



Horizon Treatment Services' new diversion triage center in Pleasanton includes space for five persons and offers law-enforcement officers an alternative to delivering inebriated individuals to jail. (Photo courtesy of Horizon Treatment Services)

Horizon's Triage Center Gives Police a Second Option Besides Jail for Detainees

Local Facility Aims To Break Substance-Abuse, Incarceration Cycles

By David Scholz

PLEASANTON — A left turn or going right off Interstate 580 may be the difference between possibly changing a life dominated by substance abuse, or continuation of the cycle.

Such is the thought process for CEO Jaime Campos, whose Horizon Treatment Services recently opened its diversion triage center (DTC) in Pleasanton near the Santa Rita Jail. The hope is the proximity of the center will be convenient for local law enforce-

ment that otherwise would simply deliver individuals to the jail.

Campos described the triage center, funded by Alameda County with a million dollars through the Mental Health Services Act, as “small but mighty.” There are chairs for five clients at a time, with an option available to handle overflow, if necessary, in order to accept individuals who otherwise would not receive proper attention from jail authorities.

After being assessed at intake, a client’s average stay at the center is 6-8 hours, but individuals

can stay longer if needed. Staff engage with clients, identify programs that would help them, and then link them with resources and transportation.

“It (the facility) is small, but it gets the job done,” Campos said. “It’s a chance to engage the client and break the cycle of repeated incarceration.”

A case in point occurred just 24 hours after the center’s Aug. 5 ribbon cutting, with the warm handoff of a fairly inebriated individual who had been brought to the triage center by Dublin Police. The

(See HORIZON, page 6)

Swalwell Supports California Redistricting

Tri-Valley Congressman on Board with Retaliatory Plan Floated by Governor

By David Jen

TRI-VALLEY — Tri-Valley Congressman Eric Swalwell last week championed “new tactics” to secure a Democratic majority in the U.S. House of Representatives, including a proposal to redraw California’s congressional districts in response to an analogous plan in Texas.

Swalwell, who represents California’s 14th congressional district in the East Bay, hosted a town hall Aug. 12 in Hayward that also featured State Assemblymember Liz Ortega. The two discussed topics such as the actions of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency (ICE) and mass firings in the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, in addition to the redistricting battle that has emerged between California and Texas.

“As much as I think the independent redistricting commission is right, I don’t want to wake up the day after the election in the midterms, and we lost by three or four seats, and say, ‘Well, democracy’s in action, but at least we protected our redistricting commission,’” Swalwell told a crowd at Hayward Unified School District’s Performing Arts Center. “I don’t want to do that. We fight too often with our hands tied behind our backs.”

Earlier this month, President Donald Trump pushed for a mid-cycle change to the Texas congressional map, one that could put five more Republicans in the U.S. House of Representatives in time for the 2026 midterm elections.

At an Aug. 8 event with California leaders hosting Texas Democrats, Gov. Gavin Newsom

broached the idea of a statewide ballot measure to match any gerrymandering in Texas with California’s own, allowing voters to temporarily adjust California’s congressional map if Republican states manipulated theirs.

“Donald Trump is tipping the scales of justice toward injustice for us all — he realizes his agenda is so unpopular that he’d rather rig the next election and prevent voters from holding him accountable and provide a check on his deeply unpopular policies,” Newsom said at the event. “California stands ready to flex its muscle to ensure the integrity of our democracy nationwide.”

Texas currently holds 38 seats in the House, 25 by Republicans and 12 by Democrats, with one vacancy. California holds 52 seats, 43 by Democrats and nine by Republicans. In total,

(See SWALWELL, page 7)

State Supreme Court Orders New Look at Rooftop Solar Costs

Proponents Claim Ruling Is a Victory for Renewable Energy, Climate and Consumers

By David Jen

TRI-VALLEY — The financial costs of rooftop solar power must be weighed against its societal benefits, according to an Aug. 7 California Supreme Court ruling that throws the future of distributed solar into question.

The unanimous decision, authored by Justice Leondra Kruger, asserts that a 2023 Court of Appeals ruling, which upheld the California Public Utilities Commission’s (CPUC’s) recently adopted solar-compensation structure, applied an inappropriate amount of deference to the CPUC. The Supreme Court decision orders the lower court to revisit how much money utilities should pay to rooftop

solar generators for the power they export.

Proponents of rooftop solar called the Supreme Court decision a victory for renewable energy.

“I’m relieved to see the state’s highest court rein in this runaway commission, which is putting corporate utilities ahead of Californians’ pocketbooks, the climate and the law,” said Roger Lin, a senior attorney at the Center for Biological Diversity, one of the plaintiffs in the case.

The CPUC’s Net Energy Metering (NEM) 3.0 program took effect in 2023, reducing by as much as 80% the amount paid to rooftop solar owners exporting power to the grid. The new policy’s lowered in-

(See SOLAR, page 6)



UC Berkeley political science professor Dr. M. Steven Fish discussed “high-dominance leadership in politics” and the rise of President Donald Trump during an Aug. 17 talk at the Livermore Library. See story on page 2. (Photo — Doug Jorgensen)

Planning Commission Gives Approval for Pacific Fusion

Livermore Hopes To Lure Startup Company to City

By David Jen

LIVERMORE — Fusion-power startup Pacific Fusion last week secured unanimous approval from the Livermore Planning Commission to build a 225,000-square-foot fusion demonstration facility on 14 acres along West Jack London Boulevard immediately south of the Livermore Municipal Airport.

The facility would aim to demonstrate net-facility gain, whereby the energy produced by a fusion reaction exceeds the total energy used to start it, a feat that has yet to be achieved anywhere in the world and a prerequisite to

using nuclear fusion as a commercial power source.

While the National Ignition Facility at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) set fusion gain records with its experiments that achieved target gains greater than one, target gain does not take into account any energy used by the facility that does not reach the target.

More than 71% of fusion-energy companies plan to put fusion power on the grid by 2035, according to a survey last year from the Fusion Industry Association.

“Fusion is safe (and) can’t melt down,” Pacific Fusion Chief Technology Officer Keith LeChien

(See PACIFIC, page 7)



Ponies Raspberry and Cowboy are part of the equine-therapy outreach program at Happy Hooves Farm in Livermore. The nonprofit sustainable farming school hosts hands-on-learning summer camps, and visits hospitals, schools and veteran and senior homes to spread joy and healing. (Photo — Leah Silveira)

Farm Brings Learning and Calm to Children

Happy Hooves School Teaches Agriculture, Sustainability and Animal Care

By Christina Cavallaro

LIVERMORE — Happy Hooves Farm feels like a hidden oasis off Marina Avenue in Livermore, though its welcoming committee from fenced-in pens just off the front porch, alpacas Babsy and Ghanoush and ponies Raspberry and Cowboy, give some indication right away of the world that awaits behind the main house.

The home’s owner is Marin McElhany, vice president since 2014 of Extended Day Child Care

(EDCC), the licensed, school-age childcare provider located on all Dublin Unified elementary school campuses. Since 1988, EDCC has been committed to creating stimulating learning environments, supported by well-trained, experienced professionals who are responsive to the needs of young children.

McElhany is also the founder of nonprofit Happy Hooves Farm, the property owned by EDCC, upon which her house sits, and the organization’s newest learning outpost

established three years ago.

McElhany, the farm’s caretaker, pointed to Raspberry. “She’s 30 years old, and the grandmother of our equine therapy clinic. She’s amazing. You can take her to a hospital, a school — you can set off fireworks or put her hair in a ponytail,” she said laughing as she swept the mellow pony’s mane up into a topknot.

McElhany developed a grant-funded equine-therapy outreach initiative that serves public schools across the Tri-Valley.

(See HOOVES, page 9)

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PET OF THE WEEK



COCO & COOKIE

Coco & Cookie are a close-knit, mother-daughter pair looking for a new family together. Cookie is a cautious cutie who warms up quickly, loving car rides, cuddles and curling up in bed, while more confident mama Coco enjoys casual strolls or countryside cruises in a car. With double the comfort, charm and companionship, they’re ready to complete your heart. Call Valley Humane at (925) 426-8656 or email info@valleyhumane.org to get started with the adoption process. (Photo courtesy of Valley Humane)

UC Berkeley Political Science Professor Delivers Insight into Rise of Trump and Republican Party

By Vivien Wenneker

LIVERMORE — UC Berkeley political science professor Dr. M. Steven Fish, an expert in democracy and authoritarianism, spoke Aug. 17 at the Livermore Library about his 2024 book, “Comeback: Routing Trumpism, Reclaiming the Nation, and Restoring Democracy’s Edge.”

The talk mostly centered on the concept of high-dominance leadership in politics, which Fish explores more-in-depth in his book. The work argues that this style of politics has been crucial to the rise of Trumpism and the Republican Party’s electoral success over the past decade.

Dominance politics, according to Fish, rarely comes up in political science

and is often regarded by liberals as a form of dirty politics, when in actuality, “it is merely a tool that can be used for good or bad.”

In the opening of his book, Fish states that, “Politics is a dominance game and a contest to capture the flag. Politicians who seem to be the strongest leaders and most passionate patriots have the advantage. The Republicans get this. The Democrats don’t.”

The high-dominance leader recognizes that politics is always an “us vs. them” game and sometimes uses transgressive language to convey confidence and exuberance. Most importantly, Fish stresses that this type of political style is concerned with shaping opinion and welcomes conflict, some-

thing Democrats tend to shy away from.

Fish cites evidence from a collection of recent mid-term election results, where research was gathered before and after on the kinds of leadership qualities voters consistently prefer in candidates.

The research found that voters are 100% likely to vote for candidates they perceive as being strong leaders, whereas they are only 50% likely to vote for candidates they perceive as intelligent, or who profess to care about the same issues that are most important to the voters.

“Trump always wins in perceptions of strength,” Fish said. “What the Democrats lack is the perception of strong leaders.”

He went on to explain that

the reason for this is not that Democrats lack strong leadership, but rather, a strong national narrative that people can rally behind. The way to do this is through high-dominance messaging.

“Embracing nationalism, and relying on rhetoric that emphasizes national prestige, greatness, and celebrates the nation’s achievements under liberal leadership, as JFK and MLK did, is a hallmark of dominant leadership,” Fish said.

Going forward, he stressed that Democrats will have to learn to embrace this style of leadership if they hope to defeat Trump in 2028. This means taking risks, playing to win and shaping opinion rather than telling people what they want to hear.

Fish’s idea of high-dominance messaging and building solidarity at the local level is particularly important to organizations such as Livermore Indivisible, a grassroots volunteer organization, which organized the talk at the library.

“As an organization, we always want to improve the effectiveness of our communication about our organization and values,” member Karen Jefferson said. “Livermore Indivisible also works on supporting and electing political candidates. Professor Fish’s book provides guidance on what messaging qualities we should be looking for in candidates.”

Livermore Indivisible began in 2017 at the start of the first Trump presidency, and is part of the national

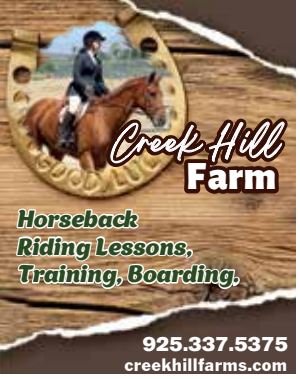
Indivisible organization, a grassroots movement of thousands of local Indivisible groups with a mission to elect progressive leaders, rebuild democracy and defeat the Trump agenda.

Livermore Indivisible was the only group in the area until the formation of Indivisible Tri-Valley, which includes Pleasanton, Dublin and San Ramon, earlier this year.

“Professor Fish’s message encourages us as individuals and organizations to proudly embrace our patriotism and love for this country and express our values in a manner that elevates and is hopeful,” Jefferson said.

A recording of Fish’s talk is scheduled to be available on YouTube within a week. His book is available in bookstores and online.

To learn more about Livermore Indivisible, visit <https://livermoreindivisible.org/>.



The area surrounding Shadow Cliffs Regional Recreation Area in Pleasanton offers no shortage of scenic spots to enjoy. (Photo — Leah Silveira)

Suspects in Custody After Same-Day Shootings in Pleasanton and Dublin

By Ruth Roberts

TRI-VALLEY — A suspect is in custody on homicide charges for the shooting death of his father in the 4600 block of Helpert Court in Pleasanton.

The incident was one of two shootings reported in the Tri-Valley on Aug. 15, the shooting in Dublin. Another took place in Livermore on Aug. 17.

Pleasanton resident Lucas Chan, 29, was taken into custody and subsequently booked into the Santa Rita Jail for killing his 61-year-old father, Lance Chan. Preliminary witness accounts indicate that the shooting was preceded by a verbal dispute.

According to a Pleasanton Police Department press release, officers arrived and found an adult male suffering from a gunshot wound. Medical assistance was provided, but the victim later died at a hospital.

During the investigation, detectives located suspicious devices inside

the Chan residence and the Alameda County Sheriff’s Explosive Ordnance Disposal Team was called in to assist. Possible improvised explosive devices were successfully removed from the property.

Following the removal of the devices by the Alameda County Sheriff’s Explosive Ordnance Disposal Team, the Pleasanton Police Department partnered with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF). The ATF is involved due to the recovery of the explosives, as well as additional evidence, including a 3D printer and multiple “ghost guns.”

Anyone with information is asked to call 925-931-5100. Updates will be provided as the investigation continues.

The suspect in a shooting in Dublin, meanwhile, has also been apprehended. On Aug. 18, about 4:09 p.m., Dublin Police Services (DPS) made an arrest in conjunction with a shooting that occurred near Dough-

erty Road on Aug. 15.

Richo Richardson, 19, self-surrendered at Santa Rita Jail in Dublin, and was arrested on a warrant for attempted murder.

At 1:22 p.m. on Aug. 15, DPS dispatch received a call of a reported shooting into an occupied vehicle near the Park Sierra apartments in Dublin.

According to DPS Captain Miguel Ramos, officers arrived on scene, contacted the victim and confirmed that a shooting had occurred. Ramos said the shooting happened on nearby Scarlett Drive near Kilkenny Drive.

“At this time, DPS does not believe there is an ongoing threat to the Dublin community,” Ramos said in a DPS statement.

Anyone with information or video footage of the incident, or anyone who witnessed the event, is encouraged to contact DPS at 925-833-6670.

The incident in Livermore occurred at approximately 8:30 p.m. on Aug. 17, when officers

responded to a report of a shooting in the 4000 block of Lassen Road, according to a Livermore Police Department post on social-media site X.

Upon arrival, officers located a Livermore man in his 40s who had been shot. The man, who has not been identified, was transported to a hospital for treatment. A suspect, who is still at large, fled the scene. Livermore Police are actively pursuing leads.

Anyone with information related to the incident is asked to contact the Livermore Police Department’s anonymous tip line at 925-371-4790.

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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 in early June.

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

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Livermore Lab Optics Clearing a Safe Path to the Moon

By David Jen

LIVERMORE — The U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) has tapped Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) to lend its optics expertise in monitoring the space between the Earth and the Moon. Such spatial awareness is necessary for the lunar missions that are scheduled to land people on the Moon within the next two years and beyond, according to the DoD.

LLNL recently announced partnerships with Texas-based space and defense-technology company Firefly Aerospace to provide telescopes on two of its missions. The short, 12- to 13-month turnaround of both missions will test the delivery time of a new program under the DoD’s Defense Innovation Unit, known as the Sinequone project, aimed at ensuring the safety of lunar missions. “This has come together very rapidly,” LLNL

physicist Nathan Golovich said, adding that space missions typically allow several years to develop their payloads. “That’s one thing that the Livermore space program prides itself in: being able to respond quickly and get payloads ready to be integrated on the spacecraft at an extremely fast speed.”

Shawn Higbee, LLNL primary investigator for one of the missions, said optics fabrication has a notoriously long lead time because of the laborious grinding and polishing involved.

“The central thing that’s sort of the advantage for us is we figured out how to solve the optical-alignment process in the same set of steps as we do the optical fabrication,” Higbee said, referring to LLNL’s patented monolithic telescope technology.

The telescopes from both missions are to use the monolithic technology, in which a telescope’s optical compo-

nents are formed within a single piece of glass. More compact and more resilient to vibrations and temperature changes, the design builds upon optics work pioneered at LLNL’s National Ignition Facility.

Between geosynchronous orbit — the altitude where a satellite’s orbital speed exactly matches the rotation of the Earth — and a distance just outside the moon’s orbit lies a volume of space known as xGEO, or beyond geosynchronous.

Although xGEO has been mostly uninhabited by human spacecraft, research interest in it has grown recently, specifically in tracking space debris and traffic within the region, Golovich said.

The DoD has identified access to and monitoring of this region as crucial to NASA’s lunar Artemis program, going as far as naming its xGEO project Sinequone after the Latin phrase “sine qua non,” meaning absolute-

ly necessary.

“The volume of that space is huge,” Higbee said. “And why that’s important is because you want to keep track of every object that is in that space. You want to have awareness of what’s there; you want to have the opportunity to note changes to objects that are in there, to detect new objects that arrive there, and so forth.”

NASA’s Artemis II mission, scheduled to launch in April 2026 as the program’s first crewed mission, is set to carry a crew of four around the moon over a 10-day mission. Artemis III, scheduled to launch in mid-2027, is to land a crew of four near the moon’s south pole, likely as the first humans to walk on the moon since 1972.

The Moon orbits about 10 times farther than geosynchronous orbit and about 200 times farther than low Earth orbit. The increased distances, which cause objects to appear dimmer from Earth and make the use

of GPS satellites difficult, present a set of challenges distinct from past missions that operated closer to Earth, necessitating more data collection from missions such as the two carrying LLNL telescopes.

The first two telescopes, aimed at mapping mineral deposits and selecting landing sites on the moon, are planned for launch as early as 2026, part of Firefly’s Blue Ghost program that expects to place landers and orbiters on and around the Moon. After the mission’s lander is deployed, the telescopes, one in the visible spectrum and one in the near-ultraviolet, figure to remain in lunar orbit for more than five years, helping inform future lunar missions.

The next two telescopes are scheduled to launch as a pair aboard another Firefly spacecraft into low Earth orbit in 2027. These aim to help spot and track other objects in orbit.

“Together, our highly

maneuverable Elytra vehicle and LLNL’s telescopes enable on-demand imaging, space-domain awareness and other responsive services that support national security, the science community and the commercial industry at large,” Firefly CEO Jason Kim said.

Firefly became the first commercial company to successfully land a spacecraft on the Moon when its Blue Ghost lander touched down on March 2. Its website also describes it as the only commercial company capable of launching a satellite into orbit with 24-hour notice.

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Status Conference Is Scheduled in Lopez Case

By Ruth Roberts

LIVERMORE — The immigration attorney for Livermore resident Miguel Lopez is due back in U.S. District Court on Aug. 28 to argue for the release of his cli-

gally deported and denied his green card despite having been issued one previously.

“Saad said that the government is trying to say that the district court has no authority to grant Miguel a green card, but the judge

portation, Miguel has been living with his father outside Mexico City in a neighborhood plagued by violence and crime.

In 2007, Miguel applied to change his status to that of a permanent resident, but

set up for the Lopez family has raised a little more than \$58,000 and has been a lifeline for Rosa and her children. Rosa said she is unsure how the upcoming court date will play out but is trying her best to remain positive for her family and Miguel.

“I kind of have mixed emotions, but I do have lots of faith this will eventually turn out good,” she said. “I know Saad has done everything he can to help Miguel with his case. I pray every night and every day for Miguel’s case to go well and for him to be able to return home. That is all we want and wish for.”

To donate to the GoFundMe account, visit https://www.gofundme.com/f/bring-miguel-back-to-his-loved-ones



Community support has been widespread for Miguel Lopez, a Livermore man detained by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents and subsequently deported to Mexico without due process. (Photo — Leah Silveira)

ent, whom he claims was illegally arrested by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents in May during a routine immigration appointment in San Francisco. Lopez was subsequently deported to Mexico.

The upcoming court date is, according to Rosa Lopez, Miguel’s wife, a status conference, which is a hearing where the judge, attorneys and sometimes the parties involved meet to discuss the progress of a case and determine next steps. During this particular hearing, Rosa said Miguel’s attorney, Saad Ahmad, will continue to argue that Miguel was ille-

who has the case is arguing that since he once had a green card and it was wrongfully revoked, they have a case to argue his status and deportation,” Rosa said. “The government wanted more time, but the judge denied that. Saad now has until Aug. 28 to turn in additional paperwork for the argument. He says he is ready to fight this case to the end.”

It’s been a long and difficult journey for the Lopez family. Miguel, 48, is a married father of three and a grandfather. He had worked as a welder at Wente Vineyards for more than nine years and is the sole provider for his family. Since his de-

his application was denied due to a false claim he made when he was 18, stating that he was a U.S. citizen.

He was granted a green card in 2012, but the government appealed the decision, citing the previous false claim as grounds for his ineligibility. While his appeal was pending, he received a temporary green card, which was later revoked. During one of his several visits to the immigration office, he was detained and later deported to Mexico on June 7, just hours before federal authorities issued a stay that would have allowed him to remain in the United States.

A GoFundMe account

Friends of Pleasanton Library To Hold Book Sale Next Month

Friends of the Pleasanton Library (FPL) will hold a book and media sale Thursday through Sunday, Sept. 11 - 14, to raise money for library and special needs programs.

Members of the nonprofit organization will have early access to the sale,

from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Thursday.

The sale will be open to the public from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Thursday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, and 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

On Sunday, a bag of books can be purchased for \$7. FPL will provide bags.

FPL holds book sales twice a year. Items include used books and media, including CDs and DVDs, from the library and donated items from the community.

For more information, go to friendsofthepleasantonlibrary.org.

GreenPal Expands to Livermore Area

GreenPal, a booking app that connects homeowners with lawn-care services, has expanded to the Livermore area.

GreenPal, inspired by online travel and short-term leasing services, started in Nashville, Tennessee, in

2012 and now operates in 250 markets in 45 states.

Homeowners can list their properties with lawn care needs and requested dates and receive bids from vetted lawn care providers.

The GreenPal website includes vendors’ ratings,

reviews and prices.

Once a job is finished, the vendor will send the homeowner a time-stamped photo. Homeowners can then pay via the app and set up future appointments.

For more information, go to yourgreenpal.com.

Bike-Project Workshop Is Set for Dublin

Dublin will host a workshop on bicycle and pedestrian projects at The Wave aquatics center, 4201 Central Parkway, at 6 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 21.

The workshop will include a presentation by the

Transportation Division on recently completed, ongoing and upcoming projects outlined in the city’s Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan, followed by a Q&A.

Some of the projects to be highlighted include the

Iron Horse Trail Bridge over Dublin Boulevard, the Class IV bikeway along Tassajara Road and sidewalk improvements.

Those in attendance will receive a multi-tool for bikes while supplies last.



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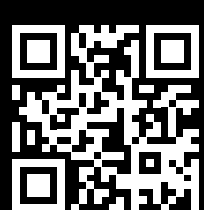
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EDITORIAL

The State Supreme Court Made the Right Decision on Solar; We Need To Fix The System To Find an Equitable Solution

The California Supreme Court on Aug. 7 delivered a victory for people with home solar energy systems when it overturned a lower court ruling that would have unfairly reduced the amount they were being compensated when they sold excess energy back to Pacific Gas & Electric. It could also help those who want to purchase solar panels, but haven't moved forward because of the inadequate reimbursement rate. The case, which was brought by environmental groups, returns to the Court of Appeal to come up with a more equitable solution that takes into account the net public benefit of renewable energy.

But finding that equitable solution will require looking at the larger problem that is created by the so-called free market. Ultimately, the legislature will have to get involved to create a fair system.

The problem is that the board of the California Public Utilities Commission, which is tasked with approving requests for rate increases and the terms of reimbursement deals, is acting to support the power utilities, not the people of California.

Initially, the Net Metering program was set up to subsidize the installation of solar power on

privately owned buildings, and that included a rebate for selling excess power back to the grid. In April 2023, the CPUC reduced the reimbursement rate for new installations, but allowed existing solar users to keep paying their old rate. In February this year, however, the commission proposed reducing the reimbursement rates for all users. The California Public Advocates Office said the reduced rates paid to longtime solar users shifted the cost burden to those who do not own solar power systems and contributed to overall higher energy prices.

There's another factor to be considered. PG&E, which provides power to the Tri-Valley and much of northern California, is an investor-owned utility, and already charges some of the highest rates in the state. Its rates have already risen by 48% between 2019 and 2024.

In February of this year, PG&E asked the Public Utilities Commission to allow it to raise its rates in 2026 by another 2%-4%, the reason being that the utility wants to pay a higher dividend to its investors. PG&E also reported net income of \$2.5 billion in 2024 on revenues of \$24.4 billion, up from \$2.2 billion in 2023 on the same level of revenue.

If we're tying a public good to the profit motive of an investor-owned utility, the public will lose out every time. And the political clout and donations that the utilities bring to bear in Sacramento by far outweigh that of the individual ratepayers, which puts the public at a disadvantage under the current system.

This problem extends beyond the rates that customers pay. California is trying to decarbonize by 2045 to try to slow climate change. We have a good head start, but natural gas still accounts for 36.5% of the state's power generation, the largest share by far. Lowering the reimbursement rate disincentivizes new solar installations at precisely the time when we should be working to get the entire state on carbon-free energy. Doing so at the same time a profitable utility is asking for rate increases to give their investors higher dividends does not pass the moral smell test.

It is true that costs for solar panels and installation have fallen in recent years, which can help those who want to buy them. However, that may change under President Donald Trump's tariff regime, and his overall hostility to renew-

able energy and denial of climate change. And utilities do need to spend money to upgrade their transmission systems, especially as the danger of wildfires is rising with each passing year.

Regardless, even cheaper solar technology won't be affordable or cost-efficient to low-income people, either those who own their own homes, or landlords of multi-unit, low-income housing developments. And that means we can't get to net-zero emissions without state government support for converting the state to renewable energy.

We're going to have to rework the state's electric utility infrastructure, and that's going to take an act of the state legislature. The current system favors the utilities' profit margins rather than addressing the needs of the people first. And if we prioritize addressing climate change, we need to look at what will get us to a 100% renewable energy mix in the time we have.

Right now, solar users may well be subsidizing those who are not using solar power. But we shouldn't punish them for installing solar power in the first place. The solution is to look at what is needed to get everyone on solar and go from there.

MAILBOX

Mailbox Guidelines:

Opinions voiced in letters published in Mailbox are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of The Independent. Anonymous letters will not be published. All letters are required to have the name(s) of the person(s) submitting them, city of residence and phone number, for verification purposes. Letters may not contain advertising. Abusive letters and letters containing ad hominem attacks may be rejected or edited. Letters are subject to verification and may be edited for clarity at the discretion of the editor. We reserve the right to decide whether or not the letter will be published. Headings for all letters may be edited at the discretion of the editor to properly reflect their content. A headline will be added to letters received without one. Frequent letter writers may have publication of their letters delayed or not run at all. Letters should be limited to 400 words or less and should be sent by email to letters@independentnews.com or submitted using the form below. The letters to the editor deadline is Monday at 8 a.m. If you wish to submit a letter pertaining to a special event or meeting taking place on a Monday before any given Thursday print edition — and you would like your letter to run that week — please contact the editor (editor@independentnews.com) as soon as possible on Monday to discuss the content and publication options. Otherwise, all letters submitted after 8 a.m. on Monday must hold until the following week.

Appreciation for Pleasanton Councilman Nibert

Jeff Safire, Pleasanton

Pleasanton Councilman Jeff Nibert's recent letter, "The public servant as trustee" (Pleasanton Weekly, Aug. 15, 2025), offered a thoughtful explanation of the trustee model of representation.

He explained that while community input is essential, our elected officials are also called on to use their own judgment and experience to make decisions they believe will best serve the future of Pleasanton — even when those decisions are not the most popular today.

This helps remind us of the principles guiding our local government. I appreciate Councilman Nibert taking the time to share these reflections.

Food Lines in Gaza

Abdul Awwal, Pleasanton

The daily murdering of aid recipients in Gaza shows what a lack of accountability can lead human beings to do. I have wondered, "Why do the fathers still go there knowing full well they may not return?" Then it dawned

on me: if anyone saw their own children without food, becoming skeletons, they would take the risk for their children, to alleviate their suffering. The suffering in Gaza is a test for the entire world, for all of humanity, to try to stop this madness. If your tax dollars were used to support this inhuman treatment and genocide of another group of people, what would you do? Would you distort facts and legitimize this ongoing genocide? People of all faiths and people of conscience must act to stop convicted war criminals from continuing their plunder and madness.

The Golden Age of America Is Here

David Ott, Pleasanton

The Biden years were a dark chapter in American history — four years of weakness, lawlessness, economic decline, and national humiliation. Our borders collapsed, our cities became war zones, our enemies mocked us, and hardworking Americans were crushed by inflation, high taxes, and extensive regulations. The media told us to accept this

decay as "the new normal." But the American people rejected it.

Now, the Golden Age of America has begun. President Trump has returned to the White House with an unshakable mandate: put America First, every single time. And he is delivering. The border is secure. Law and order are the norm again. The military is strong and respected. The economy is booming, with lower taxes, fewer regulations, low inflation, and surging GDP. Thanks to President Trump's unmatched deal-making skills, the world's leading nations are lining up to trade, invest, and partner with us — making America even stronger.

President Trump has accomplished more in six months than Biden ever did in four years. In just half a year, he's brokered more peace agreements than any president in history, earning seven Nobel Peace Prize nominations from world leaders. This is peace through strength — and it works. (At the time of this writing, Trump is hopefully negotiating the end of the Russian-Ukraine war).

When Washington D.C. spiraled into chaos, Trump acted decisively, deploying federal law enforcement and the National Guard to take back our capital. Democrats, predictably, opposed restoring safety. They have chosen criminals over citizens, chaos over order, and weakness over strength.

Under President Trump, ICE is again enforcing the law in every city — including blue "sanctuary" strongholds that shield illegal alien criminals. Democrats howl in protest, but Americans overwhelmingly support President Trump's common-sense approach. Once again, the Left stands on the wrong side of a 90-10 issue.

The Golden Age of America is here, for every citizen willing to embrace it — even those poisoned by Trump Derangement Syndrome (TDS). But Democrats would rather see the country fail than admit Trump was right. If he cured cancer tomorrow, they'd demand its return.

History will remember this moment. We are living in the Golden Age of Amer-

ica. The only question is: will you stand with the man and the administration who made it possible or continue to embrace your TDS and deny yourself an opportunity to live in a safe, secure and prosperous America?

They Still Don't Get It!

Elizabeth M. Judge, Livermore

Some of the very people who threw the public process regarding downtown under the bus years ago showed up (at the July 28th Livermore City Council meeting) to rebuke those who had delayed the project!

The public process had yielded priorities: parking was first, culture second, and housing on that block in the center of town was dead last! After the process ended, seven self-appointed entities got together and rendered a totally new view of the downtown block that completely surprised the general public.

So lawsuits and referenda ensued hoping to cause the council to heed to public wishes (which at one time included a larger hotel closer to L Street).

Responsibility for any delay in the downtown project rests with those who thwarted the public in the first place! Their new rendering introduced a science center, a black box theater, an enlargement of Blacksmith Square and gave the public a false "choice" of whether to put the hotel next to the Bankhead or put affordable housing "just a little bigger than a small hotel" there.

To increase its chances to get a grant to build the housing, Eden Housing expanded the size from the "small hotel" to two large, four-story buildings with city approval. Then the city loaned the funds to Eden to buy the land at L Street and, to be sure the public could not relocate the housing just across the street, it even built the hotel's valet parking there, (ridiculously far from the Bankhead), plus one of the seven entities purchased a building on the site.

Representatives from four of the seven above-mentioned entities spoke on 7/28/2025 in righteous indignation against the public, as if they themselves occupied the high ground. One of them is the vice mayor

who pompously claimed the council had bent over backwards to accommodate the public. He needs a reality check, and the public needs an apology for his insults.

Now hoteliers find the small hotel concept not worth the investment. Hmmm.

Condoning Genocide Via Trans-National Elites' Sexual Blackmail

Greg Scott, Livermore

Jeffrey Epstein and Israeli intelligence were close. This was manifested in a December 2019 interview by Whitney Webb of former Israel Military Intelligence employee, Ari Ben-Menashe, who had been involved in Israeli arms trafficking to Iran with Nick Davies and Robert Maxwell. (Seymour Hersh, "The Samson Option: Israel's Nuclear Arsenal and American Foreign Policy," 2013) Ben-Menashe was introduced to Epstein by Robert Maxwell, and believes Epstein was introduced to Israeli "higher-ups," like former Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak, by Robert Maxwell also. Barak frequently visited Epstein locations, such as an Epstein apartment at 301 East 66th Street in New York City. (Emily Shugerman, "Israeli Politician Ehud Barak Often Crashed at Epstein Apartment Building," The Daily Beast, 8/5/2019)

Robert Maxwell, born Jewish as Jan Ludvik Hyman Binyamin Hoch, in a part Czechoslovakia that is now in Ukraine, was a British publishing magnate, Member of Parliament, and fraudster, along with being Epstein's partner's father — convicted sex predator Ghislaine Maxwell.

In 1989, there was a meeting on Robert Maxwell's yacht, "Lady Ghislaine," with the following: Robert Maxwell; daughter Ghislaine; Donald Trump (sans wife Ivana); former Texas Senator and then Chair of the President's (George H.W. Bush) Intelligence Advisory Board, John Tower; ex-Navy Secretary John Lehman, then with Paine,Webber; UN Envoy Thomas Pickering; lawyer Tom Bolan; literary agent Mort Jankow; Peter Kalikow, then owner of the New

York Post; and Helene Atkin, Robert Maxwell's niece and then head of his recently purchased Macmillan Publishing Company. (St. Louis Post-Dispatch, 5/17/1989) Both Robert Maxwell and John Tower died in 1991, Tower in a plane crash in the state of Georgia and Robert Maxwell mysteriously 'fell' off his yacht just before a meeting with the Bank of England about a default on 50 million pounds-sterling. (John Preston, "Fall: The Mysterious Life and Death of Robert Maxwell, Britain's Most Notorious Media Baron," 2021)

Does anyone care about Israel's genocide on the Palestinians and how it is perpetuated through and by trans-national elites, mafia, and intelligence organizations? Then I would recommend Whitney Webb's books, "One Nation Under Blackmail: The sordid union between Intelligence and Organized Crime that gave rise to Jeffrey Epstein," Volumes I and II, 2022. Webb is an extensive and exhaustive researcher.

Does anyone care about the sex trafficking and predation of children and others? Then I would recommend the work of Nick Bryant.

Are we alright with the killing and sexual predation of children?

Comparisons

Susan Mayall, Livermore

As a historian, I am aware that comparisons of past events with those of the present can be misleading.

But it is interesting, and alarming, to notice how President Trump's actions and decrees sometimes bear a strong resemblance to those of Adolph Hitler in the 1930s.

For one thing, his use of 'scapegoating' involves blaming individuals or groups for problems which were not their fault. In Hitler's case, this was the Jews. In Trump's, it is immigrants.

There is no real comparison. The Holocaust was horribly unique.

But Trump's actions can also cause great suffering to innocent people.

All of us who care must make our voices heard.

(See MAILBOX, page 5)

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Father and son Nemorino and Jesus, along with their horse, Chevy, enjoyed a stroll along Hartford Avenue in Livermore on Aug. 17. (Photo — Doug Jorgensen)

MAILBOX

(Continued from page 4)

Eden Housing
Owen Brovont, Livermore

I once again returned to a Livermore City Council meeting. The Eden Housing/Livermore City Council wants to put in a long and narrow “park” which would look like a “bowling alley” only maybe green... long and narrow, like a small front yard for the building occupants, not for public use/enjoyment.

On the other hand, if the City would find another place for the needed “low income” Eden Housing, preferably across Railroad Ave, it would leave the space for a beautiful usable park in the middle of downtown, a place to go downtown after a meal to relax before walking over to The Bankhead; visit with friends, and or watch your kids play in the playground area. It would also be a great place to give the families in nearby housing and apartments a convenient place to meet and let the kids play.

At the council meeting a few weeks ago, I described a town a few hours south of Livermore that has a beautiful friendly park in the center of downtown . It has mature trees for shade, grass, walking paths and a lovely playground for kids. Across the streets are restaurants, wine tasting, hotels, cute gift & clothing shops, with street parking for all.

Livermore could have that too! Moving Eden Housing elsewhere would open that space up. Yes, Livermore needs affordable housing, but doesn’t need it in the middle of downtown.

A New Standard for Success

Keith Jackson, Dublin

First, Trump threatened Putin with severe sanctions if he did not meet his deadline for a peace deal. Then the deadline passed, and he announced a meeting at the end of the week. That meeting has now passed, and even with the best spin they could put on the meeting, NOTHING was accomplished. NO sanctions. Now Trump is saying that the meeting was a “10, because they got along”.

There is the new standard of success in Trumps dealing with Putin. The murderous dictator gets what he wants, and Trump gets nothing. Putin was ostracized by the democratic countries of the world with an arrest warrant on his head for war crimes. Trump has now invited him to our country, and even gave him a ride in the presidential limousine, so of course, Putin was really happy with the results. This is a “10” in Trump world. Well, you can’t do better than a ten, so at least now we know what to expect.

Please support Ukraine in its fight against the monster who has invaded their country.

Authoritarian Thugocracy
Barry Brynjulson, Pleasanton

California’s redistricting plan seemed like a thorny issue, initially. However, the Authoritarian Thugocracy, aka the Trump Administration, has rapidly moved toward a full-fledged autocracy in their first seven months.

Gestapo-like masked ICE agents, without IDs, grab, deport, and disappear long-time tax-paying, productive immigrants with no Due Process... to meet Stephen Miller’s arbitrary quota of 3,000 per day. Over 50% of those taken have no criminal records or warrants.

Trump manufactured a crisis in Los Angeles to bring in the National Guard and has done so again in Washington D.C. This pattern will continue in Blue cities, with Oakland now on the list of next targets.

Earlier, he released billions of gallons of water from a Southern California reservoir ostensibly as a threat to our Blue State.

This pattern of authoritarian intimidation will continue for the next 16 months until the mid-term House Representatives are sworn in. We must make certain that session of the House is a Democratic majority, or else unchecked authoritarian rule will continue through ‘28.

We’ve asked our Democratic leaders to fight harder

against this Thugocracy. We can’t say ‘Oh, we didn’t mean that’ when they play hard-ball with redistricting as a response to Trump’s and Texas’ effort to tilt the mid-terms.

I’d normally be against California’s redistricting plan years earlier than normal, but I will heartily support it IF Texas proceeds with its redistricting effort. Enough.

No One Is Stopping Him
Ramona Krausnick, Dublin

Trump believes God saved him from assassination and now he wants to control the world. He wants to make Canada the 51st state, own Greenland, own Panama, impose world-wide tariffs, and who knows what else in the future. All of this is in addition to his already in-progress “revenge” Project 2025 autocratic agenda, which includes a long list of policies that are already negatively affecting so many, not only in this country, but in other countries as well. Please read Project 2025. It’s all clearly spelled out.

He sent the National Guard to Los Angeles, and he has sent the National Guard to D.C. There was no “emergency” to do this. Which city is next? Why is anyone “shocked” at this? He wants the U.S. to be a police state like other autocratic countries, e.g., Russia. It’s so clear that Trump and Putin are best friends. Their meeting on Friday on U.S. soil was a disastrous embarrassment for the U.S. Trump is an incompetent liar and why should anyone trust what

he promises? Zelensky deserves the Nobel Peace Prize, not Trump.

We are living under a dictator and there is no one who is stopping him at this point. He controls the White House, the Republicans in Congress, and 2/3 of the Supreme Court.

Trump is living in his own alternate sick reality. Nothing in his agenda will surprise me. All we can do is continue to protest en masse, fight back non-violently and power-

fully endure as those living in other dictatorships are doing.

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THE Independent

WE'RE HIRING:

Part-time Assistant Editor and Reporter

The Independent, a crusading weekly community paper with a print circulation of 25,000 located in eastern Alameda County, California, is seeking an enterprising and creative assistant editor/reporter to help cover our communities. We're a close-knit team of visionary individuals. We're looking for someone who will not just maintain the status quo, but help guide us into the future with new initiatives in print, on the web and in the community.

The Tri-Valley, which includes the communities of Livermore, Pleasanton, Dublin and Sunol, offers breathtaking landscapes covered with vineyards and open ridge lands, and serves as a vibrant cradle of arts, education, science and community engagement. Livermore is home to a well-regarded community college and two national laboratories, which are rich repositories of developments in climate science, fusion power, supercomputing, biology, health and other sciences.

The mission of The Independent, founded in 1963, is to champion and build upon what's best about the Tri-Valley: preservation of its surrounding open spaces and agriculture, its scientific achievements, its support for disadvantaged people, and its cultural and artistic amenities. We have never been shy about challenging those who would undermine any of the successes for which we are known.

The assistant editor/reporter will interact with a regular pool of freelance and staff writers covering local government, schools, science, arts and local community organizations, and multifaceted issues affecting the region, such as housing and homelessness, immigration, economic development and education.

The assistant editor will perform other duties as needed, for example, writing editorials on local news, or national issues that specifically affect the Tri-Valley. The assistant editor would also be asked to report and write a number of stories each week on local government, the courts, and other beats. These will be paid separately as freelance stories on top of the assistant editor salary.

The paper is seeking a journalist and advocate who can cover these beats and hone our reporting for maximum impact. The ideal candidate will possess a unique blend of investigative fervor with a love of journalism that can transform communities. The assistant editor will collaborate with the managing editor and publisher/editor to keep these issues in the public eye.

Duties:

- Edit stories written by a stable of freelance writers and staff
- Write editorials as needed
- Report news stories

Qualifications:

- A seasoned journalist with a strong ethical code
- Excellent time management skills
- Organized and adept at juggling multiple projects simultaneously

The ideal candidate is a versatile journalist with a curiosity and willingness to learn about everything from land use law to nuclear physics projects, and a passion for accuracy and holding the powerful to account.

We prefer that an assistant editor candidate live in or near the Tri-Valley, or be willing to relocate. Appropriate relocation expenses will be covered. Under some circumstances, a remote position may be considered.

The assistant editor role involves 20 hours per week, outside of time spent on freelance stories.

Night and/or weekend work is often necessary to keep pace with a dynamic news environment.

To apply, send a resumé, a cover letter detailing your experience and interest in the position, and a few recent examples of your writing and editing to the managing editor at jobs@independentnews.com.

Please apply by Aug. 27. We are an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Harrington Gallery Exhibit
Showcases Young Artists

Fresh Works Juniors,” an exhibit featuring works by young artists in the Bay Area, is now on display at the Harrington Gallery at the Firehouse Arts Center in Pleasanton.

The juried exhibit showcases works by students from kindergarten through high school and includes class of 2025 graduates. The artwork spans a range of mediums, including paintings and ceramics, and will be on display through Saturday, Oct. 11.

“‘Fresh Works Juniors’ is a testament to the boundless imagination and fearless experimentation that young artists bring to the table,” said Sydney Tang, curator at

the Harrington Gallery, 4444 Railroad Ave. “Their work demonstrates how fresh perspectives can shift the way we see the world through a single decisive brushstroke or an unexpected collage.”

“Visitors can expect to be energized by the young artists’ creativity and original use of traditional mediums and materials,” Tang added. “It is our hope that ‘Fresh Works Juniors’ not only showcases young talent from all over the Bay Area but nurtures the next generation of artists from our community.”

The Harrington Gallery is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Wednesday through Friday, and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday.

SPARC Theater Will Perform an AI-Generated Play

SPARC Theater will mark the fifth anniversary of its Science@Play series in March with an exploration of artificial intelligence and its impact on human relationships.

In past years, the program has commissioned Black, indigenous and playwrights of color (BIPOC) to explore scientific themes that push the boundaries of creativity and connection.

But the first production next March will feature the premiere of a script generated entirely by artificial intelligence (AI), developed with input from members of the community who will help shape the storyline.

“It’s a risk, absolutely,” said program director Michael Wayne Rice. “But AI is one of the most significant scientific breakthroughs in recent memory

and this series is about exploring the edge where science meets humanity. Why not push that boundary on our stage?”

The AI-created production will run Friday through Sunday, March 13–15, at the SPARC Studio, 2172 Railroad Ave., Livermore. Each performance will be followed by a post-show discussion.

The second weekend,

Friday through Sunday, March 27-29, will showcase a commissioned play by Cleavon Smith, professor of theatre arts at Oregon State University who also taught at Berkeley City College in Oakland.

Smith’s play follows a couple who turn to researchers and AI to rekindle their lost intimacy, only to risk numbing themselves to the pain that

could lead to healing.

“The play is about the tension between comfort and growth,” Smith said. “Sometimes, the hard conversations and shared struggles are exactly what bring us back to each other.”

SPARC Artistic Director Lisa Tromovitch, who originated the Science@Play program, said the series is “built on the idea that science doesn’t have to be

distant. It can be personal, emotional and deeply theatrical.”

SPARC said tickets to the 7:30 p.m. performances on Friday and Saturday, and 2 p.m. on Sunday, will be on sale soon at sparctheater.org/science-at-play.

The nonprofit SPARC Theater was previously known as the Shakespeare & Performing Arts Regional Company.



Evan Thomas and the Brotherhood, a foot stompin' style of the old Mississippi delta and Chicago Blues, will play the final concert of the 2025 Tuesday Tunes series at 6:45 p.m. Aug. 26 on the Shea Homes Stage in front of the Bankhead Theater in Livermore. With powerful vocals, tight rhythms and impressive musicianship, this high-energy group creates an irresistible atmosphere. The grit in Thomas's soulful voice and cryin' guitar is influenced by artists such as Eric Clapton, Freddie King and BB King. (Photo courtesy of the Livermore Cultural Arts Council)

Cultural Jews Observing Kol Nidre

Tri-Valley Cultural Jews (TVCJ) will host a Kol Nidre observance in Livermore at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 4.

Kol Nidre is a Jewish prayer sung at the beginning of Yom Kippur, considered the holiest day of the year in Judaism.

TVCJ is an organization for those whose connection to Judaism is rooted in cultural and secular values rather than

religious practice.

Organizers said the Kol Nidre observance will be an evening of introspection, community connection and commemoration of the themes of Yom Kippur, or “Day of Atone-ment,” presented through a humanistic Jewish lens. It will include music, readings and shared reflection.

While the observance is not child-centered, TVCJ said quiet activities will

be available for children.

TVCJ welcomes participants from all backgrounds, including interfaith households and non-traditional families. Reservations are required and a donation of \$25 per non-member adult is requested.

For more information or directions, or to RSVP, email CulturalJews@gmail.com or call 925-399-8029.

Valley Concert Chorale To Audition Singers for Its Upcoming Concerts

The Valley Concert Chorale (VCC) is auditioning singers for its upcoming concert season, including a performance at Carnegie Hall in New York in June 2026.

Auditions will be held before and after regular rehearsal sessions from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 8, and Monday, Sept. 15, at the First Presbyterian Church in Livermore.

“We are very excited about growing the chorale as we enter into the next performance season with our new director, Joseph Castro, who joined us earlier this year,” said VCC Board

President Sarah Allendorf. “We want to offer interested singers options to finding out about us and want to audition.”

The chorale is seeking experienced singers with sight-reading skills.

The 2025-2026 season will begin with holiday concerts entitled “An American Holiday: Christmas Choral Music from the Americas,” featuring songs from Argentina, Venezuela, Mexico and the U.S.

In March 2026, the chorale will perform a Mass, followed by John Rutter’s “Requiem” in May in collaboration with First Presby-

terian Church of Livermore and Las Positas Community College Chamber Choir.

The “Requiem” will also be performed at Carnegie Hall.

To schedule a 15-minute audition, call 925-866-4003.

Auditions will include basic sight-reading, and a rhythmic exercise. Those auditioning should also be prepared to sing a short song in any language.

Singers invited to join the nonprofit chorale will need to commit to the full season, including regular Monday evening rehearsals at First Presbyterian Church, 2020 Fifth St.

Fall Job Fair Set for Oct. 1

The fifth annual Fall Job Fair, sponsored by the Tri-Valley Career Center (TVCC) and the Tri-Valley Chamber of Commerce, will be held from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 1.

The job fair will be at

the TVCC, 5860 Owens Dr., Pleasanton.

TVCC is operated by the Chabot-Las Positas Community College District, in partnership with the Alameda County Workforce Development Board

and other local, regional and state organizations.

For a list of employers expected to participate, go to trivalleycareercenter.org. Job seekers can also register at the TVCC website.

Dublin Hosting Free Legal Clinics

Tri-Valley Haven, a nonprofit organization that provides housing and support services for the homeless and victims of domestic and sexual abuse, will sponsor twice-a-month legal clinics at the Dublin Library, 200 Civic Plaza, beginning Wednesday, Aug. 6.

Tri-Valley Haven staff and volunteers will be available to answer questions and assist with forms and documentation needed to petition family court for protective orders. Help finding legal resources will also be provided.

The clinics will be held

from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the first and third Wednesdays of the month.

This will be a free, drop-in clinic, with consultations provided on a first-come, first-served basis.

For more information, call Tri-Valley Haven at 925-449-5847.

HORIZON

(Continued from front page)

person pretty much slept it off, after which the process of giving help and support began.

In the first week-plus that the DTC operated, there were five admissions, with average time for drop-offs by agencies of just a few minutes, enabling officers to focus on more pressing public-safety matters.

Campos observed “seeing a great attitude by law enforcement” to what the triage center has to offer.

“Open-minded and willing,” Campos said, characterizing the reception they are getting.

Pleasanton Police Chief Tracy Avelar is among those in the law-enforcement community who are impressed.

“I am excited to see the Horizon facility open here in Pleasanton,” Avelar said. “These services have been an important resource for our community and having them right here makes them even more accessible for the people who need them.”

An important piece of the equation, Avelar noted, is Horizon’s willingness to forge proactive relationships with agencies to educate officers on understanding how to connect with people to provide the right help. A couple of months

back, Horizon’s staff gave a presentation to Pleasanton personnel on the services available.

Dublin Police Capt. Miguel Campos, who attended the center’s recent open house, noted that understanding the qualifications and processes for the center is essential.

“If my officers do not understand the purpose and processes, they will not use it,” Capt. Campos said. But the positive response from the center’s staff to attend the department’s daily musters to explain the program has him optimistic about it.

“There are too many times where law enforcement is forced to resort to incarceration because of the lack of local services, such as those offered by the Horizon Triage Center,” he continued. “My officers now have an option to transport qualifying individuals to Horizon, in lieu of arrest, where these individuals can benefit from the valuable services and treatments offered by Horizon.”

The overflow site is Horizon’s Cherry Hill Sobering Center in San Leandro. Should there be a time when the DTC is full, Horizon staff can route people to Cherry Hill as appropriate based on their level of func-

tionality and the program’s admissions criteria.

After the initial 6-8 hours in Horizon’s care, clients receive periodic follow-up over the next 30 days to track how they are doing with treatment resources provided and how they’re doing in trying to follow through with goals set at the DTC program.

“That is where the magic happens,” Jaime Campos said. “This is a good chance to try to clear away barriers for them in terms of service access.”

This is in stark contrast to what he sees being provided as a de facto treatment option in jail settings, which he considers “a self-defeating cycle.”

Livermore Police declined comment at this time.

Alameda County funding partners will assess Horizon’s new program over the next two years. For example, staff will capture data, such as officer in/out times to quantify time savings.

As momentum grows, it’s estimated that 1,500–2,000 diversions per year will be done by area law-enforcement agencies.

“This is a great step forward in supporting our residents, our police department and the community,” Avelar said.

SOLAR

(Continued from front page)

centives eliminated some 17,000 solar jobs in California, about 20% of the state’s total, by the end of last year, according to a report from the California Solar and Storage Association. Residential solar installations fell to less than 60 megawatts in 2024, compared to about 170 MW and 180 MW in 2022 and 2023, respectively.

Pleasanton resident Joy Montgomery, who has worked as a small-business advisor in the Tri-Valley, said she has seen the reduced incentives hurt local job creation and security.

“When a small company goes out of business, jobs are lost,” Montgomery said. “The county, the cities — they all lose revenue. A vacant building doesn’t pay a lot.”

CPUC President Alice Reynolds presented NEM 3.0, when adopted, as a road to financial stability for rooftop solar, as well as a way to incentivize home-battery storage.

Since 1995, legislation has required California utilities to credit rooftop

solar owners for the power they generate. A simple system where each exported kilowatt offsetted one imported kilowatt effectively forced utilities to buy back power at the full retail rate, which includes both a generation component and a transmission one. Because rooftop solar owners provided no actual transmission services, utilities argued that the system shifted the cost of power transmission from those who own rooftop solar to those who do not.

NEM 3.0, continued the CPUC, sought to correct the overpayment to rooftop solar owners.

In May 2023, the Center for Biological Diversity, along with petitioners Environmental Working Group and The Protect Our Communities Foundation, filed with the Court of Appeals a lawsuit against the CPUC. The suit claimed that NEM 3.0 failed to account for the societal benefits of renewable energy, such as the “quantifiable benefits related to increased resiliency, avoided out-

of-state methane leakage, avoided land use impacts and avoided transmission costs.” The lawsuit also said the new policy hindered the growth of renewable distributed generation required of the Public Utilities Code.

In its decision, the Court of Appeals followed a precedent set in a 1968 case between the CPUC and Greyhound Lines, Inc., which ruled that “the commission’s interpretation of the Public Utilities Code should not be disturbed unless it fails to bear a reasonable relation to statutory purposes and language.”

This month’s Supreme Court ruling concluded that the appellate court, as well as three other similar court decisions going back to 2004, “erred by relying on that highly deferential approach.”

The Court of Appeals must now further consider the criticisms raised against NEM 3.0, raising the possibility of a new compensation structure more favorable to rooftop solar owners.



Mark Zabrowski, managing partner at Much Ado About Pizza in Pleasanton, displays an award for the pizzeria’s third-place finish in the California Pizza Challenge. (Photo courtesy of Kira Zabrowski)

Pleasanton’s Much Ado About Pizza Earns Accolade in California Challenge

Mark Zabrowski, managing partner at Much Ado About Pizza, a Pleasanton pizzeria, finished third in the three-cheese category in the California Pizza Challenge, a national competition held at the annual California Restaurant Show and Pizza

Tomorrow Summit in Anaheim earlier this month.

Zabrowski served up the pizzeria’s Fowl-staff pizza with roasted chicken, white garlic sauce, mushrooms, onions, Point Reyes Toma truffle cheese and a blend of premium mozzarella cheeses.

“This recognition means the world to us,” Zabrowski said. “To represent Pleasanton and stand among the nation’s best is a huge honor and we couldn’t have done it without the amazing support from our community.”

Museum to Host Annual Ghost Walks

The Museum on Main will again host its family-friendly Ghost Walk guided tours of Pleasanton's "most haunted sites" over two weekends in October.

"The Ghost Walk is a Halloween tradition and a fun way to explore Pleasanton's history through its ghosts," said Peter Wallis, the museum's director of education. "It is a unique tour that integrates history into an event that is sure to get you into the Halloween Spirit."

The two-hour guided tours will be held on Friday and Saturday, Oct. 10-11, and Friday and Saturday, Oct. 17-18. Tours will leave from the museum, 603 Main St., every 30 minutes from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Tour groups will be led by a team of ghost hosts and stop at "haunted" locations around downtown where

they will be met by actors, including members of the Creatures of Impulse teen improv group, portraying ghosts from the city's past.

The Ghost Walk tours will take place rain or shine and costumes are encouraged.

Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$20 for children

12 and under.

Tickets are available at the museum, online at museumonmain.org, or by calling 925-462-2766.



Cynthia Lagodzinski, in costume as Gertrude Ellis, is the spirit at the Rose Hotel in Pleasanton. The Museum on Main will host its annual family-friendly Ghost Walk guided tours over two weekends in October. (Photo courtesy of Pleasanton's Museum on Main)

Wheels Bus Schedules See Some Slight Tweaks

The Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority

(LAVTA) has made minor adjustments to its Wheels

bus schedule to accommodate transfers to other Bay



The Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority has moved up departures by a few minutes to accommodate transfers to other Bay Area transit systems. The goal is to speed up connections and reduce wait times at Dublin/Pleasanton Station platforms. (Photo courtesy of LAVTA)

Area transit systems.

LAVTA said the changes, referred to as "The Big Sync," moved up departures by an average of three minutes to speed up key connections and reducing wait times at Dublin/Pleasanton Station platforms.

Updated timetables are available at wheelsbus.com. Printed schedules are available on all Wheels buses and at the Livermore Transit Center.

LAVTA said routes providing supplemental school service have also been updated for the new school year. Changes were also made to routes 501 and 504, serving Dublin High School and East Dublin neighborhoods.

All school service schedules are available on the agency website.

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SWALWELL

(Continued from front page)

Republicans have a narrow seven-seat majority in the 435-seat House.

Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi added at the Aug. 8 event, "Now that Republicans know they are going to lose the House next year, they're trying to change the rules to redraw Congressional district maps and rig the elections in their favor. Democrats must respond to Republicans' blatant partisan power grab. We cannot and will not unilaterally disarm."

In Hayward last week, Ortega also pledged her support to the governor's plan.

"I value our democracy; I value our transparency; I value what the citizens of the state have demanded of us," Ortega said. "But unfortunately, the felon in the White House does not care about our laws. We are now in the position of having to take a vote to figure out redistricting of congressional seats. Do it."

The National Republican Redistricting Trust, which designed the new Texas map, has maintained the new districts are beneficial for minority communities.

In addition to Newsom's redistricting proposal, Swalwell voiced support

for court cases ensuring due process to immigrants facing deportation, and he shared upcoming legislation to remove facemasks worn by ICE agents.

More generally, Swalwell called for unity among Democrats in preparation for the next presidential election.

"It's no wonder we were not asked to lead the country again, because we weren't willing to pass popular ideas that people supported," Swalwell said, referring to bills passed by the House but rejected by the Senate when a Democratic majority held both chambers in 2021. "Imagine if we were able to flex and pass legislation that's popular the way that Republicans pass legislation that's unpopular. Maybe we'd be trusted to lead again."

Armchair Travelers Set to Visit Bali

Juls Vistnes, who spent two weeks in the Indonesian province of Bali with her husband in 2023, will give an Armchair Travelers presentation on their adventure at the Livermore Civic Center Library, 1188 S. Livermore Ave., at 1:30 p.m.

on Thursday, Sept. 11.

Vistnes and her husband, Rick, spent time snorkeling and scuba diving, explored shrines and enjoyed Balinese dance performances, and visited a Balinese healer.

The presentation, "Bali:

Where the Heart, Art, and the Sea All Dance Together," is free and registration is not required.

Vistnes previously gave Armchair Travelers presentations on trips to Spain and Portugal.

PACIFIC

(Continued from front page)

said at the Aug. 12 meeting. "It doesn't have long-lived radioactive waste. It's considered clean energy for those reasons. It has no carbon emissions. It's on demand. It's dispatchable. It doesn't go out when the sun goes down or when the wind stops blowing. And the fuel is very widely available."

In November 2024, Pacific Fusion announced that it had raised \$900 million in Series A funding, a new high bar for the commercial fusion industry. For startups, Series A investments usually represent the first time venture capitalists have confidence in a company.

In tandem with its Livermore plans, the Fremont-based startup has also pursued entitlements in the City of Alameda. Following last week's approval, the City of Livermore plans to present the project to the city council on Sept. 8, after which Pacific Fusion will decide between the two cities, according to Livermore Principal Planner Andy Ross.

Excited planning commissioners praised the project's fit within the community given the area's fusion history paved by LLNL, as well as the roughly 250 jobs it would bring to the city.

"Everything I've seen about the potential of fusion power is very exciting and could be such an amazing advancement for clean power," Commissioner Jacob Anderson said. "And to have that here and developed in our city, not just at the lab, but in a private setting, is an exciting opportunity."

Chair Yolanda Fintschenko said, "It's clear

that there is an enormous benefit to Livermore on several fronts. The project meets several goals for our climate action plan and our economic-development plan, and it's exciting to have a project here that has so much local benefit and potential for positive global benefits."

Vice Chair Tracy Krozak looked forward to the research facility "functioning as an anchor or magnet" for future fusion-power companies.

Representatives from the Livermore Chamber of Commerce and Innovation Tri-Valley also voiced their

support, applauding the fresh investment to the local economy while also growing Livermore's technical reputation on the global stage.

The project seeks an amendment to the area's height standard to allow up to a 110-foot height building, above the zoning's 50-foot maximum, to accommodate specialized equipment that supports Pacific Fusion's research and development. It also seeks an exemption from environmental review, allowed under the California Environmental Quality Act for projects consisting exclusively of a facility for advanced manufacturing.

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Heart of the Valley



The Power of Touchpoints

By Christina Cavallaro

TRI-VALLEY — I recently attempted to make my own natural skin care from beef suet, an ingredient that has been trending all over social media lately.

Spoiler alert: it didn't work. Unless one wishes to walk the streets scented like a pot roast. I'm not sure about my future in bovine beauty products, but the experiment did get me thinking about how good it feels to make something with your hands, to create and hold a tangible object that you can see and feel and touch.

I spent a decade or so in marketing and would sometimes find myself wondering at the end of the day what I'd actually accomplished. Because in an industry where you are largely grappling with ideas and concepts, it was few and far between that I ended eight hours of work with what felt like a finished product I could hold up proudly. I would often secretly wonder what my job actually was. It was hard to put my finger on it some days.

In the world of marketing, a "touchpoint" feels less about something you actually touch and more about something you orchestrate. The term is used to describe any instance where a potential or existing customer interacts with a business brand, product or service. These can be online or offline interactions.

Mind you, I'm not saying I want to live without my AI search engines, because I don't, but sometimes when literally everything under the sun can be found online, it makes life itself feel sort of nebulous at times. Like we're all kind of floating around in the ether of information overload, and myriad recipes for beef suet face cream.

During an interview for a story about the oral history book, "Cruising Down Memory Lane: Stories of Pleasanton in the 1950s," I had a chance to speak with Patty Walker Cleveland, whose stepfather, John Edmonds, was the publisher of The Pleasanton Times for 30 years before selling to Dean Leshner of the Contra Costa Times.

Cleveland worked at the paper as a young girl and fielded incoming calls. She recalled a time before ChatGPT and tells people she was the precursor to Google. In those days, she said, members of the public would call or come into the office to ask her how to spell "Eiffel Tower" or identify the "Seven Wonders of the World."

"People don't do that anymore," she said. "Everything's online."

Since The Independent newspaper

office recently began opening its doors from 5-7 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays for viewing of the artwork on display in the new gallery, I have seen the positive impact that opening up has brought to the community.

Stefanie Pruegel, a senior associate at Gigantic Ideas Studio, Inc. on behalf of StopWaste, wrote to me in a recent email exchange, "I really appreciate your paper's commitment to local news ... not many of those pubs around!"

The Independent has long remained one of the last vestiges of a tangible printed community paper left in the Tri-Valley, but until recently, its doors were often locked as the nature of office work has skewed more and more remote. While we're probably never going to return to the days Cleveland experienced and the role of the newspaper office as a home for real-time search engines, I do see the return to a place where the public can gather in communion of community as a great benefit to ours.

For some residents, like centenarian Reese Peck, who has lived in Livermore since 1963, the year The Independent was founded, the paper has provided a touchpoint for the better part of his adult life.

Our managing editor, Dan Wood, who can be found working in The Independent office building most days, received a surprise visit May 5 when Peck stopped in to gather some extra copies of a recent issue in which an article marking his momentous birthday had appeared.

"This is me," Peck said, showing Dan his picture on the front page of the paper. That was when Dan realized that Peck was standing there on his actual 100th birthday.

A home for local news where people can go and see themselves is a rare gift these days. And a community paper as a touchpoint is only as good as the group of people who find a sense of belonging by being a part of it and contributing in fellowship with others.

I was lucky enough to have been the one to meet Reese Peck and then write that article about him, and after Dan shared his exchange, I ended my day with a genuine feeling of accomplishment that I could see and feel.

Do you have tidbits about the Tri-Valley or know of interesting people, places, events or unique perspectives that should be featured in the Heart of the Valley monthly column or podcast? If so, we want to hear from you. Please email me at christina@independentnews.com.

PUSD Superintendent Offers Key Thoughts in Inaugural Address

By Ruth Roberts

PLEASANTON — Serving the needs of all its students and creating a culture of transparency and trust while maintaining fiscal solvency were a few of the core goals touched on by Pleasanton Unified School District (PUSD) Superintendent Maurice Ghysels in his inaugural address to the board and public during the trustees' regular meeting on Aug. 14.

Ghysels, who had spent a year serving as the district's interim superintendent following the resignation of PUSD Superintendent David Haglund in July 2024, was recently appointed permanent superintendent.

"It's an honor and it's a privilege to be here," Ghysels said. "Just like last year, this is the framework of where we are going and our progress. A lot of this is built around students and resources and culture."

Following closely off of PUSD's strategic plan, Ghysels divided the district's goals into three categories: students, resources and culture.

"With students, what we really want to do is to focus, of course, on what the state dashboard measures as bright red," Ghysels said. "These kids are the underserved, and we really need to step up for them by increasing their opportunities for growth and academic achievement."

Such students include those with disabilities and special needs, English second-language learners and students from households of poverty.

"And a lot of those areas intersect," Ghysels added. "Conversely, we are also focusing on the bright blues, the high-achieving students. ... We want to deliver for all

kids. It's difficult to close the gap but when you focus on both ends and move them up together, it works really well."

Ghysels emphasized the importance of listening to staff in the pursuit of academic achievement and creating opportunities to uplift all students.



PUSD Superintendent Maurice Ghysels. (File photo)

He said that it's important for the district to grow the student population and that it can be done by offering quality programs, top teachers and offering a curriculum for students of all abilities and goals.

The second topic presented was resources. Ghysels said these include long-term fiscal stability for the district and forging ahead with forward-thinking, entrepreneurial strategies to help generate revenue. Included in that is working collaboratively with parent leaders on strategy and impact funding, as well as leveraging the district's properties for the best financial uses and also maximizing lease revenue where possible. He also discussed the likelihood of the district eventually going out for a parcel tax and the need to continue to increase enrollment.

"One of the reasons for expanding our enrollment

initiatives is that we want PUSD to be a go-to district," Ghysels said. "We don't want people going to private schools. We want them here."

And finally, Ghysels said, a successful school district is all about its culture.

"It's about working closely, and I really want to do that," he said. "We have to have the face of a can-do culture and one that has deep regard for each other."

Ghysels highlighted the importance of the board, district staff and PUSD families being openly communicative and respectful of one another.

"When I think of one of the immediate challenges we face is that people are already like, 'Oh, my gosh, it's only the second week of school and I am already overwhelmed.'" he said. "My credo is going to be, 'Yes, I acknowledge your thoughts and feelings. But let's not let the urgent displace the important. This is the stuff we need to continue to look at on the horizon and moving forward.'"

PUSD Board President Justin Brown thanked Ghysels for his presentation and agreed with the superintendent's emphasis on retaining and attracting students through sports programs and high-achieving programs while also meeting the needs of both spectrums of the campus population.

"One of the things that was touched on is you said we have to make sure we are providing the best possible school education with the funds we have, for students on both the red and blue dashboard," Brown said. "We want to make sure we are not losing students to the private schools, and I just wanted to double-tap on that statement. We look forward to a great year ahead."

Valley Humane Waiving Fees for Adopting Pets

Valley Humane Society (VHS) in Pleasanton will waive cat and dog adoption fees on Friday, Aug. 22, and Saturday, Aug. 23, during the nationwide "Clear the Shelters" campaign sponsored annually by NBCUniversal Local.

VHS, 3670 Nevada St., will be open both days from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

All adopted animals are spayed or neutered, micro-chipped, and have received age-appropriate vaccines,

according to VHS.

For more information or to view adoptable animals, go to valleyhumane.org.

NBCUniversal Local is the division of NBCUniversal that oversees the NBC-owned and operated television stations. This is the 11th year that NBCUniversal Local has sponsored the "Clear the Shelter" campaign, with more than 1.2 million pets adopted and \$5 million raised in donations.

Hindu Center To Hold Health Fair

The Hindu Community and Cultural Center in Livermore will host Health Fair 2025 at the Akella Assembly Hall, 1232 Arrowhead Ave., from 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 13.

The health fair will include free testing of blood sugar, blood pressure and cholesterol and free vaccinations.

Health professionals will provide information in several areas, including cardi-

ology, internal medicine, ayurveda, gastroenterology, orthopedic, pulmonology, homeopathy, nutrition and dental.

For more information, go to livermoretemple.org.

TRI-VALLEY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Monday, Aug. 25 COMMUNITY RESOURCE FAIR

The Dublin Library is hosting a free Community Resource Fair, open to everyone! Come and learn about many local resources for health care, housing aid, childcare, education, and more. This is a free event and no registration is necessary. Attendees have the chance to win one of two Target gift cards provided by the Friends of Dublin Library. In the Community Room, at 200 Civic Plaza, Aug 25 from 4:30 to 6 p.m.

Thursday, Aug. 28 GRIEF 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 which will be explored in this workshop. Held at St. Elizabeth Seton Church, 4001 Stoneridge Dr., in Pleasanton at 7 p.m. Space is limited, pre-registration is required. \$20 donation is requested. For more information, please call Catherine at 925-846-8385.

Thursday, Aug. 28 WINE COUNTRY LUNCHEON — BUSINESS LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Hear from CalChamber, the #1 advocacy group for small businesses in California. Get a legislative update on new, proposed and killed legislation that affects business in our state. We'll also hear from Phong La, a local resident and business owner, who serves as our Alameda County Tax Assessor. On Aug. 28 from 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. at Robert Livermore Community Center, 4444 East Ave., Livermore. \$100 per person for LVCC members and their guests, \$125 for not-yet members. Register online at livermorechamber.org.

Sunday, Aug. 31 SELF-GUIDED WALKING TOURS AT HAGEMANN RANCH

Walking Tours at Hagemann Ranch are for history buffs, all who love to visit the resident animals, and anyone who likes to spend time in a peaceful oasis in Livermore. Wander the ranch at your leisure and soak up the history of this national historic site. Docents will be available for questions and tours. August 31 from 1-5 p.m. at 455 Olivina Ave., Livermore.

Mondays, Sept. 8 and 15 OPEN REHEARSALS; AUDITIONS WITH VALLEY CONCERT CHORALE

The Valley Concert Chorale, the Tri-Valley's premier chorus, is seeking new singers for its upcoming 2025-2026 concert season, which includes a performance at Carnegie Hall, New York City in June 2026. The Chorale is holding open rehearsals for singers and auditions on Sept. 8 and 15 from 7 - 9 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church, 2020 Fifth Street, Livermore. Schedule an appointment to audition at 925-866-4003. Singers should have sight-reading skills and must commit to the full season with Monday evening rehearsals. More info at www.valleyconcertchorale.org.

ONGOING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES LIVERMORE HISTORYMOBILE

The Livermore HistoryMobile needs docents who are available during

the day to guide and engage Livermore's third graders. These visits take place during the months of April and May when the schools are visited. The kids love being in a "touch me" museum; something exciting in our virtual age. The experience is very rewarding. If interested, please contact Nancy Mulligan: n.mulligan@comcast.net.

QUEST SCIENCE CENTER

Quest's vision is to connect everyone to the value of science. Volunteers are needed to facilitate science activities at community events. For more information or to volunteer, contact the Director of Education, Dan, at dgolub@quest-science.org.

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.

THURSDAY DUBLIN FARMERS MARKET

The seasonal Dublin Farmers' Market will run each Thursday, from 4 to 8 p.m., at Emerald Glen Park, 4201 Central Parkway, through Sept. 25, rain or shine. Come out to find your farmers' market favorites, such as locally grown fresh produce, baked goods, honey, nuts, pasta, and more.

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.

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

The Unitarian Universalist Church is welcoming to all. Join in on Sundays at 10:30 a.m. for music, singing, and conversation. The church is located at 1893 North Vasco Rd. in Livermore. For more information, visit uucil.org.

ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Asbury United Methodist Church invites the community to join for worship at 10 a.m. on Sunday mornings. This community practices loving neighbors in daily life. The church has Sunday School and nursery care, and worship is followed by a fellowship time. The church is located at 4743 East Ave., in Livermore. For more information, visit asburylive.org.

THE BAY CHURCH

The Bay Church-Pleasanton Campus would like to invite the community to a weekly Sunday service beginning at 10:30 a.m. There is also a kids' program for ages 4-12 beginning at 10:30 a.m. Nursery care is provided for up to age 3. At 6656 Alisal St., Pleasanton, previously Faith Chapel A/G.

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



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HOOVES

(Continued from front page)

Each fall, from September through November, and spring, in April and May, the Happy Hooves team transports, via cheery red 1974 Bronco with trailer, therapy animals into classrooms, offering students in need a calming, joyful experience that eases anxiety and fosters emotional connection in a safe, nurturing environment.

“A lot of these at-risk youth really enjoy the horses and just getting out of the classroom and walking,” McElhany said. “They have to use both their hands, so they can’t use their phones. Giving them an hour a day where they literally cannot use their phones — and that anxiety goes away. And for one hour of the day, they just don’t have anxiety. And sometimes that’s what they need to take a test. After

time spent with the buddies, one kid literally said, ‘You know, I think I can go take my test now.’”

Equine-therapy horseback riding instructor and former teacher Yvette Garrison said, “It’s wonderful to see the ones who wouldn’t touch a horse at first, to now. I teach them all kinds of stuff, so they walk away with some confidence and an experience they’ll always remember. That’s what we want — that experience and that growth. It’s just so educational.”

In fact, there doesn’t seem to be a single square inch of the farm not devoted to a learning moment, thanks to McElhany, who grew up with a school-supervising mother.

She rounded the corner of a thriving tomato garden and pointed out some

basil plants being tended to by master gardener Tea Parker-Essig, inside a small greenhouse.

McElhany founded Little Green Harvesters, EDCC’s farm-to-school initiative, and launched Happy Hooves Sustainable Farming School. Each summer, EDCC students participate in immersive, hands-on learning experiences at Happy Hooves, where they explore agriculture, sustainability and animal care. During the school year, the program travels to the kids at all eight EDCC sites.

“Every time the kids are here, they plant a basil plant. And then eventually we’ll get it to a stage where it’s large enough to put into a bigger pot,” McElhany said.

That basil then makes its way to the new outdoor teaching kitchen and the top

of a pizza that the children help make — and eat.

Before the new structure was built, entirely from a grant, McElhany opened her own kitchen to the 700 day-camp kids.

“We made butter and pesto,” she said. “You can imagine how dirty my kitchen got.”

McElhany is grateful for the help Happy Hooves has received through grants. The most recent acquisition, \$5,000 from the Sprouts Farmers Market grocery chain, will be used to build some hand-washing stations for next year. Right now, the kids are using a garden hose.

“The great thing is once you get the \$5,000, you can go for a \$20,000 one and then a \$50,000,” McElhany said.

And the farm relies heavily on grants and fundrais-

ers. The next public fundraiser will be at Stampede Bar and Grill in Livermore on Sept. 15.

“Our feed bill is \$1,100 a month. So, we have to raise that,” McElhany said.

The farm has so many animals, in fact, that McElhany points to a wall in the staff break room covered in Polaroids showing each with their name written beneath. Another photo display shows everyone who works there.

“I love this project. It’s my favorite,” McElhany said.

The photo display was created by staff member Jessica Owens, a Livermore resident studying agricultural communications at California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo when she’s not back in her hometown working on

the farm in the summer.

“Jessi did this project. I think it’s so cool having in one spot all of our animals and Happy Hoovers who worked here,” McElhany said.

She walked over to a large wooden stage and started clanging away on an old-timey metal triangle that rang out across the farm.

“Jessi’s gonna hear this in her dreams,” she laughed. “It’s the Happy Hooves bell. This is how the kids switch groups, which is so fun.”

“It’s all about the details,” Garrison added, and a lot about McElhany. “She is something special. She has a big heart and a beautiful soul. She’s a very wonderful person. I’m grateful to be a part of this.”

To learn more, visit @Happy_HoovesCA on Instagram.

OBITUARIES

Douglas LaVerne Sr.
July 16, 1944 — Aug. 8, 2025



It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Douglas ‘Papa Doug’ LaVerne Sr., who gained his angel wings on Aug. 8, 2025, at the age of 81. Born on July 16, 1944, in Hayward, California, to Alex and Rosie LaVerne, Doug was a lifelong resident of Hayward and a beloved husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and friend.

Doug was a hardworking man with an unwavering dedication to providing for his family. He began his career at General Motors, where he worked for 17 years, followed by four years at Peterbilt, and ultimately retired after an incredible 29 years at GILLIG. Known for his strong work ethic, Doug took great pride in his work and the friendships he built along the way.

Outside of his career, Doug enjoyed life’s simple pleasures and knew how to make the most of every moment. He loved playing bingo, trying his luck with the lottery, and taking

trips to the casino. A devoted sports fan, he rarely missed a 49ers football game and was a lifelong Oakland A’s baseball fan. His quick wit, warm laugh, and easygoing nature made him a joy to be around, and his presence could light up any room.

Doug was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Jane LaVerne, with whom he shared a lifetime of love, laughter, and family. He leaves behind a legacy of love and devotion through his children: Wendy Vasquez

(AJ), Douglas LaVerne Jr. (Tyra), Monica Gutierrez, and Frances Lopez (Rudy). He was the proud grandfather of Savannah Vasquez (Tre), Taylor Vasquez, Jennah LaVerne (Ryan), Kayla LaVerne, Alex LaVerne, Billy Hudson III, Monte Hudson, Ariana Naimoff (Frank), and Jakob Lopez. His love extended even further to his great-grandchildren: Elliana Gray, Edward Gray IV, Baylee Hudson, Jaxson Hudson, Jewel Hudson, Malani Hudson, and Monni Hudson, all of whom brought him immense joy.

Papa Doug’s life was a testament to the values of family, hard work, and living life with a smile. He will be remembered for his humor, his generosity, and the unconditional love he had for those closest to him.

Though he is no longer with us, Doug’s love, laughter, and spirit will forever live on in the hearts of those who were blessed to know him.

Susan Clair (Schaffner) Devine
Nov. 24, 1942 — Aug. 2, 2025



Susan Clair (Schaffner) Devine, beloved wife, mother, sister, aunt, grandmother, and friend, passed away peacefully at the age of 82 on Aug. 2, 2025. She was surrounded by her devoted husband Gary Devine, her daughter Stacey Devine, son Steve Devine, and her loving grandchildren, after a long and courageous battle with Parkinson’s Disease.

Susan was born on Nov. 24, 1942, in Oakland, California to Mr. Glenn Schaffner and Mrs. Wilma “Peggy” Tucker Schaffner, who were from Fresno, California. She spent her early years in Oakland and later in Palomares Canyon in Castro Valley, California. She attended All Saints School in Hayward, California. In 1951, Susan’s mother, Peggy Schaffner, passed away from a short illness. In 1952, Mr. Glenn Schaffner married Lisl Haburkern; through this marriage, Susan gained another sister, Christina.

Her path then led her to St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church, where from 1980 to 1984 she greeted parishioners with warmth and supported the church community in countless quiet ways. Her creativity blossomed as a floral designer at Knott’s Flowers, crafting arrangements that became part of weddings, celebrations, and everyday joys. She later applied her attention to detail at Farmers Insurance and eventually returned to her passion for caring for others as a program assistant at Project Heritage/Senior Day Center, where she offered companionship and comfort to seniors in the community.

Learning was always a part of who she was. She attended Chabot College and Las Positas College, earning a Certificate in Gerontology, and completed an Activity Coordinator Certificate at Chabot College. She received a Certificate in Swedish & Esalen Massage from the McKinnon Institute, using her gentle touch to bring peace and relaxation to those in her care. She also earned a floral design certificate from The Flower Bowl, combining artistry with heartfelt intention. She never stopped learning, giving, and finding ways to help others.

She found joy in life’s simple pleasures. She was a great lover of the outdoors and often felt most at peace surrounded by nature. She noticed beauty in the everyday, whether it was the changing colors of fall leaves, puffy white clouds drifting by, the hills and mountains in the

distance, or the gentle sway of tall grass in the breeze. She always took a moment to admire the sky as it lit up in color. Her love for animals brought her great joy, you could always hear her laughing in the kitchen, talking to the dogs as if they were old friends. She enjoyed sewing, creating pieces with care and intention, and she especially loved listening to music while cleaning the house on Saturday mornings. She didn’t need to say much to show how deeply she cared; her actions always spoke louder than words. Her friends and family describe her as strong, kind, and always willing to help. She had a quiet way of taking care of others, never needing to be the center of attention, but always there when it mattered. She knew how to make people laugh, how to comfort without many words, and how to create a home that felt warm and welcoming.

One of her greatest joys in life was being a grandmother. She was deeply devoted to her three grandchildren, Tyler, Cameron, and Grace, and shared a special bond with each of them. She was not only present for their milestones but also for the everyday moments, helping to raise them and offering her unconditional love, guidance, and support. Her grandchildren were the light of her life, and she poured her heart into making their lives brighter, filling their days with warmth, laughter, and comfort.

Susan leaves behind a legacy of love and strength. She is survived by her loving husband Gary, her daughter Stacey Devine, along with Stacey’s children: Tyler Marciel, Cameron Marciel and Grace Marciel, her son Steve Devine and daughter-in-law Carla (Dona) Devine, her brother Steven Schaffner and wife Dori, along with her sister Christina Ross, all of whom carry her memory forward in their lives. While her absence leaves an unfillable space, her love and kindness remain a guiding presence.

Friends and family are invited to attend a funeral Mass for Susan C. Devine on Friday, Aug. 22, 2025, at 11:00 a.m. at St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church, 1315 Lomitas Ave., Livermore, CA 94550.

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

Mary Kathryn (Kay) Santos
Jan. 28, 1926 — Aug. 9, 2025



Mary Kathryn (Kay) Santos passed away peacefully at her home on Aug. 9, 2025. Kay was born in Gowen, Oklahoma on Jan. 28, 1926, and was 99 years old. She had battled her final eight years with dementia, that progressed slowly, until her passing.

Despite moments of memory lapse, she always recognized her family and friends, even up until the end. She would always give a smile, crack jokes, and always tell the kids she loved them. She kidded Mary that she was going to steal her husband, Jim, because he was so nice and thoughtful.

She is survived by her daughter and son-in-law, Mary Alexander and Jim Dias, her son and daughter-in-law, Anthony Santos and Desiree Beebe, grandsons, Chad Alexander and Brett Saling.

Kay and Tony were married for over 55 years. They started life in San Jose, where Tony worked at San Jose Hardware. He later started his own construc-

tion business, which lasted over 40 years. In 1970, they decided to move out to Livermore, where they spent many of those years, tending a cattle ranch.

Kay was very social and overly polite. When she had 24/7 caregivers, she often tried to “sneak quietly” when getting up during the night, so as not to awaken who she perceived as a house guest. She didn’t want to disturb anyone. She realized they were caregivers, but she treated them like special people who were visiting. She always said

“thank you” after they gave her meals, and was concerned if she didn’t see them eating with her.

After arriving in Livermore, Kay quickly became part of the “ranch crowd” by attending cattle round-ups, BBQs, weddings, baby showers, and other Livermore events. She would work the room, visiting with everyone she knew.

If there was music, she would dance with everyone too. She loved music and dancing. Her kids recall her singing all around the house from when they were very young. The radio was always on.

Kay will be truly missed for all her grace and charm. Everyone loved her and wanted to be her friend.

Services will be held Wednesday, Aug. 27, at Callaghan’s Mortuary, 3833 East Ave., Livermore, 94550. A reception will follow at Robert Livermore Recreation Center, 4444 East Ave., Livermore. Visit Callaghan’s Mortuary web site for any updated service information.

Paul Roger Carnahan
Feb. 5, 1939 — Aug. 10, 2025



Paul Roger Carnahan, aka Roger, 86, passed away peacefully on Aug. 10, 2025, in La Jolla, California. Born on Feb. 5, 1939, in Decatur, Illinois, Roger lived a life marked by dedication, service, and love. He proudly served in the United States Navy for 21 years, traveling the world to places such as the Philippines, Japan, and Italy. His military career instilled in him a strong sense of discipline, hard work, and pride in his country.

In 1976, Roger and his family settled in Livermore, California, where they would spend the next 24 years. He began his second career at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, where he worked for 23 years. Known for his reliability, skill, and great sense of humor,

Roger was well-respected and liked by his colleagues.

Beyond his professional life, Roger had a deep love for golf, often spending his free time on the course, enjoying the challenge of the game and the company of friends. Most of all, he cherished his family. His beloved wife of 53 years,

Norma, was his partner in every sense of the word. He was a devoted father to his daughters, Kara and Kristine, and a proud grandfather to his grandsons, Jacob and Emerich.

Roger will be remembered for his integrity, loyalty, and the love and laughter he shared with those around him. His legacy will live on in the hearts of those who knew him.

He is survived by his wife, Norma; his daughters, Kara and Kristine; his grandsons, Jacob and Emerich; his siblings Joe and Jean; and many extended family members and friends.

A private service will be held to honor Roger’s life. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to a veterans’ organization of your choice in his memory.

Michael Andrew Sharp
March 16, 1960 — Aug. 6, 2025



Michael Andrew Sharp, 65, of Livermore, California, passed away at his home on Aug. 6, 2025. He was born on March 16, 1960, to Mary Lujan and Wallace Sharp. After graduating Livermore High in 1978, Mike had a career at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory for over 37 years. He was a devoted sports fan, with his favorite teams being the San Francisco 49ers, the San Francisco Giants, and the Golden State Warriors. He was

also passionate about music, especially when it came to Neil Young.

Mike is survived by his two children, Andrea Campbell and Kevin Sharp; his three grandchildren, Hayden Campbell, Jaxon Campbell, and Michelle Sharp; his sister, Cindy Sharp; and his brother, Daniel Sharp.

A memorial service will be held at Callaghan Mortuary in Livermore, California on Friday, Aug. 29, 2025, at 11:00 a.m.

‘Big’-Time Standout Harrington Leads Way for Dons

Defending Northern California 3-AA Champion Amador Valley Boasts Loads of Talent

EDITOR’S NOTE: *This is the second in a series of stories previewing Tri-Valley high school football teams.*

By Mitch Stephens

PLEASANTON — Any questions about the character and personality of Amador Valley High School senior football standout Anthony Harrington are answered swiftly and completely by head coach Danny Jones.

“Honestly, he’s one of those kids I’d want to marry my daughter,” Jones said.

The 38-year-old coach, starting his 10th season, has three children under the age of 5 and a fourth child on the way. He speaks just as clearly and emphatically about the 5-foot-9, 175-pound receiver and defensive back on the field.

Sleep deprivation is pushed aside when bringing up Harrington, who Jones fully admits has been his favorite player ever to coach.

He’s coached some very good ones while going 53-41 after taking over for legendary former coach Rick Sira in 2016, including last season’s 10-5 Northern

California Division 3-AA championship campaign that concluded with a tough 18-14 loss to Frontier-Bakersfield in the state title game.

Harrington ranked seventh in the state with 1,503 receiving yards on 86 catches, with 11 touchdowns, in 2024. He also averaged 8.1 yards on 37 carries (300 total yards), including a touchdown. He was an easy All-East Bay Athletic League Mountain Division first-team selection.

He accepted his only Division I scholarship offer, from Idaho State, on June 24.

“He’s the most competitive kid I’ve ever met,” Jones said. “The way he practices 100 miles per hour. He doesn’t know another speed. He plays all over the field and never leaves it.”

Remarkably, Harrington hasn’t left it since being called up to varsity as a 130-pound freshman.

Jones had heard about Harrington through his youth football exploits but was afraid to call him up due to his lack of size.

“We had some injuries, we needed to call someone

up and he was the natural selection,” Jones said. “But once he came up, compared to the other (varsity) guys, he was so small. Us coaches said to one another ‘What do you want to do with him?’”

With the coaches afraid he might break, Harrington instead excelled.

“He wasn’t afraid of anything,” Jones said. “After a week, he was our starting cornerback.”

Then, during special-teams practice, they noticed nobody could tackle him, either.

“We started to get him the ball in space,” Jones said. “We knew then he was very, very special.”

But convincing college coaches that this undersized kid from the suburbs was worth taking a chance on was another matter. Jones spoke with even more conviction to his friends at the next level.

“Nobody wanted to pull the trigger,” Jones said. “Finally, the coaches at Idaho State said, ‘He’s so (flipping) good.’ I told them, ‘I know. I’ve been trying to tell everyone for years.’ You can put him on returns (in college) or in the slot. And

he comes from a phenomenal family.

“Idaho State or wherever he ends up won’t be sorry.”

Harrington definitely benefitted by playing with one of the EBAL’s all-time most prolific quarterbacks, Tristan Ti’a, who ranked fifth in the state last season with 3,758 passing yards and 32 touchdowns to go with 871 rushing yards and 18 more scores.

Ti’a is now at Oregon State, where the coaching staff loves him, according to Jones. The Dons, meanwhile, continue to evaluate who will be his replacement, but Jones likes the possibilities: senior Tyson Jetter, juniors Bradley Canfield and Ethan Riley, and sophomore Nicco Kovacs.

Whoever that is will have perhaps Jones’ best senior classes, with 15 returning starters, including eight on defense. The Dons open the season Aug. 29 at defending state 3-A champion Vanden-Fairfield, followed by a home game against Monterey Trail-Elk Grove on Sept. 5.

Among the other college-bound players, according to Jones, are seniors Cole Goldsworthy, a defen-



Amador Valley wide receiver Anthony Harrington, shown in action against Monte Vista last season, burned the Mustangs for a career-high 15 catches and 255 yards, as well as two touchdowns, in a 32-28 Dons victory. (Photo — Jim Malone)

sive end-tight end headed to Brigham Young, wide receiver-safety Nehemiah Funguala (Northern Arizona), running back-strong

safety Ismael Duenas and tight end-defensive end McKay Kenitzer.

“It’s a very special group,” Jones said.

Livermore Ready To Unleash Senior Quarterback Lortie

Third-Year Starting Signal-Caller Figures To Spark Quest as Rejuvenated Cowboys Pursue Spot in North Coast Section Playoffs

EDITOR’S NOTE: *This is the third in a series of stories previewing Tri-Valley high school football teams.*

By Mitch Stephens

LIVERMORE — Take off the training wheels. Remove the seat belts, the harnesses and any other limiting contraptions.

Livermore High School quarterback Matteo Lortie is at last fully free.

The 6-foot, 185-pound senior, with a big arm and athletic legs, will soon begin his third full season as the Cowboys’ starting signal-caller, but now the ball — and the fate of most games — will largely be in his hands.

Sure, he handled every snap the past two seasons while throwing for more than 3,000 yards and 30 touchdowns.

But his primary duty was to hand the ball to record-breaking tailback Kamari Robinson, the 2024 East Bay Athletic League Valley Player of the Year who in 2023 broke the North Coast Section single-game rushing record with 534 yards on just 29 carries (18.4-yard average) and five touchdowns in a 45-34 win over Dublin.

“With a talent like Kamari, that definitely steers you in the direction of run-

ning the ball,” said Livermore coach John Wade, who is starting his 33rd season at three different high schools and his seventh as head coach of the Cowboys. “I think it’s safe to say with Matteo’s talent

Livermore, which coming off a 6-5 season, will open with two home games, Aug. 29 versus Castro Valley and Sept. 5 against Sacramento.

Outgoing, confident and highly competitive, Lortie drew the attention of Wade

competitive nature was over the top. I liked that.”

That’s largely because Wade has always been the same way, which has led to a fiery relationship between the two.

“We’re largely on the



Livermore quarterback Matteo Lortie delivers a pass in action against Granada last season. (File photo — Doug Jorgensen)

and the receivers he’s throwing to, we’ll definitely be a throw-first squad. That’s how we’re built.”

And Lortie is a perfect fit to lead the charge for

as a freshman: “I saw he could really throw the ball but more saw it was his competitive nature that caught my eye. He works at his craft very hard, and his

same page, but there’s times when we’re not and our competitive natures come out,” Wade said. “It’s nothing personal. It’s stuff that needs to be let out. We

eventually bring things back down and come back to a ‘let’s figure this out.’ I let him vent. He lets me vent, and we move on. It’s good for us and the team. It’s been super fun working with Matteo for now a third year. It’s rare.”

Indirectly, Lortie is learning from one of best quarterback minds Northern California has ever produced.

Even though he played tight end in high school and college, Wade was mentored in his early 20s by the late Roger Theder, the head coach at Cal from 1978 to 1981 who went on to assist in the NFL.

Theder became a personal quarterback coach and was credited with developing such NFL players as Jim Plunkett, Colin Kaepernick and Steve Bartkowski, as well as local high school standouts such as Kyle Wright (Monte Vista), Sam Keller (San Ramon Valley) and Drew Olson (Piedmont).

“Roger totally took me under his wing when I was at Miramonte,” Wade said. “He taught me everything about breaking down defenses and learning the West Coast offense.”

The Cowboys now run the spread, but with versions of the West Coast. This season, Lortie will definitely utilize the talents of wideouts

CT Harper (6-2, 175), AJ Carey (6-2, 180) and Luke Mederos, among others.

Harper had 38 catches for 700 yards and a team-best eight touchdowns last season. He and Lortie have a special connection on and off the field.

“Those two have really bonded, with as much work as they’ve put in over the years,” Wade said. “We probably have six or seven strong receiving threats, both slot and deep threats. Matteo is just the guy to deliver them.”

Don’t be surprised if the Cowboys utilize Lortie’s legs, as well. With defenses keying on Robinson in 2024, Lortie, who also plays lacrosse, took advantage with zone reads leading to seven rushing touchdowns.

“He’s really fast,” Wade said.

That may also open up more college opportunities for Lortie, who has heard from Ivy League and mid-major schools.

Right now, he’s just interested in getting the Cowboys back to the North Coast Section playoffs for the fifth time in six seasons. Since Wade took over in 2019, Livermore has gone 36-24 without a losing season. Before that, the Cowboys hadn’t had a winning season since before 2004.

Dublin and School District Strike Deal To Share, Improve Sports Fields

By Ruth Roberts

DUBLIN — In a move to enhance student athletics and foster community collaboration, the Dublin Unified School District (DUSD) has forged a new partnership with the City of Dublin.

The deal will secure exclusive access for Emerald High School’s baseball and softball teams to the top-tier fields at Fallon Sports Complex, while also

resulting in improvements at Emerald Glen Park. The DUSD board unanimously approved the agreement during its regular meeting on Aug. 12.

“We have been working hard on this partnership with the City of Dublin,” DUSD Superintendent Chris Funk said during the Aug. 12 meeting. “I appreciate how open the new city manager (Colleen Tribby) is, and how committed she is to

partnering.”

The staff report stipulates that DUSD will not exceed \$1 million for upgrades at Emerald Glen Park. The project will be funded through developer fees, according to Funk.

The partnership offers myriad impacts and benefits, Funk said. Emerald High athletes will gain dedicated and consistent access to championship-caliber fields at Fallon Sports Complex,

alleviating scheduling conflicts with weekend youth events. This increased access is expected to enhance training and competitive opportunities while allowing Dublin Little League to benefit from field upgrades specifically designed for its age group, improving playability and safety for young athletes.

Dublin Little League will be moving to Emerald Glen Park, which will serve

as the home field for baseball and softball games and practices. In exchange for this arrangement, Dublin is committed to supporting improvements to the fields at Emerald Glen Park.

At Emerald Glen, Funk added, two fields need to be prepared for use as softball fields, as Dublin Little League is expanding its softball program. Additionally, one field closest to Tassajara Road will be converted from 60-foot bases to 90, to host all-star games and tournaments, as was previously done at Fallon Sports Park. This conversion will also require the installation of netting to prevent home runs from going onto Tassajara Road, as well as netting along the third-base line to protect parked cars.

DUSD is managing the projects, but since they are on city property, the city will be responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of the fields.

The plan, Mayor Sherry Hu said, serves as an example of effective inter-agency

collaboration and responsible stewardship of public resources, while maximizing benefits for both the community and students.

“This is such a great example of what can happen when we work together,” Hu said. “Not only will Emerald High School’s baseball and softball teams have a place to call home at Fallon, but the upgrades at Emerald Glen Park mean Dublin Little League can keep growing and inspiring our future Emerald High and Dublin High players. It’s a true win for our schools, our youth and the whole community.”

Several board members asked about the length of the agreement in the event of leadership changes at either the city or DUSD. Funk said the details would be worked out in coming weeks, but that the assumption was the contract would be in perpetuity.

The next steps for the project are to get the final site-plan design by the end of the month, with an ongoing schedule to be established afterward.



Top-tier fields at Dublin’s Fallon Sports Complex will be home to Emerald High School baseball and softball teams under an agreement struck by the city and school district. (Photo — Leah Silveira)

LEGAL NOTICES/CLASSIFIEDS

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LEGAL NOTICES

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 615914

The following person(s) doing business as: Cedar Oaks Residence, 1999 Harrison Street, Suite 1800, Oakland, CA 94612 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Patricia Avis, 1999 Harrison Street, Suite 1800, Oakland, CA 94612; Rose Shikhule, 1999 Harrison Street, Suite 1800, Oakland, CA 94612. This business is conducted by a General Partnership. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 7/2/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Rose Shikhule, Partner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 7, 2025. Expires July 6, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6500. Published July 31, August 7, 14, 21, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 616282

The following person(s) doing business as: Paws and Relax Studio, 1264 Larkspur Dr., Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Aliyah Urizar, 1264 Larkspur Dr., Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 7/18/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Aliyah Urizar, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 18, 2025. Expires July 17, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6501. Published July 31, August 7, 14, 21, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 616428

The following person(s) doing business as: Johnny Fly CA, 156 South J Street, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Mark Codiroli, 156 South J Street, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Mark Codiroli, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 25, 2025. Expires July 24, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6502. Published July 31, August 7, 14, 21, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 616407

The following person(s) doing business as: Girty Pop Sip & Co, 5860 East Ave, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Janessa Villa, 5860 East Avenue, Apt 147, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Janessa Villa, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 24, 2025. Expires July 23, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6503. Published July 31, August 7, 14, 21, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 616373

The following person(s) doing business as: J Birdie, 1275 Hillview Dr., Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Gizmo Graphix LLC, 1275 Hillview Dr., Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Jorge L. Valle-Flores, Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 23, 2025. Expires July 22, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6504. Published July 31, August 7, 14, 21, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 615052

The following person(s) doing business as: Rock & Roll Auto Recycling, 3908 Old Santa Rita Road, Pleasanton, CA 94588 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): N.F. Incorporated, 3908 Old Santa Rita Road, Pleasanton, CA 94588. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 2/14/1996. Signature of Registrant/s/: Christina Fakiri, VP. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 3, 2025. Expires June 2 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6505. Published July 31, August 7, 14, 21, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 616375

The following person(s) doing business as: Mads Lifestyle, 837 Cloud Common, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Sirisha Gandhi, 837 Cloud Common,

Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Sirisha Gandhi, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 23, 2025. Expires July 22, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6506. Published August 7, 14, 21, 28, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 616577

The following person(s) doing business as: Pro-Craft Builders, 46000 Warm Springs Blvd, Fremont, CA 94539 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): ProMax Builders, Inc., 46000 Warm Springs Blvd, Fremont, CA 94539. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 11/2/2011. Signature of Registrant/s/: Jeffrey Draeger, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 1, 2025. Expires July 31, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6507. Published August 7, 14, 21, 28, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 616574

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. The Driveway Co.; 2. The Driveway Company; The Driveway Co. by Lancon; 4. The Driveway Company by Lancon, 2470 Tapestry CT, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Lancon Design & Development, 2470 Tapestry CT, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Jonathan Niernuth, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 1, 2025. Expires July 31, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6508. Published August 7, 14, 21, 28, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 616460

The following person(s) doing business as: Golf Envoy, 7022 Village Parkway, Dublin, CA 94568 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Falkirk Wes, LLC, 1516 S Main Street, Walnut Creek, CA 94596. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 4/1/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: John McCormick, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 28, 2025. Expires July 27, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6509. Published August 7, 14, 21, 28, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 616340

The following person(s) doing business as: Triple B Technologies, 3833 Canon Avenue, Oakland, CA 94602 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Bret Bodas, 3833 Canon Avenue, Oakland, CA 94602. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 7/21/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Bret Bodas, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 21, 2025. Expires July 20, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6510. Published August 7, 14, 21, 28, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 616449

The following person(s) doing business as: Integrity Remodeling & Construction, 7026 Koll Center Parkway, #211, Pleasanton, CA 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Cordial Home Services LLC, 7026 Koll Center Parkway,

#211, Pleasanton, CA 94566. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 7/28/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Najib Rahmatti, President/Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 28, 2025. Expires July 27, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6511. Published August 7, 14, 21, 28, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 616593

The following person(s) doing business as: Pi PPL, 4500 Tasajara Rd, Suite C, Dublin, CA 94568 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Tazza Foods LLC, 4584 Dublin Blvd, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Jatinder Grewal, Managing Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 4, 2025. Expires August 3, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6512. Published 14, 21, 28, September 4, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 616488

The following person(s) doing business as: Janken LLC, 1201 Pine Street, Unit 461, Oakland, CA 94607 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Janken LLC, 1201 Pine Street, Unit 461, Oakland, CA 94607. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Cory Miller, Managing Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 29, 2025. Expires July 28, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6513. Published 14, 21, 28, September 4, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 616666

The following person(s) doing business as: Jest, 655 61st ST, Oakland, CA 94609 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Textclub, Inc., 2991 Sacramento ST #545, Berkeley, CA 94702. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 8/4/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Deyan Vitanov, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 6, 2025. Expires August 5, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6514. Published 14, 21, 28, September 4, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 616651

The following person(s) doing business as: A Fit Team, 330 Ansel Ave, Alameda, CA 94501 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Wenchang Albert Tan, 330 Ansel Ave, Alameda, CA 94501. This business is conducted by a Married Couple. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 3/1/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Wenchang Albert Tan, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 5, 2025. Expires August 4, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6515. Published 14, 21, 28, September 4, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 615777

The following person(s) doing business as: Crackerbox Vineyard, 2067 Buena Vista Ave, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Courtney Lynn Cooke, 2067 Buena Vista Ave, Livermore, CA 94550. This business

is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 10/10/2000. Signature of Registrant/s/: Courtney Cooke, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 1, 2025. Expires June 30, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6516. Published 14, 21, 28, September 4, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 615689

The following person(s) doing business as: Laundry Buddies, 38918 Spicebush PL, Newark, CA 94560 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Soft-Rinse Group LLC, 38918 Spicebush PL, Newark, CA 94560. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/:Deric Waitnutkan, Managing Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 4, 2025. Expires August 3, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6517. Published 14, 21, 28, September 4, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 616595

The following person(s) doing business as: California Reflections Auto Body & Paint, 3575 1st Street, Suite D, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Masterpiece Enterprise, Inc., 2404 Saffron Court, Tracy, CA 95377. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 8/4/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Richard E. Davis, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 4, 2025. Expires August 3, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6518. Published 14, 21, 28, September 4, 2025.

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME ORIGINAL FILE NO. 605741

The person(s) listed below have abandoned the use of the following fictitious business name(s). California Reflections Auto Body & Paint, 3575 First ST, Suite D, Livermore, CA 94551. Registered by the following owner(s): Kevin Schell, 3575 First ST, Suite D, Livermore, CA 94551. The fictitious business name statement was filed on 04/22/2024 in the County of Alameda. This business was conducted by an Individual. Signature of Registrants: /s/ Kevin Schell, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 4, 2025. The Independent, Legal No. 6519. Published 14, 21, 28, September 4, 2025.

SUMMONS CASE NO.: D-25-709746-D DEPT. E

DISTRICT COURT
CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA
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TO THE DEFENDANT(S): SIEW PENG THEOH

A civil Complaint for Divorce has been filed by the Plaintiff(s) against you for the relief set forth in the Complaint. 1. If you intend to defend this lawsuit, within 20 days after this Summons is served on you, exclusive to the day of service, you must do the following: 1. File with the clerk of this court, whose address is shown below, a formal written response to the Complaint in accordance with the rules of the court, with the appropriate filing fee. 2. Serve a copy of your response upon the attorney whose name and address is shown below, or upon the Plaintiff if Plaintiff is in Proper Person. 2. Unless you respond, your Default will be entered upon application of the Plaintiff(s) and this court may enter judgment against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint, which could result in the taking of money or property or other relief requested in the Complaint. 3. If you intend to seek the advice of an attorney in this matter, you should do so promptly so that your response may be filed on time. 4. The State of Nevada, its political subdivisions, agencies, officers, employees, board members, commission members and legislators, each have a 45 days after service of this Summons within which to file an Answer or other responsive pleading to the Complaint. STEVE GRIERSON, CLERK OF COURT Celia Dixon, Deputy Clerk Date: 5/14/2025 Family Court Complex 601 N. Pecos Road Las Vegas, NV 89101 (702) 455-2385 Submitted by: JAMES E. SMITH Attorney for: Plaintiff Nevada Bar #0052 7251 W. Lake Mead Blvd., #300 Las Vegas, Nevada 89128 (702) 562-4209 jameswardsmith@aol.com The Independent, Legal No. 6520. Published August 14, 21, 28, September 4, 2025.

ment against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint, which could result in the taking of money or property or other relief requested in the Complaint. 3. If you intend to seek the advice of an attorney in this matter, you should do so promptly so that your response may be filed on time. 4. The State of Nevada, its political subdivisions, agencies, officers, employees, board members, commission members and legislators, each have a 45 days after service of this Summons within which to file an Answer or other responsive pleading to the Complaint. STEVE GRIERSON, CLERK OF COURT Celia Dixon, Deputy Clerk Date: 5/14/2025 Family Court Complex 601 N. Pecos Road Las Vegas, NV 89101 (702) 455-2385 Submitted by: JAMES E. SMITH Attorney for: Plaintiff Nevada Bar #0052 7251 W. Lake Mead Blvd., #300 Las Vegas, Nevada 89128 (702) 562-4209 jameswardsmith@aol.com The Independent, Legal No. 6520. Published August 14, 21, 28, September 4, 2025.

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Sections 3071 of the Civil Code of the State of California the undersigned will sell the following vehicle(s) at lien sale at said address below on: 09-04-25 09:00 AM Year of Car / Make of Car / Vehicle ID No. / License No. (State) 1969 LOTUS S41808 RH15252 CA To be sold by TURBOHOSES R & D 5948 LAS POSITAS RD LIVERMORE CA 94551 Said sale is for the purpose of satisfying lien for together with costs of advertising and expenses of sale. The Independent, Legal No. 6521. Published August 21, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 616412

The following person(s) doing business as: Hamesha Project, 375 Van Buren Ave APT# 6, Oakland, CA 94610 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Pallavi Sarup, 375 Van Buren Ave APT#6, Oakland, CA 94610. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 10/15/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Pallavi Sarup, Founder & Artist. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 24, 2025. Expires July 23, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6522. Published 21, 28, September 4, 11, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 616786

The following person(s) doing business as: Cardcolonel, 339 Bryant Ave, Alameda, CA 94501-3531 is hereby registered by

the following owner(s): Theodore Wismar, 339 Bryant Ave, Alameda, CA 94501-3531. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 7/1/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Theodore Wismar, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 12, 2025. Expires August 11, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6523. Published 21, 28, September 4, 11, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 615919

The following person(s) doing business as: Makena Ino Media, 2473 Allegro Street, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Makena Inouye, 2473 Allegro Street, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 5/26/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Makena Inouye, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 8, 2025. Expires July 7, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6524. Published 21, 28, September 4, 11, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 616707

The following person(s) doing business as: Abundance by Design, 1184 Hollyhock Street, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Liza B. Walkup, 1184 Hollyhock Street, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 08/07/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Liza B. Walkup, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 7, 2025. Expires August 6, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6525. Published 21, 28, September 4, 11, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 616311

The following person(s) doing business as: Continental Equestrian LLC, 3884 Delmont Ave, Oakland, CA 94605 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Continental Equestrian LLC, 3884 Delmont Ave, Oakland, CA 94605. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Andrea Totten, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 21, 2025. Expires July 20, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6526. Published 21, 28, September 4, 11, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS

NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 616730

The following person(s) doing business as: Bridges Organizational Consulting, 4463 Buckskin CT, Livermore CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Kimberly Curtis. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Kimberly Curtis, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 8, 2025. Expires August 7, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6527. Published 21, 28, September 4, 11, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 616583

The following person(s) doing business as: Halyses, 39648 Embarcadero Terrace, Fremont, CA 94538 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Yuan Shi, 39648 Embarcadero Terrace, Fremont, CA 94538. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 7/17/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Yuan Shi, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 1, 2025. Expires July 31, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6528. Published 21, 28, September 4, 11, 2025.

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Pleasanton Rage Room Set To Feature Unusual Activities

By Vivien Wenneker

PLEASANTON — A new iSmash rage room, the first in the Tri-Valley, is set to open in Pleasanton, with a December target date. A franchise known for its unique combination of themed rage rooms, black-light splatter painting and axe throwing, iSmash offers

we really connected with it and thought it would be a lot of fun.” Yang and Michael Hardman, East Bay residents and long-time business owners in the area, are the co-owners of the new iSmash location. Yang owns a financial-planning practice, and Hardman operates his own insurance office in Castro Valley.

overseeing day-to-day operations. Yang will manage back-of-the-house items, bringing his financial expertise to the business. Originally, the men had their sights on opening a rage room, seeing it as an exciting investment opportunity, but weren’t sure where to start. “I’ve been looking at it for two and a half years and

Founded in 2018 by Steven Shortino, who was just 21 years old, iSmash began as a bold idea in Rochester, N.Y. Its initial name, “Smash Therapy,” reflected Shortino’s vision of creating a business model designed to provide people with an engaging, cathartic experience that would meet the growing consumer demand for “activities that prioritize experiences over possessions,” according to iSmash.com. Shortly after switching the brand’s name to the simplified “iSmash” and launching its first location, Shortino experienced instant success. Now, with several years of operational success, iSmash has cultivated a proven business model that is highly attractive to new business owners with its low start-up costs, high-gross margins and competitive unit economics.

“Herman said he always wanted to do a franchise, and for the longest time iSmash wasn’t franchised in California, so that took some time,” Hardman said. “We figured we could enhance what they’re already doing.” Hardman and Yang plan on constructing a high-end facility for the Pleasanton location, which will feature multiple splatter-paint and rage rooms, optimized for both individual guests and large groups. The business will also focus on delivering highly curated packages ideal for events and stress-relieving weekday/weekend bookings. Additionally, to show their commitment to sup-

porting the local business community, Hardman and Yang plan to join the Pleasanton and Castro Valley Chambers of Commerce and collaborate with neighboring small businesses and organizations. By deepening their ties to fellow entrepreneurs and community leaders, they hope to position iSmash Pleasanton at the heart of the area’s future entertainment scene. “We’re proud to welcome Michael and Herman into the iSmash franchise family as we make our mark in Northern California,” Shortino said in a statement. “Their dedication to community, passion for business and shared vision of creating a refined and exciting

entertainment experience make them perfect partners to introduce iSmash to the Bay Area.” To learn more about iSmash and the upcoming Pleasanton location at 4275 Rosewood Dr., Space 25, visit: <https://ismashusa.com/locations/ca-pleasanton/>.



Among options available at the new iSmash rage room in Pleasanton will be a splatter-paint room where participants can paint canvases, the walls, the floor, or even each other, in a glow-in-the-dark paint. (Photo courtesy of iSmash)

a one-of-a-kind experience where guests can safely break objects in a controlled setting and also unleash their creativity with splatter-painting sessions. “We’ve been to other iSmash businesses in the Bay and really wanted to bring that experience to the Tri-Valley,” co-owner Herman Yang said. “Once we found the iSmash concept,

“Currently, we both run our own local practices and are hyper-involved in the business community, but wanted to do more,” Yang said. “We both understand risk, and that led us to looking at franchises, and come across iSmash.” Hardman, with experience in the insurance and auto industries, will serve as head of the new location,

wanted to open one, specifically to make it better,” Hardman said. “I did a lot of research and eventually came across iSmash — their format fit specifically with what I wanted to do.” The fastest-growing rage room franchise in the country as of May, according to franchising.com, iSmash is projected to have about 100 locations by the end of the year.

Livermore’s Community Service Day Offers Opportunities To Come Together, Volunteer

By Ruth Roberts

LIVERMORE — Residents of Livermore are encouraged to roll up their sleeves and make a difference during the 2025 Community Service Day from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 20. The annual event is a collaborative effort among the City of Livermore, the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District (LARP), and the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District (LVJUSD). It offers locals an opportunity to come together and enhance their neighborhoods through hands-on service projects. Participants can choose from a range of activities, including park clean-ups, fence painting, planting and other beautification efforts. Volunteers of all skill levels are welcome. The City of Livermore’s planned projects involve planting and spreading mulch at nine locations. They include the road leading up to Las Positas College on Campus Hill Drive, the Rincon and Civic Center library branches, city hall and the civic meeting hall, Sister City Park, the Cal promenade and police station and Hagemann Ranch.

“Community Service Day is a true celebration of what makes Livermore so special,” Livermore Mayor John Marchand said. “This cherished annual event provides an opportunity for residents to come together and create a visible, positive impact on the city we all love. I invite everyone — from new neighbors to long-time residents — to join us, get their hands dirty and experience the power of community in action.” The day will begin with project work from 8-11:30 a.m. After the morning activities, participants will gather at Las Positas College for an appreciation luncheon. Those looking to volunteer at LARP parks and trails will have nine volunteer projects to choose from. Parks include Almond, Sycamore Grove, Maitland Henry, Bothwell, Mocho, Marlin Pound, Robertson, Max Baer and the Arroyo Mocho Trail. Volunteers will help mulch tree wells, remove invasive plants and clean up trails. “Community Service Day is one of those events that really shows what Livermore is all about,” said Mathew Fuzie, LARP general manager. “People

of all ages come together to take care of the parks, schools and trails we all use. It’s not just about the work. It’s about connecting with neighbors, working side by side and strengthening our community through volunteerism.” In the LVJUSD, Community Service Day is a longstanding tradition. This year, several school sites will welcome volunteers, and tasks will include planting, weeding, mulching, window washing and other small painting projects to help beautify or enhance spaces, according to Michelle Dawson, director of communications and engagement for LVJUSD. Community members can sign up to volunteer at one of the school project sites. Many LVJUSD staff, including Superintendent Torie Gibson, are scheduled to participate. “By bringing students, families, and neighbors together to clean and beautify our campuses, it promotes pride, connection and investment in our public schools,” Gibson said. “Community Service Day reminds us that our schools are at the heart of our community.” Community members and local businesses can get

involved by sponsoring the event or nominating a project site. For more information and to sign up to volunteer, visit bit.ly/3Uubca0.

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