



The Easter Bunny is spotted photobombing local kids at the annual Bunny Hop in downtown Pleasanton near the Museum on Main this past Saturday, April 4. Everybunny had a good time. (Photo — Leah Silveira)

## Sandia National Laboratories Rings In 70 Years of Science and Security

Marking Seven Decades of Engineering Excellence and Clean Energy Research

By David Jen

LIVERMORE — Sandia National Laboratories' Livermore site celebrates its 70th anniversary this year, marking seven decades of science, engineering and community contributions.

"In honor of this anniversary, we celebrate the legacy and imagination of the thousands of people who have created technical breakthroughs supporting national security," said Associate Labs Director Toby Townsend, who leads the Deterrence, Science & Energy Division that stewards the California lab. "While the site and its workforce have performed work that no one may ever know about, we know it has kept the nation safer for decades. I hope when you consider

all the innovations we've developed over the last 70 years, you'll have the same sense of pride as I do."

Sandia began in 1945 as Z Division, the engineering arm of Los Alamos National Laboratory in Los Alamos, New Mexico. When Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) was founded in 1952, then a branch of the University of California Berkeley Radiation Laboratory, it competed with Los Alamos in nuclear weapons design to increase the country's overall chances of designing a successful nuclear weapon.

Sandia supported both Los Alamos and LLNL, but with two locations, Sandia workers initially found themselves frequently traveling back and forth between New Mexico and California to support both the Los

Alamos and LLNL projects.

To improve efficiency and provide LLNL with on-site support, Sandia California was established in 1956. By maintaining a single management structure across both Sandia locations, the government ensured that while the two physics labs (Los Alamos and LLNL) competed on nuclear designs, they shared a level playing field for engineering.

**A Tri-Valley Catalyst**

"When the labs were established, Livermore was a little bit of a cowtown," said Sandia Executive Strategist Stephanie Beasley. "There was not a lot around the lab." The 1950 decennial census counted 4,262 people in Livermore and 2,245 people in Pleasanton.

(See SANDIA, page 7)

## Fusion Stars Align in Livermore on Path to Commercial Energy

Inertia Enterprises to Build Most Powerful Laser

By David Jen

LIVERMORE — The dream of clean, unlimited, commercial fusion power looks closer than ever to industry leaders, including those in Livermore. They hope to be the first to bring the novel power source to the grid, according to a discussion during the Energy Unleashed event at the Bankhead Theater last week, hosted by the Innovation Tri-Valley Leadership Group.

In recent years, that dream has enjoyed a convergence of vital factors, including public-sector interest, private-sector funding, groundbreaking experiments and talented people expressing interest

in working in the field. However, obstacles remain for those working to align the resources, technical solutions, policies and overall regulatory environment that is shaping the industry.

"What we're looking for in many ways is both coordination between the different agencies and the private sector in terms of how can we move forward from one step to the other, (and) there's also a need for confidence building," said Mike Dunne, co-founder and chief technical officer of Inertia Enterprises Inc., at the March 31 event.

When people work to assemble incentives for fusion facilities, cluster supply-chain partners or align workforce development, they

(See ENERGY, page 6)



Miguel Lopez and his wife, Rosa, share a moment with their son during happier times. Following a recent federal court ruling, the family is grappling with the news that Lopez will likely remain in Mexico, and is now certain to miss his youngest son's graduation from Granada High School next month. (Photo courtesy of the Lopez family)

## A Federal Court Rules Against Miguel Lopez

Judge Cites Expired Statute of Limitations

LIVERMORE — In a heartbreaking outcome to a story the Livermore community has been following closely, the Lopez family received the difficult news this past Friday that Judge Trina Thompson ruled against the family's patriarch in favor of the government. The decision effectively shuts a potential legal path home for Miguel Lopez, a local welder and machinist deported to Mexico in June 2025.

The dismissal hinges on a 2014 deportation order. Judge Thompson ruled that the court's hands were tied because Lopez did not sue the government within the required six-year window following that initial ruling. Although the judge acknowledged

the "bureaucratic labyrinth" of immigration law and the "generational trauma" this would cause the family, she maintained the claim was legally time-barred.

Lopez lived in Livermore for over 20 years, raising a family and working at Wente Family Vineyards. His deportation occurred just hours before a court order was issued that might have allowed him to stay. He currently remains with his father on the outskirts of Mexico City, separated from his wife and children.

While the legal path forward is unclear, the family had been holding onto the hope that the ruling would bring Lopez home in time to watch his youngest son graduate from Granada High School at the end of May.

## The General Plan Advisory Committee Finalizes 2045 City Recommendation

GPAC Sends its Review to April 21 Planning Commission Meeting

By Christina Cavallaro

LIVERMORE — After a five-year process involving 36 public meetings, the Livermore General Plan Advisory Committee (GPAC) officially crossed the finish line on April 1. The committee's final act was to recommend a land-use map for the Draft General Plan 2045 — a document city staff noted was "much more extensive than originally anticipated."

**The AI Wildcard: A Discussion, Not a Policy**

A noteworthy moment was a forward-looking discussion on Artificial Intelligence (AI) and

its potential to disrupt traditional urban planning.

Chairperson Stephanie Shang raised pivotal questions about how the city could remain resilient in the face of rapid technological shifts. Pushing for the plan to account for how AI might change employment density and the nature of industrial land.

Livermore resident Greg Scott supported this thinking, questioning the validity of traditional data. "We go by predictions and prognostications... I don't think we've considered that enough," Scott stated. "The growth isn't going to be what we think."

After an informal "vibe check"

the committee ultimately reached a consensus that a specific AI policy did not belong at the General Plan level. While acknowledging the need for the document to be "living," they opted not to include the specific AI-resilience language suggested by Shang.

**Public Sentiment: "Protect the Urban Growth Boundary"**

Public comments remained sharply focused on the Urban Growth Boundary (UGB), particularly the one affecting the East of Greenville area.

Livermore resident Julie Wild emphasized the need for firm language: "The plan states to focus

(See GPAC, page 7)



Alameda County Women's Hall of Fame Inductee Joan Seppala recounts the early days of starting The Independent during a featured video presentation at an awards luncheon on March 28 at The Club at Castlewood in Pleasanton. (Photo courtesy of Alameda County Women's Hall of Fame)

## Publisher Honored for Newspaper Legacy

Seppala Recognized for Decades of Community Impact and Service in Tri-Valley

By Christina Cavallaro

PLEASANTON — This year's Alameda County Women's Hall of Fame Awards luncheon celebrated women who prevailed in male-dominated spheres to the next generation of leaders. Held on March 28 at The Club at Castlewood in Pleasanton, the event was defined by a recurring spirit of trailblazing.

Award winners included pioneers in news media, executive law enforcement, engineering and technology, community leader-

ship, philanthropy and nonprofits, sports management, social justice and advocacy, education, healthcare and youth voices.

"This remains one of the highlights of my year," said Susan Muranishi, co-chair of the Women's Hall of Fame for the past three decades. "(It is) an opportunity to recognize and uplift the incredible women leaders making a lasting impact on Alameda County. And as important, (it is) an opportunity to inspire and encourage young people, especially young women, to dream and achieve."

Ten adult inductees, plus seven youth scholarship winners, were spotlighted at the 2026 awards ceremony.

For many of the adult honorees in the room, before they could achieve their dreams, or shatter any ceilings, they had to first change the very architecture around them.

Among those breaking barriers, and the sole resident hailing from the Tri-Valley, was The Independent's founder and publisher, Joan Seppala of Livermore.

(See AWARD, page 9)

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### PET OF THE WEEK



PO

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# PUSD Breaks Ground on New Educational Options Center

By Sanestina Hunter

PLEASANTON — The Pleasanton Unified School District marked a major milestone March 31 with a groundbreaking ceremony for a new Educational Options Center, part of a broader effort to replace aging facilities and expand

in students whose learning journeys may follow different pathways,” said Heather Pereira, director of educational options, said in a statement to The Independent. “The new Educational Options Center will provide thoughtfully designed spaces that support personalized

Adult Transition Program (ATP).

VHS serves students seeking alternative pathways to graduation, while PVA provides independent study and online learning options. ATP supports young adults with special needs as they build independent living and job

kashi said. “This groundbreaking reflects a shared commitment to learning environments that respond to the diverse needs of students while honoring the long history of education on this site.”

Plans for the campus include flexible classrooms, collaborative learning spaces and a multi-use student center designed to support a range of academic programs.

The campus will also feature a culinary arts and catering kitchen, a maker-space for hands-on design and experimentation, and science classrooms.

Dedicated adult transition areas will provide life-skills training to support independent living and career readiness.

Additional improvements include counseling and administrative offices, along with upgraded utilities, accessible pathways, landscaping, outdoor learning areas and parking.

“The new Educational Options Center reflects our commitment to modern learning environments intentionally designed to support student belonging, personalized pathways and future readiness,” said Ed Diolazo, deputy superintendent of educational services.

Construction began in January and is expected to continue through 2027, with the facility anticipated to open in fall of that year.

The center is one of several Measure I proj-

ects underway across the district.

Other construction includes campus renovations at Foothill High School, Transitional Kindergarten expansions at Donlon, Valley View and Fairlands elementary schools, and facility upgrades at Pleasanton and Hart middle schools.

Additional improve-

ments are planned at Amador Valley High School and Pleasanton High School as part of the district’s broader facilities plan.

The district, which serves approximately 13,000 students, continues to roll out Measure I-funded projects aimed at modernizing campuses and expanding student opportunities.



Representatives from the PUSD Board of Trustees, Labor Partners, the City of Pleasanton, construction partners, and Educational Options staff gather on March 31 to celebrate the groundbreaking of the new Educational Options Center on March 31. (Photo courtesy of PUSD)

flexible learning environments.

The \$47.4M project is funded through the district’s Measure I bond, part of the \$395M bond approved by voters in 2022 to support campus upgrades districtwide.

“This project represents an important investment

learning, life-skills development, and strong connections with staff and peers,” Pereira said.

The project will replace deteriorating structures with three new one-story buildings that will house Village High School (VHS), Pleasanton Virtual Academy (PVA) and the

skills. Kelly Mokashi, PUSD board president, also shared her excitement for the new facility.

“We are deeply grateful to Pleasanton voters and the broader community for supporting Measure I and helping make projects like this possible,” Mo-

# PUSD Is Forecasting Multimillion-Dollar Deficits as School Enrollment Declines

By Sanestina Hunter

PLEASANTON — During its annual State of the District presentation in late March, Pleasanton Unified School District (PUSD) leaders outlined ongoing financial challenges tied to declining enrollment, including recent layoffs and a projected multimillion dollar budget shortfall.

The update comes as the district works to close an anticipated \$8 to \$9M deficit for the 2026–27 school year while also managing a projected \$3.4 million shortfall in the current year.

“Students really don’t learn unless they feel like they belong — that they are connected to school,” Superintendent Maurice Ghysels said during the presentation.

Much of the district’s funding comes from the state through California’s Local Control Funding Formula, which is largely based on student attendance.

As enrollment declines, total funding drops, even if per-student funding increases, because fewer students are generating revenue.

Ghysels said the district is working to balance those financial pressures while keeping students at the center of its decisions, outlining three priorities — students, culture and resources.

He said leaders are trying to retain staff and preserve programs where possible while aligning spending with declining enrollment and rising costs.

About 125 preliminary layoff notices were issued in March, representing roughly 76 full-time equivalent positions.

Despite the cuts, district leaders said they remain focused on supporting students with greater needs, including low-income students, English learners and foster youth.

To remain financially stable, Ghysels said the

district is exploring ways to strengthen revenue, including expanding programs, attracting and retaining students, leasing unused district space and considering a future parcel tax.

Other conversations during the presentation focused on why construction projects continue while staffing is being reduced.

District officials said those projects are funded through voter-approved Measure I and Measure II bonds, which can only be used for facilities and cannot be used for salaries or operating costs.

Ongoing projects include new Transitional Kindergarten classrooms at Donlon, Valley View and Fairlands elementary schools, field and facility upgrades at Pleasanton and Hart middle schools, and major modernization projects at Foothill High School and Amador Valley High School.

Ghysels said the district’s construction projects

are on time and under budget, with work expected to continue in phases through 2030.

# LPC Will Host New Hawk Day to Welcome its Incoming Students

LIVERMORE — Las Positas College (LPC) will host New Hawk Day for first-time college students and graduating high school seniors from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, April 18.

LPC said the annual event is designed to connect incoming students with the people, services and information they need before the fall semester begins.

“New Hawk Day is about giving students a strong start and helping them feel confident as they begin college,” said LPC President Dyrrell Foster. “From meeting counselors to planning classes and learning about support services, students leave the day better prepared to succeed.”

Those attending New Hawk Day can register early for summer and fall classes; meet with their counselors and begin building an educational plan; learn about majors, academic pathways and program requirements;

explore the campus and become familiar with LPC resources; and learn about free tuition for eligible first-time students.

Check-in begins at 8:15 a.m. Space is limited and students must register for New Hawk Day by Friday, April 10, at bit.ly/NewHawk26.

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-  9 a.m.-12 p.m.  
Saturday, April 11, 2026
-  Alameda County Office of Education  
313 W. Winton Ave, Hayward
-  [acoee.org/jobfair](http://acoee.org/jobfair)  
[edjoin.org/acoee](http://edjoin.org/acoee)

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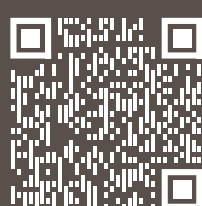
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# EDITORIAL

## We Have an Opportunity with Fusion We Can't Afford to Miss

Thanks to the presence of Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and its National Ignition Facility, we in the Tri-Valley are well-positioned to take advantage of the rise of commercial fusion power.

The technology has been demonstrated in the lab, but we're still many years away from commercial reactors powering electricity. But that doesn't mean the pieces for a future based on fusion aren't being assembled right now.

There's an old adage that Californians are familiar with: the only people who got rich in the California Gold Rush were those selling the picks and shovels.

Most often that was applied to the software industry, especially when every startup company in the early 2000s was scrambling to rebrand themselves from a commercial dot-com into some kind of "back end" service provider. But it applies to the energy sector, too.

Venture capitalists are already pouring money into this nascent in-

dustry, much as they did in internet technologies in the early 1990s. One local company, Inertia Enterprises Inc., has already raised \$450 million in funding, and that amount is bound to increase as the company grows and as other follow-on businesses get started in the area.

But one of the challenges we face is positioning ourselves to take advantage of this new opportunity in an intelligent manner. Inertia and other companies will need to recruit people to the area to live and work, and as Brandon Cardwell, Livermore's Director of Innovation & Economic Development told a recent panel, we're facing competition from other regions that have better amenities.

If the San Joaquin County has more and cheaper housing, or if Albuquerque, New Mexico, is better positioned to take advantage of the needs of a growing industry, the Tri-Valley has some catching-up to do, if we want to compete with that.

That means more housing, yes, but even more so it means smart growth.

The City of Livermore is currently engaged in drawing up a general plan that is forecasting tremendous growth — as if fully one-quarter of all the growth in Alameda County in the next 20 years will be in Livermore. We've written that those estimates feel more like an excuse to break the Urban Growth Boundary than a realistic assessment of the city's future needs.

The same goes for Dublin, Pleasanton, and Alameda County in general. Developers are pushing expansion into the undeveloped land surrounding our cities, which would permanently degrade or destroy one of the singular most attractive elements of the Tri-Valley. Becoming just another appendage to Bay Area sprawl will not make the Tri-Valley more attractive to live in.

Of course, we are not looking at a future where we're going to have fusion reactors on every block. From a consumer standpoint, all energy infrastructure looks pretty much the same — electrical substations have one basic purpose, no matter whether

electricity is produced by an aging coal-burning plant or a new fusion reactor. The reactors will likely go where power plants already are, and the electricity they produce will be sold to consumers by utility companies.

What we see in the future of the Tri-Valley isn't a brand-new nuclear power plant in downtown Livermore, but an influx of highly educated researchers working at the cutting edge of a new industry. Those future employees need more than just a well-paying job; they need a quality of life to match. That means keeping the surrounding open space protected with our urban growth boundary, as well as building appropriate housing and retail.

So as this new industry begins to ramp up, we need all of our leaders to take a good hard look at their assumptions and our needs as communities. We need to strive for a happy medium that won't sacrifice our way of life on the altar of unrestrained growth, and which also won't hold us back.

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

### Backward

#### Thomas Soules, Livermore

At 84, I qualify as a senior, and as such, I often receive discounts for things ranging from work on our house, tickets for entertainment, food, etc. There are even senior centers offering food for nominal donations. I feel this is wrong. Seniors likely receive Medicare, Social Security, and those with a Lab pension and/or 401K may have an income which exceeds the income they had while working. Their house is probably paid off and the kids are gone. They are not the ones who need help. The people who should be receiving discounts and freebies are the young working folks who are paying a mortgage, raising kids, paying for education and trying to make ends meet. They are the ones who should be helped.

This is backward!

#### Another Solution to Funding Schools

##### Alan Brooks, Livermore

"Raise the Base" to improve school funding is another 'what' without a 'how' proposition. Where would the money come from? What would be cut in an already tight state budget?

Another solution would be to utilize school facilities year round and allow teachers who require a full-time salary to work full time. Students could still attend 180 days a year, and some teachers still work only those days. 'Summer school' would become normal classes taught by teachers who desire full-time pay. A program that would allow students to attend year-round would permit slow students to catch up and high achiev-

ing students to accelerate their education. That alone would likely fill summer classrooms.

This is not a new concept. It has been proposed in the past and opposed by, you guessed it, the teacher's unions. In this time of increasing teacher strikes for higher pay, perhaps it is time to provide an alternative solution that allows full time pay for those teachers who desire it, better use of facilities, and allow those who wish to protect their summers off to do so. "Raise the Base", that would almost certainly raise taxes, is one solution. It is time to look at others.

#### Performances for Us Retirees and the Young at Heart

##### Bob Jacobsen, Pleasanton

I'm a Baby Boomer, and we love to attend performances at the Bankhead and the Pleasanton Firehouse Theaters, but we miss most of the ones we would love to attend. Why? Being retired, we are up and going by 7 or 8 a.m., and then we start rolling up the sidewalk at night around 8 p.m.

8 p.m. or 7:30 p.m. is not the time to start the "highlight of the day"; it might be for the young and restless, but not our biggest generation — the Baby Boomers.

On weekends, there is no necessity to start the performance so late in the evening, as waiting for darkness was necessary centuries ago. This is especially true for the tribute performances, like tributes to Elvis, The Beatles, Johnny Cash etc. If you notice, almost the entire audience at such is made up of bald, silver, and white-haired folks.

Let the youngsters play all night long, but let us retirees have some fun during the sun.

#### Reflections on BART and Public Transportation

##### Patricia Munro, Livermore

In 1997, BART opened the Dublin-Pleasanton BART station. In 1998, that station enabled me to attend SFSU, where I earned a master's degree, using the time on the train to catch up on reading and note-taking. Had there been no P-Dub station, I simply could not have done it. Two years later, I was admitted to a joint PhD program with GTU and UC-Berkeley

(from which I transferred to Berkeley sociology four years later). Though the commute now involved a transfer, BART still made it possible. Over the too many years I was at Berkeley, the commute became more difficult—the traffic became much worse, the parking often unavailable, the cars dirty. Toward the end of my time in Berkeley, I drove more often than not. I simply could not make BART work, no matter how much I wanted to.

When COVID hit and work from home became necessary for so many, public transportation—including BART—effectively was deserted, although the costs of keeping the trains and buses running did not. Many people simply stopped using it. It's time to rethink our habits. In the last few years, BART has revamped. The new cars are spotless, the signage excellent, and the new gates mean that gate-crashers are virtually non-existent; although it still doesn't come to Livermore (not that I'm bitter or anything).

Public transportation has suffered over the past few years, but that does not mean it is less important. Accessible and reliable public transportation improves the quality of life for everyone—those who have no other options, those who would get off the freeway if they could, and for everyone who wants cleaner air and less crowded roads. The proposed regional transportation tax will help fill the funding gap. Let's get it done.

#### Independent Doublespeak, Again

##### David Jonas, Livermore

The April 2nd issue of The Independent unlimbers the paper's well-oiled disinformation artillery, opening fire to hoodwink readers into believing Livermore planners are using inflated growth projections to justify eyeing development outside the UGB.

It's UGBaloney. The Independent's disinformation campaign originates from a single figure in the Draft EIR completed for the city's 20-year general plan update. The DEIR projects Livermore's population to grow by 43,820 from 2023-2045, representing a ~50% increase.

Understanding the actual meaning of that figure

requires understanding the extremely nuanced context of how EIR's project growth.

EIR's must comply with CEQA guidelines. Since projecting long-term population growth is a highly speculative exercise, CEQA specifies such projections should reflect maximum theoretical potential build-out, even if that level of growth is unlikely to occur.

This approach facilitates planning that can "tier down" if development occurs at a lower intensity than the EIR projected (e.g. fewer housing units are built, growth occurs more slowly, certain sites never develop, etc.). By contrast, having to "tier up" due to underestimating growth can cause delays and incur additional costs, including potentially the cost of another EIR.

The Independent clearly knows all of this, since it devotes several factual paragraphs to the topic in the 4/2 issue.

Yet, the paper disregards entirely the facts it acknowledges by also stating "the plan assumes the city's population will grow by 50% by 2045." The plan does no such thing, as The Independent is fully aware.

City planners are looking far into the future and considering all options for accommodating our city's future growth, at whatever levels such growth occurs. That's the essence of proactive, responsible planning.

I wish The Independent cherished the sanctity of honest journalism as zealously as it cherishes the sanctity of the UGB.

#### Misinformation on Shariah

##### Abdul Awwal, Pleasanton

At an interfaith iftar at the Islamic Center of Livermore, an audience member asked about Shariah. Dr. Ali responded by asking which part they feared. He explained that the vast majority of Shariah relates to personal religious practice—how Muslims pray, fast, and perform pilgrimage—and does not govern non-Muslims. At its core, it even encourages simple acts of kindness, like smiling at others as a form of charity.

In interfaith settings, such questions often stem from misinformation or narratives shaped by media and advocacy groups. For

example, organizations like the David Horowitz Freedom Center — identified by the Southern Poverty Law Center as promoting anti-Muslim views — have contributed to a broader industry that amplifies fear of Islam and Shariah (see [www.americanprogress.org/article/fear-inc-2-0](http://www.americanprogress.org/article/fear-inc-2-0), and also [islamophobicnetwork.com](http://islamophobicnetwork.com).)

In reality, scholars describe the objectives of Shariah as the preservation of life, intellect, property, honor, and freedom of belief. For simple Muslims, from the streets of Dhaka to Baghdad, 95% of them will not be able answer these objectives.

A comparison highlights the inconsistency of such fears. In the U.S., even with a Christian majority (66%), society has struggled to agree on displaying the Ten Commandments in public institutions, as seen in the controversy involving Alabama Chief Justice Roy Moore. (see [blogs.baylor.edu/baylorlibraries/2025/06/12/bcpm-the-american-controversy-over-the-ten-commandments](http://blogs.baylor.edu/baylorlibraries/2025/06/12/bcpm-the-american-controversy-over-the-ten-commandments).) Yet some political rhetoric suggests that a Muslim minority—around 1% of the population—poses a constitutional threat through Shariah.

This disconnect suggests that the focus on Shariah is often less about reality and more about politics and fear, diverting attention from more pressing societal issues, like healthcare and economic well-being. See (see [religionnews.com/2026/03/24/as-gop-revives-threat-of-shariah-muslims-call-the-campaign-a-gambit-for-votes](http://religionnews.com/2026/03/24/as-gop-revives-threat-of-shariah-muslims-call-the-campaign-a-gambit-for-votes).)

#### Infinity

##### Michael Austin, Pleasanton

You know, people talk about infinity as if it's some distant, unreachable thing — a symbol on a chalkboard, a sideways eight that mathematicians toss around like it's tame. But the truth is, infinity is the one idea that refuses to sit still. It slips out of every definition we try to trap it in.

Infinity is the horizon you can walk toward forever, always close, never caught. It's the quiet reminder that no matter how much we learn, how far we travel, how deeply we

(See MAILBOX, page 5)

**THE Independent**

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Livermore Police Department recognizes April as National Autism Awareness Month and World Autism Awareness Day by promoting understanding and inclusion. Patrol vehicles will display autism awareness magnets throughout the month, and the department continues to support the community through its voluntary Special Needs Registry. (Photo courtesy of LPD)..

**Californians Take it in the Tank**

**Dennis Mulhall, Pleasanton**

With all of the talk about higher gas prices, please note that we Californians pay \$1.60 to \$2.00 a gallon more than the rest of America. This is due to Californian's highest in the nation gas taxes and most strict environmental regulations.

**Israel Precipitated U.S. Involvement in the Iran War**

**Greg Scott, Livermore**

"Anybody who tries to advance the patently false notion of Israel dragging the U.S. in this war is only intended to advance discord and incite antisemitism in our nation." (Daniela Karo, "President Trump and the Iran War," Mailbox, 4/2/2026)

"We knew that there was going to be an Israeli action, we knew that that would precipitate an attack against American forces, and we knew that if we didn't preemptively go after them before they launched those attacks, we would suffer high casualties and perhaps even higher those killed, and then, we would all be here answering questions about why we knew that and didn't act." (Secretary of State Rubio, 3/2/2026)

Does the "Tail wag the dog?" Is Secretary of State Rubio anti-Semitic and trying to "advance discord"?

"Preemptively" is a euphemism for a war by aggression. Did we learn nothing in the Nuremberg Trials of the Nazis?

"Americans of all faiths and party allegiance, should be supportive of such grand scale humanistic intervention in our times!" (Karo, ibid.)

Bombing civilians, including hospitals, water desalination plants, schools, mosques and ambulances is "humanistic intervention"?

We can choose a vision of peace or we can choose a vision of blood. Choosing a vision of blood to achieve peace is not rational, nor moral. And by war by aggression, it is war criminality.

"History is on our side!" (Karo, ibid.)

No, it is not, if you read non-Zionist history.

**A Saddened Easter Diatribe**

**Jule Rodgers, Livermore**

In response to the letter 'A Saddened Easter' by Glenn White in the April 2nd issue of The Independent: As a Christian, I am deeply saddened to see his opinions. He says he is a Christian, but his letter is filled with hate, and does not show the love and spirit of a follower of Christ.

To say that Trump followers are not of Christ, and are in his view, anti-Christ, not of God, and really followers of Satan. How dare he!

He needs to ask for forgiveness and removal of the anger and hate in his heart. If sincere, he will be forgiven by a loving and forgiving Lord.

We conservatives try to follow the teaching of Jesus and our holy Father. We are not filled with the hatred that the left seems to have in unlimited quantity, which is shown weekly in this paper.

We need to love one another, forgive one another in spite of our differences. What a boring world we would have if everyone thought, spoke and acted the same. Thank the Lord for our individuality.

**I Oppose Mail-In Ballots**

**Robin Bill, Livermore**

I strongly oppose California's efforts under Gavin Newsom to challenge President Donald Trump on mail-in voting.

Voting should be simple: one person, one vote. Yet I have personally seen mail-in ballots handled by people other than the intended voter. That alone should concern every citizen.

A few years ago, this paper reported on a couple who returned from vacation only to be told they had already voted. Even a family member who no longer lived in California had a vote cast in their name. That should never happen.

Taxpayer money collected from hardworking people should not be spent defending a system many believe is vulnerable to abuse. That money would be far better used addressing homelessness, supporting after-school programs, and strengthening our communities.

Election integrity should not be political. If there is doubt, we fix it. If there is fraud, it must be investigated and stopped. Public

officials should be held accountable for protecting fair elections.

Californians deserve a voting system they can trust, nothing less.

**Terrible Person**

**Richard Andrews, Livermore**

No POTUS in our history has ever stooped as low as the current felon in making comments about the fallen. A few weeks ago, when one of the greatest, non-partisan, prosecutors died (Robert Mueller), he

said: "Good, I'm glad he's dead." Just as a Don of the Mafia would say.

(See MAILBOX, page 6)

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**MAILBOX**

(Continued from page 4)

think, there's always more. More numbers. More stars. More questions. More versions of ourselves we haven't met yet.

We like to pretend we understand it. We count upward — one, two, three — and we say, "Yes, I see where this is going." But we don't. Because no matter how high you climb, infinity is already higher. No matter how far you stretch your imagination, infinity has already stretched further.

And yet, infinity isn't just "big." It's intimate. It hides in the space between zero and one — in the endless decimals, the infinite choices, the infinite chances to be a little better than yesterday. Infinity is not just out there in the cosmos; it's right here, in the tiny decisions that ripple outward without end.

Some people find infinity terrifying. A reminder of how small we are. But I think it's the opposite. Infinity means we're part of something that doesn't run out. That the universe isn't a closed box with a fixed number of stories. It's a book with pages that write themselves as we turn them.

Infinity is possibility. It's potential. It's the promise that there is always another idea waiting, another path branching, another mystery unfolding. And maybe that's why we're drawn to it.

**Low-income Housing is Pure Fantasy**

**Steven Rego, Pleasanton**

Wake up, Tri Valley, wake up.

The building industry and corrupt mayoral tax-

ing are driving this juggernaut of ugly. THERE IS NO LOW-INCOME HOUSING in the Tri Valley. Take a drive around ugly Dublin and tell me this perpetual building mentality is legitimate. Now ask yourself why Danville, Alamo, Lafayette and Orinda don't seem to be participating? Why haven't they drunk the Kool-Aid. Even Pleasanton is crying poor now that Karla is out as mayor.

People, keep your eyes on the prize!

**Thank You for the April 2 Mailbox**

**Mick Hanou, Pleasanton**

Thank you for your 'Message from the Managing Editor' which said, "we believe local journalism should be more than just a platform for complaints; it should be a tool for building a better community."

I and many others have been complaining to you for a long time about the dominance of diatribe from a few individuals.

It finally got to the point that I stopped reading Mailbox because it had no useful information — mostly garbage.

This April 2nd issue had at least six letters, UP FRONT, pertinent to our interests in the local issues — EBRP, E-Bike, PFAs, even the bit explaining when Easter is (Munro) was interesting.

That's far more important than the regurgitated garbage about national politics — most of which are uninformed. Keep it going!



Thursday, April 2, 2026, the Livermore Valley Chamber of Commerce celebrated the new downtown Edward Jones financial advisors office of Linda Kime, Jenny Juday, and Gabriel Wright with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. Edward Jones financial advisors help clients build financial health — stop guessing and start a financial plan that works for your future. The Kime, Juday, Wright team looks forward to continuing to serve Livermore and the Tri-Valley community, call or visit their office today!

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Ready, set, hunt! Kids of all ages had a great time tracking down every last egg at the Spring Eggstravaganza last Saturday, April 4 at Dublin Heritage Park & Museums. (Photo — Leah Silveira)

**MAILBOX**

(Continued from page 5)

Add to that, his comment about all the dead Marines, Navy, Army, Coast Guard and civilians who gave their lives in previous wars serving America: “A bunch of losers.”

Then toss in his appraisal of the late Senator John McCain who served America and spent time in the horror of the Hanoi Hilton while Trump dodged the draft 5 times: “I didn’t like him; he was a loser.” You have the perfect example of a terrible leader, who would wear a MAGA baseball hat at the formal return from Iran of dead Americans who were killed in his illegal war.

He is a total disgrace, and I do hope his clique of sycophants will use the 25th Amendment to cleanse our souls.

**Now He Is a War Time President**

**Frank Cannella, Livermore**

Grasping at the only way he sees of regaining internal support, our president now identifies himself as a wartime leader, hoping to offset his incredible fall from popularity on domestic issues, not to mention his fear of whatever shows up in the Epstein files. His speech on April 1 reinforces that view, since he said how wonderful our military had performed during his 19-minute speech, declining however to offer our country a clear vision of what strategic goals we have. He also said the U.S. had 100% destroyed the anti-aircraft capabilities of the Iranians. Unfortunately, two of our fighter jets were shot down two days later. Fortunately, our outstanding military

was able to rescue all three pilots involved. This past weekend, Trump has again threatened to bomb Iran back to the stone age in the next two days unless they open the Strait of Hormuz. These draconian threats have no place in diplomacy nor any type of negotiations and are most unpresidential. Throw in his suggestion that he wants to leave NATO, and I am sure the rest of the world will be convinced he is not of sound mind.

Follow this up with a request for an additional 200 billion dollars for the Iran adventure and his suggestion for a 1.5 trillion Department of Defense budget in the next fiscal year (this year’s was only 1 trillion) and you have a clear indication that the only way Trump can stay in power is by convincing all of us that

America is in great danger and we need a wartime president. I for one emphatically disagree.

P.S. I am glad Bondi is gone as attorney general, but unfortunately her replacement will fall into the same retribution trap Bondi was forced into.

**Get This Started Now!**

**Rion Causey, Livermore**

The leadership of Indivisible is to be commended for getting people out to protest against Trump, the evil wannabe king. My wife and I, and many of our friends, have participated in three of these larger protests locally. The last protest drew eight million people in the fifty states and globally. From the number of people protesting and the number of people that drive by and honk their horns, it is apparent that these protests are stirring the anti-Trump base to get ready to vote in the elections coming up later this year. It is my greatest hope that Indivisible will realize that these powerful protests are not enough. Sometime before the upcoming election, there has to be a protest in Washington DC, the size of which will shock the White House and let the Independents and Republicans know that something tremendous is occurring, that Americans are not accepting what is going on with our government. We cannot allow this orange clown to make a mockery of our Constitution. This election may be our last chance. Retaking both the House and Senate will neuter this demon before he can do more damage. Deport everyone that is not Caucasian, leave

NATO, bomb anyone we want, snatch leaders of other countries, take over Greenland, break treaties with Mexico and Canada, what else might he do if we don’t stop him? Two million, five million, there is no telling how many protesters will show up if we start organizing now. I know I’ll be there. Come on Indivisible, get this started now!

**Time for the 25th**

**Barry Brynjulson, Pleasanton**

The Pentagon asked for a 44% increase in their already bloated budget for the next fiscal year. For an invasion of Greenland? A takeover of Cuba? Military use against the hated Democrats?

The man is a reckless and impulsive warmonger, AND he has the nuclear codes. Nothing is off the table. Legislators have begun talking about invoking the 25th Amendment to remove hm.

If you share their concern, call Rep. Swalwell’s office at 510-370-3322, along with Senators Schiff 202-224-3841 and Padilla’s 202-224-3553 offices.

**What’s Next After No Kings?**

**Kyoko Takayama, Livermore**

While we celebrate creating yet another record of attendees with No Kings, it is not changing our president’s mind or behavior. He is doubling down on his illegal Iran war. Still, there is a record number of Congress members seeking other seats or retiring. Open seats give us opportunities to elect women, people of

color, and the younger generation into Congress, including in our own district CA-14. It won’t happen without effort, though. We can’t expect any change if we don’t change who we vote for. We should vote for those who share our values. That means we need to look beyond TV ads and mailers. Listen to the candidates and find out if they are talking about what they would do to solve the challenges we face. Or are they telling us what they think we want to hear? Our president is a result of a 250-year-old system. It is not going to change in one day or in one election, but it is a start, don’t you think?

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**ENERGY**

(Continued from front page)

“build confidence across the spectrum to say this is something that has a national imperative,” Dunne continued. “It has local backing; it has alignment and vendor partners, and therefore this is not just some crazy scientists with a startup idea. This is something that has substance and duration.”

In February, Inertia announced \$450 million in Series A funding — one of the largest funding rounds in the industry — along with plans to build a 50,000-square-foot production facility in northeast Livermore. The exact location has yet to be confirmed.

Dunne said the company’s choice to establish itself in Livermore was based largely on the work pioneered by Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL).

“This whole field was born out of the amazing work that we’ve done over many, many years there,” Dunne said. “The people that made that happen largely live and work still here in this area.”

By basing Inertia near LLNL, Dunne continued, the company hopes to leverage the lab’s existing capabilities, while also feeding back any lessons learned on Inertia’s path to commercialization.

The tools and skills needed for Inertia’s systems, such as those required to build large-scale lasers or to fabricate fuel targets, already exist in the Tri-Valley because of the bioscience and deep-tech industries that were drawn here by the lab, he continued.

**Technology Born out of LLNL**

The company hopes to commercialize a technology known as laser-driven inertial-confinement fusion, in which powerful lasers heat and compress a fuel capsule so that the momentum of the capsule’s collapse triggers the fusion of atomic nuclei. Such a reaction releases large amounts of energy without carbon emissions or long-lived radioactive waste.

While the National Ignition Facility (NIF) at LLNL has repeatedly demonstrated the feasibility of such technology

since 2022, NIF was never designed as a power plant. It lacks the reactor throughput, efficiency and power-capture systems needed to put fusion power on the grid.

To do that, Inertia wants to go big. It plans to build the most powerful laser in the world, a million times more powerful and 20 times more efficient than NIF’s, all while fitting it into a tenth of the physical footprint. NIF’s laser involves 192 individual beams that are each successively amplified and brought back together, but Inertia’s design involves thousands of beams that will converge into one. Firing at a rate of 10 times per second, this system would trigger fusion reactions that then heat water to turn generators.

Toward that goal, the project will begin manufacturing prototypes of separate beamlines — the systems that generate constituent laser beams — at its new Livermore facility. There, it will also develop an assembly line for fuel capsules to mass produce the stream of fuel needed for the reactor. With these two pieces in place, Inertia hopes to scale up to a utility-scale fusion power plant in the 2030s.

Still, work remains to make the Tri-Valley the ideal

fusion-startup ecosystem. Last October, another commercial fusion startup, Pacific Fusion, chose to build its \$1 billion demonstration facility in Albuquerque, New Mexico, instead of Livermore, despite its ties to LLNL.

Livermore Innovation & Economic Development Director Brandon Cardwell, who shared the stage with Dunne last week, described the Livermore building housing Inertia’s current facility as “older than you would like,” and that the surrounding neighborhood in northeast Livermore could use more restaurants and services. While Inertia has secured a building, they are not yet ready to release its exact location.

“We clearly need to add some amenities into those districts, if we’re going to help you attract the workforce that you’re looking for,” Cardwell said.

To house that workforce, he pointed to San Joaquin County, which has outbuilt the rest of the Bay Area in terms of home development. Cardwell acknowledged that while local housing is scarce, Livermore’s location offers a unique advantage: it serves as the bridge between Bay Area innovation and Central Valley production.

“The type of home you could buy 20 years ago in Livermore, now you have to buy in San Joaquin County,” Cardwell said. “It’s going to be hard to undo that in a short period of time. That said, I think that positions Livermore at the absolute center of this Bay Area innovation-and-talent pool and economy,” Cardwell noted, suggesting the city can draw from both talent pools.

This positioning is vital for Inertia’s long-term plans as it brings its Livermore facility online, Cardwell and other city leaders will work to entice Inertia to stay when it becomes ready to scale up to a grid-connected power plant.

“This is still very small compared to where we’ll be, hopefully, in just a few years from now,” Dunne said. “The scale of fusion in terms of the build phase, the vendor base, they’re a couple of orders of magnitude bigger than where we are right now. As we look out to planning the next phase, three or four years from now, we want to be able to see where our supply chain rests.”

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**GPAC**

(Continued from front page)

growth within the urban growth boundary, but better language would be to limit growth to within the urban growth boundary... When we see the East of Greenville still being considered as a study area, it makes people nervous."

Vice Chair Jeremy Troupe-Masi offered a defense of the plan's phrasing. "I feel very secure in the fact that it still gives us an opportunity to consider before breaking these boundaries," Troupe-Masi said. "I don't know what Livermore looks like in 20 years...so I feel good about where the language just landed."

Resident Carol Silva challenged the necessity of expansion entirely. "Why study breaking the urban growth boundary when our population is declining?" Silva asked.

**Consideration without Commitment**

Troupe-Masi and committee member Mel Boccia expressed a desire to clarify the committee's intentions and provide reassurance

regarding the plan's flexibility. Boccia emphasized that the plan was a guide, not mandates.

This consideration without commitment approach was specifically highlighted around the Midtown focus area and its transformation into a transit-oriented neighborhood centered around the uncertain future of Valley Link.

Boccia emphasized that the area's development might need to evolve if it cannot strictly be a transportation hub dependent project

Committee member Paul Halvorsen echoed these concerns, describing the Valley Link project as "uncertain" and pointing to the BART crisis, making the current situation particularly problematic for the Midtown plan.

The committee found strong consensus in revitalizing the city's core and its plans for such areas as Vasco Row and its continued shift toward a "craft and winery destination" that capitalizes on Livermore's unique identity.

**The Jobs-Housing Tension**

Committee Member Alan Burnham commented on the "middle-ground" where affordable housing meets well-paying jobs. "It's not enough to have a lot of jobs... We have to find that middle ground where we can actually build enough affordable housing and attract enough well-paying jobs that more people can live and work in their community."

Resident Carol Wahrer reminded the committee of the human element: "It isn't just about where the houses go; it's about the character of the neighborhoods we are creating."

Burnham further warned that if the city rejects industrial growth in areas like Greenville, it would necessitate massive changes to the internal fabric of existing neighborhoods to meet economic and housing needs.

**The Dissent: Open Space and the Wine Country**

While the motion passed, it was not unanimous. Committee Member Halvorsen provided the sole "No"

vote. Halvorsen was vocal about the Livermore Wine Community, noting that while this draft is "probably the best we've ever seen" regarding actionable tasks, history has shown a lack of follow-through. "The wine industry is a huge part of why people choose to come and live here," Halvorsen said, remarking that there's always been an absence of the resources that would make the wine country sustainable.

**The Final Hand-Off**

Led by Chairperson Stephanie Shang and Vice Chair Jeremy Troupe-Masi, the committee voted 9-1 to recommend the plan. In a crucial final procedural move, the committee passed a motion to include a full summary of the evening's public comments and discussion to the City Council, ensuring that resident concerns are part of the official record.

The recommendations now head to the Planning Commission on April 21 and then the City Council in July for final review.

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**SANDIA**

(Continued from front page)



Sandia California, established in 1956, celebrates its 70th birthday this year. (Photo courtesy Sandia National Laboratories)

The labs' missions and the arms race of the subsequent decades drew a surge of people who brought their families to settle in the Tri-Valley along with the arts, communities and infrastructure to support them.

"The labs really were the magnet to create the catalyst for what I would say Livermore and the Tri-Valley have become," Beasley said. "That innovation, that strong science-tech foundation that is at our core today was established by these two laboratories."

Beasley said her job in Sandia communications, when she joined the lab in 2011, was to create a brand and identity for Sandia that was not simply "the other lab." That same year, the two labs jointly established the Livermore Valley Open Campus (LVOC), which, located primarily along East Avenue and Greenville Road in East Livermore, literally and figuratively bridges the two national labs.

"It's kind of the best of both worlds," Beasley said. "We transfer technology out to industry. We learn from industry and academia, and then we can also apply that to our really hard national security challenges."

Around that time, with support from the two national labs, the Tri-Valley also saw the establishment of two nonprofits, Innovation Tri-Valley and Innovation for Growth and Academic Transformation through Education (i-GATE). These organizations invite and promote science-based entrepreneurs in the region. Together, the organizations have capitalized on the Tri-Valley's innovation assets to advertise it as a hub to develop new ideas and technologies. LVOC achievements include development-time reductions for diesel engines, new male fertility diagnostics, and improved efficiencies in sheet metal production. The i-GATE tech incubator, Daybreak Labs, has supported startups in areas such as climate tech, life sciences and biotech.

**Sandia Specialties**

Since its early days of supporting LLNL, Sandia California has fostered its own set of specialties that partner and sometimes compete with "the other lab."

In 1981, Sandia opened its Combustion Research Facility (CRF). Currently comprising five buildings, the facility has helped address the world's energy challenges through combustion, gas-phase chemistry and engine research.

CRF Director Sarah Allendorf highlighted how the facility developed the world's first soot model, which explains how complex molecules break apart and come back together during combustion to form soot. CRF also developed the first model to describe in detail combustion within a diesel engine.

"Those two (models) combined, working with our industry partners, have completely changed how combustion in vehicles is expressed now," Allendorf said, describing the cleaner, more efficient engines that have resulted from CRF's work. "Lives are changed. The amount of asthma is down; the amount of smog in LA is down. There

have been studies that track, not just what we did, but what we've done with partners both at other labs and with industry. ... (They have) really changed how transportation has gone."

Today, CRF continues to focus on fuel and engine development, possibly heading toward an engine that can switch between a selection of fuels — such as hydrogen, propane, gasoline or diesel — depending on which is most cost-effective at the moment.

In addition to combustion, Sandia California conducts research in fields ranging from explosives to advanced manufacturing to nanotechnologies.

**The Next 70 Years**

Looking ahead, Allendorf sees computer-driven approaches helping to speed up development.

"We're going to create new ways to do physical experiments, which is going to drive our theory and modeling even harder," she said. "I don't see the nation going completely to theory modeling; I think there will always be a need for physical experiments, and I'm excited to see what happens here in California on that front."

In addition to the lab's cutting-edge science work, Beasley highlighted the different ways Sandia employees participate in the community, from schools to sports fields to the various organizations in the Tri-Valley.

"The spirit of service is really strong," Beasley said. "I know the 70-year history of that, and in the 70 years that will be in the future, we will continue to be premier-science, technology, and engineering leaders and we will show up, and be involved, and be active in our community, because we want to see everyone thrive as part of our future."

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# Price and Krishan Debate on the Future of Alameda County Justice

By Rain Hepting

TRI-VALLEY — Santa Rita Jail in Dublin has one of the highest rates of inmate deaths in the Bay Area, with 73 deaths since 2014. The Alameda County Sheriff's Office (ACSO) is responsible for overseeing the jail and investigating inmate deaths. But what happens when the Sheriff's office is implicated in a crime?

"The only law enforcement official who can hold the Sheriff accountable is the District Attorney," former District Attorney and current candidate Pamela

though he would like to keep it that way. In his opinion, it is not the responsibility of the DA to prosecute the Sheriff's office for inmate deaths.

"This is an admin issue. I don't think the District Attorney has any authority over there," Krishan said. He added that if there was evidence of foul play and someone needed to be held responsible for a crime, then the DA's office could get involved.

Price's stance was in favor of rehabilitation — which her critics have interpreted as being "soft on crime." After she was

check-ins every 30 minutes, despite deputies' logbooks saying they had checked on her.

In late 2025, Jones Dickson's office dropped the charges against the two deputies involved, citing a "systemic failure" rather than individual criminal liability. Monk was found dead in his cell in November 2021 after lying face down on a cot for 72 hours. His family received a \$7 million settlement from Alameda County and an additional \$2.5 million from the jail's medical provider. While Jones Dickson dropped charges against several staff members in 2025, three deputies were recently indicted by a grand jury for their roles in his death.

Price criticized Jones Dickson for accepting fundraising from ACSO and subsequently dismissing charges against their deputies connected to Martin's and Monk's deaths. "There is a pattern of 'pay to play' in plain sight occurring in Alameda County," Price said. "And that means a lack of accountability, and we will continue to see deaths in our jail at an unacceptable rate. Without accountability, we won't have any change."

The DA primary election will be held on June 2. This will be the second public election for this position in 88 years.



Gopal Krishan  
(Photo — Rain Hepting)



Pamela Price  
(Photo — Rain Hepting)

Price told the Independent. Project Rebound, KQED and several college departments hosted a debate between candidates for the county DA at California State University East Bay (Hayward) on March 18. Of the three candidates, only two showed: former DA and civil rights attorney Pamela Price, and trial attorney Gopal Krishan. The incumbent DA, Ursula Jones Dickson, did not attend.

The theme of the debate was "Punishment vs. Rehabilitation." Krishan took a staunch position in favor of the former.

"Rehabilitation is a privilege," Krishan said. "It is not a right. So when someone is asking for rehabilitation, they have to prove that they are worthy of it. Otherwise, punishment is the default option."

Krishan told the Independent that the Tri-Valley does not have a reason to care about the District Attorney race, as "the data shows they are safe" —

elected in 2022, a \$2.6 million initiative led to her recall in 2024, just one year into her term.

Despite the setback, Price said she is determined to continue the work she started before she was recalled — work that centers on holding the Sheriff's office accountable for its actions and opposing the federal overreach of the Trump administration. She said her successor, Jones Dickson, has primarily worked to undo what Price started.

"I charged two deputies in connection with the death of Vinetta Martin," Price said. "The interim DA (Jones Dickson) dismissed those charges at a point where we were actually prepared to enter into a plea bargain with those deputies. I charged a number of deputies in connection with the death of Maurice Monk, and she dismissed those charges."

Martin died by suicide in her cell in April 2021 after not receiving required

## Time to Submit Haugen Award Nominations

PLEASANTON — The Pleasanton Community of Character Collaborative (PCCC) is accepting nominations for the 17th annual Juanita Haugen Community of Character Awards.

The awards, named for PCCC cofounder Juanita Haugen, recognizes Pleasanton residents who exhibit high moral and ethical values while volunteering their time to the community.

Nominees must be Pleasanton residents or non-residents or nonprofit groups involved in volunteer work within Pleasanton.

To submit a nomination, go to [communityofcharacter.org](http://communityofcharacter.org) and click on the "Awards" tab.

Award winners will be honored at a luncheon at the Veteran's Memorial Building on Wednesday, May 13, along with PCCC scholarship recipients.

From the Archives

## On this Day in the Valley

LIVERMORE, April 6, 1882 —

"Oscar Wilde, the apostle of beauty, has been in Livermore. But he didn't stay long. He was dressed in his regulation suit — mouse-colored velvet coat, black velvet cape, loose, baggy, light, poetic pants, patent leathers, and a regular "Buffalo Bill" hat of the loudest pattern. Oscar wears his hair very long, and he had neglected to comb it that morning. He sat in his seat about as utterly graceful as would a sack of flour. He is not handsome, has large features, no beard, and looks like anything but a poem. We have seen finer looking restaurant waiters. He was, all the way up from Niles, absorbed in stealing the matter for his next lecture, which he was to deliver at Sacramento, from a weighty volume on the poets and prose of Ireland."

Article from the Livermore Herald, April 6, 1862

We are proud to share these periodic glimpses into Livermore's heritage, brought to you through the research of the Livermore Heritage Guild. These stories are transcribed from vintage newspaper articles and regional history books to keep our community's legacy alive. Learn more about Livermore's roots at [lhg.org](http://lhg.org). (Courtesy of the Livermore Heritage Guild)

## Science Center Receives County Grant for a Permanent Home

LIVERMORE — The Quest Science Center has received a \$450,000 capital grant from Alameda County.

District 1 Supervisor David Haubert, who announced the grant, said the funding is a milestone in the evolution of Quest from a mobile, community-based program to a permanent facility designed to reach more than 100,000 residents and visitors annually.

"I can see the impact Quest has been having around the region over the past five years and am enthused by the opportunity before us to expand that impact to a permanent

location that will enable our future workforce, economic development and quality of life," Haubert said. "This support will help launch the initial seed round for Quest Science Center's broader fundraising efforts."

Haubert said the capital fund grant completes a \$500,000 pledge by former supervisor Scott Haggerty.

Monya Lane, who chairs the Quest Science Center Board of Directors, said the grant "allows us to move into the next phase of realizing a long-envisioned community and regional resource."

Planned in partnership with the City of Livermore,

Quest said the future science center will emphasize interactive experiences designed to connect visitors of all ages to the science and technology shaping the Tri-Valley and beyond.

Quest was founded in 2018 by community leaders and a group of retirees from Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory.

Signature programs include the annual Tri-Valley Innovation Fair and hands-on Science@Stockman's Park outdoor event, Engineering Explorations family science programs at schools and an award-winning Planetary Health student intern program.

## TRI-VALLEY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Saturday, April 4

### DRESS A GIRL AROUND THE WORLD

Make simple dresses for girls in Third World countries! The next monthly Sew-Fest is on April 4, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 1020 Mocho St., Livermore. Bring your sewing machine or serger, iron, ironing board, scissors, along with your helping hands. Come for an hour or all day! (Please bring a bag lunch if you plan to stay all day.) Cheerful cotton fabric donations are always welcome. Contact Suzanne Beck, 925-352-8447, or [suzbeck@yahoo.com](mailto:suzbeck@yahoo.com) for questions or kits that you can sew from home.

Thursdays, beginning April 9

### 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 9, 16, 23, 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.

Thursday, April 9

### LIVERMORE-AMADOR VALLEY GARDEN CLUB MEETING

At the April meeting, C.L. Fornari "The Garden Lady" will meet via Zoom from the East Coast. Her talk will be about entertaining in the garden. On April 9 from 6 to 8 p.m. at Crosswinds Church, 1660 Freisman Rd., Livermore, at the red Farm Theater Building.

Monday, April 13

### LIVERMORE-AMADOR GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY MEETING

Come hear Dawn Kosmakos speaking about genetic genealogy. Dawn will share three different case studies (an unknown father mystery, identification of a John Doe, and her own great-grandfather's biological father.) Join via Zoom at 7 p.m. (see flyer to register: [www.l-ags.org](http://www.l-ags.org), click on Speakers & Topics on upper left). No charge, non-members welcome.

Thursday, April 16

### 'PAWS IN NEED' TRIVIA NIGHT FUNDRAISER

Enjoy fascinating trivia, food, wine, and fun prizes while supporting a great cause, at the Paws in Need first-ever Trivia Night Fundraiser. Doors open at 5:00 p.m., with trivia games beginning at 6:00 p.m. Delicious Mexican food available for purchase from JulieAnna's Catering Food Truck, and a selection of fine wines from the host venue. Tickets are \$25 per adult, \$5 per child, or \$100 for a table of six. At 3 Steves Winery, 5700 Greenville Rd., Livermore. To learn more and for tickets, visit [paws-in-need.org](http://paws-in-need.org).

Saturday, April 18

### CRAFT FAIR AND USED TIQUE

The Philanthropic Educational Organization (PEO), Chapter XN, is hosting a Craft Fair and Usedtique on April 18 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at 2539 Skimmer Ct. in Pleasanton. Shop for hand-crafted items and excellent quality jewelry and accessories. Delicious baked goods are also available for purchase!

Saturday, April 18

### LIVERMORE-AMADOR VALLEY GARDEN CLUB PLANT & YARD SALE

The Livermore Amador Valley Garden Club will hold a plant and yard sale on April 18 from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 2450 Merlot Lane, Livermore. Great prices on plants from members' gardens, along with gently used pots and garden treasures. The sales tax will be paid! Rain or shine.

Saturday, April 18

### 8TH ANNUAL TRI-VALLEY INNOVATION FAIR

Quest Science Center is thrilled to announce the 8th Annual Tri-Valley Innovation Fair, on April 18 at the Alameda County Fairgrounds in Pleasanton from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. This community program brings together

students, families, educators, and local businesses for a free day of 70+ interactive exhibits, live demonstrations, performances, and learning moments. Attendees can dive into everything from engineering challenges to creative tech, meeting the scientists, educators, students, and companies who bring big ideas to life here in the Tri-Valley.

Saturday, April 25

### POLENTA & CHICKEN CACCIATORE DINNER

Raffles, prizes, and silent auction! Dinner includes antipasto, salad, rolls, dessert, wine and soft drinks. On April 25 at St. Augustine Hall, Pleasanton. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. / dinner at 7:00 p.m. Adult tickets: \$55 / children 12 and under: \$15. Tickets must be purchased by Friday, April 17. No tickets will be sold at the door. Contact Toni @ 925 557-6552 or [manzettitoni7313@gmail.com](mailto:manzettitoni7313@gmail.com). Proceeds benefit the ICF Scholarship Fund and various local charities. Sponsored by the Italian Catholic Federation Branch 285.

Saturday-Sunday, April 25-26

### QUILTED TREASURES — QUILTING WITH FRIENDS

Amador Valley Quilters (AVQ) are delighted to announce their 19th Biennial Quilt Show. The 2026 show promises a colorful celebration of creativity and craftsmanship, highlighting the deep community bonds formed through the art of quilting. Attendees will enjoy a stunning gallery of member-crafted quilts and a curated vendor mall featuring specialty goods. On April 25 (10 a.m.—4 p.m.) and April 26 (10 a.m.—3 p.m.), at the Trinity Church Gymnasium, 557 Olivina Ave., Livermore. Admission is \$10 (children under 12 are free); free parking.

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>.

### ONGOING OPPORTUNITIES

#### FOOD RELIEF SERVICES

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

### ONGOING EVENTS

#### ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

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

#### SATURDAY PLEASANTON FARMERS MARKET

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

#### SUNDAY LIVERMORE DOWNTOWN FARMERS MARKET

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

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

## Spring Awakenings Livermore-Amador Symphony

April 11, 7:30 pm  
Bankhead Theater



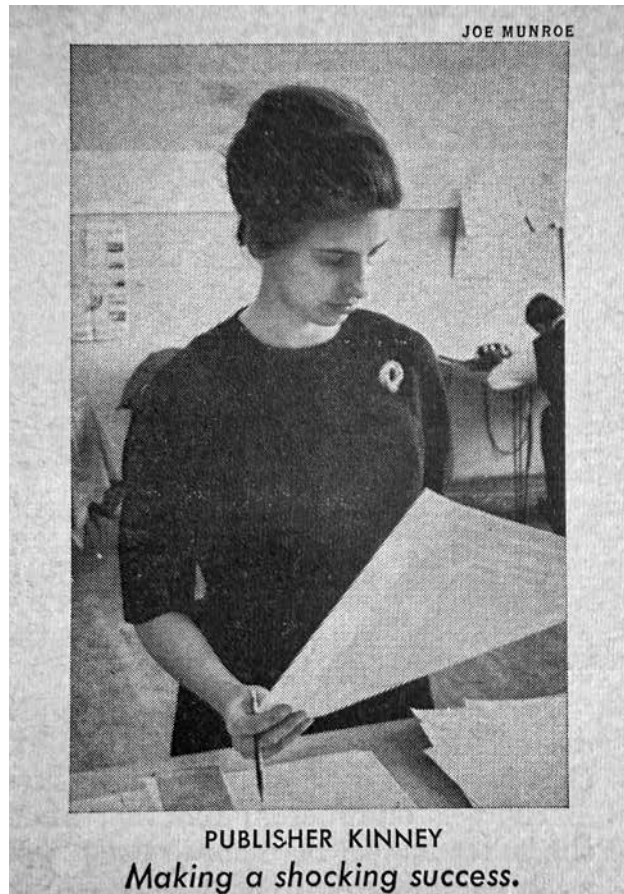
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[livermoreamadorsymphony.org](http://livermoreamadorsymphony.org)  
Grant from City of Livermore

## AWARD

(Continued from front page)



PUBLISHER KINNEY  
Making a shocking success.

In 1963, Time magazine featured the young publisher Joan Seppala, who defied 1960s norms to establish a profitable, independent voice for the Tri-Valley. (Photo courtesy of Joe Munroe)

## The First of Many

Seppala's journey began in 1962, a time when journalism was very much a man's world. After moving west from the Chicago area following graduate school, the then-24-year-old began applying for positions as a journalist in the Bay Area. She was offered nearly a dozen jobs, including ones at the Oakland Tribune and San Francisco Chronicle.

There was one problem — she was only offered a job to write for the society pages.

"I was surprised to learn that at that time, women weren't allowed to work on stories for the front page or any hard news," Seppala said in a tribute video shown to guests at the ceremony. "They only were assigned stories for the society page — the wealthy — and I had zero interest in that."

"I realized that in order

to get a job as a journalist, I was going to have to start a newspaper. The only little roadblock was that in addition to being only 24, with no journalism experience, I didn't have any money."

Luck be a lady. Seppala was invited to a Halloween party, where she fortuitously met an ivy league dropout. The young man was interested in the potential of a community newspaper, and committed to investing \$20,000. Newspapers were known to be profitable. He brought in three of his friends for the same amount.

"And so, in September 1963, The Independent was born with a backing of \$80,000," Seppala recalled.

She was recognized nationally in a Time magazine article that same year touting her success as publisher of the newly founded weekly paper. The magazine reported that

the newspaper "after two months in print is already making money."

Indicative of the era, Seppala was described by the article's reporter as a "leggy brunette", who made headlines for her decision to distribute the newspaper for free. By removing the subscription barrier, she secured more readers and as result, the sales team was able to land more advertising to pay for the paper's expenses. Other competitors were relying on a paid-delivery model.

## A Career Defined by Advocacy

The Independent's first editor explained to her the importance of supporting what was right for the community over what was profitable for its bottom line.

For Seppala, a newspaper was never just a business; it was a tool for backing community leaders who were promoting a vision. The Independent's decades-long contributions have helped to shape the landscape of the Tri-Valley, from championing its open spaces to supporting those who actively serve the underserved to those who promote the arts by co-founding of the Bankhead Theater.

The latter took nearly 10 years of dedication to achieve. Seppala was so impassioned by the idea that she felt compelled to see it come to fruition. She dove into discussions with community leaders.

"We began the long process of raising funds, day after day, \$100 here and \$500 there, and occasionally larger amounts, until over \$40 million was reached." The money was needed "not just to build the theater, but to keep the theater going in the early years," Seppala said.

And while the Hall of Fame award was given to Seppala personally for her achievements, she accepted it on behalf of The Independent and the people who

helped build the newspaper and its values.

"I believe that this award honors The Independent for more than six decades of service to the Tri-Valley. Our editors, reporters and staff have consistently been champions of the region's identity," Seppala said. "We take pride in the Tri-Valley's intellectual and cultural milestones, celebrating breakthroughs like the 2022 nuclear fusion at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and the vibrant arts scene."

"Every community should care about its most vulnerable members, while

## Sharing the Stage

Though not a resident of the Tri-Valley, Alameda County Undersheriff fellow inductee April Lockett-Fahimi, has spent a lot of time in her administrative career working in Dublin.

Lockett-Fahimi, the first female in her own high-ranking role, also proves there are no limits to what women can achieve.

"For me, it was difficult to imagine myself in this role when there had never been a woman (in it) before," Lockett-Fahimi said. "It made it difficult to imagine myself being here. I knew I could do more; I just

She realized early on that path didn't work for her. "People recognize when you're not being who you say you are; you're not being genuine. Whether they're suspects or community members, they see that, they feel it."

## Inspiring the Next Generation

In addition to the two Tri-Valley based women of distinction, eight others were recognized for their outstanding achievements across a variety of sectors. The roster included Tamara Chao, president and executive director of the Asian Pacific Fund; internationally recognized scholar and activist Angela Davis; Peralta Community College District Chancellor Tammeil Gilkerson; Noreen King, founder and CEO of Evolve Manufacturing; Monica Lau, chief operating officer of Family Bridges, Inc.; Fredrika Newton, co-founder and president of the Dr. Huey P. Newton Foundation; Golden State Valkyries General Manager Ohemaa Nyanin; and Dr. Harsha Ramchandani, chief medical officer of Bay Area Community Health.

Anika Mangla was introduced as The Alameda County 2025 Youth Poet Laureate. She read from her dedication poem that "echoes are a kind of forever."

Among the list of 2026 Mary V. King / and Wilma Chan \$5000 Youth Scholarship winners were Inaaya Imran of Granada High School in Livermore and Sana Presswala of Dublin High School.

For Seppala, after 63 years of trailblazing in the Tri-Valley, it isn't just about past milestones, but about ensuring the Tri-Valley continues to evolve in a way that makes it as innovative and soulful as it is beautiful.

To learn more visit [agov.org/whof](http://agov.org/whof).



Alameda County Undersheriff April Lockett-Fahimi, a 2026 Hall of Fame inductee, is recognized for her distinguished career in Dublin and for becoming the first woman to hold her high-ranking role. (Photo courtesy of Alameda County Women's Hall of Fame)

preserving open space and exalting its arts and science. If people understand how the Tri-Valley is benefiting itself and beyond I believe other areas will start to adopt a vision for their communities.

"So here we are over 60 years later. And we stand for what's right for the community."

didn't know what that was."

What she did know was that getting there meant staying true to herself.

"It has been very important for me to show up as my authentic self," she said. "As a young deputy, that was difficult. There was this sort of thought that I had to assimilate or do it like the guys did."

## OBITUARIES

## George Thomas Farnos

August 9, 1945 — February 12, 2026

George Thomas Farnos, 80, passed peacefully into the arms of Jesus on Feb. 12, 2026, surrounded by family. He was born on Aug. 9, 1945, in Kolta, Czechoslovakia. Fleeing an oppressive communist regime in 1969, he was determined to build a life of freedom in the United States. After arriving on April 1, 1970, under political asylum, he fully embraced his adopted country's values and became a proud American citizen on April 21, 1981. He was a 48-year resident of the San Francisco East Bay before relocating to Georgetown, Texas, in 2021.

George was known for his immense dedication to his family, both in the United States and in Europe, as well as his bodybuilder's physique, endearing sense of humor, incredible stories, and vast creativity. Influenced by his grandfather, Bela, he had a lifelong interest in mechanics and engineering and was recognized for his ingenuity, including bicycle gear patents under his name.

He is survived by his



faithful wife of 47 years, Grace (Murdock) Farnos; his loving children: Juraj Farnos (Monika) of Luzianky, Slovakia; David Farnos of Tulsa, Oklahoma; Ilona McDermott (Sean) of Alameda, California; Hannah Hanrahan (David) of Leander, Texas; Rebecca Almond (Sean) of Georgetown, Texas; Benjamin Farnos of Georgetown, Texas; Lisa Farnos of Chicago, Illinois; and Jacob Farnos (Estephany) of Livermore, California; his grandchild-

ren, who were his pride and joy: Barbara Farnos, Stella Hanrahan, Tyler McDermott, Pierce Hanrahan, Aurora Farnos, Skye Almond, and Aiden Almond; his dear sister, Katarina Kosova of Sala, Slovakia; as well as his brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, nieces, nephews, great-nieces, and great-nephews; and Peter Bukovinszky, Robert Bukovinszky, and Andrea Byrd, whose family shares a lifelong bond with him.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Dr. Istvan and Ernestina Farnos; his adored grandparents; his brother, Dr. Stefan Farnos; and his in-laws, Barney and Grace Murdock.

Services will be held at Ramsey Funeral Home, 5600 Williams Drive, Georgetown, Texas 78633, on April 11, 2026, at 2:00 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donating in George's name to Friends of Down Syndrome, Houston, Texas (Tax ID: 26-3412890) at [www.friendsofdownsyndrome.org/donate](http://www.friendsofdownsyndrome.org/donate).

## Daisy Yoshiko Kaneshiro Inokuchi

May 7, 1932 — December 27, 2025

Born in Lahaina, Maui, Daisy grew up during World War II. She moved to Oahu and married Carl Hisashi Inokuchi in 1952.



They had four children. In 1967, they left paradise for the golden hills of Livermore, California. Daisy loved her busy life as a stay-at-home mom. As her own children grew, she opened Dai-

sy's Day Care and Pre-School. She was a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, served in many callings and was a true disciple of Christ.

In 2018, she sold her beloved Livermore home of 51 years and moved with youngest daughter, Lyn, to Big Bear City, in Southern California. It took her some time to acclimate to the elevation, but soon loved being able to walk outside of her bedroom door, onto the deck, where she did her exercising and fed the Blue Jays. She met wonderful people and made many friends.

She was preceded in death by her husband Carl in 2009, son Jay in 2021, and son-in-law Chuck Garvin in 2023.

She is survived by daughters Ann Garvin, Lyn Fullmer-We-

ichers, husband Todd, son Jim, wife Jolene. Grandchildren, Joshua, Niko and Max Fullmer, Aaron and Alex Garvin, Sara In-



okuchi, Emma Becker, husband Martin, and Alisa Inokuchi, and three great-grandchildren June, Josef and Abigail.

She will be missed dearly.

## John Lawrence Freie

June 6, 1937 — February 23, 2026

John Lawrence Freie passed away on Feb. 23, 2026, at the age of 88.

John was born on June 12, 1937, in Elmhurst, Illinois. He was married to his loving wife Virginia. John is survived by Lawrence and Thomas Freie.

A funeral mass will be held on April 15, 2026, at Saint Michael's Church, 458 Maple St., Livermore, CA 94550 at 11 AM.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be to American Cancer Society of Saint Michael's School in John's memory.

## Kristen Elizabeth Drake

September 25, 1974 — March 22, 2026



Kristen Elizabeth Drake passed into Eternity at the age of 51 in the early morning hours of March 22, 2026, surrounded by her beloved family and following a host of prayerful friends

and visitors to her hospital room at UCSF the previous week. She joins her earthly father, Kevin Drake, in the Presence of Jesus and their Heavenly Father, God.

Kristen was the firstborn child and only daughter to her parents, Vickie and Kevin Drake on Sept. 25, 1974, in Livermore, California. Kristen grew up alongside her younger brother Brian, graduating with honors from Livermore High School in 1992. A highlight of her college years at UC Davis was interning at the White House during the Clinton Administration, where she greatly contributed to President Clinton's economic policy. After graduating from UC Davis, she moved to San

Francisco to attend Hastings law school and continue her law career there.

Kristen cherished her weekends in her Livermore family home. She especially enjoyed the kittens and chickens and a dip in the pool, often including friends to be part of her family celebrations along the way. In 2024, along with her mother, Vickie, she conducted a faith pilgrimage from Venice to Rome, Italy with members of her childhood church community, St. Charles of Borromeo in Livermore. She was honored to be selected to read a scripture at St. Mark's Catholic Church in Venice. As an adult, she confessed Christ through pub-

lic baptism and was part of the community of Reality Church in San Francisco for many years.

Kristen is lovingly survived by her mother Victoria, her brother Brian and family friend Lacy, her nephew Gunner, niece Abby, and their mother Amy. She is also survived by numerous cousins, aunts, uncles, and a wealth of friends who miss her deeply. Kristen was an energetic woman of loyalty, conviction, and compassionate faith that drove her to tenacious service of marginalized persons — much of what was considered pro bono with an emphasis in environmental and tenancy advocacy. She was voted Superior Lawyer of Northern California

in recent consecutive years. She devoted her life to being a voice for the voiceless. Kristen was a devoted daughter, doting sister, and frequently thought to include and befriend others who she felt needed a sense of family and belonging.

Kristen will always be remembered for her great joy, laughter, and engaging smile. She will be especially remembered for both her random and intentional acts of kindness, legacy of love, vibrant life, and leadership that will live on in the many lives she positively impacted. The loving memory of her demeanor and spirit will remain always in the hearts of her family and friends who

already miss her. Kristen chose to be a multi organ donor and her family takes comfort in some of her final gifts.

A funeral memorial Mass and service will be held at St. Charles of Borromeo Catholic Community Church in Livermore at 1315 Lomitas Ave. on April 17, 2026, with a reception immediately following.

\*In lieu of flowers, which Kristen absolutely enjoyed, the family has requested her community to consider a memorial donation in her name to: Enjoy Life More, Inc. at 1983 First St., Livermore, CA 94550 or [enjoylifemore.org](http://enjoylifemore.org).

# Former Granada High Slugger Is a Big Hit at Chabot

By Matt Schwab

LIVERMORE — It's safe to say that Chabot College baseball slugger Riley Winchell made a mark at Granada High School before heading to the Hayward campus.

A bunch of marks, in fact, crushing baseballs and opposing quarterbacks.

As a senior in 2023-24,



Riley Winchell

he amassed a team-high 11 sacks as a Matadors defensive end. He also had four home runs, eight doubles, and 34 RBIs on a baseball dream team that nearly went unbeaten, at 32-1, winning its first North Coast Section and CIF Northern California Division I championships.

"My experience at Granada was amazing," he recalled

last week. "Our senior year we had a really good group of guys ... I think the bond between us was really cool and really good."

Now he's hammering baseballs at Chabot.

"I'm just hitting the ball like a beach ball right now," he said.

Winchell, a freshman catcher and designated hitter with the Gladiators, led the Coast Conference-North Division in home runs with eight as of April 2. Through 31 games, he had a .352 batting average with 12 doubles and 31 runs scored. In a 14-4 win over longtime rival College of San Mateo on April 3, Winchell was 3 for 6 with six RBIs, including a double.

"Riley's had a phenomenal season, obviously offensively the numbers have stood out," Chabot catchers coach Jake Ruiz said. "Defensively, he does a phenomenal job. ... His passion for the game as well as the attitude he has behind the plate, it's almost infectious."

His personal stats aren't top of mind, though.

"I actually don't follow stats at all," Winchell said.

"The thing for me, I wait till the end of the season to see what I'm doing. I don't focus on results-based (play), I focus on the process."

He redshirted at Division I University of the Pacific last year before bouncing back to the Bay and Chabot.

At Granada, Winchell helped the football team finish 7-4 overall and 3-1 in the East Bay Athletic League-Valley.

What followed in the spring was the stuff of baseball legends.

Granada became the toast of the town, beating six-time defending champion De La Salle, 1-0, over 14 innings in an epic NCS baseball final, and defeating St. Mary's (Stockton) 6-4 in the Nor-Cal final at Granada. The Mats finished No. 5 in the final MaxPreps National Rankings.

They were loaded with talent.

"Just a little bit," Winchell quipped, before naming some of his ex-teammates' future destinations. "A Stanford commit, ASU (Arizona State) USC, there were a couple of D2s in there and a whole bunch of JUCO guys."

Surging Chabot, which was 14-17 overall and 9-3 in the Coast-North on April 3, is a contender for the conference title after a rough stretch early in the campaign. How rough? Try nine one-run losses.

Winchell, although he

batted cleanup against San Mateo on April 3, had been thriving in the leadoff spot — a somewhat atypical role for a ball-smashing, 6-foot, 210-pounder. But it turns out the move to leadoff was made to order, thanks to his high baseball IQ and ability to get on and around the bases.

"We had a little bit of a rough start and we were just throwing everyone in different spots in hitting," he said. "I think it kind of started off as a shock to everyone when

I went in to leadoff because this is the first time I've ever hit leadoff in my baseball career. It just clicked. Everyone rallied behind and it just flowed through."

Catcher is a demanding position, but Winchell approaches it with his usual gusto.

"He's excited to go back there and do whatever he can to help us win," Ruiz said. "It's awesome having him."

Winchell, studying communications, said Chabot hitting coach Paul

Wiebens has helped him overcome a stiff feeling on his swings.

"He just loosened up the hands and the body a little bit, and now I'm playing nice and free and flowing back to the ball," Winchell said.

Ruiz describes Winchell as a "funny kid. He's super-respectful ... It's a testament to him and to his family in how he was raised. He's an all-around phenomenal kid. Couldn't ask for more."

Granada sports fans would surely agree.



Granada's Riley Winchell (foreground, center) leads a pile-up celebration on the pitcher's mound after the Matadors clinched their historic North Coast Section Division I championship in 2023. Winchell and his senior class went on to sweep both section and Northern California titles that season. (File — Doug Jorgensen)

# Dublin's LJ Waiters Is Starting, Finishing Fast to Stardom

By Mitch Stephens

His first name is Ladell, but for short everyone calls him LJ. But make no mistake, at 6-foot-4 and nearly 200 pounds there's nothing else

Jackson, Waiters possesses unlimited courage.

"He's not scared of the challenge," Jackson said. "In order to be the best, you have to see the best, and LJ doesn't care what the

and first full season under Jackson and head Dublin coach Chris Williams, Waiters ranks among the top seven in three North Coast Section events.

Through April 3 meets,

O'Dowd-Oakland senior Ian Sweeney in all three events either at the NCS Meet of Champions or at an invitational beforehand. Sweeney ranks first among NCS runners in the 100 (10.41) and 400 (47.26) and is third in the 200 (21.27).

Jackson, who ran all events from the 800 and shorter as a high school athlete in Long Beach and later at Chabot College, isn't ruling anything out for Waiters, who arrived late in the winter of 2025 at Dublin. He was primarily a sprinter last season with bests of 10.80 seconds (100 wind-aided), 22.23 (200) and 50.56 (400), though he ran the latter only two times.

"I didn't get a full season with him, so he's just scratching the surface," Jackson said. "It's obvious he has a lot of talent. What's really impressive is his work ethic. And he's a leader. When he's told something, he'll say, 'We got it, coach. I'll talk to the guys.'"

Dublin, with more than 200 athletes in the program, is one of the best in Northern California. And with more than a dozen sprinters, the Gaels figure to have two relay teams (4x100-meter and 4x400-meter) competing for spots in the state meet.

The 4x100 team of Tiras Campbell, Kazuma Meraz, Waiters and Drake Wolf has

already broken the school record of 42.03 seconds, the fourth best mark in NCS this season.

With three sprinters who have run under 11.0 seconds, the Gaels figure to break that mark multiple times by June.

The 4x400 relay of Logan Lane, Maddox Ayerdis, Meraz and Waiters ran 3:24.04, which is the second best NCS mark behind El Cerrito (3:22.94).

Waiters anchors both teams, which complicates where he'll compete individually (track and field competitors can only participate in four events per meet).

"LJ is still raw and new to track," Jackson said. "We have a lot of the season to figure out what's best for him and best for the team."

All of it is going to help his football recruiting, just as it did Dublin head coach Napoleon Kaufman, one of the most celebrated two-sport athletes in California history. The 1990 graduate of Lompoc High School (Santa Barbara County) rushed for 5,151 career yards and 86 touchdowns in high school, earning him Parade All-American honors and the Cal-Hi Sports California High School Football Player of the Year award.

On the track, he won the 100 (10.57 seconds) and 200 (21.15) at the state meet, and also long jumped over

24 feet.

All of it made him a top recruit and earned him a ride at Washington, where he was a three-time All-Pac-10 Conference player, won a national championship in 1991 and eventually was a first-round pick (No. 18 overall) of the Oakland Raiders in 1995. He played five years in the NFL, rushed for nearly 4,800 yards and scored 12 rushing touchdowns.

Kaufman said his track training and success definitely helped him on the football field. He encourages all his football players to compete in track and field. He sees it immediately benefiting Waiters, who had 35 tackles in eight games last season and three catches for 53 yards.

"LJ is a great athlete and is really maturing in track and football," Kaufman said. "He came to us really raw but is very coachable and has a great attitude. Obviously, he's very fast, but he's also very tough."

"I'm looking forward to him having a huge season for us this season."

But first things first, Jackson says with a smile. And that should include a lot of first-place finishes this spring.

"He's still learning every day how to learn and compete," Jackson said. "He's soaking it all up and it's super exciting to watch."



Standout sprinter LJ Waiters maintains his stride mid-run in the 400-meter dash. With a personal best of 48.97 seconds, Waiters is a key anchor for Dublin's relay teams as they push toward the state meet. (Photo courtesy of Dublin High)

short about LJ Waiters Jr. According to his coaches — and game film and stopwatches back it up — the Dublin High School junior football and track and field standout is long on talent, speed and work ethic.

And best of all, said Dublin sprint coach James

uniform says on the back of any opponent. He just goes out and competes."

He heads into this week's nationally recognized Arcadia Invitational as one of the Bay area's top all-around athletes.

In only his second season of varsity competition

according to athletic.net, the springy standout, who plays safety and receiver on the football team, ranks fourth in both the 200-meter dash (21.55 seconds) and 400-meter dash (48.97) and seventh in the 100-meter dash (10.74).

He figures to push Bishop

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<p><b>LEGAL NOTICES</b></p> <p><b>FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 621102</b></p> <p>The following person(s) doing business as: All Creatures Veterinary Hospital, 6612 Dublin Blvd, Dublin, CA 94568 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Dublin Veterinary Services Inc., 6612 Dublin Blvd, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 2/1/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Harinder Judge, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 25, 2026. Expires February 24, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6755. Published March 19, 26, April 2, 9, 2026.</p>	<p>February 4, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6756. Published March 19, 26, April 2, 9, 2026.</p> <p><b>FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 621397</b></p> <p>The following person(s) doing business as: Maia Energetics, 1278 Asti Ct, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Rain Shine and Rainbows, LLC, 1278 Asti Ct, 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 3/9/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Corey Vadrou, Manager. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 9, 2026. Expires March 8, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6757. Published March 19, 26, April 2, 9, 2026.</p>	<p>dent, Legal No. 6758. Published March 19, 26, April 2, 9, 2026.</p> <p><b>FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 621300</b></p> <p>The following person(s) doing business as: My Profit Gurus, Inc., 6436 Tiffany Common, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): My Profit Gurus, Inc., 6436 Tiffany Common, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 2/13/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Harshavardhan Jadhav, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 5, 2026. Expires March 4, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6759. Published March 19, 26, April 2, 9, 2026.</p>	<p>Managing Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 2, 2026. Expires March 1, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6760. Published March 19, 26, April 2, 9, 2026.</p> <p><b>STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME ORIGINAL FILE NO. 611134</b></p> <p>The person(s) listed below have abandoned the use of the following fictitious business name(s). Diabolitos Tree Service, 66 Franklin St, Suite 300, Oakland, CA 94607. Registered by the following owner(s): Carlos Heriberto Berumen Ornelas, 66 Franklin St, Suite 300, Oakland, CA 94607. The fictitious business name statement was filed on 12/11/2024 in the County of Alameda. This business was conducted by an individual. Signature of Registrant/s/: Carlos Heriberto Berumen Ornelas, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 3, 2026. The Independent, Legal No. 6761. Published March 19, 26, April 2, 9, 2026.</p>	<p>for a decree changing names as follows:</p> <p><b>Present Name:</b> Skylla Jennifer Bowron</p> <p><b>Proposed Name:</b> Skylla Jennifer Pineda</p> <p><b>THE COURT ORDERS</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p><b>NOTICE OF HEARING</b></p> <p>Date: 05/22/2026</p> <p>Time: 9:00 AM</p> <p>Dept: 514</p> <p>The address of the court is: Superior Court of California 24405 Amador Street Hayward, CA 94544</p> <p>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</p>	<p>Dated: 03/17/2026 /s/: Michael Markman, Judge. The Independent, Legal No. 6762. Published March 26, April 2, 9, 16, 2026.</p> <p><b>FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 621462</b></p> <p>The following person(s) doing business as: Wings 4 Words Speech Therapy, 5375 Sandra Way, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Rachel Muldoon, 5375 Sandra Way, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 3/12/2024. Signature of Registrant/s/: Rachel Muldoon, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 11, 2026. Expires March 10, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6763. Published March 26, April 2, 9, 16, 2026.</p>	<p>Expires March 12, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6764. Published March 26, April 2, 9, 16, 2026.</p> <p><b>FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 621357</b></p> <p>The following person(s) doing business as: Mayacammas Weather Consultants, 4425 View Street, Oakland, CA 94611 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): John R. Monteverdi, 4425 View Street, Oakland, CA 94611. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 3/11/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: John Paul Monteverdi, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 9, 2026. Expires March 8, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6765. Published March 26, April 2, 9, 16, 2026.</p>	<p>Independent, Legal No. 6766. Published March 26, April 2, 9, 16, 2026.</p> <p><b>FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 621555</b></p> <p>The following person(s) doing business as: Schememetone Music, 726 E 24th St, Oakland, CA 94606 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Marc Levinthal, 726 24th St, Oakland, CA 94606. 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/: Marc Levinthal, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 16, 2026. Expires March 15, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6767. Published March 26, April 2, 9, 16, 2026.</p>
<p><b>FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620663</b></p> <p>The following person(s) doing business as: Beahcomber Studio, 154 Jensen Way, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Loren C. Oik, 154 Jensen Way, Livermore, CA 94550; Elizabeth L. Oik, 154 Jensen Way, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by a Married Couple. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 2/29/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Loren C. Oik, Co-Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 5, 2026. Expires</p>	<p><b>FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620788</b></p> <p>The following person(s) doing business as: Desserts and Doughs by Dana, 452 Windermere Cir, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Dana Youngblood, 452 Windermere Cir, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 1/16/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Dana Youngblood, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 10, 2031. The Independent,</p>	<p><b>FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 621185</b></p> <p>The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Yesu Healthcare Transportation; 2. Yesu Medical Courier; 3. Yesu Healthcare Logistics; 4. Yesu Transportation; 5. Yesu Transportatio Service, 5648 Bay Street, APT 421, Emeryville, CA 94562 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Yesu Nemt LLC, PO Box 8511 Emeryville, CA 94662. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 3/2/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Surafel Tensai,</p>	<p><b>ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME</b></p> <p>Case No. 26CV176009</p> <p>SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF ALAMEDA</p> <p>TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:</p> <p><b>Petitioner:</b> Skylla Jennifer Bowron 2772 Province Court Livermore, CA 94550 filed a petition with this court</p>	<p><b>FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 621523</b></p> <p>The following person(s) doing business as: Pawse Pet Furniture, 567 Oak Ridge Lane, Alameda, CA 94501 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Hiu Tung Lai, 567 Oak Ridge Lane, Alameda, CA 94501. This business is conducted by a Married Couple. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Hiu Tung Lai, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 13, 2026.</p>	<p>Expires March 12, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6764. Published March 26, April 2, 9, 16, 2026.</p> <p><b>FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 621470</b></p> <p>The following person(s) doing business as: Hella Dough, 1375 Pullman Way, Oakland, CA 94607 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Allison Northam, 1375 Pullman Way, Oakland, CA 94607. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 3/7/26. Signature of Registrant/s/: Allison Northam, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 11, 2026. Expires March 10, 2031. The</p>	<p><b>FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 621562</b></p> <p>The following person(s) doing business as: Maxwell Process Serving, 849 E. Stanley Blvd, Unit 122, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Tyler Maxwell, 849 E Stanley Blvd, Unit 122, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Tyler Maxwell, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 16, 2026. Expires March 15, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6768. Published March</p>	<p><b>FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 621562</b></p> <p>The following person(s) doing business as: Maxwell Process Serving, 849 E. Stanley Blvd, Unit 122, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Tyler Maxwell, 849 E Stanley Blvd, Unit 122, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Tyler Maxwell, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 16, 2026. Expires March 15, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6768. Published March</p>

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26, April 2, 9, 16, 2026.

### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 621589

The following person(s) doing business as: Livermore #2, 1025 North Vasco Rd, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): R.A.T. Oil, Inc., 1045 Airport Blvd, S San Francisco, CA 94080. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 3/12/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Jonathan Ariza Aguilar. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 17, 2026. Expires March 16, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6769. Published March 26, April 2, 9, 16, 2026.

### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 621408

The following person(s) doing business as: Patch Ya Later, 1030 Centre CT, Alameda CA 94502 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Meaghan Mena, 1030 Centre CT, Alameda, CA 94502. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 2/10/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Meaghan Mena, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 10, 2026. Expires March 9, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6770. Published March 26, April 2, 9, 16, 2026.

### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 621624

The following person(s) doing business as: HydroBlast, 2150 Portola Avenue, Suite D298, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Jeremy Laine, 2150 Portola Avenue, Suite D298, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 2/1/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Tracey Patterson, Founder & Principal. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 11, 2026. Expires March 10, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6773. Published April 2, 9, 16, 23, 2026.

### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 621612

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Casa Real at Ruby Hill Winery, 2. Casa Real, 3. Casa Real Event Venue, 410 Vineyard Ave, Pleasanton, CA 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Beet Catering, Inc, 316 Stealth Ct, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 10/10/2008. Signature of Registrant/s/: Read Phillips, Vice President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 18, 2026. Expires March 17, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6772. Published March 26, April 2, 9, 16, 2026.

### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 621612

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Pal Event Center, 2. The Palm, 3. The Palm in the Vineyard, 1184 Vineyard Ave, Pleasanton, CA 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Beet Catering, Inc, 316 Stealth Ct, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 10/10/2008. Signature of Registrant/s/: Read Phillips, Vice President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 18, 2026. Expires March 17, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6773. Published March 26, April 2, 9, 16, 2026.

### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 621620

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Llave Floral, 2. Llave Floral Studio, 3. Llave Studio, 1310 Wood Street, Oakland, CA 94607 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Veronica Llave, 1310 Wood Street, Oakland, CA 94607. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 3/1/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Veronica Valle, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 18, 2026. Expires March 17, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6774. Published March 26, April 2, 9, 16, 2026.

### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 621669

The following person(s) doing business as: Golden Nails Salon, 20862 Redwood Road, Castro Valley, CA 94546 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): S & J Nail Spa Enterprises, LLC, 93 Romani CT, Santa Rosa, CA 95407. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 2/2/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Scott H. Sebastian, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 19, 2026. Expires March 18, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6775. Published April 2, 9, 16, 23, 2026.

### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 621722

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Food Service Partners, 2. Downtown Pour Collective 2601 Horseshoe Ct,

Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Table & Town LLC, 2601 Horseshoe Ct, 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/: Nicholas Martinez, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 20, 2026. Expires March 19, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6776. Published April 2, 9, 16, 23, 2026.

### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 621259

The following person(s) doing business as: VisionPoint Insurance Solutions, 32145 Alvarado Niles RD, Ste 201, Union City, CA 94587 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): KNJ Management, Inc., 32145 Alvarado Niles RD, Ste 201, Union City, CA 94587. 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/: Kevin Lee, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 4, 2026. Expires March 3, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6777. Published April 2, 9, 16, 23, 2026.

### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 621468

The following person(s) doing business as: System Change Strategies, 1106 Chesnut ST, Alameda, CA 94501 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Systems Change Strategies LLC, 2108 N ST, Ste N, Sacramento, CA 95816. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 2/1/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Tracey Patterson, Founder & Principal. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 11, 2026. Expires March 10, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6778. Published April 2, 9, 16, 23, 2026.

### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 621757

The following person(s) doing business as: Diatribe Productions, 336 Haight Ave, Alameda, CA 94501 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Michael Cavanaugh, 336 Haight Ave, Alameda, CA 94501. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 1/1/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Michael Cavanaugh, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 23, 2026. Expires March 22, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6779. Published April 2, 9, 16, 23, 2026.

### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 621758

The following person(s) doing business as: Studio EMC, 336 Haight Ave, Alameda, CA 94501 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Evan Cavanaugh, 336 Haight Ave, Alameda, CA 94501. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 10/10/2008. Signature of Registrant/s/: Read Phillips, Vice President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 18, 2026. Expires March 17, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6773. Published March 26, April 2, 9, 16, 2026.

### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 621575

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Makers Art Studio, 1304 Stoneridge Mall Rd, Pleasanton, CA 94588 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Ditan Arts LLC, 6901 Syrah, DR, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 3/1/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Preeta Garg, Managing Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 17, 2026. Expires March 16, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6781. Published April 2, 9, 16, 23, 2026.

### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 621054

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Perfect Nine Events, 2. Perfect Nine Mobile Golf Experiences, 2313 Valley ST, Berkeley, CA 94702 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Jacob Lange, 495 Jackson ST, #1033, Oakland, CA 94607. 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/: Jacob Lange, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 24, 2026. Expires February 23, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6787. Published April 2, 9, 16, 23, 2026.

### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 621788

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Key Mechanical Company, 2. Key Mechanical, 747 Enterprise Court, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Key Mechanical Co of Washington, 19430 68th Ave S, Kent, WA 98032. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 7/1/2015. Signature of Registrant/s/: Frank W. Leonard, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 24, 2026. Expires March 23, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6782. Published April 2, 9, 16, 23, 2026.

### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 621821

The following person(s) doing business as: Sorek Cazimi, 25690 Lewis Drive, Hayward, CA 94544-2942 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Sonal K. Mann, 25690 Lewis Drive, Hayward, CA 94544. 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/: Sonal K. Mann, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 24, 2026. Expires March 23, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6783. Published April 2, 9, 16, 23, 2026.

### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 621585

The following person(s) doing business as: PolyPom, 1765 Oxford ST, APT 8, Berkeley, CA 94709 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Megan Leann Gilland, 1765 Oxford ST APT 8, Berkeley, CA 94709. 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/: Megan Leann Gilland, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 17, 2026. Expires March 16, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6788. Published April 2, 9, 16, 23, 2026.

### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 621749

The following person(s) doing business as: DAP Gems, 7063 Commerce Cir, Suite F, Pleasanton, CA 94588 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Marydean Patterson, 110 Badger Creek Ct, El Dorado Hills, CA 95762. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 3/1/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Marydean Patterson, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 23, 2026. Expires March 22, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6789. Published April 2, 9, 16, 23, 2026.

### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 621787

The following person(s) doing business as: Lumo Foundation, 1065 Serpentine LN, Ste #300, Pleasanton, CA 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Youth With Vision Foundation, 1065 Serpentine LN, Ste #300, Pleasanton, CA 94566. 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/: Angel Garcia. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 24, 2026. Expires March 23, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6790. Published April 2, 9, 16, 23, 2026.

### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 621805

The following person(s) doing business as: Pleasanton Flower Shop, 3120-C Santa Rita Rd, Pleasanton, CA 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Min T. Tun & Matthew M. Sharpnack, 3120-C Santa Rita Rd, Pleasanton, CA 9466. This business is conducted by a Married Couple. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Min T. Tun, Owner. 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 2, 9, 16, 23, 2026.

### STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME ORIGINAL FILE NO. 605615

The person(s) listed below have abandoned the use of the following fictitious business name(s). Pleasanton Flower Shop, 3120-C Santa Rita Rd, Pleasanton, CA 94566. Registered by the following owner(s): Milly T. Lwi & Maung K. Myint, 3120-C Santa Rita Rd, Pleasanton, CA 9456. The fictitious business name statement was filed on 4/16/2024 in the County of Alameda. This business was conducted by a Married Couple. Signature of Registrants: /s/: Milly T. Lwi, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 24, 2026. The Independent, Legal No. 6792. Published April 2, 9, 16, 23, 2026.

### ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME 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:

16, 23, 2026.

### 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, 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. Stamped & Branded 3098 Chateau Way, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Youth With Vision Foundation, 1065 Serpentine LN, Ste #300, Pleasanton, CA 94566. 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/: Angel Garcia. 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, 2026.

### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 621771

The following person(s) doing business as: Evertly Stitch Society, 2150 Portola Ave, Ste D

16, 23, 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, 2026. Expires March 22, 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, 2026. 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, 2026. 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: Evertly Stitch Society, 2150 Portola Ave, Ste D

16, 23, 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 Chenyu 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. 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. 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, 2026. 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: Evertly Stitch 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 Chenyu 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.

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### FREE SECTION

# More Than a Gym: The WE Facility Puts Community At the Center of the Court, Builds Basketball Family

By Kathryn Stroud

LIVERMORE — The first time you arrive at The WE Facility, a new gym primarily focused on basketball, you might be surprised to find yourself in the middle of an unassuming business park. However, every afternoon the space is filled with kids dribbling, shooting and training.

“At 4 p.m. this place is flooded, flooded with kids. It’s bouncing with activity,” said Shanelle Hite, one of the two gym owners and program directors of The WE Facility.

250 kids have trained at the facility. While mostly youth focused, the facility does offer an adult league.

The facility is run by Shanelle and Randy Hite, a husband-and-wife duo, originally from Connecticut. The idea started after Randy’s career in basketball, which included playing collegiately and semi-professionally. Weighing what to do next, Randy turned to coaching at Shanelle’s suggestion. They built a coaching brand in Connecticut, but then learned from partners who suggested coming out to the Tri-Valley.

sions happened in Fallon Sports Park in Dublin, followed by working out of a facility in San Ramon, and now operating their own facility in Livermore at 4671-C Las Positas Road. It is outfitted with three full courts, and future plans include a full gym and an area for parents to train when they drop their kids off.

“A lot of what we’ve been doing so far and our success has been through referrals and families that we have impacted in some way. It’s been very organic, and that’s what we prefer. We don’t want forced inter-

looking for a hobby.

Shanelle Hite said this philosophy stems from watching her grandfather operate Boys & Girls Clubs in Connecticut.

“He knew everybody’s name coming in the door,” she said of her grandfather, “That’s the vibe we’re trying to emulate here. We want to make people feel welcomed. It’s not just basketball or sports or being an athlete. We want to recognize you as a person. We want to know your name. We want you to know us.”

The intentional community space is felt by athletes and their families. One athlete, who trained with The Hites for six years and now plays collegiate basketball at UC Merced, explained, “What sets them apart is their commitment to having a positive environment that has also turned into a family-like environment.”

A parent of two athletes training with The WE Facility reported a similar experience: “Beyond the individual development, what truly sets Randy and Shanelle apart is their unwavering commitment to all the kids in their community. They consistently go above and beyond to show up, nurture and inspire every young athlete they work with. Their dedication to building not just skilled basketball players but confident, well-rounded young people is evident in everything they do.”

Their Instagram page is peppered with a cheeky recurring phrase: “It’s only work.” When asked about it, Shanelle Hite said, “People can say it takes so much effort to come to the gym and be consistent; but it is only work — you come as you are, you grow as you are. It’s nothing to be scared about. It’s nothing to

be overwhelmed about. It’s only work.”

The Hites have big plans for the space, including developing a dedicated conditioning area, utilizing the back space for large sporting events, and expanding their offering for adult classes to include fitness, dance and even yoga.

The Hites are planning a grand opening in June. If interested, you can find out more on their website [thewefacility.com](http://thewefacility.com) or follow them on Instagram @thewefacility.



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Coach Shanelle Hite, co-owner of The WE Facility in Livermore, works with a group of young athletes during an afternoon session. Hite says her coaching philosophy is inspired by her grandfather's legacy of making every child feel welcome by name. (Photo courtesy of Shanelle and Randy Hite)

The relatively new facility primarily trains young people, ages 8 to 17 through various programs, including one-on-one training, camps and clinics, and team play. Since opening last October,

“We heard how much more was being done in this area as far as how the game expands, so we just took the leap and moved out here,” Randy Hite said.

Their first training ses-

actions,” Shanelle Hite said.

For coaches Randy and Shanelle Hite, the space is for everyone, from competitive athletes looking to play basketball in college and beyond to young people



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## SPARC to Hold Birthday Bash for Its 20th Anniversary Celebration

LIVERMORE — SPARC Theater, also known as the Shakespeare & Performing Arts Regional Company, will celebrate its 20th anniversary with its annual Shakespeare’s Birthday Bash at the 3 Steves Winery from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 23.

SPARC said the fundraiser is both “a celebration and a critical source of support” for the nonprofit’s community-based arts programs as it faces rising production costs, streaming entertainment and changing audience habits.

“Reaching 20 years is a meaningful milestone for SPARC,” said Executive Director Lisa Tromovitch. “But it’s also a moment to look forward. If live, professional theater is going to thrive in communities like ours, it requires continued investment and engagement.”

The evening will feature live music by the East Bay Jazz High School All-Stars, an improv demonstration led by Mark Duncanson and the return of Open Mic Sonnets, with community members

performing Shakespeare and other original works.

The evening will also include a “5-Minute Hamlet” performance by Doyle Ott, a member of the Medical Clowns Project, a silent auction, mystery wine pull and a live dessert auction.

Food will be available from Your Taco Guy.

General admission tickets are \$100 and include a wine voucher.

For more information, or to purchase tickets, go to [sparctheater.org](http://sparctheater.org).

## Bankhead Hosts Watercolor Exhibit

LIVERMORE — The California Watercolor Association (WCA) is sponsoring an exhibit at the UNCLE Credit Union Art Gallery at the Bankhead Theater that features paintings of “splendid places” its mem-

bers have seen.

The exhibit, “Presenting Splendid Surroundings in Watercolor,” includes still lifes, landscapes, portraits and abstracts.

The exhibit is free and runs through Sunday, May

from noon to 5 p.m. Thursday through Saturday.

There will be an opening reception with live ukelele music from the Serenading Strummers from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, April 11.



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