with local Indigenous tribes over the preferred use of the land. The land is part of the historic home of the Ohlone people. They have strongly supported the creation of a natural reserve.

Environmentalists have also been pushing for the more restrictive natural reserve designation. The Tesla property is virtually undisturbed and stands out for its biodiversity, a rarity in the heavily populated Bay Area. The land contains 45 special-status plant species and 56 on the local watch list.

State Parks insists that the different concepts are still in the draft stage and serve only as a reference point from which to work toward a classification. But urban planning always starts with a specific goal in mind. If active recreation was the state's goal to begin with, it should have been forthright and provided a "no development" option for a natural or cultural reserve.

The state doesn't seem to want a natural or cultural reserve. Its communications seem to be focused on building recreation for people in the Central Valley, rather than preserving the land.

We believe that Tesla Park should be designated as a natural reserve, and restrictions placed on the land to minimize disturbance by human activity.

There's another reason why we should be pushing for a natural reserve: Natural areas are carbon sinks. With climate change, we are facing the biggest challenge to human civilization since the dawn of the industrial era.

Leaving land undisturbed should be part of a comprehensive plan to decarbonize California. It isn't just iconic species such as redwood or Joshua trees that serve an ecological function. Biodiversity depends on having a diversity of places where it can flourish. And wild lands are more resilient to wildfire, and better able to rebound after a fire, than parks maintained for the benefit of human visitors.

If State Parks is unwilling to consider a minimal-impact natural reserve, then Gov. Gavin Newsom should direct the department to start the designation process over, with active consultation with Indigenous and environmental groups. The process should also be transparent to the public, not hidden behind urban planning language and fungible "draft" plans designed to arrive at a predetermined conclusion.

Much of the Diablo Range is privately owned ranch land, not natural habitat. Our need for an undisturbed nature reserve is greater than our need for more bike trails or campgrounds. Once we lose what biodiversity we have left, it's gone forever.

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.

Response to Homelessness Letter of Harvest Moon

Greg Scott, Livermore

"When my family bought our home [in Livermore in 2015], homelessness wasn't a visible issue." (Kyle Colvin, "Livermore's Homeless Crisis," Mailbox, 10/9/2025)

Yes it was Mr. Colvin and all. I started my 6 3/4-year Livermore homeless stint in the first hours of October 1, 2015, in the darkness. We homeless in Livermore were numerous and broadly dispersed throughout Livermore in 2015. If you all didn't see us, it's because you all didn't look.

I'm extremely lucky, for I've been housed for more than three years now. Most homeless are not so blessed.

Mr. Colvin is correct asserting there is a Livermore homeless crisis, and it is more acute than ever, though that is nothing new. There is no addressing of the fundamental problem. What is done is spend gobs of money on a relative lottery few, and the rest can suffer, and all too often — die. I have known a number of Livermore homeless who have died, and those are a small portion of the ones who I've heard died. If the homeless really mattered, the City of Livermore would know how many homeless died in a given year here in Livermore and know their names. What could be more important than life and death?

Mr. Colvin offers no solutions, and U.S. Supreme Court City of Grants Pass v. Johnson (2024) is certainly no solution. It was known criminalizing of homeless wasn't a solution before that ruling. Governor Newsom's amicus curiae ("Friend of the Court") brief in that case is a disgraceful and shameful abomination.

I have spoken and written about Livermore homelessness and its solutions for more than eight years now. Livermore is not really interested in fundamentally solving the homeless issue. What is done is what I call "The Homeless Games," a lot of money is spent, construed as magnanimity, and most of the homeless suffer — and too many die. The community isn't interested, other than applying mostly performative and/or expensive "Band Aids" in the mode of Sisyphus rolling the rock up the hill only to watch it roll down again. A case in point is the $20 million in capital costs of the facility that Mr. Colvin alluded to, known as Vineyard 2.0, that permanently houses a mere 17, plus 2 residence managers, and can accommodate 20 temporarily overnight.

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Nobel Prize in Physics and Some Thoughts

Abdul Awwal, Pleasanton

This is an exciting time for the physics community. The Nobel Prize in Physics was announced last week. A Berkeley professor, along with two other scientists, his postdoc and a graduate student at the time of the experiment, snatched this top honor. I hope LLNL can achieve the same; we have world-class scientists, postdocs, and graduate students. One of the themes of physics is unification of various theories, such as gravity and charged particles, those in the quantum world and macroscopic world. If someone on the other hand asked if there's a unified theory of all the world religions, then the answer would be Islam, which provides such a world view. Noah, Abraham, Moses, Jesus, and Muhammad (may peace be upon them all) are all messengers of God sent to humanity to guide them at various junctures of time. By name, Moses (pbuh), is the most frequently mentioned messenger in the Quran. There is a chapter named for Mary, Mother of Jesus, Noah, and Abraham. It says addressing Prophet Muhamamad to declare that we follow the faith of Abraham. I have heard from scholars that all the guidance that came in the previous scriptures before the Quran are summarized in the first ten surahs (chapters). All three Abrahamic faiths recognize one God, and numerically speaking it must be the same God. Recently, I heard a speaker at MCC East Bay mention all holy books as Old Testament, New Testament, and last testament as Quran.

Judaism, Christianity and Islam belong to the Abrahamic faiths. If you study the laws in each religion, you will find consistency. The Quran has references to both Torah and Gospel. Muhammad (pbuh) has the most recorded biography in the history of humanity. People who came in contact with him became luminaries (read the two part books "Companion of the Prophet" by Abdul Wahid Hamid). Malcolm X writes a letter from his pilgrimage in Mecca, where he met "blue-eyed blondes to Black skinned Africans. But we were participating in the same rituals, displaying a spirit of unity and brotherhood that my experience in America lead me to believe never could exist between the white and nonwhite. America needs to understand Islam, because this is a religion that erases a race problem from society. A famous line frequently mentioned in Friday sermons, the message of Islam is so clear that even the night becomes clear like the day.

Classification of Tesla Property

Carol & Jeff Garberson, Livermore

After attending the in-person "workshop" about Tesla, we are horrified with the planned development. Following the vast amount of scientific research and data collected from the site by universities and other agencies, it is obvious that the area is a fragile, sensitive region where habitats from the central valley meet those from west of the hills, creating a transition zone with unique wildlife corridors and habitat.

There are also sites that are sacred for tribal nations, including petroglyphs among other things. The State Park plan would put a road right past the petroglyphs and would allow high use activities that would have a very detrimental impact on the habitats and sacred sites (which can easily be defaced or even dug up and removed.)

We know that it is a rare mountain biker who actually stays on designated trails, and the vast majority that we see up at Del Valle create their own cross country trails, even to the point of carrying in shovels on their bikes.

Camping and roads in central parts of the area will encourage inappropriate high impact use. Grazing cattle do much less damage than humans.

There are examples of state reserves enjoyed by the public without camping, biking and high impact activities. Mono Lake and Point Lobos are just two of the state reserves that have lots of public use that protect the habitats while allowing the public to enjoy and learn about the natural world around them. A state "Preserve" does not provide the same long term environmental protections that a classification of "Reserve" does.

In the workshop, the State didn't even consider the possibility of creating a reserve. They offered only two options, both high impact with roads, camping, biking and more. There was no way to give detailed input or discussion, just little post-it notes and colored dots to mark our preferences between two unacceptable options. The overwhelming input and scientific research support was for creating a Reserve with low impact activities allowed and development created elsewhere.

In the past, The Independent has always supported protecting the environment, and we hope that will continue.

No Kings in America Since 1776

Kyoko Takayama, Livermore

The Declaration of Independence, formally "The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen United States of America" in the original printing, is the founding document of the United States. We denied the British crown to govern us then and there.

On Oct. 18, this coming Saturday, we are hitting the street to affirm that there are no kings in America. Regardless of where we live, it is the foundation of this country, isn't it? Under the first amendment of the Constitution, we have freedom to exercise religion, of speech, of the press, of assembly, and to petition the government for redress of grievances. So we are going to exercise our right to peacefully gather and protest. Join one of the 2,500 No Kings events (nokings.com) happening all over the nation. In the Tri-Valley, we have one in Livermore at 11 a.m., and another in Pleasanton at 1:30 p.m.

In both events, dozens of volunteers are serving as Peacekeepers in yellow vests. They are forfeiting their right to protest in order to keep the events peaceful and fun for us all. Our organizers are serious about it. Please follow the laws and the directions of Peacekeepers.

All are welcome. Saying 'No Kings' is patriotic, so why not bring an American flag? Bring signs to express yourself. This is not a normal time, and we have a right to claim and a duty to call things out when we see injustice and wrongdoing. In Pleasanton, we invite everybody to wear costumes. After all, Halloween is just around the corner. Hope to see you all on the street, and let's have fun!

Proposition 50 — We Must Vote No!

John Lahommedieu, Dublin

California, which is in deep trouble under Democrat leadership in every aspect possible, does not need redistricting, but what is needed is Republican leadership (Pelosi, Schumer, Newsom and Swalwell have led this great state into the abyss!) Dr Lindgren wrote about fighting back against Trump?

(See MAILBOX, page 5)



The Chicago-based quartet Fandango! will play the Bankhead Theater in Livermore on Saturday, Oct. 18. The quartet is known for its international mix of Latin, Spanish, Sephardic, Balkan and classical music. Members of the group include violinist Blaise Magniere from France, cellist Cheng-Hou Lee from Taiwan and the husband-and-wife team of flutist Euginia Moliner from Spain and guitarist Denis Azabagic from Bosnia. Tickets to the 8 p.m. performance, sponsored by Del Valle Fine Arts, start at $35, with discounts for students and accompanying adults. Tickets are available at the Bankhead Theater box office, 2400 First St., or online at livermorearts.org. Del Valle Fine Arts sponsors five chamber music concerts at the Bankhead Theater annually. (Photo courtesy of Fandango!)

MAILBOX

(Continued from page 4)

Why? California needs common sense and proactive thinking much more than redistricting, which will lead us nowhere other than the road of disaster we are currently on. Crime, high taxes, a bullet train to nowhere, which is billion in arrears. Illegal sanctuary cities that must no longer be allowed to protect criminal illegals. Redistricting addresses none of this. What we need is a Republican governor and more Republicans in the state offices and local offices, because the Democrats have no plan. The Democrats have no vision other than to get in the way of President Trump, who puts Americans first, not illegals. Alameda County has one of the highest sales taxes; we ended summer fairs with horse racing that generated good revenue, and what did we do to replace it? Not a damn thing! Prop 50 is a Newsom wet dream and should be voted down because nobody should listen to the worst governor in California history. Can anyone name one accomplishment the imbecile has done for California. Look at Pacific Palisades and the debacle down there! Please, East Bay Tri-Valley, wise up, bite your pride and vote for real representation, not imitation. Vote no on 50; it's a proposition only to benefit Newsom and his elite pals, not you and me. Don't believe me? Again, I ask, what has Newsom done to improve your life in the last ten years? Dr. Lindgren, I don't hear you…

MEH Zombies

David Jonas, Livermore

The Appellate Court has dealt a death blow to MEH's legal assault on Eden Housing's downtown development. The Court characterized MEH's core election code argument as "absurd" and determined that separating Veterans Park funding from the residential project, a key outcome sought by MEH, is outside the scope of referendum power and therefore irrelevant to the lawsuit. The Court ruling was so devastating that MEH declined the opportunity to present oral arguments rebutting the ruling.

A zombie incarnation of MEH has arisen and is teasing a spooky new legal stratagem, just in time for Halloween.

MEH contends that decoupling Veterans Park financing from the new development agreement between the City and Eden Housing "provides a route for the project to move forward as a non-compliant project," i.e. the City might renege on its obligation to ensure construction of Veterans Park, thereby violating the Downtown Specific Plan, which calls for both housing and a park. Filing a lawsuit based on that creative hypothetical scenario is among the "options going forward" the group says it is contemplating.

Though I'm not trained in law, I'm confident that judges look more favorably upon lawsuits that are filed in response to the actual committing of a violation rather than based on the possibility that a future violation might occur.

MEH also says it might appeal to the California Supreme Court. Given the state's affordable housing crisis, the weakness of MEH's case, and the $Millions MEH has spent exploiting the court system to delay the Eden project, that appeal is extremely unlikely to end in MEH's favor.

MEH will likely resort to increasingly desperate measures to delay the project further, because delay is the only weapon left in the group's anti-affordable housing arsenal. As cited in the Appellate Court decision, "some have observed that when it comes to authorizing development, 'delay is as good as denial,' and opponents of affordable housing have actively pursued delay as a method of preventing development…"

Moreover, MEH continues to lie that the handling of its petition constitutes a "threat to democracy." In fact, the freedom to launch a petition drive, and to utilize the courts to ensure lawful processing of a petition, is a bedrock principle of democracy. MEH's attempt to invert the lawful performance of a fundamental democratic process into a "threat" is precisely the type of dishonest rage-baiting that precipitated the events of January 6.

My Argument for Prop 50

Tom Evans, Dublin

Is Prop 50 fair? Well, not exactly. But since Texas decided to become the political bully with their re-districting, Democrats need to either respond or be beaten. I'm sad to see it turn this route, but I would find it even more depressing if there was no recourse. There are times when we should stand on principle, but this isn't one of those times. There is nothing I would like more than to have Texas backtrack their re-districting and California to leave it alone… but that is no longer a possibility. If we let Texas increase one party's influence without giving it a challenge, then we are noble fools — and we'll suffer the consequences. I prefer to hold my nose and vote for Prop 50… for survival.

Is This What You Want?

Samuel Warner, Pleasanton

Is this the country you want? With our own military attacking citizens on our own city streets? With the top 1% living like kings, telling us that immigrants are to blame for this robbery from the rich, chipping away at the Constitution that our forefathers designed to GET AWAY from having a king?

Look at the big picture! This administration is speeding toward taking our last freedoms away. Making it illegal and unsafe to peacefully protest? Where are we? Communist China? Russia?

Or maybe you just don't actually know what's going on because you only watch FOX and White House propaganda?

Just a few recent headlines, out of the ridiculous amount of unbelievable things going on right now:

From The Christian Left: "ICE is hounding Chicago area locals with excessive chemical munitions. Officers are firing tear gas and pepper balls on lawful protesters…"

Robert Reich: "ICE and other federal agents conducted a violent, middle-of-the-night raid on an apartment building in Chicago — just days after Trump said the military should go after 'the enemy within.'"

Letters from an American: "ICE agents denied senators access to the Broadview, Illinois, ICE facility today, although Congress members have the right to conduct oversight."

So many, many more terrifying un-American things happening now. There is video footage of all of it, but you certainly won't see it on FOX! They are lying to you! Repeating the White House lies. Distracting you! Trying to make you believe the Trump cares about working people, that Democrats are trying to hurt you, and that you should only be concerned about which star is playing at the Super Bowl.

Just step outside, go to the market, find actual photos of Portland, DC, LA — not the manufactured "riots" that they want you to believe. See reality.

Why would anyone want to protect the lies, deceit and manipulation from a group of people hoping to take over everything you stand for? We are Americans, left or right, and we ALL believe in freedom, equality, and government checks and balances, don't we? Or do you actually want ONE man to override the laws we have valued for so long; ONE class to rule and own everything?

Or if you DO believe all they are saying and still support it, think: what would Jesus say?

I used to vote Republican, but am voting vote YES on 50 to help stop the madness.

Prop 50 is a Thief

Paul Stone, Dublin

Proposition 50 robs power from voters and transfers it to the politicians in Sacramento.

It robs us of future state revenues: on page 9 of the Official Voter Information Guide it says, "This (proposition) would result in one-time costs of up to a few million dollars statewide and one-time costs to the state of roughly $200,000." Up to a few million? Roughly? Do you handle your finances like that? And those amounts are guaranteed to grow.

It has robbed the state treasury already: the cost of this special election will be north of 280 million dollars.

In 2008, we passed Proposition 11 (Voters FIRST Act) which created the California Citizens Redistricting Commission wresting power from the pols. Proposition 20 (Voters FIRST Act for Congress), which extended the scope of the commission, was passed by voters in 2010.

We don't want to cede more of the people's power to Sacramento. Prop 50 does that. This prop suspends the commission and lies when it says it's only temporary. When was the last time a California government program or tax was temporary?

Halt, thief! Voters, don't let 50 rip you off. Vote NO on 50.

Good News, Bad News

Frank Cannella, Livermore

It was good that Trump has been able to secure a delicate peace deal between Israel and Hamas. The whole world is hopeful that everything holds together.

It would be nice if he used the same negotiating skills domestically while remaining in the confines of the U.S. Constitution. I watched with interest our Vice President being interviewed on a couple of Sunday talk shows where he spoke effusively about the administration's success in the Middle East, which was understandable. Unfortunately, when our numerous domestic issues were discussed: i.e. sending troops to American cities, speaking of the "enemy within", threatening a state governor and city mayor with jail (while zero evidence of any crime exists), ordering the Attorney General to proceed with the prosecution of individuals on his list of enemies, firing government employees who might have democratic bias, and solely blaming Democrats for the government shutdown, I was less enthusiastic. Eloquently spoken horse manure is still horse manure. I fear this administration increasingly oversteps its constitutional power and has a team of spokespeople who know how to make their abuse of power sound reasonable.

Fighting Authoritarianism

Ramona Krausnick, Dublin

When I participate in the weekly Indivisible group peaceful non-violent protests at the Peace Corner in Dublin, there are infinite (too many to count) numbers of automobiles (cars, trucks, semis, etc.) that drive by and constantly "honk their horns" in support; I and others thank you so much for doing that.

In addition, I and others thank you who are not the "protester type" but who are doing other things behind the scenes to fight the evil of authoritarianism.

To those who would like to participate in a protest, but have not done so yet, I encourage you to join our and/or other group peaceful non-violent protests and stand with us/them. There is definitely strength in numbers. We the people, i.e., all of us, need to push back to save our Democracy because we are the only ones who will do it. The Executive Department, 2/3 of the Judicial Department and the Republican congress will never do it.

I personally know individuals who are afraid to attend these rallies, so they stay home. Our protests have trained "peace keepers" and I have never been afraid to participate. If a Trump supporter approaches us and wants to engage in a discussion, we ignore them and notify a peace keeper. If an automobile drives by and gives us an obscene gesture, we ignore it.

We are already living under a dictator who is turning our country into a police state. Do you want to live in a dictatorship? I personally do not want to live in Russia or China or North Korea or in any other country run by a demented dictator or I would be there.

I and others I know who want to live in a Democracy studied Project 2025 before the election and it's terrifying. I'm convinced not enough people read it or didn't take it seriously. Guess what — it's happening as I type this. If you haven't read it yet, please do so. There is a summary on Wikipedia. Fight back peacefully and non-violently and then vote the autocrats out of office before it's too late! Fight for Democracy because you are American!

Move MEH

Daryl R Carlson, Livermore

MEH, née Move Eden (to) Hell, is actually Maniacal Elitist Horrifics, a self-alleged community group of unnamed number with equally cryptic funders. Its goal for years has been to deprive hard working families of housing through an unending series of obstreperous voter initiatives, attempts to replace our elected Council and Mayor with bots to do their bidding, and a stream of lawsuits brought by their attorneys on retainer.

Petition drive after drive, "Is the proposed Hotel too tall," "Should the Hotel be located to a West location to block affordable housing on land purchased with grant money for that expressed purpose." A Livermore City Clerk informed me that the minimum price for a voter initiative is $80K; no wonder the City cannot help folks fix their sidewalks. Then MEH threatened lawsuits when they decided the windows of the Eden project conflicted with the Livermore Master Plan.

The most recent appellate court decision vindicates the City's legal arguments, but MEH, never one to take a hint, vows to appeal. They claim that voters have been muscled out of a choice by the City. You can only go

(See MAILBOX, page 6)

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

MAILBOX

(Continued from page 5)

to the voter initiative oasis so many times before the well dries up. Letters to this newspaper from citizens far saner than me proved that voters are fed up with this malarkey.

A spokesperson for the "group" asserted that they have plans for alternate locations for the Eden project with solutions for financing. Those plans seem to be in same file folder as King Donald's Healthcare plan.

Vote YES on Prop 50

Stacey Borsody, Pleasanton

California Prop 50 is a voter vs. parties issue, not right vs. left. Voters should vote YES on Prop 50 in order to send the message that we are tired of being disenfranchised, our votes purposely made to not matter, and being forced into voting for "the lesser of two evils" by parties. There's no viable third parties in this country, and that's because the system is rigged against the voter.

Why exactly are these parties allowed to cheat by picking their own voters and get away with it? I hold no illusions that Dems wouldn't do it too if they could (they do in Illinois), but the GOP funded REDMAP since Obama was president. I don't know how one can look at the number of states where Republican trifectas exist compared to Dem trifectas and think that is fair, balanced, or competitive. That's why voters need to cheat right back and grab the power instead. Make the parties compete for our vote.

Every state should have an independent commission for redistricting. No party is pushing for that. I'd support that party if they did. But as a Californian, it isn't within my power to get an independent commission in Texas or any other state. And until that day comes, there is an asymmetrical system where only 11 red and blue states have independent commissions while the rest are the personal playthings of whichever party is in control. Wouldn't you like to have an impact on Illinois politicians picking their own voters if you could?

The Democrats are giving voters the power to do something about that in November, just as the GOP once gave voters that power to set up the California independent commission, and I'm going to use that power. I do not lose my independent commission after the next census by voting yes. I'm a non-partisan voter who voted for the independent commission and who will be voting YES on 50. Partisan trifectas need to be slapped down. The Founders were wary of faction and tried to design a system of government that would mitigate it. Voters would be remiss letting Trump pick his own voters.

Welcome to Trump World: Trump Lies Again, Or Is It Just Dementia?

Rosario Milelli, Pleasanton

In his speech to the Generals, the entire military leadership, Trump made a series of false and misleading claims. Let's examine some of them:

"You never heard Biden say: We have the strongest military." False. Biden has consistently highlighted the strength and resilience of the U.S. military, especially when addressing national security.

"Biden wanted to terminate Space Force." False. There is no credible evidence to suggest Biden has ever proposed terminating Space Force; in fact, the Biden administration continued to support its mission.

"The U.S. gave Ukraine $350B." False. The actual figure for U.S. aid to Ukraine, including military and economic support, is far lower. The exaggeration of this figure could mislead the public into believing that the U.S. has spent disproportionately on foreign conflicts.

"I've settled seven wars." False. While Trump did broker deals like the Abraham Accords, the claim that he "settled seven wars" is not grounded in reality.

"Venezuela emptied its prisons and sent prisoners to the U.S." False. No credible evidence supports this. It's another instance of Trump making sweeping and unfounded statements.

"2020 Election was rigged." False. Multiple audits, courts, and investigations have found no evidence of widespread election fraud.

"300,000 drug deaths." False. This statistic is grossly inflated; while the U.S. faces a drug overdose crisis, the numbers are not near that figure.

"Portland is burning down." False. The violence in Portland was isolated and largely resolved, yet Trump continually used it as a symbol of chaos in Democratic cities.

Trump continues to stoke fear and division. Recently, he warned the military leadership: "We are under invasion from within. It's a war within." He even suggested using "dangerous" Democratic cities as "training grounds" for military exercises. Think about it: armed troops patrolling cities like Pleasanton, all under the guise of fighting internal enemies. This rhetoric is not only dangerous — it is authoritarian.

Trump's longstanding animus toward Democrats and his increasingly violent rhetoric raises alarming questions about his vision for America. It's no longer just about "draining the swamp" or "making America great again." It's about using the power of the state to suppress dissent, a tactic used by many authoritarian leaders throughout history, including leaders like Vladimir Putin and Adolf Hitler who leveraged a similar narrative of "internal enemies" to justify crackdowns on protestors and dissidents.

Vote NO on Prop 50

Rajinder Ghatoaura, Pleasanton

California voters created the Independent Redistricting Commission to draw California's Congressional Districts in 2010.

This was to prevent any one political party to draw the congressional districts to favor election of their candidates.

Now the autocratic Governor Newson and the Democrat lawmakers want to stamp down on the California voters and instead redraw the congressional districts to win more Democratic districts.

This means that ONLY democratic votes count and anybody else's does not count.

Every vote should count. It's your right.

What Texas and others are doing is not right either. It's gerrymandering, including California.

It destroys democracy.

Do we in California be like countries where the votes are fixed and the public's votes do not matter?

It is no different than if some thieves are looting stores; do you say, hey let's join them?

The answer is NO.

It's for you to preserve your rights and vote NO on Prop 50.

Who Is Indivisible?

Kat Rosa, Livermore

Who is Indivisible? It's not some far-off organization or a group of strangers from Washington. It's the people you see every day. It's the woman who bags your groceries, the nurse who checks your blood pressure, the dad coaching your kid's soccer team.

It's folks right here in our own Livermore community — people who love this country and believe in the promise of democracy enough to stand up for it.

We're people who cherish our founding documents — the ones that protect our rights to free speech and free assembly, and that enshrine the ideals of freedom and justice for all. We're people who want to preserve this wonderful American democracy for our children, so they inherit a nation where those ideals still mean something.

That's why, on October 18, people from every corner of the country will gather for the No Kings rallies — peaceful, hopeful demonstrations to remind those in power that they work for us.

These events are nonviolent by design. Just neighbors standing shoulder to shoulder — calm, firm, and determined — because peaceful protest has always been how Americans make change.

You might hear people try to twist what these rallies are about. That's nothing new. Fear and misinformation are old tricks meant to scare people into staying home. But fear only wins if we let it. And if history teaches us anything, it's that when ordinary people come together, they can do extraordinary things.

This isn't about politics. It's about patriotism. Our founders knew the danger of kings and unchecked power. They built a system where the government serves the people — not the other way around. That idea is worth standing up for.

So on October 18, when you see people gathering in your town square or on the courthouse steps, know that they're not outsiders. We're your neighbors — people who love this country, believe in its highest ideals, and are ready to do their part to keep democracy strong.

That's who Indivisible is. And we hope you'll stand with us.

Complying with Title IX

Deborah Gibson, Livermore

I recently sent this letter to each member of the LVJUSD:

I am writing to formally request that you call a special meeting of the Board of Education regarding the letter that you received from the Department of Education Office for Civil Rights dated Sept. 30 that was addressed to Superintendent Gibson.

According to the letter, the LVJUSD may be in violation of complying with Title IX if you are following state law which is in conflict with federal law.

Under statute, the Magnet School Assistance Program (MSAP) provides discretionary grants to local educational agencies (LEAs) to operate magnet schools that promote desegregation in order to "increase interaction among students of different social, economic, ethnic, and racial backgrounds."

This grant is vital when it comes to providing for our schools. If the district is in violation of Title IX, this grant is in jeopardy.

As stated in the letter, "when recipients of Federal funding require schools to treat "trans-identifying" males as if they were "females," including in intimate traditionally sex separate facilities, they defeat the very purpose of Title IX." This creates "a hostile educational environment by denying females equal access to benefits of Education programs or activities. The same can be said when female students are permitted to enter intimate facilities and private spaces reserved for male students."

You were asked to notify OCR within five days of receipt of that letter as to whether or not the district was going to comply with the Title IX situations where California state law may require sex-based discrimination.

Have you responded to this inquiry? Currently 16 school districts in California are supporting Title IX and fairness in girls' interscholastic sports.

Again, I am requesting that you call a special meeting of the board to address this publicly.

Because of the government shutdown, they have not received a response to their request for a two-week extension. I believe it is important for the parents of the students to be aware of the details of the request from the OCR.

Acoustic Guitarist Stricagnoli To Play at Livermore's Bankhead

Italian acoustic guitarist Luca Stricagnoli will play a mix of contemporary rock, music from popular films and his own compositions at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore on Saturday, Nov. 15.

He will be joined on stage by his wife, singer-songwriter Meg Pfeiffer, with selections from her latest alternative album, "Red Wine Philosophy."

Stricagnoli is known for his innovative fingerstyle techniques and genre-blending musical arrangements played on his signature double- and triple-neck guitars.

The 34-year-old guitarist's tours have reached audiences in more than 30 countries.

He also has more than 800,000 subscribers on his YouTube channel, which has racked up more than 200 million views.

Stricagnoli played the Bankhead Theater with the International Guitar Night tour in 2017, 2022, and 2024.

The German-born Pfeiffer is an award-winning singer-songwriter and music video director.

She has released six studio albums, in addition to the 16-track "Red Wine Philosophy," which she wrote, arranged, recorded and produced by herself.

The couple formed their own record label, Muca Label & Publishing, in 2017 and relocated to Nashville in 2022.

Tickets to the 8 p.m. performance at The Bankhead Theater start at $30 and are available online at livermorearts.org.

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Rouse Receives Top Honor In Local Photo Contest

Anna Rouse received Best in Show honors in the Livermore Valley Camera Club's Click2025 photography contest for an image titled "Stormy Skies Over the Grand Canyon."

Judges praised Rouse's photograph for its use of light and composition, noting its ability to draw the viewer into the vastness of the scene.

In addition to Best of Show, the image received first place in the Pictorial category. Rouse also received first place honors in the Nature category for a photograph titled "Hummingbird Playing in the Water."

Other award winners were:

Pictorial — Lisa Boyd, "Moment in Time," second place, and Valerie Martinello, "Georgio Watching the Rain," third place.

Travel — Roger Zhu, "Mother and Daughter in Bazurto Market," first; Craig Varden, "Lalibela Respect Greeting," second; Robb Nardy, "Grand Central Station, New York," third.

Nature — Valerie Martinello, "Backyard Hummingbird," second; Jill Farrell, "The Death of Owens Lake," third.

Monochrome — Harry Briley, "La Purisma Olive Press," first; Julie Wright, "Sit a While," second; Roger Zhu, "Pigeon Notifications," third.

The contest, sponsored by Mike's Camera in Dublin, was open to all Tri-Valley residents.

The winning images will be on display at the Livermore Civic Center Library in November.

SMOKE SHOPS

(Continued from front page)

previously lost its tobacco license for violations but continued selling products, and that the business had faced multiple building and fire-code violations.

"DPS aims to investigate and stop the sales of illegal tobacco products and electronic smoking devices in the City of Dublin, with a particular emphasis on protecting youth from access to these products," Campos said. He added that the department pursues this goal through proactive enforcement, community education, and collaboration with schools, public health agencies, other government entities and local businesses.

In 2020, the Dublin City Council unanimously approved an ordinance banning the sale of flavored tobacco products and electronic vaping devices within the city, responding to a rise in nicotine use among youth locally and across the U.S.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in 2023, 10% of middle and high school students reported using tobacco products, with e-cigarettes remaining the most common. Among youth e-cigarette users, 25% reported daily use and nearly 90% of those smoking used flavored varieties.



Left to right: Donna Blevins, Lea Blevins, Meredith Sarboraria, Maren Haws, Amanda Pepper, Alex Lobao. (Photo courtesy of Encore Players)

Encore Players Presenting Rollicking Comedy Play

Encore Players, a community theater group, will present "Always a Bridesmaid," a rollicking comedy by playwright Jones Hope Wooten, at the Bothwell Arts Center in Livermore over two weekends in November.

Directed by Amanda Farmer, the lighthearted play is about four friends who made a promise on the night of their senior prom to always be in each other's weddings. More than 30 years later, after runaway brides, fist fights, cheating husbands and ugly bridesmaid dresses, the four Southern women are still trying to keep their vow and pull off the perfect wedding.

"I'm absolutely thrilled to bring this fun-loving story of friendship and a few hijinks for audiences to enjoy," Farmer said. "Our cast and production crew are working hard to make this a hilariously lovely show that's sure to entertain."

The Encore cast includes Alex Lobao, Amanda Pepper, Donna Blevins, Lea Blevins, Maren Haws and Meredith Sarboraria.

The play will be presented at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 1, Friday, Nov. 7, and Saturday, Nov. 8. There will also be 2 p.m. matinees on Sunday, Nov. 2, and Sunday, Nov. 9.

Tickets are $25 and are available at the door or online at livermorearts.org.

TESLA

(Continued from front page)

Over the years, environmentalists and Indigenous people have supported Tesla Park becoming a state natural reserve.

According to State Parks, the main difference between the two concepts they discussed at the workshops is whether areas designated for camping would be "clustered" or "dispersed" throughout the park. Additionally, the extension of certain trails and roads to provide visitors with more access is another feature inherent to both plans, though they differ slightly in the placement of those roads and access points.

The step of classification and receiving community input is roughly in the middle stage of State Parks' general plan timeline, which is estimated to take 3-5 years to complete. Other steps in the general plan timeline, such as preparing an Environmental Impact Report, continue to be ongoing. State Parks expects that as evidence from research continues, the job of classification will become clearer.

Although the survey results of community feedback from the virtual workshop haven't been released, residents have expressed concerns regarding how similar the two draft concepts are. With a little "tweaking," according to State Parks, either could be made to classify as a state park or state natural reserve.

"We weren't given a choice between a state park or a reserve. We were presented with two versions of a state park and had to compare them in our comments and voting," Beth Wurzburg, an Alameda County resident and member of the California Native Plant Society, told The Independent. "When you're asked if you prefer clustered camping or dispersed camping, the answer you're going to get is still "camping."

Camping is considered a recreational activity. State Parks' focus on it was a concern for those wanting a natural reserve. In addition, there was worry about a lack of specificity when the staff described the kinds of management actions State Parks would take to ensure protection of the area's natural resources.

"The current concept plans, like those in 2016, still drive high-intensity uses deep into Tesla's sensitive landscape — building roads, campgrounds, bike trails and associated facilities that damage and fragment essential habitat for over 100 protected special-status plants and animals," Livermore resident and Friends of Tesla Park committee member Nancy Rodrigue told The Independent.

State Parks has stated that if the park is classified as a natural reserve, camping would be removed from the plan. Also, activities such as hiking, bicycling and horseback riding would only be considered on designated roads and trails within either reserve designation.

"Both draft concepts include a Sensitive Resource Zone, covering the majority of the property, which will be managed to prioritize the protection and interpretation of sensitive resources, with limited recreational uses," State Parks spokesperson Adeline Yee said.

For conservationists such as Wurzburg and Rodrigue who have been working to preserve Tesla Park for 20 years, even the permitting of "limited recreational uses" could still pose a considerable threat to the area's extensive and irreplaceable biological resources.

The Friends of Tesla Park Coalition last month produced an assessment, a multi-year collaboration to compile knowledge of the area's natural resources and summarize research from the field of recreation ecology pertinent to the classification decision. It concluded that the property has one of the highest levels of biodiversity in California.

"Its unique combination of geographic position and climatic regime supports an unusual and rare assemblage of plants and animals," the assessment said. "There are 45 special-status (rare) plant species, one of which may be a previously undescribed species; 56 local watch-list plant species, 10 of which are at the extent of their ranges; and nine sensitive natural communities."

The impact of recreational activities, most of which require development, maintenance and management of infrastructure and facilities, would have "direct, indirect and cumulative impacts" on the environment, the assessment added.

The assessment goes on to list the individual effects on wildlife and habitat that would arise from the development of new roads, trails and campsites/picnic areas such as those presented in State Parks' new draft concepts. The full assessment can be found at: https://teslapark.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/Tesla-Reserve-Classification-based-on-Assessment-of-Biological-Resources-and-Recreational-Impacts_Appendix-Synopsis_9-1-2025.pdf.

To make the issue more complex, the area is also the ancestral lands of Indigenous people from Ohlone Tribes in the East Bay and the Northern Valley, the Yokut Tribe in the Central Valley and other tribes in the region.

According to Jennifer Spence, a volunteer who's spoken for and worked closely with the Tri-Valley Native American Center since 2021, there has been significant input that Tesla must be preserved at the highest level to protect the entire Tribal Cultural Landscape, which encompasses all of Tesla.

"The Tribal Cultural Landscape is part of and one with the entire natural landscape," Spence told The Independent. "We do not see it as separate, or as only the Native American archeological features. If you damage one, you damage the other."

With State Parks continuing to offer the state park option, despite repeated backlash, especially from local conservationist and tribal groups, there has been growing mistrust of the organization, and concern that State Parks is intentionally refusing to listen to the public's sentiments.

"For several years, State Parks has known that overwhelming public support is for the Alameda-Tesla property to be classified as a state natural reserve," said Dick Schneider, an open-space advocate who's been closely following State Parks' progress. "Nevertheless, at its two recent public workshops, a reserve was not even offered as a choice. ... Not giving people a real choice is a cynical way to manipulate the process so State Parks gets the kind of park it wants, rather than the kind that the public wants."

The best solution for the Alameda-Tesla property, according to Schneider, would be to have the 3,100 acres classified and then managed as a state natural reserve, with only reserve-compatible uses allowed.

According to State Parks staff, a 300-plus-acre area along Tesla Road would be classified as a state park with more intensive uses permitted there, such as camping, mountain biking, parking, restrooms, a staging area to visit the adjacent reserve and interpretive buildings.

Schneider said if State Parks insists on not creating three different types of parks in the immediate vicinity, the 300-plus acres could be annexed to the contiguous Carnegie State Vehicular Recreation Area (Carnegie SVRA), but without off-road motorized recreation allowed in that portion, and only the uses listed above allowed.

However, Schneider noted, "This solution satisfies State Parks's mission of balancing resource protection and recreational uses over the contiguous, combined areas of Carnegie SVRA, Tesla and the other 300-plus-acre site. There is no compelling reason for each of these uses to be balanced within each park unit. Indeed, that's exactly why different Park classifications exist."

During the September workshops, State Parks stressed repeatedly that while a lot of research and work have been done in preparing both draft concepts, they are still "drafts" and as of now, simply serve as a reference point from which to work in the process toward classification.

State Parks said it plans to give the public more opportunities to participate in the general plan process and share input that will inform project outcomes before eventually recommending a park classification and name to the State Park and Recreation Commission.

To learn more about State Parks' draft concepts and participate in its Concept Alternatives Survey, which is available until Oct. 31, visit:https://alamedateslaplan.com/participate/.



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LIVERMORE CALIFORNIA
ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR CITY HISTORIAN
RESIDENTS OF LIVERMORE: The City of Livermore is accepting applications for City Historian. The deadline to apply is Friday, November 14, 2025.
The City Historian's role is to increase public awareness of the history of the city and community of Livermore. The person appointed to this volunteer position will serve a two-year term. Qualified applicants will have experience presenting local historical information to community groups, teaching courses in local and regional history, or be affiliated with an organization associated with the advancement of the history of Livermore.
SAVE THE DATE! Interviews will be held the evening of December 4, 2025. For more information or to apply, please visit www.livermoreca.gov/AB, call the City Clerk's office at (925) 960 - 4200, or email: cityclerk@livermoreca.gov.

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Annual Taste of Africa Brings Big Dose of Joy to Community

By Christina Cavallaro

LIVERMORE — The Cheza Nami Foundation's 13th annual Taste of Africa Festival packed the Bankhead Theater Plaza in Livermore on Saturday, Oct. 4.

Cheza Nami (which means "play with me" in Swahili) is a nonprofit dedicated to cultivating belonging through African and diasporic arts. Using play-based, experiential approaches, Cheza Nami offers dance, drumming, storytelling, residency programs and public festivals that help children, families and communities connect with identity, joy and cultural pride.

The Independent caught up with Cheza Nami founder Catherine Wanjiku "Ciiku" Ndungu-Case the week following the event as she was headed to Kenya to visit family. Ndungu-Case, by way of explaining her nickname, also shared that "Wanjiku" is part of a specific linguistic group of people in Kenya.

"'Ciiku' is the shortened version of that," Ndungu-Case said. "And in our (cultural) tradition, you are called by the name of your community. So, 'Catherine …,' even though that was given to me at birth, I'm still referred to as 'Wanjiku' from a cultural perspective." Be that as it may, she said that people in the U.S. find her name difficult and so she often defaults to the easier pronunciation path. This fundamental wrestling match with her name, in fact, led her to write a recently published children's book called, "Wanjiku, Child of Mine."

"It tells the story of different names rooted in culture and just sort of celebrates heritage," Ndungu-Case said.

That celebration of heritage is also how she came to found the Taste of Africa event 15 years ago. The free event honors the beauty and traditions of African and diaspora cultures through a festive day filled with family-friendly education and entertainment, as well as art, clothing and foods from across the continent and beyond.

"We want to be able to show up in our communities in ways that make us feel comfortable and in a way that also welcomes the community," Ndungu-Case said.

This year, the day included everything from traditional dance ensembles to international fusion bands, plus a pop-up dance studio with master teachers who led open-air workshops celebrating movement styles from Guinea, Kenya, Haiti, Brazil, Senegal, Cuba and more.

Volunteers from the Pleasanton Unified School District helped set up a "KidZone" to keep the "youngest global citizens" engaged through crafts, storytelling, instrument exploration, face painting and a curated reading corner.

"It's like a big, old party," Ndungu-Case said. "You can come as you please. And there were people from all walks of life and shades and colors and mixtures, and everybody who was there said, 'This is such an amazing thing to come to because it's focused on connection.'"

Ndungu-Case said there was an aspect of selfishness behind her decision to start Taste of Africa.

"I wanted a part of me as part of the community," she said. "I wanted my family to feel like, 'Yes, we also belong.' I'm not from here. I wasn't born and raised here, so I want to create my new home for me here. I want my story to be part of my community's story."

Hana Baba, an award-winning public-radio journalist and host of the acclaimed radio news magazine "Crosscurrents," was present for the event.

"And it was interesting," Ndungu-Case said, "because what she said was that the event was so joyful. And that was a recurring theme throughout the day. Just folks saying this is just so much joy. It's so positive."

The sad reality, though, Ndungu-Case pointed out, is the very real possibility of that joy going away as more arts funding gets slashed under the current government administration.

"We can't wait for these kinds of initiatives to go away," Ndungu-Case said. "It takes a lot more investment to restart. Taste of Africa 2025 was bootstrapped."

The group relied heavily on volunteer support and will do so again in 2026.

"We're doubling down rather than giving up," Ndungu-Case said. "We're going to expense all our available funds and when we are out of dollars, we're going to (have to) shut our doors in 2027."

What that means to the community, she said, is it must see the value in events such as Taste of Africa. And it will have to invest in them.

"So, my call is to the cities in the Tri Valley, the businesses in the Tri Valley, the corporations in the Tri Valley. The people in the Tri Valley have to take a stake," Ndungu-Case said. "And it's comfortable to just have something that's appeared at your front door that you didn't think you wanted, but now you recognize that you want and you show up and put your feet up and enjoy.

"But if we don't take a stake in it, these kinds of things are not going to be available, and our city will become dead."



Folklo Ayisyen Lakay's Dance Co. was one of many cultural performance groups presenting at the 13th annual Taste of Africa on Oct. 4 at the Bankhead Plaza in Livermore. The event invited the community to experience the richness and vibrancy of African and diaspora cultures through music, dance, art, food and education. (Photo — Leah Silveira)

LOPEZ

(Continued from front page)

having been deported in June. His wife, Rosa Lopez, said that keeping busy has helped her, as has placing supportive telephone calls to Miguel every morning and evening.

"I have good and bad days," Rosa said. "There's days where I am OK, and then there's days where nothing motivates me, and I'll call Miguel to talk with him and let him know how I'm feeling."

For their three boys, two of whom are working, with the youngest continuing to attend high school and football practice each day, remaining engaged has helped them cope and worry less about their father's next court hearing.

As for Miguel, Rosa said that after the Oct. 7 court date, he was overjoyed that his case wasn't immediately dismissed and that he would be given a second chance to have the case presented, and perhaps be able to return to the U.S.

"When I spoke to Miguel over FaceTime immediately after walking out of the courtroom, and Saad told him that we were still going to move forward, he had a really big smile on his face," Rosa said. "He said he wanted to cry and said how much he wanted to come home and was looking forward to hearing good news. He is excited that the judge is giving him another court date, and it's soon."

Over the next two weeks, Rosa said, the family and Miguel will remain hopeful, and are incredibly grateful for continued public support in helping keep Miguel's case alive and present in people's minds.

The road to Miguel possibly returning home has been long and full of legal setbacks, with the original court date having been scheduled for July but subsequently pushed back to this month due to unspecified paperwork issues. Still, Ahmad remains optimistic that the case is strong, despite the Trump Administration having doubled down on mass deportations.

The family's GoFundMe account, which Rosa has been relying on over the past several months for family expenses and to cover legal bills, sits at just more than $63,000, with a target of reaching $70,000. To donate, visit: https://www.gofundme.com/f/bring-miguel-back-to-his-loved-ones.

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TRI-VALLEY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Thursdays, Oct. 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.

Friday, Oct. 17
3RD ANNUAL ROADRUNNER RUN
Marylin 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: chefgivingcommunity.org/BrightFutures/

Sunday, Oct. 19
SMOKEFEST BBQ CELEBRATION
Downtown Pleasanton's SideTrack Bar + Grill presents SmokeFest, a 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.

Sunday, Oct. 26
HALLOWEEN AT HAGEMANN RANCH
Come in costume to celebrate Halloween at Hagemann on Oct.26, from 1 to 5 p.m. Take a hayride around the ranch and get your fortune told. Watch a 'Frank Bona and the Halloween Players' marionette show and get your face painted by Synthia. Good New Bears will have lots of stuffed animals and Busy Buzzy Bots will be selling STEM kits. At 455 Olivina Ave., Livermore, Family friendly and always free!

Tuesday/Wednesday, Nov. 4 and 5
GOLDEN CIRCLE ANNUAL HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE
The Golden Circle is a group of creative retirees who meet at 12:30 each Monday at LARPD to socialize and make a variety of hand crafted goods to sell reasonably priced at the annual Golden Circle Boutique. A large percentage of the proceeds are donated to local charities. This year, the Holiday Boutique takes place on Nov. 4 and 5 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Robert Livermore Community Center, 4444 East Ave., Livermore.

Thursday-Saturday, Nov. 6-8
BOUTIQUE AT CEDAR GROVE COMMUNITY CHURCH
The boutique team at Cedar Grove Community Church in Livermore has prepared another shopping experience, with all items created or donated by members. Baby items, quilts, bowl cozies, table runners, placemats, aprons, pot holders, towel boas, 18-inch doll clothes, Christmas décor, pillows, knit and crochet items, books, games, puzzles (new and gently used), jewelry, china sets, vintage treasures, gift baskets, new gift items, and more. Nov. 6-8, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Friday/Saturday, Nov. 7 and 8
HOLY CROSS CRAFTY LADIES ANNUAL HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE
Holy Cross Crafty Ladies is having their annual Holiday Boutique on Nov. 7 and 8, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 1020 Mocho St. in Livermore. Holiday gifts, handcrafted ornaments, decor, kitchen items, stocking stuffers, jams, jellies and more! All proceeds benefit unfunded projects of Holy Cross Church.

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.

‘No Kings’ Rallies Planned for Livermore, Pleasanton

Livermore Indivisible, a volunteer organization that supports Democratic candidates and causes, will hold a “No Kings” protest rally opposing the Trump administration at the intersection of Portola Avenue and North Livermore Avenue from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 18.

The protest, a follow-up to “No Kings” rallies in June, is one of more than 2,000 planned across the country on Oct. 18.

Indivisible Tri-Valley, which was formed last year as a sister chapter to Livermore Indivisible, will also hold a “No Kings” rally from 1:30-3 p.m. the same day, at the intersection of Hopyard Road and Valley Avenue in Pleasanton.

The Pleasanton rally is cosponsored by Swing Left Tri-Valley, which focuses on mobilizing volunteers to support Democratic candidates.

Organizers said the rallies will demonstrate the groups’ opposition to what they see as authoritarian excesses and corruption of the Trump administration.

“On a daily basis, the Trump administration is breaking down constitutional checks and balances to consolidate power and to enrich themselves, at our expense,” Livermore Indivisible steering committee member Marla Kirby said. “Its allies in Congress, on the Supreme Court and in too many other American institutions are not holding Trump and his administration accountable for increasing abuses of power, cruelty and corruption. So, it’s up to the people — it’s up to all of us to stand up and speak out.”

Dublin Urges Safe Disposal Of Hazardous-Waste Items

After three garbage trucks caught fire in a three-week period, Dublin is urging residents to be more careful in disposing of hot ashes and other hazardous waste.

The city cautioned that batteries, propane cylinders, hot ashes and other hazardous materials can ignite and cause fires in garbage, recycling, and compost collection trucks.

To prevent such fires, the city is urging residents to dispose of hazardous household waste (HHW) at one of four HHW sites operated by Alameda County, including 5584 La Ribera St. in Livermore.

For more on the county HHW program, go stopwaste.org and click on Household Hazardous Waste. Homeowners can also search for how to safely dispose of other items on the website.

WINE

(Continued from front page)

Canada.

“At this point, I feel like running away,” she said at the time.

Sarboraria wonders if the public is aware of the rough waters her clients are navigating. “Because I talk to people all the time and they’re like, ‘Oh, the wine industry is not doing well?’”

Well, wineries were doing very well during the pandemic, until suddenly they weren’t.

“We really saw a boom during COVID,” Sarboraria said. “Like, if you knew how to market yourself during that time and take advantage of the rules that were put down, then you made a killing. I had friends that were saying, ‘Oh, my gosh, we’ve never sold so much wine in our lives.’ So, a lot of wineries ended up doing really well during that time. And I think they weren’t prepared for it to come to an abrupt end.”

Fast forward to now. “It’s always an ebb and flow with wine, and ups and downs,” Sarboraria said. “But this one seems to be more towards the extreme. Any time there’s an economic downturn, in the alcoholic beverage world, wine is always the hardest hit because it’s considered a luxury item.”

The good news for fans of the fermented fruits of Livermore Valley Wine Country’s labor is that region leaders such as Heather McGrail, president of McGrail Vineyards and Winery, are thinking positively.

“It’s definitely a soft market,” said McGrail, whose 7,000-case-a-year boutique winery has been in operation for 17 years. “But I truly believe wine is not going anywhere. We’ve been around since the beginning of time.”

McGrail is thinking creatively, as are other wineries in the area, to combat industry challenges such as change in consumer habits, the aging out of core buyers and competition in the beverage space by myriad other choices. McGrail and other wineries are tasked with figuring out how to attract the younger demographic (21-35) and get that group interested in wine.

For McGrail, one of the ways is to push the envelope with different types of events — and a lot of them. A new Tuesday night bingo series is highly attended.

“It’s not your grandma’s bingo,” McGrail said, laughing. “It’s fun and lively. And our bingo-callers occasionally throw out a cuss word.”

McGrail doesn’t see a place for snobbiness in the wine world.

“It’s not supposed to be some hoity-toity thing,” she said. So, they strive to make it more approachable. “Something for everyone — and I think the Livermore Valley does a good job of that.”

McGrail said it’s maybe not a year to expand, but it is one to grow.

“It’s like if you’re not changing, you’re not growing,” she said. “This is a year to hold on, hunker down and really try some new things. Be experimental and see what’s working and what’s not. We can’t just make the same wine and expect the same customers.”

With a trend of people drinking less, Sakura Winery owner Jennifer Sahara just opened her much-anticipated tasting room on Research Drive in Livermore.

“I think the good thing, though, is that it’s more about the experience now,” Sahara said. “Not so much about the glass of wine itself, but more about connecting with people and just being there together.”

And like McGrail, Sahara is excited about getting creative in her new space with unique offerings such as an upcoming calligraphy-painting-on-pumpkins event where wine will be part, but not all, of the program.

“That’s the way we’re responding, at least in Livermore,” she said. “I feel like we’re all pivoting and it’s pushing us to connect with the community in new ways. I think that’s exciting.”

Community is what it’s all about, according to LVWC Executive Director Brandi Lombardi.

“The Livermore Valley Wine Community is not just the winegrowers, vintners, tasting-room staffs and vineyard workers,” she said. “It stretches out to the residents of Livermore and surrounding areas, local wine shops and restaurants and patrons of our wineries. We are grateful for their partnership to help us ensure the sustainability of this beautiful wine region.”

There is no shortage of ways for the community to show support this harvest season and into the holidays at events such as Taste, the annual Livermore Valley food and wine experience that spans venues across four days, this year from Thursday, Oct 16 through Sunday, Oct 19.

“Livermore as a whole, and the wine community, we’re resilient,” Sahara said. “We’ll be creative in how we handle all this. No matter what comes, I think we’ll be OK.”

McGrail shared similar sentiments.

“Don’t give up on us,” she said. “Don’t give up on wine. It’s grown here in your region. It wants to be part of your lifetime journey. This isn’t about over-consumption. Wine (and wineries) bring community together. So, let’s continue this amazing community we have and let’s get out there and visit the wineries, make friends and enjoy a glass.”

For more information about Taste, visit lvwine.org/event/12891/taste-the-livermore-valley-wine-experience

Cyclists Take to Dublin Streets on Sunday

Hundreds of cyclists are expected to participate in the eighth annual Cycle of Hope fundraiser sponsored by Habitat for Humanity East Bay/Silicon Valley on Sunday, Oct. 19.

Riders in the 100-kilometer Metric Century will leave from the Dublin headquarters of Patelco Credit Union, 3 Park Place, at 7:30 a.m. The credit union will also serve as the finish line.

There will also be 13-mile and 33-mile bike routes, and an off-street Kids Ride for those 10 and under.

There will be family friendly activities, including bounce houses, face painting and helmet-decorating, along with food and entertainment following the rides.

“Anyone who lives in the Bay Area can feel the housing crisis in their life, and Cycle of Hope offers a tangible way to take action,” said Janice Jensen, president and CEO of Habitat for Humanity East Bay/Silicon Valley. “Cycle of Hope riders have seen whole communities come to fruition and lives altered as a result of their efforts, and this year, the impact will be felt even more deeply.”

Habitat for Humanity currently has building projects underway in Hayward, Walnut Creek and San Jose.

Pleasanton Receives $150K Grant for Traffic Enforcement

Pleasanton has received a $150,000 grant from the California Highway Patrol (CHP) for improved traffic safety efforts, including the purchase of a fully equipped police vehicle dedicated to DUI enforcement.

The funds come from the California Cannabis Tax Fund Grant Program, which was created by the California Adult Use of Marijuana Act. The grants are administered by the CHP.

In addition to a new patrol car, Pleasanton said the grant would go toward the purchase of a motorcycle for traffic enforcement and to conduct a DUI checkpoint in December, providing a visible enforcement effort during the holiday season.

“Keeping our roadways safe remains one of our top priorities,” said Pleasanton Police Lt. Chris Niederhaus. “This grant allows us to expand our resources, strengthen impaired driving enforcement and continue protecting the community from the dangers of DUI-related collisions.”

Livermore-Amador Transit To Hold Hearing on Bus-Fare Increases

The Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority (LAVTA) Board of Directors will hold a public hearing on Monday, Nov. 3, to solicit input on a proposal to increase rider fares on Wheels buses.

LAVTA has proposed increasing the adult single ride fare to $2.50, from the current $2 fare.

It is also proposing to raise the paratransit single ride fare, now $3.75, to $4.50, and increase the Clipper youth single ride fare, now $1.60, to $2.25.

LAVTA said commensurate increases in pass prices would apply across all fare categories.

LAVTA is also seeking feedback on a proposed permanent reduction in Route 501 bus service.

Route 501 has served the Positano, Silvera Ranch and Dublin Ranch neighborhoods as a supplemental bus route for Dublin High School. But with the opening of Emerald High School, LAVTA said fewer students are riding Route 501 buses.

LAVTA reduced the number of buses assigned to Route 501 from five to two in August.

The hearing at the Wheels offices, 1362 Rutan Court, Livermore, will start at 4 p.m.

The hearing will also be available on Zoom and written comments can be submitted via wheelsbus.com

The public comment period for both proposals closes Nov. 7.

The LAVTA Board of Directors is expected to make a final decision at its December meeting, with fare increases going into effect no earlier than April 2026.

For more information, go to wheelsbus.com.

Assistance League Taking Kids Shopping

The Assistance League of Amador Valley (ALAV) will take more than 500 students to shop for shoes and clothes at Kohl’s department store in Livermore over the last two weekends in October.

Operation School Bell is the nonprofit organization’s largest annual community event.

Volunteers will help students identified by teachers and counselors at Dublin, Pleasanton and Livermore public schools who need new shoes, clothes, jackets and other school-appropriate clothing.

The students, from kindergarten through eighth grade, will also receive a book, dental kit and “a big boost in their self-esteem,” according to the ALAV.

For more information, go to assistanceleague.org/amador-valley.

OBITUARIES

Mary Ann Cunial

Feb. 17, 1939 — Sept. 27, 2025

Resident of Livermore

Mary Ann Cunial was born in Bloomington, Indiana to Ed and Jesadean Schafer. She was the first of four daughters. Her three sisters would arrive over the next nine years. She adored each one, and their close bond lasted throughout their lives.

Mary Ann was always a good student and always social. In fact, her report cards would often mention that she visited with classmates too much, but she was always surrounded by good friends. When Mary Ann was nine, her father’s work with Eli Lilly took the family to Mattoon, Illinois. She enjoyed her time there and developed a love of music, playing piano and bass clarinet in school. Another move came when she was a sophomore in high school, this time to Fresno, California. She would attend two high schools there, graduating from Fresno High in 1957.

After graduation, she attended Fresno State University and joined Kappa Alpha Theta sorority, where she made lifelong friends and loved living in the sorority house. She earned her degree in Education in 1962, and soon after accepted a teaching job in the San Francisco Bay Area. While teaching kindergarten at Mowry Elementary in Fremont, Mary Ann met and fell in love with a fellow teacher, Dario Cunial. They were married in 1964.

In 1967, they settled in Livermore, where they welcomed and raised their three children. Family was everything to Mary Ann, and she loved being a mom. She volunteered in her children’s classrooms, served as a “Pink Lady” at the local hospital, and was active in her church community.

In 1975, she began teaching Tiny Tots for the Livermore Recreation Department, later moving to Wee Care Preschool, where she would spend the next 30 years until her retirement in 2007. Mary Ann loved her work and the hundreds of children and families that passed through the school. She built self-esteem in her students using positive reinforcement and a firm, but friendly, disciplinary approach that left lasting impressions on both children and parents.

After retirement, Mary Ann embraced life with the same joyful spirit, spending time with friends and family, especially her grandchildren. She and Dario loved traveling, attending their grandchildren’s sporting events and sharing life’s simple celebrations. She also enjoyed sewing, knitting, and reading a good book.

Dario’s passing in 2013 naturally left a void. However, Mary Ann continued to approach each day with optimism and gratitude, surrounding herself with friends and family.

In the last 14 months of her life, she lived at Rosewood Gardens Assisted Living in Livermore, where she made friends with residents and caretakers alike. Even as she faced dementia, her happy disposition and kind heart continued to shine. She passed away peacefully there on Sept. 27. She will be missed, but her zest for life will live on in our memories.



Mary Ann is survived by her three children: Julie Moylan (Steve), Steve Cunial (Kathy), Dena O’Hara (Dan); her seven grandchildren: Ashley, Kyle, Luke, Andrew, Taylor, Brendan and Emily; great-granddaughter Annabelle; her three sisters: Susan Brown, Nancy Helton and Martha Kodman and their families.

A memorial Mass is planned for Saturday, Nov. 1 at 11:00 a.m. at St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church, 1315 Lomitas Ave. in Livermore. A celebration of life will follow in the hall on the church grounds.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to either:

St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church, 1315 Lomitas Ave., Livermore, CA 94550 (stcharleslivermore.org/give) or Rosewood Gardens Assisted Living, 35 Fenton Ave., Livermore, CA 94550, (925) 722-4131.

Prototype Granada Football Standout 'Keeps Driving'

Neither Hip Surgery nor Single Opponents Have Been Able To Stop Two-Way Matadors' Star Phillips During Senior Campaign

By Mitch Stephens

LIVERMORE — When Granada High School coach Brandon Black led the Dublin program for five seasons, he had an image of what a football player from Livermore looked like.

"Big, strong, tough, no-nonsense," Black said. "A yes-sir, no-sir type. Polite, quiet, hyper- focused."

Translation: Cody Phillips.

The 5-foot-11, 190-pound senior linebacker and H-Back never leaves the field for the 4-3 Matadors, the defending East Bay Athletic League Valley Division champions who are set to host Dublin at 7:15 p.m. Friday, Oct. 17.

He's a co-captain, leading tackler with 57 and touchdown maker with six, two coming in last week's 28-0 win over visiting Foothill. Each were on 2-yard runs out of the shotgun formation in Granada's "beast" package.

"It's never a secret who we're going to in that spot," Black said. "The kid is relentless, a grinder, hyper-focused on whatever it takes to help your team win. He plays with a big chip on his shoulders.

"Cody is exactly the kind of football player and kid I imagined when I came over here."

And it's exactly why Black goes to Phillips when it matters most. More than the touchdowns against Foothill, Black couldn't get a 5-yard run just before the second score out of his memory bank.

"It literally took six guys to bring him down," Black said. "It was clogged up in the middle. He bounced it outside, but he wouldn't go down."



Granada linebacker Cody Phillips drops back in pass coverage against Foothill's Osmar Calderon during the Matadors' 28-0 victory Oct. 10 in Livermore. (Photo — Leah Silveira)

That determination and toughness is reminiscent of former NFL fullback Mike Alstott, a six-time Pro Bowler, and two-time NFL Defensive Player of the Year Ray Lewis, two players Phillips likes to watch on YouTube. Their sheer will is partly what Phillips draws upon when he nears the goal line.

The other part is his teammates and his close-knit family, which includes dad Mike, mom Kim, older brothers Jake and Grady, and younger sister Lila. His grandparents also come to every game.

"The whole time I'm thinking, 'Keep your legs moving and driving,'" Phillips said. "I see it as a challenge. I do it for my team, my family. I won't let just one guy bring me down."

It's that kind of mentality — and production — that makes Phillips so popular among his teammates, and why, "At this point in the season, he is definitely our MVP," Granada's second-year coach said.

That is pretty remarkable, considering that Phillips' senior season was somewhat in question after he underwent March surgery for a torn right labrum (hip joint), which ended his junior baseball campaign. The talented catcher is considered a college baseball prospect.

"It was hard sometimes," Phillips said. "I'd go to games on crutches and think, 'I'm supposed to be playing.' Fortunately, I recovered quickly."

He was supposed to be on crutches for upwards of three months. Instead, it was three weeks. That made sense because of his age — labrum injuries generally occur in older people — but also because of his competitive edge.

Though baseball is his future, football fits his makeup.

Phillips didn't know he'd be so suited for tackle football until he played it for the first time while in ninth grade. His dad played guard and linebacker at Newark Memorial High, and Phillips dabbled in flag football as a kid.

But once he put on pads and a helmet and made contact with an opponent, he was hooked.

"I wanted to try something different in high school, and I immediately fell in love with the sport," he said. "Being able to hit people and get out aggression and have fun with your friends, there is nothing like it. I also love the fact that everyone has a job to do in order to be successful."

Granada's greatest chance for success in 2025 was for Phillips to expand his role, Black said.

So even though Phillips was coming off surgery, Black told him: "I need you to go both ways this season (Phillips played only defense as a junior). He just gave me a big grin and said, 'I got you, coach — wherever you need me.' He was just salivating at the opportunity."

He's made the very most of every one of them, Black said. Phillips is looking for many more starting against Dublin, and then three weeks later when the Matadors travel to Livermore to face the rival Cowboys. At stake in those games may be the league championship and a North Coast Section playoff berth.

Due to injuries, Black brought up two sophomore linemen, EJ Brendlin and Zach Lee, last week, players that Phillips will naturally mentor.

"We've had some ups and downs this year, but we have to continue to power through," Phillips said. "I'm proud of our sophomores really stepping up. There's a lot of high intensity, which we'll need down the stretch."



Foothill Producing Big Flag Numbers

By Mitch Stephens

TRI-VALLEY — Heading into the final week of the East Bay Athletic League flag football season, the Falcons of Foothill were indeed the ultimate wild card.

"We have definitely demonstrated we are capable of beating anyone," third-year Foothill coach Derek Perez said. "And that's because we have some amazing athletes across the board."

Many of Foothill's premier female athletes, plucked from the soccer, lacrosse, volleyball and softball teams, had piled up 35 wins over the past three seasons, including an 11-6 record and 5-3 EBAL mark this year.

Only four EBAL teams advance to the North Coast Section playoffs, however, and with an Oct. 14 league finale remaining, the Falcons were tied with Amador Valley and Granada for third place, behind California-San Ramon (7-1) and San Ramon Valley-Danville (6-2).

How the Falcons fared Oct. 14 at home against Amador Valley determined their NCS fate. No matter how it turned out, Foothill will close its regular season Monday, Oct. 20 at Novato.

The Falcons entered the week 11th in the MaxPreps NCS computer rankings and have wins over No. 4 Granada (21-2), No. 14 Castro Valley (24-6), No. 15 Dublin (45-2), No. 19 Alameda (34-12) and No. 23 Carondelet-Concord (30-14).

They also have one-score losses to No. 1 California (28-22), No. 2 Liberty-Brentwood (19-12) and No. 8 San Ramon Valley (20-15).

Last weekend at the Alameda Breast Cancer Awareness Tournament, Foothill edged two Sac-Joaquin Section powers in Antelope (14-13) and West Park-Roseville (22-19), teams that entered with combined records of 32-6.

"We're within three scores of being undefeated in league," said Perez, a former standout tackle player at Oak Grove-San Jose who is also an assistant in the Foothill softball program. "We've played a lot of close games out of league also, so we're definitely battle-tested."

Besides a challenging schedule, the Falcons faced immediate adversity when star 2024 quarterback Brea Olsen (49 touchdown passes) broke her right (throwing) hand, vaulting senior Laila Shore to the position.

Shore has thrown for more than 45 touchdowns and is a big reason why the Falcons scored 371 points in their first 17 games.

"She's done a great job stepping right up for Brea," Perez said. "It's not easy jumping into the quarterback role but she's a super athlete and passionate about the team."

Olsen missed some time early but is still a key player at running back and on defense, where she has added five interceptions. More top veteran players are returning first-team All-EBAL two-way player Jessie Gadd, who has nine receiving touchdowns, top touchdown scorer Claire Young, who has 19 touchdown receptions and also leads the team in interceptions, defensive stalwart Jazmine Simmons and third-year starter Addy Cortez.

More big contributors are sophomore Halley White, along with strong pass rushers Julia Moss, Alexa Sponsel and Teagan Ryan. In all, 33 players are on the varsity roster. It's a big number, but Perez said all contribute in one way or another.

"What I'm most proud of is that these girls have pushed themselves and battled right to the finish of every game." Perez said. "They've learned to stay calm when the game is on the line, and hopefully that poise will help us down the road."

Tackle football

Coming off a thrilling 22-21 home win over Dublin on Oct. 10, Livermore travels to second-year program Redwood Christian-San Lorenzo on Oct. 17 for a battle of 6-1 teams.

The Cowboys fought back from a 21-12 deficit late in the third quarter, first getting a 14-yard touchdown run by quarterback Matteo Lortie to close within 21-19 before Elijah Delgado drilled a 35-yard field goal with 3:13 remaining to go up 22-21. A.J. Carey then came to the rescue with an interception to end one drive and a pass deflection to end the game.

Lortie threw for nearly 200 yards and two more touchdowns, one each to Shane Patterson and Carey, while CT Harper had seven catches for 129 yards. Lortie has now accounted for 23 touchdowns, 15 through the air.

Dublin (3-4) lost its third game by four points or less despite two more touchdown runs from Andre Armendariz (19 carries, 85 yards), giving him 14 on the season. Tiras Campbell also had an 81-yard touchdown run for the Gaels, who travel to Granada on Oct. 17 with their postseason hopes on the line.

There's no rest for the weary Amador Valley Dons (2-5) as they host national juggernaut De La Salle-Concord (6-0) on Oct. 17 following a 41-14 EBAL Mountain Division home loss to San Ramon Valley last week. The Dons were tied 14-14 at halftime, but couldn't contain Wolves junior quarterback Cole Dawes, who threw four touchdown passes.



Erstwhile Foothill High flag football quarterback Brea Olsen has returned from a broken hand to star at running back and on defense. (Photo — Jim Malone)

Boys water polo

Granada continues to wear pink speedos throughout the month of October to raise awareness and money for breast-cancer treatment.

The Matadors also continue to win during a landmark season. Through Oct. 12, Granada was 13-5 overall and 3-3 in league play, and figures to earn a spot in the NCS Division 2 playoffs. The Matadors had won four out of their past six matches, including a 22-5 victory at Foothill as Nate Berg and Mason Woodward each scored five goals and Asher Steeley contributed four. Bryce Rivera had five steals, and Ty Temores added four steals and three assists. … Granada, which hosts San Ramon Valley on Oct. 16, has never had a winning season and is trying to reach NCS for only the second time, the other being in 2017 when the Mats went 12-13.

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

Orchestra to Perform Autumn Concert

The Pacific Chamber Orchestra's autumn concert at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore on Sunday, Oct. 19, will include well-known compositions by Mozart, Ravel and Tchaikovsky, before closing with Beethoven's Symphony No. 7.

The concert will also feature solos by violinist Livia Sohn, including Mozart's "Rondo in C," Tchaikovsky's "Serenade Melancolique" and Ravel's "Tigane."

Sohn, described by Opus Magazine as a "stunning musician," has performed with orchestras through the U.S. and internationally. She is a graduate of the Julliard School and a lecturer for Stanford University's Department of Music.

Tickets to the 3 p.m. concert start at $25 and are available online at PacificChamberOrchestra.org.

The PCO will also be performing its autumn concert at the Del Valle Theatre in Walnut Creek at 4 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 18.

Violinist Livia Sohn. (Photo courtesy of PCO)

Sunol Wilderness Preserve Will Host Festival

The East Bay Regional Park District will host a family friendly festival at the Sunol Regional Wilderness Preserve from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 18.

The festival will celebrate the Native American and ranching heritage of the 6,800-acre wilderness preserve with live music, traditional Ohlone stories, and hands-on history and craft programs.

Crafts activities will include making miniature tule boats and pine nut bracelets and learning about ranching brands while creating a "branded" bandana.

Families can also experience old-time laundry, play Ohlone and Victorian-era games, practice their lassoing skills and meet Poppy the wooden milking cow. Sunol naturalist staff will also be leading nature hikes.

Parking at the Sunol Regional Wilderness Preserve Visitor Center, 1895 Geary Road, is $5.

Ghostly Nighttime Dublin Cemetery Tours Set

Dublin is offering "Ghosts of Dublin" nighttime tours of historic Pioneer Cemetery on Friday, Oct. 24, and Saturday, Oct. 25.

The guided tours will leave the Murray Schoolhouse Museum in Dublin Heritage Park, 6600 Donlon Way, every half hour from 6 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. and will include the Old St. Raymond Church and the Kolb House, in addition to the 166-year-old cemetery.

The narrated walks will include old stories of ghosts and other spirits rumored to be lurking in Dublin.

The tours are recommended for ages 8 and older. Tours leaving after 9 p.m. will be reserved for older teens and adults will be allowed.

There is a $3 fee for non-residents.

To register, go to tinyurl.tools/5bc917e7.

LEGAL NOTICES/CLASSIFIEDS

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LEGAL NOTICES

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 Onion, 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 Realtors; 2. Railroad Properties, 1048 Grant Ave, San Lorenzo, 94580 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Thomas J. Clements 23 Railroad Ave, #344, Ddanville, 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/: Thomas J. Clements, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 17, 2025. Expires September 16, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6561. 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 business 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 Infosec; 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 23, 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.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 617818

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Michael James Real Estate; 2. MJRE Management, 2344 E 12th Street, Suite 200, Oakland, CA 94601 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Michael James Company, Inc., 2344 E 12th Street, Suite 200, Oakland, CA 94601. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 9/22/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Denise MaNguyen, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 22, 2025. Expires September 21, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6573. Published October 9, 16, 23, 30, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 617825

The following person(s) doing business as: Straight West Equine, 2164 Buena Vista Ave, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Dawn R. Baughman, 2164 Buena Vista Ave, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 8/23/25. Signature of Registrant/s/: Dawn R. Baughman, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 23, 2025. Expires September 22, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6574. Published October 9, 16, 23, 30, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 616615

The following person(s) doing business as: Blackridge Capital LLC, 4200 Park Blvd, Suite 506, Oakland, CA 94602 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Blackridge Capital, LLC, 4200 Park Blvd, Suite 506, Oakland CA 94602. 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: 8/4/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Michael Vinny MaNguyen, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 22, 2025. Expires September 21, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6574. Published October 9, 16, 23, 30, 2025.

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME ORIGINAL FILE NO. 612566

The person(s) listed below have abandoned the use of the following fictitious business name(s). Dragon Therapeutics, 850 3rd ST, Santa Rosa, CA 95404. Registered by the following owner(s): Anne Szostek, 276 Park View Terr, Unit 3 Oakland, CA 94610; Timea Tenkei, 1533 Sierra Drive, Petaluma, CA 95404. The fictitious business name statement was filed on 02/19/2025 in the County of Alameda. This business was conducted by a General Partnership. Signature of Registrants: /s/: Anne Szostek, General Partner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 2, 2025. The Independent, Legal No. 6575. Published October 9, 16, 23, 30, 2025.

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME ORIGINAL FILE NO. 602495

The person(s) listed below have abandoned the use of the following fictitious business name(s). D&D Therapy, 708 62nd ST, Oakland, CA 94609. Registered by the following owner(s): Anne Szostek, 708 62nd ST, Oakland, CA 94609; Timea Tenkei, 1533 Sierra Drive, Petaluma, CA 95404. The fictitious business name statement was filed on 12/6/2023 in the County of Alameda. This business was conducted by a General Partnership. Signature of Registrants: /s/: Anne Szostek, General Partner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 2, 2025. The Independent, Legal No. 6576. Published October 9, 16, 23, 30, 2025.

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME ORIGINAL FILE NO. 579367

The person(s) listed below have abandoned the use of the following fictitious business name(s). The Joint Chiropractic Castro Valley, 20633 Rustic Drive, Castro Valley, CA 94546. Registered by the following owner(s): CClinic 1 LLC, 3160 College Ave, STE 203, Berkeley, CA 94705. The fictitious business name statement was filed on 5/24/2021 in the County of Alameda. This business was conducted by a Limited Liability Company. Signature of Registrants: /s/: Brian Lancaster, Manager. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 30, 2025. The Independent, Legal No. 6577. Published October 9, 16, 23, 30, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 618107

The following person(s) doing business as: Porterhouse Autos, 3121 Conti CT, Pleasanton, CA 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Portershouse Holdings LLC, 3121 Conti CT, Plesanton, CA 94566. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 10/6/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Arash Etemad, Manager. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 6, 2025. Expires October 5, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6578. Published October 16, 23, 30, November 6, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 618073

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Valley Eyecare Center; 2. Valley Eyecare Center Medical Associates, 5575 West Las Positas Blvd, Ste 240, Pleasanton, CA 94588 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Gagnon Vision Medical Group Inc., 1750 Orchard Way, Pleasanton, CA 94566. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 6/24/2014. Signature of Registrant/s/: Michael Gagnon, MD/ Secretary. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 3, 2025. Expires October 2, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6579. Published October 16, 23, 30, November 6, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 618080

The following person(s) doing business as: The Right Sound Company, 25655 Dollar Street #5, Hayward, CA 94544 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): John Brearton, 125 Northgate Street, Woodside, CA 94062. 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: 6/23/1992. Signature of Registrant/s/: John Brearton, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 3, 2025. Expires October 2, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6580. Published October 16, 23, 30, November 6, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 618024

The following person(s) doing business as: Sunset Industries Airt Quality Management, 813 Roma ST, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Alane Fife Johnson, 813 Roma ST, Livemore, 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: 1/1/2020. Signature of Registrant/s/: Alan Fife Johnson, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 1, 2025. Expires September 30, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6581. Published October 16, 23, 30, November 6, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 617919

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Fastcat; Halicon; Haligoods, 39648 Embarcadero Ter, Fremont, CA 94538 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Yuan Shi, 39648 Embarcadero Ter, Fremont, CA 94538. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 9/26/25. Signature of Registrant/s/: Yuan Shi, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 26, 2025. Expires September 25, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6582. Published October 16, 23, 30, November 6, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 618187

The following person(s) doing business as: Thera Vitalis, 7316 Parkwood Cir, C, Dublin, CA 94568 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Left Side Up LLC, 7316 Parkwood Cir, C, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Joshua Hicks, Manager. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 9, 2025. Expires October 8, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6583. Published October 16, 23, 30, November 6, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 617871

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Roland Rosario Cellars; 2. Roland Rosasio Winery; 3. Roland Rosario is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Martha Rosario Rueca-Gustafsoon, 4168 Bayo Street, Oakland, CA 94619; Ulf Roland Gustafsson. 4168 Bayo Street, Oakland, CA 94619. 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: 3/30/2010. Signature of Registrant/s/: Martha Rueca-Gufstafsson, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 24, 2025. Expires September 23, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6584. Published October 16, 23, 30, November 6, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 617871

The following person(s) doing business as: Z3N Spa, 4326 Las Positas Rd, Suite 101, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Z3N Spa LLC, 1162 Bluebell Drive, 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: 9/30/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Courtney Thomson, Managing Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 30, 2025. Expires September 29, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6585. Published October 16, 23, 30, November 6, 2025.

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Livermore Council Adopts State Building Standards Code

By Vivien Wenneker

LIVERMORE – The Livermore City Council on Oct. 13 voted to adopt the 2025 California Building Standards Code Ordinance and the 2025 Weed Abatement Program, with the latter receiving no protest.

The California Building Code Ordinance, which also includes property-maintenance, fire, electrical, mechanical, plumbing and residential codes, is updated every three years. The previous update occurred in 2022.

These standards are adopted into Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations through the California Building Standards Commission, and are based primarily on model codes developed by the International Code Council (building, fire, residential, swimming pool and spa, wildland urban interface and property-maintenance codes), the National Fire Protection Association (electrical code), and the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials (plumbing and mechanical codes). The one exception is the Green Building Standards Code, which is developed entirely by the State.

California recently published the 2025 version of the Codes. Per state law, local jurisdictions must enforce the codes with an effective date of Jan. 1. Local amendments are allowed, but only if they are no less restrictive than the State Code and are determined to be reasonably necessary in order to meet local climatic, geological, topographical and environmental conditions.

According to the City's Chief Building Official, Franc Moufarrej, "Code changes will focus on fire, life safety and environmental protection. Examples include fire sprinklers in all new buildings, minimum class B roofing material, no underslab water plumbing and additional electrical vehicle chargers."

The ordinance also allows local jurisdictions to adopt code amendments that establish requirements above the minimum State building code requirements, commonly referred to as "reach codes."

Livermore's Draft Climate Action Plan (CAP) currently calls for the city to adopt reach codes for all-electric buildings and electric vehicle charging in new construction, according to a staff report.

Conversations with the community during outreach for the CAP revealed overall support for these "reach-code" requirements in new construction. However, the community expressed concern about applying the requirements to additions or renovations in existing buildings due to potential costly upgrades, particularly in older homes with limited electrical capacity.

The staff report goes on to say that even with the recent passage of AB 130 and AB 306, which have limited the adoption of new local code amendments, the City of Livermore maintains a robust reach code that amended the 2022 Green Building Standards Code. This reach code can remain in effect if it is unchanged from the 2022 update.

Since 2022, Livermore's reach code has established requirements for all-electric buildings in new construction and sought to enhance electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure, with limited, practical exceptions.

In addition, the staff highlights, "the reach code positions Livermore to meet the anticipated growth in electric-vehicle usage by ensuring adequate charging infrastructure in new development." However, the city's requirements do not apply to renovations or additions to existing buildings.

As for adoption of the Weed Abatement Program, a public hearing was held to consider protests, but there were none.

The City Council in April approved Resolution 2025-062A, which ordered the abatement of public nuisances and declared that abatement costs are the responsibility of owners.

Beginning June 1, 266 parcels were inspected with 22% (58 parcels) found to be non-compliant, according to a staff report. Subsequently, notices of intent to "Abate Hazardous Vegetation" were posted at each property, and by July, the number of non-compliant parcels dwindled to two.

"In July, the Fire Department conducted weed abatement on the two parcels, and as a result, a significant fire hazard in the city was reduced," said Ryan Rucker, deputy chief at the Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department.

Vice Mayor Evan Branning praised the department's success.

"Getting us down to only two abatements this year is really a testament to the improvements that have been made over the last several years in communicating with property owners and making sure we're finding the right people to get this accomplished in a timely and efficient manner," Branning said.

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Pleasanton's Stoneridge Retirement Community Named Tops in East Bay

By Dawnmarie Fehr

PLEASANTON — Stoneridge Creek Retirement Community in Pleasanton recently earned recognition for creating an environment that supports aging well.

Diablo Magazine named the continuing-care retirement center the "top senior living community in the East Bay," and the International Council on Aging recognized it for activities that challenge preconceived notions of aging.

Stoneridge Creek is raising the bar for what retirement can be, according to its operators.

As part of raising that bar, the community's life enrichment director, Susan Filice, said she and her team take a unique approach to retirement, often offering Stoneridge Creek inhabitants more classes, events and programs to choose from than hours in the day.

"We are a vibrant, interactive community, and we are constantly developing our program to meet the changing needs and ideas of the people moving in," Filice said. "We curate adventures and new experiences."

Filice said the experiences span a wide range, from tech-driven programs and tasting events to pickleball clinics, live music, lectures and fitness classes — all designed with the core theme of living well in mind.

"We have a lot of baby boomers moving in, and their idea of retirement is different than the folks who came before them," Filice said. "We help our residents work to meet their physical, spiritual and mental-wellness goals. … Just because they are retired doesn't mean they want to be put out to pasture."

Jim Lee and his wife, Marie, have been residents at Stoneridge Creek for almost three years. The couple moved from Walnut Creek to take advantage of the community's "life plan" aspect.

"It is independent living, and then later on in life, if you need to transition to health care, this owner/developer has a health center right on the property, so you have assisted living, memory care and skilled nursing," Lee said. "I like that it's all inclusive."

Lee said having healthcare, meals and activities all taken care of, plus the manicured grounds and active residents, made for an attractive package.

"We are happy and feel engaged and busy," he said.

Lee takes advantage of many of the fitness classes offered, plays pickleball and table tennis, and enjoys frequent movies in the theater. This month, he and his fellow cinema buffs are taking a trip down memory lane as they rewatch Robert Redford movies, part of a tribute to the recently passed actor's career.

Shirley Kaminsky also moved to Stoneridge Creek three years ago, transitioning with her husband, Barry, and their pooch from a large house on acreage in Sunol to an apartment. Her move happened after touring the community with a friend who was interested in moving there.

"I never in my wildest dreams thought I would be living someplace like this, but here we are," Kaminsky said. "We have had so much support, and this move opened up a whole new door for us."

Kaminsky said in addition to the lifestyle benefits of living in the community, she is glad she was able to downsize her home and possessions without leaving a mess for her children.

"We lived in our house 43 years and raised our kids there, and thought we'd be carried out feetfirst," she said with a laugh. "But this is great, and my kids are so happy knowing we are in a good place for us now, that has care for the future, should we need it."

A melophile at heart, Kaminsky takes advantage of the live-music opportunities and also enjoys attending lectures, volunteering on committees dedicated to charitable causes and participating in water-fitness programs.

For more information on Stoneridge Creek, visit www.stoneridgecreek.com.



Residents of Stoneridge Creek Retirement Community in Pleasanton participate in one of the many activities available to members. (Photo — Susan Filice)

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Chamber Luncheon Features Agritourism

The Livermore Valley Chamber of Commerce will host the final Wine Country Luncheon of the year from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 23 at The Purple Orchid Wine Country Resort & Spa in Livermore.

The program will focus on "Agritourism in the Tri-Valley" and is being presented in collaboration with the Livermore Valley Wine Community, Tri-Valley Conservancy and Visit Tri-Valley, the official destination marketing organization for Pleasanton, Livermore, Dublin and Danville.

Tracy Fahrad, CEO of Visit Tri-Valley, will give a presentation on how the tourism industry is promoting the region, while Brandi Lombardi, CEO of the Livermore Valley Wine Community will update the group on plans by wine makers and growers.

Tri-Valley Conservancy CEO Rebecca Spector will join the group to talk about the nonprofit land trust's efforts to open spaces, wildlife habitat and farmland.

The conversation will be moderated by Sherri Souza, CEO and president of the Livermore Valley Chamber of Commerce.

The cost of the luncheon is $100 for chamber members and $110 for nonmembers.

To register for the luncheon, go to business.livermorechamber.org/events.

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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

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