



An architectural rendering showcases the newly imagined performing arts center at Amador Valley High School, part of a \$102.8 million renovation project by the Pleasanton Unified School District to replace the historic theater. (Photo courtesy of PUSD) See page 2 for story.

CA D-14 Special Election Results 2026

Unofficial Count as of 8:15 p.m. Tuesday

Voters in California’s 14th Congressional District — which covers the Tri-Valley and parts of the East Bay — cast their ballots by mail and in person Tuesday to fill the vacant seat created by former Rep. Eric Swalwell’s resignation. The intraparty contest features State Senator Aisha Wahab and BART Board director Melissa Hernandez, the top two finishers from the June primary. Wahab ran on a progressive legislative platform, while Hernandez drew strong backing from regional leaders and outside groups. The winner

will serve the remainder of the congressional term through January 2027.

- **Votes Counted:** [59% of votes counted]
- **Aisha Wahab:** [51.4%] [32,148 votes]
- **Melissa Hernandez:** [48.7%] [30,457 votes]

Results will be updated on The Independent’s website at independentnews.com.

Pleasanton Mayoral Race Takes Shape As Julie Testa Launches Campaign Bid

The Challenger Takes on Incumbent Mayor Jack Balch over Budget Cuts

By David Jen

PLEASANTON — Councilmember Julie Testa officially announced on Aug. 10 her campaign for mayor, pitting herself against first-term incumbent Mayor Jack Balch in this year’s election.

“For nearly four decades, I have raised my family here, volunteered in our community, and worked alongside residents to protect the qualities that make Pleasanton a special place,” Testa said in a statement. “As mayor, I will continue to put residents first, listen to our community, and provide thoughtful, independent leadership.”

Testa told The Independent that she felt compelled to enter the race given a lack of healthy debate that her absence would leave on the dais, and the need to represent residents with competing viewpoints.

“I feel like I have balanced our current city council, and without my voice, I think that a lot of representation will be lost,” Testa said.

Her opposition to Balch centered around Measure PP, a 2024 ballot measure that asked voters to increase the city’s sales tax by

0.5% to help eliminate deficits. Testa claimed that Balch created a “wedge issue” out of the tax measure when he opposed it. During his campaign, Balch called for a deeper look into the city’s finances and revenue options in place of the tax increase.

Measure PP failed with 54.2% of voters against it and 45.8% for it. It only needed a simple majority to pass. Instead, the city made some \$6 million in service cuts to balance its 2025-26 budget, such as reductions in library hours, city-commissions support and city landscaping.

“There’ve been dramatic impacts to our community because of the loss of that tax measure,” Testa said.

Shortly after taking the mayoral seat in 2025, Balch proposed a third-party study of the city’s financial position. Testa opposed the study, saying it sent a message of distrust in city staff. Conducted by accounting and business advisors Eide Bailly, the \$33,000 study confirmed staff projections of a \$10 million to \$22 million annual deficit over the next 10 years, depending on macroeconomic factors.

“I would have rather our mayor say, ‘Okay, I said not now.

After the Eide Bailly, I concede. Let’s go back to the public and tell them this (tax increase) is needed,’” Testa said, adding that she has tried to bring the increase back for council discussion, but met resistance from the council majority.

Testa, a two-term councilmember, also opposed the use of pension and other retirement funds to balance the city’s current budget prior to its adoption last June. Both Testa and Balch list the city’s precarious financial position — a result of faltering tax revenues and ballooning pension costs — as one of their top priorities.

More recently, Testa, along with Councilmember Jeff Nibert, voted last month against a development agreement governing the Arroyo Lago housing project, saying the project contributed too little to the city. Per the agreement, developer 330 Land Company will contribute \$3 million toward a needed upgrade to El Charro Road, short of the \$8 million contribution recommended by city staff and the planning commission. Because 330 Land Company had lined up another approval of the project through the county, the city had little

(See TESTA, page 12)

U.S. News Declares Dublin Best Place to Reside in California

Pleasanton and Livermore also Rank Near Top

By Sanestina Hunter

Dublin — U.S. News & World Report ranked Dublin No. 1 on its list of the Best Places to Live in California for 2026–27.

The city, which has more than 70,000 residents and a median age of 37, ranked first among 161 California cities, followed by Cupertino and Palo Alto.

Other Tri-Valley cities also performed well in the statewide ranking. Neighboring San Ramon placed seventh, Pleasanton ranked 11th and Livermore came in at No. 26.

U.S. News evaluated cities based on four indexes: quality of life, value, desirability and job market. The organization considered factors that can influence where people choose to live, including housing costs, household income, unemployment and commute times.

“I’m proud to have championed public safety, diversity, and thoughtful development throughout my time on the council, and this ranking is a meaningful sign that those efforts are showing up in people’s daily lives,” Councilmember Kashif Qaadri, who has served on the council since December 2022, told The Independent.

Dublin has 71,419 residents, according to U.S. News. Of those, 26% are younger than 20; 4% are between 20 and 24; 14% are between 25 and 34; and 22% are between 35 and 44. Another 24% are between 45 and 64, while 10% are 65 or older.

Of the city’s residents, 58.7% are married and 41.3% are single.

Parks and recreation also contribute to the city’s quality of life. Dublin has more than two dozen parks where people can play pickleball, attend community events,

(See GROWTH, page 10)



Julie Testa

DOJ Agent Shortage Limits Dublin Anti-Drug Operations

High Housing Costs, Low Pay Drive Local Deficit

By Sanestina Hunter

DUBLIN — A shortage of California Department of Justice special agents in Dublin is straining the agency’s ability to combat fentanyl trafficking, illegal firearms and other serious crimes across the Bay Area, according to law enforcement association leaders.

Two special agent positions on Dublin’s Fentanyl Enforcement Program team have remained vacant for about two years, leaving fewer agents to handle fentanyl investigations across multiple jurisdictions. Across the broader Division of Law Enforcement’s Dublin office, 13 of 22 special agent positions — about 59% — and two of eight supervisor positions are unfilled, according to DOJ staffing data.

“I know that doesn’t sound like

a lot,” said Ben Greenhagen, a California DOJ special agent and president of the Association of Special Agents-Department of Justice. Greenhagen said covering multiple counties and cities with fewer agents makes it difficult to keep up with fentanyl investigations.

Greenhagen said the vacancies can require agents from other DOJ offices to help cover understaffed areas.

Vacancies extend to the Dublin office of the Division of Medi-Cal Fraud and Elder Abuse, where three of eight special agent positions are unfilled. The division investigates Medi-Cal provider fraud and abuse and neglect of elderly and dependent adults. Both supervisor positions are filled.

Attorney General Rob Bonta established the Fentanyl Enforcement Program in April 2021 to detect,

(See FENTANYL, page 10)



Members of Heartstrings volunteer band perform at Quail Garden, a senior living facility in Livermore, during their 10th-anniversary celebration concert. Front row, seated from left are Susan Locke, Bud Donaldson, Nancy Marling, and Peggy Schimmelman. Back row, standing from left are Dwight Lang, Bill Aimonetti, and Jim Murray. (Photo — May Fraser)

Heartstrings Brings Music to Local Seniors

Volunteer Ensemble Celebrates a Decade of Weekly Music at Livermore’s Quail Garden

By Christina Cavallaro

LIVERMORE — Heartstrings, a local volunteer band, celebrated 10 years of playing music and bringing joy to residents at Quail Garden senior living facility in Livermore.

The occasion marked a decade of performances every Thursday morning with a special luncheon and commemorative cake for residents, visiting family members and the musicians.

The band’s founder and organizer, Susan Locke, has always

had an interest in community outreach, especially through music. Upon retiring from the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, she attended Las Positas College where she received a degree in music and planned to continue her studies in music therapy. But then life took a different course and she began taking care of her aging mother, eventually moving her to Quail Garden where Locke started introducing music to fellow residents. “I thought, ‘You know, I can do music therapy without getting paid.’ In taking care of

my mom and just reaching out to the seniors, I realized the need for that,” Locke said. She and Heartstrings also play regularly for veterans groups and other local senior facilities.

“So it just snowballed into wanting to do community outreach ... that was my passion. And I’m not the greatest musician,” she laughed. “So I’ve got others that are better than I am.” What they all share, she said, is a love of community and music. “It’s really nice that we all have that same thing going on.”

(See HEARTSTRINGS, page 7)

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Amador Valley Theater Demolished for \$102.8M Renovation

By Sanestina Hunter

PLEASANTON — Pleasanton Unified School District (PUSD) recently demolished the longtime theater at Amador Valley High School, with construction now underway

The project scope includes a new competition gym and improvements to existing athletic and instructional facilities. Work is expected to be completed in the second half of 2028, according to district officials.

ing arts, athletics and instruction,” Superintendent Maurice Ghysels told The Independent. “This project will be a major transformation for Amador Valley, bringing a beautiful, welcoming new presence to this prominent

classroom that can also serve as a black box theater, and two new music classrooms with practice and support areas. District officials considered a city-commissioned study on the theater’s future before deter-

tion, design, permits, inspections, furniture and other project costs, according to the district. Most of the funding, \$92.9 million, comes from Measure I, a \$395 million general obligation bond Pleasanton voters approved in 2022 for school facility improvements. Additional funding comes from Measure II, developer fees and insurance proceeds.

PUSD trustees increased the budget by \$7.05 million in January to cover additional work, including pool deck and dry rot repairs and a roof replacement at the existing competition gymnasium. Last year, the district approved an \$85.2 million design-build agreement with Blach Construction covering architecture, design and construction of the performing arts and athletic facilities. The contract has since increased to \$86.8 million and includes a change order to modernize the school’s kitchen.

The district also plans to honor the old theater’s history with a commemorative display inside the new facility. Athletic facility plans include a new competition gym and modernization of the existing practice gym, along with concession facilities, restrooms, locker

rooms and team rooms. The project will also add a new marquee entrance to the athletic facilities. Additional work includes refinishing the existing gym floor, upgrading its heating, ventilation and air conditioning system, and replacing the pool deck and plaster. The locker room improvements are already complete, according to the district, and crews have demolished the former small gym. Design work and approval from the state Division of the State Architect are also complete. The district will hold a groundbreaking ceremony for the new performing arts and athletic facilities Aug. 24 at 4 p.m. PUSD serves more than 14,500 students in nine elementary schools, three middle schools, two comprehensive high schools and one continuation high school.



Heavy machinery begins the demolition of Amador Valley High School’s longtime theater, clearing space for a modernized, multi-purpose performing arts center scheduled to open in late 2028. (Photo courtesy of PUSD)

on a new performing arts center as part of a \$102.8 million renovation project. The new center is designed to meet current educational, accessibility and technical needs.

“Our goal is to honor the theater’s legacy while making responsible use of bond funds to create exceptional facilities that expand opportunities for students across perform-

part of the campus and the broader Pleasanton community,” Ghysels said. Amador Valley’s new performing arts center will feature a theater with support spaces, a drama

mining that the risks and extensive work needed to renovate the historic facility made rebuilding a better long-term investment. The \$102.8 million budget covers construc-

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Pleasanton to Issue \$16.5M in Water Bonds

By David Jen

PLEASANTON — Lower-than-expected interest rates may help the city save \$5.5 million as it works to improve its water system. Pleasanton’s water-system management plan, completed in 2024, identified a need for about \$35 million in financing to help pay for the city’s capital water projects. On Aug. 11, the city council unanimously declared its intent to issue up to \$16.5 million in bonds this year to help pay for those projects. Work slated for the current fiscal year includes meter replacements, design and construction of new wells, emergency-power improvements, and distribution-system improvements. City staff expect to return to the council on Sept. 15 for formal approval of the bond sale. The management plan assumed that the city would

finance funds at an interest rate of 6%. But the city’s review of financing options shared last week estimated rates closer to 4%, which could allow the city to accept a faster 20-year repayment schedule than the 30 years assumed in the plan, saving significant debt costs. Although city staff recommended the 30-year term for added financial flexibility, Mayor Jack Balch and Vice Mayor Matt Gaidos asked to see a comparison with the 20-year term next month. “Depending on what we’re able to obviously lock this interest rate in with the sales, (the lower rate) will provide us with some headroom to be able to possibly absolve ourselves of that \$5.5 million that a 30-year would have provided,” Balch said. Pleasanton’s aging water system has leaned heavily on its ratepayers in recent years. The city imposed a

30% rate increase in 2024, followed by a 12% increase in 2025 and a 15% increase this year. The city council has approved an additional 15% increase beginning Jan. 1, 2027, plus annual 8% increases for the next two years. The city issued \$19 million in water bonds in 2024 and received a \$1 million state grant in 2025 toward its Groundwater Supply Project, an effort to restore groundwater access with new wells in Hansen and Tennis parks. City Finance Director Susan Hsieh said the bonds presented little financial risk to the city. “Usually, the risk is pretty low because we are paying back the investors,” Hsieh said. “As long as we generate revenue from the water system or from the ratepayers, we should be able to pay the bond.” In addition to this year’s bonds, the city plans to fi-

nance \$10 million in fiscal year 2027-28 and another \$10 million in fiscal year 2028-29. If approved next month, the city would sell this year’s bonds at the end of September and receive funds in mid-October.

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Registration Open for LARPD Activities

LIVERMORE — Registration is now open for Livermore Area Recreation and Park District (LARPD) classes, sports and special events through the end of the year. The district has also posted online its Fall Recreation Guide, which includes more

than 460 classes, youth and adult sports and other activities for all ages. “It’s always fun to see the new ideas our recreation staff brings to each season,” said David Weisgerber, LARPD communications and planning Manager. “I encourage everyone to take

a look through the guide and see what’s new this fall.” To view the Fall Recreation Guide, register for programs or learn more about LARPD, go to larpd.org. Financial aid is available through the LARPD Foundation’s Community Support Program.

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Youth Volleyball Coach Released on Bail, Investigation Continues

By Sanestina Hunter

DUBLIN — Dublin police have sent Alameda County prosecutors the case against Aditya Babu, a 48-year-old youth volleyball coach arrested in July on suspicion of possessing child sexual abuse material, Sgt. John White told The Independent.

Babu posted bail after his arrest and remains out of custody, police said.

Multiple cyber tips from the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, a nationwide law enforcement network, prompted Dublin police to investigate.

Detectives later found multiple images identified as child sexual abuse material, or CSAM, in one of Babu’s Google accounts, police said. Investigators also seized dozens of electronic devices.

White said digital evi-

dence collected during the investigation remains under forensic examination.

Dublin police Capt. Miguel Campos said DPS had not received information or evidence indicating that Babu committed any crimes other than the suspected possession of CSAM.

Campos said DPS would work with the appropriate law enforcement agency if investigators received information

indicating Babu may have committed crimes in another jurisdiction.

Police arrested Babu in the parking lot of Pleasanton Middle School while he was on his way to coach a summer volleyball session, according to DPS.

Babu coached for Club V.I.P., which primarily offered volleyball programs for middle-school-age players in the Tri-Valley and

elsewhere in the Bay Area.

Following his arrest, Dublin canceled city recreation classes offered by Club V.I.P., while San Ramon terminated its contract with the provider, according to multiple reports.

Babu also worked as an independent contractor for Pleasanton’s Library and Recreation Department, city officials said. Pleasanton said in July that it was in the process of terminating

his contract and taking steps to prevent him from participating in city recreation programs.

Under California law, knowingly possessing or controlling material depicting a person under 18 engaging in or simulating sexual conduct is a felony.

Anyone with information about the investigation may contact White at 925-833-6670.



Livermore Mayor John Marchand takes part in the ceremonial fire lighting and prasad sharing with members of the All World Gayatri Pariwar during their recent Guru Purnima celebration at the Gayatri Scientific Spirituality Center. (Photo courtesy of AWGP))

Marchand Joins In Local Hindu Festival

LIVERMORE — Mayor John Marchand joined members of the local chapter of the All World Gayatri Pariwar (AWGP) at the Gayatri Scientific Spirituality Center (GSSC) in Livermore this month for the Hindu festival of Guru Purnima.

AWGP is a global spiritual movement founded in 1958 by the late Indian author and freedom fighter Pandit Shriram Sharma with the goal of creating an enlightened world through a higher level of

consciousness.

Guru Purnima is a festival devoted to honoring spiritual and academic teachers.

Marchand participated in the symbolic lighting of a spiritual fire and shared in the prasad, a sweet vegetarian offering.

He concluded the ceremony by encouraging AWGP members to remain committed to community service and civic engagement, integral elements of the nonprofit organization’s values and activities.

Cultural Jews to Celebrate Rosh Hashanah

LIVERMORE — Tri-Valley Cultural Jews (TVCJ) will hold a Rosh Hashanah celebration in Livermore at 4 :30 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 12.

Rosh Hashanah marks the start of the Jewish New Year. Traditionally a two-day cele-

bration, the observance includes the ceremonial lighting of candles, festive meals with sweets, and prayer services marked by the sounding of a ram’s horn.

TVCJ, a secular organization for East Bay residents who celebrate Jewish culture, values

and holidays, said the celebration will include “thoughtful reflections on renewal, community and cultural identity,” followed by a potluck dinner.

The event is considered child-friendly and open to families.

Reservations are required. To RSVP, or for more information, email CulturalJews@gmail.com or call 925-399-8029.

Donor to Match VHS Donations

PLEASANTON — Valley Humane Society (VHS) announced last week that an anonymous donor has offered to match up to \$40,000 in contributions to its Medical Assistance Fund through the end of August.

The fund covers the cost of treatment for shelter animals with complex medical needs, spay and neuter sur-

geries for pet owners who need financial assistance and for community cats, and for VHS’s Field Vet program for pet owners receiving support service through other community programs.

The Pleasanton-based VHS called the matching offer “an exciting opportunity to raise \$80,000 and deliver twice as much help to an-

imals in our community.”

Donations to the fund can be made online at valleyhumane.org or by cash, check or credit card at VHS, 3670 Nevada St.

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The Dublin Library to Host a ‘Fix-It-Clinic’

DUBLIN — The Dublin Library, 200 Civic Plaza, will host a “Fix-It-Clinic” for small household items from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 15.

The library said a “Fixit Coach” will be available to help with repairs to small appliances, toys and games, ceramics, lamps and electrical items, wooden furniture and small electronics, in-

cluding cell phones, tablets and laptops.

The clinic is sponsored by Amador Valley Industries, the city’s waste management provider, and Robot Garden, a nonprofit organization that provides space and infrastructure for working on technology projects.

The Fix-It-Clinic is free and open to the public.

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EDITORIAL

The Tri-Valley Ranks High on Another List. We Know Why.

The annual list from U.S. News & World Report ranked 161 California cities on features such as median home value, employment and commute times. This year, Dublin, so named due to the large number of Irish immigrants living here when the city was incorporated in the late 19th century, came in at number one on the list.

In addition, Pleasanton came in at No. 11, and Livermore at No. 26, placing all three Tri-Valley cities in the top 15%. All three Tri-Valley cities have similar statistics that were used to determine the list for the magazine, but we know why they really stand out.

The answer is there’s no other place like the Tri-Valley in California, where you get the convenience of being in a major metropolitan area coupled with a small-town way of life and a surrounding natural environment. In most other places, you would be required to drive several hours to experience the countryside.

The U.S. News & World Report list condenses a large amount of data from multiple sources in four indexes: value, quality of life, desirability, and job market.

Since the median home value in Dublin is only about \$1.3 million, the city outperforms in the other three categories. Indeed, the job market is bet-

ter and unemployment lower than the national average; household income is twice the national average. But the same trend goes for Pleasanton and Livermore as well: high income, low unemployment. Livermore residents, plus those in Pleasanton and Dublin, can work at the two national Laboratories – Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and Sandia National Laboratories – in addition to the science and technology businesses that the laboratories attract. Dublin and Pleasanton, due to their proximity to BART, have easy access to the greater Bay Area.

Likewise, the Tri-Valley has a high quality of life, with good schools, access to Stanford, Kaiser and Sutter health services, good infrastructure and a clean environment compared to much of the rest of the state. Livermore, in particular, has worked to provide affordable housing and shelter, ensuring the community’s benefits aren’t reserved only for the well-to-do. There is also no doubt all three cities are desirable places to live. The Bankhead Theater in Livermore provides a cultural amenity for the Tri-Valley area that most communities of the same size do not offer. We have leisure activities a-plenty, temperate weather, and relatively low crime rates. Most important, while many urban areas in the

country, including San Francisco, are surrounded by overdeveloped suburbs, the Tri-Valley has remained an island of relative tranquility — near urban cities, but with a small-town vibe that you rarely see in a major metropolitan area.

In our opinion, that’s the biggest selling point for the Tri-Valley; It’s what makes us unique. We’ve worked hard to preserve that quality of life and push back against the forces that threaten to turn us into just another overdeveloped wide spot on the freeway.

The primary mechanism for that is the urban growth boundary. Alameda County voters approved in 2000 as part of Measure D. In addition, each of the three cities has adopted its own urban growth boundaries, or urban limit lines, as they are called in Dublin. The real estate development industry, along with their allies on the city councils and the country Board of Supervisors, has tried to chip away at those boundaries ever since, and to this day, we’re still seeing attempts to undermine the urban growth boundaries, including in Dublin, where a misleadingly labeled ballot measure (since struck down by a judge) would have allowed the city to develop the last undeveloped parcel between the city and Livermore. Just last month, there was a potential effort at the county level to take the ability to

modify urban growth boundaries out of the hands of the voters and give the authority to the Board of Supervisors. That effort has also been pushed back, but not defeated.

The growth limits are necessary to preserve our communities and quality of life, and efforts to weaken or eliminate them for a momentary economic boost are misguided. It’s thanks to the boundaries that the cities of the Tri-Valley truly are some of the best places to live in California.

We are lucky. Oftentimes we don’t know what we’ll miss until it’s gone, but we’ve managed to prevent becoming another expanse of endless sprawl. If you look across the country to other major metro areas — Chicago, Dallas, New York, Washington, D.C. — you’ll see that more often than not, the laissez attitude toward urban growth has resulted in large areas of the country looking pretty much the same.

Pavement is forever, as they say. It’s worth continuing to fight to keep the Tri-Valley unique. Those qualities that drew people here in the first place are also those that help us top the lists, like those published by U.S. News. High housing costs and local investments in affordable housing mean living here isn’t cheap — yet the quality of life we all gain in return makes it a price worth paying.

MAILBOX

Mailbox Guidelines:

Opinions voiced in letters published in Mailbox are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of The Independent. Anonymous letters will not be published. All letters are required to have the name(s) of the person(s) submitting them, city of residence and phone number, for verification purposes. Letters may not contain advertising. Abusive letters and letters containing ad hominem attacks may be rejected or edited. Letters are subject to verification and may be edited for clarity at the discretion of the editor. We reserve the right to decide whether or not the letter will be published. Headings for all letters may be edited at the discretion of the editor to properly reflect their content. A headline will be added to letters received without one. Frequent letter writers may have publication of their letters delayed or not run at all. Letters should be limited to 300 words or less and should be sent by email to letters@independentnews.com or submitted using the form below.

The letters to the editor deadline is Monday at 8 a.m. If you wish to submit a letter pertaining to a special event or meeting taking place on a Monday before any given Thursday print edition — and you would like your letter to run that week — please contact the editor (editor@independentnews.com) as soon as possible on Monday to discuss the content and publication options. Otherwise, all letters submitted after 8 a.m. on Monday must hold until the following week.

Alameda County Acknowledges Rangeland and Ranchers Karen Sweet, Livermore

“The Board of Supervisors, County of Alameda proclaims 2026 as the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists in Alameda County and celebrates the importance of rangelands, ranchers, and pastoralists whose stewardship helps sustain the county’s agricultural heritage, natural resources, biodiversity, economic vitality, and environmental resilience; and encourages residents to learn more about the value of rangelands and the contributions of those who care for them.”

This August 4 proclamation is in concert with “the United Nations and governments around the world that are celebrating the year through education, outreach and adoption of policies that

are supportive of rangelands and pastoralists.

“California defines rangelands as “land on which the existing vegetation, whether growing naturally or through management, is suitable for grazing or browsing of domestic livestock for at least a portion of the year. (CA Public Resources Code section 4789.2 e.)

“These natural ecosystems in Alameda County include 188,000 acres (40% of Alameda County) of private and public grasslands, shrublands, wetlands, woodlands, chaparrals; and the 2024 Alameda County Crop Report states that livestock is the second largest agricultural commodity. Rangelands are economically, socially, and culturally vital to Alameda County and the region through an array of ecological services, including food and fiber production, water resources, biodiversity, wildlife habitat, carbon seques-

tration and storage, renewable energy resources, and aesthetic and recreational opportunities to the community.

“Pastoralists are people who raise livestock on rangelands, including the men and women ranchers of Alameda County who have stewarded these lands for generations, combining experience, innovation, science, and sustainable land management practices to support healthy rangelands and livestock production.”

The Alameda County Agriculture Advisory Committee appreciates the Board’s recognition of the county’s largest land use and of the rangeland community.

(Karen Sweet is an Agriculture Advisory Committee member.)

THANK YOU Richard Andrews, Livermore

We just sent a large van of donations up to HEARTS for UKRAINE in Sacramento. The generosity of our local people is more than appreciated. We send: New or Good clothing, medical dressings, Diapers (Baby and adult), walkers, crutches and all kinds of medical supplies. We also send toys for children in orphanages over there (Which is very sad) and puzzles etc. for injured vets to help them be entertained while recovering.

Thus far, over 22 tons have been shipped, and are greatly appreciated and really needed, as Putin continues to murder and maim civilians. They also accept cash donations to help handle the cost of shipping and purchase of other needs like hospital supplies and small home items like bedding.

THANK YOU, ONE AND ALL, WHO HAVE HELPED. And I welcome others, as we continue to collect and accumulate here, as the need never stops.

Stop Trying to Make a Downtown Park Jim Leek, Livermore

Please stop trying to make a downtown park happen. Downtowns and parks

are fundamentally different land-use priorities.

Downtowns are dense. They require closely packed businesses, and lots of people to feed them. You want to use the land for businesses, dense housing, and parking so more people can visit.

Parks are the opposite. They are open space, no businesses, and few people. Allocating prime downtown land for open green space restricts that density and reduces the space available for the shops and restaurants that draw people downtown in the first place.

People don’t need to go downtown for a park. Livermore already has many wonderful parks; Sycamore Grove, William Payne, and even a few smaller ones downtown, like Carnegie Park.

Land in our downtown core should be reserved for economic activity, housing, and accessibility. Let’s focus on keeping downtown dense and commercial, and leave expansive parks where they belong.

The Great Train Robbery of 2026 — Part One Mark Palajac, Livermore

In the movies, you need a posse to capture the train robbers. In 2026, you need a ballot. This November you will be asked to approve a 0.5% increase in sales tax to fund BART operating shortfalls. I’m urging you to vote no, and I’ll explain why. Let’s first look at BART actions over the years.

2013: BART union walk-out supposedly for safety reasons. A ruse; they were seeking higher pay for one of the most highly compensated rail lines in the U.S.

May 2018: After 50 years of collecting taxes from Livermore Valley residents, the BOD voted 5-4 against building planned stations along I-580 in Livermore. Valley taxpayers had paid an estimated \$500 million for stations.

2018: Steve Glazer sponsored SB Measure 3 to increase bridge tolls with a considerable portion of the proceeds going to rail lines

including BART. The catch was that an Inspector General (IG) was to be put in place to provide objective reports of BART operations.

2018 -2019: AC Civil Grand Jury found that ridership satisfaction had dropped from 84% in 2013 to 56% in 2018. Causes ranged from serious crime, filth, homeless people, and fare evasion. BART lost 8% of its ridership between 2016 and 2018 in spite of increased population and opening additional stations.

2021-2022: AC Civil Grand Jury reported the IG appointed to oversee BART had been obstructed by BART at several levels: BART BOD denied IG findings; GM and union limited access to personnel. BART also was reticent to provide data requested by the Grand Jury.

The BART IG retired in March, 2023 caused by systematic obstruction by BART.

This is not a customer-friendly organization.

See Part Two next week...

The Downtown Project Deborah Norton, Livermore

I would like to see the downtown project completed as a showcase for our town. It started with a very nice addition to Blacksmith Square, and I always imagined an open space park as the best possible use for the remainder of that space. Low-income housing is an important part of our town, and the question is always where? If possible, it is always best mixed with other areas of town instead of a single location, as we did for years with housing projects.

The proposed city plan for the completion and extension of the Blacksmith Square location is not a good use for that space. It is in the very center of our town, and instead should become a space for all the residents of Livermore to enjoy. I have been hoping for a better plan, and this week I saw it. It has a new location for the four-story block-long buildings, and also an on-site smaller building for

low-income housing, a hotel and, most importantly, a beautifully planned park.

See for yourself at: www.livermorecommunitycoalitionspeaks.com.

Education is About Better Lives, Countries, and Our World Eloise Hamann, Dublin

I was delighted about last week’s major Editorial. I’d been dismayed about the current administration’s view, and that of many others, that the purpose of education was for the graduates to make more money.

As a retired college educator, my view of the value of education is that a better-informed person not only makes better decisions about her or his life, but better decisions about their country and the world. Teachers are critical for educating our youth, but ditch diggers probably make more money.

For example, take health care. There are countries that provide health care for all of its citizens. There is no need for expensive health care insurance. They have better care at less cost because there aren’t oodles of insurance companies vying for your money, while trying to keep their costs down by rejecting expensive care for appropriate treatment.

Understanding the history of wars and their causes should help our leaders work for peace among countries, and voters to understand which leaders have the right ideas to accomplish peace.

Better educated parents should better understand the importance of raising their children to behave in society.

Better education should result in people who can better evaluate what they can afford, what their cities, counties, and countries can afford, what things are worth borrowing money now that pays off well in the future, and better understand the views and religion of other people for a more peaceful world.

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Under-table supervisor reports for duty outside Wingen Bakery & Restaurant in Livermore. (Photo — Virginia Hoato)

MAILBOX

(Continued from page 4)

Understanding basic mathematics, such as understanding how fast savings and borrowing can mount up.

Universities have basic general education requirements, which include the ability to discern the truth, think critically, know the history of the most important issues humans have had to deal with, discern the truth of claims, and more.

ONCE in a LIFETIME
Vic Avila, Livermore

How many of our decisions are once in a lifetime? “Will you marry me?” “What college should I go to?” “What should we name our son/daughter?” “What should we name our dog?” The dog does care, you know. We Livermore-ians are faced with a once in a lifetime decision. What are the crown jewels of Livermore? Two things: The perimeter open space buffer, which keeps Livermore “out in the country”. It keeps urbanization from ruining our spacious community, that our neighboring cities lost to urbanization and “progress”.

The other Jewel: Downtown. Do we choose a drab 4-story apartment building, Eden Housing, or do we investigate the “Downtown Center Option” proposed by the Community Coalition? It’s a once in a lifetime decision. Members of city council do not seem to be concerned about the downtown crown jewel. They feel it’s “good enough” to take open space and fill it with a 4-story apartment building with no character, no “gingerbread” design features, no allure. It’s a ONCE IN A LIFETIME decision. Think about how important this decision is. It could in fact affect your property value. For more information visit: www.livermorecommunitycoalition-speaks.com.

Student Loan Payback
Alan Brooks, Livermore

In response to the article on “New Student Loan Rules are Bad for Education”, the author is complaining about the government not wanting to loan money to those least likely to pay it back?

Am I understanding that correctly? Yes, there is a need for those with a fine arts degree, but it isn’t large. Countries with free college are very selective about who they offer it to, and what discipline they can study. It is a selection process that begins in middle school.

For low-income or disadvantaged students, there are scholarships available for the exceptionally proficient and very low-cost junior colleges available to demonstrate that proficiency. But loans to students unlikely to be able to repay it? No, thank you.

Privilege Never Knows
When to Quit
Sydney Dent, Livermore

Oh My Gosh. The “Group of Many Names (GOMN)” has one more name: Community Coalition. And, it has the same tired goal: move affordable housing away from Downtown. This windmill the GOMN continues to tilt at has been voted down numerous times by the electorate directly or as a proxy. The courts have sided with Livermore and Eden Housing continuously. There are no legal pathways to stop this. So, the GOMN is trying, once again, to put up its vision in hopes of delaying it.

And its vision is deeply flawed. There is no established funding for this pipe dream. The call for a hotel ignores the current economics of hospitality; hotels are going bankrupt. Nor do I see evidence that Downtown Livermore needs a hotel to thrive. It’s already the envy of the Tri-Valley.

But the deepest flaw of all is the disregard for another Livermore gem: Tri-Valley Haven Thrift Store. The thrift store provides an important component to the budget of Tri-Valley Haven. AND, the Thrift Store provides a

location where everyone can afford decent clothes and home goods. Many depend on the Thrift Store to get ready for school, for a new job, or to furnish a new apartment after escaping a toxic relationship. All of that will be lost in the name because a small number of people don’t like where the affordable housing is.

There is a word for this: Privilege. The GOMN is so caught up in its privilege to have a park it wants, it will sacrifice the needs of those who have less by delaying housing and removing services to create a bigger park.

Please, GOMN, let this go. Livermore needs to move on. I want to see a complete downtown and not wait another ten years.

Looking Out My Window
Evelyn Mitschelen, Livermore

The bush has been trimmed, but one long stem rose up and is standing straight up above all else. How do you stand? Are we going to stand for truth; care about one another?

What is love — can you describe love? We all have options, but what about love — how do you explain love? You just show love. It’s not that we may feel love; you can show love — it’s just doing the right act. Love covers a multitude of self-hate. Try seeing people as someone you love. It can change you. There is no fear in love (what do you fear?), but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment. The one who fears is not perfect in love.

The one lone stem standing above the bush is standing up for grace, kindness and love; it is you. Can you handle showing love in order to change our country? If God so loved us, we ought to love one another.

Argumentum Ad Nausea
Daryl R Carlson, Livermore

Like the old trope in horror films, the skeletal remains of Save Downtown Livermore and Move Eden Housing rise from the grave, becoming Community Coalition, a group of unnamed, unelected, self-proclaimed community leaders. Anonymity certainly does not lend legitimacy to their revised plan, including a larger wooded park with dirt paths, instead of the real planned park, and surprise—a posh hotel for those doing well in the Trump economy—on ground purchased with a grant for affordable housing.

The CC plan calls for the tired proposal of dumping the lion’s share of Eden apartments on the Northside of Railroad Ave. on unavailable land. Of course, these revisions would delay construction for years, the coalition’s actual goal.

The Bankhead’s
Propaganda
[Generative] AI
Revolution Presentation
Greg Scott, Livermore

I wasn’t expecting anything from “The [Generative — (Gen)] AI Revolution” presentation at the Bankhead by two New York Times’ podcasters last August 14, other than a balanced, informative assessment. What we got was a ‘[Gen] AI is good’ kumbaya. Shortly into the talk, I was half-expecting a cameo by the Gordon

(See MAILBOX, page 6)

A photograph of a person in equestrian attire riding a brown horse in an outdoor setting.

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A photograph of a smiling couple, Barbara and Nick Lymberis.

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A large photograph of a smiling woman with long, wavy blonde hair, wearing a white collared shirt.

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The logo for Linden Collection, featuring a stylized tree icon above the word "linden" in a large, serif font, with "COLLECTION" in a smaller, sans-serif font below it.

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Frequency, a Northern California-based band known for its acoustic-electric rock sound, will present the final Tuesday Tunes outdoor concert of the summer at the Bankhead Plaza in downtown Livermore at 6:45 p.m. on Aug. 25. The band plays classic hits from the ‘60’s through the ‘90’s. Tuesday Tunes concerts are presented by the Livermore Cultural Arts Council, with financial support from Shea Homes, Fremont Bank, The Independent, Mony Nop Real Estate, UNCLE Credit Union and Uncle’s Yu’s. (Photo courtesy of Frequency)

MAILBOX

(Continued from page 5)

Gekko character from the movie “Wall Street” pronouncing “Greed is Good,” especially with one podcaster’s glowing report on GenAI lab Anthropic’s current and projected, exponentially increasing revenues.

There was no mention of the fact that 70% of token usage in research and at universities and colleges in the U.S. is with large language models (LLMs) from the People’s Republic of China (PRC). (Source: Recent Hillspire report. Hillspire is an organization founded by former Google CEO Eric Schmidt and his wife Wendy and is tied into the U.S. national security apparatus.) Nor was it disclosed that the four most downloaded LLMs on Hugging Face are from the PRC.

(Note: Tokens are numbers from words, or more likely parts of words, converted according to an LLM’s text-to-token lookup table, for translation to vectors in an LLM’s embedded module that compares these vectors for context placements by matrix multiplications.)

Anthropic is due for a \$2 trillion market valuation Initial Public Offering (IPO). There seems to be little general public understanding how these GenAI lab IPOs affect retirement 401(k)s, CalPERS (California Public Employees Retirement System) investments, and CalSTRS (California State Teachers Retirement System) investments. It should be noted that the NASDAQ 100 Index, including QQQ, rules were abruptly changed right before the SpaceX IPO. This facilitates the inclusion of passive fund investments by retirement funds into these GenAI IPOs.

Pope Leo XIV, who gave an Encyclical on GenAI last May, knows more in his sleep about GenAI than these New York Times’ podcasters.

Downtown Park Plan
Robert Roffey, Livermore

It has been a very long wait for people who call Livermore home for a downtown park that we can all be proud of. This week, I was

introduced to a website that presented the perfect plan for a downtown park that will please everyone. From what I can see, there are paths, benches, trees, a fountain and a playground, and I can envision myself grabbing a coffee at Blacksmith Square and finding a bench to enjoy it. There is a hotel that blends in with the park that will give impetus to our town with new visitors. I have been watching the construction at Blacksmith Square and like what is happening there very much, thanks to our mayor and city council. The title of the website is Livermore Community Coalition Speaks, so I am guessing that local citizens are behind this new plan, and hopefully our local city planners and city council. It doesn’t matter who came up with this plan, but thank you, and I hope the town sees the new plan and is as excited as I am to see it happen.

The Would Be
‘People’s Mayor’
Shirley Lewandowski, Dublin

What do you get when an elected official knows the boss is their constituents?

What do you get when an elected official always officiates based on what’s in the best interest of their constituents and enhances their quality of life?

What do you get when an elected official is not pressured or persuaded by special or corporate interests?

What do you get when an elected official always listens first to constituents, answers their questions with maximum transparency before making decisions? Who always fights on behalf of their constituents despite challenging odds and at times being a minority vote?

What do you get when an elected official accepts donations from constituents and not from corporate or questionable PAC money?

What you get is a person with all the above attributes. A super smart rare breed of an elected official who is transparent and honest, works hard every day for constituents, has no hidden agendas, has a wonderful sense of humor, loves and helps their

family, friends and neighbors, is a limitless community advocate, and has a great smile and a warm hug at the ready. That’s a person people trust and is trustworthy. That person would be a People’s representative. Julie Testa is that person. She has been the people’s Councilmember in Pleasanton, putting people first. Her actions and voting records prove it. She is now running for Mayor of Pleasanton. She is the best choice, and will absolutely be the quintessential “People’s Mayor”. Please vote for Julie Testa on Nov. 3, 2026.

Why I Vote Democratic
Ron Sadler, Livermore

The first time I ever voted, I chose all Republican candidates. Growing up, I was deeply influenced by my conservative (and loving) grandfather. However, the Republican Party in those years was very different from the party it is today.

The leaders of the Republican Party have evolved into individuals who put self-interests over what is best for our country, starting decades ago with legislation that continuously lowered taxes on the rich. Federal income tax rates for the top earners in 1965 were 70%. Today the top rate is 37%, and the top corporate rate is 21%, a decrease from over 50% in the 1960s.

Furthermore, the vast majority of Republican leaders have shown a complete lack of backbone, refusing to stand up to the most corrupt president our country has ever seen.

Conversely, Democratic candidates offer practical solutions that invest in working families. They protect Social Security and Medicare, defend voting rights, and expand access to affordable healthcare and education. Democrats also champion policies that create American jobs through infrastructure projects, clean energy investments, and domestic manufacturing growth.

Voting is not just about party labels. It is about choosing leaders who believe the government can work for ordinary people,

and who are committed to protecting freedoms and opportunities for everyone. I encourage voters to support Democratic candidates who are working to build a fairer, more inclusive, and more hopeful future for our country.

Larry Bird for
LARPd Board
Susan Locke, Livermore

When I learned of Larry’s run for LARPd board, my immediate response was “of course, Larry would be perfect for the job.” I can’t think of anybody more qualified to represent our community. His background in community service, leadership, and communication will be an asset to LARPd. My mom and I met Larry 15 years ago as a coach with the Livermore High School softball program. He and the girls adopted my baseball mom as their team grandma. They enriched her life, up until the end. From day one, we have been impressed with the way these girls are coached; instilling hard work, teamwork, and sportsmanship, while providing constructive feedback and skills training. Always respectful, always encouraging, and always fair. These attributes are important for any community leadership position.

Vote Larry Bird.

Community Concern:
Irresponsible and Factual
Misrepresentation
Tsahala David, Livermore

As Tri-Valley residents, we must reject the divisive, factually ungrounded rhetoric published in the previous week’s Mailbox regarding congressional candidate Melissa Hernandez.

First, using the term “genocide” to describe Israel’s actions is factually and legally inaccurate. The United States government, via official State Department and White House policy, has

explicitly rejected this specific label. Applying highly weaponized, legally incorrect definitions to a foreign conflict only serves to inflame tensions locally.

Second, while the Mailbox provides a forum for community discourse, the newspaper bears a responsibility to vet submissions for baseline factual integrity. Allowing false geopolitical assertions to be presented as local facts lowers the standard of debate and deepens divisions within our towns.

Ultimately, these international grievances have absolutely nothing to do with the governance of the 14th district. Our local leaders are elected to address the pressing needs of our immediate community: housing our children can afford, public safety, infrastructure, mental health services, and economic stability. Injecting highly polarized foreign policy debates into local political races is a deliberate distraction from the real-world issues impacting Tri-Valley families every day.

We urge the editor to maintain a higher standard for factual accuracy in future publications, and we encourage voters to keep the focus where it belongs: on the tangible needs of our local community.

Vote Democrat
Becky Green, Livermore

The control of both the executive and legislative branches by the current Republican administration and Congress has accelerated a deeply concerning decline in our nation’s foundational systems and global standing.

The relentless focus on deregulating major industries has dismantled decades of critical environmental protections, accelerating habitat destruction, and leaving public health vulnerable to industrial pollution.

Economic policies fa-

voring tax cuts for corporations and the wealthy have worsened wealth inequality, putting an unsustainable financial strain on the middle and working classes while ballooning our national debt.

The administration’s isolationist foreign policy and erratic approach to international diplomacy have severely damaged our relationships with our global allies.

By retreating from international agreements, this administration has created a dangerous leadership vacuum on the world stage, allowing adversaries to expand their influence unchecked.

We urgently need a return to balanced governance that prioritizes long-term economic equity, environmental stewardship, and responsible global leadership.

Let’s choose leaders who will defend our democracy and build a country that works for all of us, not just a few. Let’s choose leaders who listen, who serve with integrity, and who will fight for the issues that matter: affordable health care, good jobs, strong public schools, climate action, and protecting our fundamental rights.

I encourage everyone to vote Democratic in this year’s elections. Let’s move our country forward with hope, with unity, and with a commitment for justice and opportunity for all.

Our future is in our hands. Let’s make it a brighter one, together.

Iran’s Surrender
Michael Austin, Pleasanton

What would ACTUALLY cause Iran to surrender?

Here is the real list, based on historical cases (Germany 1945, Japan 1945, Serbia 1999, Libya 2011):

A. Internal uprising + elite defection: This is the #1 cause of surrender.

B. Military defeat on mul-

(See MAILBOX, page 7)

PLEASE HELP BRING MIGUEL HOME

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

Livermore Wente Winery worker, married father of three and grandfather

Miguel Lopez

remains in Mexico after having been illegally deported last June.

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

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

THE
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GALLERY

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Nathan Buchanan, a Granada High graduate and former Eagle Scout with Livermore Boy Scout Troop 931, has joined Belcan Global Engineering in Indianapolis as a mechanical/aerospace design engineer. He earned a mechanical engineering degree from Oregon State University. (Photo courtesy of Deborah and Donald Buchanan)

MAILBOX

(Continued from page 6)

multiple fronts: Requires a coalition, not just the U.S.

C. Loss of control over Tehran: If the capital falls, the regime collapses.

D. Collapse of IRGC loyalty: If the IRGC fractures, the government cannot survive.

E. International recognition of a new government: Surrender only happens when there is someone to surrender to.

How Did We Get Here?
Frank Cannella, Livermore

Recapping our president's week, he appealed a lower court's ruling against his continued construction of his ballroom to the U.S. Supreme Court in yet another "emergency" filing. Fortunately, the Supreme Court doesn't have any other important work to do.

He strong-armed his care-

fully selected board of the Kennedy Center to alter his original renaming of the center with his name on top, which had been rejected by a federal court. The newly signed center now says the Kennedy Center 'Restored and Renovated by President Donald J. Trump'. The main point was to get his name back on the wall. I guess he thinks it important his name be honored for posterity. Not an unusual step for an egomaniacal guy.

He expressed disappointment that HIS Department of Justice has failed to adequately prosecute the "vandals" who damaged the Lincoln pool simply because there was no evidence. I mean, really, what is the point of being elected president if your very own DOJ won't go after whoever you want, with or without evidence?

He told a group of law enforcement people that the Strait of Hormuz will eventually be an American territory, a violation of the UN Charter, International Law and the U.S. Constitution.

Meanwhile, climate change is ravaging the entire world while he continues to claim it is a Democratic hoax. And the war in Iran continues.

How did it come to all this?

Retort to 'Vote Them Out', Aug. 13, 2026

John Lahommedieu, Dublin

No, Republicans are not the only ones to proudly display their flags, and no, we do not do it to show only our patriotism, but to respect those who gave their lives then, now and in the future to ensure America is strong and secure. Mr. Jackson fails to NOT understand history and the meaning of our flag! As far as the conflict in Iran, Mr. Jackson and many other Democrats would rather allow Iran to have had a nuclear arm and/or arms, and seem to be ok with the possibility of Iran using them on Israel, Europe and neighboring countries in the Middle East? Preventive medicine is the best cure-all for unwanted ailments and wars and disasters, but history shows us those with liberal views always land in the middle of deep S**T, often because they are not proactive, they are reactive people! Trump took a stand that others refused to do, and it is by far the best stand, because had we done nothing, much worse could have come our way! Also, he mentions loss of life; yes, any loss of life is tragic, but our brave men and women in uniform understood the risks and did their duty. In conflicts and wars, sadly there will be loss of life, but these brave heroes did not die in vain; they died protecting America, and also trying to liberate 90 million oppressed

souls in Iran. Mr. Jackson, like so many Democrat liberals, avoids common sense and decency when speaking about Republicans and conservatives, as if we were the enemy. We are not! We never championed defunding the police, having our country invaded by illegals; we never tried to kill Biden or Obama. But you guys did, and that is why you lose!

Welcome to Trump World
Rosario Milelli, Pleasanton

Donald Trump likes to portray himself as the strongest president America has ever had, even embracing a comparison to Stalin. Then, we learned how he left Turkey.

Faced with a credible threat, Trump was secretly removed from Air Force One in a catering truck and placed aboard a smaller C-32A. More than 100 staff, officials, and reporters remained aboard the 747, apparently serving as an unwitting decoy.

Protect the president? Of course. But there is something disturbing about a president hiding while everyone around him continues aboard the aircraft an enemy might believe he is still on.

If the danger was that serious, why not get the president safely away, hold the 747 on the ground, and send it later after he was clear? Instead, the people traveling with him were used to preserve the illusion that he was still aboard.

But here is the question I

have not heard asked.

Why was Trump's Qatari 747 sent out of Turkey ahead of him, to England?

That aircraft does not have all the defensive capabilities of the existing Air Force One. My opinion is that this may explain exactly why it was moved out of harm's way. If the legacy Air Force One had been destroyed, Trump would still have his new aircraft waiting for him in England.

Think about the priorities that suggests.

The president was protected. His new airplane was protected. Meanwhile, staff, crew, officials and reporters remained aboard the aircraft being presented to the world as Air Force One.

Perhaps there is another explanation. But until one is provided, the optics are extraordinary.

A strong president protects the people around him.

A weak president makes sure he, and his airplane, survive.

Welcome to Trump World.

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HEARTSTRINGS

(Continued from front page)

"It's the highlight of the week here," said the facility's administrator, Alicia Johnson, whose family has run Quail Garden for 28 years, and whose presence gives the place its close-knit feel.

"We're just like a great big family here," she said. The historic building was built in 1927 and served as the town hospital (St. Paul's). When Valley Memorial Hospital was built, St. Paul's closed.

The residents total 26 between the main house at 813 S. J St. and a smaller one across the street. "Come Friday, some of the residents start asking 'When's music coming again? Is it Thursday yet? No, it's just Friday,'" she said, laughing.

Johnson said the music is a bright spot in the week because it brings them so much joy; it also brings back memories.

"It's amazing when you have somebody with pretty severe dementia, who really can't hold a conversation

with you, and you look over at them and they're singing the song. It's like wow. It's pretty cool."

Heartstrings is intentional in its song selections. "They play a lot of old classics that everybody knows," Johnson said.

On this day they kicked off their set with "You Are My Sunshine." Later, a rendition of "Devil Woman" got a table of residents smiling and coquettishly miming tiny horns with their index fingers. "Five-Foot Two, Eyes of Blue" filled the outside courtyard with singing and toe-tapping.

Livermore resident Lynda Goll was visiting for the afternoon to celebrate her mother, Corky's, 95th birthday. "Corky is her nickname," Goll explained. "She won't tell you her real name because she didn't like it." So she renamed herself when she was a Brownie at camp.

"She always said, 'Whoever my friends are know my name is Corky; if they call

me my other name, they are not my friends."

Goll shared that sometimes it's hard to adjust to her mom's situation now. "She used to be very involved in everything, volunteering with seniors and community activities and she was my Girl Scout leader "

She also confided that her own expectations are different when it comes to her mom.

I think it's just that I expect her to do things that I might not expect others to do. I expect her to be like she used to be," she said. "Whereas if I'm just working with a person I've just met I expect them to do what they can do and I don't have other expectations or things that I know they used to do."

They held hands as the whole courtyard sang Corky "Happy Birthday" led by Heartstrings.

"We feel so lucky and we're so grateful that they come and perform for us every week," Johnson said.

"It brings such joy."

It also brings the band joy, said Peggy Schimmelman, former Livermore poet laureate and volunteer percussionist. "It's more rewarding than a paid gig. They appreciate us and we appreciate them. They're happy."



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Reader Snapshots

Share Your Best Shot

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



Taking “neighborhood watch” to a whole new level, this googly-eyed tree stump keeps tabs on East Vineyard Road in Pleasanton. (Photo courtesy of Tom Reif)

GHS Class of ‘76 to Hold 50-Year Reunion

LIVERMORE — Granada High School (GHS) class of 1976 will kick off its 50-year reunion with an on-campus barbecue at Alumni Plaza at 5 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 25, prior to the 7:30 p.m. homecoming football game against Deer Valley. Cost of the barbecue is \$5. Following the game, alumni will gather at a downtown location, yet to be announced, for pictures and conversation. Then on Saturday, Sept.

26, alumni will gather at the high school entrance for a group picture at 10 a.m., followed by a 90-minute tour of the campus. The reunion will wrap up Saturday night with a rooftop dinner from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Azotea Cocina & Cocktail Club, 2470 First St. Cost of the buffet dinner is \$100. There will also be a no-host bar. The alumni committee is asking that reservations

be confirmed no later than Thursday, Sept. 11, by sending payment via Venmo to @JJ-Olsen (phone last four digits 4375). Guest names should be noted in the Venmo comments section. The committee has also arranged a discount rate for alumni at the blocked rooms in Livermore at the Hilton Garden Inn in Livermore. For more information, contact Vicki Cutting Schaefer at vicschaefer58@gmail.com.

TRI-VALLEY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

EVENTS

August 1–31

ART RECEPTION AND EXHIBITION

Presented by the Livermore Art Association, The Art of Becoming is a solo exhibition by mixed-media artist Stefanie Sylvester. Explore a vibrant collection of abstract acrylic, collage, and mixed media works that celebrate experimentation, creativity, and the beauty of the artistic journey. Meet the artist at the free reception on August 14, from 6-8 p.m. at Robert Livermore Community Center Gallery Wall, 4444 East Ave., Livermore. See livermoreartassociation.org for more information.

SPARC FALL YOUTH THEATER CLASSES

Fall registration is now open for SPARC’s elementary and middle school classes in Livermore. Middle school actors (grades 6-8) will embark on an epic theatrical adventure bringing The Odyssey to life in this fun, ensemble-based theater program, meeting Mondays, 3:30–5:30 p.m., Aug. 24–Nov. 13. Elementary school actors (grades 3-5) will bring Robin Hood to life, meeting on Thursdays, 3:30–5:30 p.m., Aug. 27– Nov. 12. At SPARC Studio, 2172 Railroad Ave., Livermore. Price: \$524. Register or learn more at sparctheater.org/after-school. Leave questions at education@sparctheater.org.

Saturday, August 22

THE WIZARD OF OZ

Valley Concert Chorale and Vine Cinema & Alehouse partner to present the 87th Anniversary Screening of The Wizard of Oz. Experience the iconic music, adventure, and magic of Oz in a theater setting. Closed captions will be displayed throughout the film so patrons can easily sing along. Enjoy complimentary coffee and donuts. Moviegoers of all ages are encouraged to come dressed in Oz-inspired attire for an interactive costume contest. On Aug. 22, at Vine Cinema & Alehouse in Livermore. Doors Open at 9:30 a.m.; movie starts at 10 a.m. General admission: \$15, children (18 and younger): \$5. Tickets at valleyconcertchorale.org.

Thursday, August 27

AMADOR VALLEY LIONS CLUB’S TRIVIA EVENT

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

Saturday, August 29

ART TALKS AT CHOCOLATE FISH

Livermore Art Association will be hosting Art Talks at Chocolate Fish Coffee Roasters in Livermore from 9-10:30 a.m. Join fellow artists for a fun and casual creative meetup! Share your artwork, exchange ideas, discover

new materials, and connect with others who love making art, whether you’re a beginner or a seasoned artist. See livermoreartassociation.org for more information.

ONGOING EVENTS

FALL GRIEF WORKSHOPS

This eight-week series will be held at St. Elizabeth Seton Church, 4001 Stoneridge Dr., Pleasanton, on Sept. 3, 9, 17, 23, Oct. 1, 8, 15, and 22, starting at 7 p.m. Pre-registration and a one-time donation of \$20 is required. Please go to catholicsofpleasanton.org and scroll down to Grief Ministry or call Barbara at 925-846-3904 for more info/registration. Open to all, regardless of religious affiliation.

DROP-IN GENEALOGY ASSISTANCE

Begin your family history search with assistance by members of the Livermore-Amador Genealogy Society. On the first Wednesday of each month, 10:30 — 12:30, at Livermore Public Library, Civic Center Branch, Room 135.

UNDERSTANDING ISLAM

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

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

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

SATURDAY PLEASANTON FARMERS MARKET

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

SUNDAY LIVERMORE DOWNTOWN FARMERS MARKET

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

FOOD RELIEF SERVICES

Local residents can access vital food-assistance services to help meet basic needs. Food relief services can be found at: **St. Vincent De Paul Food locker**, 458 Maple St., Livermore (behind St. Michaels Church); Mon/ Tues: 7-8 p.m., Wed/ Thu: 4-5 p.m. **Children’s Emergency Food Bank**; 7421 Amarillo Rd., Dublin; appointments M-F, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; 925-828-5363; St. Raymond Catholic Church, 11555 Shannon Ave., Dublin; third Sat. of the month, 8 to 11 a.m.; **Open Heart Kitchen**; M-F, noon to 5 p.m.; 450 N. Livermore Ave., Livermore; **Tri-Valley Haven Food Pantry**, 150 N. “L” Street, Livermore; 925-449-1664 — M-Th, 1 to 5 p.m.; Fri/Sat 12 to 4 p.m.; **Alameda County Community Food Bank**; 510-635-3663; M-F, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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

OBITUARIES

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Thomas Rocco Manifesto
Dec. 2, 1949 — July 19, 2026
Resident of Livermore



Thomas Rocco Manifesto, a devoted husband, father and grandfather, passed away Sunday, July 19, 2026, surrounded by love and family. Tom was born the third of five children. He is preceded in death by his parents, Joe and Evelyn Manifesto, his sister Mary, and sister-in-law Sandy. Wow! What a ride! Tom was born in Oakland to a warm, loving family. He went to Saint Louis Bertrand grammar school and Saint Elizabeth’s High School. He was a character. He was a pool shark, a motorcycle riding, fast car driving charmer who had a heart of gold. He began his career at 18 years old as a car salesman. He met his wife, Patty, that same year, and they married three years later. They raised their three daughters in Pleasanton and then Castro Valley. He was known throughout his career as a “Top Salesman”, winning numerous awards selling Chevrolets and Cadillacs. He loved his many Fourth

He is survived by his loving wife, Patty, and children Cindy and her husband Randy, Kimberly and her husband Steve, MaryAnn and her husband Brent, along with their eight grandchildren, Angelina, Lilia, Olivia, Zoie, Lexie, Isabella, Charlize and Savannah. He is also survived by his devoted brothers Joe, George and his wife Jann, Craig, his sister Bridget, and his in-laws Mike and Saz, Liz and Ric, Greg and Kathleen, along with numerous cherished nieces and nephews and wonderful friends. He died the way he lived; fought bullies, wrote his own rules, spoiled his family, and put family first! May his love and spirit watch over us and guide us. A celebration of life will take place at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, Aug. 28, 2026, at St. Charles Borromeo Church at 1315 Lomitas Ave., Livermore, CA. Reception to follow at the Manifesto and Torres home.

of July weeks at Rollins Lake and Tahoe, and the holidays he hosted at Thanksgiving and Christmas with his family. He had an open-door policy; all were welcome. He enjoyed old movies and shoot-em-up westerns. He was fiercely loyal and completely generous. He fought to the bitter end — surviving a stroke, heart attack, two major surgeries, and one Russian nurse! He rode hard and furious until his weathered body finally gave up.

Carol Elizabeth Boothe
July 31, 1958 — Aug. 4, 2026



Ms. Carol Elizabeth “Goo-gie” Boothe, aged 68, passed away on Aug. 4, 2026, in Searcy, Arkansas, after a brief illness at the Advanced Care Hospital of White Country. Born on July 31, 1958, at St. Paul Hospital in Livermore, California, Carol lived a life filled with love, creativity, and devotion to her family and faith. Growing up in Livermore, California, Carol attended public schools and graduated from Granada High School as part of the Class of 1976. Her career spanned various industries in California, including silk screening and the airline industry. In 2005, she relocated to Searcy, Arkansas, where she continued her professional journey until retiring from Economic Recovery Consultants Inc. in 2023. Carol shared a loving partnership with her husband, Curtis, for 30 years; they celebrated 23 years of marriage together in Searcy. She is also survived by her mother, Shelagh Boothe of Searcy; her brother, Stephen Boothe and his wife, Kerry of Livermore; cousins, Judy Foot of De Valles

Buff, Arkansas, Diane Huntley of Leslie, Arkansas, and Garielle Reyniers of Milwaukee, Wisconsin; as well as her best friend, Gina Smith of Los Gatos, California. Carol was cherished by many other cousins locally and abroad. She was predeceased by her father, Wallace Boothe of Searcy; grandmothers, Roxie Boothe Guss of Hazan, Arkansas and Julia Dunning of Adelaide, South Australia; grandfather, Alfred Dunning of Liverpool, United Kingdom; and several beloved uncles and aunts, Alvin and Catherine Wheatly of Searcy, Arkansas, Richard and Patsy Boothe of Hazen, Arkansas,

Henry (Harry) Dunning of Llandudno, North Wales, Anthony (Tony) Dunning of Adelaide, South Australia, Julia Gordon of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and Derek and Dorothy Hutton of Christchurch, New Zealand. Carol’s life was enriched by her many interests and talents. She found joy in spending time with family and nature, expressing herself through visual arts, especially drawing, and immersing herself in music with a particular fondness for Rock and Roll. She enjoyed documentaries like “Big History” and had a deep affection for animals, especially four-legged companions. A woman of strong Christian values, Carol believed deeply in doing what is right, telling the truth, loving family unconditionally, forgiving others’ shortcomings, and helping those in need whenever possible. These principles guided her life and left an enduring legacy for those who knew her. A private service will be held at a later date. Arrangements entrusted with Powell Funeral Home of Searcy. www.powellfuneralhome.net

Brian Holden Mayall
Nov. 14, 1932 — Aug. 5, 2026



Brian Holden Mayall, 93, died Aug. 5, 2026, at home, surrounded by family. A resident of Livermore for over 50 years, Brian was born and raised in Lancashire, England. After school at Malvern College, he attended Cambridge University where he met his wife of over 70 years, Susan (née Hayter). Brian completed his undergraduate studies in Economics

and Natural Sciences in 1954 and married Susan the following year. During this time, Brian completed his national service in the Royal Air Force as a Pilot Officer, and the couple welcomed their first child. In the late 1950s, the couple migrated to Canada where Brian studied medicine at the University of Western Ontario. After earning his MD, Brian began an expansive and influential career in cancer research. His career took him and his growing family to the United States where he worked at the Wistar Institute and University of Pennsylvania. He then moved to Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and UC San Francisco. Throughout his career, he authored over 100 articles, contributing to the development of a new field. In addition to his own research, Brian founded and edited the scientific journal Cytometry. As editor, he worked with scientists

around the globe to review and publish groundbreaking findings, and was described by peers as a “great editor, dear collaborator, generous and supportive to all.” A longtime friend and colleague noted, “He had a knack for stimulating people to work together on research projects. He never pushed to get the spotlight, preferring to stay in the background enjoying the results of his collaborations.” Brian tended to be modest and much of his work was highly technical, so few among his family or friends may have fully grasped his impact, but his colleagues note that his work advanced our understanding of how cancer cells work, leading to more accurate diagnoses, better targeted treatments, and ultimately helping humanity. In addition to his professional career, Brian and Susan were fixtures in the local Livermore community, building and main-

taining numerous organizations. As an active member of Rotary, he played a leading role in the Polio Plus campaign, which had a global impact on infectious disease. He was a member of the Unitarian Universalist Church in Livermore (UUCiL) for over 50 years, and supported the church as a board member, taking an active role in ministerial search committees and ensuring the church’s stable financial footing. His engagement with the broader community continued until the time of his death, and he repeatedly stepped up to contribute his time and expertise. Brian shared his love of the outdoor world with his family while hiking, sailing, swimming, and skiing (both cross-country and downhill). He read extensively across many subjects and participated in book clubs. He relished a challenging jigsaw puzzle, and taught his children

and grandchildren to increase the challenge by never looking at the picture on the box. He continued charging up hills well into his later years with friends in the Hillhikers club. In more recent years, he took on golf (which he generally did badly if enthusiastically, except for one cherished hole-in-one) and joined the local bridge club. He and Susan traveled the world, exploring Japan, New Zealand, Fiji, Malaysia, France, Denmark, the Netherlands, India and the Yucatan Peninsula. He also loved to spend time with Susan and his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren at their beloved cottage in Bear Valley. Brian’s most recent CV listed his family and children at the very top on the first page, above all his numerous academic achievements. He was a loving husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather who delighted

in his family. Preceding him in death were his parents Rex and Madge Mayall; his brothers Lionel and Roger Mayall; and son-in-law Jos Henkens. He is survived by his wife Susan; children William (Terri), Christine (TomEric), Kathryn, Alice (Daryl); nine grandchildren: Sabra (Gabe), Tess (Kendall), Sarah (Kathleen), Emma, Dylan, Johan (Katelyn), Ellie, Hannah, Owen; and six great-grandchildren: Gemma, Enzo, Audrey, Matthew, Miller, May. A memorial service is planned for Saturday, Sept. 26, 2026, in Livermore, California. An online guestbook is available for condolences at neptune-society.com/obituaries. In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests that donations in Brian’s memory be made to PolioPlus Rotary International or Habitat for Humanity.

OBITUARIES

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Teresa Jean Mendoza
Oct. 17, 1957 — June 13, 2026

Teresa Jean “Terri” Mendoza, beloved wife, mother, daughter, sister, grandmother, and friend, passed away peacefully in her home on June 13, 2026, wrapped in the same love she spent her life giving so freely. Born at Saint Paul’s Hospital in Livermore on Oct. 17, 1957, she was the cherished daughter of Joe and Elvira Rodriguez of Livermore, who instilled in her the kindness, loyalty, and devotion that shaped her life.

Terri grew up in Livermore and graduated from Granda High School in 1975. She continued her education at Las Positas College, building the foundation for the career and friendships that would follow. Terri and Steven met in 1974, beginning a love that grew into a lifelong partnership. They were married in 1979, creating a home filled with warmth, laughter, and the quiet comfort of knowing they were always there for each other. Their home was her heart, and every project she touched carried her warmth and creativity.

As a mother, Terri was the



steady center of her family. She is survived by her son Jason Mendoza of Martinez and daughter-in-law Ariana Brookes, and her daughter Jenni Dahl of Livermore and son-in-law Daniel Dahl. Her grandchildren — Ava, Bina, Olivia, Hunter, and Dylan — were the lights of her life. She celebrated their milestones, nurtured their dreams, and filled their lives with love.

She shared a close connection with her sister, Jannette Tootle, and her brother-in-law Herb Tootle, both of Livermore. She also held dear her relationships

with her sister-in-law Kathy McRoberts and her husband Rick of Stockton, and her sister-in-law Misty Riendeau of Livermore. Terri was surrounded by family throughout her life, and on the day she passed, her loved ones, including her nieces, were by her side, offering comfort and love in her final moments.

For 35 years, Terri worked as an administrative assistant at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, where she formed lifelong friendships. Her colleagues remember her as warm and always cheerful with a smile.

She loved to travel, and Yosemite and Hawaii were among the places that brought her the deepest peace and joy. A devoted San Francisco Giants fan, she cheered every season with heart.

Terri’s love, gentleness, and strength will forever live on in the people she touched.

A Mass will be held on Sept. 12 at St. Charles Church in Livermore, followed by a celebration of life at Poppy Ridge in Livermore.

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Sheila Akins
Feb. 7, 1949 — July 19, 2026

With deep sorrow, we announce the passing of Sheila Akins on July 19, 2026. She is leaving behind an enduring legacy of kindness, warmth, and service.

An adventurous soul, Sheila loved to travel and experience new places, and good food. She had a long career, retiring from Sandia National Laboratories. She was deeply engaged with her community as an active volunteer at the Bankhead, the Daughters of the American Revolution, and



several local organizations. Above all, Sheila treasured

her family. She is deeply missed by her husband John; her children, Jon Akins, Kathy Garth, and Samantha Akins; and her grandchildren, Nicholas Mottin, Daniel Mottin, Katie Schneider, Gabriel Akins, and Jessica Akins.

A Celebration of Life will take place starting at 11:00 a.m. on Aug. 30, 2026, at Wentle Vineyards. We welcome all who were impacted by Sheila’s kindness to gather in remembrance of a life so generously lived.

John Thomas Miller, Jr.
July 10, 1932 — Aug. 13, 2026

John Thomas Miller Jr. passed away after a long, well-lived life, in the early morning of Aug. 13, 2026. John was born in 1932 to an immigrant family. His father immigrated from Croatia (then Austria-Hungary), and settled in Oakland, California, where John was born. John graduated from Castlemont High School.

John and the love of his life, Loretta (Null), both attended UC Berkeley. John began his lifelong career as a journalist with the Oakland Tribune in 1954 and took great pride in working the “local beat” with an office in Livermore for most of his 36-year career. He married Loretta in 1956, and they moved to Livermore in 1958, where they remained and raised their three children.

John and Loretta loved to travel, and favored destinations such as Hawaii, New Orleans, Las Vegas, Cape Cod, Santa Fe, and Carmel-by-the-Sea, where they honeymooned. They were stalwart patrons of the arts and humanities, attending Mozart and Bach festivals annually. “Papa” never missed his grandchildren’s performances and sporting events, attending every musical, opera, ballet basketball, or soccer game



each were in.

John was passionate about political issues, including social justice and civil rights, and supported a number of political causes. In addition, John was an animal-lover, and he spent his later years supporting various issues

through philanthropy. In particular, he was a patron of the WWF and ICF (among others) throughout his life.

The Millers lived their lives surrounded by their children and grandchildren, and they positively relished each moment with their extended family. Each holiday was spent crowded at over-full tables in their home, with laughter and love filling every inch of space.

John is survived by his three children and their spouses, David (Janet) Miller, Carolyn (Philip) Reggiardo, and Steven (Satomi) Miller, his grandchildren, Chloe (James) Jaramillo, Sarah (Andrew) Winter, Jack (Minori) Miller, Allison (Adrian) Avobridge, Abigail Miller PhD, and John (Amanda) Reggiardo, and his great-grandchild, Lena Miller. He was constantly intellectually curious, and had a wide range of interests, including literature, music, art, and science. His bright mind, sharp wit, and generous, loving personality will be deeply missed.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a charitable donation to John and Loretta’s favorite charity, Diabetes Youth Families (DYF). Donations can be made at dyf.org/give.

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Patricia Joyce Dugan
June 12, 1939 — June 9, 2026
In Loving Memory of Patricia “Pat” Dugan

With profound sadness, we announce the passing of Patricia “Pat” Dugan on June 9, 2026, just three days before her 87th birthday, due to complications from Alzheimer’s disease.

Pat was born and raised in Toledo, Ohio, alongside her younger sisters, Eloise and Kristine. Shortly after graduating from high school, she set out on an adventure that would shape the rest of her life, driving from Ohio to California with her best friends in a little Nash Metropolitan. Pat made California her home, where she met her husband Dave, and together they built a family and a marriage that lasted nearly 64 years.

Pat looked for the good in people and in every situation, rarely complained, and met



life’s challenges with “a glass half-full” approach. Easygoing and agreeable by nature, she brought a calming presence wherever she went, and was deeply dedicated to the people she loved. Pat loved travel and the outdoors, especially camp-

ing and spending time tending to her flower gardens.

She is survived by her sisters; her three daughters: Debbie Giorgio (Larry), Pam Lopes (Mark), and Michelle Alvarez (Mark); her seven grandchildren; and her eight great-grandchildren. Her legacy lives on through the family she cherished, and the countless lives she enriched with her compassion, warmth, and dignity.

Though her family and friends will miss her deeply, they take comfort in the memories they shared and in the enduring example of a life lived with love, generosity, and quiet strength.

A celebration of life will be held in Livermore in September. Please contact a family member for details.

Miklos Borsody Sr.
Oct. 12, 1931 — Aug. 10, 2026

Two devout souls left the world a lesser place with the passing of Miklos Borsody Sr. on Aug 10th, 2026, reuniting with his beloved wife of over 60 years, Margaret Borsody (née Palla); she preceded him in death on June 3.

A Hungarian freedom fighter, proud American, construction worker, union brother, and dutiful father, Miklos was born Oct. 12, 1931, in Borscs, Hungary. Enduring both World War II and forced labor in a coal mine under the communists, he fled with his parents and two younger brothers after the 1956 Hungarian Revolution, eventually settling in New York.

Miklos returned to Hungary in 1965 to marry Margaret and escort her to the U.S. They fashioned an American life together in Malverne, New York, raising their two sons while also providing for Miklos’ elderly parents in the same home. Miklos forged a career building, among several landmarks, the World Trade Center in New York, while Margaret cared for the elderly as a nursing assistant. In 2008 they uprooted yet again to settle in Livermore in order to be close to their only grandchildren.

Miklos is preceded in death by his parents, Lajos and Anna (née Czethofer), older brother

Lajos and older sister Maria Limp. Miklos is survived by his two younger brothers, Charlie and his wife Julie (née Gyuros), Janos and his wife Margaret (née Klingler). They are both survived by their two sons, Miklos Jr. and his wife Stacey (née Doljack) and Alex and his wife Paivi (née Heikkonen), and their two grandchildren, Alex and Daniel.

A celebration of his life will be held on Aug. 20, 2026, at St. Michael Catholic Church in Livermore; Visitation starting at 10 a.m. followed by Mass at 12 p.m.

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Angelina Marie Hermann
Aug. 24, 2000 — July 24, 2026

In Loving Memory of Angelina Marie Hermann

It is with profound sadness and broken hearts that we announce the passing of our beloved daughter, Angelina Hermann, who passed away peacefully on Friday, July 24, surrounded by her loving family, at the age of 25.

Angelina was born on Aug. 24, 2000, in Pleasanton, California, to Paul and Gina Hermann. She was raised alongside her brother, Nick Hermann, and her sister, Isabella Hermann, in a home filled with love, strong family values, laughter, and a deep appreciation for the many sports, activities, and adventures they shared together. From an early age, Angelina brought joy, laughter, and warmth to those around her.

Angelina had a remarkable gift for making everyone feel seen, valued, and welcomed. Her compassionate heart, radiant smile, and quiet strength left a lasting impression on everyone she met. She loved deeply, gave generously, and found joy in celebrating the people in her life. Her kindness, warmth, and unwavering love will continue to live on in the hearts of all who were blessed to know her.

Angelina attended schools in the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District, including Croce Elementary School, Christensen Middle School, and Livermore High School.

Throughout her school years, Angelina embraced many extracurricular activities and treasured the friendships, experiences, and sense of community they brought into her life. She attended summer camps through ENN (Exceptional Needs Network) at Camp Arroyo, participated in and volunteered with Lil’ Pardners Rodeo (Livermore Rodeo Special Needs Rodeo), and played Challenger Baseball through both Livermore Little League and Granada Little League.

Angelina’s brother, Nick, and sister, Isabella, were always by her side, supporting her as coaches, buddies, teammates, and her biggest fans. They shared many special experiences together and helped Angelina feel included, encouraged, and celebrated in everything she did.

In return, Angelina was the best cheerleader for Nick and Isabella. She proudly supported them from the baseball and football fields to the rodeo arenas, always there to cheer them on, celebrate their accomplishments, and encourage them along the way. Their bond was filled with love, laughter, support, and countless memories that they will carry with them forever.

Angelina also absolutely loved her trips to Disneyland. Those visits were filled with excitement, laughter, and treasured family memories. She loved the magic of Disneyland and the happiness it brought her, and her enthusiasm made those trips even more special for everyone who shared them with her.

The love between Angelina, Nick, and Isabella was truly special. They were not only siblings, but each other’s supporters, companions, and biggest fans — a bond that will remain a cherished part of their lives forever.

In 2013, Angelina and her Challenger baseball team had the incredible opportunity to



travel to Williamsport, Pennsylvania, for the Little League World Series, creating memories that she and her family would cherish forever.

Angelina was also a proud member of the Livermore High School Shooting Stars, earning a four-year varsity letter. Whether participating in sports, volunteering, attending camp, spending time with family and friends, or simply sharing her beautiful smile with those around her, Angelina brought her whole heart to everything she did.

Above all, Angelina was a beloved daughter, sister, granddaughter, family member, and friend. She had a beautiful ability to make others feel welcome and cared for. Her presence brought happiness to so many lives, and the love she gave so freely was one of her greatest gifts.

Angelina is survived by her loving parents, Paul and Gina Hermann; her brother, Nick Hermann; her sister, Isabella Hermann; her grandparents, Mario and Diana Marcon; her great-grandfather, Earl Sutphen; and her many beloved aunts, uncles, and cousins, including both first and second cousins, who were an important and cherished part of her life.

She was preceded in death by her grandparents, Richard Hermann and Sonia Hermann; her uncle, Nick Marcon; and her great-grandparents, Ruth and Tony Marcon, Charles and Violet Dasenzo, and Shirley Sutphen.

Our family is deeply grateful for the overwhelming outpouring of love, prayers, kindness, and support we have received during this incredibly difficult time. Your compassion and generosity have meant more to us than words can express. We are sincerely thankful for every message, prayer, embrace, memory, and gesture of love that has surrounded our family.

A Catholic Mass celebrating Angelina’s life will be held on Friday, Aug. 28, at 1:00 p.m. at St. Augustine Catholic Church in Pleasanton, California.

Following the Mass, family and friends are invited to join us in the St. Augustine Church Hall for a memorial celebration and reception. This gathering will be a time to come together, share memories, and celebrate Angelina’s beautiful life. We will also have a video tribute celebrating Angelina’s life, along with an opportunity for family and friends to share stories and special memories of her.

We welcome everyone who knew and loved Angelina to join us as we remember, honor, and celebrate the beautiful person she was and the lasting impact she made on so many lives.

Memorial Donations;

In lieu of flowers, those who wish to honor Angelina’s memory may consider making a donation in her name to either of the following organizations, both of which were meaningful to Angelina and our family.

Livermore Rodeo Foundation Lil’ Pardners

Lil’ Pardners was a meaningful part of Angelina’s life, providing her with opportunities for friendship, participation, inclusion, and joy. Supporting Lil’ Pardners in Angelina’s memory would be a beautiful way to continue her legacy and help provide those same experiences to others.

Donations may be made in Remembrance of Angelina Hermann:

Livermore Rodeo Foundation Lil’ Pardners, P.O. Box 646, Livermore, CA 94551, Tax ID: 80-0272028

Exceptional Needs Network (ENN)

Exceptional Needs Network and Camp Arroyo were also special parts of Angelina’s life. Through ENN, Angelina had opportunities to participate in summer camp, build friendships, experience new adventures, and simply enjoy being part of a community that embraced her for exactly who she was. Camp Arroyo provided experiences that brought Angelina happiness and created memories that will forever hold a special place in our family’s hearts.

A donation to Exceptional Needs Network in Angelina’s memory would help provide meaningful opportunities and experiences for other individuals and families, continuing the spirit of inclusion, friendship, and joy that meant so much to Angelina.

Donations may also be made in Angelina’s memory to Exceptional Needs Network through its online donation page or mail:

Exceptional Needs Network, P.O. Box 3149, Livermore, CA 94551, Tax ID: 48-1301380, website: ennet-network.org

We are deeply grateful to everyone who chooses to honor Angelina in this way. Your generosity is a beautiful reflection of the love, kindness, inclusion, and compassion that Angelina shared so freely throughout her life.

Though our hearts are broken by the loss of our precious Angelina, we are grateful beyond words for the 25 years we were blessed to have her in our lives. We will forever treasure her beautiful smile, her laughter, her loving heart, her gentle spirit, and the countless memories she gave us.

Angelina’s life touched so many people. Her time with us was far too short, but the love she gave was immeasurable. The kindness she showed, the joy she shared, and the lives she touched will continue to carry her memory forward.

She will be deeply missed, forever cherished, and never forgotten. Her light will continue to shine through the countless lives she touched, and her memory will remain a blessing to all who loved her.

We love you, Angelina. Always and Forever.

Dublin Home for the Latest LA Knight Riders Cricket Academy

By David Scholz

DUBLIN — With what its backers hope will be a feeder for big time cricket, the Tri Valley is now home to one of the Los Angeles Knight Riders nationwide training academies.

The Dublin academy is a byproduct of a partnership between the Major League Cricket club and CricMax Connect that has formed a national network of Knight Riders Cricket Academies to develop youth cricket across the United States.

The 6,700-square-foot Elite indoor cricket facility, located at 6800 Sierra Ct., Suite D, in Dublin, held its official grand opening on Sunday with a ribbon cutting by local dignitaries and hands-on opportunities for youngsters with Knight Riders players.

Dublin Mayor Sherry Hu expressed excitement about the arrival of the Knight Riders academy. She viewed it as not only a resource for Dublin families, but also a draw for young athletes throughout the Tri-Valley and the greater Bay Area.

"I think it fits Dublin beautifully," she said, calling the city one of the most diverse communities in the Bay Area.

Pradeep Routray, CEO of

Elite Indoor Cricket, brings prior experience as a mentor and coach at Fallon Middle School and John Green Elementary School, both in Dublin, and as a cricket advisor at Dublin High School to this expanded after-school and weekend venture with the 2026 Major League Cricket champions.

"Cricket Sports development is my passion and hobby," he said. "Our focus is making (a) feeder to MLC by nurturing young talent."

He likened the academy to how professional soccer globally establish academies to develop young talent for their clubs.

Routray arrived from India in 2008 and worked for Oracle in microsystems for the next 16 years. During that time, he also played cricket on a company team. But he was seeking something more: "I was looking for a way to pursue my passion."

Recalling how he learned the game from his father without the benefit of an academy before playing in college, Routray said the Dublin endeavor is a dream come true as a means to help local youth embrace the game and develop their skills.

He noted that "close to a million dollars" has been

invested in the facility which features four lanes — two of which are mostly dedicated to batting. It also has access to renting outdoor nets from the City of Dublin as part of the venture.

For the past two Junes the Oakland Coliseum played host to Major League Cricket regular season action, and last month, the league returned to the historic venue for the 2026 season playoffs and finals. Routray regarded this as "huge" for the growth of the sport among youths.

"There is a lot of aspiration for youth (and playing cricket)," he said. "Major League Cricket brings a lot of value."

The Dublin facility caters to players from ages 5 to 19. With those possessing exceptional skills supported by the academy's coaching and scouting, Routray is optimistic that local talent might break into the major-league level after cricket makes its official Olympic return at the 2028 Los Angeles games.

So far, he has 100 players, with up to 40 players registering at the recent grand opening event. By the end of 2027, the number will be capped at 200. Players training at the facility will form teams to compete in tournaments.

Costs range from \$150 to



A young player takes a turn in the batting nets against Los Angeles Knight Riders Cricket Academy beginners coach Esha Kunari during a free skills clinic at Sunday's grand opening of the Elite Indoor Cricket facility in Dublin. (Photo courtesy of Pradeep Routray)

\$250 per month, depending on the number of sessions, or \$450 per quarter. Scholarships are available for players needing financial assistance.

Five levels of development are offered at the Dublin LAKR academy with certified coaches determining placement. These include Future Stars — Discover (fun, movement, cricket basics, and modified game); Foundation — Build (fundamentals, technique, athletic movement and confidence); Development — Compete (match skills, decision making, game awareness and competitive mindset); Ad-

vanced — Perform (technical mastery, specialist skills, match performance and under pressure); Elite / Pro Progress (individual plan, advanced prep, high-performance and Level-aligned).

"We bring quality to the table," said Routray, "We work with all (members) of the cricket community."

"My dream is helping players to play on the international stage," he said.

The new academy is also seen as a complement to the heavy investment the city has made in sports facilities, including Fallon Sports Park's premier cricket field with five

pitches, along with batting cages.

"This is about much more than cricket," said Hu. "Sports teach young people discipline, teamwork, confidence and persistence."

Coaches at the grand opening noted that to become a champion, one needs to know what they are going to do today, this week, this month and this year to get there.

"I really believe in that. Having a dream is wonderful, and then you need a plan, good coaches and people who will guide you and hold you accountable along the way," Hu said.

GROWTH

(Continued from front page)

have picnics and enjoy other recreational activities.

Qaadri said rankings do not fully capture residents' experiences.

"However, rankings only tell part of the story," he said. "Through our citywide survey and expanded community engagement, we have learned from our residents that they feel heard, and that responsiveness is just as important as any single metric."

He said residents across generations experience the results of the city's investments.

"Longtime residents feel it in their neighborhoods. Young families see real opportunity here," Qaadri said. "That's not an accident. It's the result of sustained investment paired with a council that listens and responds to the people it serves."

The city is also expanding its cultural offerings as it prepares to open the 13,500-square-foot Dublin Arts Center at Civic Plaza in fall 2026.

The center will feature a black box theater, an art gallery and studios for music, dance, ceramics and other arts programs.

Housing development has also transformed Dublin's landscape and brought more residents to the area.

"New housing, safe neighborhoods, family-friendly amenities, and our location at the crossroads of I-580/I-680 along with two BART stations have fueled Dublin's growth," City Manager Colleen Tribby told The Independent.

Dublin's population increased by 61.7% between 2010 and 2020, rising from

46,036 to 74,458 residents, according to California Department of Finance figures provided by the city.

U.S. News also considered transportation and commute times. Residents have an average commute of 31.2 minutes, nine minutes longer than the national average.

Most commuters drive to work, while others use public transportation, walk or travel by bicycle. The Dublin/Pleasanton and West Dublin/Pleasanton BART stations connect the area to the wider Bay Area.

Housing costs were another factor in the ranking. In 2025, Dublin's median home value was \$1,283,390, compared with the national average of \$359,870.

However, Dublin households also earn substantially more than the national median. The city's median household income is \$211,868, compared with \$83,181 nationwide.

According to U.S. News, Dublin has a healthier job market than similarly sized metro areas. In 2023, the city's unemployment rate was 3.4%, compared with 4.5% nationwide.

Despite those strong job-market figures, creating more employment opportunities within Dublin remains a priority. At the July 30 Tri-Valley Mayors Luncheon, Mayor Sherry Hu said that after three decades of residential construction, the city is shifting its focus toward commercial development to help keep more jobs local.

Tribby said Dublin's next stage of growth will require

long-term planning.

"As the city nears build-out, that growth will naturally slow," Tribby said. "Through strong planning and fiscal management, we're focused on keeping Dublin a place people are proud to call home for generations to come."

That shift will also influence how officials approach future projects.

"The city will continue to grow and evolve with the community, and we're committed to thoughtfully developing the community to buildout," Tribby said. "That means we must ensure long-term financial sustainability through discipline and careful planning."

She said the work also extends to what Dublin has already built.

"One thing that we have been particularly good at in Dublin is being proactive about taking care of our public assets," Tribby said. "That means avoiding deferred maintenance and keeping our facilities in the excellent condition our residents expect and value. These investments are how we keep Dublin a great place to live."

As development continues, Alameda County is weighing plans for a Tri-Valley Multiuse Event Center near the intersection of Martinelli Way and Arnold Road, close to the Dublin/Pleasanton BART station. The proposed venue would include about 100,000 square feet of event space, with room for 12 basketball courts or 24 volleyball courts, and could accommodate up to 5,000 attendees for performances and other events.

FENTANYL

(Continued from front page)

disrupt and dismantle fentanyl criminal enterprises and prevent fentanyl from reaching California communities. Bureau of Investigation teams in Dublin, Sacramento, Los Angeles and San Diego work with local and federal law enforcement agencies.

"It's a huge crisis," Greenhagen said of fentanyl. "You hear it on the news; it's a substance that's becoming a lot more common."

Statewide, the DOJ seized about 17.5 million fentanyl pills and 7,174 pounds of fentanyl powder from April 2022 through June 30, 2026. The department reported that the seized powder alone was equivalent to roughly 32.6 million pills, bringing the total impact to over 50 million potential doses alongside 623 fentanyl-related arrests during that period.

Staffing shortages also affect firearms enforcement. Division of Law Enforcement special agents investigate illegal firearm possession and recover firearms from people prohibited from possessing them.

The DOJ's Armed and Prohibited Persons System identifies people who legally acquired firearms, but later became prohibited from possessing them and failed to relinquish them. In 2025, the DOJ investigated and closed 8,667 APPS cases and recovered 1,437 firearms statewide.

Greenhagen said vacancies can frequently expand agents' territories, with some conducting enforcement

operations at night and on weekends.

"The more agents we have, the better we can serve our communities," Greenhagen said. "More firearm agents mean getting more guns out of the hands of prohibited people. More fentanyl agents mean stopping big-time dealers or suppliers in these communities."

Alan Barcelona, a California DOJ special agent and president of the California Statewide Law Enforcement Association, and Greenhagen pointed to high living costs, long commutes and competition from higher-paying local agencies as barriers to recruiting and retaining experienced agents.

"The state is dealing with huge budget deficits, and I'm not pointing fingers," Barcelona said. "They obviously don't have the manpower and the pay to cover these issues. We've had that for quite a while, and we haven't been able to get the state to adequately fix that issue."

Many agents assigned to Dublin live in the Sacramento region or Central Valley, with some commuting about 90 minutes each way because of Bay Area housing costs. Greenhagen said high housing costs can make it difficult for agents who want to buy homes and raise families near the Dublin office.

DOJ special agents earn between \$7,454 and \$12,834 per month, while special agent trainees earn between \$5,139 and \$6,931 per month, according to state salary data.

Greenhagen said the pay can make recruitment difficult, because prospective agents can often earn more by remaining with local agencies.

"A decade back, we didn't have this issue," Greenhagen said. "The individuals in that office, most of them don't even live in the Bay Area. They either commute from the Sacramento area or the Central Valley, and they commute to the office."

Barcelona said addressing vacancies requires state leaders to make funding for special agents a budget priority. He said the Legislature and governor's office determine where state resources are directed.

CSLEA has taken its staffing concerns directly to lawmakers. Barcelona, Greenhagen and other association leaders met with 17 legislative offices in February to discuss vacancy rates, competitive pay, recruitment and retention and public safety concerns, as lawmakers considered the state budget.

"I think that if they really sat back and decided, 'Oh, we need to hire more agents,'" Barcelona said, "they could carve money out to make that happen."

Both agents encouraged residents to contact state legislators and advocate for additional funding for special agents, saying greater public pressure could help address staffing shortages and provide more resources to combat fentanyl, illegal firearms and other crimes.

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 624729

The following person(s) doing business as: Q Bar Project, 5692 Stoneciff Vista LN, Pleasanton, CA 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Clean & Collected, LLC, 5692 Stoneciff Vista LN, Pleasanton, CA 94566. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Enrique Martinez Perez, Managing Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 15, 2026. Expires July 14, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6947. Published July 30, August 6, 13, 20, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 624633

The following person(s) doing business as: Shahinian Tashjian Architecture, 2464 Harewood

DR, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Ema Shahinian, 2464 Harewood DR, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Ema Shahinian, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 10, 2026. Expires July 9, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6948. Published July 30, August 6, 13, 20, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 624691

The following person(s) doing business as: Livemore Amador Symphony Guild, 583 Bell Ave, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Livemore Amador Symphony Association, 1216 Riesling Circle, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 4/7/2006.

Signature of Registrant/s/: Judith A. McMurtry, Treasurer. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 14, 2026. Expires July 13, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6949. Published July 30, August 6, 13, 20, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 624568

The following person(s) doing business as: Roto Rooter Plumbing & Water Cleanup, 5717 Brisa ST, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Roto Rooter Services Company, 255 East Fifth Street, Suite 2500, Cincinnati, OH 45202. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 6/1/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Brian C. Judkins, Secretary/General Counsel. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 8, 2026. Expires July 7, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6950. Published July 30, August 6, 13, 20, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 624792

The following person(s) doing business as: AJ Properties, 4900 Hopyard RD, Suite 100, Pleasanton, CA 94588 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): A & J Investment Solutions, Inc., 4900 Hopyard RD, Suite 100, Pleasanton, CA 94588. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 7/20/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: John Wu, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 20, 2026. Expires July 19, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6951. Published July 30, August 6, 13, 20, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 624803

The following person(s) doing business as: Woof Gang Bakery & Grooming Livermore, 2050 Portola Ave, Suite E, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered

by the following owner(s): Grandmother's House LLC, 2618 S. Fresno Ave, Stockton, CA 95206. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 7/16/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Trina Sanders, Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 20, 2026. Expires July 19, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6952. Published July 30, August 6, 13, 20, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 624750

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Aisure; 2. Aisure Auto, 2323 Broadway, Oakland, CA 94612 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Aisure LLC, 2323 Broadway, Oakland, CA 94612. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/:

Anthony Lee, Managing Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 16, 2026. Expires July 15, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6953. Published July 30, August 6, 13, 20, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 624836

The following person(s) doing business as: R & S Overhead Doors & Gates, 31298 San Antonio Street, Hayward, CA 94544 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): R & S Erection of Southern Alameda County, Inc., 31298 San Antonio Street, Hayward, CA 94544. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Gerald Trask Jr.. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 21, 2026. Expires July 20, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6954. Published July 30, August 6, 13, 20, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 624850

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Hyprstart; 2. Bill-gone, 3099 Boardwalk Street, Pleasanton, CA 94588-2903 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): John Morse, 3099 Boardwalk Street, Pleasanton, CA 94588-2903. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: John Morse, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 122, 2026. Expires July 21, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6955. Published July 30, August 6, 13, 20, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 624315

The following person(s) doing business as: Seeker's Clinical Bodywork, 5980 Stoneridge Drive, Suite 105, Pleasanton, CA 94588 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Seeker's Soul Therapy LLC,

2242 Via Espada, Pleasanton, CA 94566. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Hubert Tai, Managing Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 26, 2026. Expires June 25, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6956. Published July 30, August 6, 13, 20, 2026.

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: SHI LIU Case No. 26PR201065

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of SHI LIU a.k.a. Shi Liu. A Petition for Probate has been filed by: ANDY SHU, in the Superior Court of California, County of ALAMEDA. The petition for probate requests that ANDY SHU be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. The petition requests

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authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

A hearing on the petition will be held in this court as follows:

August 28th, 2026
9:45 AM in Department 201

located at
Superior Court of California,
County of Alameda

2120 Martin Luther King Jr.
Way, Berkeley, CA 94704

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

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

Attorney for Petitioner:
Andy Shu,
representing pro per.
2805 Hoya Cmn
Livermore, CA 94551
 The Independent, Legal No. 6957. Published August 6, 13, 20, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 625050

The following person(s) doing business as: The Black Cat, 2241 1ST Street, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Kalle Nueva LLC, 1537 Marina DR, Lathrop, CA 95330. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Krista Monique Lucero, Managing Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 31, 2026. Expires July 30, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6958. Published August 6, 13, 20, 27, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 624693

The following person(s) doing business as: Andy's Family Auto Repair, 39990 Fremont Blvd, Fremont, CA 94538 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Andy's Family Auto Repair LLC, 39990 Fremont, CA 94538. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 7/1/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Shaunt Shah-karami, Managing Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 14, 2026. Expires July 13, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6959. Published August 6, 13, 20, 27, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 624997

The following person(s) doing business as: MH Property Management, 7359 Glenoaks Way, Dublin, CA 94568 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Michelle Ha, 7359 Glenoaks Way, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 7/23/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Michelle Ha, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 29, 2026. Expires July 28, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6960. Published August 6, 13, 20, 27, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 624225

The following person(s) doing business as: Perfect Samples, 39149 Guardino Drive, APT 150, Fremont, CA 94538 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Harpreet Malik, 39149 Guardino Drive, APT 150, Fremont, CA 94538. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Harpreet Malik, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 23, 2026. Expires June 22, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6961. Published August 6, 13, 20, 27, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 624918

The following person(s) doing business as: David Family Dentistry, 148 Best Ave, San Leandro, CA 94577 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Vicente David Jr., 148 Best Ave, San Leandro, CA 94577. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 2/3/2003. Signature of Registrant/s/: Vicente David Jr., Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 24, 2026. Expires July 23, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6962. Published August 6, 13, 20, 27, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 624678

The following person(s) doing business as: Crime Scene Crystals, 2715 Markham Court, Hayward, CA 94542 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Forensic Consultation LLC, 2715 Markham Court, Hayward, CA 94542. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 6/23/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Michelle Rippy, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 13, 2026. Expires July 12, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6963. Published August 6, 13, 20, 27, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 624802

The following person(s) doing business as: SarraS, 717 Euclid Ave, Berkeley, CA 94708 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): SarraS AI, Inc., 717 Euclid Ave, Berkeley, CA 94798. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 6/8/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Daniel Ortega, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 20, 2026. Expires July 19, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6964. Published August 6, 13, 20, 27, 2026.

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME ORIGINAL FILE NO. 608261

The person(s) listed below have abandoned the use of the following fictitious business name(s). Entropy Cellars, 2720 Marina Ave, Livermore, CA 94550. Registered by the following owner(s): Jeffery Roberts, 2720 Marina Ave, Livermore, CA 94550. The fictitious business name statement was filed on 2/29/2024 in the County of Alameda. This business was conducted by an Individual. Signature of Registrant/s/: Jeffery Roberts, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 23, 2026. The Independent, Legal No. 6964. Published August 6, 13, 20, 27, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 624688

The following person(s) doing business as: Thai & Lao Language Services, 1442 A Walnut St, #256, Berkeley, CA 94709 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Benjamin Terlecky, 1442A Walnut St, #246, Berkeley, CA 94709. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 2/15/1996. Signature of Registrant/s/: Benjamin Terlecky, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 14, 2026. Expires July 13, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6966. Published August 6, 13, 20, 27, September 3, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 624463

The following person(s) doing business as: Bay Energy Compliance, 1651 Alvarado Court, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): John Daley, 1651 Alvarado Court, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 6/14/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: John Daley, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 2, 2026. Expires July 1, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6967. Published August 13, 20, 27, September 3, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 625085

The following person(s) doing business as: Eighth Crest Strategies, 4 Commodore Drive, Unit 321, Emeryville, CA 94608 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Eighth Crest Strategies LLC, 4 Commodore Drive, Unit 321, Emeryville, CA 94608. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Kok Seong Lim, Principal. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 3, 2026. Expires August 2, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6968. Published August 13, 20, 27, September 3, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 624960

The following person(s) doing business as: Anjmark, 2441 Euclid PL, Fremont, CA 94539 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Amjcore Inc., 46539 Mission BLVD #1007, Fremont, CA 94539. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 2/2/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Abdulhakim Abushaala, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 27, 2026. Expires July 26, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6969. Published August 13, 20, 27, September 3, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 625125

The following person(s) doing business as: Krizma Studio, 95 41st ST, APT 401, Oakland, CA 94611 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Nicholas Pierson, 95 41st ST, APT 401, Oakland, CA 94611. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 8/3/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Nicholas Pierson, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 4, 2026. Expires August 3, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6970. Published August 13, 20, 27, September 3, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 624983

The following person(s) doing business as: Livermore Valley Cottages, 3459 Arroyo Road, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): LWCI LLC, 220 S. Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: L. Michelle Boss, Managing Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 28, 2026. Expires July 27, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6971. Published August 13, 20, 27, September 3, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 625142

The following person(s) doing business as: Tri-Valley Solar Care, 363 Helen Way, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Chris Fragos, 363 Helen, CA 94550. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 9/18/2023. Signature of Registrant/s/: Chris Fragos, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 5, 2026. Expires August 4, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6972. Published August 13, 20, 27, September 3, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 625161

The following person(s) doing business as: Derwiva Dental, 1402 Concannon Blvd, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Karan S. Randhawa DMD, Inc., 2473 Detert Street, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Karan S. Randhawa, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 5, 2026. Expires August 4, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6973. Published August 13, 20, 27, September 3, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 624871

The following person(s) doing business as: Northern Lights and Music, 4426 Pampas Ave, Oakland, CA 94619 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Aaron Spading, 4426 Pampas Ave, Oakland, CA 94619. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 7/22/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Aaron Spading, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 22, 2026. Expires July 21, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6974. Published August 13, 20, 27, September 3, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 625223

The following person(s) doing business as: Ms. Carmen's Kinder Casa, 860 Herman Ave, Suite #102, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Carmen Meneses, 860 Herman Ave, Suite #102, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 8/5/2013. Signature of Registrant/s/: Carmen Meneses, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 7, 2026. Expires August 6, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6975. Published August 13, 20, 27, September 3, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 625132

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Iron Horse Properties; 2. Ross Property Management, 280 Division Street, Pleasanton, CA 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Iron Horse Holdings, 280 Division, Street, Pleasanton, CA 94566. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 2/5/2024. Signature of Registrant/s/: Erica Starkey, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 4, 2026. Expires August 3, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6976. Published August 13, 20, 27, September 3, 2026.

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME ORIGINAL FILE NO. 603867

The person(s) listed below have abandoned the use of the following fictitious business name(s). Iron Horse Properties, 550 Main ST, Pleasanton, CA 94566. Registered by the following owner(s): Starkey Holdings, Inc., 550 Main ST, Pleasanton, CA 94566. The fictitious business name statement was filed on 2/5/2024 in the County of Alameda. This business was conducted by an Individual. Signature of Registrant/s/: Erica Starkey, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 4, 2026. The Independent, Legal No. 6977. Published August 13, 20, 27, September 3, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 625103

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Mel's Magic; 2. Mel's Magic Bags, 960 Shorepoint CT, Apt 311, Alameda, CA 94501 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Protogen LLC, 1401 21st ST, Ste R, Sacramento, CA 95811. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Melania J. Rivas Lemoine, Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 4, 2026. Expires August 3, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6978. Published August 20, 27, September 3, 10, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 625215

The following person(s) doing business as: LBF Enterprises, 1264 Stealth ST, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Powerrmatic Associates, Inc., 1264 Stealth ST, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 7/1/1972. Signature of Registrant/s/: Frank Nudo III, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 7, 2026. Expires August 6, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6979. Published August 13, 20, 27, September 3, 10, 2026.

Independent, Legal No. 6979. Published August 20, 27, September 3, 10, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 624544

The following person(s) doing business as: Mothers Kitchen, 1857 Rheem Court, Pleasanton, CA 94588 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Uma Annamalai, 1857 Rheem Court, Pleasanton, CA 94588. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 7/1/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Uma Annamalai, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 7, 2026. Expires July 6, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6980. Published August 20, 27, September 3, 10, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 624546

The following person(s) doing business as: Chettinad Kitchen, 1857 Rheem Court, Pleasanton, CA 94588 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Sanjiv P. Annamalai, 1857 Rheem Court, Pleasanton, CA 94588. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 7/1/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Sanjiv P. Annamalai, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 7, 2026. Expires July 6, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6981. Published August 20, 27, September 3, 10, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 625178

The following person(s) doing business as: Willamette International Travel, 1677 Shattuck Ave, Berkeley, CA 94709 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Going Places Travel, Inc., 1677 Shattuck Ave, Berkeley, CA 94709. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 8/1/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Kevin Saxe, Managing Director. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 6, 2026. Expires August 5, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6982. Published August 20, 27, September 3, 10, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 625253

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Lunure; 2. Lunure Baby, 1313 Lincoln Avenue, Apt C, Alameda, CA 94501 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Jessica Murray, 1313 Lincoln Avenue, Apt C, Alameda, CA 94501. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 12/1/2024. Signature of Registrant/s/: Jessica Murray, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 10, 2026. Expires August 9, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6983. Published August 20, 27, September 3, 10, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 625000

The following person(s) doing business as: Klean Karz, 4361 Technology DR, Unit B, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Klean Homes Inc., 4361 Technology DR, Unit B, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Hector Arana, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 29, 2026. Expires July 28, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6984. Published August 20, 27, September 3, 10, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 625034

The following person(s) doing business as: Party Printer, 111 Traynor ST, Hayward, CA 94544 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Silver Rainbow LLC, 1309 Coffeen Avenue, Ste 1200, Sheridan, Wyoming 82801. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Scott Johnson, Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 30, 2026. Expires July 29, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6985. Published August 20, 27, September 3, 10, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 625286

The following person(s) doing business as: Raphael Stone, 14694 Wicks Blvd, San Leandro, CA 94577 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Nuvira Stone Inc, 14694 Wicks Blvd, San Leandro, CA 94577. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 5/18/2018. Signature of Registrant/s/: Eldan Ben Hano, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 11, 2026. Expires August 10, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6986. Published August 20, 27, September 3, 10, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 625350

The following person(s) doing business as: Bhumatic, 2257 Minerva CT, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Soil Metrics Incorporated, 2257 Minerva CT, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Jagdish Girimaji, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 13, 2026. Expires August 12, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6987. Published August 20, 27, September 3, 10, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 625104

The following person(s) doing business as: Bubble Brite Laundromat, 183 S N ST, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Bubble Brite Laundry Group LLC, 400 Pimlico DR, Ste 114-104, Pleasanton, CA 94588. This

business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 8/1/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Dave Steele, Manager. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 4, 2026. Expires August 3, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6988. Published August 20, 27, September 3, 10, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 625235

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Livermore Gymnastic Center; 2. Livermore Gymnastics, 1110 E Stanley Blvd, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Little Gymnastics Club, Inc., 111 E Stanley Blvd, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 6/1/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Kelsey Costello, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 7, 2026. Expires August 6, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6989. Published August 20, 27, September 3, 10, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 625093

The following person(s) doing business as: Tibetan Herb Tea, 2096 Merced Street, San Leandro, CA 94577. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Stella Phan, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 3, 2026. Expires August 2, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6990. Published August 20, 27, September 3, 10, 2026.

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME ORIGINAL FILE NO. 591622

The person(s) listed below have abandoned the use of the following fictitious business name(s). Mykitchencalculator.com, 3101 Barrett CT, Castro Valley, CA 94546. Registered by the following owner(s): Ernest Ray Lee, 3101 Barrett CT, Castro Valley, CA 94546. The fictitious business name statement was filed on 8/31/2022 in the County of Alameda. This business was conducted by an Individual. Signature of Registrant/s/: Erica Starkey, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 13, 2026. The Independent, Legal No. 6991. Published August 12, 20, 27, September 3, 2026.

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Students in Tune, at the Livermore Amador Summer Youth Orchestra

By Jessica Zimmer

LIVERMORE — The Livermore Amador Summer Youth Orchestra (LAYSO), established by the Livermore-Amador Symphony Association, recently celebrated its 17th year educating young musicians ages 11 through 21. The six-week program costs \$300,

as a gateway to improve my musical abilities. The experience challenged me to grow as a cellist,” said Bani Mehta, a 14-year-old Livermore resident. Natasha Manuel is a 14-year-old Dublin resident who plays cello and harp. She enjoys the fact that the program gives students the opportunity

cofounder, artistic director, and instructor of Valley Dance Theater, a Tri-Valley ballet company based in Livermore; Göran Berg, owner of Sycamore Strings Academy, a private strings instruction school in Livermore; and H. Robert “Bob” Williams, a former assistant conductor for the Liver-

administrative, marketing and staffing support. Hausburg serves as LAYSO’s program coordinator. She said approximately 50 young musicians enroll in LAYSO every summer. “We have a lot of young people who continue with the program every year, from sixth grade until they graduate from high school. After graduation, students are allowed to join LAYSO and serve as mentors to younger students,” Hausburg said.

LAYSO has two conductors: Robert Huntington, director of instrumental music at Mendenhall Middle School in Livermore, and Dr. Bill Harrington, music director and conductor for East Bay Youth Orchestras in residence at California State University, East Bay. Huntington is LAYSO’s winds and percussion director, while Harrington serves as string orchestra director. The two educators take turns directing LAYSO’s full orchestra.

“Teaching at LAYSO is meaningful for me because I played in the program for two summers, on tuba,” Huntington said. Huntington said it is helpful when his current or former students at Mendenhall Middle School join LAYSO, because he knows their respective skill levels.

This year, the City of Livermore commissioned Huntington to write a piece celebrating the city’s 150th anniversary. Huntington titled the piece “Green and the Golden.”

“The music represents the city in late April, when half the hills are gold, a reminder of the city’s history, and half the hills are green, showing new growth. LAYSO performed the piece for the first time this summer,”

Huntington said. Jina Chon is a 14-year-old Livermore resident who played as LAYSO’s principal oboe in 2026. She is an incoming high school freshman who moved to Livermore last April.

“(At LAYSO), I not only sharpened my musicianship and improved my oboe playing skills, but I was also introduced to a welcoming community where I made my first local friends. Our conductors, Dr. Bill and Mr. Huntington, made each rehearsal so engaging and supportive,” Chon said.

Chon said one of her favorite memories was meeting and spending a rehearsal with Ruth Brittin, the composer of the 2024 piece “Golden Vistas,” which LAYSO performed this summer. Brittin is a professor of music education and chair of the Department of Music Education at University of the Pacific.

Vivian Le is an 18-year-old Pleasanton resident who played violin in LAYSO this summer. She liked being a part of LAYSO because she is always on the lookout for fellow musicians to play with.

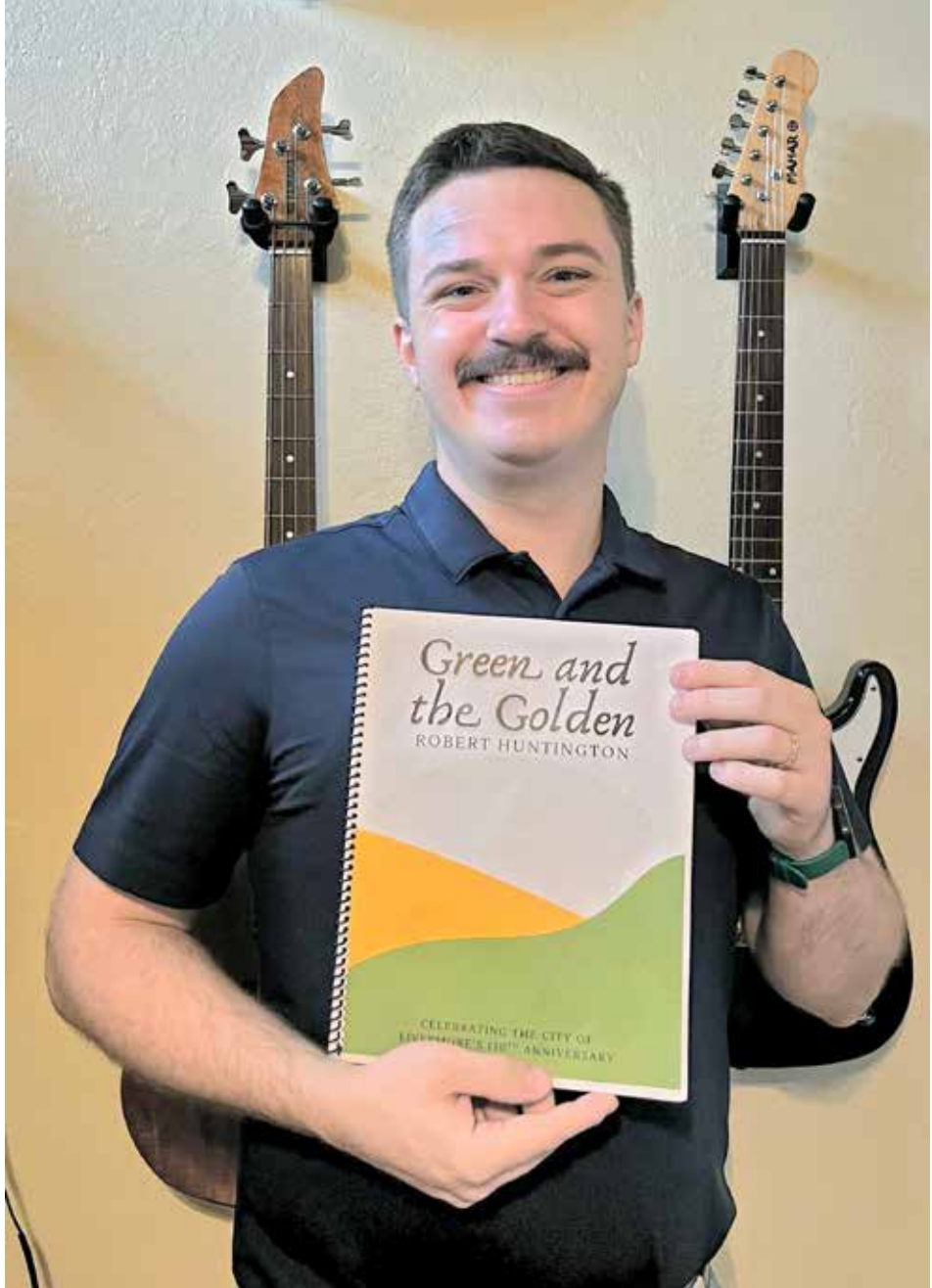
Huntington said one of the benefits for young musicians joining LAYSO is getting an opportunity to practice with peers who

play instruments not found in their school band or orchestra.

“I play tuba and I was a member of my school band until I graduated. That didn’t give me the opportunity to tune with an orchestra, in A instead of B flat. I also didn’t get the chance to play with strings players,” Huntington said.

Joining LAYSO got the sound of strings swelling in Huntington’s ears, which was one of the factors that motivated him to major in composition as an undergraduate.

“Participating in LAYSO allowed me to form an emotional attachment to instruments beyond my own. It gave me a better understanding of music overall. Later, as a college student, the experience helped me to analyze sounds, separately and together. This prepared me to compose for a full orchestra,” Huntington said.



Robert Huntington, LAYSO’s winds and percussion director, proudly displays the score for his original composition, “Green and the Golden.” Commissioned by the City of Livermore for its 150th anniversary, Huntington’s piece drew inspiration from the local landscape in late April, juxtaposing the golden, historic hills with the green symbol of new growth. LAYSO debuted the work this summer. (Photo courtesy of Robert Huntington)

with family discounts and scholarships available. LAYSO runs from the end of June through July, with an application process that starts in February. Students rehearse Tuesday and Thursday nights at the Bothwell Arts Center in Livermore. LAYSO concludes with a free public concert in late July at the First Presbyterian Church in Livermore.

“Joining LAYSO marked an exciting new chapter as I transitioned from middle school to high school. (It served)

to continue playing their instruments in an ensemble over the summer.

“Participating in LAYSO...allows me to perform in a full symphony orchestra with winds and percussion, whereas I normally only play in a string orchestra. It has also been fun to meet new people from other schools who share the same interests as me,” said Manuel.

Three members of the Livermore-Amador Symphony Association developed the idea for LAYSO in 2008: Betsy Hausburg,

more-Amador Symphony. At the time, Hausburg and Williams played with the Livermore-Amador Symphony. Hausburg played tuba and Williams played French horn.

The Livermore-Amador Symphony launched LAYSO in 2009 and ran the program until 2025. In 2026, Livermore Valley Arts, the nonprofit that runs the Bankhead Theater and the Bothwell Arts Center, partnered with LAYSO. This year, Livermore Valley Arts is supporting LAYSO with

TESTA

(Continued from front page)

sway in the negotiations. Testa also set herself apart in terms of campaign donations. “I do not accept endorsements or donations from any special interest that may want something in return,” she said.

Prior to joining the city council, Testa served on

the city’s Human Services Commission for more than a decade, as a Board Director for Tri-Valley REACH, and with the National Alliance on Mental Illness Tri-Valley. She will term out of her District 3 seat at the end of this year, with entrepreneur Reena Gupta

and former school board trustee Jamie Yee vying for the position in November.

Nibert announced in July that he will not seek reelection this year, leaving his District 1 seat open to either former Councilmember Kathy Narum or entrepreneur Vin Kruttiventi.

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