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**Protesters in Livermore rallied as part of an Oct. 18 nationwide No Kings Day movement against President Donald Trump and the federal administration.** (Photo — Leah Silveira)

# Large Crowds Attend No Kings Rallies in Two Tri-Valley Cities

## Thousands Gather in Peaceful Livermore, Pleasanton Protests Against Trump Policies

**By Vivien Wenneker**

TRI-VALLEY — No Kings rallies Oct. 18 in Livermore and Pleasanton were part of a second wave of mass nationwide protests denouncing President Donald Trump and his administration's current policies.

Organizers said thousands of protesters flocked to the intersection of Portola Avenue and North Livermore Avenue in Livermore in the morning, and later that same afternoon, to the Pleasanton Tennis and Community Park.

At the Livermore rally, a long line of protesters stretched the entire Northern breadth of Portola Park, spilling out onto the sidewalks. Many carried signs with slogans such as "Stand Against Hate," and "Make Orwell fiction again," chanting in unison against a continuous flow of cars honking in support.

The demonstrations in Pleasanton looked very similar, with information tents strewn throughout the Tennis and Community Park. Volunteers offered resources on how to support Proposition 50 in the Nov. 4 special election and how to stop United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) from opening a detention center in Dublin. They also distributed packets with "Know Your Rights" cards.

The rally in Pleasanton marked the second No Kings event hosted by Indivisible Tri-Valley, while the rally in Livermore was the first organized by Livermore Indivisible.

(See NO KINGS, page 6)

# Pleasanton Unified School District Outlines Proposed Budget Reductions for 2026-27

## Upwards of 60 Positions Could Be Affected by More Than $10M in Cuts

**By Sanestina Hunter**

PLEASANTON — The Pleasanton Unified School District (PUSD) board met Oct. 16 to review $10 million to $13.5 million in proposed budget cuts for the 2026-27 school year. Such reductions would eliminate several positions — from teachers to custodians — and scale back student programs.

In a four-hour workshop, the board cited declining enrollment as the top reason for the budget cuts. Trustees discussed how the proposals aim to address the district's financial challenges while minimizing impacts on students and school programs.

"We recognize that the work we are about to embark upon is very challenging, as it impacts our most cherished resource, the employees of PUSD. We want to acknowledge that everyone in the organization is a valued member," Superintendent Maurice Ghysels said during the meeting.

"As we move forward and discuss the difficult choices ahead, let us set an example to our students," Ghysels added.

The district has for several years faced budget shortfalls, driven by declining enrollment, rising salary and benefit costs, and the expiration of one-time state and federal funds. Last year, unrestricted expenditures exceeded revenues by about $7.2 million, reducing the district's reserves to less than 1% of the recommended state minimum.

The preliminary list of more than 60 potential reductions includes cuts to custodial staff, elementary vice principals, high school operations coordinators, program specialists and teachers on assignment. The board is also considering rescinding degree stipends for staff members who earned bachelor's or advanced degrees, and reviewing possible reductions at district offices to limit the impact on student-facing positions.

(See PUSD, page 7)



**Pleasanton Mayor Jack Balch, left, Danville Mayor Renee Morgan, Dublin Mayor Sherry Hu, Livermore Mayor John Marchand and San Ramon Mayor Mark Armstrong spoke during the Oct. 15 Tri-Valley Mayors Summit in Pleasanton.** (Photo — Leah Silveira)

# New Law Targets More Recycled Water Use

## Governor Signs McNerney Bill That Will Relax Some Plumbing Requirements

**By David Jen**

TRI-VALLEY — Eased restrictions on the use of recycled water may help California weather its next drought, allowing businesses, homes and agencies to use more recycled water to conserve potable water supplies.

Senate Bill (SB) 31, introduced by Tri-Valley Senator Jerry McNerney in December and signed by Gov. Gavin Newsom on Oct. 13, will relax recycled-water plumbing requirements for homeowners' associations, allow food-handling and processing facilities to use recycled water in their bathrooms and outdoor irrigation, allow incidental amounts of spray, mist or runoff of recycled water in outdoor eating areas of parks, and ease regulations around any unintended recycled-water discharges during storms.

"Expanding the use of recycled water is exactly the type of commonsense proposal that will help solve our state's water issues," McNerney said in a statement. "SB 31 is a pragmatic approach that will protect fresh-water supplies by expanding the use of recycled water for irrigation and commercial uses. It will also help safeguard the state during devastating droughts caused by climate change."

McNerney's 5th District also includes agriculture-rich San Joaquin County.

Recycled water, which undergoes extra treatment steps after exiting a wastewater treatment plant, reduces the load on potable water sources, helping to save potable water for where it's needed. Some people, however, appear to have a negative perception of food grown with recycled water, thus hindering its wider use.

California developed its first water reuse regulations in 1918 to aid its agricultural sector, and today the state uses more than 1 million acre-feet of recycled water each year, equivalent to the household consumption of about 2 million homes, according to WateReuse, a trade association that advocates for recycled water and a sponsor of SB 31.

"WateReuse California applauds the Governor's approval of SB 31," said Brenley McKenna, managing director of WateReuse CA. "By opening new pathways for recycled water, this legislation helps communities build resilience, safeguard water supplies for future generations, and brings California closer to achieving its bold water recycling vision. We thank Senator McNerney for his leadership and look forward to working with him and the Legislature to turn these opportunities into lasting solutions for our state."

The Dublin San Ramon Services

(See WATER, page 7)

# Tri-Valley Mayors Discuss Critical Issues at Summit

## Leaders Address Housing, Safety and the Economy

**By Vivien Wenneker**

PLEASANTON — Mayors from Danville, Dublin, Livermore, Pleasanton and San Ramon discussed critical issues facing the region during the annual Tri-Valley Mayors Summit on Oct. 15 at Ruby Hill Winery.

California Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan served as moderator, leading the mayors through a discussion of matters such as housing, infrastructure and economic development.

The program began with the mayors highlighting strengths of their respective cities. All share many of the same attractive characteristics, including great schools, high quality of life, an abundance of parks and open spaces, and flourishing business cultures.

"We've got a tremendous, talented, educated workforce, tremendous school districts and quality of life," Pleasanton Mayor Jack Balch said. "I sometimes say we are arguing over what color the cherry is on top."

The discussion allowed the mayors to provide brief updates on their city's current populations, number of new businesses and top employers.

Livermore and San Ramon have populations of roughly 86,000 each, Dublin is at approximately 75,000, Pleasanton 74,000 and Danville 43,000. Combined, the total is close to 365,000.

Livermore Mayor John March-

(See MAYORS, page 7)



**Sergey Hoeven, director of operations at Livermore's family-owned Murrieta Optometry, started life in a Russian orphanage before his U.S. adoption in 2002. Now the young entrepreneurial father of two is embarking on a new side hustle, Curbly, a local service dedicated to helping seniors maintain their independence by managing their garbage bins each week.** (Photo courtesy of Sergey Hoeven)

# Entrepreneur Shares Russian Orphan Story

## Through Small Miracles, Tri-Valley Man Builds New Life and Business in U.S.

**By Christina Cavallaro**

LIVERMORE — As a child, Murrieta Optometry's director of operations, Sergey Hoeven, never could have envisioned the happy life he has now. A married father of two young kids, Hoeven's journey began in a Russian orphanage.

Born in 1986 to a mother who struggled with addiction and without a known father in the picture, Hoeven bounced around to different orphanages as his mom and her string of boyfriends moved from place to place looking for work. Hoeven explained that back then in Russia, the moment a parent was unable to take care of a child, the state would remove the youngster from custody.

"So, if you started missing school or were hungry and begging for food or dirty or whatever and somebody reported it, the state would come in, evaluate, and then they would take you away," Hoeven said.

"And it was literally like a police-type vehicle that would come and just pry you away from your parents and take you to the orphanage that was supported by that particular region," he said.

Hoeven's stints at orphanages lasted anywhere from a few months to a few years. And then, at age 13, Hoeven found his mother dead.

"Unfortunately, I witnessed her being wrapped in a sheet (by state services) and kind of thrown in the back of a truck and just pulled away," he said. "That was the last time I saw my mom."

Hoeven went to an orphanage on a military base in Shatalovo, in the Smolensk region, about seven hours

(See ENTREPRENEUR, page 6)

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## PET OF THE WEEK



### BIG BIRD

"Can you tell me how to get, how to get to Kitty City?" Big Bird is Kitty City's chatty new Mayor who loves soaking up sunshine on the Catio. The proud mama of our Sesame Street kittens, she's now leading with purrs, charm and plenty of conversation. Come meet Big Bird and let her tell you all about her day. Call Valley Humane at (925) 426-8656 or email info@valleyhumane.org to get started with the adoption process. (Photo courtesy of Valley Humane)

# Dublin City Council Updates E-Bike, Scooter Safety Rules

**By Sanestina Hunter**

DUBLIN — The Dublin City Council on Oct. 7 unanimously adopted an ordinance updating safety rules for e-bikes, e-scooters and micro-mobility devices, including an educational campaign to enhance public safety.

The ordinance amends sections of the Municipal Code governing parks and recreation, and adds a new chapter regulating micro-mobility devices. It specifies where riders can operate e-bikes and scooters, prohibits their use on most sidewalks, and establishes helmet and operational-safety requirements. The measure follows revisions discussed at a May 6 council meeting with Dublin Police Services.

As micro-mobility, e-bike and e-scooter use grows among the city's youth, council members expressed concern about safety. Several collisions involving young riders and vehicles prompted the ordinance.

Victor Fox, chief of Dublin Police Services, said his department will launch a public- outreach campaign before issuing citations. The effort will include updates to the Dublin Police Services website, social-media posts, educational videos, school presentations with resource officers, emails to students and parents, and partnerships with local businesses that sell micro-mobility devices.

Fox added that his team is developing a classification system for e-bikes. Riders will be grouped into levels 1, 2 and 3 based on maximum speed — 18, 20 or 28 mph — which will determine where and how the bikes can be used. Citation amounts for violations may range from $100 to $200 or more.

Councilmember Jean Josey emphasized the importance of clear signage and public understanding.

"I want it to be crystal clear to our residents what is designated as a shared-use path, where e-bikes and e-scooters are allowed, and what is a sidewalk where they are not," she said. Josey also stressed the importance of making sure parents understand the rules under the new ordinance.

Councilmember John Morada highlighted residents' safety concerns, particularly for elderly pedestrians.

"Riders on sidewalks traveling at high speeds can cause major injuries," he said. Morada added that some riders have disrupted city streets by performing stunts such as wheelies, and that unchecked behavior has sometimes extended to vandalism and harassment.

"My intention for this policy is to provide enforceability," Morada said. "We also need to educate residents so they can collaborate with DPS. Citizen engagement is extremely important for effective enforcement. We need to get creative to scale enforcement."

He added that neighborhood-watch programs could help prevent safety issues, using passive measures until DPS can intervene.

Councilmembers said youth riding too fast, ignoring traffic laws or using streets near schools remains a top safety concern. Collisions between e-bikes, scooters and cars have increased, particularly around school zones.

Although enforcement is still in its early stages, councilmembers and police said citations will be issued gradually as the public becomes educated. The goal is to ensure residents, parents, students and local businesses clearly understand the rules.

The ordinance takes effect 30 days after adoption. The city clerk will post it in public locations as required by state law.

# New Pleasanton Middle School Field Funded by Bond Money

**By Sanestina Hunter**

PLEASANTON — The Pleasanton Unified School District (PUSD) on Oct. 15 unveiled a new athletic field at Pleasanton Middle School, hosting a ribbon-cutting ceremony with community leaders in attendance.

The project is part of the district's first phase of Measure I bond-funded middle school upgrades. The athletic field portion is fully funded with $9.7 million in Measure I bond dollars and is on track to finish under budget, pending final costs, PUSD Safety and Communications coordinator Susanne Frey said.

The upgrades follow earlier playground improvements, making this the first major Measure I project to be completed.

Measure I, a $395 million bond approved by voters on Nov. 8, 2022, passed with 57.2% of the vote — exceeding the 55% supermajority required, according to a PUSD staff report. The bond authorizes the district to fund school facility upgrades across Pleasanton schools.



**A new athletic field at Pleasanton Middle School spans more than 400,000 square feet and features a modern synthetic playing surface.** (Photo courtesy of Pleasanton Unified School District)

"The new field gives students a safe, modern space to learn, play and compete, while also strengthening school spirit with the Panther logo at its center," Principal Marco Lopez said. "With a turf system, natural grass areas and features such as a cricket pitch, this project meets student needs while honoring the interests of our diverse community."

Construction of the athletic field began in March. The field spans more than 400,000 square feet and features a modern synthetic playing surface.

Some community members have raised concerns about PUSD's recent financial decisions, including the new athletic field and the district's short-term borrowing from the Alameda County Treasurer. Some residents are confused about how the borrowing relates to Measure I projects.

In September, the PUSD school board unanimously approved authorization to borrow up to $15 million from the Alameda County Treasurer to meet short-term cash-flow needs for October and November.

Frey said the borrowing is entirely separate from Measure I bond funds.

"The borrowing was a short-term bridge in the General Fund to cover a temporary cash-flow gap while awaiting state funding, which arrives in larger disbursements in December and April through local property taxes," she said. "The loan will be fully repaid by May 1, 2026. Measure I bond dollars, by law, can only be used for facilities projects and cannot be redirected for operating costs."

Ahmad Sheikholeslami, assistant superintendent of business services, said in a statement to The Independent that the district has started the borrowing process, with the amount currently not expected to exceed $10 million. May 1 is the deadline for repayment of the loan.

To manage a temporary cash-flow shortage, the district has said that it plans to borrow part of the needed funds internally from other district accounts, with the remainder covered by the short-term county loan.

The loan will be repaid once the district receives its Local Control Funding Formula revenues, which arrive in larger installments in December and April. According to recent reports, interest on the loan is based on the district's potential earnings, currently estimated between 3% and 3.5%.

This short-term borrowing is not unusual for school districts facing temporary gaps between expenses and state funding.

Frey noted that the funds are tracked independently and subject to oversight by the Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee and annual independent audits to ensure funds are used only for approved projects.

The new field is designed to serve as a hub for student engagement.

"Our hope is that it will be a lasting source of pride and connection for the Panther Nation for years to come," Lopez said.

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# Smoker Friendly Remains Open Following Police Raids on Two Dublin Smoke Shops

**By Sanestina Hunter**

DUBLIN — Police raids late last month on two Dublin smoke shops for illegal tobacco sales resulted in only one closure, with Smoker Friendly continuing operations and receiving only a Dublin Municipal Code violation citation, according to Dublin Police Services (DPS) Capt. Miguel Campos.

Royal Novelties remains closed due to multiple violations, including building and fire-code issues and a previously revoked tobacco license. The shop was not allowed to sell tobacco products but was found to still be doing so at the time of the police operation.

The case, stemming from raids conducted Sept. 29, has been submitted to the Alameda County District Attorney's Office for review, Campos told The Independent.

No arrests had been made as of Oct. 20, Campos said.

Both shops faced hefty fines, totaling nearly $200,000, for violations ranging from unlicensed sales to unauthorized advertising, and roughly 4,100 units of contraband were confiscated, according to DPS.

Investigators seized more than $135,000 in contraband, including banned flavored tobacco products containing tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), the main psychoactive compound in cannabis, and psilocybin, or "magic," mushrooms, according to a DPS Instagram post.

The operation involved the DPS Crime Prevention Unit, School Resource Officers, the California Department of Tax and Fee Administration, and Dublin Code Enforcement.

Because both shops are located near schools, officials allege the owners targeted students by selling illegal products to minors.

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# 'Phantom' Star To Perform Bankhead Benefit

Opera star Franc D'Ambrosio, best known for his long-running title performance in the San Francisco production of "The Phanton of the Opera," will give a benefit concert for the Livermore Valley Opera (LVO) at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore on Friday, Dec. 5.

"Franc is performing this benefit for us because he loves opera and believes in the work we're doing in our community," said LVO Artistic Director Erie Mills. "We invite everyone to come hear this gem of an artist in this gem of a venue."

D'Ambrosio performed the title role in the San Francisco production of Andrew Lloyd Webber's "The Phantom of the Opera" more than 2,100 times, earning him the distinction of the "World's Longest Running Phantom."

He also played Anthony Corleone, the opera-loving son of Michael Corleone, head of the Corleone crime family, in "Godfather III," the 1990 sequel to the original "The Godfather" movie.

In the movie, he sings the Academy Award-winning theme song, "Speak Softly Love."

Tickets to the 7:30 p.m. performance start at $50 and are available online at livermorearts.org or at the Bankhead Theater box office, 2400 First St.

# Dia de Los Muertos Celebration Set

The Pleasanton Senior Center will display Mexican ofrendas, spiritual altars honoring dead family members, as part of a community Dia de Los Muertos celebration on Saturday, Nov. 1.

Organizations and individuals can reserve space for their displays at firehousearts.org. Space must be reserved by Thursday, Oct. 23.

Displays will be set up on Saturday morning and will be available for viewing from noon to 3 p.m.

Día de los Muertos, or Day of the Dead, is a traditional Mexican holiday for remembering ancestors.

# Art League Hosts Plein Air Competition

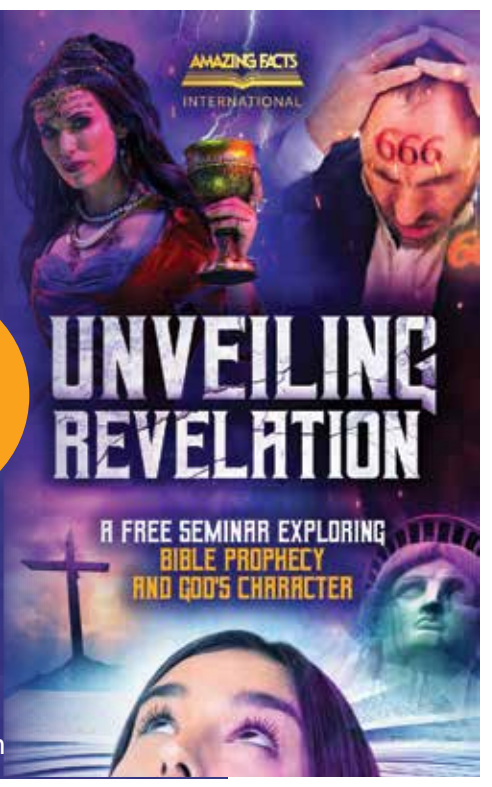
The Pleasanton Art League (PAL) will hold its eighth annual Paint Pleasanton plein air art competition on Saturday, Oct. 25, and Sunday, Oct. 26.

Artists are invited to paint Pleasanton landscapes and historic sites, with the weekend's artwork judged by California plein air artist Richard Lindenberg.

There will be awards for Best in Show, Merit, and Honorable Mention.

The open-air paintings will also be on display, and available for purchase, at the Museum on Main, 603 Main St., from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday.

Artists can register and view a prospectus at tinyurl.com/55ajnfmr.

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# Livermore Aircraft Noise Statistics Moving Online

**By David Jen**

LIVERMORE — The city will present aircraft-noise complaints in a new format following requests from the Livermore Airport Commission to move the statistics online.

Instead of presenting airport-noise statistics in detail at every airport commission meeting, city staff will now summarize that data into an abbreviated format at meetings and publish details on the city's website, which commissioners and the public may view prior to meetings. The details will also now omit the map of complaint locations in order to anonymize the residents who filed the reports.

"This was my goal of this: so we don't have to spend time talking about this," Commission Chair Darin Bishop said at this month's airport commission meeting. "It's an airport; airplanes fly; they make noise; people complain about it. … We keep talking about it (and) nothing changes; people still complain."

The commission voted unanimously to accept the new format, with Commissioners Victoria Schellenberger and Jon Lavine absent.

Tri-Valley residents filed 138 aircraft-noise complaints with Livermore Municipal Airport in August, the most recent month with data. Of those, about 40% dealt with jet aircraft. The city report attributed some 71% of complaints to Pleasanton residents, while 24% came from Livermore and 5% from Dublin, although the reporting system does not differentiate whether multiple complaints originate from one person or separate people.

Aircraft flying too fast accounted for 33% of the complaints, while 30% of the complaints cited the noise volume, 17% complained of aircraft flying too low, 16% complained of aircraft flying at night and 2% said an aircraft was both too low and too loud.

This year has so far resulted in less than half the number of complaints compared to the same period last year.

"There'll be days where you have almost no operations, but you have 30 different concerns, whereas the next day you'll have 400 operations and like two concerns," said Benedict Stuth, airport manager. "And it really comes down to the type of noise and the noise tolerance for that specific individual."

The airport reaches out to the pilots associated with a complaint when possible, Stuth said.

Flights operate under federal regulations, and the City of Livermore cannot restrict or regulate when or which aircraft may use the airport. But the city does share voluntary noise-abatement procedures and a voluntary restraint from night-flying policy with pilots, who may adhere to the policies at their own discretion.

Pilots departing to the west are asked to turn early in their climb to avoid overflying the residential neighborhoods near the airport, and pilots arriving from the east are asked to avoid low approaches as they land.

While the night-flying policy asks pilots to refrain from flying between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m., Bishop, a pilot and airport tenant, raised a concern that the policy somewhat conflicts with Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) regulations. The FAA requires that pilots conduct three takeoffs and landings every three months in the period between one hour after sunset and one hour before sunrise in order to maintain their proficiency and to carry passengers at night.

The sun sets in Livermore as late as 8:30 p.m. and rises as early as 5:45 a.m. during the summer.

"The voluntary night-flying policy actually encourages pilots to not be night-current," Bishop said. "We're kind of walking a fine line on promoting safety and noise."

# Free Range Flower Winery Ceases Operations

**By Sanestina Hunter**

LIVERMORE — Free Range Flower Winery — a rare concept in Livermore's wine scene — recently closed after four years.



The Free Range Flower Winery in Livermore has closed its doors after four years. (Photo — Leah Silveira)

Owned by Aaliyah Nitoto, the winery crafted wines from locally sourced organic blooms instead of grapes, offering flavors such as Lavender, Marigold, Rose Petal and "RoseHybiscus." Wine sales officially ended Sept. 30.

Nitoto expressed gratitude for community support over the years.

"Thank you for supporting this dream and helping keep the spirit of flower wine alive," she wrote in a bittersweet Instagram post, citing a focus on self-care after challenges in the wine industry and personal family tragedies with her sister passing.

"I've worked almost eight years with almost no break," Nitoto said. "I'm moving on to the next chapter and focusing on myself." She shared that she has long dreamed of living in Africa and has chosen Kenya as her destination.

"It feels like the right time to make the move, especially as a Black woman seeking a place where she can live freely without worrying about racial issues."

Nitoto plans to bring her senior dog, Fauna, who has kidney disease, and launched a GoFundMe campaign to cover the pet's medical and travel expenses.

"Fauna has been with me for over 20 years — she's my family. I can't leave her behind," she wrote.

In the final days before closing, Nitoto shared updates on Instagram, asking customers for support to ensure Fauna's safe journey to Kenya.

Free Range Flower Winery was fueled by Nitoto's passion for both flowers and wine. As an herbalist, she had long studied the history and wellness benefits of flower-based essential oils.

Nitoto planned to leave for Kenya on Oct. 20.

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# Dublin Narrows Proposed Names for Two New Parks

Dublin has narrowed the proposed names for two new neighborhood parks in the Francis Ranch Community to six pairings and is now asking residents to select their top choice.

The city is developing northside and southside parks for the 573-home townhouse and single-family community. Both parks will be about 5.5 acres and front on Croak Road.

Earlier this year, Dublin asked residents to submit names for the parks that reflected themes chosen by the city, including "Exploration of California" for the north park and "Exploration of the East Bay" for the south park.

Based on those earlier responses, the city is now asking residents to choose from among six pairings of names, including Golden Poppy Park and Colinas Doradas Park, Poppy Meadow Park and Wild Wind Park, Golden Eagle Ridge Park and Gray Fox Hollow, Golden Bloom Park and Croak Summit, Golden Horizon Park and Oak Vale Park, and Wildflower Ridge Park and Croak Commons.

In each of the pairings, the proposed name for the north park is listed first.

Residents can pick their favorite pairing, or suggest a new combination of names, at tinyurl.com/mw3msucy. The deadline to respond is Sunday, Oct. 26.

# Livermore Library Set To Host Spoken Word Poetry Workshop

Russell Reza-Khaliq Gonzaga will be Livermore Poet Laureate Peggy Schimmelman's guest for a Spoken Word Workshop at the Livermore Civic Center Library at 1 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 2.

Born in the Philippines and raised in Livermore, Gonzaga has organized several literary events and workshops, including the Sierra Poetry Festival and the Center Camp Spoken Word Stage at Burning Man.

He was poet laureate for Lake County from 2012 to 2014 and represented San Francisco for three years at the National Poetry Slam.

Gonzaga currently serves as poetry editor for The Fabulist, an online magazine that publishes poetry, fantasy fiction and art, and leads a weekly writers' workshop and monthly poetry reading in Tracy.

The free, 2-hour workshop is open to teens and adults.

To register, call 925-373-5505.

# 'Trunk or Treat' Halloween Event Offers Alternative at Dublin Park

Dublin Police Services will host the city's fourth annual "Trunk or Treat" at Don Biddle Community Park, 6100 Horizon Parkway, from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 25.

Officers from Dublin Police Services, California Highway Patrol, Alameda County Sheriff's Office and other agencies will decorate their vehicles and pass out candy as a safe alternative to traditional trick-or-treating.

They will be joined by representatives from the city and members of the Rotary Club of Dublin.

Food vendors will also be on site and the 1993 hit movie, "The Nightmare Before Christmas," will be shown on an outdoor screen.

Admission is free.

LIVERMORE VALLEY arts LIVE AT THE BANKHEAD



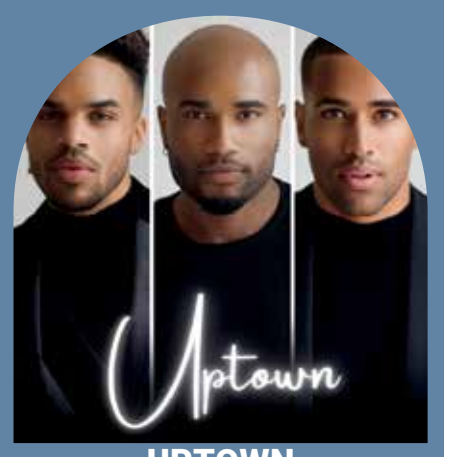

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# EDITORIAL

## "No Kings" Means No Dictators, and the Country Agrees

On Oct. 18, millions of demonstrators took to the streets in more than 2,700 cities in all 50 states in the second major "No Kings" rally since President Donald Trump took office for the second time.

As happened during the previous No Kings rallies in June, thousands came out in the Tri-Valley, in Livermore and Pleasanton, to protest Trump's policies.

The sheer numbers across the country — organizers said nearly 7 million people nationwide attended, about 2 million more than at the June protests — are a clear sign that U.S. residents are refusing to allow themselves to be ruled by fear or force. The vast majority of demonstrations were peaceful, taking on a party atmosphere as people of all ages chanted, danced, dressed up in costumes and demonstrated their resolve and refusal to give in to despair.

That was also the case in the Tri-Valley, which also saw larger crowds than in June. In addition to protesting Trump and his policies in general, demonstrators were highlighting local issues, such as a potential plan to reopen Dublin FCI as an immigration jail, and the upcoming vote on Proposition 50, which would redraw five Republican Congressional districts to favor Democrats.

Polls of Trump's popular approval show he's underwater across the country on every major issue, including immigration, his signature effort. Increasingly, masked agents from U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) have been deployed into major American cities to snatch people off the street, especially since September, when the Supreme Court approved of ICE agents using racial profiling. Various polls put Trump's overall approval anywhere between 37% and 45%, and The Economist notes that he maintains a favorable rating in just nine states.

Where there has been violence, it has been because Trump and ICE have been provoking it. This began in Los Angeles and Washington, D.C. over the summer, and has since spread to Chicago, where demonstrations around the ICE processing center have often been met with a disproportionately violent response from ICE officers. Videos of ICE officers attacking unarmed people, including journalists and clergy, have proliferated online.

Trump has loudly hinted that San Francisco is next on his hit list.

People are done with it. Trump's lawlessness includes nationalizing National Guard troops to invade U.S. cities to combat non-existent crime, seizing and deporting people — citizens and non-citizens alike — without due process of law, defunding Congressionally-approved programs and disbanding Congressionally-created government offices, canceling already approved contracts to universities, scientific research organizations, social services and the nonprofit sector, issuing ultimatums to universities to make their campuses Trump-friendly, revoking research funding and filing a bevy of lawsuits against news organizations that dared print the truth about his regime.

Trump has made no pretense that he aspires to be a dictator, and he used the day of the No Kings rally to release a video on social media showing him wearing a crown, flying a fighter plane over crowds and dropping loads of excrement on demonstrators below.

The usual methods of pushing back against authoritarian power grabs in the courts have yielded mixed results. The Supreme Court, led by Chief Justice John Roberts and a bloc of five conservative justices, has been indulging Trump's fascistic efforts. And the national Democratic Party has been sleeping through the crisis.

So, we're saying "no." Universities, notably, have been refusing to sign a "contract" (if you can call it that) with the Trump administration. After some universities initially seemed cowed by the administration, they've come to realize that Trump is essentially running a protection racket, and knuckling under is no guarantee of him going easy on them in the future. Quite the opposite: surrender only demonstrates he can push them around more.

News organizations may also be finding their mojo. After U.S. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth issued a new rule stating that news organizations must ask permission before running any story based on military information, no matter how it was obtained, most major news organizations refused to sign his ultimatum. Instead, hundreds of reporters, including those from Fox News, turned in their press badges and walked out of the Pentagon.

States with Democratic governors, including California, have been strategizing together since the beginning of the term to support what they rightly predicted was going to be an onslaught of oppressive policies and actions from Trump. Already, many blue states on the West Coast and in the Northeastern U.S. have united to keep COVID and flu vaccines available while the government tries to resurrect debunked conspiracy theories about autism.

Meanwhile, unemployment is rising, and consumer prices are also shooting upward due to tariffs. Couple that with Trump's blatant efforts to gerrymander Congressional districts in red states to ensure he doesn't lose control of Congress next year (and likely get impeached a third time). People are rising up and saying, "Enough!"

"No Kings" is not just about saying no to a wannabe-dictator. It harks back to the foundation of this country in 1776, when we said "no kings" for the first time. The phrase is literally why the United States exists in the first place.

And despite what Trump thinks, the First Amendment to the Constitution still protects the freedoms of speech, peaceful assembly, religion and the press. Now more than ever before, those Constitutional protections must be used, or we risk losing them forever.

# MAILBOX

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### We Can't Wait Much Longer for Real Change
**John Cameron, Dublin**

Here's an idea... Maybe instead of living in a world where we are always using our lives to obtain grossly more than we could ever need, we use our energies for one another instead. We use it truly united. We pick each other up. We work together motivated by understanding, compassion and kindness to make the whole world a better place.

Ya... right now that's a pipe dream. But just think, how much of our collective resources and focus do we spend on security and our militaries? How much does one person really need? A billion, a trillion? How much of the world's finite resources do we squander unnecessarily on greed and waste? How much could we achieve if we truly started to focus on our real potential? It can only really begin when we all ask ourselves the question.

### Designate Alameda-Tesla Land a State Reserve
**Nancy Rodrigue, Livermore**

The planning for a new park in the Livermore hills is in the works by California State Parks. When done, it will be, or could be, a wonderful addition to Livermore, if planning stays on track to protect this valuable resource.

Recently, I attended the Alameda-Tesla workshop that presented two concept plans for the park. The plans were very disappointing. They ignored many years of public input that consistently requested complete preservation of this land and designation as a State Reserve. It deserves this classification for many reasons: its biological diversity of rare plants and special stature wildlife, its cultural Native American remains, its historical content, and its critical link wildlife corridor.

As a Reserve, the park would be open to all for activities consistent with a careful planning to protect these valuable resources. These would include hiking, nature walks, photography, birding, youth nature activities, scientific research and education, and Native American cultural activities.

So, what is the problem? The State Park plans are totally contrary to public input over the past 20 years. They include many high impact activities that are contrary to preservation. In fact, just the opposite. The plans as presented will drive high-intensity uses deep into Tesla's sensitive landscape, building roads, campgrounds, bike trails and associated facilities that damage and fragment essential habitat for over 100 protected special-status plants and animals. This is especially troubling because State Parks has hundreds of acres just next door where these activities can be located which they refuse to use.

State Parks needs to return to the drawing board, and this time provide a real plan for a Natural Reserve in Tesla that will meet its obligation to "preserve the state's extraordinary biological diversity, protecting its most valued natural and cultural resources." Livermore residents, pay attention to this as the entrance to the park will be just east of our town. In a couple of years, you could have a picnic in a blue oak forest, walk through the remains of the old mining town of Tesla, and walk the old wagon road that connected Tesla to Livermore; yes, it's still there. You could see why the Native Ohlone chose this place to gather acorns and trade with other tribes at Brushy Peak.

You can help by emailing California State Parks at: info@alamedateslaplan.com with a simple request: "State Parks, please designate all of the Alameda-Tesla land a State Reserve."

### Make Polluters Pay
**Ann Brown, Livermore**

As we watched the heartbreaking aftermath of the fires in Los Angeles, one thing was crystal clear: climate change isn't some far-off problem — it's here, it's now, and it's hurting real people. From our coasts to our mountains, no one is safe.

Here in the Tri-Valley, we are also vulnerable to poor wildfires, poor air quality, and heat impacts.

For far too long, fossil fuel companies have been lining their pockets while our communities drown, burn, and suffer. It's time to turn the tables. We need climate superfund laws at every level — state and national — to make these polluters pay up. The Polluters Pay Climate Superfund bill, SB 684/ AB 1243, requires the state to carry out a study to quantify the costs of climate damages in California and establishes a fund into which fossil fuel polluters must pay to cover their fair share of those costs.

These funds will be used to respond to climate catastrophes, build climate-resilient neighborhoods and sustainable infrastructure, support workers suffering from climate-related health harms, and usher in a thriving and fair transition away from fossil fuels.

Just a few specific examples of where funds could go include helping cover costs of rebuilding homes and programs for small businesses hit by climate disasters, investing in air conditioning for schools and home-hardening to protect from fire, funding public transportation and electric vehicle chargers, and programs to distribute air filters to homes in wildfire prone areas.

We are not alone. At least 10 other states are considering similar legislation this year, while Vermont and New York passed climate superfund bills in 2024. We're building a mass movement to pass the bill this year and want Californians everywhere to be part of this momentous campaign.

I'm calling on Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan to support a climate superfund bill right here in our state. And our representatives in Washington need to step up too, backing a national climate superfund.

These laws would finally make Big Oil pay their fair share. It's like teaching a kid to clean up their own mess — if you break it, you buy it. That money could help us prepare for future disasters and help places like those hit by wildfires to recover and rebuild.

You can join me in supporting local youth speaking out on this issue so critical to their future, Oct. 24, 1:00-3:00, at Livermorium Plaza.

### I Am Ashamed
**Samuel Warner, Pleasanton**

Have you seen the video that the United States president posted of himself wearing a king's crown and flying a plane which drops feces onto the heads of peaceful protesters?

Have you seen the one that our vice-president posted of a king Trump holding a sword, and forcing known Democrats to bow down to him?

Have you heard the White House press secretary say that Democrats are mostly Hamas terrorists, illegal aliens and violent criminals?

I am so embarrassed and ashamed to be "represented" by these people. How foolish our country must appear in the eyes of the world. Thank you to the more than seven million people who showed their opposition by peacefully using their First Amendment right to protest , in spite of the unconstitutional threats to their safety by their own "leaders".

### The Riddle of Homelessness Solutions and Financial Sector
**Greg Scott, Livermore**

In my letter last week, "In Response to Homelessness Letter of Harvest Moon," (Mailbox, 10/16/2025), a reply to Kyle Colvin's letter, "Livermore's Homeless Crisis," (Mailbox, 10/9/2025), The Independent did not print or post my last line: "The solutions are in the question: Where do we expect the majority of homeless to go?"

I don't know why this wasn't included; however, it was critical to the points I was making in my letter. If there are no places for homeless to go, then we have no solutions for homelessness, unless we think homeless individuals alone - who have ruptured and severed social connections by their own doing or not, or both - are somehow physically and emotionally invincible to the dire reality they must face.

A crucial point also in my

(See MAILBOX, page 5)

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**Ava Lashay was among those entertaining the crowd during the Oct. 18 Livermore Pridefest at Bankhead Plaza. The family-focused event connected and celebrated the LGBTQ+ community, honoring its diversity while highlighting the overlap of sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, race, religion, political ideology and economic status that contributes to oppression and discrimination.** (Photo — Leah Silveira)

## MAILBOX
(Continued from page 4)

letter was that some housing is provided to relatively few of the total homeless - at great expense. This cannot be sustained, because homelessness is going to get far worse, and there are not the resources to increase the current expenditures toward homelessness.

What is the problem? The predominant factor in homelessness is money - the cost of housing. More specifically, it is the cost of housing relative to the value of wages.

The economy is going to deteriorate. One effect of that is going to be legions more homeless. Am I being "alarmist?" My response to that is: Do your own research!

The riddle of homelessness solutions is in the structure of the financial sector. Homelessness has increased markedly since 1980, as the financial sector has increased from 5% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) to more than 20 % of GDP currently. Relative average value of wages have declined to a 43% worth in the same time period, making skyrocketing housing costs even more painful and quality of life lessened.

We are in an enormous finance capital asset bubble. This includes reduced employment, private equity company increasing inventories of unsalable leveraged buyouts, private credit/debt market confidence decline, regional bank wobbling, the generative artificial intelligence (GenAI) bubble with 'AI hype' concentrated capital expenditure vulnerability, lower residential and commercial real estate valuations, and more.

If we are not able to do better with resources and achieve more effective, broad results with the homeless situation now, it is difficult to imagine how we are going to adequately deal with it in the future. Who is going to protest for the homeless?

### Get Involved Directly
**Sharon Draggoo, Livermore**

In "Nexus: A Brief History of Information Networks from the Stone Age to AI", Yuval Noah Harari draws a simple but powerful distinction: misinformation is an honest mistake; disinformation is a deliberate attempt to mislead.

Lately, I've noticed growing tension in Livermore around the negotiations between the Livermore Education Association and our school district. Some of what I've seen on social media has raised questions and concerns. Rather than rely on posts and opinions, I decided to attend recent school board meetings to learn more for myself.

At the Oct. 14 meeting, Trustee Kaplanis shared helpful context that corrected several circulating claims. For example, the superintendent's leadership retreat, which is a practice encouraged by the California School Boards Association, was described in social media as "a luxury retreat to Pismo Beach." Kaplanis explained that this working retreat was paid from Dr. Gibson's discretionary funds, with participants covering their own travel and meals. The office furniture purchase for administrators, labeled as a "glow-up," had actually been budgeted by the previous superintendent.

As for the superintendent's compensation, Dr. Gibson's salary and benefits are consistent with comparable districts, and below those of our recent Livermore superintendents.

I still have more to learn about the negotiations and the new leadership team, but one thing seems clear: effective teachers deserve far more than any budget can provide, and our district leaders seem to be working toward a fair and sustainable solution.

Disinformation, however, only divides us and distracts from that shared goal.

I invite everyone who cares about our schools to get involved directly — watch recorded board meetings, reach out to trustees, and, as I've heard Dr. Gibson say to parent groups, "Call me!" if you have a concern.

When we engage with curiosity, respect, and generous listening, we move closer to truth—and closer together as a community.

### Welcome to Trump World
**Rosario Milelli, Pleasanton**

Donald Trump's recent behavior continues to reveal a pattern of recklessness that should alarm every American who still values dignity, decency, and national security.

First came his AI-generated video showing a jet dumping excrement on peaceful protesters — a grotesque image that says everything about his regard for the First Amendment. When a man who once swore to "preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution" now mocks citizens for exercising their rights, it's not satire — it's contempt for democracy itself.

House Speaker Mike Johnson chimed in by branding the nationwide "No Kings" demonstrations as a "Hate America rally," claiming they were filled with "Antifa, Marxists, and communists." That's pure fiction. I attended the Pleasanton rally — there was no violence, no vandalism, just ordinary Americans exercising their right to assemble. There were parents with children, veterans in their caps, and yes, plenty of American flags. To dismiss these citizens as "anti-American" because they dared to dissent is precisely the kind of authoritarian reflex the Founders warned about; actually, it is the most patriotic act there is.

Then came his bizarre "offer" to buy Argentina's beef in bulk to drive down beef prices in America. This after he effectively subsidized Argentina's soybean sales to China, totally killing all sales of American soybeans to China. What happened to tariffs allegedly protecting American producers? This is a direct attack on American farmers and ranchers. I want lower prices, but this isn't "America First"; it's America Last.

As if that weren't enough, Trump reportedly ordered live munitions fired over a civilian highway during a campaign event for J.D. Vance; a premature burst actually damaged escort vehicles. These are really stupid people in the administration. Having been involved in live-fire weapons testing, I am truly disappointed the military leadership lacked the courage and guts to say no.

Finally, his supposed "peace plan" for Ukraine — urging President Zelensky to surrender territory to Russia — isn't diplomacy. It's capitulation. When an American leader tells an ally to give up to an aggressor, he's not promoting peace; he's bowing to Putin — again.

Each of these episodes might seem like another outrageous headline in the never-ending Trump circus. But together, they form a disturbing pattern: a man driven by hate who revels in humiliation, weakens our allies, and betrays our farmers. America deserves better than a miserable old man, perhaps suffering from cognitive decline?

### This Land is Your Land
**Patrick Weidhaas, Dublin**

I write this letter still being deeply moved by the amazing "No Kings" rally in Livermore on Saturday, Oct. 18, 2025.

On this gorgeous fall day, hundreds, probably thousands, of demonstrators lined up on both sides of Portola Avenue. It was noisy; many cars honked their horns in solidarity with the protesters. I was encouraged by the sheer number of protesters and also by the fact that I saw people of every age — teenagers with creative signs, old people, in their 80s like me, with signs warning America about what is happening in this country.

As I walked through the crowd, taking photos, having brief conversations, I couldn't help thinking of Mike Johnson and his GOP house members who see every one of these peaceful demonstrators, ordinary Americans, young and old, as "America Haters"!

For 30 years, I had worked at the Lawrence Livermore Lab, and at this rally I encountered several former colleagues from the Lab. Let me tell you, Lab employees were patriots, tried to keep America safe, prevent a nuclear war, by making sure that America had weapons that would make any other nation think twice before starting a nuclear attack. According to Mike Johnson, though, we are now America Haters!?

During my meandering through the energized but peaceful crowd, I heard drums. As I got closer, I recognized the Woody Guthrie song "This land is your land, this land is my land...". Nostalgia! As a student at Berkeley in the 1960's, I had heard this song many times during student demonstrations and anti-Vietnam rallies. Hearing it today brought tears to my eyes.

### Illogicality Squared
**Paul Stone, Dublin**

Let me see if I have this right: we're going to vote yes on 50, hurting ourselves in the process by giving the people's power back to Sacramento after wresting it away from them in 2008 and 2010, all in order to stick it to Trump. Brilliant.

(See MAILBOX, page 6)

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# Dublin Library Talk Focuses On Historic New York Fire

Gerald S. Henig, professor emeritus of history at California State University, East Bay, will give a talk on the cataclysmic 1911 Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire at the Dublin Library, 200 Civic Plaza, from 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 25.

The Triangle Shirtwaist Company occupied the top three floors of a 10-story building in the Greenwich Village area of New York City. A fire that started in a scrap bin spread quickly, killing 146 garment workers, including 123 young women and girls. Most of the victims were recent Italian or Jewish immigrants.

Because doors to the stairwells and exits were locked, a common practice at the time, many of the victims died of smoke inhalation or fell to their deaths trying to escape the building, which had no fire alarms or sprinklers.

One of the deadliest industrial disasters in U.S. history, the fire raised questions about immigration, government regulations, women's rights and the role of organized labor.

Following an extensive investigation, the New York Legislature adopted 38 new laws regulating labor in the state.

Henig, who won the Pi Kappa Delta Best Lecturer Awards four times at California State University, East Bay, will discuss what led to the deadly fire, who was responsible, and its lasting impact on labor laws in the U.S.

The program is free and registration is not required.

## ENTREPRENEUR

(Continued from front page )

east of Moscow.

"It was a military town with one way in, one way out, and guards, with their AK-47s at each entry point," he said. "So that was my home from 13 to 16 years old."

And life inside the orphanage was a lot like being in jail. The 300 children woke at 6 a.m. to do exercises outside, regardless of the weather. Breakfast was at 8 a.m., then school, a little bit of play, then more school, then chores.

"So, it was exactly like prison or the army, where every class had responsibilities," Hoeven said.

Hoeven excelled despite the conditions. An A-student and stellar athlete, he was the only one in the school to be accepted into a prestigious officer-cadet program. Despite the achievement, he said, "When you're in the thick of it, it doesn't feel that you're a standout citizen or student or excelling in anything because really you're just trying to do your best to survive."

A small miracle occurred in 2002, when he was 15½, that brought Hoeven to the U.S.

"Before I turned 16, I never had dreams or aspirations of living anywhere. I tried my best to create a plan for my life and execute it at that age," Hoeven said.

The orphanage was affiliated with a Culver City-based group called Kidsave that brought children to the U.S. for eight-week visits in hopes of finding them homes.

At the time, the legal cutoff for adoption was 16. As an older teen, Hoeven wasn't even in the running to make the trip, but a younger child became ill and Hoeven's long list of achievements prompted the orphanage to send him as a positive representative of the school.

"There was no host family for me. Nobody wanted to adopt an almost 16-year-old," Hoeven recalled.

At the last minute, he was placed with the then-Northern California Kidsave coordinator, Debbie Hoeven, and her husband Frank.

"It was another kind of miracle," Hoeven said.

Debbie and Frank Hoeven had not been able to have kids of their own, fell in love with the young Russian, and vice versa.

"They offered me a chance," Hoeven said. "They said, 'If you're open to changing your life completely, we will try our best to adopt you and provide you with opportunities to go to school, college and raise you as our own.'"

The rest is history. After attending Sacramento State University, Hoeven found his career-calling in business and operations management.

"All the things that keep you up at night," he said, laughing. "It suited me well because of my past and overcoming challenges and being resourceful."

Hoeven eventually found his way to Murrieta Optometry, where he's thrived for the past 14 years. And it was there that he began to observe what he saw as a need among aging patients.

"I witnessed firsthand our elderly neighbors struggling with the physical demands of weekly garbage-bin management," Hoeven said.

Earlier this year, Hoeven started Curbly, a local service dedicated to helping seniors maintain their independence by managing their bins each week.

"It's just been eye-opening," he said. "I never could have imagined how impactful such a small, simple service for seniors could be."

For Hoeven, it's also about standing among other admired local businesses that are helping people and making a difference.

"Just being part of the community and doing the right thing. There's not enough of that right now in our world, with everything that's going on. It's so easy to lose sight of what's good and what's important," Hoeven concluded.

For more information on Curbly, visit curblybins.com

*This article is part of a 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*

## NO KINGS

(Continued from front page )




**Creativity was the order of the day for some in the crowd of protesters during an Oct. 18 No Kings Day rally at the Pleasanton Tennis and Community Park.** (Photo courtesy of Tri-Valley Indivisible)

Four months after the first round of No Kings protests, these demonstrations, in alignment with the nationwide day of protest, came amidst an ongoing government shutdown and the Trump Administration's push to deploy National Guard troops to American cities.

"Donald Trump has called the people among us losers, and sick, and failing, but what we have learned today is that those words describe him," Tri-Valley Congressman Eric Swalwell said at the Pleasanton rally. "America was founded under the idea of no kings, let alone a mad king."

Swalwell had rushed from a No Kings protest in Sacramento to speak briefly in his home district ahead of the Nov. 4 special election. Swalwell favors Proposition 50 and the importance of gaining momentum to carry through to next year's midterm elections.

"We're not passing Prop. 50 to save California. We're passing Prop. 50 to save the country," Swalwell said. "We're getting our confidence back, and we're going to go into the midterm year with this energy, this vigor and sweep the midterms!"

Participants gathered in both Pleasanton and Livermore cited the same reasons for coming out, and the importance of upholding the principles of democracy now more than ever.

"The administration is authoritarian — they're taking rights away from people and stripping people off the streets," Livermore resident Eric Wayne said. "We don't agree with an administration that stands for the rich, and not the people, which is what this country was founded on."

Wayne said that in addition to this latest Livermore Indivisible event, he has attended about 10 other protests, including in Livermore, Pleasanton and San Francisco. Increasingly, he's observed more people attending, particularly in Livermore, with the latest rally drawing two to three times more people than the last, he estimated.

Another Livermore resident, Madelyne Gold, also noted the significant increase in the number of attendees at No Kings rallies. She added that the protesting climate has been extremely peaceful. When there have been occasional Trump supporters, even they have seemed receptive to talking — unlike how the protests have tended to be framed in the media.

"I've been amazed at how supportive and incredibly welcoming the people here have been," Gold said. "It's a great way to meet people, and this is really about the community coming together."

Turnout for the No Kings Day of Peaceful Action across the nation increased overwhelmingly, with nearly seven million Americans gathering (two million more than in June), according to the Indivisible-sponsored Coalition website

The No Kings Coalition issued a statement.

"Today, millions of Americans stood together to reject and remind the world that our democracy belongs to the people, not to one man's ambition," Indivisible co-founders Ezra Levin and Leah Greenberg said. "Authoritarians want us to believe resistance is futile, but every person who turned out today proved the opposite. This movement isn't about a single protest; it's about a growing chorus of Americans who refuse to be ruled. Trump may want a crown, but in this country, there are no kings."



**An Oct. 18 "Boo Bash" sponsored by the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District at the Robert Livermore Community Center provided entertainment for children 11 and younger and adults alike. A "not-so-scary" haunted house, carnival games, crafts and other activities were among the attractions.** (Photo — Leah Silveira)

## MAILBOX

(Continued from page 5)

### New Development at the Corner of East Avenue & Delores

**Terry Cuellar, Livermore**

I believe the city is once again trying to pull the wool over our eyes on their plans, like when they tried to bring BART downtown. I live in the Vineyard Townhomes on Delores. I received in the mail this past week a pink card advising me of their plans to place 13 rental homes on the corner of Delores and East Ave. I believe this action to be an accident waiting to happen! Delores already is a very busy street as it is one of two streets that connect East Avenue to N. Livermore/Tesla. It's not a big street and has many parked cars lined up on Delores. Not to mention how busy East Avenue is due to Lab and Sandia traffic and East Avenue School. There is also a bus stop on Delores and one around the corner on East Avenue. Children walk these streets every day to and from Livermore High & East Avenue and their homes. My understanding is that 13 rental homes will be built on the property with parking for two cars for each home and three parking spaces for guest parking only! This will further push more cars to park on Delores. Also, my understanding is they will be tearing down the old NOB HILL shopping center on N. Livermore/Pacific for a senior development that will add even more traffic at the other end of Delores/Pacific/N. Livermore Ave.

Perhaps if this actually happens, we can request speed bumps on Delores every 30 feet, like Buena Vista already has had for some time to control the traffic. I am only joking, but it is a suggestion!

Apparently, there is a meeting concerning this development of 13 homes on Oct. 27, 2025. Now for the reason I am writing, as I was the only person as far as I know who got the pink card to attend the meeting. I have since shared it with my neighbors, who are upset because they never got a card to advise them of the city's plans!

I believe the meeting is scheduled for Oct. 27, 2025. Please email the City Clerk to advise of your thoughts, since this will not only affect locals around this mess, but anyone who travels down East Avenue or Delores.

Email: cityclerk@livermoreca.gov

Thank you for letting me sound off!

### Support the Protesters

**Keith Jackson, Dublin**

We have heard a lot lately from the Trump administration about protesters hating America and being members of ANTIFA (all seven million of them, apparently). Antifa is not an official group, but a word that means "anti-fascist". This means that anyone who is against antifa is pro-fascist. So the Trump administration is accidentally telling the truth. They are pro-fascist. The protesters are anti-fascist. The protesters love their country. Trump only loves himself. The protesters are not taking people off the streets without due process, cutting off Medicare and Social Security or trying to intimidate anyone who disagrees with them. Trump is. Trump is also obviously suffering from cognitive decline. This is when someone suffers memory loss, difficulty solving problems, confusion with time or place, and problems speaking, among other things. I invite everyone to join a local protest. Bring your children. This is a great opportunity to show them what patriotism and civic involvement is all about, and why it is so needed at this time. It is safe and actually fun. It also is uplifting to be trying to do the right thing. The outcome is not yet determined, but it is going against Trump and his cronies. Let's keep up the pressure and fight back.

### The Man Who Thinks He Deserves a Peace Prize

**Eloise Hamann, Dublin**

The NY Times announced: "The 2025 Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to María Corina Machado, a PRO-DEMOCRACY opposition leader in exile who mobilized Venezuelans against President Nicolás Maduro's AUTHORITARIAN government." Nothing was said about ending wars.

I just read that DJ6T (J is both for John and January) gave another order to bomb a boat, thereby killing six people. No boarding to check for drugs, no trial, but yes on a death sentence. How many people have been killed or man-handled by ICE?

Can anyone imagine that a man who incited an insurrection against our government would ever receive a peace prize? I've forgotten which of my news sources published what the Republicans did to make it difficult for Black voters to vote in Georgia. They were required to confirm their eligibility to vote while making it easy to miss and difficult to conform.

There is no political peace in this country because DJ6T is: ignoring the constitution, sending unrequested troops to cities, ICE is grabbing people outside of courts when they check in to report as part of the requirements for citizenship, so angering American citizens that protests are rampant, NO KINGS DAYS drew bigger audiences than DJ6T on his birthday, and politics has never divided our country as it does under DJ6T.



Livermore Mayor John Marchand and Christi Stevenson, head of school at King's Classical Academy, unveil a new multipurpose room at an assembly with students. The private Christian school recently moved to a new location at 3090 Independence Dr. in Livermore. The school held a ribbon cutting on Oct. 14 for its new classrooms and other facilities. (Photo courtesy of King's Classical Academy)

# Young Philanthropist Award Program Set

The Three Valleys Community Foundation (3VCF) will present its inaugural Young Philanthropist Award at the Martin Luther King Jr. Fellowship Breakfast in January.

The nonprofit foundation announced the award to celebrate "young changemakers who choose service over apathy and action over complacency" last week.

"We believe the next generation holds extraordinary power and potential to shape a connected, compassionate and resilient Tri-Valley," said 3VCF President Kelly Bowers. "Through this award, we're not only celebrating young changemakers, we're helping them build a foundation for lifelong civic leadership and philanthropic engagement."

The award is open to Tri-Valley students, either individuals or youth working together, aged 15 to 21 at the time of their nomination.

Nominations can be submitted online at 3vcf.org. The deadline for nominations is Friday, Nov. 14.

The award winner will receive a donor-advised fund at 3CVF to direct to a charity of their choosing.

3VCF will be hosting the annual community awards breakfast for the first time in 2026, after taking over from the Pleasanton Community of Character Collaborative (CCC). The fellowship breakfast and awards ceremony will be held on Monday, Jan. 26, at the Palm Event Center in the Vineyard in Pleasanton.

The annual awards program was created 24 years ago and had been hosted by the CCC since 2018. There was no fellowship meeting this year. Former San Francisco 49er William "Bubba" Paris will be the keynote speaker.

## WATER

(Continued from front page )

District (DSRSD) and the East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) in 1995 partnered to create the San Ramon Valley Recycled Water Program, which provided recycled water to Dublin, San Ramon and the Dougherty Valley.

The City of Pleasanton joined the partnership in 2014, connecting its own system of recycled water pipes in the northwest portion of the city between Interstate 580 and Arroyo Mocho. The partnership's water recycling plant, located next to the DSRSD wastewater facility on Johnson Drive in Pleasanton, currently produces about 2.7 million gallons of recycled water per day, primarily used for irrigation in areas such as golf courses, parks and roadway medians.

In Livermore, its own water reclamation plant, located next to the airport, provides some 2 million gallons of recycled water per day, according to the city's website. Irrigation of commercial properties, such as the Las Positas Municipal Golf Course, uses 97% of the city's recycled water, while fire protection, construction, street sweeping and toilets use the remaining 3%.

The new legislation will take effect Jan. 1.

## MAYORS

(Continued from front page )

and pointed to the Eden Housing project, which plans to bring 130 units of affordable housing downtown, demonstrating Livermore's long-standing commitment to providing housing for low-income residents.

"Seven years ago, I voted to pass the Eden Housing Development, and I believe this is such an important project for Livermore that after I termed out, I actually came back to make sure that Eden Housing got built," Marchand said. "The city does not build housing. It's the market that builds housing, and one of the problems we've run into is when you have people that don't want that housing."

Apart from the much-debated Eden Housing project, Marchand said there are about 1,350 multiple-family units under construction in Livermore, with more than 1,000 below market rate in the Isabel Neighborhood Specific Plan and 140 affordable units in the Pacific Avenue Senior project.

Balch acknowledged that Pleasanton has also struggled to keep up with the demand for affordable housing and meet the growing number of units required in California's state housing mandates that are reissued every eight years.

"From where I sit, Pleasanton has not done its part," Balch said. "We import jobs, which means we outsource our housing permitting to other communities. So, we're not balanced. Our ecosystem is not balanced in Pleasanton."

Since Pleasanton's adoption of the 2023-2031 Housing Element, Balch said the City has issued building permits for more than 780 new housing units. Another challenge Balch addressed, in alignment with state housing mandates, is the lack of variety in the type of housing being produced. It is increasingly the same as everywhere else, proliferating the multi-family, high-density product types, Balch said.

The major concern among all the mayors surrounding housing, however, was the staggering quotas for new housing units set by state mandates.

"The growing number of state housing bills continues to place unrealistic expectations, and it's a one-size-fits-all mandate that doesn't really work well when you have a small town like ours that is basically built out," Danville Mayor Renee Morgan said. "It's eroding our local control and the ability for communities to plan responsibly for their future."

San Ramon Mayor Mark Armstrong agreed. As a result, he said, with San Ramon being largely built out to its urban growth boundary, the City Council has had to prioritize rebuilding core areas, such as around Bishop Ranch, which is currently strewn with empty office buildings and parking lots.

During the last housing cycle (2015-2023), San Ramon had a 1,417-unit requirement, which it was unable to meet. For the current cycle, the number is 5,111 units, roughly a 260% increase, with 2,359 units (46%) required to be affordable.

"We've done all we can to meet that high requirement, and the affordability for our workforce housing, but I think the real question is what's the state doing to help cities because this is kind of an unfounded mandate to produce more housing," Armstrong said.

As for Dublin, consistently ranked as one of the fastest-growing cities in California in the past five years, Mayor Sherry Hu said that housing affordability, especially for seniors, young people and those in need, is at the top of the city's priorities.

Current large-scale projects underway in Dublin that will bring in affordable housing include the East Ranch Development, Downtown Affordable Housing project and Regional Street Apartments for seniors, which had its groundbreaking in May.

"We will continue to drive to make our place more affordable, because we want to make sure we're a community where we're taking care of each other, and everybody gets a chance to thrive," Hu said.

All five mayors said prioritizing safety, green infrastructure and streamlining the process for business development is paramount.

Marchand highlighted that with Livermore's need for increased housing will come a need for more water, and therefore a more robust water and sewer infrastructure. As a result, Livermore has undertaken a significant investment in modifications and enlargements to its sewer system. Current updates, according to Marchand, will place the system at an estimated $2 billion value.

Similarly, Pleasanton completed its water master plan in January, examining the water system in place and identifying approximately $74 million in infrastructure needs over the next several years.

All five cities have taken measures to promote business in their respective downtowns, with Pleasanton having just launched its Innovation-Based Business program.

Approved by the City Council in June, the program is designed to streamline the process for businesses in the areas of robotics, biotech, life sciences and advanced manufacturing by identifying where in town they can go. Then, according to Balch, some of the money saved by streamlining will hopefully be applied back into the Pleasanton Downtown Specific Plan.

Marchand added that in looking for ways to help younger generations of residents stay local, Livermore has partnered with Las Positas College, as have some of the city's top employers, such as Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and Gillig.

"We're proud to work with Las Positas College to ensure that we have an education-to-jobs pipeline as these new technologies emerge — whether it's fusion or aviation," Marchand said.

The mayors expressed a desire to work together to continue making the region more prosperous.

"The coming together of the Tri-Valley cities is so powerful, and I get to see that in Sacramento every day," Bauer-Kahan said. "They show up together; they're united in their positions; they're advocating on behalf of the cities together; and it really does help make this community stronger."

# Native American Celebration on Tap

The Livermore Civic Center Library, 1188 S. Livermore Ave., will honor Native American culture through music and dance at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 16.

The free program, "Spirit in Motion: A Native American Cultural Celebration," will be presented by the Tri-Valley Native American Center.

The program is sponsored by the Friends of the Livermore Public Library.

## PUSD

(Continued from front page )

Parents and staff expressed concern that the proposed cuts could reduce student-support services and affect the overall quality of education. Trustees said during the special board meeting that community feedback will continue to guide the board as it refines the final reduction proposal.

The district also stressed that some apparent cash reserves, including proceeds from a one-time property sale, cannot be used for ongoing operational costs. Over the past two years, PUSD has implemented more than $16 million in budget reductions, supplemented by new revenue streams, such as facility leases that bring in rental revenue from district-owned properties. Adding money to the general fund helps offset operating costs and eases the district's overall budget pressure, yet PUSD remains in a structural deficit.

Another recent investment highlights the district's tight financial balancing act. The $9.7 million Pleasanton Middle School athletic field, completed this month, was funded through Measure I, the $395 million bond approved by voters in November 2022. Even as the district celebrates that milestone, it is relying on a $10 million loan from the Alameda County Treasurer to cover short-term operational needs, underscoring the challenge of advancing major projects while managing day-to-day finances.

After a month-long community engagement process, including meetings with the Budget Advisory Committee and site leadership, the district released a list of proposed reductions and revenue-generation strategies. Trustees will review the proposals across upcoming workshops, with final direction expected at a Nov. 6 special meeting. Additional discussion may take place at the Oct. 23 regular board meeting.

As part of a broader revenue strategy, the district is leveraging real estate assets. Most recently, it listed 6,300 square feet at the West Las Positas District Office for lease, projected to generate roughly $190,000 annually, while planning long-term monetization of the First and Bernal property.

Board members and staff will continue refining the reduction list during workshops on Oct. 23, Oct. 30 and Nov. 6. Any layoffs affecting unionized employees will require negotiations and compliance with state education codes. Officials say the process is critical to rebalance the district's budget, remain solvent and retain local control.







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PLEASE HELP BRING MIGUEL HOME



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

Livermore Wente Winery worker, married father of three and grandfather

Miguel Lopez

remains in Mexico after having been illegally deported in early June.

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

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

# Bankhead Exhibit Sparks Joy Through Wit, Whimsy

By Christina Cavallaro

LIVERMORE — An entertaining new Livermore Valley Arts (LVA) exhibit called, "Knock, Knock: The Art of Wit and Whimsy," is on display at the UNCLE Credit Union Art Gallery at the Bankhead Theater.

Like a good knock-knock joke worth its salt, the exhibition invites viewers to step into a world of pun and play, as well as to discern the visual jokes, sly wit and satirical comedy to be found in the pieces on display.

"Some of them you've gotta kind of look at to get the humor, and others will knock you over the head with it," said Anne Giancola, LVA's visual arts and education manager.

A series of tricked-out paintbrushes by artist Barbara Stanton, known for her figurative work in miniature, is of the knock-you-over-the head variety.

Stanton, who also teaches figure drawing at the Bothwell Arts Center in Livermore, has created a hilarious collection.

"She just found old, completely used-up paint brushes and was like, 'Well, what can we do with these instead of throwing them away?'" Giancola said.

Stanton has made clever use of the old art implements, turning each into a tiny human face. "Just the expressions on the people are so much fun. And the hair … she makes use of the frazzled brush (bristles) to be their hair. So, those are fun," Giancola said.

And fun was exactly what Giancola was going for when she conceived of the exhibition theme, with its goal of embracing levity without sacrificing meaning.

On the heels of the latest exhibition, "Fragile Earth," Giancola said, "We just had some deep subjects recently. So, I thought it would be time to come around to doing something more lighthearted, especially for the holidays — things that are cheerful and will lift people's spirits."

Giancola admitted she was a little concerned that there wouldn't be enough art to fit the more whimsical theme. To her surprise, the show received an inordinate number of submissions.

"Probably the most we've ever gotten," she said. "The artists just loved this and wanted to make people smile and bring joy."

The works reflect a vibrant mix of media ranging from paintings and illustrations to sculptures and photography, and more.

"I'm actually having balloons!" Giancola said, referencing Livermore-based event-decor company Jollifaces and its display called, "The Queen's Heartstrings."

"It was just surprising how much was out there, and pieces that made me giggle," Giancola said.

Amidst the whimsical characters and surreal juxtapositions, there are also nostalgic nods to childhood play, such as those by Melissa Mandegarian, who is set to be the incoming artist for The Independent newspaper's rotating gallery. Free and open to the public from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, the gallery is located at 2250 First Street in downtown Livermore.

"She (Mandegarian) just does lovely, sweet works … lovely landscapes," Giancola said. "They've always got almost a nostalgic look to them, like kind of how you want to remember your trip to the beach or that beautiful landscape."

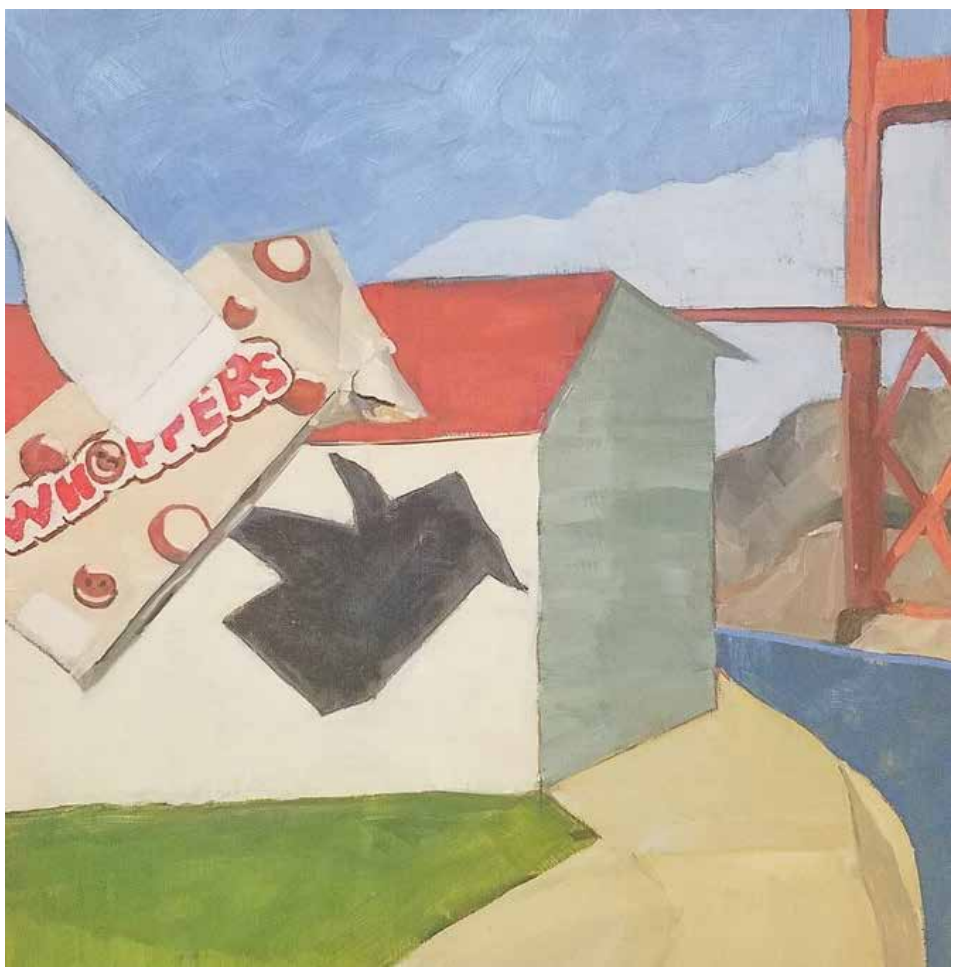
Another throwback is a series of Etch-A-Sketched scenes, preserved and displayed by songwriter Michael McNevin, who will also be the featured musician at a special free "Pajama Party" event in the lobby of the Bankhead from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 22. That will follow Livermore Downtown Inc.'s Earlier Than the Bird shopping event.

Also free and open to the public is the upcoming opening reception, from 1-3 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 25, featuring well-known artist Big Al Lopez doing caricatures. Wine and light refreshments will be served.

A great way to kick off the holiday season and support the local art community is by purchasing holiday gifts, Giancola added.

"There are pieces in the exhibit for all different kinds of budgets," she said. "From very affordable all the way up to big, amazing pieces."

The UNCLE Credit Union Art Gallery is in the lobby of the Bankhead Theater at 2400 First Street, Livermore. "Knock, Knock: The Art of Wit and Whimsy" is free and open to ticketed patrons during performances, and to the general public from noon to 5 p.m. on Thursdays and Fridays, and from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturdays through Jan. 4.




**"The Malted Falcon" by Deborah Rich is one of the many pieces that bring humor and cleverness as part of the new "Knock, Knock: The Art of Wit and Whimsy" exhibit on view in the Bankhead Theater lobby through Jan. 4.** (Photo courtesy of LVA)

Heart of the Valley



# How To Quilt the Stars

By Christina Cavallaro

TRI-VALLEY — When I am not writing for The Independent, I can be found making things in my cozy little studio space at the Bothwell Arts Center. Livermore Valley Arts (LVA) and Education Manager Anne Giancola, who oversees the LVA outpost, spotted me working there recently in the amber glow of my IKEA pendant light and quipped, "I like your tiny house."

The thing is, the Bothwell is a magical place. Who wouldn't want to nestle in there? It's also like a who's who of Tri-Valley artistic, cultural and performing-arts talent. You never know what unique moment of beauty you might find.

On any given day, theater groups such as the Encore Players might be rehearsing or performing a play. Many an afternoon, I have walked in to find internationally acclaimed Beirut-born artist Ghada Jamal on her hands and knees poring over a canvas, her face splattered with paint, the operatic voices of the Livermore Valley Opera flowing from down the corridor during opera season or the swelling sounds of the Sycamore Strings youth orchestra practicing on a Wednesday night.

Witnessing Ghada paint expressively on a canvas is something I will never forget. She has since moved permanently back to Beirut and vacated her studio space. I was talking about her recently with Pleasanton artist Jessica "Jess" Copeman, whose work is on view until the end of the month in the Livermore Art Association group show called "Work of Wings" at the Livermore Library Civic Center Gallery.

"I feel like we're really, really lucky to have (had) somebody like her locally. Ghada is, for me, like a shining pinnacle star up at the top of the mountain. She just feels so many leagues above," Jess said. "The Bothwell is so cool. I love it. It's such a communal kind of vibe."

Most days, Ghada would bring in lunch, homemade dolmas or tabouleh salad, to share with other local artists, such as John Iacono, Thom See and Tuan Karsevar, who also have studios at the Bothwell. Lunch conversation led by Ghada could have been a master class on art.

With talents such as Ghada and the range of youth and adult classes, from drawing and painting to music lessons and improv taught by professionals, the Bothwell is a kind of supernova, a bright and active space for Tri-Valley creatives of all kinds to pass through for inspiration, nourishment and camaraderie before the resulting works are released like cosmic dust to form new stars all around the community.

I was recently interviewing Pleasanton salon owner Tammy Nguyen about her journey to America that began with a harrowing escape across the ocean by boat from her native Vietnam. At one point she hoisted up a massive oil painting depicting a vessel filled with people pushing through turbulent waves. At the top of the painting in scripty font it read: My American Dream Come True.

"This one means a lot to me," Tammy said, "because I left (Vietnam) by boat." Turns out the artwork she had custom-made to hang in her soon-to-open Fusion Wine Bar was painted by none other than Jess Copeman.

A journalistic visit led me to local jazz legend Matt Finders' home music studio some months back. Finders spent 17 years as a member of "The Tonight Show with Jay Leno," before returning to his hometown of Livermore, where he's been literally instrumental in fostering the next jazz generation through his work in local schools and overseeing a youth community band called Element 116.

Aside from a very large gleaming black piano, Finders' inviting space is filled with an array of meaningful objects he has gathered over the years, from instruments to awards and beyond. One wall caught my eye like a smile from a friend. The iconic works of Bothwell's own Thom See and John Iacono were beckoning warmly on display there.

The weekend before last, I brought some artist friends visiting from San Francisco to the Bothwell to see my studio. We stepped through the open door and for a minute it felt like peering into one of those old-fashioned pressed sugar Easter eggs, the ones that are hollowed out and decorated with tiny scenes inside.

We entered a room filled with wall-to-wall colorful quilts and sewing machines and fabric scraps covering every surface as far as the eye could see. Turns out we had stumbled upon a workshop offered by the Amador Valley Quilters.

One very enthusiastic quilter informed us that the group was excited to be making something entirely new. Stars. Quilts are made up of squares, so stars, the woman pointed out, are very difficult. Even as a longtime quilter, she had never done it before and had even thought it to be impossible. She held up a very complex-looking diagram and explained that through a series of bifolds and other technical quilting jargon, it was possible. And that some of these cosmic quilts would be gifted to kids as part of Sleep in Heavenly Peace, a non-profit that builds and delivers bunk beds to children and families in need.

We left the hum of sewing machines and the quilters to continue their work fabricating the stars inside the Bothwell.

*Do you have tidbits about the Tri-Valley or know of interesting people, places, events or unique perspectives that should be featured in the Heart of the Valley monthly column or podcast? If so, we want to hear from you. Please email me at christina@independentnews.com.*

# TRI-VALLEY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Thursday, Oct. 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.

**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 Hagemann 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.

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

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

**Friday/Saturday, Nov. 7 and 8**
**HOLY CROSS CRAFTY LADIES ANNUAL HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE**
Holy Cross Crafty Ladies is having their annual Holiday Boutique on Nov. 7 and 8, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 1020 Mocho St. in Livermore. Holiday gifts, handcrafted ornaments, decor, kitchen items, stocking stuffers, jams, jellies and more! All proceeds benefit unfunded projects of Holy Cross Church.

**Saturday, Nov. 8**
**HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE**
From 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Our Savior Lutheran Ministries, 1385 S. Livermore Ave. Unique gifts for sale, such as heirloom quality quilts, home-canned jams, homemade chocolates, stained glass art, handwork baskets and much more.

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

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

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

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

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

**SUNDAY LIVERMORE DOWNTOWN FARMERS MARKET**
Open year-round on Sundays 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in downtown Livermore, on Second St. between J St. and L St.

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

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

# OBITUARIES

## Royce Dean Eckard
**Jan. 18, 1933 - Sept. 28, 2025**

Royce Eckard passed away peacefully on Sunday, Sept. 28, 2025, at the age of 92. He was born in Hatfield, Missouri on Jan.18, 1933 and raised on the family farm. He attended Boise Junior College, located in Idaho, where he met his soulmate, Mary Lynne Satterlee. They were happily married for 57 years. He served in the U.S. Army and was stationed at Fort Ord, California. After the Army, he attended the University of Idaho, where he achieved his bachelor's degree in electrical engineering. Later, he earned his master's degree in engineering at San Jose State University.



Royce moved to Livermore, California in 1957 where he worked at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory until he retired. He was a founding member for the Livermore-Pleasanton Elks Lodge #2117. As a member of the Elks, he was an Exalted Ruler and later, a District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler (Central District). He was very active in the local community, supporting the Livermore Episcopal Church, the Livermore Aquacowboys swim team, the Livermore Centennial Committee, and promoted classes for the trades in the local high schools. He always made time on the weekends for his family.

Royce was preceded in death by his parents, Ethel and Murray Eckard; wife, Mary Lynne Eckard; brother, Rex Eckard; and second wife, Evie Bakken. Royce is survived by his daughter, Debbie Smith (Daryl); son, David Eckard (Susan); grandchildren, Jason Smith, Nathan Smith, Denise Bowen, Ashley Wibby and their families (which include eight great-grandchildren); and sister-in-law, Kathleen Eckard and her family.

A memorial service will be held at the First Presbyterian Church, 2020 Fifth Street, Livermore, CA 94550 on Saturday, Oct. 25, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. In lieu of flowers, we ask that you donate to "Tunnels to Towers Foundation" in remembrance of Royce Eckard.

## Judith Ann Irwin (née Freitas)
**Jan. 18, 1944 — Oct. 13, 2025**

It is with both heavy hearts and an abundance of joyful memories that we announce the death of the beloved and entirely unforgettable Judi Irwin.





Judi was born in Hanford, California on Jan. 18, 1944, joining her father (Alfred "Fritz" Freitas), mother (Laura [Lopes] Freitas) and sister (Janice [Freitas] Marino) on the family's cotton farm. The foursome eventually moved to their Livermore, California pigeon farm (not a typo) where she joined the first graduating 8th grade class at East Avenue School. Four years later, the self-proclaimed "cutest girl in Livermore" graduated from Livermore Union High School in 1961. That same year, she married her high school sweetheart, LeRoy Irwin. This was just the beginning of a life well lived.

A beloved daughter, sister, wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, friend, parishioner and legendary realtor, Judi is woven into the fabric of her family, friend, church and Livermore communities.

Perhaps you met her as a young secretary at the "Rad Lab". Or maybe she was your grandmother's hairdresser at Ginny's House of Style. (Fun fact: Judi was also the official hairdresser of the Dominican nuns of St. Michael School!) Later, while Judi was a stay-at-home mom, you may have encountered her out and about as your tennis partner, catechism teacher, softball team mother, St. Michael School PTA president or school "hot dog lady" (someone had to make sure the students got their Dandy Dog, chips, chocolate milk and cupcake every Thursday!)

Or maybe you met the realtor extraordinaire version of Judi. In 1983, at the ripe old age of 39 and with her children mostly raised, Judi embarked on what would become a 42-year obsession with her (let's be real) true love, real estate. With energy, integrity, expertise and charisma to spare, Judi helped countless families through this meaningful phase of their lives. A realtor who knew her stuff and you could blindly trust, that was Judi.

Judi was also a devout Catholic, the kind who put in the work, serving as a eucharistic minister, volunteering in the community and visiting the shut-in and sick. In need of a prayer? Judi to the rescue! Family and friends knew they could count on her in times of suffering, struggle or just a bout of unemployment. Her faith never failed to sustain her in good times and bad.

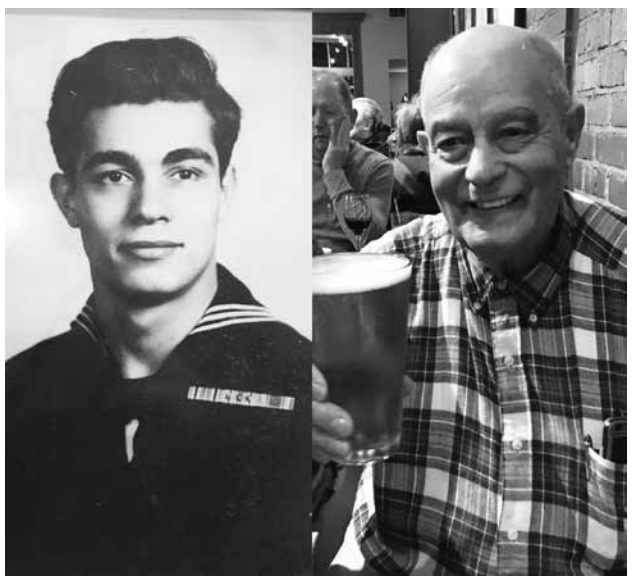
On Sept. 29 of this year, Judi and LeRoy celebrated their 64th wedding anniversary (also not a typo). LeRoy loved to watch her shine at every social event and Judi never missed an opportunity to brag about LeRoy's ability to fix anything and everything — the true measure of a man in her eyes! In the past few years, nothing demonstrated LeRoy's love more than how tirelessly he provided the care she had come to need. "Poor LeRoy has to take care of me", she'd say with a laugh.

If you knew Judi, you knew the genuine affection and love she had for her family. Judi and LeRoy were always (okay, mostly) proud of their three children: Audrey Irwin (Robert Merritt); Liz Irwin (Andy Packer); and Matt Irwin (David Di Bene). To her six grandchildren (Isabel, Annie, Noah, Jack, Luke and Joseph) and two great-grandchildren (Joaquín and Marina), Judi was a model of devotion and fierce allyship. "They are the light of my life," she'd always say. In fact, Judi had a way of making all of us feel she was on our side.

Judi's was a life worth celebrating — and that's exactly what we'll do on Tuesday, Nov. 11. Please join us at St. Michael Church in Livermore (458 Maple Street) for a Rosary at 10:30 a.m., followed by a Funeral Mass at 11 a.m.

## Frank Ramos
**Jan. 12, 1927 — Sept. 23, 2025**

Frank was born in New York City, but at an early age and during the Great Depression his parents moved him and two of his siblings to live with their maternal grandparents on the island of Trinidad in the Caribbean. When he reached the age of seventeen, Frank made his way back to America and joined the Navy. He was assigned to the USS Nevada in time for the battleship to join in the invasion of Iwo Jima, then the invasion of Okinawa, where during the battle, a kamikaze airplane struck his ship immediately above his war station. Frank survived, but twenty-four of his shipmates were killed in the attack.



After the war, Frank returned to Brooklyn, New York, entered Westinghouse Technical High School, and gained a license to be a machinist mate in the Merchant Marine, where he made regular trans-Atlantic voyages transporting goods to and from Europe. After a few years he settled down in Brooklyn, became a regular part of our family, and earned a comfortable living being a household appliance repairman. There were some family deaths, and Frank took over leading our family and supporting my grandmother, my mother, and my sister and brother to make our livings. He took an active part in his Catholic parish of St. Paul's and he even started a Boy Scout troop for the parish school.

In 1993, Frank left Brooklyn and joined me and my family in Livermore. He got a few jobs earning money still fixing washing machines, air conditioners, stoves, and other household appliances and even got a job at a fruit and vegetable distribution center before retiring. His life centered around his friends at St. Charles parish in Livermore until illness and his age slowed him down about two years ago. He died quietly at his home in his sleep. A funeral Mass will be held at St. Charles Church on Los Lomitas Ave., Livermore at 10 a.m. on Oct. 25.

## Kenneth N. Nather
**July 22, 1929 — Oct.8, 2025**

Ken was born in Minot, North Dakota, attended grade school and started High School in Napoleon North Dakota. He spent about a year in high school in Missoula, Montana, where he quit school and joined the Army in 1946. He achieved the rank of Tech Seargent, receiving an honorable discharge in January 1952. He attended college at Seattle University, graduating with a bachelor of commercial science degree in 1961. He worked at Boeing in Seattle where he met Nancy in 1963; they quickly got married and transferred to Boeing in New Orleans. They moved to Livermore, California in 1967, and had two children, Julie Nather and Norman Nather. Over the years in Livermore, they owned and operated several businesses, a small vineyard, a garage bike shop, a tax service, a Baskin Robbins, a sandwich shop, and he loved dealing with historical items and antiques. He was preceded in death by his wife Nancy and is survived by his children and grandson. A private service may be planned for later.



## Carolyn Taylor Ramsey
**Dec. 12, 1932 — Sept. 23, 2025**

Carolyn Ramsey, 93, of Livermore, California, passed away peacefully on Sept. 23, 2025.





She was born and grew up in Alhambra California. Carolyn was the oldest of four children. She attended Occidental College where she studied Art. She met the love of her life, William (Bill) James Ramsey, and was married in 1953. They moved to Livermore where Bill worked at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. Carolyn finished her art degree at the University of California at Berkeley while starting a family.

Carolyn filled her days with the Arts. She was an exceptionally talented artist whose creativity knew no bounds: she painted, quilted, crafting beautiful pieces, and sharing her voice in the choir. Her art was an extension of who she was — expressive, vibrant, and full of life. She was involved in and helped start many civic art events. Carolyn was a founding member of the A-Crew, a group who aided in many community projects centering on and supporting the arts. She volunteered to teach art at schools and senior care facilities. Her watercolor art, quilts, and fabric wall hangings won many awards and recognitions. Carolyn was a lifelong member of the Livermore Art Association, the Valley Concert Chorale, and the Amador Valley Quilters.

She had an open heart and a generous spirit, always accepting of those around her, and quick to offer kindness and encouragement. Carolyn had a sharp wit and never hesitated to share exactly what she thought — a trait that both challenged and endeared her to those who knew her. Her presence made the world a beautiful place, and she leaves behind a legacy of love, creativity, and compassion.

Carolyn is survived by her sons, Philip (Susanne) and Eric; two grandchildren, Cameron and Meghan. She leaves behind siblings Susan Porch, Sally Pointer, and Warren Taylor as well as numerous nieces and nephews and many friends.

The family would like to thank the staff at Quail Gardens in Livermore for their thoughtful and compassionate care and support.

A time to remember and share stories will be held on Thursday, Nov.13, at Omega Road Winery, 2135 S Vasco Rd., Unit C, Livermore, California, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. All who knew Carolyn are welcome.

## Pat Wheeler
**Nov. 7, 1940 - Oct. 9, 2025**

Pat Wheeler died Oct. 9, 2025, in Livermore, California, a few weeks shy of her 85th birthday. Raised with her two sisters in Rochester, New York, young Patty picked fruit on a nearby farm in the summer, braved the winds off Lake Ontario in the winter, and played flute in the school band whenever she could. After graduating from the University of Rochester in 1963, she ventured to Princeton, New Jersey, starting a research career at Educational Testing Service.



It was at Princeton that Pat's roommate invited her on a double date with a gangly physics grad student from Kansas City. Pat's first romance would be her last. She and Paul married six months later, on Sept. 3, 1966. Before long, they moved west, where he joined Lawrence Livermore Laboratory, and she commuted daily to ETS West in Berkeley in her Bermuda Blue VW Bug. Before long, the back seat was filled by two sons, Paul (PK) and Mike.

Never one to take a backseat herself; Pat earned her Ph.D. in education from UC Berkeley in 1983. Her passion for advancement led her to become the "advancement coordinator" for her sons' Boy Scout troops, essentially the mom who goads all the lazy youth into completing their merit badge requirements. PK and Mike followed in her undertow to earn their Eagle Scout ranks at the earliest possible age. Their Eagle projects reflected Pat's passions as much as their own. Pat was a dedicated blood donor with a closet full of Red Cross donor T-shirts, as well as a volunteer at the local VA hospital nursing home. Her sons' projects supported those same causes.

Pat and Paul became world travelers, starting with a 1975 New Zealand trip won in a sweepstakes. By the time she stopped traveling because of the pandemic, Pat had visited every continent except Australia (though Pat disputed that. "New Zealand counts.") She saw Costa Rica with her mom, Antarctica with her sister Judy, Europe with her sons, and everywhere else with Paul. Paul's death in 2001 came far too soon, but that same year brought her first grandchild, (Rebecca, soon followed by Kate, Emily and Jonathan), and renewed purpose in music and volunteer work.

In her final quarter century, Pat devoted uncountable hours to her various passions. She performed with more community concert bands than most people knew existed. Most passionately, Pat became an ardent advocate and handler of therapy dogs. She became den mother to a small pack of dogs (her obituary would be incomplete without mentioning Lawrence, Albert, Maddie and Wylie) and spent thousands of hours taking them around nursing homes, schools, and veterans' groups. Among her published writings are two books about therapy dogs, Successful Tails and Therapy Dogs in Action. Her words will outlive her, wherever books are sold.

Pat spent her final months at Rosewood Gardens in Livermore, a place she'd visited many times with her therapy dogs. Maddie continues those visits today.

## James Lawrence Abreu
**May 26, 1939 - Sept. 20, 2025**

Jim, 86, a beloved husband, father, and grandfather, passed away on Sept. 20, 2025. He was born on May 26, 1939, to Edith and Theodore Abreu, in Hayward, California. He attended Hayward High School and San Jose State University.



Jim is survived by his wife of 65 years, Kay; their three sons, Lyle (Patricia), Larry (Vickie), and Lance; his granddaughter, Stephanie (James) LeClercq, and his great-grandson, Anthony; his brother Mike (Annette); and numerous nieces and nephews. Jim was preceded in death by his parents, Edith and Theodore, and his brother Ted.

Jim served in the Coast Guard Reserve and proudly worked as an IBEW electrician for his entire career. His passions reflected his adventurous and creative spirit. He loved off-road racing, working with wood, especially turning pieces by hand, traveling to new places and visiting with his union brothers in the IBEW Retired Members Club. Jim will be remembered for his easy smile, infectious laugh, and his willingness to always help others.

A memorial gathering for Jim will be held on Thursday, Nov. 6, from 12 noon to 2 p.m., at the Dublin Wave Community Room, 4201 Central Pkwy., Dublin. Light refreshments will be available. In lieu of flowers, please consider making a memorial donation to the American Diabetes Association or your favorite charity in Jim's honor.

# Wade, a Splashy Two-Sport Standout, is a Big Hit at LPC

**By Matt Schwab**

LIVERMORE — When Ainsley Wade moves on from Las Positas College athletics, she will have made a mark.

A big one.

The sophomore out of Granada High School has helped the Hawks women's volleyball team rise to new heights over the past two seasons as a dominant outside hitter, fierce competitor and natural leader.

In the pool, meanwhile, Wade is one of the top divers in the California Community College Athletic Association (3C2A).

Her goal this spring, she said, is to win a state diving championship: "100 percent. I'm training really hard."

Las Positas volleyball coach Jamie Hadenfeldt — a former University of Connecticut star — appreciates having Wade rising above in her emerging program. The Hawks entered this week at 13-5 overall and 0-2 in the Coast-North Conference.

"She is our heart. She is our leader. She drives this program," Hadenfeldt said of her captain.

Hadenfeldt described Wade as someone who elevates her teammates with her voice and actions, along with a strong skill set. She has an infectious, positive presence and drive. She's also a top student.

Wade entered the week leading the Coast Conference-North Division in kills per set and ranked No. 2 in total kills.

Volleyball and diving are a splashy two-sport double, but Wade handles both challenges with aplomb.

"She is a great two-sport athlete," Las Positas swimming and diving coach Jason Craighead said, adding that Wade intends to pursue diving at a four-year school.

Where does her drive come from?

"I grew up playing sports and doing individual sports, so I've always had that, like, 'I want to win; I want to be the best," she said. "Also, my parents (Trina and Ryan) are super competitive and very athletic. I kind of grew up in this very competitive household, where we would play games and I'm trying to beat my mom and trying to win. My upbringing and my experiences in other sports really gave me that drive."



**Las Positas College volleyball star Ainsley Wade is also a standout diver for the Hawks' swimming and diving team.** (Photo — Christopher Spence)

It turns out that multi-sport athletes run in the family. Wade's dad played football, baseball and wrestled, and her mom ran track, swam and did gymnastics, Wade said.

Wade also has two athletic brothers, Reggie and Khalif.

The Hawks volleyball team has made big strides over the past two seasons. Las Positas was 0-16 in 2023, the year before Wade arrived, but improved significantly to 12-8 in 2024, including 6-4 in conference play. The current team bubbles with enthusiasm and drive.

What turned the program around so quickly?

"We have a good base of girls," Wade said. "I think that catapulted us and got the program running. I think it had a lot to do with the personalities of the girls. We wanted to win; we wanted to do well. We worked hard and that translated to the games. It definitely had to do with the personalities of the girls, taking it seriously."

Last spring, Wade was a freshman sensation in the pool. She finished third in 1-meter diving and fourth in 3-meter at the 3C2A Swimming and Diving Championships at Santa Rosa Junior College.

In high school track and field, she competed in the pole vault, high jump and 4x100-meter relay. She also did the trampoline for a couple of years and gymnastics for 10 years, which fed nicely into diving and volleyball.

She played volleyball at Granada for three years and had an "amazing" experience, she said. She moved out of state as a high school junior and played a season in Idaho but missed the Matadors' experience and returned.

"My one year in Idaho was the worst season I've ever had," she recalled. "I lost the love for volleyball, and it was just the whole thing. I was never going to play again, and then I moved back my senior year of high school to Granada, and I had one of the best seasons I ever had, and then I decided to continue playing at Las Positas."

Wade is majoring in Administration of Justice and plans to be a police officer.

"I can't get into the academy until I'm 21, so I'm just waiting for that," she said.

The Hawks volleyball team dropped its first two conference matches this season, both on the road, against powerful Cabrillo and Monterey Peninsula, which are ranked 17th and 18th in the state, respectively. But the Hawks could rebound quickly. They had an impressive stretch of 11 consecutive wins in nonconference play.

Wade marvels at how her teammates can turn it up on a dime.

"I see how we can get in a rut and get out of it in the same game, and it's like I've never been part of a team that can do that," Wade said. "I know the potential and how we can play. We can be really good if we really focus and put our mind to it."

Hadenfeldt said Wade is good at resetting and focusing on the next point.

Clearly, Wade relishes the excitement of volleyball and being in a team sport. The Hawks' big goal is to make the playoffs.

"I definitely prefer volleyball out of all the sports," she said. "I think it's the most fun — just the different aspects of the game and the feeling I get when it's high pressure and I need to perform for my team, and the feeling I get when I get a kill. You can't get that in any other (sport)."

For her part, Hadenfeldt has built the Hawks into a formidable force after being hired in August 2022. She inherited a program that had been basically dormant since the 2019 season, idling in 2020 and 2021 during the COVID-19 pandemic. She has vast club and high-school coaching experience, as a former multi-sport athlete at Benicia High who excelled at UConn (2001-04). She was All-Big East, team most valuable player, All-Region, Iron Husky and Scholar-Athlete.

Wade has thrived under Hadenfeldt's tutelage. Freshman sensation Madi Huddleston, an Amador Valley High graduate, is also having a big season at outside hitter. Sophomore setter Jade Dancel (Dougherty Valley) is ranked high in service aces and assists.

"She knows a lot about volleyball," Wade said of Hadenfeldt. "She has helped me, definitely, in improving my game all around, and I think how she coaches is super positive. I don't feel afraid when I'm on the court. … Obviously, she's helped us improve our skills as different players. I have full trust in her."

Now it's on to the next big jump for Wade, in the gym and on the springboard.




# Gaels Set for Clash with Foothill

**By Mitch Stephens**

TRI-VALLEY — For as long as former NFL running back Napoleon Kaufman has been around the game of football, there's nothing all that complicated about it.

"Take care of the ball," the second-year Dublin High School coach said.

Nothing could be more concise or accurate as his Gaels (4-4, 1-1) head into their Oct. 24 East Bay Athletic League-Valley Division finale against visiting Foothill (4-3, 0-1).

Dublin didn't turn the ball over in a 23-20 win at Granada on Oct. 17, while turnovers keyed previous losses to Livermore (22-21), Amador Valley (17-14) and Vanden-Vallejo (14-10).

"When we run the ball effectively and mitigate turnovers, we have won," Kaufman said.

Against Granada, the Gaels' formula of feeding senior running back Andre Armendariz (31 carries, 256 yards, two touchdowns) and protecting the ball was rewarded with a hard-earned win.

Granada (4-4, 1-1) had fought back from a 16-7 deficit on back-to-back touchdown passes from Ben Warner to Damien Miles (five catches, 142 yards), the second being a 75-yarder with five minutes to play, to go up 20-16.

But Armendariz' second rushing touchdown, this one with less than a minute to play, finished off a 75-yard drive that put the Gaels up for good.

Dublin's defense, led by linemen Thunder Hazen (10 tackles), a sophomore, and Tyler Gray (two sacks, interception) held from there. Christian Acuna and Aiden Li also had interceptions for the Gaels, who won the turnover battle, 3-0.

Skylar Stuart, another sophomore, had a 50-yard rushing touchdown to open the scoring for Granada, which has two weeks off before visiting Livermore on Nov. 7.

Due to Dougherty Valley-San Ramon opting out of the league season because of lack of players — Dublin and Dougherty Valley were originally scheduled to play Nov. 7 — the Gaels are North Coast Section eligible but will be off for three weeks after Friday's game.

### State rank

Gray, a 6-foot-3, 220-pound defensive end, has 16 sacks this season, ranking him second in the state by those keeping statistics on MaxPreps. He also leads Dublin with 77 tackles. Linebacker Malachi Smith, with 56, ranks second.

Kaufman said Gray's big numbers aren't by accident.

"He really put in the work in the offseason," Kaufman said. "He got bigger and stronger in the weight room and has really put his nose to the grindstone. He's a very explosive player."

### Bye weeks

EBAL-Valley leader Livermore (7-1, 1-0) takes a week off following a 31-7 nonleague win over Redwood Christian-San Lorenzo on Oct. 17. Matteo Lortie completed 22 of 31 passes for 287 yards and three touchdowns, one each to Shane Patterson, AJ Carey and CT Harper (five catches, 99 yards). Lortie also rushed for a touchdown, giving him nine on the season, to go with 18 touchdown passes. The Cowboys close the season Oct. 30 at Foothill and Nov. 7 against visiting Granada.

Amador Valley (2-6, 0-2 EBAL-Mountain) also has a bye week following a 56-13 home loss to De La Salle-Concord despite a 68-yard touchdown run by Vincent Maiorana and a 4-yard scoring pass from Nicco Kovacs to Ismael Duenas. The Dons return to action Oct. 31 against visiting Monte Vista-Danville and then play at California-San Ramon on Nov. 7.

### Cross-country rankings

Based on 3-mile times at big meets, athletic.net has established NCS all-division individual cross county rankings.

Among the boys, Granada senior Nicolai Barron ranks No. 4, followed by other locals, Granada's Matthew Bertrand (No. 7), Taino Mesa (No. 16), Neil Ajeesh (No. 28) and Keshav Manavala (No. 36), Amador Valley's Sattvik Raju (No. 8) and Aiden Versteeg (No. 46), and Dublin's Daniel Santhiapillai (No. 12), Justin Feng (No. 13) and Jeremy Imbo (No. 29).

Among the girls: Granada's Sade Bumpus (No. 5), Ena Lim (No. 63) and Taylor Conover (No. 69), Foothill's Macy Mullins (No. 37) and Aubrey Liu (No. 93), Dublin's Isabella Geraghty (No. 67) and Amador Valley's Kacie Wong (No. 68).

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

# Foothill Volleyball Star Rising Even Higher with a New Role

## Erstwhile Setter Nelson Flourishing as Outside Hitter for Perennially Strong Falcons Entering EBAL Playoff Semifinal

**By Mitch Stephens**

PLEASANTON — Individual glory never interested Paige Nelson.

The 6-foot Foothill High School senior could have easily followed in her mother's footsteps toward a career in an individual sport — Kareen Qually Nelson played professional golf for seven years and is member of two Halls of Fame — but immediately chose volleyball for its collaboration and teamwork.

In particular, it led her to the position of setter, the sport's center point, distributor and quarterback.

"I really like being on a team," Nelson said. "I like competing with others and against others. I love to set, to touch the ball every possession, to control the game. I love best to set a teammate and watch them in their success and put the ball away."

So, imagine Nelson's reaction when 28-year coach Dustin Collins approached early in the 2025 season to switch up her distributorship — she's already earned a scholarship to New Mexico State to set — and become the team's big and largely lone offensive threat as an outside hitter.

Defending Northern California Division I champion and perennial NorCal power Foothill started the season 0-3 and lacked some serious punch, so Collins saw the opportunity and knew the fourth-year starter would deliver, propelling the Falcons to their winning ways.

Foothill (23-7, 11-1) clinched another East Bay Athletic League Valley Division title and was preparing to host the Mountain Division champion — either defending state Division 2 champion San Ramon Valley or Monte Vista, both of Danville — in an Oct. 23 EBAL playoff semifinal match.

After a nervous start with low percentages, Nelson is a masher at the net with 373 kills — the second-leading hitter on the team has 133 — to go along with 47 aces and 238 digs, both second on the team. She needed the help of trainer Katie Hogan to overcome swing fatigue in her right shoulder — with 68 swings alone in an early match against Castro Valley (she had 26 kills) and more than 500 in one 10-match span.

Most important to Nelson is that the Falcons are back to their winning ways against top teams, including a split with Monte Vista and a five-game win over San Ramon Valley.

"She's definitely had to evolve her all-around game, but I knew she was capable," Collins said. "She has the best arm swing, and she hits the heaviest ball. It was just a matter of her feeling comfortable."

After losing four starters off last year's team, including injured outside hitter/libero Kate Vogel, a Washington State commit, the Falcons were already going to require time to gain that comfort and trust. Moving Nelson off the setter spot would require even more.



**Foothill High School senior Paige Nelson, second from right, and her Falcons volleyball teammates have had a lot to celebrate this season.** (Photo — Vien Nam)

But Danielle Yeh and Brooke Stedman have handled the setting spot superbly while Nelson settled into the main attacker mode.

"I was pretty hesitant at first because my whole future is as a setter and plus, I didn't want to let down the team," she said. "I struggled at first. But the more we worked together, the more success we had, all that apprehension left my mind. And as the mental part stabilized, so did everything else."

Nelson had faith in her young team, including transfers Addison Monnastes and Ilayda Caglar, and Collins, who has an uncanny ability to see the entire court, the big picture.

"Every season Dusty finds the very best in us," Nelson said. "Last season, we were total underdogs. No one saw us even doing well at EBALs, but we ended up in the state finals. … This team was super quiet at first because many of us were new to each other. We struggled to come out of our shell. But now we're super comfortable. Our energy has shot up a ton. We're totally connected, so we're capable of anything."

Nelson always held high expectations for herself athletically. Her 6-foot-2 father, Barry, from a small town near Houston, and her 5-11 mom, from a small town in Canada, not only come from athletic families, but tall ones.

"They were each the shortest of their families," Nelson said.

She always embraced her height, and had college volleyball on her radar, especially since her cousin Katelyn Cochran, a 6-1 setter now at Texas Tech by way of Whitney High School in Roseville, was a mentor.

Nelson dabbled in basketball, soccer, swimming, lacrosse, softball and golf as a youth, but volleyball definitely stuck. She's looking forward to college life in Las Cruces but enjoying her final senior days in Pleasanton.

"I love the players and coaching staff at New Mexico State, and I connected with them immediately," Nelson said. "(Pleasanton and Las Cruces) are alike in terms of population and being very community-based. Everyone seems involved and everything about the place checked all the boxes."

# LEGAL NOTICES/CLASSIFIEDS

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**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 following 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 following owner(s): Anne Szostek, 276 Park View Terr, Unit 3 Oakland, CA 94610; Timea Tenkei, 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 Tenkei, 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): CClinic 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.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 618107**

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

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 618073**

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

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 618080**

The following person(s) doing business as: The Right Sound Company, 25655 Dollar Street #5, Hayward, CA 94544 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): John Brearton, 125 Northgate Street, Woodside, CA 94062. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 6/23/1992. Signature of Registrant/s/: John Brearton, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 3, 2025. Expires October 2, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6580. Published October 16, 23, 30, November 6, 2025.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 618024**

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

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 617919**

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

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 618187**

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

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 617871**

The following person(s) doing business as: Martha Rosario Rueca-Gustafsoon, 4168 Bayo Street, Oakland, CA 94619; Ulf Roland Gustafsson. 4168 Bayo Street, Oakland, CA 94619. This business is conducted by a Married Couple. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 3/30/2010. Signature of Registrant/s/: Martha Rueca-Gufstafsson, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 24, 2025. Expires September 23, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6584. Published October 16, 23, 30, November 6, 2025.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 618315**

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

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 618296**

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

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 618212**

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

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 618157**

The following person(s) doing business as: Above All Surface Cleaning, 5837 Badger CT, Castro Valley, CA 94562 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Jeffrey Zimmerman, 5837 Badger CT, Castro Valley, CA 94552. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Jeffrey Zymmerman, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 8, 2025. Expires October 7, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6590. Published October 23, 30, November 6, 13, 2025.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 618055**

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

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 618270**

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

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 618177**

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

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 618180**

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

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

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# Sunol Glen School Christens New Cafeteria as 'Hoxie Hall'

By Vivien Wenneker

SUNOL — Sunol Glen School on Oct. 15 held a ribbon-cutting ceremony to unveil its newly designed cafeteria, renamed Hoxie Hall in honor of retiring director of facilities and maintenance Lowell Hoxie.

The design, which includes new ceiling tiles, floors, an updated kitchen and tables, was part of the Measure J bond allocating $10.9 million in funds to the Sunol Glen School District to fund safety and modernization projects at the school.

At the event, students and staff received opportunities to walk through and meet the architects and local artist Sonya Paz, who painted an extensive 10-foot-by-3-foot mural overhanging the kitchens. The art commemorates Hoxie's years of service and significant impact on the school and community.

Prior to that, all the students lined up in the courtyard and three eighth-graders who have attended the school since kindergarten gave presentations about Hoxie, as did an eighth-grade teacher who had attended the school as a student and had the unique experience of knowing Hoxie both as a student and now as a teacher.

The cafeteria was the first project in the Measure J bond, and Hoxie played a huge role in helping the school bring it to completion, according to Sunol Glen Principal and district Superintendent Shay Galletti

While it wasn't immediately apparent that the cafeteria would be dedicated to Hoxie, the idea came to Galletti when she was brainstorming ways to honor his time at the school.




A newly designed cafeteria at Sunol Glen School has been renamed in honor of Lowell Hoxie, the retiring director of facilities and maintenance. (Photo — Danielle Cimono)

"I've known for a while that he was going to retire on Sept. 30th, and the timing of when the cafeteria was going to be done fell at about the same time, so I started working with our architects," Galletti said. "Through a series of conversations, we came up with 'Hoxie Hall' because we thought that would be really fitting, and then they connected me to local artists, and really bringing the vision of the artwork to fruition."

The dedication was kept a secret from Hoxie until his retirement party on Sept. 25, when he received framed sketches of the artist's original drawings and smaller mockup versions of what the mural would look like.

"I was surprised when I first heard about it. It's humbling," Hoxie told The Independent. "I'm not sure why they did it. I do enjoy the murals. The artist did a great job catching all my persona: the hat, the barbeque, 4H, my old cattle brands and the school."

The mural is made up of three panels. The first shows an image of cattle, with the Hoxie family's brand. The middle shows the Sunol Glen main building, symbolic of the school, and the third panel shows a smaller array of symbols that represent Hoxie. Included are the cowboy hat that he's known for wearing and 4-H, which he's been heavily involved in, as well.

In looking back over his years at Sunol Glen, Hoxie said he's really enjoyed saying 'Good morning' to students at the drop-off line each day and getting to witness the many improvements made to the school.

"It's been an honor to take care of the grounds, look after the kids and be involved with the community," Hoxie said. "The school is a big part of the community and history of Sunol. I've enjoyed watching the changes as the kids grow up, and being able to help them when they need my help, and look after their safety."

Hoxie has not only served the school for 20 years in his current position, but is also a prominent Sunol community member, volunteering much of his free time to barbecuing for youth and non-profit groups in the Tri-Valley.

His family has been ranching in the Sunol area since his grandfather's time. As a kid, Hoxie attended Sunol Glen, as have all six of his children and one grandchild. His father served on the School Board during the 1960s-1980s, and two of his daughters have worked at the school, making it difficult for many to remember a time when the Hoxie family hasn't been involved in some way.

Matthew Sylvester has taken on the challenge of filling Hoxie's shoes, stepping into the role of new director of facilities and maintenance. According to Hoxie, Sylvester has volunteered for the school garden and helped with numerous other school projects. He also has a child attending the school.

In looking ahead to retirement, Hoxie said that he's most looking forward to spending more time with family, and barbecuing.

"We are moving to be closer to most of the kids and grandkids," he said. "I already have a barbecue dinner that I volunteered to do on the first of December."

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# Livermore Family To Turn Home Into 'Mom's Nightmares,' a Haunted House

The family at 1379 Kathy Court will convert their home into a spooky experience for Halloween again this year and invite the brave, or foolhardy, residents of Livermore to enter Mom's Haunted House.

The family, with "mom" Cristie Smith, started with a Halloween maze in the driveway in 2004, but went full haunted house, with volunteers in costumes and masks, a few years back. Last year, more than 500 people toured the one-night attraction.



"Mom's" daughter Kathy Dunn is back to spook visitors at her family's haunted house. (Photo courtesy of Shannon Dunn) .

The theme this year is Mom's Nightmares, and the haunted house will be open from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 25.

While all ages are welcome, the organizers caution parents that the goal of the volunteer ghosts, goblins and other assorted nightmare creatures in full makeup is "to leave you shaking."

Admission is free.

There will also be a "no scare" walkthrough for those not so brave or foolhardy on Halloween, Friday, Oct. 31.

# Dublin Church Holds Free Thanksgiving Dinner

A coalition of Tri-Valley churches, community organizations and business will be providing free Thanksgiving dinners for "anyone needing a place to go" from noon to 4 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 27, at St. Raymond Catholic Church in Dublin.

The 12th annual Thanksgiving Dinner, a traditional sit-down dinner hosted by the Tri-Valley Community Outreach Committee, will be held in Moran Hall, 11555 Shannon Ave.

The Tri-Valley Community Outreach Thanksgiving Dinner website says the dinner is open to residents of Dublin, Pleasanton, San Ramon and Danville. Reservations are not required.

The coalition is also recruiting volunteers to help with set-up on Wednesday, Nov. 26, cooking and serving on Thursday, and cleanup on Friday, Nov. 28.

To volunteer, donate food, or cook a turkey, go to TVC-Thanksgiving.com.

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