



From left, Florence John, Erna Gras and Asha Maulidi pose in front of an Asante Africa banner in the backyard of Gras's home in Livermore. Gras is co-founder of the nonprofit organization that provides educational opportunities to young girls and boys in Africa. John and Maulidi are visiting from Tanzania to thank donors and sponsors for their support. See story on page 8. (Photo — Leah Silveira)

Planning Commission Gives Go-Ahead for First of Three Projects in East Pleasanton

Villages Development Calls for Construction of 400-plus New Homes

By David Jen

PLEASANTON — Villages at the Quarry, also known as the Kiewit Project, will move forward to build 412 homes at the southeast corner of Busch Road and Valley Avenue following approval from the Pleasanton Planning Commission last week.

Commissioners weighed the traffic and parking concerns of the larger East Pleasanton area before granting their unanimous approval, with Commissioner Stephanie Wedge absent from the April 23 meeting.

The approval marks the first of three large housing projects with applications in East Pleasanton. In addition to the Villages, the Arroyo Lago

project, located about a quarter mile from the Villages, has proposed to build 243 homes, while the East Lakes project, adjacent to Arroyo Lago, plans to build almost 700 homes. All projects are located within the city's urban growth boundary.

"We're looking at one of the largest increases in the city ... in a long time," Commissioner Brandon Pace said about the Villages project, adding that it will set the standard for development on Pleasanton's east side.

Seefried Industrial Properties, the Villages' applicant, proposes to build 310 detached single-family homes, 62 of which will include junior accessory dwelling units. There will also be 102 multi-family rental units that will be

divided into four neighborhoods, or "villages," on the 52-acre property.

The proposal calls for Villages 1 and 2 to offer 220 four- to five-bedroom, single-family homes with three to three-and-a-half bathrooms each, ranging in size from 1,996 square feet to 2,785 square feet. Village 3 is set to contain 90 three- to five-bedroom, single-family homes with three or three-and-a-half bathrooms apiece, ranging in size from 3,423 square feet to 4,000 square feet. Finally, Village 4 would contain five multi-family buildings with a mix of one- to three-bedroom units ranging in size from 510 square feet to 1,060 square feet.

The project also calls for the inclusion of a publicly accessible two-

(See SQUARE MILE, page 6)

New Dublin Mayor Hu Paints Rosy Picture In Her First State of the City Appearance

Initial Address Also Outlines Multiple Challenges to Be Faced in the Future

By Ruth Roberts

DUBLIN — Dublin's shared commitment to the safety, progress and future of the community, as well as the challenges facing the city, was the focus of Mayor Sherry Hu's 2025 State of the City luncheon April 23 at the Dublin Community Center.

Hosted by the Dublin Chamber of Commerce, the sold-out crowd included local officials, dignitaries and community business leaders.

Former California State Assemblyman and one-time Dublin Mayor Guy Houston introduced the first-time mayor, praising her gifts of collaboration and partnership as hallmarks of her new tenure.

"With her background as a business owner, she has quickly become a problem-solver with a willingness to listen," Houston said. "She provides a positive energy and enthusiasm for the leadership of Dublin."

Elected in November, Hu used her inaugural address to highlight the successes and challenges facing the city of more than 40,000 residents.

"As you know, Dublin is a very vibrant, active community with a variety of housing options; high-performing schools; beautiful, expansive parks; robust recreational opportunities and an abundance of restaurants, shops and places to work," Hu said.

The mayor, a small business owner with a Ph. D. in architectural engineering and credentials in engineering, finance and project management, began with an outline of the city's finances. This year's outlook is bright, but there are problems that will need to be dealt with in ensuing years.

Hu emphasized that the General Fund operating budget for fiscal year 2024-25 is in the black, with revenues exceeding operating expenditures by \$26.6 million. Hu added that this year's total General Fund revenues are projected at \$133.5 million and expenditures expected at \$106.8 million. Ending reserves are anticipated at more than \$262.4 million for fiscal year 2024-25.

(See STATE OF CITY, page 7)

LLNL, Other Facilities Banned From Using Climate Terminology

Federal Administration's Department of Energy Issues Order Regarding Public Communications

By Jeff Garberson

LIVERMORE — Based on instructions from its Washington, D.C., sponsor, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) is no longer permitted to use words reflecting an interest in climate research when it communicates with the public.

Terms commonly used in climate research such as "carbon footprint," "net zero" and "pollution-free electricity" are now off limits to the Laboratory's public website and its house newspaper and popular science magazine, Science & Technology

Review.

The prohibition comes from the Trump administration's Department of Energy (DOE), which sees climate concerns as exaggerated and political rather than scientific.

The scientific community disagrees. Over the past three decades, it has reached the firm conclusion that human activities have altered the climate to a degree that is increasingly dangerous to human activities and health.

Two months ago, for example, the American Geophysical Union, the world's largest body of climate

(See FORBIDDEN TERMS, page 6)



Soon to be a centenarian, Reese Peck of Livermore reflects on some of his many memories. See story on page 12. (Photo — Leah Silveira)

Livermore's City Council Hears General Plan Updates

Leaders Considering Multiple Issues Going Forward

By Larry Altman

LIVERMORE — The City Council received an update Monday on recommendations from Livermore's Planning Commission for policy changes that will be included in the city's next General Plan.

The update for the city's elected leaders was part of the four-year process to create a new General Plan that will direct the city's growth and goals through 2045 on issues ranging from land use and development to housing, transportation, economic development, climate change and community character.

The changes — developed during a year of meetings and community feedback — will be turned into a draft document expected in the fall for public review, with council approval scheduled for spring 2026.

During Monday's City Council meeting, Principal Planner Andy Ross presented an overview of some of the changes.

Land Use

City planners told the council what would have to happen to reverse their June decision to set aside any discussion about developing the 1,100-acre East of Greenville area located outside the urban growth boundary.

The council agreed the issue required a study and would not be included in the new General Plan. On Monday, city staff described the conditions required to initiate that study. The city would have to find that Livermore had an inability to provide services or maintain infrastructure, a need for jobs and housing, and unforeseen opportunities for strategic growth.

For the land to be developed, the

(See CITY COUNCIL, page 6)



Construction around Flagpole Plaza at the intersection of First Street and South Livermore Avenue in Livermore is expected to be completed by the end of August. (Photo — Leah Silveira)

Repurposed Flagpole Plaza Taking Shape

Livermore Landmark to Serve as Gathering Place, Outdoor Dining Venue

By Vivien Wenneker

LIVERMORE — Construction on the Livermore Flagpole Plaza, which began in March, is expected to be completed by the end of summer, with the plaza set to open to the public in August.

"Flagpole Plaza is a key part of our investment in Downtown Livermore, and we're excited to see it nearing completion," City Manager Marianna Burch said in a statement. "With work expected

to wrap up by the end of August, we look forward to welcoming the community and visitors to enjoy a vibrant, accessible space to gather, dine and relax."

Originally, Flagpole Plaza, located at the corner of First Street and South Livermore Avenue, served as a gathering space with a large grass area, but after the start of the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020, the area was repurposed for outdoor dining. During that time, the grass was removed and replaced with

decomposed granite to better meet the needs of outdoor dining.

Since 2023, the City of Livermore has taken steps toward renovating the space to renew its original function as a gathering space while still retaining opportunities for outdoor dining. The Flagpole Plaza Improvement Project (2022-25) was included in the city's 2023-2025 Capital Improvement Plan, which was reviewed by the Planning Commission in May 2023.

(See FLAGPOLE, page 7)

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PET OF THE WEEK



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Teen Develops New Curriculum Centered On Heritage of Local Native Americans

By Dawnmarie Fehr

A local high school student has created a new history curriculum focused on “untold stories” to raise awareness of underrepresented histories.

Isaac He, a junior at The Quarry Lane School in Dublin, founded the nonprofit Unfold4All to use classroom workshops to teach students stories that have been left out of history books.

Isaac, 17, said he was inspired to create the curriculum after realizing not many people studied history anymore – most of his fellow students have been drawn to STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) fields due to their current popularity.

“Not many people are exploring the humanities, so I think history as a subject is often overlooked, as are the implications it teaches,” Isaac said. “History tells us about racial culture and the culture

of the people around us, and how that can be reflected in the state of the world right now.”

Isaac also credits a visit he made to Maine’s Nibezun reservation in 2021, where he participated in the Wabanaki community’s Green Corn festival. He said speaking with community elders on the reservation made him realize there might be gaps in his education, and he wanted to fill them.

With an idea in mind, Isaac began to develop his curriculum. Initially, most of his research focused on native American and Chinese groups, including those who settled in the Tri-Valley. Now, Unfold4All has chapters across the country, where students are adding to the organization’s database by pursuing topics that interest them. Their common thread: racial history in America.

Locally, Isaac has conducted workshops for middle

school students in the Dublin Unified School District and made a presentation to the Las Positas College History Club. For the middle school students, he focused mostly on the Ohlone tribe, detailing their movements and practices in the Pleasanton area.

“This had value on many levels, but to me the most important was my students seeing a young person being involved and caring,” said Terri Sharbach, an eighth-grade history teacher at Fallon Middle School in Dublin.

Sharbach said the curriculum was engaging and relevant, inspiring her students to be more civic-minded and involved.

“A lot of my students are Asian or Indian and they are thinking of helping first-nation people,” she said. “If you see another kid who looks like you and is academically driven like you and they are civic-minded and community

driven, then you realize you can be involved, and that was important to me.”

Isaac also presented to students at Cottonwood Creek School in Dublin, where history teacher Jonathan Wang said the Unfold4All curriculum blended right into his local history unit.

“He talked about the Ohlone tribe, and it’s the main focus of the local indigenous history of Dublin and the greater area,” Wang said.

All research is done by students. To ensure accuracy in their content, Isaac and his team have all curriculum reviewed by experts with research experience in related fields. They’ve collaborated closely with Tina Henson, program coordinator at the Livermore American Indian Center.

Isaac has also studied under Professor Allyson Hobbs of the Stanford Humanities Institute, authoring three re-



High school student Isaac He (standing), who developed a new history curriculum designed to raise awareness of underrepresented histories, works with students at Fallon Middle School in Dublin. (Photo by Terri Sharbach)

search papers drawing from that experience.

For more information on Unfold4All, visit www.unfold4all.org.



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PUSD Approves Sale of Bonds to Fund Alisal Rebuild Project

By Ruth Roberts

The Pleasanton Unified School District (PUSD) Board of Trustees has unanimously agreed to sell up to \$195 million in bonds from Measures I and II. The board approved the transaction in a 4-0 vote during its regular April 17 meeting. Proceeds from the sales will fund Alisal Elementary School’s rebuild project.

School bonds are primarily used to fund capital improvements and new construction projects for schools, such as building new classrooms, renovating existing facilities and addressing safety concerns. Previous PUSD bonds have

secured projects throughout the district, including Foothill High School campus renovations, new Donlon Elementary transitional kindergarten classrooms and fresh fields at Pleasanton Middle School.

PUSD Trustee Mary Jo Carrion asked what the current volatility of the stock market might mean in terms of the district getting a favorable interest rate.

“I have been hearing in the news lately that this is not a very good time to buy bonds,” Carrion said. “What if a lot of things happen with the tariffs, etc.?”

Chet Wang with Keygent LLC, the bond’s municipal adviser, acknowledged that

although interest rates have grown since the COVID-19 pandemic, they remain at near-historic lows. He added, however, that he believes things are stabilizing.

“The market does not like volatility, but things are getting better ... in our case, we have time to assess, and we are getting to a place where we can lock in a good rate for the taxpayer,” Wang said. “I think there are unknowns as to what the final trade implications will be, but for us, our advice will always be ‘when does the district need its money?’ The district’s project needs are what drive us, and then we do the best we can to pick the right times to sell.”

Measure II, a \$270 million bond measure approved by voters in 2016, has \$35 million remaining and will be the fourth and final round of sales. Measure I was sold off in three previous cycles: in 2017 for \$70.65 million, \$90 million in 2019 and \$74.35 million in 2022.

The second set of bonds will amount to \$160 million from Measure I, a \$395 million ballot measure approved by voters in 2022. There has been one sale of this bond for \$100 million in 2023. The sale will leave \$295 million in available authorization.

Both sets of bonds will be sold and issued by the PUSD. Keygent LLC is the

municipal adviser, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP is the bond and disclosure counsel, and Stifel, Nicolaus & Company, Inc. are the underwriters.

Pacific Chamber Director Brings ‘Rock-Star’ Mozart Power to Kids, Adults in Concert Series

By Christina Cavallaro

Music Director Lawrence Kohl of the Pacific Chamber Orchestra (PCO) kicked off a run of “Mozart Rocks 2025” concerts April 25 at Pleasanton Middle School with two back-to-back, one-hour sneak-peeks of the musical journey of eight compositions by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. Kohl selected the compositions, rarely played together, to showcase the breadth of Mozart’s genius.



Pacific Chamber Orchestra Music Director Lawrence Kohl on April 25 introduced Pleasanton middle- and elementary-school students to the genius of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. The musical sampling took place in advance of an eight-composition concert called “Mozart Rocks 2025,” which the orchestra performed at Livermore’s Bankhead Theater on April 27. (Photo — Leah Silveira)

“Basically, it’s the combination of the incredible range of emotions and heart that Mozart expresses in instrumental and in words,” Kohl said. “So, part of it is the vast range of expression that is what we are, right?”

And nothing is more expressive than a bunch of kindergartners through fifth graders, brought over from neighboring elementary schools, wiggling in their seats to music in the presence of a live orchestra first thing in the morning.

The sampler concerts for youth were in advance of the full-fledged performances this past weekend that concluded with an April 27 matinee at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore.

Kohl’s unique format for the full-length performances happened to also work well for the abbreviated elementary school version, too.

“Usually in an all-Mozart program, you’ll have an overture for an opera. You’ll have one of the concertos, piano or

violin. And then you’ll do one of the symphonies,” Kohl said. “Or you’ll do an overture and have a singer do some arias and do a symphony at the end. It’s wonderful, but it doesn’t really show the whole range.”

Kohl’s approach of doing movements from a couple different concertos, and arias and songs from vastly different works instead of a whole concerto, seemed to inadvertently lend itself to the shorter attention spans of younger audience members.

That’s called a ‘cadenza.’ It’s a special place where the flute is able to show it all off.”

The kids really responded to Chin’s style of play and showed appreciation with enthusiastic clapping. She thanked them by shaping her hands into a heart and flashing a big smile and a double thumbs-up.

PCO’s education programs introduce classical music to 6,000 elementary school children each year and provide clinics for middle and high

as if it were emanating out from inside his swaying body. He paused during breaks in the solo and conducted the orchestra with his free hand.

The concert came to a fitting close with the rousing Symphony No. 41 in C Major, K. 551, “Jupiter,” the grand culmination of Mozart’s symphonic writing, just as the children began to get restless. Kids started popping up all around to go to the bathroom and get drinks of water as adults darted back and forth to get them settled. One teacher walked by with her hands in a yoga-prayer pose, exhaled audibly and whispered, “It’s like whack-a-mole.”

As the room behind Kohl squirmed and stirred, the orchestra played the symphony that Kohl described as “grand and on the stars.

“It’s five distinct melodies all played on top and following each other, and it’s just miraculous,” he said. “It’s really incredible what Mozart does, and to participate with that in a live performance and actually be part of what that creation is — it’s an amazing thing.”

school music ensembles.

“Every educational concert is different, and you know one of the things about a program like this, which is so special, is the opportunity for young people in elementary school to hear a professional orchestra and see what it can do. It’s an amazing experience that kids remember forever,” Kohl said.

The music director himself performed the solo in the Second Movement of Mozart’s “Clarinet Concerto.”

“This is a slow movement for the clarinet,” Kohl told the students. “It wants to show the smooth lines the clarinet has and the range from the bottom to the top. And there is a cadenza in this but since it’s a slow movement and it’s lyrical, it’s a shorter cadenza that just shows how sleek the clarinet can be.”

It was hard for audience members to take their eyes off Kohl as he seemingly hypnotized himself with the swooning sounds of his own instrument. The music felt



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Pleasanton Special-Ed Instructor Among Five Finalists for NBC Sports’ All-Star Teacher Award

By Ruth Roberts

Christine Fitzsimmons, a special-education kindergarten teacher at Alisal Elementary School, is one of five finalists for the 2025 All-Star Teacher Award sponsored by NBC Sports Bay Area.

Fitzsimmons, known as ‘Fitz’ to her friends and colleagues, is competing for a grand prize of \$30,000 for the winner’s school. The announcement will be made at a San Francisco Giants game in June.

For the Pleasanton resident and married mother of two college-age daughters, the experience has been both humbling and exciting.

“A few months ago, I got an email from NBC Sports and thought ‘Oh, it’s just spam,’ but then I realized it

was for real,” Fitzsimmons said. “I am not used to being the center of attention ... but it is so flattering.”

Now in its 18th year, the All-Star Teacher Award honors K-12 educators in Northern and Central California who exhibit remarkable dedication to their students and communities, according to the NBC Sports website. To qualify, teachers must be nominated by a parent or member of the community. Once nominations are logged, applicants are notified, interviewed and whittled down to five final nominees. A video of each finalist is placed online, where the public can view it and vote for their favorite.

In Fitzsimmon’s case, Andrea Navarret, a parent of one of her students, nominated the longtime educator.

Navarret has a 5-year-old daughter with autism and speech delay. It is often difficult for the girl to communicate, and she frequently becomes frustrated. Navarret cited an incident when her daughter’s behavior escalated, and Fitzsimmons quickly diffused the situation by modeling calming methods to regulate the child’s emotions. Navarret’s daughter eventually quieted down and climbed into Fitzsimmons’s lap, copying Fitzsimmons’s motions. Navarret was particularly impressed because her daughter only sits with people with whom she feels safe and comfortable.

“Having a child with different learning abilities makes for eventful days,” Navarret said. “Some days are easy, while others are more chal-

lenging. However, Fitz makes me feel like I’m heard and supported as a parent, which is extremely important. Not only does Fitz advocate for my daughter and all the children she teaches, but she also encourages me to be an advocate for my daughter, and she encourages my daughter to advocate for herself. I thank my lucky stars to have Fitz play such an important role in my daughter’s life.”

Fitzsimmons said she is a little overwhelmed by all the attention but is honored to have been nominated.

And if she should win the grand prize?

“If I have the opportunity to help, I would absolutely want the money to go towards some sort of play-based equipment,” Fitzsimmons said. “We need a shed to park

the tricycles, and if you ask me today, I would say we need Play-Doh ... I teach special education so I would love to have materials where my students can engage with all students. Some kind of inclusive space would be awesome ... but we’ll see how it goes.”

For Navarret, Fitzsimmons’s winning is a foregone conclusion.

“When I received notification that Fitz was one of the five finalists, I watched the video of a previous winner,” Navarret said. “Watching the video gave me chills because I could totally see that video being of Fitz. I can’t explain it, but a feeling came over



Christine Fitzsimmons

me and I knew that Fitz was meant to be nominated and that she is meant to win All-Star Teacher.”

To view Fitzsimmons’s video and to vote for the All-Star Teacher Award, visit NBCSportsBayArea.com/AST or NBCSportsCalifornia.com/AST. Voting is open through June 2.

Livermore’s Marylin Elementary School Receives Coveted Green-Ribbon Honor

By Vivien Wenneker

Marylin Avenue STEAM Academy has been recognized as a 2025 California Green Ribbon School by the California Board of Education.

This year, the award went to 29 schools across the state. All were found to demonstrate exemplary achieve-

ment across three areas: resource efficiency, health and wellness, and environmental and sustainability education.

“Our California Green Ribbon Schools exemplify the values of innovation, resiliency and creativity that drive our efforts to make every school community a healthy and sustainable learning environment for our

students,” State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond said in a Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District (LVJUSD) press release.

Schools were recognized in four levels of achievement: bronze (55.0-64.9%), silver (65.0-74.9%), gold (75% or better) and green (the highest level). Marylin Avenue received gold distinction within the public-schools category.

“We’re proud of this recognition, but even more proud of the culture it represents,” Marylin Avenue STEAM Academy Principal Joe Meunier said in the same LVJUSD statement. “Our students are learning in an environment that not only supports sustainability but also teaches them how to lead the way toward a greener future.”

Highlights of Marylin Avenue’s sustainability efforts, according to the LVJUSD website, include an 18% reduction in greenhouse-gas emissions, a 20% reduction in total energy use, an 18% reduction in indoor water use, a 25% reduction in outdoor water, native plant landscaping, and the integration of environmental STEAM themes

into all interdisciplinary classroom learning.

The school is also currently undergoing a \$25 million renovation in infrastructure improvements, owing to matching state bond funds made possible by the community’s support of the Measure J Facilities Bond, a \$245 million facilities bond approved in 2016 to repair and upgrade LVJUSD facilities.

The improvements will include multiple eco-friendly enhancements such as zero-emission heating and cooling systems, dimmable LED lighting, cool roofs and heat-reflective paving, and new STEAM classrooms, science labs and a research center to strengthen the school’s overall sustainability program. All of these renovations are expected to be completed this fall, according to the LVJUSD website.



Marylin Avenue STEAM students work on drip-line irrigation for garden expansion. (Photo courtesy of Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District)

Las Positas College Set to Perform Series of Dramatic One-Act Plays

The Theater Arts program at Las Positas College (LPC) in Livermore will present “Legends of Realism,” a collection of three dramatic one-act plays, at the Mertes Center for the Arts on campus and the Eugene O’Neil Tao House in Danville.

In partnership with the Eugene O’Neill Foundation and the National Park Service, LPC’s spring program will include O’Neill’s “Thirst,” “Trifles” by Susan

Glaspell and “The Bear” by Anton Chekhov, with musical interludes between plays.

“Legends of Realism” will be presented at the Black Box Theater at the Mertes Center at 7 p.m. on Friday, May 2, and Saturday, May 3, and at 2 p.m. on Sunday, May 4. The presentation moves to the Tao House at the Eugene O’Neill National Historic Site the following weekend, with shows scheduled for 7

p.m. on Saturday, May 10, and Sunday, May 11.

The cast includes 16 members of the LPC Actors Conservatory.

Tickets range from \$10 to \$20 for performances at the Mertes Center and \$30 for shows at the Tao House, which includes National Park Service shuttle service from The Museum of the San Ramon Valley in Danville.

Tickets are available online at lpc.ludus.com.

Garden Club to Hold Annual Plant Sale

The Livermore-Amador Valley Garden Club will hold its annual plant and yard sale at 2450 Merlot Lane in Livermore from 9

a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Saturday, May 3, and Sunday, May 4.

The sale will include vegetables and household

items in addition to flowers and decorative plants.

For more information, go to lavgc.org.

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EDITORIAL

Ignoring Climate Change Won't Make It Go Away

April 22 was Earth Day, the date chosen in 1980 to focus our attention and respect on our planet. Born out of environmental protests in the 1970s, the Earth Day focus has since shifted away from isolated issues — air pollution, acid rain, the hole in the ozone layer — to a global perspective: the climate is changing, and humans are the cause.

Earth Day was celebrated locally in conjunction with Arbor Day celebrations held by Las Positas College and the City of Pleasanton.

However, at the federal level, Earth Day now rings hollow. The White House press room claimed we “finally have a president who follows science,” but with this administration, this is 180 degrees removed from the truth. As of Tuesday, April 29, President Donald Trump had been in office for 100 days. The only consistent position on the environment the administration has taken is to ignore science, and undo decades of environmental progress.

At the start of his second term, Trump pulled the U.S. out of the Paris Agreement climate accords for the second time and dismantled environmental justice initiatives in policymaking.

Among other anti-environmental actions (often carried out by executive order) are these:

- A funding freeze imposed on the nonprofit and educational sectors, including rescinding previously awarded grants that support thousands of local, state and federal initiatives and jobs. Even uncertainty about future actions has ripple effects: Ava Community Energy has had to scale back its municipal solar program in cities like Livermore. Other local people, such as Carbon Direct’s chief scientist, Julio Friedmann, have expressed concern that the effects of the grant cancelations will harm or eliminate many valuable climate projects in the area. Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and other federal labs are no longer permitted to use certain words and phrases, including climate change, net-zero, carbon footprint, carbon-pollution-free electricity and more, in public communications. The public may no longer know about the lab’s work on climate change, nor would the public know if the administration cancels all those programs.
- Last week, the National Science Foundation canceled hundreds of grants after the institution’s director resigned, effectively terminating 700 research projects, including at least 60 in California, according to a

preliminary tally compiled by researchers. Bay Area research heavyweights like University of California Berkeley and Stanford University stand to lose millions of dollars, which can create ripple effects elsewhere in the local economy, including in the Tri-Valley. This came on top of an earlier announcement of several hundred National Institutes for Health grants being canceled. The consequences of this backpedaling on the climate aren’t going to go away. In fact, they’re going to get worse. Climate change is accelerating, and with a hamstrung federal government, our own ability to respond to it will be diminished. Disaster assistance will be scaled back, or cut entirely, as it was when FEMA rejected the state of Arkansas’s application after at least 15 tornados cut a 120-mile-long path of destruction through the state, killing more than 40 people. Wildfires like those that devastated Los Angeles this year will become bigger and more dangerous. The Tri-Valley already is in a high-risk zone for wildfire. While fires here have been relatively small so far, it’s a question of when, not if, there will be a big one.

Our administration’s desire to take the country back to the Gilded

Age, when businesses faced little regulation and few consequences for breaking the law, will come at a steep price. Poorer and marginalized communities have always been hit hardest, but the effects will eventually be felt by everyone, including here in the Tri-Valley. It’s already difficult to obtain home insurance in California, because private insurers predict — correctly — they’re going to be on the hook for bigger and more frequent payouts due to bigger and more frequent wildfires. Higher insurance costs affect individuals and businesses alike, and that will have ripple effects throughout the economy.

We’re heading into a summer in which we can almost certainly expect more wildfires and other natural disasters. We need to stand up to this administration’s attack on climate science, and on our ability to defend against the effects of climate change, and to preserve the policies that exemplify what Earth Day stands for. Our U.S. representatives and senators are in the best position to push back. That means we need to keep encouraging them to fight. The fate of our communities, the country and the world is on the line.

MAILBOX

Mailbox Guidelines:

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

Library Worker Layoffs

Steve Smith, Pleasanton

As an avid library user, I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the proposed layoffs of library workers in our community. Public libraries are the heart of a healthy, informed society, and the people who keep them running — librarians, clerks, and support staff — are essential to their success. These are the individuals who work directly with the public on a day-to-day basis, and cutting this frontline staff in the proposed manner will likely harm the very community that depends on them.

Pleasanton is a vibrant library with loyal and passionate patrons. Nearly 850,000 to 1 million transactions of books or other library items happen every year. Thus, without the help of temporary staff, it will be very chal-

lenging for tasks like shelving to be done in an efficient manner. This staff is akin to the frontline crew of the entire system and their hard work and dedication should be acknowledged through protecting their place in the library system.

Laying off temp staff is like taking one chunk of the frontline crew out of the entire library system.

Supervisors and senior librarians are the go-to people for most of the library staff. They are the people who handle the difficult situations that might arise on weekdays and especially on weekends when management is generally not available. Laying off senior librarians as well as nearly twenty members of part-time staff will no doubt hamper the day-to-day operations of the library, an action benefiting neither staff nor the patrons.

Furthermore, the plan to slash 50% of Audiobooks and eBook funds will dismantle an important resource for community members looking for a connection to learning and culture. There is a strong possibility of 50% of Libby services and 100% of Hoopla, Kanopy and Flipster services getting cut, resources that many families, seniors, and students depend on daily.

Instead of targeting those who do the daily work of supporting our neighbors, I urge decision-makers to consider trimming administrative and upper management roles that do not directly impact public services.

Reducing even one administrative position would definitely help in saving 21 frontline library staff positions that are going to be laid off. Combine the library and recreation management, just like combining the two desks from library and recreation as is in the proposed budget.

Let’s protect the people who make our libraries vibrant, accessible, and community-driven. They deserve our support — not job cuts.

Nicky Neau, Livermore

The Administration Should Correct Their Mistake

In a Letter to the Editor of April 24, 2025, Philip LaScola noted misinformation in The Independent’s April 17 editorial regarding Kilmar Abrego Garcia. In his letter, he himself provided misinformation.

The April 17 editorial stated that Garcia was in the country legally. This may be so, but there is a lot of contention about his status.

It is a fact that the government has acknowledged that Kilmar Abrego Garcia was deported to El Salvador by mistake.

According to NBC News, Garcia entered this country illegally at the age of 16 and went to join his brother who is here legally. He married his U.S. citizen wife in 2016 and was working in construction.

struction.

Subsequently, Garcia had some interaction with the courts regarding his status, but there was never any court action that reviewed or upheld his alleged gang status accusations, which began in 2019 when he was arrested for “loitering” in front of a Home Depot along with others who were looking to pick up day jobs.

At that time, a judge barred Immigration from deporting Garcia, as long as he checked in with authorities annually (which he said he did). This gave him legal status in the U.S. temporarily and allowed him to receive a work permit.

However the painful experience of Kilmar Abrego Garcia turns out, there has been a lot of discussion about him as a representative of many others in his position. He should not have been deported, as the government now admits, and it is the moral responsibility of this administration to correct their mistake.

MTG Is Disgusting

Richard Andrews, Livermore

Today, we placed to rest one of the greatest Christians in decades. Pope Francis was as giant a man and human as he was pious and loving. He took over a papacy under siege because horrible acts by previous clergy, that the THEN Holy See covered up.

He faced this crisis and many more facing humanity, including “all out” war. He constantly pushed for decency and respect for all, and particularly those who are not receiving any. Knowing you cannot rewrite history, he acknowledged the failings and worked to regain trust. He also stood up to dictators and known liars, as they tried to look like they were so pure, and he told them they weren’t.

Obama and Biden both posted thoughtful and thankful letters that inspire. Then, I read the generic post supposedly written by #47

proving his shallowness... Finally, MTG makes a post that calls Pope Francis evil. She knows what evil is. She looks at it in the mirror every morning. If there are any real Christians in her district, they should disown this vulgar bimbo, and then repent themselves for ever having trusted her.

I may not be religious, but I looked to Pope Francis as the great example of what Christ taught. Shame on you, Marjorie Taylor Green. You never knew Francis and really don’t know Christ.

Where is the Retraction?

Philip LaScola, Livermore

I read the April 24 edition of the Independent and saw no retraction of the editorial misstatement stating Garcia was in the country legally or, as I identified it, an outright lie.

I called it a lie because in identifying Garcia as a legal immigrant, it set up the rest of the editorial to support the allegation that all of us, legal or illegal, are subject to deportation.

Just because a judge delayed the deportation of Garcia doesn’t make him legal in this country. Legal would mean he could register to vote and among other things, apply for a social security card, a passport. None of these are available to Garcia. It is known that Garcia did not have a visa or a green card at any time after 2019.

Writing an opinion editorial doesn’t give the editorial board a license to mislead the public. Statements must have some degree of logic or truth, some of which can be supported by further research.

Why did The Independent fail to print a retraction of Garcia’s status, especially since more information has become known?

In order words, does it only print information that supports its bias?

Norms and Values

Patricia Munro, Livermore

The deadline for a letter to the editor is Monday morning, so I do not know the results of the Livermore City Council’s meeting on Norms and Values that took place on April 28. The current document can be found here: www.livermoreca.gov/government/city-council/city-council-norms-values-and-principles-of-governance.

Though the document is very good, it is missing two important points. I hope that the City Council will have included them in the updated document.

Creating a Cohesive Community: Councilmembers shall place the good of the whole city first and strive to build a thriving community for all. Within their districts, councilmembers shall familiarize themselves with district specific issues so that they can work collaboratively with their colleagues to meet those specific needs. Councilmembers shall listen to and include all residents—regardless of who they voted for or if they voted at all. Councilmembers’ personal preferences have no place in policy decisions for the whole city.

Following the Rule of Law: Councilmembers are expected to follow the rule of law and act responsibly both on council and in representing the city. Should a councilmember be found guilty of violating regulations and laws applying to their role, such as—but not limited to—violating FPPC regulations, they shall be given the opportunity to admit their mistake, learn from it, and make amends. However, should that councilmember be unwilling to take responsibility for their actions, the council shall censure them and that councilmember shall be removed from any intergovernmental bodies on which they serve because such a councilmember does

(See MAILBOX, page 5)

THE Independent

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Shay Galletti, superintendent and principal of the Sunol Glen Unified School District, speaks during Sunol's 100-year anniversary celebration on April 26. (Photo – Leah Silveira)

MAILBOX

(Continued from page 4)

not represent Livermore's values.

As we witness the rule of law crumble at the national level, it is ever more important for local government to serve as examples of what the rule of law can be. That includes — at a minimum — holding our own elected officials accountable. These additions make both expectations and consequences clear.

May Day Food Drive and Rally

Kyoko Takayama, Pleasanton

May Day is a European festival of ancient origins marking the beginning of summer, usually celebrated on May 1, around halfway between the northern hemisphere's Spring equinox and June solstice. It is also International Workers' Day, a celebration of the working classes that is promoted by the international labor movement.

As a part of MayDay-Strong.org Day of Action, Indivisible Tri-Valley (indivisibletrivalley.org) is hosting a food drive for Tri-Valley Haven Food Pantry to stand in solidarity with those most impacted by recent USDA food aid cuts, which have sharply increased food insecurity in Tri-Valley. Please bring nourishing nonperishable food, kids' snacks, and full-sized toiletries.

This May Day we are fighting back against budget and labor cuts brought by the current administration. We are demanding a country that puts our families over the fortunes — public schools over private profits, healthcare over hedge funds, dignity and love over hates and fear. Please join us in our rally on May 1st (Thursday) 5-6:30 p.m. at the corner of Hopyard Rd. and Valley Ave.

in Pleasanton to stand for a future that works for working families. California's strong economy depends on immigrants from farm workers to tech entrepreneurs. We won't back down — we will never stop fighting for our families and the rights and freedoms that propel opportunity and a better life for all Americans. Join us in this peaceful nonviolent event to celebrate the diversity and culture we all bring to our Tri-Valley communities.

To Clear Up Misconceptions

David Ott, Pleasanton

Last week, I read a few letters that were filled with misconceptions and untruths. This letter is to help clear up those issues.

Someone wrote that the Trump administration is destroying Social Security and Medicare, when in reality, by getting rid of the waste, fraud and abuse of trillions of dollars, these agencies will be financially better. More funds will be available to legal citizens, and savings of this wasteful spending could lead to a balanced budget.

They also wrote that they fear for their family, grandchildren and our country. I too felt that way from 2021-2024 under the inept Biden regime, but now with law and order and a bright future in front of us, I am filled with optimism.

And they said that voting rights are being destroyed, when in reality, by ensuring that all voters are a legal citizen with voter ID, we will be ensuring voting integrity. If you need an ID to drive a car, board a plane, open a bank account, then voter ID is just common sense. Recent polls showed 83% of Americans are in favor of voter ID. Every other free county in the

world requires a voter to prove that they are legal to vote. Why not in America? Because the Dems know they can cheat the system to stay in power.

Another writer claimed that a university must grant a loyalty oath to the U.S. to receive their government funding. There is no such requirement. The university must follow federal laws and must not discriminate against any color, nationality or religion and that includes Jewish people.

No one is above the law, not even district court judges who aided, abetted and harbored illegal alien gang members or the N.Y. Attorney General who committed fraud with multiple housing applications in multiple states.

And just as I reported last month, as soon as the tariff strategy kicks in, the stock market would rebound and countries would want to make a new trade deal. Currently, 18 countries have sent new trade proposals to the U.S., and many others in process. Plus, many companies have committed over \$5T to build products in America. Tariffs work as a negotiating tool.

To the writers who spread the untruths and misconceptions, I urge you to read and listen to other news sources than just the very biased and untruthful CNN and MSNBC.

Publishing Liars

Thomas Gray, Livermore

Why does The Independent continue to allow letter writers to utterly lie?

Philip LaScola's April 24 letter contained lies and mischaracterizations that should have rendered the letter unworthy for publication.

Kilmar Abrego Garcia's

2019 deportation order is NOT still legally in effect. In fact, Immigration Judge David M. Jones granted Abrego Garcia "withholding of removal status" due to dangers he'd face in El Salvador, a status that allowed Abrego Garcia to live and work legally in the United States. Philip LaScola decries the fact that Abrego Garcia entered the U.S. illegally, meanwhile ignoring the fact that Abrego Garcia was also deported ILLEGALLY.

Abrego Garcia has continually denied being an MS-13 gang member. Abrego Garcia left El Salvador rather than be forced to join a gang, and it was fear of reprisal that caused him to apply for asylum. A different Immigration Judge, Elizabeth A. Kessler, determined there was credible evidence that Abrego Garcia was an MS-13 gang member. That "credible evidence" — a Department of Homeland Security form and a gang information form from the Prince George's Police Department — contained contradictory information that puts their veracity in doubt. The forms have curiously gone missing and none of the information relied on in the forms has ever been thoroughly examined.

Judge Kessler determined there was credible evidence that Abrego Garcia was an MS-13 gang member, in part, because he could not provide sufficient evidence that he WAS NOT an MS-13 gang member. How does one prove they're not a gang member?

It's sadly ironic that right-wing letter writers to this newspaper complain about divisions in the U.S. caused by left-wing lies and protests — and then lie in an attempt to prove their point.

The Independent does not need to be complicit in this pretense, and instead should be attempting to raise the bar. So, I ask again: why does The Independent continue to allow letter writers to utterly lie?

You Can Worship Jesus or Trump, Not Both

Ronald Minnich, Livermore

The four-year-old American girl was given a choice: be deported with her mom and die in agony from cancer, or suffer the agony of losing her mom to deportation. She went with her mom to ICE detention, without her medicines, awaiting deportation and certain death.

This American girl will die. Trump is killing American children.

Millions of children around the world will die of disease and starvation because Trump shut down USAID. Trump is killing children around the world.

Jesus says: "Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven." Trump says: "let the children suffer and die." I don't know about you, but I'm with Jesus on this one.

You can worship the spirit of Jesus; or you can worship the golden idol of Trump on display at Trump rallies. It is written: "Thou shalt not worship false idols." What is your choice?

Welcome to Trump World

Rosario Milelli, Pleasanton

It is time to look at DOGE and the fiction surrounding it. This really was a cover to literally implement the Project 2025 blueprint, to do irreparable harm to our government. Musk claimed he could "save" \$2 trillion, then \$1 trillion, and now maybe \$160 billion? It is laughable when they floated the idea of a \$5,000 stimulus check paid by the so-called savings. There are no "savings"; it only means we will borrow less money, which is only a fraction of the trillions in tax cuts proposed by Trump.

The idea of extensive inefficiency in the federal government (civil service) is a myth, a fallacy in thinking. The conventional wisdom, article of faith for the MAGA Party—is that the federal bureaucracy is a hopeless swamp of waste, fraud, and inefficiency staffed by lazy, incompetent idlers. This is simply not true. These are the facts: in March of 1970, the U.S. population was given as 200 million persons, the federal budget was \$159 billion, and the federal workforce numbered 2.921 million workers. In March of 2025, the U.S. population is 343 million, the federal budget \$3.86 trillion and the federal workforce is 3.0 million workers. In the 55-year time span, population grew by 175%, the Federal budget grew by 24x (4x if adjusted for inflation), but federal employment grew by only 2.7% total. Numerous new programs and expansion of existing programs were approved by Congress between 1970 and 2025, significantly

expanding federal civilian workforce responsibilities. And yet the federal workforce (30% veterans) remained essentially the same number.

Consider, 73 million retirees receive their Social Security benefits on time, Medicare services 66 million people, 16 million veterans are taken care of, and 12 million on Medicaid. We have the world's best military, clean water, clean air, and National Parks that actually support 300 million recreation visits. Cars are safer, more efficient. Until Trump's deregulation of the FAA, air travel was safer. Food and drug safety is monitored and enforced. Waste? Blame Congress — they authorize and appropriate funds for every government activity; every program is also managed and led by the executive branch (Both Republican and Democrat), starting with the president and his cabinet.

As a former Army Aviation Subject Matter Expert, I can proudly attest to the dedication and commitment to our country of thousands of federal workers on defense programs.



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Valley Concert Chorale to Present A Musical Journey through Life

Valley Concert Chorale will present "The Sound of Hope and Love: A Choral Journey" at Resurrection Lutheran Church in Dublin at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, May 17, and at Trinity Lutheran Church in Pleasanton at 4 p.m. on Sunday, May 18.

Chorale Artistic Director Joseph Castro describes the presentation as a musical journey with stories about birth, love, marriage, death and beyond.

"We are singing music from many different cultures and in different languages — Spanish, English, Hebrew, Latin and more," Castro said. "Every season of life will be represented in our music selections."

Selections will include Eric Whitacre's "Five Hebrew Love Songs," Dolly Parton's "Light of a Clear Blue Morning," "Eternal Hope" by Stacey Gibbs and Richard Burchard, Shawn Kirchner's "I'll Be on My Way" and "Bridge Over Troubled

Water" by Paul Simon.

"There are a few universal experiences that touch us all: love in its many forms, the sound of laughter, moments of loss and the quiet courage to keep going when hope feels out of reach," Castro added. "These are the ties that bind us together, shaping what it means to be human. In a world that can feel divid-

ed, music has the power to remind us of what we share: our capacity to love, to hope and to build community."

Tickets are \$30. College students are \$10 with valid student ID; students in kindergarten through high school are free.

Tickets are available online at valleyconcertchorale.org or by calling 925-866-4003.



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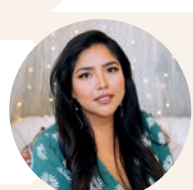
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Golden mussels attached to a buoy are shown during November 2024 surveys at O’Neill Forebay in Merced County. (Photo by Xavier Mascareñas, courtesy of California Department of Water Resources)

The East Bay Park District Changes Its Inspection Policies for Boaters

In response to increasing concerns about invasive mussel species, the East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) is changing its boat inspection and banding policies effective Wednesday, May 7.

EBRPD will now require an abbreviated inspection of trailered boats returning to the same lake or reservoir managed by the district, although a second inspection fee will not be required.

The district will also attach tamper-proof, color-coded bands to boats and trailers to ensure that vessels have not been in other bodies of water.

Previously, EBRPD did not designate bands for specific lakes and reservoirs and boats returning with an intact band were not required to be reinspected when entering any

lake managed by EBRPD or the East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD).

In addition, EBRPD is no longer accepting EBMUD bands.

Boats without a band for a specific EBRPD lake or reservoir will require a full inspection before launch. The district is advising boaters coming from a different lake or reservoir to allow time for reinspection. They will also be charged an inspection fee.

EBRPD said the change in policy was prompted after golden mussels, a highly invasive species native to rivers and creeks in coastal Asia and parts of South America, were found at the Port of Stockton in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta last fall.

Golden mussels have

not been detected in any EBRPD-managed waters, according to the district.

“Fortunately, golden mussels have not been detected in park district-managed waters,” said Matt Graul, who heads the EBRPD Stewardship Division. “We want to keep it that way. Boat inspections and banding are critical tools in protecting our waterbodies from invasive species that can devastate delicate aquatic ecosystems. We are committed to allowing recreational boating while taking appropriate precautions. Additional measures may be required if the situation changes.”

EBRPD currently charges a \$7 inspection fee for motorized vessels and \$4 for car-tops or inflatables.

CITY COUNCIL

(Continued from front page)

city’s urban growth boundary would have to be relocated. Voters would have to approve such a change.

The council in June approved a General Plan Advisory Committee recommendation to create a “transit-oriented complete neighborhood with a mix of housing, jobs and services” adjacent to a Valley Link train station in the Midtown Area.

In response, the Planning Commission over the past several months suggested creating a neighborhood of 5,000 to 6,000 new residential units and a regional rail station, an idea presented to the council Monday night. The development would prioritize pedestrian and bicycle safety.

Infrastructure

The Planning Commission recommended the city focus on “resiliency, sustainability, safety and environmental justice” as priorities in making infrastructure improvements.

Open Space and Conservation

This element of the General Plan focuses on parks, greenbelts and conservation. Updates will include provi-

sions to deal with new state laws requiring local governments to include policies that promote social, economic and racial equity, climate resilience and rewilding opportunities in open-space areas.

Economic Development

The Planning Commission recommended the General Plan include goals to increase the tourism economy in the Livermore Valley, including the creation of activities and overnight accommodations. The city will support local independent businesses that “contribute to quality of life and enhance Livermore as a visitor destination.”

Community Identity

This part of the General Plan will try to “capture what makes Livermore unique and conveys its character.” This policy will address tribal, cultural and historic resources, and “how it feels to live, work and recreate in Livermore.” Topics will include how to improve community involvement in city government.

Public Safety

The public-safety element, which addresses policies dealing with earthquakes, flooding,

fire and climate change, will include reactions to new state laws that require cities to address flooding, wildfires and emergency-evacuation routes.

Mobility

The Mobility Element, which examines the location of major thoroughfares and transportation routes, will include policies that pertain to roadway safety in an effort to eliminate fatalities, and a law that requires a minimum number of parking spaces for any development located within one-half mile of a major public-transit stop.

The Council took no action on the recommendations for the General Plan but offered comments. Vice Mayor Evan Branning said he was pleased to see plans to improve tourism and the small-business economy.

“I think one of the things that sets Livermore apart from many other cities around us is the small businesses, locally owned businesses, craft industry,” Branning said. “We create a lot in our city. Wine, of course, is the most famous thing, but there’s plenty of other local crafts we have here.”

Branning also suggested

Dublin’s Emerald High to Host a Multi-Discipline Student Summit

Emerald High School in Dublin hosted a daylong program of multi-discipline presentations, workshops and focused dialogue between students and industry leaders on Saturday, April 19.

More than 350 students from Emerald and four other Tri-Valley high schools participated in Emerald Summit ‘25, which covered the disci-

plines of biomedicine, technology, engineering, science, creative arts and literature, and entrepreneurship.

Students were encouraged to present ideas and projects to more than 30 experts, who then provided feedback for taking the next steps.

Sabeer Bhatia, the San Francisco-based entrepreneur and co-founder of Hot-

mail, the first free, internet-based email service, later sold to Microsoft, was the keynote speaker. Bhatia also created ShowReel, an app designed to help develop critical thinking.

The summit, held at the new Emerald High School gymnasium, was organized by a team of students from the Dublin school.

Fourth Annual Artist Studio Tour Set for May

The fourth annual Tri-Valley Artist Studio Tour, sponsored by the nonprofit Alliance for the Visual Arts, will be held from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, May 4, and Sunday, May 5, and feature the work of 50 artists and 16 venues in the Tri-Valley.

Nine of those venues are private home studios and will also be open for tours from 10

a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday, May 2.

The free, self-guided tour will cover studios from San Ramon to Pleasanton and Livermore and include artist demonstrations and a variety of art for sale, including paintings, drawings, sculpture, glasswork, photography, printmaking and jewelry.

“Our open studios event is an inspiring weekend

where you can step into artists’ worlds, see their process up close, and take home something truly unique,” said artist and tour director Anne Giancola. “There is something magical about discovering art at the place where it’s made.”

A map and list of studios on the tour is available online at allianceforthevisualarts.org.

New Exhibit Celebrates Dublin’s Pioneer Women

A new exhibit at the Dublin Heritage Park & Museums highlights the lives and legacies of several influential women who are buried in the city’s Pioneer Cemetery.

The Dublin Heritage Park & Museums is a 10-acre

park at 6600 Donlon Way that includes several historic buildings, two of which serve as museums, and the Dublin Pioneer Cemetery.

The park is open to the public during daylight hours.

The museums, including the 1856 Murray School-

house, which houses a permanent exhibit on Dublin’s history, and the Kolb House, a 1910 Craftsman bungalow, are open from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Tuesdays, and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the weekends, according to the city’s website.

SQUARE MILE

(Continued from front page)

acre park, a pedestrian connection to the Iron Horse Trail and frontage improvements along Busch Road.

With the planning of more than 1,500 new homes for development near each other in East Pleasanton, the city has identified the need to upgrade El Charro Road into a four-lane thoroughfare connecting Interstate 580 and Stanley Boulevard. Pleasanton is exploring options to finance the project, which City Traffic Engineer Mike Tassano said will cost about \$110 million.

Under Senate Bill 330, the Villages project will be exempt from any future El Charro fee

programs, as its application was submitted in March 2023 and is subject only to the policies, standards and fees in effect at the time of submission.

Of the Villages’ multi-family units, 101 will be deed-restricted as affordable, with the last multi-family unit reserved as an on-site manager’s unit.

Conscious of the city’s in-lieu fee option, which allows developers to pay a fee in lieu of physically fulfilling their affordable-housing requirements on site, Commissioner Anurag Jain asked for reassurances that Village 4 actually comes to fruition.

“We share the concern

addressing that these units do come online in a timely manner,” said Ellen Clark, Pleasanton’s director of community development. “The city has adequate assurance that they will get built for a couple reasons. One is that we have an inclusionary zoning ordinance that says we want you to build the units, but we also have reliance on housing incentives and waivers that are being sought on the basis of providing a certain increment of affordable housing.”

Only the affordable-housing agreement with the developer needs to be approved by the city council.

The Villages application includes 19 waivers based on the State Density Bonus Law, which reduces site-development standards, such as on-site parking requirements, in exchange for providing affordable housing units.

While the applicants will still pay the in-lieu fees until the affordable units are built, Steve Reilly of the 330 Land Company, a member of the applicant team, said the motivation is to build the affordable units as soon as possible to avoid putting up the fees.

“Ideally, we plan on having the affordable component under construction right away,

maybe even prior to the market-rate homes being built,” Reilly said.

The applicant for the Arroyo Lago project is also 330 Land.

Planning commissioners praised Seefried for its community-outreach efforts, to which they attributed the lack of public commenters, since no residents spoke at the meeting.

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FORBIDDEN TERMS

(Continued from front page)

scientists, listed nine disruptions that are already occurring because of climate change:

- Shifts in agricultural and fisheries productivity
- Submergence and loss of land due to sea-level rise
- Damages to homes, businesses and critical infrastructure
- Collapsing insurance markets
- Diminished labor productivity from excessive heat
- Disruption in education systems
- Deteriorated air, water and soil quality
- Rising infectious-disease transmission
- Migration and population

displacement

Despite the scientific consensus, LLNL is governed in many respects by the wishes of its federal funders. DOE is the Cabinet-level agency in charge with a national defense arm, the Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA). It has responsibility for LLNL’s mission and most of its funding.

NNSA is also responsible for LLNL’s companion national security laboratories, Los Alamos and Sandia National Laboratories. The actions of these laboratories must also be consistent with NNSA policies.

The Laboratory’s house newspaper last month ran

an article explaining that the Laboratory “has been directed to reword or remove specific words and phrases from all external-facing media, web pages and public-facing communications.”

The article identified some of the forbidden terms: climate change, climate resiliency, net-zero carbon footprint, carbon-pollution free electricity and carbon pollution.

These words may be used as required in technical presentations and strictly scientific communications, the article said.

In response to a query from The Independent, DOE denied having “issued any guidance

on ‘prohibited terms’ to any facilities, labs or program offices.”

The Independent also emailed or telephoned queries to four other national laboratories in an attempt to confirm that they also are under climate-terminology prohibitions. The four other national labs are Los Alamos and Sandia in California and New Mexico, Oak Ridge in Tennessee and Argonne in Illinois.

None responded, but an observer familiar with NNSA operations said that all the DOE facilities are similarly forbidden to use climate research vocabulary in public communications.

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Lemony Snicket Among Authors at LPC Literary Festival

Daniel Handler, best-selling author of the “A Series of Unfortunate Events” books for children, under the pen name Lemony Snicket, will lead a workshop, “How to Write Like a Burgler,” at the fifth annual Las Positas College (LPC) Literary Arts Festival in Livermore on Saturday, May 10.

Handler has also authored several novels for older readers and a stage play.

A memoir, “And Then? And Then? What Else?,” published last year, is described as a “literary exploration, a how-to book and a critical inquiry” into his childhood and pursuit of a life in literature.

Handler has sold more than 70 million books worldwide.

Other notable authors participating in this year’s literary festival, to be held from

9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. in the Mertes Center for the Arts, 3000 Campus Hill Dr., include Julissa Arce, author of “My (Underground) American Dream,” and Tamim Ansary, an Afghan American writer of fiction and history.

Ansary has written nine books, including “Truther Narratives: Conspiracy Theories Explained,” which he will discuss at the festival.

Arce’s latest book, “You

Sound Like a White Girl,” explores her struggle as a Mexican immigrant to find her place as a teenager growing up in the U.S.

Thrity Umrigar, an Indian American journalist and author of 10 novels, will deliver the keynote address.

Umrigar’s latest novel, “The Museum of Failures,” was named a Best Book of 2023 by NPR and other literary reviews.

In addition to panel discussions and workshops on such topics as nonfiction versus fiction and how to write food and wine reviews, the festival will include two one-act plays, wine and chocolate tasting, and the 22nd annual LPC Poetry Slam, a competitive spoken poetry performance that invites audience participation.

“This event is truly special as it allows Las Positas

College to showcase the incredible programs we have here while bringing world-class authors and speakers to our festival,” said LPC English Professor Martin Nash. “We’re really excited about the variety in this year’s lineup.”

The festival is free and open to the public.

For tickets and a full list of events, go to laspositas-college.edu/literary-festival.

Livermore’s American Legion Post 47 Accepting Donations

American Legion Post 47 in Livermore will be accepting donations at Walmart, 2700 Las Positas Road, the first three Saturdays in May, to support its scholarship, oratorical contest, and Boys State and Girls State programs.

The post offers college scholarships to Livermore high school graduates and returning military veterans who are attending Las Positas College.

It also supports the annual nationwide American Legion oratorical contest for high school students and the weeklong California Boys & Girls State government and leadership development program for high school juniors at Sacramento State College.

Post 47 also sponsors a Cub Scout program.

Chartered by Congress in 1919, American Legion is the largest U.S. veterans organization with more than 1.6 million members and posts every state. Post 47 in Livermore was also established in 1919.

STATE OF CITY

(Continued from front page)

“We are fortunate in Dublin, as cities all over California are struggling,” Hu said. “We continue to set the standard for what a successful community should be.”

While the city’s budget is projected to be sound for the current year, Dublin has experienced a recent decrease in sales tax, which will impact the next two budget cycles.

In response to what she referred to as weakening consumer confidence and softening sales, Hu reiterated that the city is adjusting and remains committed to ensuring long-term fiscal sustainability.

Furthermore, Hu said the city’s 10-year outlook shows increases in ongoing operational expenses, which will eventually outpace revenue growth as development declines, city services expand and infrastructure ages. Hu added it is likely there will be a slowdown in anticipated future property-tax growth from an average of 5% to 2.5%.

City staff also anticipates an increase in contract services for items such as police, fire and maintenance personnel at an annual rate of 6%.

“Looking several years into the future, we may be faced with tackling some hard financial decisions, which is why we are working now to position ourselves to put budget-balancing solutions into place,” Hu said.

Hu added that the city’s Capital Improvement Program (CIP) is focused on projects in four categories: general improvements, public art, parks and streets. She noted that the five-year CIP budget is projected at \$104.9 million. Designated reserves are also set aside for cash-flow advances for the construction of library

improvements, the Village Parkway reconstruction project, two new neighborhood parks at the Francis Ranch development, the Dublin Boulevard extension to Livermore and the city’s vision



Sherry Hu

for the Downtown Dublin project.

“North of Dublin Boulevard, we still have plans to turn the current Dublin Place shopping center, home to Target, into a thriving center with restaurants, retail, offices, residential and a wonderful town square,” Hu said.

Hu highlighted the opening of 499-unit Avalon West on Saint Patrick Way, which features a coworking space and public art sculpture. Nearby, Eden Housing is expected to break ground soon on a 113-unit Regional Street Senior Affordable Housing project, which will also support adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

“And just steps from the West Dublin BART station, Amador Station will bring 300 affordable units in four phases, further energizing our downtown core,” Hu said. “If you live on the east side of town, you may have seen the beginnings of the future Dublin Centre, also known as the “D.C.”

Landsea Homes has begun work on the three-parcel property between Tassajara Road and Brannigan Street. It calls for 500 units of two- and three-story family homes and an affordable-housing site for the Grace Pointe project, which will also house developmentally and intellectually disabled individuals.”

The mayor added that construction has begun on the 165-acre Francis Ranch development, located east of Fallon Road. The 573-unit residential project is set to include six neighborhoods, two neighborhood parks totaling more than 11 acres and a two-acre semi-public site. Plans call for affordable housing to be dispersed throughout the development. Additionally, in partnership with Eden Housing and Trumark Homes, Sunflower Hill plans to co-develop 77-units of very low- and low-income affordable-housing rentals for intellectually and developmentally disabled adults.

Hu touched on the city’s partnership with Visit Tri-Valley (VTV) and Alameda County, to develop a 5,000-seat state-of-the-art event center to be located at the Dublin Civic Center, the former site of Dublin Police Services. Hu said the project could generate from \$75 million to \$100 million annually for the region.

“We also look forward with anticipation to the opening of the Dublin Arts Center,” Hu said.

The mayor went on to profile many of the large and small businesses sustaining the city and its residents.

“Dublin’s economic development remains strong and continues to build momentum,” Hu said. “In 2024,

Senior Center to Display Student Watercolors

The Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd.,



“Flowers in Blue Vase” was painted by Claudia Curran. (Photo courtesy of Charlotte Severin)

will host a reception for students from the Art Made Easy class taught by Charlotte Severin from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on Monday, May 5.

Watercolors by the students will also be on display at the senior center from May 5 through May 9.

Severin, an award-winning plein air artist, began teaching classes at the senior center when it opened 32 years ago. The classes were later moved to the Fire House Arts Center.

Students whose work will

be on display include Cynthia Altman, Claudia Curran, Geri Vegas, Arlie Alford, Ava Chin, Henry Murakami, Barbara Comstock, Judy Lindquist, Janice Cantua, Kanchan Khirwadkar, Molly Falcione and Sarah Olson.

The reception is free and open to the public.

The paintings will be on display from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday through Thursday, and 8:30 a.m. to noon on Friday.

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Local Nonprofit Group Hosts African Visitors With Goal of Addressing Equity Gap for Youth

By Ruth Roberts

Asha Maulidi and Florence John are visiting California for the first time from Tanzania as representatives of Asante Africa, a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the quality of education and life for young people in East Africa.

And although the two young women are focused on spreading their message of hope, prosperity and gratitude, they are also looking forward to a few new adventures during their stay in the Golden State.

“Hollywood is No. 1, and I want to go to the movie theater,” said Maulidi, 24.

“But no sushi,” John, 29, laughed.

The leaders of Asante Africa believe that while everyone has talent and potential, not everyone has access to opportunities. Understanding that education is the way up and through life’s challenges, the group works to address the equity gap by partnering with rural schools and communities in East Africa to provide

those most vulnerable with the resources and support to succeed both in the classroom and beyond. Through connected programs, young people learn educational skills and opportunities to thrive regardless of their future path, whether it be higher education, employment or entrepreneurship.

Livermore resident Erna Grasz, co-founder and outgoing CEO of Asante Africa, developed the blueprint for Asante (‘Asante’ means ‘thank you’ in Swahili) in 2008 following a trip to Africa with her husband. While there, the couple met a woman in Tanzania who shared her vision of educating girls. They also befriended a Masai woman who was the first principal of a rural, village school.

It was then that inspiration hit.

“These women had the bold vision, they had the connections in the community, they had the tenacity and heart, but they just didn’t have the resources,” said Grasz, who worked in Silicon Valley as an engineer at the time.

When she returned home, Grasz began gathering donors and supporters to create Asante Africa, and since then, the group has helped more than one million young people (boys and girls) see their futures in a different light.

For Maulidi and John, the opportunity to visit the United States and share their stories through Asante Africa has been a longtime dream. Over the next few weeks, the women will talk with supporters and donors as they work to spread the word about the organization and the lives it has changed.

“We are here to tell the story because we have lived it and seen it and we have experienced it,” John said.

John heard about Asante Africa several years ago through friends and presented herself to the organization, where she eventually went through many of the programs. Today, she is the country manager for Asante Africa, Tanzania – an important leadership role in the organization.

Maulidi comes from a remote Maasai community

where the most she could have hoped for was marriage and children. She became involved with Asante Africa 11 years ago and has since forged a future for herself.

Through the Asante program, Maulidi learned about farming and has begun raising pigs, an unusual venture for a nomadic community, but a better financial bet because pigs reproduce faster than cattle and can net a higher yield at market. As an Asante Africa scholarship recipient, Maulidi has taken her leadership training achieved through the program and has received a fellowship in Denmark, where she will study farming and dairy technology.

Maulidi and John will participate in Asante Africa’s sponsor event in Alameda on Saturday, May 3. The evening will be an interactive gathering where attendees break into groups and learn about sustainable development goals and what it means to support gender equity and positive climate change.

“The trip (for the girls) is about meeting with prospec-



Florence John, left, and Asha Maulidi are thrilled to be visiting the Tri-Valley and California from their native Tanzania as part of the Asante Africa non-profit organization. (Photo — Leah Silveira)

tive funders and partners,” Grasz said. “May 3 is about honoring those who have supported the program for the past 17 years and to share the journey with those on the ground who do the messaging.”

For Maulidi and John, the opportunities they have experienced are difficult to articulate.

“I can’t find one word to explain it,” Maulidi said. “It

means I have power inside of me ... I have never seen the impact of their efforts, but to see me they will (see their impact).”

For John, the moment is simpler.

“It means the world to me and my family to be here,” John said. “I am grateful.”

For more information on Asante Africa, visit <https://asanteafrica.org>.

May Marks Annual Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month

By Hannah Ferguson

May is Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month, which is dedicated to recognizing the culture, history and influence of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders.

Under the new federal administration, however, the White House Initiative on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders Office closed on Jan. 20, the first day of President Donald Trump’s second term, thus eliminating national recognition of the month.

“It is a great loss that this is no longer a federally recognized occasion and that the agency has rescinded, but now it is even more important for us to continue our efforts and bring greater un-

derstanding to our residents,” said Margaret Liang, a board member for the Tri-Valley chapter of the Asian Pacific Islander American Public Affairs (APAPA).

“To me, a lot of the stereotypes and misconceptions come from a lack of understanding,” Liang continued. “To create a harmonious and collaborative environment, it is very important to learn about others and create a stronger, tighter bond.”

Dublin resident Jennifer Liu cherishes the tradition of the Dragon Boat Festival, known as Duanwu Jie. Although she is not able to watch the dragon boat races in person, she keeps her family tradition alive by ordering zongzi, sticky rice dumplings wrapped in bamboo leaves that are traditionally shared during the festival.

“As a Taiwanese Ameri-

can, I still think it’s important to take this time to share our stories and celebrate our heritage, even if it’s not officially recognized,” Liu said. “For me, that means talking about my family’s immigration journey, our food culture, can’t skip bubble tea, and little things we do at home to stay connected to our roots.”

Phoebe Yee is a Chinese student at Dublin High School who is co-president of the Asian Student Association (ASA). Her family holds their culture close by celebrating Lunar New Year, eating meals together and valuing family, respect and hard work.

“As a second-generation Asian American, I’ve sometimes felt guilty for not being more connected to my own heritage, but this month gives me a chance to reconnect and

take pride in where I come from,” she said.

Yee’s co-president, Taiwanese student Andrea Yu, especially enjoys the club’s food-sharing culture and has learned to make dishes including sushi, pad kra pow and daal.

According to Yu, AAPI Heritage Month is for both those in touch with their culture and those who have not fully embraced it yet.

“I can recall the feelings of shame and embarrassment I held when I was younger for my culture,” she said. “To be honest, I’m not just disappointed, but I am nervous for what the erasure and lack of concern for our community means. I think students like me with the privilege of growing up in a predominantly Asian community might forget the importance of cultural celebration for

Asian culture, hence the lack of awareness of the current White House’s actions to erase AAPI Month.”

Despite the loss of official acknowledgement nationwide, celebrations, performances and other activities remain scheduled to honor AAPI Heritage Month in the Tri-Valley.

Livermore Valley Arts is set to host an Asian American Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander Celebration from 6-8 p.m. on Friday, May 2 at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore. The event is open to the public and admission is free. Various activities and performances to celebrate Asian culture are on tap.

The seventh annual Tri-Valley Asian Heritage Celebration is scheduled for the Dublin High Performing Arts Center at 7 p.m. on Saturday, May 10. The City

of Dublin and the APAPA are collaborating to show performances representing a variety of cultures including Japanese Taiko, Hawaiian dances, Filipino Vocal, Vietnamese Martial Arts, Italian Opera, Latin dances, classical piano and more. Tickets are required for entry and can be purchased on the City of Dublin’s website. The cost is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children 6-18.

The Firehouse Arts Center in Pleasanton is set to host a celebration from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, May 17. Scheduled activities include music and dance performances featuring the Karikitan Dance Company, Halau Makana Lani, Pallen’s Martial Arts and Bollywood for Life. Arts and crafts for all ages are also part of the program, and admission is free.

OBITUARIES

Max Eckert



Max was born February 5, 1949, to Carroll and Dixie Eckert in Livermore at the old St. Paul’s hospital.

Max attended school at Fifth Street Elementary, East Avenue and Livermore High. He attended Chabot Junior College, then UC Davis where he received a B.S. degree in Chemistry. He went on to get his teaching credential at Cal State Hayward. After that he went to Australia for two years to teach high school. Upon his return to Livermore, his mother found an advertisement for a job at Clorox at the Research and Development Center in Pleasanton, where he worked for 30 years. He retired in 2005.

Max worked in many different functions and on many brands at Clorox and was promoted from entry level to managing several different departments. He was recognized as a manager who could succeed in many different areas. He managed with compassion.

On loan, Max moved from Research and Development to Manufacturing, and with this family spent two years in Tennessee (1988-1989) as the Technical Manager of a new plant start up to make laundry detergent.

Max was a Board member of the Kaleidoscope Activity Center for developmentally disabled children and later was a Board member of Easter Seals Bay Area.

He was also a founding member of the Livermore High School Alumni as-

sociation and created their nonprofit status to help raise money for the school.

Max’s father died in 1976 from brain cancer. His mother died in 2010 from lung cancer. Max had a younger brother Philip who predeceased him in 2021. Max had two children, Dan, who predeceased him in 1998 at the age of 19, and Scott, who was born in 1984 with special needs.

Services will be held in Max’s memory on Wednesday, May 7, 2025, at 12:30 p.m. at Callaghan Mortuary in Livermore, with a graveside service to follow at 1:30 p.m. at Memory Gardens Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention.

Callaghan Mortuary is honored to be serving the Eckert family. An online guestbook and tribute wall are available for signing at www.callaghanmortuary.com.

Izetta Fay Grisham July 15, 1953 – April 23, 2025



Escalon, California; Beau and wife Carissa Grisham of Stockton, California; Mark and wife Annette Grisham of Tucson, Arizona; Tony and wife Melissa Grisham of Dublin, California; and Tina Snowden of El Grove, California.

Izetta was also a beloved grandmother to Nicholas, Katelyn and Fiancé Cain Aguilar, Benjamin, Mark Figueroa, Shane Miller of Livermore, California. Daniella and Fiancé Carlos Martinez, Joselyn and Fiancé Louis, Caitlin Silva McVeigh and wife Pam, Alex, Adriana, Mariana of Lathrop, California. Michael Collins, Christopher Mart, Alexandra, Jayden, Mad-

dox, Bradyn Morales of Manteca, California. Emma, Abigail, Beau, Michaela Grisham of Stockton, California. Benjamin V, Nevaeh, Kayleigh Grisham of Escalon, California. Mikey Zavala, Mya and David Jr. of Lathrop, California. Stephanie Grisham, Tucson, Arizona. Jocelyn, Kayla and Justin Grisham of Dublin, California. Derek and Brian Snowden of Elk Grove, California. Fabi Zamora and great-grandson Mateo Collins of Livermore, California.

She was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Benjamin Franklin Grisham III, and her daughter, Teresa Haynes.

A memorial service to honor Izetta’s life will be held at Callaghan Mortuary on May 9, 2025, at 1 p.m. There will be a viewing before service from 10 a.m. - 12:45 p.m. Burial to follow at Roselawn Cemetery at 2 p.m.

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

Ann Elise Oliver Jan. 29, 1943 – April 17, 2025

Ann Elise Oliver passed away peacefully on April 17, 2025 at the age of 82. She is preceded in death by her beloved husband of 61 years, Pete Oliver, her parents, Bruce and Elise Wright, and her brother, Tom Wright.

Ann leaves behind a devoted loving family: her three children, David (Marilyn) Oliver of Mount Vernon, Washington; Bruce (Olga) Oliver of Barcelona, Spain; and Chris (Regis) Lehman of Livermore, California. She was a proud and devoted grandmother to six wonderful grandchildren — Amanda (Brady), Kyle (Annika), Ray,

Amy, Ivan, and Isla — and a great-grandmother to three beautiful great-granddaughters: Teigen, Taytum, and Tenlee.

Born on Jan. 29, 1943, in Seattle, Washington, Ann’s childhood was filled with change and adventure, living her formative years in Corning and Dunsmuir in Northern California, and later in Olds, Alberta, Canada, where her father had homesteaded a 160-acre farm. Ann often shared warm memories of her time in Olds — working alongside her father helping with chores, caring for her pet pig Susie, riding a horse to school, and spending time with her cousin Mark.

At the age of 17, her family moved to Stockton, California, where she completed high school. Just two years later, while visiting her dear friend Dona Fraser in Livermore, Ann met the love of her life, Pete. They married in 1962 and soon began a family together. Livermore became their lifelong home — a place where Ann found everything she valued: stability, community, and the comfort of being surrounded by extended family and cherished friends.

Throughout the years, Ann stayed active and engaged in the things she loved. She was

an avid reader, a passionate home cook who loved trying new recipes, and a dedicated member of Our Savior’s Lutheran Church for over 50 years — deeply treasuring the friendships she formed there. Ann also had a keen interest in genealogy and proudly traced her ancestry back to the Mayflower. But above all else, her greatest joy was her family. She poured her heart into raising her children and later found immense pride and happiness in her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Ann cultivated deep friendships across generations.

Whether at church, in her neighborhood, or among fellow genealogy enthusiasts, she left a lasting impression through her kindness and genuine interest in others’ lives.

Her legacy lives on in the lives she touched and in the hearts of those who loved her. She will be remembered with immense gratitude and love.

Funeral services will be held Tuesday, April 29, 2025, at Callaghan Mortuary, 3833 East Ave., followed by a memorial at Our Saviors Lutheran Church, 1385 S Livermore Ave. In lieu of flowers, a donation can be made in



Ann’s honor to Our Saviors Lutheran Church.

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

OBITUARIES

Carl C. Aaron, Jr.
April 24, 1931 – Oct. 23, 2023



Carl C. Aaron, Jr. was born in Dallas, Texas on April 24, 1931, and passed away at the age of 92. He was predeceased by his beloved wife of 69 years, Emiko, and cherished granddaughter, Leah Van Emmerik. He is survived by his devoted children, James Aaron, Amy Van Emmerik, Virginia Kallagorgevich, sons-in-law Doug and Mark, daughter-in-law Tomomi, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, sister Virginia McDoniel and her family.

His parents brought the family to California's East Bay to join in the war effort at the Richmond shipyards during WWII. After graduating from Oakland's Castlemont High School, he joined the U.S. Air Force in 1949 and completed training on electronics and the GCA radar systems. He served as SSGT(T) supervising in Radar Maintenance during the Korean

War. In civilian life, he traveled to Japan to instruct and support radar systems while employed by Gilfillan and learned to speak Japanese. His career path led him to Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in 1962 until retiring in 1993 as Senior Engineering Associate. His expertise took him often to Mercury, Nevada.

He assisted in the construction of the Southern Baptist church on Village Parkway in the 1960's and was a deacon there. He

enjoyed family camping in our nation's national and state parks. He tried folk dancing for a while. He surprised us with his horseback riding skills on a mare named Cindy. He said, "Once you learn to ride, you don't forget." His great interest in aviation, scientific disciplines, history, politics and science fiction led to many conversations around the dinner table.

Our shared memories of vacations and family get-togethers will stay with us. How swiftly the years have passed.

He led a full life with treasured family, friends and a fulfilling career. He and our mom were grateful for their kind neighbors in Dublin. He was well cared for in his final year at Alamo Homecare by the staff, Chris, Levi, and especially by Cynthia, whom he considered a good friend.

We dearly miss him.

Rex Booth
Aug. 18, 1930 – Jan. 18, 2025

Rex Booth, 94, passed away peacefully at his home in Livermore, California, on January 18 surrounded by family and friends. He will join his wife Patricia who preceded him in 2010. A kind and loving man with a simple easy charm and ready smile, he was well liked by

everyone who met him. A Livermore Lab employee for more than 50 years, he was also the world's best handyman.

He is survived by his five children, David, Mary, Thomas, Steven and Susan, and eight grandchildren. He will be greatly missed.



CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Marian Inez Toste
Aug. 30, 1925 – March 27, 2025



It is with deep sorrow that we announce the passing of Marian, who left this world peacefully on March 27, 2025, at the age of 99, at her home in Livermore, California. Marian was a beloved mother, wife, sister, and friend—known for her warmth, resilience, and quiet grace.

Born in Washington State and raised in the small town of Bickleton, Marian often reflected fondly on her rural upbringing. Her high school graduating class consisted of just 12 students, and those early experiences instilled in her a strong sense of community and connection. She went on to graduate from the University of Seattle, proudly paving her own path with determination and heart.

Marian was a devoted mother to her daughter, Katherine, whom she raised

with strength and love. After many years as a single parent, Marian found lasting joy and companionship when she married the love of her life, Don Toste. Together, they shared a deep appreciation for gardening and a passion for cooking—simple pleasures that reflected the warmth and care they poured into their life together.

Marian was one of four siblings and was preceded

in death by her three beloved brothers: Sherman, Ronald, and Richie Jensen. She carried their memories with her always.

In her later years, Marian was deeply supported and cared for by Don's extended family. She shared a special bond with Tom and Terri Clark, and Donna and Rick Page whose love and presence brought her comfort, joy, and a sense of family that never wavered.

She is survived by her daughter, Katherine Bardelman who will forever treasure the legacy of love, laughter, and quiet wisdom her mother leaves behind.

A celebration of Marian's life will be held Sunday, May 4 at 11:00 a.m. at the Lima and Campagna Sunnyvale Mortuary, 1315 Hollenbeck Ave., Sunnyvale, CA 94087.

Margaret Mary Gambino
May 27, 1936 – March 31, 2025



Margaret Mary Gambino was born on May 27, 1936, in Buffalo, New York. She was sent to her eternal home on March 31, 2025. She was a beloved wife, mother, grandmother, great grandmother, sister, and friend to many.

Margaret grew up in Buffalo, New York and married Alex Gambino at the age of 20-years-old and they had five children. Later, she divorced and moved to San Jose, California, in January 1970 to start a new journey. She was a house cleaner and went to West Valley College to pursue a business degree. After graduation, she became a property manager at Capitol Park Apartments and met her loving husband, H Keith Otsuki. Later, they moved to Livermore, California, and have been together for 43 years.

She became a realtor for ten years and later retired in 2003 to help raise her grandson, Luis. She was a devoted grandmother and attended all his baseball games and school activities. Margaret enjoyed being a grandmother to all of her grandchildren and always made them feel special.

Christmas was Margaret's favorite holiday, and she was passionate about decorating the inside and outside of the house. She received enormous joy to have the family together and she made sure it was meaningful.

Halloween was another of Margaret's favorites to decorate. She enjoyed handing out candy and the smiling children. Their house was a local community hit for both Halloween and Christmas decorations.

Margaret and Keith had an appreciation for wine. They enjoyed wine tasting and nice dinners together. Margaret also loved watching sports and was

an A's, Warriors, Chiefs, and Bills fan.

Margaret is survived by her husband, H Keith Otsuki; sons: Alex, David (deceased), Michael, Brian, and Daughter Gina; grandchildren: Julia, David, Corina, Kristina, Nick, Cody, Michael, Gina, Luis, Angelina; great-grandchildren: Katie, Kayla, Sophia, Olivia, Lena, Brandon, Alfonso, Daniel, and Gianni.

Memorial service: New Beginnings Church; Saturday, May 10 at 11:30 a.m.

Location: 170 Lindbergh Ave., Livermore, CA 94551

Reception to follow: New Beginnings Church

Final resting place: Lone Tree Cemetery.

Location: 24591 Fairview Ave, Hayward, CA 94542 (Immediate Family Only)

We would like flowers sent to New Beginnings Church at 170 Lindbergh Ave., Livermore, CA 94551, or plant a tree.

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

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Daniel (Dan) Angelo Chiolis
Jan. 9, 1935 – Jan. 18, 2025



Daniel (Dan) Angelo Chiolis, aged 90, passed away at his home on Jan. 18, 2025, in Pleasanton, California. He was born on Jan. 9, 1935, in Price, Utah to Angelo and Ida Chiolis. Daniel was the youngest of three children, with an older sister, Katherine, and the oldest, his brother Richard.

At age seven, Dan moved with his family from Price to San Jose after his father's death. He grew to adulthood in San Jose, graduating from James Lick High School. After two years serving in the U.S. Army and a short time playing minor league baseball in Louisiana, he returned to San Jose and worked at various jobs while studying at San Jose City College and San Jose State University. He earned his bachelor's degree in physical education with a minor in Spanish and his master's degree in physical education. His goal was to become a teacher. It was during this time that he met Cathy Manley, whom he

married in 1962.

Dan and Cathy Chiolis moved to Pleasanton, California in 1968 with plans to raise a family, pursue Daniel's teaching career, and purchase a home. They adopted two children: Lisa and Steven. He would become a beloved and active teacher at two high schools: Dublin High School and Foothill High School. He taught Physical Education, Spanish, and Social Studies, and he successfully coached many soccer and golf teams. With Cathy, he purchased a home in Pleasanton in 1969, where he lived the remain-

der of his life, enjoying his growing family, pursuing his interests in classic cars, music, politics, and exploring his Greek heritage.

Dan is survived by his wife of 63 years, Cathy; his brother Richard; his sister-in-law Marilyn and brother-in-law Chip; his two children, Lisa and Steven; his daughter-in-law Melissa; his four grandchildren, Jessilyn, William, Danika, and Maia; his seven great-grandchildren, Leanne, Emerie, Zayden, Zoey, Zack, Rayah, and Fae; his nephews Mark Chiolis and Dan Stalker; his nieces Eileen Tetreault and Nancy Kacey, and many great- and great-great nephews, nieces, and cousins.

We are filled with gratitude for his full and giving life.

A public memorial service and catered reception celebrating Dan's life will be held at 12 p.m. on May 17 at First Presbyterian Church: 2020 5th St., Livermore, CA 94550.

Maria Leonor Valencia
June 8, 1929 – April 17, 2025

Maria Leonor era una mujer generosa, cariñosa y hermosa. Le encantaba coser, cocinar, escuchar música y la jardinería. Maria disfrutaba convivir con la familia y amigos, y siempre les preparaba comida riquísima. Maria Leonor será extrañada muchísimo y por siempre estará en nuestros corazones.

Maria Leonor Valencia was a generous, caring, and beautiful woman. She loved to sew, cook, listen to music, and garden. Maria enjoyed having family and friends over, and she always prepared delicious food for them. Maria Leonor will be missed dearly and will always be in our hearts.



John Edward Kiely



John Edward Kiely, generational rancher and firefighter of Livermore, California, passed away in the comfort of his loving family, April 19, 2025, at the age of 73.

John was born in Livermore, California, at St. Paul's Hospital to local cattle ranchers John and Bernice (Little) Kiely. Along with brothers Hugh and Dennis, John grew up on the family's ranch on Patterson Pass Road helping his parents with their cattle business. John was an avid member of Crane Ridge 4-H and Future Farmers of America clubs.

John graduated from Livermore High School in 1969, then went on to College at Modesto Junior College and California Polytechnic State University (SLO), where he participated in team-roping on the rodeo team. John ultimately earned a degree in Fire Science and began his career in firefighting. He established the Dozer Training Program, working as Lead Heavy Equipment Operator

for Alameda County Fire Department in Livermore, serving the community for 32 years.

In addition to being a cattle rancher and a firefighter, John's two most beloved avocations were hunting and shooting sports. He cared deeply about wildlife conservation, protecting public lands, and ethical hunting practices. During his retirement years, John managed a local duck club. He shared his sportsmanship and love of nature with his children, friends, and his loyal bird dog companions.

His love of adventure would incite numerous hunting and sporting clay trips

throughout the west. Highway 88 was John's favorite route to take to his Nevada mountain getaway in Gardnerville. He made many cherished memories with his children and friends riding ATV's, fishing, and eating at his favorite restaurant, J.T.'s Basque.

Remaining to cherish John's memory are his children Shane Edward, Meghan Catherine, and James Robert Kiely. He is also survived by his former wife Catherine Gandolfo Kiely, brother Dennis Kiely, sister-in-law Diane Kiely, four grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and many dear friends.

Memorial services will be held at Callaghan Mortuary and St. Michael's Cemetery May 5, 2025, at 12:00 p.m., with reception to follow.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to calwaterfowl.org/donate.

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

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Vivian Renee Dane
May 4, 1924 – May 26, 2022



Vivian Renee Dane (Schmidt), age 97, passed away peacefully with her family after a long and fulfilling life.

Born in Alameda, California May 4, 1925, she spent her early life as a proud Alamedian. She graduated from Alameda High School in 1943 during the height of WWII. Although she received a scholarship to art college, she couldn't attend due to the war. After graduating, she did her part by working in the Naval shipyards. She was caught sketching ships by her boss and immediately escorted out. Fortunately, he escorted her to engineering and said, "train her!" Thus, her career began. After the war, she became a sketch artist for SFPD.

She then met Terry Mullin in 1946 and had three children: Barry Mullin (Barbara), Janis Buckley, and James (Jim) Mullin (Tami). Unfortunately, Terry passed

away in 1960.

In 1962, she began working at the Livermore Lab in Engineering. There she met Paul Dane. For a brief time, they lived in Hayward before moving to Livermore in 1964. Unfortunately, a short time afterwards she was diagnosed with cancer and left the Lab. After surviving her battle with cancer, she went to work for the DMV from where she worked until she retired in 1985.

She and Paul loved to

travel and had many adventures. She embraced her historic Spanish heritage and became VP of Los Californianos. They were both involved in many other groups including SIRS and the Naval Cryptology Society that kept them always on the go. Vivian also reembraced her love of art and began painting again. She showed her works at many art shows with many awards in tow.

She was greatly loved by her family and is survived by Jim and Barry and her stepchildren, Paula Pipitone, Paul Dane Jr., Robert Dane and the many grand and great-grandchildren: Joe Arrigoni, Jaime Buckley, Jaime Westfall, Austin Westfall, Barry N. Mullin, Wyatt Dane, Garrett Dane, and Rylie Mullin.

A celebration of life will be held on her 100th birthday at the Sacramento Valley Veterans Cemetery in Dixon.

Former Dublin Baseball Standout Costello Has Found Quite The Sweet Spot as Chabot Enters NorCal Regional Playoff

By Phil Jensen

Entering his senior baseball season at Dublin High School in 2022, TJ Costello thought he would pursue football collegiately.

But after the Gaels’ final baseball game of the season, Costello had a change of

heart. Dublin, the No. 15 seed in the North Coast Section Division I playoffs, had No. 2 Clayton Valley Charter-Concord on the ropes with a 2-1 lead in the middle of the sixth inning, but Clayton Valley scored four runs in the bottom of the sixth and ended up win-

ning 5-3.

“That’s when I kind of realized I want to keep playing. I didn’t want to have that be my last game,” said Costello, who was a second-team all-East Bay Athletic League selection as a senior. “I wanted to keep going ... I kind of fell in love with (baseball) right towards the end (of the season) there and decided that’s what I wanted to do.”

Chabot College-Hayward is glad that Costello made that decision. The sophomore ended this regular season second in the Coast Conference-North in batting average (.388) and tied for fourth in RBIs (38).

“At the plate, he has big-time pop,” Chabot interim head coach Bryce Mendonca said. “It was important to him this year to try and stay up the middle and keep the barrel inside, and he did that. And because of that, he has way less strikeouts, just as many home runs and he’s

hitting around .400.

“He is incredibly athletic for his size,” Mendonca said about the 6-foot-2, 245-pound third baseman, who has 13 stolen bases to go along with six home runs. “He’s very fast and he catches people by surprise, so it’s an advantage when he gets on base. Very fluid in the infield (defensively) because he’s so athletic. ... He has good range.”

Chabot is looking forward to its 3C2A NorCal Regional playoff series with San Joaquin Delta-Stockton, which is scheduled to start at 2 p.m. on Friday, May 2. The Gladiators (27-12) are the No. 8 seed and Delta (20-20) is No. 17. Game 2 of the best-of-three series is set for 11 a.m. Saturday, May 3 at Chabot, with a potential third game to follow if necessary.

Costello, the son of Dublin boys basketball coach Tom Costello, spent one redshirt season at Ohlone

College-Fremont before bursting onto the state scene during last year’s playoffs. Chabot advanced to the regional finals with an 11-4 win over Cabrillo-Aptos in which Costello slammed a two-run home run and three-run triple. He also hit a home run in a win over West Valley-Saratoga in the regional finals.

“Playoffs is kind of where I found my stride last year,” the 20-year-old Costello said. “This year, I’m having a lot more confidence in myself, confidence in my teammates. ... Early success helped me a lot, just seeing hits fall.”

On Feb. 25, Costello was 2 for 4 with two RBIs in a 6-4 win over Los Medanos-Pittsburg. On March 8, Costello drove in the winning run in a 14-13 victory over Ohlone-Fremont. Two weeks later, he slammed two home runs in a 12-1 victory over City College of San Francisco.

Costello is also a leader in the dugout.

“He does a real good job of keeping situations light, in the sense that he’s always going around and picking up teammates,” Mendonca said. “He keeps things loose, which is very important. ... He’s able to keep everything very funny, very light, while still playing the game really hard.”

Costello fouled a ball off the top of one of his feet against City College of San Francisco on April 17 and missed the last three games of the regular season. But Mendonca said after a game on April 24 that Costello “should be fine by the time we get to the playoffs.”

As far as his future in baseball, Costello said, “I’m not trying to think about the future too much, trying to finish what we’ve got here first.”

Costello and the Gladiators are aiming for that finish to be a long time from now.



T.J. Costello has transferred his baseball prowess from Dublin High School to Chabot College in Hayward. (Photo by Jared Darling)

Red-Hot Amador Hoping to Carry Streak Through EBAL Finish

By Phil Jensen

The Amador Valley High School baseball team entered this week on a hot streak, and the Dons hope it continues through the remainder of a tough East Bay Athletic League season.

“Every game for the rest of the season is the most important game of the year,” said Amador Valley coach Connor Mays, whose team had won six of its previous seven games entering this week. “We’ve just got to take it game by game.”

The Dons faced a stiff test with De La Salle on April 30 and travel to play Washington-Fremont in a nonleague game at 11 a.m. on May 3 before finishing the regular season with a series against Foothill on May 7 and May 9. Both games, the first at Amador Valley and the second at Foothill, are scheduled to start at 4 p.m.

Against Dublin, the Dons’ pitching was stellar. Brennan Baptist hurled a four-hit shutout in a 5-0 victory on April 23, and then two days later, Elliot de la Torre also fired a four-hitter in cold, rainy conditions in a 4-1 win.

“Our pitching has been amazing,” Mays said. “Our hitting’s been really good,

too. We’re kind of starting to click as a group now.”

Mays pointed to a 1-0, 12-inning loss to Alhambra-Martinez in Alhambra’s tournament on April 7 as a catalyst.

“I think that game kind of changed our whole season right there because our boys just wanted to respond,” Mays said. Amador Valley went 6-1 in its next seven games. The Dons entered this week with a 13-7 overall record (5-5 in the EBAL), while Dublin was 16-5 (5-5).

Both de la Torre and Dublin starter Andrew Zorinich pitched shutout baseball through the first three innings on April 25. Amador Valley took a 1-0 lead in the top of the fourth on an RBI infield single by de la Torre. But Dublin tied the score in the sixth inning on back-to-back doubles by Evan Salvador and Brandt Nunemacher.

However, Amador Valley responded. After one out in the seventh, six straight Dons reached base. The key hit in the three-run inning was an RBI double by Kade Robertson that drove in the eventual winning run. In the bottom of the inning, de la Torre retired three of the four batters to end the game.

“I was really commanding (the fastball) early,” said de la Torre, a junior. “I was not getting ahead in counts, but I was really battling and making them put it in play.”

Two of the first three batters that de la Torre faced in the game (Elijah McNeal and Salvador) got hits. But de la Torre allowed only two more the rest of the way.

“I knew to just trust my stuff,” de la Torre said. “I didn’t change anything.”

Aidan Foley was 3 for 4 for Amador Valley, and Gavin Colombo, Robertson and de la Torre had two hits apiece. Foley, Robertson, Colombo and Aaron Solomon each scored a run.

For Dublin, Salvador was 2 for 3.

“We played hard. Again, we couldn’t string together enough hits,” Dublin coach Greg Oravetz said. “We’ve just got to find a way to get a little bit better, and this is typical EBAL competition down the stretch. ... you’ve got to earn everything you get.”

Dublin is set to host Granada on May 2 after having opened the series at Granada on April 30. The Gaels are scheduled to finish their regular season at Dougherty Valley on May 7. Those games are set for 4 p.m. starts.



Griffin Beemiller, assistant winemaker for Nella Terra Cellars in Sunol, and Alex Woody, a Livermore comedian, share a glass of Nella Terra Cellars’ 2023 Estate Chardonnay at an entrance to the vineyards. (Photo by Kendall Beemiller)

Sunol Winery Comedy Show Reunites Former High School Acquaintances

By Jessica Zimmer

Livermore comedian Alex Woody and Sunol winemaker Griffin Beemiller on Friday, May 2 are set to meet again at Nella Terra Cellars’ “Laugh Your Glass Off” comedy show, the second comedy event for the winery.

“It was no surprise to me that Alex was booked as one of the comedians. He was a couple years older than me. He had the reputation of being the funny kid,” said Beemiller, assistant winemaker for Nella Terra Cellars.

Woody and Beemiller attended Foothill High School in Pleasanton in the 2000s.

Woody plans to tell a few jokes about Livermore’s wine country, which was less developed when he grew up in the region.

“In the show, I’ll share about how the towns have changed over the years. I usually start off with joking about myself first, telling stories about the “wild child” I was in the past,” Woody said.

Beemiller said it was a big surprise when the host comedian, Marcus Mangham, came to him with a set of names.

“It made me look Woody

up again and see what he’s been doing in comedy,” Beemiller said.

Mangham came to know Woody while serving as the host of open-mic night for Punch Line, a Sacramento comedy club.

“Woody came to perform there. Later, I booked him for his own small show at the Call Back Bar, a side room off the main room at Punch Line. He did a good job. That’s the pipeline for most of the comedians for whom I find jobs,” Mangham said.

Other comedians performing at the event are Tristan “Funny” Johnson, an Oakland native who regularly performs in the San Francisco Bay Area, and Roman Spinale, a Los Angeles comedian/magician who opens for shows on Jay Leno’s road tour.

The Nella Terra event will be held under a 5,000-square-foot tent, with food provided by Seasoned & Co., a food truck that serves fusion cuisine with Afghan, American and Mexican elements. Dishes include smash burgers, the Ka-Bowl, a chopped kabob bowl, and kabacos, which are tacos with grilled chicken or grilled Angus beef.

Nella Terra plans to serve a limited menu of Pinot Noir,

Cabernet Sauvignon, Chardonnay and Sauvignon Blanc, as well as Cerveza Murrieta and Maui Waui from Altamont Beer Works, a Livermore-based craft brewery.

“We’re getting the word out (through) social media, inviting members of our wine club, marketing through Google and Meta ads and advertising in local news publications,” Beemiller said.

Woody’s advice for aspiring comedians is to begin by telling jokes about themselves.

“Don’t take anything too seriously. We’re all there to have fun,” Woody said.

Mangham added that it helps to watch comedy shows in person.

“That teaches you how a show will go. It also lets you know whether you’re ready to give it a shot at an open-mic night,” Mangham said.

Even experienced comedians such as Mangham practice their jokes over and over again.

“I like to stick to jokes about family,” he said. “But mostly, I prepare the audience for the headliners. A host likes to set a plate for the stars.”

Learn more at: <https://www.nellaterra.com/upcomingevents>.



Amador Valley’s Gavin Colombo races for the bag as Dublin first baseman Brandt Nunemacher takes the throw in East Bay Athletic League action April 25 at Dublin. (Photo — Leah Silveira)

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LEGAL NOTICES

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
Case No. 25CV116412
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF ALAMEDA
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

Petitioner:
Steven James Morrow
1387 St Mary Dr.
Livermore, CA 94550
filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:

Present Names:
Steven James Morrow
Proposed Name:
Steven Ramon Temores

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

at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.

NOTICE OF HEARING
Date: 07/25/2025
Time: 9:30 AM
Dept: 514

The address of the court is:
Hayward Hall of Justice
24405 Amador Street
Civil Division
Hayward, CA 94544
A copy of this Order To Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior

to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation printed in this county: The Independent Newspaper
2250 First Street,
Livermore, CA 94550
Dated: 3/28/25 /s/: A. Thomas Nixon, Judge of the Superior Court.
The Independent, Legal No. 6375. Published April 10, 17, 24, May 1, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 613571
The following person(s) doing business as: Exprima, 1311

Park ST #1164, Alameda, CA 94501 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Exprima, LLC, 1311 Park ST #1164, Alameda, CA 94501. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 3/28/25. Signature of Registrant/s/: Elliot Mattice, Managing Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 1, 2025. Expires March 31, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6376. Published April 10, 17, 24, May 1, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 613585
The following person(s) doing business as: Banh Mi Republic, 2700 Fairmont Drive, San Leandro, CA 94578 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Banh Mi Republic LLC, 2576 La Don Court, Castro Valley, CA 94546. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Luan Truong, Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 1, 2025. Expires March 31, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6377. Published April 10, 17, 24, May 1, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 613595
The following person(s) doing business as: Pop’N Soda Lounge, 5860 East Ave, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Janessa Villa, 5860 East Ave, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by

an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Janessa Villa, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 1, 2025. Expires March 31, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6378. Published April 10, 17, 24, May 1, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 613004
The following person(s) doing business as: Clear and Present Productions, 3336 San

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Leandro Street, Oakland, CA 94601 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Bryan Blum, 3336 San Leandro Street, Oakland, CA 94601. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Bryan Blum, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 7, 2025. Expires March 6, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6379 Published April 10, 17, 24, May 1, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 613331

The following person(s) doing business as: East Bay Head and Neck, a Division of BASS Medical Group, 2316 Dwight Way, Berkeley, CA 94704 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): BASS Medical Group, 2637 Shadelands Drive, Walnut Creek, CA 94598. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 01/29/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Rajiv Nagesetty, M.D. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 21, 2025. Expires March 20, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6380. Published April 10, 17, 24, May 1, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 613320

The following person(s) doing business as: NorCal Urology, a Division of BASS Medical Group, 3300 Webster Street, Suite 710, Oakland, CA 94609 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): BASS Medical Group, 2637 Shadelands Drive, Walnut Creek, CA 94598. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 01/29/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Rajiv Nagesetty, M.D. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 21, 2025. Expires March 20, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6381. Published April 10, 17, 24, May 1, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 613622

The following person(s) doing business as: Dominology Centro, 1510 Webster ST, 416, Oakland, CA 94612 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Dominology, 1510 Webster ST, 416, Oakland, CA 94612. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Gerald Cager, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 2, 2025. Expires April 1, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6382. Published April 10, 17, 24, May 1, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 613515

The following person(s) doing business as: BTVC Construction, 1023 Versailles Ave, Alameda, CA 94501 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Benjamin Villegas, 1023 Versailles Ave, Alameda, CA 94501. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 3/10/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Benjamin Villegas, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 28, 2025. Expires March 27, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6383. Published April 10, 17, 24, May 1, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 613610

The following person(s) doing business as: Linden and Rose Floral Design Studio, 1125 Peralta Street, Oakland, CA 94607 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Dunja Duranovic, PO Box 70211, Oakland, CA 94612. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Dunja Duranovic, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 1, 2025. Expires March 31, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6384. Published April 10, 17, 24, May 1, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 613650

The following person(s) doing business as: Element Heating and Air, 6114 La Salle Ave #310, Oakland, CA 94611 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Element Home Solutions Inc, 6114 La Salle Ave #310, Oakland, CA 94611. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 4/2/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Eitan Uzan, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 3, 2025. Expires April 2, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6385. Published April 10, 17, 24, May 1, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 613341

The following person(s) doing business as: Star Protection Agency California, 7901 Oakport ST, STE 2000, Oakland, CA 94621 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Spaca,

Inc, 7901 Oakport ST, STE 2000, Oakland, CA 94621. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 3/19/2015. Signature of Registrant/s/: Nicole Alameda, CFO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 21, 2025. Expires March 20, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6386. Published April 10, 17, 24, May 1, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 613368

The following person(s) doing business as: California Fence Builder, 5340 Brisa ST, Suite B, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Zeluaggio, Inc, 5340 Brisa ST, Suite B, Livermore, CA 94450. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 3/05/25. Signature of Registrant/s/: Luciano Zeluaggio, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 1, 2025. Expires March 31, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6387. Published April 10, 17, 24, May 1, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 613682

The following person(s) doing business as: Photoseence Photography, 221 Isleton Avenue, Oakland, CA 94603 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Trevor Gerstenberg, 221 Isleton Avenue, Oakland, CA 94603. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 3/10/25. Signature of Registrant/s/: Trevor Gerstenberg, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 4, 2025. Expires April 3, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6390. Published April 17, 24, May 1, 8, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 613724

The following person(s) doing business as: Little Learners, 1482 Rhoddendron Dr, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Nupura Gaidhani, 1482 Rhoddendron Dr, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Nupura Gaidhani, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 7, 2025. Expires April 6, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6391. Published April 17, 24, May 1, 8, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 613619

The following person(s) doing business as: Bernies Bakery, 2250 Kilowatt Way, Unit 410, Fremont, CA 94539 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Congyi Wang, 2250 Kilowatt Way, Unit 410, Fremont, CA 94539. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 3/3/25. Signature of Registrant/s/: Congyi Wang, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 2, 2025. Expires April 1, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6392. Published April 17, 24, May 1, 8, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 613753

The following person(s) doing business as: Stavert Legacy, 1550 Elm St, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Ryan Stavert, 1550 Elm St, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Ryan Stavert, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 8, 2025. Expires April 7, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6393. Published April 17, 24, May 1, 8, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 613766

The following person(s) doing business as: Star Protection Agency California, 7901 Oakport ST, STE 2000, Oakland, CA 94621 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Spaca,

The following person(s) doing business as: Stitch & Revel, 474 Lindbergh Ave, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Sanjani Ramkissoon, 474 Lindbergh Ave, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Sanjani Ramkissoon, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 9, 2025. Expires April 8, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6394. Published April 17, 24, May 1, 8, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 613390

The following person(s) doing business as: Supreme Glass Company, 1661 20th Street #5, Oakland, CA 94607 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Ba Glazing Inc., 1661 20th Street #5, Oakland, CA 94607. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Gregory Scharlemann, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 24, 2025. Expires March 23, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6395. Published April 24, May 1, 8, 15, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 613759

The following person(s) doing business as: Aperture Design, 37317 Gosling TER, Fremont, CA 94536 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Tsai Ling Teng, 37317 Gosling Ter, Fremont, CA 94536. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Tai Ling Teng, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 9, 2025. Expires April 8, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6396. Published April 24, May 1, 8, 15, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 613720

The following person(s) doing business as: Sabre Partners, 5327 College Avenue, Oakland, CA 94618 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Sabre Foods International Inc., 5327 College Avenue, Oakland, CA 94618. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: January 1, 2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: John M. Marcone, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 7, 2025. Expires April 6, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6397. Published April 24, May 1, 8, 15, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 613875

The following person(s) doing business as: Myeongdong Ja Jang, 2725 Stoneridge #104, Pleasanton, CA 94588 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Denim Jijiang, Inc., 2106 Harvest Moon Ln, San Ramon, CA 94582. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 3/31/25. Signature of Registrant/s/: Young Do Park, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 24, 2025. Expires March 23, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6398. Published April 24, May 1, 8, 15, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 613292

The following person(s) doing business as: Pijja Paradise, 922 Larkspur Dr. Ste A1, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Delicious Eatery LLC, 5675 Arlene Way, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 3/19/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Pavesh Kumar Bansal, Principal. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on

March 20, 2025. Expires March 19, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6399. Published April 24, May 1, 8, 15, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 613927

The following person(s) doing business as: Iron Horse Real Estate, 550 Main Street, Pleasanton, CA 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Starkey Holdings Inc., 550 Main Street, Pleasanton, CA 94566. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 3/15/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Erica Starkey, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 16, 2025. Expires March 15, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6400. Published April 24, May 1, 8, 15, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 613310

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. GU Energy Labs; 2. Sports Street Marketing, 1609 4th ST, Berkeley, CA 94710 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Advanced Food Concepts Incorporated, 1609 4th ST, Berkeley, CA 94710. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 1. 3/24/1994; 2. 11/24/2009. Signature of Registrant/s/: Emily Strayer, Secretary. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 20, 2025. Expires March 19, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6401. Published April 24, May 1, 8, 15, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 613850

The following person(s) doing business as: A1 Home Health Services, 4049 First Street, Suite# 229, Livermore, CA 94551-5363 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): A1 Home Health Services, 4049 First Street, Suite# 229, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 4/1/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Josekutty Jose, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 14, 2025. Expires April 13, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6402. Published April 24, May 1, 8, 15, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 613843

The following person(s) doing business as: Olive Oil Pantry #2, 2053 1st Street, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Aok Investments Corp, 1040 Lorna Way, Tracy, CA 95376. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 6/15/2015. Signature of Registrant/s/: Arnold O. Kaufman, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 14, 2025. Expires April 13, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6403. Published April 24, May 1, 8, 15, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 613541

The following person(s) doing business as: Leo "The Lion" Music & Entertainment, 2150 Portia Ave Suite D-138, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Leo Brown, 2150 Portia Ave, Suite D-138, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 9/28/2015. Signature of Registrant/s/: Leo Brown, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 31, 2025. Expires March 30, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6404. Published April 24, May 1, 8, 15, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 613534

The following person(s) doing business as: Tero's Remodelation's, 2032 96th Ave, Oakland, CA 94603 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Alejandro Barreto, 2032 96th Ave, Oakland, CA 94603. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Alejandro Barreto, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 24, May 1, 8, 15, 2025.

business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Alejandro Barreto, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 31, 2025. Expires March 30, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6405. Published April 24, May 1, 8, 15, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 613975

The following person(s) doing business as: Livermore Live Scan, 4047 First Street, Suite 208, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Akal Vision LLC, 3055 Bernard Avenue, San Ramon, CA 94583. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Maninder Singh, Managin Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 17, 2025. Expires April 16, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6406. Published April 24, May 1, 8, 15, 2025.

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME ORIGINAL FILE NO. 584985

The person(s) listed below have abandoned the use of the following fictitious business name(s). Livermore Live Scan, 4047 First Street, Suite 708, Livermore, CA 94551. Registered by the following owner(s): Readymade Services LLC, 4047 First Street, Suite 208, Livermore, CA 94551. The fictitious business name statement was filed on 12/13/2021 in the County of Alameda. This business was conducted by a Limited Liability Company. Signature of Registrants: /s/ John Dan McDowell, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 17, 2025. The Independent, Legal No. 6407. Published April 24, May 1, 8, 15, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 614099

The following person(s) doing business as: Happy Car Spa, 3930 Kaiser Rd, Dublin, CA 94568 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Happy Car Spa Inc., 4200 John Monago CT, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Inder Dosanjh, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 23, 2025. Expires April 22, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6408. Published May 1, 8, 15, 22, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 614062

The following person(s) doing business as: GoGo Refresh, 74 W Neal Street #203, Pleasanton, CA 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): VendCentral Inc., PO Box 1916, Pleasanton, CA 94566. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Neil Swindale, CEO/President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 22, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 614015

The following person(s) doing business as: Octane Autohaus, 3695 Stevenson Blvd, C125, Fremont, CA 94538 is hereby

Expires April 21, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6409. Published May 1, 8, 15, 22, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 613434

The following person(s) doing business as: The Beacon Apartments, 3510 Beacon Ave, Fremont, CA 94538 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Oak Beacon 2022, LLC, 2398 E. Camelback Road, Suite 200, Phoenix, AZ 85016. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 6/26/2024. Signature of Registrant/s/: Todd Darling, Chief Operating Officer. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 25, 2025. Expires Mmarch 24, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6410. Published May 1, 8, 15, 22, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 614044

The following person(s) doing business as: La Fantacia Catering, 4322 Valley Ave, Apt A, Pleasanton, CA 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): La Fantacia LLC, 4322 Valley Ave, Apt A, Pleasanton, CA 94566. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 4/21/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Lydia Leitao E. Fernandes, Manager. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 21, 2025. Expires April 20, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6411. Published May 1, 8, 15, 22, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 614017

The following person(s) doing business as: EST Pools, 3947 Princeton Way, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Gustavo Estrada, 3947 Princeton Way, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 7/1/2024. Signature of Registrant/s/: Gustavo Estrada, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 18, 2025. Expires April 17, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6412. Published May 1, 8, 15, 22, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 613841

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Fox Chiropractic; 2. Terisa T. Fox, DC, 2815 East Ave, Suite B, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): T. Fox Chiropractic, Inc., 2815 East Ave, Suite B, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 11/14/2019. Signature of Registrant/s/: Terisa T. Fox, DC, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 14, 2025. Expires April 13, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6413. Published May 1, 8, 15, 22, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 614015

The following person(s) doing business as: Octane Autohaus, 3695 Stevenson Blvd, C125, Fremont, CA 94538 is hereby

by registered by the following owner(s): Salsabil LLC, 3695 Stevenson Blvd, C125, Fremont, CA 94538. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Kamran Chaudhry, Officer. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 18, 2025. Expires April 17, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6414. Published May 1, 8, 15, 22, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 613996

The following person(s) doing business as: Elite Armory, 3636 Castro Valley Blvd #1, Castro Valley, CA 94546 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Best Net Sale, Inc., 3636 Castro Valley Blvd #1, Castro Valley, CA 94546. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 1/1/2009. Signature of Registrant/s/: Gabriel Casillas, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 18, 2025. Expires April 17, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6415. Published May 1, 8, 15, 22, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 614001

The following person(s) doing business as: Alera Infotech, 3147 Greenwood Dr, Fremont, CA 94536 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Buydeepdiscount.com LLC, 3147 Greenwood Dr, Fremont, CA 94536. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 4/17/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Mahesh Palan, Principal. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 18, 2025. Expires April 17, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6416. Published May 1, 8, 15, 22, 2025.

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Women in Business Gather for Second Annual Symposium

Female Leaders Reconvene for Another Opportunity to Share Wisdom, Humor, Work and Life Experiences

By Christina Cavallaro

A powerhouse group of women in business met for a second consecutive year last week at the Bankhead Theater for a Women in Business Symposium.

Conversations touched on everything from gender equality and barriers to entry, to the roles of family, community, positivity, self-confidence and adaptability in the lives of today's businesswomen.

New to the symposium was a series of four breakout sessions organized by sector: Science Centric, Charitable Efforts, Local Government Connections and Health and Wellness. Attendees entered sections that aligned with their individual careers for focused discussions before reconvening for the moderated panel.

A common theme was

the value and importance of women encouraging other women in business to sometimes follow paths not always immediately apparent — and the power of that kind of mentorship in positively impacting career decisions and trajectories.

One of the breakout speakers, City of Dublin Deputy City Manager Hazel L. Wetherford, shared an early career defining moment that led to a 20-year mentorship and set her on a desired path while she was living and working in Brentwood.

"The city manager at that time in Brentwood was a Caucasian female who really tapped me on the shoulder," Wetherford said. "Looking back now, I'm like, wow, how progressive she was," because this is a conversation that has come up in the last few years

with all the DEI (diversity, equality and inclusion) language that's been discussed. But she really saw something in me that sometimes we don't see in ourselves. And said to me, 'There are not a lot of women in city management, let alone a lot of women of color. And I see something in you.'"

Breakout speaker Pamela Ott, assistant city manager for the City of Pleasanton, said she benefitted from multiple mentors.

"I have had a whole smattering who have come and gone throughout my career, but who at moments have said, 'Hey, let's have a conversation here because I see something you might be able to apply differently,' or simply, 'I believe in you,'" Ott said.

The event was present-

ed by the Livermore Valley Chamber of Commerce in collaboration with Innovation Tri-Valley, Tri-Valley Nonprofit Alliance and Visit Tri-Valley.

The main panelists were Wetherford, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory Director Kim Budil, City-Serve of the Tri-Valley CEO Christine Beitsch-Bahmani and Pamela Galley, Kaiser Permanente's senior vice president/area manager for the Diablo Service Area.

The women wasted no time diving into challenging territory.

Robin Fahr, vice president of marketing and communications at Visit Tri-Valley, moderated the panel and asked what some of the biggest challenges had been and how the group had navigated them.

"For me, it was becoming confident," Budil shared. "It took me time to articulate what I thought I had to offer to the (science) environment. I grew up in science in a very difficult and intensely competitive environment. So, just really getting used to the idea of being authentic, and prepared to say, 'I don't know,' and knowing that's not a referendum on my abilities. That was one of the hardest parts of building my career."

Fahr asked the women what personal obstacles they'd needed to overcome.

Galley, like Budil, shared her struggles with confidence, but for different reasons. She was born to a

teenage mother and grew up without much money.

"When you're poor, you kind of want to be invisible," Galley said. "You don't want to be seen. You don't want to be seen for being dirty or having free lunch again. And so, getting into a leadership position... I never saw myself that way. It took other people seeing that in me and bringing that out of me."

Beitsch-Bahmani faced a personal tragedy when she was in her late 20s. Her fiancé died two months before their scheduled wedding in 1998.

"Everything comes from that sense of purpose and how do I live a life of meaning?" she said. "How do I help other people get to a place of stability and joy?"

Fahr pointed out that Beitsch-Bahmani seemed to be a naturally optimistic person.

"My cup is full. I think that's a big part of who I am," Beitsch-Bahmani replied.

"I don't think you can be a leader if you can't be optimistic," Budil added. "It's too hard."

Wetherford agreed. "It's a choice. It really is. There's so much negativity in the world. Every morning, I wake up and make a choice to be positive."

The women also agreed on the notion of paying it forward to others.

"For my career, but for me and my own personal background, it's important for me to now be in a position to give back to others," Galley said. "I was one of the people

that got the free lunch and the food, and my family got some of the community benefits. So that's really important."

Wetherford drew applause from the audience with her ensuing comment.

"Because someone's pouring into me, I'm pouring into others," she said. "So, as I continue to grow, someone's pulling me up, and I'm also pulling up another young woman with me. I really believe in building each other up instead of tearing each other down."

Budil offered a fitting conclusion.

"Some combination of sense of purpose, of what you care about, what really gets you out of bed in the morning and keeps you energized about your career is really important," she said. "But the ability to be open to new ideas, new experiences, new opportunities, things that you wouldn't have planned for yourself is just, I think, by far the most interesting part of a career."



Livermore Valley Chamber of Commerce CEO and President Sherri Souza, far right, hosted the second annual Women in Business Symposium at the Bankhead Theater on April 24 in collaboration with, left to right, Visit Tri-Valley President and CEO Tracy Farhad, Innovation Tri-Valley CEO Katie Marcel and Tri-Valley Nonprofit Alliance CEO and President Kathy Young. (Photo courtesy of Meli Miller Photography)

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Faith, Hard Work and Purpose Have Been a Livermore Resident's Key to 100 Years of Life

By Christina Cavallaro

Edward "Reese" Peck has lived in Livermore since 1963 but has lived on the planet since 1925.

Peck, set to turn 100 years old on Monday, May 5, kicked off celebrations with an April 26 family gathering at Terra Mia Italian restaurant that included nearly all of his three children, six grandchildren and 13 great grandchildren. Liver-

more a few years before he passed away. That's the hard part."

Peck has found the downside to reaching age 100 is outliving friends.

Only just recently did a fall slow him down a bit and put a pause on his fishing outings.

"He fell and broke his hip," Peck's neighbor, Betsy Dane, said. "But he doesn't quit. He's very special."

Dane said that Peck, who purchased his home in 1964,

his son explained. "This was way before AMPM Mini Market and what you see today, and the city just gave him hell. 'How could you put food where you also pump gas?'"

He eventually got it done, and later also bought the AMPM Mini Market near the post office on South Livermore Avenue.

"I think that when I counted last, he started about five businesses in town," his son said.

"He was just a hard-working entrepreneur. He's always had something that's driven him. His work ethic is just amazing."

At one point, Peck's wife, Ann, walked into the living room and said to her husband, "You look good today, honey. A man with a purpose." The couple have a 14-year age difference and met at Trinity Church in Livermore 23 years ago.

Purpose, it seems, has always been a driving force in Peck's life, along with his deep sense of faith and religion.

"Wherever I went, whether it was church, I got something," Peck said. "I saw where something lacked and so I said, 'I can help with that.' That's just the way it goes all through my life, I think."

"There's my other thing, the cross on the hill," continued Peck, referring to the "Jesus Saves" sign that for the past two decades has greeted Interstate 580 commuters heading east toward the Altamont Pass.

Up until last July, when the City of Livermore decided not to purchase through the open-space program the privately owned property upon which the cross sits, it was also illuminated at night. Well into his mid-80s, Peck was still driving up to that hill in his truck to turn on the generator at night and rototill weeds in the spring.

"I don't know why He (God) has given me these extra years that nobody else has. I've gotten years and years instead of days," Peck said.

He did have an inkling that he might live longer than most, though.

"My grandfather on my mother's side lived to 101," Peck said. "And he was a very hard worker. He worked on a truck with gravel and cement bags. So, I said, 'Yeah, I got a chance,' but I didn't live

differently. I didn't dwell on it. It just happened."

His son shared a story. "It cracked me up. When he was 90, he had a painful ankle replaced and asked the doctor, 'So how many years should I get out of this, doc?' The doctor said, 'Well, you can get five or 10 or 15.' My dad said, 'Unless you're gonna tell me I'm getting 15 years out of this, I'm not gonna let you do it because that's how long I'm gonna live.'"

As so much in the Tri-Valley has changed around him, Peck said, "People inside are the same. That doesn't change." Especially when they are faced with the power of faith. "When you get them away from some of the things that they're used to, invite them up to the cross and pull some weeds, they are different people."

Things, too, are changing for Peck. About two years ago, he started losing his balance.

"That just slowly crept up on me. Now that's going to be what I've got to look forward to," he said, pointing to a walker.

"My wife says, 'Don't you dare get that ladder out.' I'd be up on the roof doing something or climbing on the fence. Reality is setting in."

"Give me stuff to be useful. That's all I want right now."



Longtime Livermore resident and businessman Reese Peck is set to celebrate his 100th birthday on Monday, May 5. (Photo — Leah Silveira)

more Mayor John Marchand stopped by to honor Peck with a Proclamation from the city.

Even before meeting the almost-centenarian, while standing on the porch entrance of his home, the enduring "Peck sense of humor," a sarcastic, dry wit as described by his middle child, son Stephen, was present. An official-looking historic brass plate hung near the screen door and read: "On this site in 1897 nothing happened."

"He still has that (humor)," his son said. The porch itself was built entirely by Peck when he was about 85.

Humor, as well as physical activity, have been constants in Peck's life. He's been an avid fisherman and recreational sailor at Lake Del Valle weekly for years, along with his friend Bob Jesse.

According to Peck's son, the two men like to joke that they've caught every fish in those waters at least once.

"He's 65 or something like that," the elder Peck said about his fishing buddy, Jesse. "I went fishing with his father for

is one of the last original residents of their close-knit cul-de-sac. The residents are throwing him a block party on Saturday, May 3, before his actual birthday.

Peck grew up in Salinas and moved to the Tri-Valley after time spent in the United States Navy during World War II. He served on the USS Tunica, an auxiliary-fleet tugboat, in the South Pacific.

As a resident of Livermore, he owned and operated several businesses in town, perhaps most notably the Sunland Gas Station at the corner of First Street and Holmes Street. That business venture caught the attention of one of The Independent's founding photographers, Bill Owens, who took several feature photos of Peck in the late 1960s when his entrepreneurial aspirations got him into some hot water with the city.

"He had this idea that he could take this gas station that used to just pump gas and change oil, and he could take the service bays and make a convenience store out of it,"

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