



Livermore Valley Arts helped celebrate the new lunar year, which began on Feb. 17, with performances in front of the Bankhead Theater on Feb. 22. This is the year of the fire horse, a sign of high-energy transformation, according to Chinese astrology. Above, a member from Kungfu Dragon USA shows his skills. The kung fu school serves the Tri-Valley with locations in Pleasanton and San Ramon. (Photo — David Jen)

## State Loan Moot Without Bay Area Sales Tax Measure Passage, Threatens BART

Transit Agency Warns of “Deep Cuts” and Dublin/Pleasanton Station Closures

By David Jen

TRI-VALLEY — The State of California has made available to Bay Area transit agencies a \$590 million emergency loan as an attempt to stabilize regional public transit. But despite having access to the loan, the Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) agency, including its Blue Line that serves the Tri-Valley, continues to rely for ongoing revenue on a sales-tax measure headed to this November’s ballot.

Alicia Trost, BART chief communications officer, told The Independent that BART’s use of the loan’s funds depended on whether the sales-tax measure, known as Connect Bay Area, passed.

“(The loan) does not help delay

or prevent station closures or deep cuts, because BART would not tap into the loan if the funding measure fails, because we would not be able to pay the loan back,” Trost said. “The station closures and deep cuts will only happen if the funding measure fails. If the BART Board adopts a plan to move all station closures to July 2027 instead of January 2027, BART will use a limited amount of reserves to defer the station closures to fiscal year 2028 (July 2027).”

BART expects to face a \$376 million annual deficit beginning in July of this year.

Connect Bay Area will ask voters in Alameda, Contra Costa, San Mateo and Santa Clara counties to increase their sales taxes by 0.5%, and voters in San Francisco County to increase

their sales tax by 1%. The funds, estimated at some \$1 billion annually, would go toward preserving service on BART, Muni, Caltrain, AC Transit and other smaller transit agencies.

Gov. Gavin Newsom signed Assembly Bill/Senate Bill 117 on Feb. 19, authorizing the California State Transportation Agency to loan the emergency money to the Metropolitan Transportation Commission using funds from the Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program. The program is, in turn, funded by the state’s Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund.

“California is stepping up to support Bay Area transit — this agreement will help protect transit service for more than three million monthly riders,” Newsom said in a statement. “The benefits of a strong transit

(See BART, page 6)

## Astronomers Await the Start of a Massive Survey in Southern Sky

Rubin Observatory with LLNL Optics Already Producing Discoveries

By David Jen

LIVERMORE — Several discoveries have emerged from the commissioning phase of the new Vera C. Rubin Observatory in Chile, serving as an opening act to the excitement around the world’s largest camera as the project pauses observations in preparation for what’s next.

With optics designed at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL), the Rubin Observatory plans to begin its 10-year survey of the southern sky this year. Observations from the survey will literally shed light on the very

fabric of our universe.

But already, using just over 10 hours of the observatory’s test observations, astronomers have found 1,900 never-before-seen asteroids, including seven near-Earth asteroids, 19 super- and ultra-fast-rotating asteroids, and the fastest-spinning asteroid ever.

“NSF-DOE Rubin Observatory will find things that no one even knew to look for,” said Luca Rizzi, an NSF program director for research infrastructure, in the Jan. 7 announcement. “When Rubin’s Legacy Survey of Space and Time begins, this huge spinning asteroid will be joined by an avalanche of

new information about our Universe, captured nightly.”

A partnership between the National Science Foundation’s National Optical Infrared Astronomy Research Laboratory and SLAC Linear Accelerator Laboratory operates the observatory.

Pioneers in Astronomy Astronomer Vera Rubin, from whom the observatory draws its name, and her colleague Kent Ford pioneered in the 1970s research into just what makes up the universe. Their studies of stars orbiting within galaxies revealed a startling fact: the stars were orbiting too quickly. At the speeds seen,

(See TELESCOPE, page 7)

## McNerney’s New Bill Proposes State Office To Bolster Nonprofits

SB1240 Aims to Provide Lifeline Amid Federal Cuts

By Christina Cavallaro

LIVERMORE — In a community forum at the Bankhead Theater on Feb. 20, California State Senator Jerry McNerney was joined by nonprofit leaders for a discussion titled “Shaping What’s Next for California, Lawmakers and Nonprofits.”

The conversation was hosted by the Tri-Valley Nonprofit Alliance and moderated by Geoff Green, CEO of CalNonprofits, with fellow panelists Chet Hewitt, president of the Sierra Health Foundation and chair of the CalNonprofits board of directors; and McNerney, who represents the 5th Senate District, including the Tri-Valley, and is

chair of the Senate Select Committee on the nonprofit sector.

“Today is designed to be a true conversation grounded in what nonprofit leaders are experiencing right now and focused on what’s next for California in public policy, funding, partnership and in the long-term sustainability of the organizations serving our communities,” said TVNPA President, Kathy Young.

To the audience gathered, Green wasted no time unveiling a new piece of proposed legislation authored by McNerney. SB 1240, the Office of Nonprofit Empowerment, is designed to be a lifeline for the state’s nonprofit sector. “This is to establish an office at the state

(See TVNPA, page 8)



From left, Sierra Health Foundation President Chet Hewitt, State Senator Jerry McNerney, and CalNonprofits CEO Geoff Green participate in a community forum at the Bankhead Theater on Feb. 20. The discussion, hosted by the Tri-Valley Nonprofit Alliance, focused on the economic impact of California’s nonprofits and Senate Bill 1240, which would create a state Office of Nonprofit Empowerment to support these vital organizations. (Photo — Christina Cavallaro)

## Business Growth Buffers Pleasanton Budget Dip

Gains Help City Avoid \$1Mil Pension Fund Transfer

By David Jen

PLEASANTON — More money from business licenses and development fees has partially offset Pleasanton’s lower property and sales tax revenues in the current fiscal year, according to a midyear budget update presented to the city council at its Feb. 17 meeting.

Compared with previous forecasts, the update showed some \$550,000 more in business-license taxes, which were driven by increased gross receipts, the new Costco store and the relocation of Kaiser Permanente’s administrative division to Pleasanton. The tax revenues, along with an additional \$590,000 in development service fees, helped offset a decrease of \$1.2 million in property tax revenue and a decrease of \$160,000 in sales tax revenue.

The update allows the city to bal-

ance its general fund budget without using a \$1 million transfer from its pension funds that was approved by the city council with the budget adoption last June. The city will still use a \$900,000 transfer from its Retiree Medical/Other Post-Employment Benefits fund, also approved with the budget adoption.

But with forecasts pointing to persistent financial deficits beginning next fiscal year, council members continued to press for additional revenue.

“We are not through the woods; I don’t want to assert that we are,” Mayor Jack Balch said. “I do believe that we need to continue to foster economic vitality (and) invest in things that will produce revenues for the city. We’ve already done the streamlining of the permitting. We’ve already done innovation-based businesses. And I think we need to continue to have

(See BUDGET, page 6)



Yun Sun, 89, dances with his granddaughter, Raya Sun, 11, at Stoneridge Creek in Pleasanton. Sun, a 1973 national bronze medalist in ice dancing and former Dow Chemical Company researcher, credits regular movement and social connection with maintaining his health and purpose in retirement. (Photo — Kathryn Stroud)

## Former Bronze Medalist Still Dancing at 89

Pleasanton’s Sun Yun Credits His Longevity to Exercise, Purpose and Joy

By Kathryn Stroud

PLEASANTON — While the world was watching elite athletes glide across the ice during the Olympic Games, Yun Sun watched with a different perspective. More than 50 years ago, he stood on a podium himself after winning a bronze medal at the 1973 National Ice Dancing Competition in New York.

Today, at 89, he has traded his skates for dancing shoes. He dances not for medals, but for health and connection.

When there’s a dance at the community center, Sun said he “never sits down.”

“It stimulates your mind,” he explained. “Especially when you have a partner who can match you. You smile, you soften, you feel the rhythm — it keeps you alive.”

Sun’s belief in movement was shaped long before he ever stepped onto the ice. At a young age, he was tumbling and ice skating in Taiwan. Then, after high school, he moved to the United States for graduate school,

a transition he describes as overwhelming.

“At first, I didn’t understand anything in class,” he recalled. “I studied three times harder than everyone else. I almost gave up, but I couldn’t. My family depended on me.”

After graduating, he spent 40 years working for the Dow Chemical Company, where he created more than 100 patents. His proudest achievement, he says, was Saran Wrap.

“Not the cheaper plastic wrap — the real Saran Wrap,”

(See DANCE, page 5)

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Classifieds .....	11	PUSD Moves Ahead with Planning as Potential Layoffs Loom .....	2
Editorial .....	4	LVO to Open Season With Mozart’s ‘The Marriage of Figaro’ .....	2
Mailbox .....	4	Wild & Scenic Film Festival to Highlight Environmental Activism .....	6
Obituaries .....	9	Mitch Stephens’ MitchMash Column .....	10
Sports .....	10	Sunol Rep Returns with Ghostly Comedy .....	12

— VISIT WWW.INDEPENDENTNEWS.COM FOR DAILY ONLINE NEWS —

### PET OF THE WEEK



#### MARTINI

Martini is a five-month-old kitty who proves that the best happy hours come with a little wobble and a lot of charm. She has Cerebellar Hypoplasia (aka “Wobbly Cat Syndrome”), which gives her an unsteady strut, but this condition is completely stable, non-contagious, and she can live a happy, healthy life at her own pace. Once she warms up to you, this little mixologist will reward you with one of the loudest, cutest purrs you’ve ever heard. Pull up a barstool and open your heart: adopt Martini today. Call (925) 426-8656 or email info@valleyhumane.org to start your adoption journey. (Photo courtesy of Valley Humane)

# PUSD Proceeds with Contingency Plans Ahead of Layoffs

By Sanestina Hunter

PLEASANTON — As the Pleasanton Unified School District faces mounting financial pressure and a March 15 deadline to issue preliminary layoff notices, trustees are moving forward with contingency planning as negotiations with employee groups continue.

At a Feb. 19 special meeting, trustees approved a remaining reductions list totaling \$5.02 million to allow staff to prepare an initial 2026–27 Reduction in Force (RIF) resolution.

The action comes as the board continues negotiations over \$11.16 million in previously approved reduction options, about \$5.4 million of which requires negotiations with employee groups.

District officials said the action is procedural and intended to preserve flexibility, leaving open the possibility that any layoff notices could later be rescinded if sufficient savings are reached through ongoing negotiations.

The contingency reductions include potential staffing impacts across school sites and district operations,

including administrative support roles, health services positions and instructional support staff, among others.

The initial RIF resolution is scheduled to return to the board for consideration at its Feb. 26 meeting.

The Feb. 19 action followed discussions held at the board's Feb. 12 meeting, when trustees reviewed the district's financial outlook, the status of labor negotiations and the steps required to comply with statutory layoff deadlines.

At that meeting, trustees heard from Kate Lane, a fiscal expert appointed by the Alameda County Office of Education, who outlined the district's fiscal risks and projections.

Lane acknowledged the work already underway but said it is critical for the district to fully implement reductions previously approved by the board.

She warned the district is projecting a negative unrestricted fund balance, which could create cash-flow challenges, and noted that ongoing enrollment declines will require continued fiscal discipline even if planned

reductions are implemented.

Looking beyond the immediate budget cycle, Lane cautioned that insufficient local action could result in increased county or state fiscal oversight, potentially limiting the district's decision-making authority. She also emphasized the importance of rebuilding reserves over time to restore fiscal resilience.

Also speaking at the Feb. 12 meeting, Board President Kelly Mokashi said trustees are committed to a collaborative approach as the district navigates difficult budget decisions.

"Our board believes in an intentional, collaborative and inclusive decision-making approach," Mokashi said. "This will not be easy, but we will get through this."

Mokashi said the board is seeking to involve staff, families and community partners as the district works through the budget process.

The district's current actions are part of a month-long budget reduction process that began in the fall of 2025.

In September 2025, the board approved a resolution

committing to fiscal solvency and identified a required reduction range of \$11 million to \$15 million.

At meetings on Nov. 13 and Nov. 20, 2025, trustees approved \$11.16 million in reduction options for the 2026–27 school year, including about \$5.4 million that requires negotiations with labor groups that remain ongoing.

In January 2026, the board approved an initial Reduction in Force for staffing reductions that do not require negotiations.

District officials said full implementation of the \$11.16 million in board-approved reductions is necessary to stabilize the district's general fund and ensure fiscal solvency for the 2026–27 school year.

Under state law, preliminary layoff notices must be issued by March 15, though district officials have said those notices could be rescinded later if negotiations result in sufficient savings before final layoff deadlines in May.

Additional board actions related to layoffs and budget adjustments are expected in the coming weeks as the dis-

trict works toward finalizing its 2026–27 budget.

**Coming soon!**

3628 Carrigan Common \$595K  
2 bed, 1.5 bath, ~1120 sq ft  
Outstanding price and location in the complex. Get ready!

**Linda Diaz Futral**  
Broker/Realtor  
925.980.3561  
linda@lindafutral.com  
www.lindafutral.com  
License #0252605

**LUXICOR**  
REAL ESTATE

**JUST LISTED  
CUSTOM STUNNER**

2191 KARA PLACE • LIVERMORE  
5 BEDROOM • 5 1/2 BATHS  
5,000 SQ FT • 28,149 SQ FT LOT  
POOL • SPA • CUSTOM PAVILION  
6 - CAR GARAGE/RV BAY  
Extraordinary Craftsmanship  
Offered at \$3,349,000

**Nicole Sweeney**  
Realtor  
925.518.2142  
nicole@nicosweeneyhomes.com  
CA DRE #01965816  
Results That Move You

**LEGACY**  
REAL ESTATE  
& ASSOCIATES

OPEN HOUSES:  
SATURDAY, FEB 28<sup>TH</sup> & SUNDAY, MARCH 1<sup>ST</sup>  
1 PM TO 4 PM

# Dublin Names Assistant Superintendent Matt Campbell to Succeed Chris Funk

DUBLIN — The Dublin Unified School District (DUSD) has selected Assistant Superintendent Matt Campbell to succeed Superintendent Chris Funk following the 2025–2026 school year.

Campbell has served as the district's assistant superintendent for educational services since 2019. He also served as interim superintendent in 2019.

Funk, who announced his retirement in December, has led the DUSD since 2021.

As assistant superintendent, Campbell, who has

a doctorate in education from Saint Mary's College of California, has overseen curriculum, instruction and student services.

"Dr. Campbell embodies the qualities our community has consistently identified as essential in a superintendent," said DUSD Board President Kristin Speck. "He is a collaborative leader, deeply committed to instructional excellence, fiscal responsibility, integrity, transparency, and student well-being."

Campbell began his

three-decade career in education as a social studies teacher and basketball coach at Dublin High School, later serving in instructional and leadership roles in Pleasanton, Walnut Creek and Fremont.

The DUSD board cited continuity and stability as critical factors in selecting an internal candidate for the superintendent position. The board also said Campbell would immediately assume responsibility for overseeing the district's ongoing contract negotiations with the

Dublin Teachers Association.

In January, more than 90% of the district's 700 teachers approved a vote of "no confidence" in continuing negotiations with Funk, citing alleged negligence toward student needs, miscommunications with staff and the community, and concerns over alleged budget mismanagement.

DUSD, which serves about 12,800 students, is facing an \$8 million budget deficit in the coming school year.

1031 Real Estate Exchange - \*Defer Taxes  
\*Diversify \*Simple Ownership

A 1031 Exchange allows owners of an appreciated investment or business property to defer capital gains taxes by reinvesting into qualifying replacement property. This includes institutional-quality real estate shares.

**Benefits of a REIT - Real Estate Investment Trust**

- Capital gains tax deferral
- Provide liquidity options over time
- Diversified, passive real estate ownership
- Easier to transfer to multiple heirs
- Greater control over when and how much tax is to be paid over time
- Ideal for long term estate and tax planning strategies

As always, you should consult a qualified tax professional for tax related questions. We do not provide tax advice.

**WANDA THOMPSON**  
(925)858-9128  
411 South L Street, Ste. E, Livermore, CA 94550  
Real Estate Broker dre#00983781 • Mortgage Broker nmls #244633  
"From Homes to Loans - Your Full Service Real Estate Team" ©

# LVO to Present Mozart Comedy Opera



Meryl Dominguez



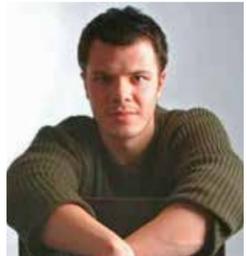
Courtney Miller



Samuel Kidd



Sid Chand



Eugene Brancoveanu



Megan Potter

LIVERMORE — The Livermore Valley Opera (LVO) will perform Mozart's two-act operatic comedy, "Cosi fan tutte," at the Bankhead Theater the first two weekends in March.

The opera centers around two young officers, Ferrando and Guglielmo, who are engaged to two sisters, Dorabella and Fiordiligi.

Confident in their lovers' faithfulness, they accept a bet from a cynical old philosopher who insists that all women are fickle. The two officers pretend to leave for war, only to return in disguise and attempt to woo each other's fiancée.

Initially, the sisters resist, but over time, they falter in their fidelity, leading to confusion, remorse and ultimately forgiveness.

The opera will be performed at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 28, followed by 2 p.m. matinees on Sunday, March 1, Saturday, March 7, and Sunday, March 8.

Tickets start at \$65 and are available online at livermorearts.org or lvopera.com.

# Livermore Marathon Raising Money For Cancer Research and Nonprofits

LIVERMORE — A runner from Livermore will be competing in the 130th Boston Marathon in April with the Dana-Farber Marathon Challenge team to raise money for cancer research.

Luc Peterson, an assistant program leader at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, will be one of more than 500 runners raising money for the Boston-based Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, which has been sponsoring the Dana-Farber Marathon Challenge for 37 years.

Dana-Farber is the lon-

gest-running charity team to compete in the Boston Marathon.

Team members include cancer survivors and patients, and family and friends of those who have been affected by cancer.

On his LinkedIn page, Peterson says his father-in-law received a stem cell transplant at Dan-Farber a year ago, after being diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia, and is now "healthy and thriving."

Peterson says running with the Dana-Farber team is his way "to give back to the science that saved my

family." His goal is to raise more than \$1,000 for each of the marathon's 26 miles.

Collectively, the Dana-Farber team hopes to raise more than \$8.75 million for cancer research.

Dana-Farber was among the first charity organizations to be recognized by the Boston Athletic Association, which organizes the Boston Marathon.

The Dana-Farber Marathon Challenge has raised more than \$140 million for the institute's Claudia Adams Barr Program in Innovative Basic Cancer Research since 1990.

LIVERMORE VALLEY arts LIVE AT THE BANKHEAD

A CAPPELLA. SOUL-STIRRING. HARMONIES.

**KINGS - RETURN**

FRI 3-6-2026 | 8PM

BALLET. EXCEPTIONAL. BOLD.

**ABT STUDIO COMPANY**

FRI 3-20-2026 | 8PM

WARM. FAMILY. FIDDLERS.

NATALIE MACMASTER & DONNELL LEAHY  
AND THE  
**CELTIC ALL-STARS**

SUN 3-22-2026 | 3PM

**GET TICKETS NOW!**  
LivermoreArts.org | 925.373.6800

# Oakland Woman Found Dead in Santa Rita Jail Bathroom

By Sanestina Hunter

DUBLIN — An Oakland woman identified as Dequita Grace Harrell was found unresponsive in the bathroom lobby at Santa Rita Jail at about 5:25 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 14, according to authorities.

Harrell was at the jail

waiting for an inmate to be released, according to the Alameda County Sheriff's Office (ACSO).

Officials said there were no signs of foul play or indications that drugs contributed to her death.

At the time, deputies rendered aid and requested emergency medical person-

nel, but Harrell, 36, was pronounced dead at the scene, the ACSO said.

The official cause of death is pending determination by a medical examiner, and sheriff's officials said additional details will be released once that review is complete.

The investigation re-

mains ongoing.

The Independent reached out to the ACSO for comment but did not receive a response in time for publication.

Other Recent Deaths at Santa Rita Jail

In an unrelated case, a criminal grand jury in December 2025 indicted three

Alameda County sheriff's deputies in connection with the 2021 in-custody death of Maurice Monk, 45, an inmate at Santa Rita Jail.

Monk was found unresponsive in his cell in November 2021, and prosecutors have alleged deputies failed to properly respond while he was in custody.

All three deputies were arraigned following the indictment and remain free after posting bail.

That case involved an inmate housed at the facility and is not connected to Harrell's death, which occurred in a public lobby area while she was visiting the jail.

## Pleasanton Police Arrest San Jose Man in Fatal Shooting

By Sanestina Hunter

PLEASANTON — A San Jose man was arrested in connection with the fatal shooting of a mother and son inside a Pleasanton home on Wednesday, Feb. 18, authorities said.

The victims were identified as Lori Simonds, 67, and her son, Evan Simonds, 28, both of Pleasanton, according to the Pleasanton Police Department in a press statement.

Police said detectives identified 31-year-old Allen Swadley as the suspect and

obtained a warrant for his arrest.

During the late evening hours of Thursday, Feb. 19, the San Jose Police Department contacted Swadley during a traffic stop after an automated license plate reader notification.

The suspect was detained without incident and later transferred into the custody of Pleasanton police.

Swadley was subsequently booked at Santa Rita Jail on two counts of murder.

The shooting was reported shortly after 10 a.m. Feb. 18, when Pleasanton police

officers responded to reports of gunshots at a home in the 3100 block of Joanne Circle, authorities said.

Officers entered the residence and found both victims suffering from multiple gunshot wounds. They were pronounced dead at the scene.

Investigators said multiple firearms were recovered from Swadley's vehicle and residence. Police said the weapons will undergo further testing to determine whether any were used in the crime.

Authorities said Swadley had a recent dating relation-

ship with a family member of the victims and has no prior criminal history.

Police also stated the shooting appeared to be an isolated incident and that there was no ongoing threat to the community.

"This outcome is the result of our detectives working nonstop on this case, with support from our Real-Time Information Center and allied agencies," Police Chief Tracy Avelar said in a statement.

"We appreciate the patience of our community as we worked through a rapidly

evolving investigation, and I'm proud of the work done to keep the community safe," Avelar added.

The motive and circumstances surrounding the shooting remain under investigation.

## Tri-Valley Haven to Hold Fundraiser Gala in April

TRI-VALLEY — Tri-Valley Haven, which offers housing and other support services to the homeless and victims of sexual and domestic assault, will hold its annual Wings of Hope: Light the Way Gala at the Shannon Community

Center in Dublin from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on Friday, April 17.

The fundraising gala will include dinner, live music and a selection of wines. There will also be games and both live and silent

auctions.

Early bird tickets are on sale for \$110 through Saturday, March 7, after which the price will increase to \$125.

The Livermore-based nonprofit is currently re-

building its emergency shelter for victims of domestic abuse.

Known as Shiloh, the center has been in use for more than 40 years.

It has been the only confidential domestic violence shelter in the Tri-Valley region and the only one in the area that accepted teen boys as part of families.

The \$9 million rebuild project will expand the center's capacity from 30 to 45 beds and add rooms for counseling and case management. There will also be a children's play area, teen rooms and a computer lab.

The rebuild is expected to be completed by early next year.

To purchase tickets, go to [trivalleyhaven.org](http://trivalleyhaven.org).



From left, Christine Dillman, Cathie Brown, Jean King, and Melissa Hernandez gather to promote Tri-Valley Haven's upcoming "Wings of Hope: Light the Way Gala," scheduled for April 17 at the Shannon Community Center in Dublin. Proceeds from the fundraiser will support the \$9 million rebuild of Shiloh, the organization's emergency shelter for victims of domestic violence. (Photo courtesy of Tri-Valley Haven)

## LPD Mandates Annual Mental Health Wellness Check-ins with Clinician

LIVERMORE — The Livermore Police Department (LPD) has implemented mandatory annual mental wellness check-ins with a licensed clinician for all sworn personnel.

"We are trying to break the stigma when it comes to mental health issues and make sure everyone knows it's expected to ask for help and to be proactive about staying healthy," said Chief Jeramy Young, who was among the first LPD officers to participate.

"We want our officers to be as healthy as possible and have invested in their wellness," Young said. "We are making it clear that mental wellness matters here. Police officers see and carry difficult things and experience events that most will never have to endure. These check-ins help normalize support, reduce stigma and ensure our team has the resources to stay healthy for themselves, their families and the community."

Elisa Hughes, clinical director for the Brentwood, California-based Public Safety Family Counseling Group, which is conducting the check-ins, noted that "public safety professionals face risks to their health and well-being (and) until now have had little education or resources to combat the impact of that stress."

"Wellness visits are not therapy," Hughes added. "They are an opportuni-

ty (for officers) to learn the personal impact of that stress and develop an individualized plan to combat and even reverse that damage. Officers are embracing the opportunity the wellness visits provide, and so far, feedback has been very positive."

LPD said the initiative reflects a "forward-thinking approach to supporting officers throughout their careers and strengthening our organization."

The check-ins, which started in January, are available to the city's entire public safety team.

### LIVERMORE CALIFORNIA

#### 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 April 3, 2026 at 5:00 PM.

##### Historic Preservation Commission (1 Vacancy)

Join us in identifying, protecting, and preserving Livermore's historic resources. The Commission's successes are visible in the beauty of Livermore's historic structures and landmarks.

##### (1) Regular Term ending 5/1/2030

Meets 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM  
Next meetings: March 5<sup>th</sup> and April 2<sup>nd</sup>

##### Library Board of Trustees (2 Vacancies)

Join us in helping to set goals and objectives for the broad variety of services and programs the Livermore libraries provide.

##### (2) Regular Terms ending 6/1/2029

Meets 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM  
Next meetings: February 26<sup>th</sup> and March 26<sup>th</sup>

##### Livermore Housing Authority (1 Vacancy)

Join us in administering and overseeing affordable housing for low-income families, seniors, and persons with disabilities in the City of Livermore.

##### (1) Unexpired Term ending 1/1/2027 and a possible regular term ending 1/1/2031, subject to City Council approval.

Meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month at 5:30 PM  
Next meeting: March 11<sup>th</sup>  
Meeting location: 3203 Leahy Way

**SAVE THE DATE!** In-person interviews tentatively scheduled the week of April 6<sup>th</sup> or April 13<sup>th</sup>. For more information or to apply, please visit [www.livermoreca.gov/AB](http://www.livermoreca.gov/AB), call the City Clerk's office at (925) 960-4200, or email: [cityclerk@livermoreca.gov](mailto:cityclerk@livermoreca.gov).

**BOB'S PROFESSIONAL PAINTING**

Free Color Consultation!

**\$500 Off!**

925-577-6864  
[bobspropainting.com](http://bobspropainting.com) Lic# 88825

**62<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL SPRING COIN SHOW**

Sun. March 1st, 2026  
10AM - 4PM

FREE ADMISSION  
FREE APPRAISALS  
HOURLY RAFFLE DRAWINGS  
FREE PARKING

**ELK'S LODGE**  
940 LARKSPUR DRIVE, LIVERMORE

Edward Jones [edwardjones.com](http://edwardjones.com) | Member SIPC

### Compare our CD rates

Bank-issued, FDIC-insured

<b>3.80%</b> APY*	<b>3.80%</b> APY*	<b>3.80%</b> APY*
3-Month	6-Month	1 Year

Call or visit your local financial advisor today.

**Gabriel E. Wright, AAMS®**  
Financial Advisor  
2300 First Street, Suite 216  
Livermore, CA 94550  
925-453-2267

Annual Percentage Yield (APY) effective 02/20/2026. CDs offered by Edward Jones are bank-issued and FDIC-insured up to \$250,000 (principal and interest accrued but not yet paid) per depositor, per insured depository institution, for each account ownership category. Please visit [www.fdic.gov](http://www.fdic.gov) or contact your financial advisor for additional information. Subject to availability and price change. CD values are subject to interest rate risk such that when interest rates rise, the prices of CDs can decrease. If CDs are sold prior to maturity, the investor can lose principal value. FDIC insurance does not cover losses in market value. Early withdrawal may not be permitted. Yields quoted are net of all commissions. CDs require the distribution of interest and do not allow interest to compound. CDs offered through Edward Jones are issued by banks and thrifts nationwide. All CDs sold by Edward Jones are registered with the Depository Trust Corp. (DTC).  
EFA-21032-A-E-AD © 2026 EDWARD J. JONES & CO., L.P. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Taste Tri-Valley  
**Restaurant Week**  
February 20th - March 1st, 2026

**Taste Tri-Valley Restaurant Week is here!**

Join us for ten delicious days of culinary events, special menus, and exclusive deals at dozens of local restaurants and wineries.

PRESENTED BY  
**FREMONT BANK**

OUR SPONSORS:

WENTE FAMILY VINEYARDS GREENLEAF HERZOG  
DIAGEO AC HOTEL BIRITE diablo  
FOODSERVICE DISTRIBUTORS

HOSTED BY VISIT TRI-VALLEY CALIFORNIA BENEFITTING SPARC

Learn more at [VisitTriValley.com/RestaurantWeek](http://VisitTriValley.com/RestaurantWeek)

# EDITORIAL

## We Need Both a State Office of Nonprofit Empowerment, and Revenue to Support It

The economic environment for nonprofit organizations has changed dramatically in the last 13 months. It used to be that an organization would apply for a variety of grants — some from philanthropies, some from governmental organizations, some from elsewhere — and use the money to fund its basic services and overhead. Direct donations helped balance the bottom line.

No one goes into the nonprofit sector to become rich. But the system, as it was, allowed some needs to be met, and some staff to be paid. Of course, human services' needs far outstripped our ability to serve them, but legions of volunteers supplemented their efforts.

But even that imperfect model is no longer adequate. The Trump administration has upended the delicate balance the nonprofit sector needed just to survive, let alone thrive. Wholesale cancellations of direct aid, such

as SNAP benefits, and the elimination of funding programs and agencies in government, such as USAID, have made the rough seas of the charitable sector into a chaotic hurricane.

So it's something of a good thing that there's an initiative afoot in Sacramento to calm the waters. State Sen. Jerry McNerney, whose district includes the Tri-Valley, has introduced a bill to create the Office of Nonprofit Empowerment within the governor's office. As envisioned, the office would be a clearinghouse of resources for nonprofits navigating the state bureaucracy, much in the way the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development helps for-profit businesses do the same.

This is a no-brainer for the state. Nonprofits need whatever help they can get on normal days; the need is critical now.

The hard part is what happens next. The nonprofit sector's biggest chal-

lenge is (and always has been) money. When Trump cut SNAP benefits, the Livermore community rallied and donated 18,000 pounds of food and \$85,000 in cash to make sure people in need could continue to afford to eat healthy meals.

But that's an emergency infusion for a chronically ill patient. We have to make sure the patient doesn't just live until the next day, but actually gets healthier.

The Senate Revenue and Taxation Committee, which McNerney chairs, is also looking at ways of raising more tax income, in particular by eliminating the "water's edge" loophole that has allowed big businesses to avoid up to \$3 billion in state income tax by shifting profits offshore.

Therein lies the rub. Gov. Gavin Newsom is doing the bidding of the state's big businesses these days, especially the notoriously skinflint

technology sector and its overcompensated billionaire class. Passing any tax reform legislation over Newsom's promised veto is going to be a challenge even in the Democratic-controlled legislature.

But our senators and assembly members should pass it, regardless of who's funding the governor's political ambitions. California's human services struggle has always been present, but it's reached a point of crisis with more people going without food or shelter, succumbing to addiction or untreated medical conditions. We cannot be a state that turns its back on its own people just so big businesses can pay proportionally less in taxes than schoolteachers.

We need to reverse course. Create the Office of Nonprofit Empowerment, and close the water's edge loophole to free up funding to benefit all the people of California.

## MAILBOX

### Mailbox Guidelines:

Opinions voiced in letters published in Mailbox are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of The Independent. Anonymous letters will not be published. All letters are required to have the name(s) of the person(s) submitting them, city of residence and phone number, for verification purposes. Letters may not contain advertising. Abusive letters and letters containing ad hominem attacks may be rejected or edited. Letters are subject to verification and may be edited for clarity at the discretion of the editor. We reserve the right to decide whether or not the letter will be published. Headings for all letters may be edited at the discretion of the editor to properly reflect their content. A headline will be added to letters received without one. Frequent letter writers may have publication of their letters delayed or not run at all. Letters should be limited to 400 words or less and should be sent by email to letters@independentnews.com or submitted using the form below.

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

### No Taxation Without a Station

Marcus Libkind, Livermore

I have lived in Livermore for 50 years. During that entire time, our community has been told, repeatedly, that BART was coming. First, it was a direct extension. Then it became a less convenient light rail connection. That proposal evolved into a massive regional project intended to serve the Central Valley. Now, we are told we may receive nothing at all.

After decades of promises, the people of Livermore are understandably frustrated.

The latest development feels less like transportation planning and more like coercion. Governor Gavin Newsom is effectively telling Livermore residents to pay more for a system we are assured we will never receive. To the residents of the Tri-Valley, he is saying pay more or you will have no BART service.

That is not partnership. That is punishment for the State's continued fiscal mismanagement. It never seems to end.

If state leaders want public support, they must first honor public commitments. The Tri-Valley has contributed tax dollars for decades with the expectation of equitable

access to regional transit. We deserve transparency, accountability, and fair treatment — not shifting promises and ultimatums.

Perhaps it is time tell Sacramento, "No taxation without a station."

### Proposed New Wells Would Spread the PFAS Plume

Jim Lehrman, Pleasanton

Zone 7 plans to drill new wells in southwest Pleasanton near the leading edge of an enormous plume of PFAS, aka "forever chemicals", underlying the Tri-Valley. And they're pushing Pleasanton to join them. New groundwater modeling commissioned by Zone 7 may be very accurate in predicting groundwater levels based on historical data, but this isn't the same as predicting plume movement. The model doesn't show how the PFAS plume grew from nothing 50 or 60 years ago (from sources recently confirmed) to its current titanic size: six miles long by two miles wide. A model that can't reproduce the historical plume movement isn't useful in predicting future plume movement. This plume is now within a couple tenths of a mile from the proposed well locations, so the risk of further spreading is substantial. Yet Zone 7 continues to as-

sert that the new wells will be PFAS-free for at least 20 years.

Why would Zone 7 minimize the risk of spreading PFAS to the proposed new wells? Are they stuck on a 20-year-old plan for new wells developed before PFAS was a known problem? They say if PFAS is found in the new wells, they'll treat it, but at what cost?

The big push for new wells came because old wells were shut down due to PFAS. Zone 7 is treating their old wells to remove PFAS, and plan to treat more. Pleasanton's old wells were also shut down due to PFAS, hence their need for more water. Zone 7 is adept at treating water; Pleasanton is not. Pleasanton has stated that they don't want to be in the water treatment business. But Pleasanton's well locations are capable of producing all of the water sought by installing the proposed new wells.

Pleasanton and Zone 7 should work together to produce water from Pleasanton's well locations. Pleasanton apparently has the rights, and Zone 7 has the expertise to treat the water. This would go a long way to shrink the PFAS plume, remove PFAS from our basin, and produce clean drinking water when needed. This is not a new idea; it's close to Pleasanton's original plan, but they were convinced by Zone 7 that drilling new wells in southwest Pleasanton would be cheaper. Yes, maybe cheaper in the short term, but likely much more costly in the long run. (Jim Lehrman is a California certified hydrogeologist.)

### The Science of Oxygen; Earth's Oxygen Reservoir

Michael Austin, Pleasanton

The science of oxygen — Earth's oxygen reservoir. The biological mechanism that produces oxygen-splitting water molecules during the light-dependent stage of photosynthesis.

Since 1800, global deforestation has removed enormous areas of forest for agriculture, industry, and urbanization. Fewer trees = less total oxygen production from land plants. Even where forests remain, their oxygen producing capacity is affect-

ed by wildfires, drought, insect outbreaks, logging, and land degradation.

Even though we lost forests, Earth's atmosphere contains an enormous reservoir of oxygen built up over hundreds of millions of years. Oxygen levels fluctuate only slightly on human timescales. Trees are essential for many reasons — carbon storage, climate regulation, biodiversity — but the oxygen in the air we breathe is not in immediate danger.

If all photosynthesis stopped today, atmospheric oxygen would last 3,000 years, before falling to dangerously low levels. That is the earth's oxygen reservoir survivability window. But that is the best-case scenario, assuming no mass decomposition, no wildfires, no collapse of ocean ecosystems, and no CO2 surge.

What happens if all trees disappear? Oxygen consumption would spike immediately. Because, billions of tons of dead biomass would decompose, microbes would consume oxygen, wildfires would release CO2, and consume oxygen, soils would oxidize, this would accelerate oxygen decline far beyond the 3,000-year limit.

Meanwhile, ocean phytoplankton would also decline. Because CO2 would surge, oceans would acidify, and nutrient cycles would collapse. So, the remaining oxygen production would shrink. When does oxygen become dangerous for humans?

Humans start experiencing physiological stress when oxygen drops below 19.5%. Below 16% impaired cognition, below 12% loss of consciousness, below 10% fatal. Earth's current level is 21%. Even a 1-2% loss is a global crisis.

So, the oxygen reservoir is large, not invincible. It can buffer short-term disruptions. It cannot compensate for the permanent loss of forests; the ocean cannot take over oxygen production. The system collapses long before the reservoir empties. So, the survival of the reservoir is measured in centuries to millennia, but the survivability of civilization under a collapsing oxygen cycle is much shorter.

2,026 years ago, the forest cover was six billion hectares; today the forest

cover is four billion hectares. Plantation forests are not ecological equivalents of natural forests. Much of the regained forests are lower biodiversity, lower carbon, and lower oxygen producing.

### Climate Change, Inc.

Paul Stone, Dublin

From reading The Independent for a long time now, I realize that most of its readers, editorialists, Mailbox contributors, etc. are deeply concerned over climate change.

But did you know that ink is a petroleum-based product? Yes, ink flows from fossils, friends. How many gallons of printer's ink are spilled weekly by Mailbox haters of all-things-Trump? You have this on your conscience: you are helping destroy the planet by your anti-Trump, way too long letters, using way too much ink, saying way too little of note.

Please trim your anti-Trump screeds, if for nothing else than to help save the planet. Lessen your carbon footprint by putting less in print.

Your planet thanks you.

### Our Law and Order President

Frank Cannella, Livermore

The Supreme court recently struck down the Trump-introduced tariffs, which most constitutional scholars assumed would be the result. Trump, in his usual petulant childlike response, made the false allegation that the judges in the majority were influenced by foreign factors, were un-American, and did not understand the Constitution, which I doubt Trump has ever read. Then, seeking to get around the court's decision, he used a different ploy to impose first a 10% across all countries tariff, which after his usual careful consideration was raised to 15% 24 hours later. It remains to be seen how long that decree holds water and whether the congress will finally get involved.

A few days prior to this decision, the Justice Department (?) hung a large poster on its headquarters thanking the president for his stand on law and order. Yes, the same president who pardoned 1,500 January 6th rioters on the first day of his second term. Apparently the "law" is

what Trump says it is, and "order" is any presidential decree he might make. I can't wait to hear what he says on Tuesday the 24th at his State of the Union address.

### Vote Republican

John Lahommedieu, Dublin

Look with your own eyes! Imagine if Kamala Harris had won! There would be no peace in the Middle East, no Abraham Accord, white males would still be bashed for being white, transgender agenda would be running like wildfire, America would see Europe taking full advantage of us, China would be all over us. But thankfully we have President Trump who champions our military, our middle class, and wants to reduce needless regulations and taxes, unlike the entire Democrat party whose only agenda is to tax and make you feel guilty about any success in one's life. Oh! The Tri-Valley has its hatred for Trump, but under Democrat rule for the last 30 years the Tri-Valley is failing. The cities of Dublin, Livermore, and Pleasanton have financial issues that are worth investigation, to include budget, school districts, rise in crime and taxes, for what? Soon the Tri-Valley may be without a BART system due to the Democrat leadership that has ruined BART. Well, Trump is doing what he can, and maybe he will step in California and take over the energy and oil industries, because under Democrat leadership, we lost oil companies, major businesses, and have an out-of-control PG&E. See, you can talk crap about our president, but he is getting things done. Kamala wouldn't have, nor is Newsom, Swalwell, Schiff and the most corrupt of all, Pelosi. The Tri-Valley may want to get its head out of its own arse and vote Republican for once, and root for tax reduction, needless regulations going away, and promotion to large companies to come back to California with tax incentives and other ideas that are foreign to Democrats. Can anyone name one major accomplishment by Schiff, Swalwell, Newsom, Kamala and or Pelosi that has benefitted your lives? I can name dozens by Donald Trump,

(See MAILBOX, page 5)

**THE Independent**

INLAND VALLEY PUBLISHING CO.  
PUBLISHER: Joan Kinney Seppala  
EDITOR: Christina Cavallaro

ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER: David T. Lowell (In Memoriam)  
EDITOR: Janet Armantrout (In Memoriam)

THE INDEPENDENT (USPS 300) is published every Thursday by Inland Valley Publishing Company, 2250 First St., Livermore, CA 94550; (925)243-8000. Mailed at Periodical Postage Prices at the Livermore Post Office and additional entry office: Pleasanton, CA 94566-9999. THE INDEPENDENT is mailed upon request. For more information or to sign up visit [www.independentnews.com](http://www.independentnews.com). POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Independent, 2250 First St., Livermore, CA 94550.

Advertising and subscription rates may be obtained by calling (925)243-8000 during regular business hours or by emailing [info@independentnews.com](mailto:info@independentnews.com).

Editorial information may be submitted by emailing [editor@independentnews.com](mailto:editor@independentnews.com)

[www.independentnews.com](http://www.independentnews.com)



Feb. 13, the Livermore Police attended the Night to Shine Tri-Valley at Blue Oaks Church in Pleasanton. This prom-style celebration honors individuals with special needs, creating an evening filled with dancing, laughter, and unforgettable moments. Livermore Police are grateful to be part of the evening and proud to support the individuals and families who make Livermore shine. (Photo courtesy of LPD)

## MAILBOX

(Continued from page 4)

starting with Illegal immigration and the wonderful personnel of I.C.E. Trump quashed the Iranian nuclear facilities. Trump went after and took transgenderism and put it back into the damn box, hopefully never to be opened again. Thank God America has Donald Trump; now all we need is for him to come into California and turn this ship around, and lord knows it's needed. Wise up, Dems, vote Republican, because we are growing in number, unlike the demonic communist-loving Democrat party!

### Congressman's Swalwell's Bid for California Governor Greg Scott, Livermore

We can thank the Democratic power structure for two terms of President

Trump. It is the incompetence and corruption of the Democratic Party that propelled Donald Trump into the White House. What did the participation of Congressman Swalwell in the second presidential impeachment proceedings in 2021 produce?

In the 2024 presidential election, two-and-a-half million likely Democratic voters did not vote for Democratic candidate Kamala Harris because of her support for Israel's genocidal campaign in Gaza and the West Bank. Israel has a stranglehold over U.S. politics and the pro-Israel lobby's contributions to Congressman Swalwell exemplify that. According to Track AIPAC (American Israel Public Affairs Committee, which

for some reason doesn't have to register as a foreign agent), Congressman Swalwell has received \$1,004,753 from the pro-Israel lobby and their MAGA donors. (\$170,079 from PACS, and \$834,674 from bundlers.)

What 'facts,' other than those from Zionist Israel, did Congressman Swalwell rely on in his vote to de-fund United Nations Relief And Works Agency for Palestine (UNRWA), which is crucial in feeding millions of Palestinians? Perhaps Congressman Swalwell should campaign for governor of California with pictures of starving Palestinian children.

In the recent Democratic convention in San Francisco of delegates and candidates for California

governor, Congressman Swalwell got the most delegate votes of the nine candidates. The process is so undemocratic it is being suggested that a number of the candidates drop out. The money, again, determines the outcome, such as the 'cryptocurrency' backing of Senator Adam "Shifty" Schiff who endorses Congressman Swalwell. The worry is that in California's undemocratic 'Top Two' candidates on ballots, both gubernatorial candidates may be Republicans who are currently out polling the Democratic candidates that are weak in a Democratic Party dominated state.

One of the last things debt-ridden California needs is Congressman Swalwell as governor.

Does Congressman Swalwell suggest a solution for the unfunded obligations of the California Public Employees Retirement System (CalPERS) now just a few billion dollars short of \$200 billion? Does Congressman Swalwell care about vulnerable and increasing numbers of California homeless, like he cares about the fate of vulnerable Palestinians? Apparently not. California is certainly not in a situation for this bereftness of leadership and vision. If we want the blindness, deafness, and insensitivity of power, control, and money: we already have it. California desperately needs solutions that corrupt power doesn't bring.

clear that they are directly working for this administration and perpetuating any of their lies or cover-ups; while at the same time portraying anyone who questions them as evil or anti-American. THIS is what should be labeled "Trump Derangement Syndrome"!

And now he puts a 15% tariff across the globe! Like an angry toddler, this man is alienating all of the world from us. How will FOX spin it... that it is actually good for the taxpayers? That it is the Democrats fault?

Please diversify your news sources! You may be shocked at what you are missing!

### Diversify

Samuel Warner, Pleasanton

I subscribe to and watch various news sources across the board — left, right, and centrist. What stands out to me is how much FOX and its ilk omit, avoid showing, and basically misinform regarding anything that doesn't directly support Trump. It is

REED

PLUMBING INC.

(925)-371-5671

Commitment  
Honesty &  
Integrity



Seniors Helping Seniors®

## In-Home Care Services for Seniors by Seniors

Enjoy the comfort of home with a little extra support from a friend who truly cares.



Meet the Owners



Jeffrey & Deanna Macapinlac

Proudly serving seniors in the Tri-Valley area!

TriValleySHS.com 925-397-1771

# Retired Teachers Offer Tri-Valley Student Scholarships

TRI-VALLEY — The Tri-Valley chapter of the California Retired Teachers Association (CalRTA) will award up to five \$2,500 scholarships this spring to students planning to become teachers or school counselors.

The scholarships are open to seniors attending a public high school in Livermore, Pleasanton, Dublin or San Ramon.

The scholarships are also open to past graduates already attending a four-year college or university and to Las Positas College students transferring to a four-year college or university.

Applicants will be required to submit an essay explaining

their interest in a teaching or counseling career and how they plan to achieve that goal.

The deadline to apply is Saturday, March 14. Recipients will be announced in April.

Complete guidelines and application forms are available online at [div85.calrta.org](http://div85.calrta.org).

## Slice House in Livermore Now Open

LIVERMORE — Slice House by Tony Gemignani, a popular San Francisco-based pizza chain, opened a franchise in downtown Livermore last Saturday.

Slice House said the pizzeria, one of several franchises in California operated by Ratika Ty-

agi, has opened at 1948 First St.

Slice House features New York, Sicilian, Grandma and Detroit-style pizza.

The menu also includes pastas, wings, salads and options for gluten-free, vegan and vegetarian diners.

The drink menu consists of craft beers and premium

wines, in addition to non-alcoholic sodas and juices.

Along with indoor seating for 36 and outdoor patio seating for 18, the restaurant offers takeout and delivery. Slice House is open from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Friday and Saturday.

## DANCE

(Continued from front page)

he said with a smile. "At the same thickness, it's one hundred times better as a barrier for oxygen and moisture. Your food stays good much longer."

It was during this period of his life that Sun fell in love with ice dancing, a discipline that blends figure skating with ballroom dance. Unlike traditional figure skating, which emphasizes jumps and acrobatics, ice dancing focuses on rhythm, precision and flow. With a background in dance and tumbling, his flexibility and body awareness gave him a natural advantage.

"I loved ice skating because it gives you so many skills — inside edge, outside edge, forward, backward," he says. "It's not just walking. It's freedom."

Though he eventually hung up his skates, Sun never stopped moving. To-

day, his favorite place to dance is the floor of his retirement community in Pleasanton. Compared to competitive ice dancing, he explains, social dancing is much simpler.

"With ice dancing, you had to learn 18 different ways to move."

Movement, he believes, is essential to aging well.

"People think at this age they shouldn't move because they're afraid of getting hurt," he says. "But if you sit too much, life gets smaller. You have to keep doing things."

His experience reflects what researchers have found: regular physical activity helps older adults live independently longer, lowers the risk of chronic disease, and supports brain health.

It doesn't have to only be dancing, he explains, "If you can accomplish some-

thing — clean the house, build something, dance — do it every day. Even if it's hard. Especially if it's hard. Stand up. Move. Laugh. That's how you stay alive."

Sun lives at Stoneridge Creek, a retirement community spanning more than 50 acres and home to hundreds of residents. Its calendar is filled with daily activities designed to keep residents engaged and connected—an environment that reflects what research consistently shows: Continued movement and social interaction play a critical role in physical and mental health as we age.

Sun embodies that research in practice.

He still watches ice dancing during the Olympics, but when asked who he roots for, he simply smiles and shakes his head.

"Nowadays, I don't pay attention to that," he says. "I just watch for fun."

*Discover the poetry of a community*

## TAILORED TO YOU.

Something thoughtful is taking shape in the rolling green hills beneath Dublin's wide blue skies. The Whitford is more than a beautiful new senior living community. It's a carefully composed way of living, designed with intention, balance and grace.

Secure one of a limited number of VIP Program memberships, and enjoy early access, exceptional pricing and priority residence selection before The Whitford opens later this year.

**Discover a beautifully arranged lifestyle.**  
Only at The Whitford.  
[The-Whitford.com](http://The-Whitford.com) | 925.230.3059

THE WHITFORD

Inspired Senior Living

SENIOR LIVING ■ ASSISTED LIVING ■ MEMORY CARE  
5751 Arnold Road | Dublin, CA 94568 | [The-Whitford.com](http://The-Whitford.com) | 925.230.3059

MANAGED BY MOMENTUM SENIOR LIVING



The Islamic Center of Livermore (ICL) is currently hosting its Ramadan 2026 programs at its renovated location. Ramadan, which began on Feb. 19, is the ninth and holiest month of the Islamic calendar, observed by Muslims worldwide as a time of fasting, prayer, reflection and community. ICL held its first open house last February in the former site of the Christian World Church which now serves as a hub for the Tri-Valley Muslim community. (File photo — Leah Silveira)

## NCL Is Now Accepting 2026-27 Applications

LIVERMORE — The Livermore chapter of the National Charity League (NCL), a nonprofit organization that encourages mothers and their teenage daughters to engage in community service, is now accepting applications for the 2026-2027 membership year.

Founded in Los Angeles in 1925, the NCL is open to mothers with daughters in seventh through 12th grade.

The deadline to apply for membership is Wednesday, March 25.

For more information, email MembershipLivermore@nclonline.org.

## BUDGET

(Continued from front page)

a can-do attitude to address these challenges ahead of us.”

City staff presented a forecast scenario that incorporated the passing of a ballot measure to increase the city’s hotel tax from 8% to 12% over two years, another scenario that included new property tax revenues from development on Pleasanton’s east side, and one that included a recession starting in fiscal year 2027-28. Most scenarios showed the city’s general fund continuing to operate at a deficit.

While the new-development scenario showed the city returning to an annual surplus around 2032, Councilmember Jeff Nibert said such a scenario was unrealistic.

“The additional development line is very optimistic, (where) all the planets align, all the approved projects happen with no delays,” Nibert said. “We all know, of course, that will never happen. It’s just not a serious scenario.”

Councilmember Julie Testa attributed the city’s current financial challenges to a failure to pass a sales tax increase in 2024. Known as Measure PP, 54.2% of voters voted against the proposal to raise the city’s sales tax from 10.25% to 10.75%.

Without the additional sales tax revenue, the city instead balanced its budget last year by cutting some \$7 million per year worth of city services and using almost \$5 million in transfers from the city’s pension trust and retiree benefits funds over two years.

But even with those drastic actions, the city again faces significant headwinds caused by ever-rising personnel costs and reductions in property tax revenue, the city’s largest revenue source, City Manager Gerry Beaudin said.

Recently resolved appeals asking to reduce assessed values coupled with temporary property-value reductions under California Proposition 8 have reduced tax revenues.

Councilmember Craig Eicher said that if the city had balanced its budget with Measure PP, which was estimated to bring in \$10 million annually, instead of making cuts to the one today.

In the coming months, city staff plans to next share its pension strategy, budget engagement plan for fiscal year 2027-28, a funding plan for asset management and a midterm budget update.

# Wild & Scenic Film Festival Returns To Showcase Environmental Activism

By Jessica Zimmer

LIVERMORE — The Wild and Scenic Film Festival will return to the Bankhead Theater in Livermore on Friday, Feb. 27, courtesy of co-hosts the Tri-Valley Conservancy and the Tri-Valley Air Quality Climate Alliance. The ticketed event costs \$15 for students and \$40 for adults and will feature 14 short films in a variety of formats. These are selected to foster community among advocates for nature and lovers of the outdoors.

The 4½-hour event is family-friendly. It includes several films featuring children, from “Freya,” which tells the story of a neurodiverse 9-year-old mountain climber and her family, to “Aldo’s Bug Extravaganza,” which is about a 5-year-old in Pennsylvania who goes on an outdoor safari to find bugs with his father. Prior to the screening, the Bankhead will host an Eco Fair with different local environmental agencies and organizations, including Sierra Club Tri-Valley, Alameda Creek Alliance, University of California Master Gardeners of Alameda County, and Northern California Public Media.

Complimentary wine, beer, and light bites from local vendors will be provided, including Altamont Beer Works, Darcie Kent Estate Winery, Flaca’s Salsa, Livermore High Culinary Program, Pacific Catch, and Strizzi’s Restaurant. The pre-show event will feature a live Q&A panel about the environment with seven Bay Area speakers. At intermission, a raffle will offer over \$2,000 worth of prizes.

“We want to bring a mes-

sage of hope, optimism, and beauty to the Tri-Valley in what is a dark time for environmental advocacy,” said Ann Brown, schools outreach director for the Tri-Valley Air Quality Climate Alliance. “The idea is to bring people a message that there is still work going on. There’s nothing like films to move people to experience another reality.”

The event marks the return of the festival to the region. It was last held in January 2020

“At the meetings, other groups expressed enthusiasm about the potential return of the Wild & Scenic Film Festival. We thought this would be a great way to encourage environmental action,” said Chang.

The Tri-Valley Conservancy decided to co-host the event last October, and began contacting potential sponsors and screening the festival’s library of over 230 films.

“A team of eight people ...

One such movie is “Tule,” an animated film about a modern Pomo girl and her relationship with her native culture, created by San Jose State University students.

Another standout is “Flora, Fauna, and Funga,” a National Geographic documentary about a Chilean mycologist’s search for new mushrooms on the main island of Tierra del Fuego. Yet another is “Gardener to Guardian,” a documentary about Irish gardener Mary Reynolds, who encourages home gardeners to foster biodiversity in their backyards.

The Tri-Valley Conservancy is fronting the cost for the festival. Funds will come out of its operational events budget. The conservancy expects to break even, but any proceeds will be divided evenly with the Tri-Valley Conservancy and the Tri-Valley Air Quality Climate Alliance.

The co-hosts have engaged in a special effort to welcome high school students by reaching out to film clubs from San Ramon to Livermore.

“The Wild and Scenic Film Festival is a powerful way to bring people together around the landscapes and environmental issues that shape our region,” said Victoria Tichy, communications and development manager at Tri-Valley Conservancy. “By hosting this event in Livermore, we’re creating space for our community to connect through storytelling, learn from one another, and feel inspired to protect the places we love.”

For more information, visit [trivalleyconservancy.org/community-events/wild-and-scenic-film-festival](http://trivalleyconservancy.org/community-events/wild-and-scenic-film-festival).



Charles Loi, director and host of “Climate California,” an Emmy-winning new PBS series about climate change, is also a producer, videographer and editor for Northern California Public Media and a featured speaker at the Wild & Scenic Film Festival in Livermore on Friday, Feb. 27. (Photo courtesy of Charles Loi)

by Tri-Valley Citizens Climate Education (TV-CCE). Brown and Terry Chang, director of operations for the Tri-Valley Air Quality Climate Alliance, are former group leaders of the TV-CCE.

Brown and Chang openly discussed holding the festival again at the April 2025 Environment and Climate Roundtable. This was a series of meetings of local environmental groups organized by the Tri-Valley Nonprofit Alliance.

chose films that relate to the missions of our organizations. For example, the Tri-Valley Conservancy wanted films that showed wildlife, open space, and agricultural conservation efforts. The Tri-Valley Air Quality Climate Alliance was interested in films that related to wildfires and how to respond to them. Both organizations wanted films that would motivate individuals and small groups to make local efforts regarding advocacy and actions,” said Chang.

## BART

(Continued from front page)

system are clear: growing ridership, cleaner air, and less congested roads. I’m proud of the progress the Bay Area transit service and operators are making on ridership recovery, and this loan will continue to build on that success as the region works together on long-term funding solutions.”

Earlier this month, BART shared a phased “Deep Cuts” strategy, which would close stations beginning in January

2027, followed by another wave of station closures taking effect in July 2027. If implemented, the strategy would close the Blue Line’s Castro Valley and West Dublin/Pleasanton stations in the first phase. In the second phase, the entire Blue Line would be shuttered, including the Dublin/Pleasanton station.

Over the past few years, BART staff has repeatedly warned that service reduc-

tions and station closures will lead to a financial “death spiral,” in which fewer trains lead to lower ridership, reducing revenue, which then leads to even fewer trains. Like other rail agencies, BART must pay significant fixed costs to maintain its rail network regardless of how many, or if any, trains run.

Accusations of systemic financial mismanagement, such as those from former

State Senator Steve Glazer and former BART Inspector General Harriet Richardson, have complicated its campaign for the additional taxes. Representatives from around the Bay Area earlier this month called for more transparency and efficiency at the agency.

If the funding measure succeeds, BART plans to use \$97 million in the loan’s funds to help balance its fiscal year 2027 budget, Trost said.

## TRI-VALLEY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Friday, Feb. 27

### TOMMY CASTRO & THE PAINKILLERS

Tommy Castro is the guitar slinging, soul-singing leader of the tight and raucous Tommy Castro & The Painkillers. Performing live at Almost Famous Wine Company, 2271 S. Vasco Rd., Livermore. Showtime is 7:30 p.m.; tickets are \$39.19-71.21. See [www.almostfamous.wine](http://www.almostfamous.wine) for complete performance information.

Saturday, Feb. 28

### RONNIE BAKER BROOKS

Firmly rooted in the blues, Ronnie Baker Brooks incorporates his own brand of rock, funk and soul to the mix. Performing live at Almost Famous Wine Company, 2271 S. Vasco Rd., Livermore. Showtime is 7:30 p.m.; tickets are \$44.52-65.87. See [www.almostfamous.wine](http://www.almostfamous.wine) for complete performance information.

Saturday, Feb. 28

### VFW PANCAKE BREAKFAST FUNDRAISER

The VFW Post 7265 Auxiliary will host a Pancake Breakfast on Feb. 28, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at the Veterans Memorial Building, 522 S. L St., Livermore. Breakfast includes pancakes, sausage, scrambled eggs, tater tots, juice, and more. Tickets are \$15 adults, \$8 youth (ages 4-10), free for children under four. Tickets available in advance or at the door. Proceeds support VFW Auxiliary programs and community outreach. For info contact Jan at 925-989-6039.

Saturday, Feb. 28

### DRESS A GIRL AROUND THE WORLD

Make simple dresses for girls in Third World countries! The next monthly Sew-Fest is on Feb. 28, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 1020 Mocho St., Livermore. Bring your sewing machine or serger, iron, ironing board, scissors, along with your helping hands. Come for an hour or all day! (Please bring a bag lunch if you plan to stay all day.) Cheerful cotton fabric donations are always welcome. Contact Suzanne Beck, 925-352-8447, or [suzbeck@yahoo.com](mailto:suzbeck@yahoo.com) for questions or kits that you can sew from home.

Tuesday, March 3

### YOUTH ART COMPETITION ENTRY DEADLINE

The Pleasanton Art League’s PAL’s Pals 2026 Youth Art Competition is accepting entries now through March 3rd. Middle and high school students are encouraged to enter their 2-D and 3-D original artwork at [www.pal-art.com/exhibits-events/call-artists/](http://www.pal-art.com/exhibits-events/call-artists/). This event opens March 20 at the Museum on Main in downtown Pleasanton. An artist reception and awards ceremony will be on March 21, 1:00-3:00. The event is free and open to the public. The exhibit closes April 4. Contact [JeanElaineBatchelder@gmail.com](mailto:JeanElaineBatchelder@gmail.com) for more information.

Wednesday, March 4

### DROP-IN GENEALOGY ASSISTANCE

Begin your family history search with assistance by members of the Livermore-Amador Valley Genealogy Society. On March 4, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., at the Livermore Public Library, Civic Center Branch, 1188 S Livermore Ave, Livermore, Room 135.

Thursday, March 12

### LIVERMORE AMADOR VALLEY GARDEN CLUB MEETING

Rose Loveall, with Morningsun Herb Farm and mail order nursery, will talk about tea gardens and about growing, harvesting and brewing herbal and flower teas. Plants will be for sale. On March 12 from 6 to 8 p.m. at Crosswinds Church, 1660 Freisman Rd., Livermore, at the red Farm Theater Building.

Friday/Saturday, March 13 and 14

### VALLEY CONCERT CHORALE TO PERFORM “MASS FOR THE MILLENNIUM”

The Valley Concert Chorale is honored to perform the United States premiere of Margaret Shelton Meier’s Mass for the Millennium, titled “Millennium and Memory.” The concerts will also feature choral selections reflecting the American experience in this year of the country’s 250th anniversary. The two evening performances will be March 13, 7:30 p.m., at Lynnewood Methodist Church, 4444 Black Ave., Pleasanton and March 14, 7:30 p.m., at First Presbyterian Church, 2020 Fifth St., Livermore. Tickets are \$30. College students are \$10 with valid student ID. Children K-12 are free. Advance tickets may be purchased at [www.valleyconcertchorale.org](http://www.valleyconcertchorale.org), or at (925) 866-4003.

### ONGOING OPPORTUNITIES

#### FOOD RELIEF SERVICES

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

### ONGOING EVENTS

#### ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

In AA, we don’t tell anyone to do anything. We talk about our own drinking, the trouble we got into, and how we stopped. To find a local meeting in person or online, visit [valleyservicecenteraa.org](http://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.

DOWNLOAD OUR APP AND NEVER MISS OUT ON YOUR LOCAL NEWS



Follow us on

independentnews.com

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

## TELESCOPE

(Continued from front page)



The Vera C. Rubin Observatory in La Serena, Chile began its “First Look” observing campaign last June. Preparations are underway for the observatory to begin a 10-year survey of the southern sky this year. (Photo courtesy of NSF–DOE Rubin Observatory/NOIRLab/SLAC/AURA/T. Matsopoulos)

galaxies should have flung themselves apart long ago, yet they continued in their stable, rapid rotations as if strong, unseen forces held them together.

Their research built on a concept previously coined by astronomer Fritz Zwicky. In the 1930s, Zwicky suggested that an invisible form of matter might be supplying the gravity needed to hold together a cluster of galaxies, called the Coma cluster, that by all accounts should have been flying apart. He dubbed the invisible matter “dunkle Materie,” which is German for dark matter.

“Throughout the 1900s, there were more and more observations of different things that could only be explained by mass in the universe that we couldn’t see, that wasn’t emitting light,” said Scot Olivier, LLNL’s program leader for Nonproliferation Research and Development. Olivier managed the Rubin Observatory’s camera optics and wavefront sensing system during their design at LLNL. “If you just took the stars in the galaxies and tried to estimate the rotation, you get the wrong answer by like an order of magnitude,” Olivier said.

While Zwicky’s idea had elicited curiosity as a fringe concept, Rubin and Ford’s work brought overwhelming evidence to support it. They brought astronomers face to face with the idea that dark matter holds much of what we see together.

Today, dark matter’s existence is widely accepted among astronomers, although its nature remains a subject of debate and interest. Data from the European Space Agency’s 2009 Planck mission suggests that the universe contains more than five times as much dark matter as normal matter.

Complicating our understanding of the universe further, astronomers using data from the Hubble Space Telescope found in the late 1990s that, although the universe should have enough matter — and therefore gravity — to slow the expansion that started with the Big Bang, the expansion was not slowing. In fact, the expansion was accelerating, propelled by some unseen repulsive force, dubbed dark energy, that astronomers now think accounts for more than two-thirds of what makes up the universe.

NASA has described dark matter and dark energy as two distinct cosmic mysteries, with the former holding galaxies together and the latter pushing the spaces between apart.

In Search of Dark Matter  
Dark matter and dark energy are not simply dark; they are invisible. They would not appear even if light shined upon them, because light does not seem to react with dark matter or dark energy at all. But while they may be invisible, they are not undetectable.

Because gravity pulls on both matter and light, rays of light will veer slightly off course when traveling near massive objects, resulting in a warped image by the time it arrives at Earth. Astronomers have already observed

this gravitational lensing around supermassive objects, such as black holes, which distort the images of galaxies behind them into smoothened commas of light.

But to learn more about dark matter and dark energy, astronomers aim to search for a similar, more subtle effect around less massive objects — the so-called weak gravitational lensing effect. Weak lensing involves looking at galaxies and “detecting small perturbations in their shapes that are due to the distribution of dark matter and dark energy in the universe,” Olivier said.

The effect is difficult to detect because astronomers can’t be sure if they’re looking at the true or distorted shape of a galaxy just by looking at it. In order to draw any conclusions, they must compare it to many other galaxies.

And the Rubin Observatory will look at a lot of galaxies. With a field of view equivalent to about 45 full moons, the observatory will take up to 1,000 photographs per night, capturing a complete view of the southern sky every three to four nights. Every night, the project will produce about 10 terabytes of data. Operating for 10 years, the survey will produce the most comprehensive view of the universe ever, not only photographing some 20 billion galaxies, but also capturing a timelapse of fast-changing objects, such as asteroids, comets, pulsating stars and supernova explosions.

“This wide field allows you to just build up all those statistics for all those different methods and to map the distribution of dark matter and dark energy across the whole sky,” Olivier said.

The observatory’s massive capabilities rest upon a state-of-the-art optical system designed at LLNL.

Livermore’s Contribution  
Beginning in the 1990s, LLNL had led an earlier dark-matter search called the Massive Compact Halo Object (MACHO) Survey, where it leveraged its camera expertise to help search for microlensing events in the halos surrounding spiral

galaxies.

The lab’s work inspired physicists Kem Cook and Tony Tyson, along with Roger Angel, director of the Steward Observatory Mirror Lab at the University of Arizona, to imagine what a larger telescope with a very wide field of view might bring to the study of dark matter — what would eventually become the Rubin Observatory. By 2000, much of the plan for the survey was in place except for the optical design for the instrument.

Cook then brought on optical designer Lynn Seppala, who had worked on lasers at LLNL’s National Ignition Facility, to help address challenges in designing the system’s optics. The camera detector needed to be vacuum sealed and cooled to reduce detector noise, but the window sealing the detector introduced aberrations. The project also called for a series of color filters that would introduce their own aberrations. And early designs gave a narrower, 3-degree field of view using a longer telescope that would have been less stable and harder to reposition as it marched through its nightly survey.

The field of view describes how much of the sky the telescope can see at once. Wider is better, but also more difficult to design.

Seppala noted, “We end-

ed up getting the design, and then somebody said, ‘Well, okay, you got 3 degrees; let’s try 3.5 degrees.’” Seppala then said, “And we did it.”

Through many iterations, Seppala’s team worked successively to address each issue. They corrected the filters’ and the vacuum window’s aberrations. They combined two of the telescope’s mirrors into the same piece of glass, ensuring permanent alignment and stability, while also creating a more compact, more agile telescope. In the end, the 350-metric ton telescope is so well-balanced, it can be moved by hand, Seppala said.

Tyson, now Rubin Observatory’s chief scientist, said that without the optics design, the project would never have been built, Seppala said.

“We were constantly looking at what could go wrong, and challenging the design, and asking hard questions,” he explained. The team kept iterating on the design and making note of what yielded improvements.

“You see where you get,” he said. “And yeah, it worked.”

The observatory team is in the process of fine-tuning the system to sharpen image quality, optimize observing efficiency and polish other details before the survey begins.

## Rotary Offers Scholarships To 2026 Graduating Seniors

PLEASANTON — The deadline for high school seniors to apply for a 2026 college or trade school scholarship from the Rotary Club of Pleasanton is Thursday, March 31.

The Rotary Club will award more than \$50,000 in scholarships to Pleasanton students this year.

The need-based scholarships are open to students attending a Pleasanton high school or Pleasanton residents who are homeschooled.

For more information,

students should contact their high school counselors or go to [pleasantonrotary.org](http://pleasantonrotary.org) and click on “Grants and Scholarships.”

**Creek Hill Farm**  
Horseback Riding Lessons,  
Training, Boarding  
and Sales  
**925.337.5375**  
[creekhillfarms.com](http://creekhillfarms.com)

**RETZLAFF**  
Estate Wines  
WINE TASTING AND  
PICNIC TABLE RESERVATIONS  
FRI 12pm - 6pm, SAT, SUN & MON 12pm - 4:30pm  
LIVE MUSIC AND FOOD VENDORS  
SATURDAY & SUNDAY 12pm - 4:30pm  
WINE DAY FRIDAY - HAPPY HOUR ALL DAY 12pm - 6pm  
\$10 GLASS, \$20 FLIGHTS, \$10 SPIRITZER & WINE SPECIALS  
Make your online reservations at  
**RetzlaffVineyards.com**

**GAY NINETIES**  
Pizza & Pasta Co.  
SINCE 1959  
AWARD WINNING,  
GREAT TASTING PIZZA  
FROM SCRATCH  
& SOUR DOUGH  
SPECIALTY PIZZAS  
OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK FOR LUNCH & DINNER  
TAKE OUT • CATERING • BANQUET FACILITIES  
INSIDE & OUTSIDE DINING AVAILABLE  
Delicious Pizza Made Fresh For You!  
**925-846-2520**  
288 MAIN STREET, PLEASANTON  
**GAYNINETIESPIZZA.COM**

## LIVERMORE CALIFORNIA ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR POET LAUREATE

The City of Livermore and the Commission for the Arts is seeking a local poet to serve as the City of Livermore’s Poet Laureate. The person selected will serve as a public advocate for the appreciation and advancement of the arts, particularly poetry. The person selected for this position will not receive compensation, as this is a voluntary position. **The deadline to apply is April 3, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.**

The Poet Laureate will be called upon to write themed-based poetry and read poetry at civic events such as public ceremonies and dedications. He or she will serve as a resource and liaison between the City’s Cultural Arts Program, local schools, and literary organizations.

Following are the requirements for the Poet Laureate:

- Be a Livermore resident
- Be the author of published poetry deemed appropriate by the selection committee
- Be affiliated with the poetry culture
- Promote and advocate the City of Livermore as a venue for poetry
- Be an advocate for the inclusion of poetry in public and civic events
- Inspire and foster an awareness and appreciation of the role of poetry in the community through poetry readings, writing educational programs, and other outreach events, activities, and programs
- Interface with various literary organizations
- Collaborate with elected officials and city staff
- Serve a two-year term with no compensation
- Work with the previous Poet Laureate during a 6 – 12 month transition period
- Orient and train the next Poet Laureate.

Interested applicants must submit:

- A two-page letter of interest
- Five original poems, two of which have been published
- Your resumé indicating active participation in promoting the literary arts in the community
- An outline of your vision, goals, projects, and activities for the Poet Laureate Program during your tenure (July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2028).

If you have questions, please contact the City Clerk’s office at (925) 960-4200 or by e-mail at [cityclerk@livermoreca.gov](mailto:cityclerk@livermoreca.gov)

**SAVE THE DATE!** Information regarding interviews will be provided at the close of the application period. For more information or to apply, please visit [www.livermoreca.gov/AB](http://www.livermoreca.gov/AB), call the City Clerk’s office at (925) 960-4200, or email: [cityclerk@livermoreca.gov](mailto:cityclerk@livermoreca.gov).

**WILD & SCENIC** FILM FESTIVAL  
where activism gets inspired  
Tri-Valley Conservancy  
Experience the beauty, adventure, and ingenuity shaping our world on the big screen!  
Schedule:  
5 - 6:40pm: Lobby Eco Fair Open  
5:30 - 6:15pm: Panel Discussion  
6:45 - 8pm: Film Program Part 1  
8:00 - 8:25pm: Intermission  
8:25 - 9:20pm: Film Program Part 2  
Learn more and get tickets now!  
**Friday, February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2026**  
Livermore Bankhead Theater

## PLEASE HELP BRING MIGUEL HOME



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

Livermore Wentz Winery worker, married father of three and grandfather

### Miguel Lopez

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

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

## TVNPA

(Continued from front page)

level that will actually be a resource and a go-to and an advocate and an ombuds and a problem solver. So sort of a go-to place for nonprofits working with the state," said Green, prompting applause from the room.

"I was thrilled to see the proposal, which was the brainchild of (the) California Nonprofit Alliance, because it would create an office within the state government that would do the research and policy for our nonprofits to make sure (they) have the best path forward...in terms of grant-writing, proposal-making and so on," said McNerney.

The bill is motivated by California's \$20 billion structural deficit and looming federal cuts to health-care and food assistance programs like SNAP. The nonprofit sector is moving away from a sideline support role to an organized economic force demanding better partnership with the state.

## Economic Power of Nonprofits

Green said people are sometimes surprised by the data side of nonprofits.

"People wag their fingers and say, 'You should be more like business.' And we say, 'We are business. What's your question?'" he said.

Nonprofits generate roughly \$430 billion in annual revenue in California, a third of which comes from public grants and contracts.

"So we are good people trying to solve problems and do good things. But we're also a major part of the economy and a massive employer," said Green.

Despite nonprofits making up the state's 4th-largest economic sector, McNerney expressed concern for the persisting pay disparities between it and for-profit sectors.

"You can make at least a living, but you're not going to have a third home on the Riviera," he said. A woman in the audience said under her breath, "How about one single home?"

McNerney stressed the importance of giving reasons for people to want to enter the nonprofit sector, which is such a large part of our society.

"So how do we change that?" he asked.

McNerney, as chair of the Revenue and Taxation Committee, has been focused lately on finding creative funding solutions through corporate tax reform and taxing data corporations that won't hurt the middle class.

"There's some very unfair ways people are taxed and the way people pay and don't pay taxes."

McNerney is looking at the "Water's Edge" proposal to ensure that corporate entities are taxed more fairly, especially if they profit significantly from the state, while shifting revenues abroad.

He is also looking at exploring a tax on large technology corporations that harvest and monetize the personally identifiable information of Californians.

"Of maybe more than a couple 100,000 individuals, they're making enormous profits off that and a lot of that profit is being used in a way that is kind of harmful to society and they're not paying anything at all for the right to do that," McNer-

ney said. These companies generate massive profits by extracting data from the state's residents, often without direct compensation to them. McNerney's believes the state should receive a share of that value to fund public services.

But he made no bones about laying out the challenges he faces when tax measures require a two-thirds vote in the legislature. "That's hard," he said. "And the governor has made it clear he will veto any tax proposal that comes in front of him." McNerney said he is committed to holding Gov. Gavin Newsom's feet to the fire. "If he wants to be responsible for seeing homelessness, for seeing people hungry on the streets, people running around... with measles, with tuberculosis, then you know, he's going to have to answer to that," he said.

## Improving State-Nonprofit Partnership

Hewitt weighed in on another challenge facing the nonprofit sector: the great "overhead" debate and the

struggle for nonprofits to secure government contracts that cover the full cost of operations. Without adequate funding for administrative expenses, nonprofits are often forced to use their own private donor reserves to subsidize state-mandated programs.

"If you don't get the money up front, or some percentage of it, you are actually carrying the cost of doing business," Hewitt said. "And I don't think the nonprofit sector should be financing government operations."

He also underscored the importance of moving to an ACH digital payment system over outdated paper checks, at which the audience applauded.

And if the state needed yet another example of the ways nonprofits have proven their worth, they need only look at the role of nonprofits during the COVID-19 pandemic—and the more recent Tri-Valley example—the Livermore community's response to SNAP threats, which led to 18,000 lbs of food and \$85,000 raised to fill locally a gap govern-

ment cannot reach.

"Because one thing that nonprofits are — you are innovators," Hewitt said. He described nonprofits as "nimble" and asserted their position in communities as second to first responders who address acute needs during crises. "After a fire, who picks up the pieces for that family or for that community — it's a nonprofit that often shows up."

And McNerney is counting on the nonprofits to show up in support of the proposed Office of Nonprofit Empowerment.

"I need you guys to have my back when I go to the Appropriations Committee and say we need this," he said.

"It's not just an expenditure. We're going to get at least \$20 million per year back. I mean, we need to make a real hardcore financial argument to get this through the process," he explained.

"I'm a lot more empowered to do the things that I think are right in Sacramento than I ever was in Washington."

## OBITUARIES

## CELEBRATION OF LIFE

James Howard Scofield  
Oct. 10th, 1933 — Nov. 24th, 2025

James Howard Scofield passed away at home in his sleep November 24th, 2025 at the age of 92, surrounded by his family. He is remembered with deep love for his brilliant mind, gentle humor, curiosity, and lifelong devotion to nature, birding, music, and learning. He was a voracious reader and admirer of poppies. Former physicist colleagues speak highly of Jim for his work in theoretical atomic physics at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL).

Jim was born October 10, 1933 in Gary, Indiana to Robert and Shirley Scofield—his father a science teacher and his mother working in spectrography at a steel mill and later as a substitute teacher.

"Jimmy," as he was known as a boy, grew up on a farm in Portage Township alongside his younger brother, Robert, and baby foster sister, Sonia Jean Benson. He enjoyed the animals, but described farming as "hard work," though it also nurtured his curiosity. Even as a very young child, Jimmy could be found experimenting—once discovering the physics of siphoning while playing with water and tubing in a sandbox.

Jim attended the United Methodist Church in Gary and fondly remembered summer Bible camps with his siblings. A gifted student, he graduated as valedictorian of his high school and went on to major in physics at Indiana University in Bloomington, where he earned his PhD. Following, he completed postdoctoral work at Stanford University.

Jim met the love of his life, Patricia "Pat" Scofield, at McCormick's Creek State Park at an Indiana University church picnic, while hiking ahead of the rest of the group. He loved to recall Pat singing Oklahoma! to him along the trail. They were married for 65 years — 70 years together — a partnership marked by deep affection and shared adventure.

In his personal life, Jim could be a quiet person of few words but he also loved to sing and joke around. He delighted in music—Broadway, opera and symphony — especially enjoying hearing Pat play the cello in the Livermore Amador Symphony and watching his daughter Ava perform in musicals. When the Bankhead Theater came to Livermore, Jim enjoyed many performances there with family.

Jim spent countless hours birding, hiking, and backpacking with Pat and family including in the Tri-Valley

and National Parks. Being such an outdoor adventurer, Jim especially enjoyed recalling seeing mountain lions and black bears, and even a close encounter with a grizzly bear while backpacking with his wife. He also enjoyed taking his kids boating at Del Valle, inner tubing and playing tennis.

He shared the night sky with his children and neighborhood kids through his telescope, happily pointing out different constellations. Jim also once famously built a life-sized cardboard magazine to study bird behavior at Sunset Park.

Jim's humor extended to Christmas mornings, when carefully chosen gifts appeared wrapped in brown grocery paper bags. Jim was quite the shrewd opponent in games, including cards and ongoing backgammon games which he delighted in playing with family.

Jim greatly enjoyed riding his bike to Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory where he worked as a theoretical atomic physicist from 1962 to 2008, following which he volunteered part time until 2017.

At home, Jim spoke very little of his work. When asked by his daughter what he did for a living Jim would either reply, "I play with numbers," or "I play with computers." When asked by his son he would say, "I see which way electrons spin." He only spoke some on his published papers to his wife.

Since Jim's passing, his family has greatly appreciated learning from former colleagues the substantial importance of Jim's physics work. This includes learning about The Scofield ionization tables that Jim calculated along with others, his contributions to the LBNL X-Ray Data Booklet and numerous other works of Jim's that are currently still used by physicists today.

Physicists shared that Jim Scofield was one of the key world leaders for decades in the detailed Relativistic Hartree-Slater calculations of photo-ionization, collisional excitation, and other important x-ray processes in heavy atoms and ions. As such, his work strongly impacted a broad range of soft and hard x-ray applications, such as materials sciences studies done at x-ray light sources, x-ray crystallographic determinations of structures, the development of x-ray lasers (XRLs), the use of x-ray spectroscopy for diagnosis of high temperature plasmas, as well as fundamental atomic



physics in association with spectroscopic experiments done at LLNL's EBIT (electron beam ion trap).

Jim's theory and computations provided a key foundation to models of radiative properties of plasmas relevant to defense applications, Inertial Confinement Fusion (ICF), X-ray Lasers and Astrophysics. Jim collaborated closely with experimentalists and people modeling plasma experiments, he was widely known and respected as an expert scientist in his field. His tables of calculated photoionization cross sections and x-ray spectral emission lines, first published in 1973, are still widely used in models and experiment design.

In 1984, Jim was part of the team that demonstrated the first x-ray laser gain pumped by a hot plasma amplifier. Subsequently his work enabled the design and demonstration of higher Z x-ray lasers and their use for applications. His calculations explained observations of hyper fine splitting in x-ray lasers (1993) and the anomalous performance of a Titanium plasma laser (1994). Jim's work helped explain new plasma effects on the refractive index of XRLs used for interferometry (2006). After retiring, Jim continued to volunteer part time at the LLNL until 2017, playing an important part in transferring his knowledge of x-ray processes in heavy atoms and ions to a younger generation.

Brian MacGowan expressed that "everyone he spoke with regarding Jim remembered him as a great scientist who interacted with many scientists and projects."

Kwok-Tsang Cheng said "I knew him even before I came to the Lab. He was famous for his relativistic atomic calculations when the field was still relatively new. He was a great scientist and a real gentleman."

Joe Nilsen said "I worked with Jim for many years. Looking back I see 25 papers we published together with the last being in 2006 when Jim was helping us understand how the index of



refraction in the X-ray laser interferometry experiments could be greater than 1. I first worked with Jim in 1982 in X-ray laser days when Jim was teaching me how to use his atomic physics code GLIB on the CDC7600 and then the updated code RAC on the Cray. This was before we had the Grant code to use. These calculations were essential for developing the models for X-ray laser simulations. Later in 1993 Jim added features to the Grant code so that we could model the hyperfine splitting we observed in Ne-like Nb x-ray laser transitions. Even today I routinely use the ionization tables Jim created that are published at LBL. Jim was a quiet but extremely helpful and knowledgeable person who I enjoyed interacting with for many decades."

Steve Libby said "This is very sad news. I liked Jim very much, and admired his work in atomic physics. Jim was one of the key world leaders for decades in the detailed Relativistic Hartree-Slater calculations of photo-ionization, collisional excitation, and other important x-ray processes in heavy atoms. As such, his work strongly impacted a broad range of soft and hard x-ray applications, such as materials sciences studies done at x-ray light sources, x-ray crystallographic determinations of structures, the development of x-ray lasers, and so on, as well as fundamental atomic physics in association with spectroscopic experiments done at LLNL's EBIT (electron beam ion trap)."

Al Osterheld said "Another feature of his work is that he collaborated closely with experimentalists and people modeling plasma experiments. His data and computational tools were certainly used in the ICF program, and laboratory x-ray lasers, also the underground test program. But, basically, relativistic atomic physics is relevant to many Lab programs."

Nino Landen said, "Many of us remember Jim through the Scofield tables of few electron resonance line posi-

tions in the LBL X-ray Data Booklet, the go to table for designing backlighter and dot spectroscopy experiments. He identified the lines from picosecond laser plasma for a 1989 SPIE paper we wrote."

Brian MacGowan would add that "Jim's contribution to understanding and modeling x-ray processes in high Z ions was of direct benefit to the development of inertial confinement fusion (ICF) through providing the tools to diagnose multiple experiments and understand the performance of high-Z hohlraums necessary for indirect drive ICF. Work that culminated in the demonstration of the first fusion gain (ignition) at the National Ignition Facility in Dec 2022."

Brian MacGowan also shared, "I interacted with him most closely during the period of development of the laboratory x ray lasers 1984 — 1993 at Novette and Nova, in particular Neon-like and shorter wavelength Nickel-like x-ray lasers that relied on his ability to calculate the properties of such high-Z ions in detail."

I have a fond memory of discussing the Titanium plasma XRL (reported by Tom Boehly at the University of Rochester (LLE)) while he was playing Bocce ball in Sunset Park. At the time, LLE thought that they had discovered a different type of x-ray laser. Jim's calculations subsequently explained that the Titanium laser emission was actually produced by the same electron collisional pumping that we had demonstrated in Neon-like Selenium in 1984, rather than a resonant or recombination pumping that was assumed by LLE. The Titanium XRL was operating on a line (laser transition between two electron energy levels) that was less bright in the Selenium XRL than expected. The greater efficiency of the particular transition in Titanium in the LLE experiment was due to the use of a prepulse to preform a larger, more uniform plasma in which the laser gain was subsequently produced by a higher power irradiation. This understanding led to more efficient ways of producing laser gain in larger regions of plasma and was adopted by many researchers. That conclusion followed from Jim's ability to calculate a zoo of electron energy states and the strength of processes within those states accurately. This is just one of many examples of how Jim was applied his expertise to multiple projects and experiments."

Jim was greatly dedicated to his work at "The Lab" and looked forward to going each day. After he retired, Jim happily dedicated himself as the volunteer clearing the expansive network of invasive Arundo from all of Sycamore Grove Park. It took many years of labor, but Jim ultimately conquered the Arundo which helped open up the waterways at the park and protect the park's ecosystem. He also enjoyed volunteering at the Livermore Public Library teaching English as a second language to adults. Additionally, Jim spent hours researching his own genealogy, and subsequently volunteered at the genealogy library at a Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Livermore to assist others in their own research.

Jim valued sharing regular time with his wife and family at Sunset Park. Nearly a decade ago, a photo he took in 1971 (possibly '73) of the beautiful 300-hundred year-old Valley Oak at the park was helpful in saving the tree from being cut down, thanks to the collective effort of the neighborhood and Livermore residents.

James Howard Scofield is preceded in death by his oldest son, William Howard Scofield and his younger brother Robert Scofield. He leaves behind his beloved wife, Patricia Scofield, daughter Ava Scofield, son Daniel Scofield, daughter-in-law Mary Bockover, five grandchildren, sister-in-law Lynn Scofield, as well as his cherished foster sister from childhood, Sonja Jean Benson. Jim is deeply loved and missed. His family is very grateful for all the memories shared by his physics colleagues and all who knew Jim.

In lieu of flowers, if you feel inclined, the family welcomes trees planted in Jim's name via Callaghan's website, donations to the Autobahn Society or acts of kindness of your choice.

We invite those who knew and loved our beloved James Howard Scofield as well as friends of the family and physicist-colleagues to join us in celebrating his life, in Fellowship Hall at Asbury Methodist Church, 4743 East Avenue in Livermore on Saturday, March 21st at 11:00 am.

Jim loved flowery and colorful clothing, so that's what we're wearing. Feel free to join us in your own such attire if you'd like and to bring your own stories to share. You can also share your memories of Jim on Callaghan's website.

# OBITUARIES

## Kathy Anne Kaufman April 8, 1937 — Feb. 1, 2026

Kathy Anne Kaufman passed away peacefully on Feb. 1, 2026, in Santa Ana, California at age 88.

Kathy was born in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. Her father was a devout Jew, well-versed in Jewish learning with the musical talent to serve as a lay cantor in his community. Kathy experienced stereotypical antisemitism that has always bubbled below the surface, recalling an incident as a child when someone pushed her into some rocks and called her a dirty Jew. Though their home was kosher and her father was religious, Kathy was not drawn to orthodox Jewish observance, but proud to be Jewish and a supporter of Israel.

Growing up, Kathy helped her parents in their dry goods store in a working-class neighborhood. Through her interaction with customers, Kathy came to identify with the plight and struggles of Americans trying to take care of their families, and, as an adult with the capacity to vote her conscience and be charitable, supported candidates and organizations that championed those in need and the working class.

Kathy was blessed with a great intellect. She was accepted and enrolled in Jackson College for Women in Boston (now Tufts University). Soon after starting college, she met her husband, Alfred Kaufman, a Harvard student. They married in 1957 before she graduated with her degree in geology in 1958 and remained married until 1982.

Kathy worked to support Alfred while he finished his graduate education, a Ph.D. in theoretical physics. In 1960, Alfred and Kathy moved to Palo Alto, California where Alfred had secured a job with a defense contractor. There the three children were born, and they remained until 1971.

Kathy was a voracious reader,



er, a prolific writer and had very high standards for herself and others. Although she was not raised by a mother who taught her how to cook, she became a self-taught chef, baker and overall lover of food. Preparing and serving food became her love language for friends and family — building strong relationships through feeding people. Because she never gave her children junk food in their school lunches, they would trade her home baked goods for Twinkies and Hostess cupcakes. She wrote or co-wrote seven cookbooks.

At age 36, Kathy used her book royalties to enroll in law school, taking night classes. In 1978, she graduated from Golden Gate University in the top 10% of her class and passed the California bar. She deeply enjoyed the research aspect of law. In the late 1970s and early 1980s, law firms were still reticent to hire women. In 1980, to help support her three children (then teenagers), she took a job as an executive secretary. Kathy loved being challenged at work and continually moved up in work responsibility over the course of 28 years. She was initially employed at EPRI (Palo Alto) and then at Lawrence Livermore Lab, where she eventually utilized her law degree, managing a Technology Transfer group.

Kathy was dedicated to Isra-

el. In 1986, she took the whole family on a trip with a private guide, and then went back in 1990 with Amy, her husband Murray, and Murray's mother. She was philanthropic and an active supporter of Hadassah. She served as the local chapter president. Because Hebrew Free Loan helped her get two of her children through college, she set up a fund in her father's memory (the Simon Grossman Fund) to make it possible for other families to benefit as she did.

Kathy resided in Livermore for 43 years, making many friends through work, congregation Beth Emek and other pursuits. These included cooking demos at the Alameda County Fair, volunteering at the Pleasanton Superior Court and the Community Police Academy.

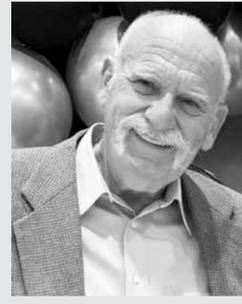
Kathy also loved to travel, visiting Australia and New Zealand, India, Morocco, the UK, Scandinavia, Eastern Europe and St. Petersburg, Russia.

Her last ten years were spent in Orange County where she could be tended to by daughter Amy and her husband Murray. Although her body was in decline, her incredible mind stayed sharp until the end, so much so that she was able to learn about and showed interest in the lives of the staff people who were taking care of her.

Kathy will be remembered with love, admiration, and appreciation for her distinctive accomplishments and great integrity. She is predeceased by her parents Simon and Miriam Grossman and ex-husband Alfred. She leaves behind her caring children Amy Falk, (Murray), Joshua, Sam (Greg), grandchildren Shoshana Deutsch (Josh) and Shaina, and great grandson Oliver.

## CELEBRATION OF LIFE

### Aldean John Fabyan Nov. 1, 1948 — Feb. 8, 2026



Aldean John Fabyan (papa), 77, passed away peacefully on Feb. 8, 2026, surrounded by his family, after a hard-fought year-long battle with pancreatic cancer. He was welcomed into heaven just two days after celebrating 54 beautiful years of marriage. Aldean was born on Nov. 1, 1948, in Lodi, California to Joseph and Louella, and was raised in Livermore. Aldean joined the Navy in 1968 and served for four years. During this time, he spent one year in Vietnam working on a repair ship. From 1972-2000, Aldean worked alongside his father-in-law at the family business, Bob's Parts House — a place that shaped his sense of responsibility and loyalty. Later, he found his path at the Livermore National Laboratory, where he continued to work with the same steady, thoughtful commitment for 26 years. Aldean was a man who quietly cared for others and always made sure his loved ones were taken care of. His most important role was caring for his fam-

ily, a job he carried out with endless patience and love. Whether at home or at work, he was always dependable and proud of the life he built. Aldean took great pride in serving his country and working at the Livermore National Laboratory, but above all, he was most proud of the family and legacy he created.

Aldean is survived by his wife of 54 years, Kathryn; his children Dawn, Jill (Detroy Jr.), and Brandy (Matthew); three grandchildren, Brianna, Tyler, and Ashley (William); and his great-granddaughter, Myla.

Aldean was happy with a set of tools nearby, building,

fixing, and improving whatever caught his eye. He had a gift for turning raw materials into something useful and beautiful. He found meaning in creating — objects, projects, and a life well made. Aldean built more than things; he also built spaces for his family to gather, connections, and countless memories. Even in his final weeks, he would say, "I gotta getty up and get goin'." A true reflection of his constant on the go mentality. Aldean filled every day with purpose and thrived on making the most of every moment.

In true papa fashion, he was probably checking the steps on the stairway to heaven, making sure they are sturdy.

A celebration of life will be held for Aldean on May 23, 2026, at 4240 Guilford Ave. in Livermore. Guests are welcome to attend any time after 1:00 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, the family would appreciate a donation to your charity of choice.

### Lynda Ballard May 21, 1940 — Jan. 27, 2026



Lynda passed away peacefully in her sleep on Jan. 27, 2026, of natural causes. She is survived by her husband of nearly 40 years, Bill Ballard, sons Keith Christensen and Bruce Christensen and daughter Julie Freccia (Fil) as well as nine grandchildren and four great grandchildren. All of her younger siblings preceded her in death.

Lynda was born in Palo Alto and graduated from Cubberly High School. For many years she was on the reunion committee until there were too few classmates able to attend a reunion.

She graduated from Cal State Hayward and moved to Albuquerque where she taught special education for 18 years. Upon her return to California in 1999 to be closer to her children, she retired from teaching and lived

in Livermore where she made many friends.

Her email address, (bksnartmusic@) books and art and music, nearly says it all about her. She loved books, both reading and writing them. Our house is filled with so many works of art that she ran out of wall space, and

some is now on loan or stashed behind furniture. She loved music, be it rock, classical, choral, opera, or jazz.

She also loved to travel, having visited Paris, London, Amsterdam, Madrid, Barcelona, Porto, Tahiti, Florence, Venice and of course Kauai. She also loved going on trips to explore different areas of wine country, in France, California, Oregon, Washington, and even New Mexico.

She was known as a crazy cat lady, at one point having a half dozen, and loving each of them.

In lieu of flowers, which she also loved, please make a donation to any of her favorite charities: Tri-Valley Haven, Open Heart Kitchen, Livermore Valley Opera, Paws in Need, SPARC, or the Bankhead. A celebration of life is being planned for May.

## CELEBRATION OF LIFE

### Sue Escover May 22, 1959 — Jan. 24, 2026

Sue (Allen) Escover passed away peacefully at her home in Livermore, California on Jan. 24, 2026, after a courageous battle with pancreatic cancer. Sue was the type of person who would give you the shirt off her back, and was genuinely kind, hard-working, and full of love. She was the greatest mother, wife and friend, and her presence brought light, comfort, and joy to those around her. Sue cherished her family, animals, and friends above all else, holding them close to her heart and making each feel deeply seen, valued, and loved. Sue's passing leaves an immeasurable void in the hearts of all who knew and loved her.

Sue was born on May 22, 1959. In her early years, her family moved from San Leandro to Oakland in 1965, and later to Pleasanton in 1968. She graduated from Amador Valley High School in 1977 and later settled in Livermore in 1980, where she met her husband, Eddie Escover and where they raised their daughter Jessica. Sue devoted 35 years of her career to Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, retiring as an executive assistant in 2017. She took great pride in



her career at LLNL and treasured the many friendships she built there.

From a young age, Sue was active and adventurous. She was an avid tennis player as a girl and discovered a love for horses and riding that

remained with her throughout her life. In her twenties, she played slow-pitch softball in Livermore, always enjoying the camaraderie and competition. Sue felt most at home outdoors — riding horses, walking with friends, working in her garden, or taking a drive to the mountains or the ocean. She enjoyed the thrill of treasure hunting at antique fairs and cherished her life in the Livermore hills. If good music was playing, you could almost certainly find her on the dance floor, and she never passed up a game of pedro or 1-4-24. More often than not, Sue could be found wearing a baseball cap, and if she wasn't, she was counting down the minutes until she could put one on.

Sue is survived by her loving husband of 41 years, Eddie Escover, and beloved daughter, Jessica Escover.

Her family invites all who knew and loved Sue to attend a celebration of her life on Saturday, March 7, 2026, from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. at Del Valle Winery, 4948 Tesla Road, Livermore, California.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to your local pet rescue or to the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network.

### Irene Mary Hickey Nov. 11, 1938 — Jan. 29, 2026



Irene came to San Mateo County after getting married at age 22 in 1960 and working for the government as a secretary while living at Manhattan Beach in Southern California.

She settled in the Belmont, Foster City area with her husband, Howard G. Hickey, a consulting civil engineer. She raised three children: Laura Harms, John Hickey and Diane Johnson.

She later retired in the Tri-Valley area, settling again in Livermore with family there and enjoyed many happy years in the Livermore wine country with her extended family and grandchildren.

Irene had many friends and

or events with her family there. She is survived by her three children, her sister, Joyce Zolnay, her six grandchildren, Jack Hickey, Shawn Hickey, Alissa Harms, Nicholas Johnson, Jessica Goldstein, and her son-in-law, George Martin Johnson III, who was devoted to her care until the end of her life.

Services will be held on Feb. 20, 2026, at Saint Michael's Church in Livermore at 10:00 a.m. for a viewing and 11:00 a.m. for a mass.

She will be laid to rest at Saint Michael's Cemetery the following Friday, Feb. 27, 2026, at 11:00 a.m.

For more information, see [stmichaellivermore.com](mailto:stmichaellivermore.com).

### Codie Mae Ridgwell Feb. 12, 1939 — Feb. 11, 2026



Codie Mae Ridgwell was born in Yuma, Colorado, to Henry Homer and Ruby Zelda Ridgeway. She was the third of their nine children growing up on the plains. She attended Kansas Wesleyan University in Salina, Kansas in the fall of 1957. While a sophomore, her career girl plans became slightly altered upon meeting a young member of the US Air Force, Larry Ridgwell, who in 1960 persuaded her to change her name from Ridgeway to Ridgwell. Codie graduated from Asbury Nursing Hospital School, obtaining her RN in 1960. She settled in Larry's native Oakland, California, where he graduated from Oakland City College while she worked at Children's Hospital of the East Bay. They welcomed three children in five years (David, Joan, and Daniel) and purchased their first and only home in 1965 in Livermore, California, with Larry being employed at the Lawrence Radiation Lab and Codie working part time at the local community hospital. The family was completed with their fourth child, James, born in 1972.

simultaneously. Her collection of the Midwest plains and language books were some of her best friends. She spent countless hours researching family history and was an example of faith and charity to all, serving 18 years in the LDS Oakland Temple. Her greatest gift to her family was her testimony of Jesus Christ.

She is preceded in death by her loving husband, Walter (Larry) Ridgwell, and was the last living in her own family. She leaves behind four devoted children, David of Livermore, Joan (Tim Eklund) of Manteca, Daniel (Tammy) of Idaho, and James (Nonnie) of Manteca; 11 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren.

Family and friends are invited to her funeral services to be held Tuesday, March 3, 2026, at 10:30 a.m. (10:00 a.m. viewing) at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 950 Mocho St., Livermore CA, 94550. Interment will follow at the San Joaquin National Cemetery, Santa Nella at 2:00 p.m., where she will be reunited alongside her loving husband Walter L. Ridgwell.

### William (Bill) Lewis Robison June 18, 1938 — Dec. 13, 2025



Beloved son, husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, friend, coach, mentor and colleague, William Lewis Robison passed away peacefully Dec. 13, 2025, he was 87. Born to Jim and Vera Robison in Grinnell, Iowa, Bill married Vicky in 1959. Bill and Vicky left Iowa for California in 1960 so Bill could pursue his PhD at UC Berkeley. After receiving his PhD, Bill and family moved to Livermore in 1963 so Bill could begin his career at LLNL as a research scientist where among other projects he lead the program researching

Marshallese to return to their islands. Bill loved life! His impact and legacy on those he touched, whether it was being a loving husband, parent and grandparent, a great coach, friend, mentor or volunteer for civic organizations, will endure. Bill leaves his wife Vicky, sons and their wives Steve (Jodi), Mark (Stacy) and Matt (Suzy), brother Jerry (Glory), five grandchildren, six great-grandchildren, and his many relatives and friends. Bill's life reminds us... "Don't cry because it's over, smile because it happened."

the effects of nuclear weapons testing on the Marshall Islands and whether it was safe for the

# One Night, Three Bittersweet Conclusions to Stellar Seasons

By Mitch Stephens

BRENTWOOD — Dublin High School boys basketball coach Tony Costello walked back into the Liberty-Brentwood gymnasium on Friday (Feb. 20) neither teary-eyed nor downtrodden. Somber seemed more his demeanor.

His Gaels had just finished their season with a 66-55 North Coast Section Division I quarterfinal defeat to the Lions, a team they had defeated each of the last two postseasons in NCS play.

To a player, Liberty said “payback” was on its mind throughout the convincing win in a game Dublin never led.

“I let them have their moment,” Costello said of the Gaels. “It was their season. I wanted them to have their own time.”

Costello knows the pulse of teenagers. He just finished his 20th season as the Gaels’ head coach, and he’s been leading players for six seasons before that as an assistant. He’s also raised two teenage sons (now in their 20s) and has two more teenage daughters.

He knows the teenage brand well — enough to know when he has a special group, like his 2025-26 Gaels, who finished their season with 19 wins against nine losses. His two previous teams each won 24 games and he’s had previous win totals of 27 (2023-13), 29 (2016-17), 26 (2017-18) and 25 (2018-19).

But victories on the court aren’t necessarily the measuring stick.

### Sauteed to perfection

“Can’t say I’ve enjoyed a season more than this one,” he said. “These guys were special. Considering all the

adversity they faced. Everyone counting us out. And just getting better. The ability to just keep playing through hard times.”

The team lost its top eight scorers off the 2024-25 team, including the top two Cameron Anderson and Jaiden Jones, who were supposed to return but instead transferred to other schools in the East Bay Athletic League.

They got a highly impactful kid, Izayah Romero, with an emphasis on high-flying, a 6-foot-2 jumper who has already inked with a Division I college program, University of Colorado-Cororado Springs. But the rest were leftovers, warmed up and sauteed to perfection.

Without a player taller than 6-foot-2, the Gaels overachieved all season, beating teams such as St. Mary’s-Berkeley (84-53), Folsom (68-58), Placer (64-



The addition of Izayah Romero (13), with a reported 42-inch vertical leap, literally and figuratively helped Dublin jumpstart its memorable 2025-26 boys basketball season. (Photo courtesy of David Steutel)

55), Rancho Verde-Moreno Valley (22-8), Valley Christian-San Jose (63-61), Monte Vista-Danville (49-38) and Dougherty Valley-San Ramon (68-66) all with significantly higher computer rankings.

But on Friday, three days after somewhat struggling in a 70-64 first-round win over Berkeley, the Gaels just didn’t have it. Poor shooting and turnovers — on four straight possessions to start the fourth quarter when already trailing by 10 — were just too difficult to overcome against a very good Liberty squad (25-3), which came in as the fourth seed (Dublin was No. 5).

Leading scorer Aiden Lee, averaging more than 15 points per game, managed just 10 and second- and third-leading scorers Romero and Nick Lee combined for just 11. It was learned later that Romero actually fractured his right hand in the first quarter but didn’t tell anyone. A gamer to the end.

“Tough kid, great kid,” Costello said. “They all are. That’s why it’s so hard to have it end. They won’t ever practice together again. ... I’m not sure what it was. Perhaps we just ran out of steam or luck. Never gave in or gave up, but just didn’t have it. Gotta give Liberty credit for part of that.”

### ‘Not Our Night’

Rome Raymore, a 6-foot junior, definitely didn’t give in, scoring nine quick points in the last three minutes of play.

“It just wasn’t our night,” Costello said. “But it was one heck of a season.”

The same could be said on the same night for Liv-

ermore’s boys basketball program. The Cowboys had their dream 18-10 season close with a humbling 56-31 loss at hard-charging Amador Valley in NCS DI quarterfinal play. The Dons (18-11), who have underachieved by many accounts, appear to be putting it all together now.

They got 28 points from one of the top junior guards in Northern California, Jaylen Smith, and tremendous defense by Elijah Stanley and San Jose State-bound Cade Krueger, who combined for 16 points.

The duo helped contain arguably the Bay Area’s top sophomore Amare Chandler to just 12 points. Three nights earlier, Chandler led the Cowboys to one of three historic wins for Livermore this season, an 81-78 overtime win at California when Chandler, a 6-foot-6 wing, scored a career-high 40 points, hitting last-second 3-pointers to not only send the game into OT, but also the game-winner, setting off an away-from-home court storm to celebrate the school’s first road NCS win ever.

It came on the heels of breaking a 14-year, 121-game EBAL losing streak in an opening-game 74-63 home victory on Jan. 9, and a 51-45 home win Jan. 27 over De La Salle, the program’s first win over the private school from Concord.

### On the Map

Like Liberty over Dublin, Amador Valley was motivated by redemption in its win over Livermore last week. Livermore coach Mike Tripp sent a strong message to his team after the season-ending

defeat, especially seniors like Chad Harper, Zach Lininger, Erik Schock, Dylan Wherry and Caden Kinney, who set the tone for turning around the program.

Chandler, who will be up for EBAL MVP, will obviously be remembered not only for the monumental win over California, and as the team’s top player, but the collective group set a standard for years to come, Tripp said.

“I told them I wouldn’t trade them for this season for any,” he said. “The chemistry and bond was second to none. I loved every day coming to practice and teaching them and they were all willing to learn every day. I told them it’s hard to get a team like this that comes around every once in a while and I was fortunate to have them this year. ... The last thing I told them was that they put Livermore basketball on the map.”

### Another Sudden Feb. 20 Ending

Dublin girls coach Jose Alvarez surely had a similar message for his team that went 21-8 and earned a second seed in the NCS DI tournament, only to be upset by Heritage-Brentwood in the semifinals 40-38. A 13-2 run and a combined 24 points from Jessie Cooper and Lily Wilright did in the Gaels, who were led all season by seniors Arianna Chacon (17.3 points per game) and Addison Leomiti (8.0) and junior Makaela Beltran (8.6). Coming off a 22-7 season, these Gaels were the first to win at least 20 games since 2017-18 and the first to go back-to-back 20-win seasons since 2008-09 and 2009-10.



## Granada Wrestling Sweeps NCS

By Mitch Stephens

The winter season continues to rain with success for Tri-Valley High School athletic teams, none more than Granada’s wrestling program.

Led by coaches Spencer Phillips and Sean Jackson, the Matadors had a banner day at the North Coast Section Masters Championship at James Logan-Union City Friday and Saturday (Feb. 20-21), vaulting them straight to the CIF State Championships this week (Feb. 26-28) at Mechanics Bank Arena in Bakersfield.

The top three individual girls and top two boys in each weight class qualified for the state meet.

The Matador girls won their first NCS Masters team crown thanks in part to titles from SJ Martin (120 pounds) and Maile Nguyen (126). Despite suffering an elbow injury early in the season, Martin won her third NCS title while pinning all three of her opponents in the first round. Other Granada female placers were Olivia Warren (115, 4th), Piper Anderson (130, 4th) and Elena Nguyen-Schertzer (145, 3rd).

Other local champions were Amador Valley’s Eliano Caro (100) and Dublin’s Lana Nguyen (130). Dublin’s Sherry Wu (135, 6th) and Candice Carandang (115, 7th), Livermore’s Diana Zarco (110, 6th), and Foothill’s Aarya Mishra (115, 6th) and Alina Gullen (125, 4th) all placed but did not advance to state.

Granada’s boys placed third with 145.5 points, just behind champion Ukiah (150.5) and runner-up Liberty-Brentwood (148). The Matadors boys also claimed two champions in Jack Baker (132) and Jack Bronte (138), while Charlie Herrington moved on to state by placing second in the 150-pound class. Another Tri-Valley male champion was Livermore’s Elham Hashimi (106) while teammate Ronan McAllister (190) also advanced by placing second.

Others to place at NCS but not advance were Dublin’s Lytning Hazen (120, 3rd) and Yousuf Amin (132, 6th), Granada’s Grant Langstaff (120, 4th), Isaiah Peterson-Moore (126, 6th) and Luke Debenning (285, 7th). Amador Valley’s Nathan Marek (138, 3rd), Williams Chandler (190, 3rd) and Santino Sevier (215, 7th) and Foothill’s Tunoa Bodily (157, 7th).

**Boys basketball:** The seasons of Granada and Amador Valley continued this week with stirring quarterfinal wins on Friday. Brandon Hahn continued his remarkable junior season with 36 points and 11 rebounds leading Granada (21-7) to a 64-62 home win over Monte Vista-Danville, while Jaylen Smith was phenomenal with 28 points, leading Amador Valley (17-11) to a 56-31 win over Livermore. The two teams played at Amador Valley on Tuesday (Feb. 24), with the winner advancing to face the Liberty-Brentwood at Bishop O’Dowd-Oakland winner on Friday (Feb. 27). The losers of the semifinal games would face off Friday in the third-place game. The top three in each division advance to next week’s Northern California playoffs.

**Soccer:** Granada’s boys team rolled through the first two rounds of NCS Division 2 play with wins over Campolindo-Moraga (5-0) and Sonoma Valley (6-0) to advance to the semifinals on Feb. 24 at Richmond. ... Despite a 2-0 loss to top-seed Bishop O’Dowd, Amador Valley’s girls soccer team will play for third place Saturday (Feb. 28) at Cardinal Newman-Santa Rosa with a berth in the NorCal playoffs at stake. ... Livermore girls won a shootout with San Marin-Novato 3-2 on Feb. 20 to advance to an NCS Division 3 semifinal at second-seed Analy-Sebastopol. Aletheia Luciano Lollis scored two goals during regulation and Rhianon Stewart had one for the Cowboys (8-10-3).

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

## LEGAL NOTICES/CLASSIFIEDS

www.independentnews.com

LEGAL NOTICES	FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT	FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT	FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT	FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT	FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT	FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT	FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
<p><b>Superior Court of the State of California</b>  <b>Case No.: 25FL03171</b>  <b>Companion Case: 24AD00093</b>                      For the County of SACRAMENTO. <b>IN THE MATTER OF NOVA RAE EDMONDS A.K.A. OCEAN NOVA CARDENAS.</b> A minor person who should be declared free from the custody and control of her presumed father.                      CITATION RE HEARING ON PETITION FOR FREEDOM FROM PARENTAL CUSTODY AND CONTROL PURSUANT TO FAMILY CODE SECTION 7822.  <b>TO: Ward Allen Keck.</b> PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that it is alleged that you are the presumed biological father of Baby Girl Keller a.k.a. Baby Girl Edmonds a.k.a. Nova Rae Edmonds a.k.a. Ocean Nova Cardenas (“Minor”) born May 24, 2024, in San Francisco, California, a child who was placed for adoption.                      BY ORDER of this Court you are hereby cited and required to appear before the Judge Presiding in Department 125 of the above-entitled court, located at the <b>William R. Ridgeway Family Relations Courthouse, 3341 Power Inn Road, Sacramento, California 95826, on March 10, 2026 at 1:30 p.m.</b> of that day, then and there to show cause why the court should not make an order terminating your parental rights to the Minor child on the grounds of abandonment pursuant to Family Code Section 7822. The Independent, Legal No. 6695. Published February 5, 12, 19, 26, 2026.</p>	<p>The following person(s) doing business as: Fairfield by Marriott Livermore, 220 N Greenville Road, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Blue Diamond Management Inc., 3446 Zaccaria Way, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 1/22/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Novdeep K. Sanghera, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 26, 2026. Expires January 25, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6696. Published February 5, 12, 19, 26, 2026.</p>	<p>The following person(s) doing business as: Stoic Rebel Financial, 3245 Bayo Vista Avenue, Alameda, CA 94501 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Daniel Heller, 3245 Bayo Vista Ave, Alameda, CA 94501. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Daniel Heller. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 27, 2026. Expires January 26, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6698. Published February 5, 12, 19, 26, 2026.</p>	<p>The following person(s) doing business as: Sentinel Skills Systems, 1445 34th Ave #7891, Oakland, CA 94601 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Sentinel Skills Systems, 1445 34th Ave #7891, Oakland, CA 94601. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Ronald Rivers, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 28, 2026. Expires January 27, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6701. Published February 5, 12, 19, 26, 2026.</p>	<p>The following person(s) doing business as: JRM Drywall, 2 JRM Builders, 3 JRM General Contractor, 3437 Zion Canyon Court, Pleasanton, CA 94588 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): JRM General Contractor Inc., 3437 Zion Canyon Court, Pleasanton, CA 94588. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 12/2/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Jose R. Mendiola, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 15, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6703. Published February 5, 12, 19, 26, 2026.</p>	<p>94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Bajrangli LLC, 1536 N Vasco Rd, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 1/21/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Vvekanad Vennam, Manager. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 27, 2026. Expires January 27, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6704. Published February 5, 12, 19, 26, 2026.</p>	<p>The following person(s) doing business as: Redwood Creative Therapy, 4133 Mohr Ave, Suite 1, Pleasanton, CA 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Brittany Tachkov, 2295 Camino Brazos, Pleasanton, CA 94566. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 4/1/2024. Signature of Registrant/s/: Brittany Tachkov, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 26, 2026. Expires January 26, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6708. Published February 12, 19, 26, March 5, 2026.</p>	<p>The following person(s) doing business as: Covenant Assembly of Churches World - Wide, 230 Crolls Garden CT, Alameda, CA 94501 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Goshen Faith Assembly MBC, Inc, 1740 yth Ave, Oakland, CA 94606. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 03/03/2022 in the County of Alameda. This business was conducted by an individual. Signature of Registrants: /s/: Pam Dew-Smith, Executor. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 30, 2026. Expires January 29, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6709. Published February 12, 19, 26, March 5, 2026.</p>

# LEGAL NOTICES/CLASSIFIEDS

www.independentnews.com



This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 6/1/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: David Du, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 5, 2026. Expires January 4, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6711. Published February 12, 19, 26, March 5, 2026.

The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 1/1/2014. Signature of Registrant/s/: Sherry Lowe Johnson, Manager. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 22, 2026. Expires January 21, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6716. Published February 12, 19, 26, March 5, 2026.

/s/: Terence Ching, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on Jan 9, 2026. The Independent, Legal No. 6721. Published February 12, 19, 26, March 5, 2026.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620597**  
The following person(s) doing business as: Hawaiki Industries, 321 Clay Street, Oakland, CA 94607 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Contance McComb, 321 Clay Street, Oakland, CA 94607. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 1/28/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Contance McComb, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 2, 2026. Expires February 1, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6712. Published February 12, 19, 26, March 5, 2026.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620145**  
The following person(s) doing business as: Echo Esthetics, 2690 5th St, Unit A, Alameda, CA 94501 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Cindy LU, 1777 Clement Ave, APT 227. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 1/13/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Cindy LU, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 13, 2026. Expires January 13, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6717. Published February 12, 19, 26, March 5, 2026.

**LEGAL NOTICE**  
The business records of the following customers of ACCESS INFORMATION MANAGEMENT (or any affiliates of ACCESS) located at 5785 Las Positas Road, Livermore, CA 94551 have been abandoned: SPECIALTY'S CAFE & BAKERY. All records will be shredded 16 days after publication of this notice. Anyone claiming to have an interest in the records should contact Access Information Protected in writing at the following address: 4 First Avenue, Peabody, MA 01960, Attn: Legal Department, Tel. No. (888) 869-2767 (Client Support); email: Collections@accesscorp.com. The Independent, Legal No. 6722. Published February 26, 2026.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620629**  
The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Youngworks; 2. Worksknow; 3. Young Works; 4. Proworks; 5. Edoptim; 6. Ed Optim; 7. Winterview; 8. College Dev; 9. Testwatch, 6920 Koll Center Pkwy, Ste 219, Pleasanton, CA 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Worksknow LLC, 6920 Koll Center Pkwy, Ste 219, Pleasanton, CA 94566. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Vishal Raina, Managing Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 3, 2026. Expires February 2, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6713. Published February 12, 19, 26, March 5, 2026.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620655**  
The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Kaneta Optometry; 2. Rachel Kaneta OD, 2800 Dublin Blvd, Dublin, CA 94568 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Rachel Kaneta, 2800 Dublin Blvd, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 2/4/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Rachel Kaneta, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 4, 2026. Expires February 3, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6718. Published February 12, 19, 26, March 5, 2026.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620721**  
The following person(s) doing business as: East Bay Consultation and Therapy, 220 S Livermore Ave #7, Livermore, CA 94550-9998 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Vanessa Hernandez, 220 S Livermore Ave #7, Livermore, CA 94550-9998. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Vanessa Hernandez, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 9, 2026. Expires February 8, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6723. Published February 26, March 5, 12, 19, 2026.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620513**  
The following person(s) doing business as: Wam Digital, 1050 Larkspur Drive, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Wam Digital LLC, 1050 Larkspur Drive, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Roy Solorio, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 29, 2026. Expires January 28, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6714. Published February 12, 19, 26, March 5, 2026.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620425**  
The following person(s) doing business as: New Learning Grove Academy, 6680 Sierra LN, Dublin, CA 94568 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Sherral Starz, LLC, 6680 Sierra LN, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 1/26/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Maghe Premmanisakul, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 26, 2026. Expires January 25, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6719. Published February 12, 19, 26, March 5, 2026.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620832**  
The following person(s) doing business as: Fox and Belle Salon, 911 University Ave, Berkeley, CA 94710 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Fox and Belle LLC, 378 Holly Dr., San Rafael, CA 94903. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 01/01/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Kimberly King, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 11, 2026. Expires February 10, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6725. Published February 26, March 5, 12, 19, 2026.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620611**  
The following person(s) doing business as: Salon Du Monde, 37627 Niles Blvd, Fremont, CA 94536 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Minh Chau Vo, 37627 Niles Blvd, CA 94536. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 4/5/2016. Signature of Registrant/s/: Minh Chau Vo, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 3, 2026. Expires February 2, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6715. Published February 12, 19, 26, March 5, 2026.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620662**  
The following person(s) doing business as: Spa L & Q, 3026 International Blvd, Oakland, CA 94601 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Lina P. Quevedo Chimilio, 3026 International Blvd, Oakland, CA 94601. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 8/27/2024 in the County of Alameda. This business was conducted by a Limited Liability Company. Signature of Registrants:

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620808**  
The following person(s) doing business as: Kitty Hawk Dental Care Office, 53 Wright Brothers Ave, St C, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): King Dental Corporation, 53 Wright Brothers Ave, St C, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 01/01/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Deborah Chestnut, 1048 Sherry Way, 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/: Lina P. Quevedo Chimilio, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 5, 2026. Expires February 4, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6720. Published February 12, 19, 26, March 5, 2026.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620405**  
The following person(s) doing business as: Volvo Construction Equipment & Services, 1944 Marina Boulevard, San Leandro, CA 94577 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): SABA Holding Company LLC, PO Box 60577 Fort Myers, FL 33906. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company.

**STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME ORIGINAL FILE NO. 608925**  
The person(s) listed below have abandoned the use of the following fictitious business name(s): Tara's Organic Ice Cream, 3173 College Ave, Berkeley, CA 94705. Registered by the following owner(s): Sweet Society LLC, 3173 College Ave, Berkeley, CA 94705. The fictitious business name statement was filed on 8/27/2024 in the County of Alameda. This business was conducted by a Limited Liability Company. Signature of Registrants:

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620715**  
The following person(s) doing business as: Age in Wellness, 1048 Sherry Way, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Deborah Chestnut, 1048 Sherry Way, 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/: Deborah Chestnut, 1048 Sherry Way, 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/: Armda Fajardo, Manager. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 13, 2026. Expires February 12, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6731. Published February 26, March 5, 12, 19, 2026.

**NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620582**  
The following person(s) doing business as: Melody Academy of Music, 1972 Driscoll Road, Fremont, CA 94539 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Melody Music Academy LLC, 9450 SW Gemini Dr, PMB 50196 Beaverton, OR 97008. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 01/01/2021. Signature of Registrant/s/: Alan Wong, Secretary. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 2, 2026. Expires February 1, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6727. Published February 26, March 5, 12, 19, 2026.

by registered by the following owner(s): 334 Dutton Avenue, LLC, 334 Dutton Ave, San Leandro, CA 94577. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 01/01/2021. Signature of Registrant/s/: Michael Siu, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 10, 2026. Expires February 9, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6732. Published February 26, March 5, 12, 19, 2026.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620648**  
The following person(s) doing business as: Down-Home Cookhouse, 348 N Canyons Pkwy, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Jennifer Valley, 809 N L Street, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 01/01/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Jennifer Valley, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 4, 2026. Expires February 3, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6737. Published February 26, March 5, 12, 19, 2026.

held in this court as follows: **March 23, 2026, 9:45 AM in Department 201** located at **Superior Court of California, County of Alameda 2120 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley, CA 94704** If you object to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney. If you wish to appear by remote video technology, you should contact the court or visit https://www.alameda.courts.ca.gov/divisions/probate/hearings for more information. If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California Law. You may examine the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (Form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk. **Attorney for Petitioner: EDWARD W. GOLDKUHL and AMANDA R. GIMBEL 2315 Capitol Ave Sacramento, CA 95816** The Independent, Legal No. 6738. Published February 26, March 5, 12, 2026.

or processes to meet functional requirements. Telecommuting permitted. Bachelor's Degree in Mechanical Engineering, Industrial Engineering, Engineering, Advance Manufacturing And Enterprise Engineering Or Equivalent. Salary - \$101,629.00/Year. Mail resume to S2SSOFT LLC, Attn: HRGC, 7567 Amador Valley Blvd, #111, Dublin, CA 94568.

**Principal Business Analysts - SAP Simpson Strong-Tie Co., Inc. - HQ: Pleasanton, CA** Implement, configure & support SAP WM, EWM & Transportation modules. Remote position. Work from anywhere in U.S. 50% domestic & int'l travel. \$174,637/yr. Send resume to HR@strongtie.com & incl ref #PA-CD in subj. line.

**HELP WANTED SERVICES**  
**BE WARY** of out of area companies. Check with the local Better Business Bureau before you send money or fees. Read and understand any contracts before you sign. Shop around for rates.

**TO PLACE CLASSIFIED ADS** go to [bit.ly/Indy-Classifieds](http://bit.ly/Indy-Classifieds) or call **(925)243-8000**

**MERCHANDISE FOR SALE**  
**ESTATE/ GARAGE/ YARD SALES**  
**FREE SECTION**  
**LOST/ FOUND**  
**NOTICES /ANNOUNCEMENTS**  
**NOTICES**

**"NOTICE TO READERS:** California law requires that contractors taking jobs that total \$500 or more (labor and/or materials) be licensed by the Contractors State License Board. State law also requires that contractors include their license numbers on all advertising. Check your contractor's status at [www.cslb.ca.gov](http://www.cslb.ca.gov) or (800)321-CSLB (2752). Unlicensed persons taking jobs less than \$500 must state in their advertisements that they are not licensed by the Contractors State License Board."

**REAL ESTATE LAND FOR RENT**  
**OFFICE/HOUSE/CONDO / DUPLEX / APT RENTAL**  
**HOUSE/ROOMS/RENTALS TO SHARE**  
**BOAT / RV / RENTAL SPACE**  
Inland Valley Publishing Co. Client Code:04126-00001 Re: Legal Notice for Classified Ads  
The Federal Fair Housing Act, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and state law prohibit advertisements for housing and employment that contain any preference, limitation or discrimination based on protected classes, including race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin. FVPC does not knowingly accept any advertisements that are in violation of the law. 2144 Kala Bagai Way, Berkeley, CA 94704

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620739**  
The following person(s) doing business as: Michael Siu, DDS, 334 Dutton Ave, San Leandro, CA 94577 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Michael Siu, DDS, Inc., 334 Dutton Ave, San Leandro, CA 94577. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 01/01/2021. Signature of Registrant/s/: Michael Siu, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 10, 2026. Expires February 9, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6733. Published February 26, March 5, 12, 19, 2026.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620780**  
The following person(s) doing business as: Sleep Apnea Testing & Treatment Center, A Division of BASS Medical Group, 400 29th Street, Suite 208A, Oakland CA 94609 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): BASS Medical Group, 2637 Shadelands Dr., Walnut Creek, CA 94598 This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 10/01/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Rajiv Nagrasetty, CFO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 11, 2026. Expires February 10, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6738. Published February 26, March 5, 12, 19, 2026.

**NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER**  
**Case No. 26PR170182 ESTATE OF: BARBARA ANNE FRAZIER AKA BARBARA A. FRAZIER AKA BARBARA FRAZIER**  
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of **BARBARA ANNE FRAZIER** aka **BARBARA A. FRAZIER** aka **BARBARA FRAZIER**. A Petition for Probate has been filed by **LARRY FRAZIER**, in the Superior Court of California, County of ALAMEDA. The petition for probate requests that **LARRY FRAZIER** be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority. A hearing on the petition will be

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620863**  
The following person(s) doing business as: Phive, 1940 Webster ST #720, Oakland, CA 94612 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Adonay Sebatu, 1940 Webster ST, #720, Oakland, CA 94612. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 02/16/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Adonay Sebatu, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 17, 2026. Expires February 16, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6734. Published February 26, March 5, 12, 19, 2026.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620878**  
The following person(s) doing business as: Water Wise Landscaping, 6138 Shattuck Ave, Oakland, CA 94609 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Sarah Clark, 6138 Shattuck Ave, Oakland, CA 94609. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 06/20/2010. Signature of Registrant/s/: Sarah Clark, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 17, 2026. Expires February 16, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6735. Published February 26, March 5, 12, 19, 2026.

**NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER**  
**Case No. 26PR170182 ESTATE OF: BARBARA ANNE FRAZIER AKA BARBARA A. FRAZIER AKA BARBARA FRAZIER**  
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of **BARBARA ANNE FRAZIER** aka **BARBARA A. FRAZIER** aka **BARBARA FRAZIER**. A Petition for Probate has been filed by **LARRY FRAZIER**, in the Superior Court of California, County of ALAMEDA. The petition for probate requests that **LARRY FRAZIER** be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority. A hearing on the petition will be

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620878**  
The following person(s) doing business as: Water Wise Landscaping, 6138 Shattuck Ave, Oakland, CA 94609 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Sarah Clark, 6138 Shattuck Ave, Oakland, CA 94609. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 06/20/2010. Signature of Registrant/s/: Sarah Clark, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 17, 2026. Expires February 16, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6735. Published February 26, March 5, 12, 19, 2026.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620878**  
The following person(s) doing business as: Water Wise Landscaping, 6138 Shattuck Ave, Oakland, CA 94609 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Sarah Clark, 6138 Shattuck Ave, Oakland, CA 94609. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 06/20/2010. Signature of Registrant/s/: Sarah Clark, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 17, 2026. Expires February 16, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6735. Published February 26, March 5, 12, 19, 2026.

**CLASSIFIEDS ANIMALS CATS/DOGS**  
**ADOPT A DOG OR CAT**  
For adoption information contact Valley Humane Society at (925)426-8656



**Adopt a New Best Friend TVAR**  
**Tri-Valley Animal Rescue**  
Our current weekly adoption events include: Saturdays - Dogs & Puppies at Dublin Petsmart 6960 Amador Plaza Rd. Hours: 10:00am to 1:00pm. Visit our website: [WWW.TVAR.ORG](http://WWW.TVAR.ORG), to see adoptable animals, volunteer opportunities, and how to donate. Follow: TRI-VALLEY ANIMAL RESCUE on Facebook, and Instagram

**EMPLOYMENT**  
**Mechanical Systems Engineers (Dublin, CA)**  
Conduct research to develop, design and test mechanical products, equipment, systems,

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620661**  
The following person(s) doing business as: Jehova Sabao Cleaning Services, 10202 Pippin ST, Oakland, CA 94603 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Maria I. Hernandez Flores, 10202 Pippin ST, Oakland, CA 94603. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to trans-

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620661**  
The following person(s) doing business as: Jehova Sabao Cleaning Services, 10202 Pippin ST, Oakland, CA 94603 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Maria I. Hernandez Flores, 10202 Pippin ST, Oakland, CA 94603. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to trans-

**EMPLOYMENT**  
**Mechanical Systems Engineers (Dublin, CA)**  
Conduct research to develop, design and test mechanical products, equipment, systems,

## Professional's Choice

# Real Estate Directory

Local guide to the Valley's Leading Real Estate Professionals & Services

<p><b>MIKE FRACISCO</b> 925.998.8131 <b>FRACISCO REALTY</b> Residential • Commercial • Property Mgmt <a href="http://www.MikeFracisco.realtor">www.MikeFracisco.realtor</a> DRE #01378428 Broker</p>	<p><b>Sandee Utterback</b> (925) 487-0524 SandeeU2@gmail.com CalBRE#00855150 <a href="http://www.SandeeUtterback.com">www.SandeeUtterback.com</a> Specializing in Livermore's Finest Homes</p>
<p><b>Cindy Greci</b> 925.784.1243 DRE #01323804 <b>Dominic Greci</b> 925.525.0864 DRE #01707140 <a href="http://www.GreciGroup.com">www.GreciGroup.com</a></p>	<p><b>Claire Meager</b> Broker Associate 510.715.7682 claire.m.meager@gmail.com CalDRE 01184005</p>
<p><b>NICOLE SWEENEY</b> REALTOR® 925.518.2142 nicole@nicolesweeneyhomes.com Results That Move You 1983 Second Street   Livermore, CA   94550 CA BRE# 01965816   CA BRE# 01268085</p>	<p><b>Jie Doty</b> Realtor® DRE 02103608 925.324.2064 中文 英语 广东话</p>
<p><b>SAM FITZ-SIMON</b> EXCEPTIONAL RESULTS. DELIVERED <b>COMPASS</b> 9 2 5 . 3 2 9 . 8 2 1 9 DRE 0 2 0 6 6 2 1 3</p>	<p><b>CALL 925-243-8010</b> or Email: <a href="mailto:Kim@independentnews.com">Kim@independentnews.com</a> To Advertise!</p>
<p><b>WANDA THOMPSON</b> (925) 858-9128 License Since 1986 Real Estate Broker dre#00983781 • Mortgage Broker nmls # 244633 "From Homes to Loans -Your Full Service Real Estate Team"</p>	<p><b>Leslie FAUGHT</b> REALTOR®, CRS, SRES® <b>COMPASS</b> 925.784.7979 LeslieFaught.com SellingEastBayHomes.com #01027778 "I'll find a buyer for your home and a home for you to buy". To Place Your Ad, Call or Email: 925-243-8010 Kim@independentnews.com</p>

## HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF LIVERMORE

**THIS IS A NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING AND COMMENT PERIOD FOR THE REVIEW OF THE LIVERMORE HOUSING AUTHORITY ANNUAL PLAN, ADMINISTRATIVE PLAN, AND MOVING TO WORK SUPPLEMENT**

The Housing Authority of the City of Livermore (LHA) will be opening the public comment period for the draft Annual Plan which includes the Housing Choice Voucher Administrative Plan (no changes from 2025) and the Moving to Work (MTW) supplement.

The 45-day public comment period for the Annual Plan and included documents will start on Thursday, February 26, 2026, and ends Wednesday, April 15, 2026.

The draft Plans are available for public review at 3203 Leahy Way, Livermore, CA 94550 and online at [www.livermoreha.org](http://www.livermoreha.org).

For public comment submissions, please send an email to [awarren@livermoreha.org](mailto:awarren@livermoreha.org) or mail to: Attn: Annual Plan Comment, Livermore Housing Authority, 3203 Leahy Way, Livermore, CA 94550.

All public comments must be received on or before April 15, 2026. Please indicate "Annual Plan Comment" in the subject line of email comments.

There will be Public Hearings held at the Livermore Housing Authority office at 3203 Leahy Way in Livermore regarding the Annual Plan, Administrative Plan, and MTW Supplement on Wednesday March 11, 2026 at 5:30pm and Wednesday, April 15, 2026, at 5:30pm.

# Sunol Rep Is Back with Another Communal Effort

By Christina Cavallaro

SUNOL — Tickets for the Sunol Repertory Theatre (SRT) production of “Too Many Ghosts” are now on sale, with all proceeds going to benefit the Sunol Glen School. The SRT was formed in 1982 to

phenomenal,” said director Mike Telang.

Before he found and began participating in the SRT, he had looked at some other community groups.

“They’re typically driven by one individual who has a very strong passion, and

construct, which is crazy.”

In the “spirit” of the hit TV comedy “Ghosts,” the play by Todd Wallinger involves a woman who dreams of turning an abandoned house she inherits in Salem, Massachusetts, into a bed and breakfast, only to discover it’s already

“the most haunted B&B in New England.”

Within days, the place is mobbed by thrill-loving tourists seeking their own ghostly encounters. It also attracts the attention of the town’s largest hotel owner, who decides the only way to put the new B&B out of business is to hire a trio of ghostbusters.

Eventually, to stop the Weary Inn from being bulldozed, the living and the dead must team up.

This is Telang’s first time directing an SRT show, and one mission he had was to give everyone who auditioned a part. “I did it — including the kids — I just had to write a couple of scenes in,” Telang said.

He wanted to make sure that the people who came and acted wanted to come back the next year and keep the legacy alive.

“I’ve been growing my beard and I told the cast, ‘I’m not going to shave till all of you memorize your lines. We’re nearing the opening of the show. They said, ‘You’re going to have a full grown beard by the end.’”

“I’m like, ‘Alright, let’s see who wears out who here,’” Telang said, laughing.

“Too Many Ghosts” will be performed at the Sunol Glen School Theatre, 11601 Main St., at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 7; Saturday,



Cast members of the Sunol Repertory Theatre’s production of “Too Many Ghosts” portray the spirited inhabitants of a Salem, Mass. bed and breakfast. Proceeds from the show, which opens on March 7, support the 100-year-old Sunol Glen School. (Photo— Jacob Clouser)

help support the small unincorporated town’s 100-year-old school, which has about 250 students in kindergarten through eighth grade.

Over its 44-year history, the SRT has given nearly \$250,000 to the school.

“The very existence of this group for 44 years is just

a supporting cast,” he said.

“And when that person says, ‘No, I’m done’ that group typically dies. And this group has been around 44 years through probably multiple generations. And it’s a lot of work, right? It’s almost like a village to make it happen and they have that

inhabited by five ghosts who aren’t particularly keen on sharing it with an endless parade of guests.

The ghost of Roland, a cobbler from the 1700s, chases off the inn’s very first guest, who, unfortunately, turns out to be a popular travel blogger who labels it

# Marylin Avenue STEAM Academy Earns Second State Green Award for its Sustainability Efforts

By Vivien Wenneker

LIVERMORE — Marylin Avenue STEAM Academy has been recognized as a 2026 California Green Ribbon School (Gold), marking its second consecutive year receiving the distinction.

The school is one of 26 in the state to receive the honor from the California Board of Education for its outstanding efforts to promote resource conservation, health and wellness, and environmental literacy.

“We are incredibly proud to highlight the hard work and dedication that our students demonstrate each day as responsible stewards of their environment,” said Joe Meunier, principal of Marylin Avenue STEAM Academy, in a statement. “Their daily, thoughtful choices, influenced by their impactful project-based lessons and learning, have led to meaningful outcomes that really make a difference for

exceptional support needs (ESN), will have access to a well-planned and innovative garden environment that will enhance their experiential learning.”

In the spring, students will begin planting and transforming the space into a vibrant, blossoming classroom. Kindergarten students will learn about pollinators and various parts of a plant, culminating in the planting of their own pollinator garden.

Experiences like these give students the opportunity to build environmental awareness, deepen their connection to where food comes from, and strengthen their environmental leadership skills. From the garden to the lunchroom, The school’s facilities act as a daily classroom for students to learn and actively participate in reducing waste, while reinforcing their knowledge of the benefits of recycling and composting.

Continued progress in the school’s waste reduction is due in large part to resources and partnerships provided by the Alameda County Waste Management Authority (Stop-Waste), Go Green Initiative, Fertile Groundworks, and Livermore Sanitation.

In addition to its state-of-the-art solar array, which generates 100% of the school’s electricity needs, Marylin’s bond-funded infrastructure improvements from last fall are continuing to contribute to the school’s sustainability efforts. Energy-efficient LED lighting and HVAC systems, a bioretention system that captures and filters stormwater to replenish groundwater, smart irrigation timers that reduce water use, and native, drought-tolerant landscaping have all helped reduce energy costs and environmental impacts for the school.

The success behind Marylin’s recognition as a California Green Ribbon School can be traced to the consistent, coordinated efforts of its students, staff, families, and community partners. The whole Marylin community has embraced environmental responsibility as a core part of its culture, and remains committed to raising the bar in its sustainability efforts.

“As we continue to build upon our partnerships with local and state organizations and community groups, learning opportunities for students continue to grow both in the classroom and through after school enrichment programs,” said Meunier. “Marylin Avenue STEAM Academy continues to make strong academic progress, and our Green Ribbon recognition reflects the

depth and diversity of learning experiences we provide.”



Marylin Avenue kindergarten students learn about the water cycle and conservation from Zone 7 Water Agency (Photo courtesy of LVJUSD)

our entire community.”

Last fall, the school celebrated the completion of a series of campus improvements totaling roughly \$25 million. This included new and renovated classrooms, STEAM labs, a research center and library in support of Marylin’s growing STEAM magnet program.

Also among these enhancements was the renovated school garden, ushering in a new chapter for hands-on, outdoor learning for all students, grades TK to five, who visit twice a month to participate in lessons on growing, nurturing, and cultivating fresh fruits, vegetables, and herbs.

“Our garden allows us to take hands-on learning to the next level with a learning space designated for all students,” said Shannon Higgins, a STEAM instructional coach. “Thanks to the vision and investment of time by teachers Anne Rosendin and Joanna Martinez, all Marylin students, including those with

Students utilize an AI-powered waste auditing program that uses student-photographed lunch bins to track diversion, contamination, and recycling efficiency.

ARROYO CELLARS

Tasting Room Open:  
Saturday: 12 - 5pm,  
Sunday: 12 - 5pm,  
or by appointment

2270 Research Drive,  
Livermore  
(925) 292-9157

**MILLER'S**  
AIR CONDITIONING and HEATING  
WE SERVICE ALL MAJOR BRANDS!  
Residential & Commercial

WINNER  
LAST YEAR THE BEST IN EAST BAY 2024  
READER'S CHOICE AWARDS

Serving The Tri-Valley Since 1960  
**925.447.3000**  
[www.CallMillers.com](http://www.CallMillers.com) Lic. #253756

**Peace of Mind through Planning**

Estate Planning can be an uncomfortable topic for many therefore it is often ignored until something bad happens. And that ‘something’ usually is an unexpected illness or death that then makes a difficult situation more complicated and expensive. Proper estate planning helps avoid this situation because it allows you to direct the management and distribution of your hard-earned assets upon your incapacity or passing without court intervention. My office strives to provide compassionate and knowledgeable legal advice to help our clients navigate these difficult decisions and obtain peace of mind through planning. Services provided in English and Español.

**Law Offices of Jennifer E. Ramirez, A.P.C.**  
(925) 724-9190 | [lawofficejer.com](http://lawofficejer.com)

THE INDEPENDENT GALLERY

Featuring Photographer **BILL OWENS - Final Weekend**  
**SUBURBIA**

**FREE and OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**  
**GALLERY HOURS**  
**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27TH 6 - 8PM**  
**CLOSING RECEPTION - Book Signing**  
**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28TH 6 - 8PM**

BILL OWENS – Photographer for The Independent from 1968–1984, during which time he produced Suburbia (published in 1972) and The Legacy of Suburbia: Photographs 1964–2022 (published in 2022). Bill also worked as a photojournalist for Life Magazine and Newsweek, published multiple photography books, authored and published additional works, and even established one of the nation’s first brew pubs. You won’t want to miss his photography exhibition.

Art Gallery Sponsored by  
**LIVERMORE VALLEY & arts**  
*The Independent*  
2250 First St., Livermore

LIVERMORE CALIFORNIA LIONS CLUB EST. 1924

**Annual Seafood Event**  
**Cioppino**  
Take home and enjoy

**Saturday, March 7**  
Tickets: Ann (805) 405-8742 or Ben (805) 405-8743

Order now through March 4: \$75 dinner for 4 for 64 oz container  
Drive by pick up from 10:30am-1pm on Saturday, March 7  
at The Singing Wine Maker, 5143 Tesla Rd., Livermore.  
Delicious seafood stew chock-full of shellfish with tomatoes, wine, spices, and herbs. Each order comes with a sourdough bread round.  
Proceeds benefit Livermore Lions Club charities.