



Pleasanton Go Green Initiative representatives Siya Aggarwal, Anika Bakhru, and Claire Kim share tips on sustainability and environmental advocacy with residents during the “Every Day Is Earth Day” expo at the Pleasanton Library on Saturday, April 25. See story on page 8. (Photo — Kathryn Stroud)

Meet the Candidates Squaring Off For Vacant Seats on Zone 7 Board

Contenders Debate Water Security, PFAS Cleanup, State Water Supplies

By David Jen

TRI-VALLEY — Eight candidates, including incumbent Director Sarah Palmer, will square off for four open seats on the Zone 7 Water Agency’s seven-member Board of Directors in June’s primary election. The agency manages water and flood control in the Tri-Valley, while also acting as the area’s water wholesaler after securing and treating the water from local and state sources.

The Independent spoke with four of the candidates on issues centered around PFAS contamination in the area’s groundwater supply, in addition to the expectation that water provided by the California Department of Water Resources State Water Project, from which Zone 7 sources

up to 90% of its water, will reduce its deliveries in the coming decades because of climate change.

Zone 7 also began discussions with the public this year on a comprehensive flood management plan that will evolve into new projects for flood protection in the 37 miles of streams and flood channels managed by the agency.

The remaining four candidates will share their views next week.

Alan Burnham

Chemist Alan Burnham, who previously worked for Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory on a variety of projects including those involving oil shale and petroleum geochemistry, draws from experience developing methods for

measuring water contamination, and studies such as those on porous-media hydrology.

“Understanding the technical issues that Zone 7 faces is really quite consistent with my technical background,” Burnham said. “But the decisions are not strictly technical; they’re also business-related.” He added how his time in project management on multi-million-dollar projects, plus the management of his own small business has rounded out a “much broader range of experiences than most candidates.”

A Livermore resident since 1977, he pointed to the decline of State Water Project (SWP) deliveries as one of the prominent issues facing the Tri-Valley. At the same time, projections point to population growth

(See TRI ZONE 7, page 7)

Livermore

Livermore Moves Toward General Plan Adoption Amidst Scrutiny over UGB

Residents Speak Out Against Potential East of Greenville Expansion

By David Jen

LIVERMORE — Residents and planning commissioners discussed residual concerns that the city’s next general plan may open the door to urban growth boundary (UGB) changes at the April 21 planning commission meeting.

Centered around an 1,100-acre area known as East of Greenville that sits southeast of where Interstate 580 crosses Greenville Road, the calls for change to the draft plan come as it nears its final adoption this year.

Intended to guide city deci-

sions through 2045, Livermore’s general plan serves as the city’s leading policy document.

“It is set up to be: this is what the city can do, but not necessarily what the city must do,” said Livermore Principal Planner Andy Ross. “And it is implemented through a variety of implementation documents, development code, specific plans and topic area plans, like our active transportation plan and climate action plan. So, if the general plan is: this is what could be done, these implementation documents are how to do it.”

As it stands, the draft general plan identifies East of Greenville as a future study area for possible development “to balance housing needs with job-generating land uses in the event that the city is unable to meet these objectives within the current city limits.”

Livermore’s UGB follows Greenville Road in that part of the city, and would therefore require a public vote to develop commercial uses East of Greenville.

Resident David Furst drew attention to the inconsistency between the general plan’s support of maintaining the current UGB

(See PLAN, page 8)

Energy Department Gives Greenlight to NIF Upgrade at LLNL

Clears the Path to Quadruple Fusion Yields

By David Jen

LIVERMORE — A plan to upgrade the lasers at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory’s (LLNL’s) National Ignition Facility (NIF) has taken a critical step forward. The project has received its second of five “critical decision” approvals from the Department of Energy as the project moves toward construction and the start of operations.

If completed, the more powerful lasers could quadruple fusion yields, allowing the exploration of new science and the modernization of the nation’s nuclear-weapon stockpile.

“Building on the historic achievement of fusion ignition, we are excited to work with (the National Nuclear Security Administration) to enhance NIF’s capabilities to support our critical national security missions,” said LLNL Director Kim Budil in an LLNL statement. “This strategic investment will expand the regimes that are accessible at NIF and ensure it will remain a cornerstone of the nation’s high-energy-density and fusion-science communities for many years to come.”

NIF ignites fusion reactions by bringing 192 lasers to bear on a fuel pellet with enough

(See NIF, page 7)



Representing CASA Alameda, Board Member Lindi LaBine, Executive Director Ginni Ring, and Volunteer Nafisa Lillie visit The Independent offices to discuss supporting Tri-Valley foster youth. (Photo — Kathryn Stroud)

Tri-Valley CASA Volunteers Bridge Advocacy Gap for Local At-Risk Foster Youth

Nonprofit Helps Children Navigating Court System

By Kathryn Stroud

TRI-VALLEY — Nafisa Lillie had no intention of interrupting the judge.

But sitting in a courtroom watching a 17-year-old’s future being discussed in broad, impersonal terms, she couldn’t stay quiet.

“The judge said to me, ‘You were not asked a question,’ and I said, ‘I am sorry, but I need to tell you about how amazing this young woman is,’” Lillie recalled. “I told them that this is my job. I am her advocate. I am the only one here who has a personal relationship with her.”

Lillie was in the courtroom that day serving as a CASA, a Court-Appointed Special Ad-

vocate. CASAs are community volunteers who are paired with a young person within the child welfare system to ensure that young person has a voice while navigating in the system.

The program started in Seattle in 1977 when a judge, concerned about making decisions for children with only their case files, proposed using community volunteers to represent the youths’ interest in court. To do that, CASAs connect one-on-one with the young person.

“It’s really important that we have people who are supportive of these youth because it’s already difficult enough to navigate being a youth, period, but to navigate it while also being in foster care is hard,” said Tochi

(See CASA, page 6)



Glass artist Emelie Rogers performed a demonstration during the Tri-Valley Artist Studio Tour at Rogers’ home studio in Pleasanton last May. This year marks the fifth annual TVAST and will be held from Friday, May 1, through Sunday, May 3. (File photo — Leah Silveira)

Annual Artist Studio Tour Returns to Area

Connecting Local Creators and Art Lovers Across the Tri-Valley for the Fifth Year

By Christina Cavallaro

TRI-VALLEY — The fifth annual Tri-Valley Artist Studio Tour (TVAST) will be held from Friday, May 1 through Sunday, May 3 and is slated to have its largest turnout yet.

The art show which, transforms the Tri-Valley into a massive open-air gallery each first weekend in May, is expecting more than 80 different artists this year across Livermore, Pleasanton, Dublin, Danville and San Ramon at more than

25 locations, including homes, studios and gardens.

“I don’t know if that’s a record number or not, but that’s huge. I’m shocked,” said Livermore-based artist and TVAST member Marc Casad.

Casad, who works in both oils and acrylics, took a break from painting new work to speak with The Independent.

“I’ve been working for the last couple of months in a Cubist-style drawing manner. I have more than a dozen of those already in acrylics.”

Casad works out of both a home studio and one that he rents at the Bothwell Arts Center. This weekend he said he’ll be at the latter “because I want to be with a whole bunch of other people. It’s a nice way to spend the time.”

It’s a nice way for the community to spend time, too. The event is family-friendly and free to the public.

“I think people will really enjoy the energy and the new art that will be available to the buying public. And all the different

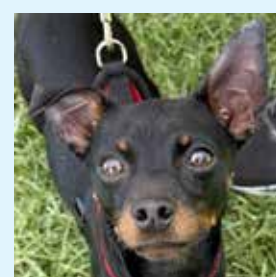
(See TVAST, page 8)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Classifieds	11	Aisha Wahab Shows Strong Lead Among Left-Leaning Groups	2
Editorial	4	Expert Gives Local Talk on Waning U.S. Global Influence	3
Mailbox	4	Pleasanton Celebrates Earth Day with Green Expo at Library	8
Obituaries	9	Coffey Named Las Positas College Women’s Basketball Coach	10
Sports	10	McNerney Honors Three Valleys Community Foundation	12

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

PET OF THE WEEK



TIM DRAKE

Holy quick study, Batman! Tim Drake is a 10-pound Boy Wonder with detective-level smarts, already mastering sit, down, and off while patrolling for missing balls with crime-fighting reflexes. This caped crusader is awaiting your snuggles. Ready to recruit your own pint-sized hero? Call (925) 426-8656 or email info@valleyhumane.org to start the adoption process today. (Photo courtesy of Valley Humane)

Wahab Targets Two Victories in Dual Bid for 14th District Bump to 32

By Jessica Zimmer

TRI-VALLEY — Democrat Aisha Wahab is emerging as the leading candidate among left-leaning groups for the U.S. House of Representatives seat for California's 14th Congressional District, which is currently vacant following Eric Swalwell's resignation. Locally, Wahab has been endorsed by the Tri-Valley United Democratic Campaign (TVUDC), the local office of the Alameda County Democratic Party, and Indivisible Tri-Valley, a progressive, left-leaning, non-partisan group. Wahab has also been recommended by the Green Party of Alameda County, a branch of a left-wing political party focused on ecological sustainability and social justice. Wahab is the only Democrat running for the seat to be endorsed by the California Democratic Party.

Wahab currently serves as the California State Senator for District 10, which includes Alameda County and northwest Santa Clara County. She was elected to this position in 2022. Wahab served on the Hayward City Council from 2018 to 2022.

There will be a direct primary election for the 14th District seat on June 2, followed by a special primary election on June

16. If a candidate receives over 50 percent of the vote in this primary, they will win the seat. If not, the top two candidates will continue to a runoff election on August 18. The

Kirkland, Dena Maldonado, and Jack Wu. Huang has been endorsed by Reform California, a political action committee aimed at ending the Democratic Party's super-majority in

District race was April 23. Approximately 50% of Alameda County residents are registered as Democrats. While 18 % are registered as Republicans. About 0.5% are registered

a candidate's forum that took place April 12.

"We saw her as the candidate who is running for the people. We believe she is the best person to represent the district. I personally have known Aisha since 2012. Often politicians change their priorities over time. She remains dedicated to her constituents and the district."

Wahab is scheduled to speak at a May 1 rally at Amador Valley Community Park in Pleasanton, which will focus on opposition to the presence of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents in communities and support for higher taxes on the wealthy. The rally was organized by Indivisible Youth. The latter is a new, 15-member East Bay chapter of Indivisible. It is aimed at educating and getting out the vote among progressive high school and college students.

Dylan Williams, a Livermore resident and a founding member of Indivisible Youth, said the group has not formally endorsed candidates for the 14th District seat and does not plan to do so.

Oakland resident Greg Jan, a member of the Green Party of Alameda County, said his branch is recommending but not endorsing Wahab. The Green Party described Wahab and other candidates in an article in

its "Green Voter Guide."

The guide noted that the Green Party of Alameda County sent questionnaires to nine qualified candidates and received responses from three: Huang, Maldonado and Wahab. The guide stated Wahab is considered the front-runner, with the most high-powered endorsements including unions.

The guide added that Wahab's answers were well thought-out and "arguably the best responses we received." One criticism of Wahab was that she is registered with the Democratic Party, which the Green Party of Alameda County characterized as "pro-corporate." The guide further stated that Ortega and Wahab "are clearly the best candidates in this race. We look forward to them debating and hopefully facing off in the November runoff election."

Jacqueline Tarin-Rankl, president of the Tri-Valley Democratic Club, said no candidate reached the required 60% threshold for its endorsement.

The Independent will profile all of the candidates for the CA-14 race in the coming weeks.



State Senator Aisha Wahab addresses supporters during her congressional campaign kickoff on Constitution Drive in Livermore on February 28. Since the event, Wahab has gained significant traction among local left-leaning groups, earning recommendations and endorsements from organizations such as the Green Party of Alameda County and Indivisible Tri-Valley. (Photo courtesy of Kristie Wang)

winner will represent the 14th District until January 2027.

Other Democratic candidates for the seat include Alisha Cordes, Melissa Hernandez, Rakhi Israni, Harinder Lamba, Matt Ortega, and Jot Thiara. Republican candidates include Wendy Huang, Ozel

the state Legislature. Maldonado has been endorsed by the Alameda County Republican Party and the California Republican Party.

Non-partisan candidates include former State Senator Steve Glazer and Thomas Wong. The deadline to file for the 14th

as members of the Green Party.

Kyoko Takayama, a cofounder of Indivisible Tri-Valley, said the group chose to endorse Wahab because of her progressive legislative record. Another factor was Wahab's thoughtful and responsive answers to questions in

Stand-up Comedy Returns to Retzlaff Vineyards

LIVERMORE — Comedy Uncorked, an open-air stand-up comedy series, returns to Retzlaff Vineyards for three shows this

summer, leading off with comedians Cody Woods, Nancy Lee and Rhoda Gravador at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, June 27.

Now entering its 18th season, Comedy Uncorked is one of the Bay Area's longest-running winery comedy series.

Retzlaff Vineyards will also host comedians Stephen B, Mean Dave, Michael Booth and Candy Shaw on Saturday, July 18, and Joe Klocek, Carla Clay and Denise Lee on Saturday, Aug. 22.

Tickets start at \$36 for general admission lawn seating and are available online at ComedyUncorked.com.

The Matt Finders Jazz Trio will provide pre-show entertainment, with food available for purchase from Tasteful Catering & Events.

A portion of the proceeds

from the Retzlaff Vineyards shows will go to the non-profit Open Heart Kitchen.



Guests enjoy an evening of stand-up comedy beneath the stars at Retzlaff Vineyards during last year's Comedy Uncorked series. The 18th season of the popular outdoor event kicks off on Saturday, June 27, at 7:30 p.m., featuring a new lineup of performers and continuing its tradition of supporting Open Heart Kitchen. (Photo courtesy of Retzlaff Vineyards)

Rotary Accepting Entries for Rodeo Parade

LIVERMORE — The Rotary Club of Livermore

is accepting entries from bands, horseback riders,

antique car and truck owners and community groups

interested in participating in this year's Livermore Rodeo Parade.

The parade, which draws an estimated 14,000 visitors to downtown Livermore, honors the Livermore Valley's Western heritage.

It will be held on Saturday, June 13, starting at 10 a.m., followed by the annual Livermore Rodeo at Livermore Valley Stadium.

Entry forms can be downloaded at livermore-rotary.org.

The Rotary Club of Livermore has been organizing the annual parade since 1977.



Keeping Western traditions alive, a competitor shows off expert horsemanship at last year's Livermore Rodeo. The 108th annual event will take place the weekend of June 12-13. (File photo — Doug Jorgensen)

Exhibit Celebrates Chinese American Women and their Fight for U.S. Rights

DUBLIN — "Invisible No More," an exhibit celebrating the Chinese American women who "helped redefine the American story" by standing up for their rights, opens Saturday, May 2, at the Dublin Public Library.

The exhibit begins with the landmark 1874 case, Chy Lung v. Freeman, in which the Supreme Court found that the federal gov-

ernment, not the states, was responsible for immigration rules, thus invalidating state laws that made it nearly impossible for single Chinese women to settle in California.

It continues to follow the growing role of Chinese American women over the next 150 years in public life and the U.S. judiciary.

The exhibit, which runs

through May, is curated by California attorney Chang C. Chen, author of the three-book series, Herstory: The Legal History of Chinese American Women.

The library, 200 Civic Plaza, is open 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday. It is closed on Fridays.

Library to Host Backyard Birding Program

LIVERMORE — The Livermore Area Recreation and Park District (LARPD) will present a program on backyard birding at the Civic Center Library, 1188 S. Livermore Ave.,

at 1 p.m. on Sunday, May 17.

The program, "Backyard Birding with LARPD," will begin with a presentation in the Storytime Room and finish outside the library

listening for and identifying birds commonly found around town.

Registration is not required, and the event is open to all ages.

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Dublin Breaks Ground on Two Parks in Francis Ranch Neighborhood

By Sanestina Hunter

DUBLIN — The city of Dublin broke ground Tuesday, April 21, on two new neighborhood parks in the Francis Ranch development, marking its 29th and 30th parks.

The \$9.8 million project is funded through the City Public Facilities Fee Fund

and is part of a long-range plan to provide neighborhood-serving recreation and gathering spaces within walking distance of homes.

“The opening of Poppy Meadow and Wild Wind Parks marks an important milestone for east Dublin,” Bridget Amaya, assistant director of parks and

community services, told The Independent. “They will provide more than recreational spaces, but places where community life happens.”

Together, the parks span about 11 acres, with each site covering roughly 5.5 acres. Construction is underway, with completion expected in fall 2027.

Located in the eastern Dublin hills at 4400 Croak Road, Poppy Meadow Park sits on the north side of the development, while Wild Wind Park is located to the south near Central Parkway.

The parks will feature a range of amenities, including California-inspired playgrounds, a dog park,

fitness equipment, picnic and barbecue areas, a meditation garden, and courts for tennis and pickleball, according to the city.

City officials said the parks are designed to enhance quality of life by providing nearby recreation and gathering spaces for residents.

Community input played a central role in both the naming and design of the parks over the past two years.

In 2025, the city conducted a two-phase naming process, allowing residents to submit suggestions and vote on shortlisted names.

For the park designs, the city gathered more than 260 responses in an initial survey conducted in August 2024, followed by an additional 165 responses in a second round.

Officials also hosted a virtual community meeting on Sept. 4, 2024, and collected in-person feedback during a design showcase at the city’s Splatter event on Sept. 14, 2024.

The projects build on

recent park investments across Dublin. The city opened Forest Park, a two-acre neighborhood park in the Jordan Ranch development, in December 2025, and Wallis Ranch Community Park in August, which features pickleball courts, a dog park, walking paths and community gathering spaces.

Iron Horse Nature Park, a linear park with a multi-use trail corridor, also opened earlier this year.



Spring has sprung in Pleasanton. These three young athletes showed off their skills and teamwork recently during a soccer game at Amador Community Park. (Photo — Jacob Clouser)

Expert Warns U.S. Standing Is at Risk

By Vivien Wencker

LIVERMORE — The era of Iranian restraint is over, according to professor Sahar Razavi, who warned this week in a discussion hosted by Livermore Indivisible that a shift in military strategy could lead to a long-term decline in U.S. global influence.

Razavi is the director of the Iranian and Middle Eastern Studies Center at Sacramento State University, where she’s an associate professor of political science. Her areas of expertise include comparative government, and

the Iranian diaspora in the United States.

In speaking on the war, she also provided a brief overview of how both countries got to this point, citing a build-up of missed diplomatic opportunities, which over time have worked to sow mistrust, specifically on the side of Iran toward the U.S. and the western world at large.

“This conflict is an innately modern conflict, and is about influence,” Razavi stressed, pointing out that relations between both countries have remained peaceful throughout much of U.S.

history.

How We Got Here

The first turning point came in 1953, when the U.S. helped overthrow Iran’s first democratically elected prime minister, Mohammad Mossadegh, in favor of the Shah to protect British oil interests in the Middle East.

Later, the Hostage Crisis of 1979, following the U.S. government’s decision to grant asylum to the Shah during the Iranian Revolution while he sought cancer treatment in New York, sparked a second wave

of anti-Americanism.

For decades thereafter, the relationship was strained but relatively stable, with Iranian policy exercising restraint.

According to Razavi, one major opportunity came in the aftermath of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks when Iran reached out with public displays of sympathy and shared intelligence on the Taliban and al-Qaeda. Despite this, President George W. Bush identified Iran as belonging to the “Axis of Evil,” together with Iraq and North Korea.

(See IRAN, page 9)



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.

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EDITORIAL

CASA is a Service We Desperately Need, and Shouldn't Have To

The work being done by CASA Alameda is essential to our communities' well-being. CASA, the Court-Appointed Special Advocates, is a national program that matches foster youth with advocates to guide them through the foster care system.

CASA is a national network of nearly 1,000 programs in almost every state, serving nearly half a million children. There are about 75 foster youth in CASA Alameda program in the Tri-Valley.

Juvenile court judges appoint trained volunteers who are often foster youth's only advocates in the court system. These youth often come from households of abuse or neglect, and find themselves placed far away

from their homes, schools and friends. To be confronted not just with a new living situation, but also an often Byzantine court system, is overwhelming.

Foster youth need advocates like those CASA provides. A University of Chicago study found that by age 17, more than 50% of foster kids will have encountered the judicial system through arrest, conviction or detention. Furthermore, 25% of foster kids will be within the criminal legal system within two years of leaving foster care.

The rate is so high that, as the Georgetown Journal on Poverty Law & Policy reported, "The correlation between foster care and criminal involvement is strong enough that advocates

refer to this criminalization of children as the foster care-to-prison pipeline."

The foster care system has many problems of its own. In itself, it's the band-aid we as a society made to protect children from broken homes. By all accounts, it can do much better.

CASA is one of those programs we shouldn't have to need, but we do, desperately. Absent fully funded social services, we're reliant on outside programs staffed by volunteers to do the heavy labor required to help foster kids try and break free of the foster care-to-prison pipeline.

CASA is holding its annual Day of Giving on May 19. Even with volunteer labor, the program is dependent on the charity

of the communities to support its operations.

Fortunately, the Tri-Valley is a generous community. Our nonprofits rise into the breach every day to address homelessness, food insecurity, treatment for substance abuse and mental illnesses and more. Umbrella organizations like the Three Valleys Community Foundation, recently named "Nonprofit of the Year" by State Sen. Jerry McNerney, provide essential support for many nonprofit services in the Tri-Valley.

CASA is just one organization among many, but there are fewer issues more important than taking care of youth most at-risk of falling through the cracks. They could use our support.

MAILBOX

A Message from the Managing Editor

For years, our letters page has been a place for you to speak your mind. We've seen heartfelt thanks, sharp critiques, and passionate debates. But we've also noticed a trend that mirrors the world around us: one letter writer takes on another with harsh language, rather than a compelling argument.

At The Independent, we believe local journalism should be more than just a platform for complaints; it should be a tool for building a better community, even a better world.

Our goal is to create a space where neighbors can disagree on policy without attacking each other's character.

Mailbox Guidelines:

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

Why Not a Pedestrian-Only Downtown?

Marcus Libkind, Livermore

As a 51-year resident of Livermore and former partner in a downtown store that opened in 1975, I have witnessed many positive changes to our city—though often frustratingly slow in coming. One notable improvement was removing the "Highway 84" designation from First Street. But more can and should be done.

First Street is home to many fine restaurants, most of which offer outdoor dining enjoyed by countless residents and visitors. Yet the experience is marred by excessive noise and auto emissions. A single car with an intentionally loud muffler, or nearly any passing motorcycle, is enough to halt conversation entirely,

forcing diners to shout to be heard. This problem persists even now that through traffic has been diverted to the new Highway 84.

It is time for Livermore to take inspiration from Redwood City, where three blocks have been closed to motor vehicles. Those blocks are thriving with restaurants and vibrant outdoor dining. It is a fantastic experience, and I encourage every Livermore resident to visit one evening and see it for themselves.

Some may argue that eliminating vehicle access will reduce parking and hurt customer traffic. I believe the opposite is true—a more pedestrian-friendly downtown will attract more visitors, not fewer. Additionally, two parking structures already exist within easy walking distance of

First Street, designed precisely to serve downtown visitors.

I urge the city to create a pedestrian zone running from Railroad Avenue/Maple Street to South L Street. Three cross streets, Railroad/Maple, North Livermore, and South L, would remain open, preserving connectivity while transforming the heart of our downtown.

Visit Redwood City. See the possibilities. Then, let's make it happen in Livermore.

Protect the Urban Growth Boundary Vic Avila, Livermore

What is Livermore's charm? What makes Livermore a great, appealing place to live? Livermore is spacious—it feels distinctly different from Dublin, Pleasanton, San Leandro, and dozens of other suburban cities. Livermore's spaciousness is due to the fact that Livermore is a donut hole, surrounded by the donut. The DONUT is the open space around the city that creates that spaciousness. This is unique in the Bay Area. Almost all cities had it at one time, but they developed all the land. The ranchers, farmers, and vine growers started this spaciousness centuries ago. This is a prized possession, this spaciousness! It is the planning commission's responsibility to guard this spaciousness. Your decisions affect 86,000 residents. Does Livermore's population need to grow by 50% in the future? The answer is no. Represent the people that live here and PROTECT THE URBAN GROWTH BOUNDARY. If you don't, you will look back at your actions in a few years and say: "I could have helped prevent the urban sprawl I now see." I wouldn't want that reality staring at me.

Why Tom Steyer for Governor

Richard Andrews, Livermore

If you wonder why you should vote for Tom Steyer, just look at who is paying for the attack ads on TV, and who supports him: Teachers, Assemblymen and women, National leaders, Local representatives, etc. That tells you that Steyer is for US and not corporations: Against and attacking?...
PG&E! Who burned Paradise and other towns to the ground and then got off cheap while not paying what they owed, yet they have the money to advertise on TV how "responsible" they are. Other power companies, real estate conglomerates, Developers, etc. and other billionaires who don't want to pay their fair share. Tom owes nothing to any of these people. and has fought for we the people several times with his own money.

It is obvious that Tom is for honest politics, and wants to not only pay his fair share, but see that the crazy spending we are currently saddled with will stop. He is also honest enough to openly admit his mistakes...and that is unheard of today.

He has fought for us with his own money. That should tell you how sincere he is in making California get back on track. A vote for Steyer, is a vote for California.

The Joy of Livermore Planning

Greg Scott, Livermore

In the Livermore Planning Commission meeting on last April 21, the Chair stated, "We are done thinking at this point." This was in regard to the General Plan Update. This is plan-continuation bias: We aren't going to change or amend the General Plan Update no matter what. Perhaps we should now chisel the General Plan Update onto stone tablets.

In this meeting, several of us members of the public voiced our concerns in the Open Forum with the General Plan Update. The Planning Commission Chair patronizingly dismissed those concerns near the end of the meeting as "fearmongering."

It is not surprising that so few of the public participate in commenting on Livermore committee affairs, since these committees are mostly an echo chamber of the status quo and the majority political machine that runs Livermore.

What are the risks of mis-planning the General Plan Update? Plenty, including the loss of resilience and preparation for the crises we face. The next twenty years will bring a number of points of inflection in the structure of our lives and

how we live them. The "Future Shock" (Alvin Toffler) will be far greater than the last twenty years.

It is obvious that the commissions — Planning and General Plan Advisory Committee (GPAC) — and the City of Livermore doesn't want to make a commitment to not breaking the Urban Growth Boundary, which can only be changed by public vote. We see how those votes may go with the shenanigans on the referendum on the downtown Eden Housing Project.

Neither does the General Plan Update adequately address the growing predicaments in housing (affordability and homelessness); water; energy; food (price inflation, availability); the Super El Nino effects; transportation (the necessity of Valley Link and a Valley Link intermodal transportation hub — forget BART); and other concerns.

Aisha is Best for Congress

Doug Mann, Livermore

Aisha Wahab is the most experienced choice we have ever had to represent Livermore in Congress, and her track record tells us exactly who she is.

I have long been an advocate of environmental protection. Her voting record in the Senate is terrific, and I believe she will carry that to Congress. Her general philosophy on urban development makes sense to me, too, not at all like the way they do things in places like Dublin. For example, when Wiener imposed a statewide regulation that was designed to fix an unfixable San Francisco housing problem, Aisha stood up and opposed his overly broad legislation that has made it more difficult to do planning in smaller communities across California, like Livermore.

As a tax watchdog, I find her views on taxation is closest to mine versus other candidates. Her history proves that when oversight is lacking and throwing money at a problem is the wrong solution, she calls it out. She wants real transportation solutions from inefficient transit agencies without opening a firehose of money for agencies that don't know what to do with it.

I also can't see her funding endless wars or taking

part in the further erosion of our constitutional rights. Sure, she has the Democratic endorsement, but that means nothing to me. Many of us are frustrated by the Tri-Valley Dems and how they have been unfairly manipulating our local elections for years; I for one, will not endorse them.

Much more important is that Aisha's goals have supported getting the right things done as a state, and she has earned my trust to do the same with our country. I won't risk my vote on candidates that refuse to take strong positions now, only to be disappointed later. I will proudly vote for Aisha Wahab.

No More Swalwell John Lahommedieu, Dublin

Eric Swalwell, the once golden child of East Bay politics, is now tarnished beyond recognition. Some of us never supported him because of his tactics against Pete Stark. But many in the valley adored this monster! Now that he faces trials and accusations, where are his supporters? Oh! They championed when he promoted sanctuary city status for Pleasanton and the state; they said nothing when he wanted to defund the police, his daily rants against our beloved president; he never reached out to the Steinle family for their tragic loss. Swalwell in the East Bay always had those who protected him, and we won't even begin to talk about the protections he got from Sacramento and Washington DC along the way. Let's not forget that The Livermore Independent often projected that Swalwell walked on water; editors would not allow bad things written about Swalwell. Lame reporters would paint him as a Picasso when he was doing the devil's work. Now the valley turns its back on their golden boy...like he never existed, as if none of this ever happened! Shame on the Democrats and liberals who rode the Swalwell train but have now jumped off that vehicle. Shame on the newspapers and media who shielded Swalwell like a God from those who spoke out against him and his policies. Now the East Bay is looking for another to champion, but let's

(See MAILBOX, page 5)

THE *Independent*

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

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

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

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Cruising past Locanda Wine Bar on First Street in downtown Livermore last weekend, this blue VW bug was seen sporting a “mini-me” in its roof rack. Double the cuteness, double the fun. This passenger gets an A+ for road trip goals met and exceeded. (Photo — Virginia Hoato)

MAILBOX

(Continued from page 4)

be clear, they want another Swalwell; but I have news for them; it's the Republican's time to shine, from governor on down. No more Swalwell, no more Schiff, Newsom, Pelosi, Waters; we the people of California deserve better and now we are seeing that happen in real time! Vote Republican, and in the process save California.

Backward (continued) Thoms Soules, Livermore

While many seniors do struggle financially and are not able to earn a living by working, many others are doing better than their younger working counterparts.

According to Yale history and law professor Samuel Moyn, in a New York Times guest essay entitled “Older Americans Are Hoarding America's Potential” (April 21, 2026), “The wealth picture is stark. From 1990 to 2010, the median net worth of households headed by adults over 65 grew by 42 percent. In the same period, in households headed by adults 18 to 34, median net worth fell by 68 percent. During and after the financial crisis, the gap got even worse. In 2019, it was calculated that Americans under 40 years old, who added up to 37 percent of the population, held a mere 5 percent of America's wealth, whereas those over 54 — the same number of people — held 72 percent. Only in the few years since the pandemic have young people begun to bridge the chasm that has been established between older haves and younger have-nots...”

If David Jonas' comment is true that 30 % of the elderly who own those million-dollar houses in the Tri-Valley are cash poor, they likely have a lot of equity in those houses. I also suspect that while certainly many seniors are renters, most of the renters are young working-class families.

Public Hearing about Lab's Plutonium Bomb Core Work!

Scott Yundt, Livermore

The government is restarting the production of Plutonium Pits (nuclear bomb cores) for the first time since 1989. A public hearing is scheduled in Livermore because of Livermore Lab's (LLNL) involvement—which includes “major new plutonium pit support” work. This new plutonium pit production will be for LLNL's new nuclear weapons designs.

New plutonium pit production is unnecessary. While rationales for the program emphasize a need to replace aging pits, the national laboratories offered no evidence that the nation's

existing pits (or the 10,000+ existing surplus plutonium pits) are anywhere near the end of their service lives (plutonium has a half-life of 24,000 years!) or are at risk of age-related failure that would reduce the safety, security, or reliability of present warhead designs.

The National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA), which operates LLNL, released a Draft Programmatic Environmental Income Statement (PEIS) as the result of litigation brought by Tri-Valley CAREs and others.

The Draft PEIS is inadequate. For example, it doesn't list the total amount of plutonium to be stored and tested at LLNL, potential accident scenarios, impacts on workers, the public, and the environment. No mention of how thousands of LLNL nearby residents would be alerted about a leak, serious accident, or intentional act.

Draft PEIS- www.energy.gov/nepa/articles/doe-eis-0573-draft-environmental-impact-statement-april-2026

Go to pitpeis.com for more information.

NNSA is hosting a public hearing on Tuesday, May 12, at Garre Vineyard, 7986 Tesla Road, Livermore, 5-8 p.m. We encourage you to attend this public hearing to give oral comments!

Tri-Valley CAREs is organizing a Zoom meeting to help people prepare for giving oral comments: Thursday, May 7, at 5:30 p.m.; Zoom link at www.trivalleycares.org. Written comments can be submitted until July 16 via email to: PitPEIS@nnsa.doe.gov. Include the document number: DOE/EIS-0573.

Pipes and Pavement: Meet Public Works

Patricia Munro, Livermore

Public Works Departments do some of the most necessary work that make cities livable. Most of the time that work is invisible—the garbage gets picked up, the streets and sidewalks are drivable and walkable, the water is safe to drink and returned to the Bay in almost pristine condition. When that goes wrong, a water main breaks or a street is washed out, for example, the importance of Public Works is suddenly very apparent. In Livermore, the Public Works Department has three divisions:

The Environmental Services Division collects and disposes of trash, recyclables, and compost in all its forms, from both businesses and homes.

The Maintenance Division cares for all the city's assets—from vehicles to landscape to graffiti and more.

The Water Resources Division, in collaboration with CalWater and Zone 7, ensures safe drinking water and processing of waste-water.

Now, for the first time, Livermore residents have the chance to meet the Public Works Leadership team at the City of Livermore's first Pipes and Pavement Coffee Chat. Join the Public Works Department's leadership team at the Livermore Public Library on Wednesday, May 6, from 10 a.m.-12 p.m., where, over coffee, you can meet the team, ask questions, and admire the vehicles used to build and maintain our city.

Public Works is not as fun as the Library, as contentious as Community Development, or as visible as Police and Fire, but when we think of essential services, it should be near or at the top of the list. On May 6th, come and find out why.

Sending a Caretaker to Congress

Hayden Sidun, Livermore

Local Democrats, including many of the candidates running for Congress in the June 2 primary, are encouraging Bob Wieckowski to run in the CA-14 special election as a “caretaker” until we elect a long-term representative in November. The idea is that a Democrat would win outright in the June 16 special primary, giving House Democrats an extra vote through the summer.

Wieckowski would make a good congressman. But if all the Democrats calling for his candidacy were to all run in the special election, we could instead send our long-term representative to Congress in August. This would give them more seniority than if they were to enter in January, which means better committee positions and more influence to bring resources back home.

Why would we give that up? These Democrats argue the party needs every possible vote during the summer, but this is only four weeks of votes in June and July. Besides, Eric Swalwell missed 645 votes while he was in Congress, including 160 since January 2025. These same Democrats seemed to have no problem with his poor attendance, so why is our lack of representation suddenly an issue?

Perhaps these Democrats also want to give Wieckowski the distinction of being a congressman without giving voters a say first. Caretakers serve a very legitimate purpose, but here, it makes no sense. Sending a caretaker to Congress would confuse voters even more than having two elections for the same seat al-

ready does.

These Democrats' plan would weaken our community's influence in the long run. And for what? Just to help out Hakeem Jeffries for a few weeks, because apparently having no representative is a five-alarm emergency compared to having a chronically-absent one. CA-14 voters are getting the short end of a terrible backroom deal, and we should reject it resoundingly.

Stanford ER Problems Eve Sprunt, Dublin

If you are an elderly middle-class man in desperate need of emergency care in the evening, you may be much better off calling an ambulance than having your spouse drive you to Stanford's ER room. Even after Stanford's Urgent Care said at 3:30 p.m. that my husband needed to be admitted to Stanford Hospital and sent us to the ER to arrange admission, we were kept waiting for over five hours before he received any treatment. He was admitted to the hospital over seven hours later for seven nights and had a toe amputated.

Did the delay in getting antibiotic IV treatment cost him his toe? We'll never know. My husband has diabetic neuropathy, so he doesn't have a lot of feeling in his foot, and the triage lady in ER used that as an excuse to put just about every other patient in front of him. That is discrimination against elderly diabetics. I've written multiple complaint letters to Stanford Hospital, but it seems their only metric for triage in the ER is how much pain you claim to have. If it is crowded, unless you are willing to wait all night, you'd better simulate extreme pain. Ultimately, since my husband and I are on Medicare, that approach

costs the taxpayers a lot of money. Even after returning home, he's had extensive home health care.

Putting PUSD Land to Good Use Steven Rego, Pleasanton

What is this morbid fascination with using open land for building “low-affordable workspace housing” or “low-income housing”? This sounds like some more BS from the building whores and tax income obsessed mayoral people who take great pride in destroying open space. You know, like ugly Dublin. Everyone hates it, except the greedy, and the bottom line is THERE IS NO LOW-INCOME HOUSING IN THE TRI-VALLEY, no matter what the greedy espouse. It's amazing that I almost never read this drivel in Contra Costa County. I wonder why. No more building in Pleasanton.

Deterministic Software = Dependable

Pierre Bierre, Pleasanton

The software you and I have benefited from these past decades, for a vast

range of services, owes its reliability and predictability to being deterministic. Even when a bug gets out into the field, we can pin down the responsible party, and the correction goes forward as a permanent improvement. A software spec and test process gives each developer a way to objectively measure if their capability is living up to its promise. The error-free replication of mature app code into millions of environments (scaling) highlights the beneficent coexistence of human beings and deterministic software.

What about AI? How reliable will it be? Aren't we being seduced into giving

(See MAILBOX, page 6)



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MANAGED BY MOMENTUM SENIOR LIVING





It's the season for taffeta and ties in the Tri-Valley. Students spotted recently dressed to the nines filing past Amador Valley High School headed toward festivities unknown. (Photo — Jacob Clouser)

MAILBOX

(Continued from page 5)

up strengths we take for granted? There's no way to capture in a spec the desired AI's behavior under every situation, because its behavior is probabilistic. Thus, it becomes a matter of opinion whether what you paid for is working. Come to find out that your AI was passed down through a cascade of application-developers and training companies; will they be able to even agree on who is responsible for making fixes? What about repeatability? AIs that learn from their interactions and training updates are by definition non-repeatable automata.

We should approach this new technology with an appreciation for software qualities we're used to—and want carried forward into agentic software. Let's not lower our standards swept up by adulation over the shiny new object. This will take steely resolve, demanding refunds for unmet expectations, and filing lawsuits when responsibility is obfuscated.

Are you willing to become dependent on an AI? Are you willing to have others become dependent on your use of it? We can force the AI industry two steps forward without taking one step backward, simply by making reliability non-negotiable.

Fraud in CA — AB 2624

David Marco, Livermore

Gavin Newsome: "There is no fraud in CA"

Nick Shirley: "There might be some fraud in

CA"

Rob Bonta (CA Attorney General): "There is fraud, but we're on top of it"

Mia Bonta (Rob's wife Oakland assemblywoman): "It's a crime to look for fraud in CA"

Nick Shirley, a man and his cell phone, simply went to the locations where there are supposed to be daycares, hospices, and other government funded facilities. He wanted to document the facilities as he did in Minnesota. And, as in Minnesota, there were usually no facilities and often no workers. He published the videos on social media. He started investigating California and found even more abuse.

California Democrat Mia Bonta supports AB2624 to slap journalists and watchdogs with fines up to \$10,000, possible jail time, and forced content take-downs. Not for violence. Not for threatening anyone. Just for showing up with a camera and asking where the money went. Critics of the bill say it hides funding, records, and operations from public scrutiny, while claiming to protect against doxxing. Meanwhile, California is estimated to have \$6B a year in fraud. Carl DeMaio and other state Republicans tried to send the bill to the privacy committee to examine its legitimacy, but the Democrats overruled them.

By the way, 1/3 of the hospices in America are in Los Angeles County. There are places with 10-89 hospices in one building. Sound suspicious? And Dr. Oz is

now hard at work exposing Medicare fraud that he estimated at \$300B. I am so grateful for all the exposure.

Threats Are Not Good Diplomacy

Frank Cannella, Livermore

In the past several days, our president has entered into a pattern where he first indicates progress has been significant in resolving the conflict with Iran, then setting tight deadlines, then threatening genocide, then extending deadlines, then repeating the process. I would suggest the repeated threats of genocide are actually bluffs Trump thinks are scaring the Iranians into submission to terms he wants, but the Iranians consistently call his bluff, so the threats are clearly ineffective. I realize the Iranians are very difficult to deal with, but Trump's approach is pathetic. And if he actually orders genocide in a fit of frustration, I shudder to think of the reaction from the rest of the world. North Korea and Russia would lose their position as the worst humanitarians in the world.

My point is that the genocidal threats to achieve peace are by no means good diplomacy. Trump should not be critical of the Pope's approach, because the Pope is a much better diplomat. Besides, if the meat axe approach continues to flounder, Trump can always hold Pete Hegseth responsible.

PLAN

(Continued from front page)

and its plans to consider breaking it through future study of the area.

"I don't think you can do both," Furst said. "I think you need to be consistent, and you need to be transparent. If you're going to say you're going to keep and protect the urban growth boundary, then you should not be studying any plan on East of Greenville. If you're going to go break the urban growth boundary, if you're going to plan on breaking it, think about breaking it, study breaking the urban growth boundary East of Greenville, then say so."

Commissioner Nadine Horner reiterated that the draft plan supports maintaining the UGB.

"It is outlined very specifically that we are not looking at breaking the urban growth boundary," Horner said. She urged residents concerned about the general plan's UGB implications to shift away from interpreting the language one way or another to the conditions that would trigger future study.

"I would like us to center our conversation more along the lines of what those conditions are for that study than the fact that

we believe that the general plan, for whatever reason somebody has interpreted it, that we want to break the urban growth boundary," Horner said, suggesting that staff tighten the language of the existing four conditions limiting study of East of Greenville, while remaining open to possible additional conditions.

Chair Tracy Kronzak, while in support of clarifying that the study-area designation does not compel any future action, cautioned against further policy changes so late in the multi-year general plan process.

"I think we've done all the thinking on this we need to right now," Kronzak said.

In response to previous public feedback that the EIR's population figures seemed inflated, Ross said that those numbers serve neither as forecasts, projections, targets nor goals.

"They reflect the maximum theoretical build-out allowed under the draft land use map," Ross said. "And the maximum buildout assumptions illustrate housing capacity that would be needed to plan for multiple future (Regional Housing Needs Allocation) cycles."

Despite the distinction, resident Jeff Kaskey felt the build-out limits would still exert consequences if inaccurate.

"We're fighting over it because one purpose of the general plan is to justify what changes for the city does the city pay to study?" Kaskey said. "And for those who want to break our urban growth boundary — and it may not even be the bulk of people — but for those who do want to break our urban growth boundary, they currently have no reason in the data to recommend it. It simply isn't there, unless they introduce a population number that doesn't make any sense."

In addition to Furst and Kaskey, six other residents opposed East of Greenville as a study area at the meeting, while no public commenters supported it.

The comment period for the general plan's environmental impact report ended on April 24. City staff expect to present the collected feedback so far on the plan to the city council on May 11 with tentative plans to ask for a final planning commission recommendation on July 7 and city council approval on July 27.

Civic Library to Celebrate AANHPI Heritage Month

LIVERMORE — The Livermore Public Library will celebrate AANHPI Heritage Month in May, recognizing the impact of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders on U.S. history and culture.

Scheduled events include:

- Take and Make craft projects celebrating Asian American inventors at the Springtown Library, 998 Bluebell Dr., from Friday, May 1, through May 31.
- Meet and greet with Chinese American children's book author and illustrator Angie Kang at the Civic Center Library, 1188 S. Livermore

Ave., at 2 p.m. on Sunday, May 3.

- Creating a Chinese calligraphy bookmark with San Francisco-based artist Wei-Ting Chuang at the Civic Center Library at 2 p.m. on Saturday, May 9. The program is for adults, and registration is required.
- K-Pop Demon Hunter party, based on the animated fantasy program on Netflix, at the Rincon Branch Library, 725 Rincon Ave., at 3:30 p.m. on Friday, May 15. For all ages, the party will include crafts and snacks.
- San Francisco author Elaine Castillo will read from

her latest book, "Moderation," and talk about her writing journey at the Civic Center Library at 2 p.m. on Saturday, May 16, followed by a book signing.

• Artist Kenneth Tan will lead a workshop on creating banigs, traditional woven mats inspired by Filipino weaving and tattoos, at 2 p.m. on Sunday, May 24. The program is for adults on a first-come basis.

For more information about AANHPI Heritage Month events hosted by the Livermore Public Library, call 925-373-5505 or go to library.livermoreca.gov.

Author and Psychotherapist Will Discuss 'Inherited Trauma'

LIVERMORE — Author and psychotherapist Satsuki Ina will discuss "inherited trauma" as part of the Las Positas College (LPC) President's Speaker Series on Monday, May 4.

Ina was born at the maximum-security Tule Lake Segregation Center in Northern California, one of the internment camps where Japanese Americans were held during World War II.

More than 80 years later,

as a trauma therapist, she continues to explore what it means to inherit trauma, and what it takes to heal it?

Her 2024 memoir, "The Poet and the Silk Girl," tells her family's story, including displacement, resistance and resilience.

"Dr. Ina's story challenges us to confront not only what happened, but what it means now," said LPC President Dyrrell Foster.

"This is about memory, accountability and the role education plays in ensuring these histories are neither forgotten nor repeated."

Ina is scheduled to speak at 2 p.m. in the Mertes Theater, 3000 Campus Hill Dr.

The program, sponsored by Uncle Credit Union and the Las Positas College Foundation, is free and open to the public. To RSVP, go to bit.ly/PSS_Satsuki_Ina.

Third Graders in Livermore Learn Where their Food Comes From

LIVERMORE — Nearly a thousand Livermore third graders, along with teachers and parental volunteers, participated in Livermore High School's annual Ag Adventure Day last week, which this year was held at the Livermore Rodeo Grounds.

Organized by the high school's Agriculture Department, Ag Adventure Day is designed to introduce students to where their food comes from and the role agriculture plays in everyday life.

"Years ago, we asked students where their milk comes from, and the overwhelming answer was the grocery store," said Sheila Fagliano, a long-time volunteer with Future Farmers of America (FFA). "This event is about helping students make that connection in a way that sticks."

About 300 students in the Livermore FFA program helped lead hands-on activities during Ag Adventure Day.

The third graders rotated through stations covering

cattle roping, milking, water systems, pollination, the role of working dogs in agriculture and other topics.

Traditionally held at the high school, Ag Adventure Day was hurriedly moved to the covered arena at the rodeo grounds this year because of inclement weather.

"The FFA students really stepped up this year," said agriculture instructor Joe McNealy. "With the last-minute change, they adapted quickly and made sure the day still ran smoothly for the younger students."



Livermore High School students showcased the importance of agriculture during the Ag Adventure Day last week at the Livermore Rodeo Grounds. (Photo courtesy of FFA)

CASA

(Continued from front page)

Anagonye, a former foster youth who participated in the CASA program. "There are a lot of youth who don't have an adult ally in their lives. They don't have somebody who can stand up for them, and they might not be aware of how to stand up for themselves. You're also being told things that you're not really fully understanding. It's really important that CASAs are able to break that down for youth."

In the Tri-Valley, there are approximately 75 foster youth, according to data from the California Department of Education. CASA Alameda serves about 30 percent of those young people.

"The goal is to serve everyone. That every young person who needs a CASA has a CASA," said Ginni Ring, executive director of CASA Alameda. "Youth come into this system at no fault of their own. Imagine being told that, in three months, pack

up everything you own and move somewhere else — a completely different community, full of strangers. The CASA comes in as one caring, consistent adult who can navigate each of those stages," Ring said.

That consistency matters enormously. Social workers and attorneys are managing large caseloads, often resulting in young people becoming one of many. CASAs carry one relationship — and they show up for it in ways that go far beyond the courtroom, from helping a teenager understand what college benefits are available to them, to sitting down to teach a young person how to sew patches onto a bag or helping them get deodorant.

The difference shows up in the data, too. Studies show that youth with a CASA experience fewer transfers between foster homes, better school performance, higher graduation rates, and lower rates of juvenile or criminal justice involvement. It

also helps youth know they have at least one trusted adult in their corner.

"We all can appreciate mentorship," added Linda LaBine, a former CASA who now sits on the CASA board of directors, "and really, that's what this is."

Anagonye, who was connected with CASA at age 14, remembers the difference it made.

"She was definitely a mentor to me," Anagonye said. "She actually listened to me."

May is a Month of Giving, and CASA Alameda is asking the community to show up — whether by becoming a CASA or making a donation that funds everything from managing new CASAs to providing laptops and scholarship support for youth. Anyone interested can find out more at casoalameda.org.

"This is our community," said Lillie, "These are our kids, right in our backyard, and they need us."

Bankhead Hosts Packed Weekend for Mother's Day

LIVERMORE—The Bankhead Theater will host a weekend of comedy, music and celebration for Mother's Day, starting with "God is a Scottish Drag Queen 2" at 8 p.m. on Friday, May 8.

On Saturday, May 9, the Bankhead will welcome Glen Phillips, lead singer and songwriter for Toad the Wet Sprocket, for an evening of music and storytelling, and follow up on Sunday, May

10, with a Mother's Day concert by the all-female Mariachi Divas de Cindy Shea.

"God is a Scottish Drag Queen 2" is Canadian comedian Mike Delamont's sequel to his original one-man show that launched in 2011 with God as a drag queen in a floral power suit and expounding on the human condition in a Scottish accent.

"God is a Scottish Drag

Queen 2" continues Delamont's irreverent look at pop culture and humanity through the eyes of an often silly, foul-mouthed, yet lovable Scottish deity.

Tickets to the 8 p.m. show start at \$30.

Phillips, who will take the Bankhead stage at 8 p.m. on Saturday, was a founding member of the alternative rock band Toad the Wet Sprocket, which took its

name from a Monty Python comedy sketch and got its start in Santa Barbara in 1986.

He continues to tour with the group, which broke up in 1998 but reunited for annual tours in 2010, while also releasing several solo albums and collaborating on projects like the experimental electronic rock group Remote Tree Children.

Singer-songwriter Garrison Starr will open for

Phillips for his Bankhead performance.

Tickets to the show start at \$30.

Finally, on Mother's Day, the two-time Grammy award-winning Mariachi Divas de Cindy Shea will bring its high-energy blend of traditional mariachi music with jazz and pop to the Bankhead.

The Los Angeles-based band, which won the Gram-

my for Best Regional Mexican Music Album in 2009, performs regularly at Disneyland, Disney California Adventure and Downtown Disney in Anaheim.

Tickets to the 3 p.m. show start at \$45.

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

TRI ZONE 7

(Continued from front page)

in the area, necessitating a diversification of water supplies and water storage at Zone 7, Burnham noted.

"I'm used to evaluating options for strategic decisions," Burnham said. "Water

understanding of the subsurface and the way things work in the subsurface," Lehrman said. "I am also interested in the surface processes as well. I live right along Arroyo Del Valle, and I'm interested in

give back to the community, and because I think it's important to have people on the board of directors who will think critically about the issues and work to make sure that Zone 7's on the right

ity, his website also lists flood protection as a top concern, calling it a "non-negotiable priority from which all others follow." He outlines modernized flood channels, smarter capital planning, and com-

from the delta right now. Most of the water comes through one area, and it's, at best, very old. At worst, you can say that it's a huge risk if there's a serious earthquake."

With that in mind, Roberts supports projects such as the Chain of Lakes pipeline and Zone 7's participation in the Sites Reservoir, the state's first major reservoir project in nearly 50 years.

"I'd hope that with the state and our wisdom across the many water suppliers that we add three, four or maybe five more reservoirs," he added.

Roberts appreciated Zone 7's proactivity in getting ahead of PFAS regulations instead of waiting for the state or federal agencies to force changes.

Looking ahead as a possible director, he acknowledged that the industry is on the lookout for the next contaminant. He also suggested

more could be done to filter wastewater.

"I understand pretty well what the role of a board director is," Roberts said. "I've done it before, especially in a public organization. I understand the need to be transparent and collaborative, not only with the public, but also with the employees at Zone 7 and the important role that the general manager plays in this. I think I'm uniquely suited out of the candidates to fill that role and to do a good job."



Alan Burnham



Jim Lehrman



Rishabh Rao



Sean Roberts

infrastructure is a multi-decade thing, and so you have to make sure that you are looking at where we want to be in, say, 30 years."

His approach to projects carries the theme of trade-offs, and he urged looking at all the possibilities and then choosing the best one.

He felt comfortable with the flood control plan currently under development in the agency. He supported the proposed \$240 million pipeline connecting the Chain of Lakes to the South Bay Aqueduct for the lakes' water storage, but remained cautious about its significant costs.

Burnham also supported Zone 7's plans to drill new wells in partnership with the City of Pleasanton, saying Zone 7 does not plan to run those wells continuously, which may reduce the risk of drawing the PFAS plume toward the new wells.

"It's just a question of making sure that you monitor it and are operating within the limitations that the modeling tells you," Burnham said.

He said that his experience making decisions despite uncertainties, coupled with his technical background, makes him one of the best candidates.

"The fact is, perfect knowledge costs an infinite amount of money, and you have to ask yourself, 'Is that model good enough?'" he said. "That's the challenge that all candidates should be thinking about."

Jim Lehrman

Jim Lehrman, a Pleasanton resident since 1988, has worked as a geologist and hydrogeologist his entire career, with experience in subsurface investigations related to fluid flow in geologic media.

"I've got a strong background in that and a good

what's going on with flood protection and erosion issues in the arroyo."

Lehrman said Zone 7's plans to build with the City of Pleasanton two new wells in west Pleasanton, outside of the Tri-Valley's PFAS plume, played a big part in his decision to run for the Zone 7 board.

"(The issue) I'm most concerned about is PFAS contamination in our groundwater and the huge plume of PFAS underlying the Tri-Valley and the plans to put in new wells just downgradient of the plume, which have the potential to expand the plume and make a bad problem worse," Lehrman said. "I have a technical disagreement with the way they're viewing that whole situation." As an alternative to new wells, he has advocated for installing PFAS treatment at the city's existing wells, which have been shut down since 2022 because of the area's PFAS contamination.

"Because they're in the heart of the basin, near the heart of the plume, that's the ideal place to pump the water and treat it to keep (the PFAS) from migrating and to remove it from our groundwater basin and to provide the needed clean water for the Tri-Valley and Pleasanton, especially during times of drought," Lehrman said.

He commended Zone 7's response to the changing drinking-water regulations around PFAS, including the agency's timely decisions to shut down their own wells and then install the treatment facilities needed to bring them back online. Lehrman praised Zone 7's efforts to clear the arroyos for flood control, and he generally supported its goal of increasing its water storage.

"I'm running in part to

track in fulfilling its mission and values," Lehrman said. "I think I've got a good background to understand the technical issues that Zone 7 has to deal with."

Rishabh Rao

Rishabh Rao, a Dublin resident, runs a science, technology, engineering and math education company. He said he's running for the Zone 7 board to bring a practical voice into the community to represent both Gen Z and the interest of the local communities here.

"I'm not a career politician; it's not me," Rao said. "I really am just a guy who would like to ask the right questions, understand the data, listen to the experts, and keep public interests at the top of mind."

A Tri-Valley resident for 18 years, Rao lists water reliability as one of his top priorities for the region, "making sure that every time you turn on the tap, the water is clean, reliable, and the costs are under control."

Zone 7, said Rao, has historically done a good job maintaining that reliability. "I think it's never been at a point where we are questioning our water resources. Maybe some of the other infrastructure, people get frustrated with it — power, electricity, internet — these things are a bit iffy in our area to say the least. But as far as water goes, I think Zone 7 has definitely maintained the quality, and it should seek to maintain it."

Rao said he would like to take a closer look at projects, such as new wells planned in west Pleasanton and a pipeline running from the Chain of Lakes to the South Bay Aqueduct before forming an opinion.

Along with water reliabil-

ity, his website also lists flood protection as a top concern, calling it a "non-negotiable priority from which all others follow."

He also values ratepayer transparency to share with the public the reasoning behind their decisions and spending.

"Voters should consider me because I'm practical; I'm independent; I really have a systems-driven mindset that I would like to bring to the table," Rao said. "I see myself serving families in the Bay Area and especially the Tri-Valley for now and in the foreseeable, long-term future. This is really just an extension of that ultimate mission of mine."

Sean Roberts

Computer engineer Sean Roberts said that his work on large, multi-million-dollar projects will carry over to the decisions posed to the Zone 7 board. He co-founded the OpenStack Foundation — a non-profit that promotes the open-source, cloud-computing software OpenStack — where he served on the organization's finance committee, gaining a background in finance.

"I know what it takes to run an organization, but also, I know the role of a board member pretty well," Roberts said. "It's obviously not to do the hands-on work, but it's to set policy and strategy, and frankly, in my opinion, to monitor the spend."

A Livermore resident since the late 1990s, Roberts looks at diversification and resilience when thinking about Tri-Valley water, considering possible future events such as what will happen to our water supply in a major earthquake.

"As policy, I would say that more sources of water and more channels of access to those sources is critical," Roberts said. "We have a big risk with the water that we get

NIF

(Continued from front page)

force to squeeze its atoms together. In 2022, NIF became the first facility to achieve ignition, where the energy released from the fusion reaction exceeded the laser energy delivered to the pellet.

While NIF's original design called for 17 amplifiers along each laser beamline, initial tests found that the amplifiers' glass slabs performed better than expected. The facility has used only 15 slabs per beamline to date, NIF Director Gordon Brunton told The Independent.

The coming expansion, known as the Enhanced Fusion Yield Capability project, looks to put all 17 of the amplifier positions to use by adding the hardware needed to bring them online, Brunton said. The project would also refresh or upgrade some optics

downstream of the new amplifiers to handle the higher laser energy.

Congress has appropriated \$26 million toward the project's next phase, and LLNL is working to develop a long-lead procurement package, finalize the project's design and approve the project's baseline.

LLNL expects the upgrade to increase the total laser power aimed at a fuel pellet from 2.2 megajoules, a record set in 2023 to 2.6 megajoules. NIF achieved its highest yield ever in April 2025, when a 2.08 megajoule laser shot produced a fusion yield of 8.6 megajoules from the fuel pellet. Brunton said the added laser power will roughly quadruple yields.

"With 2.6 megajoules of laser energy, NIF is expected to achieve substantially higher fusion

yields, opening access to new, high-energy-density regimes," Brunton said. "These higher performance conditions allow important new applications that are enabling for stockpile modernization projects." NIF has already demonstrated fusion yields up to 8.6 MJ, and the Enhanced Fusion Yield Capability is designed to extend that performance significantly.

Conceived in 1993, construction of the 85-foot-tall NIF facility began in 1997 and was completed in 2009, including over 3,100 pieces of amplifier glass, 8,000 large optics and 30,000 small optics. The Enhanced Fusion Yield Capability project, if completed, will mark the first major upgrade to NIF's laser-energy capability.

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9:30 - 2:00 PM

Leila Mottley • Oprah Book Club Author: *Nightcrawling & The Girls Who Grew Big*
W. Kamau Bell & Kate Schatz • *Do The Work!*
Julissa Arce • *You Sound Like a White Girl & My American Dream*
Tomas Moniz • *All Friends Are Necessary & Get Published Workshop!*
Bita Behzadi • *Letters From The Last Apothecary*
Kate Schatz • *Where The Girls Were*

Author Signings and Reception
1:00 - 2:00PM
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HAVIK ceremony to follow

For more information and tickets visit:
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“Every Day Is Earth Day,” Pleasanton Celebrates with Green Expo at Library

By Kathryn Stroud

PLEASANTON — Pleasanton residents made their way to the Pleasanton Library on April 25 to celebrate Earth Day at a community expo centered on a simple but powerful message: “Every Day is Earth Day.” More than a dozen booths lined the sidewalk outside, hosted by city departments, commissions and community organizations. Each booth offered guidance on how residents can reduce waste, conserve resources and make greener choices in their daily lives.

The Sustainable Home

The expo focused on immediate steps residents can take in their own kitchens and backyards.

“Do you know about induction stoves?” asked Phil Bowman at his booth. He explained how induction stoves use magnets to heat food, making them more energy-efficient than gas stoves, resulting in much faster cook times.

Bowman, representing the City of Pleasanton’s Energy and Environmental Commission, also discussed the harm of gas stoves to the environment and our health, citing a Stanford study.

“Researchers measured methane leaks in gas stoves and found that all of them were leaking methane gas — even when they were turned off,” Bowman said.

Residents curious about trying one before buying don’t have to look far. The Pleasanton Library lends

induction stoves for three-week periods through its Library of Things program.

Nearby, students from the Go Green Initiative, an

“It’s because of the heat, actually,” Aggarwal explained. “They actually have to open up and empty all of those bags.” A paper bag

Civic Engagement

While many booths emphasized household changes, others addressed the broader industrial and infrastructure impacts of the region. Tri-Valley CAREs (TVC), a local environmental health and safety organization — raising awareness about recent developments at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. TVC’s most recent annual report card on the lab makes for sobering reading: LLNL has expanded its plutonium pit work, a development with significant implications for both public safety and the region’s long-term environmental health, even as persistent safety concerns continue to surface. The full report is available on TVC’s website.

Matt Nelson, a city associate traffic engineer, and Donna DuBose, a commissioner on the Bicycle, Pedestrian and Trails Commission, shared information and asked for input as the commission seeks to update the 2018 Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan.

“We’re asking residents to mark this map to highlight places where there might be safety concerns,” Nelson explained. Residents can still weigh in, if interested, at pleasantonbpm2026.com, and a community input meeting is scheduled for May 21 at the Pleasanton Library.

Echoing the expo’s central theme, the library hosted a clothing swap — a reminder that sustainability is as much about what we don’t buy as what we do.



Phil Bowman, member of Pleasanton’s Energy and Environmental Commission, demonstrates induction cooking at the Earth Day expo last weekend. (Photo — Kathryn Stroud)

organization focused on advancing environmental health and sustainability in schools, offered a hands-on sorting game to demystify what belongs in the recycling bin, compost and trash.

Pleasanton resident and Go Green volunteer Siya Aggarwal had a practical tip for home composters: Skip the compostable green bags.

or newspaper lining works just as well — and saves the workers on the other end a step.

The City of Pleasanton’s Public Works Department rounded out the home-action advice with a reminder on water conservation. For those wondering how long a sustainable shower should be? “About five minutes,” a representative offered.

Patriot Award Recipients Are Announced

PLEASANTON — Pam Yeaw and Anne Brock Roby received Ed Kinney Community Patriot awards for 2026 during a reception this week for family and friends at the Museum on Main.

Named for a former Pleasanton mayor and community volunteer, and presented by the nonprofit Make a Difference, Today & Always, the awards recognize individuals whose actions inspire others to give back to the community.

“This year’s recipients have worked to make our part of the world a better place,” said W. Ron Sutton, founder of the award and president of the non-profit foundation.

Yeaw was recognized for more than two decades as a volunteer with the Pleasanton Police Department, according to Make a Difference.

As a volunteer, she is a familiar sight in her uniform at community events and helping with crowd control and traffic during police investigations.

“I enjoy meeting people,” Yeaw said, “and I en-

joy helping the officers out.”

Yeaw was asked by then-Police Chief Tim Neal to join the police department’s new Volunteers in Police Service program after attending the Pleasanton Citizen’s Academy in 2000 and has averaged about 130 volunteer hours per month since then.

Anne and Brock Roby, the parents of a son with Down syndrome, were recognized for starting an E-Soccer program in Pleasanton for children with special needs and recruiting middle and high school students to serve as “buddy-coaches.”

“It was a win-win,” said Brock Roby. “The players loved the younger buddy-coaches, and the coaches liked being a help to the players.”

The Robys also participated in Leadership Pleasanton, a Chamber of Commerce program to learn more about the community, eventually serving on the board of directors for the chamber’s Community Foundation and the Stanford Health Care Tri-Valley Charitable

Brock Roby also served

on Pleasanton’s Youth Master Plan Implementation Committee and the Human Services Commission, while Anne Roby volunteered with Sunflower Hill, YMCA

Tri-Valley and the Assistance League.

Past recipients of the Community Patriot award meet annually to select the next recipients.

TVAAST

(Continued from front page)

locations are really easy to get to,” he said.

Works on display and for sale will include paintings, ceramics, sculptures, glass art, mixed media, photography, jewelry, textiles and wearable art.

The TVAST event is sponsored by the nonprofit Alliance for the Visual Arts (AVA). TVAST began in November 2021 when AVA President Dennis Baker knew artists needed a reason to get creative after the COVID-19 pandemic had shuttered most of their opportunities. Nearly 60 artists showed their work in 19 venues across the Tri-Valley.

In addition to numerous home studios, artwork will be on display in Livermore

at the Bothwell Arts Center, Carnegie Park and the Springtown Art Center. Gallery DaVinci in downtown Pleasanton will also host several artists, as will The Frame Company & Art Gallery and The Art Process in Dublin and the Dougherty Station Community Arts Center in San Ramon.

All sites will be open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. Some home studios will also be open for tours from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday.

For more information, including a list of participating artists, maps and addresses for home studios, and days they will be open for tours, go to TVASTart.com.



More than 70 artists, representing the entire Tri-Valley, will put their art and their techniques on display as part of this year’s fifth annual Tri-Valley Artist Studio Tour (TVAST). Work will be on view at more than 25 locations, including artist homes, studios and gardens. This display of ceramic work could be seen last year at the Bothwell Arts Center in Livermore. The community hub will present again the talent of local artists during the weekend long event that begins Friday, May 1, through Sunday, May 3. (File photo — Leah Silveira)

TRI-VALLEY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Thursdays, April/May

GRIEF SUPPORT WORKSHOP

The death of a loved one is unlike any other loss. Although there is no right or wrong path, there are stepping stones that are part of each grief journey; they will be explored in this 8-week workshop. Held at St. Elizabeth Seton Church, 4001 Stoneridge Drive, Pleasanton. Meetings will begin at 7 p.m. on Thursday evenings; April 30, and May 7, 14, 21 and 28. These meetings are open to all, regardless of religious affiliation. For more information, please call Barbara at 925-846-3904.

Saturday, May 2

LIVERMORE-PLEASANTON ELKS EVENT

Join the Livermore-Pleasanton Elks Lodge #2117 on May 2 at the Larkspur Event Center in Springtown for “Evening at the Races”. Participants will enjoy “horseless” horse racing with play money as well as dinner, dessert, a no-host bar, plus silent and live auctions for just \$40 per person or \$280 for a table of 8. All proceeds support local Elks community programs. Grab your friends and get your tickets at <https://EveningAtTheRaces.com>.

Wednesday, May 6

DROP-IN GENEALOGY ASSISTANCE

Begin your family history search with assistance by members of the Livermore-Amador Valley Genealogy Society. On May 6, 10:30–12:30, at the Livermore Public Library, Civic Center Branch, 1188 S Livermore Ave., Room 135.

Thursday, May 7

ALAMEDA COUNTY NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

Join Alameda County Supervisors and other elected officials, District 1’s Interfaith Advisory Council, and twelve participating faith leaders at this 7th annual gathering to pray for our country. This year we will also be celebrating America’s 250th birthday! 5 p.m. reception & dinner. 6 p.m. program begins. No charge. At the Alameda County Fairgrounds Amphitheater, 4501 Pleasanton Ave., Pleasanton. Free parking across from the gate on Pleasanton Ave. RSVP at tinyurl.com/natdayofprayer2026. Contact Gloria Gregory at gloria.gregory@acgov.org or (925) 998-3785 with questions.

Saturday, May 9

DRESS A GIRL AROUND THE WORLD

Make simple dresses for girls in Third World countries! The next monthly Sew-Fest is on May 9, 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.

Monday, May 11

LIVERMORE-AMADOR GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY MEETING

Sara Cochran will present “Missing: Reward! Locating Widows, Spinsters, and Bachelors.” She will present techniques to find ancestors who have limited public records using three case study examples. On May 11 at 7:00 p.m. No charge, non-members are welcome. Join via Zoom (register at www.l-ags.org, click on Speakers & Topics on upper left).

Thursday, May 14

LIVERMORE AMADOR VALLEY GARDEN CLUB MEETING

The May meeting will be on “Bringing Nature Home”, with Kathy Kramer, of the California natives garden tours, who will talk about how to create a beautiful garden that saves water, money, time and the planet! On May 14 from 6 to 8 p.m. at Crosswinds Church, 1660 Freisman Rd., Livermore, at the red Farm Theater Building.

Friday/Sunday, May 15 and 17

JOHN RUTTER’S REQUIEM

The Valley Concert Chorale (VCC) is proud to announce a collaborative concert series featuring John Rutter’s Requiem, in a preview for the Chorale’s upcoming performance at Carnegie Hall this June. Joining the Chorale are the Las Positas College Chamber Choir, Tracy’s West High School Choral Leadership Academy, and Livermore’s First Presbyterian Church Choir. On May 15 at 7:30 p.m. and May 17 at 4:00 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church, 2020 Fifth St., Livermore. \$30 general admission; \$10 for college students (with ID); free for children K–12. Visit www.valleyconcertchorale.org or call (925) 866-4003 for tickets. A reception will immediately follow each performance.

Saturday, May 16

RICK ESTRIN & THE NIGHTCATS LIVE IN LIVERMORE

Award-winning, modern blues legends, Rick Estrin & The Nightcats — three-time winners of the prestigious Blues Music Award for Band of the Year — will perform live the Almost Famous Wine Company at 2271 S. Vasco Rd. in Livermore on May 16 at 7:30 p.m. Ticket price: \$23.18–\$39.19. See www.almostfamous.wine or call 925-344-5870 for more information.

ONGOING OPPORTUNITIES

FOOD RELIEF SERVICES

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

ONGOING EVENTS

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

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

SATURDAY PLEASANTON FARMERS MARKET

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

SUNDAY LIVERMORE DOWNTOWN FARMERS MARKET

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

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

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IRAN

(Continued from page 3)

Further mismanaged opportunities occurred during the first Trump administration with its so-called “Muslim ban” in 2017 and the U.S. withdrawal from the Iran Nuclear Deal (also known as the JCPOA) in 2018.

Current State of Affairs

Throughout all these incidents, Iran’s international stance, especially with the U.S., has always been one of restraint, but according to Razavi, after the 12-Day War in June 2025, that stance shifted.

“Before, Iran was less open to direct discussions than it is now, but also less likely to engage in a direct military confrontation with the US,” Razavi said.

In February, joint military action from the U.S. and Israel following stalled negotiations on Iran’s nuclear program and a crackdown on protesters, led to a series of attacks aimed at Iranian leadership — most notably the assassination of its supreme leader Ali Khamenei.

With the conflict rapidly expanding to include a U.S. naval blockade on Iranian ports and attacks on oil infrastructure, Iran retaliated by closing the Strait of Hormuz, a critical accessway that controls roughly 20%-25% of global oil flows.

“What we’re seeing is that Iran has prepared itself for a very long time for a war of attrition against the US where

they’re willing to engage in a war of waiting for longer than the U.S. can hold out economically and militarily,” said Razavi.

Additionally, Iran is exerting pressure on U.S. allies by creating shipping disruptions and economic anxiety for those dependent on energy imports like the U.K., Germany and Italy.

In the long term, Razavi predicts some shifts in power influence that might affect the U.S. global standing and reputation, ultimately leading European and Asian countries to sign deals with Iran on their own.

“What we’re seeing is the Trump administration is sending a lot of messages on

how we’re doing tremendous and Iran is asking to make a deal, but they really haven’t and the pain they’re inflicting on the U.S. is greater than that which they’re inflicting on themselves.”

Although an end date is hard to approximate, she estimated that Iran could experience some major economic boosts from tightening its grip on the Strait of Hormuz and perhaps emerge in a stronger position.

“I think the big loser from this war will be the U.S. overall, although I don’t want to say that Iran won’t retain some damage—mostly civilians, hospitals, and healthcare facilities aside from the relatively small

number of political leaders who’ve been assassinated,” Razavi said.

Regarding Israel and its international stance at the end of the war, she said that could be more precarious since it has a different aim than the U.S. According to her, the U.S. wants a regime change, whereas Israel’s goal is an entire state collapse that will prevent Iran from being a serious military threat—therefore allowing Israel to achieve domination in the region.

“This is why ceasefires aren’t lasting, because the U.S. might say one thing and then Israel will go and bomb something,” Razavi said. “As long as Israel and the U.S.

have divergent aims, we’ll see unpredictable actions coming out of Israel.”

Added to diverging aims, it is unlikely the U.S., or rather President Trump, will want to engage in a prolonged conflict with Iran in view of the November midterm elections, by which time the economic strain from rising oil costs could be enough to allow Democrats to regain control of the House or Representatives. However, even while this incentive may be enough to force the U.S. to the negotiating table sooner rather than later, the long-term ramifications for its influence abroad, especially among its allies, may not be as easy to win back.

OBITUARIES

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Deborah Dennison
Aug. 4, 1965 — Dec. 21, 2025



Deborah Dennison, born Aug. 4, 1965, in Chicago, Illinois to Dr. Eric Hohnwald and Karen (Jensen) Hohnwald, died Dec. 21, 2025 in Kaiser Hospital in Walnut Creek, California.

She was the older sister to Brian Hohnwald and Dr. Kevin Hohnwald.

Debbie grew up in Sarasota, Florida and graduated from high school there.

After acquiring a degree in Business Administration and Accounting, she supported herself as a bookkeeper and accountant, and then while married to Jeffery Dennison, working full time, and raising son Derek Dennison and daughter Kaitlin Dennison PhD, she graduated Phi Beta Kappa from the University of South Florida with a major in Urban and Regional Planning and Geospatial Information Systems (GIS) — which became a lasting passion of her life.

Filling her years with a constant pursuit of learning and education, Debbie became an expert in GIS, remote sensing and imagery analysis — and applying her knowledge to a career path working for both U.S. Government and private sector firms designing, building and operating advanced information processing systems that aided these sponsors and their clients and the general public.

Debbie worked for the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory from 2009 to 2017. During that time, she provided many programs with astounding results, many earning her awards of special recognition. She collaborated with many leading scientists and ranking personnel in support of vital systems for military defense, homeland security, emergency management and response, including emergency operations

centers across the country. She served as subject matter expert on a vast array of projects that needed GIS and remote sensing technology, and routinely performed project management activities, preparing statements of work, progress reports, and presentations to government agencies. She worked with global satellite companies and consultants. She often presented talks at key stakeholder meetings and conferences. Highly sought for her ability to produce quality and time-critical results, she was always working multiple projects — while also completing her master’s degree in GIS from Penn State University (selected as one of only 50 students admitted that year. Her thesis was titled “Contribution of Normalized Digital Surface Models used in Automatic Building Extraction” and was presented at an ASPRS conference. Since then, she continually trained herself and trained others. She was a certified GIS professional, (URISA — now GPN).

In 2017, she decided to pursue her passion for geography, history, and world culture, and leveraging her skill at cartography (map making) and her expertise in remote sensing and imagery, she founded the company GeoJango LLC (<https://geojango.com>) in Pleasanton,

California. In her final days, she appointed her son Derek to become the new company owner, and he now continues the business and the mission she started — to teach others about the world we live in through maps and games with educational and informative and fun and impressive graphic features.

In 2023, if running her own business was not enough, she took on another full-time job with an environmental management company, S2SERM, (San Ramon, California) where she was the Director of GIS and Remote Sensing. S2S recently merged with Verdantas, (an environmental science, engineering, and consulting firm with offices across the U.S.)

Debbie loved travel, hiking and exploring with partner Tim Voss. Many early mornings they would hike the hillsides in nearby parks in and around Pleasanton, California and when work schedules allowed it, travel to visit national parks and attend conferences.

She saw and learned much on her worldwide travels. A most memorable foreign trip was to Turkey, which included a hot air balloon ride, and her final world trip in 2025 was to Southeast Asia with her mother.

A private memorial service, a celebration of life, is being held locally on May 2nd, and a separate special hike to her favorite spot on May 3rd.

To honor Debbie, the family recommends that you donate to a cancer research organization of your choice, and consider visiting her company’s website, <https://geojango.com> and pick out a map or a game you like and buy it, knowing you are getting something rare and unique that was created by Debbie and her passion for life.

Jerry Frank Hanlon
Aug. 17, 1943 — April 11, 2026



With deep love and sadness, we announce the passing of Jerry Frank Hanlon. Jerry was a devoted father to Jerry and Don and a wonderful husband to Pat for 58 years. Everyone knew him for his caring for people and his sense of humor. Jerry was an identical twin, born in Grove City, Pennsylvania, to Phyllis and Charles Hanlon on Aug. 17, 1943. He graduated from Brick H.S. in Brick, New Jersey. While in high school, he was a cross-country track star with his rival twin brother Terry. He joined the Navy and served our country for 20 years in submarines, and retired. In the Navy, he played on the All-Navy softball team. He was nicknamed “Pig Pen” because he was always sliding into base. During that time, he went back to school and received his BS de-

gree with the University of New York. He worked and retired from General Electric Nuclear Division in San Jose, California. Jerry, as a teenager, worked on fishing boats in Brielle, New Jersey. He continued to fish and had his own boat “Reel Bum” in which he enjoyed fishing for salmon with his wife Pat out the Golden Gate, San Francisco, Alaska, Mexico,

and Costa Rica. The neighbors would know when “Reel Bum” came out of the yard, Jerry would share his catch. He enjoyed golf and tried not to take it seriously. Jerry loved people and donated his time to the food bank. He was always helping someone. He is survived by his wife Pat and son Don. He has an identical twin brother Terry, and many relatives in New Jersey. May he rest in Peace and enjoy a good glass of red wine with his son, Jerry, beer in hand, in heaven. Plus, playing chess with his buddy Harry. We will deeply miss him!

Services: Thursday, April 30 at 12:00 p.m. Funeral at Callaghan Mortuary, 3833 East Ave., Livermore, and 1:30 p.m. burial at Roselawn Cemetery, 1240 N. Livermore Ave., Livermore.

Vincent McGevna
Mar 9, 1946 — Apr 23, 2026

Vincent McGevna passed away peacefully, leaving behind a legacy of strength, kindness, and deep devotion to his family. He was a man of integrity who valued hard work, faith, and the simple joys of life. His steady presence and generous spirit left a lasting impression on all who knew him.

Vincent will be remembered most as a devoted father. He is survived by his three sons, who

carry forward his values, wisdom, and love. He took great pride in their lives, always offering guidance, encouragement, and quiet support.

He also shared meaningful connections with friends, neighbors, and fellow parishioners. Known for his reliability, warm sense of humor, and compassion, Vincent had a gift for making others feel welcome. His commitment to his church and his spirit

of service touched many lives.

Vincent’s memory will live on in the hearts of his family and all who knew him. He will be deeply missed, but his legacy of faith and kindness endures.

Funeral services will be held at First Presbyterian Church on Saturday, May 2 at 1:00 p.m. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the First Presbyterian Church Memorial Fund in his honor.

Dr. Kwan Eun Kim
Dec. 2, 1933 — April 2, 2026



Professor Kwan Eun Kim, a distinguished physician and medical researcher, passed away peacefully at the age of 92 on April 2, 2026, after a life defined by perseverance, intellectual excellence, profound faith, and deep devotion to family and community.

He was born on Dec. 2, 1933, in Uiju, Korea—now part of North Korea. His early life was marked by hardship. He lost his father at the age of nine. Then, at fourteen, his family was expelled from their home and land under the communist regime and forced to flee south as refugees in 1948. As a teenager during the war years, he took on any work he could find, doing whatever was necessary to help his mother and younger brother survive in South Korea.

Through sheer perseverance, he earned a place at Yonsei University College of Medicine, graduating at the top of his class in 1959. It was there that he met Jung Sun Kim, the love of his life. Together, they began a journey in 1961 to the United States for further medical training as young doctors. Jung Sun stood beside him until her passing in 1999, and her presence remained a lasting part of his life.

Dr. Kim went on to build a distinguished career at Hahnemann Medical College, where he became a leading authority in nephrology and hypertension. He rose quickly through the academic ranks, becoming the youngest full



professor at the medical school. As Professor of Medicine and Director of the Renal-Hypertension Laboratory, he helped transform Hahnemann (now Drexel University College of Medicine) into a world-renowned center for nephrology and hypertension research. He published over 154 scientific papers and books, authored influential works, and earned international recognition for his pioneering contributions. His achievements were honored with numerous awards, including Yonsei University’s highest distinction for lifetime academic achievement.

He established a permanent endowment at Yonsei University College of Medicine through the United Board of Christian Higher Education in Asia (UB), providing full tuition for two medical students each semester. Since 2000, the “Kwan Eun Kim and Jung Sun Kim Scholarship” endowment has supported 104 medical students in

South Korea and will continue to serve as a lasting gift for generations to come.

A devoted follower of Christ, Dr. Kim served faithfully as a Presbyterian elder and lived a life grounded in humility, compassion, and service. He believed deeply that scientific work must ultimately serve human health and welfare.

He was a loving father to Kenneth and John, a cherished father-in-law to Yun-Jung, and a proud grandfather to Yujin and Kwansun. His love for his family was steady and enduring, expressed in constant presence, sacrifice, and care. He will be deeply remembered by the many students, colleagues, patients, and loved ones whose lives he touched.

From a childhood marked by hardship and displacement, he rose to become a global leader in medicine. But through it all, he never lost sight of what mattered most: faith, family, and service to others. We remember a life shaped by hardship, yet rich with meaning—a life that turned adversity into quiet strength and purpose—and a life that leaves behind a legacy that will continue in all those he touched.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Doctors Without Borders in memory of Dr. Kwan Eun Kim. <https://events.doctorswithoutborders.org/campaign/Dr-Kwan-Eun-Kim-Memorial-Fund>.

Harold (Hal) Whitlow
April 9, 1937 — March 2, 2026



Hal passed away at his home in Discovery Bay; he would have been 89 in April. He began his career at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in 1960 in the Mechanical Engineering Department. He first worked on Project Pluto, an effort to develop a nuclear-powered ramjet engine, until the program ended in 1964. He later transferred to Weapons Engineering, where he remained until his retirement, supporting a range of engineering projects, including work related to the nation’s stockpile reduction program.

He also supported the Laboratory’s international programs, serving as deputy director for two International Engineering/Physics meetings in collaboration with the AvS Engineering/Physics Society. He was known as a skilled

engineering technician with strong problem-solving abilities.

Hal was a lifelong boater. Raised in the Bay Area and on Bethel Island, he continued his passion throughout his life. He and his wife, Pat, moved to Discovery Bay in 1976, purchasing property before the bays were excavated.

He was a founding member of the Discovery Bay Yacht Club and served as its fifth Commodore, contributing to the club’s design, construction and early operations.

He also served the community as a volunteer firefighter in Discovery Bay for 22 years.

He is survived by his sister, Shirley; his nephew Scott, wife Donna, and their children Jonathan (wife Brooke and daughter Wrenly), Austin, and Makenna (husband Joshua); his nephew Todd and son TJ; his niece Samantha, her wife Michelle, and their daughters Karlee and Faith; and his stepson Augie and granddaughter Rebecca.

A remembrance ceremony will be held May 30 at the Discovery Bay Yacht Club from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Cherie Jo Patenaude (Coombes)
July 11, 1940 — March 31, 2026



Cherie Jo Patenaude (née Coombes) passed away on March 31, 2026, of complications of COPD. She was born on July 11, 1940, to RW and Frances Coombes in Ft. Worth, Texas. She showed an early aptitude for mathematics, and after attending Stephens College, went on to get a degree in math from the University of Texas at Austin in 1962. She was hired by the Control Data Corporation in California, an early pioneer in computing, and spent several years helping develop the CDC 6600 and 7600 computers. She continued to work in computers through the ‘70s, ‘80s and ‘90s at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory.

In 1963, her roommate introduced her to a coworker, Steve Patenaude, and they fell in love. She married him the fol-

lowing year. They had 62 great years of marriage and raised a son. She was a devoted partner and mother and spent many hours volunteering in her son’s school. She was active in local politics and the arts, including the local Shakespeare festival.

She enjoyed many hobbies, liked to crochet and knit, and was an avid reader of many books, especially mysteries and

comedies. She loved to travel, both in the family airplane, and after retirement with a senior tour group. She was also an adoring grandmother to her granddaughter, with whom she often made cookies.

She is survived by her husband Steve, son Mitch, daughter-in-law Melanie, granddaughter Mia, brother Bill, sister-in-law Judy, cousin Glenn McNew, and many nieces and nephews. She is preceded in death by her parents, her sister Carol Ann, and her brother-in-law Bob.

There will be a celebration of life at 5 p.m., Friday, May 15, at the 3 Steves Winery off Greenville Rd. in Livermore. In lieu of flowers, her family asks that donations be made to the Alameda County Food Bank or the Tri-Valley Haven

Patrick Coffey Tapped to Lead Las Positas Women's Basketball

By Matt Schwab

LIVERMORE — It's Coffey time at "The Nest."

Las Positas College has a new women's basketball head coach in Patrick Coffey, a former College of San Mateo lead assistant known for his detailed scouting, dedication and player development.

The former NCAA Division III Colby-Sawyer College (NH) star player knows his stuff but has to hit the ground running.

"Right now the big work is getting a head start in recruiting," said Coffey, whose hiring was announced on April 13. "I know it's a little late in the game for that, so I'm trying to get to as many tournaments as possible."

He added, "I feel really great in the long term. I just know the short term it's gonna be an uphill sprint. I'm ready for that, for sure."

Coffey inherits a Las Positas program that was dormant last season after struggling to find success on the court. A lack of depth and coaching turnover have been issues since the 2020-21 season was effectively canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Coffey says he's "ecstatic" to get the job and wants to assemble a program that will make the community proud.

"He brings strong leadership, a tireless work ethic

and a clear vision for student-athlete development," Las Positas athletic director James Giacomazzi said of Coffey, a native of Westford, Massachusetts.

Today, it's a clean slate at "The Nest," his new basketball home.

"My goal for our student-athletes is to help them develop on and off the court, win at a high level and to put them in the best position to achieve their dreams," Coffey said.

Coffey was an invaluable assistant for four seasons at CSM under head coach Michelle Warner. The Bulldogs advanced to Round 2 of the 3C2A Northern California Regional Playoffs in each of the past four seasons, compiling a 70-47 overall record, 21-17 in conference.

Warner, who has coached for 27 seasons at CSM, thinks the Hawks have a winner. Although he's never previously been a college head coach, he has had a dry run.

"He'll be great," Warner said. "I had to get my knee replaced and I was out for a couple months about two years ago right after our season. I came back a little bit in the summer, so I kind of handed him over, and I was like, 'Here, they're yours in the offseason. Take over while I'm out.' That was like training for him and he saw everything that goes into it. I

think he's ready. He's gonna do well.

"I just kept telling him, 'I told you you'd get the job,'" she added with a laugh.

At Colby-Sawyer, Coffey, who turned 29 on April 21, was named to two all-conference teams and scored 1,580 career points — seventh all-time in the program. He was a two-year captain in basketball and volleyball. He also earned a master's degree in sports management at Bournemouth University in England.

Coffey sees a lot of upside at Las Positas, in an area where girls' and women's sports thrive.

"I asked a bunch of coaches before interviewing for this job and they all thought that this is a really good area to recruit from, so I know there's a lot of talent," he said. "Every once in a while we would get out this far to recruit for San Mateo, and there were always really competitive games. I think there's a lot of potential to build a successful program here in Livermore."

Longtime Chabot College women's basketball coach Mark Anger gives Coffey high marks.

"He is going to work very hard," said Anger, who's on medical leave. "It will be interesting, but I think he is an excellent choice. I wish him luck, except against Chabot."



New head coach Patrick Coffey prepares for his first season leading the Las Positas College women's basketball program. Coffey, a former standout at Colby-Sawyer College and assistant at San Mateo, was hired in April to revitalize the Hawks. (Photo courtesy of Kimberly Yu)

Coffey can only hope to mirror the success of coach Giacomazzi's Las Positas men's basketball program. Dating to 2015, Giacomazzi's teams have made the playoffs every season and averaged 20 wins. More than 30 men's players have moved up to four-year programs.

"This school has the foundation to produce high academic and elite athletic programs," Coffey said. "I view myself as a lifelong

learner, which aligns closely with the mission of Las Positas College."

Coffey has a thoughtful and multilayered approach to coaching.

"I like to kind of show people, not so much tell them what to do, but more teach them to see the game the way I see the game," he said.

On the defensive side, his personnel will dictate the style somewhat.

"Defensively, I'd like to

press if we have the roster for it, play really aggressive, keep the ball out of the middle of the floor and then create a lot of turnovers," he said. "I think the way you can win games, a lot of coaches talk about winning the analytical four factors: effective field-goal percentage, free-throw rate, offensive rebound percentage and turnover percentage."

Now it's time for that Coffey jolt at "The Nest."



Livermore Trio Heading Northeast to Play College Football

By Mitch Stephens

Class reunions do their best to relive high school glory days, but a trio of Livermore athletes is hoping to redo their fabulous senior seasons in a few months, Wisconsin, of all states. Cheeeese!

Livermore multi-sport standouts Matteo Lortie, CT Harper and Luke Mederos announced earlier this month that they will all attend the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh to play football.

The trio led the Cowboys to their first league championship since 1993 with a 9-2 season and a 3-0 record in East Bay Athletic League Valley Division play, keyed by a 15-13 regular season-ending win over archrival Granada. All three were first-team all-EBAL selections.

Lortie, in fact, was the league co-offensive Player of the Year and a San Francisco Chronicle first-team All-Bay Area quarterback after throwing for 2,756 yards and 27 touchdowns with four interceptions. He also led the team in rushing with 599 yards and 10 touchdowns.

Harper, a second-team all-Bay Area receiver, hauled in 61 passes for 1,164 yards and seven touchdowns. Mederos, another receiver, had 40 catches for 428 yards and three touchdowns. Harper, a starter, and Lortie were members of Livermore's landmark basketball team that went 18-10, broke a 121-game league losing streak and won its first North Coast Section playoff road game. Mederos is an outfielder and third baseman on the baseball team.

All will hope to contribute immediately at Wisconsin-Oshkosh, a Division III program that has been around since 1893. The Titans have had three consecutive 6-4 seasons. Lortie, a 6-foot-3, 190-pound dual threat, figures to compete immediately for the starting quarterback job.

"It's a blessing to have the opportunity to play college ball with my best friends and teammates," Lortie said. "I'm looking forward to bringing our connection to the next level."

Slaying the unbeaten: Last week we featured the Foothill baseball team hoping to turn around a pair of tough defeats against Granada while taking on the Bay Area's top-ranked team, the De La Salle Spartans. After losing a 6-0 game on April 22, the Falcons indeed handed the Spartans their first loss on the field with a 6-5 home win on April 24, scoring all their runs in the first two frames.

Hudson Flora had a run-scoring double in a five-run second inning, while Eli Davidson, Aiden Tavares, Dylan Souza and George Schmitt also delivered RBIs in the rally. Ryan Cooney (7-0, 1.85 ERA) picked up the victory with relief help from Schmitt, who pitched 2.2 scoreless innings with five strikeouts and no walks. Jacob Gray had two hits and two RBIs and Bubba Vargas drilled a home run for De

La Salle, which dropped to 11-4 — three previous losses were by forfeit — and 1-1 in EBAL play.

"I think this shows we can play with anyone," Flora said. "This should help catapult us the rest of the way."

That was indicated the very next day as the Falcons drilled Lodi 13-1 in a non-league home game. Winning pitcher Grant Hoenninger allowed one hit and struck out five in five innings. He had three hits at the plate and three RBIs, including a home run. Sophomore Aiden Tavares also homered and had three of Foothill's 13 hits, as did Connor Keenan.

Briefly: Livermore's softball team (19-1, 9-0 EBAL) continues to roll with wins last week over Carondelet-Concord (7-6) and California-San Ramon (7-1). Peyton Williams had a home run and four RBIs against Carondelet and Laine MacCosky drove in two with a pair of hits, including a double. Kaci Norton struck out six in six innings and Payton Rohe combined on a four-hitter versus California while IsaBella Kelton drove in three. ... Granada's softball team (11-9, 7-2) won a pair of one-run games last week over Carondelet (6-5) and California (2-1). Cori Schreiber and Sarah Candland each drove in four runs as Amador Valley's softball team (6-8-1, 3-5) took out some frustration last week in a 16-0 win over Dougherty Valley-San Ramon. Winning pitcher Milly Everts struck out eight and allowed one run. Madison Trindade had two doubles and an RBI versus Carondelet, while Aubrey Ingram had two hits and an RBI against California. Kamryn Brannon and Bella Gamache were the winning pitchers. ... Cat Ramirez and Charlie Sicut had three hits apiece, leading a 13-hit attack, as Dublin's softball team (6-13, 2-6) broke a six-game losing streak in a big way last week with a 10-5 win over Monte Vista-Danville. ... Dalton Doyle fired a two-hitter with 10 strikeouts as Dublin's baseball team turned around a loss earlier in the week to California with a 7-0 home win on April 24. Christian Acuna had two hits and Dilan Pearson doubled home a run. Dublin (15-4, 3-1) entered the week winners of eight of nine. ... Brave Christian-Dublin's baseball team (14-0-1, 4-0 BCL East) remained unbeaten with mercy rule wins over Making Waves Academy-Richmond (19-0 and 16-3). The Lions play at home Friday (May 1) against Cornerstone (Christian-Antioch).

EBAL diamond schedule: The EBAL baseball and softball seasons will close on May 15. Scheduled baseball games on Friday (May 1) are Monte Vista at Dublin, San Ramon Valley-Danville at Foothill and De La Salle at Granada. ... Softball games Thursday (April 30) are Granada at Foothill, Monte Vista at Livermore and Amador Valley at Dublin.

Innovation Group to Recognize 'GameChangers' Awards in May

TRI-VALLEY — The Innovation Tri-Valley Leadership Group (ITV) will hold its annual #GameChangers Awards ceremony, recognizing startups and their founders who are shaping the future of business in the region, at the Roundhouse conference center at Bishop Ranch in San Ramon from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Thursday, May 24.

ITV said the ninth annual event comes "at a defining inflection point" for the innovation economy, driven by advances in artificial intelligence, quantum technology, clean energy, manufacturing and life sciences that are reshaping global industry.

And according to ITV, an "outsized share" of that reshaping "is happening right here in the five municipalities that comprise the Tri-Valley."

"Every year without fail, someone comes up to me at the end of the evening and says, 'I had no idea all of this was happening right here.' That reaction never gets old because it's exactly why we do this," said ITV CEO Katie Marcel.

"This region has been incubating world-changing ideas for generations, inspired by the anchor institutions that made bold, long-horizon thinking part of our DNA," Marcel added.

"What you see on that stage — across industries, across disciplines, across every stage of growth — is the living proof of what that legacy produces."

The Tri-Valley is home to Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and Sandia National Laboratories and more than 700 technology companies, which ITV said generate an innovation economy valued at \$54 billion in gross domestic product (GDP).

Tickets to the #GameChangers Awards ceremony are \$92 and available online by going to innovationtrivalley.org and clicking on events.

TVC Annual Photo Contest Now Open

TRI-VALLEY — The Tri-Valley Conservancy (TVC) is now accepting entries for its annual "Views in the Valley" photography competition.

This year's categories include:

- **Working Lands** — photos that reflect the region's agricultural heritage and ongoing stewardship of the land, including vineyards, farms, ranches, grazing animals, crops

and the people who work the land.

- **Open Landscapes** — photos that capture the beauty, scale and character of local open space, including vistas, trails, rolling hills, wetlands and other natural areas.

- **Wildlife** — photos featuring animals in their natural environments, including mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians and insects.

The contest is open to all ages with entries accepted through Sunday, May 31.

The photo judged best in each category will receive \$100.

The most popular photo, as voted by members of the community, will receive the \$50 Barry Zupan People's Choice Award. Winners will be announced in July.

For more information, go to trivalleyconservancy.org.

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LEGAL NOTICES

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME

Case No. 26CV179367
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF ALAMEDA

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

Petitioner:
Yongbum Lee
964 Cromwell ST
Livermore, CA 94551

filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:

Present Names:

Yongbum Lee

Proposed Name:

Jack Yongbum Lee

THE COURT ORDERS

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

NOTICE OF HEARING

Date: May 22, 2026

Time: 9:00 PM

Dept: 514

The address of the court is:

Hayward Hall of Justice
24405 Amador Street
Hayward, CA 94544

A copy of this Order To Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation printed in this county:

The Independent Newspaper
2250 First Street,
Livermore, CA 94550

Dated: 04/02/2026 /s/ A. Michael Markman / Judge.
The Independent, Legal No. 6793. Published April 9, 16, 23, 30, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 621790

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Stamped and Branded LLC; 2. Stamped and Branded 3; 3. Stamped & Branded 3098 Chateau Way, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Stamped and Branded LLC, PO BOX 485, 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/: Tanya M. Demeyer, Managing Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 24, 2026. Expires March 23, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6794. Published April 9, 16, 23, 30, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 621647

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Kessler Elsewhere; 2. Kessler Ramirez Art, 1716 Second Street, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Kessler Creative LLC, 1716 Second Street, 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 1/5/2021. Signature of Registrant/s/: Kessler Ramirez, Managing Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 19, 2026. Expires March 18, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6795. Published April 9, 16, 23, 30, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 621969

The following person(s) doing business as: Bethel Family Christian Center, 501 N P Street, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Bethel Family Christian Center, 501 N P Street, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by an Unincorporated Association other than a partnership. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 1976. Signature of Registrant/s/: Roger Cook, Pastor. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 30, 2026. Expires March 29, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6796. Published April 9, 16, 23, 30, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 621738

The following person(s) doing business as: Spine & Pain Center of California, a Division of BASS Medical Group, 7031 Koll Center Parkway, Suite 105, Pleasanton, CA 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): BASS Medical Group, 2637 Shadelands Drive, Walnut Creek CA 94598. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 2/25/16. Signature of Registrant/s/: Rajiv Nagesetty, MD, CFO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 23. Expires March 24, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6797. Published April 9, 16, 23, 30, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 621818

The following person(s) doing

business as: Arte Nail, 6976 Village Pkwy, Dublin, CA 94568-2406 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Jennifer Baek, 6976 Village Pkwy, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 10/6/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Jennifer Baek, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 24. Expires March 23, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6798. Published April 9, 16, 23, 30, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 622035

The following person(s) doing business as: Vineyard Hills Dental Care, 1819 Barcelona ST, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Hubbs Professional Dental Corporation, 1819 Barcelona 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 4/5/2016. Signature of Registrant/s/: Timothy D. Hubbs, DDS, Owner, Dentist, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 31. Expires March 30, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6799. Published April 9, 16, 23, 30, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 621771

The following person(s) doing business as: Everly Sitch Society, 2150 Portola Ave, Ste D #1220, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Hannah Lindner, 5519 Haggin Oaks Avenue, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by a Married Couple. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 3/17/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Hannah Lindner, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 23, 2026. Expires March 22, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6794. Published April 9, 16, 23, 30, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 622081

The following person(s) doing business as: H & Y Nail Art, 1518 San Pablo Ave, Berkeley, CA 94701 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Shenyi He, 1518 San Pablo Ave, Berkeley, CA 94701 Cheryn Yue, 1518 San Pablo Ave, Berkeley, CA 94701. This business is conducted by a General Partnership. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 4/2/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Shenyi He, General Partner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 2, 2026. Expires April 1, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6801. Published April 9, 16, 23, 30, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 621978

The following person(s) doing business as: Caramba, 411 Main Street, Pleasanton, CA 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Nose Hoead LLC, 724 Main ST, Pleasanton, CA 94566. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 3/30/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: German Carlucci, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 30, 2026. Expires March 29, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6802. Published April 9, 16, 23, 30, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 622149

The following person(s) doing business as: RNS Plumbing & Backflow, LLC, 2150 Portola DR, 261D, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): RNS Plumbing & Backflow, LLC, 2150 Portola DR, 261D, 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/: Ryan Branco, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 6, 2026. Expires April 5, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6803. Published April 16, 23, 30, May 7, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 622275

The following person(s) doing business as: Proper Dental, 6698 Amador Plaza RD, STE A, Dublin, CA 94568 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Seok Woo DDS Inc., 6698 Amador Plaza RD, STE A, 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/: Seok Woo, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 9, 2026. Expires April 8, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6809. Published April 16, 23, 30, May 7, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 622132

The following person(s) doing business as: Bombay Indian Pizza, 1524 N Vasco RD, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Powerstar LLC, 1524 N Vasco RD, 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 4/2/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Bhaskar Maddi, Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 3, 2026. Expires April 2, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6804. Published April 16, 23, 30, May 7, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 622167

The following person(s) doing business as: Willow Tree Genealogy, 328 Michell CT, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Jennifer Herman, 328 Michell CT, Livermore, CA 94551. 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/: Jennifer Herman, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 6, 2026. Expires April 5, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6805. Published April 16, 23, 30, May 7, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 622139

The following person(s) doing business as: Clean Sciences, LLC an Astro Pak Company, 301 Whitney Place, Fremont, CA 94539 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Clean Sciences, LLC, 301 Whitney Place, Fremont, CA 94539. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 9/17/2010. Signature of Registrant/s/: Ken Carol, Member, Manager. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 26, 2026. Expires March 25, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6817. Published April 23, 30, May 7, 14, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 622362

The following person(s) doing business as: Bubblies Child Care, 653 Buckeye DR, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Nurturing Early Start & Teaching Inc., 653 Buckeye DR, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Maryann Aparicio, CFO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 7, 2026. Expires April 6, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6806. Published April 16, 23, 30, May 7, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 622362

The following person(s) doing business as: JJ Coaching, 288 3rd ST, UNIT 514, Oakland, CA 94607 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Jinan Jubaly, 288 3rd ST, UNIT 514, Oakland, CA 94607. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 4/13/26. Signature of Registrant/s/: Yvon Chausseblanche, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 13, 2026. Expires April 12, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6812. Published April 23, 30, May 7, 14, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 621836

The following person(s) doing business as: Haircraft 11, 22151 Redwood RD, Castro Valley, CA 94546 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Christina Robles, 22151 Redwood RD, Castro Valley, CA 94546. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 8/1/2011. Signature of Registrant/s/: Christina Robles, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 25, 2026. Expires March 24, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6813. Published April 23, 30, May 7, 14, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 622376

The following person(s) doing business as: ABC Consulting, 2425 Diablo PL, Union City, CA 94587 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Ashley Peng, 2425 Diablo PL, 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 02/04/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Chao Zhang, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 1, 2026. Expires March 31, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6808. Published April 16, 23, 30, May 7, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 621480

The following person(s) doing business as: Kincova, 801 Tranquility Circle, Unit 10, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Centria Technology LLC, 30 Chimney Rock, Oaklands, CA 94605. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 3/11/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Dick Akpan Ntia Jr., Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 12, 2026. Expires March 11, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6815. Published April 23, 30, May 7, 14, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 622091

The following person(s) doing business as: My PACE Academy, 25679 Paul CT, Fairview, CA 94541 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Frieda Alessi, 25679 Paul CT, Fairview, CA 94541. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Frieda Alessi, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 2, 2026. Expires April 1, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6816. Published April 23, 30, May 7, 14, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 621892

The following person(s) doing business as: National Broom Company of California Inc, DBA JLR Gear, 2 JLR Gear, 2434 Research DR, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): National Broom Company of California Inc., 2434 Research DR, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 9/17/2010. Signature of Registrant/s/: David Rothman, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 26, 2026. Expires March 25, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6817. Published April 23, 30, May 7, 14, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 622231

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 621480

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 622091

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 621892

The following person(s) doing business as: National Broom Company of California Inc, DBA JLR Gear, 2 JLR Gear, 2434 Research DR, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): National Broom Company of California Inc., 2434 Research DR, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 9/17/2010. Signature of Registrant/s/: David Rothman, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 26, 2026. Expires March 25, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6817. Published April 23, 30, May 7, 14, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 622231

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ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME

Case No. 26CV183661
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF ALAMEDA

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

Petitioner:
Dylan Thomas Tait
895 Carmela DR.
Livermore, CA 94550

filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:

Present Names:

Dylan Thomas Tait

Proposed Name:

Dylan Thomas Mole

THE COURT ORDERS

that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the

objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.

NOTICE OF HEARING

Date: 06/26/2026

Time: 9:00 AM

Dept: 514

The address of the court is:

Hayward Hall of Justice
24405 Amador Street
Hayward, CA 94544

A copy of this Order To Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation printed in this county:

The Independent Newspaper
2250 First Street,
Livermore, CA 94550

Dated: 04/24/2026 /s/ A. Michael Markman, Judge.
The Independent, Legal No. 6819. Published April 30, May 7, 14, 21, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 622680

The following person(s) doing business as: Sur Spanish Language Academy, 4616 Redwood Rd, Oakland, CA 94619 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Ursula Radics, 4616 Redwood Rd, Oakland, CA 94619. 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/: Ursula Radics, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 22, 2026. Expires April 21, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6824. Published April 30, May 7, 14, 21, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 622658

The following person(s) doing business as: Vouched Connections, 3728 Madeira Way, Livermore, CA 94550-3315 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Karl Pontau, 3728 Madeira Way, Livermore, CA 94550-3315. 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/: Karl R. Pontau, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 21, 2026. Expires April 20, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6821. Published April 30, May 7, 14, 21, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 622399

The following person(s) doing business as: Wenfar, 30969 San Benito ST, Hayward, CA 94544 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Wenfar LLC, 30969 San Benito ST, Hayward, CA 94544. 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/: Francis Ho, Manager. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 14, 2026. Expires April 13, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6822.

Published April 30, May 7, 14, 21, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 622564

The following person(s) doing business as: Sunof's Casa Bella, 11984 Main St, Sunol, CA 94586 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Casa Bella Events Inc., 788 Vineyard Terrace, Pleasanton, CA 94566.

This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 4/17/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Venus Garg, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 22, 2026. Expires April 21, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6823. Published April 30, May 7, 14, 21, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 622561

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Op Art; 2. Op Art, 7161 Norfolk Rd, Oakland, CA 94705 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Opera Words, LLC, 7161 Norfolk Rd, Berkeley, CA 94705. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 4/16/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Anthony Shore, Managing Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 17, 2026. Expires April 16, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6824. Published April 30, May 7, 14, 21, 2026.

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Student Challenges Media-Driven Military Perceptions

By Sanestina Hunter

DUBLIN — Ayeen Nautiyal, an Emerald High School freshman, took the stage at TEDxBillingsYOUTH 2026 to challenge media-driven perceptions and stereotypes of the military.

Held in April at the Lincoln Center in Billings, Montana, the TEDxBillingsYOUTH event is part of the TEDx initiative, a global series of independently organized events licensed by TED.

This year's theme was "Uncommon: Unique Ways for a Unique World."

In her talk, "How Media Shapes Perspectives on the Military and Beyond," Nautiyal drew on her experience as a Sea Cadet.

"I've always felt that the first thing people think about when I mention the military is combat, which initiates a type of fear toward our nation's defense team," Nautiyal told The Independent.

"I asked myself, 'How and why do our opinions rely on the media we consume?'"

She also leads Youth Empowerment in Military Careers (YEMC), a youth-led initiative she founded to challenge combat stereotypes and raise awareness of diverse military career paths.

Nautiyal said she discovered TEDxBillingsYOUTH through social media and decided to apply to speak on the topic.

"I was honored to find out I was selected as one of the 10 speakers ... to represent my community, Dublin, and Youth Empowerment in Military Careers," she said.

"Through my personal experiences and discussions with peers — including conversations with fellow cadets during training — I knew I had to get my message out there somehow," Nautiyal said. "After plenty

of research, I found that not many people had publicly recognized this issue."

YEMC has organized initiatives such as Pen to Patriot and Voice of Veterans, a podcast focused on sharing the experiences of service members.

As she became more aware of how those perceptions are formed, her understanding deepened through her firsthand experience in the Sea Cadet program, particularly during Recruit Training, a nine-day program she attended in summer 2025 at Camp Pendleton.

"One of the most valuable experiences any Sea Cadet is required to go through is Recruit Training," she said. "I walked in expecting something like an intense military movie, where everything revolves around dramatic missions and battles."

Instead, Nautiyal said

the experience challenged those expectations, revealing the gap between media portrayals of the military and its reality — one defined by structure, discipline and teamwork.

"It was challenging," she said. "Food wasn't like home, there were three-minute showers, daily physical training, early mornings, and no devices for nine days."

"But what stood out to me most wasn't what I expected," she added. "We learned to prioritize peers over ourselves and to value teamwork and discipline."

"Shortly after I returned home from the training, I realized that the films and sources of media that shaped my opinions and biases focused on individual heroes, confidence, and often simplified the military," she said.

"While writing my talk, I wanted to include experiences like this to help others understand how media influences our perception of military service."

That realization led her to expand her work, founding Youth Empowerment in Military Careers in the 2024-25 school year while in eighth grade.

"My motivation to start YEMC initially came from my experiences through the United States Naval Sea Cadet Corps," she said. "However, I grew up watching several military-oriented films that prioritized combat roles over other equally significant jobs in the military."

Through her organization, Nautiyal and her team aim to broaden that understanding for other students.

"At YEMC, we strive to defy combat stereotypes while empowering young individuals to explore diverse careers in the military and beyond," she said.

Nautiyal said she hopes her talk and organization en-

courage audiences to think more critically about the information they consume.

"After my TEDx talk is released in June, I hope my audience takes a moment to reflect and ask themselves — after they scroll on social media, watch a film or read a headline — whose story am I seeing? And more importantly, whose story am I not seeing?" she said.

"At the end of the day, I want people in our community to filter what informa-

tion they consume, because once we see something, it becomes part of our reality."



Emerald High School freshman Ayeen Nautiyal discusses the impact of media on military perceptions during her talk, "How Media Shapes Perspectives on the Military and Beyond," at TEDxBillingsYOUTH 2026 in Billings, Montana this past April. Nautiyal is the founder of Youth Empowerment in Military Careers. (Photo courtesy of Ayeen Nautiyal)

ings, Montana, the TEDxBillingsYOUTH event is part of the TEDx initiative, a global series of independently organized events licensed by TED.

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Instead, Nautiyal said

McNerney Selects 3VCF for Nonprofit Honors

TRI-VALLEY — Three Valleys Community Foundation (3VCF) has been selected as Nonprofit of the Year for Senate District 5 by

other nonprofits, "represents the very best of what nonprofit leadership looks like, bringing people together, advancing local

Every year, state senators and assemblymembers nominate one nonprofit from their districts for the California Nonprofits of the Year program.

3VCF President Kelly Bowers called the nonprofit's selection "a powerful affirmation of what is possible when a community comes together with shared purpose."

"This honor reflects the collective leadership, generosity and commitment of our board, advisory council, Professional Advisors Network, fundholders, partners and nonprofits that do extraordinary work every day," Bowers added. "Together, we are turning local generosity into lasting community impact."

3VCF will be honored with other nominees at the annual Nonprofit of the Year awards ceremony in Sacramento on Wednesday, May 20.



Senator McNerney (center, in hat) and his wife (to his left) celebrate the grand opening of the new Dublin district office alongside local leaders and community officials during a ribbon-cutting ceremony on April 17. (Photo courtesy of Senator McNerney's Office)

State Sen. Jerry McNerney, D-Pleasanton.

The Pleasanton-based community foundation, which serves as a hub to connect local donors with

solutions, boosting other nonprofits and improving the health and wellbeing of communities throughout the Tri-Valley," McNerney said.

PLEASE HELP BRING MIGUEL HOME

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

Livermore Wenté Winery worker, married father of three and grandfather

Miguel Lopez

remains in Mexico after having been illegally deported last June.

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

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

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