



Dancers from Pleasanton's Ballet Roots Dance Company perform on stage during a dress rehearsal last Saturday, Aug. 29, at the Livermore High School Theater. The professional troupe rehearsed dynamic original choreography ahead of their Season 6 opening program that same evening, which featured a ballet suite set to DDRKirby(ISQ)'s album "Celestial Melodies" alongside a world premiere by guest choreographer Genoa Sperske. (Photo — May Fraser)

Olivia Sanwong Seeks Second Term On East Bay Regional Park Board

She Cites Local Water Background to Guide Upcoming Recreation Negotiations

By David Jen

TRI-VALLEY — East Bay Regional Park District's (EBRPD's) Ward 5 Director Olivia Sanwong is seeking reelection this year, asking voters for a second four-year term to continue a number of complex projects she helped set into motion.

A first-term director, she will face off in November against challenger Bruce Henry to represent the ward, which spans from Alameda County's eastern border to the San Francisco Bay,

including the Tri-Valley.

"There's just so much momentum for so many of these different projects," Sanwong said. "A lot of them involve this multi-jurisdictional thinking and partnership and collaboration. I really hope that the voters will vote for me for a second term, so that I can continue that momentum."

The district recently extended its 50-year lease at Del Valle Regional Park by an additional five years, with the extension set to expire in 2030.

The negotiations for the next

long-term lease will involve multiple agencies. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers owns Del Valle Dam and manages the water releases; the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) manages Lake Del Valle's water supply. DWR and California State Parks own portions of the park, while Zone 7 Water Agency and Alameda County Water District rely on Del Valle water allocated through DWR. Zone 7 also owns land adjacent to the park.

Sanwong, who served as a

(See SANWONG, page 9)

Bruce Henry Challenges Incumbent Olivia Sanwong for EBRPD Seat

The Challenger Asserts the Current Board Needs More Accountability

By David Jen

TRI-VALLEY — The East Bay Regional Park District Board of Directors has drawn a challenger for its Ward 5 seat, which represents the Tri-Valley plus the southwestern portion of Alameda County that includes Newark and Fremont.

Pleasanton resident Bruce Henry will face off in November against incumbent Director Olivia Sanwong, also from Pleasanton, who took the seat in an uncontested election in 2022. Henry said that another single-candidate race would have hurt the area's public discourse.

"I think regardless of who the incumbent is, people need to decide," Henry said. "The only thing

that happens when you don't have elections (is) there's no platform, there's no accountability, (and) people aren't necessarily out and talking to people."

Now retired, Henry worked previously in corporate sales and has lived in Pleasanton since 2005. He has served on the EBRPD Park Advisory Committee since 2022.

Several recent district issues gave Henry reason to think the ward was in need of change.

In March 2025, the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District filed a lawsuit against EBRPD, claiming that EBRPD had mispent more than \$100 million in shared tax funds over the past three decades. Since 1992, the two districts had shared property-tax revenues from eastern Alameda

County, and the lawsuit questioned what area regional projects EBRPD had to show for its share of the funding.

The issue remains in litigation.

"I think a better approach would have been to start having a dialogue with them four years ago," Henry said. "Nobody files a lawsuit overnight. To me, that speaks to poor governance on some of the board members."

The Alameda County Agricultural Advisory Committee, which includes experts in farming, ranching and open space conservation, has also called attention to a portion of eastern Alameda County that the park district passed over as it developed regional trails. Dubbed the Murray Untrailed Zone, the area, according to some

(See HENRY, page 7)

Tri-Valley Veterans Campaign to Keep Livermore VA Open

Proposed Federal Relocation Threatens Access

By Sanestina Hunter

LIVERMORE — Local veterans are frustrated by the uncertain timeline for closing the century-old Livermore VA health care campus and the potential loss of nearby access to quality care

As of August 2026, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs has not set a date for the closure of the Livermore division, located at 4951 Arroyo Road. The agency said the transition remains years away and depends on several factors, includ-

ing opening a new outpatient clinic in the Pleasanton area.

Clinical services will continue at the federal complex until they can be transferred to the new facility.

Neither VA nor elected officials have reached out about the proposed closure of the Livermore clinic, said George Riehl and Mike Gilmore, members of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7265, who represent local veterans opposing the relocation.

The VFW is a national veterans service organization whose mem-

(See VETERANS, page 8)



Olivia Sanwong

The Blessing of the Grapes Marks Earliest Harvest Ever

Lighter Yields Offer Relief to an Oversaturated Market

By Kathryn Stroud

LIVERMORE — The annual Blessing of the Grapes took place last Tuesday, Aug. 25, at Mitchell Katz Winery in Livermore. A priest, a minister and a rabbi came out to bless the harvest. While the tradition has been honored for decades in Livermore (and centuries around the world), this year came with a twist: the season is starting

earlier than growers have seen in decades.

"It's the earliest harvest we've had in 27 years, said Heather McGrail, president of McGrail Vineyards and Winery.

Brandi Lombardi, executive director of the Livermore Valley Wine Community, explained that this is the likely result of an early February heat wave that caused the grapevines to start producing much

(See BLESSING, page 8)



Bruce Henry



Singer-songwriter Lyle Lovett takes the stage alongside drummer Russ Kunkel during Livermore Valley Arts' annual fundraiser gala at the Bankhead Theater on Saturday, Aug. 29. (Photo — Rain Hepting)

Lyle Lovett Opens Bankhead's 20th Season

Annual Gala Event Generates over \$319,000 toward \$2.2M Fundraising Campaign

By Rain Hepting

LIVERMORE — Texas troubadour Lyle Lovett headlined the annual fundraiser for the local nonprofit Livermore Valley Arts (LVA) at the Bankhead Theater on Aug. 29, kicking off the venue's 20th season of entertainment.

The event raised more than \$319,000 through a live auction and direct donations toward LVA's \$2.2 million annual fundraising goal, with additional funding support from silent

auction proceeds and ticket sales.

Before the venue was even open, the line was packed. The theme was "country glamour," and denim was everywhere. Waiting guests were welcomed by the music of the East Bay Jazz High School All Stars, a high school jazz training program operated by LVA.

Tickets included a complimentary drink — Wenté sparkling wine or a Griffó cocktail — as well as dinner and dessert from On The Vine Catering. The audience was wined, dined and seated for the auction and

a few speeches about the importance of the arts.

"During these (live performance) moments, we are swept up in a feeling greater than our own," LVA CEO Chris Carter said. "We are literally human amplifiers of emotion, empathy and spirit. You can simply not get that by watching AI generated dogs do yoga poses on your phone."

"I think it's what makes us all civilized," Casatico told the audience. "I think in this era, we need it more than ever."

"It only hurts for a little while,

(See BANKHEAD, page 12)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Classifieds	11
Editorial.....	4
Mailbox	4
Obituaries	9
Sports	10

Senior Care Director Honored for Creative Programming	2
Dublin Student Launches International Neuroinclusion Nonprofit	3
'Reader Snapshot' Community Photo Submission.....	8
Gaels Girls Volleyball Are off to a Great Start	10
Chef Debbie Partners with Omega Winery for Meal Pickups.....	12

PET OF THE WEEK



SCOTT BUDMAN

Meet Scott Budman, just like his news anchor namesake, this laid-back French Bulldog mix knows how to deliver: tell him to sit or head to his playpen, and he follows the story to the end. Scott is looking for a low-key home. Visit valleyhumane.org/adopt/adopt-a-dog/, call (925) 426-8656, or email info@valleyhumane.org to start the adoption process today.

Pleasanton Senior Care Director Honored for Innovation

By Kiarra Bautista

PLEASANTON — As Life Enrichment Director at Stoneridge Creek in Pleasanton, Susan Filice kept hearing the same desires from residents: They wanted to keep learning, build meaningful relationships, contribute their talents and live with purpose — all of which a simple retirement community does not supply.

She noticed that these communities seem one-size-fits all, leading her to ask: instead of fixing the program with simple ideas, how can we design the program around the residents?

Filice was recently named Life Enrichment Director of the Year by Elder Care Review, an industry magazine dedicated to helping individuals and families navigate the complexities of aging with clarity and confidence. Filice has worked at Stoneridge Creek for nine years. She has been leading strategic programs focused on improving culture, engagement, wellness and resident experiences for a community of more than 800 residents.

Filice oversees cross-functional initiatives across hospitality, technology, dining, communications, and operations while working with executives, vendors, healthcare organizations, universities, and



Susan Filice, Life Enrichment Director at Stoneridge Creek, was recently named Life Enrichment Director of the Year by Elder Care Review. (Photo courtesy of Stoneridge Creek)

community partners. She created and launched the Beyond Living program, which connects wellness, learning, social connection, and purposeful living. Her work has been recognized for innovative leadership and improving

organizational culture, belonging, and quality of life.

Before working at Stoneridge Creek, Filice worked at Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula for 18 years. She managed medical education and staff operations at the hospital while collaborating closely with physicians and healthcare leaders. Filice also owned a catering company and managed major hospitality events at Pebble Beach Resorts.

“Each experience taught me something about education, hospitality, and bringing people together, which was a natural fit for Stoneridge Creek,” Filice said.

Guided by this philosophy, she was driven to create experiences for residents beyond the traditional fitness class or educational lecture. Filice noted that today's older adults want to keep learning, growing, contributing, and making meaningful choices.

“They want to live their best life for as long as possible, adding life to years,” Filice said. Beyond Living was inspired by that belief and by listening closely to

what residents want for this chapter of their lives.

Filice began the process by gauging the perspective of residents through interviews — asking what was most important to them at this stage of life. She worked with research partners, industry leaders and Stoneridge Creek’s team “to align the goals of all departments to support a community of well-being,” she said.

Looking at their research on longevity and brain health, the team evaluated what was working and identified opportunities to better integrate fitness, nutrition, technology and social engagement. These aspects influenced the idea of Beyond Living, designed to respond to changing resident interests and emerging research.

As a result, the team approached retirement through a fresh, creative lens. The program supports a community-based culture of living well, with every department contributing to residents’ opportunities for strength, curiosity, purpose, nutrition and connection. Beyond Living brings together physical fitness,

brain health, nutritional wellness, technology and social connection into everyday resident life.

This shift in routine replaces standard meal plans with creative dining opportunities and pairs fitness programs with immersive learning experiences in collaboration with organizations such as Stanford, UCSF and The Buck Institute, among other leading

research institutions.

As Filice continues to think about how to bring people together through thoughtfully designed experiences, she is developing a book about designing human connection through these experiences, as well as a more personal collection of stories about friendship, travel, and the unexpected adventures that make life memorable.

New Kitchen! New Chef!

3734 Carrigan Common \$628K
3 bed 1.5 bath ~1242 sq ft w/yard
Nothing common about this towhome!
Enjoy move in ready and all the essentials
you need for a happily ever after!

Linda Diaz Futral
Broker/Realtor

925.980.3561
linda@lindafutral.com
www.lindafutral.com
License #01257605

UAD 3.6 becomes mandatory for new appraisal reports submitted to UCDP on November 2, 2026
– not simply for every purchase or refinance that happens after that date.

What UAD 3.6 means for upgrades and improvements

The new system is designed to capture much more detailed property data, including the characteristics, quality, condition, and updates of the property. The appraiser will have to report information in a more structured way rather than relying as heavily on narrative comments.

For homeowners selling or refinancing, I would recommend having documentation ready for **every significant improvement**, especially:

Kitchen Remodels · Bathroom Remodels · New Flooring · Windows and Doors · Roof · HVAC · Electrical/Plumbing Upgrades · Solar · Pool/Spa · ADU or Additions · Major Landscaping/Hardscape · Garage Conversions · Structural Changes

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

Dublin to Celebrate End of Summer with 'Splatter'

DUBLIN — Splatter, the city's annual end-of-summer festival, returns to Emerald Glen Park, 4201 Central Parkway, from noon to 8 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 12.

The multi-cultural, family-friendly event will kick off with Color Dash, a non-competitive 1.2-mile fun run featuring music, interactive activities and five color stations where runners and walkers will get doused with colored powder.

Color Dash runs are scheduled from 9 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. and from 9:30 a.m. to 10 a.m., with all participants receiving a white Color Dash T-shirt. Space is limited and early registration is encouraged.

The festival will also feature wine and craft beer,

hands-on art activities, and live music and dance performances throughout the day.

Main stage entertainment kicks off with the Tyler Gene Band, a local country cover act, from noon to 1:30 p.m., followed by the Emerald High School Band. Then it's Woodie & The Longboards, a Beach Boys tribute band, from 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Performances at the Emerald Glen Park Amphitheater and Side Yard stages will feature such groups Kung Fu USA, the Dublin High School Filipino Club, the Eternity Band and Noah Trettin.

Roaming entertainers and live art demonstrations will pop up throughout the festival grounds during the

afternoon, while the World Craft Bazaar will feature vendors selling crafts and goods from cultures around the world.

The Dublin Arts Collective will be returning with its “High Life” exhibition inside The Wave at Emerald Glen Park, spotlighting artwork from local high school students, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Student submissions are being accepted through Saturday, Sept. 5. For more information, email events@dacarts.org.

From 5 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., the Prisma Lounge — VIP Experience will offer interactive food stations spotlighting the diverse Tri-Valley culinary scene along with wine and beer tastings and a private dance floor.

Tickets to the lounge are \$75 and are available

at tinyurl.com/3yczc473. A limited number of tickets may also be available on site on the day of the festival.

An evening dance party will get underway in front of the main stage at 4 p.m. with Night Train, an '80s and '90s rock cover band, followed by an '80s and '90s rock n' roll cover band, Good Time Collective, at 6:30 p.m. to close out the evening.

Admission to the festival is free; however, there will be a charge for carnival games and rides.

Haubert to Host 9/11 Memorial Ceremony

PLEASANTON — Alameda County Supervisor David Haubert will host a ceremony at the Alameda County Fairgrounds on Friday, Sept. 11, to commemorate the 9/11 al-Qaeda terrorist attacks 25 years ago that killed almost 3,000 people, including many first responders.

On Sept. 11, 2001, 19 terrorists hijacked four commercial airlines, flying two of them into the World Trade Center towers in New York and one into the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. Passengers aboard the fourth aircraft forced the terrorists to crash into a field in Pennsylvania, killing everyone aboard.

The ceremony will include a Presentation of Colors by the Alameda County Fire Department Honor Guard, the playing of the National Anthem, a Call of the Bell to honor first responders who lost their lives on 9/11, a military rifle salute and the playing of Taps.

In addition to Haubert, speakers will include Alameda County Fire Chief Willie McDonald and members of the public who were directly affected by the events of 9/11 offering their personal reflections on loss, service, resilience and the strength of communities that came together in the

days, weeks and years that followed the attacks.

“Sept. 11 is a day we pause to remember the people we lost and honor the extraordinary courage of those who responded,” Haubert said. “As we mark 25 years, I hope our community will come together in remembrance and carry forward the spirit of service, strength and unity that brought us together.”

The public is invited to attend the ceremony but must RSVP at tinyurl.com/26neverforget911.

Guests must be seated by 9:30 a.m., with the ceremony ending at 11 a.m.



Trusted Care, *Every Day*

Experience assisted living and memory care programs designed to help your loved one feel understood, engaged and connected, now and for years to come.

— *A Community Where Families Feel at Ease* —

- Restaurant-style dining prepared daily by culinary professionals
- 24-hour support and emergency response
- Weekly housekeeping, laundry, and on-site maintenance
- Social, recreational, and educational activities and excursions
- Full-service beauty salon, barber shop and fitness center
- Pet-friendly community with beautifully landscaped walking paths

Schedule a tour today! 925-701-8613 | theparkview.org

100 Valley Avenue, Pleasanton, CA 94566
License #015601283 Equal Housing Opportunity Proud member of the ESKATON family

You're Invited
A Bounty of Hope
Celebrating Culinary Angels

An unforgettable evening in honor of our 10th Anniversary and our continued commitment to serve those facing cancer and the caregivers who support them.

**Sunday October 11, 2026
5:00 PM - 8:30 PM
Concannon Vineyard, Livermore
Wine Country Chic Attire**

Emcee Juliette Goodrich guiding our evening:

- Exciting silent and live auctions
- Heartwarming stories from a valued recipient
- A delicious farm to table dinner
- Beautiful live music

Tickets & sponsorships now available:
<https://bounty-of-hope.auctria.events>

Dublin Teen’s Nonprofit Builds Confidence in Neurodivergent Youth

By Sanestina Hunter

DUBLIIN — Building confidence in neurodivergent children across the globe has become a mission for Dublin student Nithya Ravuri. The Emerald High School senior said the idea began closer to home during an internship at a local pediatric clinic, where she worked with neurodivergent children and heard parents raise concerns about understanding their children’s needs and finding the right resources. Those experiences inspired Ravuri to launch SEVAH Neuro in early 2025, a student-led nonprofit focused on helping neurodivergent children build confidence and life skills through different approaches to learning. Since then, the organization has grown to more than 500 members across more than 15 chapters worldwide

and impacted more than 150 families, according to Ravuri. “We give neuroimpaired kids a safe place and work with them directly, run parent education webinars to help shift how parents see their kids, and have advocated at the state level for neuroinclusion,” she said. During her time at the clinic, the teen interacted with pediatric clients while therapists observed to help form diagnoses. She also created tailored learning materials and said working with the children showed her how music and personalized engagement could help build confidence. Ravuri said she noticed that some parents viewed their children’s neurological differences as shortcomings, while she saw them as gifted and talented. Ravuri said realizing how many neurodivergent young people lacked access to those resources outside clinical settings inspired her to make similar tools more widely accessible. One of its programs is the SEVAH Pediatric Neuroinclusion Fellowship, a free, five-week virtual initiative led by high school and college mentors. Designed like a summer camp but held virtually, the program connects neurodivergent children with mentors and builds peer-to-peer relationships. Its international initiatives also serve students at under-resourced schools in countries including Ghana, Nepal, Mexico, Malaysia, India, Panama and Zimbabwe. Ravuri said the program teaches students confidence, life skills and how to interact with others. “These are basic things for us, but it isn’t for them,”

she said. “Neurodivergent children don’t need to be forced into standard molds or treated as a set of deficits to be managed,” Ravuri said. “When given tailored tools, patience, and a supportive environment, their unique perspectives, strengths, and talents can fully shine.” Ravuri recalled one family whose child had previously been quiet and withdrawn in structured environments. After using the organization’s tailored learning materials and participating in its workshops, she said the child found a new outlet for self-expression and emotional regulation and became more confident among peers. “Real inclusion means moving past labels to see each child as an individual capable of extraordinary things when provided with spaces built around what they can do, rather than what they struggle with,” she explained. As her organization continues to grow, the nonprofit is preparing a monthlong Bay Area initiative to assemble customized sensory kits

with soothing toys, activities and developmental tools for children with neurological disorders. Students across its global chapters will also create notes of support to include with the kits. “All neurodivergent kids are amazing, but the ones that are struggling the most are the kids who are less fortunate, who don’t have the right mentors and guardians to tell them that they are much more than how society views them,” Ravuri said. Going into her final year of high school, Ravuri plans to continue growing the organization, with hopes of one day opening a charity school or orphanage. “As I go off to college, I don’t plan on leaving SEVAH Neuro behind because it’s meaningful to me and I’d be pretty lonely without it,” she said.



Sevah Neuro founder Nithya Ravuri, a junior at Emerald High School, attends a conference on neuroinclusion at the California State Capitol. Her youth-led nonprofit empowers neurodivergent youth and families worldwide. (Photo courtesy of Sevah Neuro via Bay City News)

A NEW VISION FOR LIVERMORE’S DOWNTOWN CENTER

*In 2015, Mayor John Marchand offered his vision for Livermore’s future:
“An iconic hotel in a remarkable community.”*



Could building a Hotel on the Park fulfill that dream?

A high quality hotelier has expressed interest in developing a Four-Star hotel on L Street. The Hotel on the Park could become a defining East Bay destination—an iconic focal point that reflects Livermore’s unique identity and brings together its wine country, innovation, arts, culture and community.



Rendering of the wooded Veterans Park



Livermore Arts & Science Center Rendering

WHY IT MATTERS: We have been told that a hotel won’t be built next to the Bankhead Theater anymore.

A HOTEL ON THE PARK COULD:

- Create a distinctive destination for the East Bay
- Support Livermore’s wineries, restaurants, shops, and cultural organizations
- Twice the currently proposed park size – featuring trees and winding paths that offer a natural escape in the heart of downtown.
- Reflect Livermore’s unique identity—wine country, innovation, arts and community

SUPPORT A NEW VISION FOR LIVERMORE’S DOWNTOWN

Ask Livermore’s elected leaders to consider the Hotel on the Park plan.

For a full description of the project, check our webpage.

LivermoreCommunityCoalitionSpeaks.com
To ask questions, email Safia Hasan at
Thecommunitycoalitionlivermore@gmail.com



WHAT HAPPENED TO THE ORIGINAL DOWNTOWN HOTEL?

The original hotel developer no longer intends to move forward with the project. The location was the problem.

WHAT IS THE HOTEL ON THE PARK?

The proposed Four-Star hotel would be known as the highest quality resort in the Tri-Valley. It would provide 130 rooms in a two and three story facility. The EIFD financing described in detail in the Coalition report makes the project feasible.

WHY IS THIS LOCATION BETTER?

The proposed location would place the hotel directly beside Veterans Park and the existing L Street Garage—connecting hospitality, parking, public space, and downtown cultural amenities and businesses.

WILL THIS PLAN RAISE TAXES?

No new taxes will be required. An Enhanced Infrastructure Financing District (EIFD) is a mechanism to fund the necessary expense without increasing any tax rates.

Ad Paid for by the Community Coalition.

EDITORIAL

Veterans Deserve Better From Us

A plan to close the Livermore campus, located at 4951 Arroyo Road, of the U.S. Veterans Administration was announced back in 2022 as part of a broader review of services provided to veterans of the country’s armed forces.

Four years later, we still don’t know when that’s going to happen, or how veterans will be served afterward.

Suffice to say, this isn’t good. Veterans deserve to know how they are going to be receiving health care. But the VA has been under pressure, with finances, degrading services, and especially in the last year, a mass exodus of health care providers.

The problems facing the VA weren’t caused by the Trump administration, but they are accelerating under it. Sen. Richard Blumenthal, ranking Democrat on the Veterans Affairs Committee, released a report earlier this year highlighting the loss of more than 40,000 employees in 2025, 88% of whom were health care staff. Approximately 1,000 of them were physicians and 3,000 were regis-

tered nurses.

Meanwhile, wait times for care have spiked. For example, the national mean wait time for new patients seeking individual mental health appointments was more than 35 days. Veterans have only a 20-day limit in which to become qualified for care in the community. And a shortage of practitioners means veterans in some regions are limited to just eight therapy sessions.

At the Ventura VA outpatient clinic, wait times for new patients seeking mental health services was 121 days at the time of the report.

The VA has long been criticized for these issues, and changes are long overdue. But when the proposed changes simply cut services and push veterans to seek care in the private health care network, this isn’t fair to those who put their lives on the line for their country.

Part of the problem is that there is a school of thought that government has to be operated like a for-profit private business, and that if the VA or any other agency doesn’t recoup the cost of providing services, it’s yet another example

of big-bad-government. Those who promote this line almost always say said service must be privatized.

You see this every few years with the U.S. Postal Service, where critics attempt to privatize it, or pass laws designed to cripple its finances, such as the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act of 2006, which cost the agency about \$5.5 billion annually until a new law was passed in 2022.

Political actions like these seem to not recognize the word “service” in “Postal Service.” It’s an essential service provided by the government to the people because private enterprise cannot reach everyone.

And that’s the key. Private enterprise provides services only to the extent that people can afford them. The VA became the largest integrated health care system in the U.S. because its mandate is to serve all veterans. The fact that it has trouble meeting that mandate is not evidence the mandate itself is wrong. It just means we need to do better, not look for ways that will result in the agency providing less service.

Because the VA is a federal agency, this is entirely within the power of Congress to address. Regardless of political climate, doing right by our veterans has long been popular with both Democrats and Republicans.

That’s why we can’t allow Democrats to shrug and say, “What can we do? We’re in the minority.” And it’s why we can’t allow Republicans to remain silent out of fear Trump will say something mean on his social media platform.

The average person may not have the means to lobby or make campaign contributions, and state legislatures have little sway over a federal agency. But supporting our veterans should be a slam-dunk political win for both parties. It’s up to us to remind our representatives of that fact and demand they act.

The VA needs help, and our veterans need the help of the VA. To do anything less than to work to solve the agency’s problems is doing a disservice to those who served.

MAILBOX

Mailbox Guidelines:

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

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

When is a “Voluntary” School Fundraiser Truly Voluntary?

Yang-Anna You

I support school fundraising and appreciate the parents, teachers, and volunteers who make these events successful. But as a parent of a first-grader, I believe we should ask an important question: What does “voluntary” really mean when fundraising incentives are directed at very young children?

At my child’s school, students are told during lunch presentations that donations are optional and families may contribute different amounts. At the same time, children are shown attractive prizes connected to fundraising levels. At dismissal, prize recipients’ names are called and prizes are distributed where classmates can clearly see who receives them.

Technically, participation is voluntary. But is it meaningfully voluntary?

A six-year-old does not understand household budgets,

financial hardship, online-security concerns, or why a parent chooses not to participate. The child understands something much simpler: “My classmates got a prize, and I didn’t.”

My own child became upset enough that his behavior at school changed. Only after a lengthy conversation at home could he explain that he felt the situation was unfair. The emotional pressure created at school was therefore transferred directly to our family.

This concern is larger than one child. Livermore public-school families come from many economic backgrounds. A child should not repeatedly experience visible differences based on whether a parent can, or chooses to, contribute financially.

The solution does not require eliminating fundraising or prizes. Schools could distribute prizes privately in backpacks, after class, or directly to parents.

Fundraising can remain

exciting and successful without publicly separating young children according to family participation.

If “voluntary” is to mean genuine choice, we should consider not only whether families are required to donate, but also whether the method used to encourage them creates unnecessary pressure through their children.

Not Privileged
Thomas Soules, Livermore

Several folks in favor of the City’s plan for Eden housing have branded those of us in favor of using the last remaining space in downtown Livermore for a park and possibly a hotel as “privileged”. The privileged they say want to eliminate the low-income housing, when in fact we simply want to beautify the city and make it a welcoming respite for visitors and residents alike. I grew up in Detroit, working in my father’s service station, and then worked for a private company in Cleveland for more than thirty years before coming to Livermore. While I am grateful, I do not think I qualify as privileged.

Moving Eden Housing across Railroad, as in the Community Coalition proposal, would require purchasing or moving the Thrift Store and Joe’s Towing, a couple vacant lots, and a larger city-owned area expected to be used as a valet parking lot for Presidio Hotels. Since Presidio is no longer going to build a hotel next to the Bankhead, or anywhere in Livermore, it likely would not borrow money for the space it planned for valet parking. The city’s loan to Presidio for the valet parking lot and all the city land acquisitions would revert to the city. The Community Coalition has worked out the net cost and a potential significant financial savings of the plan to Eden housing with experts, and the owners of the Thrift store have expressed an interest in selling (<https://www.livermorecommunitycoalitionspeaks.com>). When the state put a highway through my father’s service station and gave him a check, he was happy.

Personally, I feel that having the low-income families

in two block-long four-story buildings right downtown next to restaurants and bars is also not necessarily a good idea for the tenant families. This is the last chance we as a city have of keeping a small-town atmosphere and a beautiful downtown. Let’s not blow it.

The Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board
Marylia Kelley, Livermore

I write in support of the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (DNFSB), an independent federal oversight entity charged with protecting the health and safety of employees and the public at U.S. defense nuclear facilities, including Livermore Lab.

All who are interested in the Board’s mission and activities are invited to meet and speak with them at a public meeting in Livermore on Tuesday, Sept. 15 at 5 p.m. at the Livermore Library, 1188 S. Livermore Ave. The public meeting is part of a national tour by DNFSB staff in communities around the nuclear sites it monitors.

The Board was created by Congress in 1988 due to the number and severity of radiation accidents that were occurring in the nuclear weapons complex, including Livermore.

For decades, DNFSB has had access to facilities and information it has needed to perform its duties. Its safety recommendations have been largely heeded, operational changes have been made at Livermore and elsewhere, and radiation accidents have been reduced, although not eliminated.

This is changing. DNFSB’s oversight is under attack. The Board’s July 2026 Report to Congress details “the most significant” denials of access and information in DBFSB’s history.

These challenges come amid the administration’s rollback of nuclear safety measures complex-wide, including at Livermore. According to the July 2026 report, DNFSB has “not been provided access to large numbers of draft DOE safety directives and regulations that are currently being revised.”

Challenges to DNFSB are

happening at the very time that Livermore has increased its plutonium activities to support industrial-scale plutonium bomb core production, which was shut down at Rocky Flats in 1989 by the FBI environmental crimes unit. This is not a past to which we should aspire to return.

Additional information can be found at www.dnfsb.gov and www.trivalleycares.org.

Don’t Step on the Toes
Vic Avila, Livermore

A couple editions ago, a letter to the editor writer wrote about the relationship between parks and downtowns. The writer stated, “Downtown and parks are fundamentally different land-use priorities”, and “You want to use (downtown) land for businesses, dense housing, and parking”.

I don’t want to step on anyone’s toes on this subject, since I am not an urban planner. Actually, I don’t even like the word “urban”; there is not anything welcoming nor wholesome about the word. There are some significant and demonstrative examples of cities that have used parks to augment the downtown experience, to create a respite downtown from the concrete jungle that some downtowns have become. These cities are: San Francisco, Santa Rose, Petaluma, San Jose, Berkeley, Davis, Chico, Napa, San Mateo, Sonoma, Healdsburg, and last but not least Paso Robles and Atascadero, both of which have parks that define downtown.

These cities have thrived by having downtown parks, open space, a place to breathe, to let kids play on apparatus. A welcoming and wholesome part of the downtown experience.

Livermore would like to thrive like those cities. The opportunity is still available. The Community Coalition Downtown Center Option could make the park come alive. For more information visit: <https://www.livermorecommunitycoalitionspeaks.com/>

Safety First?
Janet Battaglia, Livermore

Does anybody know who decided Livermore needs

Flock cameras? (The 2025 Livermore Police ALPR Annual Report documented a total of 78 cameras in use). Seems to me that if our safety is a concern, we should replace Flock with RED LIGHT-RUNNING CAMERAS!

Please Stop
Bruce Fiedler, Dublin

Congratulations to the Livermore Community Coalition on their light speed proposal for a development in downtown south of Railroad Avenue. It was shown in a splashy ad on page three of last week’s edition of The Independent.

But, if I am correct, it was 2004 when housing was included in the Downtown Specific Plan. A parcel was purchased by the City in 2008. In 2018, Eden Housing was selected to do the heavy lifting involved bringing a complex into fruition. On May 18 of this year, we saw the official groundbreaking. It was an eighteen-year effort.

But now this group that has sprung up like a mushroom wants us to believe that a magical plan that has been concocted within a couple months is a better idea than the one we actually have. So, does LCC have the land for their plan? Does LCC have zoning approval? Does LCC have a developer? Does LCC have financing? And who is LCC anyway? Or is this just another in a long list of delaying actions?

When LCC, or MOVE, or any other group gets all their ducks in a row, we might listen. Until then, please stop.

The Recent Proposal Is Promising
Maryann Brent, Livermore

The sweeping cultural fascination with artisan beer, cider and mixed drinks has partially displaced wine consumption and damaged Livermore’s wine industry. This even extends to the Wentz family, proud leaders of Livermore’s wine heritage.

At this critical time, our leaders need to make practical choices about land use, and there are competing issues. Importantly, low-cost, accessible housing must be addressed. This is a community responsibility. And how

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. 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. Editorial information may be submitted by emailing editor@independentnews.com

www.independentnews.com



Pedrozzi Scholarship winner and Granada High School graduate Susie Beamon is enrolled as a freshman at the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana, where she plans to study Spanish and pre-med. Beamon is the daughter of Susan and the late Lynn Beamon. (Photo courtesy of Susan Beamon)

MAILBOX

(Continued from page 4)

do you also attract visitors, encourage overnight stays, and day trips to wineries?

The recent proposal offered by the Community Coalition is promising: the magnetic draw of a central park, a great central hotel, convenient parking, interesting exhibits/museums, low-cost housing nearby, and the funds to make all of this happen.

Thoughtful well-planned land use will determine our town's future. This is a no brainer! Leaders, it is about time to work together.

The Data Center National Security Excuse

Rosario Milielli, Pleasanton

Communities across America are pushing back against massive new data centers. Their objections are straightforward: enormous electricity and water demands, costly grid expansion, tax subsidies, noise, and relatively few permanent jobs.

Consider who is asking for help. Elon Musk, Jeff Bezos, Mark Zuckerberg, Larry Ellison, Larry Page and Sergey Brin are collectively worth roughly \$2 trillion. They and their companies are also

enormous political players. Recent spending by Musk, Brin, Meta and Ellison alone exceeds \$565 million across federal elections, state races and political causes. These people do not lack capital. Taxpayers and utility customers should not subsidize their expansion. Developers should pay the full incremental costs of the generation, transmission, and water infrastructure they require.

Before building on undeveloped land, why not use retired nuclear and other generating sites where transmission lines, switchyards, industrial land and water infrastructure already exist?

The industry's scare tactic is national security: resist data centers and America will lose the AI race to China.

China is a legitimate competitor. But computing capacity is not technological leadership. Leadership also requires chips, algorithms, models, researchers, software, and useful applications.

Unlike U.S. AI developers' use of proprietary systems, China has demonstrated another path. DeepSeek report-

ed spending under \$6 million on the final training of its V3 model — not its total development cost — while producing a highly competitive open-weight model. Efficiency matters, not simply brute-force data center expansion.

America should lead in AI. National security is crucial, but having more data centers increases oligarch wealth, but is no guarantee of technological superiority.

Let's Get It Done

Robert Koelle, Livermore

Imagine you and your partner owned a nice piece of land for many years, bequeathed to you on the condition that you build a home there. Then you get another inheritance to build that house, but only on that land.

You spend money to plan the new lovely house, and pay for the installation of all the utilities.

Then suddenly, your partner decides that they like a different piece of land across the street better and want to build there. Except, they can't sell the land you already have; they want to create a garden there instead, and have no money to buy the new land across the street, or build there.

Meanwhile, if you go ahead with this change, you'll lose the money that you were going to receive to build the house in the first place.

That would be pretty stupid, wouldn't it? Throwing away all the money you've already committed and spent, and then having to raise even more money? I haven't even mentioned all the lawsuits that would ensue (pun intended).

That's exactly what the latest Livermore downtown proposals are all about. Many readers here have bought houses; consider the new proposed bait and switch in the terms I've just outlined above, and think about how

ridiculous, and downright impossible, it all would be.

The downtown plan has been in place for decades. Let's get it done.

The City Owes Its Residents a Better Choice

Valerie Daum, Livermore

I returned home from an extended vacation, and I was excited to learn a guardian angel may have saved Livermore's downtown. Years ago, I walked the neighborhood gathering signatures to keep Eden housing from being built in our town center. The voices and signatures of 8,000 registered Livermore voters were ignored by the City as they refused to put the referendum on the ballot. However, the years passed and thankfully Eden never started building. Currently, there is a new plan the city can choose. The parking area property at the northwest corner of Railroad and K street can be acquired by Eden Housing. With the help of the city's low-income housing funds, other nearby parcels can be purchased as well, and made available to Eden. Moving most of the residential units off Veterans Park leaves a large open area doubling the size of the current park, and an excellent location for a potential four-star luxury hotel. EFD Financing is available. The City owes its residents a better choice, as proposed by Livermore Community Coalition Speaks.com

Thank You Again, Lynn!

Bruce Fielding, Livermore

On Tuesday evening (Aug. 25th), another season of Tuesday Tunes was successfully concluded before a capacity crowd of Livermore neighbors and friends at Bankhead Plaza. For 13 years, the free concert series has featured an eclectic mix of musical groups with genres that range from rock to big band!

None of these events

would be possible without the enthusiasm and support of Livermore Cultural Arts Council Executive Board-Member-at-large, Lynn Sepala. Lynn has fostered these shared experiences to bring joy and a sense of community to everyone lucky enough to experience them. Thanks again!

Revised Downtown Center Plan

Robert Blum, Livermore

This new revised Downtown Center Plan is a win, win for the City of Livermore. The City Council and Mayor Marchand should be happy with this compromised plan by the Community Coalition Group.

A new and better location for a much-needed four-star hotel. A high-quality hotel to attract visitors for the Bankhead Theater, local wineries, and local businesses. A better and perfect location for the Arts & Science Center next

to the Bankhead Theater. The earlier plan had a small hotel to be built in that location. The developer decided not to build, and left.

A city that has a downtown park has a thriving focal point with a beautiful open space, no matter what the city. The open space creates a sense of peace and beauty and invites all kinds of activities.

With this new revised plan, it creates a larger park with more open space that flows and connects everything from the four-star hotel to the

(See MAILBOX, page 6)

A R R O Y O
C E L L A R S

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

2270 Research Drive,
Livermore
(925) 292-9157

SENIORS: Let Us Help You Get Moving!

We know how hard it can be to move, even when you know you need to. We're Senior Real Estate Specialists (SRES), and we have the patience, knowledge and energy to help. We will...

Always be available to you anytime by email, text or phone, and explain everything step by step so you feel comfortable.

With 25+ years of experience and resources, we can help you with everything you need, and represent you in the sale of your home for a "senior rate" reduced fee.

Experience Counts!



Barbara & Nick Lymberis

BROKERS
CRS, GREEN, CHLMS,
SRES, PMN



408-893-6306
barbara@nickandbarbara.com
www.nickandbarbara.com
Barbara's CalDRE #01342934
Nick's CalDRE #01322651



PERFECT HARMONY PROPERTIES
SRES



Opening Soon
in Livermore!



linden
COLLECTION

Thoughtfully composed senior living residences.™

Linden is designed for the way you want to live.

Find out how, by joining us at one of our events!

Coffee & Conversation • Lunch & Learn • Vintages & Visions

Seats fill quickly! Call (925) 337-9074 now!

(925) 337-9074 • 1400 Holmes St. • Livermore, CA 94550

lindenseniorliving.com • info@lindenseniorliving.com



Representatives from the Livermore Hindu-American community, including members of Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh Bay Area and Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh USA, met with the Livermore Police Department on Thursday, Aug. 27, to offer blessings for the safety and well-being of officers and first responders during a Raksha Bandhan family bonding ceremony. Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Deputy Chief Matt Thau and Livermore Mayor John Marchand also joined the celebration. Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh is a social, educational, and cultural organization for Hindus living outside India. (Photo courtesy of LPD)

MAILBOX

(Continued from page 5)

Stockmen's Park; a valuable asset for the City of Livermore's Downtown.

The new location of Eden Housing is a better location and would save in total costs.

The City has an opportunity to go forward with this better compromised Downtown Center Plan. It has a developer willing to build a four-star hotel; it creates a larger open space park with better flow, and a better location for the Arts & Science Center, and a better location for Eden Housing. This new plan is designed with a lot of thought, and is a plan that everybody will enjoy for years.

**Joan Seppala's
Hail MEHry
David Jonas, Livermore**

By any measure, the multi-year, multi-million dollar crusade to Move Eden Housing (MEH) is a bust.

MEH failed at the ballot box, as their anti-Eden Housing candidates, with one lamentable exception, went down in flames, over multiple election cycles. MEH failed in court, culminating in the state Supreme Court's recent refusal to hear their final appeal.

MEH's only impact has been to delay construction of critically-needed affordable housing and a park honoring our veterans.

Yet, rather than wave the white flag, MEH has rebranded as "Community Coalition" (CC) and mounted one final desperate and off-the-rails offensive, with an expanded mission to both move Eden Housing and relocate other key elements of the long ago finalized downtown plan, as if they were board game pieces.

The CC initiative is an exercise in futility, as the EH project is 100% greenlit: EH owns the land and is not interested in relocating, City Council has approved the project, the development's proximity to a transit center satisfies a critical state requirement, and no further legislative action is required. Nonetheless, Joan Seppala is frantically peddling the CC vision to anyone who will listen, while claiming support from phantom, unnamed "elected officials."

She has also peddled revisionist history to the SF Chronicle, which recently reported, "[Joan] said she doesn't recall spending any money to oppose [the EH development] and that her husband is in charge of their finances. She also said she was no longer involved with the groups opposing the project, but could not recall when her involvement ended."

The dishonesty is stunning. There is no path to victory for CC, unless they hire the goon squad, to whom MEH paid \$250K+ for various signature drives, to storm City Hall. I wouldn't put it past them.

**The Curious Case of
the Forbidden Gate
Amy Martin, Livermore**

It appears a most peculiar new tradition has arrived at Livermore High School: educating students in agriculture, while making it increasingly difficult for them to actually reach their agricultural education.

One must admire the irony. Agriculture and ROP students already travel between campuses, manage demanding schedules, and pursue programs intended to prepare them for careers beyond the classroom. Yet some now find themselves navigating restricted gates, limited parking and considerably longer walks between classes.

Apparently, learning responsibility is encouraged. Efficiently getting to class? Less so.

More troubling are reports that students have been warned of serious disciplinary consequences for using previously accessible gates, while staff attempting to assist them have reportedly faced warnings of their own.

Surely there is a distinction between maintaining campus security and creating unnecessary obstacles for students simply trying to reach class.

These are not youngsters wandering campus in search of mischief. They are welding, repairing engines, raising livestock and developing practical skills our community routinely claims to value.

Livermore proudly celebrates its agricultural heritage. We parade it downtown, display it at the fair, and praise these students when they succeed.

Perhaps, we might also allow them through a convenient gate.

After all, dear readers, when the greatest obstacle standing between a student and an education is a locked gate, one cannot help wondering whether the problem is really the student.

**Livermore for the People
Nancy Mulligan, Livermore**

As one of the original members in the beginning of the process to decide on what the community wanted on the old Lucky downtown property, I was able to attend the planning meetings. There were several meetings at various places in the city. At the end of this process, the city compiled a list of items in order of importance. The top ones were parking, open space for a park, a hotel on the Lucky property, and finally some housing. I, along with many others, assumed the plan would follow our input. I knew someone who had dealt with the City Council before and assured me that all our ideas would be thrown away, and she was right. Our input was a joke. What they ended up okaying is completely the opposite of what we wanted. The proposed hotel next to the Bankhead has decided not to move forward. Now, we have a chance

to redo the plan. I saw the new plan proposed and loved it. There is open space for a park and gathering space for the community. In addition, the hotel on the property is where it should be located. There is still room for plenty of housing, but not so much that every other thing we want is pushed aside. You can fight City Hall or in this case City Council, but it is very hard (almost impossible) to change their views. But here's hoping. Livermore is supposed to belong to the people, not the City Council. Make your voice heard. Let's give Livermore back to the people who live here.

**Fusion Is Almost Here
Rion Causey, Livermore**

I read with interest the article in The Independent last week about fusion startup Inertia Enterprises dropping the production time of their fuel target from days to minutes. The article does not say what kind of fuel targets they are talking about or what the size is. There have been several studies performed to describe what an operational inertial confinement fusion plant should look like and what the fuel targets would be. I will use an AI summary of those studies to tell you what this company will have to do to produce electricity. The mm sized thin-walled spherical targets are expected to be made of some form of carbon, beryllium, or plastic. They will either fill these targets with deuterium and tritium through a micron sized tube or simply diffuse the gas into them. They will then freeze these pellets to super low temperatures to get the deuterium-tritium to freeze on the inner layer of the sphere. The pellets are then transferred to an injection system that must operate at about -440 F to keep the hydrogen isotopes frozen. This injection system will inject ten pellets per second into the chamber at speeds of around 220 miles per hour. The accuracy in the direction of injection must be almost perfect or it will not end up where the laser beams expect it to be. The velocity must also be almost perfect as well, or the pellet will arrive before or after the laser pulse. So, by getting their fuel target production down to minutes is quite a milestone. Just a little more time, and all these other requirements will be met.

**Let's Change the Plan
Janice Gutierrez, Livermore**

As a participant in the initial city vision meetings, the current city plan is extremely disappointing. The citizens' vision meetings (held by a consulting firm hired by the city) were meant to give us a voice on the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to create a new vibrant civic core at the heart of our town. These meetings had so much positive energy, with lively discussions and amazing ideas for the wonderful possibi-

ties for this core "showcase" space in Livermore. A key finding was that tall apartment buildings with their "concrete canyons" (as we saw being built in neighboring Dublin) were not wanted. Thus, it is dismaying to see the current plan that centers two huge apartment buildings at the heart of our downtown.

It seems that ALL who are supporting this design do not care or understand how this plan negatively impacts the aesthetics of our town forever. The two buildings will undoubtedly dwarf and degrade the elegant new construction in Blacksmith Square and dominate the center of our town with two unsightly, long four-story-high buildings, the "concrete canyon" that no citizen wanted.

Further disturbing, this plan calls the narrow space between these buildings (the concrete canyon) a park! The citizens of Livermore deserve a better central park than a narrow strip of grass with looming four stories shading the narrow open space on either side. We can do better, so let's change the plan before it's too late.

A Wonderful Opportunity

Carol Wahrer, Livermore
As someone with deep ties to Livermore's downtown, I'm optimistic about the evolving plans to bring more open space and vibrant gathering areas to the heart of our city. We have a wonderful opportunity right now to shape a place where everyone feels welcome.

Years ago, in a small community group, we shared a vision for balancing housing with true public benefit — whether that means placing development toward the southern part of town or moving housing across the street. The improved locations for both Eden Housing and the hotel make this vision possible, preserving open community space for what

residents have asked for all along — convenient parking, a dedicated park, safe play areas for families, and a plaza.

By balancing housing with great open community space, we can create a warm, walkable downtown for long-time residents, young families, and visitors alike.

**Larry Bird for
LARPd Board
Jeannine Rinetti, Livermore**

I proudly support Larry Bird for the LARPd Board. With three decades of service in law enforcement, years of coaching, and deep community involvement, Larry brings integrity, character, leadership, and a genuine commitment to Livermore and LARPd.

Christiaan VandenHeuvel for Livermore School Board
Helen Gladden, Livermore
As a retired Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District (LVJUSD) administrator, I am writing to express my support for Christiaan VandenHeuvel's campaign for election to the new Area 5 position (representing southeast Livermore) on the Livermore School Board. I have known Christiaan over many

Edward Jones

>edwardjones.com | Member SIPC

Compare our CD rates

Bank-issued, FDIC-insured

3.85 % APY*	3.95 % APY*	4.05 % APY*
3 Month	6 Month	1 Year

Call or visit your local financial advisor today.



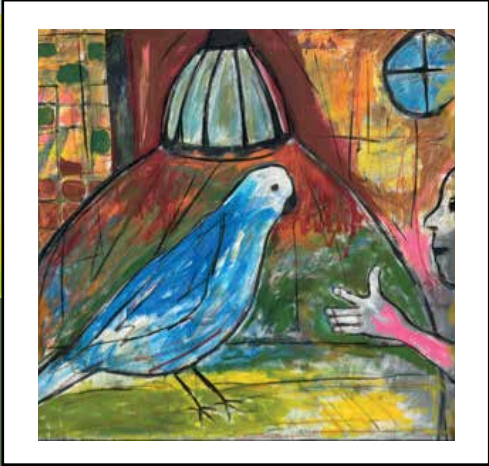
Gabriel E. Wright, AAMS®
Financial Advisor
2300 First Street, Suite 216
Livermore, CA 94550
925-453-2267

Annual Percentage Yield (APY) effective: 08/28/2026. 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 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 D. JONES & CO., L.P. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

THE
INDEPENDENT
GALLERY

FINAL WEEKEND!
ART EXHIBIT IN FROMING FIGURES
Figures, Fragments,
and Connections
by **Thom See**



Spanning years of artistic exploration, these figurative works bring together observation, memory, and imagination. Moving between realism and abstraction, the exhibition reflects an ongoing search for the connections that unite the many fragments of a life.

FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Gallery Hours

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4TH 6 - 8 PM
&
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 5TH 6 - 8 PM

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



Students at St. Michael's lowered the American flag to half-staff last week in honor of musical legend and philanthropist Dolly Parton, who died Aug. 25. As part of the ceremony, a seventh-grade student taught sixth graders the proper way to raise and lower the flag to fly it at half-staff, continuing a school tradition of older students passing the responsibility to the next class. Flags were also flown at half-staff at all federal facilities at the direction of the White House and at all California state buildings at the direction of Gov. Gavin Newsom. (Photo courtesy of St. Michael School)

MAILBOX

(Continued from page 6)

students have tremendous potential, and he genuinely cares about each student’s individual journey. As an English Learner (EL), having emigrated from the Netherlands to the U.S. at the age of 20, Christiaan has first-hand knowledge of the needs of, and challenges facing, our EL population. He is also a strong advocate for programs and resources that will best support students who have an IEP (Individualized Education Program), having struggled with significant learning challenges himself.

During his first two years in an at-large position on the school board, LVJUSD faced \$14.8 million in budget shortfalls. Christiaan pushed to take neighborhood schools off the district’s budget reduction list, protect classroom spending, and safeguard the availability of resources for students with IEPs, ELs, and students behind grade level. He visited school sites to converse with faculty and staff regarding their concerns. And when the superintendent resigned, he helped fill the position with a candidate determined to steady the district, revise priorities, and rebuild morale.

Of paramount importance to Christiaan is ensuring that every student feels valued and supported academically, socially, and emotionally. In an era when educational discussions often become

polarized, Christiaan’s ability to engage in good-faith conversations makes him a candidate who can bridge divides and bring focus to what truly matters: the success and well-being of every LVJUSD student.

Trump was Right
David Marco, Livermore

“Trump was right about Venezuela.” — Colonel (Retired) John Mills

This is from the real article in Newsweek, Aug. 7-14, 2026; it is not fake.

Newsweek is acknowledging Trump was right.

The fake news was apologetic (and kept ranting) that Venezuela was going to be Vietnam, Iraq, Afghanistan, etc.

And then Trump took out Maduro and flipped Delcy Rodriguez, a former trusted Maduro Senior Official, into a pro-Trump steward for the country. It’s working.

Venezuela has stabilized and is in alignment with the United States. Oil is flowing to the U.S. and the world. The foreign base camps for Iran, Hezbollah, China, and Russia have been shuttered. Tren De Aragua (a major source of fentanyl) has been crushed. Rodriguez, a former Maduro lieutenant, is now the leader of Venezuela and is leading the final negotiations on transforming Venezuela into a market economy with better paying jobs while

re-establishing civil society. All without a U.S. military occupation force.

A related Time magazine article said, describing Trump to Rodriguez relationship: “Washington and Caracas now cooperate on intelligence and counternarcotics operations. In June, this resulted in taking out Niño Guerrero, the leader of the transnational criminal organization Tren de Aragua. Rodriguez says Venezuela supplied the intelligence that located Guerrero and deployed forces on the ground, enabling the U.S. airstrike. “The important thing is that there are opportunities for joint cooperation,” she tells me. “Against drug trafficking, for example, and against transnational organized crime. That is very important to us.” Thousands of political detainees have been released under an amnesty framework encouraged by the U.S., while negotiators continue hammering out dozens of additional economic agreements.”

It took a few months, but the crude oil is beginning to flow from Venezuela — which is good for everyone.

Trump was right about Venezuela and everything else.

The World's Worst
Deal Maker

Frank Cannella, Livermore

The stupidity of picking a fight with our neighbor to the north is beyond comprehension. Yes, it is true there is a trade imbalance between Canada and the U.S. America has a population eight times larger than Canada, so it is logical we would buy more things from Canada than Canadians buy from us. Hence, the fact there is a trade imbalance should not be a surprise, especially to someone who wrote a book on making deals. Nor has it helped the negotiations that our current administration began its term insulting the previous Prime Minister of Canada, while trying to strongarm the Canadians into becoming an American state. Lest we forget, Canada has been our single best ally for over a century, and both countries were delighted to admit we had the largest unguarded border in the world. Not any longer. Now it appears the American approach is to bully a smaller country, bury them with high tariffs, call them the worst trade partners we have, and in a fit of pique, change the name of Lake Ontario to Lake America. The name change by it-

self would remind you of the sort of meaningless act a 12-year-old would do in middle school, while yelling ‘Nah Nah Nah’ at a school-yard enemy.

Brute force, fear, and intimidation by powerful countries doesn't work any better in North America than it does in the rest of the world. Our primary "deal maker" compliments his "good friend" the head of North Korea, while insulting the prime minister of the best ally this country ever had. He is as good at deal making as he is at diplomacy. Need I mention the war in Iran?

ICE Agents Just
Doing Their Job

Philip LaScola, Livermore

I have often wondered what responsibility a newspaper has to inform its readers about the enforcement of laws.

If you read The Independent, the publishers inform readers about the enforcement of laws but do not inform readers of the laws.

A prime example of this is our immigration law.

Under our current immigration law, crossing the border illegally is a federal crime. Entering the country without authorization carries criminal penalties.

There are two other issues.

If you cross the border asking for amnesty, and get a future court date to hear your plea, you can be released into the country. However, if your request is adjudicated and subsequently denied, your issue becomes a civil matter and you are subject to deportation; that is if ICE can find you.

The other issue is overstaying a Visa. This again is a civil matter. If your Visa has expired, you are in the country without authorization and subject to deportation; that is, if ICE can find you.

ICE agents are doing their best to enforce our immigration laws. They have been yelled at, spit on and assaulted. Their families have been threatened with bodily harm.

And, for what; just doing their job.

Are You Aware?

Samuel Warner, Pleasanton

Now that everyone is thoroughly sick of hearing about our president’s latest shenanigans, it is exactly the time when we must pay attention. Although he wants us to focus on superficial distractions; like renaming lakes, circus stunts outside the Whitehouse, AI generated nonsense, covering statues in gold, etc., we need to look at bigger things that are happening. Why are the wealthy on Wall Street showing huge gains while everyday Americans are becoming worse off? Why are there armed violent agents in our streets? Why does Trump openly worship dictators, and make our allies our enemies? Why are Republicans working overtime to keep polls closed, difficult to get to, harder to access by mail? Our elections and democracy are at stake here. I predict that before November, a riot of some sort will be incited, and then will be used as an excuse to declare a national emergency, in order to keep voters away. Republicans know that majority of people do NOT like the way this country is being run, do NOT want their Social Security taken away or their Medicare cut, and that they can only win by cheating,

A LOT is happening, quickly, without many people realizing it. Trump and

family are profiting off this endless war. Corruption at its finest! Did you know that many rulings won’t take place until after the midterms so that voters won’t be aware of the plans? Did you know that Trump administration wants to give part of Yosemite to a developer? I read this on various news channels, including “USA Today”. Then I searched on Fox news; it wasn’t even mentioned. Open your eyes and do something; at the least, get out and vote — no matter how hard they want to make it for you.

A New Acronym
Required?

Mark Strauch, Livermore

Growing up in Michigan, kids were taught the acronym HOMES. That represented the Great Lakes of Huron, Ontario, Michigan, Erie, and Superior. I guess with President Trump wanting to rename Lake Ontario to Lake America, the acronym is now SHAME. A terrible message for our youth, and for citizens more broadly.



Creek Hill Farm
Horseback Ridding Lessons,
Training, Boarding
and Sales
925.337.5375
creekhillfarms.com



**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

HENRY

(Continued from front page)

committee members, resulted in part from EBRPD’s overemphasis on land preservation at the expense of recreation.

“I don't agree with that,” Henry said. “I agree with what’s called conservation; I believe in responsible public access. So, certainly, you have issues where there’s endangered species (or) there’s an ecologically sensitive area. I love the environment. I want to protect it, but that doesn't mean you close off public access.”

Trail gaps prevent users, including young users, from enjoying public lands, which undercuts the drive to protect it, he continued.

Public conflict also developed between the board and its former general manager, Sabrina Landreth, prior to her resignation in November 2025. The rift resulted in another lawsuit in which Landreth alleged harassment and constructive termination — claiming the board created hostile conditions such that she was forced to resign.

“It’s never entirely the board’s fault; it’s never entirely the general manager’s fault,” Henry said. “However, it took a long time to get there. So you shouldn’t have

this contentious relationship. There has to be a way to mend that fence.”

An active hiker and mountain biker, Henry

hopes to bring fresh, first-hand views on trail usage, fiscal responsibility and wildfire mitigation to the board.

LIVERMORE
CITY OF

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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

Commission for the Arts - 4 Vacancies
Join us in promoting Livermore as a vibrant and stimulating environment for artists and audiences, young and old, to experience the performing, visual, and literary arts.
(4) **Regular Terms ending 11/1/2031**
Meets 4th Tuesday of each month at 4:30 PM
Next meeting: **September 22, 2026**

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

Livermore Housing Authority – 3 Vacancies
(1 **Vacancy at-large**), (1 **Vacancy - Tenant**), (1 **Vacancy -Tenant 62+ years of age**)
Join us in administering and overseeing affordable housing for low-income families, seniors, and persons with disabilities in the City of Livermore.
(3) **Regular Terms ending 11/1/2031**
Meets 2nd Wednesday of each month at 5:30 PM
Next meeting: **September 16, 2026**

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

splatter

SEPTEMBER 12
FOOD, ART, MUSIC & CULTURE—THE BEST PARTY, RIGHT HERE IN OUR BACKYARD

Emerald Glen Park
4201 Central Parkway, Dublin
Color Dash 9 AM; 9:30 AM
Festival 12 PM to 8:30 PM
Prisma VIP Lounge 5 PM to 8:30 PM
Closing Concert at 6:30 PM
Free Admission & Parking

NEW! Color Dash
Live Musical Entertainment
Multi-cultural Experiences
Prisma VIP Lounge
High Life Art Gallery
World Craft Bazaar
Unique Food Vendors
Interactive Arts
Carnival Rides & Games
Chalk Art
Closing Concert with Good Time Collective

  **CITYOFDUBLINCA**
WWW.DUBLINSPLATTER.COM





A group of Oktoberfest revelers in traditional German attire shows off their festive spirit during last year's event at SideTrack Bar+Grill, which hosts this year's celebration Oct. 16–17 in Pleasanton. (Photo courtesy of SideTrack Bar+Grill)

SideTrack to Hold Oktoberfest

PLEASANTON — SideTrack Bar+Grill, 30 W. Angela St., will host an Oktoberfest experience the weekend of Friday, Oct. 16, and Saturday, Oct. 17, with a special menu of German food and drink and live entertainment by Polkage-ist West, a San Francisco-based ensemble led by German-born accordionist Thomas Seiter.

The menu will include Za German Plate, with sausage, German potato salad, red

cabbage and sauerkraut.

Za German Plate with Za Vorks will include beer in a commemorative SideTrack stein.

SideTrack will offer traditional German beers along with local beer and wines.

There will also be hot dogs, mac and cheese and tater tots for kids.

Primrose Bakery will be selling German cookies and cakes throughout the weekend.

The event is free to attend

with food and drink tickets available for purchase at the door.

Packages are also available for pre-purchase to ensure a table inside the tents each evening.

Although Oktoberfest is a family-friendly event, outdoor diners must be 21 or older starting at 7 p.m. on both evenings. ID will be required.

For more information, go to sidetrackeats.com.

Reader Snapshots

Share Your Best Shot

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

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

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



A young boy steps out of summer and into fall with a splash at Lizzie Fountain in Downtown Livermore. (Photo courtesy of Craig Varden)

BLESSING

(Continued from front page)



At the annual Blessing of the Grapes on Tuesday, Aug. 25, local faith and community leaders gathered at Mitchell Katz Winery in Livermore to bless the upcoming wine harvest. From left to right are Wesley Katz, owner and operator of Mitchell Katz Winery; Rabbi Larry Milder; Father Kwame Assenyoh; Brandi Lombardi, executive director of the Livermore Valley Wine Community; and Pastor Steve Wilde. (Photo — May Fraser)

sooner than usual.

“Early picking is just a scheduling thing,” Lombardi explained. She said decisions aren’t made by sticking to a schedule, but by following what’s happening with the grapes and remaining attuned to the fruit.

Winemakers say the accelerated schedule will have little impact on individual wine varietals.

“Honestly, it means very little to the consumer,” McGrail said. While there are subtle differences between vintages, she explained that

it would be pretty difficult for even an experienced sommelier to be able to tell whether a wine was picked earlier or later.

“It’s about picking at the right time for the fruit,” McGrail added.

For Wesley Katz, owner and operator of Mitchell Katz Winery, this year’s host winery, “The Blessing of the Grapes is about the celebration of the harvest, no matter the season,” Katz added that no harvest is exactly the same.

The early harvest isn’t unique to Livermore. Napa

Valley and Sonoma County are harvesting weeks ahead of schedule, also a result of a very early bud break. Even Europe is seeing the earliest harvest in its recorded history. While the early harvest will have little impact on the taste of the wines, it will likely lead to a lighter production year. The winemakers suggest the overall reduction might be a helpful correction within the California wine industry, which has been suffering from a major oversupply crisis as a result of changing consumer trends and rising costs.

Winery leaders expressed concern this past October at a Livermore City Council meeting, presenting their cases during public comment for expediting the South Livermore Valley Sewer Extension Project. In November 2022, voters approved Measure P to permit the extension of sewer services to properties along Buena Vista Avenue from East Avenue to Tesla Road, down Tesla Road, and part of Greenville Road.

“Times are tough in the wine industry,” Karl Wente, a fifth-generation winemaker at Wente Family Vineyards said at the time. “Anything to expedite the years, the weeks, the months. Time matters. Time is of the essence for our wine country.”

The downturn has been visible across the region through shifts in local land management, such as removing aging vines in neighborhoods like Dunsmuir to allow soil to naturally heal before replanting. Beyond agricultural challenges, local

producers are facing critical infrastructure hurdles — such as reliance on aging septic systems. These obstacles have prompted winery leaders to advocate heavily for projects like the sewer extension to lower operational costs, while also pushing for boutique wine country accommodations to allow for long-term regional growth.

According to recent national polling from Gallup, alcohol consumption is at an historic low, with older generations consuming less and young generations forgoing alcohol all together. This coupled with the rising costs of growing grapes locally, exacerbated more recently by tariffs and trade boycotts, has caused farmers to take drastic steps. The New York Times reported last month that 7% of California vineyard plantings were destroyed last year and half a million grapes went unpicked.

To adapt to these shifting market conditions, many local growers are re-evaluat-

ing their vineyard strategies. Wineries like Concannon Vineyard are moving toward replanting their estates with high-demand varieties like Cabernet Franc and Sauvignon Blanc — the region’s designated signature varietals — to better match evolving consumer preferences.

Regardless of the year’s output, the Blessing of the Grapes gave winemakers a chance to celebrate and come together as a community.

“It’s an annual tradition that I look forward to each year. The fact that we’re bringing three faiths together, there’s something for everyone,” McGrail said.

“It’s all about embracing the community,” Lombardi echoed, noting earlier this year that despite industry hardships, the Livermore Valley wine community remains resilient, highlighted by new winery openings like Pruett Estate, Sakura Winery and most recently, Shanti Winery.

TRI-VALLEY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

EVENTS

Saturday, Sept. 5

DRESS A GIRL AROUND THE WORLD

Make simple dresses for girls in Third World countries! The next monthly Sew-Fest is on Sept. 1, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 1020 Mocho St., Livermore. Bring your sewing machine or serger, iron, ironing board, scissors, along with your helping hands. Come for an hour or all day! (Please bring a bag lunch if you plan to stay all day.) Cheerful cotton fabric donations are always welcome. Contact Suzanne Beck, 925-352-8447, or suzbeck@yahoo.com for questions or kits that you can sew from home.

Thursday, Sept. 10

LIVERMORE AMADOR VALLEY GARDEN CLUB MEETING

September’s meeting will be ‘The Joy of Gardening with Native Plants’ with Stephanie Pruegel, who is said to change a sad lawn into a thriving garden habitat! She is also known for Bringing Back the Natives garden tours, and co-leads Homegrown Habitats out of San Leandro. On Sept. 10, from 6 to 8 p.m. at Crosswinds Church, 1660 Freisman Rd., Livermore at the red Farm Theater Building.

Mondays, Sept. 14 and 21

OPEN REHEARSALS / AUDITIONS FOR VALLEY CONCERT CHORALE

The Valley Concert Chorale, the Tri-Valley’s premier chorus, is seeking new singers for its upcoming concert season and is holding open rehearsals on Sept. 14 and 21, 7 p.m. — 9 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church, 2020 Fifth St., Livermore. Call (925) 866-4003 to schedule an audition. The Chorale is seeking experienced singers with sight-reading skills who enjoy singing exciting and challenging music. The 2026-2027 season features Mozart’s “Requiem”. More information is available at www.valleyconcertchorale.org.

Monday, Sept. 14

LIVERMORE-AMADOR GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY MEETING

Roger Prince will be presenting on “Transcription and Abstraction of Original Records.” He will cover best practices for manually transcribing old documents as well as using AI to generate a rough first transcription. Join via Zoom (see website to register: www.l-ags.org, click on Speakers & Topics). On Sept. 14, at 7:00 p.m. No charge, non-members welcome.

ONGOING EVENTS

FALL GRIEF WORKSHOPS

Held at St. Elizabeth Seton Church, 4001 Stoneridge Dr., Pleasanton, on Sept. 3, 9, 17, 23, Oct. 1, 8, 15, and 22, starting at 7 pm. See catholicsofpleasanton.org or call Barbara at 925-846-3904 for more info/registration.

DROP-IN GENEALOGY ASSISTANCE

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

UNDERSTANDING ISLAM

On the third Saturday of every month from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. there will be a free class on Islam, and the followers of this faith, Muslims. Offered at Islamic Center of Livermore.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

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

SATURDAY PLEASANTON FARMERS MARKET

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

SUNDAY LIVERMORE DOWNTOWN FARMERS MARKET

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

FOOD RELIEF SERVICES

Local residents can access vital food-assistance services to help meet basic needs. Food relief services can be found at: St. Vincent De Paul Food locker, 458 Maple St., Livermore (behind St. Michaels Church); Mon/ Tues: 7-8 p.m., Wed/ Thu: 4-5 p.m. Children’s Emergency Food Bank; 7421 Amarillo Rd., Dublin; appointments M-F, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; 925-828-5363; St. Raymond Catholic Church, 11555 Shannon Ave., Dublin; third Sat. of the month, 8 to 11 a.m.; Open Heart Kitchen; M-F, noon to 5 p.m.; 450 N. Livermore Ave., Livermore; Tri-Valley Haven Food Pantry, 150 N. “L” Street, Livermore; 925-449-1664 — M-Th, 1 to 5 p.m.; Fri/Sat 12 to 4 p.m.; Alameda County Community Food Bank; 510-635-3663; M-F, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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

VETERANS

(Continued from front page)

bership includes eligible service members who served in overseas conflicts.

Relocating vital services could create additional travel burdens for veterans who depend on local care. Both men said they hope to hear from their newly elected congressional representative, Rep. Aisha Wahab, D-Calif.

“Veterans face all-day events for teeth cleaning in Menlo Park, requiring hotel stays for medical appointments due to commute time and age,” Riehl said. “The Central Valley facility does not offer the same level of care and being next to a jail creates image issues one would need to experience. Livermore VA has a serene atmosphere that promotes healing and is removed from mainstream stress.”

Some services have already shifted away from the Livermore campus.

According to the VA, its Community Living Center, a nursing facility for veterans, permanently closed earlier this year in Livermore, relocating 27 residents to Menlo Park and other community nursing homes.

The closure comes as the VA continues a broader realignment process that dates back to 2004, when the federal Capital Asset Realignment

for Enhancement Services process recommended closing the Livermore campus.

That recommendation was reaffirmed in a 2022 VA infrastructure review, which called for shifting services to other VA or community facilities, citing aging infrastructure and accessibility concerns.

The local pushback aligns with broader scrutiny of veterans’ access to care nationwide.

In January, U.S. Sen. Richard Blumenthal, the ranking Democrat on the Senate Veterans’ Affairs Committee, criticized staffing reductions and other changes at the VA under the Trump administration.

“VA is hemorrhaging doctors, mental health professionals, nurses, and other frontline providers,” Blumenthal said in Breaking the Pact: Impacts of Trump, DOGE, and Doug Collins’ Ongoing Assault on Veterans. “The resulting harm to the quality and timeliness of care will be felt for years.”

His report found that the department lost more than 40,000 employees in fiscal year 2025, with health care workers accounting for 88% of those departures. It also cited staffing shortages

affecting patient care and a national average wait of more than 35 days for new patients seeking individual mental health appointments as of Jan. 6.

The Livermore closure plan, however, predates the current administration.

VFW Post 7265 representatives said they want the VA to reconsider its plans with veterans’ input, arguing that the current proposal lacks a short- or long-term vision. While they support a new facility in the Tri-Valley, they want the existing Livermore property to remain dedicated to veterans.

“We need a new facility in the Tri-Valley. However, we do not want to give up the land the VA Clinic presently occupies,” Gilmore said. “This would be a great location for veterans suffering from substance abuse and post-traumatic stress disorder to recover.”

The Independent contacted the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs for additional comment, but did not receive a response in time for publication.

“To many veterans, this is sacred ground with the spirits of the veterans, the employees and the community that has an enduring presence,” Gilmore said.

SANWONG

(Continued from front page)

Zone 7 director from 2018 to 2022, said she was well positioned to manage the moving pieces.

“I believe I’m uniquely positioned to be a leader in this, just having previously served on the Zone 7 board and now East Bay Regional Park District,” she said. “And I think Del Valle is so important to all the communities within the Ward 5 region.”

She supported installing automated payment

machines at Del Valle to alleviate the bottleneck that often occurs at the park’s kiosk on busy days, and she is pushing to have them ready by Memorial Day 2027.

Sanwong also pointed to liaison meetings, between EBRPD and the City of Fremont as well as between EBRPD and the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District (LARP), as a nascent communication area in need of careful attention.

Liaisons with Fremont went quiet during 2024 and 2025, and Sanwong counted this year’s two meetings as an accomplishment.

Similarly, EBRPD held no meetings with LARP during 2023, 2024 and most of 2025 following a dispute over a 1992-tax-sharing agreement between the two districts. LARP filed a lawsuit against EBRPD in March 2025, which remains in litigation, but the districts restarted liaison

meetings that October. LARP seeks to recover \$8 million in tax revenue sent to EBRPD in the recent fiscal year.

“I believe in collaboration and partnerships, and I think these liaison meetings are so important in terms of forming that working relationship across agencies,” Sanwong said.

During her current term, she oversaw the opening of the Tyler Ranch Staging

Area, which opened up over 2,800 acres of open space and 18 miles of new trails at Pleasanton Ridge Regional Park in Sunol. The district also opened the Patterson Ranch expansion at Coyote Hills Regional Park on March 7 this year, adding some 300 acres to the park with restored habitats and new park amenities in Fremont.

If she wins a second term, Sanwong looks to focus on the Garms Stag-

ing Area, a previously promised access point to Pleasanton Ridge at West Las Positas Boulevard in Pleasanton, as well as a Shadow Cliffs to Del Valle regional trail, on top of the other projects already in motion.

“I know what’s going on,” she said. “I know who we need to work with and what we need to do to get some of these to fall into place and come together.”

OBITUARIES

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



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

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

The summer after college graduation, Steve did a DOE internship at Argonne National Lab. In the fall of 1977, he started graduate school at the University of Chicago (UoC) Department of Chemistry and met his future wife, Carol Molini, also a new graduate student there. He was

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

Steve and Carol were very lucky to both get jobs at Livermore Lab; that meant they didn’t have to commute in San Francisco Bay Area traffic. Since 1984, they have lived in Livermore where Steve enjoyed gardening, cooking, music,

family trips, wineries and drinking excellent scotch, bourbon or rye with just a splash of water. Since June 1981 (45 years!), he was a loving and patient husband and a partner in science, child-rearing, home improvement and cat tending. His family has called him pedantic, or a curmudgeon, but he was one of the smartest people we knew. After his daughters were born, he made up silly “Dad” songs and stories for them, and those will be passed on to his grandchildren. He enjoyed watching his daughters in every T-ball game, soccer and lacrosse match, swim meet, ballet, band and orchestra performance and graduation ceremony that he attended. Steve deeply loved his family, contributed his advice and experiences to them, and was proud of them for achieving their life goals. Steve is survived by his wife, Carol Velsko, daughters Irina Velsko of Leipzig, Germany and Anna Long (Paul) of Mission Viejo, California, grandson Theodore Long; sister Nancy Schmidt of Arvada, Colorado; nieces Elizabeth Zito, Liz Schmidt (Brian) and family; nephews Karl Schmidt (Suzette) and family, and Andrew Schmidt (Emily); as well as mother-in-law Shirley Molini, sisters-in-law Mary Kullman and family, Judith Meluni (John) and family; brothers-in-law Paul Molini Jr. (Carol) and family, and Richard Molini (Rose) and family. He was predeceased by his parents, Paul and Theodora Velsko, his sister Irene Zito, and his father-in-law Paul Molini Sr.

On Thursday, Sept. 10, 2026, please join us at Callaghan Mortuary, 3833 East Ave., Livermore, to remember Steve; viewing 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Memorial Service 1-2 p.m., followed by burial at Roselawn Cemetery, 1240 N. Livermore Ave., Livermore. We will conclude the day with a reception at Terra Mia Restaurant 3-6 p.m., 4040 East Ave., Livermore. If you would like to join us at Terra Mia, please RSVP via email to velsko@comcast.net or text/call 925-698-2478 so we can get a count of expected visitors.

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

and great grandchildren. Norm was also a die-hard 49ers fan and loved attending games and cheering on the team with family and friends.

Throughout his life, Norm worked hard, loved deeply, made lifelong friends, and found joy in the simple adventures that came his way. There was nothing he loved more in this life than his family. He was proud of the life he and Judy built together and was grateful for the people who shared it with him. He will be remembered for his strong work ethic, his love for his friends and family, his wonderful sense of humor, and the many stories he collected along the way.

He leaves behind a lifetime of memories and the people who loved him most. His family and friends will carry those stories with them and remember him with love, laughter, and gratitude. Norm is survived today by his two loving daughters, six grandchildren, and nine great grandchildren.

Norm’s Celebration of Life
Sept. 13, 2026, 2:00 p.m.
Arroyo Church, 945 Concanon Blvd., Livermore, CA 94550
Family and friends are invited to join us.

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

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Kay Daniels
March 7, 1946 — Aug. 22, 2026



Kay Daniels, a well-loved Pleasanton community volunteer who became an entrepreneur with a flair for creating charming interior spaces, passed away on Aug. 22, 2026. Kay was many things in her 80 years, including a loyal friend, graceful “Grammie”, and maven with an eye for style and a mouth that loved to move.

Faith was her foundation. Raised Catholic, Kay carried that devotion through childhood, family life, work, illness and loss. In 2011, doctors diagnosed Kay with stage 4 metastatic breast cancer and gave her, on average, three years to live.

Kay’s immediate response became legendary: “Well, obviously, I am not average.”

Over the next 15 years, she proved exactly that.

Kathleen Ann Carney, a fifth-generation Californian, was born on March 7, 1946, in Pittsburg, California. She earned an art degree from Sacramento State, where she also had a life-changing encounter with

the next 35 years, Kay Daniels Designs blossomed the same way she built relationships: naturally, thoughtfully, and through trust. Kay will be remembered for nurturing her deep friendships, which often crossed generational lines.

Kay is survived by her husband of nearly 58 years, Dave Daniels; daughters Tamra McLaughlin and Melissa Fritz; sons-in-law Noel McLaughlin and John Fritz; and granddaughters Ella McLaughlin, Kaylin Fritz and Allison Fritz. Kay was preceded in death by her parents, Barbara and Earl Carney, and sister Susan Bigelow.

Kay’s celebration of life will be held at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 12, 2026, at St. Augustine Catholic Church, 3999 Bernal Ave., Pleasanton.

Memorial donations can be made to the Susan G. Komen breast cancer research nonprofit on Melissa’s page at m.team-komen.org/gtxtb.

Ruth Barnett

Sept. 25, 1940 — Aug. 22, 2026

Ruth Barnett, a longtime Livermore resident, died peacefully in Palo Alto at the age of 85.

She was born in Pittsburgh, the daughter of Harry and Anna (Tenenbaum) Topol, who had come from Poland. The friendships she formed growing up there lasted the rest of her life. She was a graduate of Peabody High School and the University of Pittsburgh.

She moved to California in the early 1960s, settling in Livermore for more than fifty years. There she raised her two sons and was active in the small and tight-knit Jewish community at Congregation Beth Emek. She moved to Palo Alto in 2018.

Returning to school, she earned her teaching credential and a master’s degree from California State

University, Hayward. She spent decades as a special education specialist in the Tracy Unified School District. She continued her own education throughout her career, always looking for new methods to bring out the potential in all her students, especially in reading. Even after retiring in 2004, she continued to volunteer as a reading specialist.

Travel and concerts were her hobbies, easily combined with family and friends. Joan Baez, Bob Dylan, and Bruce Springsteen were among her favorites, and she once snuck a Springsteen concert into a trip to Ireland.

What she treasured most was time with her grandchildren and her nephews — hours of playing, often down on the floor, and, ever so subtly, also teaching.

She is survived by her sons, David Barnett (Andi) and Steven Barnett (Maria); her grandchildren, Jake (Samantha), Owen, Jonah, and Hannah; her brother, Mitchell Topol (Barbara); her nephews, Michael and Aaron (Teresa); and her grandnephew, Christopher Beau Topol. She was preceded in death by her parents and by her sister, Frances Topol.

Services were held Aug. 27 at Ralph Schugar Chapel in Pittsburg, with interment at Adath Jeshurun Cemetery. A memorial service will be held in December at Congregation Etz Chayim in Palo Alto; for details, contact the family at bhome1993@gmail.com. Contributions in her memory may be made to the Lucile Packard Foundation for Children’s Health.

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

June Hedge Olney
June 25, 1925 — July 25, 2026
A Life of Love, Service and Dedication



On Saturday, July 25, our beloved mom, grandmother, great-grandmother, sister, and aunt peacefully went to be with the Lord, surrounded by her loving family. During her last couple of weeks, friends and family warmed our home and our hearts by visiting and encircling her with love, sharing the blessings of her friendship and a lifetime of treasured memories.

June is survived by her siblings, Betty Rae Raymond, Ruth Fena and Ann Miller, four of her five children, Bob, Joel (Gail), Mark (Carla), Steven (Rose) and her six grandchildren, Alexa Sawicki (Chris) Campbell, Travis (Emily) Olney, Madison (Taylor) McMahon, Dane (Brittany) Olney, Jackie Olney, Hunter Olney and eight great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband Bill Olney, youngest son Russell, and her siblings Fern Edwards and Roger Hedge.

She was born in Jackson, Minnesota, to Lena and Don Hedge and moved as a toddler to Humboldt, Iowa. After junior college in Sioux City, Iowa, she took the train to Southern California to attend USC to become a dental hygienist. Here she met and married William Nichols Olney who was attending USC on the GI Bill. Bob and Joel were born while living in Manhattan Beach, then they moved to Hermosa Beach, Torrance, and

urrection in Redondo Beach, California. She made numerous friends in Livermore and at Valley Community Church in Pleasanton. Many friends and neighbors would stop and chat as she walked her 12 blocks around downtown Livermore, twice per day.

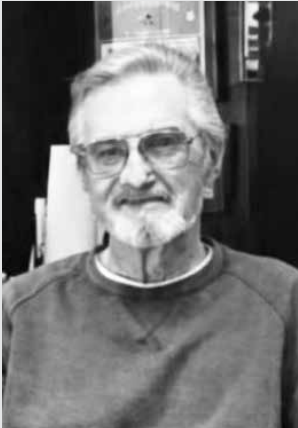
As a child during the Great Depression, June was shaped by hard work and caring for others. She saw families losing their farms, including her own family. She heard about city people starving and mass migrations from the Midwest to California, but as a young farm girl, she had plenty of food and food to trade and give to others. Even though her family became sharecroppers on the farm they lost, she never felt poor; she felt blessed.

She was imbued with a strong sense of right and wrong, empathy for others, and leading a Christian life to its fullest. June knew in her bones that it is right to love everyone, to help those in need, and that it’s wrong to treat anyone as something other than an equal.

A Celebration of Life is planned at Valley Community Church (4555 Del Valle Parkway) on Saturday, Sept. 26 at 10 am. In lieu of flowers, donate to VCC Benevolence Fund: vc.church/give. Or another favorite: Meals on Wheels: online at Spectrumcs.org.

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

In Loving Memory of Norm Reid



Norm Reid, born April 13, 1937, in Brainerd, Minnesota, and passed away on August 19, 2026, lived a full and memorable life defined by family, hard work, friendship, love, and a wonderful sense of humor.

He was the youngest of eight children born to Ralph and Marie Reid. In 1943, when he was six years old, his family moved from Minnesota to California, eventually settling in San Leandro. His childhood was not always easy, but he remembered it with affection and gratitude. He and his siblings spent their days outdoors, playing kick the can, street hockey, hide-and-seek, baseball, and building and racing homemade derby cars.

At 15, he began working at Foster Freeze in Alameda. After graduating from San Leandro High School in February 1955, he tried several different paths, including owning a hamburger stand in Livermore and working at Fisher Body, a Chevrolet plant. He eventually attended barber school, and discovered a career that would become a defining part of his life.

In 1957, he met the love of his life, Judy. They married on June 28, 1959, beginning a marriage that lasted 67 years. He often expressed how lucky he felt to have her and lovingly joked that she had “put up with him” all those years. Judy truly was the love of his life and he loved her endlessly.

Together, they built a family and a life filled with hard work, love, horses, family, and countless memories. They welcomed their daughters Pam in 1960 and Kathy in 1962. Family was always at the center of Norm’s life.

In February 1967, he and his family opened a new shop in Pleasanton. In 1972 they moved his shop to its permanent location where he spent the next 50 years building a successful business and relationships and friendships with generations of customers. Norm’s barber shop is still open in downtown Pleasanton today.

Besides work, one of Norm’s greatest passions was being a pitching coach for softball. He loved helping young athletes grow their skills within the game and coached them on pitching most days after work. Norm loved his family endlessly and enjoyed time with his children, grandchildren,

Young Gaels Girls Volleyball Team Has Fast Start

By Phil Jensen

DUBLIN — The Dublin High School girls volleyball team has no seniors on its 15-player roster.

But that hasn't seemed to hold back the Gaels, who started this season 3-0 with three straight-set non-league victories last week.

Coach Sarah Sepulveda said the team's communication has been a key to this fast start.

"We have a great team bonding. They're new together as a team, but they have come together," Sepulveda said after a 25-13, 25-17, 25-12 win over Arroyo-San Lorenzo at home on Aug. 27. "We've had two weeks of practice, and it feels like we've been together for two months."

Sepulveda, the head coach the past two years at Emerald High School, is a 2002 graduate of Dublin High. "I'm really excited to be here," she said. After playing for the Gaels in high school, she competed collegiately at Cal State Monterey Bay, as a middle blocker and right-side hitter. Sepulveda led Emerald to a fourth-place finish in the Bay Valley Athletic League with a 6-6 league mark (9-16 overall). Dublin had an 8-20 overall record last season.

The Gaels have six returners from last year's squad, but the whole team is getting playing time.

"It's very early in the season, so I don't have a set lineup and we are very strong across our entire

second set. Dublin led the entire third set.

A key surge for the Gaels in the first set oc-

Dublin has six freshmen on its roster.

In the second set, Arroyo had a 7-6 advantage before

Dublin took control. Sofia Santiano, a junior, produced six service points in a run that gave the Gaels the lead

to stay at 13-7. Sophomore Olivia Chong produced two points in the run and finished the match with five kills, as did freshman Snigdha Karanam. Dublin led 17-10 in the second set before three straight aces by Chong lengthened the lead for Dublin.

In the third set, Dublin took a 6-1 lead on five straight service points by Melina Sepulveda, including two aces. A six-point service run by sophomore Lana Cheung gave the Gaels a sizable 22-12 lead later in that set. Cheung had four aces in that run and five in the match, as did Lin. Melina Sepulveda passed for 25 assists in the match.

Dublin split two matches last Saturday, defeating Analy-Sebastopol and falling to Northgate-Walnut Creek. The Gaels hosted Newark Memorial on Aug. 31 and traveled to face Antioch on Sept. 1 after this article's deadline. The Gaels host Livermore tonight in their East Bay Athletic League opener at 6:15 p.m., then host San Ramon Valley on Sept. 8, also at 6:15 p.m.



Dublin High School's Bella Ward (15) soars to spike the ball over the net during the Gaels' straight-set victory over Arroyo-San Lorenzo on Aug. 27 at Dublin. Ward is supported on the court by teammates Ekam Brar (12), Annli Lin (18), Melina Sepulveda (4, background), and Lana Cheung (1, in red). (Photo — May Fraser)

roster," Sepulveda said in a text to The Independent.

Dublin basically dominated Arroyo on Aug. 27. After falling behind 4-1 in the first set, the Gaels scored 24 of the next 33 points, then produced 18 of the last 28 points in the

curred with Dublin holding a slim 14-13 lead. Freshman Annli Lin had an impressive 11 straight service points to close out the set. Ekam Brar, a sophomore returner, and freshman Juliana Bernardini each had three kills in the run.

Amador Valley Football Team Falls Despite Strong Defense

By Phil Jensen

PLEASANTON — After graduating more than half of the players from last year's team, the Amador Valley High School football team is a work in progress this season.

An important step occurred on Aug. 28 in the team's opener against Vanden-Fairfield. Amador Valley's defense turned in an impressive effort, but the offense had a hard time finding its footing in a 16-0 home loss.

"That's a great team," said Amador Valley head coach Duncan Burgermeister about Vanden. "That's a (Division 3-A) state champion from two years ago. ... They're big and physical and it's a great test. We like testing ourselves. ... We've got a really young team. We're going to get better every week."

Burgermeister has been on the Amador Valley coaching staff for 10 years and most recently served as its offensive coordinator. He was hired as head coach after Danny Jones, who led the Dons for the

past 10 seasons, moved to Idaho.

In this year's opener, the Dons' defense didn't allow a touchdown in the first half and allowed only two in the game, both in the final 17 minutes.

"That's what we needed (from the defense) because we're young on offense. It's going to take us some time," Burgermeister said. "Just keeping us in the game is key. We wanted to have a chance in the second half and we did; we just didn't make a couple plays."

Vanden (1-0) produced only three first downs in the first quarter and four in the second quarter. Amador Valley's defense stopped Vanden inside the red zone on its final drive of the first half. A sack by Dons freshman Michael Harrington moved Vanden back to the Dons' 13-yard-line, and three plays later, senior Ian Simpson stopped Vanden's Kingston Bates two yards short of the goal line. The only points in the first half occurred on a 23-yard field goal by Vanden's Anthony

Clayton on an earlier drive in the second quarter.

Amador Valley used two quarterbacks in the opener, senior Ethan Riley and sophomore James Willis. "They have different skill sets, but love them both and we'll probably continue to play them both," Burgermeister said.

Nicco Kovacs, the starting quarterback for the Dons last year as a sophomore, transferred to California High School. Willis rushed for a game-high 70 yards against Vanden.

The Vikings produced one touchdown in both the third and fourth quarters. Quarterback Xavier Zambrano connected with Amir Vincent on a 22-yard scoring pass on Vanden's first drive of the second half. The final points of the game were achieved by a one-yard run by Pherone Oates and a point-after touchdown kick by Clayton with 10:14 left in the game.

Amador Valley travels to face Livermore (0-1) on Sept. 4 at 7:15 p.m. The Cowboys were edged by Ripon 27-24 on Aug. 28.



Matadors Are Back in Black

By Mitch Stephens

Brandon Black is not from Jim Harbaugh's "Who's got it better than us?" coaching tree, but the third-year Granada football head man is clearly living the credo.

The 49-year-old is coming off a 19-7 opening-night win at perennial North Coast Section power Campolindo-Moraga on Friday (Aug. 28).

A program built on balance, toughness and contributors by committee, displayed all of it by beating a team that waxed them 42-7 in a 2025 opener, and ended the Matadors' season in 2022 and 2017.

Granada's first win over Campolindo in four tries featured touchdown runs from quarterback Calden Van Leer, and running backs Stephen Turner and Skyler Stuart, the latter who also had one of the team's three interceptions along with fourth-quarter picks from Noah Korndorfer and returning All-East Bay Athletic Leaguer Shamus McGrail.

The defense, which also featured hard hits and constant pressure from Nico Aumua, Isaac Lopez, Logan Hansen and Emery Lentz, didn't allow a single point. Campolindo's touchdown came on a kickoff return.

This came against a program that has won seven NCS, three Northern California and two state titles, all under the state's current fifth-winningest coach Kevin Macy (286 wins, 136 losses, three ties). Granada, coming off seasons of 6-6 and 7-5 under Black, is after its second NCS title and first since 1995.

The Matadors host another Lamorinda-area power in defending NCS Division IV champion Miramonte of Orinda Friday, Sept. 4, at 7 p.m. Other Friday games include Amador Valley at Livermore (7:15 p.m.) and Dublin at Vanden of Fairfield (7:30 p.m.).

"Extremely proud," was how Black summed up the win over Campolindo. "Their effort was absolutely fantastic. The defense carried us and the line play was relentless.

"It was a huge win for the direction of Granada football. What Campolindo and coach Macy has done for the last three decades is very impressive. Our goal here is to be a program that establishes that same kind of respect."

BANDING TOGETHER

The victory was particularly satisfying because Black has infused his 2026 coaching staff with some reinforcements — all from his past.

Former Freedom High (Oakley) head coach Kevin Hartwig, who hired a relatively inexperienced Black in 2005, is now coaching Granada's line along with others from that staff: Sam Arnold (defensive coordinator), former NFL running back

Ron Rivers (RB/DBs), Ryan Seto (WRs) and former Clayton Valley defensive line coach Fatu Aumua.

Add in holdovers Bodey Dressler, Warren Parker and Ron Aumua, and Black said, "I am the dumbest guy in the room," with a big grin. "I've never been a part of a staff so legit."

Adding the coaching staff he spent more than five years with gives Black a whole new vibe. "Like the band is back together," he said.

Beyond the combination of yesteryear, historic wins and a promising future — Granada moved up to No. 16 in the latest MaxPreps NCS rankings — Black has two more springs in his step around campus: his twin daughters, sophomores Bellamy and Brynley, who play on the Matadors' flag football team.

Bellamy, a key contributor as a freshman when the Matadors reached the NCS D1 championship, was voted a captain. She's a defensive back and quarterback, while Brynley plays center and receiver. The Matadors flag football team is off to a 1-4 start and hosts NCS D2 finalist Acalanes-Lafayette Thursday (Sept. 3).

"It's just a total blessing every day I step on campus," Black said. "Our family loves it."

Translation: Nobody has it better.

MORE TACKLE FOOTBALL

Livermore, coming off a banner 9-2 season and its first league title since 1994, dropped a tough 27-24 opener at Ripon despite rushing touchdowns by Jaden Ergas and Alex Shepard and a TD pass from Maximus Beck to Jack Wilhite. Replacing close to 30 seniors off last year's squad is a huge challenge. But coach John Wade, in his eighth season at Livermore, and more than 30 overall, likes his roster, which includes experience on the line, led by Alex Young and Joel Dias, and skill players.

Wade said. "The goal is to peak late. We'll get there."

In other Tri-Valley Week 1 action, Foothill's Amaree Hill rushed 15 times for 205 yards and three touchdowns in a 28-6 win over Newark Memorial. Andrew Nelson passed for 132 yards and a touchdown to Grady DeMichiel. All-EBAL WR-DB Max Shuga had six catches for 91 yards. "Sloppy game for both teams which is understandable in the opener," Foothill coach Greg Haubner said. "Newark Memorial was vastly improved."

Dublin had a 7-6 halftime lead but gave up 23 unanswered points in the second half to lose 29-7 at Antioch. The Gaels' secondary allowed just four completions in 15 attempts for 37 yards.

Have high school varsity sports news of note? A good human-interest story? Please email Mitch Stephens at mitchstephens44@gmail.com



Amador Valley High School quarterback Ethan Riley (3) releases a pass just before being brought down by Vanden defender Caden Elisaia (44), supported by teammates Finn Duggan (67), Michael Harrington (6), and Mason Tai (60), during the Dons' season opener on Aug. 28, where Amador fell 16-0 despite a strong defensive effort. (Photo — May Fraser)

Dublin Center to Host Senior Month Events

DUBLIN — September is National Senior Month and the Dublin Senior Center will celebrate with a Seniors Movie Night, a craft and cookies afternoon, and an End of Summer social.

The senior center, 7600 Amador Valley Blvd., will host movie night from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 11.

Starting at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 15, the center will host an afternoon of crafts, cookies and conversation.

And on Thursday, Sept. 24, the center will hold an "End of Summer" social with music, refreshments and games. The social will also begin at 1 p.m.

National Senior Center Month is sponsored by the National Council on Aging and the National Institute of Senior Centers.

LEGAL NOTICES/CLASSIFIEDS

www.independentnews.com



LEGAL NOTICES

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 624688

The following person(s) doing business as: Thai & Lao Language Services, 1442 A Walnut ST, #256, Berkeley, CA 94709 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Benjamin Terlecky, 1442A Walnut ST, #246, Berkeley, CA 94709. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 2/15/1996. Signature of Registrant/s/: Benjamin Terlecky, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 14, 2026. Expires July 13, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6966. Published August 13, 20, 27, September 3, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 624463

The following person(s) doing business as: Bay Energy Compliance, 1651 Alvarado Court, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): John Daley, 1651 Alvarado Court, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 6/14/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: John Daley, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 2, 2026. Expires July 1, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6967. Published August 13, 20, 27, September 3, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 625085

The following person(s) doing business as: Eighth Crest Strategies LLC, 4 Commodore Drive, Unit 321, Emeryville, CA 94608 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Eighth Crest Strategies LLC, 4 Commodore Drive, Unit 321, Emeryville, CA 94608. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Kok Seong Lim, Principal. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 3, 2026. Expires August 2, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6968. Published August 13, 20, 27, September 3, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 624960

The following person(s) doing business as: Amjmark, 2441 Euclid PL, Fremont, CA 94539 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Amjcore Inc., 46539 Mission BLVD #1007, Fremont, CA 94539. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 2/2/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Abdulhakim Abushaleh, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 27, 2026. Expires July 26, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6969. Published August 13, 20, 27, September 3, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 625125

The following person(s) doing business as: Krizma Studio, 95 41st ST, APT 401, Oakland, CA 94611 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Nicholas Pierson, 95 41st ST, APT 401, Oakland, CA 94611. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 8/3/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Nicholas Pierson, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 4, 2026. Expires August 3, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6970. Published August 13, 20, 27, September 3, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 624983

The following person(s) doing business as: Livermore Valley Cottages, 3459 Arroyo Road, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): LWCI LLC, 220 S. Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: L. Michelle Boss, Managing Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 28, 2026. Expires July 27, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6971. Published August 13, 20, 27, September 3, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 625142

The following person(s) doing business as: Tri-Valley Solar Care, 363 Helen Way, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Chris Fragoso, 363 Helen, CA 94550. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 9/18/2023. Signature of Registrant/s/: Chris Fragoso, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 5, 2026. Expires August 4, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6972. Published August 13, 20, 27, September 3, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 625161

The following person(s) doing business as: Denriva Dental, 1402 Concanon Blvd, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Karam S. Randhawa DMD, Inc., 2473 Detert Street, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Karam S. Randhawa, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 5, 2026. Expires August 4, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6973. Published August 13, 20, 27, September 3, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 624871

The following person(s) doing business as: Northern Lights

and Music, 4426 Pampas Ave, Oakland, CA 94619 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Aaron Spading, 4426 Pampas Ave, Oakland, CA 94619. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 7/22/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Aaron Spading, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 22, 2026. Expires July 21, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6974. Published August 13, 20, 27, September 3, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 625223

The following person(s) doing business as: Ms. Carmen's Kinder Casa, 860 Herman Ave, Suite #102, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Carmen Meneses, 860 Herman Ave, Suite #102, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 8/5/2013. Signature of Registrant/s/: Carmen Meneses, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 7, 2026. Expires August 6, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6975. Published August 13, 20, 27, September 3, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 625132

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Iron Horse Properties; 2. Ross Property Management, 280 Division Street, Pleasanton, CA 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Iron Horse Holdings, 280 Division Street, Pleasanton, CA 94566. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 2/5/2024. Signature of Registrant/s/: Erica Starkey, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 4, 2026. Expires August 3, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6976. Published August 13, 20, 27, September 3, 2026.

STATEMENT OF
ABANDONMENT OF USE OF
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
ORIGINAL FILE NO. 603867

The person(s) listed below have abandoned the use of the following fictitious business name(s): Iron Horse Properties, 550 Main St, Pleasanton, CA 94566. Registered by the following owner(s): Starkey Holdings, Inc., 550 Main St, Pleasanton, CA 94566. The fictitious business name statement was filed on 2/5/2024 in the County of Alameda. This business was conducted by an individual. Signature of Registrant/s/: Erica Starkey, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 4, 2026. The Independent, Legal No. 6977. Published August 13, 20, 27, September 3, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 625103

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Mel's Magic; 2. Mel's Magic Bags, 960 Shorepoint CT, Apt 311, Alameda, CA 94501 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Protigen LLC, 1401 21st ST, Ste R, Sacramento, CA 95811. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Melania J. Rivas Lemoinne, Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 4, 2026. Expires August 3, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6978. Published August 20, 27, September 3, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 625215

The following person(s) doing business as: LBF Enterprises, 1264 Stealth ST, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Powerrmatic Associates, Inc., 1264 Stealth ST, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 7/1/1972. Signature of Registrant/s/: Frank Nudo III, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 7, 2026. Expires August 6, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6979. Published August 20, 27, September 3, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 624544

The following person(s) doing business as: Mothers Kitchen, 1857 Rheem Court, Pleasanton, CA 94588 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Uma Annamalai, 1857 Rheem Court, Pleasanton, CA 94588. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 7/1/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Uma Annamalai, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 7, 2026. Expires July 6, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6980. Published August 20, 27, September 3, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 624546

The following person(s) doing business as: Chetnind Kitchen, 1857 Rheem Court, Pleasanton, CA 94588 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Sanjiv P. Annamalai, 1857 Rheem Court, Pleasanton, CA 94588. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 7/1/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Sanjiv P. Annamalai, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 7, 2026. Expires July 6, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6981. Published August 20, 27, September 3, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 625178

The following person(s) doing business as: Willette International Travel, 1677 Shattuck Ave, Berkeley, CA 94709 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Going Places Travel, Inc., 1677 Shattuck Ave, Berke-

ley, CA 94709. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 8/1/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Kevin Saxe, Managing Director. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 6, 2026. Expires August 5, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6982. Published August 20, 27, September 3, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 625253

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Lunure 2. Lunure Baby, 1313 Lincoln Avenue, Apt C, Alameda, CA 94501 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Jessica Murray, 1313 Lincoln Avenue, Apt C, Alameda, CA 94501. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 12/1/2024. Signature of Registrant/s/: Jessica Murray, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 10, 2026. Expires August 9, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6983. Published August 20, 27, September 3, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 625000

The following person(s) doing business as: Klean Karz, 4361 Technology DR, Unit B, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Klean Homes Inc., 4361 Technology DR, Unit B, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Hector Arana, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 29, 2026. Expires July 28, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6984. Published August 20, 27, September 3, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 625034

The following person(s) doing business as: Party Printer, 111 Traynor ST, Hayward, CA 94544 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Silver Rainbow LLC, 1309 Coffeen Avenue, Ste 1200, Sheridan, Wyoming 82801. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Scott Johnson, Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 30, 2026. Expires July 29, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6985. Published August 20, 27, September 3, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 625286

The following person(s) doing business as: Raphael Stone, 14694 Wicks Blvd, San Leandro, CA 94577 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Nu-vira Stone Inc., 14694 Wicks Blvd, 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 5/18/2018. Signature of Registrant/s/: Eldian Ben Hamo, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 11, 2026. Expires August 10, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6986. Published August 20, 27, September 3, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 625350

The following person(s) doing business as: Bhumetric, 2257 Minerva CT, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Soil Metrics Incorporated, 2257 Minerva CT, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Jagdish Girimaji, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 13, 2026. Expires August 12, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6987. Published August 20, 27, September 3, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 625104

The following person(s) doing business as: Bubble Brite Laundry, 183 S N ST, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Bubble Brite Laundry Group LLC, 400 Pimlico DR, Ste 114-104, Pleasanton, CA 94588. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 8/1/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Dave Steele, Manager. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 4, 2026. Expires August 3, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6988. Published August 20, 27, September 3, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 625235

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Livermore Gymnastic Center; 2. Livermore Gymnastics, 1110 E Stanley Blvd, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Little Gymnastics Club, Inc., 111 E Stanley Blvd, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 6/1/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Kelsey Costello, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 7, 2026. Expires August 6, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6989. Published August 20, 27, September 3, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 625093

The following person(s) doing business as: Tibetan Herb Tea, 2096 Merced Street, San Leandro, CA 94577 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Stella Phan, 2096 Merced Street, San Leandro, CA 94577. 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/: Stella Phan, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 10, 2026. Expires August 9, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6990. Published August 20, 27, September 3, 2026.

ness under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Stella Phan, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 3, 2026. Expires August 2, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6990. Published August 20, 27, September 3, 2026.

STATEMENT OF
ABANDONMENT OF USE OF
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
ORIGINAL FILE NO. 591622

The person(s) listed below have abandoned the use of the following fictitious business name(s): Mykitchencalculator.com, 3101 Barrett CT, Castro Valley, CA 94546. Registered by the following owner(s): Ernest Lee, 3101 Barrett CT, Castro Valley, CA 94546. The fictitious business name statement was filed on 8/31/2022 in the County of Alameda. This business was conducted by an individual. Signature of Registrant/s/: Erica Starkey, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 13, 2026. The Independent, Legal No. 6991. Published August 12, 20, 27, September 3, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 625420

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

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 625417

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

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 625062

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

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 625530

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

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 625340

The following person(s) doing business as: 2332 Chamber Chatters Club, Dublin, CA 94568 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Toasmasters International, 9127 South Jamaica ST, Ste 400, Englewood, CO 80112. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Syed Abidi, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 21, 2026. Expires August 20, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6996. Published August 27, September 3, 10, 17, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 625244

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

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 625107

The following person(s) doing business as: MC & Associates Tax and Financial, 4049 First ST, STE 126, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Melissa Cook Tax Preparation LLC, 4049 First ST, STE 126 Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 3/1/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Melissa Cook, Managing Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk

of Alameda on August 4, 2026. Expires August 3, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6998. Published August 27, September 3, 10, 17, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 625463

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

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 625383

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

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 625495

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

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 625482

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

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

The person(s) listed below have abandoned the use of the following fictitious business name(s): WP Cattle Co, 6999 Arroyo Road, Livermore, CA 94550. Registered by the following owner(s): Paul D. Banke, P.O. BOX 55, Livermore, CA 94550. The fictitious business name statement was filed on

1/28/2025 in the County of Alameda. This business was conducted by an individual. Signature of Registrant/s/: Kathy Banke, Trustee for Paul Banke. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 18, 2026. The Independent, Legal No. 7003. Published August 13, 20, 27, September 3, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 625054

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Fever Nap Studio; 2. Fever Nap Games; 3. Fever Nap, 2414 Tenth Street, Berkeley, CA 94710 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Fever Nap Studio LLC, 2414 Tenth Street, Berkeley, CA 94710. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Liability. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Hongshuai Feng, Manager. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 31, 2026. Expires July 30, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 7004. Published September 3, 10, 17, 24, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 625175

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

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 625574

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

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 625531

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

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 625587

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

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 625640

The following person(s) doing business as: Todorra Studio, 11501 Dublin Blvd, STE 200, Dublin, CA 94569 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Noorathima Magesh, 11501 Dublin Blvd, STE 200, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s

Chef Debbie, Omega Winery Partner for Local Meal Pickup

By Kathryn Stroud

LIVERMORE — The Livermore-based delivery service My ChefDebbie is offering a new way for customers to receive their food, and it comes with a complimentary pour of wine on their first visit.

Chef Debbie Casey has partnered with Omega Winery in Livermore to offer an in-store pickup location for meals pre-ordered through her delivery service. Customers

who pre-order can still have meals delivered on Mondays or opt to pick up their order on Sundays at the winery instead. Those who choose pickup get a free glass of wine on their first purchase, plus \$5 off wine flights on all future visits. The weekly menus even include wine pairing recommendations.

“It’s another example of small businesses supporting each other,” said Casey, something she finds particularly

powerful within Livermore.

For Casey, the collaboration also helps her keep the work sustainable. Her four-person team operates out of the Amuse Kitchen Collective, a shared commercial kitchen space she splits with 25 other cooks, ranging from commercial ventures to hobbyist cooks. Order volume varies weekly, but she typically serves between 100 and 150 regular customers. Prior to the partnership with Omega, deliveries would happen Sundays and Mondays.

“Now I can finally have a Sunday off,” she said, something she hasn’t had much of since starting her venture in 2022. “There’s a lot of noise and choice,” Casey said about being a small business owner. “This is about being more strategic.”

It also gives customers an opportunity to try something new. Casey recalled a returning customer who recently ordered lobster rolls — a seasonal menu item that comes around every August — for pickup at Omega specifically so the customer could enjoy them with a glass of wine.

“That’s exactly what we want!” Casey said.

Casey’s journey to founding My ChefDebbie began 10

years ago, when she started working as a private chef, including a stint cooking for the San Francisco 49ers. Her culinary style draws on her many travels, from living 18 years in London to two years in Thailand, and from cooking every day.

In 2022, she shifted from private cheffing to launching her meal delivery service, driven by a desire to do something local and keep good food affordable for her community.

“Food is something we all need. We need good food, healthy food,” she said. Her menus prioritize local ingredients, which she believes is better for our health, our community, and our planet.

The work has also become a way for her to give back. “There’s a lot going on in the world. It’s overwhelming,” Casey said. “So I wanted to see what I can do for my community.”

The meal service is built for busy people who want good, local food without all the effort. Each week, customers choose from an expansive list of options, including five rotating weekly specials — typically three mains and two salads. Previous weeks have included Spanish Chicken

in Brava Sauce and a Watermelon Tomato Salad. Beyond the specials, customers can also order weekly staples like snacks, sides, breads and desserts. When customers receive their meals — either by delivery on Monday or through pick-up locations like Omega — they can reheat them in the microwave or on the stove.

The meal delivery is one piece of Casey’s broader culinary work. She also collaborates with Omega Winery on a Sunday Supper Club and has partnered with Tangerine Events to create dining experiences that go beyond a typical meal.

These events lean into atmosphere and theme rather than traditional dining. In July, she created “Afterglow,” a menu built entirely around cold dishes as a break from the summer heat. “The concept was the world is burning, it’s hot, so everything we served was cold. When you walk in,

you want to feel a reprieve, you want to be cool,” Casey said.

While the experiential events give her a creative outlet for menu and concept design, Casey said she equally values the collaborative nature of her meal delivery work.

“It’s all about the symbiotic relationship between small businesses,” Casey concluded.

For more information on the meal delivery service, visit mychefdebbie.com or follow her on Instagram @mychefdebbie.



Inside the shared Amuse Kitchen Collective commercial space in Livermore, Chef Debbie Casey works with her team to cook for 100 to 150 regular clients. Her new partnership with Omega Winery highlights how local Livermore businesses support each other to make their work more sustainable. (Photo — May Fraser)

BANKHEAD

(Continued from front page)

sir,” auctioneer Damon Casatico said between the rhythmic syllables of his chant, urging the crowd to bid higher on a private dinner with Chef Debbie.

The dinner sold for \$7,250, helping the live auction raise \$91,850 overall.

“I appreciate the diversity of performances, and the fact that it’s local theater,” said Colleen Ronan, who identified herself and her husband as longtime supporters of the Bankhead.

Lovett praised the crowd’s turnout in support of the arts. With his suit, gray hair and

tendency to lose himself in the act of creating music, he brought a dignified, expressive air to the stage.

“This is a song that was on my first album, from 1986,” Lovett said as he tuned his guitar. “Now the only problem for me with 1986 is that... 1986 doesn’t seem like that long ago.”

Lovett was accompanied by singer Amy Keys, guitarist James Harrah, pianist Jim Cox, bassist Leland Sklar, and drummer Russ Kunkel for songs across his 14-album discography. His blues-inspired country

style was smooth, lively and often humorous, with songs such as “She’s No Lady” and “Pants Is Overrated.”

Between songs, Lovett and his band discussed the relationship between money and the arts. Lovett recounted one night when he was 18 where he filled in as a waiter instead of playing a gig.

“At the end of the night, my buddy Bruce and I — instead of our making the \$40 a night that we would’ve made playing and singing — we each made \$150,” Lovett said. “We knew we had chosen a life of questionable

financial security.”

Cox shared that his father, a glassmaker, bore scars from his profession that Cox did not want to inherit. Harrah used to paint houses. Sklar worked an offset press.

“We’re talking about how lucky we all are, thanks to these folks here, that we can do what we love to do,” Lovett said as he invited Keys to join the conversation.

“It is incredible to see a community come together to support the arts. I’m very grateful,” Lovett said in closing.

REED

PLUMBING INC.

(925)-371-5671

Commitment
Honesty &
Integrity

RETZLAFF
Estate Wines

WINE TASTING AND
PICNIC TABLE RESERVATIONS
FRI 12pm - 4:30pm, SAT, SUN & MON 12pm - 4:30pm

LIVE MUSIC AND FOOD VENDORS
FRIDAYS 5pm 8pm & SAT/SUN 12pm to 4:30pm

WINE DOWN FRIDAY - HAPPY HOUR ALL DAY 12pm - 8pm
\$10 GLASS, \$20 FLIGHTS, \$10 MIMOSAS & WINE SPECIALS

Make your online reservations at
reservations@retzlaffwinery.com

MILLER'S

AIR CONDITIONING and HEATING

WE SERVICE ALL MAJOR BRANDS!

Residential & Commercial

Serving
The Tri-Valley
Since 1960

925.447.3000
www.CallMillers.com Lic. #253756

Experience the poetry

IN EVERY

POSSIBILITY.

There’s comfort in knowing life continues, even as it changes. At The Whitford, today’s elevated lifestyle is designed to adapt quietly, preserving the rhythm of daily life and offering reassurance that every possibility has been carefully considered.

Don’t miss the opportunity to be among the first to experience this elevated approach to retirement living. The Whitford is taking shape now and will open later this year.

Experience a more graceful way of life.
Only at The Whitford.
The-Whitford.com | 925.230.3059

THE WHITFORD

Inspired Senior Living

5751 Arnold Road | Dublin, CA 94568

SENIOR LIVING ■ ASSISTED LIVING ■ MEMORY CARE

MANAGED BY MOMENTUM
SENIOR LIVING