



A youth-led Livermore schools walkout on Friday, Jan. 30, in accordance with Senate Bill (SB) 955, was part of a “national shutdown” opposing the recent actions of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). Two thousand protestors filled the streets of downtown Livermore in one of the largest demonstrations since the current federal administration took office in January 2025. (Photo — Virginia Hoato)

## Student ICE Walkout In Livermore Draws Thousands at Rally

### Youth Exercise Legal Rights, Civic and Political

By Christina Cavallaro

LIVERMORE- Thousands of Livermore students in accordance with Senate Bill (SB) 955 walked out of their classes on Friday, Jan. 30 to join legions of others across the Bay Area and the country. Each called for a “national shutdown” in which businesses and schools closed for widespread demonstrations to end U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) funding and demand a stop to the agency’s reign of terror.

Livermore students were joined at the rally by some groups of adults in a show of support, as well as to ensure safety, including parents of the students who were

there and the Livermore Indivisible’s Safety Team.

The peaceful demonstration was entirely organized by students from Livermore and Granada high schools — primarily by Livermore High School senior Greta Fick-Furlotte in partnership with Indivisible Tri Valley, Livermore Indivisible and Livermore Advocates for Public Education.

A massive crowd touched all four corners of the intersection at First Street and South Livermore Avenue in the heart of downtown.

“I was shocked,” Fick-Furlotte said. “I was brought to tears. It was amazing. I would have never expected that big of a turnout. I was expecting maybe 100 people.”

(See PROTEST, page 7)

## New Law Grants Winegrowers Ability To Host Events Inside their Vineyards

### Permits Allow Wineries to Entertain Customers Among their Grapevines

By David Jen

LIVERMORE—A new law allows winegrowers to serve wine outside of the areas previously permitted for tastings, opening new options to attract and entertain customers.

With Assembly Bill (AB) 720, introduced by State Assemblymember Chris Rogers, wineries can now apply for an estate-tasting event permit to host events on estate vineyard properties, such as directly among the grapevines, beyond their regulated winery sites. The bill passed the legislature with broad support around the state from wine organizations, including the Livermore Valley Wine Community.

Governor Gavin Newsom signed the bill into law on Oct. 10, 2025.

The Alameda County Agricultural Advisory Committee shared details of the new law last week to raise awareness among area winegrowers.

Committee Member Karl Wente said that while currently permitted winery spaces do not extend across vineyards, AB 720 now allows vintners to apply with the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control to host tasting events outside of the normally permitted space.

The new law arrives at a time when Livermore area winegrowers face harsh decisions on whether to continue operations in their low-profit industry.

While the 1993 South Livermore Area Valley Plan identified roughly 5,000 vineyard-acres as the critical mass needed to attract the attention and businesses of a premier wine-growing region, the area has struggled to reach its current 2,800-vineyard-acre size.

Over two-thirds of these current grapevines are due for removal by 2030 due to age, according to a 2022 UC Davis study on the region. The expense of replanting

(See VINEYARDS, page 8)



A group from the Tri-Valley Cultural Jews celebrates Tu B'Shvat, also known as the Jewish “New Year of the Trees,” among the olive groves at Rancho Milagro in Livermore. To read full story see page 12. (Photo — Jacob Clouser)

## Sites Reservoir Receives Environmental Approval

### Opponents Point to Cost, Damage to Ecosystem

By David Jen

TRI-VALLEY — The Sites Reservoir project, California’s largest new reservoir in decades, cleared another milestone last month when it received approval from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation certifying that the project complies with the National Environmental Policy Act.

The certification paves the way for construction of the 1.5-million-acre-foot reservoir — roughly 20 times the capacity of Lake Del Valle, to begin later this year.

The project proposes to dam and flood an area west of the town of Maxwell, about 130 miles north of the Tri-Valley, to capture high-rainfall events, such as the atmospheric rivers that hit California in the winter of 2022-23. Project partners include the State of California, public irrigation districts

and local water agencies — such as the Tri-Valley’s Zone 7 Water Agency — ranging from the Bay Area to Southern California.

Zone 7 sources up to 90% of its water from the State Water Project, in which Sites would participate, and could take advantage of the added storage of Sites to weather extended droughts. The agency has requested 60,000 acre-feet of Sites capacity.

Reclamation’s approval selected a project alternative that sets aside 25% of Sites’ capacity to the federal agency, which it said it would use for the federal Central Valley Project in California and for environmental needs. The selection requires that local project partners reduce their capacity share, as other alternatives limit the amount of water going to Reclamation at 7% or less.

In contrast to reservoirs that

(See RESERVOIR, page 7)

## Las Positas Community College Grapples with AI Usage, Ethics

### Faculty Share the Balancing of Current Concerns with Future Preparedness

By David Jen

LIVERMORE — New software programs driven by artificial intelligence (AI) are forcing teachers to reevaluate technology use in the classroom. They must balance the dangers of AI with new expectations that students enter the workforce with some AI familiarity.

The faculty at Las Positas College has raised flags that the new technology, if misused, can inhibit learning or flat-out help students cheat.

“AI can now readily write sophisticated papers, solve increasingly complex math problems, create visually appealing presentations, perform complicated data analysis — and many other typically time-consuming tasks students often

do as they develop and demonstrate their learning,” said Kat King, Las Positas instructional technology coordinator. “AI is so new that there isn’t a large body of research that clearly demonstrates the long-term impact of AI use — and initial research suggests it might not be great for brain development.”

AI refers to programs that can generate outputs based on patterns teased out of large datasets, as opposed to programs that follow explicit instructions. AI drives features ranging from spellcheck to GPS navigation to conventional web searches.

In recent years, large language models (LLMs) have spawned programs that take instructions and return results through conversation-

al language. When coupled with AI agents — systems capable of independent, complex reasoning to achieve high-level goals — chatbots such as ChatGPT, Claude and Gemini have made AI more accessible to a new swath of users, including students. The programs can perform complex tasks, such as sifting through data, generating images or writing essays.

California Community Colleges, the system of 116 community colleges across the state, hosted a webinar on Jan. 30 addressing the challenge of agentic-AI use in the classroom. Webinar speakers highlighted the difficulty of managing its use, called for clearer policies, and suggested that assignments focus less on completion and more on stu-

(See AI USAGE, page 6)



Livermore resident and inveterate recycler, Nicky Neau, wonders what to do with an accumulation of Styrofoam when options for proper disposal are limited. (Photo — Kathryn Stroud)

## Styrofoam Dilemma Points to Bigger Issue

### Livermore Resident Wants to Do Right by Environment, but Options are Limited

By Kathryn Stroud

LIVERMORE — Nicky Neau is looking for something to do with her stacks and stacks of white foam boards. Expanded polystyrene foam, better known by the brand name Styrofoam, is light, cheap, and everywhere. It is the material that cushions new TVs and computers inside shipping containers. But like many single-use plastics, once it’s no longer useful, it becomes a stubborn environmental problem.

Neau, like many eco-conscious Tri-Valley residents, knows Styrofoam is bad for the environment and wants to do the right thing. But when it comes to getting rid of it, there are not many good options.

Styrofoam is not accepted in household recycling bins, and mistakenly placing it there can cause serious damage. Because it is lightweight and brittle, it tends to break into small pieces during sorting. Those pieces can get mixed in with other recyclables, contaminating them and sometimes causing entire

loads to be thrown away. Curbside disposal leads straight to the landfill, where experts say it will take over 500 years to break down. Instead of decomposing naturally, it slowly breaks into microplastics that can spread through soil and waterways, posing risks to wildlife and human health.

“Why are we even producing this in the first place if it’s so bad for our environment?” Neau wondered.

Recycling Styrofoam is technically possible, but it is not

(See WASTE, page 8)

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## PET OF THE WEEK



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# Balcony Solar, More Options for Those with Less Space

By David Jen

TRI-VALLEY — A more accessible form of solar power stands to lower the electric bills of residents even if they cannot install rooftop solar. Newly proposed legislation looks to clarify a legal gray area and resolve safety issues around their use, which currently hinder more widespread

adoption in California.

Plug-in solar, also known as balcony solar, refers to portable-solar systems that can feed power into a home directly through a standard wall power outlet. Any power generated by the panels flows backward into the outlet and offsets the power consumed by the rest of the home, decreasing the costs paid to a utility.

Compared to larger rooftop-solar systems, which typically involve permanent installations that need building and electrical permits, plug-in solar offers a lower-cost, lower-commitment route to home solar.

While current regulations require an interconnection permit before using plug-in solar, new legislation could pave an easier path for its adoption.

State Senator Scott Wiener, who represents San Francisco and other parts of the peninsula, last month introduced Senate Bill (SB) 868, a proposal to exempt portable solar panels from interconnection requirements and explicitly free customers from obtaining utility-company permission to use plug-in solar.

The bill, if passed, would reclassify plug-in solar devices to treat them as appliances rather than power plants. It would also prohibit utilities from charging fees for plug-in solar, while absolving utility companies from liability for any damage caused by such systems.

“Californians should have every tool available to lower energy costs, especially given the disastrous rate hikes in recent years,” Wiener said in a statement. “Renters and residents of apartment buildings in particular deserve options to lower costs and access clean energy the same way homeowners can access rooftop solar. These technologies are a win-win-win, and

enabling access to them is simply good government.”

Ava Community Energy, which supplies electricity to the Tri-Valley, is reviewing the bill and will propose legislative positions to its board in April, said Annie Henderson, Ava chief customer officer.

Solar proponents, such as the nonprofit Solar Rights Alliance, have begun to drum up support for the bill to remove “red tape” for renters in particular, who have limited options toward energy independence.

“One panel can power a refrigerator, a home computer, and a few lights,” according to the Solar Rights Alliance website. “Combine a few panels together, and you’d have enough power to run a window-unit air conditioner on a sunny day. Balcony solar can safely, cheaply, and easily reduce a consumer’s electricity bill. Renters and homeowners alike can hang these off balconies, lean them against mobile homes, or put them

in a yard or patio.”

SB 868 would also establish a statewide safety standard for plug-in-solar devices, addressing some of the potential dangers with the new technology.

If a portable system, for example, continues to feed power back into the grid during a power outage, utility workers risk electrocution while repairing power lines. And by feeding power back through an outlet, a plug-in system bypasses a home’s breaker switches, allowing other outlets on that circuit to potentially draw more current than their rated limit, risking electrical fires.

SB 868 would limit its exemptions to devices at 1,200 watts or lower, require certification from the Underwriters Laboratories or equivalent testing lab, and require a feature to prevent backfeeding during a power outage.

The bill’s waiting period expires on Feb. 5, the earliest date on which the Senate can act on it.



Three fierce competitors were all smiles at the 17th annual Livermore-Granada Boosters Race to the Flagpole fundraiser held on Saturday, Jan. 31. (Photo — Leah Silveira)

# DUSD Place Limits on High School AP and Honors Courses

By Sanestina Hunter

DUBLIN —The Dublin Unified School District Board of Trustees unanimously approved a resolution in January placing limits on Advanced Placement and academic honors courses at the high school level, citing concerns about student stress, sleep deprivation and academic overload.

Starting in the 2026-27 school year, students will be limited to four AP or honors courses per year, with a cumulative four-year cap of 11 courses taking effect with the graduating class of 2029.

“There is no single silver-bullet study that proves course caps alone fix student mental health,” Superintendent Chris Funk wrote in a district newsletter on Jan. 16. “But there is strong, converging evidence that academic overload, sleep deprivation, chronic stress and competitive achievement culture materially increase risk for anxiety, depression, burnout and

suicidal ideation.”

The limits apply only during the school year, do not include summer classes and are not retroactive, according to Funk.

Under the policy, the limits apply only to AP and academic honors courses taken at the high school. They do not apply to dual or concurrent enrollment college courses, honors career technical education, or honors visual, performing or applied arts.

The resolution also includes a limited, documented exception process, allowing students to request approval when the course limits would otherwise disrupt an established academic pathway.

In his newsletter, Funk explained that the resolution is not intended to address every pressure students face, nor does it claim academic pressure is the sole cause of student mental health challenges.

Instead, he said, the policy is a targeted step aimed at resetting expectations

around excessive course loading while preserving rigorous and meaningful learning pathways.

District leaders have said the policy will not disadvantage students in the college admissions process, noting that colleges evaluate applicants within the context of their high school course offerings and academic expectations.

“Admissions officers are trained to read transcripts alongside a school profile,” Funk said. “A student who completes the most rigorous coursework available at their school is viewed as having fully engaged with academic opportunity.”

During public comment at the Jan. 13 board meeting, however, many students voiced opposition to the resolution, arguing that it could limit access to classes they value and increase anxiety rather than reduce it.

Several students said the cap could force them to abandon long-term academic pathways or language

programs they have pursued for years.

Others raised concerns about how exceptions would be applied, warning that unclear criteria could lead to inconsistent enforcement and inequities across campuses.

One student said more than 300 students had signed a petition opposing the limits, describing the policy as punitive to high-achieving students.

Students also expressed concern that the cap could push them toward dual enrollment or outside coursework to remain competitive for college admissions, potentially shifting — rather than relieving — academic pressure.

Funk acknowledged during the meeting that the district has a responsibility to address what he described as a “race-to-the-top” mindset among students competing for selective colleges.

“When you have students taking six or seven AP or Honors classes in a year,

or 15 to 18 over their high school careers, we have a responsibility to support students in the choices they’re making,” Funk said.

Despite student opposition, Funk said the resolution is part of a broader, districtwide approach to student well-being that has expanded since the COVID-19 pandemic.

Those efforts include expanded counseling and wellness resources, family advisory partnerships and a planned community speaker

series on mental health and college admissions, according to Funk’s newsletter.

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# LVA Brings Roster of Nearly Sold-Out Shows

LIVERMORE — Livermore Valley Arts (LVA) upcoming Bankhead Presents performances at the Bankhead Theater in downtown Livermore, including the Ten Tenors and the annual International Guitar Night, are almost sold out.

LVA operates the Bankhead Theater and the Bothwell Arts Center and sponsors the Bankhead Presents

series of performances.

The Ten Tenors, coming to the Bankhead on Thursday, Feb. 5, is an Australian ensemble currently on its 30th anniversary world tour and known for its blend of classical, contemporary and operatic music.

With an ever-changing roster, the group has performed more than 2,000 concerts and released 15

albums since 1995.

Tickets to the 7:30 p.m. performance start at \$70.

International Guitar Night is now on its 26th annual North American Tour and will play the Bankhead Theater for the 15th consecutive year on Friday, Feb. 20.

This year’s performance features Brazilian flamenco sensation Lucas Imbiriba, Russian finger-

style innovator Alexander Misko, classical guitarist Thu Le from Viet Nam and ukulele maestro Taimane from Hawaii.

Tickets to the 8 p.m. performance start at \$40.

Tickets to all Bankhead Presents shows are available online at livermorearts.org, by calling 925-373-6800, or at the Bankhead Theater box office, 2400 First St.

The new year brings important changes that could impact the real estate market. Expanded tax deductions—including a temporary increase in the SALT deduction from \$10,000 to \$40,000, permanent mortgage interest deductions, deduction PMI/MIP, non-taxable overtime, potential auto loan interest deductions on US made vehicles, and improved child tax credits—may increase purchasing power and improve loan qualifications.

**These could create new opportunities for buyers and sellers alike, but as always professional tax guidance is recommended. Call us today and let’s turn your homeownership dreams into reality.**

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# Apply Now for Summer Teen Academy at Library

LIVERMORE — The Livermore Public Library is accepting applications for a three-week program this summer for teens to learn about personal finance, job-search skills and how city government operates.

In addition to a series of workshops at the Civic Center Library, the annual Livermore Teen Academy will include a brief internship with a city department.

The program will run from 9 a.m. to noon, Monday, June 8, through Friday, June 26.

The program is open to Livermore residents, 16 and older, who will be attending high school next fall.

The deadline to apply is Saturday, Feb. 28. Participants will be chosen for the program based on an interview process.

The workshops will be

held at the library, 1188 S. Livermore Ave., while participants will report to their intern sites on assigned days.

Internships, totaling 24 hours, will be assigned based on the skills and interests of the participants, who will also be paid minimum wage.

To apply, go to library.livermoreca.gov and click on “Teens.” For more information, contact Nathan

Brumley at 925-373-5572 or njbrumley@livermore-ca.gov.

# Assistance League of Amador Valley Offering Four College Scholarships

TRI-VALLEY — The Assistance League of Amador Valley is offering four scholarships this year to high school seniors from Livermore, Pleasanton or Dublin, and one to a Las Positas College graduate who is transferring to a four-year college or university.

The nonprofit said it will award two \$5,000 Assistance League of Amador Valley scholarships to graduating seniors who will be

attending a four-year college or university next fall and two \$2,000 Tri-Valley Community Scholarships to graduating seniors who enroll in a community college or vocational program.

The Las Positas College Transfer scholarship will be \$5,000.

The deadline to apply is Monday, March 16.

The nonprofit is a chapter of the National Assistance League that offers programs

for children and seniors, including its signature Operation School Bell program that provides books and clothing for more than 500 children every year. The chapter’s Food for Families program also delivers groceries twice a week to more than 4,000 low-income residents each month.

To apply for an Assistance League scholarship, or for more information, go to [tinyurl.com/2s44n79x](https://tinyurl.com/2s44n79x).

**PLEASE HELP BRING MIGUEL HOME**

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

Livermore Wente Winery worker, married father of three and grandfather

**Miguel Lopez**

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

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

# New Mail Rules at Santa Rita Jail to Reduce Contraband

By Sanestina Hunter

DUBLIN — Santa Rita Jail is rolling out a new mail delivery process for incarcerated individuals as part of an effort to curb contraband and illicit drugs entering the facility, the Alameda County Sheriff's Office said.

Effective Feb. 23, all non-privileged mail — such as letters and cards that are not legal or official in nature

— sent to incarcerated individuals at Santa Rita Jail must be routed through Pigeonly Corrections, a third-party company that screens and processes mail for correctional facilities.

The change does not apply to legal or privileged mail from courts, attorneys or government agencies, which will continue to be delivered directly to the jail, officials said. "We have had several

fentanyl exposure incidents linked to mailed substances and have saved multiple lives," the Sheriff's Office said in a press statement. "This new process is designed to improve safety while still ensuring that incarcerated individuals can stay connected with their loved ones through timely correspondence."

Under the new procedure, all non-privileged mail will

be sent to Pigeonly Corrections mail processing center, where it will be opened and inspected before being forwarded to the jail.

All non-privileged mail must include the incarcerated individual's name and personal file number, officials said. Original documents will not be returned to the sender and will instead be temporarily stored before being securely destroyed.

Publications, including books, magazines and newspapers mailed directly from a publisher or distributor to a named incarcerated individual, are considered privileged and will continue to be delivered directly to Santa Rita Jail, according to the Sheriff's Office.

Attorneys and other privileged mail senders will be required to authenticate through Pigeonly Corrections. The Sheriff's Office also

noted that any non-privileged mail received at the jail after March 25, marking 30 days after the new system takes effect, will be returned to the sender.



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# Oakland Man Arrested on Child Endangerment Charges

By Sanestina Hunter

DUBLIN — A 41-year-old man was arrested by California Highway Patrol (CHP) Dublin officers on charges of felony child endangerment and weapons violations following a shooting on Interstate 580 in Livermore, authorities said.

The arrest followed a shooting Saturday, Jan. 24, on eastbound Interstate 580 west of Fallon Road. CHP Dublin officers were dispatched to the scene at approximately 5:35 p.m.

The suspect was identified as Antoine Maurice Nolan of Oakland. He was detained and held for questioning by detectives before being booked into Santa Rita Jail, according to a press statement from CHP Dublin officer Tyler Hahn.

Authorities did not release information on the age of the child or whether the child was related to Nolan.

Dublin officers determined the shooting involved passengers within the vehicle and did not involve any other vehicles. The victim was transported to a local hospital for treatment of a non-life-threatening gunshot wound to the lower body.

Following the shooting, officials said the suspect threw the firearm from the vehicle.

During the investigation, all lanes of eastbound Interstate 580 were temporarily closed to allow officers to recover the discarded firearm and check for any additional evidence related to the incident.

Detectives assigned to the CHP Golden Gate Division Major Crime Unit

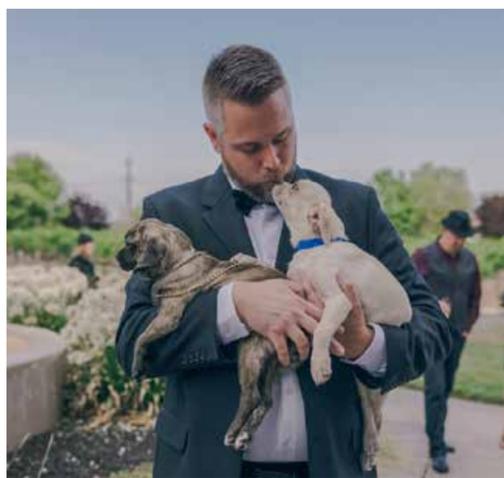
are continuing the investigation, authorities said.

The Independent reached out to CHP Dublin for additional details regarding the suspect but did not receive a response in time for publication.

CHP Capt. Gerardo Serrato praised officers for their response to the incident.

"I am incredibly proud of the quick and detailed response of our California Highway Patrol officers and detectives," Serrato said in a press statement. "I want to remind the public that your safety and the

safety of others on the road are our top priority."



Puppies kisses and bubbly champagne greet guests upon arrival each year at Valley Humane Society's Tails at Twilight gala. (Photo courtesy of Calli Angeline Photography)

# Valley Humane Is Set to Host Annual Fundraiser

PLEASANTON — The Valley Humane Society (VHS) will hold its 12th annual Tails at Twilight fundraiser at the Casa Real event center at Ruby Hill Winery, 410 Vineyard Ave., from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m. on Saturday, March 21.

The gala includes a champagne reception, seated dinner, dancing and both live and silent auctions, with proceeds going to support VHS cat and dog adoptions, AniMeals pet food pantry, Canine Comfort pet-assisted therapy and the Phil

Scholz Veterinary Surgery Center.

Dinner will include a choice of vegan Thai coconut curry, barramundi or wine-braised short ribs. Auction items will include a six-night trip for two to Ireland, dinner for 10 at the 3 Steves Winery in Livermore and Ambassador packages for Pleasanton and Livermore.

The theme for this year's gala is Back to the 80s.

Tickets are \$200 and available online at valley-humane.org.

## Community Forum

### What's happening in South Livermore's Vineyards?

Join us for a community forum that brings together local experts to shed light on the real challenges facing South Livermore's vineyards, and what's being done to protect them and support our community.

Tuesday, February 10th, 2026 5:30 – 7:00 PM  
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# EDITORIAL

## The Tide Is Turning Against ICE and Trump

Last Friday, approximately 2,000 high school students took to the streets in downtown Livermore, one of the larger demonstrations Livermore has seen since President Trump came back into power. The protest was notable because it consisted mostly of students, who in accordance with their civic rights expressed in Senate Bill (SB) 955 walked out of school to attend.

The demonstration coincided with a nationwide general strike in which businesses and schools closed for widespread demonstrations against ICE, especially its actions in Minneapolis, which have led to two civilians being killed on camera.

Despite the administration's reassignment of Border Patrol field leader Gregory Bovino after the second killing on Jan. 24 of Veterans Administration ICU nurse Alex Pretti, there are no signs the administration plans to tone down its violent attacks on the community. ICE agents continue to harass demonstrators, people legally recording their behavior and movements, and even people who just

happen to be driving by.

But Trump doesn't negotiate. He just orders and expects people to obey. And the American people are done obeying.

You can't dismiss the rise of opposition among younger generations. Their demonstrations above all others signal an urgency that cannot be ignored, and all our communities are beginning to rise up against a lawless regime. Young people almost by definition haven't grown cynical and defeatist. They provide fresh energy to keep the public mobilized.

At a time when the national Republican Party has been cowed into submission and the national Democratic party seems to think they can negotiate for some mild reforms with a notoriously bad-faith actor, our communities are rising and saying, "Enough!"

People are calling for the outright defunding and abolishment of ICE, not "reforms" that the administration will just ignore. We want our state government to take the side of the people of California, and to protect them from a

rampant federal government. People want their U.S. senators and representatives to bring Trump's administration to a screeching halt, not to try and score minor political wins by appealing to his better nature — he simply doesn't have one.

The mobilization against Trump and ICE is having an effect. One need only look to Tarrant County, Texas, this week for more evidence. In a special election for the state Senate, a Democrat beat a Republican 57-43 in a district Trump won in 2024 by 17 points. The Republican candidate, a conservative activist, outspent the Democrat by 10 to 1, according to the Texas Tribune, and the district hasn't elected a Democrat since 1988.

But we can't relax. The tide may be turning, but we're still underwater, and the administration is continuing to knock more holes in the bottom of the ship of state.

It has only been a little over one year since Trump took office, and already he's run roughshod over decades of established political norms, broken

countless laws and violated Americans' Constitutionally protected rights.

His first action as president was to pardon more than 1,000 people who violently attacked Congress on Jan. 6, 2021. Some of those have been re-arrested.

He's turned ICE from an already problematic law enforcement agency into a private secret police force with masked agents — something no law enforcement agency in the United States has ever done.

He's also enriched himself to the tune of \$4 billion, fomented a coup in Venezuela and effectively seized the country's oil industry, with all income now going to a bank account in Qatar that Trump controls personally.

So we should applaud our young people for exercising their First Amendment rights — at a time when people are dying to protect those rights — and hold up their bravery as an example for ourselves. Confronted with an administration that keeps trying to divide us, staying united and strong is the best antidote we have.

## 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.

### Black History Month @ the Library

Patricia Munro, Livermore

February begins Black History Month. Here are the many ways to learn about Black history in America at the Livermore Library:

- All month, you can browse the Art of the African Diaspora at the Civic Center Library, a project of the Richmond Art Center, which supports artists of African descent in the Bay Area. Then, on Feb. 28, at 11 a.m., meet the featured artists at a reception.

- Check out the Black History Month Trivia Bulletin Board, test your knowledge, and learn more! Then, on Thursday, Feb. 19 at 6 p.m. at the Civic Center Library, take your knowledge to the Tri-Valley for Black Lives Trivia Night. Enjoy a night of Trivia and (maybe) win a prize or two.

- All month, stop by the Springtown Library with a child

for a take and make craft project inspired by the book "Something, Someday" by Amanda Gorman and Christian Robinson.

- On Saturday, Feb. 7 at 2 p.m., at the Civic Center Library join Dr. Akilah Cadet as she discusses her book "White Supremacy is All Around: Notes from a Black Disabled Woman in a White World", her story of living at the intersection of many identities. ASL interpretation will be provided.

- On Thursday, Feb. 12 at 5 p.m., bring a picnic supper to a family friendly game night at the Longevity Wines Tasting Room.

- On Friday, Feb. 20, 3:30 p.m. at the Rincon Branch Library, Baba Shibambo will take the audience on "a journey back into the heart of ancient Africa through music and story." The program includes an authentic Zulu folk tale set to music, the chance to learn traditional African dance moves, and hear the

background of the dances.

- On Sunday, Feb. 22, at 2 p.m. at the Civic Center Library, join Ashley Jemison and Company Concert for a special musical performance.

- Finally, on Saturday, Feb. 28, 2026, at 10:15 am. at the Civic Center Library, join Grammy-nominated storyteller Diane Ferlatte tells stories accompanied by her musical sidekick Erik Pearson on banjo and guitar.

### Thank You Senator McNeerney for Calling on State Parks

Jennifer Byous, Livermore

I want to thank Senator McNeerney for calling on State Parks to provide a real Natural Reserve plan for Tesla. Unfortunately, State Parks did not show the leadership expected to truly preserve Tesla's extraordinary natural and cultural resources in the inappropriate and inadequate concept plans they issued last year. Senator McNeerney did.

State Parks needs to use the indisputable scientific evidence, most of it from their own data which they ignore, and overwhelming public input supporting a Reserve. State Parks needs to follow the direction of Tribal representatives working to preserve what little remains of their ancestral homelands without intense development and intrusive damaging uses.

As Senator McNeerney's constituent in the newly aligned 5th Senate District, I appreciate that he took this important step to work with the community, and press State Parks to truly protect the extraordinary Tesla wildlands.

### I Appreciate the ICE Officers

John Lahommedieu, Dublin

In retort to the Jan. 29th letter from Keith Jackson regarding ICE, it is sad when one side of the story is told that is full of errors, lies and misconceptions. ICE officers have been around for quite some time, but only now are in cities where local police do not assist them in their efforts to apprehend illegal criminals that ICE officers have to; a dangerous job with more danger. The peaceful protestors Mr. Jackson alludes to are anything but peaceful. Is Mr. Jackson really saying to do nothing to arrest and rid the criminal illegals in this country? Because if ICE does not, who will? Mr. Jackson, perhaps? I do not know if Mr. Jackson ever served in the armed forces and or law enforcement; if he had, he would know the inherent danger and the need for cooperation between city, state and federal officers, but when

left-wing anti-American mayors and governors spew hate and rhetoric, it has an effect that is never good. I appreciate the ICE officers and the federal government doing what they can under President Trump to get rid of these illegals. It was Joe Biden and his administration that created this nightmare. Let's not forget that Mr. Jackson offers no solutions, no suggestion on how ICE and local state and city officers can work together to ensure safety for American citizens. I do not see or hear Mr. Jackson talking about the many American citizens hurt and killed by illegal aliens. Do you even care about those people, our fellow Americans whose families have been devastated by the criminality of these illegal aliens. Maybe Mr. Jackson has been fortunate; he and no one in his family has had to deal with such criminal illegal aliens, but if he did, chances are he would be screaming for justice and for more federal ICE officers to be on the street doing the job needed. Mr. Jackson, in the end, President Trump is doing what the majority of Americans want him to do, and no matter how you spin it, you are so wrong on your points of view and slamming of ICE. Easy to armchair QB when one does not have to put their own arse on the line!

### Now Is the Time for Arms Control Agreements

Tarvi Kardile, Pleasanton

The 2010 New Strategic Arms Control Treaty (New START), the last remaining arms control treaty between the U.S. and Russia, the world's two largest nuclear arsenals, is set to expire Feb. 5, 2026, with little likelihood that any of its provisions will remain in force.

New START's expiration marks the removal of quantitative caps on U.S. and Russian long-range nuclear forces for the first time in 35 years. Without the treaty, both countries can (and will) rapidly expand their arsenals, risking a new nuclear arms race with new technology, such as AI, between the largest arsenals, higher risk of nuclear conflict, and an enormous new wave of unnecessary spending on weapons.

The U.S. and Russia could agree to extend the treaty, but there has yet to be a formal agreement.

Now is the time for arms control agreements, especially with the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) rapidly modernizing our nuclear stockpile. For example, right here at the Lawrence Livermore National Lab (LLNL), one of

two locations in the U.S. that designs nuclear warheads, NNSA announced its proposal for "Enhanced Plutonium Facility Utilization".

This proposal would significantly increase the allowable quantities of nuclear weapons-grade plutonium stored at LLNL and trucked in and out of LLNL, using roads such as the nearby I-580. With nuclear modernization driving this major increase in operations at LLNL, arms control treaties like New START are extremely crucial, putting limits on modernization.

With New START likely expiring, it is imperative that we speak up and press for arms control and future negotiations to reduce the nuclear dangers facing America and the world.

### Of Mice and Justifying ICE Minneapolis Murder

Greg Scott, Livermore

"You gotta put one foot in front of the other / And lead with love / Don't give up hope / You're not alone / Don't you give up / Keep movin' on / Lift up your eyes / Don't you despair / Look up ahead / The path is there / I know you're scared / And I'm scared too / But here I am / Right next to you" (Melanie DeMore, "Lead with Love")

I'm not right next to those who dehumanize other human beings, which is exactly what President Trump and his sycophants are doing with their Gestapo army of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). Are we to be tractable to cruel, criminal fascism like obedient 1930s Germans?

"Renee Good, the Minnesota woman shot by ICE, didn't live to learn what all of us should know, that when you aim your vehicle at full speed towards a human target you may not make it home alive and well!" (Daniela Karo, "Suicide by ICE," Mailbox, 1/22/2026)

Ms. Karo's statement above is morally bankrupt, hateful, and false garbage. "[D]idn't live to learn what all of us should know:" This ad populum, fallacious 'lesson' is cowardice to the brutality of the dictatorial, criminal President Trump, his entourage, servile Republicans, and ineffective Democrats.

In the words attributed to another "domestic terrorist" - Benjamin Franklin: "Those who would give up essential Liberty, to purchase a little temporary Safety, deserve neither Liberty nor Safety."

"Suicide"? A mother committing suicide after dropping off her 6-year-old at school, her dog in the back seat, and her last words to her murderer being,

"That's fine, dude, I'm not mad at you"? The ICE agent aggressively walked in front of Ms. Good's car, against policy and procedure, after switching hands with his phone so he could have access to his gun, as per the video from his own phone. By video evidence of the shooting, the ICE agent's feet were not in front of the car. Contending that Good's car was at "full speed" is malicious propaganda. Shooting a half-ounce bullet to stop a moving car is also against policy and procedure.

To decipher scenarios, Grandfather, a storied indigenous Apache, would say, "Go ask the mice." To Grandfather, the mice and their tracks were everywhere. No mice tracks present were telling tracks themselves.

Missing metaphorical tracks, via the lack of an investigation into Good's murder, are an injustice by the U.S. Department of Justice Civil Rights Division.

### The Parable of the Denied Go-Kart

Paul Stone, Dublin

When I was in my early teens, I craved a go-kart more than life itself. Not the mousy little four-stroke thing, but a two-stroke one that goes a hundred miles an hour.

I asked my mother (who raised me) to let me get one, but she refused. I pleaded with her for weeks and was confident she would ultimately cave. She never did.

To this day, I credit her adamant "NO", in part, to whatever measure of self-discipline I enjoy today. I wonder how many of the peaceful protesters in Minneapolis ever had parents who told them "NO", that you don't get your own way all the time, that temper tantrums are most unbecoming.

Trump won the presidency fairly and squarely and he's implementing the policies he campaigned on. The peaceful protesters had Obama and Biden for twelve years and now it's the other team's turn. (Both former presidents also deported millions.)

I never got the go-kart, but I got a life lesson that's lasted me decades. Thanks, Mom, for just saying, "NO!"

### The Doomsday Clock

Nuha Maffahi, Livermore

The alarm is once again sounding, and it's louder than ever. Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists' Doomsday Clock has reached 85 seconds to midnight, the closest to midnight it's ever been. For those who may not know, Bulletin of the Atomic

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Tri-Valley residents gathered on Jan. 31 at the Peace Corner in Dublin for a Defend Democracy Rally hosted by Indivisible Tri-Valley. (Photo — Leah Silveira)

**MAILBOX**  
(Continued from page 4)

Scientists is a nonprofit organization of elite scientists that publishes information on man-made threats, mainly nuclear weapons and climate change. Some of its early founders are Oppenheimer, Einstein, and Edward Teller, the “Father of the Hydrogen Bomb” and former director of Lawrence Livermore Lab.

The Doomsday Clock was designed in 1947 as a warning about how close humanity is to destroying itself. The clock reaching midnight symbolizes the end of the world, and every year the clock goes backwards or forwards, depending on the steps taken to prevent global catastrophe.

It isn't simply a fear tactic; the Doomsday Clock is run by nuclear scientists and experts who do thorough research on whether the clock should move forward or backward. Unfortunately, the last time the clock went backwards was in 2010, and on Jan. 27, 2026, the clock went to 85 seconds before midnight, the closest to disaster humanity's ever been since the creation of the doomsday clock.

This may seem like a far-off issue, but with a national nu-

clear weapons lab located right here in Livermore, this warning hits very close to home. One of the main reasons the clock has moved forward is the imminence of a nuclear arms race and war. With the last remaining bilateral nuclear arms control treaty between the U.S. and Russia, New START, set to expire on Feb. 5, the likelihood of a nuclear arms race is higher than ever.

Livermore Lab plays a crucial role as one of the two locations in the country that develops nuclear warheads for the U.S. stockpile. Efforts have been made by local watchdog groups, such as Tri-Valley CAREs, which works to increase the transparency of Livermore Lab's weapons programs and generally to stop its development of nuclear weapons. Unfortunately, the lab is continuing to push forward in its development of new nuclear weapons designs for the U.S. stockpile, actively stoking the flames for another nuclear arms race.

As Livermore residents, we must do more to raise awareness about this emergency.

To learn more about the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists,

you can go to their website at thebulletin.org.

**ICE**  
**David Peterson, Pleasanton**  
Idiots  
Causing  
Evil

**Dividing Communities**  
**Julie LaBlanc, Livermore**

Ah, the irony of a young, white male attending the anti-ICE protest rally in Livermore on Jan. 30 and giggling with his three white male friends while holding a sign that stated “Epstein fuc\*\*d Nig\*\*s.” Did you realize you were at a human rights rally? If you're going to hold your sign up for all to read, why did you quickly flip it to the other side when I (a black woman) walked past you? Your hate speech only further divides our communities. Maybe you should read some history books and take a look around, young man!

**Addiction Help is Unmet**  
**Jorge Barrantes, Livermore**

So, the pharma industry has a place in our society. It is really targeted to solutions that in humanity are an everyday occur-

rence. So, in this respect, to say whether addiction is an ailment or not; what is it?

It is not addressed as a sickness or an incurable disease, but rather the world circumvents around supply and unmet demand.

Right now, as we speak, the demand for unmet market supplies is under the carpet. The world circumvents whatever supplies the demand is not legally met.

Why is this addiction need not met? Why is it that we have abandoned our fellow citizens to find the supply however they can?

The world circumvents until the addiction is met, and will continue to be supplied and supplied even though the efforts to cut the supply are high.

This supply and demand is not stopping, by all means, and will continue as long as we take the steps to address this public catastrophe.

Health records describe illnesses for all diseases. But it does not address how many addicts there are in the population because it is not supplied in legal terms.

I am addressing this issue due to the victims that have fallen and lost their lives by using non-regulated pharma products.

I really hope that this effort to bring this concern goes beyond having mercy for our fellow citizens.

**Exposure of Sensitive Personal Data for 300 Million Americans**  
**William Goure, Livermore**

Recent disclosures from the Social Security Administration (SSA) raise serious concerns about the security of Americans' most sensitive personal information. According to SSA's own filings and statements, DOGE uploaded a live copy of the entire U.S. Social Security database into a cloud environment that lacked authorization, oversight, and basic security controls. This dataset includes names, birthdates, addresses,

parents' names, citizenship, race and ethnicity, and Social Security numbers for more than 300 million Americans.

SSA security officials warned, in advance, that the cloud system was vulnerable and unmonitored. Despite these warnings, the transfer proceeded. SSA later acknowledged in court filings that DOGE used a third-party service prohibited by agency policy, and that the agency still does not know what data was shared or whether it remains stored on that server.

What makes this situation especially troubling is that the location of the cloud environment was publicly known before the transfer occurred. Anyone with malicious intent who was aware of the plan would have known exactly where the data was going and when it would appear. And because the system had no monitoring, there would be no logs, alerts, or forensic trail if someone accessed it. In practical terms, even if the data was compromised, the government would have no way to detect it — and no way to warn the public.

Given the scale and sensitivity of the information involved, Americans deserve transparency

and a clear response. The public should be informed of the potential exposure so individuals can take appropriate protective steps. The government should also outline what actions will be taken to monitor for misuse of the data and to limit any further risk. Finally, there must be accountability for the decisions that led to this situation, which should never have occurred.

Protecting the personal information of every American is a basic responsibility of government. When that responsibility is not met, the public has a right to know — and a right to expect corrective action.

**Imagine**  
**Anthony Beckett, Pleasanton**

Imagine illegally crossing the border into a foreign country, and then hiding out until you can get a feel for the general climate. Imagine that you emerge and find that, not only are you in very little danger of being arrested and deported, but the local citizens are actually fighting their own government so that you can stay illegally (you chuckle and call them “useful idiots”). Imagine, to your amazement, support for your illegal sojourn growing

(See MAILBOX, page 6)

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**Sea parte de la visión de Livermore para calles más seguras**

**Livermore Vision Zero Action Plan (VZAP)**

**Reunión comunitaria (presencial)**

La Ciudad está desarrollando un Plan de Acción Visión Cero (VZAP), una estrategia integral para reducir y, con el tiempo, eliminar las muertes y lesiones graves por accidentes de tránsito. Reconociendo que las muertes y lesiones graves por accidentes de tránsito son prevenibles, el VZAP busca priorizar la seguridad, creando una ciudad más sostenible y habitable para todos.

**¡Su opinión es importante para nosotros!**

El 28 de enero se llevó a cabo una jornada de divulgación comunitaria para presentar el Plan de Acción Visión Cero y compartir cómo la Ciudad está trabajando para mejorar la seguridad vial. El equipo del proyecto analizó los objetivos y el proceso de desarrollo del Plan e invitó a la comunidad a compartir sus comentarios y sugerencias sobre la Red de Alto Riesgo de Accidentes, los perfiles de colisión, las áreas prioritarias y las contramedidas de seguridad propuestas para guiar los próximos pasos del Plan. También se compartió la plataforma de divulgación pública para que los residentes puedan seguir aportando sus opiniones durante todo el proyecto. El video y la presentación están disponibles en el sitio web del proyecto mediante el código QR o en [www.LivermoreCA.gov/VisionZero](http://www.LivermoreCA.gov/VisionZero)

**Comparta sus inquietudes sobre el tráfico antes del 11 de febrero de 2026**

Marque las intersecciones y los segmentos de calles, y proporcione sus inquietudes de seguridad a través del código QR a la derecha, o visitar <https://app.maptionnaire.com/q/226syd2ore37>



**¡Próxima reunión comunitaria!**

¡Únase a nosotros para la próxima reunión de extensión en febrero de 2026.  
¡Los detalles se proporcionan a continuación!

**Miércoles 25 de febrero a las 19 horas.**

Livermore City Council Chambers  
Mendenhall Meeting Room  
1016 S Livermore Ave, Livermore, CA, 94550

Nota: Visite el sitio web del proyecto para obtener actualizaciones sobre el desarrollo del proyecto.

- Proporcionar comentarios y sugerencias sobre la Red de Alto Riesgo de Lesiones
- Preocupaciones sobre el tráfico en la comunidad (Resumen)
- Borradores de recomendaciones de seguridad
- Áreas de acción y acciones de implementación

¡Esperamos saber de usted! Para obtener más información, visite el sitio web del proyecto en [www.LivermoreCA.gov/VisionZero](http://www.LivermoreCA.gov/VisionZero) o consulte el código QR a continuación:

**¡Escanee el código QR para visitar el sitio web de nuestro proyecto aquí!**



Se centra en accidentes fatales y graves evitables en lugar de eliminar todas las colisiones.

Actualiza datos de colisiones y áreas de PREOCUPACIÓN

Tiene como objetivo ESTABLECER SISTEMAS SEGUROS

Integra el ERROR HUMANO en el enfoque

Para Más Información: [www.LivermoreCA.gov/VisionZero](http://www.LivermoreCA.gov/VisionZero)



**Be Part of Livermore's Vision for Safer Streets**

**Livermore Vision Zero Action Plan (VZAP)**

**Community Meeting (In-person)**

The City is developing a Vision Zero Action Plan (VZAP) which will be a comprehensive strategy to reduce and eventually eliminate traffic fatalities and severe injuries. Recognizing that traffic deaths and severe injuries are preventable, the VZAP aims to prioritize safety, creating a more sustainable and livable city for all.



**Your Input is important to us!**

Community outreach was held on January 28th to introduce the Vision Zero Action Plan and share how the City is working to improve traffic safety. The project team discussed the Plan's goals and development process and invited community feedback and input on High Injury Network, collision profiles, priority areas, and proposed safety countermeasures to help guide the next steps of the Plan. The public outreach platform was also shared so residents can continue providing input throughout the project. The video and presentation are available on the project website via the QR code or at - [www.LivermoreCA.gov/VisionZero](http://www.LivermoreCA.gov/VisionZero)

**Share your Traffic Concerns by February 11, 2026**

Mark intersections and street segments, and provide your safety concerns through QR code on the right.

or visit <https://app.maptionnaire.com/q/226syd2ore37>



**Upcoming Community Meeting!**

Join us for the next Outreach Meeting in February 2026. Details are provided below!!

**Wednesday, February 25 at 7 p.m.**

Livermore City Council Chambers  
Mendenhall Meeting Room  
1016 S Livermore Ave, Livermore, CA, 94550

Note: Please visit the project website for updates on the development of the project.

- Provide feedback and input on High Injury Network
- Community-based traffic concerns (Summary)
- Draft Safety Recommendations
- Action Areas & Implementation Actions

We look forward to hearing from you! For more information, please visit the project website at [www.LivermoreCA.gov/VisionZero](http://www.LivermoreCA.gov/VisionZero) or through QR code below:

**Please scan the QR code to visit our Project Website here!**



Focuses on PREVENTABLE FATAL AND SEVERE CRASHES rather than eliminating all collisions

Updates collision data and areas of CONCERN

Aims to ESTABLISH SAFE SYSTEMS

Integrates HUMAN ERROR into the approach

Website: [www.LivermoreCA.gov/VisionZero](http://www.LivermoreCA.gov/VisionZero)



It was a training day at Happy Hooves Farm in Livermore on Feb 1. Future staff learned about working with the animals. One aspect of the nonprofit farming school includes hosting hands-on learning summer camps. (Photo — Jacob Clouser)

## MAILBOX

(Continued from page 5)

and growing to the point where political leaders are willing to shut down funding the government, just so you can stay. Imagine this story multiplied by ten to fifteen million and a nation that crumbles beneath the weight of all of this. You're not imagining anything. This is real.

### MAGA Exposed

Steven Rego, Pleasanton

With all the obsequious loyalty to a fascist starting to wane, one can only wish any remaining stragglers to get mental help with deprogramming. Remember that the only reason this traitor is still in the office is the uber wealthy and their vast resources. Peter Thiel; Jeff Bezos; Elon Musk and a whole host of the dregs of society.

The very wealthy broke a trust with the vast majority of the American people by not paying their taxes.

In the 1940s, FDR persuaded the very rich to not kill the goose that laid the golden eggs. That worked very well and enabled the working class (our families) to purchase homes by getting the economic engines turning again.

We ALL need this to happen to reimagine what makes the U.S. the envy of the world.

### Immigration Enforcement and Global Norms

Robin Bill, Livermore

Immigration has always been central to the history of the United States, but it has never existed without laws. Every sovereign nation on earth controls who may enter, work, and remain within its borders. The idea that the United States should allow individuals to stay indefinitely without legal status directly con-

tradicts global norms. There is no county in the world that permits open, undocumented residency, and ignoring this reality reflects a serious misunderstanding of how nations function.

Citizens born in the U.S. receive a Social Security number at birth, creating accountability through employment taxation, and legal identification. Legal immigrants must comply with strict documentation requirements, background checks, and formal approval processes. When individuals live and work in the country illegally, they exist outside these systems of responsibility. This undermines fairness by requiring citizens and legal immigrants to follow the laws while others are excused from doing so.

Undocumented status makes workers vulnerable to exploitation. Employers who knowing hire these workers are paid less, work through break, no overtime pay, safety is no issue. With legal status you have labor laws, OSHA regulations, and unfair employment statutes.

Public protests against deportation are especially troubling. These demonstrations appear profoundly ignorant of international norms and deeply disrespectful to millions of people worldwide who have immigrated legally. Those individuals waited years, paid fees, submitted paperwork, passed background checks, and followed the law. Protesting the enforcement of immigration laws sends the message that those sacrifices were meaningless. On a global stage, this behavior is not principled — it is “embarrassing.”

### Welcome to Trump World: When the Green Light to Kill Comes from the Top

Rosario Milleli, Pleasanton

The missile strikes in the Caribbean may feel remote, but the principle behind them has consequences much closer to home — including here in Minnesota.

What connects overseas drone strikes to domestic deaths during law-enforcement encounters is not tactics, but permission. Under Donald Trump, violence and lethal force are no longer a last resort; they are implicitly encouraged from the top. Suspected smugglers at sea are no longer intercepted or arrested — they are destroyed. No evidence is presented, no identities confirmed, no accountability required. The president simply declares the killings justified.

That message does not stop at the water's edge.

When the commander-in-chief repeatedly signals that legality is secondary to loyalty, and violence is excusable if labeled “official,” every officer down the chain absorbs it. Even when misconduct crosses legal lines, history shows how it ends: pardon, absolution, applause. Trump has already demonstrated this pattern by pardoning service members convicted of murdering unarmed civilians. And let us not forget the pardoning of January 6th insurrectionists who violently attacked the Capitol. The lesson was unmistakable — convictions are temporary; loyalty is permanent.

Minnesota has seen the domestic version of this logic play out. People die during encounters with law enforcement, investigations drag on, evidence is

disputed or withheld, and consequences evaporate. Officers are told they followed procedure. The public is told to move on. Accountability dissolves into bureaucracy.

Supporters insist this is about strength and safety. But strength without restraint is not law — it is authoritarian rule. Our democracy rests on proof before punishment. Once force comes first and justification later, the system has already failed.

The danger is not only wrongful death; it is normalization. When killing becomes policy overseas and pardon becomes precedent at home, officers reasonably conclude that restraint is optional and consequences unlikely. The green light is understood.

Minnesotans deserve policing rooted in law, not political signaling. We deserve leaders who make clear that no badge, no uniform, and no “official act” places anyone above accountability.

When a president signals that killing will be excused and punishment forgiven, the damage is not abstract. It shows up in our communities, our courts, and our cemeteries.

That is not law and order. It is sanctioned impunity — and it is spreading.

### Silence Is Compliance

Barry Brynjulson, Pleasanton

To the 60% who do not approve of Trump and his administration...silence is compliance. Be loud. Be peaceful. Resist.

And to the parents of students beginning to participate...thank you if you support their efforts. Please tell them that it is critical

to do it the right way. Their actions may make the news if they become rowdy, block traffic, or engage with agitators. Their involvement has the ability to advance the movement or set it way back.

NUMBERS MATTER.

### Slippery Slope

Linda Knapp, Dublin

I woke up this weekend to the shock and horror of the news that yet another innocent American citizen was murdered by ICE agents just weeks after Renee Good was shot and killed by one of them. To add salt to the wound, the Trump Administration is promoting lies about both of the victims and dragging their good names through the mud. These were American citizens defending their First Amendment rights, and in Alex Pretti's case, exercising his Second Amendment right as well. Neither were interfering with Law Enforcement, neither was attacking ICE. Video footage clearly shows Renee Good backing up and steering away from Jonathan Ross. Her vehicle never touched him. He slipped while holding up his cell phone to make content while aiming his gun at her, and Alex Pretti never drew or even brandished his gun. ICE does not have the power to detain U.S. citizens, but apparently, they think they do. They think they have blanket immunity to kill, detain, or disappear anyone they want based on skin color, language, or whatever behavior they deem “uncooperative”, such as filming them or helping another victim they are attacking. Every day is a fresh horror. We are rapidly becoming Nazi Germany and ICE is acting like Gestapo. Immigration enforcement is just the pretense they're using.

ICE is also looking locally to house immigrant detainees here at the shuttered FCI Dublin facility. It was closed over a year ago because it was found unsuitable for human habitation, due to black mold, asbestos, and crumbling infrastructure, after a sordid history of inmates being sexually abused by guards. Recently, the Dublin City Council voted unanimously to pass a resolution against reopening FCI Dublin as a migrant detention center. I was one of the residents who spoke in favor of keeping it closed. I might add, no one paid me to do it. Hopefully, the Alameda County Board of Supervisors will also pass a resolution to keep FCI Dublin closed, as well.

Furthermore, I received an anonymous postcard today urging me to report “illegal aliens” to ICE. My response was a sizeable donation to the ACLU. I will probably report sightings of ICE instead. Being here “illegally” is only a misdemeanor and the current occupant of the White House has 34 felony convictions. I much prefer my neighbors be immigrants than those who support this lawless administration.

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### A Cheat is a Liar

Patricia Thostad, Livermore

I declare: A cheat is a liar.

A cheat is a liar because he robs you of the truth. A liar is a cheat, if he can get away with it, because he tries to gain accountability at your expense. Any injury at your expense robs and damages your body and your soul.

Some cheaters reason it off by thinking of it as “a little white lie.” Most people (from the “I don't think about it” type to ones that have to yell it out in the street for someone to listen to) have experienced Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder emotions.

I declare: Most everyone has had some form of PTSD. Do you flinch in the passenger seat when the driver gets too close to the center line or God-forbid, another car? I did, and you will if you've been in a bad accident before, at least, for a while. The ones that seek accountability to heal themselves are the ones that say it out loud. I think that is healthy.

Now, what do we call eavesdropping? A way to get unauthorized information: that is what it is, or, in a word, cheating.

The Pandemic has changed our Livermore Edge-City to some forms of villages. I'm talking small: like ten houses. Your village is smaller still, if you are on a curve. You're probably O.K. if you are in a court because it behooves everyone to regard each other with respect in that situation and the people in that village are identified as being “on the same side.”

Arthur Miller created a buzz in college after winning a student prize for writing two years in a row. I like the visage of Arthur Miller as a student; albeit an older student, in his early 30's. I've seen pictures. So, when he tells me, in his autobiography, that he sensed a strange force upon him, exteriorly towards him from others, and explains it as being a political act that he is part of, because he, and his work, subject to criticism, are “put out there.”

Well, in a village, putting your garage-stuff out in the driveway, to sort it out, during a pandemic, is a political act.

## AI USAGE

(Continued from front page)

dent engagement throughout their thought processes.

### Agentic Browsers

On top of AI agents, another AI tool has again put educators on high alert after garnering mainstream attention late last year.

Known as agentic browsers, these programs pair AI agents with web browsers, allowing agents to read webpages, move cursors, click buttons and enter text — all the actions needed to complete an online lesson or quiz — with minimal human direction. The plain-language interface of these tools, backed by the troves of knowledge available online, lowers the bar for undetected cheating in remote-learning platforms.

Anna Mills, an instructor and author at College of Marin, said during last week's webinar that the AI startup Perplexity had advertised its agentic browser Comet as a means of cheating after making it free for students last September. The company had initially launched the browser at a cost of \$200 per month that July.

Perplexity CEO Aravind Srinivas publicly responded to another video of Comet cheating on behalf of a student by saying, “Absolutely don't do this.”

The company made Comet free for everyone in October, and it continues to market the

browser as “a 24/7 sidekick, study buddy and tutor” for students.

The second half of 2025 also saw Google embedding its Gemini agent within its Chrome browser, Anthropic releasing a Chrome browser extension for its agent Claude, and OpenAI launching its agentic browser, Atlas.

### Policy

Las Positas encourages faculty to develop AI policies on a per-course level, as the variation in need and context across disciplines makes a campus-wide policy impractical, King said.

“Not only is there variation in what is appropriate across disciplines, but there can be variations in what feels appropriate within a discipline — where instructors may want students grappling with content without the assistance of AI in foundational courses, and then strategically introduce AI into teaching and learning in more advanced levels,” King said.

Course policies generally address the acceptable use, tools, transparency requirements, ethical considerations, detection and consequences of AI use.

A policy from Las Positas English Professor Michelle Gonzales, for example, allows AI use for some writing tasks, including preliminary research, outlining and clari-

fying concepts, but prohibits its use for generating thesis ideas, summarizing or writing whole sentences.

Las Positas Mathematics Professor Ashley Young said she wants “students to use AI in ways that don't impact their reasoning or learning of concepts. In statistics, using it for mundane tasks like organizing data or creating tables and graphs might be acceptable, depending on what skill I am trying to teach.”

Others, such as Las Positas librarian Collin Thormoto, see no place for AI in the classroom.

“I wouldn't view any task as acceptable, as I firmly believe in the value of human work,” Thormoto said. “I focus primarily on research as library faculty, and I believe having students evaluate sources, read critically and even developing citations on their own, can have lifelong benefits.”

### Usage Costs

In June 2025, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Media Lab published a yet-to-be-reviewed preprint of a study of 72 participants, which explored the neural and behavioral consequences of LLM-assisted essay writing. The preprint concluded that LLMs scaled down cognitive activity among its users.

“While LLMs offer immediate convenience, our

findings highlight potential cognitive costs,” the paper's authors wrote. “Over four months, LLM users consistently underperformed at neural, linguistic and behavioral levels. These results raise concerns about the long-term educational implications of LLM reliance and underscore the need for deeper inquiry into AI's role in learning.”

What's more, privacy and security risks around agentic AI have raised flags, as any data presented to an AI agent generally gets absorbed into the AI company's training models.

“We had an incident where someone put their peer's work into an AI writing model to comment on it when that person was supposed to be commenting on it on their own,” Gonzales said. “A lot of the students were really angry, and they said, ‘I don't want anyone putting my intellectual property right into a large language model’ because they know enough that those language models are going to suck up their ideas and their voice.”

AI systems also remain vulnerable to hallucinations, where they present misinformation and even false statements as fact, misleading unwary users.

“AI can also replicate and amplify bias,” King said. “So, there is a real need to teach students how to critically evaluate the results of AI.

... Many faculty are making efforts to engage students in thinking about these more nuanced aspects of this emerging technology. The hope is when students enter the workforce, they're prepared to strategically and ethically leverage AI in ways that benefit, rather than harm society.”

### Symptoms Versus Causes

Cheating at the college level is nothing new, said Gonzales, and draconian attempts to regulate AI use may amount to treating the symptom instead of the cause.

She described Course Hero, an online platform that, for a fee, has allowed students to view teacher-specific assignments, quizzes, essay questions and sample papers since 2006. Before Course Hero, students could buy papers online, and before they could buy them in person.

“There's always been a way to cheat,” Gonzales said. “Now, I just feel like it's become somewhat normalized.”

Under the noise of new AI tools and concerns, she continued, too few colleges have looked into the underlying motivations of cheating, such as too much busy work, boring assignments, outdated teaching practices or outdated technologies.

“I really strongly believe that schools need to do more to address the reasons why

students might be seduced by large language models and just have ChatGPT or Perplexity or any number of them to do their homework for them,” Gonzales said.

“I think (where) Las Positas does a really good job of this is with support services: the tutoring center, our Reading & Writing Center, our English Center,” she continued. “Just making sure that we are providing a variety of different kinds of support that meet the different needs and the different kinds of learning styles that students have, and that we make sure that the students know that they're there.”

King said that the Las Positas Academic Senate is currently in the process of updating its college-wide academic honesty and integrity policies to include the implications of AI use.

Even as new technologies rise to assist us, Gonzales maintained that writing will remain a necessary human skill. “Do you want to be the person who creates new ideas, makes new discoveries, has big epiphanies, and has a sense of satisfaction around what you know and your ability to be a fully functioning citizen of democracy?” Gonzales said. “Or, do you want to be the person that just sucks up the stuff that has already been put in the large language model?”

**RESERVOIR**

(Continued from front page)



An aerial view of the proposed Sites Reservoir near Maxwell, California, looking out at the possible location of the Golden Gate Dam, as photographed on September 5th, 2014. (Photo courtesy of Kelly M. Grow, California Department of Water Resources)

block rivers, Sites would function as off-stream storage, capturing and releasing water from the Sacramento River, about 15 miles to the east, using two canals and a pipeline. This setup allows the river to flow undeterred most of the time, as the Sites Project Authority has said the reservoir would only divert water during high-flow or flood-flow conditions.

"This decision affirms what our extensive analysis has shown — that Sites Res-

ervoir can reliably capture and store water in a way that supports both people and the environment," said Jerry Brown, executive director of the Sites Project Authority, following Reclamation's decision. "With this additional environmental approval, we can now leverage all available construction funding and are focused on moving with intensity and purpose toward construction, so Californians will realize the needed benefits of Sites

Reservoir."

Project opponents have criticized the project's cost, which jumped 74% to \$6.8 billion last year. Concerns about lost cultural sites and damage to the Sacramento River's ecosystem have also prompted groups, such as Friends of the River and the Center for Biological Diversity, to speak out against the project. The groups have raised concerns around unresolved water rights, tribal opposition, labor issues, and

harm to the river and downstream communities caused by reduced river flows.

"The Record of Decision was expected and does not resolve the fundamental problems with Sites Reservoir," said Keiko Mertz, Friends of the River policy director, following Reclamation's decision. "Sites is still a nearly \$7 billion gamble that delivers little water at enormous cost, threatens rivers and fisheries, and distracts from real solutions."

Instead of large-scale dam projects, Friends of the River has supported agricultural land-use diversification, agricultural water management and efficiency improvements, and urban water recycling and conservation.

Ongoing negotiations between Reclamation and the Sites Project Authority will decide the terms and conditions of how the reservoir's capacity will be divided among its partners. The next negotiation session is scheduled for Feb. 11.

The Sites Project Authority expects to begin reservoir operations in 2033.

**Aspen String Trio to Perform Live at the Bankhead Theater**

LIVERMORE — The Aspen String Trio will play the Bankhead Theater at 3 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 7, presented by Del Valle Fine Arts.

The trio includes three former summer teaching artists who joined up to play at the Aspen Music Festival in Aspen, Colorado, 20 years ago, and who continue teaching in their professional lives.

Violinist David Perry is now a professor at the University of Wisconsin and is concertmaster for the Chicago Philharmonic.

Violist Victoria Chiang is a member of the artist faculty at the Peabody Conservatory at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore and the McDuffie Center at Mercer University in Atlanta.

Cellist Michael Merma-gen is associate professor of cello at the Conservatory of Music and Dance University at the University of Missouri-Kansas City and principal cellist for the Aspen Chamber Symphony at the Aspen Music Festival and School.

The program will begin with Schubert's "Trio in B-flat" and include 20th

century works by Mieczyslaw Weinberg and Gideon Klein from the Aspen Strings Trio's "Remembered Voices" project.

Weinberg's "Trio for Strings, composed in 1950, includes Jewish, gypsy and Moldovan folk themes. Klein's "String Trio" from 1944 is deeply rooted in Eastern European folkloric tunes.

The program will conclude with "Divertimento in E-flat," which was Mozart's only composition written for a string trio.

Tickets start at \$35 are available online at livermorearts.org, by calling 925-373-6800 or at the Bankhead Theater box office, 2400 First St.

Tickets for college students are \$16. Students 17 and under will be admitted free with an adult when tickets are purchased at the box office.

Del Valle Fine Arts is a nonprofit organization that has been sponsoring chamber music in Livermore since 1978.

**PROTEST**

(Continued from front page)

What she landed was up-wards of 2,000.

High-schoolers and middle-schoolers left their studies to demonstrate their opposition to the federal government's heightened immigration crackdown, following the deaths of two people last month at the hands of federal agents in Minneapolis.

Livermore resident Kristie Wang, who was present at the protest as a private citizen and member of Livermore Indivisible, attested to the presence of elected officials in local government and education.

Fick-Furlotte explained how she drew in the magnitude, when she'd only found out about the scheduled nationwide walkout three days prior through a friend who saw it posted on social media.

"I really wanted to do something. I knew it was a national shutdown, but I was like, 'If I just skip school myself, then I don't know how much I'm doing,'" she said. She reached out to her friend, Freyja Singh-Kirti, a senior at Granada High School, to see if she wanted to help. Singh-Kirti at first wasn't sure they could pull it off on such a short timetable.

But Fick-Furlotte was determined. "I texted her and was like, 'I'm gonna do it. I think this is really important.' And she said, 'Okay, let's do it.'" They, along with another Livermore High School senior, Grace Jeon, started printing out flyers and "handing them out like crazy."

Fick-Furlotte credits much of the turnout to California Senate Bill (SB) 955, also known as the Student Civic Engagement Act. The bill was signed into law in Sept. 2022 by Governor Gavin Newsom, and went into effect Jan. 1, 2023. It amends California Education Code section 48205 to explicitly include engagement in civic or political events as a valid reason for an excused student absence.

"Our main pull I think was

Senate Bill (SB) 955, which allows students one absence per year for civic engagement," Fick-Furlotte said. She added that the language in the bill was interpreted differently by different schools in the district, which created some heated debate between parents and teachers on social media, with some parents angry that their children were allowed to leave school without parental consent.

"It (the bill) does state that the pupil has to notify the school. But at Livermore High, they were interpreting that as the parents, so they would not allow students to call themselves out, which is different from Granada, who was letting students call themselves out," Fick-Furlotte said. Among the throngs were Vice Mayor Evan Branning; Steven Drouin, president of the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District (LVJUSD) Board of Education; and Christiaan VandenHuevel, board member of the LVJUSD Board of Education. They were joined by several school principals, district officials and staff.

VandenHuevel acknowledged the work of school staff and administrators at the middle and high school levels, who were navigating a fast-moving and somewhat unclear situation in real-time. "SB 955 allows students one excused absence per year for civic or political engagement with appropriate advance notice, and schools were tasked with interpreting and operationalizing that guidance quickly," he said.

"Office staff, administrators and teachers handled a really large volume of communication from families, coordinated sign-outs and focused on student safety throughout the day. That kind of logistical effort did not go unnoticed."

This raises the question: In such uncharted territory,

will the LVJUSD board be called to more clearly define the district policy as it relates to the bill's language?

"As with many of these first-time situations, there are lessons to be learned," VandenHuevel said. "Questions around communication with families and how policies are applied consistently are important, and I expect those conversations will continue as the district looks back on this experience and considers how to clarify procedures moving forward."

"The goal is just to get out there," Fick-Furlotte said. "And you know, it's hard when some parents have different views politically than you and you're just trying to use your voice and they're not wanting that. And I do believe civic engagement is a personal choice and it shouldn't be dependent on your parent."

The group of young people, ranging in age from grades 6-12 were noticeably peaceful in their decorum, even when the occasional vehicle filled with young teenage boys would rev its engine in opposition to the rally, leaving the crowd to choke on exhaust fumes.

One young man shouted out his truck window, "You suck," to the protestors lined up along the curb. But mostly the group was met with honks and thumbs-up by passing cars.

Fick-Furlotte has no plans to stop exercising her rights to engage in free speech and peaceful assembly. "I'm going into political science at whatever school I end up at. And I really do hope to get into the world of politics and just be a voice for those who don't have one."

She said she has been getting messages from first- and second-generation immigrants thanking her for her efforts.

"They're saying thank you for speaking out and showing the community, the immigrant community, that they are supported in Livermore

and valued in the community," Fick-Furlotte said.

"I think that's so important and my goal in life is just to fight for people that can't fight for themselves. Whether that's fighting for the environment or animals or people — that's just my goal."

At the height of the rally VandenHuevel said he was most struck by the sense of community.

"Students exercising their voices, adults ensuring safety and care, and a shared recognition that civic engagement is part of learning how to live together in a democracy," he said.

And he said he hopes that students came away with a deeper understanding of both the power and the responsibility that comes with having a voice.

"And (I hope) that we as a community continue learning alongside them. As we think about how to respond to government actions and policies that we disagree with, I think the best way to prepare for that is to know our neighbors. Strong community ties are key," VandenHuevel said.

Wang said she, too, had an overriding thought as she watched 2,000 students attend a protest to express solidarity with immigrants and cities experiencing unrest: "While it was heartening to see their empathy, compassion, and courage, I couldn't help feeling sad that they had to do it at all," she said.

"This is a generation that has already had to worry about climate change, a pandemic and school shootings, and now they're leaving school to take to the streets to stand up for democracy and our constitutional rights. Most of these young people can't even vote yet.

"Ultimately, I saw the

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The Harvest Park Middle School Athletic Field Renovation is officially underway. The Pleasanton Unified School District broke ground on the \$9.7 million project this past Thursday, Jan. 29 (Photo courtesy of PUSD)

## PUSD Breaks Ground on Harvest Park Middle School Athletic Field Renovation

By Sanestina Hunter

PLEASANTON — The Pleasanton Unified School District broke ground Thursday, Jan. 29, on a \$9.7 million renovation of the athletic field and track at Harvest Park Middle School.

The renovation replaces the school's existing athletic facilities with a new all-weather synthetic turf field and a 400-meter running track designed for year-round use.

The synthetic turf will include more than 150,000 pounds of a natural sand-and-cork infill mix and a specialized shock pad beneath the surface to reduce impact and provide consistent playing conditions.

"At its heart, this project is about our students," Russell Campisi, principal of Harvest Park Middle School, said in a

statement. "It's about creating a space that supports physical education, athletics, school events and daily student life — a place where our students can learn, grow, compete and build school pride, rain or shine."

The project is also funded through the district's Measure I bond, approved by voters in 2022, which authorizes up to \$395 million for school facility upgrades across Pleasanton schools, district officials said.

"Because our Pleasanton community supported Measure I, we are able to deliver modern, durable and thoughtfully designed facilities that directly benefit our students," PUSD Superintendent Maurice Ghysels, said in a statement.

More than 1,640 linear feet of subsurface drainage will be installed to help keep

the field playable year-round, officials said.

The renovation also includes new natural grass fields that, along with the synthetic turf field, will support multiple sports, including football, soccer, lacrosse, cricket and physical education.

Field-event areas are planned for the long jump, triple jump and high jump, the district said.

Additional improvements include integrated school branding in the field design, upgraded walkways, gates and site circulation, shade trees and low-maintenance landscaping, fencing, backstops and service access infrastructure.

Planning and design for the project started in 2024, and construction is expected to be completed by fall 2026.

Laurie Walker, vice pres-

ident of the PUSD Board of Trustees, said the project reflects community trust in the district.

"This groundbreaking reflects the trust our community has placed in PUSD — trust that we take very seriously," Walker said. "Projects like this show what's possible when that trust is honored."

In October 2025, the district unveiled a completed Measure I-funded athletic field at Pleasanton Middle School as part of the first phase of middle school facility upgrades.

Additional projects in the planning stages include a transitional kindergarten project at Walnut Grove Elementary School, campus renovations at Amador Valley High School and field renovations at Hart Middle School, according to the district website.

## WASTE

(Continued from front page)

easy. Processing it requires special equipment that can compress the foam and prepare it for reuse, and only a small number of facilities have that machinery. And the facilities are resident-only Recology facilities such as the one in San Francisco serving its neighborhoods.

One resource Neau hadn't been aware of until recently — residents can drop off clean Styrofoam for reuse at shipping and packaging businesses, including many UPS Store locations throughout the Tri-Valley. But now that she does, she said, "They're going to be inundated with it, I tell ya, inundated." For residents willing to drive further, locations are available in Hayward, Milpitas and Oakland.

Local waste authority StopWaste.org offers a helpful Re:Source guide organized by zip code with up-to-date guidance on where and how residents can recycle or safely dispose of "just about anything."

While Neau relies on resources like StopWaste.org, she said the burden placed on consumers is unfair.

"Companies use this stuff because it's cheap and easy for them to ship with. Then it becomes our problem. It's pushing the cost and effort onto people who've already paid for the product," Neau said.

California lawmakers have begun addressing that imbalance, particularly in food packaging, by passing legislation aimed at reducing or eliminating hard-to-recycle materials and shifting responsibility back to producers. Even so, Styrofoam

remains widely used.

Neau is quick to point out that Styrofoam is just one part of a bigger issue. Many everyday items cannot be recycled through city programs but do not belong in the landfill either, including thin or multi-layered plastic bags that many snacks come in. For those materials, Neau uses a subscription service called Ridwell. For roughly the cost of a couple of coffees each month, Ridwell collects hard-to-recycle items such as thin or multi-layered plastic bags, pill bottles, caps and more.

"I'd rather pay them than pay for the degradation of the environment," Neau said. "There's a cost to all of us. There's a health cost too."

While Neau believes companies should take on more responsibility, she does not think individual actions are meaningless.

"Anyone can do this. If you decide to do it, you can," Neau said. "Part of the argument I hear is, 'If nobody else is doing it, why should I?' The point is I'm doing it because I believe in it. Just because others aren't doesn't mean I should stop."

For Neau, waste reduction is about more than politics or policy.

"This is about community. We all depend on one another. You can disagree on how to do things, but we have to agree that we're in this together," she said.

She paused, then added, "As far as we know, this is the only place we have to live. We'd better take care of it."

## VINEYARDS

(Continued from front page)

them could be a deterrent for vineyard owners.

"At a time when our industry faces tightening sales and increasing competition, AB 720 ensures that California wineries can continue to thrive by offering visitors authentic, memorable experiences," said Robert Koch, president and CEO of Wine Institute, which advocates for the California wine industry on the state, federal and international levels. "This legislation provides wineries of all sizes with new tools to welcome guests, share their story and deepen the connection between California wine, agriculture and community."

Although welcoming the new law, Wente did not see AB 720 as a silver bullet.

"It's a few more events a year; it's not a needle mover," Wente said.

In an effort to revitalize the region, Livermore area winemakers have in recent years called for city infrastructure to support larger wineries and associated businesses, re-planting incentives and a focus on region-specific varieties.

Last October, the Liv-

ermore City Council approved a cooperative funding agreement with Alameda County to support a sewer-line extension into South Livermore Valley. The extension, enabled by voters through Measure P in 2022, will allow a broader range of businesses in the area.

The Tri-Valley Conservancy's Sponsored Replanting Program awarded its first low-interest replanting loan last month to Thatcher Bay Vineyards, allowing the winery to replant eight acres of cabernet franc. Area winegrowers can apply for a 15-year, low-interest loan to replant varieties suited to Livermore's terroir.

"Viticulture is core to the Tri-Valley's identity and economy," Rebecca Spector, executive director of Tri-Valley Conservancy, said in a statement. "We launched this program to ensure that growers, who are stewards of both the land and the viticultural heritage, have access to the capital they need to keep this legacy alive. Replanting is vital to the future of our region."

## TRI-VALLEY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Saturday, Feb. 7

### FLAG RETIREMENT CEREMONY

Livermore Pleasanton ELKS Lodge No. 2117 is conducting a public Flag Retirement Ceremony on Feb. 7 at 10:00 a.m. at 940 Larkspur Drive. Join in a dignified and solemn event for the respectful disposal of worn-out American flags. This year, the Elks are partnering with Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) and Boy Scout Troop 939. You are encouraged to bring your U.S. flag that is in need of retirement and it will be included in the ceremony. Call the lodge at 925-455-8829 for any questions.

Saturday, Feb. 7

### BINGO FUNDRAISER

The Italian Catholic Federation will hold a joint fundraiser with the St. Michael Golden Friends on Feb. 7 at St. Michael's Hall, 326 Maple St., in Livermore. There will be Mardi Gras-themed BINGO and a light lunch. Doors open at 10 a.m., BINGO starts at 10:30. Adults: \$20 per card plus lunch / children \$10 per card plus lunch / additional BINGO cards: \$10 each. RSVP by noon on Feb. 3 to [suzibg@sbcglobal.net](mailto:suzibg@sbcglobal.net) (Golden Friends) or [dcschauer@comcast.net](mailto:dcschauer@comcast.net) (ICF). Partial proceeds benefit ICF local Catholic charities.

Sunday, Feb. 8

### 2026 LIONS SPEECH CONTEST FOR COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP

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

Monday, Feb. 9

### LIVERMORE-AMADOR GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY MEETING

Come hear Scott Norrick introduce on-line resources that are most useful in tracing British ancestors. Both free and subscription sites will be discussed. England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland will be covered. On Feb. 12 at 7:00 p.m. In-person at Congregation Beth Emek, 3400 Nevada Court, Pleasanton, or via ZOOM. To register, see [www.l-ags.org](http://www.l-ags.org), click on Speakers & Topics on upper left. This speaker will be presenting virtually. No charge, visitors welcome.

Thursday, Feb. 12

### LIVERMORE AMADOR VALLEY GARDEN CLUB MEETING

On Feb. 12 from 6 to 8 p.m., Karla from Beeline Blooms will be presenting about dahlias. Tubers will be for sale. At Crosswinds Church, 1660 Freisman Rd., Livermore at the red Farm Theater Building.

Friday, Feb. 13

### MARIA MULDAUR & HER JAZZABELLE QUINTET; MUSIC FOR LOVERS

Maria Muldaur & her Jazzabelle Quintet will be performing their special "Music for Lovers" shows on Feb. 13 at 7:30 p.m. at the Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., in Pleasanton. See [firehousearts.org](http://firehousearts.org) for details. Tickets: \$38-43. Be inspired to fall in love all over again!

### ONGOING OPPORTUNITIES

#### FOOD RELIEF SERVICES

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

### ONGOING EVENTS

#### ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

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

#### SATURDAY PLEASANTON FARMERS MARKET

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

#### SUNDAY LIVERMORE DOWNTOWN FARMERS MARKET

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

Email non-profit events to [calendar@independentnews.com](mailto:calendar@independentnews.com) for newspaper calendar and visit our website [www.independentnews.com](http://www.independentnews.com) to promote all events online.

## OBITUARIES

### CELEBRATION OF LIFE

#### Barbara Frazier

Aug. 18, 1949 — Dec. 6, 2025

Barbara Anne Frazier, 76, died in her sleep at her home in Livermore at 5:30 p.m. in the evening, Dec. 6, 2025. Her niece, Christina Sherwood, was at her side, holding her hand, as she passed. Her brothers, William Mark Frazier and his wife Georgie, and Larry Frazier and his wife Marian, visited her in her final weeks, as did her nieces, Christina and Leilani Ngumezi, and her nephew, Ryan Frazier. She received much assistance from her close friend Alicia Eltgroth. Barbara died of stage four cancer.

She was born in Klamath Falls, Oregon, on Aug. 28, 1949, to Gordon and Vivian Frazier. She grew up in Honolulu, Hawaii. She attended high school at Punahou. She attended college at University of the Pacific and graduated from the

University of Hawaii with a degree in Anthropology. She was the first female graduate of East Coast Aerotech, a flight technician school in Boston. She worked at the mother church of First Church of Christ, Scientist, Boston. She later moved to Longmont, Colorado, where she worked for Hewlett Packard as a technician, operating high-vacuum machinery. This experience prepared her for work at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, where she started in 1991, and worked until her retirement in 2010. She operated high-vacuum equipment which was used for testing materials for use in outer space.

She enjoyed painting in watercolors, and loved gardening in her plot in the community garden, a short distance from

her apartment. She produced many beautiful quilts before arthritis forced her to quit that pursuit. She wrote many novels, none published, finishing a chapter a day. She loved reading and spent two to three hours each morning reading college-level books on philosophy, marine biology, politics, chemistry, mathematics, and more. She died with a collection of over 2,000 books. She always preferred physical books; many of the titles she was interested in weren't available digitally.

She will be missed by her family and friends.

A celebration of life will be held at Alden Lane Nursery, 981 Alden Lane, Livermore, at 11 a.m., Feb. 16, with a scattering of ashes at Sycamore Grove Park afterwards.

Mary Tania (Hudd) Selden, but always known as Tania, passed away in her sleep early on the morning of Monday, Jan. 5, 2026, at her care home in Sebastopol, California. With her health and mind deteriorating from Parkinson's and severe dementia, her passing was sad and yet a relief as her suffering ended at age 89.

Tania was born on June 30, 1936, to Stanley and Laura Hudd. She grew up in Oakland and Orinda and graduated from Acalanes High School in 1954.

She graduated from Pomona College with a degree in art and met her first husband Robert Selden, with whom she moved to Livermore and adopted a son named Ian. Tania made Livermore her lifelong home and was a long-time member of the First Presbyterian Church.

She worked for several



years as an interior designer after completing studies at San Jose State University but found her greatest career success teaching art and English at Fremont's Kennedy High School.

Tania had a unique way of thinking and seeing the world. She had a boisterous laugh that was as infectious as it was startling. She loved travel, backpacking and swimming,

and she spent years lovingly and stubbornly caring for a series of semi-feral cats. Swimming was where she met her life partner Bill Turner, with whom she spent 34 years. In retirement, she volunteered on the city's arts council and gave generously to benefit animals and nature. In 2018, with her health declining, she and Bill relocated to Sonoma County to be closer to family.

Tania is preceded in death by life partner Bill. She is survived by her son, daughter-in-law Holly and grandson Stanley, sister Joyce, brother-in-law Edgar, nephew Michal and his family, and a myriad of wonderful cousins.

Those seeking to remember Tania are encouraged to take a hike in the woods, listen to Grieg or humpback songs, and eat a small slice of homemade chocolate cake.

# OBITUARIES

## CELEBRATION OF LIFE

**Paul E. T. Jensen**  
April 27, 1926 — Nov. 29, 2025



It is with a heavy heart to announce the passing of Paul Edward Tyson Jensen, 99 of Pleasanton, California on Nov. 29, 2025, at home surrounded by family.

Paul, "Pops", was born April 27, 1926, in New Orleans, Louisiana to Paul Christian Wittenberg Jensen and Nena Laura Roberston. He graduated from Tulane University majoring in physics, mathematics in 1947, and business administration in 1949; later obtaining an MBA at Golden Gate University in 1976.

Paul's life was marked by service, generosity, kindness, and devotion to family and community. A proud veteran of the USNR 1943-45 Midshipman and Captain of the USMCR, WWII, Korea. He met his bride Jule "Cookie" in San Diego during his enlistment and wed in 1953 in Camaguey, Cuba. Paul worked as the assistant manager of the Cuban Atlantic Sugar Company in Lugareno until 1955. Upon returning to the states, he began his career as senior

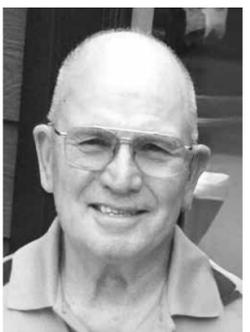
engineering specialist at GTE Sylvania, in Mountain View, and later with ESL/TRW as senior staff engineer until his retirement in 1992. He shared his expertise by teaching at Bay Area colleges and universities, professional memberships to IEEE, American Physics Society, Mathematical Association of America, World Future Society and Associate Fellow, Society for Technical Communications. In his free time, he enjoyed connecting with others on his ham radio, cheering on the SF Giants and Warriors, watching tennis and

running half marathons in the Avenue of the Giants.

He was known for his kindness, humor, and willingness to lend a hand to anyone in need. Paul was an active member of Pleasanton North Rotary, Sertoma and GraceWay Church. Paul and Jule traveled globally, making many friends along the way. Paul was a dedicated husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, uncle and friend. He was preceded in death by his beloved wife of 61 years Jule, and son Christian. Paul is survived by his two daughters Elena Frost and Connie Moss; grandchildren, Michael, Jacob, Caroline, Abigail and Julia; great-grandchildren, Daphne, Paul, Aiden and Ryan.

Paul will be missed greatly but leaves a warm legacy of cherished memories and love. A celebration of his life will be held on March 29, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. at GraceWay Church in Pleasanton followed by a reception in the parish hall.

**Thomas Patrick O'Sullivan**  
Oct. 2, 1939 — Dec. 23, 2025



Thomas Patrick O'Sullivan, lovingly known as Tom, passed away peacefully on Dec. 23, 2025, after a very short illness. He was 86 years old. His passing leaves an immeasurable hole in the hearts of all who knew and loved him.

Tom was married to the love of his life, Lydia O'Sullivan, for 65 beautiful years. Their marriage was a true partnership—one built on devotion, laughter, resilience and unwavering love. Together, they created a home filled with warmth, humor, and deep family bonds.

Tom was preceded in death by his beloved sons, Robert William O'Sullivan and John Martin O'Sullivan, losses he carried with quiet strength and grace. He and Lydia went on to raise their granddaughters, Tabetha Lynn Young and Cassie LaRae O'Sullivan, as their own—pouring into them unconditional love, guidance, and pride.

Tom was a proud great-grandfather to Ashton Young, Autumn Young, Caleb Silva, and Jazmine Silva, each of whom brought him immense joy. He was also eagerly looking forward to welcoming his soon-to-be grandson-in-law, Mike Silva, into the family he cherished so deeply.

Professionally, Tom was a hardworking and talented craftsman. He was self-employed for many years as the owner of Metal Craft Industries, working

side-by-side with his dear friend John. After selling the business, he continued his career with Precision Founders, where his dedication and work ethic were well known and respected.

Tom had a laugh that could be heard from far away—and once you heard it, you never forgot it. It was infectious, joyful, and perfectly captured the kind of man he was. He loved the outdoors, especially time spent at the family cabin, where some of his happiest memories were made. He was an avid tennis player for many years and formed lifelong friendships on the court—friendships built on camaraderie, laughter, and mutual respect.

Over the years, Tom shared his life with many deeply loved pets, each of whom held a special place in his heart. It all began with Charlie, his old pal and constant companion, who truly did everything with him—including

going to work by his side every single day. Their bond reflected Tom's gentle nature, loyalty, and capacity for unconditional love.

Above all else, Tom loved his family. Fiercely. Completely. Without condition. His presence made people feel safe, welcome, and loved. He showed his love not only through words, but through actions — by showing up, by working hard, by laughing freely, and by standing strong for those he cared about.

Tom was preceded in death by his parents, Thomas William O'Sullivan and Pearl Marie O'Sullivan; his beloved sons Robert William O'Sullivan and John Martin O'Sullivan; and his siblings Tim O'Sullivan, Maureen O'Sullivan, Merlyn Bristow, and Barbara Jo O'Sullivan, who died as a child. He is survived by his beloved wife, daughters, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, as well as many nieces and nephews, and by his loving siblings Darrell O'Sullivan, Kelley O'Sullivan, Lindy O'Sullivan, Annette O'Sullivan Gustafson, and Kerry O'Sullivan, all of whom will carry his memory forward.

Though he is no longer with us, Tom's spirit lives on in every shared memory, every echo of laughter, and every moment of love passed down through generations. He was deeply loved, and he will be profoundly missed.

**Paul David Banke**  
June 16, 1949 — Oct. 1, 2025



Paul David Banke, a third generation Livermore resident and cattle rancher, passed away on Oct. 1, 2025 from injuries suffered in an accident. His family was with him during his last days.

Paul grew up on his family's cattle ranch in the North Livermore area. He attended Saint Michaels elementary school and Livermore High School where he was active in sports and agricultural science classes and programs. He participated in Future Farmers of America and 4-H, raising and showing cattle at the Alameda and Contra Costa County Fairs (winning Grand Champion) and participating in and winning local and state FFA public speaking contests. He attended Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, where he continued to be active in agricultural programs, as well as student government and leadership programs. His senior year Paul was elected student body president and was one of two student representatives appointed by Governor Ronald Reagan to the state college and universities governing board.

On graduating with a Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural Business Management, Paul began work as a bank officer in Sacramento with aspirations of going into agricultural lending. Several years later, concluding an every-day-in-the-office job was not for him, he returned to the political arena and began

working for the California Cattlemen's Association in Sacramento, spending many hours at the Capitol talking and working with state representatives and agency personnel. In 1979, he left association work and returned to his family's ranching operation, which he took over in the latter 1980's. During his four-plus decades running the ranching operation, Paul expanded it significantly. He became one of the valley's early proponents of sustainable rangeland management and wildlife conservation and worked closely with the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Alameda County Resource Conservation District. He was a director and officer of the county district for many years.

Paul was active in Livermore Rotary and assisted with an array of community projects. He particularly loved helping with the annual Rodeo Parade, Rotary crab feed raising money

for local community projects, and hosting international students at the ranch. He also hosted other groups of students, giving presentations on local ranching. Paul was also a long-time participant in Alameda County Fair activities. He was appointed a Director of the Fair in 2008, and in later years also served on and was subsequently appointed President of the Fair Foundation Board. In the latter capacity, he devoted himself to helping the Foundation's farm of the future project—"The Farm"—move from the drawing board to reality, breaking ground and building out phase one this past year. The Farm will provide Alameda County students with a state-of-the-art interactive experience, inspiring careers in our ever-evolving agriculture sciences and production.

Paul is survived by his wife of 52 years, Kathleen, his two adult children, Chris and Lisa, and his two grandchildren, Blake and Brett Banke. A remembrance gathering will be held Saturday, March 7, 2025 from 2 to 4:00 p.m. at the "Farm House" on the Fair grounds. During the first hour, there will be shuttles to The Farm. The family asks that any monetary remembrances in Paul's name be made to the Fair Foundation for the The Farm.

**Robert A. (Bob) Condouris**  
July 14, 1931 — Oct. 29, 2025

Robert A. (Bob) Condouris passed away on October 29, 2025. A 57-year resident of Livermore and a former employee of both Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and Sandia National Laboratory, Bob will be remembered for his wide, friendly smile and his gentle kindness. He was a devoted husband to Olga for 61 years and a cherished son, brother, nephew, and uncle to far-flung family in New Jersey and Greece, all of whom mourn his loss. Bob was buried in New Brunswick, New Jersey, on Nov. 10, 2025, according to his wishes. He is survived by his wife Olga.

Bob was born in Passaic, New Jersey, the youngest of four brothers. During the Second World War, while his brothers were serving in the U.S. Armed Forces, young Bob helped his immigrant father with

his business selling hot dogs from a pushcart and acted as translator for his parents whenever English was needed.

After graduating in journalism from Rutgers University in 1954, Bob worked for RCA before moving to Livermore with his wife Olga in 1968. He worked as a technical writer and editor for 25 years at LLNL, retiring in 1994, but finding retirement not to his liking, Bob worked another nine years at Sandia's Livermore campus before retiring for good in 2004.

Bob's sense of adventure led him to become a licensed pilot, to take up skiing and scuba diving, and to run three marathons, including the Athens Authentic Marathon, which follows the course of the original race from Marathon, Greece, to Athens. Bob



loved Greek music and Greek celebrations, travel, videography, and writing. He treasured his close relationships with his family in New Jersey and Greece.

On Sunday, Feb. 8, there will be prayers for Bob at the end of the divine liturgy service (10-11:30 a.m.) at Resurrection Greek Orthodox Church, 20104 Center St., Castro Valley, CA. Following the service, a light luncheon will be served in the Church Hall.

**Doreen Ruth Hastings**  
Oct 3, 1924 — Dec 28, 2025

Born to Clarence and Marion Large in Oakland, California, Doreen Ruth Hastings lived and went to school in Oakland. She married Lynn Watch in 1945 and had a daughter, Jeannine Leigh, in 1946. She divorced in 1947, and married Earl Hastings in 1949 in Oakland. They moved to San Lorenzo, where they lived until

she retired from the Oakland public school system. After retirement, they moved to Shingletown. She and Earl would take their trailer during the hot summer months to Oregon.

She loved to garden and she learned how to china paint. After Earl died, she moved to the Bay Area to be near family. She

loved to meet and talk to people. She leaves behind her daughter, grandchildren Lisa and Scott, four great-grandchildren Ashley, Christina, Salena and Sydney, and four great-grandchildren R.J., Tonya, Lincoln and Emma. Memorial services to be held at First Presbyterian Church in Livermore on Saturday, Feb. 21 at 1 p.m.

## CELEBRATION OF LIFE

**Judith Ann Hughes**  
July 20, 1949 — Jan. 4, 2026

Judy Hughes, resident of Livermore, California, gently left this life on Jan. 4, 2026, at Elder Ashram in Oakland, from complications of Lewy Body Disease.

A celebration of life will be held at Asbury United Methodist Church, 4743 East Ave., Livermore, on Feb. 14, 2026, at 2:00 p.m., with a livestream and later viewing at [www.asburylive.org](http://www.asburylive.org).

Judith Ann was born July 20, 1949, in Hollywood, California, to Herbert and Elizabeth Evans, and grew up in Whittier. She played clarinet and bass clarinet in junior high and high school band, played in regional honor bands directed by Elmer Bernstein and Henry Mancini, and marched in the Rose Parade.

Judy studied education and sociology at UC Riverside, where she met the love of her life, John Hughes, at a coed softball game. They found themselves across a table from each other in Western Civilization 1A, where her sparkling blue eyes looked into his. Falling in love after two dates, they married in 1970 and moved to Salt Lake City, where Judy earned her teaching credential at the University of Utah and taught elementary school while John completed his Ph.D. in chemistry. They moved to Ambley, Pennsylvania, where their son Mark was born in 1976, then returned to California to be near their families. In 1979, their daughter Erica was the first baby born in the cozy Alternative Birth Center at Valley Memorial Hospital, and Judy and Erica were on the front page of the Valley Times the next day.

After years as a devoted mom and school volunteer, Judy felt called to other ways of serving. She trained through UCSF as a Lamaze childbirth educator and, over the next decade, guided more than 1,000 couples in Livermore, Pleasanton, and at Eden Hospital.

Judy later received an M.S. in Counseling Psychology from Cal State East Bay, worked as a health educator and HIV counselor for Kaiser Permanente, and became a licensed Marriage and Family

Therapist. She retired from her private practice of 20 years in Livermore in 2016. She taught stress management and communication classes, facilitated a Stanford Health Care cancer support group for 15 years, and led a meditation group for 20 years.

Inspired by a labyrinth walk at a women's retreat, Judy trained as a labyrinth facilitator and led walks at Grace Cathedral in San Francisco and at Chartres Cathedral in France. Together with John, she raised the funds for a labyrinth at First Presbyterian Church in Livermore, a sacred space where she hosted walks for many years and where people found peace and comfort.

Judy was a lifelong baseball fan, first loyal to the LA Dodgers and later to the SF Giants when she and John moved to Livermore. She loved the outdoors: gardening, Santa Cruz beaches, and walks at Sycamore Grove Park with friends. She and John sea-kayaked in Monterey, Baja California and British Columbia on gray whale and orca adventures. They hiked in Hawaii, New Zealand, Australia, and UK, where they stood on the farm in Wales from which Judy's great-great-grandfather emigrated to the U.S.

An avid reader, Judy drew strength from writers such as Maya Angelou, Mary Oliver, and Michelle Obama. Her faith journey carried her through First Christian, Methodist, and Presbyterian communities and toward a wider spirituality centered on people. Her strong sense of justice and right and wrong showed in her advocacy for women's rights, activism against nuclear weapons in the 1980's, and marching against the Iraq wars and in the Women's Marches after the 2016 election.

Judy was also a musician: English handbells, percussion with John, clarinets and penny whistle, and singing with John and friends in the Presbyterians vocal ensemble.

In August 2024, Judy moved



to Elder Ashram, a care community with assisted living and memory care. Her calm acceptance of that change was a profound gift to John, Erica, and Mark. Residents and staff often commented how she maintained her gentle and giving nature, treating everyone with kindness. The family is grateful to the staff of Elder Ashram and Solace Hospice for her compassionate care.

Judy is survived by her husband, John; son Mark (Danica) and grandchildren Benjamin, Alexandra, and Jonathan; daughter Erica Barajas (Mark) and grandchildren Carmen and Maria; sister Joyce Camin (Bill); nephew Patrick Padilla (Letitia) and their children Nathaniel and Inara; brother David Evans (Ludmila); sister Karen Beddeo; sister-in-law Jaye Bullington; and niece Tracy Buniger (Jared) and their son Archer.

In lieu of flowers, please donate in Judy's memory to the Parkinson's Foundation or the Michael J. Fox Foundation. In her spirit, do everything you can to take care of others.

**Maynard C. Michel**  
March 23, 1927 — Jan. 17, 2026

Maynard C. Michel, born May 23, 1927, died Jan. 17, 2026. He passed away after a life marked by service, scholarship, and deep devotion to family.

Born in Gasconade County, Missouri, Maynard answered his country's call at a young age by enlisting in the United States Navy during World War II. He served in the radar field, contributing to a critical area of wartime and postwar innovation that would shape the modern world.

Following his military service, Maynard pursued higher education with determination and intellectual curiosity. He attended Washington University and later earned his Ph.D. from the University of California, Berkeley. He went on to continue his professional work at UC Berke-



ley's Radiation Laboratory, where he remained engaged in the kind of rigorous, forward-looking scientific work he valued throughout his life. In retirement, Maynard and Helen made their home in Livermore, where they embraced a new chapter filled with beauty, patience, and shared purpose. Together they opened greenhouses of orchids, cre-

ating a venture they called Orchids Orinda. Their passion for growing and nurturing orchids became a joyful extension of their life together, and a way to share that love of nature with others.

Above all, Maynard was a devoted husband. He shared 69 happy years of marriage with his beloved wife, Helen, building a partnership rooted in loyalty, companionship, and love.

Maynard was preceded in death by his mother, Maggie (Houseman) Michel; his father, Arthur Michel; and his sister, Janet. He will be remembered with respect and affection by all who knew him.

A life of service, learning, and steadfast love—Maynard C. Michel leaves a legacy that endures.

# Hahn's Breakout Season Fueled By Love of Game, Granada

By Mitch Stephens

Brandon Hahn was 5 years old when he first picked up a basketball at Granada High School, and it was pretty much love at first dribble.

Asked what he loves most about the game, the 6-foot-7 junior took a deep breath to prepare for a thorough reply.

"I love working hard to get better every day in every aspect of the game," he said. "I love figuring out the best footwork to get to the basket, and I love rebounding and going after the ball, reading where it's shot, where it hits off the rim and then the feel of the ball in my hands after being a little tougher and meaner in the paint. ... I love working

in the weight room in the offseason to get stronger.

"Most of all, I just love being able to play basketball with my friends."

All those answers and all that passion may explain why Hahn is so beloved on campus, why he is probably the East Bay Athletic League's most improved player, and very well why he may be voted the league's Most Valuable Player.

Through seven league games, the do-everything forward has averaged 24.5 points and 15.3 rebounds — both league highs — after averaging more than 23 points and 16 rebounds in 16 non-league games.

The EBAL is considered the North Coast Section's best top-to-bottom, with

talented players aplenty.

Others worthy of consideration for league MVP include Livermore dominating sophomore Amare Chandler, Amador Valley smooth junior guard Jaylen Smith, Dougherty Valley-San Ramon's high-scoring guard Rashod Cotton Jr., California-San Ramon's college-bound standout Brayde Kuykendall and De La Salle-Concord's tandem of Ibrahim Monaware and Davit Pachulia.

But Hahn's constant three-level scoring, 57% shooting, tenacious rebounding and defense makes him the front runner with two games to go. The Matadors (16-7, 3-4) opened the week Tuesday (Feb. 3) at home against Foothill and

Friday (Feb. 6) they close the regular season against Livermore, also at home.

He's been a model of consistency thus far with these dominating performances against Monte Vista-Danville (24 points, 15 rebounds), Amador Valley (16, 11), California (34, 15), Dougherty Valley (23, 20), San Ramon Valley-Danville (26, 20), Dublin (29, 15) and De La Salle (20, 11).

The wide-open league features eight teams that have all been ranked among the Bay Area's Top 20 and, though De La Salle (20-3, 6-0) will likely win the regular-season title, the league playoff winner will share the championship. All should advance to the North Coast Section playoffs.

"This is a breakout year for Brandon, but you could see the signs clearly last year," said Granada seventh-year head coach Quaran Johnson, who took last season off to focus on his young family. "I think he has surpassed many people's expectations and people are finally starting to take notice of how good he is. I believe

he's the clear MVP, but we still have a ways to go."

Hahn's big strides coincide with a 3-inch growth spurt from last season and 10 inches since he entered as a 5-foot-9 freshman.

He's the son of coach — Bryan Hahn was Granada head coach in the early 2000s and is an assistant now — and both his parents played college basketball: Bryan (6-foot-8) at Ohlone and Westmont and mom, Trisha (5-foot-9) at Moorpark College and Cal State East Bay.

Neither parent pushed their son into hoops — "Our philosophy was to simply see where his love and passion landed," said Bryan, a 1995 Granada graduate and full-time math teacher on campus for the last 25 years. "Honestly, his real passion is competition. Cards, board games, diving into the pool first, he just wants to win."

That's why Hahn, also a pitcher and first baseman on the baseball team, won't even engage in MVP talk.

"I definitely embrace the challenge of leading our team to wins," he said.

"But I'm not worried about winning all-league stuff. We win the league and the rest will take care of itself."

And Hahn, a chiseled 215 pounds after working tirelessly with conditioning coach Joe Iacono, takes care of himself, Johnson noted. "He spends a ton of time working on himself physically and with his skill set," Johnson said. "You can see the work he has put in to change his body, and that's the same results you see in his game."

All of it adds up to a leader "you want running your program," said Johnson, who has known Hahn "since he was a lot smaller than me. My own son (freshman starting guard Quaran Johnson Jr.) looks at him like a brother.

"Overall, I love the kid like my own. He's a special kid on and off the floor, and that's the best part about him."

Said Hahn: "I've basically grown up here (at Granada). And honestly, there is no better feeling than when I put on the uniform and wear that G on my chest."



## Dublin's Chacon Scoring in Bunches

By Mitch Stephens

Ariana Chacon is having a remarkable senior season for the Dublin High School girls basketball team.

The 5-foot-9 guard led the Gaels in scoring during a 10-2 preseason, averaging 18.6 points per game. She twice broke loose for 26 points in wins over San Marin-Novato (65-40) and Mountain House (68-24) and scored 24 in a 60-8 win over Castro Valley.

Chacon outdid herself in a 46-40 East Bay Athletic League win at home against Monte Vista-Danville on Jan. 20, with a career-high 35 points. The Gaels needed almost every one of those points to hold off the Mustangs, who got 22 points from Juliette Leonard.

Dublin headed into the last week of the regular season as the top Tri-Valley team in the EBAL with a record of 17-6 and 5-2 in league.

After a Tuesday game (Feb. 3) at Livermore, the Gaels close the EBAL regular season at home Thursday (Feb. 5) against Dougherty Valley-San Ramon (19-5, 5-2).

That game should feature one of the top individual matchups of the season with Chacon going against Dougherty Valley senior Keira Tom, who entered the week averaging 23.4 points per game.

Dublin, which last week defeated Granada (57-21) but lost nonleague games to St. Ignatius (53-39) and Oakland Tech (61-33), closes the regular season with another nonleague game at home Saturday (Feb. 7) against Kimball-Tracy.

More EBAL girls basketball Thursday (Feb. 5): Granada at Livermore and Foothill at Amador Valley.

EBAL boys basketball finales: The final regular-season games of the boys basketball season are Friday (Feb. 6). Those games are Livermore at Granada, Dublin at Dougherty Valley and Amador Valley at Foothill. All games tip off at 7:30 p.m.

Amador Valley entered the week coming off a tough 59-56 home loss to Dougherty Valley on Jan. 30, fighting back from an 11-point deficit heading into the final quarter. Jaylen Smith had 19 points, Dante Ventura 14 and Elijah Stanley 11 for Amador Valley, but it wasn't enough to offset a 26-point effort from Dougherty Valley's Rashod Cotton Jr.

In other EBAL boys action on Jan. 30 involving Tri-Valley teams, Granada's Brandon Hahn had 20 points and 11 rebounds, but it wasn't enough to win at De La Salle-Concord, which prevailed 60-48. ...

Aiden Li had 21 points and Izaiyah Romer 12 to lead Dublin to a 64-62 win over San Ramon Valley. ... Livermore dropped a 55-45 game at Monte Vista.

**EBAL girls soccer:** The EBAL girls regular season concludes Thursday (Feb. 5) as Amador Valley plays at Foothill, Granada hosts Livermore and Dublin plays at Dougherty Valley. All matches are set to start at 6:30 p.m.

**EBAL boys soccer:** Amador Valley closes its regular season Thursday (Feb. 5) at home against Foothill, Dublin hosts Dougherty Valley and Granada plays at Livermore. All are scheduled at 6:30 p.m.

**LIVERMORE FIGHT:** In a growing, troubling trend throughout the region, state and country, a fight broke out at a Livermore boys basketball home game Jan. 27 against De La Salle. Unlike many recent brawls, this one wasn't on the court but in a foyer in the facility.

Police were called to the scene, which required the stoppage and eventual suspension of the game, which Livermore led 44-41 with 4:02 remaining. The fight was between several Livermore students and kids from "a neighboring school," Livermore athletic director James Petersdorf said. The fight was "significant," and included one Livermore student losing consciousness during the altercation but did not require hospitalization.

Petersdorf worked with both coaching staffs and the referee organization, and the teams agreed to resume play Wednesday (Feb. 4). Results were unavailable at press-time. "It's difficult with the regular season ending and spring sports picking right up. It needs to work for everyone," Petersdorf told The Independent on Jan. 28. "Like a suspended baseball game, we'll pick up from the exact point and hopefully make it as seamless as possible. ... It's really unfortunate because the game was outstanding and coming down the wire. The kids and fans were really enjoying the game."

Three nights after the Livermore incident, a fight broke out between players and fans shortly after a San Leandro Piedmont boys basketball game. Piedmont police were called to the scene and a Piedmont student sustained a broken nose, according to multiple reports.

Another big brawl that drew national attention on Jan. 26 at Aquinas High School (San Bernardino County) broke out moments after Inglewood's 93-78 win over the home team. Several suspensions totaling 13 games were handed down to players by school officials.



Granada junior, Brandon Hahn, soars and scores another for the Mats, bringing nothing but wins in their breakout season. (Photo courtesy of Adam J. Clark/Livermore-Granada Boosters)

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## LEGAL NOTICES/CLASSIFIEDS

**LEGAL NOTICES**

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 619887**  
The following person(s) doing business as: Yesu Host Home LLC, 5648 Bay Street, Apt #421, Emeryville, CA 94608 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Yesu Host Home LLC, PO Box 8511, Emeryville, CA 94662. 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: 01/01/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Surafel Tensai, Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 5, 2026. Expires January 4, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6670. Published January 15, 22, 29, February 5, 2026.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 619893**  
The following person(s) doing business as: Quantum Software Solutions, 4101 Dublin Blvd, Ste F #3097, Dublin, CA 94568 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Rigoberto Leyva Salmeron, 4101 Dublin Blvd, Ste F #3097, Dublin, CA 94568.

This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 1/4/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Rigoberto Leyva Salmeron, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 6, 2026. Expires January 5, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6671. Published January 15, 22, 29, February 5, 2026.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 619904**  
The following person(s) doing business as: NextHome Mount Diablo Estates, 4435 First Street, Suite 363, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Team Durf, Inc., 674 Belmeade Way, Brentwood, CA 94513. 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/: Christina M. Dufflinger, Secretary. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 5, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6672. Published January 15, 22, 29, February 5, 2026.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 619950**  
The following person(s) doing business as: Vendy, 2363 Tripaldi Way, Hayward, CA 94545 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): KBTH LLC, 2363 Tripaldi Way, Hayward, CA 94545. 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/: Yen Ching Lee, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 17, 2025. Expires December 16, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6673. Published January 15, 22, 29, February 5, 2026.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 619795**  
The following person(s) doing business as: 1. CA Gold Diggers Meetup; 2. My Tutoring Plan, 3056 Castro Valley Blvd #18, Castro Valley, CA 94546 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Melanie Bailey, 3056 Castro Valley Blvd #18, Castro Valley, CA 94546. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 12/31/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Melanie A. Bailey, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 2, 2026. Expires January 1, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6674. Published January 15, 22, 29, February 5, 2026.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 619794**  
The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Alameda Island Apparel; 2. Alameda Island Graphics; 3. Alameda Made, 4. Isle of you; 5. Alameda Apparel; 6. Maya Love; 7. My Oh Maya; 8. Isle of People; 9. Lava Apparel; 10. Hello Alameda; 11. Earth & Us; 12. Of Earth & Love; 13. Alameda Love; 14. Earth Love, 1548 Clement Ave, Alameda, CA 94501-6886 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Ken Yurgaitis, 1548 Clement Ave, Alameda, CA 94501. 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/: Ken Yurgaitis, Owner.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 2, 2026. Expires January 1, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6675. Published January 15, 22, 29, February 5, 2026.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620068**  
The following person(s) doing business as: Allen Concrete Resurfacing, 772 Tanager Rd, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Nicolas David Leighman Allen V, 2150 Portola Ave, Suite D #259, 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/: Nicolas David Leighman Allen V, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 12, 2026. Expires January 11, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6676. Published January 22, 29, February 5, 12, 2026.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620105**  
The following person(s) doing business as: Luma Foundation, 653 Buckeye DR., Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Angel Garcia, 653 Buckeye DR., 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/: Angel Garcia, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 13, 2026. Expires January 12, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6677. Published January 22, 29, February 5, 12, 2026.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620104**  
The following person(s) doing business as: Vela Design House, 1056 Serpentine Lane, Suite C, Pleasanton, CA 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Gar-Cal Corporation, PO Box 24, 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: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Angel Garcia, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 13, 2026. Expires January 12, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6677. Published January 22, 29, February 5, 12, 2026.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620105**  
The following person(s) doing business as: Becca Sews, 128 Northwood Commons, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Rebecca Okurovski, 125 Northwood Commons, 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: 1/04/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Yadirra Estrada Reza, Broker. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 14, 2026. Expires January 13, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6681.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620105**  
The following person(s) doing business as: Golden Pacific Realty, 7161 Amador Valley Blvd, Dublin, CA 94568 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Yadirra Estrada Reza, 7161 Amador Valley Blvd, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 1/04/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Yadirra Estrada Reza, Broker. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 14, 2026. Expires January 13, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6681.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620105**  
The following person(s) doing business as: Barred Down Wine Services, 2356 Palm Avenue, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Meredith Sarboraria, 2356 Palm Avenue, 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: 2/15/2021. Signature of Registrant/s/: Meredith Sarboraria, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 8, 2026. Expires January 7, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6680. Published January 22, 29, February 5, 12, 2026.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620105**  
The following person(s) doing business as: 7161 Amador Valley Blvd, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 1/04/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Yadirra Estrada Reza, Broker. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 14, 2026. Expires January 13, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6681.

# LEGAL NOTICES/CLASSIFIEDS

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Published January 22, 29, February 5, 12, 2026.

### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620188

The following person(s) doing business as: Level Five Design, Inc., 362 Henry ST, Oakland, CA 94607 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Level Five Design Inc., 362 Henry ST, Oakland, CA 94607. 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/: Rye Hudak, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 15, 2026. Expires January 14, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6681. Published January 22, 29, February 5, 12, 2026.

### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620199

The following person(s) doing business as: Calcoast - ITL, 683 Thornton ST, San Leandro, CA 94577-2627 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Cummins Lighting Laboratory, Inc., 683 Thornton ST, San Leandro, CA 94577. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 1/2/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Douglas G. Cummins, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 15, 2026. Expires January 14, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6682. Published January 22, 29, February 5, 12, 2026.

### ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No. 23CV05751 SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF ALAMEDA TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

**Petitioner:** Jaeden Tyler Ilano-Suva 8265 Wexford Court Dublin, CA 94568 filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:

**Present Names:** Jaeden Tyler Ilano-Suva

**Proposed Name:** Jaeden Tyler Ilano

**THE COURT ORDERS** that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.

### NOTICE OF HEARING

Date: 03/06/2026

Time: 9:00 AM

Dept: 514

The address of the court is: Superior Court of Alameda County

24405 Amador Street Hayward, CA 94544

Oakland, CA 94612

A copy of this Order To Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation printed in this county: The Independent Newspaper 2250 First Street, Livermore, CA 94550

Dated: 01/12/2026 /s/: Thomas Nixon, Judge. The Independent, Legal No. 6683. Published January 29, February 5, 12, 19, 2026.

### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620327

The following person(s) doing business as: TLL Investigations and Consulting, 304 Avondale Lane, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Tobias Lay 304 Avondale Lane, 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/: Tobias Lay, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 22, 2026. Expires January 21, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6684. Published January 29, February 5, 12, 19, 2026.

### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620299

The following person(s) doing business as: Piazza for Hair, 157 South J Street, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): 023 Patterson LLC, 1374 Chelsea Way, 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: 1/1/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Julie Liskey-Patterson, Owner/Manager. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 21, 2026. Expires January 20, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6685.

Published January 29, February 5, 12, 19, 2026.

### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 619917

The following person(s) doing business as: Wanvisa Wellness, 4314 Allendale Ave, Oakland, CA 94619 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Wanvisa Wattanadumrong, 4314 Allendale Ave, Oakland, CA 94619. 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: 1/6/26. Signature of Registrant/s/: Wanvisa Wattanadumrong, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 6, 2026. Expires January 5, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6686. Published January 29, February 5, 12, 19, 2026.

### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620106

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Lynch Auditing; 2. Lynch Advisory, 695 Brighton Way, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): 695 Lynch LLC, 695 Brighton Way, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Andrew Lynch, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 13, 2026. Expires January 12, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6687. Published January 29, February 5, 12, 19, 2026.

### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620208

The following person(s) doing business as: Loanovia, 3049 Independence Drive, Suite A, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Cubus Solutions, Inc., 1300 SW 5th Avenue, Portland, OR 97201. 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: 1/1/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: John-Ashley Paul, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 16, 2026. Expires January 15, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6688. Published January 29, February 5, 12, 19, 2026.

### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620258

The following person(s) doing business as: Aging in the Bay Dublin, 7875 Ironwood Drive, Dublin, CA 94568 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Bahay Kubo 2 LLC, 7875 Ironwood Drive, 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: 1/20/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Michael Mendaras, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 20, 2026. Expires January 19, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6689. Published January 29, February 5, 12, 19, 2026.

### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620018

The following person(s) doing business as: Smart Shield Insurance Agency, 3041 Vittoria Loop, Dublin, CA 94568 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Cutting Chai LLC, 3041 Vittoria Loop, 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/: Dhwanit purohit, Manager. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 8, 2026. Expires January 7, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6690. Published January 29, February 5, 12, 19, 2026.

### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620057

The following person(s) doing business as: Meant for More Coaching, 2121 Filbert ST, Oakland, CA 94607 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Rachael Gingery, 2121 Filbert ST, Oakland, CA 94607. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 1/1/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Rachael Gingery, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 9, 2026. Expires January 8, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6691. Published January 29, February 5, 12, 19, 2026.

through reducing trail density, increasing vegetation cover, creating sustainable trails, enforcing trails-only riding, and implementing loss and erosion control measures that disperse storm water runoff to prevent accelerated erosion, and rehabilitate damaged soil surfaces.

### ANTICIPATED SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS:

The Draft EIR identifies potentially significant biological and geological impacts associated with the proposed new project activities. All impacts can be reduced to less than significant through mitigation measures.

### REQUEST FOR COMMENTS:

The Draft EIR is available for public review and comment, beginning January 21, 2026. Your response must be sent at the earliest possible date, but no later than 5PM, March 9, 2026. Pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15088.5(f)(2), CDPR is recirculating the entire Draft EIR and requests that reviewers submit new comments. The Final EIR will only provide responses to comments submitted to the Draft EIR. Please send your comments to comment@carnerjema.com. You may also send written comments to April Mason, Altamont Sector Manager, California Department Parks and Recreation, Diablo Range District, 15751 Tesla Road, Livermore, CA 94550. Emailed comments are preferred.

### DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY:

The Draft EIR and all documents referenced in the EIR are available for review at the address shown above. Draft EIR documents may also be reviewed or downloaded from the following address: www.oceanoduneshcp.com. The Independent, Legal No. 6694. Published February 5, 2026.

### Superior Court of the State of California Case No.: 25FL03171 Companion Case: 24AD00093

For the County of SACRAMENTO. IN THE MATTER OF NOVA RAE EDMONDS A.K.A. OCEAN NOVA CARDENAS. A minor person who should be declared free from the custody and control of her presumed father).

### NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (EIR) (SCH# 2023020424)

Date: January 16, 2026 To: California State Clearinghouse, state Responsible and Trustee Agencies, federal agencies, county clerks, local jurisdictions and interested individuals and organizations Subject: Notice of Availability of Draft EIR for public review to receive comments on the California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR), Carnegie State Vehicular Recreation Area Resource Management Area Program Draft EIR Lead Agency: DPR is the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for the Draft EIR. Applicant: DPR, Diablo Range District, 15751 Tesla Road, Livermore, CA 94550 Project Location: Diablo Range District of unincorporated eastern Alameda and western San Joaquin counties, California Project Description: Carnegie State Vehicular Recreation Area (SVRA) is a 1,533-acre off-highway vehicle (OHV) park in eastern Alameda and western San Joaquin counties. The park is operated by the Diablo Range District of California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR). The SVRA is divided into Management Units to provide a structure for implementing natural resource management activities. Some of these Management Units have been further subdivided into smaller resource management zones (Resource Management Areas; RMAs) to actively manage the road and trail system through recontouring, erosion control, revegetation, and use control in order to meet the Soil Conservation Standard and regulatory requirements of stormwater runoff. Currently, the SVRA has 14 RMAs. The Diablo Range District proposes to establish RMAs throughout the hillside riding areas of the park as part of its ongoing effort to manage soil erosion and the water quality of storm water runoff. The proposed project would progressively establish new RMAs to provide ongoing sustainable OHV recreation management

### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620397

The following person(s) doing business as: Fairfield by Marriott Livermore, 220 N Greenville Road, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Blue Diamond Management Inc., 3446 Zaccaria Way, 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: 1/22/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Novdeep K. Sanghera, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 26, 2026. Expires January 25, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6696. Published February 5, 12, 19, 2026.

### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 619968

The following person(s) doing business as: AFS, 350 Sönic Avenue, Suite 101, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Consumer Credit Counseling Foundation, Inc., 350 Sönic Ave, Suite 101, 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: 12/15/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Porus Engineer, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 7, 2026. Expires January 6, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 667. Published February 5, 12, 19, 2026.

CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Consumer Credit Counseling Foundation, Inc., 350 Sönic Ave, Suite 101, 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: 12/15/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Porus Engineer, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 7, 2026. Expires January 6, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 667. Published February 5, 12, 19, 2026.

### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620459

The following person(s) doing business as: Stoic Rebel Financial, 3245 Bayo Vista Avenue, Alameda, CA 94501 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Daniel Heller, 3245 Bayo Vista Ave, Alameda, CA 94501. 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/: Daniel Heller. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 27, 2026. Expires January 26, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6698. Published February 5, 12, 19, 26, 2026.

### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620472

The following person(s) doing business as: GI Specialists, 15035 E 14th ST, San Leandro, CA 94578 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): GI Ghevariya, PC, 15035 E 14th ST, San Leandro, CA 94578. 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/: Vishal Ghevariya, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 27, 2026. Expires January 26, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6699. Published February 5, 12, 19, 26, 2026.

### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620469

The following person(s) doing business as: Reeds Logistic Ride, 1601 165th Ave, APT 107, San Leandro, CA 94578 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Moufeed M. Ismail, 1601 165th Ave #107, San Leandro, CA 94578. 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: 5/7/2021. Signature of Registrant/s/: Moufeed Ismail, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 26, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6700. Published February 5, 12, 19, 26, 2026.

### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620477

The following person(s) doing business as: Sentinel Skills Systems, 1445 34th Ave #7891, Oakland, CA 94601 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Sentinel Skills Systems, 1445 34th Ave #7891, 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: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Ronald Rivers, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 27, 2026. Expires January 27, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6701. Published February 5, 12, 19, 26, 2026.

### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620203

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. JRM Drywall; 2. JRM Builders; 3. JRM General Contractor, 3437 Zion Canyon Court, Pleasanton, CA 94588 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): JRM General Contractor Inc., 3437 Zion Canyon Court, Pleasanton, CA 94588. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 12/2/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Jose R. Mendola, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 15, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6703. Published February 5, 12, 19, 26, 2026.

### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620497

The following person(s) doing business as: Biryani Bliss, 1536 N Vasco Rd, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Bajrangi LLC, 1536 N Vasco Rd, 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: 1/21/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Vivekanad Vennam, Manager. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 27, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6704. Published February 5, 12, 19, 26, 2026.

### STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF

The following person(s) doing business as: Ollie and The Count LLC, 1361 Park Street STE 218, Alameda, CA 94501 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Ollie and The Count LLC, 1361 Park Street Ste 218, 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: 1/20/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Everett Alfonso Herbert, Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 20, 2026. Expires January 19, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6702. Published February 5, 12, 19, 26, 2026.

### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620472

The following person(s) doing business as: Whitelaw Glass and Aluminum, 145 Barber Street, 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/: Michael Whitelaw, 145 Barber Street, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 12/1/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Michael Whitelaw, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 22, 2026. Expires January 21, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6692. Published January 29, February 5, 12, 19, 2026.

### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620459

The following person(s) doing business as: Ollie and The Count LLC, 1361 Park Street STE 218, Alameda, CA 94501 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Ollie and The Count LLC, 1361 Park Street Ste 218, 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: 1/20/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Everett Alfonso Herbert, Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 20, 2026. Expires January 19, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6702. Published February 5, 12, 19, 26, 2026.

### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620203

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. JRM Drywall; 2. JRM Builders; 3. JRM General Contractor, 3437 Zion Canyon Court, Pleasanton, CA 94588 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): JRM General Contractor Inc., 3437 Zion Canyon Court, Pleasanton, CA 94588. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 12/2/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Jose R. Mendola, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 15, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6703. Published February 5, 12, 19, 26, 2026.

### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620497

The following person(s) doing business as: Biryani Bliss, 1536 N Vasco Rd, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Bajrangi LLC, 1536 N Vasco Rd, 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: 1/21/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Vivekanad Vennam, Manager. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 27, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6704. Published February 5, 12, 19, 26, 2026.

CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Consumer Credit Counseling Foundation, Inc., 350 Sönic Ave, Suite 101, 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: 12/15/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Porus Engineer, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 7, 2026. Expires January 6, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 667. Published February 5, 12, 19, 2026.

### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620459

The following person(s) doing business as: Stoic Rebel Financial, 3245 Bayo Vista Avenue, Alameda, CA 94501 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Daniel Heller, 3245 Bayo Vista Ave, Alameda, CA 94501. 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/: Daniel Heller. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 27, 2026. Expires January 26, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6698. Published February 5, 12, 19, 26, 2026.

### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620472

The following person(s) doing business as: GI Specialists, 15035 E 14th ST, San Leandro, CA 94578 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): GI Ghevariya, PC, 15035 E 14th ST, San Leandro, CA 94578. 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/: Vishal Ghevariya, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 27, 2026. Expires January 26, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6699. Published February 5, 12, 19, 26, 2026.

### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620469

The following person(s) doing business as: Reeds Logistic Ride, 1601 165th Ave, APT 107, San Leandro, CA 94578 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Moufeed M. Ismail, 1601 165th Ave #107, San Leandro, CA 94578. 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: 5/7/2021. Signature of Registrant/s/: Moufeed Ismail, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 26, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6700. Published February 5, 12, 19, 26, 2026.

### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620477

The following person(s) doing business as: Sentinel Skills Systems, 1445 34th Ave #7891, Oakland, CA 94601 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Sentinel Skills Systems, 1445 34th Ave #7891, 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: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Ronald Rivers, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 27, 2026. Expires January 27, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6701. Published February 5, 12, 19, 26, 2026.

### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620203

The following person(s) doing business as: Ollie and The Count LLC, 1361 Park Street STE 218, Alameda, CA 94501 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Ollie and The Count LLC, 1361 Park Street Ste 218, 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: 1/20/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Everett Alfonso Herbert, Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 20, 2026. Expires January 19, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6702. Published February 5, 12, 19, 26, 2026.

### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620497

The following person(s) doing business as: Biryani Bliss, 1536 N Vasco Rd, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Bajrangi LLC, 1536 N Vasco Rd, 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: 1/21/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Vivekanad Vennam, Manager. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 27, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6704. Published February 5, 12, 19, 26, 2026.

Systems, 1445 34th Ave #7891, Oakland, CA 94601 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Sentinel Skills Systems, 1445 34th Ave #7891, 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: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Ronald Rivers, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 27, 2026. Expires January 27, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6701. Published February 5, 12, 19, 26, 2026.

### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620259

The following person(s) doing business as: Ollie and The Count LLC, 1361 Park Street STE 218, Alameda, CA 94501 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Ollie and The Count LLC, 1361 Park Street Ste 218, 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: 1/20/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Everett Alfonso Herbert, Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 20, 2026. Expires January 19, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6702. Published February 5, 12, 19, 26, 2026.

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### STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF

The following

# Jewish Celebration of Trees Set in Olive Groves

(Continued from front page)

By Christina Cavallaro

LIVERMORE— Sunshine and moderate temperatures on Sunday, Feb 1, herald-

ed the beginning of Tu B'Shvat, often referred to as the Jewish "New Year of the Trees." Sunday sunset was the actual start of the holiday and Monday sunset the end, but Rancho Mi-

lagro owner Nancy Frishberg welcomed Tri-Valley Cultural Jews (TVCJ) for a midday celebration in Livermore.

The 182-acre ranch on Mines Road grows and tends 40 acres of olive trees. The fruit makes its way into the bottles of oil sold to customers.

"We thoroughly enjoyed sharing Rancho Milagro's olive orchards with TVCJ members of all ages as part of celebrating Tu B'Shvat," Frishberg said and added, "It is a holiday that falls neatly between two other significant harvest celebrations in the Jewish calendar, Sukkot (following the Jewish New Year in the fall) and Pesach (Passover in the spring)."

Jazz Salwen-Grabowski commented on behalf of TVCJ, offering some perspective on the group and the holiday.

"Tu B'Shvat is a time to honor trees, land, and renewal, and this year, Tri-Valley Cultural Jews is honoring the holiday in a way we've never done before by gathering in the olive grove of one of our members," Salwen-Grabowski said.

Being surrounded by living trees and open land lent itself to experiencing the holiday in a very literal, hands-on way, she added. The group partook in a small service project focused on supporting tree health, adding boron, a beneficial micronutrient, to tree beds.

The group enjoyed a walk in the orchards among early spring flowers before convening for a potluck feast.

Above all, Salwen-Grabowski said, "Our gathering reflects a secular, humanist approach to Jewish culture, centered on connection, learning, and care for the world we share."

TVCJ leaders set the scene for the celebration with comparisons to Earth Day, a secular holiday which shares overlapping goals with Tu B'Shvat.

"At its heart, this gathering was about community-building," Salwen-Grabowski said.

"Tri-Valley Cultural Jews create Jewish experiences that are inclusive, welcoming, and grounded in shared human values rather than religious prac-

tice. We aim to bring people together across generations, backgrounds, identities and family structures.

"Celebrating Tu B'Shvat in this way reflects our belief that caring for the land and caring for one another are deeply connected," she said.

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Nancy Frishberg, owner of Rancho Milagro in Livermore, welcomed Tri-Valley Cultural Jews, of which she is a member, to her olive-oil-producing ranch on Feb. 1. The group gathered in the groves to celebrate Tu B'Shvat, also known as the Jewish "New Year of the Trees." (Photo — Jacob Clouser)

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# Hollywood Stars Revel in Romance of Reading Aloud

By Christina Cavallaro

LIVERMORE — Actors Geoffrey Arend, Joshua Malina and Wendie Malick will take the stage at the Bankhead Theater on Sunday, Feb. 15, for an afternoon of short stories to cap off Valentine's Day weekend.

The theme of the upcoming "Selected Shorts" — the touring stage version of the popular Public Radio International broadcast series hosted by Meg Wolitzer, with actors reading selections of short fiction before a live audience — is "Lovers and Strangers."

"So you can either come with your lover or just come alone and meet a stranger... who knows what will happen," Wendie Malick said in a phone interview from her ranch in the Santa Monica Mountains.

Arend, Malina and Malick all have extensive film and television experience, although all three are probably best known for their appearances in TV series.

Malick is acclaimed for her role as Judith Tupper Stone in the hit HBO comedy series "Dream On," winning four CableACE awards for Outstanding Actress during the show's six-year run. That was followed by seven years as Nina Van Horn in the NBC sitcom "Just Shoot Me!" and six years as Victoria Chase in the TV Land sitcom "Hot in Cleveland," both starring roles.

She has also appeared in more than three dozen films.

One of the reasons Malick said she loves doing "Selected Shorts" is for the communal benefits it brings.

"I think anytime people can get together and enjoy live theater or live music, it's one of the most healing things that one can do in this very difficult and stirring time; when it's so hard to sort of feel that sense of community," Malick said.

She once read that audiences who enjoy live performance together begin to experience an alignment of heartbeat — fitting for a Valentine's Day weekend show.

"Apparently your heart rates start to actually align and people begin to breathe together. That's just such a



Actress Wendie Malick (Photo courtesy of LVA)

lovely sort of metaphor for healing," she said.

"There's something about being in those spaces with hundreds of other people and all experiencing things in real time together that, you know, I think we are losing as a society and it's so important."

Malick will read two stories: one by Ben Laurie and another by Mary Gordon, chosen by "Selected Shorts" producers.

"They're very tough," Malick laughed. "They assign you pieces. And I trust them. If they ask, 'Are you available?' And if I am, I say yes — whatever they want to throw at me, I'll do it."

"I think they're pretty good at sort of pairing us with work they think would resonate, and suit our particular styles."

Malick will be joined on stage by Malina, who appeared in such Hollywood dramas as "A Few Good Men" and "In the Line of Fire," but he, too, is probably best known for his small-screen appearances, including recurring roles on "the NBC political drama "The West Wing," the USA Network crime drama "In Plain Sight," the CBS comedy "The Big Bang Theory," and the long-running ABC political thriller "Scandal," appearing as Attorney General David Rosen in 112 episodes.

The two will also share the stage with Arend, who starred in all five seasons of the CBS political drama "Madam Secretary," which ran from 2014 to 2019, and 42 episodes of the ABC medical/crime show, "Body of Proof," which ran from 2011 to 2013.

To prepare for the readings, Malick conjures a time of innocence and romance.

"Just hearing someone's voice (reading aloud) to sort of lull you into relaxing."

How does preparation for reading stories differ from stage and screen acting?

"It's about finding the voices. How do I paint this picture, you know, with just my voice and so that people can immerse themselves in this story?" she said.

"You just imagine, what if you're reading this to a loved one? How would you read this for someone you loved? And it's just the bigger audience is on the receiving end of it?"

"Selected Shorts" is produced by Symphony Space in New York City and broadcast on more than 130 radio stations around the country.

Tickets to the 3 p.m. stage show at the Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., start at \$25 and are available online at [livermorearts.org](http://livermorearts.org).

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