THE Independent

Thursday,
SEPTEMBER 4, 2025

VOLUME LXII, NUMBER 36 *Your Local News Source Since 1963* SERVING DUBLIN, LIVERMORE, PLEASANTON, SUNOL



Stanford Health Care Tri-Valley's facilities are seen from West Las Positas Boulevard in Pleasanton. (Photo courtesy of Stanford Health Care Tri-Valley)

Stanford Health Care Tri-Valley Envisions An Innovative Future

Growing Pleasanton Campus Offers Many of Same High-Tech Services as Palo Alto Provides

By David Jen

PLEASANTON — Stanford Health Care Tri-Valley, the community-based hospital at West Las Positas Boulevard and Santa Rita Road, celebrated its 10-year anniversary last month, recounting its growth as a research and education facility on top of its clinical services.

"Celebrating 10 years of Stanford Health Care Tri-Valley is not just about reflecting on our past; it's about envisioning a future where we continue to innovate and serve our community," said Misty Jones, president and CEO of Stanford Health Care Tri-Valley. "We are thrilled to celebrate this significant milestone — both the legacy we honor and the exciting future we will build together at Stanford Health Care Tri-Valley."

The hospital traces its roots back to Valley Memorial Hospital, which opened with 46 beds in Livermore in 1962. Land for the Pleasanton campus was purchased in the 1970s and ValleyCare Medical Center, the second Valley Memorial campus, opened with 67 beds in 1991. It then joined the Stanford Health Care system in 2015.

Today, the hospital operates 242 licensed beds, 22 licensed intensive-care-unit beds and 13 operating rooms. Its 1,721 employees served about 314,000 outpatient visits and 43,000 emergency-room visits in the past year.

(See STANFORD, page 5)

Pleasanton City Council Approves Zoning Changes in Bid To Lure 'Clean' Businesses

The Decision Is Part of the Strategic Plan To Advance Economic Growth

By Ruth Roberts

PLEASANTON — Businesses focused on innovation will find it easier to grow and expand in Pleasanton thanks to the city council's recent unanimous approval of changes to the city's zoning code.

According to a statement from the city, the action approved Aug. 28 prioritizes Pleasanton's desire to advance economic growth and directly supports its Economic Development Strategic Plan. That plan calls for attracting life sciences and other innovation-based businesses by modernizing zoning and streamlining processes.

Innovation-based businesses include industries such as life sciences, biotechnology, robotics, advanced manufacturing and food technology. These businesses are clean, modern and have low impact, operating entirely indoors and often combining office, lab and small-scale manufacturing space under one roof, according to the city.

The zoning changes support the city's goals by establishing a clear definition for Innovation-Based Businesses (IBB), separate from traditional industrial uses, to reduce confusion and provide greater certainty for prospective businesses.

Examples of expanding areas include key hubs such as Hacienda Business Park, the Johnson Drive Economic Development Zone, where Costco is located, and areas around Stoneridge Mall.

Current examples of such businesses in the city include Veeva Systems, a cloud-based,

(See ZONING, page 6)



JMC Cellars owner and winemaker Jessica Caroll, left, host of this year's "Blessing of the Grapes," was joined at her winery on Aug. 26 by, left to right, Father Joseph Augustine from St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church; Rabbi Laurence Elis Milder, Ph.D., from Congregation Beth Emek; Pastor Steve Wilde from First Presbyterian Church and Brandi Lombardi, executive director of the Livermore Valley Wine Community. (Photo — Leah Silveira)

COVID-19 Vaccine Availability in Question

Age, Health and Insurance Coverage Might Dictate Who Qualifies for Shots

By Ruth Roberts

TRI-VALLEY — COVID-19 numbers are up slightly in Alameda County, but the real news might just be if and where residents will be able to get their shots this season.

According to Covid Act Now, a nonprofit organization that provides local-level COVID-19 data and analysis, the COVID-19 risk in Alameda County is currently considered low, with weekly hospitalization rates at 1.9 per 100,000 admissions.

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) currently recommends 2025-2026 COVID-19 vaccines for most people ages 18 and older. Parents of children ages 6 months to 17 years should discuss the benefits of vaccination with a healthcare provider.

But changes are in the wind, and who qualifies for the COVID-19 shot this fall might depend on age, health and insurance coverage.

What's different this year is that the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is more circumspect in its recommendations, suggesting that the shot is intended to best serve those 65 and older or those younger who are at risk. As a result, healthier adults and children may have a harder time getting a shot this year.

Federal health officials say the changes are warranted because most people have so much immunity at this point. They also question the vaccines' safety and effectiveness – doubts dismissed by many public health experts and contradicted by myriad scientific studies.

Dr. Clifford Quan, chief of infectious diseases for the Kaiser Permanente Diablo Services area, said he is seeing fewer hospitalizations but still recommends vaccines where appropriate.

"Because COVID-19 has become less severe over time with each change in the virus, we are seeing fewer patients hospitalized for this infection compared to the beginning of the pandemic," Quan wrote in an email to The Independent. "Currently, we have a handful of patients in our hospital who are either very young or older than 65. Being fully vaccinated has been shown to be protective."

The newest COVID-19 strain arrived this summer. Known as NB.1.8.1, or the "nimbus" variant, it is a highly contagious mutation of the Omicron strain of the SARS-CoV-2 virus, which causes COVID-19. This variant began spreading rapidly in January, with the first cases reported in China. It has since become the dominant variant in the United States and

(See COVID, page 5)

The 'Blessing of the Grapes' Welcomes Harvest Season

Annual Ceremony Seeks Bounty, Good Fortune

By Christina Cavallaro

LIVERMORE — A clear blue sky and sunny, but perfectly temperate conditions ushered in the annual "Blessing of the Grapes" on Aug. 26 at JMC Cellars on Greenville Road.

A tradition that has been practiced for centuries in wine-producing regions around the world and by many religions, the annual blessing welcomes the harvest season and intends to bring bounty and good fortune for the upcoming harvest.

Above the tinkling sounds of wine being poured into glasses at 11:30 a.m. in the cozy tasting room at JMC, someone said cheerily above the din, "So I guess this is lunch wine." Winery owners continued to flow in through the open doors, plopping down bottle after bottle in offering on the long wooden tasting table.

The event presented by the tight-knit Livermore Valley Wine Community (LVWC) gave off family reunion-type vibes with hugs and the clinking of glasses as the room swelled with familiar faces from the wine community.

The gathering place for this year's blessing was provided by Jessica Caroll, JMC Cellars

(See BLESSING, page 6)



Rana Ghadban, the vice president of small business advocacy for CalChamber, updates local business leaders on current legislation that affects the state of California during an Aug. 28 luncheon at Robert Livermore Community Center. The Livermore Chamber of Commerce hosted the event. (Photo – Leah Silveira)

Chamber Hosts Civic Legislation Update

Local Commerce Leaders Gather at Summer 'Wine Country Luncheon' Series

By Christina Cavallaro

LIVERMORE — Local businesses and organizations met at the Robert Livermore Community Center last week as part of the second annual Wine Country Luncheon series hosted by the Livermore Valley Chamber of Commerce (LVCC).

LVCC President Sherry Souza and Board Chair Kimbrely Gruidl welcomed a room full of area business and civic leaders, as well as representatives from elected local and state offices.

All gathered at the catered lunch to hear updates on new, proposed or killed legislation that affects business in the state of California.

The afternoon's featured panelists were Rana Ghadban, vice president of small business advocacy for the California Chamber of Commerce (CalChamber), and Alameda County Tax Assessor Phong La.

Ghadban joined CalChamber in April after more than 15 years leading local chambers.

"I know it's after lunch and the topic is not the most exciting," Ghadban joked, "but we're going to talk about the laws in California."

In Ghadban's new role, she oversees the relationship between the statewide CalChamber and local chambers across California, with partnerships upwards of 200.

The nonprofit CalChamber acts on behalf of small businesses in state and federal government.

"We have our advocacy side of the house, and we have our compliance side of the house,"

(See CHAMBER, page 7)

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PET OF THE WEEK



GEORGIA O'KEEFE

Georgia O'Keefe is a pint-sized artist, bursting with playful brushstrokes of energy. She'll happily paint your days with fetch, zoomies and tail wags. Georgia's always ready to sketch out fun and laughter, then sculpt the perfect cuddle pile when it's time to relax. She may take a moment to draw you in her heart, but once she does, you'll be in her gallery forever. Adopt Georgia O'Keefe today at Valley Humane. Call Valley Humane at (925) 426-8656 or email info@valleyhumane.org to get started with the adoption process. (Photo courtesy of Valley Humane)

Pleasanton Planning Commission Considers Large Downtown Structure To House Multiple Families

By David Jen

PLEASANTON — An application to build a 15,000-square-foot multi-family house in the downtown revitalization zone has highlighted a new pattern of decision-making facing local planning agencies. Namely, under more stringent state housing laws, they must choose whether to settle for a tolerable project in fear of a worse alternative, or gamble and wait for something better.

Support for the project would require exceptions to the downtown's commercial requirement as well as dedicating half an acre downtown for only one housing unit while the state expects some 6,000 new units in the city before 2031.

"The choice we have here is are we willing to take this versus (an unknown). If we say no to this, then what's next?" Commissioner Brandon Pace asked at a planning commission workshop last week. "The answer to that is: none of us know. It could be exactly what we all want given the range of options that are out there in the world. It could also be something none of us like."

Applicants and Pleasanton residents Gautam Patel and his two brothers propose to demolish an existing 6,100-square-foot commercial office building at 231 Old Bernal Avenue, across from the Pleasanton Civic Center, and build a large residence to house the three families.

"Without the context, this sounds like a crazy ask," Patel said at the Aug. 27 meeting, explaining that the outdated office building was not commercially viable and required significant improvements to bring it into ADA compliance.

He added that he had been offended by a development application brought to the city under Senate Bill 35 to build a five-story, 37-unit apartment building at 4884 Harrison Street that claimed density, height, floor-area ratio and parking concessions based on state housing laws. While the city later found the project to be inconsistent with the state's requirements, it demonstrated how a developer could circumvent local housing guardrails for planned growth.

"We know somebody that was going to build something even larger on this lot right here," Patel said. "And being residents of Pleasanton, we thought this is probably something that we don't want to live in a town that has these things all over downtown."

The brothers subsequently purchased the property with plans to build the large residence on it, preventing another application similar to Harrison Street.

Planning commissioners acknowledged that although the property falls within the city's downtown specific plan, the location offers less commercial opportunity than something closer to Main Street.

"(There is a) big tension between commercial activity, which we are trying to promote in the downtown, and preserving the character of the city," Commissioner Anurag Jain said.

Commissioner Stephanie Wedge expressed concerns over the building's height that, at three stories and 38 feet, exceeds the area's 36-foot standard, while Chair Ken Morgan said the project went against the downtown specific plan and the housing goals of the community.

City staff will incorporate the commission's feedback into the application for possible future approval.



An architectural image shows the planned new Dish n Dash restaurant at the Hacienda Crossings Shopping Center in Dublin. (Image courtesy of Chris Telles)

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South Bay-Based Mediterranean Restaurant Expanding into Dublin

By Sanestina Hunter

DUBLIN – Dish n Dash, a Mediterranean-inspired restaurant based in Silicon Valley, is planning to expand to Dublin early next year.

Renovations are underway at the former Applebee's Grill + Bar, which closed in June. The 5,400-square-foot space at 4808 Dublin Blvd. will feature an enclosed patio, bringing Mediterranean-style dining to the Hacienda Crossings Shopping Center.

Along with Sunnyvale, San Jose, Cupertino, Milpitas and Fremont, the Dublin site stands to become the family-owned restaurant's sixth Dish n Dash location in the Bay Area.

"Expanding to Dublin felt like a natural step," said Nadiah Mshasha, owner of the restaurant along with her husband, Emad Ibrahim. "As family members moved into Dublin also and other parts of the Tri-Valley, they often mentioned the need for an upscale, fast-casual Middle Eastern restaurant."

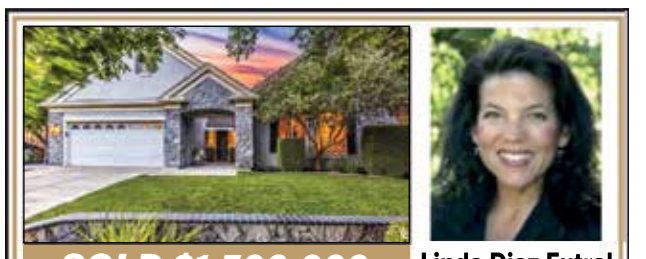
The city also mirrors the characteristics of Silicon Valley communities Dish n Dash already serves, Mshasha said — from diverse families to busy professionals seeking high-quality dining and companies with a need for upscale, customizable catering and private events.

The menu features shawarma wraps and falafel pitas, along with salads topped with protein and traditional dishes such as mansaf. In addition, Dish n Dash operates a central kitchen that produces staples such as fresh hummus, falafel, pita bread and specialties such as kibbeh — items many restaurants don't prepare in-house, Mshasha said.

That commitment to quality traces back to the restaurant's beginnings. In 2001, Ibrahim opened Dishdash, a full-service restaurant in Sunnyvale's historic Murphy District that the owners say was the first full-service Middle Eastern restaurant in Silicon Valley. Dishdash Restaurant Group launched its first Dish n Dash fast-casual offshoot in 2011 on Mathilda Avenue in Sunnyvale. The concept quickly spread across the Bay Area.

"We hope to have a soft opening for family, friends and industry reps early in the first quarter of 2026," Mshasha said. "Our goal is to bring the area our spin on traditional Middle Eastern food, with a focus on serving high-quality, authentic dishes."

To learn more about Dish n Dash, visit dishdash.com.


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Oracle Plans To Lay Off 45 Pleasanton Employees as Part of Bay Area Job Cuts

By Sanestina Hunter

PLEASANTON — Oracle Corp. plans to lay off 45 employees at its Pleasanton office, effective Oct. 13.

The software company submitted a Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification (WARN) on Aug. 13, according to state filings. Federal law requires employers to provide 60 days' notice before mass layoffs take effect.

The Pleasanton layoffs are part of a wave of Bay Area reductions also affecting 244 other workers. Oracle is cutting 143 jobs in Redwood City and 101 in Santa Clara, according to the California Employment Development Department. All of the layoffs are scheduled for Oct. 13.

Oracle did not respond to a request for comment regarding reasons for the job cuts.

The news follows Oracle's recent investment into artificial intelligence. In August, the company announced a partnership with Google Cloud to offer Gemini AI models to customers for tasks ranging from coding assistance to workflow automation.

Gemini is Google's latest family of AI models, designed to generate text, code and other content.

In July, Oracle signed a $30 billion-per-year cloud infrastructure agreement with OpenAI as part of the multibillion-dollar "Stargate" project to build hyperscale data centers, according to TechCrunch.

The job eliminations also come as Oracle reshapes its corporate footprint. The company moved its headquarters from Redwood City to Austin, Texas, in 2020, and announced in 2024 plans to build a new global campus in Nashville, Tenn., according to industry reports.

Pleasanton remains one of Oracle's larger sites for tech jobs and is also home to major firms such as Workday, Veeva Systems and 10x Genomics.

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Amador Valley Students Form 'Current-Affairs' Club

Group of Nearly 60 Strives To Engage High School Classmates with Unbiased Information Relayed Through Its Own Podcast



Members of Amador Valley High School's Current Affairs Club are shown during a recent gathering at Inklings Coffee and Tea Shop in Pleasanton. From left, Vice President Swastik Sengupta, Vice President Yitong Tang and Ishan Khanna, founder and president of the club and podcast. (Photo — Ruth Roberts)

By Ruth Roberts

PLEASANTON – A recent study released by CNN revealed that more than 40% of young people today rely on social media and internet influencers for their news and current-event updates.

In Pleasanton, a group of students from Amador Valley High School (AVHS) is working to counter that trend through a podcast and an on-campus club. Their goal is to engage peers with unbiased information and encourage thought-provoking conversations about global events.

Aptly called the Current Affairs Club, founder and president Ishan Khanna, along with vice presidents Yitong "Alex" Tang and Swastik Sengupta, developed the club last year as a way to attract like-minded civic enthusiasts.

"I started the club after talking to a few friends and seeing the need," Khanna said. "The thing I realized is that living in the Bay Area, a lot of people are focused on themselves and kind of live in a bubble. Our generation is not really getting exposed to the outside world, and when they get to college, they are going to be at a loss. I thought maybe I could bring a little bit of news to my peers while they are managing their AP classes and other stuff."

And they are having some success. The group of nearly 60 members, mostly male, although girls are encouraged to join, meets twice a month in the AVHS library to engage, listen and share. Topics at meetings range from global events such as the war in Ukraine and President Donald Trump's tariff policies to more local subjects such as city-council policies and school-district happenings.

There is always an eye toward accuracy and varying viewpoints. For Sengupta, the importance of unbiased information is paramount.

"Younger people get their news from social media, and social media has algorithms that match what they are looking at, so unbiased information becomes very difficult," Sengupta said. "What we try to do is inform, but in the right way, and what that looks like is getting information from reliable sources. Kids look at their phones and believe what they see, and our goal is to use data and research from lots of sources and offer different sides of an issue."

Sengupta added that the group pulls its information from wire services such as Associated Press and Reuters, but also gathers from cable news networks such as Fox and CNN.

Each meeting is run with an established topic, and slides and presentations are included to spark conversation and healthy debate. The club will hold its first meeting of the year next week, and it will likely include a recap of news that happened over the summer.

"You'd be surprised to know how many people have no idea what is happening or has happened in the world," Tang said.

For now, the robust membership is keeping the three busy, focused and engaged as they work to grow their group and expand horizons.

"Bay Area kids don't really know what's going on, especially at this time in the world when there is a lot happening that can affect their futures," Tang said. "My friends don't really care about what is going on, and it is sad. … We want to try and change that."

To hear the club's podcasts, visit Global Pulse at open.spotify.com. Follow on Instagram at avhs.current.affairs.



SideTrack Bar Celebrates Oktoberfest

The SideTrack Bar + Grill in Pleasanton will host an Oktoberfest celebration featuring German food, games and live entertainment from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 17, and 3 p.m. to 10 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 18.

The Oktoberfest menu will include "Za German Plate," with sausages, German potato salad, red cabbage and sauerkraut. The "Za German Works" will include beer in commemorative SideTrack stein.

An ala carte menu will include pretzels and hotdogs or mac and cheese with tater tots for the kids.

Several local breweries will be selling wine and beer, including traditional German

The Primrose Bakery in Pleasanton will also be at the SideTrack Bar, 30 West Angela St., selling German cookies and cakes, and local breweries will be selling a variety of wine and beer, including several traditional German brews.

Live entertainment will be provided by Polkageist West from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Friday and AlpenBand California from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. on Saturday.

The event is free with food and drink tickets available for purchase at the door. Pre-event packages to ensure seating and a limited-edition beer stein are available for purchase online at sidetrackbarandgrill.com.

After 7 p.m., patrons must be 21 or older.

Axis Holds Ribbon Cutting for New Livermore Health Clinic

Although the facility opened its doors to patients in January, Axis Community Health held a formal ribbon-cutting for its newest clinic on Aug. 21, with dignitaries from Livermore, Pleasanton and Dublin in attendance.

"Thanks to the incredible support of our donors, community partners and dedicated staff, this Livermore clinic is now a reality," said Axis CEO Liz Perez-Howe. "We are proud to have significantly expanded our capacity to serve patients and meet the growing healthcare needs in the Tri-Valley."

The clinic at 1686 Second St. Includes six dental and eight medical examination rooms and offices for behavioral and social support services.

With the expanded facilities, the Pleasanton-based nonprofit health organization said it can now provide care for more than 5,000 patients and 20,000 visits annually. Axis also has two clinics in Pleasanton, a dental clinic in Dublin, and a second clinic in Livermore at 3311 Pacific Ave.









EDITORIAL

The Pushback Against Illegal Deportations Is Starting In the Courts; We All Have Key Parts To Play

Last week, an expected status conference in the U.S. District Court in San Francisco was pushed back for a Livermore resident deported to Mexico in June. Miguel Lopez, who worked as a welder for Wente Vineyards, was seized by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) when he reported for a mandatory immigration hearing in San Francisco and flown out of the country before a court case could be initiated.

Lopez's case is still slated to begin in October, so he remains on the other side of the border, separated from his wife, Rosa, in Livermore, as well as their three children and grandchild. He made $44 an hour at Wente, but Rosa has said he'd be lucky to make $3 an hour in Mexico. Since he is the family's breadwinner, they are in serious need of help.

Lopez is just one of an estimated 200,000 immigrants who have been deported in the past seven months. ICE, and increasingly National Guard personnel, are ramping up their campaigns, and President Donald Trump's deportation machine was given a 13-fold budget increase, thanks to the budget bill passed by Congress in July. Detention camps are springing up across the country as Republican governors rush to accommodate mass internments that we haven't seen in the U.S. since the World War II imprisonment of Japanese Americans.

A couple of cases in recent days provide a nugget of hope. And both hinge on countering the Trump administration's biggest advantages so far, the ability to move faster than the courts, and to keep their actions hidden from public scrutiny.

In early morning hours on Aug. 31, the government placed as many as 50 children from Guatemala, who'd previously arrived unaccompanied at the U.S. border, onto jets at two Texas airports, waiting to fly them out of the country. A 2:30 a.m. call woke up U.S. District Judge Sparkle L. Sooknanan, who rallied her staff to an emergency hearing, on a holiday weekend no less. She ordered the flight to remain grounded and insisted the children be taken off the plane and remain in the U.S. for at least two weeks, while the proper legal processes can be followed. As of Sept. 1, all of the children had been returned to the custody of the U.S. Office of Refugee Resettlement.

In another case from last week, Kilmar Abrego Garcia, an El Salvador native who in March was deported in error back to a notorious prison in that country, filed for asylum in the U.S. He was brought back to the U.S. after a public outcry, only to face a charge of human smuggling. He was released from a Tennessee jail, but then detained in Baltimore, and the government is now trying to deport him to Uganda, where he has never traveled nor lived. U.S. District Judge Paula Xinis ordered the government to keep him in a detention facility in Virginia while she weighs his case.

So far, there has not been an order from an appeals court or the Supreme Court to overturn either judge's decision.

In both instances, the judges not only followed procedure, but they recognized that they needed to force the government to comply with U.S. law, and they needed to act quickly, before the government's actions became irreversible.

In past administrations, it was enough to expect the government would honor the due-process rights guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution. No longer. And a key element of the administration's operation to deport immigrants is to move faster than the courts. Why else would dozens of children be sent to the airport late at night on a holiday weekend?

Judges Sooknanan and Xinis are just two examples, but there are plenty more federal jurists in the country waking up to the new reality that Trump believes the law is what he can get away with. He won't stop until he is stopped.

The other key element is that Abrego Garcia's case, along with those of the other deportees to the El Salvador prison, has been highly visible, receiving national coverage, especially now that he's facing what clearly looks like a vindictive prosecution. He can tell his story of the violence and abuse in the prison, shining a bright light on the crimes this administration is both condoning and committing.

This is likely small solace to the hundreds of thousands who have already been expelled from the country before they had a chance to fight back, including Miguel Lopez. We also haven't yet heard a definitive ruling from the U.S. Supreme Court on the merits of these cases, and the high court has appeared to be showing an inordinate amount of deference to Trump's attempts to claim the powers of a dictator.

But the recent decisions are a promising sign that by not letting the administration hide its crimes, and by challenging them early and often, we can mount a defense. And the more its rampant lawlessness is seen and stopped, the more momentum and support is generated for the next battle.

During the first Trump administration, a frequent protest by his detractors was that "this is not the U.S." After he won re-election in 2024, that changed into a sheepish "maybe this is the U.S. after all."

Now that we've seen what he's like when no one tries to stop him, the result is clear: we are not like this. Not at all. It's not too late to join the fight to block Trump's abuse of power. The Kilmar Abrego Garcias and Miguel Lopezes, and hundreds of thousands more people, are depending on us. We need to reach out to city, county, state and federal representatives to ask them to build on the recent decisions of the courts. They need to speak as one voice against the inhumanity of the federal government's actions.

MAILBOX

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Prioritizing Student Mental Health

Kinjal Singh, Dublin

As a resident of Dublin, I am writing to express growing concern about how our school systems are affecting the mental health of students.

I've noticed that in recent years, as have many parents, students, and educators, that the pressure on young people to constantly perform, achieve, and conform is increasing at an unsustainable rate. High schoolers are juggling AP classes, extracurriculars, sports, and social expectations, all while navigating the pressures of growing up in a digital world. Middle and even elementary school students are not exempt. Academic demands are creeping in earlier, leaving less room for play, creativity, and rest.

While striving for academic excellence is admirable, it should not come at the cost of a child's well-being. Many students in our community report chronic stress, anxiety, sleep deprivation, and feelings of burnout, not just in high school, but sometimes as early as middle school. When grades become more important than mental health, we've lost sight of what education should be about.

It is time for schools in Dublin and beyond to prioritize student mental health. This includes reassessing homework loads, creating more flexible grading systems, increasing access to school counselors, and fostering a culture where well-being is seen as equally important as achievement.

We owe it to our kids to create learning environments that support, not stifle, their growth.

Beef — It Ain't What's for Dinner Anymore

Lex Manwill, Livermore

Beef! It ain't what's for dinner anymore. That's the popular response to the tripling of beef prices in the past 15 years. The underlying reasons have been severe droughts in the cattle producing states of Nebraska, Oklahoma, and Texas, aggravated by the 50% tariff imposed by Trump on imports of Brazilian beef. Ironically, the droughts are connected to global warming caused in part by methane emissions from cattle. The rising price is expected to reduce consumption of beef, as well as the associated disastrous impacts on our personal health and the health of our planet.

But there is still hope for folks who just "have to have" their steak. A number of start-up companies are developing healthy, eco-friendly, convenient, tasty, and reasonably priced steaks from animal cells and plants. They should appear on our supermarket shelves within a couple of years. And here is the best part for those of us who care where our food comes from: these steaks will be processed through sanitary health-inspected vats, rather than through the digestive tracts of cows.

Anti-ICE Demonstrations Were Not Spontaneous

David Marco, Livermore

So sad to see the anti-ICE riots in LA. And they were certainly riots and not peaceful demonstrations. Picture after picture waving Mexican, Palestinian, and other flags and burning cars, throwing concrete blocks at police cars. This is a riot.

People want to blame Trump and call the riots "organic." They're not. They're organized, funded, and coordinated. California organizers include Union del Barrio and Community Self-Defense Coalition. Centre CSO "have the ability to organize people quickly." Ron Gochez served as spokesman for both during a press conference. He is the former chairman of MECHA. He also called for a Mexican revolution in the U.S. MECHA has significant violent pro-Hamas elements and this has been extensively documented. Gochez bragged about being able to cover large areas quickly and simultaneously. So, the riots are organized and coordinated. Some government funding goes to these organizations. The pro-Palestinian elements appear to be largely influenced by the PSL communist group. Black Alliance for Peace of SoCal was involved in protests. They are a radical group deeply aligned with Palestine and receive government grants.

This is only part of the story. When Newsom and Bass say that this is just people protesting, they aren't telling the truth, and they know it. When they say that this isn't the majority of immigrants, there's some truth there. But ICE has shown that thousands have solid and horrible criminal records.

Did you know Mayor Bass has a history of being involved with communist groups? Did you know that Newsom's wife received money from the LA fire fundraiser? How is he paying for his $29M mansion?

What about migrants—the people most affected by all of this? Sadly, you could say they have been trafficked. The Democrats and RINO's lured them into the U.S. It was crazy to create an app that helps people enter our country illegally! They were enticed. I would call it "trafficked." Why? To win elections—a well-known tactic. It is treason. And Trump has solid legal authority to call in federal troops to deport criminals and restore order.

The Trump administration is heroic for standing up to the rioters and criminals in LA, DC, Chicago, and other cities. Innocent people need protection from criminals. A healthy majority of Americans support his actions.

The Good Ol' Days

Barry Brynjulson, Pleasanton

Remember when the only things we'd criticize Trump about was his hair and orange makeup, the incessant name-calling, as well as paying off a hooker and centerfold? Oh, and who can forget that bogus doctor's report? Who knew that those would be the good ol' days? God, I miss them.

Thank You, Lynn!

Bruce Fielding, Livermore

On Tuesday evening (Aug. 26), a crowd of friends and neighbors completely filled Bankhead Plaza for the 2025 season's concluding version of Tuesday Tunes, the free concert series that has occurred for 12 successful years.

Supported by the timeless enthusiasm of Livermore Cultural Arts Council Board-Member At-Large, Lynn Seppala, your personal efforts on behalf of Tuesday Tunes have brought joy and a sense of community to thousands. Thanks again!

Is it Antisemitic?

Julie Wild, Livermore

"I just find it insane that if you speak about what's happening in Gaza, if you speak about young children starving to death, that makes you antisemitic. Those pictures that are going around the world now of starvation—it's a horrible, horrible situation there. I don't know how it makes you antisemitic if you say something about what's happened in Gaza." - Spike Lee

For the past couple of weeks, I've posted poems from the people of Gaza. Those poems were meant to give those in Gaza a voice for just a few minutes. I was called antisemitic for sharing those poems. How is sharing a child's poem or the poem of a mother antisemitic? I can love and respect my Jewish brothers and sisters and also speak out against what's happening in Gaza.

Being against the bombing of hospitals isn't antisemitic.

Wanting Palestinians to have equal rights isn't antisemitic.

Wanting journalists and first responders to not be targeted and murdered isn't antisemitic.

Believing that an Israeli child has the same value as a Palestinian child isn't antisemitic.

Wanting babies to get the formula they need to live isn't antisemitic.

Valuing humanity, equality, and democracy shouldn't mean marginalizing a particular group of people. And people all over the world are saying the same things; they want peace, safety, and equality; which includes Palestinians. Many of these people leading protests are Jews. Groups like Jewish Voices for Peace,

(See MAILBOX, page 5)

THE Independent
INLAND VALLEY PUBLISHING CO.
PUBLISHER: Joan Kinney Seppala
EDITOR: Dan Wood
ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER: David T. Lowell *(In Memoriam)*
EDITOR: Janet Armantrout *(In Memoriam)*
THE INDEPENDENT (USPS 300) is published every Thursday by Inland Valley Publishing Company, 2250 First St., Livermore, CA 94550; (925)243-8000. Mailed at Periodical Postage Prices at the Livermore Post Office and additional entry office: Pleasanton, CA 94566-9998. THE INDEPENDENT is mailed upon request. For more information or to sign up visit www.independentnews.com. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Independent, 2250 First St., Livermore, CA 94550.
Advertising and subscription rates may be obtained by calling (925)243-8000 during regular business hours or by emailing info@independentnews.com.
Editorial information may be submitted by emailing editor@independentnews.com
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A view of Pleasanton Ridge on Aug. 25 displays the natural beauty of the Tri-Valley. (Photo – Leah Silveira)

MAILBOX

(Continued from page 4)

If Not Now, Rabbis for Human Rights, and many more are leading voices in opposing what's happening in Gaza.

Mass demonstrations of Israelis are calling for a ceasefire deal and protesting against plans for an expanded offensive in Gaza City that would lead to more deaths. The Hostages and Missing Families Forum released a statement saying, "The entire nation demands an end to the war and the return of all hostages."

As Americans, we have the right to speak out about how our tax dollars are spent. Over $24 billion dollars that could have been spent on the needs of Americans was instead sent to Israel to bomb hospitals, to kill tens of thousands of children, and to starve people. We have a right to protest our dollars being spent on endless suffering. That's democracy. That's freedom of speech. And it's not antisemitic to say it.

The Perfect Scents for the Procaine Mechanical Hounds

Greg Scott, Livermore

Where are the genuine messages of healthy human thriving? That is to say, the words to inspire the implementations for sufficient, necessary material wellbeing and placid, healthy psychology, without resorting to the idolatry of power, money, and greed? What brings sanity? (See: Gabor Mate and Daniel Mate, "The Myth of Normal: Trauma, Illness, and Healing in a Toxic Culture," 2022)

Another horrific, brutal U.S. shooting, this latest tragedy occurring in Minnesota, where an 8-year-old and a 10-year-old were slain, and 15 children and 3 octogenarians were wounded. The 23-year-old shooter died by self-inflicted gunshot. All of it is a nightmare tragedy concurrent with more than 500 children a month dying by Israel's genocide in Gaza. Others are killed in the West Bank.

The self-loathing, mentally ill Minnesota shooter's evidence was seemingly, instantly put on the media, including cyber media. This included a journal containing the dog whistles of the day: "trans;" "Trump;" antiSemitic tropes; anti-Israel tropes; and threats to various groups, like children.

Following the Minnesota event, an Israeli is marketing a "pre-crime" generative artificial intelligence (GenAI) product called "Gideon" to put surveillance on us . Then what? Ray Bradbury's "Fahrenheit 451" procaine Mechanical Hound? All of this akin to the plot of the movie "Minority Report." This GenAI capability is the same technology used to hunt down and kill innocent Palestinian civilians and children.

The Minnesota shooter's manifesto neglected to mention two things: The burning of the books - book paper ignites at 451 degrees Fahrenheit - and the burning of U.S. flags. Gideon designers no doubt will account for the procaine Mechanical Hounds to not be thrown off the scent trails by these omissions.

The recent horrific shooting in Minnesota, with the shooter's manifesto so prevalently and promptly posted, is the perfect call for authoritarianism and tyranny. Why do we know so much less about the perpetrator of the attempted assassination on Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump, the attacker of Jews in Boulder, or the murderer of two Israeli Embassy employees in Washington, D.C.?

"Those who would give up essential liberty to purchase a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety." (Benjamin Franklin)

Perhaps, someday we will rationally and analytically study the causalities of these atrocities, such as the murders and genocides of children, and be outraged enough to do something to stop them without sacrificing our liberty, bowing to tyranny, and succumbing to the billionaire, techno-feudal lords.

Fact-checking and Silence

Holly Massey, Livermore

If you saw one bad grape in a bunch, would you throw the entire bunch into the compost bin? No, of course not. Then, what sense does it make to deport great numbers of law-abiding workers (farm laborers, gardeners, housecleaners, health care workers, restaurant employees, etc.) just because you want to rid yourself of a few (possible) criminals?

Mr. Ott, who apparently blindly believes every lie Trump tells, recently wrote: "The administration has prioritized deporting illegal alien criminals, including killers, rapists, gangbangers, drug traffickers, and other violent criminals." He implies the efforts are succeeding.

I call upon Mr. Ott to check his claims and cite his sources. (He should heed the Lindgren's fine letter from 8/28/2025 on this subject.) If he were to investigate properly, he would find that current government data verify that the vast majority of deportees are not convicted criminals. Look up the June 29 ICE statistics yourself (www.ice.gov/detain/detention-management#:~:-text=Detention%20Statistics) and you'll find that 71.7% of the 57,860 people detained by ICE had no criminal convictions.

Trumps idolaters fall short not only on their fact-checking and data-sourcing. They've also fallen suddenly silent on the subject of our government veering towards "socialism," something they constantly harped on during the last presidential election campaign. Yet the U.S. government is about to flout free market practices by becoming one of Intel's largest shareholders as it acquires a 10% stake in that company. Few, besides Sen. Paul Rand, have spoken out. I guess Republican elected officials are no longer fiscally conservative.

STANFORD

(Continued from front page)

"Over the past 10 years, it has really become an academic, quality hospital," said David Quillen, Stanford Health Care clinical professor. "All the high-tech stuff that, for the most part, you get in Palo Alto, you now get in a small community hospital. So, open-heart surgery, vascular surgery, stroke neuro, high-tech (gastrointestinal) — these things really didn't exist out here 10 years ago."

The hospital has also reaped the benefits of its Palo Alto connections through clinical-trial partnerships, including those in heart care and cancer research. When medications were being developed for COVID-19 in 2021, the site's participation brought the latest treatments to the Tri-Valley.

"The focus of the clinical-research engine is to bring the cutting-edge research and treatment options to the Amador Valley and the community," Quillen said.

This summer, the hospital began its first class of family-medicine residency with eight residents, which will expand to the program's full complement of 24 residents within two years.

"For the first time in the Tri-Valley's history, we have full-time residents being trained here," said Quillen, who directs the residency program. "People tend to stick around where they train. From a relative point of view, Amador Valley doesn't have a lot of medical education. So, we're training pharmacy students, (physician-assistant) students, nursing students and now, finally, medical doctors, with the hope that a number of them will stay in our community and grow the medical footprint for the community."

The first class is set to graduate in June 2028.

COVID

(Continued from front page)

California, according to Dr. Thomas Ken Lew, a clinical assistant professor of medicine who practices at Stanford Health Care Tri-Valley and other Stanford affiliates.

"It causes the same symptoms as all other COVID-19 infections we've heard about," Lew told The Independent. "Fever, fatigue, muscle aches, trouble breathing and loss of taste and smell. However, more people have been reporting extremely sore throats, often described as feeling like 'shards of glass,' or what is now commonly being referred to as 'razor-blade throat.'"

Lew added that while the number of deaths and sicknesses is much lower than at the height of the Pandemic in 2021, the Tri-Valley and Bay Area are "definitely" seeing increased numbers of infections, especially among the elderly and those with pre-existing conditions.

Quan added that protocols for this strain and all COVID-19 viruses remain the same.

"Stay home if you are sick until you show signs of recovery," Lew said. "Wear a mask if you are sick and have to go out. For those looking to avoid catching COVID-19, masks can reduce your chances of exposure. And, for all types of viruses, washing your hands frequently can reduce your risk of catching whatever may be floating around this fall season."

COVID-19 vaccines for 2025-2026 are expected to be available in the fall. Residents unsure of whether they are covered or qualify for the newest shot/booster should check with their doctor or pharmacist.

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eloisehamannbooks.com


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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A glance to the east from Tesla Road in Livermore on Aug. 26 highlights our pictureesque horizon. (Photo — Leah Silveira)

Fair Association Seeking To Fill Two Open Board Positions

The Alameda County Agricultural Fair Association, which produces the annual Alameda County Fair and manages the 267-acre fairgrounds property in Pleasanton, is seeking to fill two open board positions.

Board members must be permanent residents of Alameda County.

Board members serve 4-year terms and must commit to monthly board meetings and committee meetings as scheduled.

Applicants must submit a resume and a letter of interest outlining what skills and assets they would bring to the board.

They also must complete an online "Candidate Information Form" available at tinyurl.com/2ubk2275.

Application materials can be submitted electronically or mailed to the Alameda County Fairgrounds, 4501 Pleasanton Ave., Pleasanton.

The board, which operates as an agent for Alameda County, consists of 21 members. The Alameda County Board of Supervisors appoints 10 members, with the fair board elected 11 members.

New History Includes Legendary Bandit's Ties to Alameda County

San Francisco historian John Boessenecker has written a book about the legendary California bandit Joaquin Murrieta that includes a murderous encounter in Altamont Pass and the story of the Murrieta gang's raid on a house in what is now Pleasanton.

The book, "Bring Me the Head of Joaquin Murrieta," will be published in October.

Murrieta reportedly emigrated from Mexico to California in 1849 to join a brother-in-law and several cousins in the California gold fields and was killed in a gunfight in Fresno County with California Rangers in 1853.

California lawmakers had authorized the rangers to hunt down a band of criminals, promising them a $1,000 reward. Following the gunfight, the head of the outlaw identified as Murrieta was cut off, pickled in alcohol and put on display around the state.

Murrieta's exploits during the Gold Rush era were fictionalized in "The Life and Adventures of Joaquin Murieta (cq)," a dime novel published by Native American author John Rollin Ridge in 1854, where he was portrayed as a rebel fighting against racial injustice.

Murrieta later became known popularly as "El Patrio" and the "Robin Hood of El Dorado," and 20th century novelist Johnston McCulley, who created the character "Zorro," is said to have based Don Diego da la Vega on Ridge's account.

In the "Bring Me the Head of Joaquin Murrieta," Boessenecker tells the infamous story of Murrieta's life, his bloody career and his gruesome fate.

Tri-Valley Summit Draws Industry Leaders To Talk Artificial Intelligence

Nearly 200 business leaders from the energy, healthcare, education and national security sectors attended the third annual Tri-Valley Summit last month to discuss how artificial intelligence (AI) is transforming industry.

Organized by Startup Tri-Valley and hosted by Patelco Credit Union in Dublin, the three-hour summit included panel discussions and networking sessions that focused on real-world AI applications.

Among the topics discussed were efforts by Fremont-based Pacific Fusion to build the world's first fusion reactor for renewable energy and how Stanford Health Care is integrating AI to streamline operations and improve patient outcomes.

"The energy in the room was electric," said Yolanda Fintschenko, executive director of i-GATE Innovation Hub and Daybreak Labs. "This summit proved that the Tri-Valley is not just participating in the AI revolution, we're helping lead it."

Startup Tri-Valley is an initiative to strengthen the regional economy by helping startup businesses succeed. It was created by Dublin, Livermore, Pleasanton and Danville, along with i-GATE Innovation Hub partners Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and Sandia National Laboratories.

I-GATE is a regional incubator program that focuses on helping technology startups, including the operation of Daybreak Labs, which provides low-cost lab and office space in a 7000-square-foot facility in Livermore. Partners in i-GATE include the two national laboratories and the city of Livermore.

ZONING

(Continued from front page)

life-sciences software company; Roche, with its molecular-diagnostics division; and corporations such as Safeway and Workday. The city also supports startup companies in AI and custom-software development, for instance Talentica Software offices and Folio3 AI.

Streamlining design-review requirements so that businesses can move forward more quickly when making minor building modifications and updating development standards to reflect modern industry needs will help ensure new projects fit Pleasanton's character and remain compatible with nearby neighborhoods, according to staff.

By updating Pleasanton's land-use regulations, the city will be better equipped to accommodate these industries and strengthen its ability to compete for new investment and high-quality jobs in the Bay Area.

"This is about real changes to make it easier to do business in Pleasanton," Mayor Jack Balch said in a statement. "This zoning update removes barriers and gives businesses flexibility to innovate, grow and succeed while helping Pleasanton remain a hub of opportunity."

The changes are expected to strengthen the local economy, balance smart growth with the city's unique identity and provide residents with greater access to high-quality, well-paying jobs.

San Francisco Brass Band To Perform in Pleasanton

The San Francisco Brass Band (SFBB) will celebrate the music of passion, romance and human connection in a concert entitled "Love Stories" at Trinity Lutheran Church in Pleasanton on Sunday Sept. 21.

The program will include Percy Fletcher's "Labour and Love," Peter Graham's "A Portrait of Paris," Edward Elgar's "Nimrod" and Imogen Holst's "The Unfortunate Traveler."

SSBB will also perform Sergei Prokofiev's "Montagues and Capulets" from "Romeo and Juliet," John Williams' soundtrack suite from "Far and Away," Gail Robertson's "Persistence Fanfare and March" and Chris Hazell's lighthearted "Mr. Jums."

The nonprofit SFBB is a competitive British-style brass band, having finished sixth in the Championship Section of the North American Brass Band Association (NABBA) Championship in April.

SFBB finished first in the NABBA Second Section competition in 2023 and First Section competition in 2024, before moving up to the championship Section this year.

Tickets to the 4 p.m. concert start at $25, with discounts for seniors and students. Children's tickets are free.

Tickets can be purchased online at tinyurl.com/2k98bpap.

Livermore Camera Club Exhibits Members' Photos

Photographs by members of the Livermore Valley Camera Club (LVCC) will be on display at the Robert Livermore Community Center Gallery, 1188 S. Livermore Ave., through September.

The exhibit, "Through Every Lens," includes award-winning images in black and white and color taken locally and around the world.

Many of the framed and matted prints will be available for purchase.

For more information about the LVCC, go to lvcc.photoclubservices.com.



Capuchin monkeys, native to Central and South America, photographed preening in their natural habitat. (Photo – Richard Finn)

Police Launch E-Bike Safety Videos

Livermore police have launched a weekly E-Bike Safety video series to educate families about e-bike classifications, legal rider requirements, common dangers and potential consequences of reckless behavior, including potential felony charges.

The videos will be available on the Livermore Police Department's website social media and are being shared with the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District and the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District.

Livermore police said the eight-week series addresses a growing community concern about e-bike use, especially by younger riders.

BLESSING

(Continued from front page)

owner and winemaker. The venue, however, for the ceremony that has been happening in these parts "forever," according to Livermore Valley Wine Community (LVWC) Membership Director Patty Powers, changes from year to year.

"This is done all over the world – it's a really sweet ceremony. I mean, it literally starts like a joke. … A pastor, a rabbi and a priest walk into a vineyard," Powers said, laughing.

Introduced by Brandi Lombardi, executive director of LVWC, the gathered clergy consisted of Pastor Steve Wilde from Livermore's First Presbyterian Church, Father Joseph Augustine from St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church of Livermore and Rabbi Laurence Elis Milder, Ph.D., from Congregation Beth Emek in Pleasanton.

Each reminded the group that wine plays a profound role in the scriptures and practices of all their faiths and acts as a powerful galvanizer of community, which serves as a meaningful gift in current times.

"Today, in so many ways, it's not just the wine industry that's in a little bit of chaos," Wilde said. "The world can sort of provide us with far too many temptations to be divided and today's a great day of remembering the unity that we experience at a time like this. And I think that wine provides that unique opportunity to bring people together. It reminds us of the sweetness of life as people across all faith traditions, socioeconomic traditions and circumstances find themselves united by the beauty of sharing a glass of wine."

Milder shared a Bible passage from 8th-century BC prophet Amos.

"As a farmer, he understood what a time of peace is all about," Milder said. "That we would have a bountiful harvest, that we would have enough food to feed everybody. And that we would be able to rebuild the broken cities of our world."

Augustine added a thought before providing a blessing with sprinkles of Holy water.

"As we partake of these grapes, " he said, "may we always remember to be grateful for your (God's) provision and to share the fruits of the earth with others in need."

LVWC Board President Gina Molinaro-Cardera, with Garre Vineyard & Winery in Livermore, said her winemaker checked their vines two weeks ago. "And it's going to start soon (harvest), at least at our property. And they're happy with everything."

She did acknowledge, though, that not everyone in the wine industry is feeling that positive glow.

"I think we're fine as a region, and this is just Gina speaking, but I think the issues are with people who do big production because they've seen their sales drop dramatically.

And a lot of the people are just not even replanting the vineyards. Or they're taking the vineyards out. ... So, it's scary. Because we need the big markets. But I feel like a lot of things are cyclical anyway. It might be little now, but it will come back to what it was. But can you wait it out, is the issue. You just have to see what happens with the people. We change, right?"

LVWC board member Ken Wong, who brings to the wine community skills earned from his background in high tech, spoke of the great work he has seen from his LVWC peers.

"I think with a lot of effort, marketing and advocacy, we're trying to lift. … I think the community is like an ecosystem. We are only as strong as the weakest link." Wong said.

While others waxed more philosophical about pre-harvest time, JMC Cellar Master Shannon Tesseyre said in plain-speak, "Pray that everything goes really slow. (Grapes), don't come in anytime soon. Slow and steady would be great."



Participants from varying age groups took part in the 159th Scottish Highland Gathering and Games on Aug. 30-31 at the Alameda County Fairgrounds in Pleasanton. (Photo — Doug Jorgensen)

Livermore Music Launches Fundraising Campaign

Livermore Music, a nonprofit parent organization that supports the music program at Livermore High School (LHS), has launched a fundraising program with a goal of raising $50,000 before the end of September.

The fundraising campaign, "Support the Sound: Give to LHS Music," also has the support of the nonprofit Community Health & Education Foundation (CHEF), which will contribute $1 for every $2 raised by Livermore Music, up to $25,000.

"This is our one major fundraising effort for the year," said Michael Azevedo, president of Livermore Music "With the help of CHEF and the potential to secure an additional $25,000, we're confident in what we can achieve. Every contribution, no matter how small, is vital to sustaining the high standards of our program."

The Livermore-based CHEF will also cover all administrative and processing costs to ensure that 100% of all donations directly benefit the music program, according to Livermore Music.

The LHS music program includes concert and symphonic bands, string and chamber orchestras, two jazz bands, and a percussion ensemble.

To make a tax-deductible donation, click on the "Support the Sound" button at chefgivingcommunity.org.

LVA Reschedules 'The Princess Bride'

A scheduling conflict has forced Livermore Valley Arts (LVA) to postpone a Bankhead Theater screening this month of "The Princess Bride," followed by a moderated discussion with actor Cary Elwes, who played Wesley in the 1987 film.

LVA said the 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. had been rescheduled for Friday, Nov. 28.

Elwes will provide a behind-the-scenes look at the making of the movie, which has become a cult classic.

LVA said ticketholders are being notified by email.

Master Gardeners Offer New Class for Beginners

The University of California Master Gardeners of Alameda County will offer a five-week Saturday morning program for beginning gardeners at Las Positas College in Livermore starting Sept. 13.

The program will continue on Sept. 20 and 27 and Oct. 4 and 11. Sessions will run from 9 a.m. to noon.

The program, "From Seed to Harvest: Vegetable Gardening for Beginners," will cover how to plan, plant, nurture, sustain and harvest a garden.

For more information, go to tinyurl.com/wfx3ux37.

Friends of Dublin Library To Hold Used-Book Sale

Friends of Dublin Library will hold its annual Fall Used Books & Media Sale at the Dublin Library, 200 Civic Plaza, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 13, and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 14.

Proceeds from the sale, which will include books, games, puzzles and audio-visual materials, will go to support library programs.

The Dublin Library is operated by the Alameda County Library with financial support from the city.

Sunday is also Bargain Day. Shoppers will be provided with a bag that can be filled with books for $5.

Friends of Dublin Library is a nonprofit organization that helps support early literacy and other library programs for children, teens and adults.

For more information, go to aclibrary.org or dublinfriends.org.

CHAMBER

(Continued from front page)

Ghadban explained. "And as we usually say, 'When you're busy running your business, your chamber is monitoring what impacts your business for you.' And your investment in your chamber goes beyond the networking, the engagement in your community, getting to know each other, and building relationships you can trust. Those relationships are important."

But the other critical piece that falls to CalChamber's eight staff lobbyists is to keep the local chambers informed during federal government's legislative sessions on the 2,000 to 2,500 bills that are introduced each year.

Ghadban pointed out that California is home to more than 4 million small businesses, which make up 99.8% of all businesses in the state.

"Small businesses are the backbone of our economy," she said. Jokingly, she added, "But unless you're having a hard time sleeping at night and you want to read some of the bills that are associated with you as a business owner and their impact on you, it's much cheaper to be a member of your local chamber and CalChamber than to get sued."

Ghadban walked the chamber audience through some of the bills that are on her organization's current list of legislative priorities.

In many cases, she surprised the audience by pointing out the subtleties in certain bills, such as AB 446, "Surveillance Pricing" which prohibits the use of personal data via "surveillance," i.e. online behavior, to offer customized pricing to consumers.

"Are any of you offering discounts at your businesses?" she asked the group, which responded affirmatively with raised hands. "So, they're trying to prevent businesses from offering customized pricing."

That means that small businesses using digital-marketing tools may inadvertently violate the law simply by offering a discount.

"So, we want to make sure that you stay compliant, and we know it's not a fun subject, but we do have to talk about it," Ghadban said. "We make sure the local chamber has the info they need to support the local business community."

La, also a local business owner, brought levity throughout the story of his unconventional path into office.

"I became your assessor because I hated the assessment office," La said. "I thought they were overtaxing you."

A lawyer by trade, he left the law office he was working at to join his family's business. The La family bought the old Kmart on East Stanley Blvd in 2001 and was responsible for bringing Trader Joe's to Livermore.

"When I got back to the family business, I looked at the numbers and realized the county assessor was overtaxing them," La said. "I'm a firm believer that you shouldn't have to have a son who's a lawyer (to get an accurate tax assessment)."

La said that when the opportunity came to run for office in the government agency, he had been "suing for 10 years." He jumped at it and was elected in 2018.

The Alameda County Assessor's Office is responsible for locating all taxable property in the county and establishing its taxable value and applying any legal exemption.

It is one of the larger assessment agencies in the state and is committed to establishing accurate and fairly assessed property values.

"The last three years, we've seen a couple of changes to the economy," La said. "You know what happened last year? We proactively gave about 80 large office buildings property-tax reductions.

"The average assessment a few years ago in the Tri-Valley was like $400 dollars a square foot. The average sale today is below $200 a square foot."

Property-tax revenues go mostly to schools, cities or the county, La pointed out.

"So, when this happens, although I see it happening and I understand the ramifications of my decision, I'm a firm believer that no taxpayer should have to pay more than their fair share. Even if it means a reduction, even if it's less money for our government, it's the right thing to do."

La concluded with a question he said he gets asked a lot by city staff and officials. "How do cities generate more revenue for the city without increasing taxes?"

La explained that the highest taxpayers that don't require city services are data centers. He pointed to a graph. "This is a data center in Newark, T5 Silicon Valley. They pay over a million dollars a year. A data center that probably has 10 people working for it. There's no real need for police, no need for fire. No need for schools, but they pay their property taxes."

He posed a final question to the audience, "Who's the largest taxpayer in Livermore? Westcore Bravo, who owns a large industrial complex (1,298,207 square feet) here in Livermore." Their tenant is Tesla Corporation.

The next Wine Country Luncheon in the series, on Oct. 23, will be on the subject of Agritourism.

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Firefighters Exhibit Is Open at Dublin Heritage Park & Museums

By Vivien Wenneker

DUBLIN – A new exhibit, "Fighting Fires and Saving Lives," opened at the Dublin Heritage Park & Museums on Saturday, Aug. 30 and will be on display through February.

The exhibit chronicles the history of Dublin's firefighters, beginning in the 1960s before the city was founded and had an official fire department, and works its way through the 1970s, '80s and '90s.

"These firefighters when they were starting their careers, they were living in this brand-new community, because Dublin didn't start going until the 1960s," Dublin historian Steve Minneabar said. "It's a story of community, the development of community, and the professionalism of firefighting that happened in the '70s, '80s, and '90s."

Minneabar, who designed the exhibit, became interested in the stories of the Dublin firefighters roughly a year ago, when he heard about a group of retired Dublin firefighters who got together every month at a restaurant in Brentwood. He decided to tag along to one of their meetings to learn about what Dublin was like back in the day.

"It's the stories they tell each other which are fascinating," Minneabar said. "How many times do you hear about someone running into a burning building, or going to save the dog? Those are only a few of the stories that people hear about their professions and their lives."

Once he decided that this was a piece of local history worth capturing, Minneabar began conducting interviews, contacting museums in the area to collect artifacts and designing posters for the exhibit. The artifacts include everything from photographs of the firefighters to pieces of their equipment, uniforms and a part of a building that burned down.

One such artifact, which Minneabar specifically recalled, was a letter written by a Dublin woman thanking the firefighters for delivering her baby. Alongside the letter is a photograph of the baby taken at Camp Parks, where the firefighters helped deliver it.



Photos and artifacts from bygone days are on display as part of a new exhibit, "Fighting Fires and Saving Lives," at the Dublin Heritage Park & Museums. (Photo courtesy of Dublin Historical Society)

One of the central difficulties in putting together the exhibit, according to Minneabar, is that for most of Dublin's early history, there wasn't an official fire department, but rather a collection of other regional fire departments and emergency services that operated out of the city.

"There were a lot of little different fire departments that existed here for a long time and then got disbanded, so it's a hard story to disentangle," Minneabar said. "For a time, there was the Suburban Fire Department, the Camp Parks Department. … Then later, Dublin chose not to have a fire department, but to contract with Alameda County to have their fire department."

For this reason, the history and stories highlighted in the exhibit are not just about Dublin, but all the fire departments that Dublin firefighters served, especially Santa Rita.

The original Santa Rita jail, which was located in Dublin, was designed for rehabilitation rather than incarceration. Many of its inmates learned how to fight fires so they'd have a viable career option upon release.

In the 1960s, as Minneabar pointed out, the community of Dublin was still in the early stages of development, so the Santa Rita department was in charge of responding to fires in the area. Many of the artifacts in the exhibit come from the Alameda County Sheriff's Office, which had direct ties to the Santa Rita Jail and fire department.

For Minneabar, one of the best parts of putting together the exhibit was not just discovering a part of overlooked local history but getting to interact with the firefighters.

"These are guys who are now in their '70s and '80s," Minneabar said. "We have this image of a firefighter as a strong man, but it's interesting to see these people thinking back on their more capable times in life. Part of the reason for doing this is giving these men their moment in the limelight and saying, 'Thank you for your service.' Sometimes the broader department doesn't think about what these folks did for them, putting their lives at risk, but at the same time, they're also ordinary people, too."

To learn more about the exhibit, visit: https://www.dublinhistoricalsociety.org. It is now on display at the Small Classroom, Dublin Heritage Park & Museums, and is open to the public from 4-8 p.m. on Tuesdays and from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays.

Dublin To Fill Vacancy On Parks Commission

Dublin is accepting applications to fill a vacancy on the city's Parks and Community Services Commission.

The five-member commission, including a student representative, advises the City Council and municipal staff on issues affecting city facilities, parks and recreational programs.

The commission meets at the Civic Center, 100 Civic Plaza, at 7 p.m. the third Monday of every month.

The person appointed to fill the vacancy would serve through 2028.

To apply, or for more information, go to dublin.ca.gov or call 925-833-6650. The deadline to apply is Friday, Sept. 12.

Livermore Grad Completes Naval Academy Degree

Brandon Norton, a 2021 graduate of Livermore High School, has earned a bachelor's degree in mathematics from the U.S. Naval Academy and received his commission as an ensign. While at the academy in Annapolis, Maryland, Norton was a member of the midshipman Heavyweight Crew Team. U.S. News & World Report this year ranked the Naval Academy the top public college in the country and the No. 4 liberal arts college. About 1,000 midshipmen graduate every year and are expected to serve a minimum of five years active duty in either the Navy or the Marine Corps.



Brandon Norton



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TRI-VALLEY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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.

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 C
OURSE
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.

Thursday, Sept. 25
925 GIVES
925 GIVES is a community-powered day of giving led by Three Valleys Community Foundation (3VCF). Rooted in the 925 area code, it unites donors, nonprofits, and local leaders to strengthen our region. Through Sept. 15, nonprofits can sign up to participate and rally community support. The donation window opened Aug. 25, building momentum to the 24-hour Giving Day on Sept. 25 — featuring real-time donations, leaderboard showdowns, match challenges, prizes, and nonstop celebration. See 925GIVES.org

Saturday, Oct. 4
TRI-VALLEY TEXAS HOLD'EM TOURNAMENT
CEI Foundation's Tri-Valley Texas Hold'em Tournament is back! Proceeds benefit memory and dementia care programs at the Center for Elders' Independence and mental health grants for seniors through Three Valleys Community Foundation. With every ticket, donation, and drink sale, you can help make a powerful difference! On Oct. 4 at 5 p.m. at Roundhouse Marketplace in San Ramon. See givebutter.com/4F42Z4

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

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
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.

OBITUARIES

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Donald Braden Schall Jr. (Brad)
Oct. 19, 1939 — July 23, 2025

Donald Braden Schall Jr., lovingly known as "Brad," passed away at the age of 85 on July 23, 2025, in Livermore, California, with his daughter Mary Pat Fahnhorst by his side.

Robert Spiro Philis
(also known as Robert Thomas)
Aug. 3, 1934 — July 12, 2025



Robert Spiro Philis of Manteca, California, born Aug. 3, 1934, passed away July 12, 2025, after a short illness, surrounded by his loving family. Robert was born in Sacramento, California; He later moved with his parents to Hayward, California. After graduating from Hayward High, Robert joined the SeeBees Naval Reserve, serving three years in Alaska and Guam. Later, Robert and his brother, Thomas, opened the Robert Thomas Photography Studio in Pleasanton, California, where he became a well-known, award-winning, professional photographer for 34 years. He also served as President of Professional Photographers of the Greater Bay Area. Retiring to Twain Harte, Robert opened the Harte Dog Cafe and eventually moved to the Del Webb community in Manteca, where he met his partner, Harleene Bebout, in 2011. He is survived by his brother, Tom Philis of Reno; his sisters, Frosa Christopher of San Leandro and Diane Balloue of Hayward; his three children, Laurie Buettner of Occidental, Randy Merwin of Livermore, and Cindy Merwin of Hayward; also six grandchildren: Logan, Nolan, Travis and Zachary Roth, Payton Merwin, and Issac Williams; along with nine great-grandchildren of Livermore, Pleasanton and Tennessee, and several nieces and nephews. Robert enjoyed a full life traveling, RVing, dancing, football, cards, especially pinochle, started the pickleball club in Del Webb, and was a devoted fan of the Raiders. Robert's final resting place is in the San Joaquin Valley National Cemetery, Santa Nella, California.

Olive Carmel Egan



Olive Carmel Egan was born on June 22, 1937, on Rockfield farm in County Offaly in the midlands of Ireland. The youngest child of Thomas and Winifred Egan, she was the much-adored and slightly bossy baby sister of Tom, Mary and Frank (an illuminative anecdote: she often said her older siblings put a feather on their tree swing, knowing she feared feathers and wouldn't want to use the swing; they were driven to do so because she would never allow them a turn on the swing). Farm life included carrying tea to the men working in the fields, riding her beloved pony Billy, and hiding in a big tree to read books; she was brave on the school playground, where she dared to steal a ball from a group of boys, eluding their chase until she dramatically hopped a fence and badly cut the palm of one hand when she landed on broken glass.

Olive's love of language started early in her school years with her participation on the Irish (Gaelic) debate team in secondary school; she was also the proud wearer of a Fáinne pin (worn to show fluency in, and willingness to speak, the Irish language). The pursuit of education in language studies brought her to the U.S. and landed her in Florida where she studied in a few places before heading north to Michigan. Her passion for language eventually led her to complete an undergraduate degree in 1967 in Spanish Language with minors in English and Music at Siena Heights College in Adrian, Michigan. She then moved to Ann Arbor, Michigan, and completed a Master's program in Spanish Language at the University of Michigan in 1972. After completing her Master's degree, Olive began working as a Spanish teacher in the Livonia, Michigan school system, the first of many teaching positions in which she thrived and quickly found community.

During her first summer in Ann Arbor, Olive was at a party with some of her new friends in the Spanish Department when a couple of physics students showed up, only one of them actually invited. In a move rather uncharacteristic of the Jim Greene personae we all have known for decades, he rolled an ottoman chair into the center of a circle of girls who were seated on the floor, sat down, and began asking each one's name. When he called Olive at home a few days later, after having posed as a businessman seeking Spanish translations in order to obtain her phone number from the Spanish Department, she was wary but decided to give him a chance.

Leading up to their marriage on Aug. 9, 1969, there was talk of Olive keeping her maiden name, Egan, however Jim was amused at the prospect of a potentially colorful name, and so she became Olive Greene. She was welcomed into the Greene family, a true-blue Midwestern/Michigan family of military veterans, entrepreneurs and outdoorsmen. Similarly, Olive's relatives in Ireland were excited to meet Jim, which finally happened the summer after the wedding. The couple lived the classic Ann Arbor college town life for the next couple years, surrounded by friends from school and often attending U of M football games together (Go Blue!).

Olive's first glimpses of Livermore, California in 1972 were a bit daunting and disheartening after leaving the life she loved in Michigan — First Street was far from blossoming into the lovely hub it is today. Jim had finished his PhD and accepted a position at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, and the couple had just driven into town from Ann Arbor. Livermore in 1972 was the kind of place where a young couple with a hippie-adjacent fashion sense struggled to find an apartment to rent, but once they found one and moved in, they quickly met many neighbors who became lifelong friends. Life changed a lot in the next few years: they welcomed a daughter, Lara, in August of 1973, bought a house very close to the Lab in 1975, and welcomed another daughter, Melodie, in 1976. They also embraced their new state and all the outdoor adventures it offered, becoming enthusiastic backpackers, skiers, and kayakers (note: the whitewater version was more Jim's thing, but Olive held her own, while desperately hanging on). Over the years, they enjoyed all of these activities with their ever-growing circle of friends.

Olive began working in Livermore schools in 1981, teaching English and Spanish at the middle and high school levels. She really came into her own as a teacher of English as a Second Language at Livermore High School, where her language expertise and her own experience as an immigrant positioned her perfectly to help hundreds of newcomer students navigate the challenges of beginning life in a new country. She helped students become financially educated, happily going with them to open their first bank accounts and writing letters of recommendation to landlords so they could rent their first apartments. Many of those students became lifelong friends, inviting Olive and her family to weddings, graduations, and many other occasions. The latter part of Olive's teaching career at LHS found her teaching Spanish; she was a patient, fair, and encouraging teacher, and was adored by her students and colleagues alike. She was an important servant leader among her peers, volunteering to take on the herculean task of chairing the reaccreditation process for LHS and filling roles such as Class Advisor.

When Olive retired in 2002, a year after Jim retired from the Lab, she seemed to be busier than when she worked full time, between multiple book and hiking clubs, teaching Spanish in a local program, and helping to administrate the Livermore Retired Teachers Scholarship. She kept furthering her language skills, learning Italian well enough to have conversations when she and Jim traveled to Italy. That was just one of a number of places Olive and Jim traveled in retirement — they also got to Fiji, New Zealand, Australia, Spain, France, Canada, Alaska, and Ireland/England to connect often with family.

Olive will be remembered as: a loyal and caring friend who would go far out of her way to help in times of need; a passionate and dedicated teacher with a gift for making students and young people feel heard and important; a proud mother, aunt, godmother and grandmother who adored and connected with every young person she met; and as the light in the room, with a sense of humor, wit, and laugh that brought people together. As her oldest niece, Mary, said, "Olive was the loveliest woman. Nobody, ever, had a bad word to say about her. We all have only the best memories of her."

Olive is survived by her husband of almost 56 years, Jim Greene; their two children: Lara Greene of San Francisco, Melodie Greene and husband Jarrett Moe of Park City, Utah; grandchildren Marea and Theo Moe-Greene; sister-in-law Elizabeth Egan of Tubber, Ireland; and many nieces and nephews in Ireland, England, Australia, Michigan, North Carolina, and Nevada.

A Celebration of Life service will be held at Callaghan Mortuary in Livermore, California, at 3 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 12, followed by a gathering at 3 Steves Winery (also in Livermore). Contributions in remembrance may be made to the Alzheimer's Association or the California Retired Teachers Scholarship.

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

Alameda County

Commission Is Conducting A Transportation Survey

The Alameda County Transportation Commission (CTC) is conducting an online survey to gather public input on its 2026 Countywide Transportation Plan.

The commission is a joint powers agency tasked with planning, funding and executing transportation projects in Alameda County.

The 22-member CTC includes all five Alameda County supervisors, two representatives from Oakland, one representative each from the other 13 cities in the county, and one representative from the Bay Area Rapid Transit and the Amador-Contra Costa Transit districts.

The survey, which takes about five minutes to complete, is available at research.net/r/PSPC-MRX

3VCF Accepting Donations For its 925GIVES Campaign

The Three Valley Community Foundation (3VCF) is now accepting donations for nonprofits registered for its inaugural 925 GIVES fundraising campaign.

The campaign will culminate in a 24-hour online day of giving, with special donor matches, on Thursday, Sept. 25. But those who want to donate early, directing their gift to a specific nonprofit, can go to 925gives.org.

The Pleasanton-based foundation works with nonprofits throughout the 925 area code, which includes the inland areas of Alameda and Contra Costa counties, serving as a hub for information and collaboration.

The website lists 47 organizations that have registered with 3VCF to receive donations through its fundraising campaign.

Texas Hold'Em Tournament To Benefit Elders Foundation

The Center for Elders' Independence Foundation will host a Tri-Valley Texas Hold'Em Tournament at the Roundhouse Market and Conference Center in San Ramon on Saturday, Oct. 4.

Proceeds from the fundraiser will benefit memory and dementia care programs at the Center for Elders' Independence (CEI) in Oakland and the Pleasanton-based Three Valleys Community Foundation, which supports nonprofit groups throughout the East Bay area.

CEI helps at-risk seniors to continue living at home instead of a nursing home.

Tickets to enter the poker tournament are available at givebutter.com/4f42z4.

Play will begin at 5 p.m.

Las Positas Challenge Raises Awareness of Veteran Suicide

Las Positas College (LPC) in Livermore will host the annual "2.2 for 22 Challenge for Veterans" to increase awareness of suicide among military veterans and raise funds for scholarships and mental health programs at the college's track and field facilities on Sunday, Sept. 28.

The challenge, a series of 25 short physical and mental tasks, is sponsored by the college's Veterans First Program, which helps veterans transition from military life to college, including educational, financial and social support.

Challenge stations will include physical tasks such as dancing, hula-hooping, blowing bubbles, dribbling a basketball, burpees and holding a yoga pose for 22 seconds.

There will also be chess, knot-tying, meditating, balloon-juggling, therapy dog-petting, paper airplanes, color matching and letter-writing challenges, among others.

The program will begin with the playing of the National Anthem at 9 a.m. and end at noon.

East Bay Park District Acquires Land for Future Shoreline Park

The East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) said last week that it has acquired 82 acres at Point Molate on the Point San Pablo Peninsula in western Contra Costa County for a future shoreline regional park.

The California State Legislature previously approved $36 million for the purchase.

EBRPD also announced the acquisition of 140 acres from the John R. Freschi, Jr., living trust, in partnership with the East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservancy, for a future Deer Valley Regional Park.

EBPRD manages 73 parks, 55 miles of shoreline, and more than 1,330 miles of trails in Alameda and Contra Costa counties.

Backyard Barbecue Raises $30K For Pleasanton Scholarship Fund

A backyard barbecue fundraiser this month raised $30,000 for the Pleasanton Community of Character Collaborative (PCCC) scholarship fund, the nonprofit organization announced last week.

The PCCC awards college scholarships to Pleasanton high school graduates who exemplify responsibility, compassion, self-discipline, honesty, respect and integrity by example and community service.

The Juanita Haugen Scholarships are named in honor of the longtime Pleasanton Unified School District board member who died in 2007.

PCCC said the $30,442 raised this year was an increase of 30% over 2024, with nearly 120 people attending the barbecue and auction.

The PCCC awarded scholarships earlier this year to four graduating seniors at Foothill High School and five from Amador Valley High School.

Tri-Valley Cultural Jews Set To Hold Their Traditional Succos Celebration

Tri-Valley Cultural Jews (TVCJ) will hold a Succos celebration at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, Oct. 5.

Succos, also known as Sukkot or Feast of the Tabernacles, is a traditional weeklong Jewish holiday that commemorates the end of the annual harvest.

As part of the local celebration, the Pleasanton-based TVCJ will build a sukkah, or temporary outdoor shelter, followed by a potluck brunch.

TVCJ, a secular organization for Jews who celebrate Jewish culture, values and holidays, said the Succos is a time "to reflect on the fragility of shelter and to appreciate the security and comfort so many of us are privileged to have."

Guests are invited to bring a branch to place on the roof of the sukkah and fruit to hang as decorations, in addition to a potluck dish. There will also be crafts and activities for children and adults.

The Succos is free for TVCJ members, with nonmembers asked to make a $15 donation to the organization.

To register, or for more information email culturaljews@gmail.com or call 925-399-8029.

Pro Table Tennis Set For Return to County Fairgrounds

By David Scholz

PLEASANTON – Thousands of spectators are expected Friday-Sunday, Sept. 5-7 when the Bay Area Blasters host a series of games at the Alameda County Fairgrounds to begin the 2025-26 Major League Table Tennis (MLTT) season.

The schedule begins with two matches Sept. 5, with the Florida Crocs and Portland Paddlers squaring off at 4 p.m., followed by the Blasters and Texas Smash at 7:30 p.m.

The weekend matches follow a similar schedule, including the Blasters taking on the Paddlers at 7:30 p.m. Sept. 6, and Blasters and Crocs playing at 2:30 p.m. Sept. 7.

The heightened anticipation by MLTT officials comes after they saw a turnout of more than 2,000 fans last season, when the Fairgrounds twice hosted matches, on Nov. 15-17 and Jan. 10-12.

The MLTT has designed its events at the Fairgrounds to ensure that every seat is close to the action, with elevated sightlines and an intimate, high-energy atmosphere that puts fans right on top of the court, according to Matt Parker, vice president of marketing.

"We saw full crowds, strong local support and a level of engagement that made it clear this market deserved a bigger spotlight," Parker said. "Pleasanton is seen as a strategic choice to kick off our 2025–26 season.

"(The earlier) success played a big role in our decision to return and launch the new season here."

The Bay Area, particularly the Tri-Valley, with a strong network of clubs, youth academies and passionate fans, has become a hub for competitive and recreational table tennis. Parker noted that Pleasanton also offers a high-quality venue that enables MLTT to elevate the live-event experience for players and spectators alike.

The momentum carried forwarded from last season has been bolstered by Bay Area investors, business leaders and fans who see MLTT as a unique sports property with national potential.

"That local enthusiasm, from club owners to tech execs, is helping fuel our league's expansion, both in the region and across the country," Parker said.

Fans will take note of one key update from last season while keeping MLTT's signature fast-paced, team-based structure intact. The notable change is the introduction of open-serve doubles, a new rule allowing players to serve to either box in doubles, rather than the traditional cross-court restriction. This adjustment encourages longer rallies, more dynamic angles and strategic creativity, making doubles even more exciting for fans and players.

"Beyond that, we're enhancing the overall match-day experience with improved venue production, deeper storytelling around our athletes and a more streamlined weekly schedule that helps fans follow the league more easily," Parker said. "It's still the same high-octane MLTT format, now with even more focus."

The exposure given to table tennis by the Olympics is a further boon MLTT is hoping to capitalize on with its Pleasanton kickoff.

"For fans who are inspired by the Olympics, MLTT offers a rare opportunity to see world-class athletes live, right here in Pleasanton, in a high-energy setting designed to bring the sport closer to American audiences," Parker said.

Blasters Coach Tim Wang sees the Tri Valley as a future feeder ground for the team with the likes of Micro Motion Table Tennis, a club in Pleasanton.

"Their head coach, Bo Liang, is a good friend of mine," Wang said. "He's doing an outstanding job nurturing Tri-Valley homegrown talent. It's exciting to think that some of these young players could one day join the Blasters roster."

Wang also cited the presence of India Community Center Table Tennis in Milpitas, which he competed for during his own journey. Now the 888 Table Tennis Center in Burlingame also has emerged as a powerhouse in the USA.

"The growth and collaboration among these clubs are helping elevate the level of table tennis across our region," Wang said.

The Blasters' roster includes four-time Olympian Lily Zhang, a member of the 2012, 2016, 2020 & 2024 US Olympic Teams.

"The Tri-Valley is really unique in that it's become a hotbed for table tennis in the U.S.," Zhang said. "There's an increasing concentration of clubs and training centers, which means kids can get exposed to the sport at a young age, stay consistently engaged and find the right environment to grow at every stage of their development."

Zhang began playing for the Palo Alto Table Tennis Club and continues to train in an elite environment with Table Tennis America in Fremont.

"I've seen firsthand how these clubs inspire and prepare the next generation," she said. "That abundance of opportunities is what makes the Tri-Valley such a great feeder system and strong pipeline for teams like the Blasters."

Ticket prices for individual matches at the Pleasanton Fairgrounds start at $6 for seniors, students and children. General-admission tickets start at $11, and courtside seats start at $21. Single-day passes begin at $24, and weekend passes start at $58.

For more information and to purchase tickets, visit www tickets.mltt.com.



Four-time U.S. Olympian Lily Zhang is a member of the Bay Area Blasters, a Major League Table Tennis team that will be in action from Sept. 5-7 at the Alameda County Fairgrounds in Pleasanton. (Photo courtesy of Major League Table Tennis)



Collins Still Going Strong

By Mitch Stephens

You approach 30 years doing anything and the same question keeps coming up, just from different angles.

How much longer ya gonna keep doing this? Got another year in ya? What keeps you coming back?

Even though 55-year-old Dusty Collins keeps a youthful demeanor, a spunky step in his stride and the salt largely out of his peppery-colored hair, he's getting asked more and more about his end date.

So, he's got a thorough and well-thought-out answer, which is consistent with how his Foothill High School girls and boys volleyball practices have been run the past 28 seasons.

"As long as coaching is the best part of my working day, then I'm going to keep doing it," he said. "As long as I'm still asked."

Collins said last week that although his enthusiasm is still strong, he knows rationally the end of his coaching regime is coming soon.

"I've been told you know when you know," he said with a grin.

Everyone knows that nobody around these parts has done it any better.

Granada, led by coach Charlie Brown and star-studded squads featuring such college-bound players as Betsy Welsh and Jeanette Petrilli, owned a dynasty in the 1980s, winning six North Coast Section crowns.

Amador Valley and Danville schools San Ramon Valley and Monte Vista have also had strong runs.

But since then-athletic director Tom Hansen hired Collins, a Humboldt State graduate and Orange County native, to lead both programs in 1997, Foothill has largely ruled the roost.

Collins has been called the "Bob Ladouceur" of East Bay volleyball coaches, in reference to the Hall of Fame De La Salle-Concord football coach who finished with 399 wins and a mere 25 losses during a 34-year career.

That included a national-record 151-game winning streak and a .934 winning percentage, the best ever among football coaches with more than 200 victories.

Like Ladouceur, Collins doesn't count wins, titles or winning streaks, rather focusing on all the traits, skills and camaraderie his teams need to win each match.

Also like Ladouceur, Collins is oblivious to his records, and because volleyball numbers aren't kept nearly as meticulously as those in football, nobody seems to know exactly how many matches he's actually piled up.

He has won a combined 21 East Bay Athletic League, eight North Coast Section and two Northern California championships between the boys and girls teams, including last season's NorCal Division 1 girls championship.

The Falcons (30-11) lost in the NCS Open Division semifinals to eventual champion Branson-Ross but came back to win the D1 NorCals with four straight wins. The capper was a 25-18, 25-19, 14-25, 25-17 victory over Redwood-Larkspur in the finals, behind 25 kills from then-senior Kaycie Burdick, the EBAL most valuable player.

Remarkably, Burdick and her twin sister, Sophia, another starter for Collins, were both even better softball players and are now on scholarship at Washington and San Jose State, respectively.

The 2024 Falcons were a surprise bunch considering the 2023 team that went 37-2 lost its top two players, Paige Bennett and Katie Salonga, to graduation. Bennett (Winthrop) and Salonga (Colorado) are now playing in college.

"We've had a lot of great people, both players and coaches, come through the program, for sure," Collins said. "I think the consistency of coaches has been the main thing. The kids know what to expect and have great expectations."

Among Collins' assistants, junior varsity coach Stanley Fung and Melissa Bennett have been around the longest, but Steph Seto, Katelyn Tagalog and John Flores have helped maintain continuity and excellence, as well.

The Falcons have won at least 30 matches five times since 2015, but that's going to be tough in 2025, especially given a season-ending knee injury to their top all-around returner, Kate Vogel, who registered 278 kills and 419 digs last season.

Without its top four attackers from last year, Foothill will have to figure out different ways to prevail, but it's not like the cupboard is bare.

Paige Nelson, a 6-foot setter and opposite hitter, has a scholarship secured to New Mexico State. Brooke Steadman, a 5-10 senior, is another top ball-handler. The duo combined for more than 1,300 assists in 2024. Sophomore libero Olivio So led the team in digs last season with 428.

The Falcons dropped their first two matches this season, to top NCS squads James Logan (3-0) and Branson (3-1). Defending state Division 2 champion San Ramon Valley is likely the EBAL favorite.

Collins, whose first prep coaching job was at Eureka High School, where he also coached basketball, isn't panicking after two early defeats.

"We definitely have skills," Collins said. "We'll find some offense along the way. We'll just have to keep working at it."

Spoken like a longtime coach.



Coach Dusty Collins and Foothill High's girls volleyball team celebrate after defeating Redwood-Larkspur to win the CIF Northern California Division 1 championship on Nov. 19, 2024. (File photo – Doug Jorgensen)

Livermore Looking To Build on Big Opening Victory Over Castro Valley

Cowboys Preparing for Stern Test Against Speedy Sacramento Squad That Features A Brother Tandem of Top Playmakers

By Mitch Stephens

TRI-VALLEY – If Livermore High School's football team is going to put another big smile on the face of coach John Wade on Friday night, Sept. 5, the Cowboys are going to have to be quick studies.

On the art of speed.

Specifically, on how to defend it, because Livermore hosts speedy Sacramento in a 7:30 p.m. game that pits teams that combined to score 99 points in season-opening wins on Aug. 29.

Sacramento got big games from two of the top playmakers from the Sac-Joaquin Section. The Radcliffe brothers – junior dual-threat quarterback Laron James and sophomore running back Cordell – led the way in a 48-0 win over Sonoma Valley-Sonoma, a team that returned most of its key starters from a 12-1 squad in 2024.

"Looks like they have some guys who can really move, yes," Wade said. "We'll have to slow down their big-play ability."

The Cowboys certainly showed off theirs in a 51-19 home win over Castro Valley. As promised, Wade set Matteo Lortie free as the senior quarterback completed 16 of 22 passes for 334 yards and two touchdowns, one each to AJ Carey (7 catches, 142 yards) and CT Harper (4, 140). Lortie also rushed for two scores.

Mason Peters, Caden Romero and John Hepner also ran for touchdowns as the Cowboys piled up 425 yards, seven touchdowns and a field goal while never punting. They also didn't give up a sack.

"We couldn't have been happier," Wade said. "The challenge is to keep up that momentum."

The Cowboys should be able to if they get another nearly perfect game from their offensive line of Julian McCall, Andrew Seller, Grady Castro, Alex Young and Josh Bosque.



Livermore's AJ Carey hauled in seven passes for 142 yards and a touchdown in a season-opening, 51-19 victory over visiting Castro Valley on Aug. 29. (Photo courtesy of Livermore-Granada Boosters)

More Friday games (7 p.m., unless noted):

Amador Valley (0-1) at Monterey Trail-Elk Grove (1-0), 7:15 p.m. — In the first meeting between the programs, each team will be coming off a down-to-the-wire game. Elk Grove posted a 27-22 home win versus Inderkum-Sacramento as quarterback Kaden Love rushed for two touchdowns and sophomore Xander McKee rushed for 100 yards and a score. … Amador Valley squandered a 14-7 home lead in the final six minutes to lose 21-14 to Vanden-Fairfield.

Foothill (0-1) at Castro Valley (0-1) — Both teams are licking wounds after lopsided losses, though Foothill scored three touchdowns in a 49-21 loss at Monte Vista-Danville. Falcons junior quarterback Gavin Brown threw for 157 yards and a touchdown, and senior running back Dylan Souza had four catches for 134 yards and a score. Souza also rushed seven times for 50 yards.

Granada (0-1) at Heritage-Brentwood (0-1), 7:15 p.m. — The Matadors are going to have to find their rushing game after mustering minus-1 yard on 14 tries in a 42-7, home-opening loss to Campolindo-Moraga. Caiden Van Leer, a transfer from California-San Ramon, threw for 163 yards and a touchdown to Ethan Mitchell (6 catches, 68 yards) but had three interceptions. Heritage dropped a 26-18 game to James Logan-Union City in the coaching debut of the Patriots' Nick Wisley. … This is the eighth meeting between the programs since 2011, with Heritage having won five, including 28-25 last season.

Vanden (1-0) at Dublin (1-0) — The visiting Vikings, the defending state 3-A champions, went on the road to beat Amador Valley in their opener. They feature junior Savier Zambrano at quarterback and rugged running back Josiah Chavez, who rushed for 64 yards and three touchdowns last week. Dublin got two touchdowns each from Andre Armendariz and Lincoln Trias, and a scoop and score by Thunder Hazen in a 42-7 opening win over Berkeley. … This is the first meeting between the programs.

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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 August 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 August 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 August 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 August 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 August 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): Soft-Rinse 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 August 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 August 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 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 August 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 August 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 August 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 August 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 August 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 8, 2025. Expires August 7, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6527. Published August 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 August 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 August 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 August 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 August 28, September 4, 11, 18, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 617060

The following person(s) doing business as: Kaimo, 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 August 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 August 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 August 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 August 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 August 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 August 28, September 4, 11, 18, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 617090

The following person(s) doing business as: Mitchell Katz Winery, 2915 S. Vasco Road, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Jackson Cellars, Inc., 2915 S. Vasco Road, 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: 9/5/2002. Signature of Registrant/s/: Wesley R. Katz, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 21, 2025. Expires August 20, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6538. Published September 4, 11, 18, 25, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 617190

The following person(s) doing business as: Overtone, 11843 Bloomington Way, Dublin, CA 94568 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Overtone Collective LLC, 11843 Bloomington Way, 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: 8/26/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Mathew Aaron Salit, Managing Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August26, 2025. Expires August 25, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6539. Published September 4, 11, 18, 25, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 616364

The following person(s) doing business as: Golden State Fresh, 325 Franklin Street STE B, Oakland, CA 94607 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Golden State Fresh Inc., 325 Franklin Street STE B, Oakland, CA 94607. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 1/27/2021. Signature of Registrant/s/: Najib Awnallah, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 23, 2025. Expires July 22, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6540. Published September 4, 11, 18, 25, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 617141

The following person(s) doing business as: Best Carz Deal, 2216 American Ave, Hayward, CA 94545 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Nguyen Nguyen, 2216 American Ave, Hayward, CA 94545. 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: 8/22/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Nguyen Song Nguyen, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 22, 2025. Expires August 21, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6541. Published September 4, 11, 18, 25, 2025.

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ANIMALS

CATS/DOGS

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For adoption information contact Valley Humane Society at (925)426-8656

Tri-Valley Animal Rescue

Adopt a New Best Friend TVAR Tri-Valley Animal Rescue

Our current weekly adoption events include:
Saturdays - Dogs & Puppies at: Dublin Petsmart
6960 Amador Plaza Rd. Hours: 10:00am to 1:00pm.
Visit our website: WWW.TVAR.ORG, to see adoptable animals, volunteer opportunities, and how to donate. Follow:
TRI-VALLEY ANIMAL RESCUE on Facebook, and Instagram

EMPLOYMENT

TriNet USA, Inc.in Dublin, CA is seek'g multiple openings: 1.) Principal Solutions Architect(s) to build strategy for the company's Hyper Automat'n. Slry: $168,397/y. 2.) Staff Software Engineer(s) to provide Techn'l guidance & assessment of the company's apps & sys's dvlpmnt. Slry: $187,574/y. Both pos'ns = No trvl. WFH benefit avail; must be able to attend meetings in the Dublin office, as req. Email Resumes to: candidates@trinet.com

Brillius Technologies, Inc. dba Brillius Inc. Multiple Openings:

DevOps Engineer: Confgr & mntn cloud infrastructr on AWS/ Azure; Automat infrastructr provisng & dplymnt procses to stremlin CI/CD piplns; Dply & orchestrt contanrizd apps; & Optmz wrkflws & rslv infrastructr isus. $181K-182K/yr. **IT Project Manager:** Mng & coordnt SDLC on AWS & Azure cloud platforms; Colabrt w/ dvlpmnt teams to dsgn & implmnt usr intrfacs; & Plan, track, & monitr project delivrbls. $133K-134K/yr. **Sr. DevOps Engineer:** Dsgn, implmnt & mng ELK stack; Or chestrt contanrizd apps & srvcs; Monitr app prfrmnc & trblshot; Automat infrastructr provisng & dplymnt; & Intgrat apps w/ in CI/CD piplns. $181K-182K/yr. **Sr. Programmer Analyst:** Analyz biz rqrmnts & dsgn tchncl solutns; Progrm REST APIs; Intgrat apps w/AWS; Colabrt w/ teams to optmz systm prfrmnc; & Provd ongoing suport, trblshotng, & enhncmnt of s/w apps for biz needs. $169K-170K/yr. The positions require travel to the extent of relocating to var unanticipated worksites thruout USA. Job Site: Pleasanton, CA & var unanticipated worksites thruout USA. To: career@brillius.com

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NOTICES

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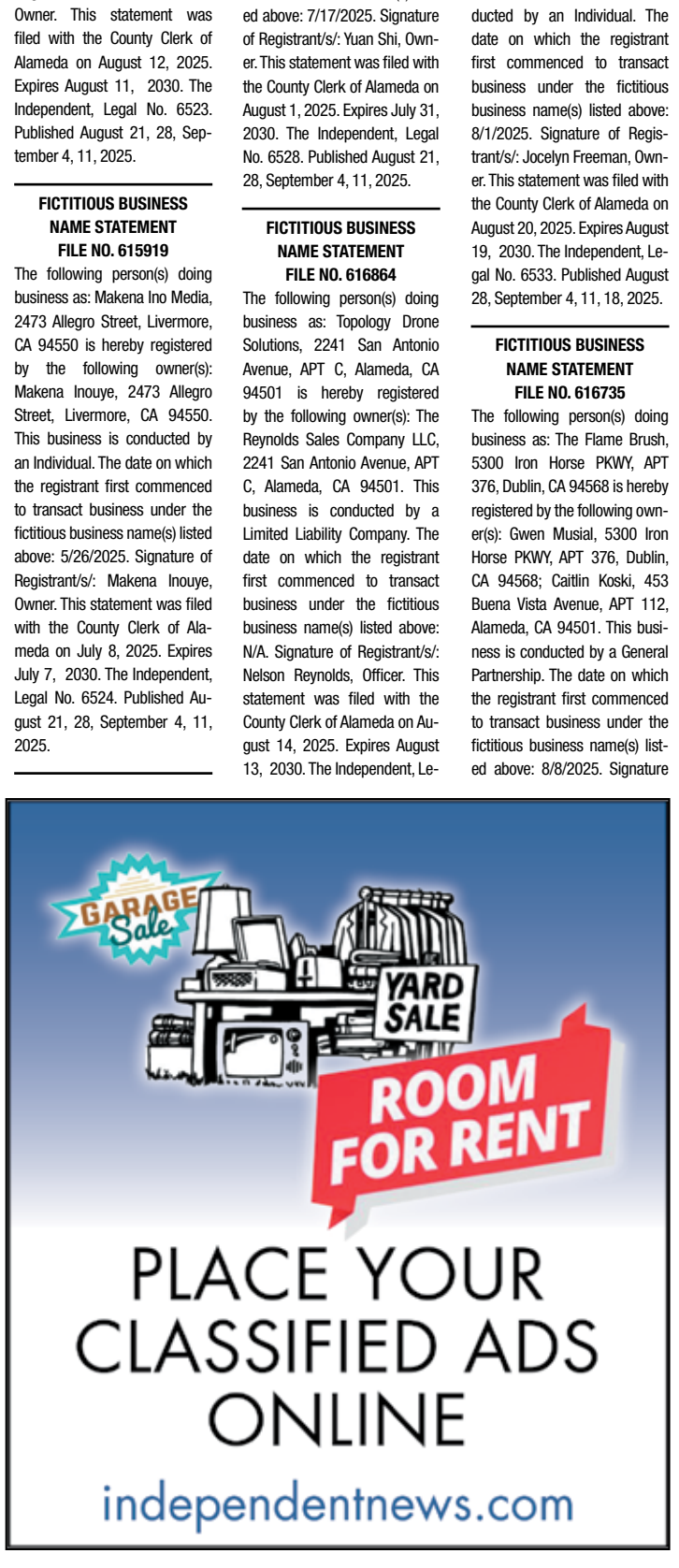
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2025 residential camp attendees pause for a photo. (Photo courtesy of the AAUW)

AAUW Branch Sends 8th-Grade Girls To Weeklong Santa Clara STEM Camp

The Livermore-Pleasanton-Dublin branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) recently sponsored nine eighth grade girls at a week-long camp focused on careers in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM).

The campers learned about climate science, botany, engineering and robotics; took a field trip to a water purification and wastewater treatment facility; and included Morse Code in 3D art compositions, according to the local AAUW branch.

The residential Tech Trek summer camp was held at Santa Clara University.

Seven of the local students attended in person, while two participated online. All were recommended by their teachers.

The local AAUW branch will hold a fundraiser at the Darcie Kent Estate Winery, 7000 Tesla Road, Livermore, on Wednesday, Oct. 8, with a goal of sponsoring 10 girls at Tech Trek camp next year.

The fundraiser, including food, wine and silent auction, will begin at 5 p.m. For more information or to RSVP, go to bit.ly/AAUW-2025.

With more than 170,000 members nationwide, the AAUW is a nonprofit organization that promotes equity for girls and women through advocacy, education and research.

Taylor Receiving Eagle Honor

Ava Taylor, the daughter of Jeff and Jennifer Taylor of Livermore and a member of the all-girl Scout Troop 2942, will receive her Eagle badge at a court of honor on Saturday, Sept. 20.

Eagle is the highest rank in the traditional Scouting America program.

To achieve the rank of Eagle, a Scout must earn at least 21 merit badges and complete a community project.

For her Eagle project, Taylor planned and organized volunteers to paint a 12-foot conflict resolution wheel on the blacktop at Lawrence Elementary School, which she had attended.

The school uses the "Leader in Me" curriculum to develop leadership skills in students and has been in the process of implementing a method of conflict resolution.



Ava Taylor (Photo courtesy of Jennifer Taylor)

The Scouts also outlined an evacuation area requested by the teachers and refreshed the Lawrence Labs paw prints throughout the campus for school spirit.

Taylor is a senior at Granada High School, where she is enrolled in the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program. She is also vice president of the Granada National Honor Society and volunteers at the Discovery Shop of the American Cancer Society in Pleasanton.

Chartered in 2019, Troop 2942 is sponsored by St Charles Borromeo Catholic Church in Livermore.

LLNL Teams Get Innovation Awards

Four research teams at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) have received innovation awards from R&D World Magazine'

The annual R&D 100 awards recognize new commercial products, technologies and materials that are available for sale or license for their technological significance.

LLNL received awards for the development of high-performance monolithic optical telescopes for space missions, an x-ray diagnostic tool for studying rapid phase changes in materials at very high temperatures and pressure, an encapsulation production tool for microcapsules, and a high-precision additive manufacturing platform for scaled-up production of 3D nano-architectures.

"It's wonderful to see four LLNL teamas recognized by the R&D 100 awards, which highlight the most innovative, game-changing technologies," said LLNL Director Kim Budil. "These four projects showcase how we create partnerships, working with industry, government and academia, to create impactful solutions for a wide range of important challenges."

Since 1978, LLNL has received a total of 186 R&D 100 awards.

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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