



Attendees gather around a U.S. Army Black Hawk helicopter following its landing at Concannon Vineyard in Livermore during the estate's first annual Memorial Appreciation Day on Sunday, May 24. Hosted by vineyard owner and decorated U.S. Army Aviator Tom Lemmons alongside Livermore Mayor John Marchand, the community event honored local veterans and first responders with live music, local vendors and special tributes. (Photo — Jacob Clouser)

Local Candidates Set to Face Off in Their Congressional Primary Election

A Crowded Field of Nine Is Competing Across the Tri-Valley and East Bay

By Jessica Zimmer

California's 14th Congressional District covers a wide swath of Alameda County, stretching east from Hayward to areas east of Livermore. The District covers much of the Tri-Valley: all of Dublin and all of Livermore and Pleasanton. The District also covers all of Union City and Hayward and portions of Fremont. Before redistricting took place in 2020, the area that is now in the 14th District was in the 15th District, and Dublin was previously split between districts.

Eric Swalwell held the seat for the 14th District prior to his resignation in April. Before the area was redistricted, he repre-

sented the same region in the 15th District since 2013.

Democrats Victor Aguilar, Jr.

Victor Aguilar Jr. is a Democrat and resident of San Leandro. He currently serves as a San Leandro City Council member, representing District 3. Aguilar was elected to this position in 2018. He is also an account executive for Construction Testing Services, a Pleasanton firm that engages in material testing and geotechnical engineering. Aguilar had a campaign website, but it is no longer active. The FEC does not note him as having an active campaign with contributions.

Carin Elam

Carin Elam is a Democrat and resident of Pleasanton. She is the founder of RP Hope, a California nonprofit that raises awareness of non-syndromic retinitis pigmentosa (RP), a disease that leads to vision loss. From 2022 to 2025, Elam worked in business and workforce development for Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired, a San Francisco nonprofit. Elam has a Bachelor of Arts in political economy and a Master of Public Administration in international and European governance. In 2019, she wrote her master's thesis on the use of subtle voter suppression to swing elections.

Elam worked for over 20 years

(See CONGRESS, page 7)

Pleasanton School Breaks Ground On \$9.7M Expansion

Project Uses Legally Restricted 2022 Bond Funds

By Sanestina Hunter

PLEASANTON — Walnut Grove Elementary School will undergo a \$9.7 million modernization to expand facilities for Pleasanton Unified School District's growing transitional kindergarten (TK) program.

Funded through the district's Measure I bond program, the upgrades are part of the \$395 million school facilities bond approved by voters in 2022 to fund classroom modernization and infrastructure projects across Pleasanton Unified schools.

District leaders gathered May 11 to mark the groundbreaking at Walnut Grove.

The expansion comes at a difficult time for the district. Despite ongoing budget deficits, including program cuts and teacher layoffs, Measure I bond funds have legal restrictions. They can only be used for school facilities upgrades and cannot be applied to fiscal solvency or operating expenses. "This project represents an investment in early learning for our students," Superintendent Maurice Ghysels said in a statement. "By creating purpose-built spaces for transitional kindergarten, we are expanding access and strengthening the foundation for student success."

The elementary school is slated to receive two new TK classrooms with workrooms and student

(See WALNUT GROVE, page 6)



Bringing peace to the valley, Dimple and Ray Sharma welcome the community to experience their new, serene Livermore winery and tasting room on Tesla Road. (Photo courtesy of Shanti Winery)

Livermore's Newest Winery Exudes Peace and Serenity

Owners Trade Napa's Bustle for Tri-Valley's Calm

By Dawnmarie Fehr

LIVERMORE — Livermore's newest winery, Shanti Winery and Event Center, opened its doors on Tesla Road in December. Offering a hospitality-driven winery experience rooted in the principles of peace, connection, and intentional living, owners Ray and Dimple Sharma welcome the local community to come in, taste, and feel the peace.

"Shanti" in Sanskrit means peace," Dimple said. "For both of us, we feel like it's a very peaceful, serene moment when you are sitting in a winery, having a glass of wine. That's how we came up with the name."

Shanti sits on the historic Home Ranch property and includes over five acres planted with Cabernet Sauvignon, Sangiovese and Barbera grapes. Dimple noted Cabernet grapes grow extremely well in the

Livermore Valley, and the couple looks forward to a future with estate-growth production, meaning all steps in the winemaking process — harvesting, crushing, fermenting, ageing and bottling — would take place on property. Currently, all production is done in Napa.

This is not the Sharmas' first venture into winemaking. In 2012, they opened a tasting room in Napa, where they released their first wines. As the business grew, they began searching for a new challenge and eventually set their sights on Livermore. Ray said the move reflects a shift in focus from Napa to Livermore, allowing them to be closer to their home in the Tri-Valley.

"We want to have our footprint in Livermore," he said, noting they both feel more at home in Livermore than Napa.

"Napa and Sonoma areas are very commercialized at this point,

(See SHANTI, page 9)

\$175k Gift Brings Academic Support To the Dublin Unified School District

Nonprofit's Donation Earmarks Crucial Funding Amid Budget Constraints

By Sanestina Hunter

DUBLIN — The Dublin Education Alliance donated \$175,000 to expand academic and student support services across the Dublin Unified School District.

The investment will support tutoring centers for secondary students and intervention programs aimed at helping elementary students build foundational skills.

"This \$175,000 investment reflects our commitment to delivering meaningful, measurable impact for students," said Audrey Borland, president of the Dublin Education Alliance. "By supporting both early

intervention and expanded academic resources, we're helping ensure every student has the opportunity to succeed."

The donation was presented during the Dublin Unified School Board meeting on April 28.

Superintendent Chris Funk told The Independent that \$75,000 will be split evenly among elementary schools for intervention programs, while the remaining \$100,000 will support a coordinator for secondary tutoring centers.

The donation comes as Dublin Unified faces ongoing budget pressures and concerns from some teachers about access to classroom

supplies. However, the funding is earmarked to support only tutoring and intervention programs.

"Intervention programs and tutoring support help students reach their full potential by providing targeted assistance when needed," Funk said. "Because students learn at different paces, timely academic support can address learning gaps, build confidence, strengthen foundational skills and provide the guidance students need to succeed."

The investment builds on previous Dublin Education Alliance support for district schools.

Last school year, the organization contributed an additional \$20,000

(See SUPPORT, page 9)



Local artist and educator, Thomasin Dewhurst, sits among her paints as she brings a wall panel to life at Las Positas College. She is seeking funding for an educational, wildlife preservation-themed mural in collaboration with youth artists to adorn the college's Child Development Center. Dewhurst will be teaching a beginner watercolor class in support of the project on Saturday, June 6 at 11:00 a.m. and 12:15 at The Independent. All proceeds will benefit the youth artists. (Photo — Christina Cavallaro)

The Independent to Host Watercolor Class

100% of Proceeds to Benefit a Las Positas College Student Art Mural Project

By Christina Cavallaro

LIVERMORE — Livermore artist and educator Thomasin Dewhurst is the originator and lead behind many of the Tri-Valley's iconic outdoor wall murals. Earlier this year she completed the city-commissioned "Clean-Air Transportation Innovation Mural," which now occupies the side of an immense hangar at the Livermore Airport.

The Independent building on First Street in downtown Livermore will open its doors to the public on

Saturday, June 6 for a beginner watercolor class taught by Dewhurst. Two 45-minute sessions at 11:00 a.m. and 12:15 p.m. will be offered for \$20 per person. All supplies will be provided and participants will take home a completed painting. Every dollar raised will directly fund a new youth mural project at Las Positas College.

With the airport mural, Dewhurst was inspired to bring together both professional adult artists and youth artists after teaching and making her own art at the Bothwell Arts Cen-

ter, where many Tri-Valley artists have studios. She was continually impressed by the strength of the art being produced there by adult and youth artists alike.

"There were so many excellent students with the airport group," Dewhurst recalled. "They were so dedicated. They tried so hard. They had the least amount of time because they were all studying, yet their standard was consistently high and they were always enthusiastic about it, so I really want to give them as much opportunity as possible."

(See WATERCOLOR, page 10)

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Editor's Note: Candidates in this guide are grouped by political party affiliation and then listed in alphabetical order.

Meet the Candidates Vying for California's 10th Congressional District

By Kathryn Stroud

District 10's Congressman Mark DeSaulnier seeks reelection in a district slightly altered after Proposition 50 passed. California's 10th Congressional District is primarily located within Contra Costa county, while also encompassing a small portion of Alameda County, including Eastern portions of

strengthen accountability for large public infrastructure projects like the Bay Bridge.

His endorsements include Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi, the Sierra Club, the United Professional Firefighters of Contra Costa County and the United Farm Workers of America.

Josh Hamilton

Josh Hamilton, a Demo-

Mitchell Maisler

Mitchell Maisler, a Democrat, is a beer brewer from Walnut Creek.

Maisler's platform includes calling for the abolition of ICE, ending corporate subsidies and establishing universal free healthcare funded by higher taxes on billionaires and corporations. He calls for reasonable and effective gun control, ending insider stock trading for law-

because he believes it is time for fresh voices and new ideas in the seat.

Jeffrey Frese

Jeffrey Frese, a Republican, is a small business owner from Moraga.

He is campaigning on making California more affordable by cutting federal red tape that he argues drives up housing, energy and food costs, and by reducing wild-

on strengthening families, improving affordability, protecting public safety, supporting healthcare transparency, increasing government accountability and protecting election integrity. On elections, she contends that California's system has serious vulnerabilities, citing ballot harvesting practices, oversight gaps and poorly maintained voter rolls. She supports the federal SAVE

publican, is a retired businesswoman and longtime activist from Oakland.

Piccinini describes her campaign as putting people first, built around the values of God, family, life and country. She focuses on keeping manufacturing jobs in the U.S., elevating trade and apprenticeship programs to equal standing with four-year college degrees and reforming the tax code to reward marriage and parenthood. On governance, she supports term limits, a ban on congressional insider trading and cutting congressional pay if the budget goes unbalanced. She also opposes a central bank digital currency, calls for blocking foreign ownership of American farmland and homes, supports enforcing immigration laws and calls for protecting parental rights over school curriculum.

Her endorsements include California ProLife and Right to Life Federation, the California Rifle & Pistol Association PAC and the California College Republicans.



Mark DeSaulnier



Josh Hamilton



Mitchell Maisler



Angela Griffiths



Katherine Piccinini

Dublin. DeSaulnier faces six contenders in the June 2 primary election.

Mark DeSaulnier

Mark DeSaulnier, a Democrat, has served as a U.S. Representative since 2015. His platform centers on lowering healthcare and housing costs, protecting Social Security and Medicare, reducing gun violence and improving local transportation and infrastructure. DeSaulnier sits on the House Committee of Ethics, Education and Workforce, and Transportation and Infrastructure. His legislative work includes measures to improve guardrail safety on federal highways and

crat, is an entrepreneur and community organizer from Pleasant Hill.

His platform includes tax cuts for working people, universal healthcare with a \$5 cap on prescription drug prices and massive federal investment in education. He calls for the establishment of a national investment fund that sends a yearly dividend payment to every adult citizen, based on a system already established in Alaska called the Alaska Permanent Fund Dividend. Hamilton frames his campaign around challenging systems that favor the powerful over everyday people and he describes his approach as evidence-based rather than ideological.

makers and investing in green infrastructure.

Bob Rowland

Bob Rowland, a Democrat, is a commercial land broker from Alamo with a background that spans military service, aviation and business.

Rowland says he entered the race because he is alarmed by what he views as a decline in the country's fiscal, moral and ethical direction. In his voter guide statement, he said he is particularly troubled by the erosion of checks and balances and the rule of law, citing ICE raids as evidence of a government that no longer resembles the one he grew up in. He is running

fire risk through improved federal land and forest management. He also supports ending Daylight Savings Time, implementing same-day voter registration with ID requirements, making Election Day a national holiday and enacting term limits. He favors an education system focused on literacy, math, critical thinking and practical workforce skills, including AI and automation. He calls for defending the constitutional right to travel.

Angela Griffiths

Dr. Angela Griffiths, a Republican, is a functional medicine practitioner and chiropractor from Castro Valley. Griffiths' platform focuses

Act as a remedy. On affordability, she argues that high wealth taxes and rising energy costs are pushing out middle-class families. She supports gender-affirming care for adults but opposes it for minors.

Her endorsements include the Contra Costa Republican Party, the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association and Stand for Health Freedom.

Katherine Piccinini

Katherine Piccinini, a Re-

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The Battle for Alameda County DA Is Underway as Incumbent, Former DA and Newcomer Square Off

By Rain Hepting

Three candidates are running for the position of Alameda County District Attorney (DA): the incumbent, the previous DA, and a newcomer. The DA's office oversees the prosecution of all felonies and misdemeanors in the county. From 1938 to 2022, succession in the DA's office was handled in a now-controversial manner colloquially referred to as "passing the torch" — a retiring DA

County Board of Supervisors after the 2024 recall. She is running for election to maintain her position.

Jones Dickson served as a deputy district attorney from 1999 to 2013, and then as a judge in the Alameda County Superior Court from 2013 to 2025, when she stepped down to apply for DA. Her campaign emphasizes impartiality and a focus on supportive systems for victims of crime. Jones Dickson told The Independent that her 15 years

of federal grants given to California.

"People think there's this law of scarcity that doesn't exist — there's more than enough — but I think it's the way we teach people and train people," Jones Dickson said. She added that under her administration, the DA's office invests budget money into supportive social services and nonprofits.

Jones Dickson said she supports the use of third-party camera surveillance, includ-

have an understanding that they will go free," Krishan said. He explained that he is particularly concerned with shoplifting and its effects on small businesses, as well as smash-and-grab robberies and catalytic converter theft. To discourage crime, he wants to give harsher sentences and be more selective about convicts' opportunities for rehabilitation, including trying children 15 years and older as adults if they are part of a gang.

In a previous interview, Krishan told The Independent that he thinks the Tri-Valley will be mostly unaffected by the DA election, as people in the Tri-Valley already feel safe. His concerns lie elsewhere.

"The broader Berkeley area, the Hayward area, San Leandro, San Lorenzo — I have done a lot of research on it — that needs to be fixed,"

(See ALAMEDA, page 9)



Ursula Jones Dickson



Gopal Krishnan



Pamela Price

would quit in the middle of their term and recommend a replacement to the Alameda County Board of Supervisors, who would then appoint them. By the time it came to the regularly scheduled election, the replacement DA would be the incumbent, making it harder to challenge them than if they had run equally against other candidates to fill a vacancy.

In 2022, former DA Nancy O'Malley did not appoint a successor, leading to the first open seat election for the position in 84 years. Pamela Price won the vote but was recalled by petition in 2024. The Alameda County Board of Supervisors appointed Ursula Jones Dickson to the position of DA in 2025, making her the incumbent in this election.

If one of the three candidates gets the majority of votes, they will win the election — though if no candidate gets more than 50% of the vote, the top two will move forward to the Nov. 3 elections.

DA Ursula Jones Dickson

Incumbent DA Ursula Jones Dickson was appointed to office by the Alameda

of experience as a prosecutor makes her the most qualified candidate for DA. She said the two traits that most disqualify a candidate are being politically "agendized" and being incompetent.

"Both of the individuals running against me have no experience as criminal law lawyers," Jones Dickson added. "I think people forget that prosecutors have certain rules and regulations specifically that no other lawyers have, and it has showed up in the last (Price's) administration, where people didn't know that, or they ignored it."

Upon being appointed as DA, Jones Dickson reversed many of the reforms Price had put in place, including her recommendations to resentence death penalty cases affected by racial bias, restrictions on charge enhancements and pause on the transfer of youth into the adult justice system. Jones Dickson's administration has been criticized as a return to "old guard" politics.

Jones Dickson told The Independent that she sees the DA's Office as part of a larger social ecosystem, one whose balances are threatened due to the decreasing number

ing FLOCK automatic license plate readers — the use of which have been controversial due to FLOCK Safety's data security scandals and cooperation with ICE.

"Am I going to discourage law enforcement from using technology to do their jobs so we can keep crime as low as possible? No, I'm not," she said.

Jones Dickson and her opponent Price have clashed over the appropriate response to allegations of sexual assault against former congressman Eric Swalwell.

Gopal Krishnan

Gopal Krishnan is a family lawyer of over 15 years who manages a law office at a firm in Milpitas. He has never held an elected office, though he says that his experience in management qualifies him for the position. He is running on a platform of punitive justice, with his top priorities being the prevention of organized crime, hate crimes and ICE overreach.

Krishnan told The Independent that in his view, crime is caused by a lack of consequences for criminals.

"The people that are doing the crime, they somehow

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Class Taught by Tri-Valley Artist and Educator Thomasin Dewhurst

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Students Deliver Care to Local Veterans and Seniors

By Vivien Wenneker

PLEASANTON — Noticing that many seniors and veterans in the Tri-Valley were not getting the recognition and care they deserved, two Amador Valley High School students, Udayan Singhal and Niranjan Swaminathan, set out to create “Cards for a Cause.”

Founded in June 2025, the student-led nonprofit is primarily composed of volunteers, who put together care packages and handwritten cards to remind seniors and veterans that they are appreciated.

According to Singhal, the care packages usually include items such as snacks, coloring books, bracelets, motivational journals, games, playing cards, and hygiene items. The handwritten cards add a personalized touch, making recipients feel truly seen and recognized.

“Niranjan and I noticed how many seniors and veterans in our area didn’t have many people checking in on them, especially after the pandemic really isolated a lot of people,” Singhal said. “We wanted a simple way to bring some joy and let them know they are remembered.”

The co-founders began by reaching out to senior and veterans’ centers throughout Pleasanton and the greater Tri-Valley region, working with co-

ordinators to arrange bag delivery events. They have also collaborated with local businesses, such as ABC Bakery, a home bakery in Pleasanton, to host card-making and bag-packing events.



Care packages put together by Cards for a Cause volunteers are ready to be shared with local residents through a partnership with Open Heart Kitchen. (Photo courtesy of Cards for a Cause)

Swaminathan said that some of the most heart-felt moments have come following their major bag deliveries, when coordinators relayed how much the veterans appreciated the personalized gift bags, and specifically the handwritten cards.

“One standout memory was delivering 40 care bags to the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) at the Pleasanton Veterans Memorial Building,” Swaminathan shared. “I met the commander at this post who was

The cards are predominantly made by volunteers from across the region, which Cards for a Cause then collects for their care packages. To date, the nonprofit has had six major bag deliveries, with its most recent and largest event taking place in mid-May, when it partnered with Trader Joe’s to gift boxes for veterans in honor of Memorial Day.

During this delivery, 50 bags were given to American Legion Post 237, a Pleasanton-based organization dedicated to assisting service members and veterans in the Tri-Valley and surrounding areas.

Cards for a Cause has also collaborated with neighboring nonprofits such as Open Heart Kitchen and CityServe to reach a greater number of veterans and seniors.

In total, the nonprofit has created over 2,000 cards, and delivered over 200 bags. Its message has also spread to other parts of the Bay Area, where another chapter was recently founded in San Mateo County, and even to several other states, with chapters now cropping up in Washington, Texas, and Illinois, Singhal said.

Eventually, he wants the organization to have a chapter in every state and expand internationally so more veterans and seniors can get the attention they deserve.

Through cementing its position in the Tri-Valley

giving back to their community, and perhaps earning some volunteer hours on the side, Cards for a Cause is always appreciative of new volunteers. Whether it is through making cards, or donating items to create gift boxes, every contribution goes toward bringing comfort to those in need.

Before making a donation, be sure to contact the organization first. It can be reached by phone at 925-579-1099, or email: cards4acause2025@gmail.com.

For those interested in

nonprofit world, Cards for a Cause has been able to form connections that have allowed it to serve not only seniors and veterans, but also other groups in need, such as hospitalized kids, cancer patients and unhoused people. However, despite this continued growth, Singhal said that Cards for a Cause still plans to focus its efforts on veterans and seniors.

Apart from co-founders Singhal and Swaminathan, other officers whose work made the nonprofit possible include Ansh Gupta, Tanishi Srivastava, Devi Kotla, Aarav Akella, Rheanne Soon, and Nina Xue.

“The most fulfilling part of co-creating Cards for a Cause has been seeing how small acts of kindness can make a real difference in people’s lives,” Swaminathan said. “Through organizing events and delivering care packages and handmade cards to community members, we have been able to spread joy and positivity, while bringing people together for a meaningful cause.”

For those interested in

giving back to their community, and perhaps earning some volunteer hours on the side, Cards for a Cause is always appreciative of new volunteers. Whether it is through making cards, or donating items to create gift boxes, every contribution goes toward bringing comfort to those in need.

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Pleasanton’s iSmash Holds Fundraiser For Children’s Horse Therapy Program

PLEASANTON — iSmash Pleasanton, which offers rage and splatter-paint room experiences, is holding a fundraiser for the SonRise Equestrian Foundation during Memorial Day week, with 25% of the proceeds

from guests who book online between Monday, May 25, and Saturday, May 30, going to the nonprofit horse-assisted therapy program for children with special needs.

Although iSmash Pleasanton, 4275 Rosewood Dr.,

is generally closed on Mondays, the franchise said it will be open from noon to 8 p.m. on Memorial Day to kick off the fundraiser for the Danville-based foundation.

The franchise will also

be open from noon to 8 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday, noon to 10 p.m. on Friday, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Saturday, and 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Sunday.

For more information, go to ismashusa.com.

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EDITORIALS

Aisha Wahab Is the Experienced Leader the Tri-Valley Needs

Several candidates are running for Congress in the 14th District, which includes the Tri-Valley. The seat was vacated by former Congressman Eric Swalwell after he resigned in a sexual abuse scandal. The sudden vacancy creates an unusual situation in which there will be two primary elections for the seat — a special primary on June 16 to fill out the rest of Swalwell's term for approximately 6.5 months, and also the regular primary on June 2 for the upcoming Nov. 3 general election, which will determine who takes the seat in January 2027 for the two-year position.

If no candidate wins more than 50% of the vote in the special primary, there will also be a runoff on Aug. 18 to fill the seat through the end of the year.

Of the many people in the race, Democratic State Senator Aisha Wahab is the preferred candidate. She served on the Hayward City Council for four years before she was elected to the California Senate in 2022 and rapidly rose to be assistant majority leader. She chairs the Business, Professions and Economic Development Committee and has also led the chamber's Housing Committee.

Wahab has made a name for herself

taking on powerful interests, including introducing SB 1193 in the current session, which would rein in discretionary spending by Alameda County Supervisors unless a majority of the Board of Supervisors supports those funding allocations. It would prohibit supervisors running for re-election to take any action on those funds. All such appropriations would also have to be disclosed on a quarterly basis. (That bill was passed by the State Senate May 19 and is now before the Assembly.)

She is also attuned to the needs of everyday Californians. After her parents both died when she was a child, Wahab was raised in the East Bay foster care system and adopted. Her adoptive family lost jobs and their home during the 2011 financial crisis. She is still a renter, and advocates for affordable housing and economic stability from first-hand experience. She has sponsored bills that would allow cities to expand rent control and bar landlords from evicting tenants who pay back rent in arrears.

Wahab was also the first Afghan American elected to public office in the U.S. in 2018, and the first to be elected to the California Senate. She's championed civil rights protections, fought to protect home

ownership from predatory investors, and pushed for accountability and stable rates from utility and insurance companies.

Wahab has been endorsed by the state Democratic Party and the Green Party of Alameda County, Indivisible Tri-Valley, and has secured backing from teachers, nurses, firefighters and healthcare labor unions.

We disagreed with her decision to block a "caretaker" plan for the newly open seat that would have had all the Democratic candidates support former State Senator Bob Wieckowski to fill out Swalwell's unfinished term. With so many Democratic candidates running, the fear is they would split the vote and allow a Republican to take the seat. (Wieckowski had also pledged not to run in the general election.) But that isn't enough of a reason to oppose a candidate as experienced as Wahab (and Wieckowski has also endorsed Wahab). Her opponents have more strikes against them. Her closest opponent in what limited polling there has been is BART Commissioner and former Dublin Mayor Melissa Hernandez. She has done some positive things for her city, including championing more housing.

But Hernandez also voted to lower traffic impact fees in Eastern Dublin, spurring development at the expense of the infrastructure needed to support the city's residents. May 2019, Dublin became the focus of a wave of prejudice and hatred over a proposal to fly a rainbow flag during June, which is LGBTQ+ Pride month. Hernandez refused to condemn the hatred and voted against allowing the flag to be flown. BART is also poorly run, and the Tri-Valley stations are threatened with closure at precisely the time when we should be expanding our public transportation networks.

Of the other candidates in the race, some such as small-business owner Matt Ortega and Pleasanton nonprofit executive Carin Elam show promise, and we hope they will remain active in their communities and consider running for other offices.

For this important seat in Congress, we need a candidate who is experienced with legislation, has a progressive vision and a drive to serve her community. For these reasons, The Independent endorses Aisha Wahab.

Experience and Reform for Congress, Assembly and DA

DeSaulnier for U.S. House

We endorse Mark DeSaulnier to represent California's 10th District in the U.S. House of Representatives. He has strongly opposed reopening Federal Correctional Institution Dublin, and we expect that he will continue to fight against any such plans, especially given a recent environmental assessment suggesting the closed prison could be repurposed as an immigration detention facility.

DeSaulnier has also supported increasing affordable housing, advocating for veterans' rights and reducing gun violence. His experience over six congressional terms will continue to serve the 10th District well.

Bauer-Kahan for State Assembly

We endorse Rebecca Bauer-Kahan for California State Assembly District 16. Bauer-Kahan's willingness to address evolving issues, such as her bill requiring college and university policies to address deep-fake sexual harassment, and her bill introducing accountability for e-bike violations, reveal an assemblymember in tune with her constituency. Her platform focuses on the affordability pressures, public safety and climate issues affecting us today.

As the District 16 representative since 2018, we look forward to her future work tackling these issues.

Lee for State Assembly

We endorse Alex Lee for California

State Assembly District 24. He co-authored a bill for the Legislature to affirm its commitment to birthright citizenship, which passed last September. We support his opposition of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement contractors, as well as his work toward housing affordability and social services expansion. Lee has also promoted an expansion of the CalFresh Fruit and Vegetable EBT Program, a needed response to the White House's willingness to politically weaponize food stamps.

Elected in 2020, Lee deserves to continue his work as assembly member.

Price for District Attorney

We endorse Pamela Price for Alameda County District Attorney (DA).

She ran and won on a platform of change in 2022, and her reforms perhaps brought about her own recall. She has made firm commitments to improve our jail requirements and correct historical racial inequities in the justice system. She is now running on criminal justice reform and independence from the sheriff's office.

We reiterate our 2024 sentiment that those who removed Price abused the recall procedure. During her limited tenure, she established a public accountability unit that filed charges against current and former sheriff's deputies. She also pushed to try fewer minors as adults, except in extraordinary circumstances, a directive that her successor rescinded. Give Price her full term.

MAILBOX

Mailbox Guidelines:

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

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

Sunken Gardens Pump Track Opening Soon

Mike Ralph, Livermore

Livermore is about to get a lot more radical! 25 years after opening, the Sunken Gardens Skatepark is getting a new neighbor. The Sunken Gardens Pump Track, located at 3800 Pacific Avenue, is under construction now with a June 17th Ribbon Cutting. The "All Wheels" track is the result of many years of grassroots campaigning, and was originally approved in 2022. Not just for bikes, the track can be ridden with skateboards, scooters, and roller skates. Sunken Gardens will be the hot spot this Summer, and for years to come.

A very sincere thank you goes out to the LARPD Board of Directors for approving the park and LARPD General Manager Mathew Fuzie and his team for making it happen.

Wine Country "Luxury"?

Linda Milanese, Livermore

If I were a wine country visitor to Livermore looking for a hotel, I would want to be downtown where the action is — restaurants, shops, music, movie theaters, the Bankhead.

If I were a wine country visitor, I wouldn't want to be isolated way out Arroyo Road. Where the 28 small pre-fab units are jammed onto

3 acres — 28 units not counting the garbage shed.

Where the small units are only 13 feet apart — too close for any privacy. Where there aren't any trees. Where they plan to charge \$475 a night for all this "luxury."

My first impression was that the map resembled a trailer park. But actually it resembles a gathering of tiny homes like those that are offered as temporary housing for homeless people.

The development uses the word "luxury" to promote itself, but there's nothing luxurious about it. They can plant all the landscaping they want and plant trees that take decades to grow (although the pictures show the units surrounded by mature trees). They can cover the tiny units in grapevines and call it wine country luxury, but — as the saying goes — it'll be like "putting lipstick on a pig."

It will still be an eyesore that will diminish any wine country cachet that Livermore hopes to promote. We need a hotel, but this project does not fit the bill.

Spiritual Solidarity

Julie Wild, Livermore

Bishop Sandra K. Olewine: CA-NEV Conference recently spoke at Asbury United Methodist Church. Wanted to share her words:

"What does it mean for our stated commitments to walk with Palestinians, with Israelis and Lebanese and Jordanians, Syrians, Iraqis and Iranians towards a future in which all their children regardless of borders, nationality, or religion are able to grow up unafraid of the other, having clean water and suitable housing and discovering who the Creator of all that is created them to be.

"What does spiritual solidarity mean when the nation

that many of us here call home is as culpable as the Israeli government for the death and destruction, the maiming and terrorizing of Palestinians and all those across the region, since the beginning of the displacement 100 years ago, but particularly in the last 60 years, regardless of whether Republicans or Democrats have led the nation.

"As Palestinians write in Kairos II, 'While people of the world have stood in solidarity with us, the genocidal war has laid bare the hypocrisy of the Western world, its hollow values and its empty boasts of commitment to human rights and international law. In truth, the Western world has sacrificed us, revealing racism and double standards toward our people.'

"We as Americans are wreaking havoc in the world through our economic engines based on military might for the purpose of maintaining our right to live on the backs of the world's poor, marginalized, black and brown people. It must stop. We must use every privilege we have in the leverage of justice.

"No more hate, no more destruction, no more war — no more. We can be spiritual allies who are willing to face being uncomfortable so that others might live. May God show us the way."

Islamophobia and Vice Signaling; Israel's Genocide and Consciousness

Greg Scott, Livermore

On Monday, May 18, 2026, Amin Abdullah, Mansour Kaziha, and Nadir Awad were shot and killed at the Islamic Center of San Diego by two teenage assailants while protecting 140 children inside.

San Diego is my hometown. I graduated from Patrick Henry High School, in

the very northeastern part of the city limits, as did my fellow neighbor, the actress Annette Bening, who was in the movie, "The Kids Are All Right."

Some 'kids' are definitely not alright. Vulnerable, confused teenagers, who later killed themselves, were on the Dark Web on Nihilistic Violent Extremist (NVE) websites being groomed for hateful, violent actions. (NVE is an FBI label. I refuse to list the names of the websites.) The influencers on these sites are nihilists/misanthropists whose objectives are to create social chaos, dissension, and fear. The genre is called "militant accelerationism," or "Satanic accelerationism" by those who try to fit it into their religious machinations. (This is not to be confused with e-accelerationism (e-acc), which is part of generative artificial intelligence culture.)

The reporting is that the perpetrators listed other groups as targets in their manifesto. Thankfully they didn't strike them. Listed were groups of Jews, homosexuals, others, and, of course — Trump. Welcome to vice signaling. The care is for the Muslim group? Why was the mosque prioritized and attacked first?

Look at the anti-Islamic culture and comments of Laura Loomer, President Trump and Congressman Randy Fine (R-FL). We aren't thoroughly circumspect on causalities. This Dark Web culture is very detrimental, obviously, and so is the cultural anti-Islamic environment created by prominent influencers and politicians.

"Genocide? Really?" (Daniela Caro, "Genocide? Or Animus?," Mailbox, 5/21/2026)

By poll in Israel, more than 80% approve of the extermination of the Palestinians.

Yes, an Israeli genocide it is! Really!

What's our human consciousness?

Kick-Off for Eden Housing; Vigil at MCC

Patricia Munro, Livermore

The past week was bracketed by two very different events that could, should we choose to embrace their spirit, speak to a better future.

On May 18, Eden Housing celebrated the kickoff of the long-awaited Downtown Livermore Apartments — 130 units of affordable housing as part of the city's Downtown Plan. The kickoff was attended by so many people who worked together for too many years to make the project happen. The speakers included local, county, and state representatives, members of the business community, and the leadership of Eden Housing itself.

Getting to the kick-off was a painful process. Were it not for the wasteful, frivolous lawsuits, the development would already have been built, and 130 families housed. Were it not for the perseverance and fortitude of Eden Housing and the many different entities that supported it, it would not be happening at all.

The celebration on Monday was about the future we can build together when we stand firm to fight for our community.

On May 22, the Muslim Community Center hosted a program to remember and mourn Amin Abdullah, Mansour Kaziha, and Nadir Awad, all murdered protecting children from two neo-Nazis at the San Diego Mosque on Monday. Local and state officials, members of the local Muslim community, repre-

(See MAILBOX, page 5)

THE Independent

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

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

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

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

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

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On May 21, Livermore Police joined CHP Dublin in the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics Northern California, carrying the Flame of Hope through Livermore on its way to the Summer Games. (Photo courtesy of the Livermore Police Department)

MAILBOX

(Continued from page 4)

sentatives and members of other religions, and residents of the Tri-Valley all showed up. The speakers, almost to one voice, not only spoke of the tragedy itself, but of the need to stand together in order to create a better, more peaceful world.

Rabbi Nachman of Breslov (1772-1810) said: "The whole world is a very narrow bridge and the essence of it is not to be consumed by fear." Let us support each other as we cross those bridges together.

Public Input on Plutonium Bomb Cores
Nuha Maflahi, Livermore

On May 12, a government hearing was held in Livermore regarding the National Nuclear Security Administration's (NNSA) plan to produce more plutonium bomb cores. This hearing was the result of a lawsuit that was brought against NNSA by local group Tri-Valley CARES and similar organizations, such as Nuclear Watch New Mexico. Those who missed the hearing can still submit a written public comment online by July 16, 2026.

In the lawsuit, a federal judge ruled that the Department of Energy (DOE) and NNSA violated the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) by failing to consider the harmful environmental impacts of producing more plutonium bomb cores. As a result of this ruling, NNSA has to produce a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) that analyzes the public health and environmental risks of its plutonium production plan.

A draft PEIS has been written, and now the public has a chance to comment on whether they think the document is good enough. Five government hearings were

held nationwide regarding the document. One of the hearings was held in Livermore because of Livermore Lab's involvement with the plutonium production plan. This public comment period is one of the rare chances where the public can get a say in government plans.

For those unable to show up to the public hearing, there is still a way to make your voice heard on this issue. People can write public comments and submit them online until July 16. To find out more information on this issue, go to <https://pitpeis.com/>. To make your voice heard, email your public comment to nnsa.doe.gov by July 16.

Luxury Wine Hotel
Alan Marling, Livermore

I'm a Livermore resident, which puts me in an interesting position. I don't need a hotel directly, I already live here in this beautiful wine country. But I can have empathy for wine growers and other local business owners who have told me a luxury hotel would improve their long-term prospects.

This hotel on Hansen and Arroyo is located right next to major vineyards, which may well vanish without support. I would like local residents to imagine a Livermore without vineyards. Without those beautiful vines that turn red in autumn, without tasting rooms, or wine tourism. Just empty fields with nothing growing but dust and tumbleweeds. Is that the future you want for Livermore?

The objections I heard at the Planning Commission reminded me of the proposed luxury hotel downtown. There and then, the objections were that it was downtown, far from vineyards, and multistory. Now I'm hearing ob-

jections that are the opposite, that the cabins are single story and not downtown.

I cannot help but wonder if some people would object to any development, no matter what or where, even when that development is necessary for Livermore business, its cultural heritage, and specifically, its beautiful vineyards.

The special-interest group organizing these objections, Friends of South Livermore, sounds ominously similar to Friends of Livermore Downtown, and many previous ones, which were largely funded by Jean King and Joan Seppala, owner of The Independent. These plutocrats have cost the city of Livermore millions of dollars defending against their spurious lawsuits designed to delay, delay, and delay. If King and Seppala continue their same tactics, they may cost taxpayers even more while dooming Livermore's vineyards. How tragic when the richest choose to impoverish the rest.

A Great Team for California

David Marco, Livermore

Gubernatorial candidate Steve Hilton is putting together a great team to move California forward and to deal with fraud and abuse. Fraud and abuse are being uncovered all over the government and the state. Instead of investigating this and dealing with it, the Democrat run state legislature continues to pile on more and more charges. Some of the latest proposals are a mileage tax based on the miles driven, on top of some of the highest DMV fees and gas taxes in the nation. California policies have driven refineries out of the state, creating a looming gasoline shortage. Less than 10% of California cars are electric, so this affects the vast majority of residents. Another proposal is a so-called wealth tax that allows the state to define "wealth", and then places a tax on total assets. This is draconian and probably illegal. The effect will be to drive more upper income people out of the state. These are job-makers that we want to keep here.

Steve put together a "golden ticket" for the Golden State to join forces with other candidates. They combine ideas and solutions across party lines and bring innovations into the state government.

Gloria Romero is a former Democrat legislator and was California Senate majority leader. She's an expert on the legislative process.

Herb Morgan is a great choice for Secretary of State to audit government spending, expose waste and fraud, and modernize oversight.

Michael Gates is well qualified to be Attorney General. His priorities include combating fraud and waste, ensuring election integrity, protecting girls and upholding parents' rights, and more.

Other great candidates

are Superintendent of Public Instruction: Sonja Shaw. Stacy Korsgaden for Insurance Commissioner. Wendy Huang for District 14.

Let's help California move forward.

Jim Lehrman for Zone 7 Water Board

Jeff Nibert, Pleasanton

I encourage voters to support Jim Lehrman for Zone 7 Water Board. Water policy today involves increasingly difficult decisions about groundwater sustainability, aquifer protection, drought preparedness, and the relationship between surface water and groundwater systems. These issues require real technical expertise.

Jim Lehrman is an experienced hydrogeologist with deep knowledge of groundwater basins, aquifer recharge, and long-term water management. He understands the science behind the decisions the Zone 7 Water Board must make, and has the practical experience to evaluate complex water issues carefully and responsibly.

At a time when reliable water management is critical, Zone 7 needs board members with genuine technical knowledge and sound judgment. Jim Lehrman is exceptionally qualified for the job, and I urge voters to support him.

Aisha Wahab for CA-14
Kyoko Takayama, Livermore

Who is taking corporate money? It is interesting that Mr. Thompson talked about transparency, yet is not pointing to the Federal Election Commission (fec.gov) for the Congress Campaign Financing where you can see all the donations. If you check who spent money for and against her State Senate election in 2022, you could see that labor supported her, and corporations were against her (CalMatters article in Nov

2022). Her three years of voting record clearly shows that she is working for her constituents, and she isn't afraid of challenging the status quo, like her bill to classify caste as a discrimination. The bill was vetoed by Governor Newsom, and she endured recall efforts. Her current bill, SB1193, is to add accountability and transparency for Alameda County Supervisor's discretionary spending. Alameda County has over 1.6 million residents, and roughly a \$4 billion dollar budget. Supervisors should welcome proof that their spending is just and fair. We are facing unprecedented corruption in the U.S. It is our elected official's duty to strengthen our system against future abuse of power. For that, we need to elect those who fight for us, and I believe Aisha Wahab is the candidate for our district CA-14.

Vote for Change, Vote for Steve Hilton for Governor
Rajinder Ghatoaura, Pleasanton

California has been run as a one-party state with Democrats doing whatever they please without care for the residents of California for many years.

They have run down the state with homelessness, high taxes everywhere, like over \$2.00/gallon for gas taxes, high state taxes, and the highest sales tax in the country.

When you look at roads,

they are beaten. Where is the money going?

Houses are being unaffordable, companies are leaving California, and there is no end to it, unless we bring change.

We have a Democrat Governor who is more into his image than running the state.

Steve Hilton brings a lot of experience and a fresh approach to running the state, being more attuned to the residents' needs than how currently residents are being told how to live their lives by the Democrats.

Hilton has said that he will bring down the gas prices when he is elected, and will take care of other residents' needs.

Vote for change; vote for Steve Hilton.

Re: Independent's Endorsement for Governor

Eloise Hamann, Dublin

The Independent did a fairly good job in its article about what California needs in making their endorsement.

(See MAILBOX, page 6)

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TRI-VALLEY Twist

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Join us June 5 - 7 for the Tri-Valley's first ever Twist Weekend—a three-day celebration where art, culture, music, and cuisine come together across the Tri-Valley.

JUNE 5-7

See the event line-up at TriValleyTwist.com

THE Independent

READER SNAPSHOTS
Share Your Best Shot

We are looking for local photos to feature in The Independent's new Reader Snapshots section. Whether it's a beautiful moment, a slice of Tri-Valley life or something that made you smile, we want to see it. Email your image, full name, city of residence and a brief caption to editor@independentnews.com for a chance to be featured in an upcoming issue.



The first Tuesday Tunes concert of 2026, once again sponsored by the Livermore Cultural Arts Council, will be on Tuesday, June 2, with Retroactive, a San Ramon-based dance band that features classics from the 1960s along with current chart-toppers. The free outdoor concerts are held at Bankhead Plaza, 2400 First St., and run from 6:45 p.m. to 8:15 p.m. Thirteen concerts are scheduled for this summer. (Photo courtesy of Shanti Winery)

MAILBOX

(Continued from page 5)

However, they left out one supercalifragilisticexpialadocious need for California. That is protecting our climate and making polluters pay. California needs to promote helping people pay for safer homes, meaning less dependence on gas, power lines, and managing forests close to cities. Year after year, wildfires destroy masses of homes and up the cost of home insurance for everyone. California has a disaster fund that is funded by our taxes. I want our government to fund actions that will lessen the number of wildfires near populated areas. For example, poorer neighborhoods are not only nearer forests subject to fire, but have old appliances that run on natural gas. They have fewer solar panels and heat pumps. Supporting safer homes and selective management of forests could go a long way to stem our yearly disastrous fires. In my opinion, saving existing homes is as important as affordable new homes.

I also don't believe that holding a government office necessarily makes a better candidate. Knowing what's right for our state is not rocket science, nor does it make one a more effective governor. A governor has a staff that provides all the appropriate nuances re the rules, just as the staff of a CEO does.

My issue is the climate, which received little attention in The Independent's article supporting Becerra. Trump has caused terrible damage to our country, but the one thing that will last for generations is his position on the climate. We can recover affordable health care for new generations, but fixing the damage to our air and oceans could become insurmountable for the entire future of human beings.

Zone 7 Endorsements

Carol Silva, Livermore

The San Francisco Bay Chapter of the Sierra Club endorsed Seema Badar and Jim Lehrman for Zone 7 Flood Control & Water Conservation District Directors. Ms. Badar and Mr. Lehrman have different backgrounds from each other, yet both candidates impressed Sierra Club's Tri-Valley Group and the SF-Bay Chapter.

A few of Ms. Badar's quotes are as follows:

"Water is not just infrastructure — it is the foundation of every ecosystem, every family, and every future in this region. I believe deeply that protecting water means protecting the natural world it moves through, and Sierra Club's commitment to that principle is exactly the kind of mission-alignment that should guide a Zone 7 board member. I want to bring that environmental lens to every decision the board makes, whether we're talking about PFAS contamination, the Delta ecosystem, or how we plan for a drier, hotter future."

2. Ms. Badar has "spent

time studying the agency's plans and speaking with current and former directors. I have also taken the Citizens Water Academy offered by DRSRD where I learned about local water, wastewater, and recycled water services. I believe a board member's job is as much about asking the right questions as it is about technical knowledge."

Mr. Lehrman has worked in environmental consulting on soil and groundwater cleanup projects for over 30 years. He is a strong advocate in preserving our environment for the good of humanity and the planet.

He will strongly encourage Zone 7 to support sustainable flow requirements in the Delta, to invest in groundwater recharge using recycled water as a local buffer that reduces Delta dependence, and to partner with others to restore and protect the watershed systems that make reliable water supply possible.

Please vote for Ms. Badar and Mr. Lehrman for Zone 7 Directors.

Wahab for Congress

Allie Felker, Livermore

Well, it's finally time. If you have not already cast your ballot, I strongly encourage you to vote for Aisha Wahab to represent District 14. Aisha is the only candidate with the experience necessary for this position. I decided to support Aisha because she prioritizes policies that will make the Bay Area more affordable, protect our democracy, and ensure the rights of every American. I loved her answer to the question on reproductive freedom. She highlighted the importance of reproductive justice and of seeing family planning as so much more than the right to choose. Her holistic viewpoints are a refreshing break from partisan politics. As someone who has lost a child to stillbirth, hearing mention of pregnancy loss in one of her speeches brought tears to my eyes. She is the only candidate endorsed by the Democratic Party and the Working Families Party.

Please be advised that Rakhi Israni is NOT who she claims to be. Israni has supported far-right extremists and only registered as a Democrat in 2025. Visit realrakhi.com; it's pretty appalling.

Why I'm Voting for Tom Steyer

Ron Sadler, Livermore

Tom Steyer has a long list of issues he plans to tackle if we are fortunate enough to have him as our next Governor. Among them are housing affordability and the rapidly rising cost of living.

As governor, Tom will close a Trump tax loophole that lets the wealthiest commercial property owners avoid paying taxes based on what their properties are actually worth.

He will make it easier for the working class to participate in the housing market,

but harder for institutions that own thousands of homes that crowd out families and buy up units only to rent. This will also help fix California's rapidly growing homelessness crisis.

Tom will close out corporate loopholes, raising \$20 billion a year of new revenue to fund education, health and childcare, which will lower the costs for the rest of us.

California private utilities (PG&E, SCE and SDG&E) have been raking in record profits because the rates they charge are tied to what they spend instead of performance. Tom will institute regulation that incentivizes innovation and efficiency that is built upon performance-based technology powered by clean energy that will cut electricity rates by 25%.

At this unprecedented time in our country's history, he will lead the way back to a government that is for the people and by the people. That is why I am voting for Tom Steyer for our next governor of the great state of California.

Aisha Wahab Endorsed by Pete Stark Family

Natalie Valentine, Livermore

The Democratic Party, CCOA, and the Mercury's endorsements carry weight. So does another one that deserves attention: the family of Pete Stark has endorsed Aisha Wahab.

Pete Stark represented this district for thirty-one years. He was beloved, combative, unconventional, and deeply committed to constituents who didn't have powerful lobbies. His family's decision to back Aisha isn't a formality; it's a statement about who they believe carries the spirit of what he built.

Add to that the official California Democratic Party endorsement, and you have a candidate whose legitimacy in this race is not seriously in question. The party has spoken. The district's most important political legacy has spoken. The Mercury has spoken.

What's left is for voters to show up, and to make a choice that honors what this district has historically stood for: accountability, courage, and a representative who actually works for the people who live here.

Aisha Wahab is that representative.

Newsflash: Trump Hates Rakhi Israni

Pierre Bierre, Pleasanton

The mailman just delivered one of the most disgusting political flyers I've ever received.

Rakhi Israni introduces herself as being "EVERYTHING TRUMP HATES" with a smug look of superiority on her face. On the reverse side, she boasts "RAKHI SCARES TRUMP... BECAUSE HE KNOWS SHE IS STRONGER THAN HE IS".

If you think our President is an overconfident BS'er, you might think twice about electing the same personality disorder to represent our district. Does boasting to be hated and feared by Trump suggest anything in the way of actual qualifications? Should we reward such an evasive, purely emotional headline? Do you want to be embarrassed again over who we send to DC? Another showboater who'll do anything and say anything to gain publicity?

I'm still deciding. But Rakhi's "vote-because-he-hates me" message smacks of poor judgment. Stylistically, it doesn't look like our district. It's disqualifying. I'm looking for someone less boastful than Trump, someone less emotionally manipulative, someone more authentic.

We need a break from pyrotechnics. We need a dependable public servant.

Alan Burnham for Zone 7 Water Board

Dennis Gambis, Livermore

As a Ph.D. Chemist and longtime employee at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, Alan Burnham has the technical expertise to assess the water reliability projects being considered by the Zone 7 Water Agency.

Alan has been involved with several community organizations, including Innovation Tri-Valley and Tri-Valley Conservancy, and has served on Livermore's General Plan Committee. He has also founded nonprofit organizations including Quest Science Center.

Alan's technical expertise and commitment to the community make him well qualified to serve on the Zone 7 Board.

Please join me in voting for Alan.

This Is the Real Waste, Fraud and Abuse

Samuel Warner, Pleasanton

Still watching Fox News? I stopped because I want to stay informed with more than cherry-picked items meant to make a certain someone look good.

Here's what I am sure they are NOT talking about:

Last Sunday, our president spent the day golfing rather than going to a "Christian" event (where religious leaders were taking about how their god needs a big ballroom), and later posted images of his social media account of himself walking with aliens, himself pushing a nuclear bomb button, of Democrats in mud and filth, and much more. It is humiliating to say the least.

And it's not just embarrassing to be American now. This Republican administration is doing everything to help the wealthy, whether it hurts average Americans or not. They're canceling limitations put in place by Biden that prevent "forever chemicals" in our water (which cause cancer and other diseases.) Loosening limits on using cyanide bombs to kill wildlife. Suppressing voters. Look it up.

And the corruption! Right in front of our eyes! Trying to funnel our tax dollars and to

manipulate the market for his family or his enabler's benefit. Using our tax dollars to pay for a war we don't need, for masked agents on our streets, building more detention centers (concentration camps), paying off rioters, gold covered toilets, and so very much more.

Why isn't Fox talking about these things? Why don't they want you to see the truth? Because if people knew what was happening, they would never support this administration filled with liars, grifters, cheaters, and criminals.

I am writing this as of 5/18; I can't imagine what new corrupt things this administration has tried to pull in the few days in which this letter was sent and published. Have we started attacking Greenland? Are more rioters getting paid?

Welcome to Trump World; Commander in Thief

Rosario Milelli, Pleasanton

Donald Trump once promised to "drain the swamp." Instead, he seems determined to blatantly burglarize the Treasury, enriching himself and family.

Welcome to Trump World — where the presidency becomes a personal revenue stream.

A White House ballroom once floated as a project Trump would supposedly finance himself is now drifting toward a taxpayer-funded monument approaching a billion dollars. The luxury Qatari jet is marketed as a "gift," but Americans will absorb the staggering retrofit, security, maintenance, and operating costs — only for the aircraft to ultimately benefit Trump himself.

Then comes the crypto racket. Trump-branded meme coins and digital schemes explode upward on political hype while ordinary investors absorb the \$4.3 billion losses when reality returns. It looks less like entrepreneurship than a legalized pump-and-dump orbiting a former president.

Trump-linked trading activity and thousands of suspiciously timed stock trades continue to raise the same question: who always seems to know when the spike is coming? Ordinary investors gamble blind while insiders appear to play with marked cards.

And let's not forget taxes. Trump famously bragged that avoiding taxes made him "smart." Imagine the reaction if an ordinary worker hid income the same way. In Trump World, tax laws apparently no longer apply to anything carrying a Trump label. Billions in taxes avoided.

Even the pardon system now includes a political slush fund — rewarding loyalists, rioters, and cop beaters costing taxpayers \$1.8 billion.

There is a pattern here: public money, donor money, investor money, consumer money — all flowing upward toward one man, his businesses, his branding, and his ego.

The presidency was once considered public service.

In Trump World, it increas-

ingly resembles organized theft, redefining political corruption.

A Farce

Barry Brynjulson, Pleasanton

On the first day of his second term, Trump pardoned nearly 1,600 of the Jan. 6 insurgents who had plead guilty or been found guilty of Jan. 6 crimes by a judge or jury.

Now his personal legal team, the DOJ, has set aside \$1.776 billion to be distributed to those who feel wrongfully charged. Attorney General Blanche could not say whether those insurrectionists who attempted to stop the constitutionally mandated transfer of power, threatened to hang Mike Pence, and spread feces on the walls of the Capital would be ineligible for these funds.

Of course they'll get a share. That's why the fund was established. There is now extra motivation to do Trump's bidding by his private militia. Not only will they be pardoned, they'll get a handsome taxpayer-funded reward...just in time for whatever the midterms call for.

Also, the DOJ's removal from its website of all press releases relating on Jan. 6 charges and convictions is consistent with FOX's, Trump's, MAGA's, and now the DOJ's interest in rewriting the history of the 2020 election and January 6.

A farce of a government!

The Perfection of Corruption

Frank Cannella, Livermore

Late last year, Trump filed a 10-billion-dollar lawsuit against the IRS because of an unauthorized release of his 2019 tax return. You all remember his repeated statements that he would release his returns prior to the election of 2016, which of course never happened. Regardless, he came to realize that his lawsuit had no chance of succeeding, so he "generously" proposed a settlement through his justice department, the terms of which are as follows: a 1,776 billion dollar fund of TAXPAYER money would be used to compensate those who allege they were charged with crimes by the Federal Government for political reasons. You know, like the January 6th rioters Trump pardoned the first day of his second term. Any claims filed would be decided by a five-member panel, whose appointment and continued employment would be overseen by Trump. One more truly brazen part of this "settlement" is that the IRS could never again audit Trumps' personal or corporate taxes. No judge is able to rule on this idea, because Trump is on both sides of the case!

This settlement smells so bad even some Republicans in the Congress are stunned by the audacity of the proposal. A bipartisan group of senators gave the acting attorney general a rough time trying to sell this garbage. It is a new low from Trump. Maybe this time Trump won't get his way!

WALNUT GROVE

(Continued from front page)

restrooms, along with a redesigned outdoor play yard featuring shade structures, landscaping and play equipment.

The modernization will also include a parking lot along Black Avenue in Pleasanton, according to the district.

"This project reflects what we value as a school community — creating a strong, supportive start for our youngest learners," Walnut Grove Principal Gigi Kruse-Silva said. "These new spaces will provide an environment designed specifically for how young children learn best, both inside and outside the classroom."

Construction is expected to begin this summer, with completion anticipated in late 2027.

The elementary school improvements come as the district adapts to California's Universal Transitional Kindergarten initiative, which expands access to early childhood education for children who turn 4 years old on or before Sept. 1.

"This groundbreaking reflects the trust our community placed in Measure I and our responsibility as a Board to steward that investment thoughtfully," Kelly Mochi, Pleasanton Unified board president, said. "We're proud to see that commitment taking shape in ways that directly benefit students."

Walnut Grove is one of several district campuses undergoing improvements through Measure I. Transitional kindergarten expansions are also underway at Fairlands and Donlon elementary schools, while athletic field upgrades are taking place at Hart and Harvest Park middle schools.

Additional projects funded by the bond measure include the new Educational Options Center and improvements to Foothill High School's performing arts and athletic facilities.

Pleasanton Unified serves more than 13,000 students across 16 schools and employs nearly 1,500 staff members districtwide.

CONGRESS

(Continued from front page)

in technology and business consulting, primarily with healthcare clients. Her key issues are voter protections, affordable healthcare, the impact of tariffs, environmental protections and developing bipartisan solutions to immigration reform. According to the FEC, her campaign has received approximately \$5,896 in donations so far. She has not listed any endorsements on her campaign website.

In a phone interview with The Independent, Elam described herself as an outsider to politics, a moderate Democrat who has “doubled down on listening to the other side.”

While living in the Netherlands between 2017 and 2021, Elam worked for the Global IT Group of the Democratic National Committee’s “Democrats Abroad.” This is the DNC’s effort to engage with U.S. citizen voters who live abroad, including members of the military. Elam led communications for two Democrats Abroad caucuses, the Global Women’s Caucus and the Global LGBTQ+ Caucus. She also launched “Women to Win,” a platform that promoted Democratic women running for U.S. House and Senate seats in 2020.

Elam supports reinstating incentives for solar power and electric vehicles and reducing reliance on fossil fuels. She also advocates for ensuring hazardous materials like nuclear waste are transported safely to and from Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory.

“We need to have federal regulations against artificial intelligence so that it does not eliminate jobs or reduce individuals’ privacy. Yet we should use AI to help with treatment for diseases like RP and pancreatic cancer,” Elam said.

Elam added that she is concerned about voter restrictions, particularly the rollback of the Voting Rights Act.

On her campaign website, Elam indicated she opposed the SAVE Act, which requires citizens to provide proof of citizenship prior to voting. Elam is an advocate of federal programs that provide jobs and career paths for individuals with disabilities, and she vows to protect funding for such programs.

With respect to immigration, Elam supports withholding funding from U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement until “significant reforms are accepted.” On her website, she stated these measures should include no masks, no unmarked cars, no racial profiling, real training, an end to warrantless entry and no roving patrols.

Elam said she has been able to successfully engage with “mixed political households.”

“The great conversations require really listening, and

determining what aren’t left and right issues. I’ve been able to do that, because I’ve taken the time,” Elam said.

For more information visit carinforcongress.com



Victor Aguilar



Carin Elam



Melissa Hernandez



Rakhi Israni



Matt Ortega



Aisha-Wahab



Wendy Huang



Dena Maldonado



Suzanne Chenault

Melissa Hernandez

Melissa Hernandez, a Democrat and resident of Dublin, is currently the president of BART’s Board of Directors. On that Board, she represents District 5, which includes Alameda and Contra Costa counties. Hernandez is the current director of healthcare services for Alameda County District 1 Supervisor David Haubert. Her job involves expanding healthcare access and advocating for programs and services to improve the health and safety of Alameda County residents.

Hernandez served as the Mayor of Dublin from 2020 to 2024. Her other past positions include vice president of the BART Board of Directors in 2025 and a city councilmember for Dublin from 2016 to 2024. Hernandez has chaired three transportation-related bodies: Livermore-Amador Valley Transit Authority (LAVTA), Tri Valley/San Joaquin Valley Regional Transportation Authority (Valley Link), and the finance committee of the Alameda County Transportation Commission. She served on the boards of Alameda County Waste Management Authority, Dublin Schools Liaison Committee, League of California

Affairs & Administration from California State University, East Bay.

According to the FEC, Hernandez’s campaign has raised approximately \$440,558 as of mid May.

Key endorsements include Dublin Mayor Sherry Hu, Hayward Mayor Mark Salinas, Livermore Mayor John Marchand, Pleasanton Mayor Jack Balch, California State Treasurer Fiona Ma, Alameda County District 2 Supervisor Elisa Márquez, Alameda County District 4 Supervisor Nate Miley, Alameda County Firefighters Association, Deputy Sheriffs’ Association of Alameda County, Director of the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District David Furst, and International Brotherhood of Teamsters Joint Council 7.

Her priorities include lowering costs, increased investment in small businesses, public safety, and immigration reform that would involve eliminating I.C.E. yet ensure strong border protections.

In a phone interview with The Independent, Hernandez said, “I feel Washington, D.C. has lost sight of what’s important to make housing more affordable. I want to offer incentives to build and repair homes

and provide down payment assistance for first-time homebuyers. Funding can come from the federal government, with rewards for cities that get the job done.” Hernandez is concerned

down the cost of prescription medications. We also need supportive childcare tax credits. Couples are now paying almost the cost of a home mortgage for childcare,” said Hernandez.

Hernandez advocates for renewable energy. She said the curtailment of incentives for the Inflation Reduction Act (House Resolution 5376) set the country back on progress in terms of addressing climate change.

“When I served Dublin as a city councilmember and as Mayor, we moved forward on programs that resulted in environmental improvements. It took showing up and collaboration. I have a record of working with leaders across Alameda County to get the hard work done,” said Hernandez.

Hernandez added that building relationships is critical to developing solutions. She intends to use this approach in Congress.

“I plan to return to the district often to listen to constituents, mayors, and city managers. That way, I will learn what residents here want me to accomplish,” said Hernandez.

For more information visit melissahernandez2026.com

Rakhi Israni Singh

Rakhi Israni Singh is a Democrat and resident of Fremont. She is the founder of Excel Test Prep, a Fremont-based test preparation company that tutors students studying for standardized tests. Israni Singh grew this company into a nationwide business. Israni Singh is also a California attorney with an active license. She earned her law degree at the University of Houston Law Center and an LL.M. at Columbia Law School. Further, she earned an MBA from Rice University’s Jones Graduate School of Business.

Israni Singh has worked as an attorney in the East Bay, sometimes pro bono, to represent underserved families. She has acted as a judge pro tem in Santa Clara County Superior Court. In addition, from 2021 to 2026, she held the position as vice president of government and public relations for Sewa International. The latter is a Hindu humanitarian nonprofit organization with over 5,000 volunteers. Israni Singh is a police academy graduate and has been a Parent-Teacher Association president at the elementary, middle, and high school levels.

According to the FEC, Israni Singh’s campaign had received close to \$977,684 in donations as of mid-May. Key endorsements include U.S. Representative Raja Krishnamoorthi (District 8 of Illinois), Los Altos Mayor Pete Dailey, Dublin City Council Member for District 3 John Morada, Cupertino Vice Mayor Liang Chao, Sunnyvale City Council Member for District 3 Murali Srinivasan, and Milpitas Planning Commissioner Dipak Awasthi.

Israni Singh’s priorities mix small business and housing goals with goals for working families. Israni Singh advocates lowering costs of living, including grocery prices and drug prices. She sees this as requiring a fight to lower or

(See CONGRESS, page 8)

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PLEASE HELP BRING MIGUEL HOME



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

Livermore Wente Winery worker, married father of three and grandfather

Miguel Lopez

remains in Mexico after having been illegally deported last June.

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

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

LARPD Now Offering Family Summer Fun Swim Passes

LIVERMORE — The Livermore Area Recreation and Park District (LARPD) is again offering a Family Swim Pass for the summer months.

The cost is \$250 for a family of four, with an option to add additional family members for \$50 each.

The pass provides access during recreational swim times to the district-run Robert Livermore Aquatic Center and the May Nissen Swim Center.

Recreational swim times are 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., Monday

through Friday, and noon to 5 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

The passes are also good for Hot Nights at the Robert Livermore Swim Center, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., Monday, Wednesday and Friday, and for Tot Time, for kids 5 and under, from 10 a.m. to noon, Monday through Thursday, also at Robert Livermore.

The May Nissen Swim Center, 685 Rincon Ave., will open for recreational swimming on Monday, June 1, while the Robert Liver-

more Aquatics Center, 4448 Loyola Way, opened last weekend.

“Our pools are a place for families and friends to spend time together, stay active, and cool off during the summer,” said Kelly McClanahan, LARPD aquatics supervisor. “The Family Swim Pass gives families a flexible and affordable option to enjoy recreation swim all season long.”

Family Swim Passes can be purchased online at larpd.org or in person at LARPD facilities.



Summer's around the corner and the Robert Livermore Aquatics Center is now open and ready to receive swimmers all season long with the popular family pass. (Photo courtesy of LARPD)

CONGRESS

(Continued from page 7)

remove tariffs and a push to make Medicare negotiate drug prices.

On her website, Israni Singh indicates that she supports cutting “red tape” to ensure homes get built faster and first-time buyers can purchase homes. She favors expanding lending and simplifying taxes for small businesses. Israni Singh wants to protect East Bay families from U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement “overreach.”

Israni Singh favors funding community violence intervention programs and supporting local law enforcement with resources and training. She sees young people as facing a mental health crisis, and wants to expand student counseling and nutrition services for youth.

Overall, Israni Singh paints herself as a problem-solver who wants to hold Washington accountable and fix mistakes. She said that banning stock trading for members of Congress and their families and enforcing a mandatory retirement age of 75 for members of Congress are common sense solutions.

Israni Singh stated on her website that she wants to bring decency and “fiscal sanity” to Washington. Her campaign statements are a reminder of her business skills. They relay that she knows what it takes to deliver results.

Online, Israni Singh is finding a way to listen to constituents. She created an interactive portion of her website to ask constituents questions, like, “What’s your biggest concern right now?” Israni Singh also asks what she should focus on first if she is elected. Her subtitle for that question is, “What would make the biggest difference for you and your family?”

Matt Ortega

Matt Ortega, a Democrat and resident of San Leandro is a union member and small business owner. According to the FEC, his campaign has received approximately \$31,075 in donations so far. His key issues include housing costs, civil rights, climate and the environment, education, government reform, health care, labor and workers rights, and veterans. His key endorsements include the Bay Area Reporter, Progressive Victory, Honor PAC, The Primary Objective, Progressive Voter Network and Courage for Democracy.

Ortega said in an email interview with The Independent that he is not a politician and does not take money from corporations. “I owe no one and am able to speak my mind, regardless of the political cost. I am free to do what is right,” Ortega said.

Ortega added that he believes he is the only candidate with national political experience.

“I worked on some of the biggest issues of the past 20 years with labor unions, environmental groups, and immigration activists...I have also been on the national political stage working directly on

two presidential campaigns with the Democratic National Committee in 2008 to elect Barack Obama and as a senior aide to Hillary Clinton’s campaign in the 2016 primary, respectively,” Ortega said.

Ortega’s goals include restoring the Affordable Care Act subsidies that expired at the end of 2025, clawing back “some or all” of the Medicaid cuts passed by Congress and set to go into effect in 2027, and securing a seat on the U.S. House of Representatives’ Oversight Committee “to help lead holding the Trump administration accountable.”

“(I want to) introduce and/or co-sponsor major legislation—Medicare for All, Green New Deal, a federal affordable housing construction and assistance program, national free child care program, Protecting the Right to Organize Act (a pro-labor movement act), Therapeutic Fraud Prevention Act, etc.,” Ortega said.

Regarding the environment, he stated, “It will be my responsibility, and that of other federal officials, to block this administration’s desire to dirty our air and water for corporate profit and make the case for significant federal action under a new Democratic president in 2029.”

Ortega has multiple links to the Tri-Valley. His stepmother was a longtime public school teacher who taught at Dublin Elementary School for many years.

“My first campaign after college graduation in 2006 was based in Pleasanton, working with the Defenders of Wildlife Action Fund to topple the last remaining Republican member of Congress

in the Bay Area, Richard Pombo,” said Ortega. He said that the Tri-Valley has grown and changed over the years. Yet he believes his experiences connect him to the region in the same way that shared economic challenges do.

He added that he may be the only candidate with personal and professional ties to both the western and eastern sides of the 14th Congressional District.

“I grew up in Hayward and lived in the Tri-Valley, then later worked in Pleasanton (as a digital consultant) I have family that are longtime residents of Hayward, Pleasanton and Livermore,” Ortega said.

For more information visit mattortega.com

Aisha Wahab

Aisha Wahab is on the California ballot for the 14th Congressional District for the June 2 primary election and for the June 16 special primary election.

Voters in the 14th District will cast their ballots for this seat in the June 2 primary. They will also vote in the special primary on June 16 to fill the seat until January 2027. A candidate can win the seat “for good” in the special primary if they receive over 50 percent of the vote. If no candidate reaches this threshold, the race would continue to a special general election on August 18, 2026, as

proclaimed by California Governor Gavin Newsom.

Wahab was the top polling-candidate, with 29% voter support, in a partisan poll of the multi-candidate field, conducted between April 1 and 4, 2026 by David Binder Research, for Working Families PAC. The poll, which tested both Democratic and Republican candidates found that none of the other broke the 10% mark. Working Families PAC is a left-leaning organization based in Brooklyn, New York. On its website, it states that it represents “the multiracial working class.” Working Families PAC has endorsed Wahab for the 14th Congressional District seat.

Aisha Wahab, a Democrat and resident of Hayward, is the current California State Senator for District 10, which ranges from Hayward south to northern San Jose. Wahab has held this position since 2022. Wahab is one of two assistant majority leaders for the California State Senate. This is a partisan position that involves determining and implementing the agenda for the majority party. Prior to taking office in the California State Senate, Wahab was a member of the Hayward City Council from 2018 to 2022. Before that, she served as the chair of the Alameda County Human Relations Commission and a board member for several nonprofits: Afghan Coalition, Abode Services, and Tri-City Volunteers. Wahab has also filled the role of Alameda County Public Health Commissioner. Before working in public service, Wahab had

a background working in nonprofits, community organizing and technology. Wahab’s doctorate is in social work, and she holds an MBA.

The FEC reported that Wahab’s campaign had received approximately \$386,285 in donations as of late-May. Wahab’s endorsements include the California Democratic Party, California Service Employees International Union, California Federation of Labor Unions AFL-CIO, Indivisible Tri-Valley, Indivisible East Bay, California Attorney General Rob Bonta, California Lt. Governor Eleni Kounalakis, Alameda County Sheriff Yesenia Sanchez, former Pleasanton Mayor Karla Brown, and Livermore City Vice Mayor Kristie Wang.

Wahab stated in an email interview with The Independent that a top priority is passing the comprehensive democracy reforms originally outlined in House Resolution (H.R.) 1, also known as the “For the People Act.” While the voting rights bill was blocked by a Senate filibuster after passing the House, Wahab said she wants to see its core provisions enacted to protect the electorate.

Also of paramount importance is “blocking what President Trump and his administration may do to harm the American people.” Wahab added that her goals include lowering everyday costs like groceries, building more housing that people can afford, keeping communities safe with a victim-first approach, and bringing federal dollars back to District 10 for con-

cerns like wildfire prevention.

She stated that affordability is the issue she hears about most.

“Unlike any one of my opponents, I have capped insulin at \$35 for month’s supply, capped HOA fines to \$100, increased the credit for utility customers during winter and summer, capped the renter’s security deposit to a single month’s rent, increased the renter’s tax credit, funded a down-payment assistance program for first time home-buyers, and protected consumers from price gouging. In Congress, I will fight to lower costs,” Wahab said.

Wahab said her extended family lives in the Tri-Valley and has businesses in the area.

“From working to hiking to having a vanilla ice cream cone from Meadowlark, I have simply enjoyed the beauty and community of the Tri-Valley throughout Livermore, Dublin or Pleasanton. I hope to represent that tight-knit community and build a stronger community through the work I have done throughout the East Bay and South Bay that I already represent,” Wahab said.

Learn more at aishawahab.com

Republicans

Wendy Huang

Wendy Huang, a Republican and resident of Union City is a real estate investor and retired from a career as a tech consultant. In 2024, Huang ran for the District 1 City Council seat for Union City. She did not win that seat. Huang earned approximately 35 percent

of the vote, but coming in second to Lance Nishihira.

According to the FEC, as of mid May, Huang’s campaign has received approximately \$8,176 in contributions. Her endorsements include Reform California, an Orange County-based political advocacy organization that aims to end the Democratic supermajority in California, California Parents Union, California Rifle & Pistol Association, Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association, Moms for Liberty — Santa Clara County Chapter, and Silicon Valley Chinese Association.

Huang’s priorities include affordability, security, and public safety. In a phone interview with The Independent, she said affordability is a crisis in District 14.

“There are too many regulations that make it costly and difficult to build or renovate homes. I want to work with other federal legislators to discuss how to encourage state and local governments to rescind such regulations,” said Huang.

Huang provided on her website that her goal is to put money back into family budgets “and make California livable again.”

Huang supports laws that will make neighborhoods safer and backs police and first responders. She is in favor of policies that will be more punitive to victims. As for election integrity, Huang said she is in favor of additional measures that will ensure individuals who come to the polls are eligible to vote.

(See CONGRESS, page 10)

TRI-VALLEY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Thursday, May 28

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 workshop. Held at St. Elizabeth Seton Church, 4001 Stoneridge Drive, Pleasanton. Meeting will begin at 7 p.m. on Thursday evening, May 28. These meetings are open to all, regardless of religious affiliation. For more information, please call Barbara at 925-846-3904.

Thursday, May 28

BROADWAY CHORUS CONCERT

EBMS Broadway Chorus presents their Spring 2026 concert “Let’s Groove Tonight” featuring songs from the ‘60s. The concert will be held on Thursday, May 28 at 7:30 p.m. The location is the Firehouse Arts Center on 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. “Come groove with us!” Tickets available at firehouse.vbotickets.com/events.

Saturday, May 30

YARD SALE FUNDRAISER

The Center for Spiritual Living Livermore Valley is holding a yard sale fundraiser on May 30 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 678 Enos Way, Livermore. Every purchase will support their ministries and community programs. Visit csslvighthouse.org

Sunday, May 31

CARS AND ENGINES AT HAGEMANN RANCH

The Cars and Engines event at Hagemann Ranch on May 31st from 1-5 p.m. celebrates vehicles of all kinds. From vintage cars and antique fire trucks to working Hit and Miss engines owned by Dennis Uhlich, they will all be featured. The Lions are bringing their Chuckwagon for hungry guests. The kids can launch rockets in the arena, and all will enjoy the music of the Joey T Band. Always family friendly and free. At 455 Olivina Ave., Livermore.

Sunday, May 31

ANNUAL AUCTION AND SPAGHETTI DINNER

Come to an old-fashioned live auction and delicious spaghetti dinner on May 31st immediately following the Hagemann Ranch open house. This, Heritage Guild’s annual fundraiser, is always an exciting event with unique vintage items and valuable experiences on the auction block.

Auction lots will be posted on the Heritage Guild’s website, www.lhg.org. Dinner begins at 6 p.m. in the backyard of Hagemann Ranch at 455 Olivina Ave., Livermore, and the auction will follow. Get your tickets early at www.lhg.org.

Wednesday, June 3

DROP-IN GENEALOGY ASSISTANCE

Begin your family history search with assistance by members of the Livermore-Amador Valley Genealogy Society. On June 3, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., at the Livermore Public Library, Civic Center Branch, 1188 S Livermore Ave, Livermore, Room 135.

ONGOING OPPORTUNITIES

FOOD RELIEF SERVICES

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

ONGOING EVENTS

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

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

SATURDAY PLEASANTON FARMERS MARKET

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

SUNDAY LIVERMORE DOWNTOWN FARMERS MARKET

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

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

ALAMEDA

(Continued from page 2)

Krishan said. "Once we fix that area, then we can actually say, 'Ok, the whole Alameda County is clean.'"

When asked how he would keep county residents safe from ICE, Krishan spoke about a Mexican worker who used to tend to his family's garden, and how she disappeared after he fixed her truck. He assumed she disappeared because she was "dishonest," but later grew concerned that she may have been detained by ICE.

"When the Immigration and Customs Enforcement are overreaching their power, when they are knocking doors down — and I'm talking about the citizens, I'm talking about the people who are legally in the United States ... there is a presumption that they are going beyond their lawful authority, and in that case, yes, we can come into the picture at the District Attorney office," Krishan said.

Krishan told The Independent that while he won't go out of his way to protect undocumented residents, he won't target them either.

"When it comes to crime, immigration status is not rel-

evant," Krishan said. "When someone is living in this county, even if they are not a voter, they are still buying a house, paying a lot for the house, working... As a District Attorney, I am not providing safety only to the voters. I am going to work for the whole county."

Former DA Pamela Price

Pamela Price was elected to the position of DA in 2022 and recalled by petition in 2024. Previously, she served as a criminal defense attorney in San Francisco before opening her own employment litigation firm in Oakland. Price said she wants to take a balanced approach to the office, focusing both on public safety and criminal justice reform. Price did not respond to requests for an interview as of publication time.

"I am the only DA who has both represented cops and prosecuted cops," Price said on her podcast, where she discusses justice issues and current events with other public figures.

Among Price's biggest concerns is investigating potential corruption in the Alameda County Sheriff's

Office (ACSO). During her tenure, Price charged multiple deputies in connection with the deaths of Santa Rita Jail inmates Vinetta Martin, who took her own life after being left unsupervised against orders, and Maurice Monk, who was found dead in his cell after being denied his medication and left unattended for three days.

In a prior interview with The Independent, Price accused Jones Dickson of engaging in "pay-to-play" politics for dismissing these charges after accepting campaign fundraising from ACSO.

"We have one of the highest in-custody death rates in our jail amongst the whole state. That is unacceptable," Price said. "It is so important that we have a DA that is not beholden to the sheriff."

During Price's interrupted 2023-2024 term, a federal judge ordered her office to investigate suspected racial bias in death penalty cases from as far back as the 1980s. Price's administration found that there was racial bias in the selection of jurors for 30 of these cases — prosecutors under

previous administrations regularly dismissed jurors outright for being Black women or Jewish, a practice which had been illegal statewide since 1978 — and began the process of resentencing affected cases. Her administration resentenced 20 of these cases before she was recalled.

Price and her administration have been accused of discrimination against multiple former employees of East Asian descent in Chew vs. County of Alameda, a civil case that remains open. Her office was recused from prosecuting two cases due to comments she made against the defendants.

The \$2.6 million 2024 initiative to recall Price, which succeeded with 62.9% of the vote, was funded in part by Piedmont hedge fund manager Philip Dreyfuss and backed by former congressman Eric Swalwell. Price has since attributed Swalwell's stance to her commitment to seeking justice for victims of sexual assault.

Price emphasized in her campaign material that her work in office was interrupted, and she wants to "finish the job."

SUPPORT

(Continued from front page)

for on-campus support to help schools increase adult supervision and student assistance during key parts of the day. Over the past year, the alliance launched a STEM mentorship and science fair program, hosted a college readiness seminar for families, established Community Impact Scholarships for graduating seniors, and offered parent seminars focused on student emotional well-being.

SHANTI

(Continued from front page)

and it's hard to run a boutique winery there where you can get to know people," Dimple said. "Most people going to that area are going for the experiences, not small wineries. It changed a lot after COVID, and in Napa, pretty much everything is by appointment only."

Ray stressed that Shanti is meant to be a boutique winery, where visitors can get to know them as well as their wines. They don't plan to host large events, but will be part of Livermore Valley Winegrowers Association af-

"Having additional adults supporting students during unstructured times has been instrumental in keeping them safe," Murray Elementary School Principal Bethannee Witzack said in a statement.

The Dublin Education Alliance is a community-based nonprofit that supports Dublin Unified schools through fundraising and investments in student programs and educational resources.

airs, and available for small, private events.

"We want people to know they can come and relax here," Dimple said. "We want to try to engage with people and see what's going on in their lives. We want people to feel like this is a second home, not just a quick stop for a glass of wine."

Shanti Winery is located at 5443 Tesla Road in Livermore. They are open Thursday and Friday from 1 to 5 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday from noon to 5 p.m. For more information, visit shantiwines.com.

OBITUARIES

Sheila O'Shaughnessy Cooper

April 19, 1943 — April 29, 2026

Sandra "Sandie" Motley was called home to be with the Lord on Feb. 15, 2026, surrounded by family.

Born in Providence, Rhode Island, Sandra was the daughter of the late Lewis and Constance Edmonds. She married in 1960, became a mother soon after, and moved with her young family to California in 1965. After seven years in the dental industry, she fulfilled a long-held dream and became a dental hygienist in 1972, a profession she practiced in Fremont, California, for the next 45 years.

Beyond her career, Sandra was a Beloved Family Matriarch, friend, and member of her communities. She was known to many as "Grammie". She had a remarkable gift for remembering the small details of the people she met, patients and acquaintances alike, and that gift had a way of turning strangers into friends. Cards were in the mail like clockwork, and phone calls just to check in were never far behind.

Sandra loved being active! She loved to garden and was a green thumb wherever she



cultivated. Sandra faithfully volunteered at St. James Episcopal Church in Fremont. Serving in the altar guild, outreach programs, and more, she treasured her church family. A long-time supporter and fan of Granada High School Wrestling, she enjoyed her honorary title as "Team Grammie". Sandra was happy to be productive in any cause near and dear to her heart.

Sandra preceded in death by her parents and her beloved son-in-law, Mark Jackson.

She is survived by her daughter, Rebecca Jackson; her granddaughter, Jessica Beebe, and husband, Chad; her grandson,

Sean Jackson, and wife, Luisana; and three great-grandchildren — Wyatt Jackson, Madison Beebe, and Elijah Jackson — who were the lights of her life. She is also survived by her brother, David Edmonds, and sister-in-law, Lynne Edmonds; her nephews, David Eric, John, Kenneth, and Phillip Edmonds, and their families; and her "bonus" sons, Kurt, Trevor, and Jimbo Harris, and their families. She leaves behind many cherished friends, including but not limited to: Marva Carter, Karina Edmonds, Jeannie Thomson, Marion Hatland, Gail Dodson, and the rest of her beloved "Coffee Group", and Richard (Doc) Marlais, to name a few.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, May 30, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. at St. James Episcopal Church in Fremont. All who knew and loved Sandra are invited to join us.

In lieu of flowers, Sandra's family asks that you honor her by reaching out to a friend, making a new one, and loving the people in your life unconditionally. That, more than anything, is the tribute she would have wanted.

Sandra Jean Motley

May 5, 1940 — Feb. 15, 2026



the joy of learning carried her to retirement in 2003.

Sheila is remembered for her love of literature and cooking, the sardonic arc of her eyebrows, and her capacity somehow to have retained every word to every song she ever heard. Growing up near the Pacific Ocean may have rendered her an avid swimmer into adulthood. When her sons were barely out of grade school, she took them to a Jacques Tati film festival at the Cannery, providing cinematic bragging rights they wouldn't know they had for another 20 years. During her principalship at LHS, she bought a champagne-colored MR2 with a spoiler on the back—instantly becoming the coolest adult in the building to her students. Everyone who knew her got a loaf of soda bread wrapped in green cellophane on St. Patrick's Day.

Sheila was active in the Kiwanis Club and, on Kaua'i, with Zonta, a scholarship program for young island women; she also volunteered at the Lawai Center, a heiau and temple near Lihue. In 2014, she joined the ranks of the internet-ordained to welcome son-in-law Damian Clark, husband of Brendan, into the fold. Baristas at the Peets in downtown Livermore can recall countless orders of iced tea lemonade. She did more crosswords in an afternoon than most do in a lifetime, and loved watching Warriors games on TV. She was a longtime supporter of KQED and KDFC.

Sheila is survived by her two sons and numerous nieces and nephews. Thanks go to the second-floor staff and residents at Ivy Park Oakland for their kindness in difficult times. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Livermore Valley Education Foundation and Pedrozzi Foundation.

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Robert Ray Fuller

Jan. 2, 1938 — Jan. 26, 2026

Robert Ray Fuller, known to all as "Bob", passed away at the age of 88 on Jan. 26, 2026. He was born in Arizona on Jan. 2, 1938. The youngest of nine children, Robert grew up in the town of Twin Falls, Idaho. He joined the Navy and served in Long Beach, California. He married Arlene Estelita and moved to the San Francisco Bay Area. Bob retired from Safeway stores after 40 years, working at locations in the Oakland area. He married Dorothy Sandberg in 1987. She preceded him in death, passing in 2022. Bob's passions were gardening, read-



ing, woodworking, and walking with his friends at Sycamore Grove. He belonged to the Acorn A's Ford model "A"

club in Castro Valley where he proudly showed off his fully restored 1931 coupe. Robert had a lifelong love for music, art, and nature. His memorial bench will be located approximately one half mile down the paved trail from the Wetmore entrance of Sycamore Grove in Livermore. Robert is survived by his sister Velta, first wife Arlene, children Jill and Scott, and beloved grandchildren Nicole, Kathryn and Emily. A celebration of life will take place at the Sycamore Grove Ranger Station picnic area on May 28 from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Eva Gayle Marion

Aug. 15, 1930 — May 4, 2026

Eva Gayle Marion passed away peacefully on May 4, 2026, aged 95, in Livermore, California. Her memorial service will be at the First Presbyterian Church, 2020 Fifth Street in Livermore, California, on June 18, 2026, at 11 a.m. All are welcome.

Eva was born in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, in 1930, to Mary Elizabeth and George R. Liddle; she had two older brothers, John and George.

In 1944, her family moved to Pasadena, California. Eva attended Pasadena City College and then UCLA where she obtained a degree in Education. She met her future husband, John, on a double date, and they were married on Eva's 23rd birthday, in 1953. She taught elementary school in Santa Monica while John finished his degree, and then together they followed his assignments as an officer in the Marines.

Their first child, George Howard (Howie), was born in Quantico, Virginia, and their second, John Edward, in Palm Springs. After John completed his military service, the family moved to Livermore, where John began his career at Sandia Laboratories in 1958. Their youngest, Mark James, was born the next year at St. Paul's Hospital in Livermore. In 1967, they built a home in Livermore, where Eva continued through her 95th year. Even though she was outnumbered in the family by boys, she was an active supporter and enthusiastic participant in many strenuous hiking and boating trips with the family.

Eva Gayle resumed her teaching career in the early 1970s, teaching elementary school in Livermore at Mocho, Marilyn Avenue, and Portola schools. A decade later, she returned to

university and obtained her Master's Degree in Family Therapy, and began her second career as a professional psychotherapist.

Eva Gayle and her family were members of the First Presbyterian Church of Livermore, beginning in 1958 in the old chapel. Eva served as a deacon in the church and after obtaining her therapist license, she provided counselling and taught parenting classes at the church.

Eva Gayle's life was also one for great worldwide adventures with John, visiting six of the seven continents, including two round-the-world trips, a transatlantic crossing on the QE2, and a trip to Australia in the early 80s, where son Howie was the sailmaker for the America's Cup defender in Perth.

Eva Gayle was an avid, passionate, and gifted singer. She could comfortably sing a high

"C" and had a notably clear tone. For 60 years she sang and competed nationally in barbershop choruses and especially quartets, and was a long-time member of the church choir, directed by Janet Holmes.

One of her most lasting and memorable contributions to the family has been spreading her love of singing. Eva taught her family a love for music. The boys have fond memories of singing together in the car on long road trips, and nearly all family gatherings included enthusiastic singing.

John was relatively young when he died at age 69, so Eva has been a widow for her last quarter century. Her family has been able to assemble for holidays and birthdays that Eva hosted in her home. Her family members were all close by in her final days.

Eva was introduced to PEO by her mother and was active for most of her years. She participated in several book clubs, the community garden, and SIRS and was a member of the SF Symphony.

Eva continued to live in her home, which was her ardent choice, until her last few months, which were at Quail Garden Residential Care, the same location where she gave birth to her son Mark.

Eva Gayle is survived by her three sons and their partners, Howie (Kathryn) of Santa Fe, New Mexico, John (Diana) of Livermore and Mark (Rick) of Sebastopol, her grandchildren, John Evan, Laura, Monica and Max, and by her great-grandson, Jude. She was preceded in death by her husband, John.

Her sons are grateful for, and would like to thank, caregiver



Sandy Aldrich, Sally Leonard, and all her friends who provided support and care. We would also like to thank the staff at Quail Garden for her peaceful final days, and Hope Hospice for their excellent care.

In lieu of flowers, contributions to Quail Garden recreation fund would be appreciated.



Members of the Livermore Chapter of the Young Men's Service League (YMSL) place American flags at gravesites over Memorial Day weekend to honor military veterans at Memory Garden and St. Michael's cemeteries. (Photo courtesy of YMSL)

YMSL Honors Veterans Over The Memorial Day Weekend

LIVERMORE — More than a hundred members of the Livermore Chapter of the Young Men's Service League (YMSL) honored military veterans over the Memorial Day weekend by placing American flags at gravesites at Memory Garden and St. Michael's cemeteries.

YMSL is a national non-

profit organization that encourages mothers to volunteer with their teenage sons during their four years in high school. The Livermore chapter was formed five years ago.

Heather Druba, a Livermore YMSL board member who organized the placing of flags, said the event has grown from 37 volunteers

the first year it was held to 86 volunteers in 2025 and 110 this year.

The Livermore YMSL includes high school students from Livermore, Pleasanton, Dublin and San Ramon.

To learn more about the Livermore chapter, go to chapters.ymsl.org/chapter/livermore.

Library to Stream Activist George Takei's Presentation

DUBLIN — The Dublin Library will host a watch party from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday, May 31, for an online streaming presentation by actor, author and community activist George Takei, who will be discussing his 2019 graphic novel, "They Called Us Enemy."

The award-winning novel

is a memoir of Takei's childhood, when he and his family were held with thousands of other Japanese Americans in relocation centers during World War II.

Takei, best known for his role as "Sulu," Enterprise helmsman in the original Star Trek series, will be discussing his novel at the Los Angeles

County Public Library, with the "One Book, One Coast" event livestreamed.

"One Book, One Coast" is a joint program uniting more than 130 library systems across California, Washington, and Oregon in shared community reads.

This is a drop-in event, and registration is not required.

CONGRESS

(Continued from page 8)

Huang supports education reform that will refocus schools on reading, writing, math, and science. The idea is to prepare students for highly skilled jobs. She also is in favor of prioritizing reliable and affordable energy. Huang believes that these measures will cut costs for families and ignite innovation.

Huang said if she is elected, she will introduce Artificial Intelligence-related legislation called "The Department of Technology Establishment and Democratic Accountability Act" on the first day of session of the new Congress. The bill is intended to protect children and data, "secure AI" and cut government waste. One of the provisions of the bill would be to establish a dedicated Office of AI governance. This office would create strict security protocols for high-risk machine learning models and protect local research pipelines, such as the work occurring at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory.

Huang has been active in the East Bay on a number of fronts as a community activist. As the COVID-19 pandemic waned, between 2021 and 2023, she campaigned against COVID-19 vaccine mandates for college students. She also advocated for ending indoor mask mandates in Alameda County. In addition, Huang supported an end to Alameda County's COVID-era rent moratorium. Twice, she worked with other local residents to block a cannabis dispensary from opening near homes and schools.

Huang immigrated to the U.S. from Taiwan at age 13. She said she sees America as a country that offers many opportunities.

"I want students to be able to achieve and move forward, so they can succeed, become homeowners, and be safe in their communities. As I've been campaigning, I've heard from many constituents that they agree with these goals," said Huang.

For more information, visit: wendyhuangforcongress.com

Dena Maldonado

Dena Maldonado is a Republican, resident of Dublin and owner of Denatured Floral Design in Dublin. There is no data regarding how much Mal-

donado has received in donations. The Federal Election Commission (FEC) states on its website that it is still processing the data. Maldonado is endorsed by the California Republican Party. Maldonado states on her campaign website that her broad issues include insider trading, the 2nd Amendment, border security, term limits, endless wars, and election integrity. Specifically regarding election integrity, she states that she is in favor of passing the Safeguard American Voter Eligibility (SAVE) Act to ensure only U.S. citizens vote in federal elections. As for wars, she states that she is in favor of requiring congressional approval for major military engagements. Maldonado also advocates for increasing congressional oversight of military operations and foreign conflicts.

On border security, Maldonado states that she supports increasing funding for U.S. Border Patrol staffing and resources. She supports expanding physical border security infrastructure "where necessary." Maldonado lists her local issues as education, homelessness, affordability, public safety, transportation and agriculture. As for affordability, she states that she is in favor of reducing unnecessary regulations and permitting, reforming environmental and zoning rules, and reducing development fees and other costs associated with building. She indicates that these measures will reduce the costs and delays associated with building housing. Maldonado supports economic policies and tax relief that help working families afford to live in California. On the topic of homelessness, Maldonado indicated concern that the state has spent billions addressing the issue, "yet the crisis continues to grow."

Maldonado said taxpayers deserve transparency, accountability, and real solutions. "I support policies focused on treatment, accountability, and measurable outcomes, including auditing homelessness spending to ensure taxpayer dollars are used effectively, expanding treatment centers for substance abuse and severe mental illness, increasing homeless shelter capacity and streamlining approval processes for new

shelters, and enforcing laws governing public encampments, while directing individuals toward services and support programs," Maldonado said.

Her website states that she is not a career politician. She added that she is not interested in climbing any political ladder. Further, she stated "I don't owe anything to political institutions, wealthy donors, or foreign nations."

Learn more at denamaldonado.com

Independent

Suzanne Chenault

Suzanne Chenault is running as an independent candidate, and added she has long been affiliated with the Democratic Party. She has a campaign address in Long Barn, which is in Tulumme County. Chenault is a human rights lawyer and an active member of the California Bar. She earned her law degree from the University of California, Berkeley. Chenault worked for the United Nations for 18 years between 1999 and 2013. Her position was senior legal officer for the U.N. International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, and involved adjudicating genocide and war crimes. Chenault has also worked for the U.S. Federal Public Defender and in private practice.

In 2018, Chenault founded a non-governmental organization in Tanzania called "Teach Me to Fish." The organization recruits volunteers to teach students English and professional skills like carpentry. Chenault is currently an English and French teacher at Berkeley High School.

According to the FEC, there is no processed data for contributions to her campaign. Chenault does not have a website for her campaign. Chenault has a YouTube channel where she has posted a campaign video at youtube.com/@suzannechenault. In this video, Chenault explains the need for more housing and stated that she is pro-environment and youth.

In an email interview with The Independent, Chenault said her first priority was that Congress take responsibility for its war powers: "The consequences of the current war in

(See CONGRESS, page 12)

Blood Center Needs Type O Donors

DUBLIN — The Stanford Blood Center (SBC), which has a donation site in Dublin, said last week that its supply of O+ blood has fallen to critically low levels.

Type O blood is considered the universal blood type for surgery and hospital emer-

gencies. The independent SBC provides blood to multiple hospitals in the Bay Area.

SBC is urging donors to schedule an appointment online at stanfordbloodcenter.org, by calling 888-723-7831 or texting 999-777. Walk-ins are also welcome at the Dub-

lin Tri-Valley Center, 3738 Fallon Rd.

SBC said those who donate blood in May will receive two tickets to a San Jose Earthquakes soccer match and will be entered in a drawing for two VIP Global Game tickets.

WATERCOLOR

(Continued from front page)

Dewhurst is passionate about providing professional opportunities for young artists — and she's equally passionate about making sure they are compensated for their work.

"Art is needed, otherwise we wouldn't be asked for it. And artists shouldn't do it for free otherwise it becomes a norm. So I want them to definitely get paid."

With recent federal cuts to art programming, Dewhurst now spends even more time applying for grants when she isn't painting or teaching.

The Independent had a chance to catch up with Dewhurst at the location of her latest artistic collaboration with youth artists: a collection of educational wildlife preservation-themed murals at the Child Development Center at Las Positas College.

Dewhurst rose in greeting from her seated position on a tarp. Her forehead was streaked with paint from some baby coyotes she'd been painting minutes before.

"This one, I'm actually funding myself because I just want to get it started," she said of the mural in progress.

"It's meant to be like a book illustration that's larger than life so the children kind of get into the story." All of the murals will reflect the vibrant wildlife that abounds on and around campus.

Dewhurst has already lined up several teams of youth artists for other walls along the courtyard. Some of the students applied for grants but "didn't get funded so I need to find the money," she said, "because it's such a nice launch into their art career and they went to college here and they're from Livermore. We need to encourage this."

But supplies can be expensive. A gallon of paint can cost upwards of \$80.

"We have to get the top-quality paint, otherwise it fades," she explained.

Dewhurst is hoping to fill up the watercolor classes at the upcoming Independent event and use all of the funds to cover the cost of the mural supplies.

"I'll keep applying for grants until I get some money. I'm sure I'll get some money," she said.

Any additional voluntary

donations she may receive on June 6 will help fund a workshop she is planning for Las Positas. She will save a section of a wall around which to teach students about the process of designing a mural and also how to apply for grants and get funding.

All enrollees will get a small area upon to paint and learn.

"I was thinking we'll do it in August so I can build up some funds and not rush it and at least they'll get to see most of it done because I'm hoping to get most of it finished through summer if we get the money."

Dewhurst is currently waiting to hear back on the status of several grant applications.

"I love the way it feels like an Amish (barn-raising) project...all the kids and the whole community coming together to help complete it," she said.

The watercolor class space is limited. To reserve a spot, email info@independentnews.com. Please state preferred class time in subject line.

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LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION SERVICE OF SUMMONS Case No. 25CV160125

Re: Barnes v. Harris, et al. Alameda County Superior Court. NOTICE to Defendant PAMELA HARRIS, YOU ARE BEING SUED by Plaintiff JAEL BARNES, an individual. The action is pending in the Superior Court of California, County of Alameda. The Complaint was filed on December 16, 2025. You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after the first publication of this Summons to file a written response to the complaint in this court and serve a copy of the responsive pleading on Plaintiff's attorney. If you fail to do so, your default will be entered and judgment taken against you. NOTICE further, a Case Management Conference is scheduled for August 25, 2026 at 3:00 p.m., in Dept. 22, before the Hon. Han Tran, in the Rene C. Davidson Court-house, Administration Bldg., 1221 Oak St., Oakland, CA 94612.

Service of this Notice by Publication is made by counsel for Plaintiff: Brennan S. Huelse, Esq., Oakwood Legal Group, LLP, 8124 W. 3rd Street, 2nd Floor,

Los Angeles, CA 90048, (310) 205-2525. The Independent, Legal No. 6825. Published May 7, 14, 21, 28, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 622782

The following person(s) doing business as: Maderick Constanza Construction LLC 2116 Damuth Street, Apt C, Oakland, CA 94602. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 4/10/26. Signature of Registrant/s/: Leonardo Garcia Constanza, Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 24, 2026. Expires April 23, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6826. Published May 7, 14, 21, 28, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 622800

The following person(s) doing business as: Studio AVB, 1226A Bonita Ave, Berkeley, CA 94709 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Alicia Van

Bourg, 1226A Bonita Ave, Berkeley, CA 94709. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 4/1/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Alicia Van Bourg, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 24, 2026. Expires April 23, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6827. Published May 7, 14, 21, 28, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 622757

The following person(s) doing business as: First Principle Consulting, 6694 Crown Canyon Rd, Castro Valley, 94552 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Bhargava Kumar Narayana, 6694 Crown Canyon Rd, Castro Valley, CA 94552. 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/: Bhargava Kumar Narayana, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 23, 2026. Expires April 22, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6828. Published May 7, 14, 21, 28, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 622568

The following person(s) doing business as: Goldcrest Brew, 6599 Dublin Blvd, Apt# 323, Dublin, CA 94568 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Goldcrest Ventures LLC, 6599 Dublin Blvd, Apt# 323, 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 N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Zain Lokhandwala, Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 17, 2026. Expires April 16, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6829. Published May 7, 14, 21, 28, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 622457

The following person(s) doing business as: Peggy's Styling of Beauty, 1229 Macarthur Bluv, San Leandro, CA 94577 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Peggy Poveda-Sipe, 364 Via Coches, San Leandro, CA 94580. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 01/2025. Signature of Regis-

trant/s/: Peggy Poveda-Sipe, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 15, 2026. Expires April 23, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6830. Published May 7, 14, 21, 28, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 622486

The following person(s) doing business as: SPARC - Shakespeare and Performing Arts Regional Company, 2172 Railroad Avenue, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Shakespeare's Associates, Inc., 2172 Railroad Avenue, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 3/10/2021. Signature of Registrant/s/: Lisa A. Tromovitch, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 16, 2026. Expires April 15, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6831. Published May 7, 14, 21, 28, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 622660

The following person(s) doing business as: Jacfo Muzzles, 6289 Wade Ct, Pleasanton, CA

94588 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Krystal Anderson, 6289 Wade Ct, Pleasanton, CA 94588. 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/: Krystal Anderson, Sole Proprietor. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 21, 2026. Expires April 20, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6832. Published May 7, 14, 21, 28, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 622278

The following person(s) doing business as: Washed Up Wood, 4835 Webster Street, Oakland, CA 94609 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Matthew J. Gunderson, 4835 Webster Street, Oakland, CA 94609. 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/: Matthew J. Gunderson, Owner / Principal Designer. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 9, 2026. Expires April 8, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6833. Published May 7, 14, 21, 28, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 622674

The following person(s) doing business as: Altura Design & Build, 5157 Norma Way, Apt 234, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): MAB Plumbing Specialty Corp., 5157 Norma Way, Apt 234, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 4/22/26. Signature of Registrant/s/: Marco Barriga, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 22, 2026. Expires April 21, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6834. Published May 7, 14, 21, 28, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 622431

The following person(s) doing business as: Golden Thread Al, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Seul Han, 2222 Second St, #4, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 4/1/2021.

Signature of Registrant/s/: Seul Han, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 14, 2026. Expires April 13, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6835. Published May 7, 14, 21, 28, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 622580

The following person(s) doing business as: Valvoline Instant Oil Change IH0044, 6301 San Pablo Ave, Oakland, CA 94608 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Henley Pacific LLC, 54 Jaconnet Street, Newton Highlands, MA 02461. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 3/3/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Michael J. McLaughlin, Executive Vice President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 17, 2026. Expires April 16, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6836. Published May 7, 14, 21, 28, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 622833

The following person(s) doing business as: Global Quilt Connection, 1002 E 23rd Street,

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Unit 28, Oakland, CA 94606 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Bea Byrne LLC, 1002 E 23rd St, Unit 28, Oakland, CA 94606. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 11/17/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Alexandra Byrne, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 27, 2026. Expires April 26, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6837. Published May 14, 21, 28, June 4, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 621972

The following person(s) doing business as: Bay Area Men's Health, 3137 Castro Valley Blvd, Unit 301, Castro Valley, CA 94546 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Iahranumbiya Aziz, 3137 Castro Valley Blvd, Unit 301, Castro Valley, CA 94546. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 2013. Signature of Registrant/s/: Iahranumbiya Aziz, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 30, 2026. Expires March 29, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6838. Published May 14, 21, 28, June 4, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 622973

The following person(s) doing business as: McCoy MMTM, 2051 Shore Line Dr, APT 1a0, Alameda, CA 94501 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Dale Ray McCoy, 2051 Shore Line Dr, APT 110, Alameda, CA 94501. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 1/1/2004. Signature of Registrant/s/: Dale Ray McCoy, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on May 1, 2026. Expires April 30, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6839. Published May 14, 21, 28, June 4, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 622855

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. CaNotaryCourses.com; 2. CA Notary Courses; 3. Ticket Clear Now; 4. Clear Lane Academy, 3848 Fiano Cmn, Fremont, CA 94555 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Yu Qiao, 3848 Fiano Cmn, Fremont, CA 94555. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 4/8/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Yu Qiao, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 28, 2026. Expires April 27, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6840. Published May 14, 21, 28, June 4, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 622957

The following person(s) doing business as: Barney Window & Door, 2100 Pleasant View Lane, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Chris Barney, 2100 Pleasant View Lane, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 4/27/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Chris Barney, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on May 1, 2026. Expires April 30, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6841. Published May 14, 21, 28, June 4, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 622977

The following person(s) doing business as: Golden State Brackets, 4575 El Dorado Ct, Pleasanton, CA 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Vishal Saboo, 4575 El Dorado Ct, Pleasanton, CA 94566. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 12/11/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Vishal Saboo, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on May 4, 2026. Expires May 3, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6842. Published May 14, 21, 28, June 4, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 623017

The following person(s) doing business as: Bare by Alex, 2411 Santa Clara Ave, Alameda, CA 94501 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Alexandra Moreno, 748 Santa Clara Ave, APT A, Alameda, CA 94501. 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/: Alexandra Moreno, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on May 4, 2026. Expires May 3, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6843. Published May 14, 21, 28, June 4, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 623014

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Fired Up Lawyer; 2. High Rise Law, 2031 Shoreline Drive #201, Alameda, CA 94501 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Lauren Vazquez, 2031 Shoreline Drive #201, Alameda, CA 94501. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on

7/19/2011. Signature of Registrant/s/: Lauren Vazquez, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on May 4, 2026. Expires May 3, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6844. Published May 14, 21, 28, June 4, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 622809

The following person(s) doing business as: Easy Breezy Organizing, 4668 Mowry Ave, Fremont, CA 94538 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Yung Shan Yan, 4668 Mowry Ave, Fremont, CA 94538. 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/: Yung Shan Yan, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 27, 2026. Expires April 26, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6845. Published May 14, 21, 28, June 4, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 623047

The following person(s) doing business as: Shayboogie's Skates, 2788 EC Reems Ct, #2B, Oakland, CA 94605 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Shayboogie's Skates, 2788 EC Reems Ct, #2B, Oakland, CA 94605. 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/: Sharon Badger, CEO/Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on May 5, 2026. Expires May 4, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6846. Published May 14, 21, 28, June 4, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 622591

The following person(s) doing business as: True VIP Care Non-Emergency Medical Transportation LLC, 918 46th Street Lower Unit, Oakland, CA 94608 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): True VIP Care Non-Emergency Medical Transportation LLC, 255 MacArthur Blvd, APT 301, Oakland, CA 94610. 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/: Henok Y. Welday, Managing Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 20, 2026. Expires April 19, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6847. Published May 14, 21, 28, June 4, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 623091

The following person(s) doing business as: Sana's Cafe, 20885 Mission Blvd, Hayward, CA 94541 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Sarani Franchise Inc., 20885 Mission Blvd, Hayward, CA 94541. 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/: Bassary Alrashedi, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on May 6, 2026. Expires May 5, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6848. Published May 14, 21, 28, June 4, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 623051

The following person(s) doing business as: Oak & Onyx Group, LLC, 2966 106th Ave, Oakland, CA 94605 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Oak & Onyx Group LLC, 2966 106th Ave, Oakland, CA 94605. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Kenya Floyd, Principal. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on May 5, 2026. Expires May 4, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6849. Published May 14, 21, 28, June 4, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 622683

The following person(s) doing business as: Pandit Parashar, 230 Carrick Circle, Hayward, CA 94542 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Mahesh Gupta, 230 Carrick Circle, Hayward, CA 94542. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to

transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 2/10/2014. Signature of Registrant/s/: Mahesh Gupta, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 22, 2026. Expires April 21, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6850. Published May 14, 21, 28, June 4, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 622897

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Simple Things Hospitality; 2. Da Grind Coffee, 169 Via Linares, San Lorenzo, CA 94580 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): 1. Tianna Richard-Arrighi, 169 Via Linares, San Lorenzo, CA 94580; 2. Susan Richard-Arrighi, 169 Via Linares, San Lorenzo, CA 94580. 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/: Tianna Richard-Arrighi, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 30, 2026. Expires April 29, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6851. Published May 21, 28, June 4, 11, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 622792

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. AJW Ventures; 2. Bible Peruser; 3. Drew's Reviews; 4. Drew Reviews, 6243 Sussex Dr, Dublin CA 94568-7448 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Andrew Warre, 6243 Sussex Dr, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 1/1/2022. Signature of Registrant/s/: Andrew Warren, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 24, 2026. Expires April 23, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6852. Published May 21, 28, June 4, 11, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 623278

The following person(s) doing business as: Silvera Jewelry School, 1105 Virginia Street, Berkeley, CA 94702 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Silvera Jewelry School LLC, 1105 Virginia St, Berkeley, CA 947002. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 1/1/2011. Signature of Registrant/s/: Joe Silvera/Managing Partner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 29, 2026. Expires April 28, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6853. Published May 21, 28, June 4, 11, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 623352

The following person(s) doing business as: Hamza Auto Body, 37643 Timber St, Unit P, Newark, CA 94560 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Said Hasib Sadat, 37643 Timber St, Unit P, Newark, CA 94560. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 5/14/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Said Hasib Sadat, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on May 13, 2026. Expires May 13, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6860. Published May 21, 28, June 4, 11, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 623332

The following person(s) doing business as: Door and Frame Worx, 1283 Martin Luther King Dr, Hayward, CA 94541 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Marco Antonio Reyes Rocha, 1283 Martin Luther King Dr, Hayward, CA 94541. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 5/14/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Marco Antonio Reyes Rocha, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on May 14, 2026. Expires May 13, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6861. Published May 21, 28, June 4, 11, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 623387

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Moon Flower Melts; 2. Grounded Growth, 577 Via Acalanes, San Lorenzo, CA 94580 is hereby registered

owner(s): Nuvira Stone, Inc., 14694 Wicks Blvd, San Leandro, CA 94577. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 5/11/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Eldan Ben Hamo, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on May 12, 2026. Expires May 11, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6856. Published May 21, 28, June 4, 11, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 623230

The following person(s) doing business as: Tri Valley Automotive, 6743 Dublin Blvd, Ste 5, Dublin, CA 94568 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Tri Valley Auto Group Inc., 6743 Dublin Blvd, Ste 5, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 5/11/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Sofiane Zemmouche, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on May 12, 2026. Expires May 11, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6857. Published May 21, 28, June 4, 11, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 623262

The following person(s) doing business as: AB Supply, 45461 Fremont Blvd, Ste 8, Fremont, CA 94538 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): ATC Colors, Inc., 445 Lesser St, Oakland, CA 94601. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 1/1/2021. Signature of Registrant/s/: Dong Yi, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on May 13, 2026. Expires May 12, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6858. Published May 21, 28, June 4, 11, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 623338

The following person(s) doing business as: Ground & Grow Your Mind Therapy, 2883 Hopyard RD #1008, Pleasanton, CA 94588 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Amanda Knose, 2883 opyard RD #1008, Pleasanton, CA 94588. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 4/20/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Amanda Knose, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on May 14, 2026. Expires May 13, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6859. Published May 21, 28, June 4, 11, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 623633

The following person(s) doing business as: Dandy Lion Florals, 727 Arbor Dr, San Leandro, CA 94577 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Jessica Parkyn, 727 Arbor Dr, San Leandro, CA 94577. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Jessica Parkyn, Owner. This statement was filed with

the following owner(s): Miss Jessica Millett, 577 Via Acalanes, San Lorenzo, CA 94580. 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/: Miss Jessica Millett, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on May 15, 2026. Expires May 14, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6862. Published May 28, June 4, 11, 18, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 623494

The following person(s) doing business as: Falafel N Gyro, 51 Wright Brothers Ave, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Ahmad Masoud Faizi, 51 Wright Brothers Ave, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Ahmad Masoud Faizi, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on May 21, 2026. Expires May 20, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6863. Published May 28, June 4, 11, 18, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 622996

The following person(s) doing business as: DrHussainYoga, 1133 E Stanley Blvd, Suite 103, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Tasmina Hussain, 1133 E Stanley Blvd, Suite 103, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 4/1/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Tasmina Hussain, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on May 4, 2026. Expires May 3, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6864. Published May 28, June 4, 11, 18, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 622956

The following person(s) doing business as: FBB Studios, 1940 Webster St, Ste 806, Oakland, CA 94612-2920. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 5/1/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Ngo Bassong Bassong, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on May 1, 2026. Expires April 30, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6865. Published May 28, June 4, 11, 18, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 622633

The following person(s) doing business as: Dandy Lion Florals, 727 Arbor Dr, San Leandro, CA 94577 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Jessica Parkyn, 727 Arbor Dr, San Leandro, CA 94577. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Jessica Parkyn, Owner. This statement was filed with

the County Clerk of Alameda on April 21, 2026. Expires April 20, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6866. Published May 28, June 4, 11, 18, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 623417

The following person(s) doing business as: Wanthave, 2155 Chateau Place, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Chateau Fiasco, LLC, 2155 Chateau Place, 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 5/14/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Peter Hootman, Managing Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on May 18, 2026. Expires May 17, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6867. Published May 28, June 4, 11, 18, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 622786

The following person(s) doing business as: Mortgage Dynamics, 11501 Dublin Blvd #200, Dublin, CA 94568 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Dynamic Real Estate Services, 11501 Dublin Blvd, Ste 200, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 1/1/2004. Signature of Registrant/s/: Levy Barnes, President, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 24, 2026. Expires April 23, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6868. Published May 28, June 4, 11, 18, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 623413

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Lost Worlds; 2. I love Lost Worlds; 3. Lost Worlds Livermore; 4. Lost Worlds By Playverse, 6538 Patterson Pass RD, Ste E, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Playverse LLC, 6538 Patterson Pass RD, Ste E, 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 7/16/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Kamran Chaudhry, Managing Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on May 15, 2026. Expires May 14, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6869. Published May 28, June 4, 11, 18, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 623197

The following person(s) doing business as: The UPS Store #1411, 6167 Jarvis Ave, Newark, CA 94560 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Rai Portofino LLC, 2609 Cranston Ct, Tracy, CA 95377. 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/: Aman Rai, Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on May 11, 2026. Expires May 10, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6870. Published May 28, June 4, 11, 18, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 623407

The following person(s) doing business as: Delford West Flowers, 10971 Clifford Dr, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Shana Draggoo, 10971 Clifford Dr, 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/: Shana Draggoo, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on May 15, 2026. Expires May 14, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6871. Published May 28, June 4, 11, 18, 2026.

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME ORIGINAL FILE NO. 585641

The person(s) listed below have abandoned the use of the following fictitious business name(s): Delford West Flowers, 3070 Oliviro CT, Livermore, CA 94550. Registered by the following owner(s): Karl Raymond Eckel, 3070 Oliviro CT, Livermore, CA 94550. The fictitious business name statement was filed on 1/13/2022 in the County of Alameda. This business was conducted by an individual. Signature of Registrants: /s/: Karl Raymond Eckel, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on 5/13/2026. The Independent, Legal No. 6872. Published May 28, June 4, 11, 18, 2026.

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME ORIGINAL FILE NO. 620918

The person(s) listed below have abandoned the use of the following fictitious business name(s): Black Cat Closet, 3917A Novel Way, Castro Valley, CA 94546. Registered by the following owner(s): Wen-Yi Wan, 3917A Novel Way, Castro Valley, CA 94546. The fictitious business name statement was filed on 2/18/2026 in the County of Alameda. This business was conducted by an individual. Signature of Registrants: /s/: Wen-Yi Wan, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on 5/20/2026. The Independent, Legal No. 6873. Published May 28, June 4, 11, 18, 2026.

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Livermore's All-Female Scout Troop Is Paving Its Own Path

LIVERMORE — On most Thursday nights, St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church in Livermore fills with dozens of uniformed scouts packing gear into large backpacks, holding merit badge reviews, and working in small groups. Troop 2942's weekly meeting looks like any other Scouting America troop, except for the fact that every scout in the room is a girl.

Today, girls make up about 20% of the organization's youth membership. Many female troops are established under the same chartered organization as male troops and some might share the same troop leadership. Troop 2942 is unique because it is a stand-alone troop that is completely unlinked to a male troop. This is partly because Troop 942, an all-male troop, folded due to declining recruitment

really give the girls in our community an opportunity." Starting a new troop required a large amount of adult involvement at first. The troop had seven founding leaders with a deep history of scouting, totaling over 250 years of combined experience. Jennifer Taylor, the troop's Committee Chair, credits that early foundation with the troop's rapid rise: "These leaders literally

by Morgan Tucker. "Right now, we're getting ready for our camporee event," Tucker explained. Large camping bags filled with necessary supplies lined the room. The event is a competition among other Scouts from the area. Winning the camporee means hosting and staffing the next year's event, something Tucker was excited about doing. When one parent joked about hoping for second place last year, Tucker proudly stated, "Not me."

For Tucker, she appreciates the experiences and skills she's learning, as well as connecting with other girls from the area. "I can't speak highly enough of scouts, honestly," she said.

The group took third at the camporee event. Something Vince Oipari, the troop's Charter Organization Representative, says is still impressive: "Several more senior scouts were not competing due to being staff for the event. Despite being youth-led, the adults play a quieter but essential role that extends past support with administrative details and chauffeuring scouts to and from events. Many adults say they aren't there for their own daughters, but for each other's daughters. "My daughter isn't really going to listen to me," said Jen Taylor, "but she'll listen to someone else, and I'll take care of her daughter."

Matteucci's mom, Laura, has also watched Scouting quietly prepare her daughter for things no classroom teaches. "I read all of these posts about parents whose kids are failing or not getting to sleep on time in college — those basic things. You are forced to learn these in Scouting." For Johnson, one moment captures what Troop

2942 is really about. Early in the troop's history, he was showing Ally how to use a knife. He taught her how to open it, how to sharpen it and how to carry it safely. When they were done, she turned to him with a grin. "You not only give me the tools," she told him, "you show me how to use them, and you expect me to use them."

Johnson still talks about that moment. "Girls want to do this," he said, "and they need a safe place to learn." Ally, now a six-year veteran of a troop that didn't exist when she started mid-

dle school, doesn't need much more convincing. Ask her what she loves about Scouting, and she smiles. "You get to light things on fire, throw knives."

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Members of Livermore's all-female Scouting America Troop 2942 celebrate their third-place overall finish at the 2026 Twin Valley Camporee. Founded as a unique, stand-alone chapter at St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church, the fast-growing troop has become a prominent fixture in local scouting, because girls were admitted to the organization. (Photo courtesy of Troop 2942)

"It's still very rare to have an all-female troop," said Ally Matteucci, one of the troop's original members. "We're still one of the only all-female troops in the area."

Matteucci's road to Troop 2942 was heavily influenced by her older brothers. "I was in Girl Scouts for a long time, but we weren't doing as much as the boys were doing. The boys were always shooting shotguns and I was selling cookies. I was a bit jealous of that because I'm more of an outdoorsy person."

Scouting America, formerly the Boy Scouts of America, began officially allowing girls to join Cub Scouts and BSA Scouts in 2018 and 2019, respective-

around the same time Scouting America started allowing girls to join. Rather than simply fold the chapter of scouting at St. Charles, the parish decided to sponsor something new: an all-girl troop.

"We started with five, within three months we were at 10, within two and a half years, we were at 50," said Jay Johnson, one of the founding leaders. Johnson brings nearly 50 years of Scouting experience to the role. He earned the rank of Eagle Scout in his youth and today holds the Silver Beaver award, given to adults for outstanding service. His motivation was personal: "My girls would have done anything to be in Scouting. So that's my drive. Let's

came out of scouting retirement because they believed that these girls deserved an opportunity to experience scouting. Had we not had that foundation of scouting experience, I don't think it would have built as rapidly."

Today, Troop 2942 is largely youth-run.

"When we started, we had to teach the girls everything," Johnson said. "We don't teach anymore. The girls teach."

The troop is organized into patrols of six to 10 scouts and each patrol has a youth leader. At the top of the youth leadership sits the Senior Patrol Leader, who is responsible for running troop meetings and events. That role is currently held

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Race Amity Day Set for June 14

LIVERMORE — The sixth Race Amity Day in the Tri-Valley, organized by Dublin resident Michael Karami, will be held at Las Positas College (LPC) from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. on Sunday, June 14.

Observed annually on the second Sunday in June, Race Amity Day, also known as Race Unity Day, was started by the Baha'i National Spiritual Assembly in 1957 to promote harmony and understanding across racial and cultural groups in the U.S. It is now sponsored by the National Center for Race Amity, a Boston-based nonprofit organization that also sponsors workshops, service projects and other activities.

Karami said the local event is being supported by LPC, the Silicon Valley

Asian Association, Baha'i of Dublin, Alameda County District 1 Supervisor David Haubert and the City of Dublin. Both Dublin and the Alameda County Board of Supervisors adopted resolutions in support of Race Amity Day.

Held in Building 2400, Karami said the observance will feature speakers and musicians celebrating "E Pluribus Unum," Latin for "Out of Many, One," which has appeared on the Great Seal of the United States since 1782.

Among those slated to appear at Race Amity Day are Angela Tirado, known as "The Voice of San Jose;" Justin Metoyer Mullon, illustrator and visual arts educator known as "Jamm the Artist;" Bob Henderson, Bay Area community

activist, Baha'i faith leader and retired police officer; Swathi Twaddell, fitness and dance instructor with Universal Bollywood in Pleasanton; and Khalilah Ramirez, San Jose performance artist and educator known professionally as "The Peace Dancer."

Karami, who represents the Baha'i faith as a member of Alameda County District 1 Interfaith Advisory Council, said the formal program will be followed by a meet-and-greet designed to encourage "continued conversations, cross collaboration, and building friendships, relationships, partnerships and networking outside the event."

The Race Amity Day observance is free and open to the public.

CONGRESS

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Iran wash wide like furious waves throughout the world: not only the augmentation in oil and gasoline prices, biting us in our pockets, but the human loss, the grave damage to the environment and cultural heritage of an ancient civilization, the global financial cost, present and future — to mention only a few of the obvious consequences." Her other priorities include surveillance and control of America's military and industrial complex and the restoration of federal departments and watchdogs.

Chenault opposes profiling by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

"Everyone, under our... Constitution, must be afforded fundamental human rights, which under the Fifth and Sixth Amendments, include the right to an equitable defense — not mass

incarceration and deportation," Chenault said.

Chenault named the most significant issues regarding affordability as home purchases and rentals, clean water, affordable groceries, green environments, excellent public schools, universal medical care, and safe cities. She said she would address these issues for her constituents if elected.

"Life should, and can be, more affordable for residents of the 14th District if we receive... an equitable share of federal taxes paid by Californians... In addition to federal funding to alleviate "survival" living costs... I propose to initiate and to galvanize support across party lines for a new large-scale Public Works Administration Project, similar to that of 1939 during the first administration of President Franklin D. Roo-

sevelt," Chenault said.

Chenault said her ties to the Tri-Valley include growing up as a teenager in Sunol and her mother's service as a teacher at Pleasanton Elementary School. Years later, Chenault taught at Foothill High School in Pleasanton, while earning her teaching credential from San Jose State University.

"Having witnessed the transformation of the Tri-Valley region from an agricultural area in

1965 into a high-tech hub... I am sensitive to community and environmental challenges. I understand the significance of preserving and enhancing the old — such as the Alameda County Fairgrounds, Main Streets in Livermore and Pleasanton — while providing for the needs of an expanding and diverse population," Chenault said.

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