



The recent weather has begun to awaken the area's wildflowers, which typically bloom from the end of March through the beginning of May, according to the East Bay Regional Park District. Del Valle and Pleasanton Ridge regional parks, and the Sunol Wilderness Regional Preserve all offer prime wildflower spots near the Tri-Valley. Above, buttercups line the Canyon View Trail in the Sunol Wilderness. (Photo — David Jen)

Ava's \$3.1M E-bike Push Focuses On Reducing Area Vehicle Gas Emissions

Bauer-Kahan to Mandate License Plates for Higher-Speed Models

By David Jen

TRI-VALLEY — An electric bicycle, or e-bike, incentive program from Ava Community Energy has helped fund more than 2,700 e-bike purchases in its first six months, awarding some \$3.1 million throughout Ava's service area in an attempt to reduce our dependence on cars.

Lower-income residents in either the California Alternate Rates for Energy program, the Family Electric Rate Assistance program or the City of Alameda's Energy Assistance Program received 51% of the funds awarded.

In the Tri-Valley, 384 Dublin residents, 518 Livermore residents and 443 Pleasanton residents applied to the program, with Ava awarding rebates to 244, 331 and 262 applicants in those cities as of the end of last year. Of the rebates redeemed in the Tri-Valley, about 32% went to income-qualified applicants. "E-bikes provide a wide range of practical benefits, making everyday transportation more accessible, affordable, efficient and fun," Ava CEO Howard Chang told The Independent. "By reducing physical effort, they allow riders to travel longer distances, tackle hills with ease and complete daily activities, like commuting,

errands and family trips with less strain. E-bikes also help lower transportation costs by reducing reliance on cars and expenses, such as gas, parking and vehicle maintenance."

Ava, a nonprofit community choice aggregation, buys power on behalf of electric customers in Alameda County and the cities of Stockton, Tracy and Lathrop with the mission of providing cleaner, cheaper energy.

"At Ava, one of our core goals is to help customers electrify their lifestyles through both small and transformative changes," Chang said. "Supporting e-bikes aligns directly with this goal by encouraging cleaner

(See E-BIKE, page 7)

Dublin Extends to 2027 Moratorium On New Gun Stores and Shooting Ranges

4-0 City Council Vote Launches Study of Zoning Buffers Near Schools

By Sanestina Hunter

DUBLIN — The Dublin City Council voted 4-0 on Tuesday, March 3, to extend an urgency interim ordinance prohibiting new or expanded firearms retailers and shooting ranges through Jan. 21, 2027.

The extension follows a 45-day moratorium the council adopted Jan. 20 after receiving an inquiry about opening a firearms retailer with an indoor shooting range next to a school under construction in downtown Dublin. Existing retailers are not affected.

City Planning Manager Jennifer Byous said the measure allows time to determine if zoning rules adequately regulate the industry. Under current code, these businesses are

generally allowed in commercial districts.

While indoor ranges may be approved through zoning clearance or a minor use permit, outdoor ranges require a conditional use permit. Byous said the complexity of existing regulations requires additional review.

City officials noted these businesses may pose land-use conflicts when located near sensitive areas, such as schools, parks, childcare facilities and residential neighborhoods.

During the extension period, staff will analyze potential buffers and review regulations in other California jurisdictions.

Planning staff are also coordinating with police and the City Attorney's Office on permitting

requirements.

The council action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act, because it is not expected to have a significant environmental impact, according to the staff report.

During public comment on March 3, Brent Songey questioned the necessity of a citywide urgency ordinance based on a single inquiry, suggesting a link to the recent closure of Guns, Fishing and Other Stuff. City officials denied a connection, stating the action stems solely from the proposal near the downtown school.

As for next steps, staff will return to the council with findings and policy recommendations after completing the review of firearms retail and shooting range regulations.

Alameda County Supervisors vs Voters

Voters Could Lose Their Urban Growth Boundary Authority

Voter Approval Required to Shift Land-Use Power

By David Jen

TRI-VALLEY — The Alameda County Community Development Agency (CDA) is considering a transfer of authority from voters to the Alameda County Board of Supervisors for general-plan changes related to its urban growth boundary. Such a change would require a public vote.

On Feb. 25, the agency issued an informal request for proposal for campaign analysis and strategy development services, with the intent of studying voter understanding and support of changing Measure D, the 2000 initiative

that removed county government from urban development outside the county's urban growth boundary (UGB). The current measure requires that certain development decisions, particularly changes to the boundary, be approved by a public vote.

The County's UGB, Measure D, is congruent virtually everywhere with the Pleasanton and Livermore urban growth boundaries and Dublin's urban limit line. Only a few minor exceptions are likely.

The department hopes to analyze a new initiative "to re-establish the board of supervisors as

(See MEASURE D, page 6)



Dublin Teachers Association (DTA) members, families, and community supporters gather at Kolb Park on Monday, March 9, marking the first day of the district-wide strike. The union maintains they will remain on the picket lines until the Dublin Unified School District (DUSD) reprioritizes its budget to increase student investment and educator compensation. See story on page 2. (Photo courtesy of DTA)

LLNL Helps to Safeguard Super Bowl XL Venue

Experts Sweep Large Event Spaces for Radiation

By David Jen

LIVERMORE — Last month, a team of radiological experts helped secure the safety of Super Bowl XL in Santa Clara, sweeping the area to identify and address any radiological threats.

Including about 150 members from Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL), the Department of Energy's (DOE's) Nuclear Emergency Support Team (NEST) provides radiological and nuclear emergency response capabilities when needed around the country. Potential incidents include bombs armed with radioactive debris. In addition to public health and safety missions, such as the Super Bowl, the team assists in countering weapons of mass destruction and responding to nuclear-weapon accidents and incidents.

The organization turns 52 years

old this year, and the team has amassed a history of hazard responses.

Lee Glascoe, NEST program leader at LLNL, recounted the crash of the Soviet nuclear satellite Kosmos 954 in Canada in 1978 when NEST teams, including those from LLNL, traveled to the Northwest Territories to analyze and recover the satellite's dangerous debris. NEST also responded to the partial meltdown of the Three Mile Island nuclear power plant in 1979, the explosion of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant in 1986 and the meltdown of the Fukushima power plant in 2011.

"NEST has various assets to deal with various components of response," Glascoe said. "Basically, we have experts that know how to deal with hazards that are upcoming, know how to try to find hazards with detectors, and know

(See LLNL, page 8)



Steve Braithwaite and his Big Banana Car were spotted peeling through the streets of Livermore last weekend. Braithwaite offered rides to the public in the converted F-150 that holds a spot in the Guinness Book of World Records. (Photo — Rain Hepting)

Iconic Art Car Makes Pit Stop in Livermore

A "Peel-Good" Visit by the World-Record-Holding Ford F-150 Brings Smiles

By Rain Hepting

LIVERMORE — During the first week of March, Livermore received a "peelcular" visitor.

Livermore residents Richard and Holly Sears sat at a table in their yard as neighbors and community members gathered, looked at photos, shared their favorite banana recipes and waited.

After a few minutes, the guest of honor arrived: Steve Braithwaite and his Big Banana Car. Braithwaite helped riders

out of the three passenger seats of the car and beckoned to the next in line.

Eighteen years ago, the Big Banana Car was an ordinary Ford F-150. Now, as its name suggests, it takes the appearance of a giant banana.

"My cousin is into art cars — she knows we're a little crazy, so she called us and asked, would we be willing to host him?" Richard Sears said.

"He's a very interesting person," Holly Sears added. "He's got another car that he wants

to build, and he's got a whole screenplay written about it."

The couple hosted Braithwaite for a week, during which he gave rides by request to their friends and family. On the weekend, Braithwaite opened his rides to the public in exchange for donations.

"People pay whatever they want to ride, and that's how he fuels his car," (Holly) Sears said. The crowd included parents, children and others drawn by the absurd nature of the Big Banana Car. It was popular enough that

(See CAR, page 8)

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Tech Startup Aims to Turn Screen Time into Active Play

Pleasanton's AMP MODE Blends Psychology of Gaming with Benefits of Active Play to Foster Teamwork and Connection

By Sanestina Hunter

PLEASANTON — With phones, video games and

AMP MODE, led by CEO and co-founder Nishit Rathod, features interactive gaming pods where groups participate

Independent. “That’s why a lot of these experiences are so addictive, especially when people are scrolling on their phones instead of interacting with others.”

AMP MODE uses some of the same immersive elements that make video games appealing but combines them with physical movement and social interaction.

The concept is built around three pillars: encouraging social connection among players, promoting physical activity, and creating games that people of different ages and skill levels can enjoy together.

“We try to be as mindful as we can with the type of game content we choose for youth so that it is not violent,” Rathod said.

Inside private pods — spaces roughly 10 feet wide and 30 to 40 feet deep — groups play interactive games

projected across large digital displays.

During gameplay, players kick soccer balls at digital targets, throw soft balls at animated opponents and react to fast-moving visuals across the displays.

“But I’m not talking about just waving your hands or jumping,” Rathod said. “These are skill-based activities that use cognitive skills, strategy and teamwork.”

In Super Kicks, players aim soccer balls at moving digital targets to test accuracy and reaction time, while Astro Battles challenges teams to throw balls at animated alien ships in a fast-paced defensive game.

“We meet students where they want to be,” he added. “Students don’t really care if something is healthy or wholesome — they care about having fun and being engaged.”

Most sessions last between

10 and 45 minutes, depending on player skill and progression through different levels.

Behind the scenes, the games rely on computer-vision technology that allows the system to recognize players and objects in the room, enabling the digital displays to respond instantly during gameplay, Rathod said.

Parents often bring children in looking for alternatives to passive screen time during birthday parties or family outings, Rathod said.

The pod layout is designed to keep players together during gameplay, encouraging interaction among participants.

“Everyone is in one place,” Rathod said. “Kids are bonding, they’re strategizing and they’re playing together.”

Since opening its test location, the space has hosted birthday parties, school field

trips and team-building events for local organizations.

Rathod said demand for a more social and active gaming experience has drawn families from nearby communities such as Walnut Creek and Danville.

In the future, the company hopes to partner with local schools and organizations and has begun reaching out to explore ways students can visit through field trips.



A boy aims at digital targets while playing Astro Battles, an interactive game at AMP MODE in Pleasanton. The technology uses computer vision to track physical movement and translate it into gameplay. (Photo courtesy of AMP MODE co-founder and CEO Nishit Rathod)

constant digital stimulation competing for students’ attention, a Pleasanton technology startup is experimenting with a more active approach to play.

in strategy-based games that combine digital visuals with physical movement.

“Game designers use psychology to keep players engaged,” Rathod told The

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More Than 700 Dublin Teachers Strike As Contract Talk Deadlock Continues

By Sanestina Hunter

DUBLIN — Matt Campbell, assistant superintendent of educational services for the Dublin Unified School District (DUSD), said in a letter to the community Monday that the district remains committed to reaching a resolution with the Dublin Teachers Association (DTA).

He added that the goal is to return schools to normal operations as soon as possible.

The union’s demands

would require financial commitments the district cannot sustain and could lead to cuts to student programs, services and staffing in the future, Campbell said.

While the union initially requested a 3.5% ongoing salary increase, the district’s current offer includes a 2.1% ongoing increase retroactive to July 1, reflecting recommendations from a fact-finding report.

The offer also includes increasing the district’s health

and welfare benefit contributions, reaching fully paid Kaiser Permanente benefits for single coverage by Jan. 1, 2028.

According to the letter, the district’s offer includes convening a committee to identify funding sources and priorities for reducing class sizes.

Negotiations between the DTA and district leaders continued Sunday, March 8, but ended without an agreement.

Campbell said the district

was prepared to accept recommendations from a neutral fact-finding report, which officials estimate would cost about \$11.6 million over three years.

District officials said the union presented a counterproposal they estimate would cost about \$32 million over the same period.

Union leaders said the strike will continue until a contract agreement is reached. A board meeting is scheduled for March 24.

Council Approves Refinancing of Housing Project

By Vivien Wenneker

LIVERMORE — The Livermore City Council voted to reissue bonds for refinancing the acquisition and construction of Heritage Estates, a 250-unit multifamily rental housing project restricted to seniors aged 60 and older at 850 and 900 E. Stanley Blvd.

Passed unanimously, the decision allows the city, as housing successor to the Former Redevelopment Agency of the City of Livermore, to reissue bonds in a principal amount not to exceed \$26 million and ensures that the bonds will continue to be tax-exempt.

“I think this type of development is extraordinarily valuable to our community, and I wholeheartedly support this,” said Mayor John Marchand. “This was why redevelopment agencies were formed — to create affordable housing.”

Heritage Estates was completed in 2009. Of its 250 multifamily units, 103 are restricted to low-income tenants.

Financial History And Loan Terms

The consent of the city, as housing successor to the Former Agency, was necessary to carry out the amendments. Additionally, approval was required for the bonds to continue to be tax-exempt after the amendments.

According to a staff report, the 2005 bonds are secured by a senior lien on the project. When redevelopment agencies were dissolved in California in 2012 by state law, the housing functions of the Former Agency were assumed by the city. As such, the city is the successor conduit issuer of the 2005 bonds.

The original principal amount of tax-exempt multifamily housing revenue refunding bonds for Heritage Estates totaled \$29.8 million. In 2005, the Former Agency was the conduit issuer of this amount, which refunded prior bonds that provided financing for the acquisition and construction of Heritage Estates by Livermore Senior Living Associates, LP.

The Former Agency also made two subordinate loans of its own funds to Liver-

more Senior Living Associates, LP to provide additional financing for the project. The first was known as the “\$800,000 loan” for the original principal amount, and the second was known as the “Additional Subsidy Loan.”

With capitalized interest, the current outstanding principal of the “\$800,000 loan” is approximately \$4.3 million. It is secured by a lien on the project that is junior to the senior lien that secures the 2005 Bonds. Provided there is no event of default under the 2005 bonds, the subordination agreement allows the “\$800,000 loan” to be paid according to its terms.

The “Additional Subsidy Loan” paid no principal or interest for the first 10 years and then began amortizing over the following 10 years, according to the staff report. On Feb. 25, 2026, Livermore Senior Living Associates, LP prepaid the “Additional Subsidy Loan.”

Resident Questions Shea Homes In-Lieu Fees

Jean King, a Livermore resident, commented on the Shea Homes development project and expressed concern that instead of spending all required funds on the low-income portion of the Shea Portola Apartments at the northeast corner of Portola Avenue and Collier Canyon Road, approximately \$4.8M was spent on in-lieu fees.

“I am extremely disappointed that out of the 210 total number of units, only 13% — or 5.4 units — will be for below-median-income residents, and 87% — or 36.54 units — will be for median and higher income residents, and the remaining 168 will be market-rate. I believe that we need more units for low-income residents, and that our numbers for low-income housing are inadequate,” King said.

Wine Heritage District Renewal

Also at the March 9 meeting, the city council moved to renew the Livermore Valley Wine Heritage District (LVWHD) program for a second five-year term, starting July 2026.

Managed by the Livermore Valley Winegrowers Association, the district funds marketing, advocacy, quality enhancement, and professional development and education efforts for South Livermore wineries.

“The Heritage District funding has given us the ability to show up where it matters,” said Jenny O’Leary, marketing manager for the Livermore Valley Wine Association (LVWA). “We have been able to invest in advertising across multiple platforms — reaching wine lovers throughout the Bay Area and beyond who may have never considered Livermore Valley as a destination.”

The LVWHD is funded by a 2% self-assessed fee

on gross direct-to-consumer (DTC) sales from participating wineries. Established in 2021 to boost regional (See CITY COUNCIL, page 3)

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Foothill Senior Named U.S. Presidential Scholar

By Sanestina Hunter

PLEASANTON — Foothill High School senior Brandon Kong has been named one of more than 5,000 candidates nationwide in the 2026 U.S. Presidential Scholars Program.

Candidates are identified based on exceptional SAT or ACT scores from among the nearly 3.6 million students expected to graduate from U.S. high schools this year.

The U.S. Presidential Scholars Program is one of the nation's highest honors for graduating high school seniors and recognizes academic achievement, leadership, strong character and involvement in school and community activities.

About 600 semifinalists will be selected this spring, with up to 161 students ultimately named U.S. Presidential Scholars later this year.

Kong is the only Foothill High School student to receive the distinction this year.

"I was pleasantly surprised because I wasn't expecting the letter in the mail," Kong told The Independent. "The nomination serves as recognition of my hard work over the years, both in school and outside. I feel honored and motivated to continue doing my best."

He earned a perfect score of 36 on the ACT and a 1520 on the PSAT/NMSQT and was later named a National Merit Finalist.

Kong said several strategies contributed to his suc-

cess on standardized tests, including mastering core concepts and taking regular practice exams.

"Understanding the fundamentals is important as well as practicing," he said. "Before the ACT test, I took one full-length practice test every weekend for a few weeks. That helped me get comfortable with the format and timing, so nothing felt new on test day."

In school, Kong participates in Science Bowl and serves as the team's treasurer.



Brandon Kong

Outside of school, he serves as a Gifted Youth Member-at-Large with San Francisco Regional Mensa and volunteers with Schoolhouse.world as an SAT Math Bootcamp tutor.

Aside from academic success, Kong is passionate about engineering. His interest in engineering dates back to a trip to Japan in 2018 with his family, when he saw a high-speed bullet train for the first time.

"I've always been curi-

ous about how things and machines work," he said. "When I saw the bullet train zoom past at incredible speed, it really sparked my fascination with engineering."

The experience, he said, deepened his curiosity about engineering and how machines work.

Building on that curiosity, Kong now serves as the technical lead and co-founder of Foothill High School's car engineering team.

The 15-member team is currently building an eco-efficient vehicle to compete in the Shell Eco-marathon in Indianapolis this April.

"We're building a bespoke eco-efficient car to compete in the competition," Kong said. "I've learned a lot of technical skills from the ground up, like computer-aided design, and it's been exciting to apply engineering in a real project."

"In the future, I'd love to build machines that can go farther and faster than ever — whether on the ground, in the air or through space."

One of his proudest achievements, in addition to his academic success, is becoming an Eagle Scout with Troop 941 in Pleasanton.

Kong joined the troop in 2019, and his Eagle Scout project benefited Livermore Parks and Recreation.

"Becoming an Eagle Scout was a big milestone for me because it represents years of work and leadership," Kong said. "Scouting

taught me leadership, communication and project management — skills that are extremely important when working on large engineering projects."

Several additional students in the Pleasanton Unified School District were also named candidates in the 2026 U.S. Presidential Scholars Program.

Six students from Amador Valley High School were also recognized: Riana Das, Ryan R. Fu, Nathan B. Han, Yilin E. Liu, Daniel Nie and Xiaoxi Wang.

"Congratulations to these outstanding students from Amador Valley and Foothill high schools on being named candidates for the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program," Superintendent Maurice Ghysels told The Independent.

"We are incredibly proud of their accomplishment, and this recognition reflects not only their academic excellence but also the dedication of the teachers, staff, families and school communities who support their success," Ghysels said.

At Dublin High School, Ryan J. Lee and Pravarthika Pabbisetty were also named candidates.

As graduation approaches, Kong said he plans to continue pursuing engineering when he begins college this fall and hopes to join a Formula SAE team, where students design, build and race formula-style cars.

For students still explor-

ing their academic paths, Kong encourages them to pursue what excites them.

"If you're passionate about engineering and want to do it, go for it and never give up," he said. "Engineering is a difficult major, but it's more important to love what you do."

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CITY COUNCIL

(Continued from front page)

marketing, education, and development, the district raises over \$500,000 annually, according to the LVWA website.

These funds go toward marketing, professional development, and, in some cases, vineyard sustainability efforts. The City of Liver-

more acts as the lead agency, with Hinderliter De Llamas & Associates (HDL) handling the collection of the assessment.

"The Livermore Valley Wine Heritage District functions as one of the spokes that helps sustain our wine country," said Brandi Lombardi,

the director of LVWA. "Renewing this highly successful program means continuing to invest in the long-term sustainability and visibility of Livermore Valley wine country."

The program received unanimous support from other community mem-

bers who highlighted the LVWHD's benefits to the regional wine industry. Among those voicing their support were organization president Ken Wong and Wente Vineyards owner Karl Wente. Also speaking in favor were Bob Pruett of Pruett Farms Winery

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EDITORIAL

Alameda County Supervisors Attempting an End-Run Around Democracy

It appears Alameda County supervisors are attempting to undermine the will of the voters by changing Measure D, the 2000 initiative that requires any modification of the county's urban growth boundary to go before the voters.

The county's Community Development Agency is exploring a plan that would place the power to change the boundary in the hands of the Board of Supervisors. Any such initiative would first have to go on the ballot for the voters to approve.

This is, to put it bluntly, rich. Measure D was passed to take the power to manage urban growth boundaries out of the hands of the county because the county couldn't be trusted to preserve the land from development. It's the same reason why many of the residents of cities in the county, including Dublin, Livermore and Pleasanton, enacted their own growth boundaries.

Measure D, the county's urban growth boundary, is congruent with those of all three Tri-Valley cities, with only very minor exceptions.

If not for these boundaries, we would have development crawling up the hillsides and sprawling across the

scenic vistas that make the Tri-Valley special. Ever since those boundaries have been enacted, there have been attempts to whittle away at them, to open up more land for development. Even if the parcel involved is relatively small, setting a precedent of breaking a growth boundary will only open the door for more development.

In July 2024, Dublin's City Council placed Measure II on the ballot, which would take the power to modify the city's urban limit line around the Crosby property out of the hands of the public. Measure II passed after a campaign that included misleading ballot language. In November, a superior court judge ruled in favor of community groups that filed suit to stop it, requiring the city to repeal the measure.

The city decided not to appeal the judge's decision, but last month, the property's owner did.

In Dublin, the council's misleading measure was an attempt to get the public out of the way, so the city could develop the last open space between the city and Livermore. Voters were hoodwinked, but the court was not.

The County Council's moves to

change Measure D should be seen for what it is: an attempt to strip power away from the people and concentrate it in their own hands.

We don't know which developers are quietly waiting in the wings for an opportunity to get their projects started without the public getting in the way. But if you think Dublin developing one parcel was bad, imagine what I-580 might look like if the county decided to allow commercial development all the way out to the county line. Imagine Sunol Valley filled with subdivisions, or the vineyards off North Livermore, the ridgelines of Doolan Canyon and Tassajara Valley, and every acre of open space from Altamont Pass to Palomares Canyon.

There is still space within city boundaries for people. The populations of Pleasanton and Livermore populations have been shrinking, not growing. And when an urban area is growing, up-zoning for more density has become a preferable option, because it can help foster walkable communities, more efficient mass transit, and consequently a smaller environmental impact than greenfield development with new housing tracts.

Undermining Measure D would be a gift to developers in another way. The current fights we have right now over open space involve city governments wanting to annex property outside their boundaries for development. Without Measure D in place, developers wouldn't need to go through the cities at all. With the local city roadblock removed, more projects can get approved more quickly.

Voters obviously shouldn't support such a measure if it is placed on the ballot.

And the County supervisors should come clean about their intentions: who is backing this end-run around the will of the people, what projects are being considered, and where would they be located?

For 25 years, previous boards of supervisors have decided not to change Measure D. Why is there suddenly a need to do so?

Government should not exist to operate in secret, out of public review. The people have a right to know what the county intends.

Regardless, the supervisors should leave Measure D alone.

MAILBOX

A Message from the Managing Editor

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

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

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

Additionally, to address issues of limited space in the newspaper, please note the following update to our Mailbox Guidelines:

Word Count: Letters will be limited to **300 words or less** (previously 400). We are offering a **transition period** to allow our regular contributors time to adapt their writing style; this new standard will officially take effect on **April 2, 2026**.

Mailbox Guidelines:

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

Coming Soon: Open House for Livermore's General Plan

Patricia Munro, Livermore

On Wednesday, March 21, 2026, from 5:30–7:30 pm at the Robert Livermore Community Center, the City of Livermore will be hosting an Open House to answer questions on Livermore's Draft General Plan. For a deep dive into that draft plan, see here: imaginelivermore2045.org.

Every California city is

required, by state law, to develop and follow a General Plan. As the website puts it: "The General Plan is the City of Livermore's (City) long-range policy document for growth, land use, sustainability, and resource and open space conservation." These plans show how each city envisions itself changing over about twenty years. The draft plan has been under development since late 2021 and is projected

to run through 2045. It contains the following ten elements:

1. Land Use: How do we want, expect, need land to be used and where?

2. Community Identity: What makes Livermore unique? What aspects of Livermore need attention (and why)? What do we want to highlight?

3. Mobility, aka transportation: How do people and goods get around Livermore safely, smoothly, and efficiently?

4. Housing: How do we meet housing needs in the future within the city and regionally? This includes planning for new homes and preserving existing housing, as well as considering energy efficiency, access, and more.

5. Infrastructure, especially around water: How do we make sure we have access to clean water and ways to treat wastewater?

6. Community Services: How do we support services such as schools, childcare, healthcare, libraries, and programs intended to support aging adults?

7. Open Space and Conservation: How do we protect open space, parks, recreational spaces, and agricultural resources?

8. Noise: How do we assess noise levels and use that information to inform land use decisions?

9. Safety: How do we prepare for potential problems, such as earthquakes, flooding, and fire? How do we develop safer communities in partnership with law enforcement?

10. Economic Development: How do we facilitate economic activity, both for people working in Livermore and people buying goods and services in Livermore—both necessary for any city's health?

Some of these elements are physically necessary; infrastructure and housing, for example. Some are necessary for quality of life; community services and enabling connections, for example. Together they will help guide Livermore into the future. Come find out more next week!

Wild & Scenic Film Festival

Ann Brown, Livermore

On Feb. 27, the Bankhead Theater was lit by a

spirit of caring and hope for the natural world. Fourteen inspiring short films from around the world, all speaking to issues in our own backyard, served as the beacon, drawing the audience to the Wild & Scenic Film Festival on Tour. Tri-Valley Conservancy and Tri-Valley Air Quality Climate Alliance would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to The Independent for your in-kind sponsorship of ad space.

We also deeply appreciate sponsors Jean King, T.J. Tyler, Steve Ketzler, the Lions Club, Tri-Valley Group Sierra Club, Darcie Kent Winery, Altamont Beerworks, Pacific Catch, Flaca's Salsa, and Strizzi's for their generous sponsorships. Many of us enjoyed and learned from the speaker forum about local efforts in climate modeling from Peter Caldwell, (LLNL) fish restoration from Jeff Miller, (Alameda Creek Alliance), land conservation from Diana Roberts, (TVC), climate communications from Charles Loi, (NorCal Public Media), and youth climate activism from Greta Fick-Furlotte and Malana Schreiber (Indivisible Tri-Valley). Our warm thanks to Dan Linehan for skillfully moderating our panel.

The environmental organizations tabling in the lobby also provided a sense of community and offered ways to get involved in safeguarding local biodiversity. Our gratitude also extends to the many volunteers, the Bankhead staff, the Livermore High Culinary Program, and especially to our audience for your attendance and enthusiastic response. We hope to see you and many more at the Earth Day event at Sycamore Grove Park, April 19, 10:00 — 2:00, as well as on the trail, at the creek, and in the media advocating for environmental protections and the right for all life to thrive.

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Dr. Aisha Gives Me Hope
Allie Felker, Livermore

Last week, I attended the Tri-Valley Kick Off for Dr. Aisha Wahab's congressional run. For the

first time in a long time, I am feeling hopeful. Aisha cares about unity and serving the people of this district. Her legislative record as a State Senator reflects her values and a truly human approach to politics. It is no secret that we live in one of the most expensive places in the country. I believe Aisha will continue her mission of affordability in Congress, and her policies will improve access and reduce the cost of living. It was so refreshing to hear a unifying message and know there is a person running for Congress with grit, experience, and a desire to improve the lives of every person in their district. There are great people vying for Swalwell's seat, and Dr. Aisha Wahab is our best option.

The End of What We Knew

Greg Scott, Livermore

The U.S. public is largely ignorant of recent Middle East events and modern Middle East history — mostly through distraction, delusion, and apathy propelled by the increasing Zionist and oligarchic capitalist control and propaganda of U.S. mainstream media and obsequious U.S. politicians. The Israeli State has now resoundingly involved the U.S. in its Libensraum of the Greater Israel project — Pax Judaica — through the 'kompromat' of the Epstein class.

This is a serious existential threat to the U.S. Empire, for the U.S. military's vast technological facade has manifested it cannot adequately shield its installations, Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) compliant states, and the commerce traffic in the Persian Gulf.

The U.S. is in a closing chapter of the lifestyles, culture, and affluence we in the U.S. have fostered since being the victorious Supreme Allied Command in World War II. The current war against Iran is precipitating the end of what we have known in this era, which was brought about by U.S. global military, economic and political dominance.

Through the Strait of Hormuz in the Persian

Gulf travels 20% of the world's oil and liquified natural gas and 35% of the world's urea fertilizer. The cessation of this global supply route already, and increasingly, will be felt in higher gasoline and diesel prices, higher food prices, and rising price inflation on most goods. It is the fertilizing season for food producers in the Northern Hemisphere, which contains the majority of Earth's land mass.

The world, and particularly the U.S., are and will be paying dearly for Israel's ambitions. Israel and the U.S. are desperately carpet bombing Tehran and elsewhere in Iran — including schools and hospitals — killing civilians by the thousands. The U.S. bombed a school in southern Iran, murdering 168 schoolgirls, aged 7 to 12-years-old, and 15 of their teachers. The U.S. and Israel think they are slaughtering children of a lesser God?

Martyring the Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei was no way to produce Iranian regime change. Brutal as Ayatollah Khamenei was, he was the second holiest man in Shia Islam. If we in the West contend this is inconsistent, then, especially in regard to Christianity and Judaism, we should look at our own hypocrisy.

Resistance and alternative thinking appears to be an intrinsic part not only of the human genome and epigenetics, but of the indefatigable human soul.

Tariffs Protect American Workers

Robin Bill, Livermore

Tariffs are often criticized in political debates, but the reality is simple: every major economy in the world uses them. Tariffs are not radical—they are a basic tool countries use to protect their industries and workers.

The real problem is not tariffs. The problem is unfair trade.

When American companies export goods, many countries place high tariffs on those products, making them more expensive for foreign buyers. At the same time, the United States has often allowed foreign goods to enter

(See MAILBOX, page 5)

THE Independent

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The Open Heart Food Bank celebrates its one-year anniversary this month. From dry goods to fresh produce, board members take a break from meetings to help process food for families across the Tri-Valley, part of a continued commitment to end hunger. (Photo courtesy of Open Heart Kitchen)

MAILBOX

(Continued from page 4)

our markets with far fewer barriers. This creates an uneven playing field where American manufacturers must compete against countries with lower wages, fewer labor protections, and weaker environmental standards.

The consequences have been significant. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the United States has lost millions of manufacturing jobs since the late 20th century as production moved overseas. While technology played a role, global trade imbalances accelerated the decline of American factories and industrial communities.

This is not only an economic issue, but it is also about national resilience. During the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic, the United States discovered how dependent it had become on foreign supply chains for essential goods. When overseas production slowed, shortages quickly followed.

Critics argue that tariffs will dramatically raise prices. In reality, the impact on consumers is often limited. Many companies absorb part of the cost, and the difference at the store is often small compared to the broader benefit of a stronger domestic industry.

Americans should ask a deeper question: do we want the absolute cheapest products possible, no matter how they are made, or do we want an economy that supports American workers and communities?

The real choice facing America is not about tariffs; it is about the kind of country we want to be. A nation that cannot make its own products, build its own industries, or support its own workers slowly gives away its economic strength. Fair trade means American workers should not have to compete against exploitation and poverty wages overseas. Tariffs are not about shutting the world out. They are about standing up for American labor, American industry, and the long-term strength of our country.

Another Reality Check John Cameron, Dublin

If Iran posed a direct threat to the U.S., why did the administration say they all but destroyed their nuclear program when we attacked before?

It seems like we get involved or start another conflict every 15-20 years, like clockwork. Defense contractors make more money than they can count, and the average soldier once again is put literally in the line of fire. The position of Presi-

dent has been given sole decision making for combat missions and "conflicts" for decades now, counter to constitutional checks and balances. One person (much like a dictator) now decides how, when and who we hit; and why.

Prior to WW1 (The War to End All Wars), alliances were formed between small to large countries to act as a deterrent to aggression. The result of this alignment was the start of a devastating, brutal worldwide conflict from one key assassination. Today is similar in the fact that sides have been drawn from Palestine to Iran, to China and Russia, reflected by Israel and the United States.

Throughout history, many leaders have made terrible decisions, even when there were warning signs in front of their faces. It doesn't seem like we've learned the lessons we should have from the last 100 plus years.

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR VERY COMPETENT FEDERAL LEADERSHIP

Keith Jackson, Dublin

There has been some complaining lately from disgruntled Americans about the way the government is being run. Although we really do not care what the public thinks, we have decided to address some of these issues. One complaint is that the leadership of the government seems to be completely incompetent. Well all of the senior leadership has been handpicked by Donald Trump himself, so they are all just as smart, caring and competent as he is. It is not easy to find competent people who are willing to constantly praise Trump and grovel at his feet, although the current crop of incompetents really seem to enjoy doing it. Another complaint is about the Iran war, or as we call it, "The most wonderful, bestest war in

all of history started by the smartest, bravest president that has ever lived." Many people believe that it will be known in the future as "the big mistake." Do not worry about this. With the smartest planning ever, nothing can go wrong. People complain because Trump promised no more wars. Are you just figuring out now that he lies? Here is another news flash. Unnecessary wars cost a lot, but we can offset these costs by cutting wasteful programs like health care, cancer research, and food assistance. We did have to start the war early because Netanyahu told us to, and that meant that American civilians in the country could not safely evacuate since the airspace was closed. We want to say to those people... boy, are you screwed. Our wonderful president is also suffering because of this war. Now he has to pretend to care about the service members being killed, when we all know that he has never cared about anyone but himself. Yet another complaint is about the Epstein files. This enquiry has gone on for way too long and needs to be stopped. Mainly because we do not want to talk about it. Besides, since Trump has been totally exonerated, any further discussion of these files will only prove that the 2020 election was a fraud. So to all of those who are still concerned about these things, we say, get over it. Just calm down, stop asking questions, and buy as much Trump crypto as you can afford. Now THAT is important.

The End of Kristi Noem Frank Cannella, Livermore

After devastating dress-downs from both Republicans and Democrats and repeated public relations disasters, Kristi Noem was fired from her cabinet position by President Trump.

He was likely ok with her numerous lies, however, since he strongly

supported her up until the last minute the axe fell. And with lightning speed and his usual careful vetting, he found the perfect replacement; Senator Mark Mullin from Oklahoma, whose brief time in the senate was highlighted by his challenging a union leader to fisticuffs in the Senate chamber and his unfailing support of President Trump. Prior to his political life, he was the owner of a plumbing supply business and a martial arts practitioner with a three wins and no loss record. While still a multimillionaire, Senator Mullin will fulfil another important slot in Trump's cabinet that Noem filled: neither he nor Noem are sycophantic billionaires. He will be a sycophantic non-billionaire, so therefore a perfect replacement. The good news is that the endless TV ads featuring Ms. Noem will finally be over. At least I hope so!

Pro Democrat/Pro Democracy Kathy Woolfer, Livermore

Well, it looks as if the Tri-Valley Trump sycophants are filling the Letters to the Editor pages with their huge piles of BS yet again. One letter asks that we Democrats NOT write letters to the editor, as it is a waste of ink, which is supposedly a petroleum-based product. I don't care if Ink is made of radiation. I will exercise my First Amendment right by writing letters to the editor, in INK!!

Yet another Trump boot licker wants to know what it would be like if Kamala Harris had won the Presidency; our nation world be in MUCH BETTER SHAPE, as we would not have this ex-

(MAILBOX continued above)

reme racist agenda of grabbing brown-skinned human beings off of the streets and separating them from their families; we would not have had the seven-nine deaths that ICE is solely to blame for, and there would be peace in Ukraine and the Middle East, and transgender HUMAN BEINGS would be treated with respect! All of you Trump supporters act as if you are a high holy being and that you can point fingers at your fellow human beings and be judgmental towards them, which you are in no position to do! If you want a better life for those of us in the Tri-Val-

ley Area, then VOTE DEMOCRAT and vote to save our republic, our constitution and our DEMOCRACY!

LIVERMORE

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

LIVERMORE RESIDENTS: Share your talents with the community by volunteering on one of the City of Livermore's advisory bodies. We are accepting applications now through April 3, 2026 at 5:00 PM.

Historic Preservation Commission (1 Vacancy)

Join us in identifying, protecting, and preserving Livermore's historic resources. The Commission's successes are visible in the beauty of Livermore's historic structures and landmarks.

(1) Regular Term ending 5/1/2030

Meeting 1st Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM

Next meeting: April 2nd

Library Board of Trustees (2 Vacancies)

Join us in helping to set goals and objectives for the broad variety of services and programs the Livermore libraries provide.

(2) Regular Terms ending 6/1/2029

Meeting 4th Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM

Next meeting: March 26th

Livermore Housing Authority (1 Vacancy)

Join us in administering and overseeing affordable housing for low-income families, seniors, and persons with disabilities in the City of Livermore.

(1) Unexpired Term ending 1/1/2027 and a possible regular term ending 1/1/2031, subject to City Council approval.

Meets 2nd Wednesday of each month at 5:30 PM

Meeting location: 3203 Leahy Way

SAVE THE DATE! In-person interviews tentatively scheduled the week of April 6th or April 13th. For more information or to apply, please visit www.livermoreca.gov/AB, call the City Clerk's office at (925) 960-4200, or email: cityclerk@livermoreca.gov.



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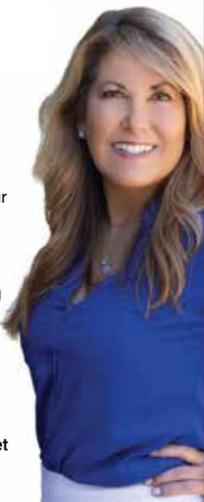
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Most analysts predict the Spring 2026 real estate market will stabilize into a more balanced market rather than a boom or crash. With mortgage rates trending downward, some forecasts suggest home sales activity could increase by up to 14% this season.

Now is the perfect time to prepare your home for a successful spring sale. Simple steps like washing windows, cleaning the yard, fresh paint or touch-ups, deep cleaning, and starting to pack can make a big difference.

These small improvements help your home stand out and attract motivated buyers. Our team will guide you every step of the way for a smooth and successful closing. Call us today to get started.



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Members of Dublin's Girl Scout Troop #31857 sell cookies door-to-door in their neighborhood to raise funds for troop field trips and a local Holiday Food and Toy Drive. Pictured from left are Supriti Shankar, Aarna Patel, Lara Shah, Kaavya Saraiya, Ahaana Shastri, and Aleena Faizi. The local cookie season runs through March 15. (Photo courtesy of Amita Shah)

Nakamatsu to Perform with Pacific Chamber Orchestra

TRI-VALLEY — Classical pianist Jon Nakamatsu will perform with the Pacific Chamber Orchestra (PCO) at the Del Valle Theater in Walnut Creek on Saturday, April 25, and at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore on Sunday, April 26.

Nakamatsu will give a solo performance in conjunction with PCO's presentation of Edward MacDowell's Piano Concerto No. 2. The PCO will also perform Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 5.

A California native, Nakamatsu received international acclaim after receiving the Gold Medal at the Van Cliburn International Piano Competition in 1997.

In a career that has spanned three decades, he has performed as guest soloist with more than 150 orchestras worldwide, and appeared at dozens of concert halls, including Carnegie Hall and Lincon Center in New

York, the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C., the Musee d'Orsay in Paris, and the Theater of the Forbidden City and the Great Hall of the People in Beijing.

In 2001, Nakamatsu was the featured artist at the dedication of the Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism During World War II in Washington, D.C. and has been Artist in Residence at the Chautauqua Institution in New York since 2018.

He is also on the piano faculty at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music and continues to live in the Bay Area.

Tickets to the 3 p.m. concert in Walnut Creek start at \$62, with discounts for students.

Tickets to the 3 p.m. performance at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore start at \$25.

To purchase tickets, go to pacificchamberorchestra.org.

The PCO is a professional nonprofit ensemble now in its 36th season and a resident company at the Bankhead Theater.

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'Buy One, Get One' Tickets for CYT Teen Shakespeare Production Now on Sale

LIVERMORE — BOGO (Buy One, Get One) adult tickets are available for Christian Youth Theater (CYT) Tri-Valley's 6:30 p.m. presentation of the Shakespearian comedy "A Midsummer Night's Dream" at the Bankhead Theater on Thursday, March 12, and Friday, March 13.

Regular adult tickets are

\$30. To get the buy one/get one promotion, go to cytrivalley.org and use the code CYTBOGO.

Student tickets are \$20.

The nonprofit CYT is the resident children's theater company at the Bankhead Theater and produces six shows per year, including NextStage productions designed to challenge and

showcase teen actors.

"A Midsummer Night's Dream" will be performed by an all-teen cast using the original Shakespeare dialogue.

The comedy follows four teenagers who flee into a moonlit forest where they encounter the king and queen of the fairies and the meddlesome sprite Puck.

Directed by Kristin Bae-Werder, the production also includes original music by CYT Tri-Valley teaching artist Rita Baird.

"A Midsummer Night's Dream" will also be presented at 1 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 14, and at 1 p.m. on Sunday, March 15.

For more information, go to cytrivalley.org.

Goodness Village to Host Pickleball Tourney

LIVERMORE — Goodness Village, a nonprofit that provides transitional housing for the homeless, will host a Pickleball Tournament Fundraiser at May Nissen Park from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Friday, March 28.

Proceeds from the tournament will support Goodness Village programs, including a "tiny homes" community of 28 units on property owned by Cross-Winds Church in Livermore. Each single-story home

includes bathroom and shower facilities, kitchenettes, front porches and air-conditioning. Goodness Village also provides case management, mental health counseling, vocational training and access to other com-

munity support services.

Goodness Village said the pickleball tournament is open to all skill levels. The cost is \$50 per player.

To register, go to gvlivemore.org and click on "events."

VCC Concerts to Honor Nation's Anniversary

TRI-VALLEY — The Valley Concert Choral (VCC) will perform the U.S. premiere of composer Margaret Shelton Meier's "Mass for the Millennium" in celebration of the country's 250th anniversary.

The VCC will perform its "Millennium and Memory" concerts, reflecting 250 years of the American experience, at Lynewood United Methodist Church in Pleasanton on Friday, March 13, and the First Presbyterian Church

of Livermore on Saturday, March 14.

Both concerts will begin at 7:30 p.m.

"These concerts feature works that inspire reflection, resilience and hope, highlighting the evolving American story through music," said VCC artistic director Joseph Castro.

After receiving a bachelor's degree in music from the Eastman School of Music at the University of Rochester, the New York-born Meier

moved to Los Angeles where she earned a master's degree from California State University and a doctorate from the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA). She was the first woman to receive a doctorate in music composition from UCLA.

Castro described Meier as "a distinguished American composer known for her luminous harmonies and her ability to blend ancient liturgical tradition with contemporary

choral expression," adding that "presenting Meier's work allows us to highlight an important American voice while honoring the 250-year milestone in our nation's history."

Tickets to the VCC concerts are \$30, with a discount for college students. Students in kindergarten through 12th grade are free with a paid adult.

Tickets are available online at valleyconcertchorale.org or by calling 925-866-4003.

Residents Needed for Senior Center Committee

DUBLIN — Dublin is recruiting residents to fill two vacancies on the Senior Center Advisory Committee, with terms ending in December

2026 and December 2028.

The five-member committee meets quarterly and offers recommendations on programs, services and op-

erations at the Dublin Senior Center, 7600 Amador Valley Blvd.

Interested residents can complete an application online

at tinyurl.com/rdjymzv or they can request an application form by calling 925-833-6650.

The deadline to apply is Friday, March 13.

MEASURE D

(Continued from front page)

the legislative authority in making general plan changes, in a defined and limited capacity," according to the request for proposal.

The proposal lists county District 1, which includes much of the Tri-Valley, as the funding source for the campaign services.

"We have had a lot of requests to investigate current resident views on Measure D," District 1 Supervisor David Haubert told The Independent. "CDA regularly conducts polls where public sentiment is in question, so this is nothing new. It has been 26 years since Measure D was passed and while there was an amendment in 2022, it did not include county wide poll input." Approved by 57% of voters in 2000, Measure D supporters hoped to preserve agriculture, wildlife and scenery in the county and prevent

urban sprawl by creating an urban growth boundary to focus urban development in or near existing cities.

But some county supervisors have expressed concerns that the measure's provisions may be "overly rigid, potentially affecting property rights and limiting the county's flexibility to respond to evolving environmental and economic conditions," according to the request for proposal.

In 2022, nearly 70% of voters approved an amendment to the 2000 initiative to allow for larger buildings in large-parcel-agriculture areas, expanding building options for equestrians, winegrowers and other farmers.

The Sierra Club's San Francisco Bay Chapter, which had taken the lead in drafting, qualifying and

campaigning for the original measure, questioned the propriety of the county agency exploring its current campaign.

"Using Alameda County taxpayer funds to solicit proposals for how to overturn two voter-approved initiatives that were incorporated into the East County Area Plan and specifically require voter approval to be amended violates the spirit of Measure D, is a misuse of public resources and violates the trust of voters whose approval is required for further amendment," the club wrote to The Independent.

Contractor responses were due on March 10. The county plans to issue a notice of intent to award on April 14, with board consideration on May 19 and a contract start date of May 20.

PLEASE HELP BRING MIGUEL HOME

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

Livermore Wente Winery worker, married father of three and grandfather

Miguel Lopez

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

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

LIVERMORE CALIFORNIA ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR POET LAUREATE

The City of Livermore and the Commission for the Arts is seeking a local poet to serve as the City of Livermore's Poet Laureate. The person selected will serve as a public advocate for the appreciation and advancement of the arts, particularly poetry. The person selected for this position will not receive compensation, as this is a voluntary position. **The deadline to apply is April 3, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.**

The Poet Laureate will be called upon to write themed-based poetry and read poetry at civic events such as public ceremonies and dedications. He or she will serve as a resource and liaison between the City's Cultural Arts Program, local schools, and literary organizations.

Following are the requirements for the Poet Laureate:

- Be a Livermore resident
- Be the author of published poetry deemed appropriate by the selection committee
- Be affiliated with the poetry culture
- Promote and advocate the City of Livermore as a venue for poetry
- Be an advocate for the inclusion of poetry in public and civic events
- Inspire and foster an awareness and appreciation of the role of poetry in the community through poetry readings, writing educational programs, and other outreach events, activities, and programs
- Interface with various literary organizations
- Collaborate with elected officials and city staff
- Serve a two-year term with no compensation
- Work with the previous Poet Laureate during a 6-12 month transition period
- Orient and train the next Poet Laureate.

Interested applicants must submit:

- A two-page letter of interest
- Five original poems, two of which have been published
- Your resumé indicating active participation in promoting the literary arts in the community
- An outline of your vision, goals, projects, and activities for the Poet Laureate Program during your tenure (July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2028).

If you have questions, please contact the City Clerk's office at (925) 960-4200 or by e-mail at cityclerk@livermoreca.gov

SAVE THE DATE! Information regarding interviews will be provided at the close of the application period. For more information or to apply, please visit www.livermoreca.gov/AB, call the City Clerk's office at (925) 960-4200, or email: cityclerk@livermoreca.gov.



Acclaimed pianist James (Zijian) Wei, First Prize winner of the 2024 Cleveland International Piano Competition, will perform with Del Valle Fine Arts on Saturday, March 21 at 3 p.m. at the Bankhead Theater. (Photo courtesy of Del Valle Fine Arts)

James Wei Takes the Stage

LIVERMORE — Del Valle Fine Arts continues its 46th season with a captivating performance by the 2024 Cleveland International Piano Competition First Prize winner, Chinese pianist James (Zijian) Wei.

The concert will take place Saturday, March 21 at the new time of 3:00 pm at the Bankhead Theater.

A rising star, Wei has soloed with leading orchestras in North America, Europe, and China, and will soon make his Carnegie Hall debut. Wei has won first prize in numerous International Piano Competitions including Best Chinese Work Award at the Beijing International Chopin Piano Competition. His program

includes works by Beethoven, Brahms, Chopin, Liszt and Scriabin.

General admission tickets start at \$35. Special pricing is available for students: youth under 18 receive free admission when tickets are obtained at the box office (accompanying adult tickets are \$20); college student tickets are \$16.

Library Will Host Livermore Author, Country Swing Band

LIVERMORE — Ann Parker, award-winning Livermore author whose historical novel “Silver Lies” is the featured book in this year’s “Livermore Reads Together” program, will discuss her novels, writing process and the history behind her popular “Silver Rush” series at 7 p.m. on Thursday, March 19, at the Civic Center Library, 1188 S. Livermore Ave..

Published in 2003, “Silver Lies” was the first book in Parker’s Silver Rush series, and portrayed life in the silver boomtown of Leadville, Colorado, during the 1880s.

While the first five books in the Silver Rush series were set in Leadville, the three most recent installments follow former saloon owner Inez Stannert to San Francisco, where the amateur sleuth opens a music shop.

The Civic Center Library will also host a performance by The Vivants, a San Francisco country swing band, at 2 p.m. on Sunday, March 22, as part of the Livermore Reads

Together” program.

The Vivants offer a mix of original compositions and classic covers drawn from the rich traditions of Western swing, honky-tonk and bluegrass gospel.

The free concert is sponsored by the Friends of the Livermore Public Library.

Published in 2003, “Silver Lies” won the WILLA Literary Award for Historical Fiction and the Colorado Gold Award. The series has also been recognized as

a Booksellers Favorite by the Mountains and Plains Independent Booksellers Association.

A former science writer with the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, Parker is a member of Mystery Writers of America, Sisters in Crime, International Thriller Writers, Women Writing the West and Western Writers of America. She now works part-time as a bookseller at Towne Center Books in Pleasanton.



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Bankhead Theater to Present Spring Musical

LIVERMORE — Husband and wife Celtic stars Natalie MacMaster and Donnell Leahy will take the stage at the Bankhead Theater on Sunday, March 22, joined by an all-star lineup that includes Scottish folksinger Karen Matheson, four-time All-Ireland champion banjo player Enda Seahill, critically acclaimed Scottish piper Ross Ainslie and the Canadian couple’s daughter, Mary Frances.

The 3 p.m. Bankhead Presents performance will explore styles of Celtic

music from its ancient roots to modern trends and its cross-country connections.

Tickets start at \$80, with discounts for students and military personnel.

Then, on Friday, April 3, the Bankhead, 2400 First St., will welcome the Ravi Shankar Ensemble, a group dedicated to continuing the legacy of world-famous Indian sitarist and composer Ravi Shankar, who died in 2012.

Shankar began touring Europe and the United States in the 1950s, pop-

ularizing classical Indian music.

His fame grew in the 1960s when he began collaborating with Beatles guitarist George Hamilton, introducing the use of the sitar and other Indian instruments in Western pop music.

The Ravi Shankar Ensemble presentation is curated by the late musician’s daughter and wife and includes visual elements from the Ravi Shankar archives along with a selection of his music.

Tickets to the 8 p.m. per-

formance start at \$60.

Rounding out the Bankhead Presents spring musical journey will be Mexican singer Aida Cuevas, known as the “Queen of Mariachi,” on Friday, April 10.

A Grammy and Latin Grammy award winner, her current tour is an “orchestral ode to Mexican music.”

Tickets to the 8 p.m. Mexican Symphonic Sere-nade start at \$70.

Tickets to all Bankhead Presents performances are available online at livermorearts.org.

E-BIKE

(Continued from front page)

transportation choices that reduce fossil fuel dependence, lower household energy costs, and contribute to a more sustainable energy future.”

The program is funded by Ava’s local community investment fund and the Alameda County Transportation Commission.

With a total program budget of \$10 million, about 63% of the program’s incentives remain to be awarded. Chang estimated the remaining funds could help pay for another 5,200 e-bikes. Awardees receive a \$400 rebate for a standard e-bike or a \$900 rebate for a cargo or adaptive e-bike, with larger rebates available for income-qualified applicants. E-bike costs start around \$1,500 and can run into several thousands of dollars

Interested residents can learn more about the rebate program at bit.ly/indy_ebike-rebate.

The e-bike industry categorizes e-bikes into three classes. Class 1 e-bikes provide motor assistance only when the rider is actively pedaling. Classes 2 and 3 have separate throttle controls

for the motor.

Classes 1 and 2 limit the motor assist to 20 mph, while Class 3 e-bikes cut out the motor at 28 mph. Nothing in any class prohibits a rider from exceeding 28 mph on pedal power alone.

Like traditional bicycles, e-bikes do not require a license and are distinct from electric dirt bikes or electric motorcycles, but the increased adoption of e-bikes has raised safety concerns from other trail and road users.

Last month, Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan introduced Assembly Bill 1942, which would require class 2 and class 3 e-bikes to register with the Department of Motor Vehicles and display a license plate issued by the department.

“We are hearing loud and clear that e-bike safety is a top priority for our community and frankly for people across California,” Bauer-Kahan said at a Feb. 13 press event in Walnut Creek. She cited an 18-fold increase in e-bike incidents from 2018 to 2023 and the risks of police officers pursuing speeding e-bikes.

The bill aims to improve traffic-law enforcement and accountability.

“The ability to know who it is will in and of itself be a deterrent to make e-bike riders safer on our paths and on our streets,” Bauer-Kahan said.

Dr. Russell Rodriguez, chief medical officer at John Muir Health, noted at the event how the faster speeds of e-bikes result in accidents more in line with motorcycle collisions than those with bicycles.

“Our emergency departments are seeing firsthand how the popularity of these e-bikes is leading to more injuries to riders and to the pedestrians who can be hit by them,” Rodriguez said.

Some environmental groups have raised concerns regarding e-bike use in natural habitats. These advocates cite increased noise and higher speeds, along with the ability for riders to reach remote areas, as factors that can displace wildlife and disturb habitats. Consequently, these groups recommend restricting e-bike use to paved surfaces to minimize ecological impact.

LLNL

(Continued from front page)

how to contain hazards.”

In addition to incident response, teams also help plan situational awareness and assess radiological releases to guide responders and decision makers during events and incidents.

NEST encompasses more than 20 DOE and National Nuclear Security Administration assets and programs, each with its specialized expertise. Computationally heavy programs, such as the National Atmospheric Release Advisory Center, leverage LLNL’s supercomputer capabilities, which includes its hardware, software and personnel able to support those systems.

Livermore’s research into radiation detection has

also helped inform state-of-the-art detectors, such as those used during the Super Bowl. These included larger detectors mounted on aircraft, smaller detectors within ground vehicles, and even smaller detectors carried by people, said Tracy Kiellman, regional operations manager of the Radiological Assistance Program, another NEST program.

“In addition to that, we have some really specialized equipment that can tell us what radio nuclides we’re seeing,” Kiellman said. “It collects data that then we send on to our scientists who can look at the data and tell us if what we’re seeing is something normal, is it okay, or is it something

that could potentially be a threat?”

Kiellman’s team often detects non-threatening radiological sources, such as patients undergoing radiation therapy or radionuclide shipments headed for hospitals or other industrial uses.

“There’s actually quite a lot of things out there in the world that are radioactive,” Kiellman said. “I don’t think people realize how much is out there. If you go out there with a detector, you’re going to find things.”

Although NEST operations tend to keep a low profile, any future major event, from a large marathon to a presidential election, will likely call upon NEST to help ensure public safety.



Peace of Mind through Planning

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

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&
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DSRSD Now Accepting Applications for 2026 Interactive Citizens Water Academy

DUBLIN — The Dublin San Ramon Services District (DSRSD) is accepting applications for its 2026 Citizens Water Academy for community members interested learning more about the district's drinking water, recycled water and wastewaters programs.

The academy is free and will be held from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. over four Thursdays in May.

For the first time this year, DSRSD said it will

accept a limited number of students, ages 14 to 17, into the academy, where they will have an opportunity to explore careers in water and wastewater management while also learning about local water issues.

The district said several people who attended the academy in the past have gone on to serve as elected city officials in Dublin and San Ramon or later served on the DSRSD Board of Directors.

Sessions will be held on May 7, May 14, May 21 and May 28.

The first and last sessions will be at the district office, 7051 Dublin Blvd., Dublin, while the second and third sessions will be at the regional wastewater treatment plant, 7399 Johnson Dr., Pleasanton.

DSRSD said all sessions will include a light dinner.

For more information and application materials, go to dsrsd.com/academy.

DSRSD serves more than 190,000 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.



DSRSD Citizens Water Academy learn about the complex infrastructure required to deliver clean water to the Tri-Valley. Applications are now open for the 2026 session. (Photo courtesy of DSRSD)

The Independent Founder Was Named to Alameda County Women's Hall of Fame

Publisher Marks the Tri-Valley's Lone Representative in the Field of 2026 Induction Class Honorees Largely Hailing from the Oakland and Fremont Areas

PLEASANTON — The Alameda County Women's Hall of Fame has announced its 2026 class of inductees. Established in 1993, the Hall of Fame honors exceptional women who have made a lasting impact in Alameda County's diverse communities, preserving their legacies in the county archives.

This year, nine women join the more than 300 past inductees recognized for their contributions across a range of fields. They will be honored at the 31st annual Luncheon & Inductee Ceremony at The Club at Castlewood on Saturday, March 28.

Among them, and the only Tri-Valley-based inductee, is Joan Seppala — founder, owner and publisher of The Independent since 1963. The newspaper's office is located in the historic Bank of Italy building at

the NE corner of First Street and Livermore Avenue in downtown Livermore. The paper is delivered weekly to Livermore, Pleasanton, Dublin and Sunol.

Seppala will be honored along with eight other inductees representing largely the Oakland and Fremont areas. Fellow inductees include Monica Lau, CEO of Family Bridges, Fredrika Newton, co-founder and president of the Dr. Huey P Newton Foundation, Tammie Gilker, chancellor of the Peralta Community College District, Dr. Harsha Ramchandani, chief medical officer for Bay Area Community Health, Tamara Chao, president and executive director of the Asian Pacific Fund, Noreen King, founder and CEO of Evolve Manufacturing, Ohemaa Nyanin, general manager of the Golden State Valkyries and Alameda County Under-

sheriff April Luckett-Fahimi.

Reflecting on over six decades of The Independent's role in the region, Seppala noted the newspaper's dedication to four ongoing issues — protection of the healing open space

that surrounds each of the cities, caring for our neighbors in need, and celebration of our arts and science achievements. The area's unique character should be honored and spread beyond our region.

CAR

(Continued from front page)

one family who had to leave before it was their turn came back after an appointment to make good on their ride.

"It's pretty cool, it's weird, and I want to ride in a banana," Amber Leicoit said while waiting in line. "And we just had a funeral for our bearded dragon, so it's like a funeral procession in my head." Leicoit added that the car brought with it a whimsy that the city often otherwise lacks.

Not everyone was as welcoming to Braithwaite and his car. The Sears family struggled to find a downtown area for him to park and interact with the public, eventually deciding to use their yard.

"There were a few recommendations of places I could talk to," Braithwaite said. "One of those told me no, and the other I didn't hear back from. I usually do ice cream parlors, and often they get a 'banana car bump.'"

Braithwaite answered questions about his lifestyle and the car during one of his many loops through downtown Livermore. He has couch-surfed for 15 years, traveling the country with his banana car and relying on the kindness of strangers who volunteer to house and feed him. He has an active Facebook community with nearly 20,000 followers where he coordinates with people who help him on his journey.

"I stay with people I don't even know, and we instantly become great friends," Braithwaite said.

He took his inspiration

from unusual vehicles like the "world's fastest garden shed" and "fully street-legal couch." For a month after he learned about those vehicles, he would picture any ordinary object he saw as a potential car. He had initially ruled out using a banana because the curve in front would obscure the driver's view of the road, until he saw the perfect banana while in line at a gas station.

"I picked it up and I'm studying it from every angle thinking, 'OK, the wheels would go there, the windshield, the bumpers...'" Braithwaite said. "I'm so engrossed in this, I didn't realize the line ahead of me had cleared. I'm now standing in the middle of a gas station with people behind me, staring at a banana. They all must've thought, 'Oh my word, is that the first banana he's ever seen?'"

With the help of some friends, Braithwaite began the car's transformation in 2008. He completed the project in 2011.

He said that most mechanics can service the car, as long as the "stem" fits. The car requires regular maintenance due to how often he drives it.

"It's basically a '93 F-150," Braithwaite said. "There's not much that's peculiar about it, but some people, some mechanics don't want anything to do with it."

He is currently building a second car, the Starfield Dragonwing Intergalactic Speedster, which he hopes to debut on a tour of Europe.

TRI-VALLEY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Thursday, March 12

LIVERMORE AMADOR VALLEY GARDEN CLUB MEETING

Rose Loveall, with Morningsun Herb Farm and mail order nursery, will talk about tea gardens and about growing, harvesting and brewing herbal and flower teas. Plants will be for sale. On March 12 from 6 to 8 p.m. at Crosswinds Church, 1660 Freisman Rd., Livermore, at the red Farm Theater Building.

Thursdays, March 12 and March 26

The death of a loved one is unlike any other loss. Although there is not a right or wrong path, there are steppingstones that are part of each grief journey; they will be explored in these bimonthly meetings. Held at St. Elizabeth Seton Church, 4001 Stoneridge Drive, Pleasanton on March 12 and 26 at 7 p.m. These meetings are open to all, regardless of religious affiliation. For more information, please call Barbara at 925-846-3904.

Friday/Saturday, March 13 and 14

VALLEY CONCERT CHORALE TO PERFORM "MASS FOR THE MILLENNIUM"

The Valley Concert Chorale is honored to perform the United States premiere of Margaret Shelton Meier's Mass for the Millennium, titled "Millennium and Memory." The concerts will also feature choral selections reflecting the American experience in this year of the country's 250th anniversary. The two evening performances will be March 13, 7:30 p.m., at Lynnewood Methodist Church, 4444 Black Ave., Pleasanton and March 14, 7:30 p.m., at First Presbyterian Church, 2020 Fifth St., Livermore. Tickets are \$30. College students are \$10 with valid student ID. Children K-12 are free. Advance tickets may be purchased at www.valleyconcertchorale.org, or at (925) 866-4003.

Saturday, March 14

14th ANNUAL LIVERMORE HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION CRAB FEED

Come to a fun night of live and silent auctions, DJ, games and dancing! March 14 from 6-10 p.m.; doors open at 5:30. At Robert Livermore Community Center, 4444 East Avenue, Livermore. \$80 per person. Ticket includes crab, pasta, salad, bread and dessert. For more info, contact lhalumniassoc@gmail.com or Duane at 925-724-4251.

Sunday, March 15

INTERFAITH IFTAR: BUILDING BRIDGES THROUGH FAITH, UNDERSTANDING AND COMMUNITY

Come to a special interfaith iftar, welcoming community with reflections, dialog and dinner. On March 15 at 6:15 pm, at the Islamic Center in Livermore, 3820 East Ave.

Thursday, March 19

AN EVENING WITH MURIEL JOHNSON: STORIES FOR ADULTS AND TEENS

The Dublin Library welcomes back storyteller extraordinaire Muriel Johnson, who reimagines traditional folktales with a funny and surprising twist — bringing old stories into a contemporary, theatrical experience. Free/no registration required. This program is intended for adults and teens, and may not be suitable for younger audiences. For more about Ms. Johnson, see www.forherstories.com. To learn more about this and other library programs, visit aclibrary.bibliocommons.com/events. On March 19, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Dublin Library, 200 Civic Center Plaza.

Saturday, March 28

PICKLEBALL FUNDRAISING TOURNAMENT

A pickleball tournament benefitting Goodness Village will be held On March 28 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at May Nissen Park, 685 Rincon Ave., Livermore. Sign up at secure.qgiv.com/for/gvevents/event/pickleball. This event is open to all, as matches will be set based on skill level. \$50 per person.

Saturday, March 28

CELEBRATE EASTER AT HACIENDA CROSSINGS

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

Come Celebrate Easter with a free event that includes photos with the Easter Bunny, face painting and balloon artists, and colorful crafts and goodie bags (while supplies last). On March 28, from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m., at 4820-5000 Dublin Blvd., Dublin (Entertainment Village near Ike's Love & Sandwiches).

Sunday, March 29

CHILDREN'S DAY AT HAGEMANN RANCH

The Hagemann Ranch open house on March 29 from 1-5 p.m. is specially designed for kids. It is Children's Day, and 4-H are bringing an assortment of small animals and some goats to create a petting zoo. The special guests will be a couple of Kunekune pigs who appreciate attention. The HistoryMobile will be onsite for all to tour. Kids can help with ranch chores such as doing the laundry the way the pioneers would have done it. Always free and family-friendly at 455 Olivina Ave., Livermore.

Saturday, April 4

DRESS A GIRL AROUND THE WORLD

Make simple dresses for girls in Third World countries! The next monthly Sew-Fest is on April 4, 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, April 18

8TH ANNUAL TRI-VALLEY INNOVATION FAIR

Quest Science Center is thrilled to announce the 8th Annual Tri-Valley Innovation Fair, on April 18 at the Alameda County Fairgrounds in Pleasanton from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. This community program brings together students, families, educators, and local businesses for a free day of 70+ interactive exhibits, live demonstrations, performances, and learning moments. Attendees can dive into everything from engineering challenges to creative tech, meeting the scientists, educators, students, and companies who bring big ideas to life here in the Tri-Valley.

ONGOING OPPORTUNITIES

FOOD RELIEF SERVICES

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

ONGOING EVENTS

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

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

SATURDAY PLEASANTON FARMERS MARKET

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

SUNDAY LIVERMORE DOWNTOWN FARMERS MARKET

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

Cultural Jews to Host Passover Seder Dinner

TRI-VALLEY — Tri-Valley Cultural Jews (TVCJ), a secular organization for those who identify as Jewish through family, culture or history, will hold a Passover Seder in Livermore on Saturday, April 4.

Passover is a Jewish holiday that celebrates the Exodus of the Israelites from four centuries of slavery in Egypt.

TVCJ said Passover is a time "to reflect on freedom, resilience and hope."

The Seder will include traditional storytelling and singing in English, Hebrew and Yiddish, starting at 5 p.m., followed by a potluck dinner at 6:30 p.m.

The Seder and potluck dinner are free for TVCJ members and \$25 for non-members.

To RSVP, or for more information, call 925-399-8029 or email Cultural-Jews@gmail.com. The location will be provided at registration.



FOR DAILY
ONLINE LOCAL
NEWS VISIT

independentnews.com

OBITUARIES

Eugene Foster Oct. 16, 1933 — March 1, 2026

Eugene Foster, a man of unwavering strength, integrity, and devotion to his family, passed away, March 1 at the age of 92. Born in San Leandro, California, in 1933, Eugene lived a life defined by his service to his country and the love he shared with his family.

In 1950, at the age of 17, Eugene answered the call of duty and joined the United States Army. He served with honor during the Korean War, an experience that earned him the profound respect of his peers and a nation's gratitude. His distinguished service was recognized with a Purple Heart, three Bronze Service Stars, the National Defense Service Medal, and numerous other honorable badges and awards.

In 1958, Eugene married the love of his life, Gloria. The couple made their home in Pleasanton, where they lived and raised their family for the last 53 years. He was a proud father to his two children, Michael (wife Christine) and Jill (husband Dave), and a dotting grandfather to his four beloved grandchildren: Nick (wife Madi), Caitlyn, Madison, and Mia.

Eugene was a hardworking man. He spent many years as a skilled butcher at Romley's in Castro Valley and Dublin, later retiring from a long and respected career at Kesley's Market in Niles. When he wasn't behind the counter, Eugene was happiest outdoors. He was an avid hunter and fisherman, finding peace and joy in the beauty of nature.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Eugene and Evelyn (stepmom) Foster, and his mother, Beatrice Silva. He is survived by his wife, Gloria; his children; his four grandchildren; and his dear sister, Gail (Foster) Bucheli.

Eugene's legacy of hard work, courage, and family commitment will be felt by all who knew him. He will be deeply missed.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date, with specific details to be shared by the family once finalized. In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests that donations be made in Eugene's name to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, a cause that reflects his generous spirit.

Barbara Charlotte Kahn May 5, 1933 — Feb. 11, 2026



Barbara Charlotte Kahn (née Wexler), born May 15, 1933, in New York City to Larry and Carrie Wexler, passed away on Feb. 11, 2026.

Barbara grew up in The Bronx, New York City, where family and community shaped her lifelong love of culture, learning, and music. Though she longed for piano lessons as a child, she later taught herself to play and ensured that her children and grandchildren had the opportunity to learn.

She earned her B.A. in economics from Hunter College, where she met her beloved husband of 59 years, James "Jack" Kahn. They married in 1954 and built a life together across several states before settling in

California, where they raised their three children.

Barbara later earned her master's degree in education and taught kindergarten and first grade in Livermore, California, until retiring in 1984. In retire-

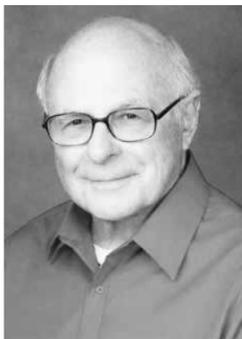
ment, she and Jack traveled extensively and enjoyed homes in several cities before Jack's passing in 2013.

Barbara loved piano, quilting, reading, baseball, social gatherings, and time with family and friends.

She is survived by her children Douglas Kahn (Cinda Steen), Pamela, and Randall Kahn (Henry Hofilena); daughter-in-law Erin Kahn; grandchildren Emily (Matt) Johnson, Patrick (Christina) Kahn, and Caroline and Geoffrey Ganzberger; and great-grandchildren Aurora, James, and Torin Johnson.

A private memorial will be held. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to a charity of choice in Barbara's honor.

Kyle S. Griggs Oct. 25, 1931 — Dec. 16, 2025



It is with sadness that the family of Kyle Griggs announces his passing on Tuesday, Dec. 16, 2025. Kyle was 94 years old.

Born on Oct. 25, 1931, in Los Angeles, California, Kyle was the son of the late Arieta "Rita" (Benoit) Griggs and the stepson of the late Frank Griggs.

Kyle had a 32-year career with the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, retiring in 1991. In 1955, he married the love of his life, Sylvia (née Richard), and together they raised seven children. The family became members of St. Michael's Catholic Church after moving to Livermore in 1959.

Kyle had a wonderful dry sense of humor and a deep devotion to his family. When his children were young, he maintained a large vegetable garden and many fruit trees to help ensure the family enjoyed healthy, homegrown meals. Gardening remained one of his hobbies for

many years.

Kyle pursued many interests throughout his life. He enjoyed volunteer work with Open Heart Kitchen, Pleasanton Playhouse, and the Bankhead Theater in Livermore. He spent many happy years ballroom dancing with Sylvia and also enjoyed playing handball, running, working out at the gym, and spending time with his family, for whom he lovingly

wrote his memoirs.

Kyle will be lovingly remembered by his six surviving children: Kerry (Sabrina) Griggs of Yerington, Nevada; Tia Volkman of Surprise, Arizona; Lynn Griggs (Michael Tower) of Canada; Renée (Charley) Russell of Phoenix, Arizona; Vince Griggs of Ashland City, Tennessee; and Dominic (Jennie) Griggs of Livermore, California. He is also survived by 13 grandchildren, 17 great-grandchildren, and two great-great-grandchildren.

In addition to his mother and stepfather, Kyle was predeceased by his wife of 62 years, Sylvia; his daughter, Michelle Courville of Helena, Montana; and his brother, Robert C. Griggs.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Holy Angels Funeral and Cremation Center, 3885 East Ave., Livermore, CA (925) 455-9696.

Donald James Lee May 8, 1942 — March 1, 2026



Donald James Lee, 83, passed away peacefully on March 1, 2026, in Livermore, California, surrounded by his family.

Don was a devoted husband, married to his beloved wife, Connie Lee, for nearly 64 years. Together they built a life centered on faith, family, and service. He was a proud father to his six children: Tammy LeCheminant (Mark), Loren (Kristin), Darren (Debbie), Lora Mather (Brady), Steve (Jodi), and Aaron (Anne). He was the grandfather of 23 grandchildren and 22 great-grandchildren, each of whom brought him tremendous joy.

Don is also survived by his sister Lynda Ferreira (Frank) as well as many friends and extended family members who will miss him dearly. His parents Opal and Jim and older brother Richard have preceded him in death.

Don graduated from Las Lomas High School in Walnut Creek, where he developed lifelong friendships. He participated in sports, journalism, and the cheer squad. Don went on to earn a Bachelor of Arts degree from USF and a master's degree in communications and management from Cal Poly Pomona. He was among the first in the nation to graduate from the California Law Enforcement Command College. Don executed several programs during his career that increased safety and decreased crime, proving to build trust

between the community and law enforcement. He dedicated 33 years to the Livermore Police Department, retiring as a lieutenant. His integrity, steady leadership, and commitment to the community earned him deep respect. During his law enforcement career, he taught at Del Valle Continuation High School, where he believed strongly in investing in young people and offering second chances.

A faithful member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Don lived his beliefs through quiet service and devotion to his family. He was a lifelong student of religious and secular history. He loved visiting museums and historical sites, especially if they related to the Great USA. He received many faith building experiences throughout his life confirming his belief in God. He often said he wouldn't be where he is today

without the influence of God's standards, teachings and direction throughout his life.

Don was a master chef in the kitchen when it came to making soups, chili beans, holiday dips and classic potato salad everyone raved about. He had several hobbies including photography and gardening, and was a beekeeper for several years. The ocean and walking through the redwoods in Northern California brought him tranquility and peace. He cherished visiting national parks, where he found joy in both their beauty and their history.

Don had a remarkable gift for connection—he could make friends anywhere he went. His vast knowledge on versed topics and facts allowed him to connect with people of all ages and walks of life. His genuine interest in others made people feel seen and valued.

He will be remembered for his faith in God, his deep commitment and loyalty to his wife and family. His legacy lives on through the generations he so dearly cherished.

Funeral services will be held on Friday, March 13, 2026, at 10 a.m. (viewing at 9:15-9:45 a.m.) at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1501 Hillcrest Ave. Interment will follow at Memory Gardens Cemetery in Concord.

He will be deeply missed and forever loved.

Innovation Summit to Focus On a Clean Energy Future

LIVERMORE — The Innovation Tri-Valley Leadership Group (ITV) will convene a gathering of scientists, policymakers, investors and civic leaders at the Bankhead Theater on Tuesday, March 31, to discuss California's path to a clean energy future.

In conjunction with the Livermore Lab Foundation, the philanthropic arm of the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL), the Energy Unleashed summit will also showcase innovations in clean energy production.

"Energy Unleashed is about the Tri-Valley showing up for California [and] sharing what's working here and leaning into the ingenuity of our broader region," said ITV CEO Katie Marcel. "When legislators, investors, and innovators sit in the same room with a shared sense of

urgency, things move. That's exactly what this moment demands and exactly what we're here to create."

Formed in 2010, ITV is a business-centered nonprofit focused on Livermore, Pleasanton, San Ramon, Dublin and Danville.

Summit cosponsors also include the i-GATE Innovation Hub, StartUp Tri-Valley and Daybreak Labs, three nonprofit groups that support start-up businesses in the region, and San Francisco-based Maroon Research Institute, which focuses on aging and longevity science.

Kate Gordon, CEO of California Forward, a nonprofit dedicated to improving government and sustainable growth, will deliver a keynote address focusing on how regions can align policy, investment and innovation to spur a more resilient energy supply.

Gordon previously served as a senior advisor to Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm during the Biden administration and senior climate policy advisor to California Gov. Gavin Newsom.

Catharine Baker, director of the University of California Student and Policy Center in Sacramento, and LLNL Director Kim Budil will discuss how the laboratory's leadership in fusion ignition, exascale computing and AI-driven discovery is accelerating innovation and transforming the energy economy.

The summit will run from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and is open to the public.

Admission, which includes breakfast, lunch and a wine reception, is \$55. Tickets are available online at tinyurl.com/5y59xzuy.

AVSI Accepting Applications For Memorial Scholarships

PLEASANTON — The nonprofit Amador Valley Scholarships, Inc. (AVSI) is now accepting applications for 16 memorial scholarships administered by the community organization, including 14 that are open to graduating seniors at Foothill, Amador Valley and Village high schools in

Pleasanton and two that are open to graduating seniors from Dublin High School.

Scholarships can be used to attend a four-year university, community college or vocational/technical school.

For a list of memorial scholarships, eligibility guidelines and application

materials, go to amadorvalleyscholarshipsinc.org. The deadline to apply is Friday, March 20.

AVSI also awards general scholarships to graduating seniors from the three Pleasanton high schools. Since 1966, AVSI has awarded more than \$1 million in scholarships.

Library Requesting Entries in The Science Poetry Contest

LIVERMORE — The Livermore Public Library is now accepting entries for the annual Poetry in a Test Tube contest.

The library's 10th science-themed poetry contest is open to anyone who lives or attends school in Livermore.

There are five age-based divisions: kindergarten through second grade, third grade through fifth grade, sixth grade through eighth grade, ninth grade through 12th grade,

and adult.

The top three finishers in each division will receive certificates and cash awards of \$75, \$50 and \$25.

Original poems of any length should be emailed to poet_laureate@livermoreca.gov with "2026 Science Poetry Contest" in the subject line.

Entries should also include a title along with the entrant's name, address, phone number and division. Students should also

include their grade level and school.

Only one entry per person will be accepted. AI-generated poems will not be accepted.

The deadline to submit an entry is Wednesday, April 1.

There will be an awards ceremony for the winning entries at the Civic Center Library on Wednesday, May 20.

For more information, go to library.livermoreca.gov.

Alan Hu Foundation Presents a Webinar on Suicide Prevention

PLEASANTON — Dr. Robert Gregory, professor of psychiatry at SUNY Upstate Medical University in Syracuse, New York, will present a free online seminar, "An Innovative Recovery-Based Approach to Suicide Prevention," from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 17.

Gregory developed what is known as Dynamic Deconstructive Psychotherapy (DDP), a treatment program for chronic and severe conditions, including depression, borderline personality disorder, addictions and the

risk of suicide.

He also created Upstate Medical University's Psychiatry High Risk Program for suicidal youth and adults that uses DDP as its core treatment modality, designated by the U.S. Suicide Prevention Resource Center as "a best practice in suicide prevention."

Upstate Medical University is part of the State University of New York (SUNY) system.

During the webinar, hosted by the Pleasanton-based Alan Hu Foundation with financial support from the

Three Valleys Community Foundation, Gregory will review underlying causes of a dramatic increase in suicide among teens and young adults the past two decades, limitations of the mental healthcare system response and promising developments in treatment. The webinar will include 15 minutes for questions and answers following Gregory's presentation.

To receive the Zoom link for the webinar, register by Monday, March 16, at alanhufoundation.org/lecture-series.

Dublin Library to Host Used Book Sale

PLEASANTON — The Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department (LFPD) has received a Class 2/2x rating from the Insurance Services Office (ISO), ranking the department among the top fire protection agencies in the nation.

The ISO provides data and statistical analysis to insurance companies and can affect premiums.

The rating reflects a department's ability to provide effective fire protection and

emergency services to properties within five miles of a station, including emergency communications, firefighter training, staffing, apparatus, operational effectiveness and water supply systems.

Fewer than 5% of fire departments nationwide achieve an ISO Class 2 rating.

"This is a tremendous achievement for our department and a direct reflection of the professionalism, ded-

ication, and commitment to excellence demonstrated by our personnel every day," said Fire Chief Aaron Lacey. "This milestone aligns with our department's strategic goals to continuously strengthen emergency response capabilities and deliver high-quality, reliable service to our communities."

The LFPD, which responds to more than 16,000 calls per year, was previously rated Class 3/3x.

Tri-Valley Haven Accepting New Clients

LIVERMORE — Tri-Valley Haven, which provides shelter and support services for the homeless and victims of sexual assault and domestic violence, said last week that it is accepting new clients for individual and family counseling services.

Openings are available for survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence and "anyone navigating mental health concerns or major life transitions," according to the nonprofit organization.

Domestic violence and sexual assault support groups

sessions are also available. Counseling services are free of charge for victims of sexual assault or domestic violence.

To complete a confidential counseling intake, call 925-449-5845 or 925-667-2705.

Local Baseball Teams Should Hit Ball Out of Park in 2026

By Mitch Stephens

Spring sports have sprung and where Tri-Valley high school athletic teams flourish most might be on the diamond.

The following are thumbnail looks at how area baseball teams fared last season, along with returning top players, and how they fared in the first two weeks of the season, along with upcoming games. All records and statistics this season are current as of Saturday, March 7.

Amador Valley

Head coach: Connor Mays
Last season: 14-12 overall, 5-8 East Bay Athletic League. Runs scored (allowed): 155 (118).

Top returning players: OF Kade Robertson (All-EBAL, second team), SP-OF George Fagundes (All-EBAL, second team), INF Vince Malorana (.429), C Aaron Solomon (.443 OBP), 1B-OF Aidan Foley (three home runs, 11 SB).

This season: 1-3. Runs scored (allowed): 16 (19)

Briefly: The Dons try to return to banner years of 2023 (18-6) and 2018 (22-5) when they were ranked fourth and third in the North Coast Section. ... They have an impressive win over perennial section power James

Logan-Union City (7-2) and competitive losses to Liberty-Brentwood (7-3), Campolindo-Moraga (3-2) and Tracy (7-4). ... Malorana, the EBAL offensive Player of the Year in football with 1,682 rushing yards and 20 touchdowns, is off to a fast start with six hits in 12 at-bats and four stolen bases. ... Elliot De La Torre will be a key pitcher for the Dons.

Up next: Friday (March 13) vs. Shasta

Dublin

Head coach: Greg Oravetz
Last season: 17-8 overall, 6-7 East Bay Athletic League. Runs scored (allowed): 109 (61)

Top returning players: 1B Brandt Nunemacher (All-EBAL 2nd team), P Dalton Doyle (All-EBAL 2nd, team, 5-3, 1.64 ERA), CF Matthew Phelps (.288, 23 hits)

This season: 4-0. Runs scored (allowed): 50-6

Briefly: The 17 wins last season were the most since 2006, but the Gaels lost 13 seniors off that team. ... They haven't missed a beat thus far, with four lopsided wins over Kimball-Tracy (11-0), Irvington-Fremont (17-2), Milpitas (7-1) and Homestead-San Jose (15-3). ... Senior Ethan Thai is scorching in the early going with seven hits in 10-bats

with two doubles and seven RBI. ... Doyle, now a junior, is 2-0 with a 1.05 ERA, while Brendan Weiss, another pitcher, is 2-0 without allowing an earned run in six innings.

Up next: Saturday (March 14) at Castro Valley (11 a.m.), Wednesday (March 18) vs. Heritage-Brentwood (4 p.m.)

Foothill

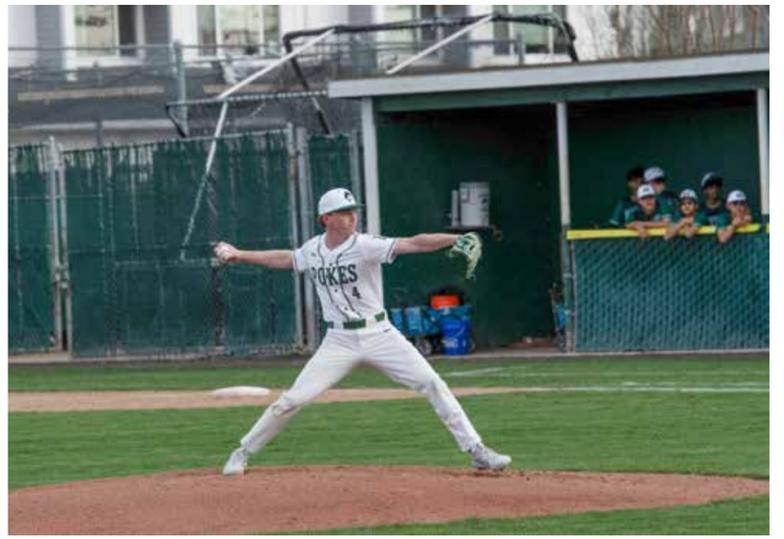
Head coach: Zeke Palma
Last season: 21-8, 9-4.

Runs scored (allowed): 214 (84)

Top returning players: C Hudson Flora (All-EBAL, first team), OF George Schmitt (All-EBAL, first team), INF-OF Dylan Souza (.340, 17 hits).

This season: 2-2. Runs scored (allowed): 32 (22)

Briefly: One of the top EBAL programs year-in, year-out, the Falcons have won at least 19 games five times since 2017. ... Flora, a UCSB signee, is ranked the No. 4 catcher in the state according to Prep Baseball Report. The 6-foot-2, 213-pound senior is ranked the No. 44 player overall in California. ... Schmitt, a Cal signee, is ranked the No. 29 outfielder in the state by PBR. He's hitting .455 in the early going with a team-best seven RBI and a homer. ...



Livermore High School Pitcher, Senior Ryan Kohn, torpedoes one off the mound. Kohn won the team's first two season games. (Photo courtesy of Livermore Boosters)

Pitching will be the key for the Falcons, who graduated 20 of their 21 wins from last season. ... They've shown some big bats in the early going with big wins over Washington-Fremont (10-4) and Del Oro (13-5).

Up next: Friday (March 13) versus James Logan, Wednesday (March 18) at Berkeley

Granada

Head coach: Corrigan Willis

Last season: 22-6, 11-2. Runs scored (allowed): 146 (54)

Top returning players: OF Jack Badger, P Braden Makley

This season: 2-2. Runs scored (allowed): 7 (8)

Briefly: One of the greatest two-year runs in EBAL history concluded in June as the Matadors graduated 18 players on a 23-man roster. ... The Mats backed their truly historic 2024 season that went 32-1, won first league, section and Northern California titles, on top of finishing among the top five ranked teams in the country, with an exceptional 2025 season. ... The question is will Willis, in his 18th season, be able to reload with plenty of good athletes but inexperienced varsity players. ... As always, the team is built around pitching, and thus far Makley (1-1, 0.64, 14 strikeouts, 11 innings, 1 walk) and Eli Radack (1-1, 1.97) have been doing an excellent job. ... Luke Creeden and Tyler Palma have been looking good at the plate with three hits each.

Up next: Friday (March 13) vs. Freedom-Oakley

Livermore

Head coach: David Perotti

Last season: 15-11, 6-7. Runs scored (allowed): 145 (164)

Top returning players: SP-1B Braden Ford (All-EBAL, first team), SP-1B Dylan Wherry (.356 average, 10 SBs, OF-SP Tanner Bingham).

This season: 2-2. Runs scored (allowed): 25 (14)

Briefly: Ford, a 6-foot, 185-pound senior, is rated the No. 143 top senior in the state by PBR. Last season he hit .320 with 24 hits and 19 RBI and slugged four home runs. On the mound, he was 4-2 with a 2.33 ERA with 66 strikeouts in 48 in-



Tying a Bow on an Eventful Inter Sports Season

By Mitch Stephens

With Amador Valley's wild and robust 74-71 Northern California Division 2 semifinal loss at Oakland Tech on Saturday (March 7), the end of an equally wild and robust 2025-26 boys basketball season ended for Tri-Valley teams.

No squad had a more up-and-down, roller-coaster season than the Dons, but they made it further than the four other local teams that had realistic dreams of reaching the state's pinnacle game at Golden 1 Center in Sacramento on Friday or Saturday (March 13-14).

San Jose State-bound Cade Krueger finished off a brilliant career with 28 points and Jaylen Smith, one of Northern California's most coveted junior guards, had 21 as the Dons (21-13) could not double down on the success they had in a 57-50 win over Oakland Tech on Dec. 20.

On Saturday, as they've done all season, Amador Valley rebounded from adversity, overcoming a 12-point deficit in the fourth quarter to cut the lead all the way to two in the final seconds but couldn't quite get over the hump.

Amador Valley was on a three-game win streak, having defeated Liberty-Brentwood (51-43) in a North Coast Section third-place game to advance to NorCals, where they pulled off impressive wins over Serra-San Mateo (62-58) and at second-seed Sacramento (69-64), the latter coming when Smith had 22 points, Krueger added 13 and Elijah Stanley 10.

"It's a gritty bunch," said Amador Valley coach Willis Gardner, in his sixth season. The Dons matched his high-water mark of 21 wins from 2024-25.

This was a much more challenging season because there were so many expectations after Cal-Hi Sports gave them a No. 15 pre-season ranking in the state. It was based on the big talents of Smith, Krueger and Stanley, but also a couple of transfers that included Cam Anderson, a highly touted All-East Bay Athletic League frontline player from Dublin.

Unfortunately for the Dons, Anderson was never deemed eligible by the NCS.

Granada was the only other boys team to make NorCals. The Matadors, coming off an emotionally draining NCS Division 1 title-game loss to Bishop O'Dowd-Oakland, couldn't find their footing in a 69-63 first-round Division 2 NorCal loss to Clovis.

Despite a career-high 27 points from Damien Miles and a combined 23 from Brandon Hahn and Cordell Taylor, the Matadors finished 21-9.

All-EBAL Boys Basketball: The coaches voted on all-league teams, and Dougherty Valley's Rashod Cotton was voted Player of the Year. Dublin senior Izzyah Romero was named Defensive Player of the Year.

First-team members were Hahn, Smith and Livermore sophomore Amare Chandler, along with De La Salle's Ibrahim Monawar and David Pachulia, California-San Ramon senior Brayde Kuykendall, Dougherty Valley's Alonzo Walker III and Monte Vista-Danville junior Max Nishikawa.

Second team selections were Krueger and Dublin senior Aiden Li, along with Monte Vista's Gavin McMillan, De La Salle junior Olanre Owoborode, Dougherty Valley junior Rylan Sevilla, San Ramon Valley-Danville junior Tommy Ambridge, Monte Vista junior Ian Desai and California senior Jaiden Jones.

All-EBAL Girls Basketball: Dublin senior Arianna Chacon and Amador Valley senior Megan Hoang were the only Tri-Valley members to earn first-team.

All-EBAL Honors: San Ramon Valley senior Alyssa Rudd was the Player of the Year, and her teammates Ella Gunderson and Hania Bowes each made first team.

Among second-team members were Dublin junior Meeka Beltran, Amador Valley junior Morgan Adams, Granada senior Kayla Carroll and Foothill sophomore Hailey White.

More Martin, Nguyen: Last week, we featured the remarkable accomplishments of two Granada senior female state wrestling medalists, SJ Martin and Maile Nguyen.

Martin won Granada's first ever first-place medal — hers in the 120-pound weight class — and only the second ever by a wrestler from Livermore. Nguyen placed sixth in an absolutely loaded weight class, 125 pounds. Both became the first two-time placers at state in Granada history. Both are moving on to wrestle in college.

Here are comments from Granada coaches Spencer Phillips and Sean Jackson on two brilliant careers.

From Phillips on Martin, who has signed a Division I scholarship to Lehigh University of Bethlehem, Pa.: "SJ is a great kid. On the mat she is one of the meanest, toughest and most aggressive girls in the country. She puts fear into her opponent. The funny part is off the mat she is the complete opposite. You won't find a kinder kid. She is silly and sweet and a caring teammate.

"She was definitely on a mission this year to claim the state title (Martin finished second at state in 2025). Totally driven on a singular goal. SJ worked night and day to ensure that no competitor could challenge her on her way to accomplishing her goal."

From Jackson on Martin: "Finishing as a runner-up last year was bittersweet for her. It was a huge accomplishment, but she was unsatisfied. She spent a calendar year working hard at her craft to improve her skills. Consistency, discipline, self-motivation, determination and belief are part of a long list of what helped SJ become a CIF state champion."

From Jackson on Nguyen, Granada's all-time pin leader (102), No. 2 in wins (149), committed to Division III national power North Central College: "Wrestling is a difficult sport. Maile makes it look fun. She has one of the highest wrestling technique IQs of any athlete I've coached. These are paired with extreme emotional and physical toughness."

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

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The following person(s) doing business as: East Bay Consultation and Therapy, 220 S Livermore Ave #7, Livermore, CA 94550-9998 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Vanessa Hernandez, 220 S Livermore Ave #7, Livermore, CA 94550-9998. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Vanessa Hernandez, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 9, 2026. Expires February 8, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6723. Published February 26, March 5, 12, 19, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620553

The following person(s) doing business as: Scented Stories Studio LLC, 5216 Modena Court, Pleasanton, CA 94588 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Scented Stories Studio LLC, 5216 Modena Court, Pleasanton, CA 94588. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 01/22/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Vanessa Harris, Manager. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 29, 2026. Expires January 29, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6724. Published February 26, March 5, 12, 19, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620800

The following person(s) doing business as: Kitty Hawk Dental Care Office, 53 Wright Brothers Ave, St. C, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): King Dental Corporation, 53 Wright Brothers Ave, St. C, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 01/01/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Kimberly King, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 11, 2026. Expires February 10, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6725. Published February 26, March 5, 12, 19, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620715

The following person(s) doing business as: Age in Wellness, 1048 Sherry Way, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Deborah Chestnut, 1048 Sherry 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 N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Deborah Chestnut. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 9, 2026. Expires February 8, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6726. Published February 26, March 5, 12, 19, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620582

The following person(s) doing business as: Melody Academy of Music, 1972 Driscoll Road, Fremont, CA 94539 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Melody Music Academy LLC, 9450 SW Gemini Dr., P.M.B. 50196 Beaverton, OR 97008. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 06/11/2021. Signature of Registrant/s/: Alan Wong, Secretary. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 2, 2026. Expires February 1, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6727. Published February 26, March 5, 12, 19, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620206

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Cellotape; 2. Landmark Label; 3. Teklabel, 39611 Eureka Drive, Newark, CA 94560 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Resource Label Group, LLC, 2550 Meridian Boulevard, Suite 370, Franklin, TN 37067. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 01/01/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Hunter Rost, Secretary. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 16, 2026. Expires February 15, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6728. Published February 26, March 5, 12, 19, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620287

The following person(s) doing business as: Simbongsa, 6999 Dublin Blvd #B, Dublin, CA 94568 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Daebok Inc., 6999 Dublin Blvd #B, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Erin Suh, President. This statement was filed with the County

Clerk of Alameda on January 21, 2026. Expires January 20, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6729. Published February 26, March 5, 12, 19, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620832

The following person(s) doing business as: Fox and Belle Salon, 911 University Ave, Berkeley, CA 94710 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Fox and Belle LLC, 378 Holly Dr., San Rafael, CA 94903. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Boris Chen, Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 13, 2026. Expires February 12, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6730. Published February 26, March 5, 12, 19, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620829

The following person(s) doing business as: Pillars Home Health Services, 7567 Amador Valley Blvd, Suite 306, Dublin, CA 94568 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Pillars Home Health Services LLC, 7567 Amador Valley Blvd, Suite 306, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Armida Fajardo, Manager. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 13, 2026. Expires February 12, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6731. Published February 26, March 5, 12, 19, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620748

The following person(s) doing business as: 334 Dutton Ave, LLC, 334 Dutton Ave, San Leandro, CA 94577 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): 334 Dutton Avenue, LLC, 334 Dutton Ave, San Leandro, CA 94577. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 01/01/2021. Signature of Registrant/s/: Michael Siu, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 9, 2026. Expires February 9, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6732. Published February 26, March 5, 12, 19, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620739

The following person(s) doing business as: Michael Siu, DDS, 334 Dutton Ave, San Leandro, CA 94577 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Michael Siu, DDS, Inc., 334 Dutton Ave, San Leandro, CA 94577. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 01/01/2021. Signature of Registrant/s/: Michael Siu, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 10, 2026. Expires February 9, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6733. Published February 26, March 5, 12, 19, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620863

The following person(s) doing business as: Phive, 1940 Webster ST #720, Oakland, CA 94612 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Adonay Sebatu, 1940 Webster St, #720, Oakland, CA 94612. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 02/16/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Adonay Sebatu, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 17, 2026. Expires February 16, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6734. Published February 26, March 5, 12, 19, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620878

The following person(s) doing business as: Water Wise Landscaping, 6138 Shattuck Ave, Oakland, CA 94609 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Sarah Clark, 6138 Shattuck Ave, Oakland,

CA 94609. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 06/2010. Signature of Registrant/s/: Sarah Clark, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 17, 2026. Expires February 16, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6735. Published February 26, March 5, 12, 19, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620661

The following person(s) doing business as: Jehova Sabaoat Cleaning Services, 10202 Pippin St, Oakland, CA 94603 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Maria I. Hernandez Flores, 10202 Pipin St, Oakland, CA 94603. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Maria I. Hernandez Flores, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 5, 2026. Expires February 4, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6736. Published February 26, March 5, 12, 19, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620648

The following person(s) doing business as: Down-Home Cookhouse, 348 N Canyons Pkwy, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Jennifer Valley, 809 N L Street, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 01/01/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Jennifer Valley, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 4, 2026. Expires February 3, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6737. Published February 26, March 5, 12, 19, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620780

The following person(s) doing business as: Sleep Apnea Testing & Treatment Center, A Division of BASS Medical Group, 400 29th Street, Suite 208A, Oakland CA 94609 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): BASS Medical Group, 2637 Shadelands Dr., Walnut Creek, CA 94598. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 10/01/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Rajiv Nagesetty, CFO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 11, 2026. Expires February 10, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6738. Published February 26, March 5, 12, 19, 2026.

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER

Case No. 26PRI170182 ESTATE OF: BARBARA ANNE FRAZIER AKA BARBARA A. FRAZIER AKA BARBARA FRAZIER To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of BARBARA ANNE FRAZIER aka BARBARA A. FRAZIER aka BARBARA FRAZIER. A Petition for Probate has been filed by: LARRY FRAZIER, in the Superior Court of California, County of ALAMEDA. The petition for probate requests that LARRY FRAZIER be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority. A hearing on the petition will be held in this court as follows:

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620972

The following person(s) doing business as: Realside Records, 11501 Dublin Blvd, Ste 200-466, Dublin, CA 94568 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Realside Holdings LLC, 11501 Dublin Blvd, Ste 200-466, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Marcellus McCarver, Manager. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 19, 2026. Expires February 18, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6743. Published March 5, 12, 19, 26, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 621086

March 23, 2026, 9:45 AM in Department 201 located at Superior Court of California, County of Alameda

2120 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley, CA 94704 If you object to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney. If you wish to appear by remote video technology, you should contact the court or visit <https://www.alameda.courts.ca.gov/divisions/probate/hearings> for more information.

If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California Law. You may examine the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (Form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

Attorney for Petitioner: EDWARD W. GOLDKUHL and AMANDA R. GIMBEL 2315 Capitol Ave Sacramento, CA 95816 The Independent, Legal No. 6739. Published February 26, March 5, 12, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620924

The following person(s) doing business as: Emixmia, 40459 Landon Ave, Fremont, CA 94538 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Emilie-Anne Roxas, 40459 Landon Ave, Fremont, CA 94538. This business is conducted by Co-Partners. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Emilie-Anne Roxas, General Partner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 18, 2026. Expires February 17, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6741. Published March 5, 12, 19, 26, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620512

The following person(s) doing business as: Pillowcrave, 1050 Larkspur Drive, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Pillowcrave LLC, 1050 Larkspur Drive, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Roy Solorio, COO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 29, 2026. Expires February 28, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6742. Published March 5, 12, 19, 26, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620972

The following person(s) doing business as: Realside Records, 11501 Dublin Blvd, Ste 200-466, Dublin, CA 94568 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Realside Holdings LLC, 11501 Dublin Blvd, Ste 200-466, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Marcellus McCarver, Manager. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 19, 2026. Expires February 18, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6743. Published March 5, 12, 19, 26, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 621086

The following person(s) doing business as: Proflow Supply Chain Solutions, 7920 Wentworth PL, Newark, CA 94560 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Emma Lara, 7920 Wentworth PL, Newark, CA 94560. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Emma Lara, Manager. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 25, 2026. Expires February 24, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6744. Published March 5, 12, 19, 26, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 621088

The following person(s) doing business as: Okaya Insurance Agency LLC, 783 Faxon Way, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Okaya Insurance Agency LLC, 783 Faxon Way, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Simrat K. Pabla, Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 25, 2026. Expires February 24, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6745. Published March 5, 12, 19, 26, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 621182

The following person(s) doing business as: Authentic Beginnings, 1244 Roosevelt Ave, Hayward, CA 94544 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Authentic Beginnings LLC, 2648 International Blvd Ste 301 PMB 137, Oakland, CA 94601. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 9/1/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Charles Onyemem, Managing Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 27, 2026. Expires February 26, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6746. Published March 12, 19, 26, April 2, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620414

The following person(s) doing business as: Bzy Bee Event Management, 249 W. Jackson ST #2055, Hayward, CA 94544 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Shawn Renee Robinson, 249 W. Jackson ST S 2055, Hayward, CA 94544. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 6/6/2022. Signature of Registrant/s/: Shawn Renee Robinson, Founder, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 25, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6747. Published March 12, 19, 26, April 2, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620414

The following person(s) doing business as: Bzy Bee Event Management, 249 W. Jackson ST #2055, Hayward, CA 94544 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Shawn Renee Robinson, 249 W. Jackson ST S 2055, Hayward, CA 94544. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 6/6/2022. Signature of Registrant/s/: Shawn Renee Robinson, Founder, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 25, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6747. Published March 12, 19, 26, April 2, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 621126

The following person(s) doing

business as: Akha Collective, 5501 Claremont Ave, Apt C, Oakland, CA 94618 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Nicha GOLDman, 5501 Claremont Ave, Apt C, Oakland, CA 94618. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 2/24/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Nicha Goldman, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 25, 2026. Expires February 24, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6748. Published March 12, 19, 26, April 2, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 621154

The following person(s) doing business as: Oh's Nail and Spa, 6635 Dublin Blvd, Ste C, Dublin, CA 94568 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): MK Beauty Corporation, 3455 Hillsborough Way, San Jose, CA 95121. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 2/26/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Miki Nakayama, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 27, 2026. Expires February 26, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6749. Published March 12, 19, 26, April 2, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 621178

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Pleasanton Auto Repair; 2. Pleasanton Auto Repair and Service; 3. Pleasanton Auto Service, 3880 Old Santa Rita Road, Pleasanton, CA 94588 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Pleasanton Auto Repair Inc., 3880 Old Santa Rita Road, Pleasanton, CA 94588. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 1/1/1991. Signature of Registrant/s/: James Bowen, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 27, 2026. Expires February 26, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6750. Published March 12, 19, 26, April 2, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 621030

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. The curated Concierge; 2. Your Perks Passport, 701 S.L St, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Lindsey Knight, 701 S L St, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Lindsey Knight, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 23, 2026. Expires February 22, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6751. Published March 12, 19, 26, April 2, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 621126

The following person(s) doing

business as: Golden Crumb Bakery, 16183 Ashland Ave, Apt. 102, San Lorenzo, CA 94580 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Nur Ivanov, 16183 Ashland Ave, Apt. 102, San Lorenzo, CA 94580. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Nur Ivanov, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 2, 2026. Expires March 1, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6752. Published March 12, 19, 26, April 2, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 621279

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. East Bay New Parenthood Consultation and Therapy; 2. New Parenthood Consultation and Therapy; 3. Bay Area New Parents; 4. EBCAT, 220 S Livermore Ave, #7, Livermore, CA 94550-9998 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Vanessa Hernandez, 220 S Livermore Ave, #7, Livermore, CA 94550-9998. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 2/26/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Miki Nakayama, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 4, 2026. Expires March 3, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6753. Published March 12, 19, 26, April 2, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 621097

The following person(s) doing business as: Happy Body Connections, 1152 Farrington Way, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): LINDI LaBINE, 1152 Farrington 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/: LINDI LaBINE, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 25, 2026. Expires February 24, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6754. Published March 12, 19, 26, April 2, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 621097

The following person(s) doing business as: Happy Body Connections, 1152 Farrington Way, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): LINDI LaBINE, 1152 Farrington 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/: LINDI LaBINE, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 25, 2026. Expires February 24, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6754. Published March 12, 19, 26, April 2, 2026.

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A New Generation of Rock Takes the Bankhead Stage

By Christina Cavallaro

LIVERMORE — For local musician and teacher Chris Ansuini, who started a rock workshop in 2014, the dream of providing band opportunities for Tri-Valley music students came true on the Bankhead Theater stage last year.

In 2021, Ansuini opened

March 27, at 7:30 p.m. and provide another opportunity for student groups to play on the same professional stage as legends like Eric Johnson, Larry Carlton, and the Plain White T's. The vision Ansuini had for the academy — to build upon each artist's love of music to develop mastery and gain skills in performance, improvisation,

Rodgers said.

Returning singer Olivia Van Buuren of the band Spice 29 described the stage as intimidating yet thrilling and a catalyst for becoming a better performer. "I am so excited to get on the stage and perform there again on March 27," she said.

Guitarist Nicole Goana, also of Spice 29, noted the

one of her proudest moments and a thrill for their family and friends. "The boys were elated and the entire experience was truly unforgettable," she said.

Benson Yang of the Sound Marauders, an adult band that performed last year, provided a multi-generational point of view. Yang is the father of Spice 29's drummer, Eason Yang. He had the dual perspective of an adult performer and a parent. "I had never been backstage at a real concert venue or in a green-room before," Yang said. "I was walking down the same halls where real artists have performed. I didn't expect to enjoy that part as much as I did."

But the most meaningful aspect of the night, he said, was seeing his son with his bandmates, friends that he'd practiced with every week for the past year and a half.

"Watching him laugh, bond, and look so alive was priceless. I was incredibly proud of his performance," he said.

This year's performers include The Streetlites, returning for only their second-ever show; The Chefs, featuring a lead singer who is only 10-years old; Sweet Venom, a newer high school group that will mark their singer's very first concert; Midnight Monkey, the seasoned veterans of the high school program; Spice 29, featuring some of the program's longest-participating students; and the Sound Marauders, the academy's adult student band, which now performs locally. To keep the event acces-

sible, tickets to the Friday, March 27 show at 7:30 p.m. at the Bankhead Theater are \$10 for adults and \$5 for students. They may be purchased at livermorearts.org/events/seeds-of-music-academy-showcase.

Since ticket sales alone do not cover the cost of running the event on a professional stage, with robust lighting, and an audio and video team, Seeds of Music Academy is partnering with the Community Health and Education Foundation (CHEF), which will be matching all donations now through March 20 as part of the "Where the Music Begins" fundraiser.

Now Through March 20. The link to donate is chef-givingcommunity.org/WhereMusicBegins.



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Spice 29 singer Olivia Van Buuren and drummer Eason Yang performed at last year's debut Seeds of Music Showcase at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore. The inaugural performance served as a powerful confidence builder for students, providing them with a rare opportunity to perform on a world-class professional stage. This year's showcase will be held on Friday, March 27, at 7:30 p.m. (Photo courtesy of Seeds of Music Academy)

the doors of the Seeds of Music Academy in Livermore to provide private and group lessons, and performance and recording opportunities to students of all ages and in all genres of music.

On Dec. 6, 2025, five bands nurtured through the program performed live on stage in the first Seeds of Music Showcase. This year's concert will be held on Friday,

leadership and teamwork — will be realized again.

Guitarist Andrew Rodgers performed last year with his band, Kind Viper. The group started with Ansuini in 2018 when they were between the ages of 11 and 12 and have all since graduated from high school. "Performing at the Bankhead was a once-in-a-lifetime experience... absolutely unforgettable,"

thrill of her first rock gig and the confidence boost from playing on a professional stage. "But what I think I liked most about it was being able to perform and really connect with my bandmates," Goana said.

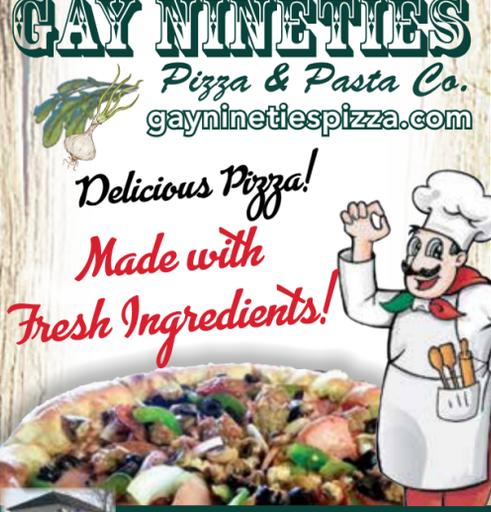
Parents, too, felt the energy, as well as the pride. Vicki Rodgers, mother of Andrew, said watching her son fill such a prominent venue was



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Rock Legend Brings Harmony and Healing

Former Boston Frontman Delivers the Power of Live Music to Patients in Need

By Kathryn Stroud

PLEASANTON — The benefits of music for health and wellness are well-documented, from reducing the risk of dementia to shortening recovery times. David Victor, Tri-Valley resident and former guitarist and lead vocalist for the band Boston, has turned that knowledge into a mission. In 2019, he founded Harmony & Healing, a nonprofit that brings live music to patients in hospitals, hospice facilities, rehabilitation centers and memory care communities.

The inspiration came years earlier, when Victor was invited to participate in a charity bringing food, art and music to children in hospitals.

"I was a little trepidatious," Victor admitted. "I thought, what are these kids going to know about Boston? I learned really quickly that the kids, even though they didn't know anything about Boston, they just loved having music. Even though I was playing songs they didn't know, they were really having a great time."

The experience left a mark on him. "They just wanted to have some fun and have some joy. I went in unsure of what music could do in these circumstances and walked out feeling on top of the world."

When he left the band in 2014, and returned to the Bay Area, Victor was determined to keep doing that charitable work, though getting it off the ground took time, given the rules and regulations around hospital access.

"I was just going everywhere they would let me play," he said.

Today, Harmony & Healing works with a team of 12 artists and serves hundreds of patients across 12 facilities throughout the United States, including a veterans hospital in Martinez and a children's hospital in San Leandro. Victor refers to the performances as "visits" because they're intended to be more personalized, informal and interactive, compared to typical performances.

"There's communication with the people, there's a back and forth, it's more casual," he says.

But casual doesn't mean unprofessional. Victor is emphatic that artistic quality remains a priority, and the artists

are compensated accordingly. "I think it's important to note that every artist gets paid. There's often this idea that they should do it because it's fun for them, but we also make sure we're hiring talented people."

The roster includes Victor himself, Jordyn Foley, an "X Factor" contestant who often performs in costume at children's hospitals, and Italy-based cellist Marco Pescosolido, among others. Victor says the caliber of musicianship matters because he wants patients to truly get lost in the music, even briefly escaping the weight of their circumstances.

In August 2025, that commitment was recognized when Harmony & Healing received the CBS News Bay Area Icon Award, which honors local community heroes doing outstanding service in the San Francisco Bay Area.

"This award represents every artist on our team, every patient we've had the privilege to perform for, and everyone who believes in music's power to heal," Victor said upon receiving the honor. "When I see the light in someone's eyes during our visits, I'm reminded why we do this work."

The recognition has also helped amplify the organiza-

tion's reach, both in bringing in new partner facilities and strengthening fundraising efforts.

"We haven't said no to anyone," Victor says about new facilities. Anyone interested in bringing Harmony & Healing to their facilities can connect with the organization through their website. The organization offers in-person or on video performances, depending on the needs and wants of the patient.

The organization also accepts donations through its website and has developed a more distinctive funding model: private benefit concerts. These invitation-only backyard events feature a live rock show, an auction and more, with proceeds going directly toward patient performances.

"Six or seven performances helps keep this going, allows us to grow," Victor says. For Victor, the purpose of it all comes back to something fundamental.

"This is the whole point of music," he said. "To share something with someone who might be experiencing their last moments on this earth, who are experiencing some of the worst moments of their life, and to bring them joy. It's beautiful, tragic and poignant."

He adds, "This work is so meaningful, almost spiritual. It was very impactful in a way that's hard to express."

To learn more visit harmonyandhealing.org.



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