



Moderator Catharine Baker, director of the University of California Student and Policy Center with (left to right) Dublin Mayor Sherry Hu, Danville Mayor Newell Arnerich, Livermore Mayor John Marchand, Pleasanton Mayor Jack Balch and San Ramon Mayor Mark Armstrong at the annual Tri-Valley Mayors Luncheon at Garré Vineyard & Winery in Livermore on Thursday, July 30. (Photo — Kathryn Stroud) See story on page 2.

A Dublin Hotel-Tax Increase Fails to Reach Ballot After 3-1 Council Vote

City Forfeits \$700k in Annual Revenue Amid Warnings of Impending Structural Deficit

By Sanestina Hunter

DUBLIN — Dublin’s proposed hotel-tax increase will not appear on the Nov. 3 ballot after the City Council voted 3-1, with one abstention, on July 21 — one affirmative vote short of the four required.

Vice Mayor Jean Josey and Councilmembers Michael McCorriston and Kashef Qaadri supported the measure. Mayor Sherry Hu voted no, while Councilmember John Morada abstained. An abstention does not count as an affirmative vote, City Attorney John D. Baker said.

The measure would have increased Dublin’s transient occupancy tax (TOT) from 8% to 10% on July 1, 2027, and to 12% on July 1, 2028. It also would have exempted qualifying families visiting service members stationed at Camp Parks from the increase.

Once fully implemented, the measure was expected to generate approximately \$700,000 annually for the city’s General Fund.

Across the Tri-Valley, Danville charges a 6.5% TOT, San Ramon charges 7.25%, and Dublin, Livermore and Pleasanton charge 8%.

Across Alameda County, the median rate among cities is 12%. Fremont charges 10%, Berkeley and Emeryville charge 12%, Union City charges 13.86%, and Alameda, Hayward, Newark, Oakland and San Leandro charge 14%.

The Pleasanton City Council voted unanimously July 7 to place a similar measure on its Nov. 3 ballot. Pleasanton’s proposal would increase its TOT from 8% to 10% in 2027 and to 12% in 2028.

California law allows cities to impose a TOT on hotel and lodging stays of 30 days or less, but voters must approve any rate increase.

Dublin established its 8% rate in 1984 and has not changed it since.

Dublin’s six hotels—Aloft, Extended Stay America, Holiday Inn, Hyatt Place, La Quinta Inn & Suites and the IHG Army Hotel at Camp Parks—contain a combined 742 rooms.

Felicia Escover, Dublin’s economic development manager, contacted all six while researching the proposal’s potential effect on the hospitality industry. She said hotel operators opposed the increase, citing the industry’s continued recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, rising labor, insurance, utility and maintenance costs, economic uncertainty and competition from neighboring cities.

“Hotels are not in favor of the TOT increase,” Escover said.

Escover also said a 2025 city survey found that 52% of community respondents supported a TOT in-

(See TAX, page 8)

Testa Signals Intent to Run for Mayor

Pleasanton Councilmember Potentially To Challenge Incumbent Jack Balch

By David Jen

PLEASANTON — Councilmember Julie Testa shared this week a possible run for mayor in the coming election. She pulled nomination papers on July 29, according to the city.

“An unchallenged mayoral race denies voters the public debate that shapes accountability,” Testa told The Independent.

With the nomination period closing on Aug. 7, she would stand as the only challenger to incumbent Mayor Jack Balch, if she chooses to move forward with a run.

Pleasanton voters first elected Testa to the city council in 2018. In 2022, when the city transitioned council seats from an at-large system to a district-based one, she was re-elected as the councilmember for District 3, the southwest portion of the city.

Testa’s civic background includes serving as a human services commissioner, board member for Tri-Valley REACH and board member for the Tri-Valley chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness. As councilmember, she currently serves on multiple subcommittees, including the Alameda County

Liaison Committee, Dublin San Ramon Services District Liaison Committee, Alameda County Fair Liaison Committee, Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority, Tri-Valley Transportation Council, i-Gate and Innovation Tri-Valley boards and City Legislative Advocacy Council Subcommittee.

City councilmembers are limited to two consecutive terms, and Testa is scheduled to term out at the end of this year. In addition to mayor, Pleasanton will hold elections for council District 1 and District 3 this year.

Alameda County Voter Polling Discourages Measure D Changes

Haubert Holds Out Hope for Future Ballot Efforts

By David Jen

TRI-VALLEY — Alameda County voters rejected changes to the county’s Measure D open-space protections in exploratory polling conducted during the last week of June.

Public opinion consultants TeamCivX and EMC Research asked in over 800 phone interviews for voter opinion on a ballot measure that would transfer Measure D decision-making authority from voters to the Alameda County Board of Supervisors. The voter-approved initiative established rural- and open-space restrictions in 2000. Also known as the Save Agriculture and Open Space

Lands Initiative, the measure also created the county’s urban growth boundary. It passed with a 57% majority.

The amendment polled in June would grant a four-fifths supermajority board vote to approve technical and administrative land-use amendments to the East County Area Plan. Only 28% of poll respondents supported such an amendment.

“We do see that the proposed measure to amend Measure D does not appear viable for the November 2026 ballot,” said EMC Principal Jessica Polsky-Sanchez at the July 28 special Board of Supervisors meeting. “Although we do see that voters identify

(See MEASURE D, page 9)



Eden Housing provided the City of Livermore this design of its apartments.

Coalition Unveils a New Concept for Downtown

Local Community Leaders Push a Four-Part Alternative

Livermore — Community Coalition, a group comprised of Livermore leaders from an array of professional disciplines, has proposed a new version of the City’s plan for the Downtown Center. The Coalition said that it is asking the Livermore City Council to weigh the advantages of the Coalition’s proposal before it moves forward with its own plan. (See both site plans on page 8.)

The Coalition’s downtown vision involves four projects: (1) a park twice the size of the city’s proposed Veterans Park, with paths wandering among trees; (2) a four-star hotel on L Street, aiming to serve in particular Livermore’s wineries, innovative technology companies linked to Lawrence Livermore National Laboratories, and its vibrant theater scene; (3) an expanded Eden Housing development, with most, but not all, of the units moved north of Railroad Avenue, saving Eden up to \$13 million by avoiding underground parking and land costs; and (4) an Arts & Science Center, providing a home for those expecting to lose their space in the aging Bothwell Arts Center, and a science gallery

and incubator space for technology startups.

According to the Coalition, it has also worked with a number of other community members, and engaged multiple consultants and other professionals to assist in evaluating proposals and determining paths forward.

The City Council approved a planning framework for the revitalization of Livermore’s downtown core that was set in motion in 2021 when the city approved entitlements for Eden Housing’s apartment project. Since then, there has been a full turnover of the mayor and council members. Also, a new city manager and city attorney have been retained.

Below are descriptions of the four projects from a press release issued by Community Coalition.

Downtown Park

In the community proposal, Veterans Park — a 1.33-acre wooded park with dirt paths, twice the size of the city’s proposed 0.63-acre grass park — is the heart of the Downtown Center. Families and friends, in addition to guests from the nearby hotel, would gather at

(See DOWNTOWN, page 8)



Former Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory scientist Ben Santer has been named a 2026 recipient of the NCSE Friend of the Planet Award. Santer, internationally recognized for his pioneering climate research, was honored for his extensive efforts to educate the public on climate science. (File — Doug Jorgensen)

Ben Santer Wins Science Education Award

Tri-Valley Climate Expert Recognized for His Commitment to Public Advocacy

By Jeff Garberson

TRI-VALLEY — Ben Santer, the eminent climate scientist who spent most of his career at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, has won the 2026 Friend of the Planet Award from the National Committee for Science Education (NCSE).

NCSE gives the award annually to people, and sometimes organizations, that have made “truly outstanding” contributions to its goal of supporting science education, especially in the fields of climate and evolution.

Santer was recognized in the field of climate science.

He is known internationally for pioneering methods of distinguishing human from natural causes of climate change.

He has earned a wide range of honors for this work, from election to the National Academy of Sciences to a MacArthur “Genius Grant” to awards from the World Meteorological Association and the American Meteorological Society.

In 2002, at a time when the U.S. government valued outstanding climate

science, the U.S. Department of Energy chose Santer for the prestigious E.O. Lawrence Award. (Today, the Trump Administration disavows climate science and is shrinking or eliminating federally funded programs in the field.)

The NCSE Friend of the Planet Award emphasizes a different part of Santer’s career: his many years of reaching out to the general public to provide factual information about the status of climate research.

In an interview, Santer told The Independent that he believes he has spoken to general audiences in 34

(See SANTER, page 9)

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PET OF THE WEEK



MAGPIE

True to the bird, this Magpie loves a room with a view, spending her days perched high on her window hammock watching the world go by. She’s a sociable soul who flocks happily with the other adult ladies of Kitty City, so she’ll fit right into a home that appreciates a sweet, easygoing companion. This little treasure is ready to be somebody’s shiniest find. Call (925) 426-8656 or email info@valleyhumane.org to start the adoption process today.

Tri-Valley Mayors Discuss Regional Growth, Housing

By Katherine Stroud

TRI-VALLEY — Mayors from Danville, Dublin, Livermore, Pleasanton and San Ramon gathered Thursday, July 30, for the annual Tri-Valley Mayors Luncheon held at Garre Vineyard and Winery in Livermore.

Moderated by Catharine Baker, director of the University of California Student and Policy Center, it was a wide-ranging conversation that moved from celebratory updates to the tougher issues facing their cities and the region, including land shortage,

budget deficits and disaster preparedness.

Baker opened on a high note, asking each mayor about the “hottest thing” happening in their city. Livermore Mayor John Marchand and Pleasanton Mayor Jack Balch highlighted new industry development in their cities. Danville Mayor Newell Americh touted bakery Maison Benoit, which has announced it is expanding into a second location in downtown Pleasanton. Dublin Mayor Sherry Hu gave a shout-out to H-Mart. San Ramon Mayor Mark Armstrong highlighted the

city’s retail corridor.

Baker’s second question turned to challenges, and a clear theme emerged: a shared desire to let residents live, work and age in the same community. “Otherwise, there’s that soul-crushing commute,” Marchand joked.

Each city pointed to different levers for creating local jobs. Livermore is counting on its new Inertia Enterprises and Forge 1 partnerships. Pleasanton is leaning on the Stanford Health Care Tri-Valley expansion, and Balch said the city is actively working to shed a rep-

utation earned in past years of turning businesses away, now positioning itself as “open to business.” Dublin, meanwhile, is expanding its east economic development zone, adding nine acres of commercial space.

Bringing in those opportunities is harder when there is little land left to build on. Americh said Danville has only one open parcel remaining, forcing officials to rezone commercial areas to meet state-mandated housing requirements. San Ramon is nearing its own urban growth boundary, and Armstrong acknowledged

that attracting new industry isn’t universally welcomed by residents. “We have to ask what the impacts (are), who pays the price, who benefits,” he said.

Budget Pressures

Money pressures connected several cities as well. San Ramon and Pleasanton both face structural budget deficits. San Ramon voters passed Measure N in 2024, a 1% sales tax to fund city services and close the budget gap, something Armstrong said was critical to ensuring the delivery of essential services and those residents wanted to keep running. Pleasanton considered a similar 0.5% sales tax that failed to pass, and the city is now instead proposing to raise its hotel tax in phases, from 8 to 12 percent by 2028, an increase expected to bring in nearly \$3 million more annually. Dublin considered a comparable tax but ultimately chose not to put it to voters. “Now we’ll be lower than Pleasanton,” Hu joked, noting Dublin currently runs a surplus, which she credited to the work of previous city leaders.

Housing Strategies

Housing looks different in Dublin than in its neighboring cities. After three decades of steady residential construction, Hu said the city’s focus has shifted toward commercial devel-

opment, with keeping jobs local now the biggest challenge she sees facing Dublin — a contrast to Danville and San Ramon, where the fight is over scarce land for housing.

Disaster Readiness

Disaster preparedness rounded out the discussion. San Ramon has faced a series of “unsettling” earthquakes, prompting a February town hall on early-warning systems and safety planning. Pleasanton, meanwhile, is still recovering from the “Little Fire,” which burned more than 1,000 acres across Pleasanton and Sunol and, at its peak, moved through roughly three football fields’ worth of land in under a minute. No lives were lost and no buildings were destroyed. Balch urged residents to sign up for AC Alert, make an emergency plan, and seek mental health support after a traumatic event without letting stigma stand in the way.



LunaFish, a Livermore-based rock ‘n roll band led by Jeff Fish, will take the outdoor Shea Homes Stage at the Bankhead Plaza in Livermore at 2400 First St., from 6:45 p.m. to 8:15 p.m. on Aug. 11 for a free Tuesday Tunes concert sponsored by the Livermore Cultural Arts Council. LunaFish is known for its high-energy covers of timeless classics. (Photo courtesy of LunaFish)

LHS Class of 1996 to Celebrate at Da Boccery

LIVERMORE — The Livermore High School (LHS) Class of 1996 will hold its 30-year reunion at Da Boccery on Saturday, Sept. 19.

Da Boccery is a casual food and activities center at 175 E. Vineyard Ave., that offers ax throwing, bocce ball, arcade games and a golf

simulator.

The reunion will also include a DJ, dancing, photo booth and a no-host bar.

Tickets are \$110 through Saturday, Aug. 8, when they increase to \$130. Tickets must be purchased by Saturday, Sept. 12.

The Class of 1996 Reunion

Committee hopes to offer a tour of the school on Saturday, Sept. 19, pending confirmation from the school office. Alumni and their guests will also have a family-friendly outing planned for Sunday, Sept. 20.

For more information, contact the reunion committee at livermore96reunion@

gmail.com or join the LHS Class of 1996 Reunion Facebook page.

Las Vegas Illusionist to Appear at Bankhead Theater in Livermore

LIVERMORE — Las Vegas comic and magician Murray SawChuck will take the stage at the Bankhead Theater on Saturday, Aug. 22, as part of the “Masters of Illusion Live!” tour.

The Canadian stage illusionist, who has dubbed himself the “Dennis the Menace of Magic,” was a star on the long running “Masters of Illusion” television series

and resident magic historian on History Channel’s “Pawn Stars.”

He has also appeared on several comedy series, including “Reno 911!” and “Last Comic Standing,” and chalked up more than 6 billion online views to become one of the world’s most recognizable comedy magicians.

He has been a Las Vegas headliner for 23 years, known

for his razor-sharp comedy, audience participation and astonishing illusions.

SawChuck is one of nine magicians performing solo shows as part of the “Masters of Illusion Live!” tour.

Tickets to the 8 p.m. performance, featuring grand illusions, daring escapes and sleight of hand, start at \$55 and are available online at livermorearts.org.

Cattlemens Steakhouse Set to Raise Funds in Support of Special Olympics

LIVERMORE — Cattlemens Steakhouse, a family-owned Northern California restaurant chain, will hold a Tip-A-Cop fundraiser for Special Olympics at all locations, including Livermore, from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 11.

“We’re always looking for meaningful ways to give back to the communities that have supported us for so many years,” said Director of Marketing Miranda Smith. “We are excited to partner with Special Olympics Northern California and local law enforcement for our inaugural Tip-A-Cop fundraiser.”

During the fundraiser, Special Olympics athletes and police officers will greet restaurant customers and assist in the dining room.

Diners can make donations through QR codes or donation envelopes.

In addition, 20% of the tab from guests who present an event flyer, promotional email or social media post will be donated to Special Olympics Northern California.

The donations will help provide year-round training, competitions, health services, leadership opportunities and

other programs for Special Olympics athletes in Northern California.

The Livermore Cattlemens Steakhouse is at 2882 Kitty Hawk Rd.

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Dublin Unified Opens \$102.5 Million Shamrock Hills School

By Sanestina Hunter

DUBLIN — Dublin Unified School District leaders celebrated the opening of Shamrock Hills School during a ribbon-cutting ceremony Saturday, Aug. 1. The new campus, designed for transitional kindergarten through eighth grade, adds classroom capacity and supports balanced enrollment across the district.

Spanning 12 acres at 5500 Horizon Parkway in central Dublin, the campus includes four buildings totaling approximately 106,052 square feet and can serve up to 1,052 students, the Dublin Unified School District Superintendent’s Office said.

Together, the buildings include

million local bond approved by voters in 2020, and Proposition 51, a \$9 billion statewide school facilities bond approved in 2016.

Planning and design for Shamrock Hills began in 2022, with construction starting in October 2024. The project remains under budget, although district officials said final savings will not be known until all project expenses have been finalized.

“Once all project expenses have been finalized, the district will report the final savings to the board,” the DUSD Superintendent’s Office said.

Shamrock Hills is expected to welcome more than 750 students when the 2026-27 school year begins Tuesday, Aug. 11, according

working hard to move the program to its new home at Shamrock Hills,” Erin Magill, principal of Shamrock Hills TK-8 School, told The Independent ahead of the opening.

“The expansion at the new Shamrock Hills campus is a major step forward, as it provides an opportunity to expand the program to include transitional kindergarten and middle school grades,” Magill said. “This will allow families to remain in the program longer rather than transitioning after elementary school, thereby facilitating greater continuity into the middle school years.”

“Housing the Pathways program at the new campus is expected to improve access for families living in neighborhoods across Dublin by placing it in a more central location. By serving students from the early grades through middle school, educators can build longer-term relationships with students and families, align curriculum across grade levels and provide consistent academic and social-emotional support. This continuity is expected to strengthen student outcomes as children prepare for high school,” Magill added.

Pathways has served Dublin families since 2003, when Sharon Kovalevsky, Pathways founder and director, established the program after drawing inspiration from her daughters’ preschool experience. She built its educational model around whole-child development and strong family involvement.

In a previous statement, Kovalevsky said the program is built on four pillars: parent participation, multi-age grouping, teacher collaboration and student-inspired learning.

Parents work alongside educators in the classroom and may lead specialty lessons, from cooking to foreign languages, that draw on their backgrounds.

Students also learn across grade levels in multi-age classrooms and participate in hands-on and outdoor experiences, including hiking and camping.



Dublin Unified School District leaders join community members at the new Shamrock Hills School campus on Saturday, Aug. 1, 2026, for a ribbon-cutting ceremony celebrating the opening of the \$102.5 million facility. (Photo courtesy of Dublin Unified School District)

elementary and middle school classrooms, science labs, a library, wellness center, gymnasium, multipurpose room, covered outdoor dining area and administrative offices.

“The opening of Shamrock Hills School reflects DUSD’s continued investment in providing high-quality learning environments for students,” the DUSD Superintendent’s Office told The Independent. “As Dublin continues to evolve, the new campus expands the district’s ability to serve families with modern educational facilities designed to support student learning and well-being.”

The district approved a \$102.5 million budget for the project, funded through Measure J, a \$290

to district officials. The school will initially serve transitional kindergarten through sixth grade, add seventh grade in 2027-28 and expand to eighth grade in 2028-29, completing its transition to a TK-8 campus.

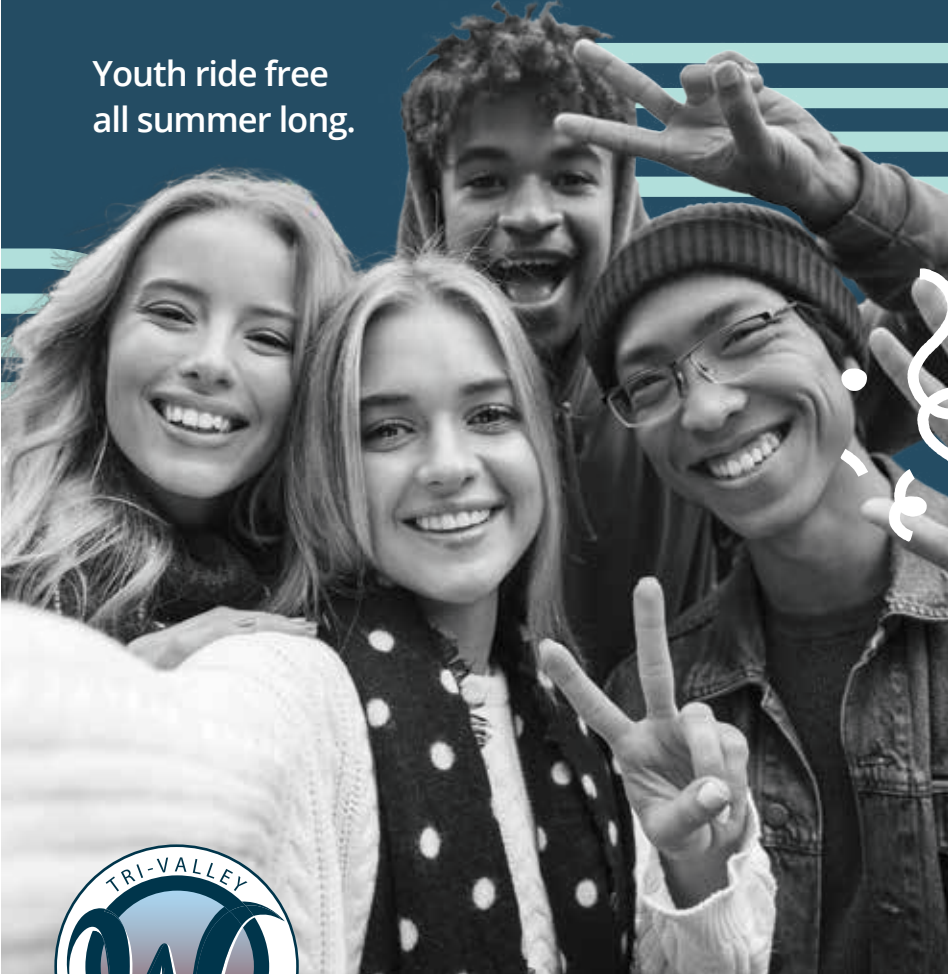
Officials said the new campus also gives DUSD greater flexibility to manage enrollment while maintaining educational programs across the district.

The transition also marks a new chapter for the Pathways alternative education program, which relocated to Shamrock Hills after operating at Murray Elementary School for more than two decades.

“The Pathways staff and community are excited and already



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EDITORIAL

Voters Don't Want to Lose Their Rights Over Open Space Decisions

In 2000, Alameda County voters approved Measure D, which established growth boundaries around the Tri-Valley cities and put a halt to the rapid urban development that was filling up what open space was still left in the Bay Area.

Measure D, also known as the Save Agriculture and Open Space Lands Initiative, passed with a 57% majority of the vote. And just as the title of the measure stated, the Tri-Valley has remained a rarity, with farms, vineyards and rolling hills and parkland, just over the hills from a major metropolitan area.

Critically, Measure D requires any proposed change of land use outside of those urban boundaries to be put to a public vote for approval.

That hasn't stopped the development community, and the politicians it supports, from trying to periodically chip away at the measure.

Most recently, the Alameda County Board of Supervisors bypassed the standard competitive bid process to grant a contract to TeamCivX and EMC Research to conduct a poll on a potential ballot measure that would

have undermined the key part of Measure D, taking the decision-making out of the hands of the voters and giving it to the supervisors themselves.

In deciding to conduct the poll, Supervisor David Haubert, who represents the Tri-Valley, cited the struggles of local farms and wineries as a justification for revisiting Measure D. But knocking out its foundational pillar would do a lot more than that. The main beneficiaries would be developers who then wouldn't have those pesky voters standing in their way. They would only need to appeal to the Board of Supervisors to have our open space opened up to new construction.

Awarding a no-bid contract for the poll was a misstep, and trying to squeeze it in right before the fall deadline for the November election looked like an attempt to sneak it onto the ballot.

Now that the poll has been conducted, the results are indisputable: Voters aren't buying what the Board of Supervisors is selling.

The complete results of the poll haven't been released, but a presentation to the board indicated that only 28%

of the voters polled would support such a measure if it were on the ballot this fall.

That should put the kibosh on further talk about appropriating the voters' rights. But it's clear the fight isn't over. Haubert said that "different people can view the same data and come to different conclusions," He saw the poll as a "roadmap" for making changes to Measure D in the future.

Well, there is no situation in a democracy in which 28% approval represents the will of the majority of the voters. If Haubert thinks this is still a viable option, he must be thinking of some other political system than the one we have here. And if he sees a roadmap for future changes, then we will need to remain vigilant well into the future to push back against further attempts to undermine democracy in the county.

There are other ways to loosen regulations on farms and wineries that stop short of removing the one law that's done more to preserve the Tri-Valley's lifestyle than any other. For instance, voters passed Measure D in 2022 to allow larger agricultural

buildings and equestrian facilities — a stake-holder driven approach that could be repeated once that measure and the Board's 2025 South Livermore Valley Area Plan amendments have been given time to take effect.

No doubt the lesson learned by pro-development forces is that such a measure needs to be made palatable to the public. But no amount of gussying up this ugly picture is going to change the fact that the voters are against opening up the area to rampant development. And if the lesson learned is to try and sneak something onto the ballot with a deliberately misleading measure — much like the City of Dublin did with Measure II in November 2024 to undermine that city's Urban Limit Line — well, consider us warned.

The real lesson is that the people of the Tri-Valley like what they have. They like living in an area that hasn't been overrun with development, with working farms and vineyards adjacent to public parkland, all a stone's throw from our cities. And the people have said loud and clear that they are unwilling to give that up.

MAILBOX

Mailbox Guidelines:

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

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

Consider Extending Springtown Library's Hours

Yang-Anna You, Livermore

Livermore is fortunate to have three public libraries: the Civic Center Library, Rincon Library, and Springtown Library. However, residents do not have equal access to staffed library services across the city.

The Civic Center Library is open seven days a week, while the Rincon Library is open five weekdays. In contrast, the Springtown Library currently offers staffed services only on Tuesdays from noon to 8 p.m. and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. These limited hours can make it difficult for families, students, older adults, and other residents of Springtown, Altamont, and northeastern Livermore to use the library.

The completion of the new Springtown Community Park provides an excellent opportunity for the City to reconsider these hours. The new 6.8-acre park, located next to the library, is scheduled to open in early fall 2026. It will include a playground, community garden, picnic areas, fitness equipment, walking and bicycle paths, and other amenities.

Livermore already has a successful example of how a

neighborhood library and park can complement one another. Rincon Library is located within May Nissen Community Park, a popular destination for local families. Visitors can enjoy the park and library during the same trip, creating a valuable community gathering place.

As local parents, we respectfully ask the City of Livermore to consider extending the staffed hours at Springtown Library, particularly after school, on Fridays, or during weekends. Even a modest increase would make the library more accessible and allow the new park and existing library to better serve the growing Springtown and Altamont communities.

The opening of the new park is an ideal time to invest not only in outdoor recreation, but also in education, literacy, and meaningful community connections.

What Happens in Dublin Doesn't Stay in Dublin

Linda Knapp, Dublin

Tonight, I attended the Pleasanton City Council meeting. As a Dublin resident, I wanted to show support for my friends in Pleasanton regarding the consideration of a resolution supporting both the Dublin City Council and Alameda County. Three speakers at the end made

points that I strongly disagree with.

One brought up the death of Pleasanton resident Kate Steinle. She was killed in San Francisco. But just as Ms. Steinle's death and crime in general doesn't neatly confine itself to city borders, neither does ICE's injustice. ICE indiscriminately targets people. If their skin isn't the right color, or if they're speaking languages other than English (which is NOT illegal — we don't have a national language) ICE will target them.

Another speaker argued that by housing them closer to us, we can better monitor the conditions. Not true. FCI Dublin's local proximity did nothing to expose the history of rampant sexual abuse, nor the black mold, asbestos, and crumbling infrastructure.

A third speaker chided us for not contacting our congressperson (Eric Swalwell's resignation left CA-14 without representation) instead of trying to make a symbolic resolution. I disagree with the idea that symbolic gestures are ineffectual. We need to stand together to send a message.

ICE has already toured FCI Dublin. The property no longer belongs to the Bureau of Prisons (so the GSA can transfer it to ICE). Despite saying they aren't interested, ICE's history of lying has destroyed their credibility. If FCI Dublin were to reopen as a Bay Area detention center, arrests will markedly increase. They've already begun. ICE is in Livermore. They've already deported Miguel Lopez who held a steady job, paid taxes, and had no criminal record. They've been at Safeway as well.

What happens in Dublin doesn't just stay in Dublin. It affects all of us.

Las Colinas Development: Unacceptable Fire Risk?

Greg Scott, Livermore

The City of Livermore and the Livermore City Council are facilitating the development of 122 acres in Livermore's scenic corridor north of Interstate 580. Livermore Mayor Marchand and others state that this prospective project is "infill." Go look at this land! There are hundreds, if not thousands of acres of open grasslands directly adjacent to the north and west.

One problem is the vulnerability of the project lands to fires, especially from northern Diablo winds and the fact that these lands are in a wind bowl directly in line with the frequent and consistent westerlies from

the Dublin Gap. There is a recorded history of a multi-acre fire on these lands.

Since fire insurance is figured more by zip code than by particular location, what this development will do is increase everyone's fire insurance in the zip code because of the increased fire risk, and thus exposure to the insurer of this development. Are not the costs of home ownership — insurance, property taxes, and utilities — high enough already? Does the City of Livermore care? We have increasing fire risk from climate disruption: Why build in such a vulnerable area?

It would seem that with the histories of losses of property and lives in the Camp Fire in Paradise, California, and currently, the devastating fires in Spokane, Washington, with the loss of more than 700 structures and homes as of this writing, that we could better plan than this and not be putting residents at this level of high fire risk.

Is an additional fire station planned for this development, which may be up to 900 homes? Will the developer or taxpayer pay for it?

It is bad enough that the City of Livermore seeks to destroy the scenic corridor, worse yet is putting such risk on future residents to do so.

Parking Problem on Arroyo Vista and Las Positas Rd.

Bill Beiriger, Livermore

The City of Livermore better take a good look at the parking they are allowing on Arroyo Vista at Las Positas Rd.

Both streets are used by commercial trucks for delivery to companies on Arroyo Vista.

With the new multi-living housing units being built, the city has installed parking spaces on the roadway. The only problem is that the first parking spaces at the corner are almost on top of the roadway. There is almost no way cars driving down Arroyo Vista can pass the parked cars in the first five or six parking spaces. And I can bet that trucks will hit the parked cars or must cross the center line into oncoming traffic to get by.

So, before it is too late, please remove the first five or six parking spaces!

Rumors and Assumptions

Kathy Coyle, Livermore

Regarding the letter in the July 30 edition pertaining to trans women in sports: the writer points to Brittany Griner as an example. She has had to defend these rumors her whole

life because she has always been extremely tall and has a deep voice. The LGBTQ+ community is about accepting people for who they are, not stereotypes. The writer says Brittany is trans, while she says she is cisgender. I think the case should be argued using some other basis than making examples of people based on rumors and assumptions.

WNBA Stupidity

Richard Andrews, Livermore

In 1906, a horrid change arrived in American football. A player did not fall in behind the "flying wedge" formation (which had caused many injuries and even deaths because of sheer brutality) and instead walked out toward the sideline like he was injured.

Then it happened! The expected ball carrier, who was thought to be ready to crash the line, stepped back and threw the first legal forward pass. Yes, Red Grange upset the established grinding out, blood thirsty aspect of football, and made it into the wonderful game we enjoy. Initially, the old guard tried to outlaw it. But wiser heads prevailed.

Now, we look at what is happening in the WNBA as Caitlin Clark brings fast paced, quick passing and shooting into a dreary game dominated by slow action and grinding it out practices. It is so much better than what I have avoided in the past as boring.

What did the WNBA establishment try and do? "Turn the dogs out" and tell the refs to swallow their whistles and let it happen. Pure ignorance and egoism trying to change the boring, and heavily subsidized sport.

Cathy Englebert needs to go NOW, as well as the Fever coach, who is a dinosaur. Their own egos, as well as the old players' egos, have got to be quelled, and bypassed. We now have a sport I love to watch... and I am hardly in the minority.

Thank you CC, Sophie, Alisia, Aliyah, and Lexi. You have made a wonder game to watch. And shame on the league and its' execs and players who fight improvement.

Activate America

Ron Sadler, Livermore

At a time when civic participation feels more important than ever, we each have a role to play in strengthening our democracy. Voting is one of the most direct and powerful ways individuals can make their voices heard, yet many eligible voters remain disengaged or unsure

how to participate.

If you are wondering how to make a tangible difference in getting Democrats elected to office, I encourage you to look into Activate America.

Activate America (www.activateamerica.vote) is a dedicated organization that empowers volunteers to reach out directly to voters in crucial swing states and districts, encouraging them to vote for Democratic candidates that put people first.

Activate America empowers volunteers to reach out to voters through postcards, texts, and phone calls. These personal reminders can make a real difference in increasing voter turnout.

You do not need to be a seasoned political operative to participate. They provide all the necessary training, scripts, and mailing lists on their website.

By volunteering with Activate America, you can help elect Democratic leaders who will fight for health care, climate action, reproductive freedom, and a fair economy.

You don't need special experience, just a willingness to connect with others and support civic engagement. By encouraging friends, family, and strangers to vote, we can help ensure that more voices are included in the decisions that shape our communities.

Democracy works best when participation is broad and inclusive. Let's do our part to make that happen.

2.1 Million Reasons

Julie Wild, Livermore

During an Indivisible debate, Melissa Hernandez was the only candidate who wouldn't call what's happening in Gaza a genocide. It made me wonder why she would deny what is clear to the world.

Then, I saw that she was given \$2.1 million from AI-PAC through three Passthrough PAC's: Pro-Choice Majority Action, BOLD America, and SD 2026.

Melissa Hernandez took money from a group that dropped bombs so that 64,000 children were killed or maimed across the Gaza strip, including 1,000 babies. By taking their money, she agrees with those who are committing war crimes, and perpetrating a genocide.

A vote for Melissa Hernandez means that you agree with her on denying a genocide. You agree that it's okay to kill people based on their ethnicity. You agree that Christians who descend from some of the oldest Christian communities in the

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Wyatt Calkins, a Livermore native who attended Granada High School, has completed the Livermore Police Department's field training program and has been assigned as a solo patrol officer. Calkins was a graduate of the 184th Alameda County Sheriff's Office Police Academy. (Photo courtesy of LPD)

MAILBOX

(Continued from page 4)

Holy Land and Lebanon should be shot, killed, and forced to flee to other countries for safety, along with their land and homes stolen. That they should live under an apartheid system with barbed wire fences, armed guards, and checkpoints. Read Ta-Naheisi Coate's book, "The Message".

As an employee of AIPAC, Melissa Hernandez supports genocide. Go to FOSNA.ORG to learn about what life is like for Christians living in Bethlehem. I don't know if she goes to church, but she took money from people who knowingly bombed churches in Gaza and killed Christians there. Just as she denies a genocide, maybe she denies knowing these things, too. She should educate herself on what it means to take blood money; you end up with blood on your hands.

Vote Wisely District 14!
Elizabeth M. Judge, Livermore

Alameda County Supervisor Haubert (who wants to remove citizens' ability to vote on Measure D so he can change the Urban Growth Boundary) is pulling out all the stops to send his friend, Melissa Hernandez, to Congress.

Hernandez, currently the Health Care Director for Alameda County, has been on his staff for years. In addition, she represented Dublin on the Valley Link Board when that train was in its planning stages. The Valley Link train is supposed to connect the Central Valley to the Pleasanton/Dublin BART station. Remember?

After that, she served as Mayor of Dublin, but left that office to join the BART Board of Directors. Now as President of BART, Melissa is threatening to derail the BART line to Pleasanton/Dublin if voters do not pass the sales tax increase in November! How is that for representation?

[While sitting on the Valley Link Board, Hernandez admitted at a public function that she had no idea that the Valley Link train is a two-way train on a single track! So perhaps she is also unaware that without the Pleasanton/Dublin BART Station, Valley Link will lose its purpose altogether!]

Suddenly, there is an Alameda County PAC spending funds on negative TV ads and mailers against State Senator Aisha Wahab, the only opponent Hernandez has in the Con-

gressional District 14 race. Now Haubert himself is smearing State Senator Aisha Wahab, whose bill is attempting to bring transparency to the way he and other Alameda County supervisors spend public money. His recent use of taxpayer funds to send out a county-wide newsletter is legally questionable since it criticizes her and her ambitions instead of limiting discussion to the bill's contents. Vote wisely by August 18!

Ignore the Lies;
Vote Aisha Wahab
Linda Milanese, Livermore

I appreciate The Independent's policy of discouraging ad hominem letters to the editor. It's a worthy policy.

I wish the same were true in the race for Congressional District 14. Melissa Hernandez needs to stop the unrelenting barrage of negative, ad hominem, untruthful ads and flyers against Aisha Wahab. There are better ways to run an election.

She Is Practiced at
the Art of Deception
David Jonas, Livermore

While serving as Mayor of Dublin in 2024, Melissa Hernandez championed two shamefully deceitful ballot measures. The titles of the measures were clearly crafted to fool voters by misrepresenting the measures' underlying intent.

Measure II: The "Traffic Relief, Clean Air/Open Space Preservation Measure" would allow Dublin to annex the open space between Dublin and Livermore, extend Dublin Blvd. across that space, and allow commercial development along the extension. Instead of traffic relief, Measure II would increase Dublin's traffic congestion; adding bike lines would not clean the air, and the commercial buildout along the roadway extension would obliterate rather than preserve open space.

Measure JJ: Convinced that voters opposed term limit extension, Dublin devised a devious stratagem to hoodwink voters

(See MAILBOX, page 6)



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Reader Snapshots

Share Your Best Shot

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



Framed by flowers and watched over by wings, a quiet soul perches on the fence in this backyard scene captured by a Pleasanton resident. (Photo courtesy of Sangeetha Krishnamoorthy)

MAILBOX

(Continued from page 5)

into believing they were voting to strengthen accountability, when in fact they were voting to extend term limits.

The “Government Accountability Act” (Measure JJ) packaged three accountability “sweeteners” with term limit extension (from 8 to 12 years). The accountability measures were meaningless, since they addressed problems that simply didn’t exist. Moreover, with truly inspired deception, the ballot measure states JJ would “impose” rather than “extend” term limits!

The AC County Civil Grand Jurors’ Association evaluates ballot measures for fairness, accuracy, and honesty. The group savaged both II & JJ, rating each 2.1 out of 5, commenting:

“The title [of II] is misleading. [It] should say: ‘Amend the existing open space initiative to allow 80 acres of open space land to be developed’ since that is what is proposed.”

“[JJ] is particularly deceptive in hiding the fact that this measure is actually a term-limit expansion masquerading as a term-limit restriction.”

Given Hernandez’s support for super-sleazy initiatives like II and JJ, I shudder to think how she’ll operate in Congress. Aisha Wahab for D14!

Bruce Henry for the EBRPD Board of Directors

Aaron Godfrey, Dublin

I’m writing to voice my support for Bruce Henry for the East Bay Regional Parks District (EBRPD) Board of Directors. Anyone vying for this position should have formal experience with EBRPD and absolutely be a patron of the parks. As a longtime hiker and mountain biker with experience on the EBRPD Park Advisory Committee (PAC), Mr. Henry fits that mold.

Mr. Henry’s experience with the Advisory Committee is ample: he’s the current chair of the PAC, affording him a wealth of opportunities to collaborate with community members and park staff to address the needs of both. And before that, he was the chair of the finance subcommittee. Further back, Mr. Henry was on Pleasanton’s Bicycle, Pedestrian, & Trails Committee. It isn’t hard to see that advocating for our park system is a true passion of Mr. Henry’s, and gives us another reason to trust him as a member of the EBRPD Board of Directors.

As an avid user of the parks myself, Mr. Henry’s priorities make sense to me, and will likely guide him towards effective stewardship of EBRPD. They include wildfire mitigation, protecting our parks/open spaces/trails, and increasing the number and quality of safe trails for all users.

As he has in the past, Mr. Henry will listen to the community when we voice our

concerns. He will passionately support safe trails and protect our open spaces. And with his experience across various committees and the EBRPD itself, he can hit the ground running on day one.

Mr. Henry’s qualifications and passion are obvious. In my opinion, the choice is clear, and I urge you to join me in supporting his election to the EBRPD Board of Directors so that he can continue working for us and our parks, ensuring the EBRPD remains a gem of the East Bay.

Dark Money

Kyoko Takayama, Livermore

Dark money is attacking Dr. Aisha Wahab, CA-14 Special Election front runner (the special election is on Aug. 18 to fill the vacancy of Rep. Swalwell’s seat). What is dark money? I have never thought about it until this election. You might have seen TV ads, received mailers, and/or texts. They all have one PAC (Political Action Committee) name listed, because California’s Campaign Disclosure Act requires listing of the top three donors. I visited their websites, and still I can’t find how their PACs are funded. Even if you search the PAC name, you don’t see anything, because it was created to hide who is paying for it. That is “dark money.” As an individual donor, your name is listed at the Federal Election Commission website fec.gov, but if a PAC pays for it, all you see is PAC names. Not all the PACs are the same. Dr. Wahab is endorsed by Congressional Progressive Caucus, PAC, and their website, weareprogressives.org, clearly states their mission, members, and endorsements. So what kind of PAC do you believe? Anybody can create a website and tell you what you want to hear, but before you start believing what you hear or see, take a moment. I believe political negative ads tell us that the candidate or their supporters do have money to burn, and not much to say about themselves. If you want to learn more about these negative claims, please visit www.aishawahab.com/attackads and check her rebuttal. I am proudly supporting Dr Aisha Wahab for Congress. She is a fighter who does the right thing no matter how hard it is.

I Support Bruce Henry

Mark Miller, Pleasanton

Our East Bay Regional Parks are true gems, allowing people of all capabilities, income levels, and interests to enjoy the outdoors and to learn. In November, we have the opportunity to elect a board member for Ward 5, and I am supporting Bruce Henry to replace the incumbent, Olivia Sanwong, who ran unopposed during the previous election.

As an almost daily user of our parks, I want a board that ensures our beautiful parks are

managed well. I know firsthand how passionate Bruce is about our parks, since he is also a frequent user of the parks and has a goal of responsible, cost-effective management in a way that optimizes public safety and accessibility. Bruce is the elected chair of the Park Advisory Committee, an appointed body that advises the board through community perspective, so he has the in-depth knowledge needed to be an effective member.

As a former elected school board member, I know how important critical thinking is in making balanced, thoughtful decisions and ensuring sound fiscal policy, and Bruce will provide that. As well, I am concerned voters did not get to vet our current Ward 5 board member, since she ran uncontested, and therefore has no mandate. We should decide which candidate best represents our needs. Bruce is my choice to do that, and I hope you agree when it comes time to vote.

Shame on You, Supervisor Haubert

Jeff Busch, Livermore

I received an email from Supervisor David Haubert; subject “Alert: Senator Wahab Seeks to Defund Critical Safety Net Resources”. He opposes her bill SB1193, which passed the California Senate 37-0. The bill requires an online spending log of discretionary funds disbursed by the Supervisors, a majority vote of Supervisors to award funds, prohibits a Supervisor from voting on funds within 90 days of their upcoming election, and demands more transparency and accountability. The subject of the email and its contents are grossly misleading, if not outright lies. Supervisor Haubert wants to continue spending discretionary funds without informing the public of the details about who is receiving taxpayer money and how it is being spent. This email message is coming in the heat of a congressional election where voters are bombarded by misleading big-donor anti-Wahab publicity largely funded by the pro-Israel group AIPAC. The email from Haubert states, “We cannot afford to elect people to public office when they harm, target, and go after the very community organizations that make our neighborhoods run.” The email appears to come from Haubert’s government account, and if this is not a campaign ad targeting Wahab, I don’t know what is. If he is trying to influence an election using government funds, that is reprehensible and possibly illegal. Shame on you, Supervisor Haubert.

County Supervisor or Chicken Little?

Tom Evans, Dublin

Will someone please tell Supervisor Haubert that the sky is not falling? I received a spe-

cial alert email from him with the yellow triangular warning icons. He erroneously claimed that Wahab seeks to defund critical safety net resources, including battered women’s shelters and food for starving families. Did he mention that women’s shelters and food for starving families have services supported by Alameda Health System, which is funded separately?

I’ve read Senate Bill 1193 by Aisha Wahab. Basically, it states that discretionary funds must be 1) approved by a majority of the supervisors, 2) used for public purpose (health and human services, education, homelessness services, cultural resources, or other services to residents), and 3) reported quarterly explaining the amount of the award, its purpose, how the recipient was chosen, and related details. Also, it cannot be used for Alameda Health System nor for travel, marketing, or private entity that does not support a public purpose.

I appreciate that perhaps this upsets Mr. Haubert because he can no longer play Santa Claus to some of his favorite groups. If he doesn’t like the bill, that’s okay. This is America. Be an adult; stand up and give a credible argument. He could say something intelligent like, “The State has no business telling Alameda County how to spend its money.” But his revenge on the bill’s author shouldn’t be some junior high attempt at a false headline. Bottom line: the bill would restrict discretionary funds to public purpose, and there would be more paperwork. I can’t think of any safety net that would be ineligible for funding. Read the bill. It’s about three pages of easy reading. “The last thing our community needs is another misleading pitch from a politician... at our expense.” Oh, the irony.

Honesty is Lacking

Eloise Hamann, Dublin

Honesty is lacking among some who represent us.

I have received two complaints about SB1193, a California bill by Aisha, from the

political opponent of his friend and co-worker Melissa Hernandez. I was appalled to see a sitting supervisor utilize County resources to attack Aisha. In the past two weeks, subscribers to his office have received two emails from his official Alameda County address, attacking Wahab for creating SB1193. These emails blatantly attack Aisha as a candidate. I cannot imagine that attacking the political opponent of your endorsed candidate on a public and official platform is legal. It is certainly unethical. Haubert claims Wahab created this bill as a means to target Melissa. Think about this for a moment: why would a candidate take that kind of a risk while pursuing a congressional seat? This is such a nonsensical argument. Haubert needs to look in the mirror and realize his attack emails are reflecting poorly on him and his office.

Additionally, Aisha is the only qualified candidate in this race. She has a record of reaching across the aisle and creating legislation that benefits working-class Californians. Unlike Melissa, she is not funded by large corporate PACs. Aisha has a record to rely on, so she doesn’t need to pay for slanderous attack ads.

same one of my officials. The first is specious. SB1193 requires county governments to make certain that the people in the county are aware of passed bills. The reason for opposition was given that our County of Alameda already does this. If so, what’s the problem?

The second makes claims about SB1193 that I could not find in reading the bill. These claims are obviously intended to condemn Aisha, and harm her chance of election.

The member of the county board has a history of attacking people running for office that he evidently does not support, with false claims.

(See MAILBOX, page 7)



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An unprecedented early harvest has begun in the Livermore Valley this week, making this the earliest start on record for the region. Winemakers are adapting to the compressed timeline and getting a firsthand look at how this unique growing season is shaping the 2026 vintage. (Photo — May Fraser)

MAILBOX

(Continued from page 6)

My advice to readers is to investigate. In the case of SB1193, it's easy to find and read.

Concerns About
Melissa Hernandez
Barry Brynjulson, Pleasanton

It is interesting and disturbing that Melissa Hernandez omits that she is the current BART President in her District 14 campaign ads. Perhaps it's a wise move with BART struggling mightily. Funny how many of her campaign signs do, however, say 'PROBLEM SOLVER'. Elsewhere? Certainly not at BART.

The deep pockets and endless mud-slinging ads also have me concerned. Who is funding Ms. Hernandez? If she prevails, will District 14 voters be getting a Dem in name only? I'm having difficulty shaking the belief that we'd be getting another Democratic Representative like Adam Gray (District 13) who votes with the GOP on matters important to Trump. It would be a sneaky, GOP way to counter California's voter-approved redistricting effort.

I am voting for a real Democrat, someone who clearly has our best interests...Aisha Wahaub.

The World's
Biggest Loser
John Cameron, Dublin

When someone, through whatever circumstance in life, arrives at a position where they have the capability of bringing about profound change for the benefit of many, and instead merely serve themselves, they've lost. They've lost a gargantuan opportunity to see past themselves and help improve the lives of so many others. The greater the power, the greater the influence.

Some of the greatest leaders in history found themselves in positions of responsibility where they chose not to be the focal point. They felt the massive weight of the position and were able to rise above themselves, put their egos and personal agenda away, and serve rather than be served. They are the leaders that were motivated by what they could do with the position to bring about positive, lasting change through perseverance and sacrifice against powerful resistance. They won because of what they did for everyone else that needed them to get the job done.

Today we have the polar opposite of that. We have someone who made it to the ultimate position of power to enact great change for the whole world, but instead chose to be run entirely by ego and self-interest. He chose to divide instead of unite; chose to lie and deceive. He chose himself completely over the responsibility to be in service of "the people."

I just don't think anyone could ever be as big a loser than to completely blow the opportunity that so very few have ever had.

It is ironic that someone who calls so many others losers is actually the biggest one of all.

One Wonders
Judy Malinowski, Livermore

After Trump's rulings against immigrants, one wonders...

Who will polish his shoes or iron his shirts? Who will put toothpaste on his personal toothbrush? Who will spend hours each day fixing his hair or applying his makeup? Or pick the lettuce or tomatoes for his hamburgers? Who will mow el campo de golf? What exemptions will there be for these employees, the indispensable ones who serve our otherwise merciless leader? One wonders.

Returning immigrants to their countries of origin, with many of those countries unsafe and politically turbulent, indicates that he does not care about anyone but himself. The process of adopting immigrants is long and complicated and has been for decades. But it can and should be done humanely. Trump's pronouncements, endorsed by his minions, lead to cruel consequences for the many who would and do add to the richness of our country.

How to Support
D. Trump
Frank Cannella, Livermore

First, you must believe Trump never lies. In spite of overwhelming evidence, you must believe the 2020 election was stolen from him.

In spite of overwhelming evidence, you must believe any election he or his supporters lose were corrupted by illegal voters.

In spite of overwhelming evidence to the contrary, the war in Iran is moments away from an American victory.

In spite of overwhelming evidence to the contrary, Trump should have been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

In spite of overwhelming evidence to the contrary, climate change is a hoax. This, while Europe is burning, and the U.S. is struggling with some of the worst climate issues in recorded history.

In spite of overwhelming evidence to the contrary, the reflective pool was damaged by antifa agitators, which was denied by both the Sec. of the Interior and the federal prosecutor assigned to the case. Trump insists his own appointees are wrong even though they are supplying the demonstrable facts.

In spite of what you watched on your own TV, the Jan. 6th rioters were actually mistreated patriots entitled to compensation from U.S. taxpayers because of mistreatment by federal prosecutors, AND D. Trump and family will forever be free from government tax audits.

And by no means the last issue, and in spite of overwhelming evidence to the contrary, Donald Trump is the greatest diplomat and deal maker who ever lived.

All of the above is Trump's way of ignoring the Epstein files, which he had nothing to do with since he said so, and he never lies. You bet!

Reflections
Glenn White, Dublin

The Trump Administration dropped its charges against the Olympian, David Hearn, an American, after it lied about innocent Americans vandalizing the Reflecting Pool in front of the Lincoln Memorial. This demonstrates the Stalinistic nature of the Trump Administra-

tion's weaponizing of the Justice Department to protect Trump's incompetence, in addition to enforcing Trump's personal vengeance against Americans for practicing their free speech, as we've seen with James Comey and others. "Show me the man, I'll find you the crime," is attributed to Lavrenty Beria, the chief of the Soviet secret police under Josef Stalin, who arrested Stalin's opponents at Stalin's direction, putting them into the gulags. It is these police state actions, including deputized thugs killing citizens in cold blood and dragging people off the streets, that make communism evil; not the universal health care that some communist states provided.

It's the autocratic iron-fisted brutality, where cold-blooded cruelty is the point, striking terror into the political opposition, that makes communism and all autocracies evil. Threats to yank broadcasting licenses from the free press because of the fears of a weak, cowardly, thin-skinned leader are common to both communism and fascism. Widespread corruption enriching government leadership and their allies is what makes autocratic communism, fascism, theocracy and monarchy evil; not lower housing costs.

Know what to fear from your government in this year's elections, and know who is imposing the real terrorist threats against our American Way, our American democracy, and our constitutional freedoms. Will the candidates serve the American people, or will they serve Trump and his corrupt cronies?

Limit government, not liberty.

No Need to Vote
Anymore?
Ramona Krausnick, Dublin

On July 26, 2024, Trump commented: "You won't have to vote anymore," while speaking at a Turning Point Action's Believers' Summit in West Palm Beach, Florida. Here's the quote:

"Christians, get out and vote, just this time. You won't have to do it anymore. Four more years, you know what, it will be fixed, it will be fine, you won't have to vote anymore, my beautiful Christians." He later added: "In four years, you don't have to vote again, we'll have it fixed so good you're not going to have to vote." Guess what: it's already happening two years later instead of four.

Fast forward to now: In his July 16, 2026, address to the nation, Donald Trump claimed, without evidence, that there was Chinese influence in the 2020 election. We've been hearing ad nauseam for six years how the 2020 election was stolen from him because he can't grasp that he lost.

Now he wants each state to send the Department of Justice their voter rolls. He claims having that data will protect our elections from foreign interference. If the DOJ gets that information, it will surely purge Democratic voter names, all of whom are legally entitled to vote. Just watch. The only names that will remain will be his Republican supporters, including his so-called "beautiful

Christians." Then we will have a dictator in charge for life. Kudos to the states that have already said NO.

I know that we all have our own lives to live; however, more individuals need to wake up to the dangers facing our democracy. More individuals need to be aware, and not be too "busy" or too "afraid" to get involved politically and speak up, and absolutely they need to VOTE while they still can.

Ladies & Gentlemen;
Please Meet the
President of the U.S.
Samuel Warner, Pleasanton

34 felony convictions, 91 criminal charges, five draft deferments, two impeachments, two of his own companies convicted of criminal tax fraud. Convicted. Not accused.

One fake university shut down. One fake charity shut down. Paid 25 million dollars to settle the Trump University fraud lawsuit. Ordered to pay millions in a sexual abuse verdict.

Ordered to pay two million dollars for looting his own so-called charity.

First president in modern history to increase the deficit every single year of a full term. Added roughly 2.25 trillion dollars to the national debt in his first year back in office alone, pushing the debt past 39 trillion dollars.

Pushed through the largest defense budget increase since World War II, while the debt kept climbing anyway. Sent the National Guard into American cities at a cost of nearly 500 million taxpayer dollars in 2025 alone.

Purged more than 300,000 federal employees in his first year back.

Pardoned nearly 1,600 January 6 Capitol rioters on his very first day back in office, including Oath Keepers and Proud Boys leaders convicted of seditious conspiracy.

His family's crypto ventures, including a meme coin and World Liberty Financial, pulled in more than 1.4 billion dollars

in disclosed earnings while he sat in the Oval Office.

His own tariffs are projected to cost the average American household more than 2,500 dollars this year.

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This is all on actual, documented record, sitting in plain sight for anyone willing to look, with too much more to list!

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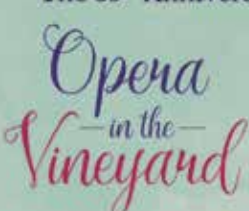


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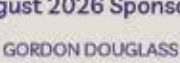
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Tri-Valley Nonprofit Announces Second-Quarter Grants

LIVERMORE — The Tri-Valley Nonprofit Alliance (TVNPA) announced last week that it has awarded second-quarter grants to nine organizations, including City-Serve of the Tri-Valley, Open Heart Kitchen and Tri-Valley Haven to host a four-hour workshop for frontline staff that addresses burnout and secondary trauma.

Grants were also awarded to Coco Kids, the National Coalition Against Prescription Drug Abuse

(NCAPDA), the Alameda County Foster Parent Association, Assistance League of Amador Valley, Tri-Valley Conservancy, C.O.P.E. Family Support Center, Livermore-Amador Symphony Association and Quest Science Center.

“Each of these organizations came to us with a clear need and a plan to meet it,” said TVNPA President Kathy Young. “This quarter’s funding supports childcare providers, fos-

ter youth, students and the frontline staff who serve this community every day.”

The amount of the grants was not announced, although TVNPA has said its goal is to award \$100,000 annually to nonprofits serving the residents of Dublin, Pleasanton, Livermore, San Ramon, Danville and Sunol.

TVNPA said CocoKids will use its grant to distribute learning materials to licensed childcare providers in San Ramon and Danville,

while NCAPDA will certify 30 young volunteers in Teen Mental Health First Aid and the Alameda County Foster Parent Association will award quarterly scholarships to foster youth in Alameda County care and support opportunities outside the classroom.

The Assistance League of Amador Valley will apply its grant to its Operation School Bell program, which annually provides back-to-school clothing, shoes,

books and hygiene kits to more than 500 students in kindergarten through eighth grade, while Tri-Valley Conservancy will use its grant to expand its Youth in Nature outdoor education program for fourth graders and the Walnut Creek-based C.O.P.E will expand its education and support programs for adults

The Livermore-Amador Symphony Association will use its grant for its Youth Outreach Project,

which brings orchestra experiences to Tri-Valley elementary schools, and its annual Competition for Young Musicians, while the Quest Science Center will host free Family Science Nights at Title I schools in Livermore, according to TVNPA.

TVNPA is a nonprofit organization dedicated to strengthening and advocating for other nonprofits in the Tri-Valley. For more information, go to tvnpa.org.

DOWNTOWN (Continued from front page)

shaded outdoor tables and benches to enjoy nature and escape from the built environment.

When Veterans Park is joined with Stockmen’s Park — a flat grass area used for games — the two parks would complement each other. Visitors and the suburban community could engage in both adventure and recreation in the center of town.

The riveting Veterans

and operating expenses, he determined that the project would likely face financial challenges. As the hotelier did not expect the city or other public funds to assist in closing any financial gap, the hotelier’s interest waned.

In the last week, a consultant with expertise in the development of Enhanced Infrastructure Financing Districts (EIFDs) has been reached. As described in one of the documents prepared

with the attraction of such a high-level hotel.

Eden Housing

In order for a reimagined Veterans Park and an engaging hotel to advance, most of Eden Housing’s units would have to move from its current location south of Railroad Avenue to property north of Railroad. Since the city’s approval in 2021, there has been significant public concern about the design and

and K Street from Presidio. And the owner of the Thrift Store on Railroad Avenue has said for years that he wants to sell his property. As Eden has previously indicated that it intends to build its project’s buildings at different times, property acquisition north of Railroad Avenue could be phased in a way that meets Eden’s needs and timing.

Arts & Science Center

Because Presidio will no longer develop the parcel west of the Bankhead Theater on Livermore Avenue, it could be reacquired by the city to be made available to an Arts & Science Center. Each of the five organizations involved would be expected to own their locations as non-residential condominium owners. They would pay their ongoing expenses and a monthly fee to the Center’s manager. The city could use some of its EIFD funds to pay for the Center’s construction costs. Components of the Center would include the following:

Theater & Assembly Hall. Theater groups looking for a more intimate performance space than the 507-seat Bankhead Theater now provides could be attracted to a

or rented for parties and other events.

Science Gallery. Displays from Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and Sandia National Laboratories would be featured. The two internationally respected science organizations do not have a location where the public can conveniently view their work. In addition, Inertia Enterprises, Inc., Pacific Fusion, Quest and other community groups involved in science and technology may want to showcase their accomplishments and hold classes in the Center’s assembly areas.

Art Studios and Exhibits. This area would replace all the facilities lost in the Bothwell Arts Center.

Incubator Labs. City representatives believe that the city’s economy would grow if it increased space for technology startups looking for a place to conduct experiments and train personnel. Cutting-edge technologies could be developed in the space offered by this new group, Incubator Labs. The entrepreneurs would also benefit from the cubicles, classrooms and open offices offered. Las Positas College may consider partnering with i-GATE, Daybreak Labs and the City to support

for an area where more residents would be drawn to view their displays than at their current location in the former Carnegie Library.

Remaining Issues

Financial, legal and parking concerns related to the projects have been carefully studied and described in Coalition’s documents. They all support the development of this proposed Downtown Center.

For the city, it would be more advantageous to use affordable housing funds up front for Eden’s new parcels, rather than being repaid \$7.8 million over 55 years at 3% interest. Also, development of an automated garage north of Railroad Avenue would avoid much of the expense of contamination removal for Eden’s underground garage area.

In addition, the expanded wooded Veterans Park, the four-star hotel and Arts & Science Center would all make the downtown more vibrant, helping local businesses and nonprofits, and increasing sales and property taxes for the city. The community would also be serving others in need, one of its values.

The plan appears to be a win for everyone. The City



The Livermore City Council's current Downtown Center plan is shown above.

Park joined with Stockmen’s Park would act as a magnet, pulling visitors and residents into Livermore’s unique Downtown Center.

Four-Star Hotel

Earlier this year, after nearly a decade of effort the Presidio hotelier abandoned its plans to develop the parcel west of the Bankhead Theater on Livermore Avenue.

Another hotel developer with over 30 years of experience has explored the feasibility of a four-star hotel on the east side of L Street between Veterans Way and Railroad Avenue. Importantly, the site would be contiguous to the L Street Garage and the enlarged Veterans Park. This is the only downtown site the hotelier thinks is feasible. If built, a four-star hotel would be the highest quality hotel in the Tri-Valley, and could accommodate up to 130 rooms in a two- and three-story building.

When the hotel developer initially assessed the hotel’s potential construction costs

by the Community Coalition, if the city established an EIFD, revenue from increased property taxes and bond sales could assist with funding the hotel’s construction and operations. The city would not have to use its general fund or any other existing assets.

An EIFD could also assist with funding for the Arts & Science Center and Eden Housing. (In addition, the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District could create a separate EIFD to help fund any Veterans Park costs not already covered by the city.)

With potential financing from the establishment of an EIFD, the hotelier was approached again to gauge his interest in developing the four-star hotel. The hotelier expressed interest in moving the process forward and having conversations with city officials, and said that additional city incentives could help the project’s feasibility.

Livermore’s economy would advance significantly

location of Eden Housing’s buildings in the center of town.

According to the Coalition, Eden would benefit significantly from the new location, as this would allow the total number of units to be increased from 130 to 148, with 18 of those south of Railroad Avenue on Veterans Park and the remainder north of Railroad. The Coalition’s supporting documents include a detailed analysis of the cost savings from this relocation. Because expensive underground parking is replaced with an automated garage, and land for Eden Housing could be purchased with funds previously collected by the city under its affordable housing fee ordinance, consultants have said that Eden would save \$10.6 million to \$13.0 million.

Some have worried about the time it would take to acquire property on the north side of Railroad Avenue. But the city could acquire the large parcel at the northwest corner of Railroad Avenue



The Livermore Community Coalition proposes an alternative downtown site plan.

theater in the Arts & Science Center. Up to 250 retractable seats could be withdrawn from a wall, meeting the needs of performance groups with audiences of variable sizes. When all the seats are left in the wall, the hall could be used for rehearsals

startups.

Livermore Heritage Guild. Guild members have expressed a strong interest in securing space with their arts and science colleagues. Focused on sharing the history and long-held values of Livermore, they are looking

Council would be appreciated for years to come.

Mayor John Marchand was called, but no response was received before press time.

(The Community Coalition reports will be posted Friday, Aug. 7.)

TAX (Continued from front page)

crease, 35% opposed it and 13% were undecided.

Tuesday’s vote capped a debate over whether Dublin should raise ongoing revenue before a projected structural deficit emerges or avoid burdening hotels while the city remains financially healthy.

Proponents urged early action to safeguard municipal services and ward off future shortfalls.

City Manager Colleen Tribby said the deficit could emerge around fiscal year 2030-31 as development revenue declines and maintenance costs rise.

“This is a proactive plan; this isn’t a rush,” Tribby said. “It’s getting ahead of the problem that we see in the future.”

Supporting that approach, Qaadri said the city must balance spending reductions with additional revenue to preserve the services and amenities residents expect. He described the phased TOT increase as a modest

way to delay the projected deficit, while maintaining Dublin’s quality of life.

The additional revenue would have gone into the General Fund to support services, such as police, fire protection, street maintenance, parks and recreation.

McCorriston called the proposed increase modest, noting that it would add approximately \$2 to \$4 to a typical one-night hotel stay. He urged the city to act before the projected deficit emerges.

“I’m not here to wait until 2029,” McCorriston said. “I want to make decisions now to make sure that our city does have fiscal sustainability. I do not buy the argument that this is going to be immediately impactful. We are asking to take this to the ballot so that the residents can decide. That’s what this is about.”

Josey argued that spending reductions alone would

not prevent a structural deficit.

Josey also directed her frustration toward Hu and Morada, noting that the council had repeatedly instructed staff to research the proposal and its potential effect on local hotels.

“I am appalled that the two of you asked staff to bring us this measure, do additional research and do this much work,” Josey said. “This is the fifth time we have talked about this, I believe, in public, in addition to strategic planning.”

“For us to sit here and say that we don’t even want to ask the residents if they want us to be strategic and proactive in staving off a deficit we know is coming—it is tantamount to malpractice for the five of us, in my opinion,” Josey added.

Staff also reviewed studies finding that moderate lodging-tax increases generally did not produce measurable declines in ho-

tel occupancy, room rates, revenue or employment, Escover said.

As the exchange intensified, Josey called some of her colleagues’ arguments “very disingenuous” and alleged that a small group of politically connected individuals was having an outsized influence on the debate.

On the other side of the debate, opponents questioned whether the projected deficit would come to pass and warned of the tax’s potential impact on local hotel businesses.

Morada, described “some of the arguments being made here” as “conjecture” and questioned whether the projected deficit would materialize.

“I have not seen the probability or the data that show that this is going to happen or, in fact, occur in 2030,” Morada said. “It is all based on models.”

Morada also objected to characterizing the proposal

as a tax only on visitors, calling that argument insulting to business travelers like him. He said the measure’s potential drawbacks had not been adequately defined and questioned whether the additional revenue would meaningfully reduce the projected deficit.

Hu raised similar concerns, citing Dublin’s recent budget surpluses, lower hotel rates and hotel operators’ opposition to the increase.

“We want our businesses to thrive, and our hotel businesses to thrive as well,” Hu said.

The staff research Josey referenced included data showing that Dublin hotels averaged 70% occupancy in 2025, compared with 62.9% across the Tri-Valley. However, Dublin’s average daily room rate was \$114.77, about \$21 below the regional average.

Inge Houston, president and CEO of the Dublin Chamber of Commerce, also

opposed the increase.

“The hotel industry is still reeling from the effects of COVID,” Houston said in a statement. “Rates are down, occupancy is down and expenses for insurance, utilities and staffing have skyrocketed. This is not the time to add more of a burden to our hotels.”

Following the vote, Houston called the outcome “a victory for local business”, but said the chamber looked forward to working with the city on “a more reasonable approach to balancing the budget.”

During public comment before the vote, longtime Dublin resident and business owner Mike Grant urged the council to let voters decide.

“Let the citizens decide,” Grant said. “Five people should not be making the decision for the 72,000 people in town. Let us vote on it. Everything has gone up since 1984; I don’t understand what the big deal is.”

MEASURE D

(Continued from front page)

supporting local farms as a top priority, most are wary about the proposed amendment.”

The deadline to place ballot measures for this November’s election is Aug. 7.

The survey showed that support for local agriculture, open space and future generations topped respondent priorities, while support for new housing, local wineries and tourism ranked lowest. Results also revealed an electorate willing to change its mind, as opinion changed considerably both after hearing supporting and opposing arguments to the amendment.

“This research, like frankly most of the polling we’ve done in the past six months, shows an electorate that is volatile, that is concerned about costs,” said TeamCivX founding partner Jeremy Hauser. “And all of that

makes a 2026 measure challenging.”

Alameda County Supervisor David Haubert, whose District 1 sponsored the polling, suggested that an amendment remained a possibility beyond the coming election.

“Different people can view the same data and come to different conclusions,” Haubert said. “I see this as a roadmap for making changes to Measure D in the future.”

Some residents, although grateful for the polling data, criticized the use of public funds to explore what they saw as an attempt to reduce voters’ rights, especially given a Tri-Valley Conservancy (TVC) survey released in May that asked similar questions.

“Looking into the future, I hope that no further funds will be spent on this effort, particularly given

that after 20 years, it appears as though the voters of Alameda County still very much support the East County Area Plan as it was amended by Measure D,” said resident Glenn Kirby.

Eighty percent of TVC respondents viewed open space as extremely or very important.

Resident Shirley Lewandowski drew comparisons between the proposed Measure D amendment to the national political stage.

“When you’re essentially saying the public’s voting rights are going to be taken away, that’s indicative also of the trend that people do not want to lose their voting rights,” Lewandowski said.

The consultants recommended that efforts around any future amendments start early to allow time for stakeholder engagement, public outreach and informational sessions.

SANTER

(Continued from front page)

states. He has appeared on national talk shows and written for nationally read publications like Scientific American and the Washington Post. He has also been part of Three Tenors for Climate Change, a singing group that aims to improve public understanding of the climate.

In the Tri-Valley, he has spoken at Livermore’s Bankhead Theater, in churches and at the public library.

He doesn’t always enjoy these kinds of public events, he said. He prefers mountain climbing and laboratory research. But the option of doing only what he likes faded after 1995, when he played a pivotal role in reporting scientific proof that humans were having at least some influence on the climate.

He was attacked savagely for his role by the fossil fuel industry and has felt, ever since, a responsibility to speak up to communicate the essence of

climate science as widely as possible.

“I was a representative of an entire community,” he said. “And I realized that, like it or not, I had to communicate. And I’ve done that ever since and recognized that my job isn’t just to publish scientific papers and do the research.”

Santer retired from LLNL in 2021. He has continued to do research since then, publishing scientific articles along with colleagues from major climate research centers like UCLA and the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution.

The UK’s University of East Anglia, where he earned his Ph.D. in 1987, has made him an honorary professor in its Climatic Research Unit.

On a personal basis, Santer is now battling lymphoma, a cancer of the lymphatic system, following a recent diagnosis. He notes that both the diagnosis and treatment of his illness follow from basic research in

physics, chemistry and biology. True to his character as a scientist and communicator, he extrapolates the experience to extol the importance of basic research at a time when he sees the Trump Administration making political conformity rather than scientific merit the criterion for awarding future research grants.

He laid out his arguments in the June 2 issue of the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, which can be read online here: thebulletin.org/2026/06/the-wasting-disease-threatening-us-science-and-patient-earth.

More recently, he berated Trump for threatening to defund the National Academy of Sciences for its long support of climate research. His essay on that topic appeared in the July 26 Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists. It can be read at the bulletin.org/2026/07/american-why-trump-is-trying-to-burn-down-the-national-academy-of-sciences.

OBITUARIES

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Joseph Philip Lennon
Sept. 5, 1931 — June 18, 2026



Joseph Philip Lennon, loving husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather, son of Timothy and Marguerite Lennon, passed away in his sleep on June 18 and was reunited with his high school sweetheart and wife of over 68 years, Doris Marie.

Joe was born on Sept. 5, 1931, in Teaneck, New Jersey. Joe and his younger sister Catherine were raised in Englewood, New Jersey within a multi-generational household, living next door to his maternal grandparents in a duplex built by his grandfather. Joe attended St. Cecilia Catholic School where he excelled in academics and participated in multiple sports, eventually playing center on the high school varsity football team.

Upon graduation from St. Cecilia, Joe attended Pace College in New York City, majoring in Accounting until his Army National Guard unit was called up to serve in the Korean conflict. Joe served domestically and with distinction in the Signal Corps, attaining rank of Staff Sergeant. It was in the army that Joe realized he had an affinity for engineering principles, which he would pursue further in college upon his release from the army in 1955.

After marrying in 1954, Joe traveled west with Doris and began a family while attending the University of Arizona in Tucson, Arizona. After graduating with a degree in Mechanical Engineering and working for

General Electric in Washington state and central California, Joe moved his family to Livermore in the summer of 1964 and began working for Sandia Laboratories. Lo and behold, another child blessed the Lennon household when their fifth child, and only daughter, was born in September of 1965. Five years later, Joe began working for Physics International in San Leandro and finally returned to the Livermore Valley in the late 70’s to end his engineering career at Lawrence Livermore Laboratory, retiring in 1992.

Joe, Doris, and their children became one of the founding families of St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church parish. Joe encouraged the boys to become altar servers and became active in the parish himself, serving as a Eucharistic Minister and eventually becoming a fixture in the Keeley Center, helping out the Men’s Club; a personal outreach ministry Joe would continue to enjoy until

his later years.

Joe supported and encouraged all of his children to participate in a number of sports activities, including Livermore Aquacowboys, Granada Little League, and Al Caffodio Soccer, and supported/cheered loudly for each during their games and meets. When the children were old enough to attend Granada High School, Joe and Doris became two of the founding members of the Granada High School Boosters Club.

Joe was an active outdoorsman enjoying snow skiing, distance running and backpacking while also serving as Scoutmaster of Boy Scout Troop 969.

In their Golden Years, Joe and Doris traveled extensively as a couple and with groups of friends while Joe became a fan and frequent player of the game of Bocci.

In his later years, Joe was an avid reader of fiction and non-fiction, sometimes reading three or four books concurrently.

Joe was preceded into the hands of our Lord by his son, Gregory John, and his wife, Doris. Joe is survived by four of his children, Tom, Kevin, Jim and Maureen, seven grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren.

A private graveside service was held on July 9. The family invites all to a celebration of life on Oct. 23 at 11:00 a.m. to be held at St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Community on Lomitas Ave. in Livermore.

Harry Albert Levin
March 22, 1939 — April 7, 2026



Dr. Harry A. Levin, age 87, of Livermore, California, passed away peacefully on April 7, 2026, surrounded by the love of his family.

He was born on March 22, 1939, to Sue and Abe Levin and grew up in Chicago. Harry attended The University of Chicago, and completed his post-graduate work at Northwestern University, where he earned his PhD.

Upon graduation, he was captivated by the beauty of California, and settled with his young family in Livermore. He spent his entire career as a nuclear scientist at General Electric, where he authored several patents. Harry also dedicated his time to volunteering at numerous charitable organizations throughout his life.

He was a true Renaissance man with a passion for photography, painting, bocce ball, fine woodworking, and fishing of all kinds. He was an avid griller, and in his spare time, he obtained the highest-level licensure for HAM radio operation, volunteering

as an emergency services radio operator. Most of all, he loved spending time with family and friends. Admired for his intellect and sharp wit, Harry loved nothing more than a good laugh.

He is survived by his beloved bride of 65 years, Judy Levin; his daughters, Amy Levin and Roberta Gabriel (Aaron); his grandsons, Joshua and Jacob Gabriel; his brother, Sydney Levin (Carol); and his niece and nephews.

A private burial was held shortly after his passing. If so inclined, donations in his honor may be made to the American Diabetes Association. Harry will be deeply missed as our proud patriarch and will forever be remembered by all who had the privilege of knowing him.

John H. Lenders
Feb. 19, 1927 — July 25, 2026

a professional soccer goalkeeper for the Netherlands National team in his early years. He was also a member of the military in the Netherlands.

He immigrated from Holland to Denver, Colorado with his family in 1960. Shortly thereafter, he moved to Northern California, where he spent the majority of his life, except for several years in Oregon. After which, he returned to California, where he then resided at Heritage Estates in Livermore, until his passing.

He was a gifted carpenter by trade and took immense pride in doing a professional job. He became a superintendent for the Wentz construction company +and assisted in erecting numerous buildings in the East Bay Area. He was an avid golfer, and multiple times hit a hole in one. In addition, he was a member of several bowling leagues and even bowled a score of 200 at the age of 98, which amazed everyone. The secret of his longevity was always keeping active and walking daily. He also

kept busy with hobbies of painting and puzzles. John believed that the most important thing in life was to love and to be loved. He was a devoted husband, father, and loyal friend. John was a very kind and compassionate man who was always ready to help anyone in need. He will be greatly missed by his family and many close friends, who he considered his extended family. He is survived by his son Isaac and his daughter Johanna in The Netherlands, along with his ad-

opted family of Yolanda, Collette, Matthew, Thomas and Diane, as well as their children.

John’s instructions were that he wished to be cremated without ceremony, and he was adamant on this point. He just wanted people to remember him at his best. Let us honor his memory by remembering the joy and happiness he brought to all who loved him so well.

May his spirit live on in all of our hearts!!

Evelyn Louise Hicks
Aug. 4, 1955 — July 27, 2026



Evelyn Louise (Fremer) Hicks, 70, passed away on Monday, July 27, 2026, in Riverside, California, following a year-long battle with leukemia. She died peacefully and was surrounded by her family.

Evelyn was born in Brockway, Pennsylvania, on Aug. 4, 1955. The seventh of nine children of Michael and Helen (Strishock) Fremer, she was raised on her family’s farm in Brockway. She graduated from Brockway Area High School in 1974 and married John Rodney Hicks, a childhood best friend of her brothers, in Brockway on March 17, 1975.

While raising their four children, she took a number of odd jobs to support her family and enrolled in college courses in Columbia, South Carolina. Her lifelong dream of moving to California came true in 1995, and she mostly lived there for the rest of her life. As her children grew up and her grandchildren came into

the world, she dedicated herself to caring for others, working as a sterile processing technician and AFSCME member for more than 25 years.

Evelyn loved shopping with her daughters and sharing conversations and stories over coffee or iced black tea. Some of her favorite activities throughout her life included visiting the beach, listening to country music, going on bike rides, enjoying breakfast outings, bowling, exploring the latest tech products, and keeping

Joyce Marie Hurt
Feb. 2, 1940 — April 16 2026

Joyce Marie Hurt passed away peacefully on April 15, 2026, surrounded by her wonderful, devoted caretakers, and her oldest daughter Tracie and son-in-law Craig. She passed away after a long battle with Alzheimer’s.

She was born on Feb. 1, 1940, in Prague, Oklahoma to parents Camal Lay and Lola Lay, and with her older sister Wanda Adams, who lives in Roseville, California. Together the family moved to the San Joaquin Valley to the city of Exeter. There, Camal and Lola would add one more daughter to the family, younger sister Barbara Costa,

who resides in Tulare, California.

It was in Exeter that Joyce met her husband, Bobby Jean Hurt. Bob and Joyce started their family there in Exeter, and had two daughters, Tracie Whiteley of Livermore, California, and Vickie Cole of Concord, North Carolina. They later relocated to the Bay area and the city of Livermore in the early 1970’s.

Joyce graduated from Cal State East Bay with a 4.0 grade point average with a master’s in taxation. She then sat for the CPA exam, passing all four parts in her first sitting. Joyce enjoyed 35 years with her tax practice

up with the news. Her family will dearly miss and fondly remember their beloved Evie, Mom and Grammie.

Evelyn is survived by her husband of 51 years, John Rodney Hicks; her two daughters: Rhonda (Craig) Silvey of Martinez, California, and Mandy (Matthew) Sidun of Livermore, California; her son, Matthew Hicks of Indiana, Pennsylvania; her ten grandchildren: Amber, Hayden, Olivia, Caroline, Madelynn, Victoria, Brycon, Liam, Leia, and Hudson; two sisters: Martha (Robert) Preston and Tina (Tom) Decker, both of Brockway, Pennsylvania; and three brothers: Carl (Georgia) Fremer, Daniel (Marie) Fremer, and George (Peggy) Fremer, all of Brockway, Pennsylvania. She is preceded in death by her parents, Michael and Helen Fremer; her son, Charles “Chuck” Hicks; and three brothers: Michael Fremer, Joseph Fremer, and Paul Fremer.

in Livermore and truly loved helping her clients and getting to know them.

Joyce is survived by her husband Bob, her two daughters Tracie and Vickie, and her grandkids John Herrington, Jr., Martin Herrington, Kathryn Romo, Jackie Schroeder and Mauro Ramirez. She is also survived by her great-grandkids Alex Romo, Harlow Schroeder, Sage Herrington, John Herrington III, John-Li Herrington, Kennedy Herrington, Presley Herrington and Maisy Herrington.

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Ronald McKenzie
Jan. 23, 1938 — July 20, 2026

Ron McKenzie passed away on July 20, 2026, surrounded by his loving family. He was the person who always lit up a room with his happy spirit, made friends everywhere he went, had a close group of buddies, and was always willing to whip you up a cocktail and sing you a song accompanied by his ukelele.

Ron enjoyed camping at the ocean or on the McKenzie River, gardening, fine dining, and travel. Among the trips that he and his wife, Nancy, took were to France, Italy, Spain,

Egypt, and Scotland. While in Scotland, he visited McKenzie Castle. Ron ran across the bridge and announced to anyone who would listen “I’m Ron McKenzie and this is my castle!” In later years, he and Nancy traveled the Western United States.

Ron worked in the packaging industry his entire career. He started his own business, Santa Fe Container, Inc. in his early twenties. He eventually sold his business but continued to work in the same industry until he retired.

Ron is survived by his wife, Nancy (Livermore, California); his children, Kim Ocheltree (Placentia, California), Kelley McKenzie (San Francisco, California), Maureen Swanson (Yucaipa, California), and Michelle McKenzie (Spokane, Washington), as well as four grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren.

A celebration of life will be held at First Presbyterian Church at 2020 5th St., Livermore, CA, at 1:00 p.m. on Sept. 12, 2026.



LEGAL NOTICES/CLASSIFIEDS

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FILE NO. 624580

The following person(s) doing business as: Duke's Plumbing, 365 Lille Ave, San Leandro, CA 94577 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Rory McHale Jr., 365 Lille Ave, San Leandro, CA 94577. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Rory McHale Jr., Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 8, 2026. Expires July 7, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6934. Published July 16, 23, 30, August 6, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 624603

The following person(s) doing business as: Shadeloom Spacies, 7050 N Mariposa LN, Dublin, CA 94568 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Jaya Prakash Tondapu, 7050 N. Mariposa LN, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Jaya Prakash Tondapu, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 9, 2026. Expires July 8, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6935. Published July 16, 23, 30, August 6, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 624140

The following person(s) doing business as: Mod of Livermore, 563 Leisure Street, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Timothy Morgan, 563 Leisure Street, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 4/7/1997. Signature of Registrant/s/: Timothy Morgan, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 16, 2026. Expires June 15, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6936. Published July 16, 23, 30, August 6, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 624391

The following person(s) doing business as: Pacific Hernia Institute, a Division of BASS Medical Group, 5901 Christine Ave, Suite 401, Emeryville, CA 94608 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): BASS Medical Group, 2637 Shadelands DR, Walnut Creek, CA 94598. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 6/1/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Rajiv Nagesetti, CFO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 30, 2026. Expires June 29, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6937. Published July 16, 23, 30, August 6, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 624763

The following person(s) doing business as: The Healing Porch Collective, 3500 Bernal Ave, STE 145, Pleasanton, CA 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Shocka Heights, 3500 Bernal Ave, STE 145, Pleasanton, CA 94566. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Shocka Heights, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 17, 2026. Expires July 16, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6938. Published July 23, 30, August 6, 13, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 624263

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Social Impact Advisor Network: 2. SIAN, 3525 Jorand Road, Oakland, CA 94619 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Fairlight Advisors LLC, 505 Montgomery Street, 10th Floor, San Francisco, CA 94111. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Shocka Heights, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 25, 2026. Expires June 24, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6939. Published July 23, 30, August 6, 13, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 624374

The following person(s) doing business as: Jango Works, 7685 Foothill RD, Pleasanton, CA 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Timothy Voss, 7685 Foothill RD, Pleasanton, CA 94566. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Timothy Voss, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 29, 2026. Expires June 28, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6940. Published July 23, 30, August 6, 13, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 624683

The following person(s) doing business as: Agape Enterprises, 7223 Avon CT, Dublin, CA 94568-2101 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Don Stoneham, 7223 Avon CT, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the

fictitious business name listed above on 1/1/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Don Stoneham, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 12, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6941. Published July 23, 30, August 6, 13, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 624327

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Community Ownership for Community Power Fund; 2. COCP Fund; 3. COCP, 1624 Franklin ST, 11th FL, Oakland, CA 94612 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Community Ownership for Community Power Fund LLC, 1624 Franklin ST, 11th FL, Oakland, CA 94612. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 7/22/25. Signature of Registrant/s/: Emily Duma, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 29, 2026. Expires June 28, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6942. Published July 23, 30, August 6, 13, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 624602

The following person(s) doing business as: Fernando's Grill & Cantina, 2124 Railroad Ave, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Fernando Catering LLC, 5013 Scenic Avenue, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Fernando Corana Cruz, Managing Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 9, 2026. Expires July 8, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6943. Published July 23, 30, August 6, 13, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 624745

The following person(s) doing business as: Wonderflow, 481 McLeod Street, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Krisin Chapman, PB Box 214, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Krisin Chapman, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 16, 2026. Expires July 15, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6944. Published July 23, 30, August 6, 13, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 624758

The following person(s) doing business as: Neves Inked Boutique, 22618 Templeton ST, Hayward, CA 94541 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Jennifer Neves, 22618 Templeton ST, Hayward, CA 94541. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 7/15/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Jennifer Neves, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 17, 2026. Expires July 16, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6945. Published July 23, 30, August 6, 13, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 624438

The following person(s) doing business as: Jack B Long, 1619 Radcliffe RD, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Sheryl Volkman, 6246 Mines RD, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 1/2015. Signature of Registrant/s/: Sheryl Volkman, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 1, 2026. Expires June 30, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6946. Published July 23, 30, August 6, 13, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 624729

The following person(s) doing business as: Q Bar Project, 5692 Stonediff Vista LN, Pleasanton, CA 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Clean & Collected, LLC, 5692 Stonediff Vista LN, Pleasanton, CA 94566. This business is conducted by a

Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Enrique Martinez Perez, Managing Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 15, 2026. Expires July 14, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6947. Published July 30, August 6, 13, 20, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 624633

The following person(s) doing business as: Shahinian Tashjian Architecture, 2464 Harewood DR, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Ema Shahinian, 2464 Harewood DR, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Ema Shahinian, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 10, 2026. Expires July 9, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6948. Published July 30, August 6, 13, 20, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 624691

The following person(s) doing business as: Livermore Amador Symphony Guild, 583 Bell Ave, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Livermore Amador Symphony Association, 1216 Riesling Circle, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 4/7/2006. Signature of Registrant/s/: Judith A. McMurry, Treasurer. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 14, 2026. Expires July 13, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6949. Published July 30, August 6, 13, 20, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 624568

The following person(s) doing business as: Roto Rooter Plumbing & Water Cleanout, 5717 Brisa ST, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Roto Rooter Services Company, 255 East Fifth Street, Suite 2500, Cincinnati, OH 45202. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 6/1/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Brian C. Judkins, Secretary/General Counsel. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 8, 2026. Expires July 7, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6950. Published July 30, August 6, 13, 20, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 624792

The following person(s) doing business as: AJ Properties, 4900 Hopyard RD, Suite 100, Pleasanton, CA 94588 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): A & J Investment Solutions, Inc., 4900 Hopyard RD, Suite 100, Pleasanton, CA 94588. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 7/20/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: John Wu, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 20, 2026. Expires July 19, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6951. Published July 30, August 6, 13, 20, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 624803

The following person(s) doing business as: Woof Gang Bakery & Grooming Livermore, 2050 Portola Ave, Suite E, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Grandmother's House LLC, 2618 S. Fresno Ave, Stockton, CA 95206. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 7/16/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Trina Sanders, Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 20, 2026. Expires July 19, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6952. Published July 30, August 6, 13, 20, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 624750

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Aisrue; 2.

Aisrue Auto, 2323 Broadway, Oakland, CA 94612 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Aisrue LLC, 2323 Broadway, Oakland, CA 94612. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Anthony Lee, Managing Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 16, 2026. Expires July 15, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6953. Published July 30, August 6, 13, 20, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 624836

The following person(s) doing business as: R & S Overhead Doors & Gates, 31298 San Antonio Street, Hayward, CA 94544 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): R & S Erection of Southern Alameda County, Inc., 31298 San Antonio Street, Hayward, CA 94544. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Gerald Trask Jr. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 21, 2026. Expires July 20, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6954. Published July 30, August 6, 13, 20, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 624850

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Hyprstart; 2. Bill-gone, 3099 Boardwalk Street, Pleasanton, CA 94588-2903 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): John Morse, 3099 Boardwalk Street, Pleasanton, CA 94588-2903. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: John Morse, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 12, 2026. Expires July 21, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6955. Published July 30, August 6, 13, 20, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 624315

The following person(s) doing business as: Seeker's Clinical Bodywork, 5980 Stoneridge Drive, Suite 105, Pleasanton, CA 94588 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Seeker's Soul Therapy LLC, 2242 Via Espada, Pleasanton, CA 94566. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Hubert Tai, Managing Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 26, 2026. Expires June 25, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6956. Published July 30, August 6, 13, 20, 2026.

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: SHI LIU Case No. 26PR201065

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of SHI LIU a.k.a. Shi Liu. A Petition for Probate has been filed by: ANDY SHU, in the Superior Court of California, County of ALAMEDA. The petition for probate requests that ANDY SHU be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority. A hearing on the petition will be held in this court as follows:
**August 28th, 2026
9:45 AM in Department 201 located at
Superior Court of California, County of Alameda
2120 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley, CA 94704**
If you object to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the

hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney. If you wish to appear by remote video technology, you should contact the court or visit https://www.alameda.courts.ca.gov/divisions/probate/hearings for more information. If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California Law. You may examine the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (Form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.
**Attorney for Petitioner:
Andy Shu,
representing pro per.
2805 Hoya Cmn
Livermore, CA 94551
The Independent, Legal No. 6957. Published August 6, 13, 20, 2026.**

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 625050

The following person(s) doing business as: The Black Cat, 2241 1ST Street, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Kalle Nueva LLC, 1537 Marina DR, Lathrop, CA 95330. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Krista Monique Lucero, Managing Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 31, 2026. Expires July 30, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6958. Published August 6, 13, 20, 27, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 624693

The following person(s) doing business as: Andy's Family Auto Repair, 39990 Fremont Blvd, Fremont, CA 94538 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Andy's Family Auto Repair LLC, 39990 Fremont, CA 94538. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 7/1/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Shaunt Shah-karami, Managing Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 14, 2026. Expires July 13, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6959. Published August 6, 13, 20, 27, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 624997

The following person(s) doing business as: MH Property Management, 7359 Glenoaks Way, Dublin, CA 94568 is hereby registered by the following

owner(s): Michelle Ha, 7359 Glenoaks Way, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 7/23/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Michelle Ha, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 29, 2026. Expires July 28, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6960. Published August 6, 13, 20, 27, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 624225

The following person(s) doing business as: Perfect Samples, 39149 Guardino Drive, APT 150, Fremont, CA 94538 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Harpreet Malik, 39149 Guardino Drive, APT 150, Fremont, CA 94538. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Harpreet Malik, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 23, 2026. Expires June 22, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6961. Published August 6, 13, 20, 27, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 624918

The following person(s) doing business as: David Family Dentistry, 148 Best Ave, San Leandro, CA 94577 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Vicente David Jr., 148 Best Ave, San Leandro, CA 94577. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 2/3/2003. Signature of Registrant/s/: Vicente David Jr., Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 24, 2026. Expires July 23, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6962. Published August 6, 13, 20, 27, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 624678

The following person(s) doing business as: Crime Scene Crystals, 2715 Markham Court, Hayward, CA 94542 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Forensic Consultation LLC, 2715 Markham Court, Hayward, CA 94542. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 6/23/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Michelle Rippey, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 13, 2026. Expires July 12, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6963. Published August 6, 13, 20, 27, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 624802

The following person(s) doing business as: SarraS, 717 Euclid Ave, Berkeley, CA 94708 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): SarraS AI, Inc., 717 Euclid Ave, Berkeley, CA 94798. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 6/8/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Daniel Ortega,

President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 20, 2026. Expires July 19, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6964. Published August 6, 13, 20, 27, 2026.

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME ORIGINAL FILE NO. 608261

The person(s) listed below have abandoned the use of the following fictitious business name(s). Entropy Cellars, 2720 Marina Ave, Livermore, CA 94550. Registered by the following owner(s): Jeffery Roberts, 2720 Marina Ave, Livermore, CA 94550. The fictitious business name statement was filed on 2/29/2024 in the County of Alameda. This business was conducted by an Individual. Signature of Registrant/s/: Jeffery Roberts, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 23, 2026. The Independent, Legal No. 6964. Published August 6, 13, 20, 27, 2026.

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Wente Family Vineyards Revives Historic Cresta Blanca Label to Celebrate Livermore’s Winemaking Heritage

By Kathryn Stroud

LIVERMORE — Wente Family Vineyards celebrated the revival of its historic Cresta Blanca label with a launch event Thursday, July 30, that brought guests into the winery’s caves to toast the original brand that put California on the global wine map.

The Cresta Blanca legacy brand begins with Charles Wetmore, widely considered the founder of the California

wine industry. He established Cresta Blanca in 1882 in Livermore while serving as secretary of the California Viticultural Commission.

Four years earlier, in 1878, the California State Viticultural Commission had sent Wetmore to the Paris Exposition to study European vineyards and winemaking and document his findings. His dispatches reportedly stirred national attention, pushing California growers to think bigger about

the future of the state’s wine industry.

That groundwork paid off in 1889, the same year the Eiffel Tower was unveiled, when Wetmore’s Cresta Blanca won the Grand Prix at the Paris Exposition.

“It was truly the first to make it on a world stage. We call it the Judgment of Paris 87 years before the Judgment of Paris,” explained fifth-generation winemaker Aly Wente. She was framing the win in terms of a much bet-

ter-known moment in wine history: the 1976 Judgment of Paris, when California wines beat out top French labels in Chardonnay and Cabernet Sauvignon in a blind tasting and established California as a world-class wine region.

During Prohibition, however, Wetmore shut down the winery, and he passed away before Prohibition was repealed. “The world’s fair made him famous, and Prohibition made us forget about him,” said Wente winemaker Alec Fraser.

The Cresta Blanca brand survived long after Wetmore’s death. His son reopened the winery following Prohibition, and it was later acquired by Schenley Distillers, which operated it from 1941 to 1965. In 1957, the site was recognized as a California Historical Landmark honoring Wetmore’s 1889 Paris victory — “first bringing assurance to California wine growers that they could grow wines comparable to the finest in the world,” the plaque reads. The Wente family purchased Cresta Blanca in 1981,

The release celebration last week took guests into

Wente’s underground caves, built before refrigeration existed as a way to keep wine at a stable temperature throughout the seasons. “Caves hold temperature year-round. Stable temperature is one of the most important parts of winemaking,” Fraser said. The caves are also the only ones at any winery in Livermore, giving the Cresta Blanca launch a physical link to the very ground where Wetmore built his winery more than 140 years ago.

For Wente, that connection is more than symbolic. “We’re sitting around history,” she told the group. She has also come to see the winery’s quirks as a nod to its founder: “If a door moves funny, it’s Wetmore saying hi.”

That sense of history running through the winery is, in many ways, the whole story of Wente. The family has been growing grapes in Livermore since 1883, making it the oldest continuously operated, family-owned

winery in the country. Aly Wente sees her family as stewards of the land and the legacy — a family that has spent nearly a century and a half tending this particular soil and choosing to also tend its history, making sure the man who first put Livermore, and California, on the world’s wine map isn’t forgotten again.

“We are keepers of history,” Wente told the gathered guests. For her, the caves, the vines, and the history are part of the same inheritance, one that must be “passed down to the next generation. If we don’t, who will teach them?”



Guests gather for a four-course dinner beneath the trees at Wente Family Vineyards on July 30 following an exclusive cave tour led by fifth-generation winemaker Aly Wente and winemaker Alec Fraser. The event celebrated the revival of the estate's Cresta Blanca label. (Photo — Kathryn Stroud)

High School Students Begin Program To Learn about Community Nonprofits

LIVERMORE — Two dozen high school students recently spent half a day at Las Positas College hearing from nonprofit executives, philanthropists and finance professionals about the fundamentals of nonprofit leadership and community engagement as part of a new NextGen Learning and Leadership Program co-sponsored by the Three Valleys Community Foundation (3VCF) and

Tri-Valley Nonprofit Alliance (TVNPA).

The six-month program is designed to provide the practical knowledge, hands-on experiences and professional relationships the students need to make a lasting impact, according to the nonprofit organizations.

The students, representing 13 high schools across the region, were selected from among the nominees for 3VCF’s Young Philanthropist

Award for 2026, Tri-Valley teens who have founded or co-founded their own nonprofit organizations or who volunteer regularly, and students serving on a municipal youth advisory council or commission.

The students will also attend three weekend workshops from September through December, learning about nonprofit operations, fundraising and fund development, board governance, financial steward-

ship and collaboration across the nonprofit sector.

TVNPA has also paired each student with an executive from the nonprofit community for monthly one-on-one mentoring sessions.

The program will conclude with a graduation and recognition ceremony at the annual 3VCF-sponsored Martin Luther King Jr. in January 2027.

For more information, go to 3vcf.org.

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² Data provided by FDIC.gov. National average for 12-month certificates is 1.65% APY as of 07/17/2026.

³ As of 07/17/2026. Earnings based on investing \$50,000 at 4.00% APY compounded monthly for 13 months.

⁴ Competitor rates are as of July 20, 2026, and may be subject to additional eligibility requirements, terms, or conditions established by the respective financial institution.

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