



This aerial photograph captures the 1,600-acre Vallecitos Nuclear Center, nestled in the rolling hills near Sunol. The wide view shows the complex of buildings and infrastructure that Zeno Power intends to revitalize for its new manufacturing facility. Existing research buildings and laboratories sit among open fields, adjacent to a section of larger structures, some dating back to the site's historic operation as the nation's first privately owned nuclear plant. NorthStar Group Services continues decontamination and decommissioning efforts across the broader site. (Photo courtesy of Zeno Power)

Zeno Power to Revitalize Historic Vallecitos Nuclear Center Facility

The Project Brings Advanced Battery Manufacturing to the 1,600-Acre Site

By David Jen

SUNOL — Nuclear-battery maker Zeno Power announced last month plans to establish a battery manufacturing facility at the historic Vallecitos Nuclear Center.

Vallecitos operated as the country's first privately owned and operated nuclear power plant from 1957 to 1963. After its main boiling water reactor was shut down in 1963, the site's test reactors, laboratories and hot-cell facilities transitioned to research work.

A nuclear battery harnesses the heat given off by the natural decay of radioactive material to generate power. Compared to more common household or electric-vehicle batteries that store energy in

chemical bonds, nuclear batteries can supply steady power for years without sunlight, refueling or maintenance.

Zeno's selection of Vallecitos takes advantage of the facility's existing hot cells — thick-walled rooms with shielding and manipulator arms that allow safe handling of radioactive material. Technicians will load a battery's radioactive material and seal it within several layers of containment before removing the battery from the hot cell.

"Vallecitos already had this hot-cell infrastructure that has been utilized safely for decades, which is part of why we're revitalizing it rather than building a brand new facility," Zeno Co-Founder and

CEO Tyler Bernstein said. "It also means we're putting existing local expertise back to work — we plan to employ more than 50 jobs over the next three years, drawing on nuclear and engineering talent in the Tri-Valley."

Bernstein said that Zeno has focused on undersea and space-exploration applications, two areas most in need of such extended-power technology. The company has developed undersea batteries fueled by strontium-90 and space batteries fueled by americium-241.

"The ocean floor is becoming increasingly important for defense infrastructure, from persistent sensing networks to seabed communications," Bernstein said.

(See POWER, page 7)

Pleasanton City Council Places Hotel Tax Measure on the November Ballot

If Passed, Rate Would Jump to 12% to Increase City's Income

By David Jen

PLEASANTON — Pleasanton voters will decide this November whether to raise the city's hotel tax from 8% to 12%.

The increase, which requires a simple majority to pass, would help bring the city an additional \$2.8 million in annual revenue, according to city estimates, at a time when the city faces a structural deficit between \$7 million and \$8 million per year. The city operates on a two-year budget cycle. On July 1, it started the second fiscal year of its current cycle.

The Dublin City Council is also

considering raising its hotel tax rate. But it decided in June to hold off on its ballot measure until city staff could quantify the impacts an increase would have on hotel businesses. Staff expects to present the report in August.

The city council presented a united front at its July 7 meeting when it voted unanimously to formally place the measure on the ballot. While all councilmembers saw the increase as a significant step toward reducing its deficit without directly taxing Pleasanton residents or businesses, they disagreed somewhat on the role economic growth will play in bridging the remaining

budget gap.

"We will need to continue our efforts at growing our city's economy, while also aggressively managing our budget to ensure future balanced budgets, while meeting the service needs of our community," Councilmember Craig Eicher said.

Meanwhile, Councilmember Jeff Nibert said, "There's no way we can grow Pleasanton out of our structural deficit."

No one spoke in opposition to the hotel tax measure at last week's meeting. According to a survey of 251 Pleasanton residents conducted in May, 67% of Pleasanton respondents support a hotel tax

(See TAX, page 7)

Pleasanton Police Scrutinized Over Data Sharing Breach

License Plate Readers Spark Community Privacy Concerns

By David Jen

PLEASANTON — The Pleasanton Police Department (PPD) shared license-plate data with U.S. Customs and Border Protection as recently as last month, a violation of both state law and PPD's own policies.

"Not only is it disappointing that the agency tasked with enforcing the law is itself failing to follow the law, its actions may have endangered the residents, visitors, neighbors and families of Pleasanton," Mike Katz-Lacabe, director of research for Oakland Privacy said. PPD Lieutenant Nicholas Albert told The Independent that the department

unintentionally shared the data.

The leak came to light last week at the July 7 city council meeting when Katz-Lacabe shared results from his review of the city's settings in its Motorola Vigilant Solutions license-plate reader system.

Automated license-plate readers photograph and read license plates of vehicles as they drive past. Law enforcement agencies, including PPD, position the readers at key intersections to monitor a city's vehicle traffic. If a plate matches an existing hotlist of suspicious vehicles, the system flags the photo for human review.

Through public records re-

(See POLICE, page 7)



An aerial view shows that at least one Motorola Vigilant camera remains installed at the Hopyard Road and I-580 East offramp intersection as of July 14. This hardware continues to monitor traffic weeks after privacy advocates revealed that the city shared data with federal border agencies. (Photo --- David Jen)

Dublin School District Bond Saves \$4.3 Million

Refinancing Cuts Long-Term District Debt

By Sanestina Hunter

DUBLIN — The Dublin Unified School District refinanced approximately \$71.65 million in outstanding General Obligation Bonds on June 23, a move legally required to pass savings directly to local homeowners. The refinancing is expected to save taxpayers approximately \$4.275 million over the remaining life of the bonds.

While DUSD continues to navigate ongoing budget concerns, legally, general obligation bond refinancing cannot be used to buoy the school district's general operating fund. Instead, the wisdom behind the strategy is to reduce the district's overall future debt liabilities. In addition, there is some reduction of cost to local residents translating to an average savings of about \$11 per year for

individual homeowners.

The bonds being refinanced are tied to voter-approved facilities programs from 2004, 2012 and 2016. The programs supported major projects including modernization of Dublin High School, construction of Amador Elementary, Cottonwood Creek K-8 and Emerald High School, classroom expansions at Frederiksen and Murray elementary schools, and other district-wide safety, technology and facility improvements.

Favorable market conditions drive interest rates lower, creating a prime time for the transaction. The 2026 Refunding Bonds were issued at a true interest cost of 3.32%, --- a decrease of 0.68% from the original bonds' average borrowing cost of 4%.

"Similar to refinancing a home mortgage to obtain a lower in-

(See REFINANCING, page 8)



The Livermore Valley Opera community mourns the sudden passing of celebrated Canadian stage director Rob Herriot on July 3. Herriot, 60, is remembered by colleagues for bringing immense heart, humor and depth to the stage. His final production for LVO was "Cosi fan tutte" this past March. (Photo courtesy of LVO)

Opera Community Faces Another Sad Loss

Tragedy Strikes Twice as News Spreads of LVO Director Rob Herriot's Passing

By Christina Cavallaro

LIVERMORE — In a shocking turn of events, the Livermore Valley Opera (LVO) family is mourning the death of yet another beloved member.

Less than a week and a half after losing its north star, Artistic Director Erie Mills, LVO announced the sudden passing of celebrated Canadian stage director Rob Herriot on July 3 at age 60. Herriot passed away in his sleep at his home in Winnipeg.

Herriot leaves a profound mark

on LVO, establishing a clear directorial legacy and strategy to sustain them. His most recent work "Cosi fan tutte" brought him to Livermore just this past March.

"It really is such a tragedy," LVO Board President Jonathan Kleid said in a phone interview about Herriot's sudden death. "And it's so close, within a week and a half of Erie. It's just too much."

Herriot, who also directed LVO's "The Barber of Seville," "The Elixir of Love" and "Don Giovanni," had a unique stage management process

that involved delving into the characters of an opera piece. Rather than having the music inspire the singers he chose to work in reverse.

Herriot spoke about his personal approach in a 2022 interview with The Independent.

"I see the singing actor inciting the orchestra to play what we hear," Herriot said. "It's completely the opposite of what many think. It's the singers' thoughts and actions that make the orchestra play ... I develop the psychology of the characters, figure out who they are and meld

(See HERRIOT, page 8)

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PET OF THE WEEK



ROMEO

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PUSD Weighs the Future of Unused Donlon Elementary

By Sanestina Hunter

PLEASANTON — The Pleasanton Unified School District Board of Trustees reviewed possible future uses for approximately 4.7 acres of unused land at Donlon Elementary School during its June 25 meeting, including concepts for single-family homes, townhomes and stacked-flat apartments.

The discussion is part of the district’s long-term asset management plan as officials determine whether the property should eventually be declared surplus. Trustees and residents expressed differing views as the discussion continued.

“The sale of the Donlon property is part of the dis-

trict’s asset management planning work,” said Ahmad Sheikholeslami, assistant superintendent of business services.

The review follows months of public outreach. After holding three public meetings — one in February and two in March — the district’s 7/11 Committee, a state-mandated advisory group tasked with reviewing unused school land, unanimously recommended declaring the property surplus. The committee presented its findings to the board on May 14.

During the committee’s public outreach meetings, residents raised concerns about the unused property, including traffic and pedestrian safety, preserving

green space, expanding Kids Club facilities and providing workforce or affordable housing, Sheikholeslami said.

Residents also said they did not want proceeds from any future sale to be used to support the district’s general fund.

He explained that proceeds from a future sale could only be used for facility improvements or the purchase of other property and could not be used for the district’s ongoing operating expenses.

Sheikholeslami said the Donlon property also fits into the district’s broader facilities planning efforts. The district is preparing to vacate approximately seven acres at its former district

office on 4665 Bernal Ave. Long-term plans for that site include revenue-generating property investments or workforce housing.

Approximately \$5 million remains on the property’s Certificates of Participation loan. Before the Bernal property can move forward, however, the district must relocate its operations yard and identify funding for the move, according to Sheikholeslami.

Following the committee’s recommendation, district staff presented several development concepts for the Donlon site during the June 25 board meeting.

Under the current zoning, the property could accommodate approximately 21 one- and two-story single-family homes that would match the surrounding neighborhood. Staff said the design could include one-story homes along Denker and Payne streets to better match the existing neighborhood.

Staff also presented conceptual townhome and stacked-flat apartment options ranging from two to three stories. Those options would require additional approvals because they are not permitted under the current zoning.

Additional options included a 99-year ground lease, which would allow the district to retain ownership of the land while a developer builds rental housing on the site. The district would receive revenue through the lease agreement.

Staff said that option is generally not financially feasible because the Donlon site is smaller than what is typically needed and is not located near mass transit.

Sheikholeslami said higher-density housing would be more difficult because a developer would

need to obtain a zoning change. If the district retained ownership of the property, he said new state legislation could provide additional flexibility for workforce housing.

However, the district currently does not have funding to develop such a project.

Real estate consultant Dominic Dutra said the site is best suited for single-family homes because affordable and workforce housing projects are generally more successful on larger sites near transit, retail and medical services.

Trustees generally favored the single-family option while raising questions about future enrollment, traffic and preserving district land.

Board Member Mary Jo Carreon questioned whether selling the property could limit the district’s ability to respond to future enrollment growth.

“I like to think about the future,” Carreon said. “What will happen if we do get growth in student attendance?”

Board Vice President Laurie Walker said she supports the concept of workforce housing because employees should be able to live where they work.

However, she also expressed concerns about traffic and student safety. Walker said that if the board had to make a decision im-

mediately, she would favor the single-family option.

Board President Kelly Mokashi said trustees must balance long-term strategic planning with protecting district assets.

“The board needs to be really thoughtful and think strategically about what will be best for our community while also considering what makes sense for this particular piece of property,” Mokashi said.

During public comment, Donlon parent Beth Thompson urged the district to prioritize student safety.

“It’s bad to put multi-family housing in that tiny space,” Thompson said. “(The land) should go into a better drop-off lane, and it’s not a priority to put housing there.”

District staff is expected to return to the board with a resolution declaring the property surplus. If approved, the district would begin seeking proposals from potential developers.



Culinary Angels packages a nutrient-rich, locally sourced meal for delivery to local clients. The Livermore-based nonprofit, which provides meals and nutrition education to cancer patients and their caregivers throughout the Tri-Valley area, is celebrating its 10th anniversary this year. The organization will host its Bounty of Hope fundraising dinner from 5 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 11, at Concannon Vineyard, 4590 Tesla Road. Tickets cost \$150 and are available online at bounty-of-hope.auctria.events. (Photo courtesy of Culinary Angels)

Culinary Angels Will Hold 10th Annual Anniversary Fundraiser

LIVERMORE — Culinary Angels, a Livermore-based nonprofit that provides meals and nutrition education for cancer patients and their caregivers in the Tri-Valley area, will celebrate its 10th anniversary with a fundraising dinner at Concannon Vineyard, 4590

Tesla Road, from 5 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 11.

The Bounty of Hope fundraiser will include a locally sourced buffet dinner catered by On the Vine Catering, wines from Concannon Vineyard, live and silent auctions and entertainment

provided by local musician Megan Gonzales.

Juliette Goodrich, journalist and on-air personality with KPTX-5, will serve as emcee.

Tickets to the fundraiser are \$150 and are available online at bounty-of-hope.auctria.events.

The County Fair Association Buries Time Capsule until 2076

PLEASANTON — When a time capsule buried at the Alameda County Fairgrounds earlier this month is opened in 2076, during the nation’s 300th anniversary, it will provide “a look back at the people, traditions and moments that helped shape the fair during this milestone year,” according to the Alameda County Fair Association.

The capsule, part of the association’s “America 250” celebration during

this year’s fair, contains memorabilia, including tickets, hats, t-shirts, lanyards and a 4H prize belt buckle, along with a history of the Alameda County Fair.

It also contains California and U.S. flags, fair staff photos, a commemorative World Cup bracelet, local police and fire department patches, and letters from Pleasanton Mayor Jack Balch, fair association CEO Jerome Hoban, all five Alameda

County supervisors, and FFA and 4-H volunteers.

“The Alameda County Fair is a summer tradition passed down from one generation to the next,” said Chief Operating Officer Angel Moore. “This time capsule gives us a way to preserve that connection for future Fairgoers. When it is opened in 2076, we hope the next generation can see the people, stories, and traditions that helped shape the fair they know and love.”

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4. GREEGN DOUBLE ACTION	Blackout w/Reverse #	\$250
5. TREASURE HUNT	3 Bingos on each face	\$300
6. GREY 3-ON	Block of Nine	\$250
7. RED 3-ON	Small Crazy Kite	\$250
8. YELLOW 3-ON	Hardway Bingo	\$250
9. PINK 3-ON	Six around the Corner	\$250
10. ORANGE 3-ON	Letter X	\$250
11. WIZARD OF OZ	Wild # by date	\$300
12. FEATURED 3-ON STRIP	2 bingos each face	\$300

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(1) Wizard of Oz
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City Council Greenlights Negotiations for Gillig Expansion

By Vivien Wenneker

LIVERMORE — The Livermore City Council voted on July 13 to begin negotiations with bus manufacturer Gillig for a development agreement that would pave the way for a major expansion of its local campus.

The negotiations with Gillig, one of the city’s top tax generators, concern a potential development that would add roughly 17 acres to the company’s existing 40-acre campus. GILLIG LLC’s main headquarters and primary manufacturing facility are currently located at 451 Discovery Dr. in north Livermore’s Oat Canal/Vasco Road industrial area.

This development would add a new office, estimated at

between 60,000 and 110,000 square feet, and a warehouse of around 80,000 square feet, all with fully private zero-emission vehicle (ZEV) infrastructure.

According to the staff report, Gillig estimates the campus expansion will generate approximately \$450,000 in annual tax revenue, represent a \$60 million investment in Livermore, and provide 240 new jobs.

“Looking ahead over the next ten years for our business, it’s time to plan where we’re going to plant our roots for the additional office,” said Derek Maunas, president and CEO of Gillig. “My desire, and that of our team, would be to create the campus in Livermore, and utilize the other land that we

have.”

To temporarily accommodate its increasing need for space, Gillig has leased around 30,000 square feet in Pleasanton, mostly office space, which Maunas says the company needs for its growing staff of engineers. At the same time, he recognizes this is not ideal, and the goal is to consolidate Gillig’s operations in Livermore long-term.

As part of the plan, Gillig proposes moving its after-market parts facility to Livermore, providing additional employee parking, and adding an enhanced and dedicated area for storage, testing, and preparation of its bus products. The campus will also allow for future zero-emission vehicle flexibility, with potential site

preparation for electric transit charging stations and hydrogen fueling infrastructure.

One concern about the proposed development, however, is that it would generate significant cross-traffic across the northern portion of Discovery Drive, with buses, equipment, and employees crossing the public right-of-way at regular intervals.

To avoid conflicts with public traffic, while also ensuring future operations are not constrained, Gillig has requested that the northern portion of Discovery Drive be privatized or otherwise closed to public traffic.

So far, city staff have conducted a preliminary traffic study but acknowledged that this is only the beginning of negotiations and further studies and analysis have yet to be done. In the coming months, the city plans to notify neighboring businesses and residents in the surrounding area to include them in the development process and ask for input.

“We certainly appreciate the partnership that we’ve had with Gillig for the past 13 years, and are looking forward to making this process work for everybody,” said Mayor John Marchand.

water since the inception of the Livermore Municipal Water system in the 1960s.

The existing agreement between the city and Zone 7 will expire at the end of 2026, requiring that a new long-term agreement be negotiated to ensure the continued delivery of reliable, high-quality water to Livermore residents and businesses.

According to the staff report, the agreement establishes responsibilities related to water delivery, water quality standards, availability of water, water conservation, operational coordination, and compliance with applicable state regulations.

The proposed agreement does not require the appropriation of additional funds from the city beyond those already budgeted annually in the Water Enterprise Fund for wholesale water purchases. The cost of purchasing water is passed through to the city’s municipal water customers as a separate charge on water bills.

This agreement will replace the existing one and uphold the long-standing partnership between Livermore and Zone 7, setting the terms and condi-

tions under which Zone 7 will continue to act as the region’s wholesale water provider for the next 30 years.

In Other Council Business

The July 13 session marked the Livermore City Council’s first-ever hybrid meeting, introducing a revised procedure and framework for public participation.

Under the newly established format, in-person speakers speak at the start of Open Forum, while remote speakers can provide public comment after regular city business.

City officials noted that this adjustment is intended to make meetings more accessible and provide residents with busy or conflicting schedules an additional option for participating.



The Dustbowl Travelers, a Livermore-based quartet featuring from left, special guest fiddler Charlie LaMothe, Frankie Bones, Bobby Bolero and Jeremy Malson blend Americana, bluegrass and folk music. The group will perform at the upcoming Tuesday Tunes concert on the outdoor Shea Home Stage in front of the Bankhead Theater at 6:45 p.m. on July 21. Tuesday Tunes is presented by the Livermore Cultural Arts Council. (Photo courtesy of the Dustbowl Travelers)

The Pleasanton School Board Votes to Restore Staffing Positions Following Improved Budget

By Sanestina Hunter

PLEASANTON — At its June 25 meeting, the Pleasanton Unified School District Board of Trustees restored several staff positions that had been previously approved for reduction after adopting the district’s 2026-27 annual budget, which reflects an improved financial outlook.

District officials said the adopted budget meets the state-required reserve levels and reflects significant progress toward long-term fiscal stability.

The improved outlook is the result of approximately \$2 million in new ongoing state funding and about \$11.7 million in anticipated one-time funding, although final funding remains subject to adoption of the state budget.

Board Vice President Laurie Walker and Trustee Mary Jo Carreon also supported the restorations.

Despite the improved budget outlook, Superintendent Maurice Ghysels recommended maintaining the district’s original reduction plan to avoid future structural deficits. He also recommended directing the additional ongoing funding toward employee compensation while reserving the anticipated one-time funding for one-time expenditures.

Board President Kelly Mokashi said the district must continue exercising fiscal caution despite the additional funding.

“It is very prudent for us as a board to think about how we are handling these fiscal decisions,” Mokashi said. “We

are not out of the woods. We are challenged with downward enrollment and fiscal responsibility. It is no secret that we will have to go back to the community for a parcel tax.”

Despite those concerns, Mokashi said she supported restoring the elementary physical education specialists.

“Unfortunately, I do feel at this point, due to the constraints and the information that we have, I do concur with the fellow trustees restoring back our physical education specialists due to too many structural challenges having to be accommodated for that type of reduction,” Mokashi explained.

She also supported using one-time funding to temporarily restore the health services assistant positions. Mokashi’s

concerns come as the district continues to face these severe ongoing financial pressures.

Indeed, those structural (See PUSD, page 6)

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Trustees unanimously approved restoring 4.2 full-time equivalent elementary physical education specialists and 2.8 FTE elementary science specialists before voting 3-2 to restore 2.0 FTE high school counselors and 2.5 FTE elementary intervention specialists, totaling approximately \$1.67 million in ongoing funding.

According to district officials, Proposition 28 funding supported the restoration of the 2.8 full-time equivalent elementary science specialists, allowing them to continue teaching elementary computer science while meeting Proposition 28 requirements.

Following the presentation and discussion, trustees and community members shared their perspectives on the proposed restorations and how the additional ongoing and one-time funding should be used.

Trustee Charlie Jones outlined the positions he supported restoring with the additional ongoing funding.

“As far as the ongoing goes, I support the science specialists, the physical education specialists, the high school counselors and the elementary intervention specialists,” Jones said.

Jones also said the anticipated one-time funding should be used to restore health services assistant positions while directing the remaining funds toward the district’s negative ending fund balance, increasing reserves, and funding curriculum and book adoptions.

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EDITORIAL

Pleasanton Must Devote More Attention to Its License Plate Data Collection

Pleasanton Police Department (PPD) — along with police departments in Oakley, San Pablo, Redding, Laguna Beach, Newport Beach and Pittsburg — shared license-plate data with San Diego Sector Border Patrol, a sector of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CPB) located in Chula Vista that covers 60 miles of the U.S.-Mexico border plus 114 miles of California coastline. According to PPD, its own department mistakenly allowed access through its Motorola Vigilant license plate readers because officials thought the sector was a state and not a federal agency.

Although PPD terminated its contract with Motorola Vigilant in October 2025, requests made through Motorola’s system suggest that Pleasanton data was still available as recently as last month to illegal sources. PPD has ruled out the possibility of internal bad actors facilitating the leak. Public agencies that collect our data must devote the resources needed to safeguard it. The irony of failing to watch over a system named Vigilant will not be lost on the public. CBP works in tandem with Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and both agencies

have leaned on aggressive tactics involving racial profiling and unwarranted arrests under the Trump administration. Major concerns around constitutional rights violations and excessive use of force have kept these agencies in a negative light. In February, the City of Mountain View canceled its contract with its license-plate reader provider Flock Safety after learning its police department accidentally enabled nationwide search. The Alameda County Sheriff’s Department revealed last month that its Flock license-plate data had been accessed by out-of-

state agencies, prompting the department to update its Flock software settings and remove the access abilities of 223 agencies. The county sheriff believes the remaining Flock agencies are state agencies. These cases highlight what happens when local governments lack the human resources and judgment needed to manage legally required privacy. Budget-strapped police departments must manage the complex oversight of the systems that protect us.

MAILBOX

Mailbox Guidelines:

Opinions voiced in letters published in Mailbox are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of The Independent. Anonymous letters will not be published. All letters are required to have the name(s) of the person(s) submitting them, city of residence and phone number, for verification purposes. Letters may not contain advertising. Abusive letters and letters containing ad hominem attacks may be rejected or edited. Letters are subject to verification and may be edited for clarity at the discretion of the editor. We reserve the right to decide whether or not the letter will be published. Headings for all letters may be edited at the discretion of the editor to properly reflect their content. A headline will be added to letters received without one. Frequent letter writers may have publication of their letters delayed or not run at all. Letters should be limited to 300 words or less and should be sent by email to letters@independentnews.com or submitted using the form below. The letters to the editor deadline is Monday at 8 a.m. If you wish to submit a letter pertaining to a special event or meeting taking place on a Monday before any given Thursday print edition — and you would like your letter to run that week — please contact the editor (editor@independentnews.com) as soon as possible on Monday to discuss the content and publication options. Otherwise, all letters submitted after 8 a.m. on Monday must hold until the following week.

Whole Milk in Schools Lucas Nelson, Livermore

The recent decision to bring whole and 2% milk back to school lunches is a step backward for school nutrition. Many children, especially students of color, are lactose intolerant, while others simply don’t need dairy to maintain a healthy diet. At a time when nutritious plant-based milks are widely available, expanding dairy options instead of embracing more inclusive choices makes little sense. School nutrition programs should reflect today’s students, not yesterday’s assumptions. Plant-based options better serve diverse dietary needs, while also addressing the ethical concerns associated with modern dairy production. If we’re serious about creating school meals that promote health, inclusion, and compassion, it’s time to stop treating plant-based options as an afterthought.

Are You Thankful?
Evelyn Mitschelen, Livermore

Do you know you can be thankful and have a changed result? What result? A changed life. So many today say that life is so bad, so hard; yes, it may be, but what we do or think is the result. I see so many people just pass by some-

one who may need help, or they are rude. God’s will (if you want to know God’s will) is, “Have a thankful heart”. That’s God’s will; it will change you. Our country was founded on the God who created you, and will give you peace, love, and grace. What is grace? God’s forgiveness and His influence upon your heart. Then we see the change he does in your life. Our founding leaders fought to start a nation on trusting and freedom. Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; who substitute darkness for light and light for darkness. With God, we can become a people who care for one another. Seek to change your lifestyle; God’s waiting.

The Steamrolling of Livermore’s Inadequate General Plan Update
Greg Scott, Livermore

The City of Livermore’s Planning Commission unanimously approved Livermore’s inadequate General Plan Update. No surprise. Undoubtedly, the Livermore City Council will do the same lockstep rubberstamping. Essentially, there are no protests from the citizenry, no recognition of the General Plan Update’s inadequacies, no perception of occurrences like Livermore’s looming water crisis. We should enjoy the precipi-

tous increases coming in the water utility bills! Why? Because Southern California is going to get mighty thirsty. Nineteen million residents, businesses, landscapes, and agricultural enterprises in seven Southern California counties receive 4.7 million acre-feet of water — previously 5 million acre-feet — from the aridifying Colorado River flows. Mead Reservoir, on the Colorado River, is at 28% of capacity and falling fast as of this writing. (An acre-foot is the amount of water to cover one acre to the depth of one foot, or around 325,850 gallons — roughly equivalent to a regulation Olympic swimming pool.) The growing shortfall will have to be made up somehow. How? From the California Aqueduct water from Northern California, which currently delivers 2.5 million acre-feet of water to the Edmonston Pumping Plant to be pumped over the Tehachapi Mountains to Castaic Reservoir for use in Los Angeles and south. Livermore gets 80% of its water from the California Aqueduct. Get ready for water competition, especially since this year the Sierra snowpack is 24% of the arithmetic average of the recorded hydrologic record and numerous recurring yearly snowpacks are 30% below that average. What plan do we have for this? None. We are going to wait for it to be a full-blown crisis. Nor do we have a plan for what generative artificial intelligence, massive tech company layoffs, and falling asset prices — like home prices — are going to do to our local economy. We call this planning?

Pleasanton Sues Vendors for Defective AMI Water Meters
Anne Fox, Pleasanton

The City of Pleasanton, hiring law firm Burke, Williams & Sorensen, LLP, recently filed a lawsuit against Delta Engineering Sales, Diehl Metering GmbH, Deihl Metering LLC, alleging their HYDRUS water meters Pleasanton purchased and installed were defective products (26CV186735; 3:26-cv-06195). Pleasanton says their water infrastructure upgrade resulted in a ‘no read’ crisis, not only because the automatic data transmissions essential for

customer billing failed, but also because replacement units were defective. Furthermore, it claims it relied on product literature and procurement materials regarding the reliability, accuracy, and 20-year useful life of the HYDRUS meters. The companies are being sued for breach of warranty, negligence, negligent misrepresentation, unfair business practices, and breach of contract. During 2016, the City of Pleasanton, through an unprecedented public relations push including Op-Eds published by its then mayor, touted its Advanced (Automated) Metering Infrastructure (AMI) project to transmit hourly usage data directly to the city to improve billing accuracy, cut water loss, and detect leaks in real-time. Why has it taken a full ten years for the City of Pleasanton to finally get around to initiating this 2026 lawsuit, when the products were purchased as part of the 2016 AMI project? Were there other systemic problems in Pleasanton’s implementation that actually caused transmission failures, rather than the products themselves? It is indeed puzzling, particularly since the lawsuit claims the damages exceed \$10,000,000 in an amount to be disclosed during the trial. How much did the city spend on the failed AMI project? How much have taxpayers and households paid for this debacle, and for how long? And now, ten years later, how much are we paying for an outside firm to litigate this?

Bring ICE to Dublin
John Lahommedieu, Dublin

I do not oppose ICE in Dublin! But apparently Johnny Roland does? In Johnny’s article, he never once mentioned the thousands of victims of crime from the illegals that poured into this country under the failed Biden/Harris regime. ICE has a job to do, and the city of Dublin has the facility needed by our government to help enforce our laws that Mr. Roland fails to agree with. Immigration has a pathway; it’s called legal immigration, yet Democrat liberals like Mr. Roland and his allies want no part of legalities. They don’t care about the American citizens who have been hurt, raped, killed by illegals. However, if one of Mr. Roland’s loved ones were assaulted

and or hurt by an illegal, it’s guaranteed he would be welcoming ICE big time. This is the problem with the Democrat liberal communist left — if it does not happen to them or affect them, in their minds then no issue exists, but that’s insanity. Common sense tells you that when people violate the law, there are consequences, but with Mr. Roland at this time the only consequence is to the hard-working, law-abiding citizens because he wants to oppose ICE and let the illegals run free in the valley. Enough is enough. I urge, no, I demand the city of Dublin City Council to support ICE, welcome them, make them feel appreciated for the hard work they do to protect us all. For the Johnny Rolands of the world, they choose chaos and nonsense over common sense and the law! Now if Mr. Roland feels strongly about this, I urge him to run for the Congress and/or Senate and change the laws; otherwise, obey them as they are! Bring ICE to the valley; let it begin with the city of Dublin.

Oppose the SB 63 Regional Transit Sales Tax
Michael Austin, Pleasanton

I oppose the proposed regional transportation sales tax. This measure imposes a broad based tax on hundreds of thousands of residents who do not use BART, do not have access to BART, and will receive little to no direct benefit from the system they are being compelled to subsidize. Pleasanton and the broader Tri Valley region already contribute substantial tax revenue to Alameda County, yet our transit access is limited to a single BART station at the edge of town. Tens of thousands of residents commute by car or use local bus systems that are not meaningfully supported by this measure. Despite this, the tax applies universally — to every taxable purchase, by every household, regardless of whether they ever use BART or any of the agencies receiving the funds. This is not a user fee. It is not tied to ridership. It is not proportional to benefit. It is a blanket sales tax that shifts the financial burden onto communities with minimal service coverage, while heavily subsidizing agencies that have struggled with governance, safety, and declining rid-

ership. Regional transit is important, but fairness matters. A tax that forces non users to pay for a system they cannot access is not equitable. A tax that bypasses local control and imposes a one size fits all burden across five counties undermines public trust. And a tax that does not meaningfully improve mobility in the Tri Valley fails the basic test of regional accountability. I urge decision makers and voters to reject this measure and pursue alternatives that are more equitable, more targeted, and more aligned with actual usage and benefit. Pleasanton residents deserve a transportation funding model that reflects our needs, our access, and our fair share — not a blanket tax that treats all communities the same regardless of service levels.

Protecting Tesla Park
Jacob Gates, Livermore

I am a Star Scout in Livermore Troop 999, and writing on the article “Alameda County Supervisors Must Resist Attempts to Develop Tesla Park for Heavy Recreational Use”. I believe that the park should be carefully maintained as a reserve with limited access to off-road gas and electric vehicles. The many unique plants and animals on the reserve need to be protected. Better access to the reserve needs to be built, while being very careful to protect the ecosystem. Limited camping and hiking can be allowed, but no gas/electric bicycles or ATVs. This is a great place to hike and really explore nature, and I do not want it to be degraded with overcamping, trash and noise disturbing the animals. The park should have its own group of rangers to patrol and keep it safe. Special care should be taken to protect the endangered animals that live on the reserve. There should be tight restrictions on fire use while camping. Campsites should be kept to a minimum. This will protect the reserve and all the visitors.

Vote for Aisha Wahab in CA-14 Special Election
Kyoko Takayama, Livermore

On August 18, we have a Special Election to fill the vacancy of Swalwell’s seat. The ballot will arrive early next week. The two candidates are both Dems,

(See MAILBOX, page 5)



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

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

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

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Reader Snapshots

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



A Livermore neighbor's backyard is the place to bee. (Photo courtesy of Peggy Arnold)

MAILBOX

(Continued from page 4)

women of color, and elected officials. Only one has bipartisan legislative experience, and California Democratic Party endorsement. She keeps showing up in the Tri-Valley. That candidate is Aisha Wahab. I am volunteering for her because she is a straight shooter. She listens to you and doesn't dodge your questions. I am tired of the politicians who show up only where money or power is, and don't answer my questions. Wahab meets us eye to eye at community events, house parties and town halls. You don't need to take my word; show up at the events and ask her. She will answer you. Her name is Aisha Wahab, and she believes in The American Dream, that everyone who works hard should have a shot at success and should be treated fairly in America. Vote for Aisha and drop your ballot at the drop box so that we can have a representative back in DC to start fighting for us.

It's Up to Us John Cameron, Dublin

There's a very important election coming up that will strengthen America's will to stand up for truth, justice and fairness, or continue a trajectory towards autocracy.

Already the strategy of blaming one's opponent for what they themselves do is evident in races from top to

bottom. The president has been playing this card long before politics, and locally it's supervisor Haubert blaming Aisha Wahab for attempting to hold spending by the board to account. His argument is one of deception, deflection and hypocrisy. Motive? Get Melissa Hernandez, a political cronie, elected.

He has millionaire friends with deep pockets and self-serving motives. He, like so many, has forgotten — public service should serve the public.

It's unfortunate that money is so effective at determining elections. I can only attribute this to time. Many voters, because of ever busier lives and trying to make a living, source much of their ballot information on deceptive ads and sketchy endorsements. The irony is, the harder the political machine, driven by deep pocket millionaires and billionaires working to back "friendly" candidates to benefit themselves and not the public good, the harder the average person has to work. It's a conundrum that works against us more and more. "POWER" understands this!

I truly hope this next election, people carefully invest time to stop the momentum "corruption" has played in infecting our democracy and pitting us against each other.

And remember, even if you don't "do politics," it's always "doing you."

I Think Ken Burns Got It Right Frank Cannella, Livermore

Recently renowned film historian Ken Burns was interviewed by a reporter, and the discussion was shown on T.V. The opinions he shared really made me stand at attention. At their core were his comments about great American leadership in the past. He made the comment that truly great leaders do not worry about building monuments to themselves during their tenure; instead, they do their honest best at the job at hand and allow historians to build the monuments, if any are deserved. Think of the Lincoln Memorial, the Washington Monument, and Mt. Rushmore to name a few. Each of those monuments were built acknowledging achievements made years after these people had passed away, and their actions were judged by history. Only an insecure despot would build monuments to himself/herself while they were still in power. Can you think of anyone you know of who might stoop to such an egotistical gesture? I can.

Thank You Keith Jackson, Dublin

I asked Trump supporters to explain why they still supported him after all he has done, and boy did I get a winning response from John Lahommedieu of Dublin.

Apparently, we won the war with Iran, saved the Middle East, and prevented a nuclear war. So why are gas prices so high? This is a page out of the Trump playbook. Screw up a job and just call it a victory. And how have we prevented a nuclear war with a country that has not yet built a nuclear bomb? Many countries want a nuclear bomb as a deterrent from larger countries wanting to invade them and take their resources. (Sound familiar?) Trump also claims that if Iran had a nuclear bomb, they would immediately use it. No country would, because they know the nuclear retaliation would be devastating. The writer says that sometimes sacrifices have to be made for the common good. That is true, but the common good in this case is apparently Trump and his friends' personal wealth, and we all get to make the sacrifices. He says that I made accusations of lying and graft but offered no proof. The trouble is that I only get 300 words in this paper, so instead of long descriptions, just watch any of Trumps news conferences to witness his lying and incoherence. He ends by giving thanks to the lord and Trump. (Apparently, they are one and the same for him.) Despite what MAGA man says, I do appreciate what people over the years have sacrificed for this country. Trump has never sacrificed anything for this country. People everywhere are working hard to fight for our democracy as Trump works to take our rights away. What do you think?

Welcome to Trump World: The Qatari Fiasco Rosario Milelli, Pleasanton

Over a year ago in this forum, I stated, "The Qatari 747 'gift' only the

stupidest person on earth would accept". On July 1st, Trump's inaugural flight on the Qatari jet, he shared his excitement for the new aircraft and its foreign builders, saying the U.S. "couldn't build a plane like this." Obviously false; the jet was built by Boeing and modified by L3Harris. He was referring to the gold toilets previously installed by the Qatari king.

But guess what happened; Trump was not allowed to fly back from Turkey on the Qatari jet because of the Iran threat and the apparent lack of adequate defensive capability. He was forced to fly on the old presidential aircraft, VC-25A, for safety reasons. The ridiculous story about sending it to England so the troops could see it, seriously?

Trump insisted the retrofit be completed by July 4th, ten months total retrofit time. So, the Air Force, bowing to Trump's wishes, admitted they cut corners; they deleted capabilities, details are obviously classified. The Air Force

claimed the Qatari jet as modified was safe and secure. But clearly unable to complete the required presidential mission.

So what has the so called "free" Qatari Bridge aircraft actually cost? We will never know the truth, but the actual modifications are reported to be about \$400 million. The Air Force bought two similar 747s for \$400 million; one to do training, the other for parts. They leased a 747 to train the pilots; they built full scale mockups, spares; my guess is a total of one billion dollars. As a reminder, this goes to Trump in two years.

(See MAILBOX, page 6)

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Local artist Kent Moore’s painted red, white, and blue chair entitled “Celebrating 250,” is the picture of patriotism. Those who missed the July 11 in-person auction still have an opportunity to support the Pleasanton Cultural Arts Council. A limited number of these unique, hand-crafted chairs remain available for direct purchase on the PCAC website. The full gallery can be viewed and remaining pieces purchased at pleasantonarts.org/chairity-fundraiser. To secure a specific selection, buyers can email info@pleasantonarts.org with the name of the chair in the subject line. (Photo courtesy of PCAC)

PUSD
(Continued from page 3)

challenges—including declining enrollment, rising costs, the loss of pandemic-era funding and and comparatively low Local Control Funding Formula revenue — prompted trustees to approve approximately \$11.2 million in reductions for the 2026-27 fiscal year. However, some of those staffing cuts have since been rescinded or restored after additional funding became available.

Those discussions followed months of budget planning, negotiations and cost-cutting efforts.

At its June 11 meeting, the board approved using approximately \$11 million in anticipated one-time funding

to strengthen the district’s financial position and temporarily restore health services assistant positions.

District officials also said the elementary music program will continue in its current format without restoring the previously proposed 1.26 FTE reduction because of adjusted enrollment and staffing projections.

During public comment, several teachers and parents urged trustees to restore classroom support positions, arguing the proposed reductions would negatively affect students and increase classroom teachers’ workloads.

Rachel Ensler, a teacher at

Lydiksen Elementary School, said the proposal would shift additional responsibilities to classroom teachers and undermine foundational learning.

“This proposal does not work for kids, and today’s dollars need to be spent on the children in front of us now. If we’re not supporting them at the foundational level, then they’re not going to be as successful going forward,” Ensler said.

Se added that integrating science instruction into the classroom does not align with the district’s science standards and would reduce instructional time while increasing teachers’ workloads.

MAILBOX
(Continued from page 5)

All this expense to satisfy Trump’s ego, an unusable plane, a similar outcome as the reflecting pool paint job.

Holding Them Accountable
Ramona Krausnick, Dublin

Before this year’s primary election, Eric Swalwell, our East Bay Congressman running for California Governor, needed to withdraw from his campaign and then resign from Congress due to sexual assault charges, even those committed in the past. Now, before the November election, Graham Platner, Democratic candidate for Maine’s critical Senate seat, has been forced to withdraw from his campaign due to sexual assault charges, again in the past. Question: why

is this information coming out NOW right before an election instead of when these sexual crimes were committed in the past? I’m not saying the crimes didn’t happen — only the accused candidates and the women accusers know for sure. I’m only asking: who dug up this dirt in the first place so close to an election? Was it one of their Democratic rivals or a Republican?

Trump’s history of sexual crimes is much longer than these two. Ten years ago, he admitted on the Access Hollywood tape that he could grope women whenever he wanted because “when you’re a star, you can do anything” (check it out). He was elected in spite of that. Three years ago, while in office, he was convicted

of sexually assaulting and defaming E. Jean Carroll years ago. Now a judge has finally ordered him to pay her \$5 million. Then there are the Epstein files where his name was redacted from certain (but not all) pages.

Why are the Republicans not up in arms and demand that Trump resign due to sexual assault charges? Eric Swalwell and Graham Platner have been held accountable. Why hasn’t Trump been held accountable? Are only the Democrats held accountable for their sexual crimes and the Republicans not held accountable? Are the Democrats the only ones willing to accept responsibility for their actions and the Republicans not willing?

THE *Independent*

READER SNAPSHOTS
Share Your Best Shot

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

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Latest Luke Ryder Murder Mystery Is Set in Livermore’s Stomping Grounds

LIVERMORE — Livermore resident and award-winning author John Bluck has set his latest mystery about espionage, murder and a fusion-powered rocket in his hometown.

“Murder in Livermore,” published this month by Rough Edges Press, is the seventh book in Bluck’s se-

ries about Kentucky Deputy Sheriff Luke Ryder.

In “Murder in Livermore,” the FBI asks for Ryder’s help in investigating the murder of a Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory engineer working on a national defense project.

“I chose my hometown as the setting for this seventh volume of my Luke

Ryder series because visualizing the story unfold in a familiar place was easy,” Bluck said.

Bluck is a former tv news cameraman, Army journalist and public affairs officer for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). His first Luke Ryder novel, “Murder in the Hollar,”

was published in 2021.

Rachel Del Grosso, an editor with Rough Edges Press, noted that Bluck’s “background in journalism, the military and NASA comes through in the story (and) gives the book a real sense of authenticity.”

“To Die in Livermore” is available in paperback and as an e-book.

POWER

(Continued from front page)



From left, Scott State, representing NorthStar, and Tyler Bernstein, CEO and co-founder of Zeno Power, are pictured standing in one of the hot cells at the Vallecitos Nuclear Center. This specialized, shielded infrastructure will be repurposed for manufacturing Zeno Power’s nuclear batteries, bringing new life to the historic site. (Photo courtesy of Zeno Power)

“These systems need to operate for years without human involvement — nuclear batteries enable this persistence and reduce risk to defense personnel, especially in contested regions.”

Similarly, he said that in many regions of outer space, “solar power becomes unreliable or insufficient. Nuclear batteries will enable continuous operation through two-week-long lunar nights, in permanently shadowed regions on the Moon, and support deep space missions where sunlight is too weak for solar power. They’re essential infrastructure for the next generation of space exploration.”

For example, the two Voyager spacecrafts, which toured the solar system in the 1970s and 1980s, rely

on nuclear batteries for their power. Launched in 1977, the two spacecrafts continue to transmit data to Earth despite leaving the solar system and operating for almost 50 years.

Alameda County Supervisor David Haubert called the agreement “a major win for Alameda County. Zeno’s investment creates high-skilled jobs, preserves decades of irreplaceable nuclear expertise at Vallecitos, and generates significant economic activity in our region. We’re proud that Alameda County will be home to the advanced manufacturing capabilities that power America’s defense, space exploration, and commercial missions.”

The site’s former owner GE Hitachi began work with

NorthStar Group Services in 2023 to decontaminate the site, including removal of its main reactor and spent fuel that year. GE Hitachi transferred site ownership to NorthStar in March 2025, which has continued decontamination work with the goal of restoring commercial and industrial uses on the 1,600-acre site.

Zeno has partnered with NorthStar to restore the hot-cell infrastructure as decontamination work continues across the broader complex. Zeno plans to deliver its first systems in 2027.

“The Tri-Valley has been a center of innovation for decades, and Zeno’s restoration of a key portion of Vallecitos continues that proud tradition,” said Katie Marcel, CEO of Inno-

vation Tri-Valley Leadership Group. “This project demonstrates how preservation and cutting-edge technology work together. We’re excited to welcome Zeno to our region and support their growth as they scale production of nuclear batteries.”

TAX

(Continued from front page)

increase. Thirteen percent of respondents were neutral and 20% opposed the increase. The Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce has remained neutral on the measure.

The council also voted unanimously to form a subcommittee to draft the measure’s primary argument. Nibert and Eicher will serve on the subcommittee. Primary arguments are due Aug. 13 and rebuttal arguments Aug. 20.

The hotel tax, or transient occupancy tax (TOT), is levied on lodging customers who stay 30 days or less in the city. Pleasanton, along with neighboring cities Dublin and Livermore, currently offers the lowest hotel tax rate in the county, where all three municipalities sit at 8%. Countywide, rates range between 8% and 14%.

Anecdotal evidence has suggested that travelers focus on hotel base rates

and do not change their destination cities because of tax rates.

Pleasanton’s ballot measure, if passed, would raise the city’s rate to 10% the first year, and then to 12% the following year.

“There never is one single bullet that answers all the questions,” Mayor Jack Balch said. “It’s a variety of things that come up to make the solution, and this is one of them.”

POLICE

(Continued from front page)

quests made by Oakland Privacy, Katz-Lacabe found that dozens of law enforcement agencies across California have been illegally sharing license plate data with federal and out-of-state agencies in violation of state law.

PPD, along with police departments in Oakley, San Pablo, Redding, Laguna Beach, Newport Beach and Pittsburg, shared data with an agency named San Diego Sector Border Patrol — a sector of U.S. Customs and Border Protection located in Chula Vista that covers 60 miles of the U.S.-Mexico border plus 114 miles of California coastline.

PPD audits of its data sharing failed to catch the federal agency in its access list.

“The San Diego Sector Border Patrol, a federal agency, was inaccurately listed as a California state agency on the Agency Data Sharing Report associated with the Motorola Vigilant system,” Albert said. “It was extremely difficult to discern the fact it was a federal agency based upon how the agency was listed in the report.”

The city terminated its contract with Motorola Vigilant and stopped its audits in October 2025, believing the system had been deactivated, he continued.

But according to Katz-Lacabe, Pleasanton’s system still showed up as a data source as late as June. PPD has ruled out the possibility of internal bad actors facilitating the leak.

A third-party vendor, Lehr Auto Electric, installed the cameras, and Motorola Vigilant managed their operation. As of July 14, at least one Motorola Vigilant camera remained installed in Pleasanton.

Albert said, “The cameras have been deactivated and are in the process of being removed. They are no longer collecting data as of last week.”

A class-action lawsuit filed on June 18 against Motorola Vigilant alleges that the company violated the privacy rights of drivers who drove through surveilled cities. According to Gibbs Mura, the law firm representing the plaintiff, Pleasanton resident Aaron

(See POLICE, page 9)



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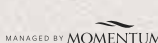


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PLEASE HELP BRING MIGUEL HOME



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 last June.

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

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

HERRIOT

(Continued from front page)



The cast of “Cosi fan tutte” stands with director Rob Herriot (center), whose sudden passing on July 3 is being deeply mourned by the Livermore Valley Opera community. Pictured with Herriot from left are Samuel Kidd, Sid Chand, Meryl Dominquez, Megan Potter, Courtney Miller, and Eugene Brancoveanu during the production’s run at the Bankhead Theater this past March. (Photo courtesy of LVO)

that to what the composer has given them to sing and what the composer has given the orchestra.”

The results yielded characters rich with depth, humor and life. Herriot had a way of bringing the most relatable, timeless aspects of the human condition to the stage, allowing modern audiences to see themselves in classic works.

“He was just such a treasured member of the LVO family,” Kleid said. “And a lovely human being. Very gentle. A very fine guy and it’s a true loss. He was really admired and loved by the company.”

Herriot was recognized across North America for his work in both opera and musical theater, directing for companies such as Calgary Opera, Utah Opera and Arizona Opera. He was also a dedicated educator, mentoring emerging vocal artists across Canada, including prestigious summer programs and university faculties.

“He was just so wonderful and humble...so good-natured, he put you at ease right away,” Kleid said. “And he, like Erie, knew his craft. He knew stagecraft and what to do.”

Herriot is survived by his husband Lars Treloar and was open during an interview with The Independent earlier this year about sharing the way that life and its seasons had influenced the stage direction for his last LVO work, “Cosi fan tutte.”

“Now, being older, the person I married is compro-

mised health-wise. And at the time I met him, I thought, ‘Man, you’re building a nest in a falling down tree,’” Herriot recalled with tenderness. “But it was undeniable. I was like, I can’t not. This is the person I’m going to love for life. And that’s what the conundrum is in this opera.” Herriot chose to inject the production with humor on the heels of deep emotion throughout because life experience had taught him how closely laughter and pain could sit together. Humor had been a huge attraction in his own relationship, he shared.

“That was one of the reasons I fell in love with my husband. We were able to laugh,” Herriot said. “In a way, his whole mandate is about laughing and being joyful and experiencing life one day at a time. One minute at a time. And it has changed my entire life.”

Mills’ death was a devastating loss that Herriot, even in his final days, was still trying to process. In what would become Herriot’s last interview with The Independent, his thoughts were entirely with Mills’ husband, Tom Rescigno, noting how deeply the couple had been entwined.

“That is sort of killing me in short stabs,” Herriot had said. “They were so inseparable that I just don’t know how he’s gonna face it. And that just crushes me, because I love (Tom) so much.”

In a poignant twist, it was actually Rescigno who broke the news of Herriot’s passing

to Kleid. But in a move that speaks to the resilience of the company — and one that colleagues say Herriot would have loved — Rescigno is stepping into the fold to help carry the torch.

The LVO Board of Directors recently made the unanimous decision to appoint Rescigno as its newest member and Board Artistic Liaison.

“Tom and Erie were really, really partners,” Kleid said. “And there was also a real artistic partnership.” In fact, Rescigno hails from an extremely opera-centric musical family, Kleid said. His Uncle Nicola was Maria Callas’ conductor, and his brother Joe was a prominent conductor as well, before retiring.

“Even though Tom is a

physicist, he grew up surrounded by opera and knows it very, very well,” Kleid said.

“They’ve worked a lot together — obviously nobody replaces anybody — but it’s wonderful to have him,” Kleid said.

In response to the board appointment Rescigno said in a phone call with The Independent,

“How do you represent a person whose life was bigger than life? You can’t, but I’ll do my best.”

It is a sentiment that those who knew Rob Herriot would undoubtedly apply to him, too. As LVO navigates this double grief, they do so carrying both Erie’s artistic brilliance and Rob’s fierce, joyful reminder to live — and laugh — one minute at a time.

‘P is for Pleasanton’ Is Now in Bookstores

PLEASANTON — East Bay authors Kori and Sammy Barton have added a seventh picture book to their Hometown Highlights Alphabet Series with “P is for Pleasanton.”

The Contra Costa couple published their first children’s book, “C is for Concord,” in 2023, followed by books about Walnut Creek, Clayton, Brentwood, Martinez and Livermore.

The books feature past and present highlights of each community through

colorful illustrations, local history and whimsical poetry.

“P is for Pleasanton,” released last month, traces the history of the city from the mid-1800s to the present.

In an online review, Gabrielle Welk, executive director of the Pleasanton Downtown Association, said the 35-page book “perfectly captures the charm, character, and small-town feel that so many of us love about this community.”

DSRSD to Host Online Candidate Briefing

DUBLIN — The Dublin San Ramon Services District (DSRSD) will host an online informational meeting for candidates interested in serving on the district’s board of directors at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 3,

Two seats on the five-member nonpartisan board will be up for election in November, including the Division 2 seat, representing southwest San Ramon, and the Division 4 seat, representing central Dublin. Board members are elected to four-year terms.

Candidates have until Friday, Aug. 7, to file with election officials unless the current office holder does not file for election, in which case the deadline will be extended to Wednesday, Aug. 12.

The Division 2 seat is currently held by Edward

Duarte, while the Division 4 seat is held by Georgean Vonheeder-Leopold.

Candidates must be U.S. citizens at least 18 years old and registered voters residing within division boundaries.

Candidates for the Division 2 seat must file their candidacy with Contra Costa County, while candidates for the Division 4 seat must file with Alameda County.

Founded in 1953, DSRSD serves 194,600 people, providing potable and recycled water service to Dublin and the Dougherty Valley area of San Ramon, wastewater collection and treatment to Dublin and south San Ramon, and contracted wastewater treatment to Pleasanton.

For more information, go to tinyurl.com/a279sy2z.

TRI-VALLEY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July 2-26

SPARC PRESENTS HAMLET AT DARCIE KENT VINEYARDS

Experience Shakespeare’s Hamlet beneath the stars at Darcie Kent Vineyards in Livermore. As part of SPARC’s 20th Anniversary season, this outdoor production brings one of the greatest plays in the English language to life in a spectacular wine country setting. Guests are encouraged to arrive early, bring a picnic, and enjoy local wine before the performance. All performances begin at 7:30 p.m. At Darcie Kent Vineyards, 7000 Tesla Road, Livermore. See www.sparctheater.org/hamlet for tickets and information.

Saturday, July 18

LIVERMORE LIONS CLUB SUMMER FESTIVAL

Livermore Lions and Calafia Kitchen are holding a summer festival at the Vasco Plaza on N. Vasco on July 18 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dozens of vendors and face painting will be on hand. District 2 City Councilman Ben Barrientos will be there to answer questions and show off the new Springtown Community Park.

Sunday, July 19

ARTISTS SWAP MEET

On July 19 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Livermore Art Association is holding an artist’s swap meet at Carnegie Park in Livermore. Refresh your studio and discover new creative treasures! Join LAA’s Artist Swap Meet to buy, sell, trade, or give away gently used art supplies, studies, and older artwork. A fun, casual way to connect with fellow artists and give unused materials a new life. Free to participate; registration required. See livermoreartassociation.org for more information.

Saturdays, July 25 and August 29

ART TALKS AT CHOCOLATE FISH

Livermore Art Association will be hosting Art Talks at Chocolate Fish Coffee Roasters in Livermore from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m. Join fellow artists for a fun and casual creative meetup! Share your artwork, exchange ideas, discover new materials, and connect with others who love making art, whether you’re a beginner or a seasoned artist. See livermoreartassociation.org for more information.

Saturday, August 1

FREE DAY OF OUTREACH

Families are invited to a free day of fun, food & community! Enjoy backpack and school supply giveaways, fresh haircuts and braiding, a delicious BBQ lunch, kids’ activities, raffles, resource tables, and more! On Aug. 1, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at The Well Community Outreach Center, 2333 Nissen Drive, Livermore. For more information, call 925-479-1414.

Saturday, August 1

DRESS A GIRL AROUND THE WORLD

Make simple dresses for girls in Third World countries! The next monthly Sew-Fest is on Aug. 1, 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, August 1

THE CASH BOX KINGS TO PERFORM LIVE IN LIVERMORE

The award-winning blues band The Cash Box Kings will perform live at the Almost Famous Wine Company in Livermore at 2271 S. Vasco Rd., on Aug. 1 at 7:30 p.m. Ticket price: \$33.85-\$49.87. The group, co-led by Chicago blues vocalist and songwriter Oscar “Mr. 43rd Street” Wilson, and harmonica giant, songwriter, and singer Joe Nosek, plays masterfully raw, unvarnished, old-school ensemble blues. More info at www.almostfamous.wine.

Thursday, August 27

AMADOR VALLEY LIONS CLUB’S TRIVIA EVENT

The Amador Valley Lions Club is hosting a fundraising trivia event from 6-9 p.m. at the Dante Robere Winery in Livermore. Teams will comprise of no more than six adults. The event will feature a buffet, trivia contest, silent auction, and raffle. The cost is \$150 per couple (\$75 per single) which includes a buffet dinner from Melo’s Pizza and one bottle of Dante Robere Wine per couple (two glasses of wine for singles). Proceeds will benefit local non-profit charities serving the Tri-Valley area. For reservations and information, call 925-968-4800.

ONGOING OPPORTUNITIES

FOOD RELIEF SERVICES

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

ONGOING EVENTS

UNDERSTANDING ISLAM

On the third Saturday of every month from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. there will be a free class for women only who would like to educate themselves about the world’s fastest growing religion, Islam, and the followers of this faith, Muslims. Offered at Islamic Center of 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.

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.

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

REFINANCING

(Continued from front page)

terest rate, the district refinanced a portion of its outstanding bonds to reduce borrowing costs without extending the repayment term,” Superintendent Matt Campbell told The Independent. He explained that because the Refunding Bonds have lower debt service requirements than the original bonds, the district’s overall

debt service obligations are reduced.

This marks the 12th time DUSD has successfully lowered interest rates on its outstanding bonds. According to the district, these cumulative fiscal stewardship efforts have generated approximately \$153.9 million in total savings over the years.



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Junior Livestock Auction Rounds Out Alameda County Fair

By Kathryn Stroud

TRI-VALLEY — While some fair attendees might have walked home with prizes and stomach aches from too much funnel cake, others walked away with a literal ton of beef from the Junior Livestock Auction.

The auction took place last Sunday, the final day of the Alameda County Fair. It started at 9 a.m., with hundreds of people packed into the stands, ready to bid on animals that had been raised by students participating in Future Farmers of America (FFA) or 4-H. Both are agricultural programs focused on youth development through education and hands-on learning experiences, such as raising livestock for the county fair.

“It’s completely student-led. They feed them, they bathe them, they train them,” explained Ashley Porter, Livermore Future Farmers of America (FFA) advisor. Porter comes from a multigenerational Livermore family with deep roots in the fair’s livestock events. In fact, she has been coming to the fair since she was two months old.

“It’s a family tradition at this point,” Porter said. “As soon as I could show, I was in the ring.”

Growing up, Porter raised and showed many animals herself through Livermore FFA. Now she serves as an advisor to the dozens of students participating in the auction.

“There are cattle, sheep, pigs, goats and turkeys. Many students show multiple animals, especially now that we’ve added the turkey project. They think the turkeys are so much fun,” said Porter.

One of those students showing is Mia Martin, a sophomore and the soon-to-be president of the Livermore FFA. This year, she raised two steers, one pig, and 18 turkeys.

“I’ve been showing since I was nine years old,” Martin said.

Not only are the animals raised by the students, but they are also the ones expected to reach out to past buyers and auction attendees to market themselves and their animals. One way this happens is through the buyers letters.

“About a month before the actual auction, the

kids will write buyers letters that tell buyers about the animals and the students, including what they’re involved in at school and personal tidbits,” explained Porter.

what actually happens to the animal after the gavel falls. Bidders are paying for the live weight, but what eventually arrives at their door is fully processed meat. This can be

tough to visualize when the number on the auction board reads in the hundreds of pounds.

Grace Sullivan, a high school senior and member of Palomares 4-H Club in

Castro Valley, set out to solve that problem this year. She designed an exhibit for the auction that shows roughly how much meat buyers can expect based on the species they

purchase. The display uses stacked boxes, each representing one cubic foot, to illustrate the difference: lamb and goat take up just a few boxes, while a full beef order might mean buying a second freezer altogether.

“It just gives a good gauge for how much freezer space you might need,” Sullivan explained.

Or, as one passerby noted, how many friends you might have to share your boxes and boxes of meat with.

For Porter, the value of the program goes beyond the final sale price. “It teaches the kids to care for something other than themselves,” she said, adding that she has seen the growth in students firsthand, especially in first-year members who arrive at the barn with no experience at all. “There are students who have never done anything like this before, and the sense of accomplishment they get when they finish their project — though maybe that’s because they get to sleep in on Monday,” she said, laughing.

The Junior Livestock Auction is an annual event at the Alameda County Fair and has been happening for over 40 years. To support local youth agriculture, look out for what the students raise next year.



Livermore FFA member Mia Madrid showcases her 254lb pig to a crowd of bidders at the Junior Livestock Auction, capping off months of hard work raising and training her animal for the fair. (Photo by Kathryn Stroud)

Since many of the buyers are local, they want to support the students, often paying more than market price for the animals.

The letters the students send, according to Porter, make a big difference for the buyers. “If they did a good job talking to buyers, they might have more buyers supporting them,” she said.

The order of the auction is determined by the earlier judging rounds, beginning with small animals, such as turkeys, then moving to larger animals, finally ending with steers. Once an animal sells, the fair cuts the student a check directly. What happens with the money afterward is up to them. Some reinvest it into next year’s project, buying a new animal or covering feed costs. Others put it into savings for college.

For buyers, the final piece of the puzzle can be the hardest to picture:



How much freezer space do you need for a literal ton of beef? Palomares 4-H Club member and high school senior Grace Sullivan answers that very question with her educational exhibit at the Alameda County Fair. (Photo — Kathryn Stroud)

Alden Lane Nursery Will Host Annual ‘Art Under the Oaks’

LIVERMORE — Alden Lane Nursery, 981 Alden Lane, will host the annual Art Under the Oaks, featuring works by more than 35 local artists, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, July 18, and Sunday, July 19.

Food will be available from Taco Madre, Wonder Philly, Cousin’s Maine Lobster and SmoothieLi-

cious, while several Livermore wineries will offer a wine-tasting booth with the proceeds going to the LARPD Foundation, a nonprofit that supports Livermore Area Recreation and Park District programs.

Participating wineries include Arroyo Cellars, Cellar 13 Winery, Del Valle Winery, JMC Cellars, Mc-

Grail Vineyards and Wente Vineyards.

Entertainment will be provided by WithHarmony, The Blues Bottle Band and New Shoes Blues on Saturday, and by Raphael Joson, Herb Tor Blues and Extended Roots on Sunday.

Admission and parking are free.

Library to Train Literacy Volunteers

LIVERMORE — Livermore Public Library is offering a free, three-part training program this month for adult literacy volunteers at the Civic Center Library, 1188 S. Livermore Ave.

The library said volunteers are needed to work with adults on basic reading,

writing, and conversation skills for a few hours each week in small groups or on a one-to-one basis.

Training sessions are scheduled from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Monday, July 20, Wednesday, July 22, and Monday, July 27.

No prior experience is

necessary, but volunteers must attend all three training sessions.

For more information or to sign up for training, go to the Literacy Office at the Civic Center Library, email literacy@livermoreca.gov or call 925-373-5507.

Church Holds ‘Day of Outreach’

LIVERMORE — The Well Community Outreach Center, a nonprofit ministry of the Well Christian Community Church, will hold a “Day of Outreach” at 2333 Nissen Dr. from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, August 1, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The free event will include a backpack and school supply giveaway, free haircuts and braiding, barbecue lunch, kids’ activities and raffles. For more information, call 925-479-1414.

Dublin Historian to Discuss Declaration of Independence

DUBLIN — Author and historian Steve Minniear will give a presentation on the significance of the Declaration of Independence for California and the City of Dublin at the Dublin Library, 200 Civic Plaza, from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, July 18.

Minniear, who has

served as the city’s historian since 2021, is the author of three books about Dublin and the Tri-Valley, including “Dublin, California: A Brief History” and “Dublin and the Tri-Valley: The World War II Years,” co-written with Georgean Vonheeder-Leopold.

He is also on the board of the Dublin Historical Society, works at the Dublin Camp Parks Military History Center and volunteers at the Dublin Heritage Park and Museum.

The program is free, and registration is not required.

LEGAL NOTICES/CLASSIFIEDS

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LEGAL NOTICES

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 624025

The following person(s) doing business as: Woven Health Co, 3169 Rodeo LN, Livermore, CA 94550-6817 is hereby registered by the following

owner(s): Adi Fish-Williamson, 3169 Rodeo LN, Livermore, CA 94550-6817. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 6/10/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Adi Fish-Williamson, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 11, 2026. Expires

June 10, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6888. Published June 18, 25, July 2, 16, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 623992

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Hearts & Tails by Celestial; 2. Rustic Sun Gardens, 6271 Market Avenue ,

Newark, CA 94560 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Bhadouria Enterprises, LLC, 6271 Market Avenue, Newark, CA 94560. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 4/3/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Celestial M. Bhadouria,

Managing Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 10, 2026. Expires June 9, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6901. Published June 25, July 2, 9, 16, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 624115

The following person(s) doing business as: Sarah Vanier Consulting, 2948 Chateau Way, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Sarah Vanier, 2948 Chateau Way, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on

1/1/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Sarah Vanier, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 16, 2026. Expires June 15, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6902. Published June 25, July 2, 9, 16, 2026..

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 623789

The following person(s) doing business as: Pacific Precision Surveying, 2265 San Jose Avenue, Alameda, CA 94501 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Craig Arthur Roberts, 2265 San Jose Avenue, Alameda, CA 94501. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the

Traditions Meat Co. Opens in Former Livermore Cobbler Site

By Lucie Ansell

LIVERMORE — New life is on its way to the old Livermore Cobbler location, this time without the shoe repairs.

Instead, Traditions Meat Co. — the result of years of work from Domonique and Cole Minnis — will settle into the storefront

farms whose meat is on grocery store shelves. Early in their marriage, Cole’s hunting skills filled the couple’s freezer, but as their family grew, Domonique and Cole began purchasing meat from local sources to supplement their supply.

Quickly, the couple realized that this was a lifestyle they wanted to make acces-

partnered with local ranchers to serve as the bridge between sustainable farms and customers across the Bay Area.

After years of early Sunday mornings, the couple decided to take Traditions Meat Co. one step further and began searching for a more permanent location for the community to pur-

had a lot of ranchers reach out to us. They’re really excited about this.”

Following months of location scouting and paperwork, Domonique and Cole’s plans for the butcher shop were approved for the site of the Tri-Valley Cobbler, which closed last year after a change in ownership at the three-tenant center on Old First St.

Beyond the business logistics, Sallie Witt — Domonique’s mother — refused to let her daughter and son-in-law’s hard work go uncelebrated and sought out a way to mark the couple’s progress. Witt settled on a surprise party where she could bring together the family and community that has supported Domonique and Cole up until this point.

“We were so confused. We saw the mayor and our lender, the guy who helped us with this whole process,” Domonique said. “Then it started to click...definitely a great memory we will always have.”

And the couple hopes to continue to make great memories and integrate the community and local businesses into every aspect of their shop.

They plan to utilize the connections they have fostered at the farmer’s market to find suppliers for produce — which will be used in sandwiches sold at the brick-and-mortar. Domonique and Cole also hope to showcase local ranchers and stock products from various other small businesses in town.

The couple plans to take another step closer to the community with their newly acquired USDA processing facility approval, which allows them to sell their products directly to restaurants across Livermore.

While construction is underway at the new storefront, locals will be able to find Traditions Meat Co.

products every Sunday at the Livermore Farmer’s market, and online — where Domonique and Cole continue to offer home deliveries. To keep up with their progress and learn about new products, visit the company on Instagram and Facebook.

The Traditions Meat Co. butcher shop will be located at 2558 Old First St. in Livermore, and the couple hopes to have the store

open to the public in spring of 2027.

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Left to right, Cole Minnis, Domonique Minnis, and Livermore Mayor John Marchand celebrate during a surprise gathering marking the upcoming opening of Traditions Meat Co. The local business, which first launched as an e-commerce platform in the summer of 2023 before expanding to the Livermore Farmer’s Market, will bring sustainably raised and processed meats to its new brick-and-mortar storefront at the former Livermore Cobbler site next spring. (Photo courtesy of Sallie Witt)

next spring, with the goal of bringing sustainably raised and processed meats to the local community.

The Livermore natives first took an interest in meat processing after learning more about the inhumane practices that exist on the

sible to the local community.

They started small — launching an e-commerce platform with home delivery service in the summer of 2023 — before bringing their business to the Livermore Farmer’s Market.

Domonique and Cole

chase their products and learn more about ecologically-sound farming practices at ranches in the area.

“I’m excited to bring this to Livermore because it was always a ranching community,”

Domonique said. “We’ve

SpongeBob Musical Coming to Livermore’s Bankhead Theater

LIVERMORE — The Tri-Valley Theater Company will bring “The SpongeBob Musical” to the Bankhead Theater for seven performances in August.

Based on the animated Nickelodeon children’s program “SpongeBob SquarePants,” the musical premiered at The Oriental Theater in Chicago in 2016 and opened at New York’s Palace Theater on Broadway for a yearlong run in 2017.

Amid all the singing and dancing, which earned the musical 12 Tony nominations, SpongeBob and his underseas friends must save Bikini Bottom from a volcanic eruption.

Performances are scheduled for 7 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 1; 1 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 2; 1 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 8; 1 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 9; 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 15; and 1 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 16.

The 1 p.m. performance

on Saturday, Aug. 15, will be interpreted for ASL.

There will also be Girl Scout Fun Patch events following the 1 p.m. Saturday performances on Aug. 8 and Aug. 15.

Tickets are \$45 and are available online at livermorearts.org, by calling 925-373-6800, or at the Bankhead Theater box office. Student and military discounts are also available at the box office.

City of Dublin Seeks Next Poet Laureate to Serve 2-Year Term

DUBLIN — Dublin is accepting applications to be the city’s next poet laureate, serving a two-year term from January 2027 through December 2028.

The poet laureate serves as a public advocate for literary arts in Dublin, writing and reading poetry for civic events and

ceremonies, supporting city programs and schools and displaying at least one original poem in a city facility each year.

The next poet laureate will succeed Richard Deets, who has served since January 2025.

Candidates must be Dublin residents, 18 or

older, and must have published poetry or be willing to publish during their term.

Affiliation with a literary organization is preferred but not required.

The position is unpaid. Applications are due by August 14, 2026.

To apply, go to tinyurl.com/yc3zva7s.

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Sept. 11th

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Figures, Fragments, and Connections
by **Thom See**



Spanning years of artistic exploration, these figurative works bring together observation, memory, and imagination. Moving between realism and abstraction, the exhibition reflects an ongoing search for the connections that unite the many fragments of a life.

FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Gallery Hours
FRIDAY, JULY 17TH 6 - 8PM
&
OPENING RECEPTION
SATURDAY, JULY 18TH 6 - 8 PM

Art Gallery Sponsored by
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