



An elaborate display highlighted a Dia de Los Muertos celebration Nov. 1 at the Pleasanton Senior Center. Honoring and remembering loved ones through art, culture and storytelling during the Mexican holiday was the order of the day as part of the City of Pleasanton's 2025-26 Cultural Celebration Series. (Photo — Leah Silveira)

Repeal of 2024 Measure II Victory Possible as Dublin Case Continues

Court May Favor Open-Space Groups Regarding City's Urban Limit Line

By David Jen

DUBLIN — A general-plan amendment to pursue commercial development east of the city's boundary and urban limit line (ULL) will require environmental review if the Superior Court of California finalizes its tentative decision this month.

Such a decision would repeal Dublin's Measure II, which passed a year ago with 53.1% of voters in favor. The measure revoked a portion of the city's 2014 Open Space Initiative, granting the city council power to approve commercial development on the 80-acre Crosby Properties between Dublin and Livermore.

Open-space advocates and petitioners Save Mount Diablo and Friends of Livermore criticized

the measure for inviting development into the Doolan and Collier canyon areas, the very space the Open Space Initiative sought to protect. The measure dismantled protections against development provided by the ULL.

The groups argued in their petition that, based on the measure, "the city can reasonably anticipate the potential environmental impacts of future commercial development" in Crosby, and the measure therefore required a review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the 1970 law requiring development projects to publicize a review of their environmental impacts and possible mitigations.

Such environmental information could have influenced the election outcome.

An Oct. 1 tentative decision from the court suggested that it may side with the open-space groups. Superior Court Judge Michael Markman called the effects of Dublin's Open Space Initiative "an unusual situation," as it established a baseline for the city barring development within Crosby, "and changing it back constitutes a project under CEQA," Markman wrote.

"Because Measure II served as an essential step leading to commercial development that may affect the environment, "at least some modicum (of) further environmental review was required before authorizing Measure II to go forward," Markman continued.

The city has argued that the measure merely granted the authority to change land uses and did not

(See MEASURE II, page 6)

County Committee Looks To Connect Trails with State, National Corridors

Opinion Remains Very Much Divided on Classification of Tesla Property

By David Jen

TRI-VALLEY — In order for the Alameda County Agricultural Advisory Committee to expand multi-use trails in the eastern portion of the county, it will seek partnerships at the county, state and federal levels. That has drawn some public concerns that the outreach might interfere with the classification process currently underway for the 3,100-acre Alameda-Tesla property, or Tesla Park.

The California Department of Parks and Recreation held classification workshops on Sept. 20 and 30 detailing the classification

types that Tesla remains eligible for: state park, state natural reserve and state cultural reserve. The two reserve types prioritize the preservation of natural or cultural resources over recreation.

The state natural reserve classification has drawn support from environmentalists and Indigenous people. Some participants at an Oct. 28 agricultural advisory meeting worried that the committee's trail plans signal support for a state park classification.

Following a unanimous vote of the county's Agricultural Advisory Committee, the committee will draft a work plan to coordinate its local trail efforts with the state

Mokelumne Coast to Crest Trail, the California Riding and Hiking Trail and the De Anza National Trail.

The plan builds on recent committee actions that have drawn attention to an area known as the Murray Township Untrailed Zone in eastern Alameda County, describing it as deficient in public trails and related infrastructure.

"(The "untrailed zone" is) kind of a catchy term that focuses discussion on a harsh reality that can be visualized when you actually look at maps of services provided by Livermore Area Recreation and Park District (LARP) and East Bay Regional

(See TRAILS, page7)

California Voters Pass Proposition 50, Deal Blow to Trump

Governor's 'Election Rigging Response Act' Will Redraw Congressional Districts until 2030

By Dan Wood

TRI-VALLEY — California voters overwhelmingly passed Gov. Gavin Newsom's "Election Rigging Response Act," officially known as Proposition 50, during a Nov. 4 special election.

Virtually all major networks projected that Proposition 50 would pass shortly after voting closed at 8 p.m. By 10:30 p.m., with 68.3 percent of precincts reporting statewide, "yes" votes outnumbered "no" votes 64.4% to 35.6%.

The legislative package will

temporarily redraw congressional districts in the state to favor the Democratic Party. With the new congressional maps, five districts currently held by Republicans will be transformed to give Democrats an advantage, according to calmat.org.

Newsom's Aug. 14 introduction of Proposition 50 came after Texas Gov. Greg Abbot, pressured by President Donald Trump, shared plans to redraw U.S. congressional districts in Texas that will likely give Republicans five more seats in the U.S. House of Representatives in

(See ELECTION, page 6)



Granada High School teachers Laura Bertoli-Brown, left, and Betsy Wilson were among a group of supporters rallying on behalf of deported Livermore man Miguel Lopez during a court hearing outside the Phillip Burton Federal Courthouse in San Francisco on Oct. 30. (Photo — Kristie Wang)

Deported Livermore Man Lopez Gains Initial Victory

Judge Rules That Court Has Jurisdiction Over Case

By Vivien Wencker

LIVERMORE — U.S. District Court Judge Trina L. Thompson on Oct. 30 denied a U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) motion to dismiss the case of deported Livermore resident Miguel Lopez, establishing that the San Francisco court has jurisdiction to hear the matter.

Another court date has been set for Jan. 29, with the DOJ having requested a 60-day extension before proceedings are reopened. The date was further pushed back due to uncertainty over how long the current federal government shutdown might last, with resulting staff shortages having created a backlog of cases.

The Oct. 30 proceedings followed an Oct. 7 status hearing, during which Thompson declared that she would consider the DOJ's motion to dismiss the case on the grounds that the court lacked authority to hear it.

"We are optimistic, because to be able to defeat the motion to dismiss is a huge boost for us and it means that the case is still alive and has merit," said Lopez's lawyer, Saad Ahmad. "Most of the time, cases like this are resolved fairly quickly, meaning that usually district courts do not review these types of cases, but Mr. Lopez's situation is so incredibly uncommon and rare that we feel that he definitely deserves it."

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents grabbed Lopez during a routine immigration appointment in San Francisco in May. A welder at Livermore's Wente Vineyards for more than nine years, Lopez was denied due process, deported to Mexico in June without a hearing.

The hearing was originally scheduled to be in-person at the U.S. Northern California Federal District Courthouse in San Francisco, but the evening before, it

(See LOPEZ, page 6)



Seven residents from Pleasanton's The Village at Ironwood retirement community overcame extraordinary obstacles to achievement. Back row, left to right, are Ted Fong, Evan Shelan, Barry Mew, Tim Lambirth and Lutz Henckels, and, front row, Sharon Sacks and Milt Louie, who together wrote "Success Beyond the Backyard," which chronicles their journeys and lessons learned along the way. (Photo — Summer Danzo Dittmer)

Pleasanton Neighbors Team To Write a Book

Seven Retirement Community Residents Share Success and Perseverance

By Christina Cavallaro

PLEASANTON — What do seven residents of Pleasanton's affluent retirement community, The Village at Ironwood, have in common other than extraordinary success?

Nothing, and everything, according to Evan Shelan, the creator and co-author of the recently published book titled, "Success Beyond the Backyard: 7 Neighbors Who Dared to Dream Big and Won."

Shelan and his wife, Debbie, moved in 2017 from Texas to the 55-plus community at Ironwood

to retire and be closer to family in Berkeley.

"There's only 110 homes in our community, and I just started meeting people," Shelan said. What he discovered was a neighborhood filled with nonchalantly successful people. "And yet, they just keep quiet."

For Shelan, this sparked the beginnings of an idea for a book project.

"These people were dealmakers. They were entrepreneurs. They were high-level educators. They were medical doctors. You name it — these people can do it, and did

it," Shelan said. "And what I found interesting is that everybody had faced obstacles and turned those obstacles into opportunities one by one by one their whole careers. And we all had that same resilience in common."

As Shelan kept getting to know his neighbors, he began tracking the exceptional stories he was hearing.

"And some people were very interesting," Shelan said. "Others, you know, were just normal. But the ones that were extraordinary, I started making a note. I said, 'This guy, this woman, this person, is

(See NEIGHBORS, page 7)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Classifieds	11
Editorial	4
Mailbox	4
Obituaries	9
Sports	10

Livermore Gun Shop Struck in Brazen Burglary	2
Former Principal Resigned After Evidence of Misconduct	3
Dublin Couple Arrested in Murder of San Francisco Club Owner	3
Livermore, Granada Gear for Huge Football Matchup	10
Local Musician Set for Prestigious Performance	12

PET OF THE WEEK



OSCAR THE GROUCH

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Burglars Pull off Daring Early Morning Heist at Gun Shop

By Vivien Wenneker

LIVERMORE — Brazen burglars struck a Livermore gun shop during the early morning hours of Oct. 25.

Livermore police responded to a report of a possible vehicle collision into the East Bay Firearms store at 4173 First Street at about 4:30 a.m. Arriving officers discovered a vehicle had rammed through the glass storefront during a burglary, according to the Livermore Police Department.

East Bay Firearms owner Damon Butts told KTUVU-Channel 2 that 28 handguns and four long guns had been stolen, amounting to approximately \$40,000 worth of merchandise.

“We’re tired — it’s been a long week, and we personally feel terrible that these guns could be used in crimes,” Butts said. “That’s not our purpose for being in business.”

Butts also shared a surveillance video with KTUVU

that showed two vehicles, red and white cars, pulling up sequentially outside the storefront just before 4 a.m. Shortly thereafter, the red car rammed into

the front glass doors, and three suspects in hoodies and face masks entered the store.

Police had not confirmed the number of sus-

pects or whether any arrests had been made. Butts said police had informed him that both vehicles were identified as stolen, and that they were working on

recovering the stolen guns.

The burglary marks the third time East Bay Firearms has been targeted in the past two years. During a 2024 robbery, a man entered the shop, stole a gun and was arrested by police hours later. The suspect served only a 120-day work release, according to Butts.

“I’m frustrated with our justice system — the way that these criminals keep getting out,” Butts told KTUVU. “They will steal, commit crimes and are back out on the street three months later with a slap on the wrist.”

In the other incident, which occurred almost exactly two years ago, in October 2023, a man attempted to rob the store and was shot and killed by Butts. There were customers inside the business at the time, and the shooting was later ruled to be in self-defense.

What differs this time, according to Butts, is that the thieves came well-prepared, having chosen a car that

would fit precisely between the bollards that frame the entrance to the store.

“We’re in continuous levels of improvement of our security, and plan to invest tens of thousands of more dollars into our security systems to make sure this doesn’t happen again,” Butts said.

Despite the repeated robberies and continued threats that the store has faced, Butts said that he and his brother, who co-own East Bay Firearms, have no plans to relocate anytime soon.

“This is a terrible situation. All we can do is learn and continue to be here for our community and our customers to make sure they can protect themselves against situations just like this,” he said.

Livermore Police are working with the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) in investigating the case and are asking anyone with information to contact law enforcement.



Burglars used a vehicle to smash front windows and gain entry into East Bay Firearms at 4:30 a.m. during an Oct. 25 robbery of the Livermore gun store. (Photo — Leah Silveira)

Water Board Orders a Closer Look at Possible Airport PFAS Contamination

By David Jen

TRI-VALLEY — The San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board last week required the City of Livermore to look deeper into possible releases of PFAS, or forever chemicals, at Livermore Municipal Airport. The order came after an investigation report prepared on behalf of the city suggested that the airport contributed little PFAS to the area’s groundwater contamination.

PFAS are a class of several thousand synthetic chemicals previously used in a wide range of applications. They have since been linked to adverse health effects in humans, such as decreased fertility, immune-system damage and some cancers.

According to an Oct. 13 report prepared by Geosyntec Consultants, Inc. for the city, testing conducted between July 15 and Aug. 7 found PFAS only “within typical background ranges” in airport soil samples. Those results suggested that the contamination in the area’s aquifer did not originate from the use of the PFAS-containing firefighting foam known as aqueous film-forming foam (AFFF), a common PFAS source at airports and firefighting facilities.

Similarly, Geosyntec wrote that groundwater samples from under the airport “were consistent with the PFAS concentrations at the upgradient sample locations,” referring to the PFAS already present in the groundwater before flowing to the airport area. The report did call attention to groundwater samples taken from the southeast portion of the airport, near its large Hangar S-1, waste storage area and the Livermore Water Reclamation Plant. PFAS concentrations there stood out slightly against the up-gradient levels, possibly related to a foam release event in 1990 “due to an unknown cause unrelated to a fire.”

In response, Water Board Executive Officer Eileen White, in an Oct. 27 letter to Livermore City Manager Marianna Marysheva, said that the Water Board did “not concur that PFAS detected in site soil or groundwater at the site are necessarily within the range of background/ambient PFAS concentrations in this area.”

The levels found at the airport, White continued, may still indicate a past surface release of PFAS, even if they fall within the background ranges referred to in the Geosyntec report.

White’s letter drew attention to several PFAS found just south of the airport’s smaller runway, which may indicate a nearby release of legacy fluorotelomer AFFF.

In July 2024, the Water Board required the city to look for PFAS at the airport as part of its investigation into the sources of a large PFAS plume in the Livermore Valley groundwater basin.

The Zone 7 Water Agency, which manages and wholesales water in the Tri-Valley, draws water from the basin, although in most years it relies on surface water deliveries from the State Water Project for up to 90% of its supply.

Zone 7 opened its second PFAS treatment facility in March, returning its Chain of Lakes wells to service. It pioneered PFAS treatment in Northern California when it opened its first treatment facility at its Stoneridge well in September 2023.

Both of Livermore’s water distributors, Livermore Municipal Water and Cal Water, purchase water from Zone 7.

“Zone 7 continues to deliver all water below the California Division of Drinking Water’s response levels for PFAS,” according to its website.

Located above some of

the highest concentrations of the plume, the airport drew attention as a potential contamination source. Airports in general, because of their possible past use of PFAS-containing firefighting foam, rank high as possible sources, alongside fire stations, fire training areas, land disposal sites, military facilities and wastewater facilities.

A separate investigation report earlier this year by Integral Consulting, Inc. identified the fire-training facility on Busch Road in Pleasanton as a significant source, recommending further investigation to model the distribution of PFAS within the soil and groundwater under the site.

Integral also looked at Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department’s Fire Station 10, adjacent to the airport, but concluded it was likely an insignificant source.

Geosyntec recommended further testing to better understand groundwater contamination under the airport, as well as monitoring wells in the southeast area. The city has until Feb. 2 to submit an investigation workplan to the Water Board for these recommendations and to respond to the concerns raised by the Water Board about possible AFFF releases.

San Ramon Man Receives Probation after Pleading Guilty in Dublin Road-Rage Case

By Sanestina Hunter

DUBLIN — Richo Olive Crouch Richardson III, 19, of San Ramon was sentenced to two years’ probation during a Nov. 3 hearing in Alameda County Superior Court.

The sentencing followed Richardson’s earlier no-contest plea to a felony assault charge entered during an Oct. 6 preliminary hearing. The plea deal led prosecutors to dismiss 17 other counts — including attempted murder and shooting at an occupied vehicle — from an 18-count complaint filed against him.

Defense attorney Michael Edmund Cardoza represented Richardson and successfully petitioned the court to dismiss the balance of the complaint as part of the plea agreement.

Judge Stuart Hing did not impose a prison term, instead placing Richardson under the supervision of the county probation department. Richardson was credited for 156 days already served in county jail and ordered released following the hearing.

Under terms of his probation, Richardson must report to a probation officer, maintain employment or schooling, and submit to search and drug testing. He was also

ordered to stay at least 100 yards from the victim and is prohibited from owning or possessing firearms.

The plea was first entered during an Oct. 6 preliminary hearing, with all other charges — including attempted murder and shooting at an occupied vehicle — dropped as part of a plea agreement. Dublin Police Services Capt. Miguel Campos told The Independent on Oct. 9.

Richardson was arrested Aug. 18 after turning himself in at Santa Rita Jail in Dublin. Authorities had gone to his San Ramon residence the day before, but his mother was reportedly uncooperative. According to court records, officials asked his grandmother to encourage

Richardson to surrender.

The arrest followed Dublin road-rage incidents on Aug. 13 and Aug. 15, 2024, during which Richardson allegedly fired at the same motorist. No one was injured on either occasion, according to police.

In the first incident, Richardson allegedly fired at the motorist on Interstate 580. Two days later, the motorist reported seeing Richardson’s Mercedes at a gas station and said Richardson allegedly fired at his vehicle again after parking his car ahead of the motorist, causing the driver to speed away.

As a 17-year-old in September 2023, Richardson was linked to a separate shooting in San Ramon. Police said that incident began

when he allegedly fired into a vehicle after the driver made a gesture at him in a Safeway parking lot.

He was also connected to a dispute three days earlier in a Walgreens parking lot, where he reportedly struck a man in the head during an argument over speeding.

Public records indicate that Richardson had no prior felony convictions, and it is unclear whether he faced formal charges as a juvenile for the earlier incidents.



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Former Amador Valley High Principal Resigned after Evidence of Misconduct

By Sanestina Hunter

PLEASANTON — Former Amador Valley High School (AVHS) Principal Jonathan M. Fey resigned after the Pleasanton Unified School District (PUSD) found sufficient evidence that he had used the dating app Grindr to engage in sexually explicit communication with both a student and former student.

The findings were first reported by EdSource, a non-profit newsroom focused on education equity, which obtained PUSD’s investigative records through a California Public Records Act request.

PUSD hired Leal Law Group, an independent firm, to investigate the complaints. Investigators found that Fey sent inappropriate messages to both the student and former student, expressing romantic feelings toward them.

Fey has denied the allegations, saying someone impersonated him on the

app. He told investigators he never downloaded Grindr and believed he was the target of a prank or identity theft.

Fey, who had led AVHS since 2022, was placed on administrative leave on Aug. 12, 2024, and formally notified of his termination on Feb. 28, according to district records. He later accepted a \$254,000 settlement covering legal fees and back pay as part of an agreement allowing him to resign rather than be fired.

In the first allegation, investigators concluded that Fey engaged in sexual communications with a recent AVHS graduate in June 2023 with the intent to begin a romantic or sexual relationship. The graduate shared screenshots of their Grindr conversation with faculty in December 2023. At first, he doubted the account belonged to Fey, but the messages included personal details — such as the sender’s age, marital status and prior interactions on campus.

At one point, the investigation found, Fey had written, “I really have always liked you. Didn’t you notice last year I would go out of my way to say hi or smile every time I saw you?”

The graduate said the messages made him uncomfortable, calling them “creepy” and “embarrassing” given Fey’s position and their age difference, as well as the fact that Fey was married and had children.

On Aug. 7, 2024, the graduate reported his concerns to band director Jonathan Grantham, who forwarded the complaint to PUSD’s human resources department, citing fears the communication violated district policy and could involve other students if left unreported.

In the second allegation, investigators determined that Fey had used the same Grindr account to contact a student who was still enrolled at the time. According to the report, Fey

complimented the student’s appearance and expressed interest in a “secret romantic and sexual relationship.”

In one exchange, according to the investigation, Fey described the student as “hella hot” and wrote that, “in a perfect world,” they could have a “secret school tryst.” Investigators concluded that Fey’s actions showed an intent to pursue an inappropriate relationship with a student under his supervision, violating district policy and professional standards.

After the review, PUSD officials said the independent investigator interviewed students, staff and witnesses, and reviewed digital communications. The district said it acted quickly once the findings were confirmed.

Officials also notified Pleasanton police about the matter, according to district records. Under state law, school districts must report within 30 days to the Califor-



Former Amador Valley High School principal Jonathan M. Fey was placed on administrative leave in August 2024 and formally notified of his termination on Feb. 28, according to Pleasanton Unified School District records. He later accepted a \$254,000 settlement covering legal fees and back pay as part of an agreement allowing him to resign rather than be fired. (File photo)

nia Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) when a credentialed employee resigns or is terminated following misconduct allegations.

The CTC will review the case and determine whether to revoke Fey’s teaching credential.

PUSD officials said stu-

dent safety remains the district’s highest priority and encouraged anyone with concerns to contact administrators or Pleasanton police.



Finances, Parking Among BART Housing Concerns

By David Jen

PLEASANTON — The financial health of the Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) system and concerns about sufficient parking steered discussions of possible new housing at the Dublin/Pleasanton BART station during the Oct. 22 Pleasanton Planning Commission meeting.

Representatives of Van Meter Williams Pollack, an urban design and planning firm working with the city, presented a concept plan that laid out options for four new buildings and a plaza on the 14.9 acres of BART-owned land adjacent to the transit station. The project could add between 800 and 1,300 new homes, likely as rentals, plus commercial spaces for placemaking businesses such as retail or dining.

“If you think about Pleasanton in general and where larger scale developments can occur without impacting surrounding residential neighborhoods, et cetera, this is really the place to work on a lot of your housing element needs,” Van Meter partner Rick Williams said, referring to a state mandate to allow

for 5,965 new housing units in the city by 2031.

Commissioner Brandon Pace questioned how much of the project’s success depended on the viability of the ailing transit agency.

Although Williams described the parcels as “great development sites” with or without BART, he expected the transit agency to persist for the foreseeable future.

“Nobody is anticipating that BART isn’t going to be there,” Williams said. “And it’s going to be the best and most valuable transit system that we’re going to have in the Bay Area for many years to come.”

The BART agency sounded alarms in the years following the COVID-19 pandemic when a prolonged embrace of the work-from-home lifestyle prevented a rebound in ridership numbers. While passenger fares covered some 71% of the agency’s operating costs before the pandemic, that percentage dropped to 12% in 2021 and has struggled to exceed 30% since.

September ridership numbers showed a 9.9% increase over the same period last

year but still amounted to only 50% of September numbers from 2019.

About \$308 million in state and regional assistance will buoy BART service through spring of next year, but the agency will then begin operating at a deficit ranging between \$350 million and \$400 million per year.

Gov. Gavin Newsom last month signed a bill authorizing a November 2026 ballot measure to possibly increase sales tax in Alameda, Contra Costa, San Francisco, San Mateo and Santa Clara counties to generate an additional \$980 million in annual revenues for Bay Area transit.

Commissioners also asked if plans to cull parking were shortsighted. The project has proposed repurposing BART parking lots, currently partly empty from the pandemic, for housing, but commissioners pushed back on the idea, worried that parking demand may return in coming years.

“Parking is the linchpin of this whole effort, and we have to get that right,” Chair Ken Morgan

said, adding that the project should focus its resources on a parking study.

Commissioner Anurag Jain cautioned that it would be hard to replace parking once redeveloped for other uses. Future parking demands, he said, “will come at a cost. If that cost is not paid by BART or the developer, the cost will be borne by the residents of Pleasanton and surrounding cities. It’s not free either way.”

Public speakers welcomed the project’s included improvements to bicycle infrastructure along the Iron Horse Trail, additions that may dovetail with the transit-oriented neighborhood.

The project team expects to present community and planning commission feed-

back to the city council on Nov. 18, with possible adoption of a development framework in February.



Dublin Couple Arrested in Santa Rosa Killing of San Francisco Club Manager

By Sanestina Hunter

DUBLIN — A Dublin couple has been arrested on suspicion of killing Mark Calcagni, 60, the general manager of San Francisco’s historic Condor Club, according to the Santa Rosa Police Department’s Violent Crimes Investigations Team (VCI).

Calcagni was found shot on the 2200 block of Brookwood Avenue in Santa Rosa early Oct. 3. A motorist discovered him lying in the roadway.

Richard Lund, 43, and Asia Morton, 25, both of Dublin, were arrested Oct. 24 in connection with the killing. Police said both suspects were recently fired by Calcagni from their jobs at the Condor Club, a North Beach topless bar. Detectives believe that might have motivated the attack.

As part of the homicide investigation, VCI detectives said they believe Lund waited for Calcagni to return home before shooting him, and that Morton — who was in a romantic relationship with Lund — helped plan the attack. After identifying them as suspects, detectives executed a search warrant at the couple’s Dublin residence to gather evidence related to the homicide.

Sgt. Patricia Seffens said in a statement to The Independent on Oct. 31 that Lund remains held without bail at the Sonoma County Jail, charged with murder, felon in possession of a firearm and

felon in possession of ammunition. He had not entered a plea and was scheduled to appear in court Nov. 13.

Morton was charged with accessory after the fact. She pleaded not guilty and was released under pretrial supervision, Seffens said.

Lund was taken into custody at about 4:20 p.m. during a traffic stop near the couple’s apartment on the 7500 block of St. Patrick Way in Dublin. Morton was arrested about 7:20 p.m. after stepping off a plane at San Francisco International Airport, Seffens said.

“No weapon has been recovered,” Seffens said. “Both suspects had been em-

ployed by the Condor Club and were recently terminated by the victim. We believe the termination was the motivation for the homicide, but we are continuing the investigation to determine if other motivations were present.”

The VCI report said the case initially faced challenges because of limited evidence, but detectives pursued leads through witness interviews, surveillance footage and digital evidence that eventually led to the arrests.

The case is still under investigation. Anyone with information is asked to contact the VCI team at 707-543-3590 or submit anonymous tips at srcity.org/CrimeTips.



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RESIDENTS OF LIVERMORE: The City of Livermore is accepting applications for City Historian. The deadline to apply is Friday, November 14, 2025.

The City Historian’s role is to increase public awareness of the history of the city and community of Livermore. The person appointed to this volunteer position will serve a two-year term. Qualified applicants will have experience presenting local historical information to community groups, teaching courses in local and regional history, or be affiliated with an organization associated with the advancement of the history of Livermore.

SAVE THE DATE! Interviews will be held the evening of December 4, 2025. For more information or to apply, please visit www.livermoreca.gov/AB, call the City Clerk’s office at (925) 960 - 4200, or email: cityclerk@livermoreca.gov.

EDITORIAL

As a Decision on Breaking its Urban Limit Line Nears, Dubliners Need to Watch Their City Council Closely

The City of Dublin is going to need to think carefully about its next steps in the coming days, as a court decides on the city’s authority to break its urban limit line without an environmental review.

On Nov. 13, an Alameda County Superior Court judge is expected to issue a ruling on whether the city violated the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) by placing a measure on the ballot without conducting a CEQA analysis. Measure II, passed by voters in November, would allow the council to break Dublin’s urban limit line and develop 80 acres of a 180-acre plot of open land.

A preliminary opinion issued on Oct. 1 by Judge Michael Markman leans toward ruling against the city. If the final ruling confirms that tentative decision, the city will need to pause and carefully consider what it wants to do.

The city has said that it needs to extend Dublin Boulevard from Fallon Road in Dublin to North Canyon Parkway in Livermore, at a cost of about \$150 million, to relieve traffic on the freeway. To pay for it, the city wants to develop one of the last pieces of open land separating Dublin from Livermore for commercial or industrial use.

While voters approved a measure in November to give the council power to do this, the case laid out by the council majority was misleading. Measure II

was placed on the ballot by a 3-2 vote of the city council.

The 180-acre Crosby property, named after the family that owns it, lies between Dublin’s eastern boundary and the western edge of Livermore’s urban growth boundary, just north of Interstate-580.

The principal argument made by the council majority was that developing the Crosby property would provide income for the city, which would pay for the roadway.

So far, the City of Dublin has identified \$76 million to cover the expense, and the City of Livermore has offered to contribute \$27.5 million.

To cover the remaining \$46.5 million, Dublin could put time and energy into raising additional dollars, as well as cutting costs,

Dick Schneider, a member of Friends of Livermore, one of the non-profits that filed a suit against Dublin’s measure that would remove its ULL, had this to say, “Adding alternatives to the proposed extension, such as expanding the existing Collier Canyon Road, could offer the benefits of a new connector between Dublin and Livermore without developing the open-space areas. Such an alternative would also save taxpayers’ money compared to Dublin Boulevard as currently proposed”

Changing the city’s 10-year history of preserving open space outside Dub-

lin’s urban limit line to solve a traffic issue is overkill. In dealing with this issue, the council majority has also shown itself to be untrustworthy. For instance, they named the ballot measure that voters approved the “Dublin Traffic Relief, Clean Air/Open Space Preservation Measure.”

Measure II was about none of that.

The currently vacant Crosby property has long been considered an area through which to extend Dublin Boulevard east to Livermore, thereby taking some traffic pressure off the freeway. However, the increase in traffic on Dublin Boulevard will affect Dublin residents more than before, passing close by neighborhoods.

Since any traffic on an extended Dublin Boulevard would have been freeway traffic, there are no net clean-air benefits. In fact, there would possibly be a degradation of air quality, since more development might actually increase local traffic.

The “Open Space Preservation” part of the ballot title is also undermined by the fact that the measure would permit developing 80 acres of open land with commercial or industrial development. And once the urban limit line is broken in one area, it is likely to be broken everywhere. Dublin’s surrounding open space would be converted into more suburban sprawl.

The truth is that the city has been making a bad-faith argument about the

necessity of breaking its 10-year-old urban limit line in Doolan Canyon — the precise area that the Open Space Initiative of 2015 was designed to protect. The City Council majority made a decision to annex and build on the property and has since been trying to create a justification to do so.

Placing a deceptively worded measure on the ballot for a public vote, which only passed with 53.1% of votes, is hardly a mandate for action. Rather, it’s a sign that a fairly worded measure might have had a different outcome. The council itself only voted 3-2 to put the measure on the ballot, and those two no-votes, former Mayor Michael McCorriston and Vice Mayor Kashef Qaadri, still sit on the council.

If the judge rules that an environmental review is necessary before the council moves forward with annexation, the city should see this as an opportunity to correct its course. There’s an argument to be made for building a road, but placing commercial development above preservation of open space does not reflect the values of the community. Once that open space is gone, it’s gone forever.

Dubliners should be wary about the direction the council chooses to go. And it is likely that the public will have to organize broadly to make its voice heard, if it wishes to achieve a different outcome.

MAILBOX

Mailbox Guidelines:

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

‘The Polluters Pay’ Bill Eloise Hamann, Dublin

There is a bill rotting in the state legislature called The Polluters Pay Bill which would ensure that corporations that have been fueling the climate crisis will be held accountable for the damages they’ve created. Corporations put profit over people. Consequently, they ignore the amount of pollution of our water and air, as it takes money to ensure that people are safe. Currently, the bill is stuck in the state legislature, because too many lawmakers are afraid to stand up to corporate power.

Now there’s a move across the country by environmental organizations to sue organizations who allow or are responsible for pollution, or are failing to respect promises or the laws regarding protecting our climate. Some have succeeded in forcing promises made being kept. In support of these efforts, cities are

passing resolutions in support of “Make the Polluters Pay,” the theme of these efforts.

In particular, Alameda, Los Angeles, Richmond, and San Diego in California have passed a resolution in support of Make the Polluters Pay. Young people called for the resolution in Alameda. I call on the city councils of the Tri-Valley to consider joining these cities. I call on individuals to contact their state representatives to promote and vote for The Polluters Pay Bill.

PFAS at the Airport! Linda Milanese, Livermore

I attended the October 27 Livermore City Council meeting where the Livermore Airport Commission presented its annual update. We were told the Commission’s role is advisory to the Planning Commission and the City Council. We were told of the past year’s activ-

ities at the airport. We were told of the goals for the next year: goals that include an airport development strategy.

But here’s the thing. There was no mention of the PFAS contamination discovered in the soil and shallow groundwater at the Livermore Airport as reported on October 13 by Geosyntec, the city’s consultant. Yes, the dangerous PFAS we keep hearing about—like the ones that shut down the municipal supply wells in Pleasanton.

Not a word said about the October 13 report at the City Council meeting. Does the Council know? Does the Airport Commission know? And shouldn’t Livermore citizens know before the airport moves ahead with planned development? Who knows? One thing we should all know is the PFAS need to be removed before any new development at the airport.

Pedagogy, Water Usage, and the Myth of Sustainability Greg Scott, Livermore

It’s been a distinct honor and heartening to have read Mira Shah’s Mailbox letter, “Planning for a Sustainable Future” (10/30/2025). Obviously, Mira Shah is a highly intelligent high school junior and I hope may be receptive to learning more of the whole story on our California climate and water situation.

“How do our students acquire the skills needed to contribute and thrive in a changing world?” (Cate Sarraille, “LVJUSD: Listen to Those Who Elected You,” Mailbox, 10/30/2025)

Are you all listening? Why don’t you start by telling more truths and/or stop omitting truths — which are lies of omission — to the students? Do educators have a reasonable concept of what life’s problems and challenges are going to be in the future so that the best coping mechanisms and solutions are in the students’ lifelong repertoire “...to ensure all students learn these critical skills?” (Sarraille, *ibid.*)

The truths on the subject of

climate disruption’s impacts on water usage would be a start, because they are going to severely affect the future of young persons’ lives, as Mira Shah’s letter alludes to. What are life’s priorities? After sufficient oxygen, they would be shelter; water (especially potable); fire, (energy, fuel); and food. Shah addresses the second priority — water — which any human would be dead without drinking water in three to four days, or sooner if it is hot.

Expanding on Shah’s points: There wasn’t enough emphasis on the political-economic context on water usage. Water rates are going to rise precipitously in the Tri-Valley and California. An example would be the upcoming boondoggle of the Sites Reservoir, which is estimated will cost \$6.8 billion. The State of California has achieved \$1.87 billion in funding, which means 30 California water agencies are contracted to finance the remaining \$5 billion — or more, if the project’s costs increase. At \$5 billion, one projection is that these agencies would raise rates by 300% for a 1.5 million acre-foot capacity reservoir that increases California’s water supplies by a mere 3.5%.

Furthermore, 80% of California’s collected water supplies go to agriculture. For example, it takes 275 gallons of water to produce a 750 milliliter (one-fifth of a gallon) bottle of wine. Yes, urbanites/suburbanites should use water more wisely and not grow lawns; however, that water usage is a pittance compared to agricultural usage.

Water policy is political, economic, environmental, and scientific.

Hear from Healthcare Workers Julie Wild, Livermore

“As healthcare workers, we have witnessed unimaginable atrocities in Gaza: hospitals destroyed, patients and colleagues targeted, and entire communities left in ruins. The moral injury, trauma, and grief from these horrors

have left us sick—sick from genocide, sick from complicity, and sick from the silence of those in power.” — Doctors against Genocide

As a Tri-Valley community, we have the unique opportunity to hear from doctors who went to Gaza to help those most in need this Saturday, Nov. 8 at 4 p.m. Asbury United Methodist Church is hosting a free documentary screening of ‘Gaza: Doctors Under Attack’. It will be followed by an exclusive talk with healthcare workers who have recently returned from working on the ground in Gaza.

Not only can we come together to listen to them, but this event will also benefit a grassroots water project on the ground in Gaza.

I commend the advocacy that Asbury is doing within our community. They recognize the importance of putting faith into action. As Audre Lorde reminds us, “Silence will not protect you.”

Despite a ceasefire that was supposed to create peace, on Oct. 29, 100 Palestinians were killed. Among them, 46 children. Since the ceasefire was put into effect, 211 people were killed and another 597 wounded. The killing must stop. Peace must prevail.

“We do injustice to Gaza when we turn it into a myth, because we will hate it when we discover that it is no more than a small poor city that resists.” — Mahmoud Darwish, “Silence for Gaza”

Who Are the Real Kings Philip LaScola, Livermore

The “No Kings” rally was really a joke, a joke on all those who participated who have no idea on who the real kings are.

What do Kings typically do while either in power or ascending into power? They ignore the traditions or laws in place and write new laws to their benefit.

What is President Trump doing? He is enforcing the existing federal laws sanctioned by the Constitution and passed by Congress.

What are the real kings do-

ing? They are ignoring existing laws and circumventing those laws by creating state and city laws that conflict with federal laws. They are in violation of the Supremacy Clause in Article VI of the U.S. Constitution which specifies that when a state law conflicts with a valid federal law, treaty or the Constitution, the state law is void.

Further, the Constitution and the laws of the United States are the supreme law of the land and every judge in every state is to be bound by them and, as the directives that Congress enacts are authorized by the Constitution, they take priority over both the ordinary laws and the constitution of each individual state.

State laws supporting segregation is a prime example.

When Governors and Mayors propose and pass laws that conflict with federal laws, they are acting like kings. This is even after they themselves have been legally elected. If you trickle this down, all those who voted to support and enforce these laws are acting like kings.

Elected officials who fall under this umbrella are King Governor Newsom, Queen Governor Kotek of Oregon, King Governor Ferguson of Washington, King Governor Pritzker of Illinois and Queen Governor Hochul of New York, to name a few who have ascended to the throne. And the biggest King of all, King Biden who totally ignored immigration law. Added to this list is any mayor of any city who declares that city to be a sanctuary city.

Any citizen who has knowledge of federal laws should be out protesting these governors and mayors who are the real Kings.

Cows in Parks Alan Marling, Livermore

LARPD has begun a pilot program of grazing cattle on parkland, which has been done before.

Shortly after graduating from Granada High School I was running in Sycamore

(See MAILBOX, page 5)

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Members of Heartless, a Heart tribute band, are, left to right, Brett Minkin, Billy Turner, Linda Coyne, Jim Coyne, Gail Eaton and Eddie Studebaker. The Sacramento-based group, billed as the nation’s most exciting and authentic Heart tribute show, will play at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore at 7:30 p.m. Nov. 20. (Photo — Kevin Graft)

MAILBOX

(Continued from page 4)

Grove on Winery Loop trail, and I ascended the steep, steep, steep hill up to the Wagon Loop Trail and was surprised by a herd of cattle. More to the point, I was astounded by their smell. It was an onslaught of stink that drove me back down the hill. At the base, I felt embarrassed. I wanted to run the high hills. To have fled from a few cows, how stinky could they be? So with great perseverance I ran back up the hill, faced the cows, smelled them, then retreated again, defeated by stink.

If cattle were only smelly, if they only worsened the park experience for me and everyone who got close, that would be one thing, but those cow farts are methane, which is 28 times more dangerous a greenhouse gas than CO₂.

So grazing cattle to reduce wildfire hazards is shortsighted, because cows make wildfires worse and worse.

I understand that Livermore has a cowboy tradition, and cattle may appeal to some, but as traditions go, it was brief, colonial, and unsustainable. I prefer the longstanding California tradition of controlled burns that Native Americans used to reduce wildfire hazards for millennia. Or grazing goats, or anything else than cows and their methane farts.

Not Afraid to Stand Up for the Truth

Linda Gray, Livermore

This is response to a letter from Samuel Warner in The Independent’s Oct. 16th issue. As I was reading his views, it was a refreshing wake-up call. Samuel is just a person that is not afraid to stand up for the truth, but he is right in so many ways. There are people out there thinking that destroying our country is the thing to do. Are you people in La La Land? Myself, I am not a big political person, but don’t you see what the president is doing? Come on, wake up. Read everything on both sides; let’s be fair and honest. When you hear the president tell an outright lie and he is called on it, you let it go. What is wrong with this picture? Is living in fear the right way to live? Are people brainwashed? Is it greed? We are all immigrants in one way or another. The process that is being done is wrong. What makes them different? The USA needs to be helping people who don’t have the basic things like food and clean water. But no, you don’t care; let them die from starvation. The family in my history had to escape from horror; it should never be about the color of our skin. On another note, do you really think Trump took a physical, and an aptitude test and got all answers right? Let’s be real and get out of denial. It was a lie. Where do you think this will lead to?

These are all my views, and thank God we still have the first amendment. Workers should not be hauled away

like lumber. The approach is wrong, and it is amazing that we the people of The United States have no idea where we are headed. Are we puppets? Maybe. How does a person get away with getting rid of you if he doesn’t like you? That is stupid! Do people of the USA honestly believe that cheating is the right way to go? You don’t have to be political to see that for the most part, it is sadly wrong. Again, thank you, Samuel, for a great letter, and I hope it opens people’s eyes to reality.

Welcome to Trump World: Cruelty as Policy

Rosario Milelli, Pleasanton

The evidence is now beyond doubt: Donald J. Trump despises Democrats. “But I hate them, too. You know that? I really do, I hate them. I cannot stand them, because I really believe they hate our country.” He has also labeled the federal workforce “crooked,” claiming they lean Democratic and vowing to purge them — targeting career public servants simply because they served under a Democratic administration. He routinely paints entire segments of government employees as partisan enemies rather than Americans doing their jobs.

But the divisions run deeper than rhetoric. Trump treats suffering as a strategic tool. Independent analyses show that under his policy direction, food assistance has been restricted or threatened, even as millions face hunger and economic strain. He appears indifferent to rising food prices and health-care burdens, even when they fall hardest on voters in pro-Trump states. SNAP participation in several MAGA-leaning states exceeds the national average: Louisiana (18.4%), Oklahoma (16.8%), West Virginia (15.7%), Alabama (14.6%) — versus 12.3% nationally. Withholding or cutting SNAP doesn’t just harm Democrats. It hits working-class families in Trump country.

Yet he still markets himself as “the greatest negotiator.” The record shows the opposite. He travels the world boasting about deals, yet refuses to negotiate at home, telling Democrats he “won’t be extorted” and walking away unless others surrender to his terms. The self-proclaimed master deal-maker prefers threats and economic pain over compromise and governance.

There’s a reason. The hardship isn’t accidental — it clears space to justify tax cuts for billionaires and giant corporations. The national debt has surged past \$38 trillion, rising faster than at any time outside the pandemic. Trump’s 2017 tax law delivered its biggest benefits to the wealthiest Americans and corporate interests while adding billions to long-term deficits. Pain is not the price of patriotism; it is the price

of serving his donor class. Working families absorb the sacrifice while the wealthy reap the rewards.

In short, the man who promised deals now weaponizes hardship; the man who claims empathy shows none; the man who boasts about helping “the little guy” refuses even to sit at the table. And many of his own supporters pay the price.

This is not leadership. It is cruelty as strategy. America deserves better than a politics built on punishment, division, and disregard for human suffering.

California’s Crisis Isn’t Trump — It’s Newsom and His Party

Fabian Moreno, Livermore

California is in crisis — not because of Donald Trump or ICE, but because of the reckless, corrupt leadership of Governor Gavin Newsom and the state’s Democratic establishment. While media voices like The Independent’s managing editor glorify “No Kings” rallies and attack law enforcement, they ignore the real authoritarian: Newsom, who locked down the state, imposed mask mandates during COVID, and oversaw one of the most destructive psychological campaigns in modern history.

Under Newsom’s leadership, California has spiraled into fiscal and social decay. Budget expert Carl DeMaio outlines five core failures: a self-inflicted budget crisis rivaling the Great Recession; reckless spending that ballooned the state workforce by 20% and salaries by 42%; a mass exodus of high-income earners; crushing burdens on working families; and upside-down priorities that favor illegal immigrants over public safety and wildfire prevention.

Despite spending nearly \$24 billion on homelessness from 2018 to 2023, the state can’t account for where the money went — or what it accomplished. The streets remain plagued by tents, addiction, and despair. Meanwhile, over \$140 million in unemployment benefits were fraudulently paid to inmates, exposing massive mismanagement.

Now, Democrats are pushing Prop 50, a \$282.6 million political stunt aimed at punishing Trump supporters rather than solving real problems. It’s a waste of taxpayer money, driven by Trump Derangement Syndrome, not policy.

This pattern of abuse extends to national figures like Adam Schiff and Eric Swalwell, who spent years promoting the now-debunked Russia collusion hoax. Declassified documents—including Brennan’s notes and a CIA memo — revealed Hillary Clinton’s plan to fabricate the scandal. Yet taxpayers were forced to fund the Mueller investigation, which burned through over

\$25 million chasing a politically motivated narrative.

California doesn’t need more slogans or distractions. It needs accountability. Law and order isn’t tyranny — it’s the foundation of a functioning society. Newsom, Bonta, and their allies have betrayed that foundation. They’ve misused public funds, ignored voter mandates, and governed with arrogance and impunity.

And now Newsom thinks he deserves a shot at the presidency? His record says otherwise. His ego may be king-sized, but California needs leaders — not rulers.

*From a Fed-Up Moderate who’s had enough of the lies, the waste, and the destruction. It’s time to clean house.

Upending the Safety Net

Julie Elfin, Pleasanton

The Trump Administration’s proposed changes to Supplemental Security In-

come (SSI) and Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) would quietly upend the safety net that millions of low-income, older, and disabled Americans rely on. Though the details may sound technical, the impact would be deeply personal — and devastating — for hundreds of thousands of working families across the country.

Under one proposal, nearly 400,000 SSI beneficiaries would see their benefits cut or lose eligibility entirely. These are people who are already living well below the poverty line — seniors, adults with severe disabilities, and children whose families depend on every dollar to cover food, rent, and medications. Many live with relatives who also struggle financially. Removing food assistance (SNAP) as a qualifier for household hardship would mean that simply living with family could reduce or eliminate their benefits. This change would punish families for caring for one another.

At the same time, a second rule would make it harder for people over 50 who have spent their lives doing phys-

ical labor to qualify for disability benefits. The administration argues that “modern” job options make age less relevant, but this ignores economic reality. Factory workers, miners, loggers, and custodians in small towns cannot simply pivot to desk jobs or tech work. When their bodies give out, disability benefits are often the only thing standing between them and homelessness.

What’s most striking is that most of those affected live in rural and working-class communities — many in states that voted heavily for Donald Trump. West Virginia, Kentucky, Arkansas, Mississippi, and Alabama all rank among the states with the highest percentages of residents

(See MAILBOX, page 6)

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Molly Fisher, left, founder of the Kindness Flower Project, receives a certificate of recognition from Livermore Mayor John Marchand during an Oct. 28 luncheon at Alden Lane Nursery in Livermore. The volunteer-run project focuses on propagating, growing, arranging and delivering flowers to first responders and those in need throughout the Tri-Valley. This year, more than 2,400 floral arrangements have been distributed to schools, police departments, senior homes, hospitals, Culinary Angels, Meals on Wheels and individuals experiencing grief or illness. (Photo courtesy of Kindness Flower Project)

Dublin Youth Committee To Hold Mental Health Forum

The Dublin Youth Advisory Committee will host a Youth Mental Health Forum at Shannon Community Center, 11600 Shannon Ave., from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 13.

The forum will include a panel discussion with school counselors, therapists, teachers, coaches and students

who will share their personal experiences with anxiety, depression, isolation and other mental-health struggles.

NAMI Tri-Valley, Z-Cares Foundation and the Dublin Police Services Behavioral Health Unit will also participate in the forum, which is open to the public.

The 13-member Youth

Advisory Committee offers Dublin teens a way to provide input on programs and activities offered by the city. Members, appointed by the mayor and confirmed by the Dublin City Council, serve one-year terms.

For more information, email youthadvisory@dublin.ca.gov.

MEASURE II

(Continued from front page)

change any land uses themselves. Any environmental review would require the city to first speculate what land-use decisions it might make in the future — an exercise the city says falls outside of CEQA.

“Taken to its logical end, the tentative (decision) effectively would require the city to first change Measure II to actually make express assumptions regarding future land uses — which the current version of Measure II does not,” city attorneys wrote in their objections to the tentative decision. “But CEQA does not allow a court to force agencies to change their activities solely to allow for a meaningful review of the activities’ environmental impacts. To the contrary, if an activity does not allow for meaningful environmental review and requires agencies to simply speculate about potential environmental impacts, the activity is not a CEQA project.”

The court has scheduled a hearing on its decision on Nov. 13. After the Superior Court’s final judgement, either party will have 60 days to appeal to the Court of Appeal if it chooses.

Dublin Boulevard Funding

When the Dublin City Council voted in July 2024 to place Measure II on the ballot, it viewed commercial development within Crosby as necessary to fund the Dublin Boulevard Extension project.

City staff have estimated that the proposed project, spanning 1.5 miles of four to six travel lanes from Fallon Road in Dublin to North Canyon Parkway in Livermore, will cost more than \$150 million. The city has so far identified \$76 million in funding, and the City of Livermore has offered to contribute \$27.5 million, although Livermore opposes commercial development within Crosby and has said it will withdraw its share if Dublin pursues that route. About 0.6 miles of the extension would traverse Crosby.

A 2023 analysis by Keyser Marston Associates, Inc. estimated that commercial development along that segment could yield almost \$16 million in one-time construction-related revenues plus an additional \$1.1 million per year in tax revenues.

Friends of Livermore member Dick Schneider said the city should move forward

with the extension project without the commercial element.

“Instead of wasting taxpayer dollars on lawyers in a futile effort to hide the environmental impacts of 1.2 million square feet of industrial warehouses and shipping centers at the mouth of scenic Doolan Canyon, the city should simply comply with the California Environmental Quality Act as we told them was required back in July 2024,” Schneider told The Independent. “We are confident that when Dublin voters learn what’s really at stake, they will reject breaking Dublin’s eastern urban limit line. The road is already permitted under the Dublin Open Space Initiative of 2014, and with Livermore’s help, it can be built without destroying the open space between the two cities.”

Schneider added that alternatives to the proposed extension, such as expanding the existing Collier Canyon Road, could offer the benefits of a new connector between Dublin and Livermore without developing the open-space areas. Such an alternative would also save taxpayers money compared to Dublin Boulevard as currently proposed.

MAILBOX

(Continued from page 5)

receiving disability benefits. These cuts would not fall on the “lazy” or “undeserving,” but on the very people who built and maintain our country — people who have paid into the system through years of hard, physical work.

These rules would save only a fraction of a day’s worth of recent tax cuts for the wealthy, yet they would strip dignity and security from hundreds of thousands of Americans. Policymakers should remember that Social Security is not charity — it’s earned insurance.

Do What is Right Without Fear

Abdul Awwal, Pleasanton

During lunch hour at work, one of my favorite topics to speak about with my colleagues would be healthcare. I would complain about the poor conditions for healthcare in this country. I would point out during these discussions that in Bangladesh, medicine and healthcare is affordable and available; medicines are more potent than the generic medicine provided to us by our insurance. The same medicine is sold in Canada at one third of the price compared to the USA. It seems that this market economy and corporate greed is driving away the fundamental right of people to affordable healthcare. For affordable healthcare, we must look at other countries and see how they implement these things and learn from them. We need to get qualified people to solve these problems. It seems that the current government policy is to find the most negatively qualified person in the country and appoint him to the highest post in that department.

Insurance companies make money based on probability. They make more money if nobody sees any

doctors, but just continues to pay a premium. To maximize profit, they will try to deny services, delay services, or make it very difficult to get healthcare. If healthcare is a human right, then the companies that work in this area should be service-oriented.

In one conversation, I mentioned to my colleague that Bangladesh had a drug policy which set an upper limit on the price a drug a company could charge. My colleague retorted that to get that, you need a dictator in this country, who can force all these companies to charge what is reasonable. I don’t know if that is what is needed in this country. Obama, out of all the presidents in this country, could finally offer something to the people. I don’t understand why one of the political parties tries only to dismantle this system which benefits millions, which they themselves failed to come up with. The recent deal of POTUS with Pfizer tells me maybe we do need a dictator to deal with drug companies. However, one party does not want healthcare for everyone in the name of cutting government spending, while spending billions in genocide in other part of the world and affording universal healthcare. I think this country needs people in power who don’t act based on their own egos and are able to do what is right without fear.

Part 2 of New Development on the Corner of East Avenue & Delores

Terry Cuellar, Livermore

As you might recall from my previous letter to The Independent Mailbox, the city council may, or have already, approved 13, I believe, rental houses on that small piece of property. We were all set to attend the meeting last night to object and cite our reasons

for not putting 13 houses there due to the traffic congestion on that corner. However, the reason I am writing is to inform you that our item on the agenda was CANCELLED with no explanation! Sounds fishy to me!! If there is a vacant lot in Livermore, you can be assured this administration will allow building on it no matter what. You’ve got to question WHY when it makes no sense!

Batting Average Sucks for Obama, Biden and Trump

Bill Stevens, Livermore

I did/do not expect much from our presidents based on recent performances. The president is supposed to lead the country with strength and respect; our elected legislature is supposed to pass the laws that guide our country, with the court system watching our backs. That is how democracy was ideally established by our forefathers. The batting average of our current and past presidents (and our legislature) is very poor leading the USA (in order of importance).

1. Get rid of daylight savings time — Zero.
2. Keep inflation in check — 200.
3. Get rid of the penny — 1,000.
4. Long term stability of SS, Medicare and Medicaid — Zero.
5. Provide hope for our youngster’s future — 50.
6. Stop Russian aggression — Zero.
7. Work with the world for the mutual benefit of most — 200.

Their average is below 200, which does not work in college or MLB. I am sure everyone has their own checklist, but I am willing to bet that their calculated batting average of the performance of our recent/current presidents and federal government also sucks.

ELECTION

(Continued from front page)

next year’s midterm elections.

Later that month, the Texas House and Senate, voting along party lines, approved the new congressional map, and Abbot signed it into law on Aug. 29.

“The American people — led by California — are writing a comeback story,” Democratic Tri-Valley Congressman Eric Swalwell posted on social-media site X after the Proposition 50 result became clear. “We are standing up to Trump’s cruelty and corruption. And when Democrats are in the majority, we will cut our time in hell by half.”

California state Senator Jerry McNerney, a Democrat and former member of the U.S. House of Representatives whose 5th District includes the Tri-Valley and San Joaquin County, also welcomed the result.

“California voters sent a clear message to President Trump and the Republican Party: We will not allow you to rig the 2026 election, and we’re prepared to fight fire

with fire,” McNerney said in a statement to The Independent. “The passage of Prop 50 is also a strong repudiation of Trump’s disastrous and deeply unpopular policies, which are causing great harm to the United States, especially to the economy. Trump knows Republicans are poised to lose control of the House of Representatives next year — which is why he and his obedient GOP governors have been trying to manipulate the midterms. Californians said, ‘Not on our watch.’”

In addition to effectively canceling out Trump’s effort to gain five Republican seats in Texas, the passage of Proposition 50 figures to strengthen Democrats’ hold on three other competitive California districts, making it harder for Republicans to flip them in 2026. Democrats currently hold 43 of California’s 52 congressional seats.

Effects of the changes in the Tri-Valley will be most noticeable in Dublin, where a portion of the eastern part of the city has been in District

10, which is represented by Democratic Congressman Mark DeSaulnier. That area will now shift to a district represented by Swalwell. His District 14 includes the remainder of Dublin, as well as Livermore, Pleasanton and other portions of eastern Alameda County.

Congressional districts created by Proposition 50 are to remain in effect only until 2030, at which point the state is to return to maps drawn by its nonpartisan California Citizens Redistricting Commission. California voters in 2010 backed a ballot measure that instituted independent redistricting for congressional districts, a process meant to encourage fair, competitive elections.

Proposition 50 also proposed an amendment to the U.S. Constitution requiring “fair, independent and non-partisan redistricting commissions nationwide.” Although a “yes” vote on the measure expressed support for the idea, the measure cannot change federal law.

LOPEZ

(Continued from front page)

was converted to a virtual hearing.

That didn’t stop roughly 40 people, including the Lopez family, several of his children’s teachers from Granada High School and supporters from the Tri-Valley and beyond, from gathering outside the courthouse to rally in support of Lopez.

“We were there as a show of support for this long-time resident of Livermore who has raised his children, worked and lived as a productive member of our community,” said Kristie Wang, a member of Livermore Indivisible. “There will likely be more steps in this journey, and we will continue to advocate for his safe return.”

The rally was organized by Indivisible Tri-Valley, a grassroots volunteer group with a mission to defend

democracy and defeat the MAGA agenda. Together with its sister chapter, Livermore Indivisible, the organization has been instrumental in rallying the community on behalf of Lopez and garnering legislative backing from leaders such as Congressman Eric Swalwell and State Senator Jerry McNerney.

“The rally was to demonstrate our ongoing support for Miguel, his wife, Rosa, and their children,” Indivisible Tri-Valley co-founder Ward Kanowsky said. “At the two No Kings events hosted by Indivisible Tri-Valley in June and October, we have had speakers presenting on behalf of Miguel and his family. In addition, we have been working with the office and staff of Congressman Eric Swalwell to highlight Miguel’s case and maintain

awareness so that Miguel is not forgotten.”

Swalwell, who traveled to Mexico to meet with Lopez on Sept. 11, has demonstrated consistent support for Lopez’s return, in September introducing a private bill in Congress that concerns Lopez’s legal status in the U.S. Titled “H.R.5294.” The bill is currently pending. It can be viewed at <https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th/congress/house-bill/5294/titles>.

According to Ahmad, private bills are laws that are proposed for only one person and are generally discouraged because, being intended for one person, they are not public law.

“This is the first time I’ve seen a private bill introduced in Congress,” Ahmad said. “That doesn’t mean that it hasn’t happened before. I’m

sure that in the past it happened more often than now, and so I have no idea how long it will take.”

With the government shutdown and the delayed court date, the Lopez family, including Rosa, is trying to remain patient and hopeful. With the holidays fast approaching, however, the family is increasingly having to reckon with spending this time of year without Lopez.

“We have talked about the holidays, and I said that since Miguel isn’t going to be here, it’s not the same because we have been hosting Thanksgiving at our house for the past three years with friends,” Rosa Lopez said. “Every year, we have planned to have Thanksgiving at our house, but now, I’ve had to tell my kids that I don’t want to plan Thanks-

giving without their dad, and then for Christmas, it’s probably going to be harder.”

Rosa added that her youngest son, Julian, will turn 18 this month and she had hoped that Miguel would be home so that they could celebrate together.

“All of my kids have celebrated their birthdays without their father this year,” Rosa said. “We’re just trying to get through every day and stay strong for Miguel because he says that if he sees us sad, it’s hard for him.”

Friends of the family and members of the Livermore community are continuing to show their support, not only by consistently attending rallies to keep the case alive, but also by looking for ways to provide comfort to the family.

Laura Bertoli-Brown and Betsy Wilson, Granada teachers who have taught two

of Lopez’s sons, attended the Oct. 30 rally outside the courthouse. Bertoli-Brown led the organization of a June rally, and both she and Wilson have worked closely with Livermore Indivisible and Indivisible Tri-Valley ever since.

“It was great to have us all there going to show that we want Miguel home,” Bertoli-Brown said. “Between now and his next court date, I have to talk to Betsy, but we’re going to make sure we do the ‘Adopt a Family’ for them, just so that Christmas is not a worry. I think it’s important for people to realize that he’s still not home, and we’re still here pushing for his case to move forward. Also, as the holidays approach, I think it’s important for the family to know that we care and are standing by them.”

NEIGHBORS

(Continued from front page)

extraordinary.”

The book, which reads like a master class in success, shares the stories of seven residents Shelan homed in on, including himself. Each story concludes with a summary of “Strategic Lessons Learned” at the suggestion of Shelan’s longtime mentor, Professor Emeritus Yoram “Jerry” Wind of the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania.

“So not everybody has a story to tell. That’s fine. No big deal, but the ones that I did select that had a tremendous story were all in,” Shelan said.

Shelan’s co-authors include Sharon Sacks, Ph.D., California’s first blind female schools superintendent, who revolutionized special education; Tim Lambirth, Esq., who despite the challenges of a speech impediment

became a certified civil trial specialist (one of fewer than 100 in California); Barry Mew, a shy accountant who pioneered federal cybercrime investigations; Dr. Milton Louie, an infectious disease physician who served through AIDS, COVID-19 and multiple pandemics; Ted Fong, an immigrant’s son who led Silicon Valley innovations (including 20-plus patents and \$150 million-plus in venture capital); Dr. Lutz Henckels, a post-World War II refugee who escaped Berlin and built NASDAQ-listed companies; and Shelan, a Wharton Fellow who revolutionized Fin-Tech and foreign exchange.

“No two individuals of the seven are in the same industry or line of work. They’re all different and all have different perspectives,

yet we have a lot of similarities in the end,” Shelan said.

Lambirth, who overcame a severe stutter to achieve his dream of becoming a trial lawyer, ventured a guess at a common tie that binds the group.

“I think part of it is the time we grew up in. We were born after World War II and we all had parents that were impacted by the war,” which manifested in passing a certain mindset and specific character traits onto their kids, Lambirth said.

“On top of that, some people just innately have something in them where, ‘I’m gonna get knocked down, but I’m gonna get up.’ That’s just who we are,” Lambirth said. “We get kicked in the gut and we just get back in the game. Others get kicked and it hurts them for a long time.”

In Lambirth’s case, he had to navigate and conquer the world with a stutter that rarely went unnoticed.

“I’m not saying I’m better or more special or anything. It’s just I’m fortunate to be who I am and to have gotten where I’ve gotten,” he said.

Originally, the book idea was intended to be a legacy for the group’s kids and grandkids.

“But then I started thinking it’s beyond that,” said Shelan, who emailed an outline to a publisher in what he thought would be the first of many such queries, and received a response the next day from Archway Publishing, a division of Simon & Schuster.

“They said, ‘We want to talk to you — today. That’s how fast it was,’” he said. “And on the call, they said, ‘We want to publish your book.’”

The group was collectively onboard to put in the nearly two years of work, each writing their own stories, with the belief that the end result could be of service to others, providing hope and practical strategies for overcoming obstacles. In a time when many feel discouraged, these Pleasanton neighbors sought to prove that resilience, determination and community support can transform lives.

“Not one of us is looking to make a dime on the book,” Lambirth said. “Having been a stutterer, I did not have any adults as role models. I would hope that somehow, somebody out there or the National Stuttering Association or Foundation would say, ‘Hey, this is an interesting story,’ and that

it might help younger stutterers. What worked for me may not work for others, but they (stutterers) should not just be totally discouraged.”

Shelan and co-author Sacks recently presented to 250 juniors and seniors in Amador Valley High School’s marketing and entrepreneurship classes.

“I can tell they enjoyed our talk based on their questions, which were extremely high-level,” Shelan said.

And for him, that means the book is fulfilling its higher purpose.

“The thing is, what we were interested in more than

anything else is for people, young people that are getting their degrees just out of college or in college or are mid-career or having a slump in their career for whatever reason, to be inspired and see how people navigate through obstacles and turn those obstacles into huge opportunities,” Shelan concluded.

The group will officially celebrate its book at a private launch and signing Nov. 14 at The Village at Ironwood with Pleasanton Mayor Jack Balch moderating a panel discussion with the co-authors.



Livermore Police staff hosted the fourth annual Trunk or Treat at Civic Center Plaza on Oct. 22. Thousands of people attended, and more than 20 vehicles were decorated and stocked with candy. The Alameda County Sheriff’s helicopter was a popular new addition this year. (Photo courtesy of Livermore Police Department)

TRAILS

(Continued from front page)

(Park) District (EBRPD),” committee member Larry Gosselin said at the meeting, highlighting the irony of a scarcity of trails where two park districts overlap.

Gosselin presented four trail projects, previously endorsed by the committee, upon which to focus resources and remedy the problem: the Las Positas Loop Trail, the Morgan Territory to Brushy Peak Trail, the Brushy Peak to Lake Del Valle Trail and the Tesla Connector Trail.

The last of those, which looks to establish a connector trail along Tesla Road to a new staging area within the proposed Tesla Park, raised concerns among residents before the committee’s vote. Some public speakers at the meeting cautioned the committee against supporting trail projects that might inadvertently signal support for one classification type over another for Tesla.

State Parks began soliciting feedback for park uses at Tesla after 2021 legislation prohibited the use of off-highway vehicles on Tesla Park land, canceling previous plans to expand the neighboring Carnegie

State Vehicular Recreation Area into Tesla. State Parks, through a multi-year process, will decide on the park’s classification to guide conservation, recreation and management activities at Tesla. A draft letter addressed to State Parks from the committee asks State Parks to lend its support for a multi-use access to Tesla Park from LARPD and EBRPD land, referring to a 2016 LARPD Master Plan that identifies a trail connecting to the planned park.

This raised eyebrows among public speakers at the meeting.

“(The letter) seems to endorse approval of a plan which would allow excessive trails and development throughout the Tesla Park property, which is in conflict with the reserve classification, which allows public use, but preserves the environmental and natural condition of the property,” resident Mark Connelly said. He added that the committee was “getting baited” into endorsing a classification that the public has largely opposed.

Another speaker, Celeste Garamendi, said, “The approval of the endorsement

of the preliminary concept plans put forth thus far is grossly premature.”

The advisory committee did not approve the draft letter last week, which may be returned to the committee after further public review.

Trail expansion in the Murray Township Untrailed Zone is also complicated by a legal dispute between the two governing park districts. Last March, LARPD filed a lawsuit against EBRPD claiming the latter misspent some \$110 million of taxpayer funds redirected from LARPD over 33 years, when it should have used that money to expand recreation in the Murray area. The lawsuit seeks to recover the \$8 million paid to EBRPD by LARPD during fiscal year 2024-25.

“A portion of that should be directed towards curing the deficit that exists in Murray Township,” Gosselin said.

In response to the lawsuit, EBRPD has reasoned that its investments throughout the region, even if not physically within Murray, have benefited Murray residents and satisfied the tax-sharing agreement struck in 1992. The two parties have agreed

to a Nov. 13 San Francisco County Superior Court hearing regarding EBRPD’s objections.

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MELISSA MANDEGARIAN

GALLERY OPEN

Friday, November 7th
5:30pm to 7:30pm

and

Saturday, November 8th
5:30pm to 7:30pm

Art Gallery Sponsored by
LIVERMORE VALLEY
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2250 First St., Livermore

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 in early June.

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



Dublin High School senior and organizer Charvi Appana speaks during the city's first TEDx conference. (Photo courtesy of Charvi Appana)

Dublin High Senior Organizes TEDx Event

By Sanestina Hunter

DUBLIN — Dublin High School senior Charvi Appana always had a love for TEDx conferences. When she realized Dublin didn't have one, she decided to organize one herself, giving her peers a platform to share ideas.

Nine students took the stage in late October, presenting original talks on topics ranging from mental health and cultural identity to college admissions and the future of technology.

TEDx, part of the non-profit TED organization, is a global platform of independently organized events that share "ideas worth spreading" and connect communities around the world.

Appana said she started the process in her junior year, inspired by the creativity she saw in TED Talks and the lack of a local platform for student voices.

"I've always loved TED Talks and how different they are from your typical speech," Appana told The Independent. "At Dublin High, we have so many students doing incredible things, and they all embody innovation in their own unique ways. I wanted a space to share those ideas and, especially among youth, to spark conversations within the community."

"Bringing TEDx Youth to this community felt like the perfect way to celebrate innovation and student perspectives."

To bring her idea to life, Appana applied for an official TEDx Youth license through TED's website last summer. Her proposal, centered on the theme of innovation, was approved in early fall. She then began reaching out to campus organizations — including the National Honor Society, HOSA—Future Health Professionals and the California Scholarship Federation — to recruit speakers and participants.

Finding students willing to prepare and present TED-style talks was one of her bigger challenges.

"I had some rejections, but I redirected myself to reach more individuals who might be interested," she said.

Appana also had to secure a venue, eventually booking the Dublin Library Community Room for several hours on Oct. 19. She spent the following weeks editing speeches and helping speakers prepare.

More than 50 students, teachers and parents attended the event. The presentations explored themes such as mental-health awareness, cultural identity, academic pressure and innovation in science and materials, reflecting what Appana called the "spirit of creativity" among Dublin youth.

The variety of talks, she said, captured how Dublin's student community often blends academic curiosity with forward-thinking ideas — particularly in areas of science, technology and social awareness.

One presentation about the stress of college applications resonated with her personally.

"As a senior, I really related to that talk about the

mental-health side of college admissions," she said. "All of the talks were amazing, and it was great to see supporting parents and everyone show up to listen to Dublin youth."

The event also taught her lessons in leadership, adaptability and teamwork.

"I learned a lot about consistent trial and error and solving problems quickly on my feet," Appana said. "Fixing the projector before the conference started and making sure everything ran smoothly was stressful, but it taught me to stay calm. Seeing it all come together made me proud."

Dublin Unified School District Superintendent Chris Funk said Appana's work reflects the district's focus on empowering students to lead with initiative.

"Our students demonstrate that culture of empowerment and voice every day," Funk told The Independent. "Charvi's work in organizing this event highlights the culture of empowerment and student voice that defines Dublin High School. We're incredibly proud of our students for not only engaging with complex ideas but also creating spaces for others to share and learn from them."

Appana said she's already heard from a Dublin junior interested in continuing the conference next year — a moment she described as "passing the baton."

"It's exciting to see younger students already wanting to take it on," she said. "That's exactly what I hoped for — that TEDx Youth Dublin would keep growing each year."

As she prepares to study medicine in college, Appana said she hopes to continue public speaking and explore ways to merge communication and science.

"I love talking and connecting with people," she said. "Even as I go into medicine, I want to keep using my voice — maybe as a UN representative or in another area where I can make an impact."

Student speakers were Dhanya Sri Anantha Prakash, Jaanya Gupta, Sanjana Ramachandran, Nikhilesh Suravijjala, Tayyibah Hamidi, Thanvi Dhayalan, Nayanika Das Roy, Mehek Kothari and Pramiti Kirankumar.

Dublin continues to be a hub for innovation and entrepreneurship, seen in both students such as Appana and recent graduates such as Rohan Nihalani, who founded the social-media app Rhome — a digital platform designed to help people connect through shared experiences and creative interests.

Together, their stories highlight a community where creativity and initiative take root early — in classrooms, libraries, and neighborhood spaces — and continue to grow beyond them.

To other students hoping to lead or create something of their own, Appana offered a piece of advice.

"Think ambitiously, think big — don't confine yourself to anything," she said. "If you have a goal, try to meet that expectation. Have support and ask for help to help you reach your goals faster."

Tri-Valley Haven Set To Break Ground On New Domestic-Violence Shelter

By Vivien Wenneker

LIVERMORE — A new Tri-Valley Haven domestic violence (DV) shelter is set to break ground in December.

The shelter will replace the original Shiloh Shelter, which has provided safety and support to survivors for more than 40 years in a confidential Livermore location.

Shiloh is one of the organization's most essential services, and according to Tri-Valley Haven's website, is the only confidential DV shelter in the Tri-Valley, as well as the only one that welcomes teenage boys as part of families.

"We are deeply grateful to the City of Livermore and our community partners for their continued care and commitment to helping us keep this location secure and supportive for all who need it," said Christine Dillman, Tri-Valley Haven's executive director.

While maintaining the same unwavering commitment to safety and confidentiality, the new shelter will expand capacity from 30 to 45 beds (a 50% increase), enabling Tri-Valley Haven to serve more local families fleeing abuse.

It will include dedicated counseling and case-management rooms, a children's play area, teen rooms and a computer lab to promote self-sufficiency, all designed to foster a welcoming, safe and empowering environment where survivors can rebuild their lives with dignity and hope.

Tri-Valley Haven's original Shiloh shelter in Livermore

was founded in 1978 with the help of Cathie Brown, Livermore's former mayor. This came after the organization "Tri-Valley Haven for Women" was incorporated in 1977. The agency started with a crisis line that same year, and by March 1978, it acquired a six-bed facility to provide a physical shelter for survivors of domestic violence.

Tri-Valley Haven's DV shelter has helped thousands of courageous women and children break the cycle of abuse and has long been a trusted and secure place where survivors can find refuge, according to Dillman.

"Over the decades, the shelter has built strong relationships with local city staff and the broader community, earning a reputation for being well-managed, responsible and respectful," she said. "Keeping the shelter in Livermore allows us to continue serving the local population effectively while maintaining the trust and stability that have been central to our mission."

The process of planning a new Tri-Valley Haven DV shelter began several years ago, when it became clear that the original Shiloh Shelter was falling apart and no longer had enough space to meet the needs of the community.

Tri-Valley Haven in October 2022 announced a rebuild campaign during a gala event that brought together supporters from all corners of the community. The initiative was launched with a clear vision: to expand the shelter's capacity, modernize its facilities and enhance the resources available to survivors.

The campaign, with a budget of \$7.8 million in 2022, has since garnered immense support from community members, corporate sponsors and local government agencies. Through generous individual donations, significant contributions from businesses and essential grant funding, the majority of the required funds has been secured.

With an updated approximate cost of \$9.4 million, Tri-Valley Haven still has roughly \$1.5 million left to raise, and is now turning to the community for help. On the "Shelter Rebuild" tab of the organization's website, every dollar donated is being matched by one of the shelter's first rebuild donors. To donate, visit: <https://tri-valleyhaven.arreva.online/donate-now>.

Tri-Valley Haven in August 2024 achieved its first critical milestone: the demolition of the existing Shiloh shelter was completed, and the bidding process to select a construction partner for the new shelter was underway. Tri-Valley Haven completed the bidding process in June, and construction for the new shelter was expected to begin in August. That date, however, has been pushed back to December.

"While there have been some delays, the commitment from our community and partners has helped us maintain momentum and stay on track toward opening a shelter that will better serve our community for decades to come," Dillman said.

Tri-Valley Haven has received strong backing and

partnership from the cities of Livermore, Dublin and Pleasanton, as well as Alameda County and Supervisor David Haubert, who have all worked closely with the organization to keep the project moving.

Livermore Mayor John Marchand at an Oct. 27 City Council meeting touted the city's steadfast support for Tri-Valley Haven, issuing a proclamation declaring October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

"We encourage the community to stand together with Tri-Valley Haven to raise awareness, support survivors, promote healthy and respectful relationships, and work toward a future free of violence," Marchand said.

There is no definitive completion date for the new shelter. Although the project timeline on Tri-Valley Haven's website estimates next summer, Dillman said plans are subject to change.

Throughout the rebuilding of the new facility, Tri-Valley Haven will continue to provide safe and supportive housing for local survivors of domestic violence. The organization is currently sheltering 30 survivors and their children at two secure offsite locations. The temporary confidential sites still supply survivors with a full range of services including counseling, case management and support for their children, according to Dillman.

"Domestic violence touches far too many families right here in the Tri-Valley," Dillman said. "Every day, we witness the courage of survivors who reach out for help."

TRI-VALLEY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Thursday, Nov. 6

COPING WITH THE HOLIDAYS

The holidays you dreaded are approaching. At every turn, you are faced with your headache and loss. Please join us for an evening where we will discuss ways to cope with the holidays. On Nov. 6 at 7 p.m., St. Elizabeth Seton, 4001 Stoneridge Dr., Pleasanton. All are welcome, regardless of religious affiliation. Please call Barbara at 925-846-3904 if you have any questions.

Thursday-Saturday, Nov. 6-8

BOUQUET AT CEDAR GROVE COMMUNITY CHURCH

The bouquet team at Cedar Grove Community Church in Livermore has prepared another shopping experience, with all items created or donated by members. Baby items, quilts, bowl cozies, table runners, placemats, aprons, pot holders, towel boas, 18-inch doll clothes, Christmas décor, pillows, knit and crochet items, books, games, puzzles (new and gently used), jewelry, china sets, vintage treasures, gift baskets, new gift items, and more. Nov. 6-8, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Friday/Saturday, Nov. 7 and 8

HOLY CROSS CRAFTY LADIES ANNUAL HOLIDAY BOUQUET

Holy Cross Crafty Ladies is having their annual Holiday Bouquet on Nov. 7 and 8, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 1020 Mocho St. in Livermore. Holiday gifts, handcrafted ornaments, decor, kitchen items, stocking stuffers, jams, jellies and more! All proceeds benefit unfunded projects of Holy Cross Church.

Saturday, Nov. 8

PERENNIAL EDIBLE GARDENING

Sustainability & Resilience, a garden talk with Lori Caldwell. Perennials are the perfect foundation for your edible or permaculture gardens. Learn the many benefits of perennials and how to add them to your landscape. Topics will include perennial types, when and how to plant, propagation and maintenance. Drop-in program. Free at the Dublin Library, 200 Civic Plaza, Nov. 8., 3-4:30 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 8

HOLIDAY BOUQUET

From 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Our Savior Lutheran Ministries, 1385 S. Livermore Ave. Unique gifts for sale, such as heirloom quality quilts, home-canned jams, homemade chocolates, stained glass art, handwork baskets and much more.

Saturday, Nov. 8

LIVERMORE EAGLES ANNUAL HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR

On Nov. 8, the Livermore Eagles will be hosting their annual Holiday Craft Fair from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 527 N. Livermore Ave. Come shop and visit with local artisans displaying their handmade crafts. There will also be a bake sale with proceeds to benefit the Valley Humane Society in Pleasanton. If there are any crafters that would like to participate in the fair, please call or text Evy Barr at 925-980-7216 for additional details.

Saturday, Nov. 8

DUBLIN HOLIDAY CRAFT BOUQUET

Come out to the Dublin Senior Center and choose from a wide selection of handcrafted items and gifts such as jewelry, pottery, soaps, lotions, clothing and much more, created by local senior artists, artisans, and crafters. From 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 7600 Amador Valley Blvd.

Saturday, Nov. 8

HOLIDAY BOUQUET / MEET AND GREET TEA

Meet and Greet Tea, with handmade tamales. Vendors will be offering a variety of handmade items for you to select for your family and friends, and treats for yourself. At St. Clare's Episcopal Church, 3350 Hopyard Rd., Pleasanton, on Nov. 8 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sponsored by Daughters of the British Empire.

Monday, Nov. 10

MASS OF REMEMBRANCE

A Mass of Remembrance is a special liturgy to celebrate the lives of our loved ones who have gone before us. This mass will be held Nov. 10 at 7 p.m. at the Catholic Community of Pleasanton, 3999 Bernal Ave. Please call Chris at 925-846-5524 with any questions.

Monday, Nov. 10

LIVERMORE-AMADOR GENEALOGY SOCIETY MEETING

Come hear Madeline Yanov, owner of Time Travel Genealogy, speaking on "What Did Daddy (and Mommy) Do?" Locating Family Members in Old Business Re-

cords — Part I". Whether they were factory workers, farmers, miners, or business owners, a variety of sources can provide insight into our ancestors' professional lives. This presentation introduces the types of occupational records that exist and where to find them. On Nov. 10, 7:00 p.m. No charge, visitors welcome. In-person at Congregation Beth Emek, 3400 Nevada Court, Pleasanton or via ZOOM (see flyer on website to register: www.l-ags.org/flyers/flyer202511.pdf)

Thursday, Nov. 13

LIVERMORE-AMADOR VALLEY GARDEN CLUB MEETING

The November meeting of the Garden Club will be on eco-friendly fall pest prevention, with speaker Kat Meier, who will be teaching techniques for learning how to prevent common cool season pests such as ants, slugs, snails, earwigs, rodents, gophers, moles, raccoons, cats, and squirrels. On Nov. 13 from 6 to 8 p.m. at Crosswinds Church, 1660 Freisman Rd., Livermore, at the red Farm Theater Building.

ONGOING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

COAT DRIVE

Gene Morgan Insurance Agency is holding its annual Warm Coat Drive to benefit local citizens in need. New or gently used coats, especially for children, will be accepted at their downtown office, 2020 Fourth Street in Livermore, now through Dec. 5. Office hours are 9-12, and 1-5 p.m. After hours drop-offs may be arranged in advance. Please call 925-447-2565 x2120 to make an appointment. For more information, contact Stacie Logan at stacie@genemorganinsurance.com.

LIVERMORE HISTORYMOBILE

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

QUEST SCIENCE CENTER

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

CANTABELLA CHILDREN'S CHORUS

The chorus needs a volunteer bookkeeper to post income and expenses using QuickBooks. Approximately 8 hours/month from home. Volunteers are also welcome to join the fundraising team. Please contact president@cantabella.org.

ONGOING EVENTS

TRI-VALLEY RAINBOW NIGHT

An inclusive evening for LGBTQIA+ and their allies. The first Wednesday of every month. The next event will be Nov. 5 from 6-9 p.m. at Swirl on the Square in Livermore.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

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

THURSDAY DUBLIN FARMERS' MARKET

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

SATURDAY PLEASANTON FARMERS MARKET

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

SUNDAY LIVERMORE DOWNTOWN FARMERS MARKET

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

WINGS- WOMEN IN GOD'S SPIRIT

WINGS, Women in God's Spirit, is a faith enrichment group of intergenerational Catholic women who meet October thru May on Thursday mornings at 9:30 a.m. at St. Charles Borromeo, 1315 Lomitas Ave., Livermore. The WINGS 2025-2026 season begins Oct. 2. Enjoy a variety of speaker presentations, small group discussion, fellowship and more. All are welcome! For information, see www.stcharleslivermore.org/wings.

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

OBITUARIES

Mary Katherine Watson Dec. 22, 1931 — Oct. 27, 2025

Mary Katherine Watson, age 93, went to be with her Lord Jesus on Oct. 27, 2025. She is survived by three sons, Steve, George, Matt, and

nine grandchildren (Matt Jr., Beth, Katie, Jonathan, Jessica, Gregory, Deborah, Ben, Kevin). In 1952, she graduated from Baylor University and

married Curtis A. Watson. After the death of Curtis in 1996, she lived with her devoted son Matt and his family in Livermore.

Donna Marie Powles Nov. 8, 1932 — Oct. 2, 2025



Donna Marie Powles, beloved mom, grandma and great grandma passed away peacefully on Oct. 2, 2025. Donna was born Nov. 8, 1932, in a farmhouse in Scottsbluff County, Nebraska to John and Anna Hanlon. She is predeceased by her husband of 63 years, George Powles, her sisters Agnes Barrett, Margaret Wahl, Wilma Luttrull, Ruth Ferguson, and Marlene Hastert. Donna is survived by her sister Florence Gifford, children Mike (Molly) Powles, Barbara (Bob) Clements, Patrick (Kathe) Powles, David Powles, her grandchildren Katelyn Clements, Taylor (Morgan) Clements, Matthew (Mikayla) Powles, Brittany (Joey) Biggs, M'Liss (Tyler) Fackrell, Robert (Kaeli) Powles, Athena Powles and great granddaughters Serenity, Remi, Ember, Rigley, Kennedy and Briar. Growing up on the farm, Donna learned many life skills which evolved into valuable talents as she was an amazing cook, seamstress and hostess. Donna left

Nebraska for San Francisco, where she met her husband, George. They married in Nebraska and then spent a few years in San Luis Obispo, California, helping George through college and supporting their growing family. Donna and George moved to Livermore, California in 1958, and she stayed home to raise kids for a few years while taking classes to become a library technician. Donna then worked at the Joe Michell Elementary School Library for 26 years, retiring in 1994.

Norma Sue Overturf 1935 — 2025

Norma Sue Overturf died peacefully at home in Livermore, on Sept. 13, 2025, with interment at Memory Gardens, Livermore, California.

Sue was the only child to Katabelle McAdams and A.W. Smith, born in Pampa, Texas in 1935. She was married to George Overturf Jr. in 1954.

Mother to G.E. Overturf, III and K.L. Gilbert, she was widowed after 67 years of marriage.

She was proud of her five grandchildren and four great grand-

children. An Inaugural Regent, Josefa Higuera Livermore in Chapter NSDAR and member in many genealogical organizations, with a proven American Revolutionary War patriot, woman ancestor. An interior design enthusiast, can-can dancer for her Lamar High School Frontier Fiesta Village, home economics major, GS Troop leader, church librarian, and secretary for Trinity Baptist Church in the late 60's. She modeled for the Christian Women's association and was a seamstress making alterations for

local dress shops. She was a homemaker, local championship league bowler, gardener, tutor, Memorial Hospital thrift shop volunteer. She won a number of 1st place ribbons for desserts at the Alameda County Fair. She loved swimming, Maui, and a 2010 cruise to Alaska with her husband and married children. Genealogical research gave her joy. Sue stayed in touch with Texas friends, many branches of family, and all her California friends.

We hold her fondly in our hearts.

Emily Ann Joiner Dec. 3, 1943 — Oct. 26, 2025



Emily Joiner passed away on Sunday, Oct. 26, at the age of 81, after a brief illness. She was born in French Camp, California, on Dec. 3, 1943, to John and Ruth Joiner. She grew up in Tracy and attended Tracy High School, graduating in 1960. After graduating from Modesto Junior college with an AA degree in secretarial training in 1962, she began working at Sandia National Laboratories in Livermore in October 1962 as a clerk typist, moving to Livermore in 1970. She continued her education over the years at night, earning a second AA degree in general education from Chabot College, then transferring to California State University Hayward, graduating with a BS degree in personnel administration in March, 1982, and an MBA in August, 1986.

Emily worked at Sandia for a total of 41 years, retiring in March 2004. After working in the Personnel Department for 17 years, she

transitioned into a second career in computer programming, first working as a COBOL programmer on mainframe computers, eventually becoming a Senior Member of the Technical Staff involved in developing business-oriented web applications. Immediately after retiring, she continued at Sandia part-time in her same job as a contractor until completely retiring in December 2011. She always treasured her work and the people at Sandia.

Emily enjoyed hiking and the outdoors and had a deep love for all animals and living creatures, but her favorites were kitties. Any memorial donations may be made

to Best Friends Animal Society or other animal welfare associations.

Emily is survived by her brother and sister-in-law Paul and Teena Joiner of Waterford, California, niece Justine Perez of Citrus Heights, California, nephew Seth Joiner of Elk Grove, California, and eight grandnieces and nephews. She dearly loved, and was thankful for, her family and friends.

Raised in the First Baptist Church, she was a faithful member of the Tracy Seventh-day Adventist Church since 1975.

She will be remembered and dearly missed by her family and friends.

Robert Eugene Garcia July 14, 1949 — April 17, 2025



Robert Eugene Garcia passed away unexpectedly on April 17, 2025, in Tracy, California at the age of 75. He was born in Stockton, California to Lorraine Carbajal and Roberto Garcia on July 14, 1949. When Robert was three, the family relocated to Livermore, California. As a young boy, he enjoyed exploring the Livermore hills with his friends. He even kept American Kestrels as pets. Robert graduated from Livermore High School in 1967. He then attended Winona State University in Minnesota but left early to volunteer for the Vietnam War draft. He served in the U.S. Army from 1969-1971 as a member of an Army boat Unit 1 in I Corps. Upon his return home, he took advantage of the GI Bill and graduated from California State University, Hayward with a Bachelor of Arts degree. Following graduation, he entered Federal service, retiring in 2011 after 33 years. Robert was an accomplished

sculptor, poet, and artist, having received awards for his artwork. His poetry was published in a book of poems and displayed and sold at the Alameda County Fair. Throughout his adult life, he volunteered his time with several organizations (city clean up and hospice care) but much of which was on his own; he spent years keeping Stanley Blvd. in Pleasanton, California clean, and

he completely revived a street median in his Tracy neighborhood with new plants, wood chips, flags, and painted rocks. His generous and caring spirit also included donating to many charities, and he always took care of his friends and family, especially during difficult times. He was a loving spouse and father and always made sure his wife and daughter were well taken care of and safe. Robert enjoyed gardening, woodworking, bird watching, hiking, traveling with his family, and taking his grand-dog Jessie "truckin'." He was a proud veteran; over the years, he continued to support and stay in touch with many of his fellow veterans. Robert was preceded in death by his parents and his brothers Dennis Vea and Michael Sivila. He is survived by his wife Janet Franchi, daughter Megan Garcia (Vince), brother Alfred Vea, and sister Melanie Terry. We love and miss him more with each passing day.

Lauri Gail Falabella Sept. 11, 1957 — Oct. 27, 2025



Lauri Falabella, a dedicated wife, mother, and friend, reached the end of her journey on Monday, Oct. 27, after a sudden turn in her six-year battle with breast cancer. She was surrounded by her beloved husband and sons at her home in Livermore, California when she made her transition.

Born to a family of ministers in the Church of the Brethren, Lauri grew up surrounded by faith and music. She and mother LaVonne Gnagy spent her early years in a basement apartment in Lauri's grandparents' lovely 1925 home in San Francisco. Three years later, they moved to South San Francisco where Lauri attended Los Cerritos Elementary School. When Lauri's sister Joan (Joanie) arrived in 1962, she shared her love of learning by teaching Joanie many of the lessons she studied in school each day. The family moved to live with Lauri's aunt and uncle on their farm near Minburn, Iowa for two years before returning to San Francisco where she would resume her schooling at Southwood Junior High. In 1971, the family moved to Danville, California where Lauri attended San Ramon High School and began her singing career at the Danville Baptist Church choir directed by her mother. The family briefly moved to Phoenix, Arizona before returning to the Tri-Valley area in 1974, where Lauri graduated from San Ramon High School the following year. In 1975, she continued her work-study administrative job at Rebo. Her career developed rapidly over the following years as she worked positions with Wells Fargo in San Francisco and Walnut Creek before moving to Livermore, California in 1978 to

work at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory.

For the next 18 years, she developed a proud record as a word processing specialist, administrative expert, and office manager. In 1986, a mutual friend introduced her to her future husband, Steven. While they first bonded over working at LLNL and Steve's chocolate truffle recipe, their relationship grew to include a shared love of cats, Cat Stevens, and Yosemite — where they were married on Oct. 17, 1987. Their family grew to include two precious cats, Maya and Mokey, before being joined by two sons, Andrew (Drew) and Nicolas (Nico) in 1994 and 1996.

Lauri left the lab to home-school Drew and Nico from grades K through 12. Lauri's love of learning and teaching inspired her to become a founding member of the Tri-Valley Explorers Homeschool Community in 1999, where she used her expertise to coordinate resources and classes for her community. She would devote many years to helping families across the Bay Area homeschool their children. Once her boys graduated from college, she realized a dream long deferred from her youth and

pursued higher education with Las Positas College and Cuesta College, culminating in graduation with an Associates' Degree in Library Sciences in 2020.

When she wasn't immersed in a book, Lauri enjoyed knitting, singing, and traveling. She regularly knitted gifts for her close friends, continuing the tradition of her mother and grandmother before her. She carried music with her throughout her life, acting as song leader at Unity Church in Fremont for several years and inspiring her sons to learn piano and guitar. Eager to explore, she planned educational trips throughout the U.S. with her sons, persuaded Steve to join her on a Rhine River cruise, and visited family in Washington, Massachusetts, and Iowa over the years. In her final months, she visited England to participate in a knitting retreat and tour historic sites in London and Bath.

Lauri is preceded in death by her mother, Vera Lavonne (Gnagy Davis) Oliver, and survived by her husband Steven, sons Andrew and Nicolas, and sister Joan Davis.

Lauri will be interred at the Roselawn Cemetery in Livermore in a small, private ceremony. A celebration of life is planned later in the year.

In keeping with her wishes, Lauri spent her final days at home with her family and received kind, supportive care from Hope Hospice. Should friends desire to make a memorial contribution, we offer the suggestion of a donation in Lauri's name to: Hope Hospice, 6377 Clark Avenue, Suite 100, Dublin, CA 94568-3024.

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Laurlee Ann Fry April 7, 1943 — June 6, 2025



Laurlee Ann Fry, beloved wife, mother, sister, aunt, and grandma, died peacefully on June 6, 2025, in Livermore, California. She is survived by her son, Allen Fry, daughter-in-law, Sophia Fry and daughter Kristen Fry.

Laurlee was born in Altoona, Pennsylvania, to William and Anita Geesey and lived there with her parents and brother, William Geesey, until her high school years when the family moved to Los Gatos, California. Laurlee attended San Jose State University.

It was there that her brother invited a fellow airman over for dinner and he kept coming back. Not for the food, but to spend time with Laurlee. They married in 1962 and moved to Livermore, California. Their son, Allen, was born in 1963 and their daughter, Kristen, in 1967. Laurlee stayed home to care for her active children. She was a scout leader, camper, soccer/basketball mom, and a seamstress extraordinaire! She and her friends started Expanding Your Horizons, a seminar for girls in math and science. She and her family were active in the Civil War Scrimmage Association; she was a darn good shot! During her time of raising children, she attended night classes at San Jose State and Chabot College and finished



her degree. She wanted to be a career woman as well as raise a family.

Laurlee began working at Lawrence Livermore Lab in 1978. She loved her work there and strived to increase her knowledge in the area of health and safety. She would take pictures from all over the world to make training fun. She retired in 2000.

Laurlee loved Jesus and was active in her church. She supported missionaries and children all over the world. None more than her daughter who served many years in Africa with Africa Inland Mission. She taught "Mission Friends" and spearheaded Samaritans Purse Operation Christmas Child Shoebox collections for many years. Her legacy of love, sewing, and generosity is lived out today through the many lives she touched in the U.S., Africa, and Mexico.

Laurlee was also active in the Amador Valley Quilt Guild, producing an amazing amount of quilts for charity, as gifts, and other causes. She taught sewing in her area as well as in Africa and Mexico. She was known for her giving heart and her willingness to share her skills and talents. She was an avid card sender and letter writer. Her words still encourage and challenge many today.

Though her later years included health and mobility issues, she maintained her huge smile, humor, sassy attitude, and generosity.

A celebration of life will be held at Trinity Church, in Livermore, California, on Nov. 22, 2025, at 11 a.m. Light snacks will be served afterward with time to mingle and remember.

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Cleo Odra Fry April 21, 1938 — March 20, 2024



Cleo Fry, beloved husband, father, brother, and friend, passed away on March 20, 2024, at the age of 85. Born on April 21, 1938, in Summerfield, Oklahoma, he was the first-born son of Oliver and Edna Fry. He is survived by his son Allen Fry, daughter-in-law, Sophia Fry, daughter Kristen Fry, brother-in-law William Geesey, and several nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his brother, Carl Fry. His brother Oliver Fry is recently deceased.

Cleo's childhood was marked by the adventures of a military family, as his father's service led them to live in Japan, Germany, and various locations across the United States. These experiences ignited his love for exploration and learning. In high school, he joined the Civil Air Patrol, a passion that carried him into the Air Force right after graduation. There, he pursued electrical engineering, which became the foundation of a long and fulfilling career.

It was during his time in the Air Force that Cleo met his best friend, William Geesey, and in a twist of fate, fell in love with his friend's sister, Laurlee. They were married for 62 adventurous years, creating a fun-filled, stable home and raising their family in Livermore, California. After the Air Force, Cleo sought stability for



his family, accepting a position at Lawrence Livermore Lab, where they made lasting memories in their home in South Livermore.

Cleo's commitment to community was evident through his involvement with the Boy Scouts and local soccer teams, where he mentored and inspired countless young lives.

He and Laurlee traveled to Africa and Mexico several times, influencing many young lives as they traveled.

Known for his quiet demeanor and meticulous nature, he tackled challenging assignments with a steady hand, spending extensive time in the Marshall Islands and Chernobyl as well as other LLNL sites, where he formed friendships that lasted a lifetime. He retired in 2000.

A passionate marksman, Cleo enjoyed hunting and participated actively in the Civil War Skirmish Association, where he showcased his skills as a sharpshooter. He took pride in casting his own bullets and crafting his own firearms, participating as a Commander for the club and always competing in full civil war dress.

Cleo Fry will be remembered not only for his accomplishments but for his kindness, sweet smile, humility, dedication, and the love and guidance he shared with those around him. He leaves behind a legacy of hard work, resilience, and a passion for life that will continue to inspire his family and friends.

A celebration of life will be held at Trinity Church, in Livermore, California on Nov. 22, 2025, at 11 a.m. Light snacks will be served afterward with time to mingle and remember.

Town Set To ‘Shut Down’ for Livermore-Granada Rivalry Clash

EBAL Valley Division Football Title Will Be at Stake for Second Straight Year When Cowboys, Matadors Meet in Season-Finale

By Mitch Stephens

LIVERMORE — The history of a 156-year-old Livermore has largely revolved around a railroad, wine vineyards, a laboratory and the world’s longest-lasting light bulb.

Among its sporting ventures, the Livermore Rodeo and Little League Intermediate 50/70 World Series are coveted, and as far as athletes, former heavyweight boxing champion Max Baer, former Major League Baseball pitching standout Randy Johnson and former NFL quarterback Jack Trudeau are bronzed legends.

But when it comes to single-night happenings where a city largely shuts down, holds court and roars its approval — split passionately between green and gold-clad Cowboys and black and gold-garbed Matadors — nothing surpasses the high school football game between Livermore and Granada.

It’s officially called the Livermore Bowl, but for some kids — playing in their final prep game — it’s their Super Bowl.

“This game is huge,” third-year Livermore starting quarterback Matteo Lortie said. “It’s one of the biggest rivalries in the Bay Area. Livermore is a football town, and the atmosphere for this game is crazy.”

Especially when it decides a league championship.

For the first time since 1976, both teams played for a league crown last season, with Granada pulling out a 28-27 humdinger for the East Bay Athletic League Valley Division title. The same prize

will be up for grabs at 7 p.m. Nov. 7 at Livermore.

The Cowboys (8-1 overall, 2-0 in EBAL play) can

“You can’t find a seat by the middle of the JV game,” he said. “The whole town is at the game.”

was the Gaels’ season-ending game. Both were head coaches at Dublin and knew of the Livermore-Granada

playing in 1966, when Livermore won 20-13. Livermore was the city’s only high school from 1891 to 1963, when

“It’s a very resilient group, and even if we struggle early, there’s no panic with this group,” Wade said. “There’s no motivational speech that needs to be said. We’re just going to stay connected.”

Connection is what keeps this game special, said longtime Granada social studies teacher and assistant baseball coach Tim Rankin. He’s a 1995 Livermore graduate, who wrestled and played football on the Cowboys’ last league title team under Darrel Avilla.

Rankin is one of countless cross-over residents or parents who attended one Livermore school and are now tied to the other. That includes Granada principal Clark Conover, a 1990 Livermore graduate and one of its greatest wrestlers and football players.

“What makes the rivalry special is that both rosters are filled with Livermore kids,” Rankin said. “Neither school is bringing in transfers from other cities. Every kid is a product of their hometown,



Third-year Livermore quarterback Matteo Lortie is a dangerous threat running the ball as well as passing. (Photo — Mike Clapp/Livermore-Granada Boosters)

secure an outright crown, which would be their first since 1993. A victory for the Matadors (5-4, 1-1) would split the title between the two teams and Dublin (5-4, 2-1).

A tiebreaker has been decided and will be revealed after the game, if necessary, but with eight wins, Livermore has surely clinched a North Coast Section playoff berth. Granada likely needs a victory to advance to NCS.

Even if no NCS berth were at stake, the line outside the stadium would be around the block, Livermore coach John Wade said.

Said Granada coach Brandon Black: “Everyone knows everyone. When you shop at the same places, eat at the same restaurants, go to the same movies and families are so closely intertwined, Friday Night Lights between these teams is as awesome as it gets.”

Neither Wade nor Black grew up in the community, but experienced rivalry games elsewhere in the Bay Area. Both pale to this one, they say.

Wade attended Miramonte-Orinda, and Campolindo-Moraga was the rival. Black was a Dublin kid, and California-San Ramon



Damien Miles of Granada carries the ball against Dublin in action earlier this season. (Photo — Adam J. Clark/Livermore-Granada Boosters)

heat, but didn’t truly feel it until leading their respective programs. Each resides in Livermore now.

“I just didn’t understand the depth until I was in the battle,” said Black, in his second season. “Now I know kids at both schools, friends that live on both sides of town. ... It’s deep-rooted.”

Said Wade, who took over the Cowboys in 2019: “It’s a different level of a rivalry game. It’s a really fun thing to be a part of because it feels like a throwback, old school, like the whole town shuts down. But it’s also very intense, more so than even a playoff game.”

Wade would know because the week after the Cowboys dropped last year’s bitter regular-season finale, NCS officials pitted the rivals in a first round Division 4 game, with Granada winning again, 28-14. In both games, the Matadors rallied, fighting back from deficits of 20-7 and 27-14 in the regular season, and scoring the last two touchdowns in the playoff game. It was the third straight win in the series for Granada, which has won 19 of the past 25 games and owns a 36-25-1 lead all-time. The teams began

Granada was established.

“It was heartbreaking. It really was,” Lortie said, harkening back to how last season ended. “But it also fueled a lot of our energy going into this season and into this game. We have put a lot into our training, our conditioning and our skills. We have been preparing for this game since January. We don’t want to have the same thing happen again.”

The training has shown. Led by a loaded senior class, propelled by Lortie (2,690 total yards, 31 touchdowns), wide receiver CT Harper (54 catches, 1,040 yards, six touchdowns) and two way standout A.J. Carey (39 catches, 548 yards, four interceptions), the Cowboys have averaged more than 400 yards and 33 points per game.

Wade calls it one of the more enjoyable squads he’s coached in 33 seasons. And though a young, talented Granada team, led by a stellar 2028 class that includes leading rusher Skylar Stuart (74 carries, 555 yards), can spoil Livermore’s outright title dreams, Wade is confident that his experienced Cowboys, who feature 28 seniors, will stay focused.

and that goes a long way to healthy school spirit.”

Lortie can speak to all of that.

Though his parents aren’t from Livermore, he said most of the current Cowboys have parents or siblings who attended Livermore. Members of the coaching staff are largely Livermore alums as well.

“We all want to win badly for Livermore High School, just like I’m sure Granada kids want to win for their high school,” Lortie said.

In a twist, Lortie’s brother, Xavier, attended Granada, where he starred in baseball, a sport he now plays at Bethel University in Minnesota.

“He’s my biggest fan,” Lortie said. “He watches every game online every Friday night and when he comes home, he and his friends (from Granada) come to the games and cheer me on. It’s awesome.”

They should be there Friday night — Granada alums cheering on the star Livermore quarterback, which doesn’t seem twisted at all.

“I think that’s what is cool about Livermore,” Lortie said. “It’s a rivalry game, but it also continues to bring our town together.”



Dons’ Sito Named Top Golfer

By Mitch Stephens

TRI-VALLEY — Amador Valley High School sophomore girls golfer Jayleen Sito was selected as the 2025 East Bay Athletic League player of the year, it was announced last week by EBAL commissioner Leo Lopoz.

Teammate Ireland Cox joined Sito on the All-ebal team, earning second team honors.

First-teamers included the Dublin tandem of Chloe Giang and Callie McLoughlin, Foothill’s Neha Baldawa and Victoria Hang, and Livermore’s Quinn Johnson.

Other locals on the second team were Dublin’s Elin Cheng and Livermore’s Ella Carroll.

Flag football

With two mammoth efforts, including a stunning 33-0 quarterfinal win over Heritage-Brentwood on Oct. 30, Granada last week put itself in position to win the North Coast Section Division 1 championship.

Senior quarterback Katie Vail showed why she was voted the EBAL offensive player of the year with a nearly flawless performance against Heritage. Vail completed 29 of 40 passes for 212 yards and five touchdowns, two each to Marin Lnenicka and Isabelle Dunn and one to Gisele Badilla, who added a pair of key quarterback sacks.

Rosemarie Markel and Liv Lnenicka had interceptions, leading a secondary that allowed just eight completions in 26 attempts (31%) against a high-powered Heritage attack that won its first-round NCS game 41-0 over an 18-2 Maria Carrillo-Santa Rosa team. Heritage entered the quarterfinal match having outscored opponents 599-52, which made Granada’s victory so impressive.

“I was just really happy with the way the girls played with confidence from the first drive,” Granada coach Jared Muela said. “Both the offense and defense came in and executed the game plan really well.”

The victory improved Granada’s record to 14-6 and advanced the Matadors to face top-seed and unbeaten Las Lomas-Walnut (25-0) in a Nov. 4 semifinal. The winner advanced to the Nov. 6 championship game at Clayton Valley Charter-Concord against the winner between two more East Bay Athletic League teams, San Ramon Valley-Danville and California-San Ramon. Amador Valley (15-7) lost a first-round D1 game to Castro Valley, 19-6, and Dublin (15-11) was eliminated by Liberty-Brentwood, 26-0.

“I think having three EBAL teams in the semifinals speaks volumes about the level of competition in our league,” Muela said. “It definitely prepared us for the tough contested games here at the NCS level.”

Granada needed some heroics from freshman Bellamy Black, daughter of Granada tackle football coach Brandon Black, to win a 26-20 first-round overtime game against defending champion Alameda. Black caught her first varsity touchdown on a fourth-down throw from Vail before the defense stopped Alameda on its overtime attempt, thanks to a sack from Badilla and fourth-down deflection by Liv Lnenicka.

Vail threw for 351 yards against Alameda, with Dunn recording nine catches for 129 yards and a score.

“I’m just so overwhelmed,” Bellamy Black said after the game, fighting back tears. “To do this for my teammates, the seniors, for Katie, I’m just so happy. Our whole season was on the line. To get my first touchdown in the spot feels amazing.”

More All-Leaguers

First-team All-EBAL flag football players included Granada senior Marin Lnenicka, Foothill senior Claire Young, Amador Valley junior Riley Harrington and Livermore senior Bailey Becerra. Second-teamers included Amador Valley seniors Georgia Brown and Ka’lani Walker, Granada junior Dunn, Foothill senior Maszmine Simmons, Livermore senior Addison Rippy and Dublin senior Samantha Botell.

Briefly

Granada’s boys water polo team earned the second seed in the NCS Division 2 tournament and opened play Nov. 5 at home against No. 15 Alhambra-Martinez. Dublin (13th seed) also made the tournament. Amador Valley was the 14th seed in Division 1. ... In NCS D2 girls water polo, Amador Valley is the top seed in Division 2, which also included second-seed Foothill and sixth seed Dublin. The tournament opened on Nov. 5, with quarterfinal play scheduled for Nov. 8. ... After a three-game sweep over Northgate-Walnut Creek, Foothill’s girls volleyball team had its season end in the NCS D1 quarterfinals with a 25-18, 23-25, 25-15, 25-22 loss to Carondelet. The Falcons finished 25-9.

Have high school varsity sports news of note? A good human-interest story? Email Mitch Stephens at mitch@score-booklive.com

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LEGAL NOTICES

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 618107

The following person(s) doing business as: Porterhouse Autos, 3121 Conti CT, Pleasanton, CA 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Porterhouse Holdings LLC, 3121 Conti CT, Pleasanton, CA 94566. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 10/6/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Arash Etemad, Manager. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 6, 2025. Expires October 5, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6578. Published October 16, 23, 30, November 6, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 618073

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Valley Eyecare Center; 2. Valley Eyecare Center, Medical Associates, 5575 West Las Positas Blvd, Ste 240, Pleasanton, CA 94588 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Gagnon Vision Medical Group Inc., 1750 Orchard Way, Pleasanton, CA 94566. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 6/24/2014. Signature of Registrant/s/: Michael Gagnon, MD/Secretary. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 3, 2025. Expires October 2, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6579. Published October 16, 23, 30, November 6, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 618080

The following person(s) doing business as: The Right Sound Company, 25655 Dollar Street #5, Hayward, CA 94544 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): John Brearton, 125 Northgate Street, Woodside, CA 94062. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 6/23/1992. Signature of Registrant/s/: John Brearton, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 2, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6580. Published October 16, 23, 30, November 6, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 618024

The following person(s) doing business as: Sunset Industries Air Quality Management, 813 Roma ST, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Alane Fife Johnson, 813 Roma ST, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 1/1/2020. Signature of Registrant/s/: Alan Fife Johnson, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 1, 2025. Expires September 30, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6581. Published October 16, 23, 30, November 6, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 617919

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Fastcat; Halicon; Haligoods, 39648 Embarcadero Ter, Fremont, CA 94538 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Yuan Shi, 39648 Embarcadero Ter, Fremont, CA 94538. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 9/26/25. Signature of Registrant/s/: Yuan Shi, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 26, 2025. Expires September 25, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6582. Published October 16, 23, 30, November 6, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 618187

The following person(s) doing business as: Thera Vitalis, 7316 Parkwood Cir, C, Dublin, CA 94568 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Left Side Up LLC, 7316 Parkwood Cir, C, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Joshua Hicks, Manager. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 9, 2025. Expires October 8, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6583. Published October 16, 23, 30, November 6, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 617871

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Roland Rosario Cellars; 2. Roland Rosario Winery; 3. Roland Rosario is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Martha Rosario Rueca-Gustafsson, 4168 Bayo Street, Oakland, CA 94619; Ulf Roland Gustafsson, 4168 Bayo Street, Oakland, CA 94619. This business is conducted by a Married Couple. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 3/30/2010. Sig-

nature of Registrant/s/: Martha Rueca-Gustafsson, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 24, 2025. Expires September 23, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6584. Published October 16, 23, 30, November 6, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 617871

The following person(s) doing business as: Z3N Spa, 4326 Las Positas Rd, Suite 101, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Z3N Spa LLC, 1162 Bluebell Drive, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 9/30/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Courtney Thomson, Managing Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 30, 2025. Expires September 29, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6585. Published October 16, 23, 30, November 6, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 618315

The following person(s) doing business as: SmartCloudControls, 530 Escondido Cir, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Vargas HVAC, 530 Escondido Cir, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 6/23/1992. Signature of Registrant/s/: John Brearton, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 16, 2025. Expires October 15, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6587. Published October 23, 30, November 6, 13, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 618296

The following person(s) doing business as: Buivorks, 607 Maple Street, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Eric Bui, 607 Maple Street, Livermore. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 10/15/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Eric Bui, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 15, 2025. Expires October 14, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6588. Published October 23, 30, November 6, 13, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 618212

The following person(s) doing business as: Models Inc Talent Agency, 3290 Maguire Way #200, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 2005. Signature of Registrant/s/: Sherrie Neves, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 10, 2025. Expires October 9, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6589. Published October 23, 30, November 6, 13, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 618157

The following person(s) doing business as: Above All Surface Cleaning, 5837 Badger CT, Castro Valley, CA 94562 is hereby

registered by the following owner(s): Jeffrey Zimmerman, 5837 Badger CT, Castro Valley, CA 94552. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Jeffrey Zimmerman, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 8, 2025. Expires October 7, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6590. Published October 23, 30, November 6, 13, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 618055

The following person(s) doing business as: Constellation Bio, 626 Bankcroft Way, Suite A, Berkeley, CA 94710 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Stephen Skolnick and Company, 626 Bankcroft Way, Suite A, Berkeley, CA 94710. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 7/31/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Stephen Skolnick, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 3, 2025. Expires October 2, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6591. Published October 23, 30, November 6, 13, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 618270

The following person(s) doing business as: Safari Kid, 1253 A Street, Hayward, CA 94541 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): SM Schools Inc, 2674 Admiral Circle, Hayward, CA 94545. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Puneet Gupta, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 15, 2025. Expires October 14, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6592. Published October 23, 30, November 6, 13, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 618177

The following person(s) doing business as: WP Cattle Co II, 6999 Arroyo Rd, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Kathleen Banke, P.O. BOX 55, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 10/1/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Kathleen Banke, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 9, 2025. Expires October 8, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6593. Published October 23, 30, November 6, 13, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 618180

The following person(s) doing business as: Free To Be Me Child Care, 1040 Florence Rd, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): FTBMKIDS, LLC, 1040 Florence Rd, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 1991. Signature of Registrant/s/: Janette Billingsley, Director. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 9, 2025. Expires October 8, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6594. Published October 23, 30, November 6, 13, 2025.

SUMMONS (CITACION JUDICIAL)

CASE NUMBER (Número del Caso): STK-CV-UBC-2022-9400
NOTICE TO DEFENDANT (AVISO AL DEMANDADO): JNL MARBLE AND GRANITE, INC. A California Corporation, JOEL VASQUEZ HUERTA AKA JOEL V. HUERTA AKA JOEL HUERTA, an individual YOU ARE BEING SUED BY C R O S S - C O M P L A I N A N T (LO ESTÁ DEMANDANDO EL DEMANDANTE): MIKE GLAZZY, ANTHONY SOUZA, as Trustee, GLORIA SOUZA, as Trustee, AND SOUZA REALTY & DEVELOPMENT, INC. You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court

and have a copy served on the cross-complainant. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court. There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. NOTE: The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of \$10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case. Tiene 30 DIAS DE CALENDARIO después de que le entreguen esta citación y papeles legales para presentar una respuesta por escrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia al demandante. Una carta o una llamada telefónica no lo protegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estar en formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta. Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y más información en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.sucorte.ca.gov), en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le quede más cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentación, pida al secretario de la corte que le dé un formulario de exención de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le podrá quitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin más advertencia. Hay otros requisitos legales. Es recomendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a un servicio de remisión a abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado, es posible que cumpla con los requisitos para obtener servicios legales gratuitos de un programa de servicios legales sin fines de lucro. Puede encontrar estos grupos sin fines de lucro en el sitio web de California Legal Services, (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California, (www.sucorte.ca.gov) o poniéndose en contacto con la corte o el colegio de abogados locales. AVISO: Por ley, la corte tiene derecho a reclamar las cuotas y los costos exentos por imponer un gravamen sobre cualquier recuperación de \$10,000 ó más de valor recibida mediante un acuerdo o una concesión de arbitraje en un caso de derecho civil. Tiene que pagar el gravamen de la corte antes de que la corte pueda desear el caso. The name and address of the court is (El nombre y dirección de la corte es):

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA, 180 E. WEBER AVE STOCKTON, CA 95202
The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is (El nombre, la dirección y el número de teléfono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abogado, es):

CHAD J. WOOD WILLBANKS & WOOD, PLC 1047 S Tracy Blvd. Tracy, CA 95376 209-930-9191
DATE (Fecha): December 19, 2024
STEPHANIE BOHRER Clerk (Secretario) The Independent, Legal No. 6595. Published October 30, November 6, 13, 20, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 618349

The following person(s) doing business as: Besties Boba & Bites, 4520 Las Positas Rd, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby

registered by the following owner(s): Three T. Corp, 4520 Las Positas Rd, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Monette Au, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 17, 2025. Expires October 16, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6596. Published October 30, November 6, 13, 20, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 618100

The following person(s) doing business as: Casa Di Vita Staging, 510 W Hornet Ave, Alameda, CA 94501 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Zanti Design, Inc., 4101 Dublin Blvd, Ste F PMB 1008, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 10/2/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Henry Chen, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 6 2025. Expires October 5, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6597. Published October 30, November 6, 13, 20, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 618401

The following person(s) doing business as: Stelo Enterprises, 1747 Locust St, Livermore, CA 94551-4642 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Stephe Rees, 1747 Locust ST, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by Co-Partners. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Stephen Rees, Genral Partner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 21, 2025. Expires October 20, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6598. Published October 30, November 6, 13, 20, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 618175

The following person(s) doing business as: Doggone Baking, 377 Santa Clara Ave, Apt 211, Oakland, CA 94610; Elijah Prince, 377 Santa Clara Ave, Apt 211, Oakland, CA 94610. This business is conducted by a General Partnership. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 9/1/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Jennifer Sterbenz, 377 Santa Clara Ave, Apt 211, Oakland, CA 94610; Elijah Prince, 377 Santa Clara Ave, Apt 211, Oakland, CA 94610. This business is conducted by a General Partnership. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 9/1/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Jennifer Sterbenz, Partner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 9, 2025. Expires October 8, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6599. Published October 30, November 6, 13, 20, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 618199

The following person(s) doing business as: McGrail Vineyards and Winery, 5600 Greenville Rd, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): McGrail Vineyards and Winery, 5600 Greenville Rd, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 7/2015. Signature of

Registrant/s/: Ginger McGrail, Managing Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 9, 2025. Expires October 8, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6600. Published October 30, November 6, 13, 20, 2025.

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME ORIGINAL FILE NO. 592511

The person(s) listed below have abandoned the use of the following fictitious business name(s). Syscom Associates, 3245 Dublin Blvd, Apt 328, Dublin, CA 94568. Registered by the following owner(s): Eling Chai Tung, 3245 Dublin Blvd, Apt 328, Dublin, CA 94568. The fictitious business name statement was filed on 10/6/2022 in the County of Alameda. This business was conducted by a Partnership. Signature of Registrants: /s/: Eling Chai Tung, Manager. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 9, 2025. The Independent, Legal No. 6601. Published October 30, November 6, 13, 20, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 618495

The following person(s) doing business as: Verge Counseling, 1116 16th Street, Oakland, CA 94607-2804 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Alina Labrador, 1116 16th Street, Oakland, CA 94607. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Alina Labrador, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 24, 2025. Expires October 23, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6602. Published November 6, 13, 20, 27, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 617861

The following person(s) doing business as: Gulab & Gold, 351 El Caminito, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Gigkaje LLC, 33135 Lake Champlain ST, Fremont, CA 94555. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Kana Kshile Tandon, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 24, 2025. Expires September 23, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6603. Published November 6, 13, 20, 27, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 618083

The following person(s) doing business as: Game On! Glitch Gone!, 2712 Highland Meadows CT, Dublin, CA 94568-7789 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Armanii Gonzalez, 2712 Highland Meadows CT, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Armanii Gonzalez, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 3, 2025. Expires October 2, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6604. Published November 6, 13, 20, 27, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 618493

The following person(s) doing

business as: S K Flooring, 2116 Adams Ave, San Leandro, CA 94577 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Factory Direct Floor Inc., 2116 Adams Ave, San Leandro, CA 94577. This business is conducted by Co-Partners. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 10-24-25. Signature of Registrant/s/: Wai W. Li, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 24, 2025. Expires October 23, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6605. Published November 6, 13, 20, 27, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 618234

The following person(s) doing business as: Authentic Business, 1244 Roosevelt Ave, Hayward, CA 94544 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Authentic Beginnings LLC, 2648 International Blvd, STE 301 PMB 137, Oakland, CA 94601. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 9/1/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Charles Onyemem, Managing Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 10, 2025. Expires October 9, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6606. Published November 6, 13, 20, 27, 2025.

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME ORIGINAL FILE NO. 612951

The person(s) listed below have abandoned the use of the following fictitious business name(s). Authentic Beginnings Landing, 7594 Mayhews Landing Rd, Newark, CA 94560. Registered by the following owner(s): Authentic Beginning LLC, 2648 International Blvd, Ste 301 PMB 137, Oakland, CA 94601. The fictitious business name statement was filed on 3/6/2025 in the County of Alameda. This business was conducted by a Limited Liability Company. Signature of Registrants: /s/: Charles Onyemem, Managing Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 10, 2025. The Independent, Legal No. 6607. Published 30, November 6, 13, 20, 2025.

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Goodfellow Brothers, CA LLC, on behalf of Isabel Portola Owner LLC, is soliciting online bids for the installation of wet utilities associated with the Isabel Portola Project located in Livermore. Electronic bids are due on 11/10/25 by 3:00 PM (PST). Electronic bids should be delivered to estimatingcapw@goodfellowbros.com and ben@veruxinc.com. For complete bid information, please contact Ben Rau at ben@veruxinc.com (916-930-6000) or Goodfellow Brothers, CA LLC at estimatingcapw@goodfellowbros.com (925-449-5764).

NOTICES

"NOTICE TO READERS: California law requires that contractors taking jobs that total \$500 or more (labor and/or materials) be licensed by the Contractors State License Board. State law also requires that contractors include their license numbers on all advertising. Check your contractor's status at www.cslb.ca.gov or (800)321-CSLB (2752). Unlicensed persons taking jobs less than \$500 must state in their advertisements that they are not licensed by the Contractors State License Board."

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Local Musician Set for Prestigious Performance

By Christina Cavallaro

LIVERMORE — Local musician Grace Clark continues to make Livermore proud in the Western Music scene. For the past several years, Clark has earned a steady stream of awards and accolades in the genre.

A solo performer who also leads the Western

caregiver for her ill spouse, who recently died.

The Independent had a chance to speak to Clark as she prepared to head to the upcoming International Western Music Association (IWMA) Convention in Albuquerque, New Mexico, where she will perform.

“My spouse has been ill for a long time, so I didn’t

yet finished a song about what she describes as “grief moments.”

“And the idea is that, you know, when somebody passes who’s really important to you, you never really get closure. Closure is kind of a myth,” Clark said. “Over time, you get so you can operate again in life and everything, but then you can

Clark said.

Clark made her way to Livermore by way of Portland, Indiana, where she was weaned on musical influences like those she watched weekly on the Lawrence Welk Show.

“People kind of make fun of me for that, ‘Like Lawrence Welk, he’s corny.’ And I’m like, ‘No, those were really good musicians. They had great arrangements,’” Clark said.

And you can hear the lush nostalgic sounds of those early influences in her compositions.

Clark came to Livermore in 1974 after graduating from Purdue University with a degree in electrical engineering. She began working at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, eventually earning her PhD.

Music, sparked by a love of the banjo, which she taught herself to play, became a hobby outside of her robust career.

“At the time, I wasn’t enjoying my work at the lab because they had me on the “cooler,” they call it — you know, waiting for security clearance,” Clark said. She put a year or so of waiting to good use.

“I went home every night and after dinner I’d start playing the banjo,” she said. “The banjo gods got hold of me. I was playing for at least two hours every night and I just fell in love with it. I could not stop. And so, after about a year of that, I started a band.”

Clark co-founded and led the Wild Rye (1976) and Brushy Peak (1983) Bluegrass bands in Livermore. Brushy Peak recorded four studio albums.

Clark shifted paths from bluegrass to Western swing and started Swingitude in 2014, teaching herself to play jazz guitar along the way. She now teaches it to others.

“I try to write stuff that pleases me,” she said. “And what I’ve learned is that if it touches my heart, and gives

me some kind of a feeling, you know, if it feels good to me, most of the time, other people like it too.”

Her EP recording, “Grace Clark, Dancin’ with Swingitude,” was a finalist for the 2023 IWMA Cowboy Swing Album of the Year. It rose to No. 6 on the International Western Swing Radio charts. The album’s feature song, “Dancin’ with Swingitude,” was nominated for the 2023 IWMA Western Swing Song of the Year.

“I don’t worry too much about pleasing other people. I think, “Well, if I really please myself or really touch

my own heart in some way, it’ll probably touch other people, too,” Clark concluded.

To learn more, visit graceclarkmusic.com



Western Swing musician Grace Clark of Livermore will be on a national stage at the International Western Music Association (IWMA) Convention in Albuquerque, New Mexico from Nov. 11-16. Clark was a 2024 inductee into the esteemed Western Swing Society Hall of Fame based in Sacramento. (Photo — Alicia Fox)

Swing band, Grace Clark & Swingitude, she sings, yodels, plays guitar, five-string banjo, composes and teaches.

Sadly, Clark was unable to celebrate her latest achievement — induction into the Sacramento-based Western Swing Society Hall of Fame last year — because she had been a full-time

do much music for the last year,” Clark said. “But they inducted me into the Western Swing Hall of Fame on Oct. 5, 2024. So that was like a year ago. I just never got around to (celebrating it). I was so busy.”

And now through music, she’s been processing the loss of her life partner. Clark has started but not

be just sitting and watching TV or taking a shower or in a business meeting or just any place and all of a sudden this grief moment happens where you remember ... you think about the person that you lost and you get a little choked up. And that goes on for maybe a minute or two, and then it just sort of damps down and fades out,”

Highly Ranked Las Positas Set for Men’s Basketball Opener in Tony Costello Classic

LIVERMORE — Las Positas College’s men’s basketball team has been ranked seventh in the state and fourth in Northern California by the California Community College Men’s Basketball Coaches Association (CCCCMBCA).

The preseason top 20 came in advance of the Hawks’ season-opener, at 5 p.m. Nov. 6 against Butte in the opening round of the Tony Costello Tip-Off Classic at Las Positas.

Under coach James Giacomazzi, the Hawks are coming off a 26-win campaign that included a trip to the California Community College Athletic Association (CC2A) Elite 8 last season. Giacomazzi was named the CCCMBCA’s North coach of the year.

“We appreciate the recognition for our team’s potential with the No. 7 state ranking,” Giacomazzi said. “But we understand that it is a preseason

ranking, and we ultimately have to prove we are worthy of that by how our team performs night in and night out.”

Other first-round Tony Costello Tip-Off Classic games Nov. 6 match Columbia and Cosumnes River at 1 p.m., Siskiyou and Los Medanos at 3, and Contra Costa and American River at 7.

Should Las Positas prevail in the opening round, it would advance to a 5 p.m. Nov. 7 semifinal against the winner

of the Contra Costa-American River game. The other semifinal is set for 7 p.m. Nov. 7, with the championship game scheduled for 6 p.m. Nov. 8.

Consolation-round games are scheduled for 1 and 3 p.m. Nov. 7, and 2 p.m. Nov. 8. The seventh-place game is set for noon on Nov. 8, with the third-place game at 4 p.m.

Dublin To Update Public Via Zoom On Sunflower Hill Housing Project

Dublin will hold two Zoom-based public meetings next week to update residents on the proposed Sunflower Hill at Grace Point affordable housing project at the Dublin Centre development site.

The online sessions will be held at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 12, and 7 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 13.

Dublin Centre is a planned development project on the city’s east side that will include 500 single-family homes and 58,000 square feet of retail and commercial space.

Plans also call for a three-story, 60-unit apartment building, Sunflower Hills at Grace Point, developed by the Livermore-based nonprofit Sunflower Hill and Satellite Affordable Housing Associates for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

The apartment complex is planned for a 1.9-acre parcel on the northwest corner of Brannigan Street and Dublin Boulevard.

The city said both meetings next week would cover the same information.

To log in, go to tinyurl.com/2msfzh5n and use the passcode 8DnX6JeY.

For more information,

call 925-833-6610 or contact senior planner Gaspare Annibale at gaspare.annibale@dublin.ca.gov.

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