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Dr. Patrice Land, chief dental officer, provided a tour of one of six dental operatories during Axis Community Health's Aug. 21 grand opening for its newest site, at 1686 Second Street in Livermore. The event commemorated the completion of a multi-year effort to expand quality, affordable healthcare for Tri-Valley residents. The facility, which opened its doors to patients in January, also features eight medical-exam rooms, as well as behavioral-health and social-support service offices. Speakers included mayors John Marchand of Livermore, Jack Balch of Pleasanton and Sherry Hu of Dublin, as well as Axis board chair Carolyn Siegfried and Axis CEO Liz Perez-Howe. (Photo — Doug Jorgensen)

California Senator McNerney Supports Redistricting Effort

Local Political Leader Backs Gov. Newsom's Bid To Redraw State's Congressional Districts

By Vivien Wenneker

TRI-VALLEY — State Senator Jerry McNerney has thrown his support behind Gov. Gavin Newsom's Aug. 21 signing of the "Election Rigging Response Act," also known as Proposition 50.

"With President Trump and Texas Republicans attempting to rig the 2026 national election, we had no choice in the Legislature but to fight fire with fire," said McNerney, whose 5th District includes the Tri-Valley and San Joaquin County.

California voters will have their say on the legislative package in a special election Nov. 4. If passed, the bill would suspend the state's current congressional districts, which were drawn by an independent commission in 2020 based on U.S. Census data, with a redrawn map that would favor Democrats. The changes are intended to be temporary.

The proposed map shows that many congressional districts throughout California and the Bay Area would be significantly impacted — the City of Castro Valley, for example, would be split between Congressional Districts 10 and 14.

"We didn't seek this fight, but we aren't going to run from it, either," McNerney said.

Some parts of Dublin would be added to District 14, which would result in the Tri-Valley losing Congressman Mark DeSaulnier, who currently represents the eastern portion of the city as part of

(See REDISTRICT, page 6)

Pleasanton To Explore Increasing Hotel Tax

City Council Split On Polling Residents About Other Possible Revenue Options

By David Jen

PLEASANTON — The city will look into raising its transient-occupancy tax, or hotel tax, to bring in an additional $1.4 million to $2.8 million annually.

At its Aug. 19 meeting, the Pleasanton City Council expressed unanimous support for exploring the increase, which would raise the current 8% tax to something between 10% and 12%. Nearby cities Dublin and Livermore have 8% hotel-tax rates, while San Ramon is at 7.25%.

The council, however, remained divided on whether to poll community sentiment on other revenue options, such as a sales-tax increase, a parcel tax or general obligation bonds. Such polling services would cost the city between $31,000 and $50,000, according to city staff.

With last week's city council direction, Pleasanton will study placing the hotel-tax increase on the November 2026 ballot to help address its structural deficit. Staff estimates the deficit to range between $6 million and $9 million annually over the next 10 years despite significant service cuts made in the most recent budget adopted in June.

City Manager Gerry Beaudin described the revenue options as one component of a "three-legged stool" that the city is working on.

"Council knows we're focused on reducing expenditures within the organization," Beaudin said. "Our city team is also busy implementing the budget that was adopted in June and the reductions that came with that, but also some additions that came with that. We're also focused on building a team that's more focused on economic development."

The Tri-Valley hotel industry continues to struggle in the

(See HOTEL TAX, page 8)



The 159th Scottish Highland Gathering and Games, a Bay Area tradition since 1866, return to Pleasanton's Alameda County Fairgrounds on Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 30-31. The Games include more than 20 events and provide visitors an opportunity to immerse themselves in the vibrant heritage and culture of Scotland. See story on Page 12. (File photo — Doug Jorgensen)

Fully Staffed Police Force Means Improved Experience for Visitors to East Bay Parks

Recruitment, Retention Help The Regional District Celebrate Full Complement of Officer Ranks for First Time in Nearly Two Decades

By David Scholz

TRI-VALLEY — A strong recruitment effort coinciding with an emphasis on retention has enabled the East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) to reach 100% staffing of its police officer ranks for the first time in more than 18 years.

The district's achievement of 76 sworn officers comes at a time when law-enforcement agencies locally and across the nation are challenged to fill vacancies. EBRPD officials are currently strategizing deployment plans throughout the district as officers start with the agency.

"Full staffing means more proactive patrols, faster response times, greater community presence and an even higher level of service for park visitors," Police Chief Roberto Filice said. "It also means our officers enjoy a supportive team environment, exceptional training and the satisfaction of serving in one of the most beautiful regions in the country."

EBRPD General Manager Sabrina Landreth noted the current state of the district's ranks reflects the dedication of its recruitment and retention teams, the appeal of the park's mission and the leadership of Filice.

"Officers choose the park district because they can be part of something meaningful — protecting beloved parks and serving a community that values their work," she added

Parks patrolled by EBRPD officers in the Tri Valley, including those in Livermore, Pleasanton, Dublin and Sunol, represent 32,980 acres, or approximately 51.5 square miles. This includes: Del Valle: 4,395 acres; Brushy Peak: 1,979 acres; Pleasanton Ridge: 9,090 acres; Shadow Cliffs: 266 acres; Dublin Hills: 654 acres; Sunol Wilderness Regional Preserve: 6,859 acres; and Ohlone Wilderness Regional Preserve: 9,737 acres.

Along with dealing with the same types of calls as any municipal agency, the park district enforces Ordinance 38, which includes 46 pages of regulations that specify park-user behavior on land and water, and even in the skies.

(See POLICE, page 8)

West Nile Virus Discovered In Dublin Residential Area

Citizens Warned To Guard Against Mosquitoes

By Jessica Zimmer

DUBLIN — The City of Dublin on Aug. 20 shared a warning on its webpage that West Nile virus had been detected in a residential neighborhood near Tamarack Drive and Brighton Drive.

The virus spreads via species of Culex mosquitoes and can cause illness in humans and animals, including birds and horses. People can protect themselves by getting rid of standing water around their homes, wearing insect repellent together with long sleeves and pants, and limiting outdoor activities during dawn and dusk, when mosquitoes are most active.

Effective insect repellants for people include DEET, picardin, and lemon eucalyptus oil.

People should also refrain from touching dead birds and report them to the California Department of Public Health. Individuals can report mosquitoes in Alameda County to the Alameda County Mosquito Abatement District. The agency will send a trained technician to the individual's home or problem location to handle the issue. The district

(See VIRUS, page 7)



Centenarian Edmond Aboujudom, a resident of Arbor Vista Senior Apartments in Livermore, shares the story of his family, including 10 brothers and sisters, during the displacement and suffering of the Nakba of 1948 in Palestine. (Photo — Leah Silveira)

100-Year-Old Man Is Survivor of the Nakba

Oldest Arbor Vista Resident Shares Story of Life From Palestine to Livermore

By Christina Cavallaro

LIVERMORE — Edmond Aboujudom was born in 1925 in Jerusalem, in what was then considered part of Palestine, specifically the administrative capital of Mandatory Palestine under the British Mandate.

The British Mandate governed the region of Palestine between 1920 and 1948, with Jerusalem serving as its administrative center from 1923 until 1948.

And on Feb. 18 of this year, Aboujudom turned 100, becoming the oldest living resident ever at Arbor Vista Senior Apartments in Livermore, where he has lived for the past 18 years.

"I am No. 1 with the community to live," he said in English, accented with Arabic. His daughter-in law, Hala Aboujudom, laughed and finessed the statement. "He's the oldest."

Her husband, David, Aboujudom's son, added, "He was the first one to reach 100 living here. They had a big party for him."

Not only has Aboujudom lived to be 100, but he also lived through the Nakba (Arabic for "catastrophe") of 1948, which refers to the displacement and dispossession of more than 750,000 people from their homes and land in the leadup to the establishment of Israel.

This year, Palestinians are marking 77 years since the event that created a massive refugee population, many of whom settled in the Gaza Strip, the legacy of which in many

(See PALESTINIAN, page 9)

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PET OF THE WEEK



PURR MAJESTY

All hail Purr Majesty, the sweetest queen in search of her castle! Though she may be a bit shy at first, once she feels safe, she'll gladly accept belly rubs, chase ribbon wands and snuggle up for royal naps. With her gentle heart and playful spirit, she's ready to reign with love in her new kingdom. Call Valley Humane at (925) 426-8656 or email info@valleyhumane.org to get started with the adoption process. (Photo courtesy of Valley Humane)

Dublin Shares Progress on Two-Year Strategic Plan

By David Jen

DUBLIN — The city remains on track to reach goals it set last year in its strategic plan, although it has yet to start an assessment of its fire stations or a planned update to its pavement- management program, according to the one-year progress report presented at the Aug. 19 city council meeting.

The city council adopts a new strategic plan every two years identifying strategies and objectives to guide the city's work. The current plan, divided into five strategies, was adopted in April 2024.

"Seeing these five strategies and the amount of work that has gone in either achieving or making progress toward these strategies and the objectives under those strategies, it's great being in that position," Vice Mayor Kashef Qaadri said at last week's meeting.

Earlier this month, the city closed its request-for-proposal to assess its fire stations, having received proposals from 10 firms. City staff said they expect to return to the city council in the next few months with plans to evaluate both the physical needs of the city's fire stations as well as the functional needs of the department as a whole.

Staff will also soon present to the city council a survey of Dublin's streets, identifying what investments the city needs as it updates its pavement-management plan.

Under the city's strategy around economic development, small-business support and downtown Dublin, the report highlighted work such as developing East Dublin, updating the Western Dublin Transportation Impact Fee program, and providing business-concierge services to retain and grow local businesses.

Dublin Senior Management Analyst Jordan Foss said the concierge service responded to more than 320 requests for assistance over the past year.

The strategic plan listed new situational-awareness cameras at Arnold Road and Horizon Parkway as one of its completed public-safety goals, as well as pedestrian signage guiding Santa Rita Jail releasees to the BART station, and a Small Business and Public Safety Fair.

Under its housing inclusivity and affordability strategy, the city continues to focus on new housing developments, including the Dublin Centre project's 105 low- and moderate-income accessory dwelling units, Francis Ranch's 50 low-income accessory dwelling units, Regional Street Senior Affordable Housing Development's 113 very low- to low-income units, and Amador Station's 300 extremely low-, low- and moderate-income units.

The inclusive and effective government strategy counted the city's November 2024 transition to district-based elections and inclusionary updates at The Wave waterpark as complete, while more work remains on funding reserves for the Dublin Boulevard extension, the city's downtown and the reconstruction of Village Parkway.

The Dublin Climate Challenge, which allows groups of households to compete amongst each other in efforts to reduce carbon emissions, was launched last summer as part of the city's long-term infrastructure and sustainability investments strategy.

"(The website) is a great tool, and I'm glad we're highlighting it," Councilmember Jean Josey said. "It's been wonderful to give people action items for what they can do and an interactive way for folks to look at things they can take control of in their own lives to reduce their carbon footprint."

Other infrastructure projects, such as a citywide signal communications upgrade and the widening of Tassajara Road, remain in progress.





Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department Names Interim Chief to Succeed Testa

By Ruth Roberts

TRI-VALLEY — Fire Chief Joe Testa has retired from the Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department (LPFD) after 29 years. The department named Deputy Chief Aaron Lacey interim fire chief effective Aug. 16.

"Throughout his career, he (Testa) demonstrated a visionary and strategic approach to emergency management and organizational leadership that left a lasting impact on the department," LPFD said in a statement.

Testa began his career with LPFD in 1996 as a firefighter-paramedic and rose through the ranks, serving as engineer, captain, battalion chief, deputy chief and ultimately fire chief. Testa was an active member of both the California Fire Chiefs Association and the International Association of Fire Chiefs. He served as an incident commander for the East Bay Incident Management Team and has held multiple leadership positions, including president of the Operations and Communications sections of the Alameda County Fire Chiefs Association.



Joe Testa

"One of the most important responsibilities of a fire chief is making appointments — whether through new hires or promotions," Testa said. "During my tenure, I have had the privilege of appointing support staff, firefighters, managers and inspectors. Time and again, I've seen that the LPFD attracts the best of the best. I remain deeply grateful for the exceptional team I had the honor to serve alongside every single day."

Lacey has been with the LPFD since 2005. Over the years, he has displayed leadership skills and expertise, according to the department, advancing through the ranks from fire captain in 2011 to battalion chief in 2016 before becoming deputy chief in 2020. Lacey assumed the role of interim fire chief for six months following the 2021 retirement of former chief Jeff Peters.

"Chief Lacey brings the tools, experience and commitment needed to continue moving the department forward," Testa added. "With a broad background spanning administration, operations and specialized areas of the fire service, he is well prepared for this role. I wish him every success as he takes the reins."

Lacey said he is looking forward to his new role and is grateful for the opportunity to serve the community.

"I am deeply honored to serve as fire chief and humbled by the trust placed in me," Lacey added. "I look forward to working alongside our dedicated members and partnering with the community to uphold our tradition of excellence and continue delivering the highest level of service."

There is currently no information available regarding the selection process or timeline for a permanent fire chief, according to Rosa Ramos, analyst manager for the LPFD.

COMING SOON



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Offered at $849,000



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Multiple Agencies Team To Contain Blaze At Parks Reserve Forces Training Area

By Ruth Roberts

DUBLIN — Ground and airborne firefighters contained a vegetation fire spanning 118 acres on the northern side of the Parks Reserve Forces Training Area (PRFTA) at approximately 7 a.m. on Aug. 24, according to a press release from James C. O'Donnell, public affairs officer for PRFTA.

The fire was reported at about 3:15 p.m. Aug. 22, on grassland that is used for PRFTA training purposes.



Airborne firefighters helped contain a vegetation fire spanning 118 acres that began Aug. 22 at the Parks Reserve Forces Training Area in Dublin. More than 120 personnel and 20 fire engines were involved in fighting the blaze. (Photo — James C. O'Donnell)

More than 120 personnel and 20 fire engines were involved in fighting the blaze, O'Donnell said. Firefighting crews from PRFTA, Alameda County, Cal Fire, Livermore-Pleasanton and the San Ramon Valley Fire Department were dispatched to the scene. Four fixed-wing and two rotary-wing aircraft, along with three bulldozers, were also called to the site.

"We were very appreciative of the swift and coordinated response by all agencies involved that were instrumental in containing and extinguishing the fire," O'Donnell said. "It was exceptional work from all the agencies, and we are very grateful."

The cause of the blaze remains under investigation.

LIVERMORE CALIFORNIA

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 September 5, 2025, at 5:00 PM.

Historic Preservation Commission (2 Vacancies)
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) Unexpired Term ending 5/1/2029
(1) Unexpired Term ending 5/1/2028
Meets 1st Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM
Next meeting: September 4th

Human Services Commission (3 Vacancies)
Join us in discussing community social needs, assisting local agencies in procuring grant funds, and more.
(2) Regular Terms ending 11/1/2029
(1) Unexpired Term ending 11/1/2028
Meets 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM

SAVE THE DATE! In-person interviews are scheduled for September 17, 2025. For more information or to apply, please visit www.livermoreca.gov/AB, call the City Clerk's office at (925) 960-4200, or email: cityclerk@livermoreca.gov.

Local Opera Offers 'La Traviata'

The Livermore Valley Opera (LVO) will kick off its 34th season in September with performances of Giuseppe Verdi's "La Traviata" at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore.

Set in 19th century Paris, "La Traviata," which translates as "The Fallen Women," follows the ill-fated love affair between Violetta Valery and Alfredo Germont, a timeless tale of love, sacrifice and redemption.

The LVO production will star soprano Avery Boettcher as Violetta, a courtesan, and tenor Brad Bickhardt as Alfredo, an ardent young man from a bourgeois family whose love for a "fallen woman" challenges societal norms.

The opera will be sung in Italian with English supertitles.

The opening performance is set for 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 27, with 2 p.m. matinees scheduled for Sunday, Sept. 28, Saturday, Oct. 4, and Sunday, Oct. 5.

Tickets are available online at LVOpera.com or livermorearts.org.



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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DA Charges Former Santa Rita Deputies in Jail Death

By Ruth Roberts

DUBLIN — The Alameda County District Attorney's Office has filed criminal charges against three former deputy sheriffs at Santa Rita Jail related to the 2021 in-custody death of Maurice Monk.

Deputy Sheriffs Thomas Mowrer, Donnall Rowe and Robinderpal Hayer were among nine deputies originally charged in connection with Monk's death. Charges against the other six have been dismissed, according to an Aug. 21 statement from the Alameda County Sheriff's Office (ACSO).

Monk, 45, was pronounced dead Nov. 15, 2021, after being pulled from his cell. Deputies' body cameras revealed he had lain face down on his bunk in a pool of his own bodily fluids for days without attention.

Cameras showed deputies and nurses from Wellpath, the healthcare company for Santa Rita Jail, dropping off food and tossing medication into the cell, dismissing him as "Monk being Monk." The deputies and nurses claimed they had seen Monk move a single toe, according to a statement at the time from Oakland-based Pointer & Buelna, Lawyers for the People, who represented the Monk family.

The videos displayed numerous untouched meals and paper cups filled with medications accumulating in the cell. He had lain on the bunk so long that the logo from his jail-issued T-shirt transferred onto his bed sheet.

Monk, who had been diagnosed with diabetes and schizoaffective disorder, was arrested in Oakland in June 2021 after arguing with a bus driver. He had refused to wear a mask and missed a court date, which resulted in his detention. Unable to pay the $2,500 bail, Monk remained in jail. His sister claimed to have made several attempts to deliver his medications, only to be repeatedly turned away by deputies.

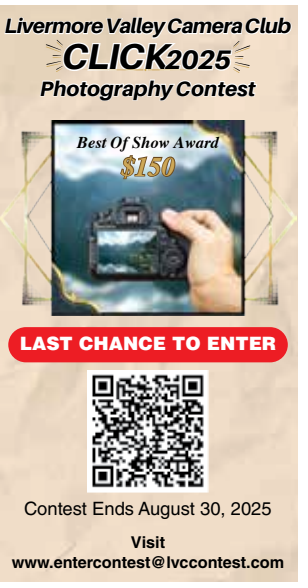
After his death, the family filed a lawsuit against the county, along with at least nine nurses and a physician's assistant. They claimed that these individuals failed to intervene while observing Monk's deterioration during his care, according to the law firm.

In June, Wellpath agreed to pay $2.5 million to Monk's children and last year, Alameda County settled its portion of the family's federal civil rights and wrongful death lawsuit for $7 million.

Since then, the ACSO has implemented changes at the jail as outlined in the federally mandated consent decree and continues to introduce reforms to improve the well-being of all those incarcerated there, according to the Aug. 21 statement.

"It is not just about ensuring compliance with the federal consent decree; my priority is ensuring those in our custody are provided with the best medical and mental-health care possible," Sheriff Yesenia Sanchez said.

Santa Rita Jail serves as the county's holding facility, accommodating approximately 60,000 inmates each year, with as many as 2,300 present at any given time.



Arrest Made in 2024 Double Homicide

By Ruth Roberts

LIVERMORE — The suspect in a 2024 double homicide in Livermore has been arrested following a 16-month manhunt that ended in Mexico, according to the Livermore Police Department (LPD).

Yonston Vazquez, 31, of Oakland, was apprehended with assistance from the FBI in Mexico on Aug. 20. Vasquez was extradited to Livermore that same day and booked into the Santa Rita Jail on two counts of homicide.

Around 6:45 a.m. on April 27, 2024, LPD officers responded to a report of a shooting at the La Quinta Inn on Southfront Road. When officers arrived, they found a 26-year-old woman from Oakland and a 21-year-old man from Hayward who had been shot inside a room. Both victims were pronounced dead at the scene.

Livermore Police's Criminal Investigations Bureau took over the case and identified Vazquez as the suspect. Investigators have determined that Vazquez knew one of the victims.

"This arrest represents the relentless pursuit of justice," Livermore Police Chief Jeramy Young said in a statement. "From the first response to the final arrest, the professionalism and persistence of our officers, specialized units and detectives were critical to bringing this case to a resolution and ensuring accountability for the victims' families. I would also like to thank the FBI for their assistance, as this suspect would not be in custody without their efforts and our partnership."

The case marks Livermore's only homicides in 2024.



Yonston Vazquez of Oakland was arrested Aug. 20 in Mexico in connection with a double homicide that took place in Livermore on April 27, 2024. (Photo courtesy of Livermore Police Department)





Livermore Public Library Set To Observe Latinx Heritage Month

Livermore Public Library will celebrate Latinx Heritage Month from Monday, Sept. 15, through Wednesday, Oct. 15, with a variety of free events designed to recognize the influence of Latin American and Caribbean culture in the U.S.

The U.S. first celebrated National Hispanic Heritage Week in 1968, after Congress passed a resolution introduced by then-California Congressman George E. Brown. It was expanded to a month-long celebration in 1988.

More recently, some groups have referred to the annual commemoration as Latinix Heritage Month, with Latinix considered a gender-neutral word for those of Latin American heritage living in the U.S.

Events scheduled for the Civic Center Library, 1188 S. Livermore Ave., include bilingual story time at 1 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 14; author Reyna Grande at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 20; Mexican folk band Los Panaderos at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 28; La Raiz Poetry and Art Fest starting at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 4; author Caro de Robertis at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 11; and TeenTober Takeover: Tacos y Libros for high school students at 4 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 14.

To register for the TeenTober Takeover, call 925-373-5505.

Events scheduled for the Rincon Branch Library, 725 Rincon Ave., include Casa de Chocolates, a Mexican chocolate shop in Berkley, with chocolate making and taste-testing at 3:30 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 26, and a performance of Afro-Peruvian music and dances by the Oakland-based arts organization Cunamacué at 3:30 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 10.

The Casa de Chocolates presentation is for those 15 and older and registration is required.

The Civic Center, Rincon and Springtown library, 988 Bluebell Dr., will also offer an Andean weaving craft project during Latinx Heritage Month. Free yarn and felt kits are available at all Livermore libraries while supplies last.

Patrons can play Mexican lotería, with a chance to win books, at the Rincon Library at 6 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 6, and the Springtown Library at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 7.

For more information, call 925-373-5505 or go to library.livermoreca.gov.





EDITORIAL

California's Energy Mix Is Headed in the Wrong Direction

Pacific Gas & Electric recently wrote to The Independent to ask for clarifications on our editorial last week and to pass on more data. The information that was provided to us is not in question, but it doesn't change our main argument: Customers are being billed unfairly while investor-owned utilities like PG&E make huge profits.

In March, we reported that PG&E proposed a rate increase of 2%-4% for 2026 in order to increase the dividends it pays its shareholders. PG&E told us that "dividend" isn't the right word, because the payments are actually "return on equity."

There may be technical differences in how those two terms are used, but the end result is the same: money is being paid out to investors.

What is more, PG&E's net profits increased to $2.5 billion on $24.4 billion in revenues in 2024 from a profit of $2.2 billion on $24.4 billion in revenues in 2023. PG&E's Cost of Capital application, a report that it must file every three years, estimated that residential customers will see monthly increases of $5.50, reflecting higher interest rates, and that bills could be limited to a 2%-4% increase without sacrificing safety.

It's fair to ask whether PG&E needs another rate increase, when the utility is already profitable and the intent is to put more money in the pockets of its investors.

PG&E says the proposed increase doesn't take into account the big picture on electric prices. "Electric prices are lower today than they were in January 2024, and they are expected to go down in 2026," the utility wrote in an email to The Independent.

That doesn't address the fact that the solar power reimbursement rate — the amount of money paid to consumers who sell unused solar energy back to the grid — is still too low to encourage residents to switch to solar energy. When the new net metering (called NEM 3) policy, with its lower reimbursement rate for solar users, was instituted in 2022, we were concerned that the move would kill decades-old incentives for residents to generate their own energy. The Environmental Working Group estimated in early 2024 that 75% of the solar companies in California were at high risk of bankruptcy.

That worry was justified: Solar owners saw their reimbursement rates fall 75%. More than 17,000 solar installation jobs in the state disappeared in the last half of 2023. Many people stopped investing in solar technology, so much so that some solar companies, such as Richmond-based SunPower Corp., went out of business, leaving existing customers in the lurch.

In August this year, the California Supreme Court overturned a lower court ruling that would have maintained the lower reimbursement rates. That's good news. However, it's true that the way the current utility billing system is set up now, electrical customers who do not have solar installations are effectively subsidizing those that do. PG&E says that the subsidy amounts to 18% higher utility bills per month, a figure that we hadn't seen before.

There is no doubt that this is unfair. Nevertheless, the answer isn't to disincentivize solar, ensuring that an already teetering industry is pushed over the edge. This is especially concerning because California is trying to decarbonize entirely by 2045.

According to the California Energy Commission, natural gas is still the largest source of energy in the state, comprising about 37% of electricity generation in 2023. Solar energy's share was about 17%. Total energy sources that do not emit greenhouse gases, including solar, wind, hydropower, biomass, geothermal and nuclear power, come to about 58% of the total.

If Californians abandoned natural gas as a source of electricity, the utility companies would take a hit. There is no doubt about that. This creates a large incentive for investor-owned utilities to try to undermine the solar industry.

The problem, which we identified last week, is that the system set up in California seems more oriented toward supporting large investor-owned utilities instead of ratepayers, and gives preference to those who buy carbon-based electricity over carbon-free options.

Our conclusion is the same: The existing system is the opposite of what we want. We should not punish residents for having installed solar power in the first place, and we should be looking at trying to get more residents to adopt solar power going forward.

The 18% cost passed on to non-solar users doesn't have to be that high — it's a consequence of choices made by the utility, the California Public Utilities Commission, the legislature and the governor. Customers with solar power will still be tied into PG&E's network and paying for upkeep. All parties working together for the benefit of Californians need to be able to balance the needs of PG&E investors, non-solar users and solar advocates more fairly. That is not happening now.

MAILBOX

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

Environment Matters!
John Cameron, Dublin

Ever seen polls during elections where they ask prospective voters what they find most important? Some say immigration, or the economy. Maybe it's foreign affairs or education — possibly healthcare or national security.

I used to enjoy having arguments with a very conservative friend of mine about many topics. It was respectful and fun for both of us bantering back and forth. One of our topics was the environment and how it relates to us. I eventually asked in frustration if he would rather have a healthy planet or his money? His unexpected reply was a solid, "money!"

A year or so later, he was in a horrible motorcycle accident that left him disabled, no longer qualified for his job. Within a year he successfully took his own life on the third try because he could no longer think with clarity, living in agony.

I mention this because I believe in retrospect with a clear mind his money answer would have been very different.

We have, as a species, made incredible advancements in technology, to the point of distancing ourselves from the very source we owe all of our progress to. The computers, cars, phones, medications, weapons and concepts we've uncovered would never be possible without the great gifts bestowed upon us from the natural world. It seems the more we learn, the farther away our connection is to the very essence of what we owe everything to. Your cell phone, which we can barely function without, is entirely made from pieces taken from "Mother Earth".

It seems the more we advance our technology, the more we forget what we owe it all to. We've been treating the earth, and all other life on it, as if it's a store to raid from, whenever we want, as much as we want, and everything is free of charge!

I'm surprised more of us don't respond with the environment (our very source of life) as the most important topic.

Most of us don't prioritize our health until we lose it, which is regretful. The same goes for the very air we breathe, the water we drink, and the land we get everything from.

Without a healthy environment, nothing else whatsoever matters! Your family, your job, your money, your friends, your dreams, your safety... Nothing!

We Must Help
Julie Wild, Livermore

All children are precious — yet the children of Gaza have become numbers. Lives that should never be reduced to numbers are now part of a long, harrowing list of unimaginable horrors: the grave violations against children, the blockade of aid, the starvation, the constant forced displacement, and the destruction of hospitals, water systems, universities, schools, and mosques, churches, and homes. In essence, the destruction of life itself in the Gaza Strip.

In total, more than 50,000 children have reportedly been killed or injured since October 2023. How many more dead girls and boys will it take? How many more starving bodies must we look at? How many more kids need to be killed while seeking food and water? What level of horror must be livestreamed before you step up, use your influence, and speak out to force the end of this ruthless killing of children?

The violence must stop. Civilians should be protected, including children. International humanitarian laws and human rights law must be respected and followed, and more humanitarian aid must be allowed in.

Gaza is the world's moral compass right now. How we respond to Gaza indicates who we are in both our ethical and moral choices.

The children of Gaza need protection. They need food, water, and medicine. They need a permanent ceasefire. But more than anything, they need immediate, collective action to stop this once and for all. We must do all we can to help them. Silence is complicity. Never again is now.

If you don't want to hear my words, listen to theirs.

Dear World,
Children are dying
Their mothers are crying
The sky is crying
The ground is shaking
Flames are growing
Bodies are shivering
Souls are hurting
The wind is howling
They are leaving everything behind
Hoping they will build their homes again

- Fatma Rabee,
Gaza, age 11

Tri-Valley CAREs Was Featured at the Nobel Peace Conference
Felicia Ziomek, Livermore

Livermore-based Tri-Valley Communities Against a Radioactive Environment (CAREs) was featured at the Nobel Peace Conference held in Oslo, Norway on Aug. 6, the 80th anniversary of the U.S. atomic bombing of Hiroshima. Together with four other organizations, they worked for over three years to secure a major legal victory for government accountability by ensuring the public's voice is heard on the environmental impacts related to the planned U.S. production of plutonium pits. This outcome highlights how crucial public input is, especially for projects with such far-reaching consequences.

Thanks to the lawsuit, the opportunity for public scrutiny and formal comment on the plan is coming to Livermore with a public hearing hosted by the National Nuclear Security Administration in 2026 on its plans to more than quadruple the production of plutonium pits. LLNL is the lead lab for the development of the W87-1 warhead, which will sit on top of the planned 450 new Sentinel intercontinental ballistic missiles. The Lab is planning to "enhance" its plutonium work in part to meet the needs of the W87-1 program, and the public comment period will provide the community with more information about the possible environmental and human health impacts of this work.

Additionally, this review of pit production should analyze a range of viable alternatives to the proposed plan for the public to give input on. This ruling is a win for government accountability and highlights the importance of public input under NEPA, especially in projects that can have far-reaching, devastating impacts.

Great job, Tri-Valley CAREs! Check out its website for more information!

Glad D.O. is Back
Richard Andrews, Livermore

I was happy to see that D.O. of Pleasanton was back. I was afraid he had awakened from his delusions and become rational. But this last letter proved he is still under the control of his MAGA prophet. So we can now relax knowing that more wisdom and "alternative facts" will continue to amuse us. What will he defend next? Kristallnacht?

It was a justified start at the cleansing of Deutchland? When ICE, er Gestapos, came to remove these undesirables, all the "true Germans" were left to have jobs and the security of the OHS and Noem, er SS and Himmler, to protect and preserve their racial purity, as MAGA, sorry NAZI's assured total control and prosperity. Surely this is a worthwhile "Golden Age" that needs repeating.

I am reminded of Jason and Argonauts seeking the Golden Fleece...except the "fleecing" we are getting is not as nearly golden, and is only given to the very rich.

Keep it up D.O.! We await your next alliteration of "alternative facts". I know you won't disappoint.

I imagine you are as familiar with the Bible as your hero, but thought this might give you some thought;

Romans 1:22 Professing themselves wise, they became fools.

Prop 50: The Election Rigging Response Act
Kyoko Takayama, Livermore

The Texas State House approved the map drawn by Trump's order to gain five more Republican seats in the middle of the night.

In response, California proposed creating a map to neutralize Texas, possibly adding five Democratic leaning districts, and gave the final decision to voters.

Gerrymandering is silencing voters' voices. Gerrymandering in states like Georgia, Florida, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas and Wisconsin is the reason Republicans have a House majority. It is the reason, despite promises made by many Republican elected officials, the Big Ugly bill, which cuts healthcare, food assistance to those in need, as well as climate incentives to lower the carbon emissions, was passed against constituents' will. In solid partisan districts, politicians only fear challengers in the primary, not listening to the constituents.

Trump, a wannabe king and a master cheater, knows how unpopular he and his party have become, and is afraid of losing the House majority, even with all the gerrymandering and voter suppressions already in place. If the House is in Democratic control, Democrats will fight to stop his agenda, just like we saw in his first term. He is afraid. Otherwise, why does he want to eliminate mail-in voting, American's favorite way of voting?

Is it OK for masked and unidentified law enforcement to kidnap people in our neighborhood? Is it OK for immigrants, legal or otherwise, to be deported without due process? Is it OK for the military to be deployed in the U.S. without justification? Is it OK for a president to use his power for his own gain? We have to win the midterm in 2026 and take back our country

(See MAILBOX, page 5)

Correction

A story that ran on page 1 in the Aug. 21 edition of The Independent contained an error regarding ownership of the Happy Hooves Farm. The farm and onsite residence are owned exclusively by Extended Day Child Care.

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www.independentnews.com



The piano students of Kim Luty performed an afternoon of Music at Our Savior Lutheran Ministries in June. Selections by Bartok, Beethoven and Diemer were played before an audience of family and friends. Shown, from left: Madeline Brown-Vega, Addie Estrada, Adrian Wood, Kim Luty, Ailie Bissett and Mira Wood. (Photo courtesy of Kim Luty)

MAILBOX

(Continued from page 4)

if you agree that America is better than this.

Prop 50: Election Rigging Response Act is a proportional response to the Texas extreme power grab, and it creates a plain field to fight and win back our America. The map is temporary, and when Dems take back control of our government, ending gerrymandering should be their priority, and we shall see who votes for fair elections, since California Republican representatives are against gerrymandering on record for the first time. I hate gerrymandering, but we don't always get what we like in the real world. Vote yes on Prop 50, and join in the fight to win back our America. The choice is ours to make.

Israel's Impunity to Children Killings and Sexual Predations

Greg Scott, Livermore

On August 7th, 2025, Tom Artiom Alexandrovich, executive director of the Cyber Defense Division at the Israel National Cyber Directorate, posted $10,000 bail in Las Vegas, Nevada after being arrested in a sting operation for attempting to solicit sex via the internet with a 15-year-old girl. Mr. Alexandrovich dutifully brought a condom to the rendezvous location, as requested by the decoy, and promptly returned to Israel on subsequent jail release after bail was posted. Ironically, Mr. Alexandrovich was in Las Vegas for the cyber security "Black Hat Convention." With the unplanned arrest, Mr. Alexandrovich missed some of his scheduled meetings with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the National Security Agency (NSA).

Mr. Alexandrovich has obtained attorney David Chesnoff, who was recently appointed to the Homeland Security Advisory Council (HSAC) by President Trump and Secretary of Homeland Security Noem. On August 27, 2025, Mr. Alexandrovich is to appear in court in Nevada, and it is expected he will return from Israel, a country notorious for harboring child sex predator criminals. There are more than 60 U.S. pedophiles evading justice in Israel. (Source: Jewish Community Watch)

In 2008, Jeffrey Epstein was convicted of only one count of soliciting prostitution from a minor. He was given a non-prosecutorial agreement (NPA), whereupon he faced no federal charges. After the conviction Mr. Epstein promptly flew to Israel, where he was given tours of military facilities.

The prosecutor in Mr. Epstein's case, U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Florida Alexander Acosta, was later nominated by President Trump, in his first term, and confirmed to be U.S. Secretary of Labor, where he later resigned in July 2019 after Mr. Epstein was arrested for sex crimes occurring at Mr. Epstein's New York mansion, obtained for zero dollars from his main benefactor, billionaire Les Wexner, owner of such outlets as Victoria's Secret and Abercrombie & Fitch.

On March 6, 1985, one of Mr. Wexner's attorneys, Arthur Shapiro, received two bullets to the back of his head the day before he was to testify to the grand jury in regard to tax evasion. The murder has never been solved. The Columbus, Ohio police records on the case were sequestered for years.

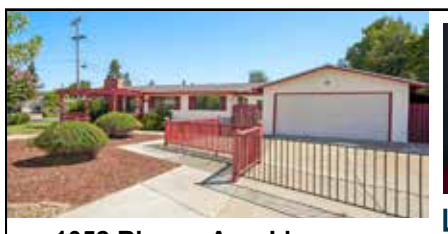
Israeli's can come to the U.S. and rape minors with impunity? Jewish sex predators can hide in Israel? Evil is also blatant in Israel's genocide, maiming, and starvation of tens of thousands of children in Palestine.

Trump Stuff

Kerry Pickett, Pleasanton

It baffles me that some support a POTUS who is morally bankrupt and lacks the character traits we teach our children to live by. As a teacher, if any student behaved like him, they would face serious consequences. We teach students that lying, cheating, stealing, racism, bullying, etc. is not tolerated. Yet, DT is guilty of all these things, and some still hold him in esteem and praise him. Shouldn't morality, human decency, integrity, truth, etc., be important? Do those same Trumpers want someone like him to teach, coach or mentor their child or grandchild? Would they want their daughter to marry a man like that? Would they want their wife to work for a man who was convicted of, and bragged about, sexually assaulting women? I ask those same people, if you love the job he is doing and have no trouble looking past his atrocities, would you do the same with a church leader who gives a wonderful sermon and leads a strong congregation, but who abuses children? Would you still praise a teacher who is an amazing educator and whose students get the highest test scores, but who grooms children? Supporting and defending DT, while ignoring his lying (too many lies to count), cheating (on all 3 wives, taxes, golf, etc.),

(See MAILBOX, page 6)



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THE Independent

WE'RE HIRING:

Part-time Assistant Editor and Reporter

The Independent, a crusading weekly community paper with a print circulation of 25,000 located in eastern Alameda County, California, is seeking an enterprising and creative assistant editor/reporter to help cover our communities. We're a close-knit team of visionary individuals. We're looking for someone who will not just maintain the status quo, but help guide us into the future with new initiatives in print, on the web and in the community.

The Tri-Valley, which includes the communities of Livermore, Pleasanton, Dublin and Sunol, offers breathtaking landscapes covered with vineyards and open ridge lands, and serves as a vibrant cradle of arts, education, science and community engagement. Livermore is home to a well-regarded community college and two national laboratories, which are rich repositories of developments in climate science, fusion power, supercomputing, biology, health and other sciences.

The mission of The Independent, founded in 1963, is to champion and build upon what's best about the Tri-Valley: preservation of its surrounding open spaces and agriculture, its scientific achievements, its support for disadvantaged people, and its cultural and artistic amenities. We have never been shy about challenging those who would undermine any of the successes for which we are known.

The assistant editor/reporter will interact with a regular pool of freelance and staff writers covering local government, schools, science, arts and local community organizations, and multifaceted issues affecting the region, such as housing and homelessness, immigration, economic development and education.

The assistant editor will perform other duties as needed, for example, writing editorials on local news, or national issues that specifically affect the Tri-Valley. The assistant editor would also be asked to report and write a number of stories each week on local government, the courts, and other beats. These will be paid separately as freelance stories on top of the assistant editor salary.

The paper is seeking a journalist and advocate who can cover these beats and hone our reporting for maximum impact. The ideal candidate will possess a unique blend of investigative fervor with a love of journalism that can transform communities. The assistant editor will collaborate with the managing editor and publisher/editor to keep these issues in the public eye.

Duties:
- Edit stories written by a stable of freelance writers and staff
- Write editorials as needed
- Report news stories

Qualifications:
- A seasoned journalist with a strong ethical code
- Excellent time management skills
- Organized and adept at juggling multiple projects simultaneously

The ideal candidate is a versatile journalist with a curiosity and willingness to learn about everything from land use law to nuclear physics projects, and a passion for accuracy and holding the powerful to account.

We prefer that an assistant editor candidate live in or near the Tri-Valley, or be willing to relocate. Appropriate relocation expenses will be covered. Under some circumstances, a remote position may be considered.

The assistant editor role involves 20 hours per week, outside of time spent on freelance stories.

Night and/or weekend work is often necessary to keep pace with a dynamic news environment.

To apply, send a resumé, a cover letter detailing your experience and interest in the position, and a few recent examples of your writing and editing to the managing editor at jobs@independentnews.com.

Please apply by September 3, 2025 We are an Equal Opportunity Employer.



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The Tri-Valley Nonprofit Alliance's Resource and Volunteer Expo held Aug. 23 at the Robert Livermore Community Center in Livermore provided opportunities to connect with nonprofits to access resources and find volunteer possibilities in multiple areas, including childcare, job counseling and senior support. (Photo — Leah Silveira)

MAILBOX

(Continued from page 5)

corruption (list is endless), bullying (google it), stealing (from veterans & children's charities, contractors, etc.), and the list goes on and on. Consider that he is also:

Whitewashing history — Jan. 6th Insurrection, forcing Smithsonian and history books to erase or downplay slavery and historical facts

Pedophile Jeffrey Epstein — his bestie for years

Ghislaine Maxwell — Wished her well and got her moved to a cushy prison after meeting with his former lawyer

Jan. 6 insurrection — His fault! He pardoned all the insurrectionists and still lies about what happened (get the truth from Capitol Police who were there)

Revenge and Retribution Promise — this is pure evil and dangerous! He's releasing dangerous convicted criminals because they support him. He appoints loyalists with no knowledge or experience because they will lie and protect his corruption.

Putin — Brutal dictator who he admires, trusts, and treats better than our allies. Putin makes him look like a clown!

He is corrupt to his core and normalizing him is dangerous! And if he is doing such a great job, why does he need to gerrymander Texas and other states?

The Way You See the World

Will Bateson, Livermore

The way you see the world depends largely upon the lens through which you filter it. David Ott, a strong MAGA supporter and frequent contributor almost weekly to The Independent, writes to defend the current administration. But he is a middle-aged white male (as am I). He is an ardent supporter of everything our POTUS does. But really, how hard is it to defend the current administration when you are in the class he vehemently protects, to the chagrin of almost all others?

I wonder if he would be such an ardent supporter if he was a younger man. Maybe a Hispanic or Black man. Or, dare I say, a woman, especially one of color. Regardless of what the current administration does, David Ott and I will be fine. But that's not really the point, is it? I care far less about how I am protected than my neighbor, who has not had the life of privilege that I (and David Ott) have had.

Will I pay less taxes under the current administration than the previous one? Maybe. Will I be 'safer'? Maybe not. And, most importantly to me, will my children and my less privileged neighbors have a better life? I don't think so. That's why I'm a Democrat.

Redistricting in California

Marcus Libkind, Livermore

The Voting Rights Act of 1965 was gutted in 2013 by the Supreme Court. Today, Texas gerrymandered districts so that more Republicans will certainly be elected in the state giving more seats in Congress to conservatives (the far-right).

In California, the Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission has been the authority controlling redistricting. I voted for it. It WAS a good piece of legislation. But right now, it does not serve the citizens of California. Texas's gerrymandering means that there will not be a fair voice in Congress from its citizens, and therefore not from the U.S. as a whole. This affects you and me in California.

The far-right cries that the redistricting Proposition 50 on the November 2025 ballot in California is an affront to fairness and the will of the people. They are mailing out advertisements saying this. At the same time, they support gerrymandering in Texas and in other states where they plan to attempt the same affront to fairness as in Texas.

Vote YES on Proposition 50 in November. Proposition 50 is about protecting California's voice in Washington, countering Republican gerrymanders, and securing a fairer national balance, all while keeping the independent redistricting commission in place long-term in California.

Shame on You, David Ott!

Denis Telgemeier, Pleasanton

Trump sycophant David Ott apparently lives inside an alternative universe where up is down, where lies are truth, where enemies are friends, where ignorance is bliss.

His view of Trump's "accomplishments" would make George Orwell proud (Mailbox, "The Golden Age of America," August 21, 2025).

Does Mr. Ott hear the anguished cries of innocent children being ripped from the arms of their parents by masked goon squads?

Does Mr. Ott shed a tear for dishonored veterans who have had their dignity and their benefits stolen from them?

Does Mr. Ott care that a rogue government is robbing Americans of their basic freedoms?

Does Mr. Ott notice that a wannabe dictator has soiled the reputation of America in the eyes of the world?

Does Mr. Ott look the other way when pedophiles are not held responsible for their crimes against our children?

Does Mr. Ott flinch when Trump trashes our economy and enriches himself?

Does Mr. Ott mourn the loss of life in Gaza, Ukraine, and other places where Trump has brokered peace deals?

To hide Trump's deceptions and lies, his cruelty, and his ignorance under the banner of cheap patriotism is sinful and un-American.

Shame on you, David Ott!

Thank You for Your Recognition

Nancy denBroeder, Pleasanton

On behalf of PFLAG Tri-Valley, thank you for mentioning our organization in your recent coverage. We appreciate your recognition of the important work we do in our community. Our mission is simple: to provide support, education, and advocacy to create a caring, just, and affirming world for LGBTQIA+ people and those who love them.

PFLAG has existed for over 50 years nationally. More than a decade ago, PFLAG changed its name from "Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays" to, simply, PFLAG. It's no longer an acronym. This reflects the inclusive work the organization has been doing for decades. PFLAG exists not only for parents and families, but also for LGBTQIA+ people themselves and for allies. We welcome people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and expressions.

In addition to the in-person workshops and training about LGBTQIA+ inclusion that you recently highlighted, we also offer monthly support meetings, organize social gatherings, and partner with our local resources to make sure LGBTQIA+ people are safe, celebrated, and empowered throughout our community.

Welcome to Trump World; Golden Age

Rosario Milelli, Pleasanton

So we are in the "Golden Age of America"; it must be a reference to Trump's defacing the Oval Office with gilded ornamentation and gilded tchotchkes in a feeble attempt to mirror a royal palace fit for a want-to-be king, circa 16th century. The claim that he has an "unshakeable mandate" has no basis in facts. Trump won 49.8 percent of the vote. But in the real world, 49.8 doesn't even satisfy the definition of simple majority much less than a "mandate".

So Biden is a dark chapter in American history? Perhaps a look at some facts that might shed some light on these claims. Let's focus on the economy as an example:

Fact: "The Biden Administration Handed over a Strong Economy."

"Economic growth surpassed expectations" — "real gross domestic product (GDP) — the typical measure for the total value of the economy, accounting for inflation — exceeded major public and private forecasts"

"Stronger productivity growth returned despite a global slowdown." "The acceleration of labor productivity growth—the change in output per hour worked — defied expectations for 2023 and 2024."

"Inflation was tamed without a recession." "Inflation has continued to cool in the past six months, with CAP analysis showing an annualized rate of around 2 percent." The fact is, the January 2024 CPI (Biden) was .2% and June 2024 CPI (Trump) was .3%.

"Workers benefited from the strongest labor market in generations." The unemployment rate has been at or below 4 percent for 30 of the past 38 months. This long a period of low unemployment has not been seen since the late 1960s.

"Households, especially those limited by prior barriers, saw substantial wealth gains."

"Key economic indicators highlight continually strong economic performance in recent years, and 2024 is no exception. Looking ahead, analyses from Goldman Sachs and Moody's in 2024 predicted that retaining current policy settings would continue favorable macroeconomic performance in future years. However, increased tariffs — as proposed by the new administration — are expected to worsen economic performance, particularly over the next two years, with increased inflation and lower GDP growth."

The above facts are from The Center for American Progress, an independent, nonpartisan policy institute (article dated Jan. 23, 2025).

The above is an example where facts trump propaganda. Speaking of facts, I think Trump's approval rating (PEW, 8/25) of 38% and disapproval rating of 60% says it all. Imagine, 60% of the public presumably infected with TDS?

Check Your Sources

Robert and Janet Lindgren, Dublin

In response to letter "The Golden Age of America":

"A fact is objective information. An opinion is a personal belief. Ignorance is a lack of facts. And stupidity is a rejection of facts in favor of opinions."

- Author unknown

The recent post by Mr. David Ott regarding Trump's accomplishments paints a very positive view without providing any facts to back up his writing. Most information sources (excluding FOX and Trump-owned media) report the opposite of what Mr. Ott believes. The truth is easily confirmed by fact checking the statements made by Mr. Ott stemming from Donald Trump and his truth-challenged administration. Either Mr. Ott stupidly believes what he is writing, or he is simply lying just like Mr. Trump has been proven to do.

If someone is professing something that does not match what you see or experience, you can either blindly choose to believe it, or can find the truth just by looking for it. Mr. Ott, parroting the Trump administration lies, states that cities were "war zones" until Trump "fixed" things. No American city is a war zone, though Trump and his illegal deployment of the National Guard and the American military against American citizens is certainly attempting to paint that picture.

The economy is not booming; inflation is rising, and the most recent jobs reports were dismal. The high cost of tariffs on the American consumers is just getting started. Rather than acknowledge these problems and the severe economic challenges that are coming for those of us who are "Average Americans", Trump fired the head of the Bureau of Labor Statistics because the hard data did not support his false picture of a rosy economy. Trump is lying to us, as he always does.

The facts do not support the idea that the "border collapsed". Using common sense, one must wonder: how is that even remotely true? The laws were in place; the walls were in place; in fact, data from the DHS shows that President Biden deported more illegal immigrants than Trump.

Discussing Trump's accomplishments, we should also consider these accomplishments: the blatant disregard of court orders; the disregard of state's rights; illegal deployment of the National Guard and the Marines; disrespect of the rule of law when inconvenient to Trump; weakening our standing as a world leader by being so easily and foolishly manipulated by Putin, once our avowed enemy. History will remember these "accomplishments".

REDISTRICT

(Continued from front page)

District 10. Attempts by The Independent to reach DeSaulnier were unsuccessful.

California voters in 2010 backed a ballot measure that instituted independent redistricting for congressional districts, a process meant to encourage fair, competitive elections.

Congressman Eric Swalwell, who represents the 14th district, has also voiced support for temporarily overriding that system in order to counter Trump's bid to retain control of Congress after 2026.

"I prefer that every state would do independent redistricting like California does, but we're not going to fight these fights with one hand tied behind our back, especially the upper hand. So, California should do it if Texas can do it," Swalwell said in a recent interview with The Hill, a popular U.S. political website

Democrats currently hold 43 of California's 52 congressional seats. With the proposed congressional maps, five districts with Republican seats would be transformed to heavily favor Democrats," according to calmatters.org.

By ousting those five incumbents, Newsom would effectively cancel out Trump's effort to gain five Republican seats in Texas. Additionally, the maps would strengthen Democrats' hold on three other competitive California districts, making it harder for Republicans to flip them in 2026.

Proposition 50 has been met with opposition from Republican lawmakers, including State Assemblyman James Gallagher, the minority leader from Chico.

"There's really only one way to stop — someone has to refrain from striking back, and show a better way," Gallagher said Aug. 21 while addressing fellow lawmakers in Sacramento.

That same day, in addition to the new congressional map that voters will be asked to approve in November, lawmakers passed a bill that will facilitate and fund the special election.

Newsom stressed the temporary nature of the intended change, and that the measure that will go before voters requires the state to return to nonpartisan map-drawing after the 2030 census.

"I'm not going to wake up the day after the election and look at democracy in ashes, and say, 'Well, at least we protected California's independent redistricting commission,'" Swalwell said. "No, I'm going to support fighting fire with fire."

To learn more about Proposition 50, visit Gov. Newsom's website, https://www.gov.ca.gov/2025/08/21/governor-newsom-signs-election-rigging-response-act-legislative-package-gives-people-power-to-push-back-on-trumps-attempts-to-shred-democracy/. To view the proposed congressional maps, visit: https://aelc.assembly.ca.gov/proposed-congressional-map.

A New Multi-Cultural Group Arranges Community Mixer

A new organization designed to bring together people from different cultures, International Peoples of the Bay Area (IPBA), will celebrate its official launch with a community mixer from 4-6 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 24, at Aracely's Lounge in Danville, California.

Dublin Mayor Sherry Hu will be the guest speaker.

First elected to the Dublin City Council in 2020 and mayor in 2024, Hu is also founder and CEO of Peace of Mind Finance, a Bay Area financial consulting firm, and part-time technical director at Archimedes Control Corp., a San Jose-based company that specializes in environmental security monitoring and energy management.



Sherry Hu

She has a doctorate degree in architectural engineering from the university of Nebraska.

IPBA was started by Livermore Realtor Mony Nop and Adee Parnes, director of client and community relations at LTD Global in Pleasanton.

To RSVP for the kickoff event, go to IPBA-Kick-Off.eventbrite.com.

Library Celebrates Card Sign-Up Month

The Livermore Public Library will celebrate Library Card Sign-Up Month, sponsored by the American Library Association, in September.

The theme this year is "One Card, Endless Possibilities," a reminder that libraries offer something for everyone, according to the library. In addition to checking out books and visual media, card holders have access to classes, job search resources, homework help, discount passes to local museums and cultural events, and the library's Library of Things collections.

Livermore residents can sign up for a free library card at any Livermore Public Library location, or online at library.livermoreca.gov.

Jason Alexander Set To Lead Off 2025-26 Speaker Series

Award-winning actor and comedian Jason Alexander will lead off the 2025-2026 Rae Dorough Speaker Series, sponsored by Livermore Valley Arts, at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore at 8 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 5.

Alexander is best known for his nine-year run playing George Costanza in the NBC sitcom "Seinfeld," winning a Screen Actors Guild Award for Outstanding Performance by a Male Actor in a Comedy Series.

He was also nominated seven consecutive years for a Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Supporting Actor in a Comedy Series and four Golden Globe Awards for Best Supporting Actor in Television.

Alexander has also appeared in numerous stage productions, making his Broadway debut in 1981 in the musical "Merrily We Roll Along," and Hollywood hits, including "Pretty Woman" and "Shallow Hal."

His stage performance in "Jerome Robbins' Broadway" in 1989 earned Alexander a Tony Award for Best Actor in a Musical.

Tickets to "As Long as You're Asking — A Conversation with Jason Alexander" start at $75.



Jason Alexander

Luis Elizondo, a former intelligence official who claims the U.S. government is covering up evidence of extraterrestrial life, will also give a Rae Dorough Speaker Series presentation at the Bankhead in September.

Taking the stage on Thursday, Sept. 18, Elizondo will discuss his decades of experience working in classified programs, including research into UFOs.

Elizondo, who resigned in 2017, is the author of "Imminent: Inside the Pentagon's Hunt for UFOs," published in 2024.

Tickets to the 7:30 p.m. presentation, "Luis 'Lue' Elizondo: Universal Truth, the Evidence is Clear: We are Not Alone," start at $30.

Then at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 13, underwater archeologist and National Geographic researcher Lisa Briggs will give a Rae Dorough Speaker Series presentation on piracy during the Roman Empire, the Chinese pirate queen Zheng Yi Sao, and Blackbeard, the infamous English pirate who terrorized the West Indies and the Carolina coast southeastern in an indelible rampage that lasted just 15 months.

Tickets to "Lisa Briggs: A Pirate's Life" start at $35.

Tickets to the Rae Dorough Speakers Series are available online at livermorearts.org, by calling 925-373-6800, or at the Bankhead Theater box office, 2400 First St.

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Construction began Aug. 18 on a new 18-hole disc golf course at the former Springtown Golf Course site in Livermore. A park, roughly six acres in size that is to include a playground and several shaded areas, will be included at the southern tip of the 85-acre parcel of land. (Photo — Doug Jorgensen)

Dublin Library Is Offering Workshop on Calligraphy

The Dublin Library, 200 Civic Plaza, will offer a Chinese calligraphy workshop taught by Jojo Liu of Jojo's Calligraphy from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 7.

Participants will learn how to hold the brush and master basic strokes to create calligraphic artwork.

The workshop is free and open to adults and teens 15 and older.

New Livermore Police Officer Completes His Field Training

Officer Trent Cox has completed field training with the Livermore Police Department (LPD).

Cox, who grew up in Tracy and graduated from California State University, Monterey Bay with a bachelor's degree in hospitality services, worked in hotel management before deciding to pursue a career in law enforcement.

Cox's father was an officer with the Pleasanton Police Department.

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VIRUS

(Continued from front page)

has a goal of responding within two working days, which excludes weekends and holidays.

Avoiding touching dead birds also helps prevent a person from contracting bird flu, a separate illness.

A person typically contracts West Nile virus by getting bitten by an infected mosquito. This usually happens during mosquito season, which lasts from June to October. The number of people diagnosed with West Nile virus peaks between late August and early September.

West Nile virus can also be transmitted through a blood transfusion or organ transplant. The risk of transmission is associated with blood transfusions and organ donations outside the U.S. All blood donated in the U.S. is tested for the virus.

About 2,000 people are diagnosed with West Nile virus every year. This number, however, is an underestimate because most people infected with West Nile virus do not develop any symptoms. Some develop mild, flu-like symptoms, including fever with headaches or body aches, joint pain, vomiting, diarrhea, and rash. Symptoms usually start within two to six days after being bitten by an infected mosquito. A person with mild symptoms may recover completely. They can, however, experience fatigue and weakness for weeks or months.

A healthcare practitioner tests for West Nile virus infection using a serology test. This involves taking a blood sample and looking for antibodies to the virus. The practitioner typically combines this type of test with a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test during the first day to first few days of infection. There is no treatment for mild cases of West Nile virus in people other than supportive care, which involves managing and relieving symptoms.

People older than 60, individuals who are immunocompromised and patients with chronic medical conditions such as diabetes need to be especially wary of West Nile virus. It can take longer for a person with a weakened immune system to develop symptoms. A person who is experiencing a high fever, neck stiffness, muscle weakness, confusion or tremors should seek medical attention immediately. It can take several weeks or even months to recover from a severe case of infection.

Infected birds may show no signs of West Nile virus. Certain birds, especially crows and jays, get sick and die. A number of dead birds of these species can indicate the disease has spread in the area.

Cats and dogs occasionally contract West Nile virus, but such cases are rare. Most cats and dogs that contract the virus fully recover. Insect repellants for people are not approved for use on pets, so pet owners should use insect repellants specifically designed for animals.

Horses, llamas, alpacas, emus, and certain species of game birds such as quail also can contract West Nile virus. There is an equine vaccine for the virus for horses. West Nile virus is not passed from an animal to person through contact with body fluids or in other ways, such as a bite. It is also not spread from animal to animal.

Good ways to discourage mosquitoes on a property include emptying accumulated water from flowerpots and tires, raking and getting rid of organic matter such as dead leaves, lawn clippings and manure, and keeping animals inside at dusk and dawn. Residents should also use window and door screens. They should repair screens that contain holes and avoid turning on lights outside during the evenings. Mosquitoes are attracted to light.

If you see mosquitoes in Alameda County, call the Alameda County Mosquito Abatement District at (510) 783-7744 or visit Services — Alameda County Mosquito Abatement District (https://www.mosquitoes.org/services). If you see a dead bird, report it online to the California Department of Health between April and October at: https://westnile.ca.gov/report.php or call 877-WNV-BIRD (877-968-2473).

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PLEASE HELP BRING MIGUEL HOME



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

Livermore Wente Winery worker, married father of three and grandfather
Miguel Lopez
remains in Mexico after having been illegally deported in early June.
To donate to a GoFundMe account supporting the Lopez family, visit
https://www.gofundme.com/f/bring-miguel-back-to-his-loved-ones

LeAnn Rimes Sets a High Bar For Coming Bankhead Season



Multi-platinum-selling singer and songwriter LeAnn Rimes, the youngest Grammy recipient in history at age 14, headlined the Brilliance at the Bankhead Gala on Aug. 23. The annual event is a fundraiser for Livermore Valley Arts. (Photo — Ron Essex Photography)

By Christina Cavallaro

LIVERMORE — The Tri-Valley community stepped up and stepped out at the 19th annual Brilliance at the Bankhead gala Aug 23.

The invitation listed attire as "Denim and Diamonds," and there was no shortage of cowboy hats and bling to welcome the headliner, acclaimed country-music singer and songwriter LeAnn Rimes, alongside the Livermore-Amador Symphony led by Lara Webber.

Rimes herself was clad in a wide-brimmed hat and long green evening gown but left her cowboy boots at home in favor of a relaxed barefoot vibe during her magnetic performance.

Livermore Valley Arts Chief Executive Officer Chris Carter set the tone for the night. Carter waxed philosophical, reading a quote from Pablo Picasso as seen painted in a mural on the west side of the Bankhead building by local artist Trent Thompson: "Art washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life."

Rimes' lineup of songs often felt prayerful and contemplative, befitting her latest album titled, "God's Work," released in 2022. Rimes sang her first song of the night, "Remnants," from that album.

"I signed my first record deal when I was 11," she told the audience. "So, it's been a long time. We're gonna run the gamut of many records tonight."

Someone from the audience shouted, "How do I live without you?' (a veiled request for her 1997 record-breaking hit "How Do I Live?") Rimes quipped back and laughed. "I don't know. How do you, and after all this time?"

Before the main musical event started inside the theater, music flowed across the Bankhead Plaza from the East Bay Jazz High School All-Stars while attendees enjoyed drinks and dinner al fresco.

In its 10th year, East Bay Jazz is a competitive pre-professional music academy that includes big-band and combo ensembles directed by founder Spencer Sussman and supported by Livermore Valley Arts.

"We are not simply a music venue. We are a mission-based cultural arts foundation with a goal of serving this region the best possible way that we can through the arts," Carter said before he got down to brass tacks, thanking the philanthropic community while imploring people to continue their support.

"The world has changed in the last decade, and this year, in particular, has been one with some uncertainty," Carter said. "Many of our nonprofit partners have lost significant grants. … Like it or not, this is the reality that we all need to navigate and find the best way forward."

Ruth Egherman, marketing director at the Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center, said,

"This was a very successful event for us — one of our most successful yet. And kicking off our 19th season at the Bankhead with LeAnn Rimes was just a glimpse into the excitement that's yet to come.

"With stars like Jason Alexander, Jane Lynch, Kate Flannery, Jon Lovitz, Debbie Gibson, John C. Reilly, Jake Shimabukuro, Pink Martini ... the list keeps going on and on, and I'm not sure where to stop. This will be our most exciting season yet, with a whole roster of don't-miss-nights."

Carter had a question for the audience, which responded with thunderous applause.

"Studies show that people who regularly engage in the arts have a stronger sense of community and empathy," he said. "It literally makes us kinder. Don't you wish everybody would engage in the arts?"

Ending the evening on the emotional chord struck by Carter, Rimes sang her final song, "Awakening," and delivered her own message.

"Around every corner these days we can find darkness. There's no shortage of that," she said. "What I do feel like we're in a shortage of is joy. I think one of the most rebellious acts that we can bring into this world right now — and beautifully rebellious acts, like the good kind — is to let joy flow through us. And to remind each other that there is another way, like who we are innately as these beautiful human beings, we are made to express joy."

HOTEL TAX

(Continued from front page)

wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, as hotels reliant on business travel have yet to see companies embrace in-person meetings at the levels seen prior to 2020. Pleasanton hotels largely cater to business travelers mid-week and to sports fans on weekends, Beaudin said.

Despite two new Pleasanton hotel openings in 2023, citywide hotel revenues have remained flat, as the new hotels cannibalized demand from other existing hotels, Economic Development Manager Lisa Adamos said.

Tri-Valley hotel occupancy rates declined by 6.2% in 2024 and by 1.2% in 2025, according to a survey from Visit Tri-Valley.

While Vice Mayor Jeff Nibert and Councilmembers Julie Testa and Craig Eicher seemed amenable to polling for other revenue options, Mayor Jack Balch and Councilmember Matt Gaidos were opposed. However, everyone on the dais agreed that council direction on any revenue measure must be unanimous to stand a chance at the ballot box.

Balch, repeating a sentiment he expressed last year when faced with asking voters to raise Pleasanton's sales tax, said the city's credibility had not yet reached a level sufficient to ask for the other revenue measures.

"For me, the credibility of any future ballot measure significantly depends on whether this council can demonstrate that we have modernized operations, that we have streamlined the processes, that we've actually changed how we do business so that Pleasanton can be open for business," Balch said. "And we don't just say it — we're doing it with real change."

The city should follow the recommendations of its accounting consultant, Eide Bailly, he continued, and present an updated, readable fiscal forecast to its residents.

A decline in occupancy at Hacienda Business Park, the addition of Pleasanton Unified School District's Vineyard site on the city's property-tax roll, higher-than-expected returns on the city's CalPERS investments, stronger sales-tax revenues, new developer-impact fees, new user fees and plans for new housing in East Pleasanton all affect the city's fiscal trajectory since the last forecast, Balch said.

Last year, the city placed on the ballot Measure PP, a proposal to increase the city's sales tax from 10.25% to 10.75%. It failed with 54.2% of voters opposed despite community-survey results that the city interpreted as supportive of the measure.

Both Balch and Gaidos said not enough time had passed since the election to consider another similar measure.

"I'm frankly afraid we're going to get an even stronger pushback than we already had the first time," Gaidos said, adding that polling would likely "do more harm than good."

Nibert, who in recent meetings has pushed for more revenue sooner, expressed frustration at a lack of support for polling.

"It just seems to be that things are getting piled higher and deeper up here; I just can't believe it," Nibert said. "What's the matter with asking our residents their opinion?"

Debbie Wallace, the sole public speaker on the item, said any polling would be a waste of tax dollars given past polling's inability to predict the results of Measure PP. She supported the hotel tax, however.

"First, it would be paid for by non-residents," Wallace said. "And with my 28 years of being a travel consultant, I have never once had a client cancel a hotel reservation because of a hotel tax."

If placed on the ballot next year, the hotel-tax increase would need a simple majority to pass.

POLICE

(Continued from front page)

"We have found that officers like policing the communities that we are in and feel like they serve an important role," Filice said. "Our officers enjoy being able to be proactive, not just responding to calls, and being able to engage with our communities on a daily basis.

"We are also well equipped with everything we need to police our property."

Officers handling patrols in the Tri Valley receive support from specialized units, including the air-support and special-enforcement units. These include marine, equestrian, dirt-bike and motor officers, with staffing 24 hours a day.

Patrolling of the Tri-Valley mirrors that of the entire district, with crime trends, calls for service and other data typically assisting officers with the overall patrol strategy.

The attraction of more candidates in recent years who have been interested in joining the EBRPD ranks has come despite significant negative public sentiment in some quarters toward law enforcement in the wake of national events.

Most Bay Area police agencies face persistent vacancies of 10-25%, with a national average near 15%, according to EBRPD spokesman Dave Mason.

Currently, EBRPD police officer recruits earn $42.14 an hour, and police officers earn between $51.26 and $68.03 an hour, plus 9.5% incentives, which Filice described as "a competitive salary."

This has appealed to many officers from other agencies who have made lateral moves to EBRPD.

"Our department is focused on retention efforts, which include wellness training, and we offer a variety of specialty assignments," Filice said. "Additionally, we offer schedules that are popular with our staff.

"Our recruitment efforts and social-media presence will remain strong and active to ensure our community know who we are and what we do."

TRI-VALLEY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Thursday, Aug. 28
WINE COUNTRY LUNCHEON — BUSINESS LEGISLATIVE UPDATE
Hear from CalChamber, the #1 advocacy group for small businesses in California. Get a legislative update on new, proposed and killed legislation that affects business in our state. We'll also hear from Phong La, a local resident and business owner, who serves as our Alameda County Tax Assessor. On Aug. 28 from 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. at Robert Livermore Community Center, 4444 East Ave., Livermore. $100 per person for LVCC members and their guests, $125 for not-yet members. Register online at livermorechamber.org.

Sunday, Aug. 31
SELF-GUIDED WALKING TOURS AT HAGEMANN RANCH
Walking Tours at Hagemann Ranch are for history buffs, all who love to visit the resident animals, and anyone who likes to spend time in a peaceful oasis in Livermore. Wander the ranch at your leisure and soak up the history of this national historic site. Docents will be available for questions and tours. August 31 from 1-5 p.m. at 455 Olivina Ave., Livermore.

Saturday, Sept. 6
WEEKEND WONDERS: CLAY ART
The City of Dublin's next "Weekend Wonders" program will be held on Sept. 6, 10:00 a.m. to noon, at Dublin Heritage Park and Museums, 6600 Donlon Way. Children will have an opportunity to make great art out of clay! The event is filling up quickly, so register at dublin.ca.gov/2467/Weekend-Wonders. The cost is $5 per person for residents; $6 for non-residents.

Sunday, Sept. 7
NATURE WALK AT THE DUBLIN LIBRARY
Share nature on a walk along the Alamo Canal Regional Trail. See plenty of birds, plants, and perhaps some aquatic and terrestrial wildlife, and learn about the many creatures and plants that call the canal home. Meet at the Dublin Library entrance, 200 Civic Plaza at 11:30 a.m. We will pick up the trail just behind the library and walk at a leisurely pace for about 1/2-hour and return to the library. The trail is asphalt paved with little to no shade. Hats are recommended. Please bring your own water if needed. For adults and teens. Registration is not required.

Mondays, Sept. 8 and 15
OPEN REHEARSALS; AUDITIONS WITH VALLEY CONCERT CHORALE
The Valley Concert Chorale, the Tri-Valley's premier chorus, is seeking new singers for its upcoming 2025-2026 concert season, which includes a performance at Carnegie Hall, New York City in June 2026. The Chorale is holding open rehearsals for singers and auditions on Sept. 8 and 15 from 7 - 9 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church, 2020 Fifth Street, Livermore. Schedule an appointment to audition at 925-866-4003. Singers should have sight-reading skills and must commit to the full season with Monday evening rehearsals. More info at www.valleyconcertchorale.org.

Thursday, Sept. 11
LIVERMORE-AMADOR VALLEY GARDEN CLUB MEETING
At the September garden design meeting, Susan Ballinger will discuss how to incorporate colors, special plants and texture to create a sense of mystery! At Crosswinds Church, 1660 Freisman Rd., Livermore, at the red Farm Theater Building, on Sept. 11 from 6 to 8 p.m. Plants for purchase.

Thursday-Sunday, Sept. 11-14
PLEASANTON LIBRARY BOOOK AND MEDIA SALE
Come to the Pleasanton Public Library, at 400 Old Bernal Ave., for the Fall Book and Media Sale, with books for all ages, CDs, DVDs, LPs, games and puzzles– in nearly new condition and at incredibly low prices! Proceeds from this sale directly benefit the library. Thursday: members early sale 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., open to all 2 to7 p.m.; Friday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Sunday 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Fill a supplied bag for $7. See www.friendsofthepleasantonlibrary.org for more info.

Saturdays, Sept. 13, 20, 27 and Oct. 4, 11
VEGETABLE GARDENING FOR BEGINNERS COURSE
The UC Master Gardeners of Alameda County are offering "From Seed to Harvest: Vegetable Gardening for Beginners" — a free, 5-week, in-person course designed for beginning gardeners in Alameda County. The course will cover how to plan, plant, nurture, sustain and harvest your garden. Saturday mornings from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Las Positas College in Livermore. Space is limited; for more information, go to acmg.ucanr.edu and scroll down to 'classes'.

Saturday, Sept. 13
DRESS A GIRL AROUND THE WORLD
Make simple dresses for girls in third-world countries! The next monthly Sew-Fest is on Sept. 13, 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.

Friday, Sept. 19
STAND-UP COMEDY DOUBLE BILL
Come to a bold and hilarious night of stand-up comedy, featuring two powerhouse performers sharing the stage. Clara Bijl (SF Punchline, Sirius Radio) brings her sharp, internationally unknown humor and clever storytelling, and Scott Capurro (Alice Radio with Sarah and Vinnie, Mrs. Doubtfire) delivers his signature provocative, no-holds-barred comedy with biting takes on politics, pop culture, race, and gay life. Sept. 19, from 8 to 9:30 p.m., at Gilman Brewing Company, 706 Main St., Pleasanton, $25. Contact Clara at clarabijl@mac.com or 646-498-4330 for more info.

ONGOING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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

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

ONGOING EVENTS

Aug. 28; Sept. 4, 10, 17 and 25; Oct. 2, 9, 16 and 23
GRIEF WORKSHOP
The death of a loved one is unlike any other loss. Although there is no right or wrong path, there are stepping stones that are part of each grief journey which will be explored in this workshop. Held at St. Elizabeth Seton Church, 4001 Stoneridge Dr., in Pleasanton at 7 p.m. Space is limited, pre-registration is required. $20 donation is requested. For more information, please call Barbara at 925-846-3904.

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

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

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

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

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

TVNPA Is Offering Executive Director Roundtable

The Livermore-based Tri-Valley Nonprofit Alliance (TVNPA), which offers educational programs and other support for nonprofit organizations, is accepting registrations for its 2025-2026 Executive Director Roundtable, a nine-month program that brings together executive directors and CEOs to share strategies and resources.

"Many of our executive leaders have been stretched thin over the last couple of years, giving way beyond what they ever imagined they could do in order to keep their organizations afloat," said TVNPA CEO Kathy Young. "They've been scrambling [to find] creative ways to acquire resources and deliver services in the process. And that's beyond what they normally do.

Young described the Executive Director Roundtable as "a professional development opportunity where our leaders can bring their expertise and challenges to a table of their peers and share best practices in a supportive, constructive, confidential and relaxed atmosphere."

The roundtable will meet monthly in both virtual and in-person morning sessions.

The sessions will be facilitated by an independent consultant, Shaké Sulikyan, former president and executive director of the Valley-Care Charitable Foundation.

The first session is scheduled for Tuesday, Oct. 7.

There is a $200 participation fee.

To register, or for more information, go to tvnpa.org.

PALESTINIAN

(Continued from front page)

ways impacts the current situation there.

Pre-1948, Aboujudom spent a somewhat idyllic boyhood in Jerusalem, then a unified city and home to Muslims, Jews and Christians in Palestine. Aboujudom's family fell into the latter religious affiliation. Aboujudom remembers his father taking him to pray at Mar Yaqub Church (St. James Church), next door to the Holy Sepulchre Church in the Old City, considered one of the holiest sites in Christianity as home to the burial chamber of Jesus Christ.

Aboujudom's father was the sole distributor of fezzes from Czechoslovakia — or "tarbooshes" in Arabic. The terms are often used interchangeably to describe the red close-fitting, brimless hats with silk tassels worn especially by Muslim men throughout the eastern Mediterranean region, either as separate head coverings or as the inner parts of turbans.

Aboujudom's father became quite wealthy, in 1906 building a large house for his family in Jerusalem's Upper Baq'a district.

Aboujudom, the eighth of 11 children, was a stellar student and star athlete. All these decades later, he remembers his winning track times to the second.

"I won in two 'Olympic Games,' we called it, for Palestine — 11.2 seconds in the 100 meter and 22.2 in the 200."

"He takes very good care of himself. If he has a paper cut, he calls Kaiser," his daughter in-law said. "And his mind is very good."

Aboujudom admitted it was his quick mind, in fact, that used to get him into some hot water when he was a boy.

"I was a trouble-man," he said.

"Troublemaker," his daughter-in-law corrected. He recalled luring his brother, Henry, onto a seesaw one day.

"I don't know why it came to my mind." Aboujudom stuck his brother on the wooden plank's edge next to a sheer drop-off.

"And I sat on the inside. He fell like 10 feet," Aboujudom said, laughing.

But by 1948 the lightness and frivolity of youth was replaced by the beginnings of the Arab- Israeli War.

"Things got worse because of the civil war. People were shooting and all these things," Aboujudom said

His family was forced to leave their home behind and sought refuge with a family member in Jordan. All 13 members of his immediate family lived together in one room. Eventually realizing they would not be able to return home, they settled in Amman, Jordan.

Aboujudom met his wife, Margaret, there in 1952. They were married 54 years until her death in 2006. They raised a family in Jordan for almost 40 years before coming to the United States in 1988 to be with their children and grandchildren.

After more than half his lifetime spent in Jordan, Aboujudom said he was happy to make the move to the U.S.

"It's a safe country. There's freedom. And a quiet life," he said.

And his children and grandchildren are here.

Aboujudom's daughter-in-law, the oldest of four kids, came to the U.S as a refugee from the West Bank when she was 7. That was before the 1967 Six-Day War, when Israel occupied East Jerusalem, later declaring the entire city as its capital.

"My mother used to cry day and night," she said. "She'd ask, 'Why did I leave my homeland?' And at the time, during the (1973) oil embargo, she would never tell people we were Palestinian. She would tell them we were Italian or Portuguese. In those days, it was an embarrassment to say you were a Palestinian.

"They thought we were from Saudi Arabia and were 'the oil people.' If you said, 'We're Palestinian,' they'd say, 'Why aren't you wearing, you know … (a hijab)?' We don't wear hijabs. And not all Muslims do, right? And we're Christian.

"Nowadays, our kids are so proud of who they are, because we have social media. Nothing can be hidden anymore. Everything is out there. There are actors who are supporting us. There are all kinds of people."

She said the antidote to people forming their own opinions is storytelling.

"Once you put it in print and you talk about it and you get to know the person and all that, people are willing to read it and listen," Aboujudom's daughter-in-law said. "My father was from Jaffa, and he used to tell us our next-door-neighbor best friends were Jewish. We went to school together. We ate together. It's like, what happened? Everybody got along. What happened to the world?"

Having lived a full century, Aboujudom, too, can recall a time in his homeland when everyone got along.

"Now people are dying,' he said."Not eating. What is this? I mean, where is the United Nations?"

Food Nonprofit Sets Fundraiser

Fertile Groundsworks, a nonprofit organization that grows produce for food pantries and community kitchens, will hold its annual "A Taste for Giving" fundraising gala at the McGrail Vineyards and Winery, 5600 Greenville Road, Livermore, from 6 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 13.

The gala will include a catered dinner, door prizes and live and silent auctions.

Based in Livermore, Fertile Groundsworks operates a garden at Asbury United Methodist Church where it teaches sustainable food production, including bio-intensive gardening, small-scale organic orchard production, composting and water conservation, with produce from the garden helping feed the needy in the community.

Fertile Groundworks also provides education and support to local schools, corporations, and other community groups that operate their own gardens.

Tickets are $125 and are available at FertileGroundworks.org. Ticket sales end Monday, Sept. 1.

Alameda County Students Can Now Apply for Free Wheels Bus Passes

Wheels is accepting applications for its Student Transit Pass Program (STPP), which provides eligible sixth through 12th graders in the Tri-Valley with free, unlimited bus rides and 50% off Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) fares.

Wheels is a public bus service operated by the Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority (LAVTA).

Funded by Measure BB, a local transportation sales tax, and supported by the Alameda County Transportation Commission (CTC), STPP began as a pilot program in 11 schools in 2016.

It was expanded countywide in 2024.

This year, the CTC projects that more than 63,000 students at 165 Alameda County schools will be eligible.

STPP is a powerful example of how (the CTC) delivers on its promise to voters to expand access and improve mobility for all," said Alameda County Supervisor and LATVA Board member David Haubert. "By removing transportation barriers for students, we're not only helping them succeed in school — we're also investing in a more vibrant and connected future for Alameda County."

All Livermore Valley Joint Unified District students in sixth through 12th grade are eligible for the program.

Students in the Dublin Unified School District and Pleasanton Unified School District must meet the California Department of Education eligibility guidelines for free or reduced-priced meals.

To apply, or for more information, go to wheelsbus.com.

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OBITUARIES

Thomas Clayton Tucker

April 17, 1941 — Aug. 13, 2025

Thomas Clayton Tucker, 84, passed away peacefully on Aug. 13, 2025, in Pleasanton, California. Born on April 17, 1941, in Norwalk, Ohio, to parents Paul and Katharine, Tom lived a life marked by dedication to his family, his community, and the field of healthcare.

Tom began his professional journey with Grace Memorial Hospital in Detroit, Michigan and went on to play a pivotal role in shaping healthcare delivery in California. He contributed to the development of Prepaid Health Plans for the State of California and later served as IT Director at San Francisco General Hospital. His career culminated in his work as an independent hospital and healthcare professional with Computer Synergy Inc, where he continued to impact lives through innovation and leadership.

A proud veteran of the United States Coast Guard, Tom was honorably discharged in 1965. His service reflected the same values that would define his life: commitment, integrity, and a deep sense of



responsibility.

Beyond his professional accomplishments, Tom was known for his love of boating. As captain of his cherished vessel "One Love", he found joy navigating waters and sharing that passion with his many friends. In 1999, he was honored to serve as Commodore of the Diablo Yacht Club — a testament to both his seamanship and leadership within the boating community.

Tom was a volunteer with Guide Dogs for the Blind and the Valley Humane Society's Canine Comfort Program. He was very proud to support the opportunities created by these organizations to provide people with an opportunity to experience the unconditional love of an animal.

Family was at the heart of everything Tom did. He was a beloved father to Randol Tucker (Kathy), Brian Tucker (Areli), Todd Tucker (Melissa), and daughter-in-law Jennifer. He also held close the memory of his late son Bradley Tucker. Tom's legacy continues through his grandchildren — Clayton (Jessica), Haley, Logan, Zachary, Danny, Lexi, Nicholas (Lauren), Blake, Llunuel, Diana, Brendan, Daniel, Morgan, Noah, Zoe, Cameron, and Alice — and great-grandchildren Anthony, Bella, Logan, Brodie, Charlotte, Conner, Tristan, and Judah. He is also remembered by his brother Dennis Tucker (Ellen), while holding dear the memory of his late brother Terry Tucker.

He was preceded in death by his beloved wife of 62 years, Joann Tucker. Together they built a life rooted in love and mutual devotion — a foundation that continues to support their family today.

Tom's home was always filled with warmth and laughter — often shared with Kiwi the dog by his side — and he found immense joy in spending time with those he loved most. A passionate genealogist, a proud Descendant of the Mayflower, as well as a devoted patriarch of a large and loving family, Tom dedicated himself fully to preserving family history while creating new memories for future generations.

Those who knew Tom remember him as selfless and caring — a man whose kindness touched countless lives. His presence brought comfort; his wisdom offered guidance; and his love left an indelible mark on all who had the privilege to know him.

A memorial service celebrating Tom's life will be held on Aug. 31 at Graham-Hitch Mortuary Chapel in Pleasanton. Family and friends are welcome to gather at 10:00 a.m. Funeral service at 11:00 a.m.

May Thomas Clayton Tucker's memory bring peace to those who mourn him and inspiration to all who carry forward the values he so deeply embodied.

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Dennis Marlett

May 23, 1950 — July 8, 2025

Dennis Marlett, 75, of Livermore, passed away on July 8, 2025. A beloved partner, father, grandfather, and longtime member of Cornerstone Fellowship, he was known as the friendly greeter in the cowboy hat, Mr. Dennis, who never missed a Sunday. A Vietnam veteran and licensed general contractor, he was admired for his generosity, faith, and devotion to his family and community. He is survived by his partner Marylyn, five children, and many grandchildren. A Celebration of Life will be held at Cornerstone Fellowship in Livermore on Sept. 7 at 1:30 p.m.



Carlos A. Lopez Sr.

Dec. 9, 1945 — Aug. 19, 2023

In loving memory, missing you on the second-year anniversary of your passing. Your love and memories are in our hearts always.

Patricia Ann Bettencourt Lombardi

Aug. 7, 1940 — July 17, 2025

Patricia Ann (Bettencourt) Lombardi entered into eternal rest on July 17, 2025, in Stockton, California. She was born on Aug. 7, 1940, at St. Paul's Hospital in Livermore, the youngest of four children — sister Shirlee and brothers Howard and Norman — to Walter and Erma Bettencourt, early Portuguese pioneers and farmers in the Black Hills of Livermore.

Pat began her education at Highland School, graduating from May School as one of just two classmates before joining the Livermore High School Class of 1958. Her first job, working for a local veterinarian, reflected her lifelong love of animals. She later worked as an operations officer in several banks, but eventually left the corporate world to rejoin her family's commercial farming business in Linden.

In the off-season, Pat raised Hereford cattle in the hills north of Livermore. She thrived as a rancher and equestrian, known for her horsemanship, skill at roundups, and pride in leading annual brandings. As a competitive team roper, she earned numerous buckles and ribbons, and her artistry extended to leatherwork — crafting custom saddles sought after by riders near and far. She also enjoyed painting and sketching western landscapes.

A passionate outdoorswoman, Pat loved deer hunting above her family's homestead and cherished the cowboy lifestyle she embodied.

In January 1983, Pat married cattle rancher Cliff Lombardi of Mokelumne Hill. Their marriage was brief, as Cliff passed away in 1985, but it remained one of the most meaningful chapters of her life.

Among her most treasured memories was a pilgrimage to Our Lady of Medjugorje with her mother and sister, Shirlee — a journey of deep spiritual significance.

Pat later settled in Mokelumne Hill, where she was beloved for her leatherwork, family gatherings, and friendships. She was also a familiar face at Jackson Rancheria, where she was warmly welcomed.

Pat is survived by her many nieces and nephews.

A Mass of remembrance will be at St. Michael Catholic Church on Sept. 6 in Livermore at 8:30 a.m. A funeral Mass will be at Saint Thomas Aquinas Church, also on Sept. 6, in Mokelumne Hill at 10 a.m., 8398 Lafayette St.

Foothill Embraces Construction, Chaos, Challenge

EDITOR'S NOTE: *This is the fourth in a series of stories previewing Tri-Valley high school football teams.*

By Mitch Stephens

PLEASANTON — There is major construction going on at Foothill High School these days. Locker and physical-education rooms are being demolished, replaced temporarily with portables. Practice fields are being shared, and with temperatures rising and only about 12 hours of sunlight per day, patience is tested.

Eighth-year football coach Greg Haubner, 51, appears to be passing with flying blue-and-gold colors.

"We're in transition," Haubner said of the campus. "It's sort of chaotic. It's created some challenges, for sure."

But Haubner is not one to complain. Rather, he sees all stress as opportunities.

Chances to learn and grow. Adapt and progress. Persevere and thrive.

It's a matter of perspective and vision.

He sees nothing but green pastures ahead, starting with the team's season opener Friday, Aug. 29 at Monte Vista of Danville.

Optimism reigns, starting with a coaching staff that includes defensive coordinator Nick Mendonca and head junior-varsity coach Tim Conrad, a former head coach at nearby Dougherty Valley in San Ramon.

"Great demeanor, right perspective and rapport with the kids," Haubner said of Conrad. "(And) Nick is a fantastic young coach with a very bright future. Both are super bright and dedicated."



Foothill running back Dylan Souza, shown eluding an Amador Valley defender last season, was on pace to gain more than 1,000 yards before a lacerated kidney ended his junior campaign prematurely. (Photo — Jim Malone)

As are the economics students Haubner spends days teaching, including in three advanced-placement classes.

A recent Foothill graduate, Lucy Guo, is co-founder of Scale AI and at the age of 30, is reported to be one of the world's youngest billionaires. Haubner's diverse student base has helped broaden his language skills to include Italian, Chinese and Spanish. He pours over "The Wall Street Journal" and "The Economist" each morning to stay ahead of his students.

"The intellectual firepower I get to interact with at this school is at a different level," he said. "It definitely forces me to up my game."

But Haubner's game of choice and passion is football, which he grew up playing at Jesuit High School in Carmichael, near Sacramento.

"There's nothing at all storied or amazing about my sports career," he said. "I just enjoyed the competition, and it kept me on the right path."

With 14 returning starters, seven on both sides of the ball, the 2025 Falcons should be ahead of the curve.

"I feel like our biggest strength will be our balance," Haubner said. "I feel very confident in this group, with the kids and coaches we have."

The return of senior tailback Dylan Souza might give Haubner his greatest cause for optimism.

The 5-foot-10, 185-pound senior was on pace for more than 1,000 yards as a junior when a lacerated kidney ended his season halfway through the team's 4-6 campaign.

The shifty and swift standout is a college baseball prospect, but Haubner believes Souza has a future in football if he chooses to take it.

"He's a tremendous athlete and really an outstanding young man," Haubner said. "He's quiet but confident, and the other kids really respond to him. He's a very likable young man, an excellent student and the type of person who wouldn't say a mean word about anyone."

Haubner describes Souza's running style as similar to that of San Francisco 49ers standout Christian McCaffrey, "He's a slash-and-burn guy. Very shifty. He can get to the edge or make guys miss in space."

Being a middle infielder in baseball, Souza also catches the ball very well because of his "eye-hand coordination," Haubner said. "As a competitor, he's an absolute dog."

Junior quarterbacks Gavin Brown and Andrew Nelson, who are vying for the starting job, figure to be doing a lot of handing off to Souza. Both are up from the junior varsity.

"We're really happy with both those guys," Haubner said. "They work well together. Overall, I can't be more excited to get the season going. I'm a very, very lucky man.

"From my wife (Erin) and daughters (Grace and Ava, both in college), to the team and coaches, to the school, to living in Pleasanton, I'm a very grateful person."

Football Schedule

- High school football season begins Friday, Aug. 29 for all five Tri-Valley teams. Following are the opening-night assignments:
- Berkeley at Dublin, 7 p.m.
- Castro Valley at Livermore, 7 p.m.
- Foothill at Monte Vista-Danville, 7 p.m.
- Campolindo-Moraga at Granada, 7:15 p.m.
- Amador Valley at Vanden-Fairfield, 7:30 p.m.



Running back and wide receiver Andre Armendariz is one of four returning All-East Bay Athletic League Valley Division players who figure to lead Dublin this season. (Photo — Lizeth Lafferty)

Dublin Is Seeking Big Improvement Under Second-Year Coach Kaufman

Gaels 'Bigger, Faster, Stronger' After Full Offseason of Training Under Former Raiders, Washington Huskies Running Back

EDITOR'S NOTE: *This is the fifth and final story in a series previewing Tri-Valley high school football teams.*

By Mitch Stephens

DUBLIN — Following a successful six-year coaching stint at Oakland's Bishop O'Dowd High School that included a state championship in 2016 and ended in 2019, Napoleon Kaufman always knew he would get back in the game.

But frankly, he had only one destination in mind.

"Dublin High School," the former NFL running back and three-time first-team All-Pacific 10 Conference performer for the University of Washington said last week. "My wife asked, 'Why there?' and I told her there was something there I was always drawn to."

As fate would have it, the Dublin job opened in 2024.

"I threw my hat in the mix, and lo and behold, I got it," Kaufman said.

Though the dream job became a reality, he didn't secure the position until May. The late start contributed to what became less than a dream first season as the Gaels started 0-4 en route to a 3-8 campaign. They lost a first-round North Coast Section Division 3 playoff game to eventual champion Acalanes-Lafayette, 42-13.

"The kids were great, and they played super hard, but it always felt like we were a little behind," Kaufman said. "We came out so late. There were some natural growing pains trying to build a new culture with new expectations.

"Honestly, it was also like that my first year at Bishop O'Dowd."

The Dragons went 5-6 in Kaufman's debut campaign, 2014, also losing a first-round NCS playoff game to, of all teams, Acalanes, by the same 29-point margin, this one 49-20.

The following season, O'Dowd reached the NCS D3 semifinals, losing to eventual champion Campolindo-Moraga, and in 2016 the Dragons, led by two future NFL players, tackle Alijah Tucker and running back Austin Jones, went 15-1 and won the state 5-AA crown.

That highlighted Kaufman's 51-25 career at O'Dowd, which ended right before the COVID-19 pandemic.

The senior pastor of The Well Christian Community Church in Livermore, Kaufman said it was a vital time to focus all his attention on the church's congregation of more than 1,000 members "and pass the (coaching) baton on to someone else."

But four years out of coaching definitely increased his hunger to teach the game, and now take the Gaels to new heights.

Dublin returns four All-East Bay Athletic League Valley Division seniors — strong safety Aiden Li, running back/wide receiver Andre Armendariz, cornerback/receiver Cayden Bennett and running back/safety Rome Raymore.

Junior quarterback Lincoln Trias has progressed nicely since last season and is "going to be great," Kaufman said. "He's really getting better and better."

The varsity roster of just more than 40 players, with 100 in the program, is "healthy and an ideal size," said Kaufman, who reported that the varsity squad is "definitely bigger, faster and stronger," than last season.

The Gaels open their season at 7 p.m. Friday, Aug. 29 at home against Berkeley.

"I'm really excited that we had a full offseason under our belts," Kaufman said. "I'm really encouraged by the progress we made in the weight room and in terms of terminology of the playbook. We have some great athletes and fast kids, who have worked hard to get stronger and more disciplined. It's all very exciting."

Speed was a big part of Kaufman's game as one of California's all-time great prep running backs at Lompoc. He was named first-team All-American by USA Today and Parade Magazine and the Cal Hi Sports Player of the Year in 1990, capping a remarkable three-year career.

Also a track star at Lompoc, he won the state championship in the 100 and 200 meters and had a personal-best of 24 feet in the long jump.

He reportedly ran a 4.22 in the 40-yard dash and bench pressed 420 pounds while at Washington before being the 18th overall pick by the then-Oakland Raiders in the 1995 NFL Draft.

Though only 5-foot-9 and 185 pounds, Kaufman played six seasons with the Raiders, rushing for 4,792 career yards, catching 127 passes for 1,107 more yards and adding 2,149 return yards. He had 18 career touchdowns and led the league in yards per carry (5.8) in 1996.

Dublin Unveils Community Park Dedicated to Pickleball Players

By Sanestina Hunter

DUBLIN — The City of Dublin earlier this month opened its 25th public park, and its first with dedicated pickleball courts.

Wallis Ranch Community Park spans 8.85 acres on Rutherford Drive in the Wallis Ranch neighborhood. The park features four dedicated pickleball courts, four overlay courts that can also be used for tennis, fitness stations, a basketball court, picnic areas, walking paths, restrooms and open space for community gatherings.

The park also marks Dublin's third dog park, giving pet owners another safe space to exercise dogs and gather as part of the community.

The project cost $11.8 million and was funded through the city's Capital Improvement Program (CIP), according to city officials.

"Pickleball is one of the fastest-growing sports, and our residents frequently request more courts, so we made it a priority during the design process," said Bridget Amaya, Dublin's assistant director of parks and community services. "We're excited this new park will be a gathering place not only for Wallis Ranch, but for all of Dublin."

Mayor Sherry Hu joined city leaders and residents for a ribbon-cutting ceremony Friday, Aug. 16. The celebration featured court games, giveaways and families enjoying the new playgrounds.

Nationwide, pickleball continues to grow. About 19.8 million Americans played in 2024, a 45.8% increase from 2023 and a 311% jump over three years, according to the Sports & Fitness Industry Association's Topline Participation Report. The fastest-growing group of players is ages 25 to 34, showing the sport appeals beyond retirees.

The city held a groundbreaking ceremony for Wallis Ranch in 2023 and completed the project in two years.

Amaya noted that, unlike developer-built parks, the city created Wallis Ranch through its CIP fund. While the process took longer, she said it allowed Dublin to design a park that balances recreation and social space in a natural setting along Tassajara Creek.



The new Wallis Ranch Community Park in Dublin features four dedicated pickleball courts, as well as four overlay courts that can also be used for tennis. (Photo courtesy of Ian Chin Photography)

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 616375

The following person(s) doing business as: Mads Lifestyle, 837 Cloud Common, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Sirisha Gandhi, 837 Cloud Common, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Sirisha Gandhi, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 23, 2025. Expires July 22, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6506. Published August 7, 14, 21, 28, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 616577

The following person(s) doing business as: Pro-Craft Builders, 46000 Warm Springs Blvd, Fremont, CA 94539 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): ProMax Builders, Inc., 46000 Warm Springs Blvd, Fremont, CA 94539. This business is conducted by a Corporationl. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 11/2/2011. Signature of Registrant/s/: Jeffrey Draeger, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 1, 2025. Expires July 31, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6507. Published August 7, 14, 21, 28, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 616574

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. The Driveway Co.; 2. The Driveway Company; The Driveway Co. by Lancon; 4. The Driveway Company by Lancon, 2470 Tapestry CT., Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Lancon Design & Development, 2470 Tapestry CT., Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Jonathan Niemuth, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 1, 2025. Expires July 31, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6508. Published August 7, 14, 21, 28, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 616460

The following person(s) doing business as: Golf Envy, 7022 Village Parkway, Dublin, CA 94568 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Falkirk Wes, LLC, 1516 S Main Street, Walnut Creek, CA 94596. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 4/1/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: John Mccormick, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 28, 2025. Expires July 27, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6509. Published August 7, 14, 21, 28, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 616340

The following person(s) doing business as: Triple B Technologies, 3833 Canon Avenue, Oakland, CA 94602 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Bret Bodas, 3833 Canon Avenue, Oakland, CA 94602. 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: 7/21/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Bret Bodas, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 21, 2025. Expires July 20, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6510. Published August 7, 14, 21, 28, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 616449

The following person(s) doing business as: Integrity Remodeling & Construction, 7026 Koll Center Parkway, #211, Pleasanton, CA 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Cordial Home Services LLC, 7026 Koll Center Parkway, #211, Pleasanton, CA 94566. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 7/28/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Najib Rahmatti, President/Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 28, 2025. Expires July 27, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6511. Published August 7, 14, 21, 28, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 616593

The following person(s) doing business as: Pi PPL, 4500 Tassajara Rd, Suite C, Dublin, CA 94568 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Tazza Foods LLC, 4584 Dublin Blvd, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Jatinder Grewal, Managing Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 4, 2025. Expires August 3, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6512. Published 14, 21, 28, September 4, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 616488

The following person(s) doing business as: Janken LLC, 1201 Pine Street, Unit 461, Oakland, CA 94607 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Janken LLC, 1201 Pine Street, Unit 461, Oakland, CA 94607. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Cory Miller, Managing Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 29, 2025. Expires July 28, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6513. Published 14, 21, 28, September 4, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 616666

The following person(s) doing business as: Jest, 655 61st ST, Oakland, CA 94609 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Textclub, Inc., 2991 Sacramento ST #545, Berkeley, CA 94702. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 8/4/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Deyan Vitanov, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 6, 2025. Expires August 5, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6514. Published 14, 21, 28, September 4, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 616651

The following person(s) doing business as: A Fit Team, 330 Ansel Ave, Alameda, CA 94501 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Wenchang Albert Tan, 330 Ansel Ave, Alameda, CA 94501. This business is conducted by a Married Couple. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 3/1/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Wenchang Albert Tan, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 5, 2025. Expires August 4, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6515. Published 14, 21, 28, September 4, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 615777

The following person(s) doing business as: Crackerbox Vineyard, 2067 Buena Vista Ave, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Courtney Lynn Cooke, 2067 Buena Vista Ave, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 10/10/2000. Signature of Registrant/s/: Courtney Cooke, Owner This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 1, 2025. Expires June 30, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6516. Published 14, 21, 28, September 4, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 616589

The following person(s) doing business as: Laundry Buddies, 38918 Spicebush PL, Newark, CA 94560 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): SoftRinse Group LLC, 38918 Spicebush PL, Newark, CA 94560. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/:Deric Walintukan, Managing Member This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 4, 2025. Expires August 3, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6517. Published 14, 21, 28, September 4, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 616595

The following person(s) doing business as: California Reflections Auto Body & Paint, 3575 1st Street, Suite D, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Masterpiece Enterprise, Inc., 2404 Saffron Court, Tracy, CA 95377. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 8/4/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Richard E. Davis, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 4, 2025. Expires August 3, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6518. Published 14, 21, 28, September 4, 2025.

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME ORIGINAL FILE NO. 605741

The person(s) listed below have abandoned the use of the following fictitious business name(s). California Reflections Auto Body & Paint, 3575 First ST, Suite D, Livermore, CA 94551. Registered by the following owner(s): Kevin Schell, 3575 First ST, Suite D, Livermore, CA 94551. The fictitious business name statement was filed on 04/22/2024 in the County of Alameda. This business was conducted by an Individual. Signature of Registrants: /s/: Kevin Schell, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 4, 2025. The Independent, Legal No. 6519. Published 14, 21, 28, September 4, 2025.

SUMMONS
CASE NO.: D-25-709746-D
DEPT. E
DISTRICT COURT
CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

NOTICE! YOU HAVE BEEN SUED. THE COURT MAY DECIDE AGAINST YOU WITHOUT YOUR BEING HEARD UNLESS YOU RESPOND WITHIN 20 DAYS. READ THE INFORMATION BELOW.

TO THE DEFENDANT(S): **SIEW PENG THEOH**

A civil Complaint for Divorce has been filed by the Plaintiff(s) against you for the relief set forth in the Complaint. 1. If you intend to defend this lawsuit, within 20 days after this Summons is served on you, exclusive to the day of service, you must do the following: 1. File with the clerk of this court, whose address is shown below, a formal written response to the Complaint in accordance with the rules of the court, with the appropriate filing fee. 2. Serve a copy of your response upon the attorney whose name and address is shown below, or upon the Plaintiff if Plaintiff is in Proper Person. 2. Unless you respond, your Default will be entered upon application of the Plaintiff(s) and this court may enter judgment against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint, which could result in the taking of money or property or other relief requested in the Complaint. 3. If you intend to seek the advice of an attorney in this matter, you should do so promptly so that your response may be filed on time. 4. The State of Nevada, its political subdivisions, agencies, officers, employees, board members, commission members and legislators, each have a 45 days after service of this Summons within which to file an Answer or other responsive pleading to the Complaint.

STEVE GRIERSON, CLERK OF COURT
Celia Dixon, Deputy Clerk
Deputy Clerk
Date: 5/14/2025
Family Court Complex
601 N. Pecos Road
Las Vegas, NV 89101
(702) 455-2385
Submitted by:
JAMES E. SMITH
Attorney for: Plaintiff
Nevada Bar #0052
7251 W. Lake Mead Blvd., #300
Las Vegas, Nevada 89128
(702) 562-4209
jamesedwardsmith@aol.com
The Independent, Legal No. 6520. Published August 14, 21, 28, September 4, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 616412

The following person(s) doing business as: Hamesha Project, 375 Van Buren Ave APT# 6, Oakland, CA 94610 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Pallavi Sarup, 375 Van Buren Ave APT#6, Oakland, CA 94610. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 10/15/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Pallavi Sarup, Founder & Artist. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 24, 2025. Expires July 23, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6522. Published 21, 28, September 4, 11, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 616786

The following person(s) doing business as: Cardcolonel, 339 Bryant Ave, Alameda, CA 94501-3531 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Theodore Wismar, 339 Bryant Ave, Alameda, CA 94501-3531. 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: 7/1/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Theodore Wismar, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 12, 2025. Expires August 11, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6523. Published 21, 28, September 4, 11, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 615919

The following person(s) doing business as: Makena Ino Media, 2473 Allegro Street, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Makena Inouye, 2473 Allegro Street, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 5/26/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Makena Inouye, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 8, 2025. Expires July 7, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6524. Published 21, 28, September 4, 11, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 616707

The following person(s) doing business as: Abundance by Design, 1184 Hollyhock Street, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Liza, B. Walkup, 1184 Hollyhock Street, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 08/07/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Liza B. Walkup, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 7, 2025. Expires August 6, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6525. Published 21, 28, September 4, 11, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 616311

The following person(s) doing business as: Continental Equestrian LLC, 3884 Delmont Ave, Oakland, CA 94605 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Continental Equestrian LLC, 3884 Delmont Ave, Oakland, CA 94605. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Andrea Totten, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 21, 2025. Expires July 20, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6526. Published 21, 28, September 4, 11, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 616730

The following person(s) doing business as: Bridges Organizational Consulting, 4463 Buckskin CT, Livermore CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Kimberly Curtis. 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/: Kimberly Curtis, Owner, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 7, 2025. Expires August 6, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6527. Published 21, 28, September 4, 11, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 616583

The following person(s) doing business as: Haliyes, 39648 Embarcadero Terrace, Fremont, CA 94538 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Yuan Shi, 39648 Embarcadero Terrace, Fremont, CA 94538. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 7/17/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Yuan Shi, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 1, 2025. Expires July 31, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6528. Published 21, 28, September 4, 11, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 616864

The following person(s) doing business as: Topology Drone Solutions, 2241 San Antonio Avenue, APT C, Alameda, CA 94501 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): The Reynolds Sales Company LLC, 2241 San Antonio Avenue, APT C, Alameda, CA 94501. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Nelson Reynolds, Officer. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 14, 2025. Expires August 13, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6529. Published 28, September 4, 11, 18, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 617017

The following person(s) doing business as: Cafe Massawa, 5501 Shattuck Ave, Oakland, CA 94609 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Simon Beyen, 5501 Shattuck Ave, Oakland, CA 94609. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 8/19/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Simon Beyen, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 19, 2025. Expires August 18, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6530. Published 28, September 4, 11, 18, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 617092

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Awakening Skin Care; 2. Awakening Minreal Skin Care, 3143 Independence Dr., Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Olim Industries of Israel - North America, LTD, 3143 Independen Dr., Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Richard Burroughs, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 21, 2025. Expires August 20, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6531. Published 28, September 4, 11, 18, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 617060

The following person(s) doing business as: Kaimo, 3055 Ridgefield Court, 3055 Ridgefield Court, Dublin,CA 94568-7240 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Lanyard, Inc., 3055 Ridgefield Court, Dublin,CA 94568. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 8/20/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: David Amusin, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 20, 2025. Expires August 19, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6532. Published 28, September 4, 11, 18, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 617052

The following person(s) doing business as: Jocelyn Feeman, MD, 520 3rd Street, Suite 105, Oakland, CA 94607 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Jocelyn Freeman, 520 3rd Street, Suite 105, Oakland, CA 94607. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 8/1/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Jocelyn Freeman, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 20, 2025. Expires August 19, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6533. Published 28, September 4, 11, 18, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 616735

The following person(s) doing business as: The Flame Brush, 5300 Iron Horse PKWY, APT 376, Dublin, CA 94568 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Gwen Musial, 5300 Iron Horse PKWY, APT 376, Dublin, CA 94568; Caitlin Koski, 453 Buena Vista Avenue, APT 112, Alameda, CA 94501. This business is conducted by a General Partnership. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 8/8/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Gewn Musial, General Partner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 8, 2025. Expires August 7, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6534. Published 28, September 4, 11, 18, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 617015

The following person(s) doing business as: Lynx Agricultural Solutions, 5281 Southfront RD, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Lynx Equipment Rentals LLC, 20269 Mack ST, Hayward, CA 94545, CA 94545. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Roderick Fussell, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 19, 2025. Expires August 18, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6535. Published 28, September 4, 11, 18, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 616964

The following person(s) doing business as: Moussauto, 1328 Fitzgerald ST, Emeryville, CA 94608 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Meseret Maascio, 4900 Shattuck Ave, Oakland, CA 94609. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 8/16/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Meseret Maascio, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 17, 2025. Expires August 18, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6536. Published 28, September 4, 11, 18, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 616720

The following person(s) doing business as: Exposure Media Lab, 20153 Wisteria ST, Castro Valley, CA 94546 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Edgar Lagares, 20153 Wisteria ST, Castro Valley, CA 94546; Oluyemi Alabi, 2469 66th Avenue, Oakland, CA 94605. This business is conducted by a Joint Venture. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 8/5/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Egar Lagares, General Partner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 8, 2025. Expires August 7, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6537. Published 28, September 4, 11, 18, 2025.

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Scottish Highland Gathering and Games Will Return to Pleasanton's Alameda County Fairgrounds on Weekend

By Vivien Wenneker

PLEASANTON — The 159th Scottish Highland Gathering and Games are set for Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 30-31 at the Alameda County Fairgrounds.

A Bay Area tradition since 1866, the Games offer visitors an opportunity to immerse themselves in the vibrant heritage and culture of Scotland.

With more than 20 events, including the highly anticipated heavy athletics competitions, legendary kilted mile race (the only kilted mile race in the U.S.), and the unraveling of a new castle facade modeled after Inverness Castle, the 2025 Games promise a weekend full of Scottish adventure.

"There's something for the whole family to enjoy, from the very best in traditional Scottish competition and ceremony to world-class entertainment," said William Hardie, Chief of the Caledonian Club of San Francisco.

As one of the oldest continuously run Highland festivals in the U.S., having been founded by the Caledonian Club in 1866, the Scottish Games in Pleasanton are notable for upholding many of the traditions of Scotland's ancient sporting heritage.

The overall format of the 2025 Games will follow a similar structure as in years previous, but with a number of new attractions.

This year, the Games will host 74 Clans and Scottish Societies, with the visiting Chief of Clan Carmichael, Andrew Carmichael, representing the Honored Clan.

The Caledonian Club also announced that the Games will have the honor of hosting the 2025 Women's Scottish Heavy Athletics World Championships, an event which it previously hosted in 2023.

"We look forward to celebrating this rich history and heavy athletic excellence at this year's Games," Hardie said. "It is truly an honor for our Pleasanton Games to have been chosen again by the North American Scottish Games Athletics organizers to host the Women's World Championships."

The Women's Scottish Heavy Athletics Championships, which have roots dating to track and field events introduced in 1931, have a longstanding legacy as pioneers in women's athletics, according to Tom Kincaid, the Scottish Games Chairperson of Scottish Heavy Athletics.

Over the latter half of the 20th century, women's participation in the Highland Games and heavy athletics has grown worldwide, with women athletes now able to compete in traditional events such as the caber toss, hammer throw and weight-for-height.

"I have been competing in the highland games heavy events throughout Scotland for four years now," said Juliet Ramsay, one of the heavy athletics contenders in this year's Games, who is originally from Glenisla, Scotland. "I hold several records, including the weight for distance at the Inverness Highland games. … and have represented Scotland playing rugby for the U-16 team."

The Games will also be hosting the men's and women's 49th U.S. Scottish Heavy Athletics Championships. Across both championship events, more than 80 men and women pro-class and amateur-class contestants from the U.S. and other nations will be competing in field sports such as hammer throwing, weight-for-height, caber tossing and sheaf tossing.

Another addition to this year's Games will be the debut of a stunning castle façade and gate, modeled after Inverness Castle. The plan is for it to be a living history exhibition, offering guests an immersive experience where they can meet Mary, Queen of Scots, explore 16th-century crafts, military drills and even get knighted by the Queen.

As for entertainment, the Games will welcome three new guest bands that will perform at the opening and closing ceremonies, according to Hardie. These are the Wasatch and District Pipe Band from Utah, the St. Thomas Alumni Pipe Band from Texas and a special guest military band.

Lastly, the Grandstand Show Closing Ceremonies each day will bring together all of the guest and military pipe bands, along with Scottish folk musicians and Scottish Highland and country dancers to combine the best of Scottish ceremony and entertainment.

To learn more about the events of this year's Scottish Highland Gathering and Games, its history and to buy tickets, visit, https://thescottishgames.com/.



Pageantry, as shown on Sept. 3, 2022, is a huge part of the annual Scottish Highland Gathering & Games, which are set for Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 30-31 at the Alameda County Fairgrounds in Pleasanton. (File photo — Doug Jorgensen)

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Teddy Bear Nonprofit Names 'Chairbear'

Lisa Kitzmann, a longtime volunteer with Good News Bears (GNB), a Livermore-based nonprofit that provides teddy bears to children and adults facing challenges, has been named to head the organization.

Kitzman, whose official title will be "chairbear," succeeds Jeanie Haigh, who served as chairbear for more than 20 years.

GNB said Kitzman, a teacher, volunteered with the nonprofit even while living outside the area.

She recently returned to the Tri-Valley and is "ready to lead with energy, compassion and her lifelong love of teddy bears."

GNB added that Haigh, who recently moved out of state, would serve as vice chairbear to aid in the transition. During Haigh's tenure, GNB gave an average of 12,000 stuffed animals annually to people in need.

Several other long-serving GNB board members also stepping down, including Vice Chairbear Martha Espinoza, Secrebeary Joan Dickinson, Treasurebear Michelle Jess, and bookkeeper Bill Haag.

Joining the board Angie Suttle as secrebeary, Tuan Tran as treasurebear and Jen Wilner as "gifting bear."

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New Exhibit Highlights Dublin's Firefighters from 1960s to '90s

A new exhibit at the Dublin Heritage Park and Museums on Donlon Way celebrates the city's first firefighters.

The city will host a grand opening for the exhibit, "Fighting Fires and Saving Lives: Dublin's First Firefighters," from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 30.

Created by Dublin historian Steve Minniear, with funding from the Dublin Historical Society, the exhibit tells the story of Dublin firefighters from the 1960s through the 1990s.

It includes artifacts from the Valley Community Service District, Santa Rita Jail, Camp Parks and the Dougherty Regional Fire District.

Park District To Waive Fishing Fees

The East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) will waive fishing fees and state fishing license requirements at all park facilities on Saturday, Aug. 30.

EBRPD said the free fishing day encourages all ages, and both newcomers and experienced anglers, to "slow down, enjoy nature and connect with family and friends."

The district operates 10 lakes, five bay and delta shoreline piers, and 25 miles of bay and delta shoreline for fishing.

For more information, go to ebparks.org.

LPFD Offers Emergency Preparedness Classes

The Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department (LPFD) will offer Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Training at the Public Works Department, 3333 Busch Road, from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. on Thursdays from Sept. 18 to Oct. 23.

There will also be a practice drill session at the LPFD training grounds, 3301 Busch Road, from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 4.

Sponsored by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the CERT program provides classroom and hands-on instruction about disaster preparedness and response, including fire safety, basic medical operations, disaster psychology, terrorism, and the CERT mission.

The classes are free and open to anyone 16 or older who lives or works in Livermore or Pleasanton. Those under 18 must be accompanied by an adult.

To register, or for more information, call 925-454-2361 or email cert@lpfire.org.

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