



Country cover band Stagecoach performs during Dublin's annual Splatter festival at Emerald Glen Park on Saturday, Sept. 12. From left are vocalist and lead guitarist Gabe Duffin, rhythm guitarist and vocalist Jim Niedrich, drummer Jr. Romeros and bassist Paul Schimmelman. (Photo — Craig Hughes)

LLNL Scientists Dark Matter Experiment Detects Underground Particle Anomaly

Sensitive Equipment Captures Rare Signals that Could Explain the Cosmos

By David Jen

LIVERMORE — A physics experiment deep underground has detected an anomaly that may help fill a gap in our understanding of the universe.

LUX-ZEPLIN, a collaboration of 39 institutions including Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL), recorded a particle interaction difficult to explain using only the physics of normal matter, according to a Sept. 1 announcement from LLNL.

Based on the motions of stars and galaxies, physicists have inferred that an invisible source of gravity known as dark matter makes up about 85% of the

mass in the universe. Although scientists began proposing the concept as early as the 1800s, they have yet to observe dark matter directly.

LLNL scientist Jingke Xu described dark matter as “the anchor of the visible universe.”

“Without dark matter, we would have great difficulties explaining the formation of these structures (such as stars, galaxies and galaxy clusters),” he continued.

LUX-ZEPLIN operates almost one mile underground at the Sanford Underground Research Facility in South Dakota. The surrounding earth plus additional shielding serve to block cosmic rays, which might trigger

false positives, from entering the experiment's central detector, a 10-metric-ton tank of liquid xenon. Because dark matter interacts weakly with normal matter, it can travel to the detector with ease despite the shielding.

If a particle collides with the xenon in the tank, it gives off a flash of light that is recorded by the detector. The experiment began taking data in 2021 and is slated to run through 2028, although an extension is possible.

A founding member of the experiment, LLNL carries out independent research and development to help understand how the detector responds to various particle interactions.

On June 16, 2023, the experi-

(See ZEPLIN, page 7)

Rep. Aisha Wahab Steps into House Role with Focus on Federal Priorities

Sworn-In Congresswoman Highlights State Record in Bid for Full Two-Year Term

By Jessica Zimmer

TRI-VALLEY — Sworn in on Sept. 2 as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives—the first Afghan American to serve Congress—U.S. Rep. Aisha Wahab (CA D-14) is now operating from Washington, D.C. as she campaigns for a full two-year term in the Nov. 3 general election.

In a speech following her swearing-in, Wahab thanked a diverse group of constituents from the 14th Congressional District who had traveled to D.C.

“In the gallery today are people from across our district represent-

ing different walks of life, educational backgrounds, economic circumstances, and immigration stories. Yet every single one of them is an American. Every one of them believes in the American dream. A dream rooted in a simple promise that we are all created equal and that no matter where we begin, each of us deserves the opportunity for a better life,” Wahab said.

In an interview with The Independent, Wahab explained that her immediate priority is balancing her responsibilities representing the 14th Congressional District with her campaign for the full term

beginning Jan. 3, 2027.

Since arriving in Washington, Wahab's early focus has been on establishing operations and handling constituent issues, such as concerns with immigration, Social Security, and the Internal Revenue Services. Moving to D.C. left her District 10 seat in the California State Senate vacant. During her past state legislative record from 2022-2026 as state senator, her legislative work focused on expanding affordable housing, improving patient care and medication access, and increasing worker protections.

“There is more to do until we

(See WAHAB, page 8)

Threat of Litigation Pushes Pleasanton Commission to Rezone

Anger Raised Over Sidestepped Public Process

By David Jen

PLEASANTON — A threat of litigation may change what parts of the city promote new housing, highlighting how individual, outside groups can short circuit a state-managed housing allocation process.

The planning commission unanimously recommended on Sept. 9 that the city council rezone three sites totaling 30.7 acres to allow for residential development. Hacienda West at 3825/3875 Hopyard Rd. and 5960 Inglewood Dr. would allow up to 40 dwelling units per acre under the new zoning and Metro 580 at 4515 Rosewood Dr. would allow up to 60 dwelling units per acre. Under typical

city guidelines, Pleasanton's high-density residential designations max out at 30 units per acre.

The city currently designates the three sites as business-park and mixed-use land.

The action, if adopted by the city council, would add the capacity for 1,438 new homes to the city.

The rezoning stemmed from a complaint sent to the city from San Francisco-based housing-advocacy group Housing Action Coalition (HAC) criticizing the city's housing element. Prior to the vote last week, planning commissioners raised concerns that the planning-via-litigation process sidestepped the public input and transparency central to city agencies.

“We have someone outside the city

(See REZONING, page 7)



Dublin Mayor Sherry Hu (third from left) and Calson Management Principal Jason Reyes (fourth from left), joined by city leaders and project partners, break ground Sept. 9 on the Inspiration Memory Care community at 7500 Inspiration Dr., Dublin. The 55-bed facility is expected to open in late 2027. (Photo—The Independent)

Dublin Breaks Ground on Memory Care Community

Regional Aging Surges, Project Tackles Local Gaps

By Sanestina Hunter

DUBLIN — A new 55-bed memory care community is expected to open in Dublin by the end of 2027, as the Tri-Valley's growing senior population increases the need for specialized care.

Calson Management and Development broke ground Sept. 9 on the future Inspiration Memory Care community at 7500 Inspiration Dr. The facility will serve people with Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia.

“Inspiration represents our commitment to bringing thoughtful, compassionate memory care to the Dublin community,” said Jason Reyes, principal at Calson Management. “This groundbreaking marks the beginning of something we know will make a real difference for local families navigating memory care needs, and we're proud to

build it right here.”

Reyes said the project took several years and involved many moving parts before construction could begin. He thanked Dublin Mayor Sherry Hu and other city leaders for their support.

“Congratulations to everyone who was part of it and all the hard work,” Hu said. “We want to make sure we take care of all residents. This is what our city needs as our population continues to grow and people are getting older.”

“Inspiration is being purpose-built as a dedicated memory care community, not a general senior living property with a memory care wing added on,” Cathy Villarreal, vice president of marketing for Calson Management, told The Independent. “Every detail — secured outdoor spaces that let residents enjoy fresh air safely, specially trained care staff, and engag-

(See SENIOR, page 8)



Exhibition goers view historic instruments and imagery from the Violins of Hope collection on display at the Bankhead Theater during the 2023 program in Livermore. The free, 14-instrument exhibition returns to the Bankhead gallery from Oct. 14 through Nov. 5 alongside a series of live concerts and community talks. (Photo courtesy of Kenneth Ball)

Violins of Hope Returns Again to Tri-Valley

Bankhead Theater Concerts Honor Holocaust History Through Jewish Music

By Jessica Zimmer

LIVERMORE—Violins of Hope, a program that shares the history behind string instruments owned by musicians during the Holocaust, will return to the Tri-Valley in mid-October. This year's program will include Oct. 18 and 19 concerts at the Bankhead Theater, an evening talk on Oct. 15 at the Livermore Library, outreach and education at local schools, and an exhibition of the instruments and their stories that will run Oct. 14

through Nov. 5 at the Bankhead Theater. The East Bay Holocaust Education Center (EBHEC), based in Livermore, organized the effort to bring Violins of Hope to the region.

“This is a program to honor the victims of the Holocaust and explore Jewish music and identity,” said Larry Lagin, president of the EBHEC. “We brought Violins of Hope to the Tri-Valley in 2023 and received extremely positive feedback from schools and concert audiences. This year's program will

be more upbeat. We're featuring songs that recognize Jewish songwriters like Neil Diamond, Leonard Cohen, and Paul Simon.”

This year's program brings 14 instruments—fewer than the 24 featured in 2023—though several are new to local residents. Organizers also added the library talk due to high public interest.

Avshi Weinstein, co-founder of Violins of Hope, said the organization's collection includes violins, violas, and cellos that belonged to Jews before and during World War

(See VIOLINS, page 12)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Classifieds	11
Editorial	4
Mailbox	4
Obituaries	9
Sports	10

Alameda County Hosts Summit to Address Homelessness	2
Symphony Presents Competition for Youth Musicians	3
'Diary of a Wimpy Kid' to be Presented by CYT at Bankhead	8
Livermore Cowboys Victorious on First Responders Night	10
Dublin Rigatoni's Shuttered after 30 Years in Business	12

PET OF THE WEEK



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Dublin Chamber Hosts Congressional Debate

DUBLIN — The Dublin Chamber of Commerce will host a debate between the two Democratic candidates vying for the congressional seat vacated by Eric Swalwell last April at the Holiday Inn-Dublin on Wednesday, Oct. 7.

The debate between former state senator and current congresswoman Aisha Wahab and Bay Area Rapid Transit Board

President Melissa Hernandez will be moderated by KPIX-5 news anchor and Pleasanton resident Juliette Goodrich.

Swalwell, a seven-term congressman, resigned after being accused of sexual misconduct.

Following a top-two special election in June, Wahab defeated Hernandez in a runoff in August to serve

out the remaining months of Swalwell's term.

Both women have filed for the general election in November, vying for a full two-year term to represent California's 14th Congressional District, which includes the cities of Livermore, Pleasanton and Dublin.

"This election is an important one for the residents of

Dublin, the Tri-Valley and the entire East Bay," said Dublin Chamber CEO Inge Houston.

"The Dublin Chamber is proud to provide this debate as a service to the community. The voters will have an opportunity to see the candidates in action before they cast their vote."

The 90-minute debate is open to the public and set to begin at 5 p.m.



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County Holds Summit on Tri-Valley Homelessness

TRI-VALLEY — Alameda County supervisors David Haubert and Nate Miley will host a summit to address homelessness in the Tri-Valley area at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore from 9 a.m. to noon on Monday, Sept. 21.

The conference, "Tri-Valley Summit: Ending Homelessness Together," is open to the public and will in-

clude a screening of the feature-length 2025 documentary "Beyond the Bridge: A Solution to Homelessness," which explores how 12 cities across the U.S. have addressed the problem.

The screening will be followed by a "community conversation about what's working, what's needed, and what's possible," according to

conference organizers.

The program will also include presentations by Alameda County and Tri-Valley city officials, non-profit service providers and area businesses.

There is no cost to attend the summit, but registration is required by Friday, Sept. 18. To register online, go to tinyurl.com/tvendhomelessness.

lessness.

Doors to the Bankhead Theater will open at 8:45 a.m., with refreshments available in the lobby from 9 a.m. to 9:20 a.m. The program will begin at 9:30 a.m.

For more information, email Tri-Valley Community Liaison Director Gloria Gregory at gloria.gregory@acgov.org.

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Livermore Valley Arts Announces Spring Lineup

LIVERMORE — Livermore Valley Arts (LVA) released its spring 2027 Bankhead Presents schedule last week, featuring comedy debuts, family favorites and international stars.

"While we are so proud of all the great programming we already have announced for now through February, I still saw opportunities for a number of spring shows that will beautifully round out our great 20th season," said LVA Chief Executive Chris Carter. "We often hear that we need more family and magic shows. We've got them, this spring. We also do not want to leave our theatre and Broadway loving patrons without something to catch. We've got them, this spring."

The second half of the 2026-2027 season, which got underway at the Bankhead Theater this month, will lead off on Thursday, Feb. 4, with Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo, a slapstick all-male troupe in drag that parodies ballet while pulling

off some of the most difficult ballet movements.

Next up will be a Club Bankhead presentation of LP and the Vinyl, a San Diego-based jazz ensemble, on Friday, Feb. 6.

For Club Bankhead presentations, the audience is seated on stage in a simulated club setting.

Ladysmith Black Mambos, a male South African choral group best known for accompanying Paul Simon on his 1986 album Graceland, will make its Bankhead Theater debut on Friday, Feb. 12, followed by International Guitar Night on Friday, Feb. 19, and The Wailin' Jennys, recipients of two Canadian music industry Juno Awards, on Friday, Feb. 26.

The Queen's Cartoonists, a jazz ensemble from Queens, New York, known for synchronizing their music with animated films, will take the Bankhead Stage on Friday, March 5.

Also on tap is a Rae Dorough Speaker Series "Con-

versation with Tara Lipinski," former Olympic figure skating champion and the first woman to complete a triple loop jump, on Thursday, March 18, followed by the comedy duo of Kristin Hensley and Jen Smedley with their #IMOM-SO HARD "Crashing Out" tour on Friday, March 19, and Canadian blues guitarist Sue Foley on her "One Guitar Woman" tour on Saturday, March 20.

British magician John van der Put, who performs under the stage name Piff the Magic Dragon, will close out the month on Sunday, March 21, accompanied by his performing chihuahua, Mr. Piffles 2.0.

The spring lineup will continue with Skylar Tang, an 18-year-old trumpet player from San Francisco, in a Club Bankhead performance on Friday, April 2, The Broadway Boys, performing their own arrangements of such hit Broadway musicals as "Hamilton," "Wicked," "Mamma Mia" and "Les Misérables," on

Saturday, April 3, and Yamato: The Drummers of Japan on Wednesday, April 14.

The Bankhead will host "The Best of San Francisco Comedy Competition" on Friday, April 16, followed by "Crowned: Broadway's Enchanted Voices," on Friday, April 18, with three former Broadway "princesses" singing showstoppers from "Cinderella," "Into the Woods," "Once Upon a Mattress," "The Little Mermaid" and other Broadway musicals.

"BritBeat: The Multimedia Beatles Experience," combining live music with award-winning visual projection and video, will close out the month on Friday, April 23.

An Australian circus arts company, Gravity & Other Myths, will perform "Ten Thousand Hours," combining high-level acrobatics with a dynamic percussion and drums score, on Saturday, May 1, followed by a Club Bankhead show on Friday, May 14, with Ethan Lipton & His Orchestra, featuring a combination of jazz, folk, country, blues and rock.

The flamenco duo of dancer Sonia Olla and storyteller Ismael Fernández, performing under the stage name of Los Ricos, will close out the month on Sunday, May 16. Olla and Fernandez operate The House of Flamenco in New York.

Standup comedian Rita Rudner will close out the 2026-2027 Bankhead Present season on Friday, June 4.

Rudner, a Broadway actress who made her transition to comedy with several HBO specials and appearances on late-night television, now has the longest running solo comedy show in Los Vegas.

For show times and to purchase tickets for all upcoming performances, go to livermorearts.org.



Stoneridge Creek Retirement Community in Pleasanton held a memorial tribute honoring the 25th anniversary of 9/11. Residents came together in reflection to honor the lives lost and share memories of a day that deeply touched people across the country. (Photo courtesy of Caye Johnson)

CHEF Will Match Minding Music Charity Donations

LIVERMORE — Minding Music, a nonprofit program that helps children from low-income families take music lessons and purchase

instruments at reduced cost, is conducting a fundraiser this month with the Community Health & Education Foundation (CHEF) match-

ing donations at 50 percent.

Founded in 1996, Minding Music also works with young musicians who have learning disorders or physi-

cal disabilities.

To donate, go to MindingMusic.org.



Higher Interest Rates Are Changing the Way Buyers Buy Homes

The market is changing—and buyers are getting creative. With interest rates remaining higher, more buyers are exploring alternative financing options such as **80/10/10 financing, interest-only loans, and other programs** designed to help manage monthly payments and cash flow.

At the same time, builders and sellers are adjusting to the market. We're seeing more **rate buydowns, closing-cost credits, seller incentives, and flexible terms** designed to make homeownership more affordable.

For buyers, it's no longer just about the price of the home—it's about **how the entire financing package works**.

For sellers, understanding today's financing environment and offering the right incentives can make the difference between a buyer moving forward or moving on.

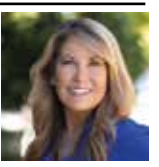
The market isn't standing still. It's adapting.

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Pleasanton to Launch its Cultural Series With Diwali Festival of Lights Celebration

PLEASANTON — The city will launch its 2026-2027 Cultural Celebration Series with Diwali, or Festival of Lights, at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd., from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 17.

The celebration, which will include traditional Hindu music, dance and cultural activities, is free and open to the public.

The series of events honors cultural traditions, history and heritage through live performances, storytelling and hands-on activities, and is designed to bring people together, according to the city.

"Community involvement is a key part of the Cultural Celebration Series, with many events shaped in partnership

with cultural organizations and community members and sponsored in part by the Friends of the Pleasanton Library," according to city recreation manager Rachel Prater. "These collaborations help ensure the series remains inclusive, representative and community driven."

The cultural celebrations will continue with Día de Los Muertos, or Day of the Dead, a Mexican holiday that honors the lives of family members who have passed away, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 7, also at the Pleasanton Senior Center.

The city will host a Native American Heritage Month celebration at Alviso Adobe Community Park from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 14.

A Lunar New Year celebration will follow at Lions Wayside Park, 4401 First St., from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 30, with outdoor performances, storytelling, and interactive activities focused on the cultural traditions of China and Southeast Asia.

A Black History Month Celebration is scheduled from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 27, at the Pleasanton Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave.

An Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month celebration will be held at Lions Wayside Park from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, May 15.

All Cultural Celebration Series events are free and open to the public. No registration is required.

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Eagle Scout Nathan Harper Marek of Troop 948, son of Sara and Don Marek of Pleasanton, recently earned Scouting's highest rank after leading a 200-hour service project to construct new kindergarten planter boxes for Donlon Elementary School. A recent graduate of Amador Valley High School, Marek distinguished himself as ASB Secretary and school-record wrestler with over 100 varsity wins. He also helped raise \$40,000 for the George Mark Children's House through the Mr. Amador program. Marek will be attending the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill this fall to study business finance. (Photo courtesy of Ron Essex Photography)

Piano Teacher Links Drop in Motor Skills to The End of Cursive Writing in Public Schools

LIVERMORE — The Music Teachers Association of California (MTAC) has published a paper by Livermore piano teacher Deborah McQueen that links a drop in student motor skills, and an increase in learning disabilities, with the decision to stop teaching cursive writing in public schools.

In "Graphomotor Skill Deficits in Students and Their Effect on Piano Skill Development," published in the fall issue of "The California Music Teacher," McQueen cites recent surveys putting the share of private music students with a documented or suspected disability, including ADHD, dyslexia and autism spectrum traits, as high as 35%.

In her paper, McQueen, who specializes in early childhood music education at her Livermore studio, argues that learning cursive helped develop the fine-motor skills used in playing the piano.

McQueen says handwriting and piano playing draw on nearly identical neurological groundwork: control that moves from the shoulder outward to the fingers, learned pressure regulation and the same brain circuitry that converts an abstract symbol into a precise physical motion.

She also argues that a

decline in fine-motor skills makes some characteristics associated with learning disorders or disabilities more pronounced and harder to manage, including stiff wrists, whole-arm playing, hampered keys and trouble with independent finger control.

McQueen, who also teaches speech and dramatic arts at her home studio, has a bachelor's degree in music from the University of Massachusetts, a master's degree in music from California State University, East Bay, and a doctorate in leadership from the University of the Cumberlands in Williamsburg, Kentucky.

She is also president of Minding Music, a nonprofit program that helps children from low-income families receive private music lessons and instruments at reduced cost.



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Marriott to Host Gold And Silver Appraisals

LIVERMORE – PGS Gold & Coin, a Chicago-based dealer in gold, silver and jewelry, will be at the Courtyard by Marriott, 2929 Constitution Dr., from Tuesday, Sept. 15, through Saturday, Sept. 19, to offer free evaluations.

PGS said its appraisers would be evaluating gold and silver coins, jewelry and sterling silver flatware all five

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Library Nonprofit Will Hold Annual Fall Book Sale

PLEASANTON — Friends of the Pleasanton Library will hold its annual Fall Book and Media Sale at the Pleasanton Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave., on Wednesday, Sept. 16, through Saturday, Sept. 19.

For sale will be books and

other items no longer needed by the library. Money raised will benefit the library.

A spring sale raised \$17,000 to support library programs, special events and other resources, according to the nonprofit volunteer organization.

Sale hours on Wednesday will be 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. for members only, and 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. for the public.

The sale will continue from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Thursday and Friday, 10

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Symphony Presents Competition for Young Musicians

LIVERMORE — The Livermore-Amador Symphony will host its 54th annual Competition for Young Musicians on Saturday, Oct. 10, with the winners receiving \$750 and an invitation to perform as

soloists with the symphony.

The competition is open to instrumentalists and vocalists from Alameda and Contra Costa counties, or who live in either Tracy or Mountain House in San Joaquin County.

Piano and string applicants must no older than 19 as of Jan. 1, 2027, while vocal, wind, brass, percussion and harp applicants no older than 22.

Applications will be accepted through Friday, Sept.

18. The competition will be held on Saturday, Oct. 10.

To apply, or for more information, go to livermoreamadorsymphony.org and click on "Youth Competition." There is a \$25 fee to apply.



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EDITORIAL

To Meet Housing Needs, We Need Consistency in the Law

Building housing is not easy, especially in the Bay Area, the most expensive housing market in America. Even in “normal” times, housing development must abide by a complex set of laws, standards and local ordinances. Those laws, standards, etc. are all laid out in a community’s general plan, itself a complicated document that takes years to produce.

During a severe housing crisis, however, the situation can get particularly Orwellian. Pleasanton is finding this out now.

Pleasanton’s planning commission, which is charged with updating the city’s general plan, unanimously recommended that the city rezone three industrial and commercial sites totaling 30.7 acres to be residential, with the capacity of up to 40 units per acre on two of them and 60 units per acre on the third. If approved, this would add the capacity for 1,438 new homes in the city. Standard high-density apartment zoning in Pleasanton typically tops out at 30 units per acre.

The city didn’t do this of its own accord. It did this under threat of a lawsuit by the Housing Action Coalition (HAC), a nonprofit advocacy group. The HAC is not part of the planning and development process in any defined statute, yet it is working to overturn a part of the city’s plan that it believes isn’t strenuous enough.

The city’s planning commission was under no obligation to comply with HAC’s threats. But it was a choice between not complying or facing an expensive lawsuit. Even if the city were to ultimately win in a suit — not a guarantee — the cost associated would be high.

Pleasanton and the state should be working together to fend off HAC's intrusion into the planning process. It's not just Pleasanton, either. Livermore, Dublin and Alameda County might all find themselves sued or threatened with legal action if they didn’t submit to HAC's demands. Pleasanton's finances are precarious, so the planning commission's actions are understandable, if not preferred, because the city simply can't afford a costly legal process, or to redo all the work put into the plan's Housing Element.

As a result of this pressure, the plan to rezone these three sites, which must be presented to the city council for approval before Dec. 31, will contain significant changes that were not vetted through the usual channels, including aspects such as public notice and comment periods that we rely on to ensure an equitable and democratic process.

To be fair, the city and the region desperately need those homes. The region faces both an affordability crisis and a lack of housing. The median home price in the Tri-Valley is about \$1.2 million, which is more than four times the national average, and 75% higher than the statewide mean. Average rent in the three cities is also nearly \$3,000 per month.

All local governments in the state are required under the state’s Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) process to provide capacity for growth in order to address the shortages. Pleasanton is obligated to add 5,965 new units for the period 2023-2031, 2,758 of them designated for lower-income households.

The city is not responsible for the actual construction of those units, however. Its responsibility is to cre-

ate a regulatory environment so that the private market can build to meet the need. Private developers are just that: private businesses. They cannot be forced to build where they don’t want to. So it’s unlikely we’ll be seeing nearly 6,000 units appearing overnight, or even within the eight-year planning cycle. The city must just do its part with land zoning, for instance, to allow it to happen.

And it's clear the cities are not moving fast enough. Pleasanton issued only 121 building permits in 2024, and just 41 of them were for lower-income units. To meet its obligations, the city would need to issue more than six times that amount every year of the planning cycle.

But the governing authority here is the state of California’s RHNA. The state formed the RHNA to guide development, guarantee growth is spread equitably across California, and confirm that the state is keeping up with the needs of the population.

The HAC may have a beef with the city of Pleasanton, the state of California, or the RHNA process. But at the end of the day, it is an outside advocacy group that inserted itself into local planning and forced the city to revise its proposal without public notice and comment periods required by law.

This isn’t any way to run a government, and it’s certainly not a way of getting housing built in a manner consistent with the goals outlined in the RHNA. Government ultimately needs to provide a consistent set of rules so that people and businesses can pursue their goals without fear of arbitrary changes. If laws or poli-

cies could be changed or eliminated without notice or oversight, who would consider housing development — or any kind of planning — to be worth the risk?

In U.S. law, people and businesses have the right to challenge arbitrary and capricious applications of the law. The responsibility falls on the government to ensure that it is following the law consistently, both as the basis for living in a fair society, but also to ensure that things get done.

In the end, it is the people who are sovereign. If a city is failing to uphold its agreements to allow a certain number of housing units that the state requires, that’s for the people of the city to remedy. If the state fails to uphold its end of the bargain, the people can likewise pursue changes.

Upending the ordinary process of government with a threatened lawsuit is at odds with democratic governance. No developer — or business owner, or even an individual seeking to put up a fence on their property — would want to work within a system where the rules aren’t as they are written, but are subject to change without notice.

The city and state may not be meeting their obligations, but we aren’t served well by HAC’s application of force. The Pleasanton City Council should stand up to HAC and vote no. To make that feasible, Pleasanton should ask for support from Livermore, Dublin, Alameda County, and the state itself. Other neighboring communities could easily face similar threats, and local leaders should join together to reject this coercive, unlawful pressure.

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. Letters are accepted from current or former residents of the Tri-Valley (Dublin, Livermore, Pleasanton, Sunol) writing on topics that directly pertain to the Tri-Valley area. Anonymous letters will not be published. All letters are required to have the name(s) of the person(s) submitting them, city of residence and phone number, for verification purposes. Letters may not contain advertising. Abusive letters and letters containing ad hominem attacks may be rejected or edited. Letters are subject to verification and may be edited for clarity at the discretion of the editor. We reserve the right to decide whether or not the letter will be published. Headings for all letters may be edited at the discretion of the editor to properly reflect their content. A headline will be added to letters received without one. Frequent letter writers may have publication of their letters delayed or not run at all. Letters should be limited to 300 words or less and should be sent by email to letters@independentnews.com or submitted using the form below.

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

Dublin Parks

Siddharth, Dublin

I am writing regarding the new parks planned for Dublin. These include Poppy Meadow and Wild Wind Park. The parks will include sport courts, play areas, picnic spots, and trails. As a Scout, part of Troop 941, I believe that these parks matter, because Dublin needs more outdoor space; it will connect many children and families and allow them to be active.

I’d like to see the city have options like open grass fields for group games and activities, shaded picnic areas for events that families may hold, and maybe even a small water splash area for younger kids

during the summer. These activities would be an addition to the usual playgrounds and other hobbies that can be pursued at a park. Parks like these don’t just give children the option to do something, but they also bring families and neighborhoods together to make the community feel more like a community.

I hope the city keeps children and family interests in mind when finalizing design for these parks. A few more options and features for children and families could make a big difference for people growing up in Dublin.

Items on the Consent Calendar

Patricia Munro, Livermore

The September 14th City Council Agenda was noteworthy for a number of reasons: the yearly Summer Learning Awards, the report on how Livermore has used monies allocated by HUD (US Department of Housing and Urban Development) for local projects (Community Development Block Grants), and a very, very long consent calendar. The consent calendar includes items that are routine, but hardly unimportant: they are the final “check the box,” contract approvals, or required reports. This past Consent Calendar included 25 items that ranged from improvements to the Water Reclamation Plant (that’s Sewage Treatment to you and me) and Fire Station 6 to approval for an EV charging station to an agreement for administering the City's Geographic Information Systems ("GIS") Enterprise.

Of those 25 items, three concern applying to Alameda County Transportation Council (ACTC) for funds to support different aspects of Livermore’s transportation system: a pedestrian and bicycle overpass at Isabel Ave. and Stanley Blvd., improvements to the traffic signal system, and implementing the East Avenue Active Transportation Plan. Each one of these projects serves our transportation needs in a different way. The Isabel Pedestrian Bridge and Trail Project closes a gap in existing Arroyo Mocho Trail, enabling bicyclists and pedestrians to make better use of the trail. The Traffic Signal Project will implement a better traffic detection system for smarter, safer intersections, smoothing the flow of traffic citywide. The East Avenue Active Transportation Plan enables cars, bicycles, and

pedestrians to more safely use East Ave. All are examples of the invisible work that cities do.

Win-Win Downtown Solution

Glenn Stewart, Livermore

In my previous letter, I expressed strong support for the Community Coalition’s vision for downtown Livermore. Looking deeper into the Coalition’s financial attachments and technical analysis, moving the primary Eden Housing site just north of Railroad Avenue is not a compromise—it is a win-win for everyone involved.

For Eden Housing and its future residents, this proposal offers tangible economic and living benefits. Developing 130 rental units north of Railroad Avenue with an automated parking structure eliminates the need for expensive underground parking to the south.

Combined with reduced land loan obligations, Eden Housing avoids an estimated \$10.6M to \$13.0M in development costs. Furthermore, residents gain direct access to Veterans Park, ground-floor mental health services, and proximity to the proposed Arts & Science Center, all while avoiding heavy traffic bottlenecks at L Street.

For Livermore taxpayers, the fiscal logic is equally compelling. Utilizing Enhanced Infrastructure Financing District (EIFD) funding bridges cash gaps for essential community amenities without burdening the City’s general fund or LARPD. Meanwhile, placing a 4-star hotel on the central lot generates crucial Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) and drives steady foot traffic to downtown merchants and the Bankhead Theater.

In a city where median home prices exceed \$1 million and interest rates remain

high, local workers and seniors need smart, cost-effective affordable rental options. Relocating the bulk of housing north of Railroad Avenue delivers those units more efficiently, while preserving our central downtown parcel for revenue-generating hospitality and expansive parkland. It is a thoughtful solution where every stakeholder wins.

What Bush Got Right after 9/11

Julie Wild, Livermore

Although I disagree with many of the steps Bush took in the years after 9/11, Republican politicians and others fomenting hate against American Muslims today could benefit from remembering the words he spoke on that tragic September evening at a Washington mosque. “Those who feel like they can intimidate our fellow citizens to take out their anger don’t represent the best of America,” he said. “They represent the worst of humankind, and they should be ashamed of that kind of behavior.”

Later, on Sept. 15, 2001, while speaking at Washington’s historic Islamic Center, Bush reminded our nation that “America counts millions of Muslims amongst our citizens” and praised our “incredibly valuable contribution to our country.”

Twenty-five years later, American Muslims are more visible in public life than ever before. Our positive contributions are increasingly recognized in media, medicine, sports, entertainment, and politics.

But this growing visibility has created a new backlash. Nearly 70 Republican members of the House of Representatives recently formed an anti-Muslim hate group known as the Sharia-Free America Caucus. Its members have called for criminalizing the practice of Islam,

banning Muslims from coming to America and even the “destruction” of “mainstream Muslims.” President Trump regularly shares anti-Muslim hate content on social media.

The politicians and hate groups manufacturing this new wave of hate must understand that they are only emboldening American Muslims, like me and many others, to stand up even more vocally for justice. America is a country founded on freedom; the freedom to think and to pray how we want, and to speak freely.

Again, as Bush stated, “Those who feel like they can intimidate our fellow citizens to take out their anger don’t represent the best of America. They represent the worst of humankind, and they should be ashamed of that kind of behavior.”

A Coalition of Trump Tactics

John Lawrence, Livermore

That name changing special interest group, now claiming to be a “Community Coalition”, is using Trump-like tactics. They are ignoring facts, election results, and common sense. Instead, they regurgitate the same old misrepresentations, inaccuracies and falsehoods, assuming that people will eventually believe them. Fortunately, Livermore residents are wise to their deceptions, and support City efforts to implement voter approved plans for the downtown area. It’s comical to read the highly orchestrated letters to the editor posted by Joan’s minions. I especially enjoy their mock surprise and pleasure at being presented with a “new” and more sensible plan. They continue to complain that the Council and the Mayor aren’t listening to the citizens... which actually means their elitist group,

(See MAILBOX, page 5)

THE *Independent*

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www.independentnews.com



Livermore Valley Opera (LVO) will join over a dozen Northern California opera companies for Opera Day in the Bay at Transamerica Redwood Park in San Francisco on Sunday, Sept. 20 from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. The event honors former LVO artistic director Erie Mills, a renowned coloratura soprano who passed away at 73. Hosted by composer Carla Lucero, the festival features performances by participating regional companies. Admission is free; reserve tickets at tinyurl.com/OperaDay2026. (Photo courtesy of LVO)

MAILBOX

(Continued from page 4)

not the actual majority of us. They write like the existing and planned development doesn't provide park and open space. And, it's magical the way rebuttal and support letters show up in the same edition as when opposing letters and breaking news articles first appear. One recent letter assumed that "skilled workers" wouldn't have families and therefore couldn't be accommodated by Eden Housing's two and three-bedroom units. Basically, Joan just doesn't want the hotel located next to the theater (and coincidentally her Independent's offices). Soooo... if we want a larger park and more room for the hotel, how about relocating the theater to that highly prized property off L Street? Yes, I know that would create substantial delays, significant additional public funding, and problems with housing and development grants, but those factors don't seem to bother the Community Coalition people.

Is It a Crime?

Bob Schock, Livermore

Is it a crime for people to care so much about Livermore's attributes that they put up a fight to save what we all cherish? The uncrowded valley we live in, with its legacy of open space and no significant traffic (except for #580), has everything we need. Vistas of hills and grasslands are what we have saved from urbanization. When our visitors come here, they feel like they could be in a small town in the Central Valley or the Sierra Nevada foothills. Our dedicated souls have fought for decades to preserve Livermore, so it stays the opposite of its neighboring city Dublin, nicknamed the Daly City of the Tri-Valley.

These folks have spent their time, treasure, and talents to keep Livermore... Livermore. So those writers who ridicule these preservationists should maybe think twice — or better, take a hike — in any of the parks around here to see and understand what they have. Walk up to Brushy Peak, or Morgan Territory, or Patterson Ranch Reserve, and you may change your tune.

We live in a wondrous city, due to the efforts of a lot of locals. They deserve praise, not ridicule, for trying to make downtown a spacious place, uncrowded, not urbanized by another 4-story apartment building at the corners of L and Veterans Way and Railroad Avenue.

The Community Coalition plan for downtown has numerous advantages over City Council's current plan. It provides a distinctive destination hotel that would benefit our fine wineries, a park place, and provides an opportunity to increase the size of the Eden Housing project by placing it on the north side of Railroad Avenue, not at its current proposed location between Veterans Way, L Street, Railroad Avenue and the extension of K Street. This site should be the focal point of the city's Downtown Center.

the responses we received; they want a hotel. If anyone is against it, they have not said anything to us. We've checked the forums and don't find opponents there either.

As the downtown design was taking shape in the early stages, there was a priority ranking derived from public outreach, with 1 being most important and 10 the least. The remaining elements left to be fulfilled are open space (3), hotel (5) and housing (10 — lowest priority). If the final buildout does not include the hotel, residents will feel justifiably cheated.

Manufactured Hate

Hasan Hasan, Livermore

A man whose father died in the September 11 terrorist attacks took a moment to call for peace during the 25th anniversary commemoration ceremony. Michael Masaroli's message at Ground Zero deserves to be heard: grief should never be turned into hatred. Since 9/11, the wars that followed have cost millions of lives. Brown University's Costs of War project estimates that almost 5 MILLION people have died in post-9/11 war zones, including the indirect deaths caused by the destruction of healthcare, infrastructure, and economies. 5 million. Manufacturing hate against Muslims—or any innocent community—is not acceptable. The crimes of extremists should never be used to condemn an entire religion or its people. History offers a clear warning. Even when Adolf Hitler and the Christian Nazi regime were responsible for the murder of millions, including six million Jews and countless others, that did not justify hatred or persecution of all Christians. Or when the KKK lynched black people, they flaunted their Christianity and everyone seemed to understand that those actions were based on racist hatred, not true people of faith. Responsibility belongs to the individuals, leaders, and institutions that commit or enable crimes — not to an entire nationality, ethnicity, or faith. While there are some honest media that educate people about Islam, unfortunately there is an entire industry and military industrial complex that benefits from hate. It's important to distinguish between terrorism and a faith followed by billions of people. As someone who believes in compassion and understanding, I want us to remember the victims without creating new victims through prejudice. We can honor those we lost without teaching hatred to the next generation.

Parallel Universes

David Jonas, Livermore

Last week's Independent reported that Eden Housing had secured the state funding needed for its downtown Livermore development, thus removing the final obstacle to construction.

That milestone officially signals the demise of the Community Coalition's hallucinatory hotel, since it would have been built on the Eden Housing site.

Yet, along with the article about Eden Housing's funding win, The Independent provided a progress report on the Coalition's hotel, as if the project still has a pulse.

The Independent thus violated a fundamental journalistic tenet by affirming the co-existence of two mutually exclusive phenomena, akin to reporting the earth is round while also reporting it to be flat.

The Independent also states the Coalition's hotelier is standing by for "the City to contact him and discuss and work out the finances."

That's a comically absurd expectation, since the City is negotiating with Presidio. To add to the comedy, super-sleuth Doug Mann announced in a letter that his forensic research had unearthed that Presidio "does not exist," when in reality Presidio is alive and well. In an act of man-bites-dog rarity, The Independent fact-checked one of Joan Seppala's fervent followers, calling Mann's finding "incorrect."

Coalition cultists contin-

ue to blow up The Independent mailbox with letters of support for their lost cause, seemingly oblivious of reality, like the Japanese holdout soldiers who refused to surrender after the end of WWII. I hope you'll emerge from your jungle, throw down your keyboards, and join all Livermore residents in warmly welcoming Downtown Livermore Apartments' future residents into our community.

Don't Gamble Your Life Away

Keith Jackson, Dublin

There has been a lot of discussion lately on how we can protect our children from addictive online programs targeting them, which is a serious problem. But what about this nation's gambling addiction? Apparently, since this is an adult problem, there are little to no restrictions. They promise you extra credit if you win once, or better odds if you play often enough. Bet on anything at any time. It has always amazed me that people will look at a huge casino or sports betting operation and think that they will just go in and win some money from them. How do you think they got so rich? Not by losing. They know what they are doing and that the odds are in their favor. I am not talking about limited office bets with friends or family or losing a small amount of money to enjoy the experience. I am talking about a 25% increase in personnel bankruptcies after this national online gambling was legalized. I am talking about lives and families being destroyed. This is legalized stealing. You may win gambling in the short term, but you will always lose in the long term. The best definition of gambling I have seen is that it is "a tax on people who can't do math." Don't fall into this trap. If you have this problem, get help. Gambling is not worth losing your friends, family, or yourself.

Gracious Sakes, Good Enuf?

Monica Kulander, Livermore

The Livermore's Urban Growth Boundary and Alameda County's Measure D protect Livermore from urban sprawl, despite the fact that county supervisors recently considered undermining that 26-year old statute. However, protecting Livermore within the city limits is up to citizens and their elected representatives. Keeping Livermore downtown from a densely developed space has been successful in the past, before the last three to four city councils were seated and developed the downtown plan, which includes the Eden Housing project. This plan, which tries to do too many things in too

small a space, is not good enough.

Low profile buildings, many historical, create the country-feel of Livermore's historic downtown. The Eden Housing project violates the "vibe", the "atmosphere" of a welcoming small town. Eden Housing does not fit in with this vibe, but tarnishes it, blemishes downtown.

For the next 150 years and beyond, the Eden Housing project would be an eyesore downtown, a space that is supposed to be protected by city councils, not undermined by city councils.

The city plan is not good enough. It would give Livermore a black eye.

Religious Freedom

Rev. Heather Leslie Hammer, Livermore

Religious freedom is a human right. This summer, the Israeli Knesset has started the effort to outlaw the broadcasting of the Islamic call to prayer, the adhan, from mosques throughout the West Bank. Called "the muezzin bill," this legislation would formally limit a religious practice that has been in place since the 7th century. The Arabic chant reminds followers of Islam to pray five times a day.

The agricultural village of Wadi Foquin in the Bethlehem Governorate was instructed to stop sounding the adhan last month "because it disturbs the settlers." Like many other Palestinian communities, Wadi Foquin has been under siege with demolition of olive trees and property, as well as steady takeover of land for the expansion of the illegal Israeli settlement of Betar Illit.

Now Palestinians are denied expression of their very religious identity. To show support, see the Friends of Wadi Foquin website.

The United States must not continue to fund Israel's building of illegal settlements and disregard for human rights.

Families in Downtown

Sydney Dent, Livermore

The Group of Many Names really rallied this week in The Independent. Apparently, expressions of support for Eden Housing in its current location shocked GOMN sensibilities. There were two letters expressing new shock that the housing would be geared towards families: the intersection isn't safe, schools aren't close, and downtown isn't a place to raise children.

First, workers have families, so affordable housing for workers needs to be large enough for families. Second, there are multi-bedroom facilities across the street from Eden Housing's future home and one block north on Main Street. If downtown is unsafe for families using affordable housing, how is it safe for families in those market rate

(See MAILBOX, page 6)

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LIVERMORE

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

LIVERMORE RESIDENTS: Share your talents with the community by volunteering on one of the City of Livermore's advisory bodies. We are accepting applications now through October 9, 2026, at 5:00 PM.

Commission for the Arts - 4 Vacancies
Join us in promoting Livermore as a vibrant and stimulating environment for artists and audiences, young and old, to experience the performing, visual, and literary arts.
(4) Regular Terms ending 1/1/2031
Meets 4th Tuesday of each month at 4:30 PM
Next meeting: September 22, 2026

Human Services Commission -1 Vacancy
Join us in discussing community social needs, assisting local agencies in procuring grant funds, and more.
(1) Regular Term ending 11/1/2030
Meets 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM
Next meeting: September 8, 2026

Livermore Housing Authority – 3 Vacancies
(1 Vacancy at-large), (1 Vacancy - Tenant), (1 Vacancy - Tenant 62+ years of age)
Join us in administering and overseeing affordable housing for low-income families, seniors, and persons with disabilities in the City of Livermore.
(3) Regular Terms ending 1/1/2031
Meets 2nd Wednesday of each month at 5:30 PM
Next meeting: September 16, 2026

SAVE THE DATE! In-person interviews tentatively scheduled the week of October 12, 2026. For more information or to apply, please visit www.livermoreca.gov/AB, call the City Clerk's office at (925) 960-4200, or email: cityclerk@livermoreca.gov.

GALA SILENT AUCTION OPENS 9/23!

Bid on exciting items — gift baskets, dining, wine, experiences, and more!
You don't have to be at the Gala to join in — everyone's invited!

Sip & Gather Wine Experience with McGrail Vineyards

Golden State Warriors Game Night for Two

Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Station Dinner

SF Giants Club Level Experience for Two

AUCTION CLOSING 10/3 AT 8 PM

Visit our website to view items:
www.sunflowerhill.org/events/gala

MAILBOX

(Continued from page 5)

housing complexes? Third, the GOMN is proposing Eden move across the street; no safer and no closer to any schools. Fourth, GOMN wants a park where children can play at this unsafe intersection. It's ok for children to play in the park, but not live there?

I will grant there are no schools close by. But that is true for many neighborhoods. However, there is a transit center a block and half away, several large grocery stores a block and half to two blocks away, a food bank across the street, and a Social Services Support office across this street. Some in the GOMN have proposed moving Eden Housing to the lot across from City Hall. There is no grocery store for miles. No close school. No food bank or social services and one bus line. But it's not in downtown.

I don't expect to change minds with a letter. But I do want others to know I stand for Eden Housing where it is going to be, and always have. I hope the new residents get a warm welcome when they start moving into their new homes.

The Best Civic Use
Bob Canning, Livermore

Over the years, I have seen significant changes in downtown Livermore. From the days when First Street was Highway 84, and all those gravel trucks, there were only a few restaurants, and not much in the way of activities. When the Bankhead and the movie theater were completed, a renaissance began. We now have many excellent restaurants. We have resident performing arts companies; Livermore Opera attracts talent from all over the country. Tri-Valley Theater puts on very enjoyable performances. SPARC is first rate; Del Valle Fine Arts and Pacific Chamber are wonderful. Lately, we have been volunteering at Livermore Arts pop up gallery. That has given us the opportunity to chat not only with residents, but with people that come from all over. They are very complimentary about our downtown. We should encourage developments that will enhance downtown and make it even more attractive. With all the successes, we have to be careful about the next steps. One of the criteria should be, "Is this the best civic use?" To look at ideas on their merit and not the person that proposed them — the latter seems to be more popular. For example, whether a downtown hotel is necessary and if so, where should it be?

The Turkey Countdown
Has Already Begun
Lex Manwill, Livermore

Thanksgiving may still feel far away. For the turkeys destined for Thanksgiving tables, it is not.

The turkeys that many plan to eat on Thanksgiving have just been born. Long before families write shopping lists or debate who is bringing the mashed potatoes, millions of turkeys are being raised by an industry designed to turn living animals into holiday products as quickly and efficiently as possible. They are only a few weeks old, and they will be slaughtered before they've lived even six months.

By Thanksgiving, their story is already over. But ours does not have to follow the same script. Traditions evolve. We can keep everything we love about Thanksgiving — the crowded tables, family recipes, gratitude, football, pie, and second helpings — without requiring any animals to die for it.

So, let's start thinking about Thanksgiving earlier this year. There is plenty of time to plan a feast centered on abundance, connection, and compassion. What better way is there to give thanks than by sparing a life?

What Do These Two
Have in Common?
Dennis Mulligan, Livermore

An historic old town, with low-level development, two stories at the most (with the

exception of one modern building), with charm, allure, and character versus a 4-story apartment house, with no attractive architectural detail?

There is nothing in common between these two properties, which unfortunately may become neighbors. The Legacy Apartments in downtown Livermore have some character, style, architectural appeal, and "gingerbread". The Legacy Apartments are also across the street from the "downtown core".

Not Eden Housing's development! It is in the downtown core. Placing a run-of-the-mill 4-story apartment amongst the appealing historic downtown would be like wearing a tuxedo to the ball, but wearing flip-flops. No commonality between downtown properties and the Eden Housing development.

Put it north of Railroad Avenue at the northeast corner of L Street and Railroad Avenue. That is by far the city's best option.

A More Inviting
Downtown
Johanna Thompson, Livermore

I'm intrigued and encouraged by the possibility of an alternative to the city's current flawed, unimaginative plan for the center of downtown Livermore. If the new vision were implemented, I would be much more motivated to want to spend time downtown, as I certainly am not under the city's current plan. I hope the mayor and council have not closed their minds to the possibility of change; a tree-filled park in the center of town would be a gift to all of Livermore, and you would be remembered fondly for it.

Concerns Regarding
Future Public
Appointments
Kathleen Schoening, Former
17-year Livermore resident

If David Jonas seeks appointment to the Housing Authority again or any other role of public trust, the record of conduct outlined below should be carefully evaluated.

I, as trustee of the Laing Family Trust, recently concluded a loan payoff with the D&V Family Trust, for which Mr. Jonas serves as trustee. Throughout this process, Mr. Jonas initially refused to provide required loan documentation, initially denied responsibility for statutory reconveyance obligations, and issued payoff documents containing multiple errors. These issues were only corrected after attorney intervention.

For these reasons, I believe it is important for the City of Livermore to be aware of this pattern of conduct, and the Mayor has already been notified. This history should be taken into consideration when evaluating any future appointments involving David Jonas.

Make America Proud
Catherine Johnson, Pleasanton

Stand up for the principles articulated by our founding fathers in the Preamble to the Declaration of Independence: All people are created equal and have basic rights that cannot be taken away, including life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

We are a nation of immigrants. My family immigrated to America for religious freedom and for economic opportunity. Some fought in the American Revolution, others came in the late 1800's, one is even illegal. Welcome immigrants who obey our laws, pay taxes, own businesses, and have lived here peaceably for decades.

Reinstate what has made us leaders in research and technology, rather than gutting the NIH and withholding funding from our premiere higher centers of education. Without these teaching centers and education of future researchers, America will fall behind the rest of the world in innovation.

Fight to protect our national treasures: the National Parks and Monuments. Don't open them up to exploitation by development, energy, and mining corporations. Pre-

serve their borders. Save them for your children and future generations.

Protect the health of our citizens with clean water and clean air laws. Restore regulatory power to the EPA. Support alternative energy sources to minimize the production of carbon dioxide and methane from fossil fuel. Make America a leader in addressing global challenges.

Maintain separation of church and state. Our nation was founded on religious freedom. Respect the beliefs, customs, and civil rights of others, be they Christian, Jewish, Hindu, Buddhist, Muslim, agnostics, or atheists.

Protect freedom of speech. Support your local independent newspapers, radio, and TV stations. Stations with opposing perspectives are essential to an informed population. If it's all one sided, it's no longer free speech; it's propaganda for whomever is in power.

Vote for Deena Kaplanis
Cathryn Villasenor, Livermore

If you want someone to serve students and your community, vote for Deena Kaplanis for LVJUSD School Board this November.

Bad Laws in
California in 2026
David Marco, Livermore

In general, California has a terribly bloated budget. They continue to overspend while hiding their acts with deceptive wording. The ballot measures are cleverly crafted to hide their real intent. Many bills passed this year are egregious. Examples:

AB2624 makes it a crime for citizen journalists to capture video footage of fraud happening with our tax dollars and posting on the internet. This will eventually be stuck down as a violation of the First Amendment, but it calls for a fine and prison for exposing crime. What are they hiding?

SB1057 allows some convicted home health aides to return to service for elderly persons living alone, as a health aid to children, or people with disabilities, as long as they attended certain rehab programs. We can't take the risk they're reformed.

AB608 forces schools to allow condom distribution to 7-12 graders. This isn't health care. It's encouraging promiscuity at an age when so very many things are happening that this need not be another. And this should be part of the parent's oversight.

AB2691 bars sex offenders from office unless their victim is a young teenager. What??

There are many other crazy laws from this session, and continued overspending.

These bills will become law Oct. 1, unless Newsom vetoes them. He probably won't. Why does our legislature pass this and other crazy bills? Because we have a one-party supermajority. They pass whatever they want. It's an oligarchy, not a representative legislature. Democrats are 45% of voters, Republicans 25%, and Independents 23%. When we vote in November, I plead with you to consider electing more Republicans and Independents and allow our government to become truly representative. Let us return to the serious First Amendment debates that our nation was founded upon.

Join Me in Voting
for Julie Testa
Laura Danielson, Pleasanton

Please join me in voting for Julie Testa for mayor. Few people are more qualified to lead our lovely city. For 40 years, Julie has been a tireless advocate for local residents. She thoroughly understands the operational mechanics of our city and grasps our financial landscape better than some paid staff. Many community benefits we enjoy today were inspired by her diligence, close observation, and tenacity.

Preserving the unique charm and character of our town is an issue close to my

Reader Snapshots

Share Your Best Shot

We are looking for local photos to feature in The Independent's Reader Snapshots section.

Whether it's a beautiful moment, a slice of Tri-Valley life or something that made you smile, we want to see it.

Email your image, full name, city of residence and a brief caption to editor@independentnews.com for a chance to be featured in an upcoming issue.



Livermore resident Valerie Thomey gives her "Reason 1,001" that she loves her hometown with this gorgeous shot of Ravenswood at sunset. (Photo courtesy of Valerie Thomey)

heart. Julie actively fought to keep tall high-rises out of our downtown and prevent massive, underregulated housing projects at our borders, prioritizing the long-term impacts on traffic and infrastructure. She does her homework and asks the tough questions.

Equally important is her advocacy for all citizens, including the unhoused and those facing mental illness. Her work establishing the Police Department's Alternative Response Unit has been a godsend to individuals and families in crisis. Her compassion and proactive concern have undoubtedly saved lives.

If you enjoy living in this city, Julie has been a part of that.

Join me in electing Julie Testa for Pleasanton Mayor this November.

In Support of Larry Bird
Bonnie Pastnak, Livermore

I am writing to express my strong support for Larry Bird as he runs for a position on the LARPD Board. I have had the privilege of knowing Larry closely, and I can say with confidence that he is someone who leads with honesty, kindness, and genuine care for the people and community around him.

Larry cares deeply about our community and understands that public service is about putting people first. He would bring integrity, common sense, compassion, and a strong work ethic to the Board. Most importantly, he is someone who can be trusted to follow through on his commitments and to treat people with respect.

LARPD is an important part of what makes our community a great place to live. I believe Larry would be a thoughtful and dedicated voice for residents to help ensure that our parks and recreation programs continue to serve the community well.

I hope you will join me in supporting Larry Bird for the LARPD Board. I truly believe he would be an excellent representative for our community. You can find more information about Larry on his website at Bird-4LARPD.com.

LAVTA School
Route Changes
Vicki LaBarge, Pleasanton

At the Pleasanton, Sept. 1, 2027, City Council meeting, mayoral candidate Julie Testa responded to concerns about Wheels school-route changes by saying:

"The route changes were not even brought to the board. So, I heard nothing about it, knew nothing about it, until I started hearing from the community members."

LAVTA's own records make that statement troubling.

Testa was already LAVTA Board Chair when this process began. In September 2025, Board materials said LAVTA was pursuing "modifications to the Pleasanton school-focused routes" for 2026. By December, materials said LAVTA was developing recommendations for Pleasanton school service for 2026/27, with Board review and final approval anticipated in April and May.

In January, Executive Director materials described "potential changes to Pleasanton school tripper service." On February 2, with Testa still Board Chair, another update listed implementation of PUSD changes in August as a next step.

On April 28, Testa, as Chair, attended LAVTA's Finance & Administration Committee meeting. Budget materials referenced Pleasanton changes twice: "major changes" would be made to school-tripper routes, and "significant changes" would occur in August. Testa made the motion on that budget and voted yes.

The documents did not identify the final route changes. But that raises the question: With repeated references to upcoming changes, why weren't specifics requested?

What was changing? Which routes and students would be affected? Why weren't details brought before the full Board?

Not knowing the specifics isn't the issue. Failing to ask for them is. Those questions should have been asked before implementation—not after disrupted families began complaining.

Pleasanton deserves a mayor or who pays attention, sees red flags and asks the necessary questions before decisions negatively affect the residents she represents.

Ramona Krausnick,
Dublin

Not Voting = Voting

There are many people who decide not to vote. For those of you who may think that your vote won't make any difference, not voting IS voting for the status quo. If you don't like the status quo, but don't vote, then don't complain. Not voting means you ARE voting for the status quo, however horrible it may be. For those of you who are uninformed/mis-informed, the status quo of the current administration = corruption, broken promises, inflation, higher prices for food and fuel, individuals losing food benefits, losing medical benefits, a new war without purpose or end, losing civil rights, just to name a few. If you are content with not voting to change anything for your well-being or the well-being of your fellow human beings, then just stay home and do nothing. If you want to change the horrible status quo, then vote! Our future well-being does depend on the outcome of this upcoming election.

(See MAILBOX, page 7)

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 last June.

To donate to a GoFundMe account supporting the Lopez family, visit

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/bring-miguel-back-to-his-loved-ones>

MAILBOX

(Continued from page 6)

End the Madness

Barry Brynjulson, Pleasanton

Last week, the Trump Administration blocked a late-night TV show interview of James Talarico, the Texas Democratic senatorial candidate, while giving dozens of GOP candidates several hours of TV exposure via Trumpapalooza.

During that pseudo convention, Trump himself offered to pay every adult \$5,000 if the GOP retains control of the House and Senate after the mid-terms.

Trump capped Trumpapalooza by leading his MAGA audience in a verbal pledge to ‘cheat like hell’ in the mid-terms.

Censorship, bribery, and the encouragement of cheating were all on unfiltered display by Trump and his FCC over three short days.

Vote early, beginning October 5. Use a drop box to avoid USPS shenanigans. End this madness and begin to make the United States respectable again.

The Edge of Sanity

Frank Cannella, Livermore

Over the years, our current president has made some truly outlandish statements and promises. To name just a few: he suggested the intaking of disinfectants to combat COVID; he promised to reduce prescription prices by more than 100% (a mathematical impossibility); he said the conflict in Iran will be over in weeks; on Thursday, he said gas prices will drop below \$2 per gallon after the mid-terms, and many others. But on Wednesday he achieved a new low, even for him, when he said if MAGA can hold both houses of Congress after the midterms, he'd send \$5,000 to every adult American citizen. FYI, that expenditure would cost American taxpayers 1.3 trillion dollars. The national debt is currently 40 trillion dollars and climbing;

interest on the debt is over one trillion dollars; the proposed military budget for next year is 1.5 trillion; and as a point of reference, the federal government expects revenue of 5.3 trillion dollars. That leaves roughly 1.5 trillion to pay for social security, Medicare, homeland security, FEMA, etc. etc. But here is the best part: the remaining MAGA faithful think this absurd offer is a good idea and could actually happen! It is remarkable Trump could still generate this sort of cult reaction from his shrinking base of supporters. One of them was quoted as saying Trump was a gift from God to America. I wonder what church they belong to.

Welcome to Trump World

Rosario Milelli, Pleasanton

President Trump has a new offer: \$5,000 for every adult American — if Republicans keep control of Congress in November.

Republicans already control the House and Senate. If this is such a good idea, why wait until after the election?? Send the bill to Congress now.

Instead, we get another dividend promise.

Remember the DOGE dividend? Trump embraced the idea of returning Elon Musk's supposed government savings to taxpayers. No broad DOGE checks followed. Then came the proposed \$2,000 tariff dividend. That didn't materialize either. Now, conveniently before an election, the number is \$5,000.

This one would cost roughly \$1.2 trillion. Tariff revenue cannot cover it. So, unless Congress finds enormous spending cuts or new taxes, much of that “dividend” would simply be borrowed money — added to a national debt already above \$40 trillion, with taxpayers paying the interest. Have you noticed interest rates increasing?

Trump announced the payment for every adult citizen.

No detailed funding plan accompanied the promise. I can imagine his family, Elon Musk and Jeff Bezos would be first in line, followed by tech oligarchs. Fair, right? Just another law Trump violates.

Call it what you want. A \$5,000 cash promise tied explicitly to which party wins Congress certainly looks less like governing than election-year salesmanship.

And what a time for a giveaway: the United States remains embroiled in the Iran conflict, while the Epstein investigation and related controversies continue generating headlines.

Borrow the money. Promise everyone a check. Worry about the bill later.

In the Womb; Out of the Womb

Gerl Lonnberg, Livermore

It is heartbreaking to read about the death of three little ones committed by the hand of their own mother, the shock, the sorrow, the outrage, the anger, the cries for justice for these little ones. A pregnant woman can be murdered and her unborn child dies as well; this is considered a double homicide, shock, outrage, a cry for justice, great sorrow. Yet on the other hand, a state just celebrated the passage of a bill that would allow a mother to have her baby aborted up to the day that child is due to be born; there was great joy, clapping of hands and lots of smiling. Things that are taking place in our nation, not long ago would be considered our worst nightmare. If what is happening in our state, our nation, has outraged you, we have an opportunity to do something about it, especially if you are a Christian. Pray and vote and support those that are wanting to bring back common sense. If you choose not to vote, this means that you agree with all that is occurring, or you just don't care.

Proverbs 24:11&12.2 Chronicles 7:14. Don't remain silent; your vote means more than you realize.

Why I Vote Democratic

Becky Conners, Livermore

As my children grow older, each will develop their own beliefs about the world, and decide what matters most to them. I never want them to feel that they must vote the way I do. I simply want them to understand why I choose to vote Democratic.

For me, it starts with personal freedom. I believe they should have the freedom to make important decisions about their own lives, their bodies, their families, and their futures. I want them to live in a country where those freedoms are respected.

I also want them to inherit a healthy planet. That's why I support investing in clean energy and protecting our environment. I believe we have a responsibility as parents to leave our children a world that is safe and sustainable.

Fairness matters to me, too. I believe our tax system should ask everyone to contribute fairly, while making sure our communities have the resources they need for good schools, strong infrastructure, healthcare, and opportunities to succeed.

I vote Democratic because I believe civil rights belong to everyone. No matter someone's race, gender, background, or identity, I want you to grow up believing that everyone deserves dignity, equality, and equal treatment under the law.

And when it comes to immigration, I believe we can have secure borders while still treating people with compassion and humanity.

These are the values I hope to pass on to them—not a political label, but a belief in freedom, fairness, equality, and compassion.



A ghostly apparition of a woman haunted downtown Pleasanton during last year's Ghost Walk. The Museum on Main will host its 17th annual family-friendly event this year on October 9, 10, 16, and 17, featuring guided tours where local actors bring classic ghost stories back to life. (Photo courtesy of Museum on Main)

Museum on Main Will Host Annual Haunted Ghost Walk

PLEASANTON — The Museum on Main will host its annual family-friendly Ghost Walk, a two-hour guided tour of the city's "most haunted sites" in the downtown area, on Friday, Oct. 9, and Saturday, Oct. 10, and the following Friday and Saturday, Oct. 16 and Oct. 17.

This is the 17th year the museum has hosted Ghost Walk.

Tours will leave the museum, 603 Main St., every 30 minutes from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

At each location, actors portraying the city's "ghosts" will bring their stories and Pleasanton haunted history to life.

Those taking the tours are encouraged to wear Halloween costumes.

Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$20 for children 12 and under.

To purchase tickets, go to or call 925-462-2766. Tickets are also available at the museum.

REED

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ZEPLIN

(Continued from front page)



A LUX-ZEPLIN team member helps prepare the experiment's main detector prior to underground installation. (Photo courtesy of Matthew Kapust/Sanford Underground Research Facility)

ment recorded an event that implied a particle more than 200 times the mass of a proton had entered the detector. Because experiment data is

analyzed in batches targeting specific types of interactions, researchers only recently uncovered the 2023 interaction. While the results have not

reached enough statistical significance to be considered a discovery in physics, they leave only a 0.5% chance the event was caused by other

known background sources.

“We’re very intrigued to see this event in the data, in the region where we expect dark matter to show up and the competing backgrounds are very low,” said Rick Gaitskell, a professor at Brown University and the spokesperson for LUX-ZEPLIN. “With only one event, we don’t want to get ahead of ourselves. We are not claiming to have seen dark matter. But we have seen something interesting that we want to share with the scientific community for their input.”

The team has submitted its results of the anomaly for publication in the journal Physical Review Letters.

A direct detection of dark matter would greatly enrich our understanding of the universe, Xu said, revealing holes in the current models of particle physics and requiring scientists to develop new theories. It would also shed light on the evolutionary history of the universe.

REZONING

(Continued from front page)

who doesn't understand the city — what the city's values are, what the priorities are — who has come in and demanded we make a bunch more changes to our city,” said Planning Commission Chair Brandon Pace.

Letters from two nearby residents, Guy Blatt and Daisry Singh, opposed the rezoning for the effects it would have on traffic and neighborhood character.

The three sites were selected during discussions between the city and HAC.

The state requires cities to develop a plan, known as a housing element, every eight years to promote the development of a certain quota of new housing. The Pleasanton City Council adopted its current housing element, which runs through 2031, in January 2023, rezoning parcels across the city for an additional 5,965 new housing units.

Several rounds of back and forth between the city and the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) resulted in some changes to the plan around

low-income incentives and water-supply strategy. Satisfied with the revisions, HCD certified the plan in August 2023.

But in November 2023, HAC disputed the validity of Pleasanton's housing element in correspondence to city. The group threatened to bring legal action to undo Pleasanton's housing-element adoption.

The nonprofit supports “affordable, equitable and sustainable housing solutions” throughout the state, according to its website.

“The fundamental complaint was related to the inventory itself and the adequacy of the sites, meaning that they challenged the fact that we did not obtain property owner approval for all of them, even though we weren't legally required to,” said Shweta Bonn, city senior planner.

Some of the housing element sites had existing occupants, according to HAC, making them less likely to turn over, and housing slated for the Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) site would not happen until the

next housing element cycle.

Despite disagreeing “strenuously,” the city opted to avoid litigation and entered into a settlement agreement with HAC in June 2025, agreeing to rezone three additional sites for housing, according to Assistant City Attorney Katherine Winski.

Planning commissioners last week also objected to HAC's efforts, but said that they had little choice but to accept the three new sites. A date for when the rezoning proposal will go before the city council has not yet been set, but the terms of the settlement agreement expire Dec. 31. Failure to comply would risk opening up the city's entire housing element to change.

To be clear, the proposal is not presenting a new housing element for approval, but is asking the city council to rezone these three sites. The commission asked the city council to consider the inclusion of the new housing in the city's next housing element. With the next housing cycle set to begin in 2031, planning efforts will start around the end of 2027.

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Valley Concert Chorale (VCC), directed by Joseph Castro, performs during a past season concert. The chorale has announced its 2026–2027 schedule, which features Handel's Messiah singalong, holiday concerts including Benjamin Britten's A Ceremony of Carols, spring folk music performances, and Mozart's Requiem. (Photo courtesy of VCC)

CYT Tri-Valley Will Present 'Diary of a Wimpy Kid: The Musical' at Bankhead

LIVERMORE — CYT Tri-Valley, an after-school theater program for children, will perform "The Diary of a Wimpy Kid: The Musical" at the Bankhead Theater on Tuesday, Oct. 6, and Wednesday, Oct. 7.

The musical adaptation of Greg Heffley's iconic cartoon diary captures the awkward and often laugh-out-loud reality of surviving middle school.

There will be two School Days matinees on Tuesday and one on Friday, and 6 p.m. evening performances open to the public on both days.

The production, featuring a cast of 28 young actors, is the first in the theater company's CYT LITE series of

one-hour musicals adapted from children's stories for the 2026-2027 season.

In February, CYT Tri-Valley will present "Schoolhouse Rock Live! JR.," based on the award-winning series of animated educational videos first released in the 1970s, followed by "Disney's Descendants: The Musical," based on the popular series of "Disney Channel Original Movies," in May.

"The thrill of CYT LITE is the magical relationship that happens when young people on stage and in the audience see themselves in one another," said artistic director Kristin Baer-Werder. "For a young student to see

a beloved story come to life on stage, performed by a classmate, it becomes a truly personal and memorable experience."

CYT Tri-Valley said it expects more than 4,000 students to attend a School Days matinee this season on field trips scheduled by their teachers.

Tickets to the evening performances are \$20 and available online at livermorearts.org.

In addition to the CYT LITE! series, CYT Tri-Valley will present three full-length productions this season, including "Disney's Frozen" in November, "Footloose" in March, and "Finding Neverland" in June.

VCC Announces Concert Schedule

LIVERMORE — Valley Concert Chorale (VCC) has announced a 2026-2027 schedule that opens in December with the chorus' annual singalong performance of Handel's "Messiah" and ends in May with Mozart's "Requiem."

The all-volunteer VCC, led by Director Joseph Castro will also present two holiday concerts in December, and will team up with the Cantabella Children's Chorus and Tracy High School West Chamber Academy in March for a performance focusing on

the rich storytelling traditions of folk music.

The annual "Messiah" singalong will be at Trinity Lutheran Church in Pleasanton from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 4.

The concert is free, but VCC is asking for members of the public to register at valleyconcertchorale.org.

The VCC schedule also includes holiday concerts featuring Benjamin Britten's "A Ceremony of Carols" on Friday, Dec. 11, and Saturday, Dec. 12. Continuing with the "carols" theme, the concerts will also

include John Tavener's "The Lamb," Bob Chilcott's "Shepherd's Carol" and John Rutter's "Joseph's Carol."

Time and place of the concerts is yet to be determined.

The spring folk music concerts will be held Friday, March 19, and Saturday, March 20, also with time and place to be determined.

The chorus will present Mozart's "Requiem" on Saturday, May 22, and Sunday, May 23.

VCC said venues, show times and ticket information will be updated on its website.

SENIOR

(Continued from front page)

ing daily activities designed specifically for residents with Alzheimer's, dementia and other forms of memory loss — is built around this population's needs."

"Demand has grown significantly," Villarreal said. "Dublin is one of the fastest-growing cities in California, and the Tri-Valley's senior population is expanding right along with it."

The first members of the baby boomer generation turn 80 this year, an age when families typically begin seriously exploring memory care, Villarreal said.

"At the same time, more seniors are living alone, and their adult children often don't have the time or clinical training to manage memory care needs safely at

home," Villarreal added.

"Together, those trends are creating real demand for a dedicated, nearby memory care community like Inspiration," she said.

The memory care facility represents the first phase of a broader senior living plan for the property. Reyes said Calson plans to develop an assisted living facility during the second phase.

The project dates to 2020, when plans were submitted to build memory care and assisted living facilities on portions of the Valley Christian Center property, now home to Brave Church and Brave Christian Schools.

The Dublin City Council approved the memory care project in 2022 after considering the zoning and devel-

opment changes required for the site. City records describe the planned facility as a one-story, 35,089-square-foot building on 1.63 acres, with private and shared rooms.

Inspiration will be part of the Linden Collection and a sister community to the Linden Collection in Livermore, which will offer assisted living and memory care at The Well at Sunset development.

CareStone Builders is serving as the general contractor, while family-owned Calson Management will operate the facility.

The groundbreaking ceremony, which brought together city officials and community partners, included a blessing over the land.

WAHAB

(Continued from front page)

are settled. I've voted on bills to protect freedom of speech and school funding, environmental concerns, and more. I want residents to be able to measure my work by concrete results rather than campaign rhetoric," Wahab said.

Gov. Gavin Newsom signed several of Wahab's authored bills into law during her tenure in the State Senate. These included Senate Bill (SB) 262, which added definitions and examples of prohousing local policies to State Planning and Zoning Law, and SB 40, which capped insulin costs at \$35. She also authored SB 1353, establishing a Youth Bill of Rights for youth in juvenile facilities to guarantee access to mental health services, and SB 399, which prohibits employers from discriminating against employees who decline meetings focused on the employer's political or religious views.

Additionally, Wahab authored SB 1193, a state law targeting transparency and accountability in local gov-

ernment by reforming how the Alameda County Board of Supervisors allocates discretionary funds, prohibiting non-public allocations without a majority vote. Because county governments operate under California state constitutional authority, the bill required approval from both state legislative houses and Gov. Gavin Newsom, who signed it into law on Aug. 27.

"Our fundraising will be a priority. We saw \$6.4 million from American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC)-linked Political Action Committees (PACs) being spent against us in the Aug. 18th (special general) election. Our campaign will focus on communicating directly with residents about my record, priorities, and plans for a full term," Wahab stated.

Wahab's noted that her primary challenge for the campaign is time. Serving constituents in D.C. while campaigning requires disciplined scheduling and a strong team.

California's Proposition

50 changed the borders of the 14th Congressional District for a one-time shift. Parts of Dublin and Fremont are now in the 14th Congressional District, while portions of Castro Valley are now unable to vote for a representative in the 14th Congressional District shifted to the 10th Congressional District.

Wahab said she has an obligation to introduce herself to voters who may be participating in a different congressional district than before and listen to communities new to the 14th Congressional District.

Wahab is reaching out to young voters in particular, making information accessible through the channels this demographic uses, including her Instagram account. The goal is to make it easy for first-time voters to understand who represents them, what Congress does, and where she stands.

She is learning from other fellow members of Congress as she gets acclimated.

"One consistent lesson has been to stay focused on

the fundamentals. Know the district, listen carefully, build a disciplined organization, and use limited time wisely," Wahab said.

As for the 2026 midterm, Wahab said the national environment matters, but her campaign remains centered on the needs of the 14th Congressional District.

"The broader election reinforces the importance of being clear about my record, where I stand on the issues before Congress, and what I would work on during a full term," Wahab said.

Addressing those needs, Wahab lists her House priorities as lowering prescription costs, capping patient out-of-pocket expenses, strengthening protections for renters and homeowners against predatory mortgages and displacement, and creating clean-technology jobs.

Wahab expressed concern about advertisements by her opponent, Melissa Hernandez, in the coming months.

"My opponent and her allies repeatedly attacked and distorted my record rather than focusing on the issues and the work of serving the people. Their behavior is a prime example of why so many people call politics 'dirty.' The San Francisco Chronicle highlighted that the attacks were false. I'm proud of my record, which is public, and I'll respond through the appropriate factual and legal channels," Wahab said.

She added that she saw Hernandez and other entities spend nearly \$7 million trying to distort her record.

"That kind of outside spending does do damage. That is why (my campaign's) 26-point lead went down. How do you compete with \$7 million? It's the reason money should be out of our politics. It destroys our democracy. Our campaign remains focused on facts, goals, and fighting for the people of this district. They deserve better, and I'm here

to do the work," Wahab said.

In the primary election for the remainder of Swallow's term, Wahab led Hernandez 42.8% to 16.8% before heavy outside spending narrowed the race ahead of the August special general election.

Wahab said she wants residents of the 14th Congressional District to know that she sees her campaign for the Nov. 3 election as separate from, yet informed by, her current responsibility to serve them.

"My focus is improving quality of life for the people I represent, particularly working families, seniors, women, children, and vulnerable residents, and ensuring government works for people who often feel left behind. That remains my priority while serving this term," Wahab said.

For more information, visit: wahab.house.gov.

OBITUARIES

Jordan Colquitt Old, Jr.
Dec. 9, 1930 — Aug. 8, 2026



It is with profound sadness, yet filled with immense gratitude for his long and fulfilling life, that our family announces the passing of Jordan Colquitt Old, Jr. on Aug. 8, 2026, at the age of 95.

Born in Dallas, Texas in December 1930, Jordan grew up during the Great Depression. He was part of the Silent Generation, a generation that would later be known for its reserved and frugal nature.

At the young age of nine, Jordan embarked on his first paid job as a babysitter. However, his first official job was as a bike messenger for Western Union. Later, he worked as an usher at a movie theater, where he had the privilege of witnessing the release of all the new movies of his time.

Jordan, who was known as Colquitt during his younger years, pursued higher education at the University of Houston, where he earned a bachelor's degree in business administration. He later attended Navy Officer Candidate School in 1956, fulfilling his goal after his years in ROTC during high school.

During his time in the U.S. Navy, Jordan served at the rank of Lieutenant Commander (LTJG) on the USS Saint Paul and later on the USS Oriskany (The Mighty O). After three years of active service, he transitioned into the private sector while still serving in the Reserve.

Jordan's career spanned various industries and companies, including Hormel, Dow Jones, and the Reader's Digest Educational Division (we kids enjoyed the great educational vinyl records and books he would bring home!) However, his most

became one of our favorite stories to retell during game days every year. He also was a big San Francisco Giants fan, and loved watching the games with Judy and GO.

He also enjoyed cooking (even during his last year), indulging in film noir classics, keeping up with world news, and watching lots of the streaming series we (his kids) were also watching. Known for his sense of humor, Jordan "delighted" those around him with dad jokes and playful pranks.

While bravely living with cancer during his final year, Jordan maintained a hopeful attitude until the very end, a testament to his remarkable resilience and strength. He especially loved when he could spend time with his great grandkids.

Jordan was predeceased by his brother John David Old and sister Patti Fickert. Their memories were deeply cherished by him.

Above all, Jordan loved his family. He is survived by his daughter Judith and her husband Giovanni, sons Gregory and Michael, grandsons Joshua (married to Jessica) and David-Brett (with partner Kayla), great-grandsons Evan, Levi, and Kayden, and nieces/nephews Thayne, Merrily, Mark, Scott, and Chris.

Jordan will be laid to rest at the Sacramento Valley National Cemetery in Dixon, California.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations to the American Legion Post 237 in Pleasanton, California, where Jordan enjoyed coffee and camaraderie with his fellow veterans. (www.americanlegionpost237.org)

TRI-VALLEY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

EVENTS

Saturday, Sept. 19
BEER, BRATS AND BINGO

Celebrate America's 250th at a fundraiser benefitting the American Legion Post 237 (Veteran Service Organization). Food and drink will be available for purchase, and BINGO cards will be \$15 and will be playing all night. At the Veterans' Building, 301 Main St., in Pleasanton, on Sept. 19; doors open at 5 p.m.

Monday, Sept. 21
OPEN REHEARSALS / AUDITIONS FOR VALLEY CONCERT CHORALE

The Valley Concert Chorale, the Tri-Valley's premier chorus, is seeking new singers for its upcoming concert season and is holding open rehearsal on Sept. 21, 7 p.m. - 9 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church, 2020 Fifth St., Livermore. Call (925) 866-4003 to schedule an audition. The Chorale is seeking experienced singers with sight-reading skills who enjoy singing exciting and challenging music. The 2026-2027 season features Mozart's "Requiem". More information is available at www.valleyconcertchorale.org.

Monday, Sept. 21
TRI-VALLEY SUMMIT: ENDING HOMELESSNESS TOGETHER

A free movie screening of "Beyond the Bridge", a powerful documentary, will be shown at the Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore, on Sept. 21 at 9:30 a.m. The documentary features proven homelessness solution strategies implemented by cities across the U.S., where regional and local leaders unite to collaborate and drive solutions to homelessness. Hosted by Alameda County Supervisors David Haubert and Nate Miley. RSVP at tinyurl.com/tvendinghomelessness. Doors open 8:45 a.m., program 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. For information, please email gloria.gregory@acgov.org.

ONGOING EVENTS

FALL GRIEF WORKSHOPS

Held at St. Elizabeth Seton Church, 4001 Stoneridge Dr.,

Pleasanton, on Sept. 3, 9, 17, 23, Oct. 1, 8, 15, and 22, starting at 7 p.m. See catholicsofpleasanton.org or call Barbara at 925-846-3904 for more info/registration.

DROP-IN GENEALOGY ASSISTANCE

Assistance by members of the Livermore-Amador Genealogy Society. On the first Wednesday of each month, 10:30 - 12:30, at Livermore Public Library, Civic Center Branch, Room 135.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

To find a local meeting in person or online, visit valleyservicecenteraa.org or call the 24-hour hotline at 925-829-0666.

SATURDAY PLEASANTON FARMERS MARKET

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

SUNDAY LIVERMORE DOWNTOWN FARMERS MARKET

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

FOOD RELIEF SERVICES

Local residents can access vital food-assistance services to help meet basic needs. Food relief services can be found at:

St. Vincent De Paul Food locker, 458 Maple St., Livermore (behind St. Michaels Church); Mon/ Tues: 7-8 p.m., Wed/ Thu: 4-5 p.m.
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, noon 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.

OBITUARIES

Stephan Paul Velsko
July 8, 1955 — Aug. 24, 2026



Stephan Paul Velsko, 71, died Aug. 24, 2026, while battling stage 4 gastroesophageal cancer at Eden Hospital in Castro Valley, California. He was born July 8, 1955, in Beacon, New York to Paul Velsko, a World War II veteran and technician at Texaco Research, and Theodora Velsko (né Stupinski), a seamstress and homemaker. Steve had a typical 1960s upbringing and a short buzz haircut: he ran with the boys in the neighborhood, vexed his two older sisters, and did things we would now consider unsafe, such as blowing up fish from the creek and putting M80s or cherry bombs under abandoned bathtubs. He was a sometimes irreverent altar boy at St. Luke Episcopal parish in Beacon and played Little League. Steve attended Rombout Elementary School and then Beacon High School, where he excelled in mathematics, English, and history classes, and graduated in 1973. His extracurricular activities included learning and playing trumpet for the marching and concert bands, running track, teaching himself bass guitar and playing in a garage band. During the summers of his high school years, he worked as a groundskeeper for St. Luke parish and cemetery.

Steve’s interest in the sciences started in his youth and was encouraged by his father, who brought chemicals or supplies home from work. Steve and his friends would carry out experiments in an old wooden garage that, fortunately, did not burn down when experiments went awry. At the University of Rochester (1973-1977), college classes were more challenging, but he obtained a double BA degree in Mathematics and Chemistry and did undergraduate research with Professor Mark Skeats, who encouraged him to attend graduate school in chemistry. During some of his college summer breaks, Steve lived with his sister, Irene, and worked as an orderly for Mary Manning Walsh Nursing Home in New York City.

The summer after college graduation, Steve did a DOE internship at Argonne National Lab. In the fall of 1977, he started graduate school at the University of Chicago (UoC)

Department of Chemistry and met his future wife, Carol Molini, also a new graduate student there. He was able to combine his love for both math and chemistry throughout his higher education and career. His first projects were theoretical studies of energy transfer in liquids with Professor David W. Oxtoby. He then shifted to experiments in Professor Graham R. Fleming’s lab and received his Ph.D. in 1981. Steve’s next chapter as a postdoctoral researcher was with Professor Robin Hochstrasser at the University of Pennsylvania, where he studied nonlinear relaxation of vibrational states in solids. In 1984, Steve joined the Lasers Directorate at Lawrence Livermore Lab to search for new, nonlinear optical materials for high power lasers. He went on to develop and patent a frequency agile optical parametric oscillator for remote sensing of molecules in the atmosphere. He tested that system at the Nevada Test Site on a ground-based and an airborne platform. After the anthrax attacks, Steve started to develop the Lab’s capabilities for Bioforensics, became an associate program leader in the Global Security Directorate, and explored the interplay of science, policy and legal issues for prosecuting potential bioweapons cases in the U.S. legal system. He worked with many, many people inside and outside of the Lab, published more than 100 scientific papers and book chapters, and accomplished his goals. He retired in November 2017, but

kept engaged by working at the Lab part-time and preparing notes for two books he started to write.

Steve and Carol were very lucky to both get jobs at Livermore Lab; that meant they didn’t have to commute in San Francisco Bay Area traffic. Since 1984, they have lived in Livermore where Steve enjoyed gardening, cooking, music, family trips, wineries and drinking excellent scotch, bourbon or rye with just a splash of water. Since June 1981 (45 years!), he was a loving and patient husband and a partner in science, child-rearing, home improvement and cat tending. His family has called him pedantic, or a curmudgeon, but he was one of the smartest people we knew. After his daughters were born, he made up silly “Dad” songs and stories for them, and those will be passed on to his grandchildren. He enjoyed watching his daughters in every T-ball game, soccer and lacrosse match, swim meet, ballet, band and orchestra performance and graduation ceremony that he attended. Steve deeply loved his family, contributed his advice and experiences to them, and was proud of them for achieving their life goals. Steve is survived by his wife, Carol Velsko, daughters Irina Velsko of Leipzig, Germany and Anna Long (Paul) of Mission Viejo, California, grandson Theodore Long; sister Nancy Schmidt of Arvada, Colorado; nieces Elizabeth Zito, Liz Schmidt (Brian) and family; nephews Karl Schmidt (Suzette) and family, and Andrew Schmidt (Emily); as well as mother-in-law Shirley Molini, sisters-in-law Mary Kullman and family, Judith Meluni (John) and family; brothers-in-law Paul Molini Jr. (Carol) and family, and Richard Molini (Rose) and family. He was predeceased by his parents, Paul and Theodora Velsko, his sister Irene Zito, and his father-in-law Paul Molini Sr.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation in Steve’s honor to the American Association for the Advancement of Science (<https://www.aaas.org/support>) or the American Cancer Society (<https://donate.cancer.org/>).

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Jack F. Edwards
March 3, 1930 — July 15, 2026



Jack F. Edwards passed away peacefully on July 15, 2026, with his daughters Karen and Sue by his side. Born March 3, 1930, in Seattle, Washington, Jack spent his early years there before his family moved to Richmond, California.

Jack’s greatest love was his wife, Donna. They met in high school, married in 1953, and shared more than 72 years together. Even at the age of 96, Jack often told Donna she was the most beautiful woman in the room. They raised their three children, Karen Chamousis, Sue Flashberger, and John Edwards, in Castro Valley and built a life centered around family. Jack was all about his family, and nothing made him happier than having them close. Over the years, their family grew to include ten grandchildren and four great-grandchildren, each of whom held a very special place in his heart.

Jack began his career with Standard Oil Company before purchasing the Chevron

station on Castro Valley Boulevard, across from the theater, in 1959. Through hard work and determination, he built a successful convenience store and car wash business. Donna worked alongside him for many years, making them partners in both business and life. In 1994, Jack and Donna moved to Pleasanton, and in 2003, he and his partners built the expansive Bernal Corners Shell Station at Bernal and Valley Avenue.

When Jack wasn’t working or spending time with family,

there was a good chance you could find him on the golf course. Golf was one of the great joys of his life. A longtime member of Castlewood Country Club, Jack played there for more than 60 years, enjoying countless rounds with good friends, friendly wagers, and plenty of stories along the way. He knew the course like the back of his hand and treasured the friendships he made there. For Jack, golf was about much more than the game; it was the camaraderie, laughter, and time spent with people he enjoyed.

Jack lived a full life built around the things that mattered most to him: Donna, his family, work, friends, and golf. Those who loved him will remember his strong work ethic, his sense of humor, his loyalty, and above all, how deeply he loved his family.

A Celebration of Life will be held in September. Please contact Karen or Sue for information.

Eileen H. Sauer
Dec. 7, 1933 — Aug. 27, 2026



Eileen Sauer passed away peacefully at the age of 92 surrounded by family. She was born Mary Eileen Hainley on Dec. 7, 1933 to George and Berniece Hainley in Los Angeles, California. At the age of two, her family relocated to Phoenix, Arizona for her father’s work. At age eight, the family moved back to Alhambra, California where she attended All Souls Catholic School. Upon graduation, she attended Ramona Convent High School and graduated with the Class of 1950. She went on to attend Mount Saint Mary’s University in Los Angeles. Upon graduation, she received her teaching credential and embarked on a lifelong journey of teaching. She started her career teaching home economics, clothing, international foods, marriage and the family, and other related classes at Sierra High School and California High School in the Whittier Unified School District. After 40 years of teaching, she retired and moved to Livermore with her husband, Kearney.

She and Kearney were soulmates. They married August 24, 1957, and had 64 years of marriage until his passing in 2021. They had a mutual love of history, travel, and wine. They were fortunate to take numerous trips abroad to England, Ireland, various countries around

Europe, and to her most favorite place, Paris. Eileen also had a passion for cooking and entertaining. She and Kearney prepared many elaborate meals for friends and family over the years.

One would think that after 40 years of teaching she would be done with that. She was not. She found a home in the Livermore Valley wine community working in the tasting rooms of Livermore Valley Cellars, Thomas Coyne, Deer Ridge, Occasio, and Longevity Winery. She enjoyed being a wine educator and guiding tasters through all the nuances of the wines, as well as bits of history about the grapes and wine regions around the world.

If that was not enough, she was also a substitute teacher at LVCS and LVCP, the two charter schools in Livermore. She was a perennial

favorite substitute teacher with the students. She always spoke fondly of her students and had stories to share with two of her grandchildren who were often in her class.

She is preceded in death by her parents, George and Berniece Hainley; her husband, Kearney Sauer; brother-in-law, Rev. Anthony P. Sauer, S.J.; brother-in-law, Hon. Michael T. and wife, Marianne Sauer; brother-in-law, Dr. Patrick J. and first wife, Dolores Sauer; and her beloved feline companion, Jello. She leaves behind daughter, Terry Sauer and husband, Paul Smith; son, Timothy Sauer and wife, Chrysanne Sauer; granddaughter, Meghan Luera and husband, Anthony Avila; grandson, Brendan Sauer and wife, Susie Corman; and granddaughter, Alliana Sauer; as well as a sister-in-law and numerous nieces, nephews, grandnieces, grandnephews and granddogs.

A funeral Mass will be held on Friday, Sept. 18, 2026, at 12:00 noon at St. Michael’s Catholic Church in Livermore.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Valley Humane Society in Pleasanton, California, valley-humane.org/donate/tribute-gifts, or Mount St. Mary’s University, www.msmu.edu/give-to-the-mount in Los Angeles, California.

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Robert “Bob” Terry Livingstone
March 14, 1947 — April 24, 2025

Bob was born on March 14, 1947, in Oakland, California. He later made his home in Livermore and went home to be with the Lord on April 24, 2025.

Bob graduated from Calaveras High School in 1966, where he played football, participated on the dive team, and

played drums in the school band. His love of music continued throughout his life. From October 1967 through April 1969, he was a drummer with Santana, where he earned the nickname “Doc.”

Bob had an adventurous spirit and enjoyed motorcycles and deep-sea diving. Above all, he loved the Lord and his family. His baptism at Celebration Church of Livermore on March 5, 2023, was an especially joyful and meaningful moment in his life.

Bob is survived by his beloved wife, Carol; their four children, Melanie Byrne, Debbie Sweeny, Bobby Livingstone, and Jon Livingstone; his grandchildren, Chelsea Byrne, Lance Byrne,

Ean Sweeny, Abilene Livingstone, and Liam Livingstone; and his sisters, Sharlene Lundin and Pat Short.

A celebration of Bob’s life will be held on Saturday, Sept. 26, 2026, at 1:00 p.m. at Celebration Church of Livermore, 1135 Bluebell Drive, Livermore, California 94551.



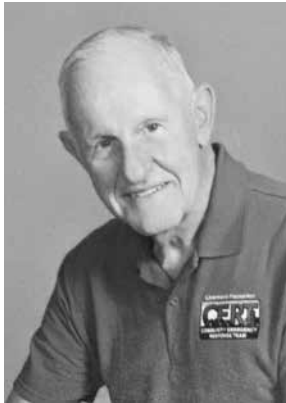
Kenneth (Ken) Mitchell
November 22, 1933 — August 31, 2026

Kenneth (Ken) Mitchell, beloved father, grandfather, uncle and friend went to be with the Lord peacefully on Monday, August 31, 2026.

Born November 22, 1933 in Chicago, Illinois to Michael and Gisela Mitchell, at 15 moved to Louisville, Kentucky. At 16, he enlisted into ROTC Military School, served in the U.S. Airforce from 1951 to 1955. Studied Electrical Engineering at Washington University. He instilled discipline and dedication as a fencing instructor in both the military and college. He was a true Patriot.

In 1960, Ken moved to Livermore to work at Sandia National Laboratories, where he met his wife, Mary Aflague. They raised five kids and opened their hearts and home to many in need. A man of unwavering work ethic, Ken rode his bicycle to work every day, rain or shine, until his retirement in March 2000.

Ken volunteered with the Y Indian Guides and served St.



Michael’s Parish as both a CCD teacher and an usher. 60 years with the Knights of Columbus. Served the Livermore Youth Soccer League, starting in 1976. Ken gave coaching and referee clinics throughout Northern California. He and Mary were active with Amway. He was an active operator in the L.A.R.K. ham radio club (call sign KJ6VBN).

Ken devoted more than 15,000 hours to the VA Medical Center in Livermore by entertaining the patients playing guitar every

Friday, greeted patients, and managed computer security protocols. In the early 2010s, he became a cornerstone of the CERT program. Ken also shared his love of science through Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, presenting planetarium shows at local libraries and elementary schools.

He is survived by his children David Clay, Michael Mitchell, Ann Marie Sorensen, Elizabeth Mitchell and four grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents, his beloved wife Mary Aflague Mitchell of 62 years, his sister Luise Vanattia, son John Mitchell and son-in-law Paul Sorensen.

A service honoring Ken’s life will be held at St. Michael Catholic Church in Livermore on Friday, September 25, at 11:00 AM. Burial will follow immediately at St. Michael Cemetery.

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

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Larry Allen Kingsley
Aug. 16, 1944 — Aug. 16, 2026



Larry Allen Kingsley was born on Aug. 16, 1944, and peacefully entered into eternity on Aug. 16, 2026, his 82nd birthday, surrounded by his family. Although he grew up in a blended family and was an only child biologically, he was blessed with a large family of half- and step-siblings: Sandy (Walker) Saucer, Kathy (Golden) Engle, Lee Engle, Donna (Ault) Kingsley, and Leslie (Jones) Kingsley.

Larry married his high school sweetheart, Marilyn Alviso, in 1965. Together they built a life centered around family, hard work, and the community they loved.

Larry graduated from Livermore High School in 1962 before proudly serving his country in the United States Army during the Vietnam War. After returning home, he built a career in construction, where his strong work ethic and determination were evident in everything he did.

Larry made Livermore his home and was proud to raise his family there. Some of his happiest memories were made at the family cabin in the hills and on countless trips to Lake Tahoe. He loved hunting and looked forward to every season. While he often joked that he hated fishing and camping, he faithfully did both because he knew his family loved those adventures. More than once, he may have dropped everyone off at the campsite with Marilyn and quietly found a nearby



hotel for the night.

Larry was known for being tough on his kids, but they never questioned his love. He was one of their biggest supporters, cheering on not only his children but also his grandchildren and great-grandchildren in everything they pursued. If someone needed help, Larry would quietly step in without expecting recognition or thanks.

One of his favorite daily traditions was meeting his “Old Guys Club” for coffee

every morning at McDonald’s. Sundays were reserved for breakfast together, usually at Emil Villa’s, where stories were shared, friendships were strengthened, and laughter was plentiful. Lately, Sunday family church was his priority.

Above all, Larry will be remembered for his unwavering love for his family, his quiet generosity, his sense of humor, his devotion to his friends, and the legacy of hard work, loyalty, and strength that he leaves behind.

Larry was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Marilyn, and his cherished granddaughter, Abigail “Abbe” Stoneham.

Larry is survived by his children: Gianna (Trevor) Stoneham, Kelley (Ben) Cartwright, Michael Kingsley, Kacey (Cory) Stoneham

His grandchildren: Frankie Stoneham, Michelle Coatney, Jennifer Vargas, Tara Sandy, Gracie Cartwright, Lily Cartwright, Justin Stoneham, Harlie Stoneham, Megan Stoneham

His great-grandchildren: Kodi Reagan, Cade, Sarafina, Ezra, Elia

Larry is also survived by his siblings, who remained an important part of his family story.

A Celebration of Life Service will be held on Saturday, Nov. 21 at 11:00 a.m. at New Beginnings Church, 170 Lindbergh Ave., Livermore.

Foothill Girls Volleyball Team Defeats NCS Defending Champs

By Phil Jensen

PLEASANTON — Quite possibly a key to the Foothill High School girls volleyball team’s victory over defending North Coast Section Division I champion Carondelet on Sept. 10 was a set that the Falcons didn’t win.

Behind serving rallies by junior libero Olivia So and senior setter Shreya Patel, Foothill scored 10 of the last 12 points of the fourth set. Even though it lost that set, Foothill came back to win the fifth set in a 25-18, 18-25, 25-14, 22-25, 17-15 victory.

“The fact that we were down pretty big in that fourth set and kind of got ourselves back, playing the style of volleyball we needed to play, I thought that might have been a difference because had we just kind of gone into that fifth set playing the way we were for a little stretch, I think it would have been difficult to win,” said Foothill long-time coach Dusty Collins. “I just wanted (the Falcons) to get that win. I felt like they deserved it. That’s not that Carondelet didn’t deserve it, but I felt we were really playing a high level of volleyball for a long time in the match.”

Foothill then went 3-1 at the Bay Area Varsity Classic at Menlo-Atherton on Sept. 12 to enter this week with a 10-4 overall

record and 3-0 East Bay Athletic League mark. The Falcons played Granada on Sept. 15 after this article’s deadline. Foothill hosts Monte Vista tonight and travels to face Amador Valley on Sept. 22. Both matches are scheduled to start at 6:15 p.m.

The fifth set against Carondelet was close throughout. The Cougars had a match-point situation at 14-13, but Foothill scored two straight points, including an ace by So. Carondelet’s Natalia Markiel tied the set with a kill, but then Foothill scored two straight points, including an ace by Patel, to clinch the match win.

“It is just an amazing win, amazing group of people. Love these gals ... I’m just so proud of us,” said Foothill senior middle blocker Emily Evans.

In the third set, Foothill junior Makenzie Bulaon had four straight service points to help Foothill take a 22-13 lead in an eventual set win. But Carondelet battled back in the fourth set, scoring nine straight points to take a 19-10 lead and see its lead grow to 23-12.

However, So had three straight serving points to draw her team within seven points at 23-16. Carondelet got match points at 24-16, but Foothill then scored six straight points to make the Cougars sweat. Patel served

for five of the points, including an ace, and kills were produced in the run by Foothill’s Ilayda Caglar (2), Addie Boeschenstein and Alivia Wang.

“I think we got a lot of momentum from that fourth set, and we just carried it into the fifth set, keeping that energy high the whole time,” Patel said.

“We’re a good serving team,” Collins said. “We feel like we can serve and pass with anybody. ... We have a lot of defensive players. We have three legitimate liberos on our team that are high-level.”

Foothill took a 6-0 lead in the first set behind five serving points by senior Kait Vogel and eventually won that set 25-18. But Carondelet scored seven of the last nine points of the second set to tie the match at 1-1 with a 25-18 set win.

Vogel paced the Falcons with 12 service points, and Patel added 10 service points. So had a team-high five aces, and the Falcons had 16 overall.

Caglar led Foothill with 25 kills and Vogel added 15. Bulaon passed for a team-high 37 assists, and Patel added 18 assists.

Note: The match was played in Foothill’s small gym, since the school’s large gym is being renovated. Collins said that the plan is for that gym to be finished by next fall.



Julian McCall (No. 66) and Logan Smoak (No. 53) sprint onto the Livermore High School football field with American flags as they lead the Cowboys squad onto the turf on First Responders Night on Sept. 11. The team is wearing special red, white and blue uniforms that they use once a year for the game that honors local first responders. (Photo — Phil Jensen)

Livermore Cowboys Football Squad Dominates Burton-SF

By Phil Jensen

LIVERMORE — It was clear after the first four minutes of its game on Sept. 11 that Livermore High School had the better football team in its nonleague matchup against Burton-San Francisco.

The Cowboys drove 80 yards in a little over three minutes to score on a Rafael Zamora 39-yard run. Then Livermore’s defense produced a three-and-out, one of five it had in the game. When the final buzzer sounded, Livermore had a 61-0 victory.

Livermore coach John Wade said everyone on his team got to play in the game. There were substitutions for the Cowboys even in the first quarter, when Livermore scored 17 points. Livermore held a 41-0 halftime lead and 54-0 third-quarter advantage. There was a running clock in the fourth quarter.

The Livermore defensive unit has shut out opponents for eight straight quarters and nine out of its last 10 quarters. Against Burton, the Cowboys allowed only 94 total yards (61 rushing and 33 passing).

The Cowboys also had two interceptions—one each by Aiden-James Bluford and Angel Espinoza—and

five sacks, led by Aurelio Guignolucci with two.

“The kids are flying around and are really making things happen,” said Wade of his defense. “They understand what the other team is doing, and their keys are great, but I really credit the (defensive) coaches.”

Offensively, seven players scored touchdowns for Livermore, which improved to 2-1 this season. Burton fell to 2-1 with the loss. Livermore scored either touchdowns or field goals on all of its 10 possessions.

In the first quarter, a 32-yard field goal by Elijah Delgado gave Livermore a 10-0 lead. The final touchdown of the quarter was an eight-yard pass from sophomore quarterback Rhett Bystrom to Cyrus Espinoza. Bystrom played the first half and completed seven of his 11 pass attempts for 106 yards, three touchdowns and no interceptions. Livermore had no turnovers in the game.

“Basically, we knew we were going to be sound the whole time, so we just had a lot of confidence going into the game and it really just carried throughout the game,” Bystrom said.

Livermore started its scoring in the second quarter with a 44-yard pass from Bystrom to Chad Boskie.

Bystrom’s final touchdown pass was a seven-yarder to Jack Wilhite. A four-yard touchdown run by Bystrom was followed by a 32-yard field goal by Delgado on Livermore’s final possession of the half.

In the second half, Livermore scored on a 25-yard pass from sophomore Maximus Beck to Johnny Ruiz, and two runs by Elian Sanchez (26 and 17 yards).

Beck finished the second half with four completions in six pass attempts for 73 yards. Boskie led all receivers with four catches for 83 yards. The Cowboys had four players rush for more than 35 yards, led by Zamora (64 yards).

Livermore has a bye this week and will host Hayward on Sept. 25 at 7:15 p.m. The Farmers are 3-0 after a 67-7 victory over Balboa-San Francisco on Sept. 12.

Note: The Livermore team wore special red, white and blue uniforms in honor of First Responders Night at the game, which coincided with 9/11 this year. “It’s always around the 9/11 date. Whenever that week is, we try to have a home game,” Wade said. “We have so many brave people in the community that are first responders. ... it’s just really important to honor those people.”



Pouring Shuga on Foothill Win

By Mitch Stephens

Foothill High School star wide receiver and linebacker Max Shuga has never owned a Def Leppard album or CD or requested any of their heavy metal tunes on Spotify, Apple Music or Amazon, as much as Foothill coach Greg Haubner has pushed him to do so.

“He doesn’t even like rock ‘n’ roll music,” said a highly disappointed Haubner with a slight grin.

The 10th-year coach thinks Shuga is simply wasting a keen opportunity for Foothill’s public address sound team to pipe in the legendary English rock band’s signature “Pour Some Sugar on Me,” every time Shuga scores a touchdown.

“We give him a hard time because it would be pretty perfect,” Haubner said.

Perhaps.

But from sheer volume alone, Shuga has surely soured on attempts to transpose his last name into anything sugary.

Or Shuga-ry.

Though his moves and athleticism from a 6-foot-3, 195-pound frame might cause college coaches to think, “Sweet, recruit,” Shuga is nothing but tough, physical and elusive on the gridiron.

Haubner, in fact, calls him the “high school version of DK Metcalf,” a 6-4, 228-pound Pittsburgh Steelers specimen considered one of the more imposing receivers in the NFL.

FREAKISHLY STRONG, FAST

“He’s strong as an ox,” Haubner said of Shuga, a first-team All-East Bay Athletic League Valley Division player as a junior. “He’s freakishly strong and fast.

“He’s one of the few to make our 1,000-pound weight club (a combination of bench, squat and clean-jerk exercises). He runs a 4.5-second 40 (yard dash). On offense, he turns nothing into long touchdowns. As a linebacker, he makes one play after another.

“On a high school football field, he’s a lot to deal with.”

His statistics only begin to tell the story. Heading into Friday’s (Sept. 18) home game against San Leandro, Shuga’s 311 receiving yards (on 17 catches) rank third in the North Coast Section. Last season he had 45 catches in 10 games for 803 yards and eight touchdowns.

Shuga also is tied for the team lead with Preston Lee in tackles with 24 to go along with one interception. He’s a big reason why the Falcons are off to a surprising 2-1 start.

“He can play all over the field,” Haubner said. “We just switched him from defensive back to linebacker and he’s playing lights out. On offense, he plays wide out, but he

can play in the slot and even tight end. We’re constantly trying to figure out ways to get him the ball.”

MAKING THEM MISS

In last week’s 21-0 win at Las Lomas-Walnut Creek, backup quarterback Ian Aguirre delivered Shuga an inside shovel pass that the third-year starter took 75 yards for a touchdown.

“He weaved from side to side, making four or five guys miss,” Haubner said.

Highlight reels from his junior year show quarterbacks Andrew Nelson and Gavin Brown constantly tossing 50-50 balls in Shuga’s direction. Utilizing his strength, length and leaping ability, Shuga constantly came down with the ball.

He also constantly ran by cornerbacks, and any short- or mid-range completions, Shuga almost always made the first and second tacklers miss. It often took multiple defenders to bring him down.

“Off the field, Max is kind of soft-spoken as is his personality,” Haubner said. “On the football field, he definitely transforms into an alpha dog.”

Shuga has no college offers yet, but “in my opinion, he’s definitely a college football player. You look at his athleticism combined with his outrageous dedication and work ethic, and he’s a can’t-miss prospect. I know colleges these days are looking for older, more established guys. Max is well beyond his years with lots and lots of room to grow.”

HEART, PASSION AND SHUGA

The shutout at Las Lomas was Foothill’s first since a 41-0 win at Dougherty Valley-San Ramon on Oct. 7, 2022.

Aguirre rushed for 58 yards and a touchdown, and Jason Bennett had a touchdown reception from Nelson. Lee led the team with 10 tackles, Brackson Dussan had nine and Shuga seven. Dussan and Jordan Silva added interceptions.

It was an excellent rebound win after a 41-29 Week 2 loss at home to Analy-Sebastopol, which is now 3-0. In that game, Shuga had seven catches for 117 yards, Amaree Hill added 117 yards rushing and a touchdown, and Nate Walinski contributed three catches for 100 yards and another score.

“That Analy team was very strong — they’re going to go 9-1 and possibly win a (North Coast Section) championship,” Haubner said. “That game was a dog fight but I’m really happy with the way we responded to it. We didn’t get down. We got back to business. And played with a lot of heart and passion.”

With a little Shuga on top.

Mitch Stephens has been covering high school sports in the region since 1986. Have a good feature idea or news story. Contact him at mitchstephens44@gmail.com

St. Michael to Hold Fall Festival

LIVERMORE — Fall Festival Weekend, a nearly 80-year-old tradition, returns to St. Michael Catholic Church this month with two days of food, entertainment and family fun.

The church held its first fall festival in 1947 to help fund construction of new parish buildings. The tradition continues this year, centered around the Feast of St. Michael the Archangel, on Saturday, Sept. 26, and Sunday, Sept. 27.

Organizers said this year’s theme, “Rooted in

Faith. Rooted in Community,” honors that history while welcoming a new generation of families to take part in the festivities.

Those festivities will begin with a Roaring ‘20s Gala dinner and dance at St. Michael Hall, 326 Maple St., from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. on Saturday. There will be a prize for the best costume. Tickets are \$80.

On Sunday, St. Michael School will host a family-friendly outdoor fall festival, open to all members of the commu-

nity, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., with food, live entertainment, games, bingo, raffles and activities for all ages.

Food choices will include Vietnamese, Filipino, Mexican, African and American favorites, reflecting the cultures and traditions within the St. Michael community, and prepared and served by members of the parish.

The weekend will also include a raffle with cash prizes of \$1,000, \$2,000 and \$3,000.

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LEGAL NOTICES

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 625420

The following person(s) doing business as: Black Sheep Theater Company, 1024 47th ST, APT 2, Emeryville, CA 94608 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Micaela Groman, 1024 47th ST, APT 2, Emeryville, CA 94608. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 8/30/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Micaela Groman, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 17, 2026. Expires August 16, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6992. Published August 27, September 3, 10, 17, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 625417

The following person(s) doing business as: Batvo Studio, 6 Arundel DR, Hayward, CA, 94542 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Mission Education LLC, 6 Arundel DR, Hayward, CA 94542. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 8/17/26. Signature of Registrant/s/: Ruomeng Bai, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 17, 2026. Expires August 16, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6993. Published August 27, September 3, 10, 17, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 625602

The following person(s) doing business as: Adi Opera, 35466 Eden Court, Fremont, CA 94536-3318 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Anusuya Sista, 35466 Eden Court, Fremont, CA 94536. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 5/5/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Anusuya Sista, MS3. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 31, 2026. Expires July 30, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6994. Published August 27, September 3, 10, 17, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 625530

The following person(s) doing business as: Molten Theory, 34383 Alvarado Niles RD # 314, Union City, CA 94587 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Syed Abidi, 34383 Alvarado Niles RD, #314, Union City, CA 94587. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Syed Abidi, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 21, 2026. Expires August 20, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6995. Published August 27, September 3, 10, 17, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 625340

The following person(s) doing business as: 2332 Chamber Chatters Club, Dublin, CA 94568 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Toastmasters International, 9127 South Jamaica ST, Ste 400, Englewood, CO 80112. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 11/20/2002. Signature of Registrant/s/: Angu Sundaresh Krishna Kumar, Treasurer. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 12, 2026. Expires August 11, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6996. Published August 27, September 3, 10, 17, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 625244

The following person(s) doing business as: For Aesthetic Value, 2390 Pasatiempo, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Mikayla Henry, 2390 Pasatiempo, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 3/16/2024. Signature of Registrant/s/: Mikayla Henry, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 7, 2026. Expires August 6, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6997. Published August 27, September 3, 10, 17, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 625107

The following person(s) doing business as: MC & Associates Tax and Financial, 4049 First ST, STE 126, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Melissa Cook Tax Preparation LLC, 4049 First ST, STE 126, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 3/1/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Melissa Cook, Managing Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 4, 2026. Expires August 3, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6998. Published August 27, September 3, 10, 17, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 625463

The following person(s) doing business as: JLS Tax Strategies, 4049 First ST, STE 126, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): James Settle, 4049 First ST, STE 126, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 6/1/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: James Settle, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 18, 2026. Expires August 17, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6999. Published August 27, September 3, 10, 17, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 625383

The following person(s) doing business as: Vine & Smoke BBQ, 1048 Glenn CMN, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Vine and Smoke BBQ LLC, 1048 Glenn CMN, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Jarred Bitton, Managing Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 14, 2026. Expires August 13, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 7000. Published August 27, September 3, 10, 17, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 625495

The following person(s) doing business as: Autochamp, 7000 Village Pkwy L, Dublin, CA 94568 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Bizchamp, 4599 Alta Terra Road, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Anurag Ravijumar, CFO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 20, 2026. Expires August 19, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 7001. Published August 27, September 3, 10, 17, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 625482

The following person(s) doing business as: Spotlight Services, 7338 Quartz Cir, Dublin, CA 94568 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Gerald Gallardo, 7338 Quartz Cir, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Gerald Gallardo, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 19, 2026. Expires August 18, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 7002. Published August 27, September 3, 10, 17, 2026.

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME ORIGINAL FILE NO. 612056

The person(s) listed below have abandoned the use of the following fictitious business name(s): WP Cattle Co, 6999 Arroyo Road, Livermore, CA 94550. Registered by the following owner(s): Paul D. Banke, P.O. BOX 55, Livermore, CA 94550. The fictitious business name statement was filed on 1/28/2025 in the County of Alameda. This business is conducted by an individual. Signature of Registrant/s/: Kathy Banke, Trustee for Paul Banke. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 18, 2026. The Independent, Legal No. 7003. Published August 13, 20, 27, September 3, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 625054

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Fever Nap Studio; 2. Fever Nap Games; 3. Fever Nap, 2414 Tenth Street, Berkeley, CA 94710 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Fever Nap Studio LLC, 2414 Tenth Street, Berkeley, CA 94710. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/:

Hongshuai Feng, Manager. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 31, 2026. Expires July 30, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 7004. Published September 3, 10, 17, 24, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 625175

The following person(s) doing business as: Orange Cap Rental Co., 6486 Alvord Way, Pleasanton, CA 94588 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): JBA Real Estate Operations LLC, 6486 Alvord Way, Pleasanton, CA 94588. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 8/5/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Di-naker Juvvadi, Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 5, 2026. Expires August 4, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 7005. Published September 3, 10, 17, 24, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 625574

The following person(s) doing business as: It Starts With Us Housing and Community Development International, 1900 Powell Street, Suite 700, Emeryville, CA 94608 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): It Starts With Us Foundation International, 1900 Powell Street, Suite 700, Alameda, CA 94608. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 8/24/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Willetta Heard, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 24, 2026. Expires August 23, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 7006. Published September 3, 10, 17, 24, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 625531

The following person(s) doing business as: Cupcake Caste, 4198 Rennellwood Way, Pleasanton, CA 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Srilekha Deka, 4198 Rennellwood Way, Pleasanton, CA 94566. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 8/21/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Srilekha Deka, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 21, 2026. Expires August 20, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 7007. Published September 3, 10, 17, 24, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 625587

The following person(s) doing business as: Warner Place, 24403 Warner Ave, Oakland, CA 94603 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Alexandria Killingsworth, 2404 Warner Ave, Oakland, CA 94603. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 8/25/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Alexandria Killingsworth, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 25, 2026. Expires August 24, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 7008. Published September 3, 10, 17, 24, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 625640

The following person(s) doing business as: Tecterra Studio, 11501 Dublin Blvd, STE 200, Dublin, CA 94568 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Noorfathima Magesh, 11501 Dublin Blvd, STE 200, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Noorfathima Magesh, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 27, 2026. Expires August 26, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 7009. Published September 3, 10, 17, 24, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 625664

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Econojunk; 2.

Fastshred, 290 Rickenbacker Circle, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Pro Solar Inc., 290 Rickenbacker Circle, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Luna Gitas, CFO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 28, 2026. Expires August 27, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 7010. Published September 10, 17, 24, October 1, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 625586

The following person(s) doing business as: East Bay Lawn Mower, 729 West A Street, Hayward Acres, CA 94541 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Nobue Okano, 729 West A Street, Hayward Acres, CA 94541. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 2/1/1977. Signature of Registrant/s/: Nobue Okano, Sole Proprietor. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 25, 2026. Expires August 24, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 7011. Published September 10, 17, 24, October 1, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 625654

The following person(s) doing business as: Kestrel Safety Training, 2204 Normandy Circle, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Gerry Laird, 2204 Normandy Circle, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Gerry Laird, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 28, 2026. Expires August 27, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 7012. Published September 10, 17, 24, October 1, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 625411

The following person(s) doing business as: Nail Fairy Mary, 157 S N ST, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Mariela Chacon, 3305 Foxtail Terrace, Fremont, CA 94536. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 12/1/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Mariela Chacon, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 14, 2026. Expires August 13, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 7013. Published September 10, 17, 24, October 1, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 625366

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. IronHorse Vetcare; 2. IronHorse Animal Specialty Hospital, 7660 Amador Valley Blvd, Suite E, Dublin, CA 94568 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): VSC Vetcare, Inc., 7660 Amador Valley Blvd, Suite E, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 7/1/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: John J. Haburjak, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 13, 2026. Expires August 12, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 7014. Published September 10, 17, 24, October 1, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 625813

The following person(s) doing business as: Ella Dopp, 2450 Rees Circle, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Elizabeth Crowder, 2450 Rees Circle, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 9/3/226. Signature of Registrant/s/: Elizabeth Crowder, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 4, 2026. Expires September 3, 2031. The

media on September 4, 2026. Expires September 3, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 7015. Published September 10, 17, 24, October 1, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 625741

The following person(s) doing business as: Vallejo Sky, 21702 Vallejo ST, APT 7, Hayward, CA 94541 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Muy Kong, 21702 Vallejo ST, APT 7, Hayward, CA 94541. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Muy Kong, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 2, 2026. Expires September 1, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 7016. Published September 10, 17, 24, October 1, 2026.

Notice of Preparation: Partially Recirculated Environmental Impact Report

Carnegie State Vehicular Recreation Area (SVRA) General Plan Update. Scoping Period: September 17, 2026 — October 19, 2026.

State Clearinghouse # 2022030801.

Project Location: Carnegie SVRA, 18600 West Corral Hollow Road, Tracy, CA 95376.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the California Department of Parks and Recreation is the lead agency in preparing a Partially Recirculated Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Carnegie SVRA General Plan Update. The OHMVR Commission is the decision-making body for the Plan and EIR. The 2024 Carnegie SVRA EIR and General Plan Update were rescinded after a court found the EIR did not evaluate a reasonable range of alternatives under CEQA. This Notice informs agencies and the public that a Recirculated EIR is being prepared to analyze alternatives to reduce air quality impacts. Agencies are invited to comment on environmental effects within their responsibilities. This scoping period is for comments only on alternatives that could reduce significant air quality impacts in the General Plan Update.

SCOPING PERIOD
Comments on scope accepted until 5:00 PM, October 19, 2026. Reference "Carnegie SVRA General Plan Update" and submit to planning@parks.ca.gov, or C/O Katie Metraux, OHMVR Division, California State Parks, P.O. Box 942896, Sacramento, CA 94296-0001

SCOPING MEETING
A virtual scoping meeting to discuss additional alternatives will be held on September 30, 2026, at 5:30 PM, via Microsoft Teams. The meeting link will be posted on the project website at https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=30807 on September 20, 2026, 10 days before the meeting. Please contact planning@parks.ca.gov if you need assistance or have questions about the virtual scoping meeting. The Independent, Legal No. 7017. Published September 17, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 625829

The following person(s) doing business as: Fobless Automotive Locksmithing, 2568 Cherokee Avenue, Oakland, CA 94605 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): DTR Technology Services LLC, 2568 Cherokee Avenue, Oakland, CA 94605. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Darren Roberts, Principal. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 4, 2026. Expires September 3, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 7018. Published September 17, 24, October 1, 8, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 625858

The following person(s) doing business as: Moonlight Baking Co, 4971 Kathleen Ave, Castro Valley, CA 94546 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Kristin Gumina, 4971 Kathleen Ave, Castro Valley, CA 94546. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Kristin Gumina, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 8, 2026. Expires September 7, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 7020. Published September 17, 24, October 1, 8, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 625818

The following person(s) doing business as: Bulls I, 41829 Albrae ST, STE 120, Fremont, CA 94538 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Bulls I Halal Meats LLC, 41829 Albrae ST, STE 120, Fremont, CA 94538. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Imraan Mohammed, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 4, 2026. Expires September 3, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 7021. Published September 17, 24, October 1, 8, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 625830

The following person(s) doing business as: Hiraya Craft Chocolate Studio, 30983 Periwinkle Drive, Union City, CA 94587-1735 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Sarahbeth Roquez-Co, 30983 Periwinkle Drive, Union City, CA 94587-1735. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 9/1/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Sarahbeth Roquez-Co, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 4, 2026. Expires September 3, 2031. The

Independent, Legal No. 7022. Published September 17, 24, October 1, 8, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 625862

The following person(s) doing business as: Legacy Dental Care, 43495 Ellsworth Street, Fremont, CA 94539 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Peter K Le. DDS. Inc., 43495 Ellsworth Street, Fremont, CA 94539. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 8/15/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Peter Le, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 9, 2026. Expires September 8, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 7023. Published September 17, 24, October 1, 8, 2026.

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME ORIGINAL FILE NO. 625530

The person(s) listed below have abandoned the use of the following fictitious business name(s): Molten Theory, 34383 Alvarado Niles RD, #314, Union City, CA 94587. Registered by the following owner(s): Syed Abidi, 34383 Alvarado Niles RD, #314, Union City, CA 94587. The fictitious business name statement was filed on 08/20/2026 in the County of Alameda. This business was conducted by an individual. Signature of Registrant/s/: Syed Abidi. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 11, 2026. The Independent, Legal No. 7024. Published September 17, 24, October 1, 8, 2026.

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EMPLOYMENT

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Cindy Greci</

Rigatoni's Shuts Down Dublin Restaurant after 30 Years

By Sanestina Hunter

DUBLIN — Rigatoni's, a family-owned restaurant known for its fresh Italian fare and wood-grilled dishes, closed its Dublin location in early September after serving

"After 27 wonderful years serving the Dublin community, we have made a decision to close Rigatoni's Dublin," restaurant group founder and owner Ray Bartolomucci Jr. told The Independent. "This decision was not taken

beyond words to our Dublin guests that made Rigatoni's feel like home." Employees from the Dublin restaurant have remained with the company during the transition, accepting positions at Strizzi's in Pleasanton and

Strizzi's, another Italian restaurant brand in the company's portfolio, has operated in downtown Livermore for nearly three decades. It serves pan-tossed pasta, seafood and dishes prepared on a wood-fired grill.

Bartolomucci said customers can continue enjoying their favorite Rigatoni's dishes at Strizzi's because the two brands use the same recipes. Strizzi's also has locations in downtown Pleasanton and Fremont.

Even as the restaurant group scales back Rigatoni's, it is preparing to celebrate Strizzi's 40th anniversary in October. Bartolomucci opened the first Strizzi's in downtown San Leandro in 1986.

"Strizzi's is not going anywhere," he said.

Bartolomucci also invited Dublin customers to the anniversary celebration in Pleasanton.

"We are looking forward to welcoming our Dublin guests and the Dublin community in celebration of our 40 years at Strizzi's in Pleasanton," he said.

The family's restaurant history began generations ago with a shared love of Italian cooking.

According to the company, Luciano and Assunta Strizzi came from Villa Santa Maria, Italy, and opened an Italian deli in the United States in the

1920s. Their culinary legacy lives on through Strizzi's.

Bartolomucci grew the family business by opening the first Rigatoni's in Castro Valley in 1996. The company expanded to Dublin in 1999 and Hayward in 2007.

It also operated Rigatoni's Red Smoke Grill in Pleasanton's Hacienda Business Park, which closed during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Since the pandemic, restaurants nationwide have faced rising costs for food, labor, utilities, insurance, and other operating expenses. The National Restaurant Association estimates that the average

restaurant's total expenses increased 36% between 2019 and 2026.

Bartolomucci, however, did not attribute the Dublin closure to inflation or other economic conditions.



The storefront of Rigatoni's in Dublin, California, stands closed after serving Italian cuisine to the community for 27 years. Owner Ray Bartolomucci Jr. announced the decision to shutter the location in early September to focus on other regional restaurant operations. (Photo courtesy of Rigatoni's)

the community for 27 years. The closure of the restaurant at 7350 Dublin Blvd., near Amador Plaza Road, followed the company's recent closure of its Hayward location, leaving Castro Valley as the only remaining Rigatoni's.

lightly." "It was decided by our senior team to focus more in the near future on our other restaurants and to explore other business opportunities in the greater Bay Area," he said. "We have been so grateful

Livermore and at Rigatoni's in Castro Valley, Bartolomucci said. "We are deeply blessed and thankful to our Dublin team, many of whom have been with us for years," he said.

Pacific Chamber Orchestra Opens 37th Season

LIVERMORE — Pacific Chamber Orchestra (PCO) will launch its 37th season this weekend with "Songs from the Heart," a program celebrating music that speaks to the human spirit. Selections will include Samuel Barber's "Adagio for Strings," Benjamin Britten's "Serenade for Tenor, Horn and Strings," Edward Elgar's "Serenade for Strings," Gabriela Lena Frank's "An Andean Walkabout" and Dag Wren's

"Serenade for Strings." "Every work on this program speaks from the heart, but each in its own unique voice," said PCO music director Lawrence Kohl. "Barber offers profound compassion, Britten gives poetry wings, Elgar reminds us of tenderness and friendship, Gabriela Lena Frank celebrates identity with irresistible vitality, and Wren simply delights in the joy of being alive. Together they express the full emo-

tional palate of humanity felt through music." The nonprofit orchestra will play the Del Valle Theatre in Walnut Creek at 3 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 19, and the Bankhead Theater in Livermore at 3 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 20. Kohl also announced the addition of two accomplished musicians to the orchestra and its artistic leadership. Eric Silberger, winner of the XIV International

Tchaikovsky Competition, joins the orchestra as lead violinist and creative partner. Eileen Moon, former associate principal cellist with the New York Philharmonic, joins PCO as principal cellist and director of strategic initiatives. Kohl described Silberger and Moon as "remarkable musicians with tremendous creative energy." Tickets are available online at pacificchamber-orchestra.org.

VIOLINS

(Continued from front page)

II. Some are high-quality instruments, while most are for student- or advanced-level musicians. Several of the instruments are handmade, featuring decorative inlays such as Stars of David crafted directly in the workshops where they were made. "Survivors and family members donated some of the instruments, and we bought others from survivors," Weinstein said. "When we bring these instruments to schools, students can touch them and play them, upon request. All of these instruments have stories behind them, people that owned them." In the library talk, Wein-

stein will discuss the featured instruments, the roles that music played during World War II, and historical and modern anti-Semitism. Conover Clark, principal of Granada High School in Livermore, said the campus will hold educational workshops with Violins of Hope in its black box theater, focusing on 10th-grade world history classes. "It captures students' attention when we show historical objects and tell stories, rather than ask them to read a book," Clark said. The trio Take3—featuring violinist Lindsay Deutsch, cellist Mikala Schmitz, and pianist Jason Stoll — will perform the Violins of Hope

concerts at the Bankhead Theater. Deutsch has performed with Violins of Hope across the U.S. over the last five years. "My main goal is to entertain a crowd through my music," Deutsch said. "For these concerts, my only purpose is to channel the memory of those we lost in the Holocaust. (I want) to keep their memory alive, to make sure the conversation continues, and to make sure, through visibility, nothing like this ever happens again." She added that there is something very emotional about performing on instruments that people played in the concentration camps.



Violinist Lindsay Deutsch and the trio Take3 perform on historic instruments from the Violins of Hope collection, pictured above, during concerts at the Bankhead Theater on Oct. 18 and 19. The upcoming program honors Holocaust history through Jewish music and works by songwriters such as Neil Diamond, Leonard Cohen, and Paul Simon. (Photo courtesy of Kenneth Ball)

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"It is an indescribable experience for me, as a performer, to try my best to channel their stories and transmit them to the audience. This is a powerful way of keeping their memory alive. There is no greater honor than this, for me," Deutsch said. Take3 plans to perform many different kinds of work during the performance, including selections from the film "Schindler's List," traditional Jewish melodies, and the modern music composed by Jewish performers that Lagin mentioned, in genres from Broadway to modern pop. The EBHEC applied for and received several grants

for the Violins of Hope program, from Jewish Federation Bay Area, the Bay Area's center for Jewish philanthropy, Alameda County, the City of Livermore, and the Lawrence Livermore National Security Community Gift Program. Private donors also contributed to the effort. Approximately 10 volunteers at EBHEC are organizing the program. The EBHEC will train close to 20 additional volunteers to assist with various aspects of Violins of Hope. "I used to help run a large science project at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. We treated this program similarly, by setting milestones, developing a schedule, and adhering to a budget," Lagin said. He said that when volunteers from the community get involved, there is "more of a community spirit" for events. "People from different walks of life add their perspectives and tell their friends, church or synagogue congregants, and neighbors about the instruments and their stories. That's special, when people walk in and already understand a bit about the importance of the program," Lagin said. Groups of 10 or more receive a 10 percent discount on concert tickets, and groups of 30 or more also receive two complimentary tickets. The Violins of Hope schedule features an art exhibit running Oct. 14 through Nov. 5 at the Bankhead Theater, a talk by Avshi Weinstein from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Oct. 15 at the Livermore Public Library, and two Bankhead Theater concerts: 2 to 4 p.m. Oct. 18 and 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Oct. 19. General admission tickets range from \$40 to \$80, with \$35 military and \$25 student tickets available with valid ID. For tickets and details, visit ebhec.org/violins or livermorearts.org/events/violins-of-hope-with-take3/.

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