



Eager participants arrived in full force Oct. 1 for the annual Witches Night Out in downtown Livermore. The bewitching evening of moonlight shopping and dining featured magical specials with heavy doses of fun, cackles and enchantment. (Photo — Leah Silveira)

Newsom Approves McNerney Bill, Extends Tax Incentives for Clean-Energy Industries

By David Jen

TRI-VALLEY — A California tax-incentive program will continue to support clean-energy industries, at least through the beginning of 2028, following Gov. Gavin Newsom’s signing of Senate Bill (SB) 86 last week.

Introduced by Tri-Valley Senator Jerry McNerney, the bill extends the Sales and Use Tax Exclusion program under the California Advanced Energy and Advanced Transportation Financing Authority (CAEATFA). The program provides a sales- and use-tax exclusion for qualifying purchases within the advanced-manufactur-

ing, advanced-transportation, alternative-source or recycled-feed-stock industries.

SB 86, which will take effect Jan. 1, expands the program to also offer the same financial benefits to the commercial fusion-power industry.

“The Trump Administration is eliminating clean-energy funding nationwide,” McNerney said in a statement. “With SB 86, California will maintain its lead in the fight against climate change by continuing to incentivize green-energy projects and solidify its position as a national trendsetter in fusion energy, which has the potential to supply the nation with unlimited

amounts of safe and clean power.”

In 2022, the National Ignition Facility at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory became the first in the world to produce a nuclear fusion reaction with a target gain. The energy coming out of the fuel target was greater than the energy put into it. The number of worldwide commercial-fusion employees has almost tripled since 2022, up to 4,607 people this year. Annual private funding has almost doubled, to \$8.9 billion over the same period, according to the Fusion Industry Association’s 2025 global industry report. Of the 29 American fusion companies surveyed, 10 are headquartered in

(See FUSION, page 7)

Fusion, Quantum Sectors To Receive \$9M

By David Jen

TRI-VALLEY — California will invest an additional \$9 million in its emerging fusion and quantum sectors, thanks to new legislation signed Oct. 3 by Gov. Gavin Newsom.

Senate Bill (SB) 80, authored by Senator Anna Caballero (D-Merced), will create the Fusion Research and Development Hub Program, which will distribute \$5 million in grants toward fusion-energy research and development. It aims to launch the world’s first fusion-energy pilot plant in California by 2040.

Fusion power, the process that powers the stars, stands to provide a source of reliable, clean power free of fossil-fuel dependencies. Although the majority of companies in the space see fusion power connecting to the grid before 2035, significant engineering hurdles around efficiency and fuel supply remain.

Quantum technology, when applied to applications such as

computer processors, batteries or communication networks, could leapfrog those industries beyond current capabilities

“California is the epicenter of global innovation — it’s made us the fourth-largest economy in the world and the talent pipeline for the nation,” Newsom said in a statement. “Our state was literally born from our ability to lean into emerging industries that will change our world. While others dream, California is delivering the future — the Golden State is where the innovations of tomorrow begin.”

Last month, fusion-energy startup Pacific Fusion passed over Livermore in favor of Albuquerque, New Mexico for its first demonstration facility, estimated to cost \$1 billion. The facility aims to achieve net facility gain, in which its fusion reactor produces more energy than the facility that supports it, by 2030. The commercial fusion industry has yet to demonstrate such a milestone and

so far, the energy produced by fusion reactions has been outweighed by the energy used to start them.

In its attempt to court the Fremont-based company, the City of Livermore had offered an incentive package including an 80% rebate on unsecured property taxes for 10 years, reduction or elimination of the one-time industrial construction tax and the formation of a community facilities district to fund city impact fees and public improvements.

Albuquerque offered performance-based incentives that included \$10 million in local economic development funds, \$776 million in city-issued revenue bonds and abated property taxes over 20 years.

The Governor’s Office of Business and Economic Development, under which the new program will operate, will designate fusion hubs based on the state’s geographic and workforce distributions. Money for the program will come from a new Fusion Research and Development

(See NEWSOM, page 7)

City of Livermore Receives Favorable Ruling in Eden Case

Appellate Court Reverses Earlier Decision, Supporting Council’s 2024 Agreement

By David Jen

LIVERMORE — California’s First District Court of Appeal on Oct. 7 vindicated the City of Livermore’s approval of a June 2024 agreement with Eden Housing that has been the subject of litigation for more than three years.

The Court of Appeal reversed a November Alameda County Superior Court order that ruled the city’s approval violated the state Elections Code and the writ of mandate requiring the city to process a 2022 referendum protesting the agreement.

“We are pleased that the Appeals Court ruled in favor of the city and Eden Housing,” said Linda Mandolini, president and CEO of Eden Housing. “We are excited to finally be able to move this project forward and start building much-needed affordable housing in this region.”

The City of Livermore was unable to provide a comment before

press time.

Move Eden Housing (MEH), the community group that sponsored the referendum and the original case against the city, said the appellate court refrained from ruling on what it sees as the key issue. Instead of deciding whether the city could legally allow Eden’s residential development and Veterans Park to proceed on separate tracks, the court only addressed whether the city could adopt a new resolution reapproving the prior agreement less than one year after the earlier city resolution had been rescinded, according to MEH. In reapproving the agreement, the city removed funding for the construction of Veterans Park, preventing the agreement from being subject to a voter-led referendum.

The court made clear that it was only making a decision on the one-year issue. The court stated in a footnote that it did not need to

(See EDEN, page 7)



Upgraded swing-style Plexiglas barriers, 72 inches high and difficult to push through or jump over, are designed to greatly reduce fare evasion at West Dublin/Pleasanton and other BART stations. See story on page 7. (Photo — Leah Silveira)

Invasive Mosquito Species Present Danger in Tri-Valley

California Public Health Officials Advise Caution

By Jessica Zimmer

TRI-VALLEY — The California Department of Public Health is advising residents to take measures to discourage mosquito populations, with two non-native species — Egyptian mosquitoes (*Aedes aegypti*) and Asian tiger mosquitoes (*Aedes albopictus*) — present in the area and capable of spreading dengue, yellow fever and the Zika virus.

Both species are small, black insects that have white stripes on their backs and legs. Female *Aedes* mosquitoes tend to bite on the elbows and ankles, where people have fewer nerve endings. These are spots where people are less likely to feel a bite.

One of the primary ways to prevent the spread of mosquitoes is to empty sources of standing water on a property.

Property owners can reduce this concern by regularly dumping out rainwater and collected sprinkler water from containers such as tires. They should also examine and tip out decorative lawn ornaments, as well as saucers and basins under plant pots, which may not drain. It is hard to completely rid an area of *Aedes* mosquitoes. The eggs can remain dried out for a year before water is reintroduced.

Residents and property owners can request service from the Alameda County Mosquito Abatement District by visiting the agency’s website at: <https://alameda.leadteamapps.com/public-service-request.html>. This allows them to schedule an appointment with a technician.

People can also report spots of standing water to the district if they observe a problem, such as water infested with mosquito larvae. The district may request to

(See MOSQUITO, page 9)



Tammy Nguyen, owner of T’s Nail Bar in Pleasanton, will hang this meaningful custom painting in her newest business venture, Fusion Wine Bar, which is set to open next door at the end of October. The artwork serves as a powerful reminder of her journey across the ocean from Vietnam in pursuit of her American dream. (Photo — Leah Silveira)

Business Owner Shares Immigration Story

Perseverance and a Pod of Whales Brought Pleasanton Entrepreneur Safely to U.S.

By Christina Cavallaro

PLEASANTON — The journey to becoming a successful business owner can be challenging enough. For Pleasanton entrepreneur Tammy Nguyen, the decades-long ascent to fulfilling her dreams began with a harrowing escape across the ocean as a teenager, fleeing hardship in her native Vietnam.

Nguyen exudes hospitality in her spacious, light-filled nail salon, which she opened in 2019. Before that, she had owned a successful

salon in Livermore for 17 years.

She’s warm, welcoming and attentive to each customer, but also keeps a close eye on everything around her, including on this day a car through the front windows of her business. It was distracting her as the driver unknowingly backed over an orange pylon and headed toward a near-collision with a parked work truck.

“It makes me nervous,” she said, watching.

Nguyen is no stranger to peril. When she was 16, she set out on a

treacherous journey that ultimately led to her safe passage in 1992 to the United States, where her father and an older brother and sister were living.

Traveling without family in a small boat packed with 35 other people from her country also attempting to escape poverty and a communist regime, Nguyen had initially asked her other brother and sister to join her.

“They told me, ‘No, because a lot of people die on the ocean,’” she recalled.

(See IMMIGRANT, page 9)

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PET OF THE WEEK



DAISY AND MAZIE

Like a pumpkin spice latte come to life, Daisy and Mazie are a warm, cozy blend of orange and cream. These bonded sisters are polydactyl cats — meaning they have extra toes, making their little paws very special. They enjoy each other’s company most, but happily coexist with other cats. With their adoption fee waived, this pumpkin-spice pair is the perfect fall treat waiting to head home with you. Call Valley Humane at (925) 426-8656 or email info@valleyhumane.org to get started with the adoption process. (Photo courtesy of Valley Humane)

Ongoing Flooding Challenges, Responsibility, Costs Discussed During Town Hall in Vulnerable Sunol Area

By Vivien Wenneker

SUNOL — An Oct. 2 town hall in Sunol updated the public on work that Alameda County has been doing to identify various organizations and agencies involved in the issue of flooding and gave residents an opportunity to address them directly.

Organized by Alameda County Supervisor David Haubert’s office, the meeting was a culmination of work being done in collaboration with the county’s Planning Department as part of its ongoing commitment to address flooding.

In addition to Haubert, also in attendance were State Senator Jerry McNerney, community leaders representing local commissions, councils and Sunol Glen School, and representatives from the various flood agencies involved. Among them were Zone 7, the Alameda County Flood

Control & Water Conservation District, Caltrans and the Alameda County Office of Emergency Services.

“In order to solve a problem, you first have to identify the problem, and then identify the players who did not directly contribute to the problem, but who can be a part of the solution, and increase their capacity to serve this issue,” said Lindsey Knight, community liaison with Haubert’s District 1 office.

While flooding in Sunol is not new, with the town having experienced a devastating flood on New Year’s Eve and Day in 2022-23, the issue of responsibility has remained. A revised Safety Element of the General Plan for Alameda County’s unincorporated areas that went before the Alameda County Planning Commission in 2023 spotlighted the challenge.

The Safety Element was rejected, with two of the

commissioners feeling there was an opportunity for it to provide a more in-depth, detailed explanation and plan for future flood discussions, prevention and reduction efforts, according to Knight.

“After the Planning Commission as a whole voted not to approve the Safety Element, Ali Abbors from the Planning Department reached out to our office, and then we made a commitment to convene the organizations that play a role in some way, shape or form in flood predictions, preparedness, alerts, prevention or minimization of impacts, and the cross-section of all of those things,” Knight said.

A town hall in March helped both District 1 and the public better understand the potential players, solutions and responsibilities concerning flooding.

Over the next seven months, Knight was tasked with reaching out to the

different follow-up organizations including Zone 7, Alameda County Flood Control and Caltrans, as well as agencies responsible for permitting any kind of projects connected with waterways.

After a dozen additional internal meetings and extensive research, all the agencies and Haubert’s office reconvened at the latest town hall to provide an update and offer another opportunity for constituents to express concerns and ask additional questions.

Of the many concerns voiced, the top two were those of responsibility, and the high cost that is required to fund anti-flooding projects.

“Everything that’s been proposed costs a lot of money, and that is not something that is viable for the school district,” said Shay Galletti, Sunol Glen superintendent and principal. “We know the flooding is going to happen, so the question is how do we

get notified in time, and then what is the plan, and how do we protect the assets we currently have from being damaged by future floods?”

Galletti added that Sunol Glen School, which was heavily impacted by the 2022-23 flood, has been working closely with the Federal Emergency Management Agency to recover the funds that were lost. What they’ve been able to recover so far, however, is small in comparison to what was lost.

As for the question of responsibility, representatives from all the agencies present stressed that they will continue to improve their communication efforts, not only between themselves, but also to notify the public when flooding or other natural disasters are likely.

“My vision is that once we really get going on this process, we educate all of our communities that are part of Zone 7, including

Sunol, on the issues we see now, the issues we see with climate change, the ways we can address them and also how much it would cost for these communities if they were to vote to pay for it,” Zone 7 General Manager Valerie Pryor said.

The next step, according to Knight, is to compile all the information from the meetings since March and present it in a document that outlines the issue, the organizations involved and community concerns, and provides community updates.

From there, she and Abbors will take the document, along with the Safety Element that Abbors has been working to expand, and present both to the Sunol Citizens’ Advisory Council for review and discussion at its Nov. 19 meeting. If approved, it would be presented to the Alameda County Planning Commission in December.

Granada High Math Instructor Named Alameda County Teacher of the Year, Eligible To Win State-Wide Honors

By Vivien Wenneker

LIVERMORE — Granada High School mathematics instructor John Thayer has been recognized by the Alameda County Office of Education as the 2025 Alameda County Teacher of the Year.

Thayer was selected from 19 teachers representing 17 school districts and regional occupation programs countywide for his

College in New York and Livermore High.

His career has been dedicated to making mathematics accessible, engaging and meaningful for all students. His bilingual math courses incorporate project-based learning that connects math to real-world applications such as bridge design, food-truck businesses and public art projects.

In addition to being a strong advocate for Granada’s Spanish-speaking students, Thayer strives to create a supportive and inspiring learning environment, even discussing college plans with students to help them set realistic goals and stay on track to achieve success.

“Mr. Thayer’s selection as Alameda County’s Teacher of the year is well deserved,” Granada Principal Clark Conover said in a statement. “John

is an impactful educator. He cares about kids and creates a classroom where students feel empowered to take risks, discover their strengths and build confidence. Granada is lucky to have a teacher like him.”

Thayer describes his teaching philosophy as “creating spaces for students to succeed in small and big ways, showing them that I believe in them and waiting for them to teach me how to better teach them.”

His ability to connect with students, especially those who may feel discouraged or lacking the necessary resources to succeed at school, has earned him the respect of not only his students, but families and colleagues alike.

Julian Avilla, Granada’s Math Department chair, has the unique perspective of admiring Thayer’s teaching as both a former student and now a colleague.

“I met John in 2000 when he was my Trigonometry teacher,” Avilla said in a statement. “Over the last 25 years, I have witnessed firsthand his exceptional dedication and passion for teaching. His ability to connect with students and teach them math at all levels is inspiring.”

When not teaching, Thayer coaches English and Spanish debate teams, encouraging students to develop research, communication and critical-thinking skills. Under his guidance, teams have advanced to regional and state-level competitions. He also leads college field trips for bilingual students and works closely with their families via the

school’s English Learner Advisory Committee.

Thayer was honored, alongside fellow honorees from the county, at the annual Alameda County Teacher of the Year Awards Ceremony on Sept. 25 in Hayward. As the county teacher of the year, he is eligible for consideration as the California State Teacher of the Year.

“We wish John the very best as he is considered for State Teacher of the Year,” LVJUSD Superintendent Torie Gibson said in a statement. “But regardless of that outcome, we are thrilled that John’s exceptional teaching was recognized at the county level. His commitment and impact on our students serve as a model for us all.”



Granada High School math instructor John Thayer, left, shown with Principal Clark Conover at a Sept. 25 awards ceremony in Hayward, has been named Alameda County Teacher of the Year by the Alameda County Office of Education. (Photo courtesy of Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District)

innovative style of teaching, leadership in bilingual and project-based education, and deep commitment to his students.

“It’s been incredible feeling all the love after receiving this recognition,” Thayer said in a statement. “It makes me realize that every single person who helps our students — from the classroom to the front office to the cafeteria — should be celebrated like this. We work hundreds of miracles together every day and I wouldn’t want to miss it!”

Thayer has taught for more than 25 years, 10 of which have been spent at Granada. He previously taught at ACE Leadership High and West Mesa High in Albuquerque, New Mexico, the Bronx Community

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CVS Skills Lab Teams with PUSD WorkAbility Program

Students with Intellectual Disabilities Reap Benefits, Gain Real-World Experience That Could Lead to Future Employment

By Sanestina Hunter

PLEASANTON — A new mock CVS store at Valley Village High School is giving students with intellectual disabilities real-world experience in retail and customer service.

The Skills Lab, run by

About 35 students from Pleasanton’s three high schools — Amador Valley, Foothill and Valley Village — rotate through the lab each week. They practice retail skills, including stocking shelves, organizing displays, greeting customers and solving problems.

chance to practice real-world skills in a safe environment, helping them build confidence. It’s incredible to watch students grow into young adults who are ready for the workplace.”

U.S. Congressman Eric Swalwell, who was raised in Dublin, has long supported

ago. CVS Health donated shelving, a register counter, products, tags and expertise to create an authentic store environment. Funding comes from state WorkAbility funds, district resources and in-kind support from CVS Health, according to a PUSD spokesperson.

Heather Pereira, the district’s director of educational options, said, “It’s rewarding to see this program, years in the making, come to life with help from CVS Health and our community. Our dedicated staff makes it special. Their creativity, patience and belief in our students turn the lab into more than just a training space. It’s a launchpad for brighter futures.”

Ethan Sorensen, a PUSD student enrolled in the WorkAbility Program, said, “The Skills Lab is a key to our future success.”

Before the Skills Lab opened, students trained mainly through classroom simulations or short-term community placements, which lacked consistency. The mock store provides structured practice and prepares students for PUSD’s Paid Internship Program for Adults with Disabilities, where they continue developing job skills after graduation.

Employment opportunities for adults with intel-

lectual disabilities remain limited. In 2024, only 19.1% of individuals with intellectual disabilities were employed, compared with 65.5% of those without disabilities, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Programs such as the CVS Skills Lab give students practical skills and real-world experience, helping prepare those with intellectual and developmental disabilities for future employment.

By providing a dedicated, on-campus space designed to simulate a real retail environment, the Skills Lab helps students build the skills and

confidence needed for future employment. Local businesses supporting the WorkAbility Program include Bay Club of Pleasanton, Gay 90’s Pizza Company, Grocery Outlet Pleasanton and Meadowlark Dairy.



Tri-Valley Congressman Eric Swalwell, top right, visits with Pleasanton Unified School District students inside the new mock CVS store at Valley Village High School. (Photo courtesy of PUSD)

Pleasanton Unified School District’s (PUSD) WorkAbility Program in partnership with CVS Health, provides students with intellectual disabilities hands-on retail experience while preparing them for workplace independence. The lab opened on Sept. 17 at Valley Village.

The program adapts to students’ particular learning plans and helps prepare them for future employment.

“This Skills Lab is truly transformative,” WorkAbility specialist Janeen Rubino-Brumm said in a statement to The Independent. “It gives our students the

educational and workforce programs. He joined the CVS Health Skills Lab’s opening celebration, explored the mock store and observed students learning practical retail skills.

The lab grew from a partnership with CVS Health that began more than four years

Sensiba Accounting Is Named Among California’s ‘Healthiest Employers’

By Dan Wood

TRI-VALLEY — The Sensiba LLP Accounting Firm, under the guidance of managing partner John Sensiba of Pleasanton, has been honored as one of this year’s “Healthiest Employers” in California.

The nationally recognized awards program celebrates organizations committed to supporting employee well-being through innovative benefits and health initiatives.

“We’re excited about being a healthy employer,”

Sensiba wrote in an email to The Independent. “It’s nice to get the acknowledgement, but even better to work with people that care about each other’s physical and emotional health. It’s meaningful to me because I care about the people I work with and be-

cause I work for the firm, too, and I want to be healthy!”

Sensiba LLP, based in San Ramon, earned the No. 5 ranking among those in the 100- to 499-employee category.

(See SENSIBA, page 9)



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Then, keep the excitement going with **Trick-or-Treating at Heritage Estates Senior Apartments 2:00 pm–4:00 pm**. Come in your silliest or scariest costume – we’ll provide the candy! Kids of all ages are welcome. **Check in at the 800 office to join the fun.**

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EDITORIAL

Supporting Fusion Power and Clean Energy Must Be State’s Goal To Help Mitigate Climate-Change Effects

Two weeks ago, the Tri-Valley lost out on an opportunity to kick-start the commercial fusion power industry. Pacific Fusion, based in Fremont, chose to site its demonstration facility for a commercial plant in Albuquerque, New Mexico, close to Sandia National Laboratories’ main campus.

Albuquerque officials offered an 80% rebate on property taxes for 10 years, other tax incentives or reduced fees, and a potential total of \$786 million in economic-development funds, bonds and tax benefits over the next 20 years.

Livermore, where the scientists at the National Ignition Facility first demonstrated a fusion reaction that produced more energy than it took to initiate the reaction, would have been a better choice for us, obviously. And we hope that in the future, fusion energy startups will choose the Tri-Valley for its proximity to Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory.

That’s all the more reason to celebrate Gov. Gavin Newsom’s signing of SB86 last week. The bill, introduced by Tri-Valley Senator Jerry McNerney, extends tax cuts under the California Advanced Energy and Advanced Transportation Financing Authority for many industries, especially those developing carbon-neutral technologies to help mitigate the effects of climate change.

For the first time, those tax cuts will also apply to the commercial fusion-power industry. Commercial-scale fusion power may be a decade or more away, but the time to encourage the industry’s growth in California is now.

In addition, Newsom on Oct. 3 signed into law two pieces of legislation aimed at advancing the state’s position in fusion power and quantum computing, a move lawmakers see as a key in keeping California at the forefront of global innovation. Senate Bill 80 would provide \$5 million in cash incentives to advance fusion research and development. Assembly Bill 940 would set a strategy to develop centers of quantum computing research in the state.

Generating electricity with nuclear fusion is extremely expensive, and getting to commercial-scale production is going to take a long time and a lot of investment capital. There will be setbacks along the way — there always are for any new industry — so it’s important that California try to be as competitive as it can to foster this new industry, and to keep it close to home. Our representatives in Sacramento should be looking for more ways to support carbon-free industry, not just fusion power.

Another significant reason to support these projects is that the

Trump administration has abandoned fighting climate change and is instead redirecting money to support the coal and oil industries. On Sept. 3, the federal government withdrew \$472 million in grant funding from the Humbolt Bay Offshore Wind Heavy Lift Terminal, which would have built a network of wind turbines off the coast of northern California. The project, originally funded through the Inflation Reduction Act’s green energy program, would have been able to power more than 561,000 homes.

U.S. Rep. Jared Huffman, who represents the state’s 2nd Congressional District, told Jefferson Public Radio that the cancellation of the project represented “a new level of idiocracy.” Another 11 offshore wind projects across the country also saw the feds withdraw their support, including one project off Rhode Island that was 80% complete. (A court has issued a preliminary ruling that that project, Revolution Wind, can continue construction while a lawsuit proceeds.)

Climate change isn’t slowing down, and according to the International Renewable Energy Agency, wind power is now cheaper than fossil fuels in all major markets. Offshore wind is more expensive than terrestrial power generation now, but costs are falling and expected to drop 40% by 2035.

With energy policy, and likely many more sectors of the economy, such as health care, it increasingly looks like state governments are going to have to go it alone, or in partnership with other similarly aligned states. California has a number of chronic problems to solve, but that shouldn’t prevent us from continuing to achieve our climate goals.

Whether we’re talking about wind, solar, geothermal or some other emissions-free source, we need to commit to replacing dirty fossil fuels now and into the future.

Clean energy is a necessity for the health of our planet, but it’s also a business opportunity, one that may prove to be more lucrative than the computer industry of Silicon Valley in the 1980s. Eventually, even fusion power will drop to the level of commercial affordability. We need to be ready to take advantage when that happens.

The tech industry’s current focus on artificial intelligence, which uses so much energy that it threatens to undo progress on climate change, is only going to drive up the cost of electricity for consumers. We need to shift direction. We can make California the world leader in clean energy if we choose to do so. We look forward to further movement toward a cleaner state, and a cleaner planet.

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.

Grateful for Joy Julie Wild, Livermore

In a world that feels divided and disorienting lately, there exists one form of communication that transcends every barrier imaginable. Art speaks where words fail, reaching into the depths of the human experience to touch something fundamental within us all. Art is a universal language that connects us.

I would like to proactively thank Anne Giancola and Livermore Valley Arts for hosting the Livermore Art Walk this Saturday, Oct. 11. The annual event brings our community together in a way that connects us to joy, to wonder, and to the beauty around us and within us. I’m so grateful to have this event to look forward to right now and invite you all to stop by and experience all of this too.

For many artists, creating art is a form of therapy, providing an outlet to process their own emotions. It allows them to express their

humanity and perspective of the world around them, which in turn, gives us a new perspective.

Even if you don’t consider yourself an art fan, consider being a fan of community, a fan of connection, a fan of joy. Hope to see you there!

Classify Tesla as a Natural Reserve Marilyn Sagehorn Russell, Livermore

I attended both workshops that State Parks recently held to present their concept plans for Tesla. I am disappointed that State Parks ignored the irrefutable scientific evidence, and the overwhelming public input they have received over the last four years calling for Tesla to be classified as a Natural Reserve.

As a former wildlife biology teacher at Livermore High, member of the UC Berkeley Museum of Vertebrate Zoology Board, and student of renowned UC

Berkeley Professor Robert Stebbins who studied the Corral Hollow where Tesla is located, I am saddened by the disregard the proposed plans show for protecting the irreplaceable biological and cultural resources across all of Tesla. The plans do not show an understanding of the interwoven layers of biological resources and functions that cover Tesla, nor an appreciation for the Tribal Cultural Landscape that blankets its entire 3,100 acres.

State Parks has essentially proposed plans for a high-intensity use park with vehicle access, bike and e-bike use added deep into the heart of Tesla, while making 300-plus acres of adjacent State Parks lands that already has areas of development and that should be used for camping, visitor facilities and high-intensity uses, off-limits to the public. We see the impacts of high-intensity recreation on the adjacent Carnegie SVRA where golden eagles no longer forage, and tule elk no longer roam. Tesla is a critical wildlife corridor and recognized biodiversity hot spot between Mt. Hamilton and Mt. Diablo. These 3,100 acres are a treasure for present and future generations of people and wildlife to enjoy

There is a better plan that is supported by science, and the vast majority of all public input received by State Parks. Classify Tesla as a Natural Reserve that makes the protecting of the natural and cultural resources the management priority, and which also allows public access for low-intensity recreation that is compatible with protecting resources. Put high-intensity uses like camping and visitor facilities on the adjacent 300-plus acres of State Parks land that is already impacted, and also use neighboring Carnegie SVRA, which has an existing campground and e-bike use. This would be planning to protect the fragile resources for all beings in a thoughtful and scientific way.

Considering Proposition 50 Russ Greenlaw, Livermore

Considering Proposition 50 on the November special election, less than one month away, I observe that the entire matter is to benefit one political party and not benefit the State as a whole. In this ballot proposition, Governor Newsom falsely claims to save democracy, but really intends to further “gerrymander” a few of the current Congressional Districts to disadvantage one party for the sole reason that Texas is doing something similar. But if Texas fixes its highway potholes, does that mean California will fix theirs also? If Texas reduces taxes, will California? If Texas provides financial support for private schools, will California? If Texas improves its statewide water supply, will California do that also? Quite unlikely.

Actually, the Governor has no valid complaint on the matter of rigged election districts, whether for the State Legislature or for Congress. You see, his party rigged the California Legislative and Congressional districts in 1962 such that for sixty-one of the last sixty-three years, his party enjoyed sole control of the State Legislature. The present “independent” redistricting commission has done nothing of substance to undo the rigged districts put in place by the legislature of Governor Edmund G. Brown, Sr. (not Governor “Medfly,” but his rotund father, affectionately “Fat Pat”), who actually believed in better highways, more water supply and public safety, all anathema in Sacramento these days). The only interval when the Brown/Unruh gerrymandering was not in effect, and balanced districts prevailed, was from 1992 to 2000 when the legislature’s districts were so outrageous that the Courts stepped in and redrew the lines providing a more balanced representation, and the current party lost control of the Assembly by sometimes one and sometimes two votes

for two years in the mid-1990s.

For the remainder of the last six decades, California has suffered from lack of political diversity due to absurdly rigged legislative and Congressional districts

Our current lame-duck governor would lump the people of Alturas in Modoc County (a place having no stop lights) into one Congressional district with the limousine liberals of Sausalito and Mill Valley, for the purpose of diluting the votes of those uppity rural folk who don’t vote the way Mr. Governor would like them to.

Let our current state government compete with Texas on the basis of better schools, better highways, and better water supply, rather than on the basis of which state has worse rigged Congressional districts.

The Livermore Sewer Swindle Alan Heckman, Livermore

Livermore residents have every reason to question the City Council’s handling of the June 9, 2025, public hearing on wastewater rate increases. Despite 15 valid protests under Proposition 218 citing overcharges and improper fund transfers, the council voted 5-0 to approve 4% annual hikes — compounding to 28.5% over five years. Not one member asked basic questions about cost justifications, reserves, or the lawsuit alleging illegal diversions to the General Fund through “Right-of-Way” (ROW) charges.

Mayor John Marchand insisted no money was diverted from sewer funds, claiming it all stayed within the enterprise account. Yet he must have known otherwise; this very ROW rental scheme began in 2009 when he was vice mayor. During the hearing, Councilmember Steven Dunbar merely echoed City talking points. Dunbar may have thought that would make him appear intelligent, but the settlement makes him look like a sock puppet.

The September settlement confirms what ratepayers argued all along. It credits \$3.783 million against future rates, \$2.221 million for sewer, admitting excess collections for fiscal years 2020 through 2025. It ends rental-based ROW fees and limits future cost recovery to proportional pavement expenses within restricted funds. These terms mirror what courts have ordered in similar cases statewide.

The irony is that while millions were siphoned through this scheme, Mayor Marchand refused even to fix the city’s crumbling sidewalks, insisting homeowners pay thousands out of pocket for repairs the city should have funded. The same diverted dollars that padded the General Fund could have addressed real infrastructure needs—but instead, the public was told to dig deeper.

This episode has gravely damaged the council’s credibility. As representatives of taxpayers and ratepayers, they should have upheld the protests and rejected the increases. Instead, they delayed relief, deferring sewer credits until 2030. Any councilmember with integrity should now demand immediate implementation of the credits, retroactive recognition of protests, and a public hearing to reconcile staff’s claims with what the settlement now admits.

Livermore deserves accountable leadership — not deflection.

Bias, BDS, and Bigotry Noah Yaffe, Livermore

The reporters of The Independent seem to have a bias and/or research problem.

Last week’s article by Sanestina Hunter on Dublin’s investment policy ended on a note of disappointment that BDS policies weren’t adopted by the city council.

“While the Council did not adopt a formal Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions policy, advocates said the revisions mark an important

(See MAILBOX, page 5)

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The addition of a 1K Kids Dash for children 8 and younger was among the highlights of this year's 28th annual Pace for Peace fundraiser on Oct. 5 in Livermore. Sponsored by Tri-Valley Haven, the 5K/10K fun run supports the Livermore nonprofit's programs to aid child and adult victims of domestic and sexual abuse, including emergency housing, counseling and legal services. (Photo — Leah Silveira)

MAILBOX

(Continued from page 4)

step toward ethical investment.”

Using basic analytical treatment of the English language, the claim is that BDS is an ethical movement and, as such, should be pursued in the future.

I am fully aware that criticizing Israel’s government does not make one anti-Jewish. However, given that the BDS movement has a two-decade pattern of exclusively targeting the only Jewish country on earth, I am comfortable using the term here. If the readers and/or reporters of The Independent are not familiar with the overt bigotry perpetrated by BDS, please do a touch of exploratory research.

In addition to that statement, the whole article elevates the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) as a good-faith representative of American Muslims. Note that the Biden administration cut all ties with CAIR after their founder and current Executive Director Nihad Awad voiced his happiness with *the events* of Oct. 7, 2023. CAIR also signed a statement effectively blaming Israel for the heinous attacks. There are other incredibly concerning words and actions by CAIR on a national and local level, recently and historically.

An article describing the changes in government policy is reporting. But an article solely relaying the views of a third-party organization with a history of antisemitism is propaganda.

I am certainly not accusing the paper of antisemitism. Last week’s article on Beth Emek synagogue is a solid example of pro-Jewish sentiment. And I really have no desire to become a rabid watchdog for anti-Israel prejudice in our community.

So I implore the reporters of The Independent to examine their implicit biases. Please stop blindly taking organizations at their word. It’s frankly embarrassing.

That said, Hunter’s article on earthquake preparation was valuable.

Welcome to Trump World

Rosario Milelli, Pleasanton

So much for “America First.”

When China pulled back from buying U.S. soybeans in Trump 1.0, many American farmers were left holding crowded silos, while Washington offered bailouts that never made up for the lost markets.

Again, Trump 2.0 is crushing U.S. farmers, with no relief in sight.

Now the story takes an even worse turn. President Trump is backing a massive financial support package for Argentina, led by Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent, who has floated swap lines, debt purchases, and currency operations. Meanwhile, in Argentina, export taxes on soybeans have been cut — triggering billions of dollars’ worth of new shipments to China, just as U.S.

soy farmers watch their biggest buyer slip away. China has purchased ZERO soybeans this harvest.

To make matters worse, U.S. barge operators, river freight companies, and other segments of the domestic logistics chain depend on grain moving down the Mississippi and via U.S. port infrastructure. If American grain can’t compete, or if those export routes are hollowed out by foreign competition, these shipping sectors suffer, too.

And what of the beneficiaries of this bail out? Reports in media and commentary point to Rob Citrone, a hedge fund manager with heavy exposure to Argentine debt, who may stand to gain from U.S. interventions. Critics say the timing is hardly coincidental with Bessent’s rescue plans. Senator Elizabeth Warren has called for transparency and an explanation of whether American taxpayers are underwriting foreign “crony” bets.

If a core tenet of “America First” is protecting U.S. farmers, that promise is being hollowed out. First, tariffs crippled U.S. agriculture. Then we pour public money into a foreign economy whose soybeans now flood China’s supply chains. Meanwhile, America’s river barge operators and port interests get squeezed. And hedge funds may reap the upside.

If that’s America First, I’d hate to see “America Last”.

The Fight for Democracy

Dr. Janet Lindgren, Dublin

As soon as Governor Newsom pulled the trigger on Proposition 50, in response to Texas’s extreme Trump-ordered gerrymandering, the Vote NO mailers appeared in the mail. Immediately. Who was funding these ready-to-go mailers and the subsequent TV ads? I did a little research. “Follow the money,” it is said.

The first negative mailer came from “Right Path California”. This group provided the majority funding. Their website says almost nothing, literally, and the “Right Path California” is led by the former California Republican Party Chairwoman, Jessica Patterson. Her stated goal is to add more Republican seats to the California legislature and to “keep growing the California Republican Party”. The goal is NOT to maintain non-partisan districts, as is portrayed by the anti-Prop 50 advertisements.

Charles T. Munger Jr. was the major funder of the first TV ad to appear. Charles T. Munger is a billionaire who has donated \$30 million to oppose the temporary Prop 50, another billionaire using money the rest of us don’t have to influence elections.

Kevin McCarthy for Senate was a major funder of a very recent Vote No TV ad. Kevin McCarthy was the failed Speaker of the House, so reviled by his own party that he “retired” from his

position representing California in the House of Representatives. He was against Trump before he did what all MAGA Republicans have done, which is to throw out their own convictions and Congressional power to become subservient to Trump’s will. He thinks we should listen to him and his Vote NO on Prop 50 rubbish? I don’t think so.

The irony of the Vote No ads is that they discuss Prop 50 as “undermining our democracy”. Do they mean like Trump’s autocratic takeover of our government? Like deploying the military to American cities AGAINST the American people? How about demanding that Texas gerrymander its voting districts without any discussion or opportunity for a public vote? Ignoring court orders, denying due process, like those undermining democracy actions?

Vote YES on Proposition 50. Californians get to have a say in this matter, unlike voters in Texas. Proposition 50 is a TEMPORARY change, with the Citizens Commission returning in 2030. California has power, and we must use it to push back against the Trump administration’s autocratic dismantling of American democracy itself.

Vote Yes on Proposition 50.

Livermore’s Homeless Crisis

Kyle Colvin, Livermore

As a lifelong Tri-Valley resident and Livermore homeowner since 2015, I’ve watched this city change dramatically. When my family bought our home, homelessness wasn’t a visible issue. Today, we see encampments near parks, individuals screaming or wandering into traffic, and groups congregating outside the homeless shelter on North Livermore Avenue, where conditions have spilled into nearby neighborhoods. What was meant as a resource to help people has instead become a magnet for problems the City has failed to manage.

This isn’t about politics—it’s about public safety, community pride, and the quality of life for families who call Livermore home.

Mayor Marchand recently responded to my concerns by claiming that the Point-in-Time (PIT) count shows homelessness is decreasing. That is simply incorrect. The City’s own data show an increase from 242 people in 2022 to 277 in 2024, including a major rise in “sheltered” individuals, many of whom continue to roam nearby streets. The PIT also does not show whether people are from Livermore; it only measures county-level residency.

Equally troubling was the mayor’s comparison of Livermore to Oakland and Fremont — large, urban cities with vastly different conditions. Livermore should be compared to

neighboring suburbs like Pleasanton, Dublin, San Ramon, and Danville—communities that maintain order and refuse to let their cities become regional dumping grounds. Residents and law enforcement have reported homeless individuals being dropped off here from other cities, including as far away as Stockton and Modesto, because Livermore provides the services others won’t.

Families across Livermore have seen firsthand how city policy failures have impacted our public spaces. Encampments now sit near children’s fields and parks, trash and drug paraphernalia litter sidewalks, and people in crisis are visibly suffering in public areas meant for families.

I want to acknowledge that Livermore police and city employees are doing an impossible job, one set up for failure from the start. The problem lies not with them, but with a failure of leadership and messaging that prevents meaningful progress.

Housing alone will not fix this. The U.S. Supreme Court’s 2024 decision in City of Grants Pass v. Johnson made clear that cities have the authority to enforce order and safety in public spaces. The tools exist — it’s the will that’s missing.

This issue is not about compassion versus enforcement. We can care about those who are struggling, while protecting the families who live here. Livermore deserves leadership that values families.

Frequent Letter Writers

Charlotte Lofft, Pleasanton

I wholeheartedly support Mr. Tom Brandy’s request to limit the publication of frequent letter writers. I, too, am sick of seeing letters from the same authors practically every week. And honestly, does anyone bother to really pay attention to

their extreme personal biases? I just scan them and dismiss them as propaganda based on personal biases.

I suggest printing no more than one letter a month from each individual author. And by all means, please enforce the limits on hot air masquerading as verbiage. Are these diatribes really compliant with the stated limit of 400 words or less?

A straightforward discussion of opposing views based on provable facts is the hallmark of a free society. But constant recitation of opinions stated with hostility and condescension is counterproductive.

Thank you for your consideration.

Accomplishments

Richard Hofer, Livermore

Those that have touted Trump’s accomplishments here have left out his only real accomplishment, using the office of the Presidency to enrich himself, his family and the supporters that bought his election. The POTUS is sworn to uphold the Constitution and govern in the interest of the people. Trump does

neither. His policies are in his own interest to rule our country, not govern. He wants complete control over our laws, civil rights, the media and military. He wants to use the DOJ for his personal revenge against his “perceived” enemies and persecute any that do not agree with him. He is using MAGA propaganda to divide our country. It started with the lie the 2020 election was stolen and his attempt to overturn the election via the January 6th insurrection and fake electors. According to the Constitution, he is a lame duck. However, he does not abide by the Constitution. He has said he is “going to fix it so you won’t have to

(See MAILBOX, page 6)

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Halloween décor adorns a Pleasanton home on Sept. 24, more than a month before the fall holiday. (Photo — Leah Silveira)

MAILBOX

(Continued from page 5)

vote again” and will likely try to unconstitutionally stay in power. Like Russia, China and North Korean leaders, he wants to control the media/news as to what you see and hear, suppress free speech from any that do not agree with or criticize him, and use the military to prohibit the people’s right to protest. This is not democracy. His immigration policies are racist and inhumane. He claims they are all violent criminals, when the majority of those being captured, jailed or deported have no criminal record and are not given due process. The POTUS is supposed to serve all citizens, but he is withholding assistance already appropriated for any states where the majority did not vote for him. This is not democracy, and ironically it hurts any residing in those states that did vote for him. He is alienating our world allies and embarrassing us on the world stage by berating and insulting the UN and siding with Putin and his claim that Ukraine instigated the war, when the world knows Russia is the aggressor, and supports Israel’s genocide of Gaza, telling Netanyahu, “You’re doing a great job, now finish it.” And he thinks he should receive the Nobel Peace Prize??? M.A.G.A. is really M.A.G.O.T.T.: Make America Great Only To Trump.

Gimme Shelter
Patricia Munro, Livermore

In 1969, Keith Richards and Mick Jagger wrote “Gimme Shelter.” It was another time of war, violence, and division; the song’s music and lyrics reflect that: war, flood, rape, and fire. Just a shot away. Gimme shelter.

Sometimes there is shelter. Drive down 580 heading east and know that Goodness Village shelters formerly homeless people in a safe community. Drive down Livermore Avenue and know that Vineyard 2.0 is another safe space, with both long-term and temporary housing — along with Open Heart Kitchen. The stories of those who become homeless vary, but all share a sense of the fragility of shelter—how necessary it is; how quickly lost.

In my backyard this week sits a sukkah, meaning booth (or hut) in Hebrew. It has three sides and a roof partially open to the sky. It is a fragile, open structure and both the fragility and openness are intentional. Jews raise these booths during the week-long harvest festival of Sukkot (meaning Booths). The holiday contains religious symbolism—Sukkot is one of the three pilgrimage festivals mentioned in Torah and the booths represent the temporary dwellings of the wilder-

ness. It also has an agricultural dimension—Sukkot is when crops were harvested in Israel. Those mediterranean crops are ones we know as well: grapes, figs, olives, dates, pomegranates, and more. Beyond that, it is a holiday of welcome and sharing bounty — welcome to ancestors, welcome to community.

But beyond that, Sukkot is a reminder of the fragility of shelter. My sukkah is, as my husband reminds me, built like a box kite. It has withstood winds and rain. So far. It is, like all shelters, a reminder of the fragility of shelter. And the need for the community and bounty to sustain us all.

Please Vote Yes on Prop 50
Kyoko Takayama, Livermore

What is the Prop 50, Election Rigging Response Act? It all started when the president ordered Texas to produce five more Republican seats. Texas followed the order and passed their extreme gerrymandered maps, and Missouri followed. In response to this election rigging, California State Legislatures passed three legislations and put Prop 50 on the ballot; so that California voters can decide.

Gerrymandering is silencing the voters’ voices, and should be banned in all 50 states. It is the manipulation of maps for politicians to choose their voters, and Congressional gerrymandering affects everybody no matter where we live. For instance, most of us agree that health care is essential and should be affordable, and children shouldn’t starve. Yet the congress passed a bill to gut Medi-Cal (California’s Medicaid) and CalFresh (California’s Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program). Every Republican Congress member voted yes, no matter how much their constituents need these safety programs.

Gerrymandering is to be blamed; since it assures safety of partisan seats, elected officials are more worried about primary challenges from their own party than their constituents/ voters.

We voters are also to be blamed, because we tend to vote by the party line without considering what our representatives are doing. Democracy requires everybody eligible to vote informed in elections and to tell our representatives what we want between elections.

By passing Prop 50, voters could approve the proposed Congress district maps (available online), that increase odds for Democrats to win five extra seats, to be used in next three elections. Prop 50 doesn’t repeal the Voters First Act for Congress, and after the

2030 census, California congressional maps will be redrawn by the Citizens Independent Commission in 2031 and thereafter. The map is partisan gerrymandered, yet respects the California redistricting criteria. Thus, Common Cause and League of Women Voters both dropped their oppositions once the details became available. Prop 50 will level the playing field and give Democrats a fighting chance in 2026 mid-term elections. I hate gerrymandering, but I believe in democracy, justice and freedom for all Americans, not just for Californians. We must hold the president accountable, and it is only possible if Democrats take back the House majority. It is why I am organizing to pass Prop 50. Please vote Yes on Prop 50 and spread the word to your family and friends.

Remember Our Hungry Neighbors
Marla Kirby, Livermore

This spring, the Trump administration cancelled over \$500 million in U.S.-produced food aid that should have gone to food pantries around the country. For an excellent visual on what this has meant to people in need, see the ProPublica article dated October 3, 2025, titled “Trump Cancelled 94 Million Pounds of Food Aid. Here’s What Never Arrived.” On top of those cuts, on July 4, Trump signed his Big (ugly) Bill passed by Congressional Republicans, which calls for the largest cuts ever in food aid. These cuts, alongside high (and increasing) food prices, are setting up a crisis of hunger in our community. Please, if you are able, give generously to organizations that help our hungry neighbors, especially this holiday season, but also throughout the year. You can search “food resources guide” on the City of Livermore website for a list of organizations.

On “Frequent” and “Stale” Mailbox Letters
Greg Scott, Livermore

I need to thank Livermore’s The Independent for publishing my ostensibly “frequent” and “stale” letters over the years. (Tom Bandy, “Frequent Letter Writers,” Mailbox, 10/2/2025)

My first letter to The Independent was written in January 2019 on the computers of the ‘socialist,’ main branch of the City of Livermore Public Library while I was homeless and after I had been speaking to Livermore City Council on homelessness for 15 1/2 months. I wrote a series, “The Homeless Games,” of which The Independent published at least 36 “frequent” and “stale” letters in 2019 alone, along with a

few letters on other topics. I spoke and wrote of the dire situation of homelessness and of Livermore homelessness specifically, where it turned out that I would be homeless for 6 3/4 years.

The homeless situation is only worse now. The City of Livermore can’t even figure out the number of homeless that die in Livermore. Homeless, senior, disabled Sherri Rose Coleman was reportedly found dead by Nation’s Restaurant last May. Homeless Lance Cauley was reportedly found dead in a Livermore arroyo a week later.

Yup, nothing quite as “stale” as talking about dead homeless. I also write about the war criminal, genocidal murder of tens of thousands of Palestinians by Israel after the heinous Hamas attacks in 2023. Mentioned, too, in my letters, is the fact that the “war” in Palestine didn’t start on October 7, 2023: It was started long before, with such incidents as the “Nakba,” in 1947-48, where more than 700,000 Palestinians were forced from their homes and more than 550 Palestinian villages were completely destroyed.

I cannot possibly be “frequent” enough in writing about these things. The Independent does as it wishes with its Mailbox letter writing policies: I don’t choose to be silent in an apathetic country that is careening into fascist dictatorship.

After reading Mr. Bandy’s recent Mailbox letter, I was reminded of a cartoon I once saw where a bird hetero-couple, with a nice abode and new flooring, was throwing a dinner party, and upon greeting another bird hetero-couple at the front door, the guest female bird peered through the doorway and exclaimed to her male bird partner, “Look Marv,

fresh newspapers!”

Of course, Mr. Bandy and others of his sentiment, with uncanny predictive talent, already knew the fate of the newspaper floor covering following the avian soiree — even before reading this “stale” letter!

A Boomer’s Response
Brent Siler, Livermore

You seem convinced that we Boomers “had it easy.” Let me set the record straight.

We did not grow up in comfort and security. Our childhoods and young adult years were marked by the Korean War, the Vietnam draft/war, the Cold War, and the very real threat of nuclear annihilation. That is hardly a carefree environment. Many of us buried friends, classmates, and family members who never made it home.

You say we were “brain-washed.” On the contrary, we were informed by lived experience. We saw government promises broken, economies stumble, and freedoms tested. We learned to question authority not from a textbook, but from watching leaders lie, policies fail, and wars drag on. All without burning the town down.

Owning a home, raising a family, and taking a vacation were not handed to us. We worked hard—sometimes two or three jobs—to save enough for a down payment, to pay off student loans (yes, we had them too, even if the numbers looked smaller), and to put food on the table. Mortgage rates in our day were often 10–15%, not the 3–6% you complain about today. We didn’t swipe a credit card and hope for forgiveness later—we sacrificed and went without to make ends meet.

You suggest Social Security was a golden promise. In truth, we have paid into the system our entire lives with no guarantee of stability. Many of us doubt whether what we contributed — hundreds of thousands over decades — will be fully returned. That’s not security; that’s uncertainty.

And as for pulling up the ladder—we didn’t. We climbed it rung by rung, often when the rungs were cracking beneath us. We carried responsibility, lived within our means, and pushed through hardship. If anything, our message is that success is possible, but it comes through effort, not entitlement. If anything, we want the younger generations to succeed — but not by rewriting history to pretend we had it soft.

So pity us if you like, but do not rewrite history. We were not coddled. We were tested; we endured; and we worked for what we have. That is the truth of our generation.

The Enemy Within
Barry Brynjulson, Pleasanton

Trump apparently watched Fox News recently

when they showed clips of the violent Portland Black Lives Matter protests in 2020. He thought the video was current, declared Portland a ‘War Zone’, and dispatched National Guard troops as yet, another intimidating show-of-force.

Trump 1.0 was a president for the red states only, perhaps even just the white people of the red states. In this iteration of Trump, it is increasingly clear he’s president only for those who agree with ALL his words and actions. Disagree or dare to protest and you are the ‘Enemy Within’.

In his recent speech to the admirals and generals, Trump 2.0 told them to be ready to do battle with the Enemy Within. He also gave his approval to use ‘full force’ in Portland.

Now is not the time to cower, even though his actions are frightening. If we remain silent, we are agreeing to accept whatever occurs. Do not count on the mid-terms happening to advocate for change, or being fair if they do take place.

Oct. 18 is No Kings Day 2.0 with over 2,500 locations world-wide including Livermore and Pleasanton. See www.nokings.org for locations/times, and to register. Freedom of speech and peaceful assembly are currently guaranteed by our Constitution. Lend your body and voice before those are no longer options.

And vote Yes on Proposition 50.

Charlie Kirk: Assault Weapon Ban Is Not Enough
Maya Gokhale, Livermore

Thank you to the alert Independent readers who pointed out that a ban on assault weapons and their bullets would not have saved Charlie Kirk. A ban on assault weapons and/or large capacity magazines would have prevented the recent deaths of four worshippers in Michigan on Sept. 28, 2025, and 286 people, including 66 children and educators, in 2012-2022 (www.congress.gov/117/meeting/house/115244/documents/HHRG-117-JU08-20221215-SD007.pdf).

However, to have Mr. Kirk and the Hortmans with us today would require much more comprehensive gun control laws, such as those passed by New Zealand in the wake of the 2019 Christchurch mosque shooting. Simply banning assault weapons is not enough. The Second Amendment should not be used to enable assassinations and mass murder. I hope the community will join me in advocating for strong, decisive, comprehensive gun control legislation to save the lives of children, their parents, and our leaders. Please consider supporting organizations whose formation was inspired by gun violence, such as <https://giffords.org> and www.bradyunited.org.

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Pleasanton Ghost Walks Set To Revive a Halloween Tradition

The first of the Museum on Main’s annual ghost walks around downtown Pleasanton is Friday, Oct. 10.

The two-hour family friendly guided tours have become a Halloween tradition, reviving tales of ghosts and paranormal experiences.

The tours begin at the museum, 603 Main St., and leave every thirty minutes

from 6:00pm to 8:00pm.

Groups are led by a team of ghost hosts and will visit up to nine haunted locations around downtown.

At each location, groups are met by actors playing the roles of various ghosts, bringing their stories and Pleasanton history to life. Most of the stops will be outside, but a few may require climbing steps

into a building.

Rain or shine, the museum will also host ghost walks on Saturday, Oct. 11, Friday, Oct. 17, and Saturday, Oct. 18.

Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$20 for children 12 and under.

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



Actress Rachael Campbell haunts as Lilly, the spirit at the Pleasanton Hotel, during annual ghost walks. (Photo courtesy of Pleasanton’s Museum on Main)

NEWSOM

(Continued from front page)

Fund supported by funding appropriated by the state legislature.

The state fusion-hub program will operate alongside a similar fusion-hub program funded by the Department of Energy, which awarded \$16 million over four years to a hub led by Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in 2023.

Funding for Quantum Leaps

In addition to SB 80, Newsom also signed Assembly Bill 940, which will publish

a strategic plan to grow the quantum economy within the state, and announced another \$4 million budgeted to support quantum research and innovation.

Assemblymember Buffy Wicks (D-Oakland), bill author, said, “By directing the development of a statewide strategy, this bill ensures we are positioning ourselves to lead in quantum innovation, create good-paying jobs and capture the immense economic value this technology will generate.”

Dublin To Host Friday Night Markets at St. Pat’s Row

The first of three Friday Night Markets at St. Pat’s Row in Dublin was held on Sept. 26.

Dublin said the Friday Night Markets will offer live entertainment and cultural performances, family-friendly games and activities, outdoor dining with a variety of cuisines,

and handmade crafts, artisan products and “local treasures” for purchase.

St. Pat’s Row is the stretch of St. Patrick’s Way between Golden Gate Drive and Regional Street.

Friday Night Markets will also be held on Oct. 24 and Nov. 21 from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.

BART Finishes Installation of Modernized Fare Gates at All Stations Ahead of Schedule

By Sanestina Hunter

DUBLIN — BART completed the installation of new fare gates at all 50 of its stations four months ahead of schedule. The \$90 million project, part of a system-wide modernization strategy, improves accessibility, safety and the efficiency of proper payment.

BART representatives and city leaders marked the milestone with a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the West Dublin/Pleasanton Station, which finished its new gates on Aug. 4.

“This is the latest in a string of victories for riders that are transforming the daily BART experience,” Bob Powers, BART general manager, said in a Sept. 26 statement. “Since last year, we have boosted our visible safety presence, increased cleaning, deployed only Fleet of the Future trains, launched Tap and Ride, and now installed fare gates that are already deterring

unwanted behavior.”

The “Fleet of the Future” is BART’s initiative to replace aging legacy train cars with a modern design.

Tap and Ride allows riders to pay with digital options, such as Clipper on mobile devices, for contactless boarding. Paper tickets remain available but are becoming less common.

BART surveys found that riders want a system that is safe, clean and user-friendly, Powers noted. “We are responding with decisive actions.”

Dublin Mayor Sherry Hu, who also attended the event, said in a statement to The Independent that she commuted on BART into San Francisco every day for eight years before making Dublin her home. She called the project more than a technology upgrade.

“It provides Dublin residents with reliable access to BART and stronger connections to the Bay Area’s economic and cultural op-

portunities,” Hu said, highlighting the city’s priorities of supporting transit investments that keep pace with growth, reduce congestion and advance sustainability.

Officials say the new fare gates improve accessibility for riders using wheelchairs, strollers, bikes or luggage, and enhance overall safety.

The system’s traditional orange wedge-shaped gates have been replaced with upgraded swing-style Plexiglas barriers, which are 72 inches high and difficult to push through or jump over, thus helping reduce fare evasion.

Agency data show the new gates are already having an effect. According to BART’s latest Quarterly Performance Report, riders reporting fare evasion dropped from 22% in the first quarter of fiscal year 2025 to 10% in the fourth quarter.

“The gates deployed by BART are the only ones of their kind in the world,” Syl-

via Lamb, BART assistant general manager for Infrastructure Delivery and head of the fare gates project, said at the ribbon cutting. “Our team did incredible work to beat the installation deadline by several months. Now we will benefit from lessons learned over the last year through the experiences of hundreds of thousands of riders to make these gates even more resilient.”

The first prototype gates were installed at West Oakland Station in December 2023. Each gate allows up to 40 people per minute to pass. In total, BART replaced 715 fare gates across its system, which serves Alameda, Contra Costa, San Francisco, San Mateo and Santa Clara counties.

As part of a broader modernization strategy, officials said the agency is testing advanced sensors to prevent riders from “piggybacking” behind paying passengers.

EDEN

(Continued from front page)

decide whether Veterans Park could be separated from the residential development.

The MEH group will consider a petition for a rehearing and a petition for review in the California Supreme Court, among other options.

Dick Ryon, one of the named petitioners in the litigation, said, “As the original proponent of the referendum, I am frustrated that city leadership has spent so many years ignoring the contingent of Livermore voters who oppose this project proceeding on its current location. While we strongly support affordable housing and want to see more of it built in Livermore, this particular location is not the right site for residential development. We have a number of alternatives in mind that would be financially feasible for the city and Eden Housing. But this site should be preserved for a unique park serving the entire community in the heart of our downtown.”

The Eden Housing project plans to build two four-story buildings totaling 130 affordable-housing units, plus 0.45 acres of a 0.63-acre public community park downtown between Railroad Avenue, Veterans Way, L Street and a planned K Street fire lane. The requirement to dedicate public open space for the development of Veterans

Park is mandated by the city’s Downtown Specific Plan.

On June 24, 2024, the Livermore City Council attempted to approve an agreement with Eden to develop the housing project. At that time, city staff altered the agreement, removing the parts dealing with the park, in response to a citizen referendum seeking to repeal a 2022 approval of the same agreement. Compelled by the certified referendum, the city council had rescinded the 2022 agreement, but separately tried to approve the parts of the previous agreement not subject to referendum — the residential components — as advised by then-City Attorney Jason Alcalá.

MEH filed a motion on July 29, 2024 claiming the council’s June 24, 2024 re-adoption violated the California Elections Code for two reasons. It requires cities to wait at least one year before reapproving a resolution that has been subject to referendum. Since the referendum was also rescinded on June 24, 2024, a year had not elapsed, MEH argued. In addition, funding for Veterans Park cannot be separated from the residential project.

Superior Court Judge Michael Markman on Nov. 15, 2024 agreed with MEH, ruling that the city violated the Elections Code in its attempt

to approve a “virtually identical amended” agreement.

“It is too clever by half to say that the city ‘entirely repealed’ the original resolution when it immediately substituted almost all of the original language in the replacement resolution,” Markman wrote, concluding that the city should have either waited a year or put the decision to voters.

The city and Eden disagreed and sought review in taking its case to the Court of Appeal, which reversed the Superior Court ruling this week.

MEH had based its argument on a prior case where the Kern County Board of Supervisors had tried to circumvent a referendum by repealing an entire section of its county code, effectively reimplementing “the essential feature of the protested ordinance,” the court wrote.

Similarly, MEH and the trial court reasoned that the City of Livermore’s 2024 re-adoption rendered its referendum ineffective by approving a similar agreement that left out the essential feature of the agreement challenged by the referendum.

But the appellate court said the trial court misunderstood the underlying purpose of the relevant section of the Elections Code, which is to protect the referendum power.

It concluded that the adoption of a non-referendable agreement could not threaten the power of referendum and was therefore allowed.

In addition to the one-year limitation, MEH maintains that the referendable and non-referendable parts of the agreement — the housing and the park — remain inseparable, and that the city’s actions have created a route for the Eden project to move forward as a non-compliant project, as its conformance to the city’s Downtown Specific Plan relies on the project’s housing and park portions advancing together. The housing component of the project was conditioned on its contribution to the development of Veterans Park.

MEH noted that “the residential and park components of the project are fundamentally intertwined and cannot proceed along separate tracks, especially considering that the 130-unit residential component needs the public open space included in Veterans Park for it to comply with city development standards,” according to an MEH statement.

Carol Silva, MEH board member, said, “Because we believe the Court of Appeal wrongly reversed the trial court and improperly avoided the critical Veterans Park issue, Move Eden Housing is not backing down. The

referendum power reserved to the voters is too important, and our democracy depends on it. There remain significant unresolved issues with this project, and we are evaluating our options going forward.”

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FUSION

(Continued from front page)

California.

Implemented in 2010, the tax-exclusion program has awarded up to \$100 million per year to certain manufacturers, such as those working to produce electric-vehicles, renewable-hydrogen or materials-recovery components. The program was last extended in 2019 by Assembly Bill 1583, which moved its sunset date to Jan. 1, 2026.

State Treasurer Fiona Ma, CAEATFA chair, said in a statement, “As state treasurer, I am proud that CAEATFA’s sales-tax exclusion program is a major driver of green innovation and

technology in California. By helping us attract and retain cutting-edge manufacturers in critical industries, it enables the creation of high-paying jobs, boosts the economy and helps California reach its renewable-energy goals. This bill extends the program, expands its eligible uses and continues to allow California access to another tool for economic and community growth. I’m proud to sponsor SB 86.”

The State Assembly unanimously approved SB 86 on Sept. 8, followed by unanimous approval in the State Senate the following day.

Climate Credit Coming this Month

In other clean-energy news, the California Public Utilities Commission announced last week its California Climate Credit that will automatically apply to utility bills this month. Pacific Gas & Electric customers will receive an electric credit of \$58.23, adding to a \$58.23 electric credit and a \$67.03 natural-gas credit paid out in April.

The payments come from California’s cap-and-trade program, which allows carbon-emitting entities, such as power plants and fuel distributors, to buy and sell

carbon-emission allowances amongst each other. Those who emit less have more to sell, creating a financial incentive to innovate carbon-reduction practices and technologies.

California has established goals to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions to 40% below 1990 levels by 2030 and to achieve carbon neutrality by 2045.

Newsom signed legislation in September adding another \$60 billion through 2045 to the climate-credit program beginning next year. The program has delivered \$14.6 billion in credits since 2014.

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Livermore Middle School Students, Parents Travel to Japan as Part of the Sister City Ambassador Program

By Vivien Wenneker

LIVERMORE — The Livermore Yotsukaido Sister City Organization (LYSCO) has begun its 2025 program, with this year’s participants currently in Japan.

The group, composed of 20 Livermore eighth graders, eight delegates and five chaperones, departed from Livermore City Hall on Oct. 2 and arrived in Yotsukaido on Oct. 4.

The LYSCO Student Ambassador Program works to foster increased cultural understanding and exchange with Livermore’s sister city, Yotsukaido. The cities share many similarities, including population and socio-economic circumstances, as well as sprawling agricultural landscapes. Additionally, Yotsukaido is roughly an hour’s drive from Tokyo, about the same as Livermore from San Francisco.

“This is more than an exchange; it is a life-changing experience,” Livermore Mayor John Marchand said in a statement. “The LYSCO program creates lifelong friendships and fosters a greater understanding between our cultures, and I have had the privilege of seeing the remarkable impact it has on our participants firsthand.”

LYSCO was established in 1977 by former Livermore Mayor Helen Tirsell to open a shared communication and exchange of ideas with a city that was in a similar stage of development. Initially, the organization coordinated an exchange whereby every other year, a few selected adults would travel to Yotsukaido for about three days, and likewise, a small number

of Yotsukaido natives would visit Livermore.

That continued for 25 years until a Yotsukaido native, Ted Okata, together with Bruce Wolfe, a former president and current delegate of LYSCO, spearheaded the LYSCO Student Ambassador Program.

Okata had attended Granada High School as an exchange student during his freshman, junior and senior

thought it was a great idea and so together, we immediately got to work contacting both cities and not long after, the first student exchange was held during the 2001-2002 school year.”

The LYSCO student program has continued since, though it was put on hold in late 2019 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It did not resume until 2024. For Livermore students,

selected through a rigorous process that began with a written application/interview and included an oral/panel interview in May.

The students selected are all eighth graders, with each Livermore school being represented, except St. Michael, which didn’t send any applications this year, according to Smith. Through the application and screening process, the

organization chose students to represent Livermore in a positive light while learning a new culture.

“We’ve been practicing for eight weeks. We’ve been meeting to practice the language and do a roll call,” Smith said. “There’s been a lot of camaraderie between the students. For example, they’ve prepared a dance skit to perform at the welcome-night dinner.”

Students will be paired with host families that have students of similar ages. This will allow the Livermore and native students to attend school together and provide a way of comparing cultures and schools, while also identifying similarities.

“I’m looking forward to going to the school there and getting to embrace Japanese culture, especially calligraphy because I really like art,” said Charlie, a student from Mendenhall.

Although most of the Japanese students are learning English and the Livermore students have been taught basic phrases and key words in Japanese, they’re expected to use dictionaries and miming.

“So many times, I’ve been told by parents when their kids come home that they’re so much more mature and enriched by the experience, and the friendships they’ve made,” LYSCO president Keith Jess said.

The program will run through mid-October, at which point, the 20 Livermore students and 13 adults will return home with a richer knowledge of Japanese culture, new friends and likely lifetime memories.

To learn more about the Livermore Yotsukaido Sister City program and how to apply for the 2026 trip, visit: <https://lyscoorg.wordpress.com/>.



Junior high school students from Livermore, along with chaperones and delegates, gathered in front of City Hall on Oct. 2 before embarking on a sister-city trip to Yotsukaido, Japan. (Photo — Leah Silveira)

years and proposed they work together to make the exchange a regular program, according to Wolfe.

“Around 2001, he reached out to me with the idea of an ambassador program that would take middle schoolers to Yotsukaido every year, and students from Yotsukaido to Livermore,” Wolfe said. “I

it marked a break of five years, whereas for Yotsukaido students, who traditionally come in the spring, it was six years.

This year, applications opened in March with 80 students interested, according to LYSCO delegate Lina Smith. Over the following three months, 20 applicants were

Pastor Michelle Magee To Guide Faith and Community in Livermore

Newly Installed Leader at City’s Holy Cross Lutheran Hopes Work of the Church ‘Helps People Feel Seen and Connected’

By Sanestina Hunter

LIVERMORE — The Rev. Michelle Magee has always

a longtime mentor to Magee and her family, played a key role in guiding her early ministry journey and offered



The Rev. Michelle Magee, the new pastor at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Livermore, right, poses next to her husband, the Rev. Pablo Róvere. (Photo courtesy of Michelle Magee)

found comfort in church. Summer camp became a place of solace and faith during her childhood. Now she serves as lead pastor at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Livermore, a role she began in July.

“We want everyone to know God’s love,” she said.

Her cozy office, filled with books, framed family photos and treasured memories, reflects both her personal and spiritual journey.

Born and raised in Plymouth, Indiana, Magee has dedicated her life to service and faith, guiding congregations across the country while nurturing deep connections in communities.

Magee on Sept. 27 celebrated her installation as lead pastor, succeeding the Rev. Diane Bowers, who served as interim pastor for two years following the departure of longtime pastor John Bost. The ceremony featured prayers, blessings and the laying on of hands.

“The day is like a marriage,” Magee said. “It makes my role official.” Friends and family attended, and fresh flowers adorned the space.

Bishop Minerva Carcaño,

a message of support during the installation.

“My heart is full from all the love and welcome expressions from the congregation, the presence of ministry partners — to the gracious message from Bishop Carcaño and having so many extend their hands in blessing to me, Magee said, reflecting on the day.

“God is rooting me here, and the support from the church and community empowers me,” she continued. “I am really looking forward to the many good things I know God will do for Holy Cross in this next season.”

Faith has guided Magee since childhood. At 10, she attended her first summer camp with friends. The following spring, however, her parents announced their divorce, something she never expected.

“It felt like my whole world was falling apart,” Magee recalled.

The difficult time drew her closer to God and her church community. She served on the youth council, taught Sunday school and sought guidance from family and mentors. One day her

pastor told her, “I think you have the gifts and talents to be a pastor and pray if God is calling you to ministry.”

Though initially unsure, Magee prayed, reflected and consulted family and friends — a pivotal step that set her on the path toward ordained ministry.

Her journey took her to Argentina through the Young Adults in Global Mission program of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, where she met her future husband, Pablo Róvere, who is a pastor at the Walnut Creek Methodist Church. Magee later returned for seminary studies at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago and was ordained in 2009. Since then, she has led congregations across several cities in California, including Los Angeles, Pico Rivera and Santa Paula. Magee also ministered in Tucson, Arizona, where she first connected with Bishop Carcaño.

Looking ahead, Magee said she plans to continue strengthening partnerships with organizations including Tri-Valley Haven and Open Heart Kitchen; expand programs for children and after-school activities; and work with the congregation to discern how Holy Cross can best embody its core values, including inclusion and acceptance.

Beyond Livermore, the church has partnered with the Ella Baker Center for Human Rights, an Oakland-based nonprofit dedicated to advancing racial and economic justice.

“We want to stay grounded in God and in a loving community,” Magee said. “In a world that can feel divided and hurting, I hope our work helps people feel seen and connected.”

Magee and Róvere, who were married in 2005, reside in Concord with their three children: Trinity, 17; Lucas, 14; and Iris, 10.

TRI-VALLEY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Thursdays, Oct. 9, 16, and 23
GRIEF WORKSHOP

The death of a loved one is unlike any other loss. Although there is no right or wrong path, there are stepping stones that are part of each grief journey which will be explored in this workshop. Held at St. Elizabeth Seton Church, 4001 Stoneridge Dr., in Pleasanton at 7 p.m. Space is limited, pre-registration is required. \$20 donation is requested. For more information, please call Barbara at 925-846-3904.

Thursday, Oct. 9
LIVERMORE AMADOR VALLEY GARDEN CLUB MEETING

The October Garden Club meeting speaker, Lori Caldwell, will be teaching techniques for building healthy soil. This will help with water retention, increased nutrition, higher yields and blooms for our gardens. On Oct. 9 from 6 to 8 p.m. at Crosswinds Church, 1660 Freisman Rd., Livermore, at the red Farm Theater Building.

Friday, Oct. 17
3RD ANNUAL ROADRUNNER RUN
Marylin Avenue STEAM Academy PTO will be hosting the 3rd Annual Roadrunner Run — a school-wide, community-focused fundraiser that supports educational enrichment and STEAM programming for our Title I school. Students will be running through clouds of vibrant color powder in a joyful celebration of learning, movement, and school spirit. The Community Health and Education Foundation (CHEF) will match every donation made in August by 50% through the campaign page: chefgivingcommunity.org/BrightFutures/

Sunday, Oct. 19
SMOKEFEST BBQ CELEBRATION

Downtown Pleasanton’s SideTrack Bar + Grill presents SmokeFest, a day-long celebration of BBQ on Oct. 19. SmokeFest invites guests to enjoy its signature BBQ fare with a full day, country western-inspired celebration including live entertainment from Maddy Hudson, The Bell Brothers, wine tasting from Livermore’s Cuda Ridge, Mitchell Katz and Steven Kent wineries, games and line dancing! From noon until 8 p.m. in the restaurant’s tented parking lot at SideTrack Bar + Grill, 30 West Angela St., Pleasanton. SmokeFest is free to attend with food and drink tickets available at the door; a cover charge of \$5 applies after 4 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 25
DRESS A GIRL AROUND THE WORLD
Make simple dresses for girls in third world countries! The next monthly Sew-Fest is on Oct. 25, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 1020 Mocho St., Livermore. Bring your sewing machine or serger, iron, ironing board, scissors, along with your helping hands. Come for an hour or all day! (Please bring a bag lunch if you plan to stay all day.) Cheerful cotton fabric donations are always welcome. Contact Suzanne Beck, 925-352-8447, or suzbeck@yahoo.com for questions or kits that you can sew from home.

Saturday, Oct. 25
FLOATING PUMPKIN PATCH
Float in and find the perfect pumpkin at the City of Dublin’s Floating Pumpkin Patch. There will be swimming, pumpkin decorating, games, and more! Each registered participant is allowed two spectators. At The Wave Waterpark, 4201 Central Parkway, in Dublin, from 1:30 to 6:30 (session one: 1:30-3:30 p.m.; session two: 4:30-6:30 p.m.) Pre-registration ends Oct. 21 to receive a pumpkin. One pumpkin per paid registrant. \$20 for residents; \$24 for non-residents. Go to dublin.ca.gov/calendar to find registration info.

Sunday, Oct. 26
HALLOWEEN AT HAGEMANN RANCH
Come in costume to celebrate Halloween at Hage-

mann on Oct. 26, from 1 to 5 p.m. Take a hayride around the ranch and get your fortune told. Watch a ‘Frank Bona and the Halloween Players’ marionette show and get your face painted by Synthia. Good New Bears will have lots of stuffed animals and Busy Buzzy Bots will be selling STEM kits. At 455 Olivina Ave., Livermore, Family friendly and always free!

Tuesday/Wednesday, Nov. 4 and 5
GOLDEN CIRCLE ANNUAL HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE

The Golden Circle is a group of creative retirees who meet at 12:30 each Monday at LARPD to socialize and make a variety of hand crafted goods to sell reasonably priced at the annual Golden Circle Boutique. A large percentage of the proceeds are donated to local charities. This year, the Holiday Boutique takes place on Nov. 4 and 5 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Robert Livermore Community Center, 4444 East Ave., Livermore.

ONGOING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES
LIVERMORE HISTORYMOBILE

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

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

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
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.

IMMIGRANT

(Continued from front page)

So, Nguyen boarded the vessel, alone and terrified, for the trip from Vietnam to Hong Kong. Vietnamese refugees, known as “boat people,” were held there in detention centers operated by the Hong Kong Corrections Department while awaiting resettlement. The prison-like centers, which operated from the late 1970s to the late 1990s, were shut down in 2000 as restrictions tightened and refugees were deported.

The trip from Vietnam to Hong Kong should have taken about three days.

“But we got lost,” Nguyen said. “It was illegal to leave Vietnam. And after a couple days, we ran out of water, food and gasoline. Ninety-nine percent, we think we die.”

But fate had other things in store.

“Somehow, we were so lucky,” she said. “Not too many people believe me. Only boat people believe me. So, we ran out of gasoline, we ran out of water, we didn’t have food. And we left in a small boat. And then some-

how, a lot of whales, the big whales, came on the sides of the boat. And the whales helped the boat go faster. I don’t know how fast. And I don’t know how long.”

The group eventually spotted another small boat that turned out to be manned by Chinese pirates prowling the waters, preying on refugees.

Nguyen remembers a pivotal moment.

“I was really sick, seasick,” she said. But she found the strength to stand up and address her fellow boat people. “I told them, ‘I don’t want to die. So, you give them gold or money or whatever you have to give to them.’”

She was the first to hand over \$100 U.S., sent to her by her father, and the others followed her lead, giving whatever they had.

“And then they passed us a 20-gallon gasoline and 20-gallon water and then the rice. But we can’t make the rice. We did it like porridge. We not live for eat. We eat for live,” she said.

They eventually spotted a

ship that helped them get to Macau. And eventually, too, Nguyen made her way to the United States and joined her father and two siblings.

She started going to school so she could learn English and apprenticed at her sister’s nail salon in Oakland. The language barrier and learning curve at the salon made it difficult and she was often embarrassed.

“I cried for months, every day, because it hurt my feelings. But the more I cry, the more I try. I tried my best and then (eventually) I knew how to do the (nail) fills.”

Ngyuen is filled with gratitude for what she describes as her “second country.”

And she spends a lot of time giving back to the community, especially local law enforcement. On her one day off a week, she frequently takes Vietnamese egg rolls to police officers at Santa Rita Jail in Dublin.

She said she likes to joke with her clients. “I tell them, ‘Hey, I went to jail yesterday.’”

Ngyuen is about to see

another dream realized. She’s slated on Oct. 28 to open a new venture, Fusion Wine Bar, featuring local beer and wine and small Asian food bites. Her dream venue will be conveniently located next door to her thriving salon and adjacent to the upscale brew pub, BottleTaps.

“We want to help each other,” she said. “They focus on beer, so my (business) will be more wine. They are American food. Mine is Asian.”

She said she talks to Buddha every day.

“I don’t know if he hears me, but I say, ‘Please help BottleTaps, too, because they opened before me and I respect them. Send me two clients, and then send them three. They deserve it. They are good people.’”

This article is the first in a new series of periodically appearing stories called “People Portraits.” Do you know of someone in the Tri-Valley whose story you think the community might like to hear? If so, please email christina@independentnews.com.

SENSIBA

(Continued from page 3)

“The recognition highlights Sensiba’s dedication to fostering a workplace culture that prioritizes health, wellness and work-life balance,” Sensiba LLP said in a press release. “Sensiba offers a holistic approach to health and wellness that includes comprehensive resources and a year-round schedule of educational sessions and activity challenges.”

Recent examples include webinars on topics such as nutrition, stress management, sleep health, financial wellness, mindfulness and movement at work, regularly scheduled sessions for meditation and the “Eight Block Brocade” Chinese exercise method, and firm-wide challenges to promote steps, hydration and other healthy habits.

“The first of our core values reads, ‘We’re people first,’ and our health and wellness programs reflect that commitment,” Sensiba said in a statement. “As an employer, we owe our team members and their families resources to stay healthy and safe, and to address potential challenges.”

All honorees completed the annual Healthiest Employers assessment, which evaluates six areas of organizational health and wellness, including strategy,

culture and outcomes. The assessment is powered by Springbuk, a health-intelligence platform that empowers employers to make smarter, data-driven decisions to improve employee well-being and manage healthcare costs.

Sensiba last month received recognition as this year’s distinguished citizen from the Golden Gate Area Council of Scouting. He previously has been honored with the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Legacy Award, Accounting Today’s Managing Partner Elite and Pleasanton’s Man of the Year.

Sensiba has served on the boards for Stanford Health Care–Valley Care, the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce, Las Positas College Foundation and Innovation Tri-Valley Leadership Group.

Sensiba LLP is a Certified B Corporation (B Corp), which is a for-profit corporation certified for its social impact by B Lab, a global non-profit organization. To achieve and maintain this status, companies must score high enough on an assessment of social and environmental performance, integrate B Corp commitments to stakeholders into company governing documents and pay an annual fee based on sales.

MOSQUITO

(Continued from front page)

place a mosquito trap for invasive Aedes mosquitoes on the property. The district puts a trap the size of a gallon bucket in a front yard. District staff come by on a monthly basis to inspect the trap.

If a person has standing or running water in deep features such as ornamental ponds, water troughs and man-made water sources such as wine barrels, they can request that the district stock these features with mosquitofish (Gambusia affinis).

Mosquitofish are small, clear and yellowish fish native to the

southern and eastern U.S. that eat mosquito larvae. A person has to keep a feature free of leaf litter and make sure it is not heavily shaded. Otherwise, the fish may get sick. Mosquitofish should not be stocked in areas that could overflow into rivers, creeks or streams.

Residents and property owners can also hire pest-control companies to eliminate mosquitoes or purchase and stock mosquitofish.

There are slight differences between the Egyptian and Asian tiger mosquitoes. Egyptian

mosquitoes live indoors and outdoors. Asian tiger mosquitoes live outdoors. Egyptian mosquitoes prefer to live near people. Asian tiger mosquitoes may live near homes or in natural areas such as neighboring woods.

Egyptian tiger mosquitoes tend to bite during the day. Asian tiger mosquitoes can bite during the day, as well as at dawn and dusk. Both types of mosquitoes can bite people, domesticated animals such as horses, dogs and cats, and wild animals such as birds and deer.

People can protect themselves from mosquitoes by applying EPA-registered mosquito repellent and wearing long, loose shirts and pants. They should also make sure window and door screens are in place and in good condition. There are specific types of mosquito repellants for livestock and pets at feed and pet stores.

Mosquitoes are capable of spreading viruses such as dengue by biting one person and then biting another. This means that outbreaks of certain viruses can occur locally in neighborhoods

and towns without a person having left the country. Dengue, yellow fever and West Nile virus are related. Generally, they are not transmissible person-to-person.

A person who contracts dengue or similar viruses may experience dehydration, high fever, fatigue, rash, nausea and vomiting. It is safe to take over-the-counter acetaminophen such as Tylenol to reduce fever and muscle pain. It is not safe to take other over-the-counter pain relievers such as aspirin, ibuprofen (Advil) and naproxen sodium (Aleve). These

drugs can increase the risk of bleeding complications such as hemorrhaging.

There are no medicines to treat viruses such as dengue. A person who contracts such a virus should rest, drink fluids and take acetaminophen to recover. The initial symptoms typically last between three and seven days. If the symptoms persist, a person should visit a hospital and get a blood test. They should seek intravenous (IV) fluid and electrolyte replacement and receive blood-pressure monitoring.

OBITUARIES

Ruth Irene Hernandez
July 28, 1936 — Aug. 30, 2025



GG, Sister, Aunt and Friend. She loved gatherings and celebrations, but she also loved her privacy and binge-watching Perry Mason.

Ruth spent the last six years in Livermore with her son Tom and daughter-in-law Leticia who built an ADU for her. She loved her new place and the many visits of family, grandchildren and great grandchildren. Ruth was diagnosed with dementia and was always surrounded by loved ones in her care and dignity of life along with many episodes

of Perry Mason.

After a fall advanced dementia, Ruth was placed in Blossom Gardens in Hayward, California, under the amazing care of Ms. Feikert Hyesus (Fi-Fi). Fi-Fi, we are forever grateful for your love and personal care of Mom, Grandma and GG.

Ruth is preceded in death by her parents, Leo and Ruby Gallegos, and three brothers. She is survived by her sons Ted, Tom and Leticia Hernandez; six grandchildren: Anjel and Cameron Price; Michael and Stephanie Hernandez; Raquel and Jair Orte; Sonia Hernandez and Matt Crim; Elisa and Brad Saiz; and Adam Hernandez, and 12 great-grandchildren: Isabella and Beckham; Mateo, Emma and Cruz; JJ and Emilia; Jesse, Ruby and Penny; Ollie and Benny and nine siblings.

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

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Roger N. Everett
March 5, 1939 — Sept. 19, 2025



Roger was born in the Hand Hospital in Shenandoah, Iowa on a snowy March 5th, 1939. His parents were E. Newton and Mary T. (Troxel) Everett. He was always appreciative of the wholesome, supportive Christian family environment they provided. In addition to Shenandoah, he lived in Missouri Valley and Sydney where he attended kindergarten and first grade while living in four different rental houses and finally a house his dad built shortly after the end of WWII. In 1946, practically before the paint was dry, his father, a civil engineer who worked for the Soil Conservation Service, was transferred to Sioux City where Roger completed 2nd through 10th grade and enjoyed cub, boy and explorer scouts, bird hunting and church youth group activities. In 1955, his father was once again transferred, this time to Spartanburg, South Carolina.

He found moving to the South an interesting transition, arriving shortly after the 1954 Supreme Court desegregation decision, was identified as a “Yankee” but lucky to find a welcoming church youth group and a top high school to prepare him for entry to Georgia Tech in 1957 right after Sputnik. While at Tech, he joined the Tau Kappa Epsilon (TKE) fraternity and completed a five-year Co-op Aeronautical Engineering degree while working alternate quarters at Lockheed Georgia Company. Graduating in the midst of the ‘space race’ in 1962, he was fortunate to receive an offer from Sandia Corporation in Albuquerque, New Mexico, which included a master’s program at UNM in mechanical engineering. He

also came away from Georgia with his new bride, Jane Bearse from Decatur, who he married on June 10th, the day after graduation. He started at Sandia doing wind tunnel testing and later moved into computations, ending up as a lead system engineer and Distinguished Member of the Technical Staff (DMTS). After spending the summer of 1968 in Livermore with Jane and daughter Julie, he transferred to the Sandia Livermore Laboratory in 1969. Daughter Jill was born the next year. He retired from Sandia in 2002, but continued consulting there for another 12 years. He was an Associate Fellow in the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA).

He loved to travel and enjoyed meeting family for vacation camping trips. Later, motorhome trips with Jane and camping friends were one of his favorites. He hosted kayaking events at the mountain cabin for 20 years. Hiking with friends on Wednesday followed by lunch at the Ale House was part of his post-retirement routine. He loved and enjoyed their two daughters and five grandchildren and was proud to help support their post high school educational endeavors.

He was a devoted member

of Asbury United Methodist Church, where he lived out his faith through years of active service, whether on mission trips, serving on Finance & Trustee committees, or during hands-on church projects. He was also an active member of Sons in Retirement (SIR101), Student Education Loan Fund of Livermore (SELF) and the Sandia California Retirees Association (RASCALS). He loved to volunteer for VIM (disaster recovery) trips, including at least ten trips to New Orleans after Katrina, Rooms of Hope, Habitat for Humanity and the Tri-Valley Haven Thrift Store.

Roger leaves behind a legacy of unwavering service, kindness and devotion to family and community. He is survived by his wonderful wife of 63 years, Jane, daughters Julie Mello (Jeff) of Danville, Jill Hornbeck (Neal) of Livermore, grandchildren Kendall Hornbeck, Ryan Hornbeck, Katelyn Hornbeck of Livermore, Courtney Mello, Justin Mello of Danville and Sister Karen Preston (Howard) of Durango, Colorado.

Roger’s family finds comfort in knowing that he is now in the presence of the Lord, enjoying eternal peace. His legacy of faith and service will continue to inspire and guide those who loved him.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests that donations be made in Roger’s memory to a charity of your choice, or to a cause that Roger held dear, reflecting his lifelong commitment to service and faith.

A celebration of life will be held on a Saturday, Dec. 20 at 2 p.m. at Asbury United Methodist Church, followed by a reception in the Fellowship Hall.

Celebration of Life

Alan M. Frank
Dec. 22, 1944 — July 26, 2025



A memorial celebration will be held for Alan at the Bothwell Arts Center in Livermore, California, on Friday, Oct. 17 at 11 a.m. In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to the Rotarian Foundation of Livermore, attn: Rotary Music Scholarships, or to the Livermore Amador Symphony.

Nancy Bordes
Sept. 7, 1945 — Sept. 30, 2025

Nancy Ann Bordes, age 80, passed away peacefully on Sept. 30 in Boise, Idaho.

Born and raised in Berkeley, California, Nancy was the beloved daughter of Arch and Esther Girvin. She graduated from Mount Eden High School in Hayward in 1963 and went on to earn her degree from the University of California, Berkeley. Nancy dedicated her career to education, teaching for many years in the Murray and Dublin School Districts in Dublin, California, until her retirement in 2001.

Nancy was preceded in death by her loving husband of 53 years, John Bordes; her parents, Arch

and Esther Girvin; and her brother, Alan Girvin. She is survived by her three children — Jeffrey Bordes, Amy Vandagriff, and Christopher Bordes — and by nine adored grandchildren: Ghost, Eric, Shaun, and Bryan Vandagriff; Jonah, Kyle, and Natalie Bordes; and Julian and Ella Bordes.

Family was at the center of Nancy’s life. She treasured every moment spent with her children and grandchildren. She especially loved family cruises, trips to Disneyland and Disney World, and gatherings filled with laughter. Nancy also enjoyed sewing, wine tasting, and traveling with dear friends Jay and

Karen Guichard.

Nancy and John made their home in Pleasanton, California, for many years before relocating to Meridian, Idaho, in 2018.

The family will celebrate Nancy’s life in a private ceremony, with a private burial to follow at St. Michael’s Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations in Nancy’s name may be made to the East Bay SPCA, Valley Humane Society, Idaho Humane, or your local animal shelter or pet rescue.

She will be deeply missed and lovingly remembered by all who knew her.

Celebration of Life

Nelda Whitt
1936 — 2025

You are invited to attend a Celebration of Life Memorial Service to honor Nelda Whitt on Oct. 18, 2025, at 11:00 am, at Rock Bible Church, 4100 First Street, Pleasanton, CA.



Real-Life ‘Incredibles’ Story Playing Out at Amador Valley

Amazingly Tight Bond Between Football-Playing Siblings Riley and Anthony Harrington ‘Felt All Over’ the Pleasanton Campus

By Mitch Stephens

PLEASANTON — As the daily news cycle continues to twist and turn in turmoil, a bright and shimmering ray of health and hope for the future bursts through at Amador Valley High School.

It radiates from the football field in the form of siblings, dynamic senior two-way standout Anthony Harrington and his magnetic sister Riley, a lightning bolt of a junior quarterback on the surging flag team.

The two not only are super athletes, but they are also inseparable, bonded by their love for sports, family and friends. They call each other “best friends,” and definitely not sibling rivals.

“I compare those two with ‘The Incredibles,’” Amador Valley tackle coach Danny Jones said, referencing the popular Pixar/Disney animated film. “They both share different yet similar superpowers. It’s felt all over our campus.”

Riley’s superpower on the field, according to first-year head flag coach Ryan Wittmer, is her “escapability,” along with a competitive spirit unmatched in his 18 previous years of coaching tackle football at Washington-Fremont and California-San Ramon.

Wittmer said that counts two former pupils currently playing in the NFL — Cleveland Browns wide receiver DeAndre Carter and Minnesota Vikings punter Ryan Wright.

Unlike those physical specimens, Riley is barely 5 feet tall, but she carries a powerful emotional punch to go with excellent speed and athleticism.

“The team kind of goes at Riley’s heartbeat,” said Wittmer, whose squad entered the week 11-3 and winners of six straight games after having gone 7-14 last season, when Riley was the Dons’ only All-East Bay Athletic League selection.

“She is definitely the most competitive, spirited player I’ve ever coached,” Wittmer said. “She’s 100% dedicated to the team, being her best and holding the team and coaches accountable.”

Keeping others accountable is tricky business, especially at the high school level. It can border on “overbearing.” But Wittmer said that’s not nearly the case. She’s like having a coach on the field, but as a respected peer.

“Riley has a great, fun personality,” he said. “But when it’s game time, she’s all business. She definitely flips the switch and brings a fire.”

She showed all her heat and

teamwork last week in a 33-13 home win over Campolindo-Moraga, throwing for two touchdowns and contributing to two more scores off returns.

She brought a punt back 20 yards and noticed most of the

er spot, Riley intercepted a pass at the Campolindo 35, returned it inside the 5, when just before her flag was grabbed, she pitched the ball to three-sport standout Summer Brown, who waltzed in



Brother and sister Anthony, left, and Riley Harrington are tackle and flag football standouts, respectively, at Amador Valley High School in Pleasanton. (Photo courtesy of the Harrington family)

defenders were surrounding her. So, she smartly pitched the ball to junior Evangeline Freschi, a lacrosse standout who sprinted the last half of the field untouched.

Later, from her lineback-

er for another score.

Sharing glory is at the core of Riley, said Wittmer, who estimates that she has accounted for 85% of the team’s offensive touchdowns.

“She’s wicked smart,” he

said. “She has an understanding of where everyone is supposed to be on the field every single play.”

Her knowledge and instinct partially stem from playing or watching Anthony flourish in every sport under the sun, including basketball, soccer, rugby, gymnastics, baseball and coed flag football.

Their parents, Sheryl Dietzmann Harrington (California) and Jimmy Harrington (De La Salle-Concord) were versatile athletes in high school. When the couple split early in their lives, the siblings and younger brother Michael (now in the eighth grade) lived with Sheryl and shared a room.

Rather than the tight quarters creating friction, they instead drew closer, said Anthony, a vastly overachieving 5-foot-9, 165-pound Idaho State commit. He was seventh in the state for the NorCal Division 3-A champions with 1,503 receiving yards to go with 86 catches and 11 touchdowns last season.

Riley is the tackle team’s manager and a sixth-period aid for Jones.

While her brother was nursing a bum ankle the first two weeks of the 2025 season, Riley was often seen throwing passes to Anthony along the sideline.

“It’s been like that our whole lives,” Riley said. “Whenever we’d go to a beach, or a park, anywhere really, we’d throw or kick a ball to one another. We both eat, sleep and breathe all sports.”

“I’m so proud of what my brother has accomplished.”

Anthony echoes the pride in his sister: “I’ve watched her compete all my life. But to see her out there now leading and doing well and winning all those games is really fun. It makes me feel good, like maybe I was somewhat of a role model.”

Jones, who has announced this will be his final year at Amador Valley, said Anthony surely serves that role.

The 10th-year coach said earlier in the year he would want his expected daughter, Livie Lou, to someday marry someone like Anthony.

Likewise, he hopes all his children — sons Briggins (6), Beckham (4) and Kylan (2) — get along as genuinely as Riley and Anthony.

That would be Incredibles. “First off, their mom is a rock star and dad is super supportive, so that explains a lot,” Jones said. “The way those two kids work and take ownership of everything in their lives is just utterly different and refreshing.”

Las Positas Men’s Soccer Standout Arteen Arianmanesh Building on Family Tradition

Sophomore Forward and Team Captain Adding to Legacy of Older Brother, Ali

By Matt Schwab

LIVERMORE — Las Positas College men’s soccer coach Andy Cumbo could see it right away. The kid had something special.

Back when he was 10 years old, Arteen Arianmanesh seemed poised beyond his years.

Now flash forward to 2025, and Arianmanesh is a sophomore forward/captain on Cumbo’s successful Hawks team.

Arianmanesh entered this week with five goals and five assists for 15 total points over 11 games to rank tied for 13th in the state in the category.

About a decade ago, Cumbo met a young Arteen while

coaching his older brother, Ali Arianmanesh, on the Division II Cal State East Bay soccer team. Arteen looked up to Ali as the youngster immersed himself in the Pioneers’ soccer scene — a mindset that ultimately propelled Arteen to success at Las Positas, where he leads a dynamic team this season.

“I have known Arteen and his family for a long time, I’d say about 10 years,” recalled Cumbo, who took the reins at Las Positas in 2016. “He comes from a very supportive family. His brother, Ali, helped him a lot with soccer decisions and priority setting throughout his development, and his father is always there for him on the

sidelines supporting him.”

Arteen agrees with his coach’s perspective. The Arianmanesh brothers have always been close, on and off the pitch.

“I’ve been following in his footsteps ever since I was born,” Arteen said of Ali, “watching his soccer games at a very young age, being cool with his teammates, being cool with their siblings, just playing with the ball at halftime. That’s where it all started.”

Las Positas has been hot all season, entering this week with 9-1-1 record, including 2-1-0 in the Coast Conference-South Division. The Hawks shut out seven of eight opponents in September, outscoring teams 30-2 over the stretch.

Las Positas was No. 13 in the Sept. 30 California Community College Sports Information Association (CCCSIA) men’s soccer rankings and No. 14 in the Sept. 30 Junior College Division III Rankings by United Soccer Coaches. The Hawks walloped Foothill 6-0 on Sept. 26 in their conference opener and topped Ohlone 1-0 on Sept. 29, on an early goal by Dayton Dillman, before finally dropping their first game of the season at Evergreen Valley in San Jose, 2-0, on Oct. 3.

Excitement kept building in the program during a sweet September.

“The attack, midfield and defense, we’re doing really well working together,” Arteen said last week. “The chemistry is just really good, which stood out since the start to me. We’ve been seeing that throughout all the games and getting winning results.”

Cumbo, who also guides the Las Positas women’s team, has more than 300 career wins in California collegiate soccer. He has the ability to connect with and motivate players, making the program feel like a giant family. The close relationship with the Arianmanesh family serves as a shining example.

“I like Coach Cumbo a lot,” Arteen said. “My favorite thing about Coach Cumbo is he directs us in the right direction and then gives us freedom, you know, the love of the game, the passion. He lets us play with confidence, take players on, be aggressive, and he’ll be there to fix anything that he sees. He gives us a little bit of freedom,



Las Positas College men’s soccer forward and team captain Arteen Arianmanesh is off to a hot-scoring start for the high-flying Hawks. (Photo — Christopher Spence)

which I like.”

A California-San Ramon High School graduate who lives with his parents in Manteca, Arteen sharpened his skills for college while playing for the Under-19 De Anza Force in MLS Next, a youth league controlled by Major League Soccer. With the Force, he had to commute from San Ramon to San Jose from 4:30 to 6 p.m. for practices.

“I feel like playing at that high level helped me a lot,” Arteen said. “It was a college level. One thing that stands out is the speed of play, making the right decisions on the ball and just the intensity. That intensity coming from MLS Next into college helped me a lot.”

He grew up playing for the Pleasanton-based Ballistic United Soccer Club, up until U17.

“Great club,” he said. “I enjoyed it a lot out there.”

Arteen feels his game improving, his confidence growing. He was a regular starter on the 2024 Las Positas team that advanced to Round 3 of the 3C2A NorCal Regional Playoffs, but has added more scoring punch in 2025. After finishing last season with one

goal and five assists, he had two game-winners this season at the midway point. A highlight came when he notched two goals and two assists in a 6-0 win over Cerro Coso on Sept. 5.

“He’s made a lot of progress creating goal-scoring opportunities for himself and others this fall, and his stats and our results reflect that,” Cumbo said. “He’s one of four team captains, so that is a reflection of his leadership and social place within the team, all a positive reflection of who he is on and off the field.”

Cumbo said Arteen “wants to play at a higher level when he’s finished at Las Positas, and it was clear to me in the offseason last spring that he had the determination to improve. He’s always ‘locked in’ during training.”

Arteen’s versatility on the field makes the team better. Wearing an armband has fueled his fire.

“It gave me the confidence,” Arteen said. “I felt I had to step in as a leader and make a difference, keep the team together. ‘I’ve just been more on top of my stuff.’”

A brothers’ bond can be a powerful thing.



Tight EBAL Football Race Expected

By Mitch Stephens

The 2024 East Bay Athletic League Valley Division football title was decided on the final night of the regular season when Granada edged crosstown rival Livermore 28-27. Both teams entered the game undefeated in league play.

Can’t get much closer than that.

But coaches around the league think the 2025 season, which gets underway Friday, Oct. 10, will be even tighter.

Granada (3-3) hosts Foothill (4-2) and Dublin (3-3) travels to Livermore (5-1) in openers, while Amador Valley (2-4) plays at San Ramon Valley-Danville (4-2) in EBAL Mountain Division action. All games are scheduled at 7:15 p.m.

“The cool thing is it truly looks like anyone can beat anyone,” Foothill coach Greg Haubner said. “Just comparing scores, it looks like Dublin might be the favorite, but who knows?”

Here’s a look at what the teams have done during the nonleague season and where we think they might finish. We predict the champion will have a loss and it’s utterly possible that all four teams could finish 2-2. Each is guaranteed one forfeit victory because Dougherty Valley-San Ramon has opted not to participate in league play due to a lack of players.

1. Livermore: Coming off a 44-20 loss to California-San Ramon, the Cowboys have the best player at quarterback in third-year starter Matteo Lorie (1,546 yards passing, 20 total touchdowns) and the biggest lot of game-breakers, led by CT Harper (34 catches, 670 yards). The key is that Harper is one of four players with three receiving touchdowns. Livermore has enough talent in the trenches to emerge on top.

2. Dublin: The Gaels have the best offensive weapon who doesn’t play quarterback in 5-foot-9, 195-pound running back Andre Armendariz, who has more than 1,100 total yards and 13 touchdowns. A workhorse with 138 carries (795 yards), Armendariz is an equal receiving threat. Dublin has played the toughest schedule and last week’s 17-14 loss at Amador Valley is actually a

game to build off.

3. Granada: The Matadors lost some momentum following a 49-13 loss at juggernaut San Ramon Valley last week. The previous week, sophomore Ben Warner took over at quarterback in a 38-21 win over previously unbeaten Las Lomas-Walnut Creek. Warner (15 of 27, 181 yards, two touchdowns) had another solid outing against San Ramon Valley. The defending champions have a lot of pride and hope, especially if all-leaguer Jack Badger returns from a season-opening broken foot. He hasn’t played since.

4. Foothill: Haubner and the Falcons perhaps had the best nonleague season, finishing off with a 51-14 win over Newark Memorial, thanks to 206 yards rushing by Amaree Hill and five catches for 132 yards and two more scores from 6-3 wideout Max Shuga. Junior quarterbacks Gavin Brown and Andrew Nelson combined for nine completions in 11 attempts for 194 yards and three scores, and Gavin Schmitt had two interceptions. With the return from injury of their top all-around player, running back Dylan Souza, and much added depth, the Falcons could easily jump all the way to the top.

Briefly

Foothill sophomore Macy Mullins won the 3-mile Wildcat Invitational cross country race at Dougherty Valley on Oct. 4, crossing in 18 minutes, 34.7 seconds, leading the Falcons to the team title. Foothill freshmen Saanvi Saun and Sanaya Saun finished ninth and 10th, respectively. ... Most of the top EBAL cross country teams and runners will be at Woodward Park in Clovis for the Clovis Invitational on Oct. 10-11. Woodward Park is the site of the CIF State Meet. ... The EBAL flag football season finishes on Oct. 14 as Granada (10-5 heading into the week) hosts Livermore (5-9), Amador Valley (11-3) travels to Foothill (9-5) and Dublin (13-7) plays at California (11-1).

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

PLEASE HELP BRING MIGUEL HOME



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

Livermore Wentle 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>

LEGAL NOTICES/CLASSIFIEDS

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LEGAL NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Case No. 24AD00093
NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION TO DETERMINE NON-EXISTENCE OF FATHER AND CHILD RELATIONSHIP PURSUANT TO FAMILY CODE SECTION 7630 To: WARD ALLEN KECK and to all persons claiming to be the father of Baby Girl Keller a.k.a. Baby Girl Edmonds a.k.a. Nova Rae Edmonds a.k.a. Ocean Nova Cardenas born to Danielle Ciera Keller on May 24, 2024, in San Francisco, California. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Petitioner Micha Maya Cardenas has filed a Petition to Determine the Non-Existence of the Father and Child Relationship which has been set for a hearing at 8:30 a.m. on the 17th day of November, 2025 at the Courtroom of Department 125 of the Superior Court of California, County of Sacramento, located at 3341 Power Inn Road, Sacramento, California 95826. Should you claim to be the biological father of said child or that your consent to the adoption of said child is necessary, you should appear then and there to show cause, if any you have, why the Court should not declare the non-existence of the father and child relationship or why such child should not be adopted without your consent. The Independent, Legal No. 6549. Published September 18, 25, October 2, 9, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 617357

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Ickmon Group; 2. Puzzywuzzi; 3. The Boba Hunter; 4. The Wonton Hunter; 5. N3me-sis.com; 6. Intuitive Percussion, 30701 Knight Court, Union City, CA 94587 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Richard Wong, 30701 Knight Court, Union City, CA 94587. 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: 10/1/2020. Signature of Registrant/s/: Richard Wong, Director. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 3, 2025. Expires September 2, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6550. Published September 18, 25, October 2, 9, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 617003

The following person(s) doing business as: Valhalla Fitness Center, 271 Fennel Way, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): VFP Enterprise LLC, 271 Fennel Way, 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: 8/18/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Conner Stokett, Manager. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 19, 2025. Expires August 18, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6551. Published September 18, 25, October 2, 9, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 617332

The following person(s) doing business as: Discover Landscaping, 15568 Tesla Rd, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Luis Ruiz, PO Box 2072, Livermore, CA 94551; Maria Ruiz, PO Box 2072, Livermore, CA 94551. 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: 9/1/1998. Signature of Registrant/s/: Maria Ruiz, Co-Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 2, 2025. Expires September 1, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6552. Published September 18, 25, October 2, 9, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 617469

The following person(s) doing business as: KAP Agro Products, 636 Enterprise CT, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): KAP Organic Agro LLC, 636 Enterprise CT, 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: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Ajay Pahwa, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 9, 2025. Expires September 8, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6553. Published September 18, 25, October 2, 9, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 617476

The following person(s) doing business as: Jwalkin, 3923 Pestana Way, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Janet Brandi, 3923 Pestana Way, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is

conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 9/4/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Janet Brandi. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 9, 2025. Expires September 8, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6554. Published September 18, 25, October 2, 9, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 617483

The following person(s) doing business as: Ma Chiropractic, 4200 East Ave, Unit B, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Christopher Ma, 5239 Peacock Hill Drive, 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/: Christopher Ma, Chiropractor. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 9, 2025. Expires September 8, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6555. Published September 18, 25, October 2, 9, 2025.

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME ORIGINAL FILE NO. 596851
The person(s) listed below have abandoned the use of the following fictitious business name(s). Rodriguez Solutions, 5508 San Pablo Ave #5, Oakland, CA 94608. Registered by the following owner(s): Heather D. Rodriguez, 5508 San Pablo Ave, #5, Oakland, CA 94608. The fictitious business name statement was filed on 4/4/2023 in the County of Alameda. This business was conducted by an individual. Signature of Registrants: /s/: Heather D. Rodriguez, Principal. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 3, 2025. The Independent, Legal No. 6556. Published September 18, 25, October 2, 9, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 617830

The following person(s) doing business as: Steven Kent on 2nd, 209 McLeod Street, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Out From Land Investor Goup, LLC 2245 S. Vasco Rd, Ste C, 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: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Steven Mirasol, Managing Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 15, 2025. Expires September 14, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6557. Published September 25, October 2, 9, 16, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 617577

The person(s) doing business as: Bashful Onion, 133 Cascades Circle, Union City, CA 94587 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Linda Wang, 133 Cascades Circle, Union City, CA 94587. 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: 9/2/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Linda Wang, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 12, 2025. Expires September 11, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6558. Published September 25, October 2, 9, 16, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 617595

The following person(s) doing business as: My Kids Klub, 2458 Portola Ave, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Riza Marciscano, 2458 Portola Ave, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which

the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 2/10/2022. Signature of Registrant/s/: Raiza Marciscano, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 15, 2025. Expires September 14, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6559. Published September 25, October 2, 9, 16, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 617666

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Antigua LLC; 2. Berryclean, 473 3rd Street, Oakland, CA 94607 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Antigua LLC, 423 7th ST #912, Oakland, CA 94607. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 9/16/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Stanley Chen, Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 16, 2025. Expires September 15, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6560. Published September 25, October 2, 9, 16, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 617722

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Railroad Realtors; 2. Railroad Properties, 1048 Grant Ave, San Lorenzo, 94580 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Thomas J. Clements 23 Railroad Ave, #344, Ddarnville, CA 94526. 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/: Thomas J. Clements, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 17, 2025. Expires September 16, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6561. Published September 25, October 2, 9, 16, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 617564

The following person(s) doing business as: Paper Artichoke, 830 Keystone Way, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Judy Tweten, 830 Keystone Way, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Judy Tweten, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 11, 2025. Expires September 10, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6562. Published September 25, October 2, 9, 16, 2025.

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME ORIGINAL FILE NO. 612820
The person(s) listed below have abandoned the use of the following fictitious business name(s). Lumina Bodywork and Massage, 4187 Piedmont Avenue, Oakland, CA 94607. Registered by the following owner(s): Helen Lee, 1415 Pullman Way, Oakland, CA 94607. The fictitious business name statement was filed on 2/28/2025 in the County of Alameda. This business was conducted by an individual. Signature of Registrants: /s/: Helen Lee, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 15, 2025. The Independent, Legal No. 6563. Published September 25, October 2, 9, 16, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 617768

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Wolk Consulting; 2. Wolk Infosec; 3. Wolk Information Security; 4. Your Ciso, 1682 Maralisa CT, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Scott Wolk, 1682 Maralisa CT, 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: 1/1/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Scott Wolk, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 19, 2025. Expires September 18, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6564. Published October 2, 9, 16, 23, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 617783

The following person(s) doing business as: Craveable Eats, 880 Folsom Court, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Swetha Dareddy, 880 Folsom Court, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Swetha Dareddy, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 19, 2025. Expires September 18, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6565. Published October 2, 9, 16, 23, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 617777

The following person(s) doing business as: Anam Cara Chiropractic, 1415 Broadway, Suite 29, Alameda, CA 94501 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Body Mind Chiropractic LLC, 1415 Broadway, Suite 29, Alameda, CA 94501. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Brendan Collins-Bride, Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 19, 2025. Expires September 18, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6566. Published October 2, 9, 16, 23, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 617843

The following person(s) doing business as: Lunera Bodywork & Massage, 4187 Piedmont Avenue, Oakland, CA 94611 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Lunera Bodywork & Massage, LLC, 4187 Piedmont Avenue, Oakland, CA 94611. 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: 9/5/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Helen Lee, Manager. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 24, 2025. Expires September 23, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6567. Published October 2, 9, 16, 23, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 617848

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Vanguard Marketing Group; 2. Vanguard Products, 169 Pullman ST, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Vanguard Sales, Inc., 169 Pullman ST, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Ronald Fleener, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 24, 2025. Expires September 23, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6568. Published October 2, 9, 16, 23, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 617841

The following person(s) doing business as: Sushi Zone, 4094 East Ave, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the fol-

lowing owner(s): Toro Management Enterprises, LLC, 2710 Crow Canyon Rd, #1176, San Ramon, CA 94583. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Scott Wolk, Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 23, 2025. Expires September 22, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6569. Published October 2, 9, 16, 23, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 617584

The following person(s) doing business as: Adamson Police Products, 160 Airway Blvd, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Professional Police Supply Inc., 160 Airway Blvd, 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: 1/21/1980. Signature of Registrant/s/: James Cunningham, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 12, 2025. Expires September 11, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6570. Published October 2, 9, 16, 23, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 617839

The following person(s) doing business as: Querida Cafe, 1526 Dorothy CMN, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Sierra Solano, 1526 Dorothy CMN, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Sierra Solano, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 23, 2025. Expires September 22, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6571. Published October 2, 9, 16, 23, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 617586

The following person(s) doing business as: Curryum, 83 Wright Brothers Ave, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Darwinian Foods LLC, 3998 Knightsbridge Way, San Ramon, CA 94582. 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/: Divya Nayak, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 12, 2025. Expires September 11, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6572.

Published October 2, 9, 16, 23, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 617818

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Michael James Real Estate; 2. MJRE Management, 2344 E 12th Street, Suite 200, Oakland, CA 94601 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Michael James Company, Inc., 2344 E 12th Street, Suite 200, Oakland, CA 94601. 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: 9/22/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Denise MaNguyen, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 22, 2025. Expires September 21, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6573. Published October 9, 16, 23, 30, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 617825

The following person(s) doing business as: Straight West Equine, 2164 Buena Vista Ave, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Dawn R. Baughman, 2164 Buena Vista Ave, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 8/23/25. Signature of Registrant/s/: Dawn R. Baughman, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 23, 2025. Expires September 22, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6574. Published October 9, 16, 23, 30, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 616615

The following person(s) doing business as: Blackridge Capital LLC, 4200 Park Blvd, Suite 506, Oakland, CA 94602 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Blackridge Capital, LLC, 4200 Park Blvd, Suite 506, Oakland, CA 94602. 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: 8/4/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Michael Vinny MaNguyen, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 22, 2025. Expires September 21, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6574. Published October 9, 16, 23, 30, 2025.

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME ORIGINAL FILE NO. 612566
The person(s) listed below have abandoned the use of the following fictitious business name(s). Dragon Therapeutics, 850 3rd ST, Santa Rosa, CA 95404. Registered by the fol-

lowing owner(s): Anne Szostek, 276 Park View Terr, Unit 3 Oakland, CA 94610; Timea Tenkel, 1533 Sierra Drive, Petaluma, CA 95404. The fictitious business name statement was filed on 02/19/2025 in the County of Alameda. This business was conducted by a General Partnership. Signature of Registrants: /s/: Anne Szostek, General Partner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 2, 2025. The Independent, Legal No. 6575. Published October 9, 16, 23, 30, 2025.

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME ORIGINAL FILE NO. 602495

The person(s) listed below have abandoned the use of the following fictitious business name(s). D&D Therapy, 708 62nd ST, Oakland, CA 94609. Registered by the following owner(s): Anne Szostek, 708 62nd ST, Oakland, CA 94609; Timea Tenkel, 1533 Sierra Drive, Petaluma, CA 95404. The fictitious business name statement was filed on 12/6/2023 in the County of Alameda. This business was conducted by a General Partnership. Signature of Registrants: /s/: Anne Szostek, General Partner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 2, 2025. The Independent, Legal No. 6576. Published October 9, 16, 23, 30, 2025.

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME ORIGINAL FILE NO. 579367

The person(s) listed below have abandoned the use of the following fictitious business name(s). The Joint Chiropractic Castro Valley, 20633 Rustic Drive, Castro Valley, CA 94546. Registered by the following owner(s): Clinic 1 LLC, 3160 College Ave, STE 203, Berkeley, CA 94705. The fictitious business name statement was filed on 5/24/2021 in the County of Alameda. This business was conducted by a Limited Liability Company. Signature of Registrants: /s/: Brian Lancaster, Manager. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 30, 2025. The Independent, Legal No. 6577. Published October 9, 16, 23, 30, 2025.

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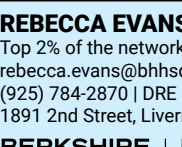
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“Work of Wings” Exhibition Soars with Talent of Local Artists

By Christina Cavallaro

LIVERMORE – The Livermore Art Association (LAA) last week unveiled an exhibition called the “Work of Wings,” a group show “exploring flight, freedom, growth and transformation in all forms,” at the Livermore Library Civic Center Gallery. “I wanted a theme that artists could interpret in many different ways, and one that I felt would touch people’s hearts,” said LAA Show Chair

“This is the biggest member show yet,” LAA President Christine Watters said. “It’s 66 pieces, and we had to double up on the walls. I walked in and saw that double-hanging first wall, and I’m like, ‘Wow. There’s so much art in our community.’” Watters said the group of more than 200 members has grown immensely since its establishment in 1957. A major aspect of her role is getting to know the artists and their needs.

“I would go down the street here and in Pleasanton and I was like, ‘Where are the art galleries?’” said LAA Programs Manager Jean Batchelder, who relocated from Loveland, Colorado. “I came from a town which is very similar demographically.” There are eight active art galleries in downtown Loveland, she said. “One (gallery), the city owns, staffs and supports,” Batchelder said. “This is a huge difference. Here, I dis-

been any support for the visual arts. So, that was my thing when I came here, like, ‘This is really weird.’” LAA Social Media Manager Shyamalima Karan acknowledged that the differing art organizations in the Tri-Valley can be confusing. “As artists, we shouldn’t be dividing ourselves into ‘Oh, we are this organization. We are that organization,’” Karan said. “I mean, art itself is falling apart. With all due respect, people tend to respect the dead artists, which is great. They are the masters, right? They laid the foundation for us. But the living ones, the ones that are still coming up — we have to create a space for them.”

“Work of Wings” has been all about creating that space for artists to interpret the theme in whatever ways moved them.

The Best of Show winner was a photograph by Kelly Galleguillos titled, “Taking Flight in Iceland,” captured as a passenger on a Cessna flight that prompted her to become a pilot. Another standout interpretation of the theme — a skateboarder mid-jump in Venice Beach — came from photographer Craig Varden. High school student artist Jamie Yi, meanwhile, grappled deeply with identity in her oil-on-wood piece, “In Search.”

In addition to the art on display at the Livermore Civic Center Gallery during library hours, LVA’s annual Art Walk is happening downtown from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 11. The work of all participating artists’ will be available for purchase in both locales.

Artist Jess Copeman, whose oil on canvas, “Strange

Bird at Reade Park,” received honorable mention in the LAA show, will also be at LVA’s Art Walk. “I’ve gotten so many opportunities from joining and entering all these shows,” she said. “That’s why I try to tell people, ‘Join the art associations. There’s so much opportunity.’” Whether someone purchases a piece of art isn’t the point for Copeman. “It’s not so much about consumerism as it is about an heirloom that you probably want to keep — as opposed to a thing you got at a store that, when it goes out of fashion,

maybe you would get rid of it,” she said. “Even if they’re just walking through, I just want to talk to people and find out what they like and what moves them. I feel like art should be accessible to everybody.”



A new Livermore Art Association exhibition titled, “Work of Wings,” opened last week at the Library Civic Center Gallery. The show, on view until Oct. 31, explores themes of freedom, flight and transformation as interpreted by local artists. (Photo — Leah Silveira)

Heather Dever, a collage artist whose work is featured in the show. “At the same time, I felt a yearning for escape, transformation, freedom. I thought of spaceships first, then of airplanes, and generalizing those senses brought me to Wings.” The show on view through Oct. 31 features the work of local artists ranging in medium from painting and collage to photography and even a jewelry piece mounted on canvas.

In the group’s most recent member survey, three main areas stood out. “Showing their work. A place to put it out into the community to be seen. That’s where we struggle — gallery space,” Watters said. The library is one of the only venues LAA has found to host a show lasting more than two or three days. The members also expressed a desire for more community and learning.

covered the city doesn’t put any money into us.” She has been heartened to see the work of Anne Giancola, visual arts and education manager for Livermore Valley Arts (LVA), to find more spaces to show artists’ work. An example is the recently opened gallery at The Independent. “The performing arts is here,” Batchelder said. “It’s wonderful, and it’s such a treasure, but there hasn’t really

Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Safety Expo on Tap

By Vivien Wenneker

PLEASANTON — In celebration of Fire Prevention Week, the Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department (LPFD) is set to host its 2025 Fire Safety Expo from 8 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Oct. 11 at its training tower in Pleasanton.

Residents from Livermore and Pleasanton are invited to experience a morning filled with live-firefighter demonstrations, hands-on activities and valuable fire-safety tips from the LPFD team. Kids can explore fire engines, meet local first responders and learn how to be prepared in an emergency.

Additionally, the Livermore-Pleasanton Firefighters Foundation will be hosting a free pancake breakfast for all attendees and accepting donations to benefit the Fallen Firefighters Foundation.

“Fire Prevention Week is about awareness, and our Expo brings that message to life — giving families simple steps to protect what matters most,” said Kim Colantuono, LPFD assistant fire marshal.

Since 1922, the National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA) has sponsored the public observance of Fire Prevention Week. In 1925, President Calvin Coolidge proclaimed Fire Prevention Week a national observance, making it the longest-running public health observance in the U.S., according to the NFPA website.

Fire Prevention Week is observed each year during the week of Oct. 9 in commem-

oration of the Great Chicago Fire, which began Oct. 8, 1871. The fire, which had started in a barn, devastated downtown Chicago, killing an estimated 300 people and leaving a third of the city’s population homeless.

During Fire Prevention Week, children, adults and teachers across the nation are encouraged to learn about how to stay safe in the event of a fire, with firefighters providing lifesaving public education to help drastically decrease casualties caused by fires.

“The Fire Safety Expo was inspired by Fire Prevention Week, but it has grown into something larger — a way to connect directly with our community,” said Rosa Ramos, a management analyst with LPFD. “It’s both a celebration of fire-prevention education and a chance to highlight LPFD’s operational readiness, build community partnerships and empower residents with tools to stay safe and prepared.”

LPFD has hosted its annual Fire Safety Expo annually since 2012, with the only exceptions being in 2019, when heavy smoke from a large Northern California fire impacted air quality, and during the COVID-19 pandemic.

“We’re excited to continue the tradition of bringing this important community event back year after year,” Ramos said.

Among new demonstrations this year, attendees can expect to view LPFD’s new Type 6 Wildland Fire Engine

in action, and roof/aerial operations with the tiller truck. Educational booths will cover important topics such as Firewise community benefits, disaster preparedness, the CERT Volunteer Program and lithium-ion battery safety at home.

Families can also explore LPFD’s interactive Fire Safety House, which teaches cooking safety, E.D.I.T.H. (Exit Drills in the Home), and Stop, Drop and Roll. For kids, there’s the Jr. Firefighter Obstacle Course, fun games and prizes, and Sparky the Fire Dog, who will be available for meet-and-greets throughout the day.

This year’s Fire Prevention Week campaign, “Charge into Fire Safety: Lithium-Ion Batteries in Your Home,” works to educate the public on how to use lithium-ion batteries, and stresses the importance of buying, charging and recycling such batteries safely.

Most modern electronics, especially those that are rechargeable, including smartphones, tablets, power and lawn tools, laptops, e-cigarettes, headphones and toys, are powered by lithium-ion batteries.

If not used correctly or if damaged, lithium-ion batteries can overheat, start a fire or even explode. To reduce these risks, NFPA’s “Charge into Fire” campaign aims to help people understand the importance of using the batteries correctly to prevent fires and follow the “Buy, Charge and Recycle Safely” approach.

To learn more about the

2025 “Charge into Fire Safety” Campaign, and LPFD’s Fire Safety Expo, visit: <https://www.lpfire.org/about-us/safety-education/public-events/annual-fire-expo>.

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