



Dancers perform a traditional routine at the 8th Annual Tri-Valley Asian Heritage Celebration on Saturday, May 9. The event, held at the Dublin High School Center for Performing Arts & Education, was hosted by Asian Pacific Islander American Public Affairs Association to honor AAPI Heritage Month and Mental Health Awareness Month through a diverse showcase of music and dance. (Photo — Jacob Clouser)

The New Taste of Tradition at Wente Vineyards Moves Decidedly Modern

Fifth-Generation Leadership Pairs Legacy Wines with Bold Culinary Experiences

By Christina Cavallaro

LIVERMORE — A meeting with fifth-generation winemaker Aly Wente, on a Friday afternoon last month had all the ease of a visit with a good friend and the fun of a mini-getaway. The occasion was a sneak peek at the estate's new food and wine offerings.

Soft music flowed and light streamed through the windows of the airy former site of the celebrated restaurant at Wente Vineyards at 5050 Arroyo Road. The restaurant closed in March 2019 after 33 years of operation. The space has since undergone a full transformation into the current Wente Vineyards Tasting Lounge, which will release new food and

wine experiences this summer.

"We're excited about bringing food back," Wente said. "We have had it at this property on and off since we reopened it as a tasting room in June 2019."

Their latest culinary envisioning pivots away from a traditional dining model, while still celebrating the winery's 140-year-old history with a new tasting flight called "Five Generations of Wente."

"We talk about each generation through a glass and then we'll have the food pairing that will go with it," Wente said. The format presented the opportunity for Wente to share details of her family's history with sauvignon blanc, the first wine poured in the flight. Chief Revenue Officer for the family

winery, she is the daughter of Phil Wente and works alongside her sisters Jordan and Niki, as well as her cousins Christine and Karl (who are the children of Eric Wente.)

"We have been farming the blocks that go into this sauvignon blanc since the 1800s," Wente said. "And Livermore Valley now has this historic reputation for sauvignon blanc, because our preservation and stewardship has created Clone 1." The clone is now the most widely planted in the world. "All of New Zealand is pretty much Clone 1, and that started just here down the road on our family's ranch."

On this day, executive chef Daniel Massie had paired the estate's Legacy sauvignon blanc

(See WENTE, page 7)

City Council Weighs Community Input On Livermore's 20-Year General Plan

Residents Question the Population Projections and UGB Language

By Vivien Wenneker

LIVERMORE — The Livermore City Council received an update on its Draft General Plan 2045 at a May 11 meeting, where it also heard community concerns over the future of Livermore's commercial space and urban growth boundary.

Shaped by extensive public engagement from 2021-2026, the Draft General Plan establishes a framework of goals, policies and implementation actions across state-required and locally significant topics, such as land use, housing, mobility, infrastructure and economic development.

The Draft General Plan 2045 updates the City's existing 2003 General Plan to reflect current community priorities, address key challenges, and guide decision-making over the next 20 years.

According to staff, The Draft Plan is crucial in establishing policy guidance toward facilitating and maintaining a balanced mix of economic activity and a variety of economic sectors throughout the community to support the fiscal vitality of Livermore.

"This was a huge effort — 748 pages, and it's a document that's going to continue to lead this community and direct progress for the next 25

years," said Mayor John Marchand. "I'm looking forward to it, because I think it's an excellent plan, there's flexibility in there, and it ultimately allows us to achieve our goals."

Following publication of the Draft General Plan in February, the city has undertaken outreach efforts to inform the community and collect feedback. The feedback has been gathered through General Plan Advisory Committee (GPAC) and Planning Commission meetings, outreach events, such as an open house in March and online surveys.

According to staff, the community input to date includes these top priorities: maintaining and protecting

(See COUNCIL, page 8)

Environmental Study Of Dublin FCI Site Sparks Fear of ICE

Advocates Warn of Health Risks at Former Prison

By Sanestina Hunter

DUBLIN — The Federal Bureau of Prisons released an environmental assessment Friday, May 1, for the former Federal Correctional Institution (FCI) Dublin, reigniting concerns the site could eventually be repurposed as an immigration detention facility.

FCI Dublin closed in 2024 following a sexual abuse scandal involving staff misconduct, inadequate oversight and unsafe living conditions.

The environmental assessment is part of a federal process to permanently deactivate and dispose of the property by transferring it to the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA), the federal agency that manages government property and oversees

transfers between agencies.

Under the Trump administration, the GSA created an "ICE Surge Team" to identify additional space for ICE operations as immigration detention needs to expand its capacity nationwide.

"The environmental assessment confirms what we already know and what Dublin survivors have been saying for years — the facility is unsafe and uninhabitable with serious infrastructure issues that would cost tens of millions of dollars to repair," Susan Beaty, an attorney with the California Collaborative for Immigrant Justice, said in an ICE Out of Dublin Coalition press statement.

According to Beaty, the 2,731-page environmental report identifies

(See FCI, page 7)



Aly Wente and Executive Chef Daniel Massie test new pairings at Wente Vineyards. The long-standing family winery is reimagining its hospitality experience by focusing on a wine bar concept that emphasizes the synergy between estate wines and curated small plates. (Photo — Jacob Clouser)

Pleasanton Police Alay License Plate Data Fears

Rigid Audits Confirm Strict State Compliance

By David Jen

PLEASANTON — Pleasanton Police Department (PPD) Chief Tracy Avelar addressed privacy concerns around city license-plate data last week, asserting that the city's automatic license-plate readers (ALPRs) adhere to state law, which prohibits data sharing with federal agencies.

"In fact, we are invisible; we do not exist in the system to any federal agency," Avelar said at the May 5 city council meeting. "They can't even see us."

ALPR systems capture photographs of vehicles coming into their view. Their software then reads the license plates in the photos and compares them against "hotlists" of previously flagged plates.

"Most of the time, we will have that picture of whatever car goes

into the system, and no one ever sees it, because you have to have a case, a reason — the license plate number or a description of a vehicle — in order to enter the system and look for the plate," Avelar said.

According to Flock Safety, one of the city's ALPR vendors, Pleasanton's 35 Flock cameras recorded more than 575,000 unique license plates over the 30 days ending May 7. Of these, about 0.36% matched a plate on either the California Stolen Vehicle System hotlist or the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children hotlist, triggering police department review.

During that same 30-day period, law enforcement agencies performed 337 searches on the data.

Last summer, CalMatters reported that sheriff's departments in San Diego and Orange counties,

(See POLICE, page 8)



Rohan Ramesh, a fourth-grader at Walnut Grove Elementary School in Pleasanton, earned a perfect score in the 2026 Math Kangaroo competition. Ramesh beat out more than 60,000 students nationwide to secure the top ranking. See story on page 12. (Photo courtesy of Ramesh Raman)

Art Instructor Retires at Valley Montessori

Longtime Educator Jill Thompson Hands the Reins to Successor John Iacono

By Rain Hepting

LIVERMORE — Jill Thompson plans to walk out of Montessori School on June 2 wearing a jumpsuit painted by her students — a colorful goodbye to a 12-year career.

The school on North Livermore Avenue lit up with color on May 7 and 8 as the community gathered for Thompson's final art show. The event celebrated her tenure as the school's art teacher before her upcoming retirement on the last day of

school.

"I had plans to only be here a few years and then move on, but I couldn't leave," Thompson said. "I kept pushing it on another year, another year... It's been really special."

As the VMS art teacher, Thompson has worked with students from grades 1 through 8 on a weekly basis to develop skills in design, drawing, painting, sculpting and other mediums. She favors multimedia projects which allow students to explore different mediums at their own

pace. "I like when the students have a lot of choice in what they want to do," Thompson said.

VMS hired Thompson's successor, John Iacono, in January to work alongside her for the remainder of the school year. Thompson said she loved seeing Iacono in action, and praised him for his knowledge and approach to teaching art.

Iacono has taught art for 25 years to people of varying ages, though he said he really enjoys "the younger crowd." He is closely involved with Livermore

(See TEACHER, page 12)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Classifieds	11	Debates Offer Final Views of Gubernatorial Candidates	2
Editorial	4	Pleasanton Hosts Community-Building Dinner on Main Street	3
Mailbox	4	The Independent Debuts New "Reader Snapshots" Section	8
Obituaries	9	Mitch Stephens' "MitchMash" Column	10
Sports	10	Tri-Valley Student Ranks No. 1 in National Math Competition	12

— VISIT WWW.INDEPENDENTNEWS.COM FOR DAILY ONLINE NEWS —

PET OF THE WEEK



CHEETOS

Cheetos is the dog that goes crunch, enjoying treats, toys, and tail wags. At six months old, this people-loving pup embraces all life has to offer. His adoption fee is waived, so come meet Cheetos at Valley Humane and bring home some snuggled joy. Call (925) 426-8656 or email info@valleyhumane.org to start the adoption process today. (Photo courtesy of Valley Humane)

Tri-Valley Voters Weigh Options as Frontrunners Becerra, Hilton and Steyer Dispute Over Insurance Crisis and AI

By Jessica Zimmer

TRI-VALLEY — The May 5 and 6 governor’s race debates offered viewers a chance to focus on the top four contenders, Democrats Xavier Becerra and Tom Steyer and Republicans Chad Bianco and Steve Hilton. The next and final debate before the June 2 primary will be on May 14, hosted by CBS News.

The latest poll, conducted between May 3-6 by the Mellman Group, a Washington D.C.-based campaign research company, placed Becerra and Hilton at 20%, Bianco at 14% and Steyer at 12%. Before last week’s debates, Becerra and Hilton were tied with 18% support,

according to a late April-early May poll conducted by EVITARUS Research for the California Democratic Party. An alternate poll by SurveyUSA had placed Hilton at 20% and Steyer at 18%.

Of the runners-up, the EVITARUS poll had Steyer at 12% and Bianco at 14%. The SurveyUSA poll had Bianco at 12% and Becerra at 10%. No other candidate had exceeded the 10% mark.

Both debates featured seven candidates, excluding Democrat Tony Thurmond, who did not qualify. The May 5 debate was televised on CNN, while the May 6 debate was televised on NBC4 and Telemundo 52. On May 5, candidates addressed topics ranging from

health care to AI. On May 6, candidates discussed a number of financial topics, including homelessness, California’s insurance crisis, and how to make the state more business-friendly.

In both debates, candidates traded numerous personal attacks. On May 5, Becerra questioned how much money Steyer had in offshore accounts. On May 6, Democrat Katie Porter remarked on Steyer’s billionaire status by saying, “You’re the richest person on this stage.” Also on that day, after Democrat Matt Mahan said the wealthy should pay for state costs in ways other than a tax on billionaires, Hilton asked, “Are you happy with that, Tom? How do you want

to be charged by Matt?”

On May 5, Hilton accused Becerra of being involved in a corruption case involving Sean McCluskie, Becerra’s former chief of staff. On May 6, Bianco indicated Porter needed to be lectured on how to be a mother. Porter met the remark with an icy glare.

Both debates were confusing. On May 5, moderators did not allow all candidates to answer the same questions. On May 6, candidates had more freedom to answer the same questions, yet they kept interrupting each other. Moderators repeatedly begged them to stop, calling the interruptions a disservice to voters.

One sign of a candidate’s strength in the debates was

visible signs of agreement, or actual echoing, by other candidates. For example, on May 6, when discussing homelessness, Hilton noted all candidates present agreed about the nature of the problem and how to solve it. On May 5, Becerra explained why undocumented immigrants should have access to health care; Porter nodded in agreement.

In contrast, on May 5, when Steyer discussed “having a tax or a fee on every calculation (an AI algorithm makes)” to protect and retrain human workers, Mahan looked down and away from Steyer.

As of the morning of May 11, Becerra’s campaign had raised roughly \$7.3 million in contributions. Bianco’s campaign raised a bit over \$5.62 million. Hilton’s campaign raised a bit over \$14.89 million, while Steyer’s raised \$308.92 million. The California governor’s race allows a maximum contribution of \$39,200 per individual or business. There is no maximum contribution for a political party. Becerra, Bianco, and Hilton received multiple donations from residents in Dublin, Livermore and Pleasanton. Some received repeat donations from the same individuals. Many donors for all three candidates are retired. Steyer has received no donations from donors in these cities.

A February poll by the Public Policy Institute of

California indicated the top three issues for Californians are the cost of living and inflation (32% of survey respondents), housing costs and availability (11%) and the state budget and deficit (10%). Voters under 35, renters and those with incomes under \$40,000 were more likely to state that the candidates’ positions on affordability and the cost of living were very important to them. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics’ latest Consumer Price Index for the San Francisco Area, which includes Oakland and Hayward, was released March 11. It showed that in January and February, prices for food at home (grocery store purchases), food away from home (restaurant and vending purchases), and prices for energy, gasoline, apparel and shelter all increased.

Ballots for the June 2 primary are currently or will soon be available. County elections officials began mailing ballots on May 4. Secure ballot drop-off locations opened May 5. Vote centers will open for early in-person voting on May 23 for Voter’s Choice Act participating counties, a list that includes Alameda County. The top two candidates from the June 2 primary will advance to the ballot for the November 2026 election.

Candidate election profiles will be shared next week.



The Rotarian Foundation of Livermore joins with 2026 grant recipients and sponsors at Del Valle Winery to celebrate \$232,000 in funding for local youth, senior, and veteran programs. (Photo courtesy of RFL and Irving Stowers)

The Rotarian Foundation of Livermore Has Announced Its Community Grants

LIVERMORE — The Rotarian Foundation of Livermore (RFL) announced recently that it has awarded more than \$232,000 to 26 organizations that support youth, seniors, veterans and underserved members of the Livermore community.

Jeannette Albiez, who chairs the foundation’s Community Grant Program, said the individual awards, up to \$10,000 each,

represent “the dedication, creativity and passion of all who are working every day to improve our community.”

Organizations receiving grants for 2026 included Agape Villages, Ambassadors of Compassion, Assistance League of Amador Valley, Axis Community Health, Culinary Angels, Down Syndrome Connection of the Bay Area,

Exceptional Needs Network, Fertile GroundWorks, Goodness Village, HIVELEY, Little Miracles, Livermore Area Recreation & Park District Foundation, Livermore Fusion TOPSoccer, Monthly Miracles, Open Heart Kitchen, Partners for Change, Paws in Need, Sleep in Heavenly Peace, Sunflower Hill, Teen Esteem, Tri-Valley Haven, Tri-Valley Conservancy,

Tri-Valley REACH and the Wiesner Memorial Senior Fund.

In addition, RFL joined with the Livermore Valley Education Foundation to purchase graphing calculators for the Livermore High School Math Department and to send students from the Marilyn Avenue STEAM Academy to Las Positas College Summer Camp.

The Hu Foundation Will Host Presentation On Behavioral Activation for Depression

PLEASANTON — Christopher Martel, director of the Psychological Services Center at the University of Massachusetts, will present a free, online seminar on “Behavioral Activation: A Straightforward Treatment for Depression” at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 26.

The Zoom-based seminar is being sponsored

by the Pleasanton-based Alan Hu Foundation and will include 15 minutes for questions following the presentation.

Martel’s presentation will cover the basics of how behavioral activation works in treating depression and how it fits with other psychotherapies for depression and other disorders.

Martel, who has a has a doctorate in clinical and school psychology from Hofstra University, is co-author of several textbooks on behavioral activation. His latest book, “Living Well with Depression: Practical Strategies for Improving Your Daily Life,” is part of the Guilford Living Well Series

and will be available this summer.

The webinar, with financial support from the Tri-Valley Nonprofit Alliance, will include simultaneous Spanish and Chinese interpretation.

To RSVP, go to alanhu-foundation.org/lecture-series. The deadline to register is Monday, May 25.

Concannon Vineyard to Hold Memorial Event Honoring the Tri-Valley’s First Responders

LIVERMORE — Concannon Vineyard will hold a Memorial Appreciation Day from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday, May 24, to honor the first responders who protect and serve the region.

The free event will take place on the lawn of the historic vineyard founded by Irish immigrant James Concannon in 1883.

The 143-year-old vineyard, at 4590 Tesla Road, is currently owned by Tom Lemmons, a decorated Army aviator who flew combat missions in Iraq, Afghanistan and Africa.

“Service stays with

you,” Lemmons said, explaining why the vineyard is hosting what he expects to become an annual event. “After my time in the Army, it’s important to me to continue supporting the people who serve our community every day. This event is a small way for us to say thank you to the police officers, firefighters and first responders who protect Livermore and to the community that stands behind them.”

Livermore Mayor John Marchand, Police Chief Jeremy Young and Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Chief Aaron Lacey are

expected to address the crowd.

The community gathering will also include a helicopter landing at 1 p.m., Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department trucks to explore, the Pacific Drip Kitchen and other food vendors, and soft-serve treats from Meadowlark Dairy, which recently opened a store in downtown Livermore.

Concannon wines will be available for purchase by the glass or bottle, and entertainment will be provided by deejay Ryan Schaff.

The vineyard is encour-

aging guests to bring blankets or low beach chairs to relax on the lawn. Reservations are not required.

Nonprofit Little Miracles Helps Tri-Valley Families

TRI-VALLEY — Little Miracles, a Pleasanton-based nonprofit organization that provides essential baby items for Tri-Valley families in need, has launched a “Miracles for Moms” fundraising campaign, with the Community Health and Education Foundation (CHEF) providing a 50% match for up to \$50,000 in donations this month.

“Every day, we see firsthand how quickly families can fall behind when it comes to basic needs for their children,” said Little Miracles CEO and co-founder Melissa Dantzig. “This campaign allows the community to respond in a meaningful and immediate way.”

Little Miracles said the cost of raising a child in

the Bay Area now exceeds \$40,000 a year, and many families are unable to afford such essentials as diapers, baby formula and car seats.

The nonprofit said it hopes to aid more than 600 families this year.

Donations can be made online at chefgivingcommunity.org/miraclesformoms.

REED

PLUMBING INC.

(925)-371-5671

Commitment
Honesty &
Integrity

Sold above list price!

5359 Charlotte Way \$1,298,000
4bed 2.5 bath 2247 sq ft

Another happy seller, sold above list!

Linda Diaz Futral
Broker/Realtor

925.980.3561
linda@lindafutral.com
www.lindafutral.com
License #0257605

Marchand Will Address Livermore Chamber of Commerce This Month

LIVERMORE — The Livermore Valley Chamber of Commerce (LVCC) will host a Wine Country Luncheon this month, with Livermore Mayor John Marchand delivering a State of the City address.

“Wine Country Luncheons are always a big hit,”

said LVCC President Sherri Souza, adding that the annual gathering “is a terrific way to stay informed with what is going on in the business community and to network with other business leaders.”

The luncheon will be held at the Robert Livermore

Community Center, 4444 East Ave., on Thursday, May 28, starting at 11:30 a.m.

Tickets to the luncheon are \$90 for LVCC members and \$100 for nonmembers.

Tickets are available online at livermorechamber.org/events.



Thursday, April 30, 2026, the Livermore Valley Chamber of Commerce celebrated the grand reopening of Interro Real Estate Services with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. Owner Rishi Bakshi and Vice President Robin Roberts, along with their 35 real estate agents, marked the occasion and showcased their newly remodeled, modern space. The updated office is designed to better host events and provide easier access for clients and agents. Interro Real Estate Services is ready to assist with buying, selling, and investing in real estate, and looks forward to continuing to serve the Livermore and Tri-Valley community. Call or visit their office today!

Livermore Valley
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

925-305-3595 • 187 S. J St., Downtown Livermore

‘Longest Table’ Looks to Unite Pleasanton Residents

By David Jen

PLEASANTON — Next month, 1,000 residents will gather in the middle of Main Street and sit down at one long table for dinner together.

Hosted by community-building initiative Pleasanton Connects, Pleasanton Downtown Association and Workday Foundation, the sold-out June 6 event, called the Longest Table, seeks to bring neighbors together to make new friends and strengthen the city’s social fabric.

“(Pleasanton Connects) is getting ready to launch their community action plan, which will be imple-

mented over the next year,” said Taranom Kazempour, Workday Foundation representative. “We wanted to create an opportunity for Pleasanton residents to come together in a fun and joyful way, and it also gives us the opportunity to share that action plan with the community to get their feedback and show them how they can get involved.”

Pleasanton Connects began last fall as a partnership between Workday Foundation, the City of Pleasanton and TogetherUp Institute to build a civic hub within the city.

“A civic hub is a structured, cross-sector network where residents, community

organizations, and institutional and informal leaders build relationships, develop civic skills and work together to solve local challenges,” said TogetherUp’s Christina Mathews. “Unlike one-time programs or dialogues, TogetherUp’s civic hubs function as lasting civic infrastructure — intentionally designed to strengthen belonging, trust, collaboration, and shared decision-making across a community.”

The 28-member Pleasanton Connects group meets monthly and will host the Longest Table as its first major public event.

“Last summer, Pleasanton Connects kicked off a community-wide listening tour

to understand how our community builds connections,” according to the group’s website. “Let’s start this summer by gathering together, meeting our neighbors, making new friends, and celebrating our community.”

The majority of Pleasanton residents want to build more local relationships, but only 49% of respondents reported having three or more of their closest ties in the city, according to the listening-tour results. The tour included 39 interviews and 1,064 survey responses.

“Many residents want more connection but don’t know how to get started,” Kazempour said. “People are more likely to participate

when they feel personally invited, welcomed and represented.”

While it identified long-time residents, parents and civic-group members as the most connected within the city, newcomers, renters, residents of color, LGBTQ+ residents and seniors ranked lower. About 70% of newcomers wanted more relationships compared to 66% of immigrants and 56% overall.

At the same time, politics has created barriers within the city, with only 28% of residents saying they connect often across partisan identity and 15% expressing interest in cross-political connection. Social media, with its ability to erode trust and encourage polarization, adds to the challenges. Pleasanton Connects also highlighted social silos — interaction gaps across groups — as a challenge heard throughout the tour.

In response, the group envisions “intentional, equitable and celebrated” connections by building on the spaces where residents already feel included: the

library, Augustin Bernal Community Park, Valley Community Church and the farmer’s market. Through events at these places, the group hopes to start new cross-sector collaborations and open up opportunities for civic participation.

“While events are an important part of the work, the effort also focuses on coordination and systems-level change, including exploring prosocial technology that helps residents discover events, connect with one another and access support more easily,” Kazempour said, adding that the upcoming action plan will share a “year-round ecosystem of connection.”



The Cantabella Children’s Chorus will present its spring concert, “Mise En Place!” at Asbury United Methodist Church, 4743 East Ave., on Saturday, May 16. Students in kindergarten through fifth grade will perform at 1 p.m., followed by students in sixth grade through high school at 4 p.m. Featured works will include “Shenandoah” arranged by James Erb, “By Night,” a choral arrangement by Elaine Hagenberg of Harriet Prescott’s 1897 poem, and “Baba Yetu,” the hit theme to the 2005 video game Civilization IV composed by Christopher Tin. The concert will conclude with a community sing-along. Tickets are \$28 and are available at the door or online at cantabella.org/concert. Children 18 and under are free. (Photo courtesy of the Cantabella Children’s Chorus)

LAA to Host Livermore Plein Air Festival

LIVERMORE — The Livermore Art Association (LAA) is hosting the 7th annual Paint Livermore Plein Air Art Festival through Sunday, May 17, as part of the city’s 150th anniversary celebration.

LAA said the event is designed to capture the beauty of Livermore landscapes and other outdoor scenes, including vineyards, historic sites, parks and open space, while commemorating the city’s heritage through the eyes of

working artists.

Unlike studio painting, plein air artists paint their subjects while observing them directly, under natural lighting and changing conditions.

The festival will culmi-

nate in a free public art show, sale and awards reception at the Bankhead Theater from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. on May 17.

Selected works will also be on display at the Robert Livermore Community Center in June.

ARROYO CELLARS

Tasting Room Open:

Saturday: 12 - 5pm,
Sunday: 12 - 5pm,
or by appointment

2270 Research Drive,
Livermore
(925) 292-9157

Edward Jones

edwardjones.com | Member SIPC

Compare our CD rates

Bank-issued, FDIC-insured

3.90% APY	3.90% APY	3.95% APY
3 Month	6 Month	1 Year

Call or visit your local financial advisor today.



Gabriel E. Wright, AAMS®
Financial Advisor
2300 First Street, Suite 216
Livermore, CA 94550
925-453-2267

Annual Percentage Yield (APY) effective 05/08/2026. CDs offered by Edward Jones are bank-issued and FDIC-insured up to \$250,000 (principal and interest accrued but not yet paid) per depositor, per insured depository institution, for each account ownership category. Please visit www.fdic.gov or contact your financial advisor for additional information. Subject to availability and price change. CD values are subject to interest rate risk such that when interest rates rise, the prices of CDs can decrease. If CDs are sold prior to maturity, the investor can lose principal value. FDIC insurance does not cover losses in market value. Early withdrawal may not be permitted. Yields quoted are net of all commissions. CDs require the distribution of interest and do not allow interest to compound. CDs offered through Edward Jones are issued by banks and thrifts nationwide. All CDs sold by Edward Jones are registered with the Depository Trust Corp. (DTC).

EFA-21032-A-E-AD © 2026 EDWARD D. JONES & CO., L.P. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.



Enjoy the poetry of a
**THOUGHTFULLY
COMPOSED LIFE.**

There’s a certain beauty in living where every detail feels intentional. At The Whitford, elegant surroundings, curated experiences, and attentive service come together to create days that feel unhurried, connections that feel genuine, and a life that feels exceptional.

Don’t miss the opportunity to be among the first to experience this elevated approach to retirement living. The Whitford is taking shape now and will open later this year.

Enjoy a more artful way of living.
Only at The Whitford.
The-Whitford.com | 925.230.3059

THE WHITFORD
Inspired Senior Living

5751 Arnold Road | Dublin, CA 94568

SENIOR LIVING ■ ASSISTED LIVING ■ MEMORY CARE

MANAGED BY MOMENTUM SENIOR LIVING



EDITORIAL

Lehrman, Palmer, Badar and Burnham for Zone 7

Tri-Valley voters will choose four candidates in June for the Zone 7 Water Agency Board of Directors. The terms for current Directors Dawn Benson, Catherine Brown, Dennis Gams and Sarah Palmer expire on June 30. Of these, only Palmer is seeking re-election.

The directors, who serve four-year terms, work at the intersection of technical knowledge, regional politics and community sentiment. Readily available drinking water can never be taken for granted in California. New climate patterns are making last-century infrastructure more and more dated. And just as new industries emerge, so will new groundwater contaminants.

The Independent therefore endorses Jim Lehrman, Palmer,

Seema Badar and Alan Burnham for the Zone 7 board.

Lehrman, a Pleasanton resident, has 40 years of experience as a geologist and hydrogeologist. He will likely continue to share his concerns around new groundwater wells planned in west Pleasanton when on the Zone 7 board. Regardless of whether the project will supply clean water as predicted, Lehrman is largely responsible for a discourse that has benefited the community. f. Although the establishment disagreed with him, he was proven to be correct on the inability of an underground barrier to prevent the dangerous PFAS chemical from moving west to the area where new wells are proposed. We look forward to more viewpoints as the agency works to evaluate future projects.

Palmer's actions, among other accomplishments, have helped elevate the Tri-Valley as a Northern California leader in PFAS treatment. Her discussions and votes allowed Zone 7 to secure treatment vessels and restore clean water at a time when other water agencies struggled to follow new PFAS regulations amid a three-plus-year drought. A Livermore resident, Palmer's biochemistry background provides a foundation on which her energy for community engagement launches. A strong director since 2006, her tenure will also help provide continuity as three seats on the seven-seat board will be filled with new members.

Badar, a Dublin resident, brings a community voice that will serve the board well. Her passion for

civic participation, evidenced by her work with the Dublin Unified School District and the Alameda County Democratic Central Committee, will feel at home on the Zone 7 board. We echo her calls for continued financial stewardship and transparency at the water agency.

Burnham's professional experience in geochemistry will find immediate applications at the water agency, as it continues to address water-quality issues. We appreciate his multi-disciplinary background, which includes managing his own business and serving as a director and founding member of the Quest Science Center, on top of his technical qualifications. He lives in Livermore. He will be a strong asset on the board.

MAILBOX

A Message from the Managing Editor

For years, our letters page has been a place for you to speak your mind. We've seen heartfelt thanks, sharp critiques, and passionate debates. But we've also noticed a trend that mirrors the world around us: one letter writer takes on another with harsh language, rather than a compelling argument.

At The Independent, we believe local journalism should be more than just a platform for complaints; it should be a tool for building a better community, even a better world.

Our goal is to create a space where neighbors can disagree on policy without attacking each other's character.

Mailbox Guidelines:

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

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

Case for Driving an Electric Car

Ron Sadler, Livermore

As communities across the country grapple with rising fuel costs, air pollution, and the growing impacts of Global Warming, one solution is becoming increasingly clear: the widespread adoption of electric vehicles.

Electric cars offer a cleaner, more sustainable alternative to gasoline-powered vehicles. By producing zero tailpipe emissions, they reduce air pollution and improve public health, especially in urban areas where smog and poor air quality disproportionately affect vulnerable populations.

When you factor in that

EVs cost roughly 50% less to fuel, and with fewer moving parts, require about half the maintenance of internal combustion engines, eliminating oil changes and frequent brake replacements entirely, the total cost of ownership is now a clear win for the consumer.

Advances in battery technology have extended driving ranges, while the rapid expansion of charging infrastructure is making electric vehicles more convenient than ever. Many governments and utilities are also offering incentives that make the transition more affordable for everyday consumers.

Owning an electric car is not just a personal choice; it is a meaningful step to-

ward a more sustainable future. By embracing this technology, we can reduce our dependence on carbon dioxide polluting fossil fuels, lower greenhouse gas emissions, and contribute to a healthier planet for future generations.

May Celebrates AAPI and JA Heritages

Patricia Munro, Livermore

Over the past several decades, the U.S. has designated different months in order to recognize the contributions of the cultures, ethnicities, and races that make up the U.S. The U.S. is built from immigrants who come from everywhere and whose presence strengthens us all. Although the vision is being challenged from extremists on both left and right, it is a remarkable idea and one worth celebrating every month. This month, we celebrate two very different groups: those of Jewish American and those of Asian American and Pacific Islander heritages.

Jewish Americans are a tiny group — only seven million in total—with a long heritage in the U.S. The first congregation dates from 1654, the first synagogue — Touro in Rhode Island—from 1763. Jews have contributed to the U.S. through fighting for labor and civil rights, through scientific contributions (for example, Congregation Beth Emek was founded in 1956 by Jewish families who came to Livermore because of the Labs), and through the arts, including, but hardly limited to, movies and humor.

The AAPI population includes a wide variety of nationalities from across a third of the globe and representing around three billion people. The category includes people from Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Samoa, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Thailand, Vietnam, and indigenous peoples from the Pacific Island countries. There are vast differences in geography and size of their home countries (take China and Bhutan, for example), relationships between those home countries (not naming any names here!) Immigrants from these countries have had different experiences and histories and all have

enriched the fabric of the U.S.

How can you celebrate JAHM and AAPI Heritage Month? The library has you covered: <https://library.livermoreca.gov/Home/Components/News/News/1517/3895>

And don't forget to get some Thai, Japanese, Burmese, etc. food to celebrate!

From the Alameda County Board of Supervisors

David Haubert, Dublin

In response to numerous questions from community-based organizations about Senator Wahab's bill SB1193, our office released the attached memo to our community partners. Regarding the restrictions and barriers imposed by SB1193, it should be noted that Alameda County relies on a well-established network of highly qualified community partners; we already adopt some of the strongest measures in the State of California.

This bill is not necessary, and that's why the Alameda County Board of Supervisors unanimously voted to stand up for our community partners and oppose SB1193.

The writing of this bill begs many more questions. Why would Senator Wahab single out and

attack Alameda County alone and not include other counties? Why would Wahab include restrictions only during an election cycle? Why would Wahab accuse the Board of Supervisors of operating "slush funds"? Why would Wahab propose rules for county boards and not hold herself accountable to the same? Lastly, don't she and her colleagues in Sacramento have much better things to do than this?

This bill isn't about transparency. It's about political payback and retribution because most of the Alameda County Board of Supervisors refused to endorse her for Congress and, instead, endorsed her main opponent, Melissa Hernandez. Wahab is abusing her political power for personal political gain, and she is willing to risk much needed grant funding to worthy community organizations to do it. Many of Wahab's former colleagues, leaders who served alongside her and know her very well, have endorsed against her. What is it they know that

others don't?

We don't need another ladder climbing politician. We need someone who will do the job they were elected to do. Fortunately, there are several other candidates to choose from.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out at bosdist1@acgov.org.

Gaza and Governance

Paul Stone, Dublin

City government has a threefold purpose: safety of its residents, maintenance of infrastructure, and fostering an efficient public school system. What in the world does the supposed genocide in Gaza have to do with good governance in Dublin? (See Mailbox, "Melissa Hernandez, Genocide-Denier," Mailbox May 7, pg. 5)

We swallow the Hamas/PLO propaganda hook, line, and sinker but overlook the genocidal statements of Hamas and Iran toward Israel. I recommend a book to you entitled, "From Time Immemorial, the Origins of the Arab-Jewish Conflict Over Palestine" by Joan Peters. It is meticulously researched and copiously footnoted. Your eyes will be opened.

FCI Dublin

Dan Morley, Pleasanton

The Bureau of Prisons published an Environmental Assessment on FCI Dublin, May 1, 2026, opening a 30-day public comment period. The report details myriad structural problems and recommends permanent deactivation of the facility. Unsaid in the 2700-page report, but hinted in a notification letter to the City of Dublin Dec. 4, 2025, is the possible transfer of the property to another agency through GSA. The proposed action in the report does not go far enough to ensure the safety of Bay Area residents. If the facility is unsafe to be a prison, it is also unsafe to be an immigration detention center. Furthermore, the safest option would be to demolish the crumbling buildings and remediate the site. Read the report https://viz.wspis.com/FCIDublin/FINAL%20DRAFT%20EA_%20FCI%20Dublin%20May%202027.pdf and send in your comments to bop-adm-facilities-s@bop.gov by June 1, 2026.

Bay Area Hotel Foreclosures Are Warning Sign

Paul Mansfield, Livermore

The Wine Country Inn proposed for South Arroyo Road is attempting to reinvent itself.

On May 19th, the Livermore Planning Commission will consider the Inn's latest plan to place 29 tightly-spaced pre-fabricated buildings onto the small Arroyo site.

This new plan differs significantly from the original hotel plan, which was approved three years ago, but never built.

One probable factor for the three-year delay is that the Bay Area lodging market is in free fall. The real estate trade journal "The Real Deal" and "The Mercury News" have both cited numerous foreclosures plaguing the entire East Bay lodging market.

One recent article is titled, "East Bay Hyatt hotels sell for pennies on the dollar". It details a 128-room property in Pleasanton sold at auction for \$800,000 — a mere 2% of the cost to build a new, similar hotel.

Oversupply and price competition from Airbnb are seriously affecting the industry. For those cheering on a hotel at the Arroyo site, it is important to acknowledge current market risks. Is now a good time to build? Will the new plan appeal to visitors?

Another concern should be the extensive grading needed to make the Arroyo site level. Once started, a scar will be left on the scenic view shed between Historic Ravenswood and the iconic Olivina Gate, no matter the outcome of the hotel. The beauty of the very corridor that Livermore uses to promote its image to the world will be diminished.

The Commission should defer its decision on May 19th, and subsequently allow the current hotel entitlements to lapse.

The Arroyo Road site is too small-scale and too remote from services. When the time is right, any future envisioning for a wine country hotel in Livermore should focus on downtown or near Tesla Road's new infrastructure as suitable locations.

(See MAILBOX, page 5)

THE Independent

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

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

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

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

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

www.independentnews.com



Two young performers dressed in traditional Azerbaijani attire engage in a spirited dancing duel of swords during the 8th Annual Tri-Valley Asian Heritage Celebration on Saturday, May 9, 2026. Held at the Dublin High School Center for Performing Arts & Education, the event showcased a wide array of cultural history, including ancient instruments and regional folk dances. (Photo courtesy of Jacob Clouser)

MAILBOX

(Continued from page 4)

Attention, Seniors, Ask Your Kids!

Terrence J McGrath, Pleasanton

Since the results of the upcoming election might have more impact on your kids, do the following if they are of voting age:

1. Tell them you plan to vote along with them this June.
2. Ask them to research the candidates and the issues.
3. Make suggestions to you as to their choices.
4. Tell them "If they want to change the world, it starts with them."
5. Then tell them if they vote, you will match them, either in person or with a mailed-in ballot.

Time for a Change in California

David Ott, Pleasanton

For 16 years, California has been controlled by one-party Democratic rule. Democrats have held the Governor's Office, State Senate, and State Assembly — and Californians are paying the price.

It is time to elect Steve Hilton as governor and restore common sense leadership to California.

Steve Hilton understands opportunity because he lived it. As a legal immigrant, entrepreneur, business owner and former advisor in the UK government, he knows what it takes to create jobs, grow businesses, and fight for working families.

Under the Democratic leadership, our state now suffers from the highest taxes, highest gas and energy prices, and the highest cost of living in the nation. Homelessness has exploded, crime has increased in many communities, businesses are fleeing the state, and hardworking families are struggling just to stay afloat. Parents are watching our education system fail their children as reading and math scores continue to decline. Meanwhile, Sacramento politicians continue to prioritize bureaucracy, political agendas, and benefits for those in the state illegally over the needs of law-abiding citizens and taxpayers.

Enough is enough. Hilton's agenda focuses on restoring the California Dream by: Lowering taxes and reducing government overreach; eliminating state income tax for Californians earning under \$100,000; protecting Proposition 13 and stopping property tax increases; reducing regulations that drive up housing costs; restoring law and order and supporting law enforcement; fixing failing schools and raising academic standards; making

California affordable again for families and businesses.

The definition of insanity is continuing to do the same thing while expecting different results. Californians cannot afford more of the same failed democrat policies.

This election is about whether California continues down the path of decline and destruction or returns to prosperity, safety, and opportunity for working families. Please vote for Steve Hilton for governor.

Jim Lehrman for Zone 7 Linda Milanese, Livermore

Four seats are open for the Zone 7 Water Agency Board of Directors. There are some worthy candidates on the ballot, and Jim Lehrman is one who should be checked on everyone's ballot. A Hydrogeologist/Geologist, he has 40 years' experience cleaning up contaminated sites. His background makes him an obvious choice of someone to have working for us to address PFAS contamination in our water. He will work to keep our drinking water clean and healthy.

No Islamophobia Allowed in District 14 Julie Wild, Livermore

Meet Rakhi Israni, a candidate for District 14 with a history of Hindu nationalism advocacy and giving to far-right Republicans, who is running as a Democrat. Her public donations included MAGA candidates, the Republican head of the evangelical Zionist group Christians United for Israel, Tulsi Gabbard, and far-right pundit and Islamaphobe Laura Loomer. (Remember, Zionism is racism.)

Meanwhile, Israni stated for The Intercept in a March 2026 article, "Let me be unequivocal: I oppose Trump's attacks on our democracy, his efforts to overturn the 2020 election, his assault on reproductive freedom, and the division he has fueled in this country. I reject MAGA politics."

While her political stance is confusing, she is clear on the hatred she has for Muslims. As a private citizen, go ahead and hate someone as much as you want; it's a free country.

The issue is when a candidate hates people from another faith and actively finances that hatred so that when they all get together, they feel superior. They plot, plan, and spend money on candidates to become more united in their hatred for others through politics. Gross. Sounds like the Hindu version of the KKK, and we all know the damage any type of supremacy-linked/racist ide-

ology inflicts on communities. Not here. Not ever.

No matter someone's background, faith, beliefs, or skin color, racism should never be tolerated. Follow 'Hindus for Human Rights' to learn about this form of racism in the U.S.

District 14 has a dynamic, diverse, and charitable Muslim community that deserves fair representation. We all must question candidates on who they support financially, who finances their campaigns, and what their darker prejudices are. Support candidates who openly oppose racism, in all of its forms. Better to know now than later.

Response to Karen Smith's Letter on 'No More Swalwell!'

John Lahommedieu, Dublin

I am confused by Ms. Smith's claim that Democrats champion policies that enhance integrity and character; such as what? Illegal immigration that costs the state millions a day and puts Americans at safety risk? Or perhaps the bullet train to nowhere? Or the fine way LA Mayor Bass handled the LA fires? Is that the integrity and character you refer to? From Newsom to Pelosi to Schiff to Swalwell to Bass, California under Democrat representation has lost businesses, population and reputation. Swalwell was protected by the Democrats; he did nothing for his district, yet you act like he was an excellent representative? We have the highest gas tax in the nation, high sales tax, and the policies you refer to under Democrat representation have crippled our law enforcement and fire departments. You say you will continue to champion the Democrat party...why? Please tell me and others what exactly has the Democrat party done that benefits the hard-working tax paying citizens of this state? I do not see my taxes going down or services getting better under their reign. So what is it about them we should know? It's time to rid California and the Bay Area of the entire Democrat representation. It's failed; it does not work; and only serves illegals and criminals. Karen, you can remain in denial, but look around you and tell me where good progress has been made here in the Bay under Democrat rule? I myself am voting for Steve Hilton for governor, and I hope Mr. Pratt gets elected as mayor in LA. It's time for a major change in California; you want the same old, same old, but those days are over. Time to wake up and smell the Republican roses!

Melissa Hernandez for Congress

Jon Elfin, Livermore

Melissa Hernandez is the pragmatic, results kind of leader we need as our representative in Congress. She will work across the aisle to focus on practical issues, like helping small business owners, improving health care, and affordability. She has hands-on experience in a variety of roles, and as mayor of Dublin, she was instrumental in helping approve two much needed communities for special-needs adults. There is a reason why nearly all local mayors are endorsing Melissa.

I urge you to vote for Melissa Hernandez for Congress.

Jim Lehrman for Zone 7 Erik Sommargren, Livermore

I support Jim Lehrman, a state-certified geologist and 40-year Pleasanton resident, for Zone 7 Board of Directors. Jim has worked tirelessly for the past three years to make elected officials more aware of the groundwater quality issues facing the Tri-Valley. The Sierra Club SF Bay Chapter, in recognizing Jim's ongoing engagement with public officials at board and council meetings, endorsed Jim in April. Vote for Jim on June 2nd!

Sarah Palmer for Zone 7 Elaine Price, Livermore

I have known Sarah Palmer for almost 40 years. She came into my life when my daughter was told by her math teacher that she would never pass algebra. Sarah had a new baby and was tutoring math and chemistry students. Working with the school system, Sarah helped my child excel in math and reach her ca-

reer goals. She continues to help educate children through input to STEM classes sponsored by AAUW. To this day, I have never met someone with the energy, intelligence, and scientific curiosity that Sarah possesses. She uses her PhD in biochemistry to understand and provide thoughtful and innovative input to enhance the Water District decisions on providing water access to all of us living in Zone 7. By

(See MAILBOX, page 6)

Bubbs Bagels & Coffee
1606 Holmes Street
Livermore CA 94550
925-409-2615
BubbsBagels.com
\$1 or 10% Off
Your Order (whichever is greater)
6:30am-2:00pm Daily
Offer Expires 7/15/26

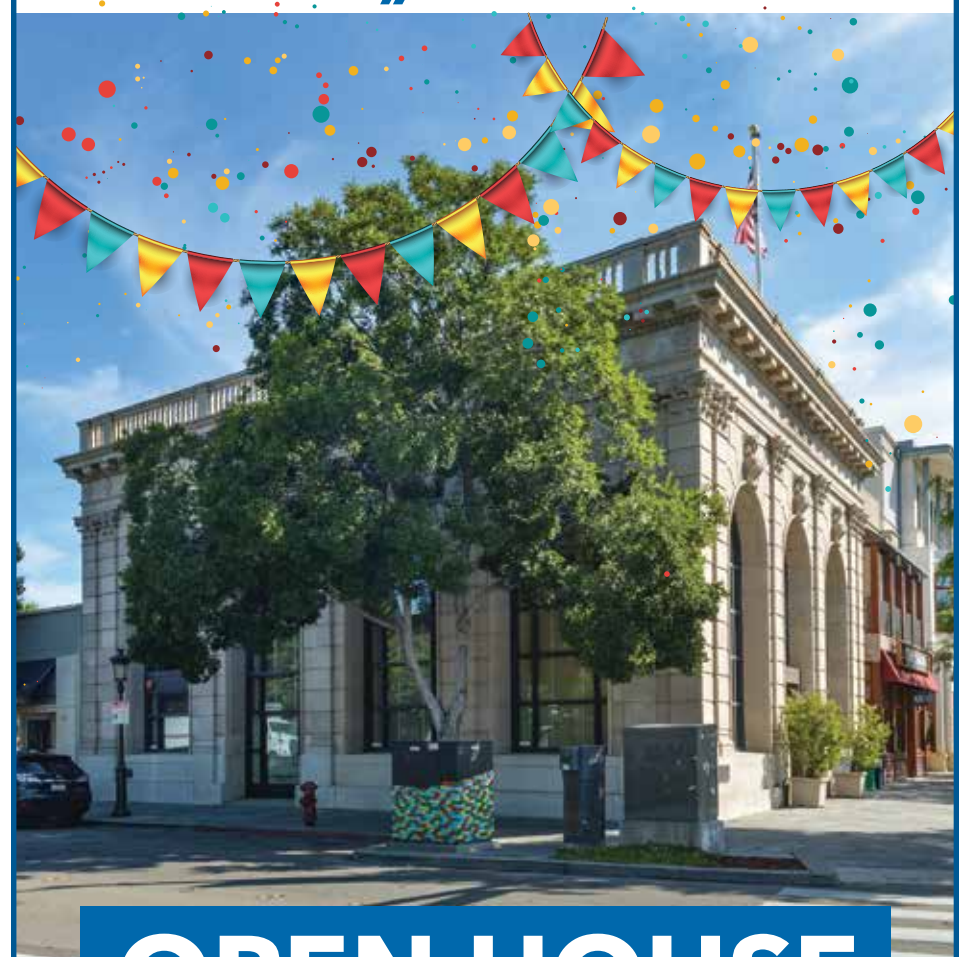


Peace of Mind through Planning

Estate Planning can be an uncomfortable topic for many therefore it is often ignored until something bad happens. And that 'something' usually is an unexpected illness or death that then makes a difficult situation more complicated and expensive. Proper estate planning helps avoid this situation because it allows you to direct the management and distribution of your hard-earned assets upon your incapacity or passing without court intervention. My office strives to provide compassionate and knowledgeable legal advice to help our clients navigate these difficult decisions and obtain peace of mind through planning. Services provided in English and Español.

Law Offices of Jennifer E. Ramirez, A.P.C.
(925) 724-9190 | lawofficejer.com

THE Independent



OPEN HOUSE

Saturday, May 16 - 10am to 6pm

Sunday, May 17 - 10am to 5pm

While enjoying the

Annual Livermore Downtown Street Fest

The Independent invites you to

Visit the Historic Bank of Italy Building and enjoy the Independent Art Gallery

2250 First St. - Downtown Livermore
(Corner of First Street and S Livermore Avenue)



The Livermore Cultural Arts Council's (LCAC) annual Tuesday Tunes summer concert series is near. The free weekly events, held at the Bankhead Plaza, run June 2 through Aug. 25 from 6:45 p.m. to 8:15 p.m. This season's lineup kicks off June 2 with San Ramon-based dance band Retroactive, followed by Matt Finders & Friends (June 9), East Bay Grooveline (June 16), Crawdad Republic (June 23), and Evan Thomas & the Brotherhood (June 30). The series continues through July and August with local favorites including LunaFish and Frequency. (Photo courtesy of LCAC)

MAILBOX

(Continued from page 5)

voting for Sarah Palmer, you can be assured that the institutional knowledge that Sarah has garnered from her years on the Zone 7 Board of Directors will not be lost.

Sarah Palmer for Zone 7 Water Agency
Stephanie Shang, Livermore

For the June 2nd election, the Zone 7 Water Agency Board will fill four seats, with eight candidates on the ballot.

Sarah Palmer has served on the Zone 7 board since 2006 and is the only incumbent in this race, with two decades of institutional knowledge and real-world decision-making in water governance.

Her extensive experience is more than a credential—it's the difference between understanding water policy in theory and knowing how to shape it.

She has earned the trust of her colleagues and community over a long arc of service. Her Ph.D. in biochemistry helps her parse complex technical issues, but it's her judgment, her listening, and her years at the table that set her apart.

She is also a committed learner. Sarah continues to pursue training in water management and shares what she learns with fellow board members and the public.

Beyond Zone 7, Sarah is engaged statewide through the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA), working on critical issues: PFAS, microplastics, regulatory policy, and safe and affordable drinking water.

Experience matters. Vote for Sarah Palmer for Zone 7 on June 2nd. www.palmerforzone7.com

Jim Lehrman for Director Zone 7
George Reid, Pleasanton

We need to vote for Jim Lehrman for Director Zone 7. Highly experienced, California-licensed professional geologist and certified hydrogeologist, long-time Tri-Valley resident, activist in community interests (creek cleanups,

reduction of train noise in residential areas, etc.). Since 2024, Jim has volunteered hundreds of hours of research and advice to Zone 7, the Regional Water Quality Control Board, the City of Pleasanton, etc. to help protect our valuable groundwater supply. He will be a valuable addition to the Zone 7 Board.

Tom Steyer for Governor of California
Jon Miller, Livermore

I am writing to express my strong support for Tom Steyer for Governor of California, who is also endorsed by California Nurses Association, California Environmental Voters, and California Teachers Association.

His independence from special interest PACs and corporate money is exactly what California needs right now. Steyer has consistently demonstrated that he is for the people, not the rich and powerful.

He wants to challenge the monopoly status of the state's investor-owned utilities, and raise property taxes on business. His track record of taking on Big Oil and Big Tobacco shows he isn't afraid to stand up to monied interests to protect our health and environment. He's supporting single payer healthcare and is pushing to raise corporate taxes to bring in money for schools.

I am particularly moved by his commitment to making California more affordable. His bold plan to build one million affordable homes and break up utility monopolies to lower electric bills offers a real path forward for families struggling with the cost of living.

Tom's long-standing advocacy for climate justice remains the gold standard for any candidate in this race.

Steyer isn't just another politician; he is a transformative leader with a history of delivering results, even when the establishment couldn't.

It is time for a governor who understands that the

status quo is unsustainable and has the vision to lead us toward a more equitable future. Please vote for Tom Steyer for Governor of California.

Best Interest
Barry Brynjulson, Pleasanton

By 4/29/26, the Trump Administration had funneled \$2B to companies to STOP their U.S. offshore wind energy projects. Those projects had been approved and were in early development. They would have provided clean energy to millions of homes and created thousands of jobs. A White House spokesman cited simply, "It was not in the best interest of the U.S."

4/29: The DOJ rolled back 30 Biden-era gun restrictions aimed at closing background check loopholes at gun shows and other non-brick and mortar gun selling places. Payback to the gun lobby for their support.

5/2: Trump announced a 5,000-troop reduction in Germany just hours after a phone call with Putin. Russia has long sought a reduction in NATO armed forces in Europe. Neither the Pentagon nor NATO were aware of any planned changes.

5/7: Someone placed a \$920 million short order on crude oil at 3:40 a.m. EDT. 70 minutes later, Axios reported a 14-point Iran-U.S. peace plan that was making headway. Oil futures dropped dramatically. That someone made a fortune. Corruption.

None of this is in the best interest of the U.S.

A Terrible Tipping Point
Eloise Hamann, Dublin

This upcoming election is most critical to restoring sanity to our country and to Mother Earth. We must elect candidates who can reverse the damage Donald Trump has heaped on the human race. The number of people who will die because of this horrible excuse for a president is mind blowing. Some Americans who can't af-

ford healthcare will lose their lives; some who are convinced not to be vaccinated from measles and more treacherous diseases will also have their lives cut short; some in other countries who depended on USAID will also die before their time and spread disease worldwide; soldiers in Iran and in the U.S. will lose their lives in an unthought-out war.

We need to elect members to Congress that will fight for the human condition. We need to elect a governor in California who will keep us free of the worst proclamations of Trump. We need members of the California Senate and Assembly who will fight for Californians.

The high number of Democrats running for Governor versus only two Republicans and our crazy top-two primary system puts us at risk of electing a minority Republican. There are more Democrats than Republicans both in our country and in our state of California. This is why Republicans like to promote the idea that all politicians are alike. It keeps people from voting if they believe this.

Your vote matters! Vote Democratic and ensure California's future! Please don't sit this one out!

This Administration Is Making Us Less Safe
Samuel Warner, Pleasanton

First, the FBI diverted one-fourth of its employees to do ICE's job. Then we went to war with Iran; which depleted our counterterrorism force.

Congress already gave ICE \$140 billion last year — now they want 70 billion more.

Thank goodness half of Congress is holding tough and saying that money

should go for services for Americans instead.

Why do Republican congressmembers keep voting on bills that include cuts to our Social Security? Dems keep trying to keep these from passing—which makes Speaker Mike Johnson (MAGA Mike), like a spoiled child, shut down Congress.

Republicans in Congress need to hold their heads up and admit that sometimes you have to break from what the leader tells you to say; especially if it makes your constituents poorer and less safe!

And how does anyone believe a word this president says? He's not getting his ballroom paid by donors; Mexico is not paying for a wall; you are not getting lower costs. It's not Biden's Obama's, Oprah's or anyone else's fault. The election was not stolen. Immigrants are not stealing your job. And how has his net value tripled to \$6.5B during his second term?

Republicans — we need to stand up for our institutions; our military needs to be there to defend us; we need clean water and air, Medicare and our Social Security. There is enough money for this—if not spent on ICE and war. Americans don't want golden pools, ballrooms, statues, name changes, etc. We want jobs and healthcare.

Cutting health protections, privatizing our parks and land; this does not serve the people, but rather the extremely wealthy.

We need a neutral third party (Switzerland?) to oversee elections, so those who are ignoring our laws and constitution aren't able to claim fraud, or to commit it themselves!

Be Not Afraid
Ramona Krausnick, Dublin

Why are so many prominent individuals on this planet afraid to publicly speak out against Trump? Of what are they scared? Is he God Almighty who created the universe? No, he is not. Does he believe he is God? Yes, he does, and that's blasphemy. Does he have more power than God? No, he does not.

His cabinet, the Republican members of Congress, his other sycophants in D.C. and elsewhere, foreign leaders, tech giants, educational institutions, attorneys, members of different courts, the media, and individuals who call themselves Catholics or Christian all bow down and kiss his you know what. They are all afraid of his wrath. He will cause so many of these prominent individuals to lose their power and money, so to hell with ordinary Americans who

have lost their health care, who can't afford fuel for their automobiles, who can't afford groceries, to hell with immigrants who are the backbone of our economy, to hell with families who have lost loved ones in an illegal war or because of Trump's incompetence during the pandemic, and the list goes on, ad nauseam.

However, "we the people" who are fighting to save our Democracy are not afraid to speak up. Pope Leo XIV is not afraid to speak up; we who advocate for immigrants and who participate in peaceful protests are not afraid; the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops that criticized his treatment of immigrants is not afraid; and our Democratic members of Congress along with State officials are not afraid.

Whoever is afraid to speak up publicly against Trump is giving him more power than God, and I feel very sorry for those individuals.

So, "Be not afraid."

What Do You Want?
Keith Jackson, Dublin

Common traits of a malignant narcissist include:

- Being extremely arrogant and self-centered
- Disregarding the feelings and needs of other people
- Manipulating, using, or exploiting others for personal gain or pleasure
- Having an extreme need for power
- Acts of revenge against those who criticize them
- Fantasizing about ways to obtain more power or dominance over others
- Lacking conscience, regret, or remorse for their actions
- Being cruel and taking pleasure in the pain of others
- High levels of aggression towards other people
- Paranoia or mistrust of others

Do you want someone like this to be the president? Too late. He already is. Do you want an ardent supporter of someone like this to be governor of California? Did you know that the two leading Republican candidates, Steve Hilton and Chad Bianco, both believe that the 2020 election was fraudulent and that Donald Trump won? You know all Republicans always do what Trump tells them to do. Is this what you want for California? It is not too late to stop this. VOTE. It is the one superpower we all have. Use it.

Patelco Credit Union Helps Low-Income Members Save

DUBLIN — Patelco Credit Union said last week that its 2025 SPARK Your Savings program helped low-income members save nearly \$220,000 in emergency funding.

Patelco said the program is designed to help participants save for emergencies while building long-term financial stability by combining financial education with tangible incentives to encourage consistent saving.

Last year, Patelco said, 61 enrollees completed the program and deposited \$219,956 into savings accounts.

The program "is about more than just saving money," said Patelco Membership Development Manager Michele Enriquez, "It's about helping people build confidence, develop healthy financial habits, and create a foundation for long-term financial security."

Beyond financial outcomes, participants reported meaningful behavioral changes, including increased awareness of spending habits, improved budgeting skills and greater confidence in managing their finances, according to the Dublin-based credit union.

Patelco, with \$9.5 billion in assets, currently has more than 520,000 members nationwide.

Your local news source is delivered free to readers in the Tri-Valley.

We are asking readers, who are able, to make a voluntary contribution of \$10 a month, or \$100 a year. You can sign up online at www.independentnews.com/contribute/ or mail a check to 2250 First St., Livermore, CA 94550

THE Independent
independentnews.com | 925.243.8000 Follow us on

ITV Announces Annual #GameChanger Awards for 2026

TRI-VALLEY — The Pac-12 Conference, a 111-year-old collegiate athletic conference that recently moved its headquarters from San Francisco to the Bishop Ranch business park in San Ramon, will receive a #GameChanger Award for “Innovation in Sports & Entertainment” this month from the Innovation Tri-Valley Leadership Group (ITV).

In 2024, 10 of the conference’s 12 schools withdrew from the Pac-12, leaving only Oregon State University and Washington State University through the 2025-2026 academic year. This fall, however, the conference will pick up five member schools from the Mountain West Conference, one from the Sun Belt Conference and one from the West Coast Conference.

“Few institutions in American sports have undergone a transformation as dramatic, or as closely watched, as the Pac-12 Conference,” ITV said. “Having relocated its operations to San Ramon, the Pac-12 is rewriting its own story from the heart of the Tri-Valley, building a next-generation model for collegiate sports and entertainment that leverages Silicon Valley’s proximity, the Bay Area’s media infrastructure and a legacy brand that generations of fans across the western United States know and love.”

ITV will also present #GameChanger awards to Inertia Enterprises, SavyMoney, Calyxo, Blossom & Root Kitchen and Stanford Health Care Tri-Valley.

Inertia, based in Livermore, is a commercial energy

company looking to advance technology first demonstrated at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) to develop safe, clean and limitless fusion energy.

Last month, Inertia and LLNL signed a strategic partnership agreement that establishes one of the largest private sector-led partnerships in the history of the U.S. national lab system.

Inertia will receive the #GameChanger Award for “Innovation in Energy & Deep Technology.”

SavyMoney, based in Dublin, will receive the #GameChanger Award for “Innovation in Financial Technology.”

The financial technology company partners with more than 900 banks, credit unions and other institutions to integrate credit scores, financial

insights and daily monitoring into their digital banking apps, providing millions of consumers nationwide real-time credit insights.

Calyxo, a Pleasanton-based medical-device company, will receive the award for “Innovation in Biotechnology & Medical Devices” for developing breakthrough technology to improve the outcomes of kidney stone treatment and enable patients to return to health faster.

“The company’s technology is the product of deep clinical insight and rigorous engineering,” ITV said, “and its trajectory from Pleasanton to surgical suites across the country is precisely the kind of innovation story the Tri-Valley was built to produce and tell.”

Blossom & Root Kitchen,

a fully plant-based restaurant in Danville that offers vegan and vegetarian dishes, will receive the #GameChanger Award for “Innovation in Food, Wellness & Sustainable Business.”

ITV said the restaurant “represents a category of innovation that happens daily in a kitchen, in a dining room and in the daily act of building a business that reflects a deeply held conviction about the choice of what we eat.”

Lastly, Stanford Health Care Tri-Valley will receive the ITV’s Founders Award, which “honors an individual or organization whose contribution to the Tri-Valley’s innovation ecosystem transcends a single sector or a single year.”

When Tri-Valley Health System became a part of Stanford Health Care in 2015, it “signaled to the world that

the Tri-Valley was a place worthy of competitive institutional investment,” ITV said, “and it delivered on that signal by bringing the clinical expertise, research capabilities and care standards of one of the world’s leading academic medical centers to the doorstep of Tri-Valley families.”

The #GameChanger awards will be presented at The Roundhouse at Bishop Ranch in San Ramon on Thursday, May 21.

Southwest Airlines Chief Operating Officer Andrew Watterson, who received the ITV’s Tri-Valley Visionary Award in 2025, will be the keynote speaker for the event, which begins at 5:30 p.m.

Tickets to the ninth annual ceremony are \$93 and are available online at tinyurl.com/3v4ujk5z.

WENTE

(Continued from front page)

with a Peruvian leche de tigre ceviche of Pacific rock cod and coconut milk redolent of cilantro, served with crispy white corn topos. The tasting that followed included samosas, chutneys and empanadas.

The diversity of offerings is intentional, Wente said.

“The cultural dynamic of the East Bay has changed so dramatically. So we thought, ‘Let’s try and not just focus on American food and wine pairings but broaden the reach a little bit and bring in different flavors and different cultures to test and learn,’” she said. A classic brie and prosciutto bite rounded out the tasting menu as a nod to the traditional.

The redesigned space now also serves as the primary tasting room; the for-

mer tasting room at 5565 Tesla Road has become a production facility.

“This is more of a wine bar concept: lighter bites, more casual fare,” and also more affordable than a full-service restaurant, Wente said. “We probably broke a lot of hearts. People always ask for the restaurant back. And I get it, but I think we’re just trying to get a little more approachable.”

The new experiences are as much about people as they are about wine. In addition to sellout events like the Memorial Day White Party, the return of the tribute bands’ outdoor concert series, and the annual food and wine blow-out event, the winery is inviting guests to smaller, low-key opportunities in a “pick-your-own-adventure” style of visitation.

Wood-fired pizzas will be available on the lawns, which are kid-friendly moments. With an eye to new trends, Wente is looking to bring in a mahjong night.

“A lot of young women are getting into it,” Wente said. “It’s kind of like the new book club for people who don’t really want to read, but want to hang out, get away from the house and have some fun with friends.”

Brendan Finley, Wente vice president and head of hospitality, led a tour of the renovated wine caves and barrel rooms as part of a creative effort to utilize the historic property’s assets. Cozy nooks will be divided by drapery for sequestered experiences in spaces lined with archival photos and historic artifacts. The area will be open to the public starting in June. The cool, quiet corridors will become the centerpiece for a host of new immersive educational programs.

Wente, who has personally responded to every person who has emailed the winery, said it can be difficult to make changes for a company like theirs. “We’ve been here forever, and we appreciate that everyone has an emotional attachment to our brands and our properties,” she said.

Wente, who has a 2- and 4-year-old, is seeing life through an evolving lens. “I think the days of people just going to wineries for just a sit-down regular tasting... they’re just getting a little bit burnt out on it,” she said. “We want to make new experiences.”

Acknowledging that with change can come confusion, she confirmed for anyone who may be wondering, “We’re not closed and we’re still good community partners. We just had to make challenging decisions to remove some vines because of their health and the cost to operate them.”

“But we’re very much open and we are really excited to host people here.”



Fifth-generation vintner Aly Wente sits inside the estate’s wine caves, where the winery is launching new immersive experiences for members and guests. While the family has pivoted away from traditional restaurant service, they are increasing public access to historic areas, like the caves to provide deeper insight into the Livermore Valley’s viticultural roots. (Photo — Jacob Clouser)

FCI

(Continued from front page)

major environmental and infrastructure concerns at the site, including a leaking sewer system, diesel fuel contamination, asbestos, lead paint and mold.

She described the property as an active cleanup site and warned the conditions could pose health and safety risks if the prison were reused in the future.

Beaty also noted that Northern California has drawn attention because the region currently does not have an active immigration detention center, increasing concerns federal officials could look to facilities such as FCI Dublin.

She pointed to recently opened detention facilities in California, including the Central Valley Annex and the California City Detention Facility, as examples of expanding detention capacity.

Reports surfaced in 2025 that ICE officials and private contractors toured the site as the Trump administration considered the former prison for immigrant detention, raising new questions about FCI Dublin’s future use.

Although the Department of Homeland Security has said there are no current plans to use the Dublin site for immigrant detention, advocates remain skeptical, pointing to the facility tours and ongoing federal review.

The possibility has drawn opposition from local officials, advocacy groups and community members across the Tri-Valley and Alameda County.

Former inmate Aimee Chavira, who was incarcerated at FCI Dublin and worked in the prison’s safety department, said conditions inside the facility were unsafe and unhealthy.

Chavira said incarcerated women were instructed to paint over mold before inspections and often had to drink brown water if they could not afford to buy their own.

“This prison is not livable for anyone — not immigrants,

not U.S. citizens, not anyone,” Chavira said during the ICE Out of Dublin Coalition press conference. “We were abused verbally, mentally and every type of abuse you can think of. We went beyond paying for our crimes.”

“The water would come out brown, and girls started getting sick. I got sick,” she said, arguing that the facility should be demolished rather than repurposed for future detention use.

“The City of Dublin should not want this in our backyard,” Chavira said.

Last week, roughly 150 people gathered at a May Day rally organized by Indivisible Youth at Amador Valley Community Park in Pleasanton.

The event was part of demonstrations held nationwide opposing policies tied to President Donald Trump’s administration, including expanded immigration detention efforts.

In April, the Alameda County Board of Supervisors unanimously adopted a resolution opposing the reopening or repurposing of FCI Dublin as an immigration detention facility or for any future carceral use.

“ICE or any immigration detention center doesn’t belong in our county,” Supervisor Elisa Márquez said during the April 7 meeting.

“It’s important that we stand together and share our

values,” she said. “I’m proud to support opposing the reopening or repurposing of the former correctional institution in Dublin or any future detention or correctional use.”

Though the county resolution carries no legal authority over federal agencies, advocates and local officials say it sends a strong message of community opposition.

The vote follows similar action by the Dublin City Council, which unanimously approved a resolution in December opposing the site’s reopening or reuse for detention purposes.

The Federal Bureau of Prisons is accepting public comment on the environmental assessment through June 1 before making a final determination on the future of the property.

The ICE Out of Dublin Coalition also plans to host virtual “Power Hours” to help residents better understand the review process and submit comments.



BOB'S PROFESSIONAL PAINTING

Free Color Consultation!
or
\$500 Off!

925-577-6864
bobspropainting.com LIC# 880325

RETZLAFF Estate Wines

WINE TASTING AND
PICNIC TABLE RESERVATIONS

FRI 12pm - 4:30pm, SAT, SUN & MON 12pm - 4:30pm

LIVE MUSIC AND FOOD VENDORS
FRIDAYS 5pm 8pm & SAT/SUN 12pm to 4:30pm

WINE DOWN FRIDAY - HAPPY HOUR ALL DAY 12pm - 8pm
\$10 GLASS, \$20 FLIGHTS, \$10 MIMOSA & WINE SPECIALS

Make your online reservations at
reservation@retzloffwinery.com

Support Local Youth Arts
Beginner-Friendly
Watercolor Class
Paint Your Summer Vacation

Saturday, June 6th, 2026
11:00 AM and 12:15 PM (45-minute sessions)




At
THE Independent

2250 First St.
Downtown Livermore

\$20 per person
(supplies provided)

All proceeds benefit youth artists. Funds support a Las Positas College student mural project.

Class Taught by Tri-Valley Artist and Educator Thomasin Dewhurst

Limited Space - To Reserve Your Spot
Email info@independentnews.com
Please state preferred class time in subject line.

PLEASE HELP BRING MIGUEL HOME



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

Livermore Wente Winery worker, married father of three and grandfather

Miguel Lopez

remains in Mexico after having been illegally deported last June.

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

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

Reader Snapshots

Share Your Best Shot

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



Jonathan Ward, 9, a fourth grader at Junction Avenue K-8 School in Livermore, takes a quiet moment to catch up on the latest news in the window of The Independent office. This inaugural Reader Snapshot was captured by his mother, Iryna Iankovska. To submit your own slice-of-life photo, email editor@independentnews.com.

COUNCIL

(Continued from front page)

retail and industrial uses, protecting open space and agricultural resources, providing a variety of housing types affordable to different incomes, planning for a multimodal transportation system and projected population growth that appears higher than expected.

Regarding the latter, there was strong feedback both at the March open house and Council meeting pertaining to population assumptions included in the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR). Commenters have said that the projections anticipate more population growth than will actually occur.

However, Principal Planner Andy Ross pointed out that population assumptions included in the Draft EIR are not a projection or forecast but rather identify a density range for each developable residential parcel — in essence reflecting the “maximum theoretical buildout allowed under the land use map.”

The Draft EIR plans for a maximum of 16,610 net new housing units by 2045, which would house approximately 43,820 net new people based on Livermore's current average household size indicating a 50% increase. An Environmental Impact study of the city's future growth shows a growth of 8%. This figure was not used in the 2045 year General Plan. In recent years, Livermore's population has declined, not increased.

These population numbers reflect the population growth that “could” occur with the maximum possible development capacity to accommodate future state housing requirements, such as multiple RHNA (Regional Housing Needs Allocation) cycles, even though Ross acknowledged that actual

population growth is expected to be much lower. Residents have noted at previous meetings that because of the high population figures used in the proposed General Plan, too much residential development has replaced industrial development within the UGB. If more industrial property were needed, the City would look at breaking the UGB at East of Greenville, when it would not otherwise have been needed.

There was additional confusion surrounding the language of the city's Urban Growth Boundary (UGB), with some community residents feeling that it wasn't clear enough nor adequately defined the city's intentions.

“The citizens of Livermore have over the years supported the Urban Growth Boundary to keep our city lively,” said Livermore resident Jean King. “The General Plan 2045 should not now propose breaking this UGB—the language being used is too ambiguous and confusing.”

King recommended a change of wording in the Draft General Plan from “focus growth” to “limit growth within the UGB” as a way for the city to reinforce its commitment to the UGB.

In response to King and other comments that expressed a similar concern for the preservation of open space and the UGB, Mayor Marchand reminded the public at the council meeting last Monday that the council lacks authority in this area.

“We put the UGB in the hands of the voters, so just to clarify the city council does not have the ability to change the UGB, which I think shows a tremendous commitment to the UGB.”

“The General Plan must actively welcome the com-

mercial and industrial uses that drive this innovation economy forward by including emerging technologies like commercial fusion energy, which is happening right here,” said Katie Marcel, CEO of Innovation Tri-Valley (ITV).

“The 2040 Vision (ITV's 2040 Vision Plan) also makes clear that infrastructure is destiny. We urge you to acknowledge that power, high-speed communications, water and transportation aren't just utilities, but a foundation on which the next generation of companies will decide to locate, stay and grow.”

Although opportunities for community feedback concluded in April, both the Draft General Plan 2045 and Draft EIR are available and can be viewed at: <https://imagineLivermore2045.org/>. Following the meeting, the next steps are for the city to publish the final EIR by June 2026, and bring the Draft General Plan before the Planning Commission and City Council for adoption hearings by summer 2026.

On an agenda item pulled off the city's consent items at the meeting, communi-

ty member Tom Soules expressed concern about the location of Eden Housing in the city's current Downtown Center Plan. He said, “Having seen the traffic and pedestrian congestion that already exists today only strengthens my feeling that we need this space for respite and relaxation as well as to beautify our city.”

Her also questioned whether approval of the final parcel map would be legal. Just before the council meeting, however, city staff published a supplemental memorandum demonstrating that planning division staff approved an amendment to the tentative parcel map in July 2022, as allowed by the Livermore Development Code. That amendment allowed the subdivision into airspace parcels, as was contemplated in the final parcel map that the council approved on Monday. Afterwards, the MEH attorney told The Independent that city staff did not publish notice of this amended map when it was approved, as is common practice, which is why the public did not know the chance had been made when the original staff report was published.

POLICE

(Continued from front page)

along with the Los Angeles Police Department, searched license-plate databases on behalf of Immigration and Customs Enforcement and Customs and Border Protection, despite state law prohibiting such data sharing.

PPD Lieutenant Nicholas Albert told The Independent that PPD has enabled statewide lookup, sharing data with 316 agencies across the state, including the Southern California agencies implicated in the CalMatters report. However, PPD use audits found no evidence of unlawful searches of Pleasanton data.

“This is a reciprocal agreement that allows for California law enforcement agencies full license plate search only,” Albert said. “Authorized agencies using the statewide search are governed by state law and policy to ensure lawful use. Agencies using the statewide lookup must have a California zip code, be a non-federal agency and must be a law enforcement agency.”

Other Flock users, such as homeowners' associations or private businesses, cannot access police department data.

“The fundamental premise of ALPR technology is built on information sharing,” Albert said. “Its effectiveness depends on authorized agencies being able to access and contribute data in real time to support investigations that routinely cross jurisdictional boundaries.”

2025 Statistics

Beyond ALPR, Avelar presented PPD's Annual Report for 2025, which summarized police activities for the year. The report showed a department rebounding from the staffing challenges of the past several years.

Residents reported 1,128 crimes in 2025, the lowest in the four years of data presented, going back to 2022. Of note, reports of motor-vehicle theft dropped over 33% compared to 2024, and larcenies and thefts dropped almost 17%.

Officers took on average 7:26 minutes to respond to emergencies in 2025, compared to 5:16 minutes in 2024. However, this increase reflects a new reporting method adopted last year; the clock now starts at the moment a call is received, whereas in prior years, the timer did not begin until an officer was dispatched.

Despite hiring seven new sworn officers in 2025 to the 82-position force, PPD's deployable force remains at 78% due to medical limitations, military deployments and multiple levels of training.

PPD reestablished its traffic unit in January 2025 after running for 18 months without one because of staffing limitations.

Looking ahead, the question of how to enforce e-bike laws remains top of mind at the department, Avelar said, while it's also evaluating a drone program to improve operational efficiency and reduce personnel risk.



One of Pleasanton's 35 Flock Safety cameras, attached to the light post in the foreground, records the license plates of vehicles that come into view, checks them against known hotlists, and stores the photograph for possible later searches. Photo — David Jen

TRI-VALLEY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 9-17, 2026

PAINT LIVERMORE PLEIN AIR ART FESTIVAL

The Livermore Art Association is calling all artists to register for a week of plein air painting, connection, and inspiration across Livermore. Celebrate creativity in the open air! The festival culminates in a lively, public awards reception at the Bankhead Theater Lobby on Sunday, May 17, from 4-6 p.m., featuring stunning works available for sale. See livermoreartassociation.org/paint-livermore-2026 for more information.

Thursdays, May 14-28

GRIEF SUPPORT WORKSHOP

The death of a loved one is unlike any other loss. Although there is no right or wrong path, there are stepping stones that are part of each grief journey; they will be explored in this 8-week workshop. Held at St. Elizabeth Seton Church, 4001 Stoneridge Drive, Pleasanton. Meetings will begin at 7 p.m. on Thursday evenings; May 14, 21 and 28. These meetings are open to all, regardless of religious affiliation. For more information, please call Barbara at 925-846-3904.

Thursday, May 14

LIVERMORE AMADOR VALLEY GARDEN CLUB MEETING

The May meeting will be on “Bringing Nature Home”, with Kathy Kramer, of the California natives garden tours, who will talk about how to create a beautiful garden that saves water, money, time and the planet! On May 14 from 6 to 8 p.m. at Crosswinds Church, 1660 Freisman Rd., Livermore, at the red Farm Theater Building.

Friday/Sunday, May 15 and 17

JOHN RUTTER'S REQUIEM

The Valley Concert Chorale (VCC) is proud to announce a collaborative concert series featuring John Rutter's Requiem, in a preview for the Chorale's upcoming performance at Carnegie Hall this June. Joining the Chorale are the Las Positas College Chamber Choir, Tracy's West High School Choral Leadership Academy, and Livermore's First Presbyterian Church Choir. On May 15 at 7:30 p.m. and May 17 at 4:00 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church, 2020 Fifth St., Livermore. \$30 general admission; \$10 for college students (with ID); free for children K-12. Visit www.valleyconcertchorale.org or call (925) 866-4003 for tickets. A reception will immediately follow each performance.

Saturday, May 16

RICK ESTRIN & THE NIGHTCATS LIVE IN LIVERMORE

Award-winning, modern blues legends, Rick Estrin & The Nightcats —

three-time winners of the prestigious Blues Music Award for Band of the Year — will perform live the Almost Famous Wine Company at 2271 S. Vasco Rd. in Livermore on May 16 at 7:30 p.m. Ticket price: \$23.18-\$39.19. See www.almostfamous.wine or call 925-344-5870 for more information.

Thursday, May 28

BROADWAY CHORUS CONCERT

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

ONGOING OPPORTUNITIES

FOOD RELIEF SERVICES

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

ONGOING EVENTS

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

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

SATURDAY PLEASANTON FARMERS MARKET

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

SUNDAY LIVERMORE DOWNTOWN FARMERS MARKET

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

iPhone Android

DOWNLOAD OUR APP AND NEVER MISS A STORY

independentnews.com

Follow us on

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

TVNPA Announces 1st Quarter Grants to Local Organizations

TRI-VALLEY — The Tri-Valley Nonprofit Alliance (TVNPA) said last week that it has awarded first quarter 2026 grants to 11 organizations “on the front lines of community care.”

TVNPA said the organizations receiving grants are “addressing critical challenges, including mental

health, economic stability, youth well-being, access to basic needs, and support for individuals and families navigating complex life circumstances.”

“What stood out in this round (of grants) is how immediate the impact is,” said TVNPA CEO Kathy Young. “These funds are

helping someone access mental health support in a crisis, get a meal while going through cancer treatment, stay employed during immigration proceedings, or prepare a child for success in school. At the same time, we’re supporting programs that build long-term stability through job train-

ing, youth development, and inclusive community experiences.”

Grants were awarded to the Reins in Motion Foundation, Nephrotic Syndrome Foundation, Bonita House, Culinary Angels, Jewish Family and Community Services East Bay, Royal Theater Academy, Teen Esteem,

Tri-Valley Career Center, Tri-Valley REACH, Down Syndrome Connection of the Bay Area and Three Thirty Three Arts.

The Tri-Valley Nonprofit Fund grants ranged from \$1,000 to \$5,000, according to the TVNPA website, but specific amounts for each recipient were not announced.

Founded in 2014, TVNPA is a “regional convener” for nonprofit organizations in the Tri-Valley.

In addition to its grant program, the alliance works to strengthen other nonprofits through education, skills training, workforce development and organizational resources.

SPARC Launches New Summer Program Created for Area High School Students

LIVERMORE — SPARC Theater will offer a new program for high school students this summer taught by two actors currently performing in the nonprofit theater company’s 20th Anniversary production of “Hamlet” at the Darcie Kent Vineyards.

Rather than focusing solely on acting, SPARC said the new program, “The Play’s the Thing,” is designed to immerse students in the collaborative process behind a professional production, including language, character development, movement and

storytelling, while offering a behind-the-scenes look at this summer’s production of “Hamlet.”

The six-session high school program will run from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., Monday, July 13, through Wednesday, July 15, and Monday, July 20, through Wednesday, July 23.

The tuition is \$462. Students who register for the high school program will also receive two tickets to attend a performance of “Hamlet.”

In addition, SPARC will again offer its “Some Have Greatness” summer pro-

grams for elementary and middle school students.

Elementary students will rehearse an original play by local author and SPARC collaborator Amy Pittel, while middle school students will rehearse a shortened version of “Hamlet.”

Both programs will culminate in performances for friends and family.

The 10-session elementary school program will be held from 9 a.m. to noon, on Monday, July 13, through Friday, July 18, and Monday, July 20, through Friday, July 24.

SPARC said the ele-

mentary school program is designed to encourage creativity and collaboration while building confidence. No previous experience required.

The 10-session middle school program will run from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. on the same days as the elementary school program.

The summer camps will be at the SPARC studio, 2172 Railroad Ave.

Tuition for both the elementary and middle school programs is \$524.

To register, or for more information, go to sparctheater.org.

Library to Offer ‘Park After Dark’ Experience

LIVERMORE — The Livermore Public Library and the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District (LARPD) will host a program at the Sycamore Grove Park Nature Area from 8:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. on Friday, June 5, to explore the after-dark environment.

The program, “Park After Dark — Traps & Night Blooms,” will begin with a series of light traps designed to attract nocturnal insects, offering a close-up look at species that are rarely seen during daylight hours, according to the library.

It will also include a guided walk along Dry Creek to learn about the night-blooming Sacred Datura plant and the moths that rely on it for survival.

The program is free, but registration is required. To RSVP, call 925-373-5505.

OBITUARIES

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Cherie Jo Patenaude (Coombes)
July 11, 1940 — March 31, 2026

Cherie Jo Patenaude (née Coombes) passed away on March 31, 2026, of complications of COPD. She was born on July 11, 1940, to RW and Frances Coombes in Ft. Worth, Texas. She showed an early aptitude for mathematics, and after attending Stephens College, went on to get a degree in math from the University of Texas at Austin in 1962. She was hired by the Control Data Corporation in California, an early pioneer in computing, and spent several years helping develop the CDC 6600 and 7600 computers. She continued to work in computers through the ‘70s, ‘80s and ‘90s at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory.

In 1963, her roommate introduced her to a coworker, Steve Patenaude, and they fell in love. She married him the following year. They had 62



great years of marriage and raised a son. She was a devoted partner and mother and spent many hours volunteering in her son’s school. She was active in local politics and the arts, including the local Shakespeare festival.

She enjoyed many hobbies, liked to crochet and knit, and was an avid reader of many books, especially mysteries and comedies. She loved to

travel, both in the family airplane, and after retirement with a senior tour group. She was also an adoring grandmother to her granddaughter, with whom she often made cookies.

She is survived by her husband Steve, son Mitch, daughter-in-law Melanie, granddaughter Mia, brother Bill, sister-in-law Judy, cousin Glenn McNew, and many nieces and nephews. She is preceded in death by her parents, her sister Carol Ann, and her brother-in-law Bob.

There will be a celebration of life at 5 p.m., Friday May 15, at the 3 Steves Winery at 5700 Greenville Rd. in Livermore. In lieu of flowers, her family asks that donations be made to the Alameda County Community Food Bank or the Tri-Valley Haven.

Delia Fay Garcia

Delia Fay Garcia passed away quietly in the comfort of her home on March 19, 2026, in Livermore, California at the age of 92. It was her dearest wish to spend her final moments at home, surrounded by her family, and she was blessed to have that wish fulfilled.

Delia Kilgore was born in Maud, Texas, and spent her early years on her parents’ farm. Her family later moved to Oakland, California, where she attended junior high and high school, and spent her free time roller skating with friends.

In her early 20s she met her husband, Henry “Hank” Garcia, in Sacramento, California. Together they built a life centered on family, raising three daughters and enjoying 49 years of marriage. Delia was a strong and independent woman and



raised her daughters to be the same.

Delia was a dedicated Operations Officer at several banks and took great pride in her work. Her career was not only a profession, but a source of personal identity and fulfillment, and she found deep satisfaction in the relationships she built and the

work she accomplished over the years.

In retirement, she enjoyed being on a bowling team, taking care of her neighbor’s children, and spending time with friends and family.

Delia is survived by her daughters, Dianne Rocha, Karen Garrett, Kim Bulloch and their husbands, as well as seven beloved grandchildren and fourteen great-grandchildren.

A memorial service for Delia will be held on Saturday, May 30, at 1:00 p.m. at Callaghan Mortuary in Livermore, California. Following the service, a luncheon will be held in Callaghan’s Legacy Hall, and all are welcome.

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

Betty L. Palmer

Jan. 6, 1933 — May 8, 2026

Born Jan 6, 1933, in Bancroft, Nebraska, Betty Palmer entered into eternal rest on May 8, 2026.

Betty was born to Herman and Austra Sorensen, one of 11 children; Sonny, Lorraine, Tootie, George, Harlen, Harold, Karen, Joan, Delores and Donnie, who all preceded her in death.

Betty was a graduate of Bancroft High School, class of 1951. She moved to Livermore in 1955, met and married Richard Palmer, Sr., and they had four children.

Betty is survived by her sons, Rich (Mollie), Greg (Karen), and daughter Lisa. She also leaves behind grandsons, Zeke (Courtney), Jake (Katrina) and Dustin (Miranda) and granddaughters, Gabby (Cameron), Haylee (Austin) and Tess, and



great-grandchildren, Bubba, Jocelyn, Johnny, Timmy, Riley, Betty, Brody, Lainy, and Dawson. She was preceded in death by her husband Richard and son Tim.

In her later years, she enjoyed golfing with the Nif-Tee

Niners, and was a member of St. Michael’s Church and St. Michael’s Golden Friends.

Thank you to Stanford Hospital for such wonderful care. Thank you to Hope Hospice for your love and support and to her caregiving team during the last week of her life.

Services for Betty will be held at Callaghan Mortuary on Tuesday, May 19. Viewing will begin at 10:00 a.m., followed by burial at Memory Gardens Cemetery at 11:30 a.m.

In lieu of flowers, donations are to be made to St. Michael’s Golden Friends, 458 Maple Street, Livermore, CA 94550.

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

IN LOVING MEMORY

Cassandra T. Richmond-Buccola

We mourn the loss of Cassandra, “Cassie”, Richmond-Buccola at the age of 55, about a month short of her 56th birthday. She passed away on April 24 at her home in Livermore, California. Born to James and Lillie in mid-1970, she spent her formative years in Fremont and Union City, and ultimately settled in the East Bay as an adult. A loving mother, who despite her ups and downs, loved all of those around her unconditionally. Cassandra grew up a scholar athlete and Bay Area native, and made sure to leave an everlasting legacy of memories and love. Despite not growing up in Livermore, she found that many of her childhood and high school friends managed their way to the East Bay, and had the opportunity to rekindle many friendships in the later portion of her life.

Cassandra had an innate



drive to make a positive difference in the lives of others. Having pursued a career in teaching, Cassandra made an impact not only with her own family, but those of others as well. She went on to teach kindergarten through 10th grade for a number of years while juggling a family and playing amateur/semipro tennis. She had a deep passion for music and sports; she could often be found

on stage at R Place playing the harmonica, in her living room watching the Tennis Open, and occasionally singing to her favorite songs by Earth, Wind & Fire while cooking. In the latter half of her life, she enjoyed macrame, painting, and pursued a certificate in natural disaster response for the community. She always wanted to help others, even if she wasn’t always in the position to do so; whether it was donating blood, donating clothing, or helping in Open Heart kitchens, she found a way to help those around her.

Cassandra is survived by her loving husband and four children. A funeral service will be held on May 14, 2026, at 11 a.m. at Callaghan Mortuary in Livermore, California. In lieu of flowers, condolences and/or donations can be made to the family directly.

Shirley Ann Calvert

April 18, 1939 — April 29, 2026



Shirley Calvert, born on April 18, 1939, in Hayward, California, passed away peacefully on April 29, 2026, at the age of 87.

She graduated from Hayward High School in 1956 and later made her home in Tracy, California, where she resided since 1989.

Shirley began working at a young age, spending summers peeling apricots alongside her siblings and cousins. She held several positions before beginning her long and meaningful

career at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL). After working for several years, she took time away to raise her daughters, later returning to LLNL, where she ultimately retired in 1999 after 27 years of dedicated service.

In her free time, Shirley found joy in visiting with friends and family and cherished traveling with her sister and brothers. She was always eager for a shopping trip or a lunch outing.

Following her retirement, Shirley devoted herself to com-

munity service through the Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars (LAVFW), based at Post 1537 in Tracy. Her commitment and leadership led her to serve in several roles, including President, District President, and ultimately California State Department President.

Shirley is survived by her husband, James Calvert; her daughters, Sheryl Faux (Doug) and Susan Duenas (Anselmo); her sister, Linda Roy; her brother, Dennis Lopez; her grandchildren, Eric Avila, Jessica Wing

(Jonathan), Joshua Miller (Stevens), David Faux, and Dennis Faux; and her great-grandchildren, Eddie Avila and Owen Adler-Miller.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Joseph T. and Ella Lopez; her brother, Joseph J. Lopez; and her stepdaughter, April Brown.

Services will be held on Wednesday, May 27, 2026, at Fry Memorial Chapel, 550 S. Central Avenue, Tracy, California. Visitation will begin at 10:00 a.m., followed by the

funeral service at 11:00 a.m.

Final resting will take place following the service at Tracy Public Cemetery, 501 East Schulte Road, Tracy, California.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests that donations be made to VFW Aux Post 1537, 1688 Piper Place, Tracy, CA 95304.

Shirley will be remembered for her dedication to family, her strong work ethic, and her unwavering commitment to serving others.

Las Positas College Makes History with Two State Titles

By Matt Schwab

LIVERMORE — Las Positas College competitors made history at the drama-filled California Community College Athletic Association (3C2A) Men's and Women's Swimming & Diving State Championships in Costa Mesa.

Two Hawks earned state championships in the same season for the first time at the big meet, April 30-May 2 at Orange Coast College.

Las Positas' Samantha Fehr prevailed in the women's 100-yard breaststroke in 1:04.09, edging out Analiese Duncan of Orange Coast by eight one-hundredths of a second (0.08).

Las Positas' Filuka Houborg earned the women's 1,650 freestyle title, in 17:44.7.

Fehr, a sophomore Liberty High (Brentwood) graduate, and Houborg, a freshman out of Dougherty Valley (San Ramon), became the fifth and sixth state champions in the program's 13-year history (three men and three women). They led the women's team to a sixth-place team finish with 253 points.

How close was the 100-yard breaststroke final?

"It was definitely very close," Fehr said. "I looked over at the board, looked at Lane 4, it said I had first, so I was, like, OK, good," she recalled.

The Las Positas men finished 12th overall,

led by Nathanael Ridosko, a freshman Granada High graduate, who broke school records in the 200- and 500-yard freestyle finals. He was third in the 200-yard freestyle finals.

"A really good state meet, yeah," Las Positas head coach Jason Craighead said. "... We were not very far out of third place as a team (in the women's meet). This was probably the fastest meet that we've had in a long time."

Fehr took second in the 200-yard breaststroke, in 2:20.49, being out-touched by Duncan by 0.12 seconds. The two stars had breathtaking battles in the 100 and 200 breaststrokes. In both races combined, with 3 minutes and 24 seconds of racing, the two were separated by a total of four one-hundredths of a second (.04).

Houborg set three school records overall, also with a second in the 500-yard free (5:04.13) and third in the 200-yard free (1:55.67).

Fehr also broke school records in her breaststroke races.

An early lead set the tone for Houborg's state title in the marathon-like 1,650-yard free.

"I think the main part for me was getting out ahead of everyone, so I'm mentally able to be able to win it," she said.

Houborg plans to swim in Denmark next year and attend nursing school

while looking for a new swim team.

In other Las Positas highlights, freshman Laina Stifter (Granada) was second in 1-meter and 3-meter diving, and sophomore Ainsley Wade (Granada) took third in 1-meter diving.

Fehr modestly called it a "pretty good meet."

"I definitely saw good outcomes from all the work that I put in throughout the season," Fehr said. "My goal was to drop a little more time than I did, but I did drop time overall, so I'm happy with that. In swimming milliseconds might not seem like a lot, but in the world of swimming they are."

Fehr is weighing offers from NCAA Division I swim programs and looking to pursue a biology degree. She swam for three years in high school and played water polo, but did not intend to compete after graduation.

"It wasn't very high on my list of priorities for schools that I applied to out of high school," she said. "Going to Las Positas was a very last-minute decision. My high school coach (Cindi Coats) knows coach (Jason) Craighead. She's like, 'He's a great coach, just join the team, you'll have fun.'"

She made big strides as a Hawks freshman when she decided to take the sport more seriously and



Las Positas freshman Filuka Houborg powers through the water during the women's 1,650-yard freestyle at the 3C2A State Championships at Orange Coast College. Houborg secured the state title with a time of 17:44.7, contributing to a historic season for the Hawks. (Photo courtesy of Chris Spence)

join a club team for the first time. Usually, elite swimmers start club swimming well before high school.

"I would say I had a good swimming experience in high school, which made me fall in love with the sport," Fehr said. "I'd say that's how it set me up for where I am now."

She gives Craighead high marks as a coach. "I love his training. He's very good at communicating with his athletes," she said. "He's definitely had a good impact."

Craighead called it probably the program's third-best finish at the state meet. The women finished third and fourth in consecutive years, in 2016 and 2017, and the men were fifth and fourth in the same two years.

Here are the past Las Positas state champions:

McKenna Stevulak, 50 back — 2013; Esteban Perez del Rio, 100 free — 2019; Marcu Holunga, 500 & 1650 free — 2023; and Zach Zauhar Kurr.



Las Positas freshman Filuka Houborg cuts through pool in the women's 1,650-yard freestyle at the 3C2A State Championships at Orange Coast College. Houborg secured the state title with a time of 17:44.7, contributing to a historic season for the Hawks. (Photo courtesy of Chris Spence)

Honorary Plaque Recognizes Top Stadium Project Donors

PLEASANTON — Three Valleys Community Foundation (3VCF) and We Are Pleasanton, a volunteer group that helps fund Pleasanton Unified School District (PUSD) projects, unveiled a plaque earlier this month that recognizes the top donors in raising nearly \$250,000 for improvements to the Foothill High School (FHS) stadium and other campus infrastructure.

The enhancements, which were completed two years ago, included construction of an ADA-compliant pathway to the stadium, better lighting to increase safety and an upgraded sound system.

The plaque recognizes

four Leading the Way-level donors who contributed \$25,000 or more, including We Are Pleasanton, The Workday Foundation, and the Madden and Yamashita families.

Another 11 businesses and families who gave at least \$2,000 are listed on the plaque as Community Champion Donors.

The plaque was unveiled during an afternoon ceremony at the stadium on Friday, May 1.

This was the second major fundraising effort led by We Are Pleasanton. In 2021, the group raised \$225,000 for shade structures at Amador Valley High School.

"We Are Pleasanton is

proud to support our exceptional Pleasanton schools by helping raise funds that enhance facilities for students and families," said co-founder Todd Utikal. "Our schools are one of the reasons so many families choose Pleasanton, and through the generosity of businesses and community members, we can continue investing in spaces that bring people together and strengthen community pride."

3VCF, which serves as a hub to bring together donors and community groups, provided the nonprofit structure that allowed 100% of the donations to go to the stadium project.



Week Goes Swimmingly

By Mitch Stephens

Last week, the region's boys volleyball scene was lauded for excellence. We even presented it as perhaps the Tri-Valley's most competitive sport among the 24 North Coast Section offers for championship events.

We recant. Local swimmers proved their excellence Saturday at College of Marin in the North Coast Section meet.

At the very top were the Amador Valley boys, who just missed out on winning the team title with 275 points compared to 281 by champion De La Salle-Concord. Foothill (130) was sixth and Granada was ninth with 107.

Among the girls, Amador Valley (178.50) was fourth, well back of champion Campolindo-Moraga (272) and ahead of Granada (sixth, 173) and Foothill (ninth, 73).

The Amador Valley junior duo of Kealan Tupper, a Northwestern commit, and Cade Vieler, a Princeton commit, each won two events.

Tupper captured the 200-yard freestyle (1 minute, 36.69 seconds) and the 500 free (4:23.40), while Vieler won the 100 free (44.06) and the 100 backstroke (47.23).

Four other Tri-Valley swimmers were crowned champions in a very competitive field: Foothill's Ethan Wang (100 breaststroke, 54.91) and McKinley Scobie (200 free, 1:47.15) and Granada's Brooke Bennett (200 individual medley, 2:01.83) and Taylor Bennett (100 breaststroke, 1:03.00).

More than two dozen local swimmers qualified for the CIF State Championships at Clovis Olympic Swim Complex on the campus of Clovis West High School Thursday through Saturday (May 14-16).

Track Central: In what promises to be a fantastic showdown race for weeks to come, Amador Valley senior Thomas Hehl edged Granada senior Nicolai Barron at the line to win the East Bay Athletic League 800-meter championship, 1:55.29 to 1:55.79.

The EBAL meet was held at Amador Valley on Saturday (May 9).

Barron is the section leader at 1:53.11 set at the incredibly fast Arcadia Invitational on April 11. Hehl actually has gone almost one second faster than his winning time Saturday, clocking 1:54.30 at the Dublin Distance Fiesta in March. Both figure to advance to the NCS Meet of Champions which is May 22-23 at Dublin High as long as they finish among the top

nine in Saturday's (May 16) NCS Tri-Valley Area Meet at Foothill High School.

Other male winners in the EBAL meet included Hehl (1,600, 4:19.28), Amador Valley junior Gavin Shimojima (3,200, 9:30.69), Dublin (4x400 relay, 3:23.39), Granada (4x800 relay, 8:06.54), Granada junior Caiden Van Leer (discus, 151-0) and Livermore sophomore Giovanni Tincolo (high jump, 6-4).

Female winners included Livermore senior Lanie Hempel (400, 57.0; 800, 2:10.36) and Dublin senior Miranda Howeth (pole vault, 10-5).

De La Salle won the boys meet with 117 points, followed by Dublin (98.5), Amador Valley (62), Granada (61), California-San Ramon (45.5), San Ramon Valley-Danville (45), Dougherty Valley-San Ramon (41), Livermore (27), Monte Vista-Danville (21) and Foothill (9).

San Ramon Valley (113.5) won handily over Carondelet-Concord (84) for the girls title followed by Dublin (65), California (50), Monte Vista (57), Dougherty Valley (46), Livermore (45.5), Granada (23), Foothill (18) and Amador Valley (15).

Diamond Schedule: The EBAL season comes to a close this week with NCS play starting next week on the baseball and softball diamonds. In baseball play this week, Amador Valley hosts Foothill and Dublin plays at Livermore, with both games at 4 p.m. on Friday (May 15).

Unlike baseball, softball decided to play a league tournament which will conclude with a championship game Thursday (May 14) between the winners of semifinal games played on Tuesday (May 12). Those semifinal games were California (14-10) at Livermore (23-1) and Granada (13-11) at San Ramon Valley (18-6).

Livermore closed the regular season with an 11-1 win over Granada on May 7 as Isabella Kelton, Laine Macosky and Gianna Willes all drove in two runs, while winning pitcher Kaci Norton struck out eight in five innings, allowing four hits.

All-League Boys Golf: The All-EBAL golf teams were announced last week with Amador Valley's Cooper Mapes, Dublin's Tyler Chow and Livermore's Jacob Mosca all earning first-team honors.

Foothill's Stefano Castaneda, Foothill's Ethan Cheng and Granada's Brock Terkeurst were second-team members. Drue Sanchez, from league champion De La Salle, was named the league's Player of the Year.

LEGAL NOTICES/CLASSIFIEDS

www.independentnews.com

LEGAL NOTICES
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 622237
The following person(s) doing business as: Redwood Canyon Golf Course, 17007 REDWOOD ROAD, CASTRO VALLEY, CA 94546 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Kamper Sports Management, LLC, 500 Skokie Blvd, Ste 444, Northbrook, IL 60062. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name

listed above on 1/1/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: James E. Lawler, CFO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 8, 2026. Expires April 7, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6810. Published April 23, 30, May 7, 14, 2026.
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 622139
The following person(s) doing business as: Clean Sciences, LLC an Astro Pak Company, 301 Whitney Place, Fremont, CA 94539 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Clean Sciences, LLC, 301 Whitney Place, Fremont, CA 94539. This

business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 3/16/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Ken Carroll, Member, Manager. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 3, 2026. Expires April 2, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6811. Published April 23, 30, May 7, 14, 2026.
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 622362
The following person(s) doing business as: Al Alchemist Solutions, 1236 Sherman ST, APT

1, Alameda, CA 94501 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Yvon Chausseblanche, 1236 Sherman ST, APT 1, Alameda CA 94501. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 4/13/26. Signature of Registrant/s/: Yvon Chausseblanche, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 13, 2026. Expires April 12, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6812. Published April 23, 30, May 7, 14, 2026.
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 621836
The following person(s) doing business as: Haircraft 11, 22151 Redwood RD, Castro Valley, CA 94546 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Christina Robles, 22151 Redwood RD, Castro Valley, CA 94546. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 8/1/2011. Signature of Registrant/s/: Christina Robles, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 25, 2026. Expires March 24, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6813. Published April 23, 30,

May 7, 14, 2026.
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 622376
The following person(s) doing business as: ABC Consulting, 2425 Diablo PL, Union City, CA 94587 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Ashley Peng, 2425 Diablo PL, Union City, CA 94587. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 4/10/261. Signature of Registrant/s/: Ashley Peng, CEO, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on

April 13, 2026. Expires April 12, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6814. Published April 23, 30, May 7, 14, 2026.
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 621480
The following person(s) doing business as: Kincova, 801 Tranquility Circle, Unit 10, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Centri Technology LLC, 30 Chimney Rock, Oakland, CA 94605. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed

above on 3/11/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Dick Akpan Ntia Jr., Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 12, 2026. Expires March 11, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6815. Published April 23, 30, May 7, 14, 2026.
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 622091
The following person(s) doing business as: My PACE Academy, 25679 Paul CT, Fairview, CA 94541 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Frieda Alessi, 25679 Paul CT, Fairview, CA 94541. This business is

LEGAL NOTICES/CLASSIFIEDS



conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Frieda Alessi, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 2, 2026. Expires April 1, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6816. Published April 23, 30, May 7, 14, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 621892

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. National Broom Company of California Inc, DBA JLR Gear, 2. JLR Gear, 2434 Research DR, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): National Broom Company of California, Inc., 2434 Research DR, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 9/17/2010. Signature of Registrant/s/: David Rothman, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 26, 2026. Expires March 25, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6817. Published April 23, 30, May 7, 14, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 622231

The following person(s) doing business as: JJ Coaching, 288 3rd ST, UNIT 514, Oakland, CA 94607 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Jinan Jubayli, 288 3rd ST, UNIT 514, Oakland, CA 94607. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 4/6/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Jinan Jubayli, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 7, 2026. Expires April 6, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6818. Published April 23, 30, May 7, 14, 2026.

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
Case No. 26CV183661
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF ALAMEDA
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

Petitioner:
Dylan Thomas Tait
895 Camella DR.
Livermore, CA 94550
filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:

Present Names:
Dylan Thomas Tait
Proposed Name:
Dylan Thomas Mole
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: 06/26/2026
Time: 9:00 AM
Dept: 514

The address of the court is:
Hayward Hall of Justice
24405 Amador Street
Hayward, CA 94544

A copy of this Order To Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation printed in this county:
The Independent Newspaper
2250 First Street,
Livermore, CA 94550
Dated: 04/24/2026 /s/: A. Michael Markman, Judge.
The Independent, Legal No. 6819. Published April 30, May 7, 14, 21, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 622680

The following person(s) doing business as: Sur Spanish Language Academy, 4616 Redwood Rd, Oakland, CA 94619 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Ursula Radics, 4616 Redwood Rd, Oakland, CA 94619. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Ursula Radics, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 22, 2026. Expires April 21, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6820. Published April 30, May 7, 14, 21, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 622658

The following person(s) doing business as: Vouched Connections, 3728 Madeira Way, Livermore, CA 94550-3315 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Karl Pontau, 3728 Madeira Way, Livermore, CA 94550-3315. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Karl P. Pontau, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 21, 2026. Expires April 20, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6821. Published April 30, May 7, 14, 21, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 622399

The following person(s) doing business as: Wenfar, 30969 San Benito ST, Hayward, CA 94544 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Wenfar LLC, 30969 San Benito ST, Hayward, CA 94544. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Francis Ho, Manager. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 14, 2026. Expires April 13, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6822. Published April 30, May 7, 14, 21, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 622564

The following person(s) doing business as: Sunol's Casa Bella, 11984 Main St, Sunol, CA 94586 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Casa Bella Events Inc., 788 Vineyard Terrace, Pleasanton, CA 94566. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 4/17/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Venus Garg, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 21, 2026. Expires April 21, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6823. Published April 30, May 7, 14, 21, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 622561

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. OpArt, 2. Op Art, 7161 Norfolk RD, Oakland, CA 94705 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Operative Works LLC, 7161 Norfolk RD, Berkeley, CA 94705. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 4/16/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Anthony Shore, Managing Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 17, 2026. Expires April 16, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6824. Published April 30, May 7, 14, 21, 2026.

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION SERVICE OF SUMMONS
Case No. 25CV160125

Re: Barnes v. Harris, et al. Alameda County Superior Court. NOTICE to Defendant **PAMELA HARRIS, YOU ARE BEING SUED** by Plaintiff **JAEEL BARNES**, an individual.

The action is pending in the Superior Court of California, County of Alameda. The Complaint was filed on December 16, 2025. You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after the first publication of this Summons to file a written response to the complaint in this court and serve a copy of the response pleading on Plaintiff's attorney. If you fail to do so, your default will be entered and judgment taken against you.

NOTICE further, a Case Management Conference is scheduled for August 25, 2026 at 3:00 p.m., in Dept. 22, before the Hon. Han Tran, in the Rene C. Davidson Court-house, Administration Bldg., 1221 Oak St., Oakland, CA 94612.

Service of this Notice by Publication is made by counsel for Plaintiff: Brennan S. Huelse, Esq., Oakwood Legal Group, LLP, 8124 W. 3rd Street, 2nd Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90048, (310) 205-2525. The Independent, Legal No. 6825. Published May 7, 14, 21, 28, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 622782

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

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 622800

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

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 622757

The following person(s) doing business as: First Principle Consulting, 6694 Crown Canyon Rd, Castro Valley, 94552 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Bhargava Kumar Narayana, 6694 Crown Canyon Rd, Castro Valley, CA 94552. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Bhargava Kumar Narayana, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 23, 2026. Expires April 22, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6828. Published May 7, 14, 21, 28, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 622568

The following person(s) doing business as: Goldcrest Brew, 6599 Dublin Blvd, Apt# 323, Dublin, CA 94568 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Goldcrest Ventures LLC, 6599 Dublin Blvd, Apt# 323, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Zain Lohkhandwala, Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 17, 2026. Expires April 16, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6829. Published May 7, 14, 21, 28, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 622457

The following person(s) doing business as: Peggy's Styles of Beauty, 1229 MacArthur Blvd, San Leandro, CA 94577 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Peggy Povoda-Sipe, 364 Via Coches, San Leandro, CA 94580. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 01/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Peggy Povoda-Sipe, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 15, 2026. Expires April 23, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6830. Published May 7, 14, 21, 28, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 622486

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

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 622660

The following person(s) doing business as: Jatco Muzzles, 6289 Wade Ct, Pleasanton, CA 94588 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Krystal Anderson, 6289 Wade Ct, Pleasanton, CA 94588. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Krystal Anderson, Sole Proprietor. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 21, 2026. Expires April 20, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6832. Published May 7, 14, 21, 28, 2026.

pendent, Legal No. 6832. Published May 7, 14, 21, 28, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 622278

The following person(s) doing business as: Washed Up Wood, 4835 Webster Street, Oakland, CA 94609 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Matthew J. Gunderson, 4835 Webster Street, Oakland, CA 94609. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Matthew J. Gunderson, Owner / Principal Designer. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 9, 2026. Expires April 8, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6833. Published May 7, 14, 21, 28, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 622674

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

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 622431

The following person(s) doing business as: Golden Thread Alterations, 2222 Second St #4, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Seul Han, 2222 Second St, #4, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 4/1/2021. Signature of Registrant/s/: Seul Han, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 14, 2026. Expires April 13, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6835. Published May 7, 14, 21, 28, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 622580

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

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 622833

The following person(s) doing business as: Global Quilt Connection, 1002 E 23rd Street, Unit 28, Oakland, CA 94606 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Bea Byrne LLC, 1002 E 23rd St, Unit 28, Oakland, CA 94606. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 11/17/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Alexandra Byrne, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 27, 2026. Expires April 26, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6837. Published May 7, 14, 21, 28, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 621972

The following person(s) doing business as: Bay Area Men's Health, 3137 Castro Valley Blvd, Unit 301, Castro Valley, CA 94546 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Iahnanumbiya Aziz, 3137 Castro Valley Blvd, Unit 301, Castro Valley, CA 94546. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 2013. Signature of Registrant/s/: Iahnanumbiya Aziz, Owner. This statement was filed with the

County Clerk of Alameda on March 30, 2026. Expires March 29, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6838. Published May 14, 21, 28, June 4, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 622973

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

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 622855

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

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 622957

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

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 622977

The following person(s) doing business as: Golden State Brackets, 4575 El Dorado CT, Pleasanton, CA 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Vishal Saboo, 4575 El Dorado CT, Pleasanton, CA 94566. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 12/1/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Vishal Saboo, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on May 4, 2026. Expires May 3, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6842. Published May 14, 21, 28, June 4, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 622591

The following person(s) doing business as: True VIP Care Non-Emergency Medical Transportation LLC, 918 46th Street Lower Unit, Oakland, CA 94608 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): True VIP Care Non-Emergency Medical Trans-

portation LLC, 255 MacArthur Blvd, APT 301, Oakland, CA 94610. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Henok Y. Welday, Managing Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 20, 2026. Expires April 19, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6847. Published May 14, 21, 28, June 4, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 623014

The following person(s) doing business as: Sana's Cafe, 20885 Mission Blvd, Hayward, CA 94541 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Sanani Franchise Inc., 20885 Mission Blvd, Hayward, CA 94541. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Bassary Airtashi, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on May 4, 2026. Expires May 3, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6844. Published May 14, 21, 28, June 4, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 622809

The following person(s) doing business as: Easy Breezy Organizing, 4668 Mowry Ave, Fremont, CA 94538 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Yung Shan Yan, 4668 Mowry Ave, Fremont, CA 94538. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Yung Shan Yan, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 27, 2026. Expires April 26, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6845. Published May 14, 21, 28, June 4, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 623047

The following person(s) doing business as: Shayboogie's Skates, 2788 EC Reems CT, #2B, Oakland, CA 94605 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Shayboogie's Skates, 2788 EC Reems CT, #2B, Oakland, CA 94605. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 2/10/2014. Signature of Registrant/s/: Mahesh Gupta, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 22, 2026. Expires April 21, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6850. Published May 14, 21, 28, June 4, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 622591

The following person(s) doing business as: True VIP Care Non-Emergency Medical Transportation LLC, 918 46th Street Lower Unit, Oakland, CA 94608 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): True VIP Care Non-Emergency Medical Trans-

portation LLC, 255 MacArthur Blvd, APT 301, Oakland, CA 94610. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Henok Y. Welday, Managing Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 20, 2026. Expires April 19, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6847. Published May 14, 21, 28, June 4, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 623014

The following person(s) doing business as: Sana's Cafe, 20885 Mission Blvd, Hayward, CA 94541 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Sanani Franchise Inc., 20885 Mission Blvd, Hayward, CA 94541. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Bassary Airtashi, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on May 4, 2026. Expires May 3, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6844. Published May 14, 21, 28, June 4, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 623051

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

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 622683

The following person(s) doing business as: Pandit Parashar, 230 Carrick Circle, Hayward, CA 94542 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Mahesh Gupta, 230 Carrick Circle, Hayward, CA 94542. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 2/10/2014. Signature of Registrant/s/: Mahesh Gupta, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 22, 2026. Expires April 21, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6850. Published May 14, 21, 28, June 4, 2026.

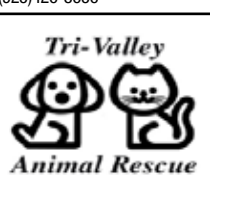
CLASSIFIEDS

ANIMALS

CATS/DOGS

ADOPT A DOG OR CAT

For additional information contact Valley Humane Society at (925)426-8656



Adopt a New Best Friend

TVAR

Tri-Valley Animal Rescue

Our current weekly adoption events include: Saturdays - Dogs & Puppies at Dublin Petsmart 6960 Amador Plaza Rd. Hours: 10:00am to 1:00pm. Visit our website: WWW.TVAR.ORG, to see adoptable animals, volunteer opportunities, and how to donate. Follow: TRI-VALLEY ANIMAL RESCUE on Facebook, and Instagram

EMPLOYMENT

HELP WANTED

SERVICES

BE WARY of out of area companies. Check with the local Better Business Bureau before you send money or fees. Read and understand any contracts before you sign. Shop around for rates.

TO PLACE CLASSIFIED ADS

go to bit.ly/indy-Classifieds or call (925)243-8000

MERCHANDISE

FOR SALE

ESTATE/ GARAGE/ YARD SALES

FREE SECTION

LOST/ FOUND

NOTICES /ANNOUNCEMENTS

NOTICES

Pleasanton Student Ranks No. 1 in National Math Contest

By Sanestina Hunter

PLEASANTON — For Walnut Grove Elementary School fourth-grader Rohan Ramesh, solving tough problems is part of the fun. That passion recently led to a perfect 96 out of 96 score in the 2026 Math Kangaroo competition and a No. 1 national ranking.

Ramesh earned the distinction in Math Kangaroo, an annual international math competition that drew more than 60,000 student participants nationwide this year and more than 6 million K-12 students worldwide.

Tri-Valley students took the test March 19 at Thomas Hart Middle School in Pleasanton, which served as a regional testing center.

Recalling the day he learned the results, Ramesh said he was watching a movie with his family when his father checked the Math Kangaroo scores online and shared the news.

“At first, I was shocked — I was expecting maybe a 93, not a 96,” Ramesh said. “I was really happy that I had come first and gotten a full score, especially because there were a lot of hard questions, much harder than

last year.”

The 75-minute, multiple-choice exam featured 24 questions worth 96 total points and challenged students with probability, geometry and visual reasoning problems.

Preparing for Math Kangaroo for a second year in a row meant more than reviewing formulas.

In the two months leading up to the contest, Ramesh focused on consistency, understanding concepts and practice, spending time each week taking practice tests and logging into Think Academy, an online program offering advanced math and English instruction.

Ramesh said the academy’s more advanced lessons deepened his understanding of algebra, geometry, probability and statistics, helping him feel more confident tackling some of the exam’s trickier questions.

“School math isn’t the most challenging,” he said. “I love going to Think Academy because it’s where I’ve learned most of my math skills.”

At Walnut Grove, Ramesh is a fourth grader in Annalisa Perazzo’s class. He said his interest in prob-

lem-solving is also shaped at home, where his father inspires him through the calm and logical way he approaches difficult challenges.

That curiosity started at an early age, Ramesh said, fueled by a love of puzzles and figuring out how things work.

“I’ve liked math since I was really young,” he said. “I love puzzles, and math is like one really big puzzle. The feeling you get when you finally finish a really hard question — that ‘Yes, I did it!’ moment — that’s why I love math.”

Outside of school, the 10-year-old stays busy with hobbies that keep him curious, confident and ready for the next challenge, including chess, solving the Rubik’s Cube and music.

Inspired by his best friend to learn the Rubik’s Cube about a year ago, Ramesh can now solve the puzzle in about 50 seconds and said his next goal is to solve it in 10 seconds.

He said solving the cube requires spotting patterns and thinking several steps ahead — skills he also uses while competing in chess tournaments with Emerald Hills Chess, where he currently

holds a 550 rating and hopes to reach 1,500 next year.

His curiosity for problem-solving also extends to probability. Curious about how odds work, Ramesh created his own method for calculating the probability of rolling certain sums with dice, later testing the idea using eight-sided and 10-sided dice.

That same curiosity has also shaped his interest in music.

He first learned keyboard through the Simply Piano app on his iPad before attending a School of Rock summer camp last year and later joining keyboard lessons.

Inspired by guitar teacher Franklin Vasquez, Ramesh picked up guitar because he wanted to try something new and quickly grew to enjoy playing.

This season, he performed solo guitar with his band, 101, playing the Beatles’ “Come Together” at Mavericks in Pleasanton. The band previously performed at Stampede in Livermore.

Along the way, Ramesh said he has noticed similarities between music and math.

“Music and math are connected in a funny way,”

Ramesh said. “When I started keyboard, I was literally counting keys. But as I got better, my hands just knew where to go — and you’re still doing fast math, counting beats for each note. Getting it right is what makes it sound good.”

As summer approaches, Ramesh said he looks forward to swimming, camping with his family, attending coding camp and continuing to explore algorithms before starting fifth grade next year.

For students interested in math competitions, Ramesh offered simple advice: “Don’t just memorize an

algorithm,” he said. “Learn the concept behind it. Even if a new problem doesn’t look like something you’ve seen before, understanding the concept helps you figure it out.”




Creek Hill Farm
Horseback Riding Lessons,
Training, Boarding
and Sales
925.337.5375
creekhillfarms.com



MILLER'S
AIR CONDITIONING and HEATING
WE SERVICE ALL MAJOR BRANDS!
Residential & Commercial
Serving The Tri-Valley Since 1960
925.447.3000
www.CallMillers.com Lic. #253756

Would you, your team or club like to be a part of the 108th Annual Livermore Rodeo Parade June 13th 10am



Parade Applications are available at www.livermore-rotary.org or email Livermoreparade@yahoo.com

Rotary Club of Livermore

TEACHER

(Continued from front page)



An up-close look at the jumpsuit students painted for retiring art teacher Jill Thompson. Thompson will wear the student-made garment on the last day of school as a colorful tribute to her 12 years of mentorship at Valley Montessori. (Photo — Rain Hepting)

Valley Arts and teaches summer classes at the Bothwell Arts Center — which he plans to continue as he fully takes on the role of VMS art teacher.

He said he brings to the classroom a subversion of his own childhood experience of being discouraged from pursuing art.

“Being told my whole life, ‘If you do art, you’re going to mop the floors, if you do art, you’re going to struggle...’ I feel that if I even just get one child to understand and feel that creativity is probably the biggest asset you hold as a human being, that’s going to be my main objective,” Iacono said. “Art saved my life, so that’s what I bring.”

Thompson and Iacono worked together to host this year’s art show. Thompson’s predecessor, Kate Malson, started the event, which has since become a yearly tradition.

“I think it’s a requirement,” Thompson said when asked if Iacono would continue the shows after she retired. “I don’t know if it’s in his contract, but I don’t think he could get by without doing it.”

Unlike competitive art shows, the VMS Art Show displays art from every student with no ranking system or prizes, in line with the school’s cooperative ethos. Art pieces are clipped to wire dividers lining the school gym or displayed on walls or tables. As the art teacher, Thompson curated the event based on which art pieces best represented each student’s growth that year.

Thompson reflected on the contrast between the VMS Art Show and an event she had previously hosted as a high school

art teacher in Half Moon Bay. “The white walls and the white mats and everything was very professional looking, but it didn’t have the joy like this (VMS show) has, and the creativity and the uniqueness you get from each age group as they progress through their learning,” she said.

Thompson brought her own flair to the shows she hosted, often constructing interactive projects for visitors to participate in. This year, her interactive piece was a plain jumpsuit that she invited students to paint upon.

Thompson looks forward to focusing on her own art in retirement. She expressed an interest in taking more art classes.

“At the beginning of the year, I went to Blick

to pick out materials at the art store, and it dawned on me that next year, I can do this for me,” Thompson said. “It was a little spark of, like, ‘Oh my gosh, I get to focus on my stuff.’ And granted, I could’ve focused on my own, but it’s just the way my brain works — when I do something, I dive in. So I dove in here, and I’ve loved every second of diving into this, but it’s time for me to dive in on things that I want to do.”

While Thompson sees retirement as freeing her to focus on her own projects, Iacono looks forward to teaching in part for similar reasons. He said he is often overwhelmed with his level of involvement at Livermore Valley Arts, and working at VMS will provide him with the sta-

bility he needs to continue his professional projects outside the classroom.

“I’m excited to do some work in the classroom and be able to do my art, and be able to talk about it and not carry an 80-hour work week,” Iacono said. “I’m gonna be fully present from 6 a.m. when I wake up. I’m not a 25-year burnt out art teacher, I’m fired up, period. That’s why I do these things for people.”

Thompson said she expects to return to VMS as a substitute art teacher.

Your Daily Online Local News.



independentnews.com

Follow us on  

THE INDEPENDENT 'GALLERY'

Oratoria
A New Art Exhibit
by Leonardo Cuervo



Presenting the newest etching pieces embedded in a retrospective of oil and graphite works.

FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Gallery Open During

LIVERMORE DOWNTOWN STREET FEST

SATURDAY, MAY 16TH 10AM - 6PM
SUNDAY, MAY 17TH 11AM - 5PM

Art Gallery Sponsored by
LIVERMORE VALLEY
arts
&
THE Independent
2250 First St., Livermore