



Foothill High School in Pleasanton took part in a coordinated ICE walkout on Feb. 4. Students at neighboring Amador High School also left classrooms in protest of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement funding and unchecked violence by agents. (Photo courtesy of Emma Saroukhanoff) See Alameda County Board of Supervisors approval of ICE-Free Zones story on page 3.

LVJUSD Announces Leadership Change, Gibson Stepping Down

Livermore School Board and Superintendent Agree to Part Ways

By Vivien Wenneker

LIVERMORE — The Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District (LVJUSD) Board of Trustees and Superintendent Torie Gibson agreed to a settlement that led to Gibson stepping down as Livermore's school superintendent. After 18 months with the district, she left on Friday, Feb. 6.

"Serving the Livermore Joint Unified School District has been a deeply meaningful experience," Gibson said in a statement. "I am grateful to the Livermore community for their partnership, trust and shared commitment to our students."

This development comes in the

midst of contentious budget reduction talks for the upcoming school year, and on the tail end of tense negotiations with the Livermore Education Association (LEA) over teacher raises that were resolved in December 2025.

Throughout her tenure, Gibson led the district through a period of complex fiscal and organizational challenges, significant planning, and community and staff engagement. During this time, she worked to implement comprehensive, systems-level improvements across the district.

"Although we faced real challenges along the way, I am proud of the work we accomplished together to strengthen systems,

improve transparency and collaboration, and better support students across the district," Gibson said.

Among Gibson's key contributions were the development of the district's first ever five-year strategic plan, navigating the district's multimillion-dollar budget deficit, and implementing new work groups for special education and English learners.

With nearly three decades of experience in education, Gibson formerly served as dual superintendent for the Amador County Office of Education and Amador County Unified School District for nine years before coming to Livermore.

The settlement agreement out-

(See LVJUSD, page 7)

Trump Asserts a Federal Take Over of Voting By Nationalizing Our Elections

California Assemblymember Bauer-Kahan says Elections are State-Run

By David Jen

TRI- VALLEY — Comments by President Donald Trump to nationalize elections have drawn criticism across the country from both sides of the aisle.

Trump proposed the move in a Feb. 2 podcast with former FBI Deputy Director Dan Bongino, after reiterating claims of election fraud despite independent reviews and Republican officials dismissing such claims.

"We have states that are so crooked, and they're counting votes. We have states that I won, that show I didn't win," Trump said. "The Republicans should say,

'We want to take over.' We should take over the voting in at least 15 places. The Republicans oughta nationalize the voting."

Shortly afterward, Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer spelled out on the Senate floor that such a move would violate the Elections Clause of the U.S. Constitution.

"Just a few hours ago, Donald Trump said he wants to nationalize elections around the country," Schumer said. "That's what Trump said. You think he believes in democracy? He said, 'We want to take over. The Republicans ought to nationalize the voting.' Does Donald Trump need a copy of the

Constitution? What he is saying is outlandishly illegal."

Senate Majority Leader John Thune also said he was "not in favor" of federalizing elections.

Although White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt afterward attempted to cast the president's takeover comments as instead support for the SAVE Act — a bill aimed at shoring up proof-of-citizenship requirements in federal elections — Trump clarified the next day that he was indeed referring to a shift of election control to the federal government.

"I want to see elections be honest — and if a state can't run an election, I think the peo-

(See ELECTIONS, page 7)

City Council Allows Measure II Repeal Decision to Stand

Lack of Environmental Review Led to Outcome

By David Jen

DUBLIN — The city council has decided not to appeal a court decision to remove Measure II.

While the voter-approved 2024 ballot measure had allowed commercial development along a proposed extension of Dublin Boulevard outside of the city's urban limit line, local community groups Save Mount Diablo and Friends of Livermore challenged the measure even before that year's election. They argued that because the measure had planned

for commercial development, it required an environmental review, no review had been done. Alameda County Superior Court Judge Michael Markman agreed with the groups last November, ruling that the city should repeal the measure.

The measure focused on 80 acres of undeveloped land known as the Crosby properties.

Dublin Deputy City Manager Hazel Wetherford said in a statement that the council weighed the costs of continued litigation in its decision last week.

(See MEASURE II, page 6)



Conductor Lara Webber will lead the Livermore-Amador Symphony in a Valentine's Day concert at 8 p.m. on Feb. 14 at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore. The love-themed performance will explore the romance of "Romeo and Juliet," with each character brought to life through a different orchestral masterpiece. A post-concert wine and chocolate pairing in the lobby will end the evening on a sweet note. (File photo — Leah Silveira) See full story on page 12.

Stage Set for Pleasanton Hotel-Tax Ballot Measure

Groundwork Laid for Residents to Decide

By David Jen

PLEASANTON — The question of whether to raise the city's hotel tax may head to the voters this November, following the city council's unanimous decision last week to develop a ballot measure around the issue.

Since 1983, Pleasanton has charged an 8% transit-occupancy tax (TOT), tying neighboring cities Dublin and Livermore for the lowest rate in Alameda County, where TOT rates range up to 14%. The tax applies to hotel- and motel-room rentals spanning 30 days or less.

Pleasanton city staff has proposed raising the tax to 10% beginning July 1, 2027, and then to 12% beginning July 1, 2028. The increase would bring an additional \$2.8 million per year into the city's general fund, according to estimates, on top of the approximately

\$5.5 million per year currently brought in by the TOT.

City staff said the industry could support the increase with minimal impact on residents.

Feedback from the local hotel industry has been neutral, with no groups saying they would oppose such a measure, according to stakeholder feedback conducted by the city.

Tim Howard, general manager of Pleasanton's Courtyard Marriott hotel, advised the council during its Feb. 3 meeting that Pleasanton hotels, in an effort to stay competitive, will likely lower their base rates and revenues, in response to increased taxes.

"The cautionary tale is if hotels can't charge customers at a rate that they can viably make money in and pass through this service that they provide, you will see owner disinvestment," Howard said. "It will be harder for us to

(See TAX, page 7)



The popular Bay Area Eagles tribute band, Illeagles, performed at the Almost Famous Wine Lounge in Livermore on Saturday, Jan. 31. For devoted fan, John Marten, center, who has high-functioning autism, a surprise invitation to perform onstage made a lasting impression. (Photo courtesy of Sherry Daly)

Almost Famous Show Impacts Local Family

Mom of Autistic Son Shares Love and Gratitude for the Healing Power of Music

By Christina Cavallaro

LIVERMORE — Leading up to Valentine's Day, Pleasanton resident Sherry Daly received a gift that went straight to her heart. She and her 18-year-old son, John Marten, were at a live music show Saturday, Jan. 31, at Almost Famous Wine Lounge in Livermore's Vasco Row district.

Daly's son, who has high-functioning autism, was made to feel special when the band beckoned him to the stage, slung a bass

guitar over his shoulder, and gave him the gift of inclusion during a musical solo where he sang under the lights and rocked out with the guys.

"The audience loved it," Daly said. But perhaps she appreciated it more than anyone.

"I thought, 'Oh, my God, you guys, you keep making me do this mom crying thing. Mommy happy tears,'" Daly said. "And you could feel their hearts."

It wasn't the first time Daly and her son had seen the Illeagles, but

it was the first time John had been pulled up onstage in the middle of a show to join them.

"He loves music," she said of her son, "and '70s rock."

Daly first discovered the band a few years ago when she and her husband, Mike, were looking for a concert to take John to for his birthday. Someone mentioned the Illeagles.

They made the trek all the way up to Ukiah to see them that first time. Daly coordinated with the venue for an introduction with

(See ILLEAGLES, page 8)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Classifieds	11	Livermore Lab Foundation Turns 10	2
Editorial	4	PG&E Buys Former Workday Office in Pleasanton	3
Mailbox	4	Christina Cavallaro's 'Heart of the Valley' Column	8
Obituaries	9	Historic Win Gives Livermore Fans More to Cheer About	10
Sports	10	Legendary Boyz II Men Head to Alameda County Fair in July	12

— VISIT WWW.INDEPENDENTNEWS.COM FOR DAILY ONLINE NEWS —

PET OF THE WEEK



MAX

Love may be blind, but Max is only partially blind, which doesn't stop him from seeing straight into your heart. This sweetheart is a staff favorite who's ready to be your ultimate lap cat, showering you with cuddles and affection. He's lived with other cats before but is equally happy as your one-and-only Valentine. Adopt Max for just \$14 during our Adults Only special through February 14. Call (925) 426-8656, or email info@valleyhumane.org to get started with the adoption process. (Photo courtesy of Valley Humane)

Livermore Lab Foundation Hits 10-Year Mark

By David Jen

LIVERMORE — Livermore Lab Foundation (LLF), the philanthropic partner of Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL), celebrates its 10th anniversary this year, marking a decade of support for research in areas such as neurodegenerative diseases, Earth and

that want to do this important work," Allen said.

The foundation awards fellowships and research stipends to undergraduate and graduate students interested in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM), with a focus on first-generation college students and those with financial needs.

"Our program is really

or different communities where the lab might have an interest in growing its relationships."

The students, through work with LLNL mentors, learn technical skills, make connections and experience science at the world-renowned lab to possibly begin a STEM career and contribute to the nation's STEM

ward," Allen said of some donors who were themselves shaped by their experiences at LLNL. "A lot of them say they appreciate that the fellowships provide summer and, in some cases, full-year engagements with the lab for students."

The foundation has raised over \$11 million over its lifetime, with support from individual donors having grown steadily over the years. Roughly half of LLF's funding has gone to climate and carbon-management initiatives, \$2 million to support neurodegenerative disease research, and the remainder has funded its other impact areas, such as fusion and STEM leadership.

LLF funded, for example, the Getting to Neutral report, which laid out a roadmap in January 2020 for California to achieve carbon neutrality. After informing conversations in Sacramento, the report went on to inspire Department of Energy funding for a similar report, Roads to Removal, which in December 2023 looked into how the entire country could achieve carbon neutrality.

Last year, LLF worked with Three Valleys Community Foundation to submit a proposal to a county grant program combating the opioid crisis, resulting in a first-of-its-kind rapid fentanyl detection kit.

The tool will "be much more cost effective and user-friendly than what exists now," Allen said. "It can help first responders and community agencies very quickly detect if there is fentanyl present in a situation that they might find themselves in and then ensure the safety

of their law-enforcement community workers."

The foundation, in partnership with LLNL, is currently working through its summer-fellows selection now, and those students will work through the program from May through September. LLF will hold its Summer Showcase, where students share their summer research with the public, on Aug. 5.

"We're making it a little splashier this year, because it's our anniversary," Allen said. "It's a chance to really bring together lab leadership,

our donors, the foundation and our students, and kind of celebrate those who want to support science today for better science tomorrow."



LLF Executive Director Sally Allen and LLF Program Associate Jesse Dupuis are shown at a recent science community event. (Photo courtesy of LLF)

atmospheric science, and fusion energy.

More fundamentally, the foundation's "bread and butter" since its inception has been its support for students, said LLF Executive Director Sally Allen.

"It gives you a lot of hope for the future when there continues to be this steady pipeline of young people

designed for students who wouldn't otherwise have an in at the lab, or have a connection, or might not even consider a national laboratory as a place to pursue a research opportunity," Allen said. "Because we're independent and kind of outside of the lab, our internship program can target different schools or areas of the state,

pipeline. Over its lifetime, LLF has awarded about 140 fellowships with an estimated 40 more expected this year.

Individual donors, many from the Tri-Valley, also point to the foundation's student programs as one of its most appealing activities.

"They really are compelled to kind of pay it for-

Moms, Sons Notch 20,000 Volunteer Hours

LIVERMORE — The Livermore chapter of the Young Men's Service League (YMSL) is celebrating five

years of service and nearly 20,000 hours of philanthropy.

Since 2021, mother and

son members have volunteered 1,650 hours for environmental protection, 7,350 hours helping families in need, 7,000 hours supporting those who are hungry or homeless, 1,560 hours aiding people with disabilities, and 1,800 hours towards causes related to veterans, the military or public safety, according to the service organization.

YMSL is a national non-profit that encourages mothers and their teenage sons to volunteer during four years of high school. Students at Livermore and Granada High School can apply their service hours towards a Community Service Cord at graduation.

The chapter is currently enrolling eighth-grade stu-

dents for the class of 2030.

For more information, go to ymsl.org.



Andrea & Aiden McEneaney building bed frames. (Photo — Aimee L. White)

BART Prepares to Decide on Major Cuts, Including Station Eliminations

DUBLIN — Bart Board President Melissa Hernandez issued a statement on Feb. 10 regarding proposed cuts to service to be discussed at an upcoming board workshop on Feb. 12.

"I joined the BART Board in 2024 to use my experience in transportation policy to help a system in trouble. So many of us in our community depend on BART as an affordable way to move around and we cannot let this system fail," Hernandez said in a statement. "There have been recent successes in increasing ridership and revenue through installation of new fare gates, cleaner trains and stations, and a 41% decrease in crime

on BART. However, BART's fiscal problems are a long-standing issue and will not be solved overnight, especially with the challenges of the pandemic and the change in people's commuting habits.

"Thursday staff will present the board with a scenario to close the majority of stations in southern Alameda County and the Tri-Valley and reduce hours of operation. Three of the four stations in my BART District are proposed for system-wide closure. This is not acceptable. Residents here rely on BART as an affordable option to get to and from work. Many will face economic hardships and the fear their job may be in

jeopardy as they find their non-BART options are less affordable and less reliable.

"Residents here also provide a disproportionate share of sales tax revenue that funds BART's operations. The proposed station closures are not just inequitable, but also unfair.

"We know fewer trains mean more cars on the road—this leads to congestion, more air pollution, and more time and money wasted on commuting. Staff needs to come to the Board with more than a 'shock and awe' proposal. I expect a more thoughtful analysis and a deeper dive into how we can save money. We can't fix this problem by hurting the riders."

The Pedrozzi Scholarship Foundation Deadline Fast Approaching for 2026

LIVERMORE — The deadline to apply for Pedrozzi Foundation scholarships for 2026 is Friday, Feb. 27.

Founded in 2004 with an \$8 million endowment from the late Livermore businessman Mario Pedrozzi, the foundation awards scholarships to graduates of the Livermore Valley Joint Unified

School District and seminarians at St. Patrick's Seminary in Menlo Park who graduated from any high school in Alameda County.

Since 2008, the Livermore-based foundation has awarded more than \$7 million in scholarships to about 2,000 students.

The scholarships can be

used to cover costs associated with vocational training programs, as well as attending community colleges and four-year universities.

Most scholarships are \$1,000 and can be extended for up to four years.

For more information, and to apply online, go to pedrozzi.org.

REED

PLUMBING INC.

(925)-371-5671

Commitment
Honesty &
Integrity

New on the market!

727 Del Mar Avenue \$1,098,000
3 bed, 2 bath, ~1404 sq ft, ~6000 sq ft lot
South Livermore Sunset West totally upgraded and ready for move in!

LINDA DIAZ FUTRAL
Broker/Realtor
925.980.3561
linda@lindafutral.com
www.lindafutral.com
License #00257605

LUXICOR
REAL ESTATE

1031 Real Estate Exchange - *Defer Taxes
*Diversify *Simple Ownership

A 1031 Exchange allows owners of an appreciated investment or business property to defer capital gains taxes by reinvesting into qualifying replacement property. This includes institutional-quality real estate shares.

Benefits of a REIT - Real Estate Investment Trust

- Capital gains tax deferral
- Provide liquidity options over time
- Diversified, passive real estate ownership
- Easier to transfer to multiple heirs
- Greater control over when and how much tax is to be paid over time
- Ideal for long term estate and tax planning strategies

As always, you should consult a qualified tax professional for tax related questions. We do not provide tax advice.

WANDA THOMPSON

(925)858-9128

411 South L Street, Ste. E, Livermore, CA 94550
Real Estate Broker dres#00983781 - Mortgage Broker nmls #244633
"From Homes to Loans - Your Full Service Real Estate Team" ©

LIVERMORE VALLEY arts LIVE AT THE BANKHEAD

INTERNATIONAL GUITAR NIGHT

FRI 2•20•2026 | 8PM

RAE DOROUGH SPEAKER SERIES

Adventurer
Peter Hillary:
70 Years of Everest
THU 3-5-2026 | 7:30PM
Speaker. Mountaineering. Captivating.

GET TICKETS NOW!

LivermoreArts.org | 925.373.6800

Alameda County Board Approves ICE-Free Zones

By Sanestina Hunter

TRI-VALLEY — The Alameda County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously on Jan. 27 to approve two policies that restrict the use of county property for immigration enforcement and set new guidelines for how county staff responds to U.S. Immigration and Customs

and promote public safety, including safeguarding access to county services, courts, hospitals and health care facilities.

The second policy establishes “Ice-Free Zones” on county-owned and county-controlled property, restricting its use for civil immigration enforcement activities such as staging

and promote public safety, including safeguarding access to county services, courts, hospitals and health care facilities.

and promote public safety, including safeguarding access to county services, courts, hospitals and health care facilities.

The second policy establishes “Ice-Free Zones” on county-owned and county-controlled property, restricting its use for civil immigration enforcement activities such as staging

advancing to the full board. According to a county staff report, previous county policies did not explicitly restrict federal immigration agencies from using county-owned land or facilities for operations, staging or surveillance.

Without clearer rules, staff warned, county property could be used in ways that undermine trust between immigrant communities and local government.

Bas said the policies also grew out of concerns raised last fall, after ICE and U.S. Border Patrol agents were reported to be preparing to stage at Coast Guard Island in Oakland for a planned operation that was later canceled.

Followed by national attention, ICE has intensified in recent weeks following fatal encounters involving federal immigration agents in Minneapolis — incidents county leaders said helped inform the urgency of local policy decisions.

On Jan. 7, 37-year-old Renee Good, a U.S. citizen, was shot and killed during an immigration enforcement operation, according to public reports. Weeks later, on Jan. 24, Alex Pretti, a 37-year-old U.S. citizen and intensive care unit nurse, was shot and killed during a separate enforcement action that sparked protests.

County supervisors pointed to those deaths as examples of escalating enforcement tactics that have heightened fear and concern within immigrant communities nationwide.

Officials said the policies

also mirror similar efforts in nearby Santa Clara County and in cities such as Los Angeles, Chicago and Portland, Oregon, where local governments have adopted comparable safeguards.

Supervisor Bas represents Alameda County’s Fifth District, which includes Albany, Berkeley, Emeryville, Piedmont and portions of Oakland. She also chairs the Alameda County Together for All Ad Hoc Committee, which focuses on protecting vulnerable communities and access to county safety-net services.

Meanwhile, in the Tri-Valley, city officials and residents have taken steps reflecting similar concerns about ICE activity.

In Dublin, the city council voted unanimously in December 2025 to oppose reopening or repurposing the former Federal Correctional Institution Dublin for immigration detention, following reports earlier that year that federal agencies had evaluated the vacant site.

City officials and com-

munity members said any detention-related use of the site could affect public safety and quality of life.

Community response in the Tri-Valley extended beyond city government.

Students, parents and educators across the region have organized protests and walkouts in solidarity with immigrant communities amid heightened ICE activity across the country. In January, more than 2,000 students, teachers, parents and residents gathered in downtown Livermore to call for protections for immigrant families. More recently, student walkouts were also reported in Pleasanton, including at Foothill and Amador High Schools.



Amador Valley High School in Pleasanton joined another coordinated ICE walkout on Feb. 4. Students at Foothill High School also left classrooms exercising their rights to engage in free speech and peaceful assembly. (Photo — Jacob Clouser)

Enforcement (ICE) activity.

The policies take effect immediately. Supervisor Nikki Fortunato Bas brought the ordinances forward after months of committee review.

“Alameda County is standing firmly on the right side of justice and democracy,” Bas said in a statement. “The policies make it clear that every resident has the right to access the county’s safety-net services without fear. We will not tolerate

county prepares for immigration enforcement activity, and where ICE activity is restricted.

The first policy directs the county administrator to develop a coordinated immigration enforcement response plan outlining rapid-response protocols among county agencies and community partners.

County officials said the plan is intended to protect individual rights, ensure continued access to services

areas, processing locations or operations bases.

The restrictions also apply to parking lots, garages, vacant lots and nonpublic areas of county buildings, and require clear signage, physical barriers where appropriate, and consistent enforcement procedures.

The proposals were first reviewed by the Alameda County Together for All Ad Hoc Committee during meetings on Nov. 6, 2025, and Jan. 15, 2026, before

PG&E Purchases Workday’s Previous Tri-Valley Office Building in Pleasanton

By Sanestina Hunter

PLEASANTON — Pacific Gas and Electric Company purchased a Pleasanton office building previously occupied by Workday, a cloud-based human resources and financial software company, to support its regional workforce.

The five-story building, located at 5928 Stoneridge Mall Road, totals 209,000 square feet and includes a parking structure.

PG&E spokesperson Tamar Sarkissian confirmed the transaction to The Independent.

“We have purchased an office to provide adequate office workspace for our coworkers who are supporting the greater Bay Area, including the Tri-Valley,” Sarkissian said.

While Sarkissian declined to disclose the purchase price, public filings with the Alameda County Clerk-Recorder’s Office indicate the property sold for \$21.8 million.

The Stoneridge Mall Road property is adjacent to Interstate 580 and the Dublin-Pleasanton BART station, offering region-

al access for employees commuting from across the Tri-Valley and East Bay.

The sale marks a change in ownership for a site that had been part of Workday’s Pleasanton office footprint.

Workday, which maintains its global headquarters in Pleasanton, owns multiple office buildings in the area.

The software company purchased the 5928 Stoneridge Mall Road property in 2016 from Safeway, which is operated by Albertsons Companies and previously used the site for corporate headquarters operations.

The sale follows recent workforce reductions at Workday. Earlier this month, the company disclosed an additional round of layoffs affecting about 400 employees, or roughly 2% of its global workforce, according to a regulatory filing.

The announcement followed a larger workforce reduction in February 2025, when the company said it would cut approximately 1,750 jobs as part of a broader restructuring.

The Independent reached out to Workday for comment

on the sale but did not receive a response by the time of publication.

As Oakland-based PG&E continues to evaluate its office needs, the Pleasanton purchase follows the relocation of its longtime corporate headquarters from San Francisco to Oakland, which was completed in 2023.

The move also comes amid broader shifts in how large organizations are using office space across the Bay Area, as companies balance remote and hybrid work with the need for centralized, regionally accessible offices.

Pleasanton has long served as a hub for technology companies and large corporate campuses, particularly for firms seeking proximity to Silicon Valley and San Francisco while operating in a suburban setting.

Major employers with a presence in the area include Oracle and Roche Diagnostics.

No timeline has been announced for when PG&E employees may begin occupying the building or how many workers the site is expected to accommodate.

The site is expected to

function as internal office space for employees rather than a public-facing facility.

Member SIPC
edwardjones.com

Compare our CD rates

Bank-issued, FDIC-insured

3.80 % APY*	3.80 % APY*	3.75 % APY*
3-Month	6-Month	1-Year

Call or visit your local financial advisor today

Gabriel E Wright
 Financial Advisor
 1762 First Street
 Livermore, CA 94550
 925-453-2267

*Annual Percentage Yield (APY) effective 02/06/26. CDs offered by Edward Jones are bank-issued and FDIC-insured up to \$250,000 (principal and interest accrued but not yet paid) per depositor, per insured depository institution, for each account ownership category. Please visit www.fdic.gov or contact your financial advisor for additional information. Subject to availability and price change. CD values are subject to interest rate risk such that when interest rates rise, the prices of CDs can decrease. If CDs are sold prior to maturity, the investor can lose principal value. FDIC insurance does not cover losses in market value. Early withdrawal may not be permitted. Yields quoted are net of all commissions. CDs require the distribution of interest and do not allow interest to compound. CDs offered through Edward Jones are issued by banks and thrifts nationwide. All CDs sold by Edward Jones are registered with the Depository Trust Corp. (DTC).
 FDI-1867N-A AECSPAD 2351912

WILD & SCENIC[®] FILM FESTIVAL

where activism gets inspired

Experience the beauty, adventure, and ingenuity shaping our world on the big screen!

Schedule:

- 5 - 6:40pm: Lobby Eco Fair Open
- 5:30 - 6:15pm: Panel Discussion
- 6:45 - 8pm: Film Program Part 1
- 8:00 - 8:25pm: Intermission
- 8:25 - 9:20pm: Film Program Part 2

Learn more and get tickets now!

Friday, February 27th, 2026
 Livermore Bankhead Theater

Does the Thought of DOWNSIZING & Moving Overwhelm you?

Friday, March 6th
 Zephyr Grill & Bar
 1736 First St, Livermore
 Time: 11:00am - 1:00pm

Lunch will be served! Space is limited so please call today to reserve your spot.
 Call Debbie at **925-525-1584**

If you, or a loved one have thought about moving into senior housing or downsizing, this **FREE** seminar is for you!

Topics To Be Discussed

- ◆ Real Estate Market Trends
- ◆ What To Do with Your "Stuff"
- ◆ Get the Most \$ for Your Home
- ◆ Making your Move Stress-Free
- ◆ Preparing Your Home to Sell
- ◆ Senior Housing

Special Guest Speakers

Janet Clay
Chicago Title

Elizabeth Sanchez
Heritage Estates

Greg Hawkins
Home Smiles

Call to Reserve Your Spot Today!

Debbie Byrnes
 Realtor, CA DRE# 02077395 • (925) 525-1584
homes@debbiebyrnes.com
www.DebbieByrnes.com

Madeline Walker
 Realtor, CA DRE# 00979099 • (510) 703-8080
homesgmadelinewalker.com
www.madelinewalker.com

EDITORIAL

Ahead of the Fall Election, We Need to Prepare To Block Trump's Threats to Steal the Vote

You'll have to hand this to President Trump: he never leaves any doubt about what he thinks.

When he went on a podcast on Feb. 2 hosted by his former FBI Director Dan Bongino, Trump let everyone know what his plan was: to have the federal government take control of elections.

Such a plan is an explicit violation of the Constitution, but Trump has never let legality get in the way of his lust for power. He's proved that ample times, most importantly on Jan. 6, 2021, when he incited an insurrection to overturn the results of his election loss... a crime for which he's yet to be punished, we should note.

His words to Bongino were effectively a promise: he will rig the vote in the upcoming elections by any means possible. His contempt for democracy and the rule of law has been on full display since his first term. There are no adults in the current administration who might possibly discourage his worst instincts.

So given that, there are things we

have to do to ensure that lawlessness does not prevail in November.

The first is to recognize that elections, which the Constitution delegates to the states, must remain so. The states — including California but especially swing states that are the focus of much of Trump's anger — should be seeking court injunctions now against any kind of federal interference, especially deployment of federal officers to polling sites to intimidate all voters, but particularly those of color. This is something Trump's allies have specifically endorsed.

There should also be pre-emptive measures taken to protect the integrity of the vote, both in ensuring that it happens and that the process is free from interference, either officially or from the mobs likely to assemble in response to whatever conspiracy theory Trump tweeted out that morning.

On that note, states should take measures to strengthen their existing policies to ensure the integrity of elections: transparency of the voting and tabulation processes, including

providing voters with confirmation that their vote has been counted accurately. That includes budgeting for contingencies if the elections offices need to hire more staff, or security.

More than anything else, we also need to ensure that voters will not have to fear for their safety, either from federal agents or partisan mobs. Trump's militarization of ICE and the Border Patrol has resulted in the jailing and killing of citizens. It's not about immigration, but about terrorizing the American people into submission, no matter their citizenship.

And that means we'll need the public to hold the states to their obligations. Throughout the history of the country, civil rights, including the right to vote, have only been won or preserved due to mass movements leading the charge and setting the agenda. The abolition of slavery, women's suffrage, the Civil Rights movement, the gay rights movement were all popular causes that successfully got the government to change directions.

That means supporting our neigh-

bors in pushing back against ICE and other abuses of power, but it also means civic participation: we need to vote and do it early, especially if you're mailing in your vote, since it's clear one of Trump's prongs of attack will be on ballots arriving after Election Day. We should also be volunteering to work the polls in the election, and also as poll watchers to make sure voters aren't being intimidated. Furthermore, we can write or call our state legislators, Assembly member Rebecca Bauer-Kahan and Senator Jerry McNerney, to encourage them to support legislation that will guarantee the security and accuracy of the vote.

We're seeing the beginnings of that now, from Los Angeles to Washington, D.C., Minnesota to Portland, and right here in Livermore, Pleasanton and Dublin. People coming together in solidarity is the only way democracy will be preserved and strengthened.

State leaders across the U.S. need to recognize that and get on board.

MAILBOX

Mailbox Guidelines:

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

End-of-Life Doula Barbara Reynolds, Livermore

In case your readers do not know what an end-of-life doula/guide/companion is, I would like to explain. In our society, most often 'death' is not only not talked about, but many of us also avoid the topic all together. So, when a doctor informs us that our time is near, it is normal to feel afraid because we don't know what to expect. First, an end-of-life doula is a non-medical complement to hospice care. The dying person's physical, emotional and spiritual needs and wishes are prioritized. The first thing I would say to the dying person is, "How may I help you to make your life fulfilling right now?" Their answer might be for the doula to assist with assigning recipient names to gifts of remembrance. Or it might be to spend time educating the dying person (at their request) about the physical aspects of the dying process. The doula may spend time with the dying person to release the family caregiver for rest and rejuvenation. The doula may assist with scheduling visits by friends and family. And the doula may assist the family with obituary writing and

funeral plans. There are so many ways a doula can help during such a challenging time. For more information, the National End-of-Life Doula Alliance, a nonprofit, is a great resource; it even has a national directory of doulas: www.nedalliance.org

Dublin City Council Has Become a Radical Group Mike Grant, Dublin

Like the title says, the Dublin City Council has become a radical left-wing group not representing the 72,000 citizens. It looks like we have our own Zohran Mamdani on our council. Kashef Qaadri has the same views as the mayor of New York, and his true colors are coming out. For Jean Josey, we have always known she was anti-American with her views, but on Tuesday, Feb. 3, 2026, they both showed that they are radicals and don't care about anyone except a few in town. It's not the 72,000, that's for sure!

They started adding to the Dublin legislative platform document for 2026 with anti-public safety items against law enforcement. Going back to June of 2025, they both were showing that they don't

support the oath of office they took. "Support and defend the constitution against all enemies, foreign and domestic." It's looking like they are the enemies of the constitution! Qaadri added items saying our city doesn't care about illegals being in our city, and willing to pay for benefits to support them. He has shown in the past that he supports resisting and blocking ICE from coming to town. This councilmember has put out dangerous words and this will encourage people to block and engage in unlawful actions against ICE, should they come to Dublin. Plus, all this time saying he is all for public safety; that is a 100% lie! He doesn't care about you or your safety at all, or he would keep his mouth shut! All this talk is for VOTES! He is running again in November in the new 4th District, and we need someone in the 4th District to step up and run against this guy so we can get him out of office.

Now Jean Josey added words to the document saying that she doesn't want any "information about illegals in Dublin shared with ICE." In other words, no help for our federal government to apprehend illegals and get them out of Dublin. Basically, help hide them in our town and say nothing to federal authorities. Both of these council members are all about keeping the illegal criminals on our streets over protecting our own Dublin citizens. Sounds just like the New York City mayor and Minneapolis mayor and councils. We all know how that turned out, interfering with law enforcement. Go ICE!

Rebuilding National Integrity Randy Simpson, Livermore

I was raised in a Republican household. My parents were Republicans largely because their parents were Republicans, and so on. It has been many years since I switched my registration from Republican to non-partisan. I did that because I was uncomfortable aligning fully with one party or the other. There were positions I agreed or disagreed with in both the Democratic and the Republican parties.

Things have changed. The Republican party of my parents, and their parents, no

longer exists. There are many reasons why this happened, but it happened. It should turn heads that MAGAism has pardoned the people who killed our police defending our Capital on January 6th, and is now sending heavily armed masked federal agents to our communities and terrifying them. There is now a cult of MAGAs that is distinct from the moderate Republicans of yesteryear.

I would prefer to stay quiet on politics. Yet MAGA extremism requires us to act to protect democracy and our children's futures. A friend said that until now, our values have been easy to hold because they have not cost us anything. I agree with that. We now need to come together and do some work to oppose tyranny; it is unconscionable to do otherwise.

Those who actively or passively support MAGAism will not fare well when our history is written. What will their children and grandchildren think of them not defending their freedom and future when they had the chance to do so? All political parties need to unite with urgency to reverse the trajectory of the MAGA dystopia. To not act is to be complicit.

There is hope. Last Friday I did something new; I participated in an anti-MAGA rally in downtown Livermore. I was impressed by the number of attendees, the unified cross section of the community, and the quality of the youth there. The endorsement of the event by honking cars could be heard all afternoon.

How we vote matters. I hope that we will not vote by historical political party affiliation inertia but get involved in understanding issues while always fact checking. We need to actively reach out to others and listen to their points of view. It is time to get out of our comfort zones and do something. Together we can defeat MAGAism and rebuild national integrity.

Election Alert Ron Dueltgen, Livermore

Our Felon-in-Chief and his many minions are proven masters of deflection, deception, delay and denial. They also are good at showing us just what they are going to do, even when we don't (or don't want to) recognize it.

The current surge in ICE operations across the country in blue cities and states is a good example of the latter.

In my opinion, these massive influxes of armed pseudo-troops are showing us exactly what is intended for the election this fall and, if necessary, 2028. I believe they want us to become injured to heavily armed goons all over our streets, especially at polling places, to harass and intimidate would-be voters. This goes along with the Regime's strong objections to mail-in voting: they would have to put a goon at each address to keep us from mailing our ballot. And now, with the FBI raid on ballot storage in Georgia, we can see that they will not stop at trying to prevent voting but will also attempt to confiscate mailed-in ballots and prevent counting of ballots entirely.

Remember, they don't have to do this in every city in every state; only in the blue states and cities where they know they will lose, so the number of jack-boots doesn't have to be huge — just enough to sway the election in 2026. Recall that he said, "You'll never have to vote again," telling us exactly what he and his minions plan to do.

What is the remedy? I am not optimistic. The feckless U.S. Supreme Court hasn't shown an inclination to stop them. Federal courts have shown more backbone but also have admitted that the Regime routinely ignores them. The prospect of National Guard troops mobilized by states' governors to protect polling places exchanging fire with Noem's gestapo is beyond frightening and disastrous but, unfortunately, not beyond possibility. And where will the U.S. Military be? On the side of Project 2025 or the Constitution?

Am I a Socialist Now? Samuel Warner, Pleasanton

I always thought that as Republicans, we were supposed to be: living frugally and working hard, and so then being able to live comfortably with our families — with healthcare, paved roads, fire departments, police, defense, free education and public servants, all paid for with our taxes, and with a large middle class keeping

the economy going. Maybe the far-right Republicans are correct in saying that we should try to make America great again, but don't realize that our greatness was in fulfilling this American dream, kept alive by everyone paying their fair share. We were greater when the wealthy weren't so excessively rich — and were taxed a MUCH higher percentage of their wealth.

Research shows: CEO pay has significantly outpaced worker wages, with the average CEO earning 281 times more than the typical worker in 2024, compared to just 21 times more in 1965. That money could provide much-needed services for all Americans. Now most of America's wealth collects at the top. There IS enough money for us all to have a healthy and strong society — it's just divided unevenly. Do you really believe that the CEO works 281 times harder than a farmer? It's like a game of Monopoly; now the game is ending, one person wins, and everybody else gets nothing. Time to start a new game. I just wish that we could add a new rule where you could still be winning, but that there is a limit to how much you can own so that everyone can keep playing the game. We were greater when some of the money that the top 1% now hoard (and still don't seem to have enough of) was spread out for everyone to use communally. (Isn't that what "socialism" is?) I used to think that's what Republicanism stood for. When we didn't attack our own citizens, or blame those less fortunate who may have fled much worse circumstances.

And now he's suing the IRS — for disclosing his tax returns? As every other president has willingly done? Guess what: that \$10 billion will come straight from our tax reserves. According to the "New Yorker", Trump and family profited off the presidency by an estimated \$4 billion in 2025. That's over \$450,000 per hour. We don't need to scapegoat immigrants trying to make it here — look up the wealth pyramid to see where the money is.

(See MAILBOX, page 5)

THE Independent

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

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

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

Advertising and subscription rates may be obtained by calling (925)243-8000 during regular business hours or by emailing info@independentnews.com.

Editorial information may be submitted by emailing editor@independentnews.com

www.independentnews.com



February 6 marked the last day of employment for former East Bay Regional Park District general manager Sabrina Landreth, who had been on a leave of absence since Nov. 6. Landreth resigned from her position on Nov. 6 two days after a performance review. On Nov. 9, Landreth made a public statement that the Board had constructively terminated her. She added that she had hired publicist Sam Singer and intended to pursue legal action related to her departure. (Photo courtesy of East Bay Regional Park District)

MAILBOX

(Continued from page 4)

Regarding Your Editorial "The Tide is Turning Against ICE and Trump"

Anthony Beckett, Pleasanton

Once upon a time your editorial was fairly balanced and addressed local issues that interested all of us. You know, schools, utilities, sports even. Unfortunately, it has devolved into a purely anti-Trump screed, ignorant of (or willfully ignoring) the facts, devoid of any journalistic integrity. Please don't allow anonymous activists to use the editorial as a propagandist soapbox. It's just a letter to the editor disguised as something bigger.

A Memory Quiz

Ramona Krausnick, Dublin

This is a quiz:
 1. Does anyone remember during Trump's first term when he met with Putin in Helsinki and that there were no American reporters or translators allowed in the meeting? Was Putin showing Trump how to turn the U.S. into an autocracy like Russia?
 2. Does anyone remember Trump crossing the border line into N. Korea during his first term and shaking hands with Kim Jong Un? Is that why Trump said Un sent him a loving letter? What did they discuss?
 3. Does anyone remember Trump's niece Mary (who is a psychologist) saying how deeply mentally damaged he is? Do his cruel, heartless and dictatorial actions confirm this?
 4. Does anyone remember during the 2024 campaign Trump saying that if people vote for him, they'll never have to vote again? Will we ever have another election, since he wants elections to be run by the Republican Party and he's already working on that?
 5. Does anyone remember before his first term, Ivana Trump, his first wife, saying that he loved listening to Hitler's speeches? What did Hitler say that Trump loved so much?
 6. Has anyone else read Project 2025 besides those who read it and didn't vote for him? Will those who didn't read it wake up soon and say, "what happened?"
 7. Does anyone remember the January 6, 2021, insurrection started by Trump where people were injured and several were killed, and that he wanted his VP Mike Pence hanged? Do the Republicans in Congress remember this? Are the 1,600 insurrections that Trump pardoned on day one of this term the masked ICE agents who are terrorizing our cities?
 Why is he still in the Oval Office? Are the only ones who remember the above the people who didn't vote

for him? Many more voters needed to remember, and they didn't.

The Unraveling of the United States Empire

Greg Scott, Livermore

The United States is unraveling on multiple fronts: economically, politically, socially, morally — amongst others. Foreign and many domestic entities are well aware of this. The counter to U.S. military and economic dominant power is simply to stop buying U.S. debt, trading in U.S. dollars (USD), travelling to the U.S., and in general "Sell America."

A huge U.S. Achille's heel is its debt. The federal debt is now more than \$38.4 trillion, 125% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Currently, the federal deficit is annually running the highest share of GDP since World War II and is increasing \$8 billion every day. We are in a period of fiscal dominance, which is political, counter to a Mailbox letter of two months ago. In addition, we are ambivalent to the U.S. private debt now being 142% of GDP — the lowest percentage in eleven years. A reckoning is coming.

It is unlikely that the U.S. is in danger of any imminent collapse, economically, or otherwise. USD is more than double in global currency assets of its nearest competitor — the Euro — though that position is eroding fast, which is dangerous for USD — the world's reserve currency since the Bretton Woods Agreement in 1944 — and maintaining U.S. debt levels. In the last year, U.S. Treasury assets — the number one form of collateral on the planet — have been exceeded by gold reserve assets in most of the world's central banks.

The U.S. is approaching a "soft default." That's not a subjective statement: It is a statement of mathematical evidence. A soft default is where the interest payments on the federal deficit exceed or equal 50% of tax receipts. We are at 35% now, and will reach, by current trends, 50% in 2028 to 2030. The problem here is that financial markets, especially equities (stocks) and bond markets, are forward-looking and will react much sooner.

There are three ways to get out of this federal debt: default (unlikely), raise taxes and cut fiscal spending drastically (a political impossibility), or to price inflate and money supply inflate via currency. The most likely is the latter.

(Please note: Price inflation and money supply inflation are two different entities that intersect (overlap). They are neither synonymous, nor

completely distinct.)

Both price inflation and excessive money supply growth weaken the affordability of necessities prohibitively, except for the top ten percent in wealth.

The ICE Student Rally

Owen Brovont, Livermore

The headline story in the February 5th edition of the Livermore Independent entitled Student ICE Walkout in Livermore draws Thousands at Rally was disappointing. The story is disheartening because it reflects the impact of propaganda that has been infusing most of the dominant media coverage of the unrest infecting Minneapolis Minnesota, and to a lesser degree, other cities throughout the United States. It also reflects an abysmal level of confusion and ignorance in the Livermore participants, both youth and adult. I am a veteran, as was my father, brother, my son, and my father-in-law. My father and father-in-law, veterans of WWII, have passed to their rewards, as the saying goes, and I am knocking on the door of 84. I have had the opportunity — logically denied to the youth in school, and apparently most of their adult and middle-aged teachers and school administrators — to have watched the evolution of the American society over the past six decades. I believe that the country, which my family members protected, is in the process of disappearing. The current crop of citizens, and the younger school aged generations, are virtually ignorant of America's original promise and its founding goals of freedom and opportunity. Contemporary Americans have been intentionally and mercilessly propagandized by the news media for years to believe that America belongs to anyone who wants to come here — and no strings attached.

What is going on in America today is born of sheer ignorance and not a little stupidity — parroting ideas resting on ignorance is never a good policy! America is under siege by both internal and external forces intending to tear down the democratic republic that is the United States and replace it with one of the forms of social governance loosely falling under the rubric of totalitarianism. Much of the driving ideological misrepresentations are foisted upon the population under the guidance of agents of foreign and domestic operatives of what used to be called fifth columnists. America is vulnerable because Americans have become indifferent and ignorant and easily persuaded to believe interpretations of events organized and demonstrated by people wearing masks and offered by media support. Why wear masks if you truly and openly believe what you are representing? Good question?

As to the youthful protests, they are more representative of guidance from sympathetic ignorance than mature experience and knowledge, the common characteristics of adulthood, the antithesis of youthful ignorance.

Asking for Truth

Lyn Mat, Livermore

It always amazes me that the truth has been shown and documented, but some cannot see what really has happened.

This is in response to Daniella Karo, who wrote that Renee Good was at fault. Daniella, your information is not correct, and it is questionable at best.

I encourage you to relook at all the footage that was collected of the horrible murder of this young woman. What you are believing in are called lies, which Trump is fantastic at. If ICE was not at fault, I would

agree that she was at fault, but the pictures don't lie. ICE killed this woman without even a thought of what she was really doing. One last question: Did you not see and hear all the made-up allegations that were being said by "Trump's Group" right after the incident? I am just saying that what is right is right, and lies get you nowhere. All we Americans are asking for is Truth; the real facts.

Reality Check

John Cameron, Dublin

Some have written recently about how we should be supporting ICE, deportations, and current Trump policies.

First, let's look at simple fairness and common sense. In the 80s, they did away with the Fairness Doctrine in media. Then they started the consolidation of corporate media. They eliminated the requirements of history and civics from many classrooms ("dumb us down"). They gave corporations rights that living persons have. They opened the erosion of long-standing Democratic norms and institutions with Citizens United. After that, the ultra-rich were able to literally rewrite policy, purchase the government (quite cheaply), and enrich themselves even further—because what they have is not enough.

Most of what they do is very calculated, well thought out, and very dangerous to everyday working people. They pick divisive issues, keeping us distracted and divided.

Think it's not happening? No federal minimum wage increases from 7.75 an hour; attempts to eliminate or restructure social security; permanent tax breaks for the top income bracket; eliminate overtime pay; enact laws that protect corporate malfeasance written directly by

corporate lobbyists; and so much more...

Bottom line — when you're blaming immigrants, people who don't look like you or talk just like you, then you are buying into their real agenda. You have effectively lost your ability to think for yourself.

Your hate and ignorance are their big win.

A Community Room for Alan Frank

Patricia Munro, Livermore

One of the items included in this week's City Council agenda deserves some publicity. This week, the City Council approved a resolution that names the new Community Room at the Livermore Depot in honor of Alan Frank.

(See MAILBOX, page 6)

FREE - Arthritis Workshop
New treatment options available

- Non-invasive
- Research Proven
- No Medication
- Affordable

Come to learn how regenerative shockwave and EMTT reduces pain and stiffness and improves quality of life so you can enjoy your favorite activities

Instructor: Ida Hirst, PT
 When: **February 24th at 6 PM - 7:30 PM**
 Where: **Physical Therapy Specialties**
 3908 Valley Ave, Ste B Pleasanton
Cost: ABSOLUTELY FREE - but spots are extremely limited.

Call us at 925-417-8005 to reserve your spot!

Seniors Helping Seniors®

In-Home Care Services for Seniors by Seniors

Enjoy the comfort of home with a little extra support from a friend who truly cares.

Companionship & Socialization | Personal Care
 Dementia, Alzheimer's & Memory Care | And More!

Meet the Owners
 Jeffrey & Deanna Macapinlac

Proudly serving seniors in the Tri-Valley area!
 TriValleySHS.com | 925-397-1771

Taste Tri-Valley Restaurant Week

February 20th - March 1st, 2026

Feb 19 Thu Opening Night Chef Collaboration Dinner

Thursday, February 19th | 6PM | Pippal, Dublin

Join us for a vibrant cocktail reception followed by an extraordinary cased dinner that celebrates the global flavors coming from our local kitchens.

PRESENTED BY **FREMONT BANK**

OUR SPONSORS: **WENTE FAMILY VINEYARDS, GREENLEAF, HERZOG, DIAGEO, AC HOTELS, BIRITE, diablo**

HOSTED BY **TRI VALLEY CALIFORNIA** BENEFITTING **SPARC**

Learn more at VisitTriValley.com/RestaurantWeek



February 4 marked the first session of Livermore's Community Police Academy. Livermore Police welcomed 31 community members who signed up to get a behind-the-scenes look at the Livermore Police Department. Over the coming weeks, participants will learn about policing in Livermore, meet the people behind the badge, and gain a deeper understanding of how LPD works with community to keep Livermore safe. (Photo courtesy of LPD)

MAILBOX

(Continued from page 5)

Alan was a polymath — he loved sailing, and throughout his life was active in symphonies and choral groups. He served on the Livermore Amador Symphony Board and was a founding member of the Livermore Valley Opera. As a physicist at the Livermore Lab, Alan specialized in fields having to do with light: lasers, optics, and photography.

One of his great loves — maybe the greatest, apart from his family — was trains and railroad history, especially Livermore's particular railroad history. He wrote three books on that history: Depot, Parallel Paths, and Livermore: Frontier to City, with the last being published just months before he died. He also volunteered with the Pacific Locomotive Association, working on restoration of the Niles Canyon Railroad. His efforts ensured that the Niles Canyon segment of the Transcontinental Railroad was placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

In 2017, the City of Livermore decided to move Livermore's 1892 Railroad Depot to its current location beside the Center Parking Garage. This repurposing allowed it to serve as ticket office and transit center for ACE, LAVTA, and Amtrak. The City consulted with Alan to ensure the building was restored to historical standards.

Naming the Community Room at the Livermore Depot in Alan's honor is only fitting. However, the community room is not quite complete. It could use a kitchenette, an accessible bathroom,

painting, and a few other renovations. Livermore's Rotary Club, of which Alan was a long-time active member, has taken the lead on raising money to complete the work. If you would like to contribute, the link, along with more information, is here: chefgivingcommunity.org/legacy.

Welcome to Trump World / Trump: The Midas Touch?

Rosario Milelli, Pleasanton

King Midas turned everything he touched into gold — until he discovered that gold could not feed, comfort, or sustain life. Donald Trump's record offers a modern inversion of that myth. Everything he touches does not turn to gold. It turns to gilded ruins.

Start with the classic case: casinos. Casinos are designed to print money; the odds favor the house and the cash never stops. Yet Trump bankrupted multiple Atlantic City properties. In a fitting tribute, The Trump Plaza was finally imploded in February 2021.

The White House East Wing, renovated in 1942, housed expanded administrative functions and provided the familiar entrance for State visitors. Recently reduced to a pile of rubble, only to be ultimately replaced by Trump's fantasy of a gilded monarchy.

The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, honoring President Kennedy and long a symbol of the national cultural center of the United States, has effectively gone dark. After Trump's takeover and personnel rebranding, the institution entered a period of

significant decline. Trump, unable to withstand the embarrassment of the rejection by artists and audiences, has decided to renovate, or more precisely tear it down to the steel beams.

Rudy Giuliani offers a human version of the pattern: once celebrated as "America's Mayor" for his leadership after 9/11, he later moved into Trump's inner circle as a fiercely loyal defender. High-profile legal challenges, mounting controversies, and the loss of his law license transformed a figure once associated with steadiness into a pathetic public presence — a gilded ruin of his former prestige.

Trump's effect on people follows a similar pattern. Trump's vengeance knows no limits, seeking utter destruction at all times. Consider Marjorie Taylor Greene, a true loyalist, elevated through Trump's ecosystem and pushed into an increasingly confrontational public role. When loyalty falters, as a single policy disagreement, Trump's pattern is public retaliation — even against longtime allies.

Similarly, the most significant damage is to America's reputation. Allies were insulted and demeaned, threatened with continuing tariff wars, treaties arbitrarily cancelled, and U.S. commitments now questionable at best. Trump is single handedly destroying the world order as we know it.

This is Trump's real Midas touch — not creation, but the slow destruction of institutions, culture, and people into gilded ruins.

A Complete Lack of Character

Frank Cannella, Livermore

Another new low in the Trump administration occurred when a meme on the President's web page depicted former President Obama and his wife Michelle as dancing apes. Of course, the President denied he had anything to do with it and attributed it to an errant staff person, while his press secretary chastised the media for overreacting to the video. One must truly wonder about the White House vetting process involved if such an imbecilic staff person had access to the President's singular means of communicating. Even some Republicans in Congress reacted strongly! And in keeping with the high ethical and principled standards of his administration, the President refused to apologize. Instead, this bastion of integrity suggested the Federal Government should take over elections, particularly in any state or district that didn't vote for Trump. He then suggested to the Senate Minority Leader that he might release 16 billion dollars previously authorized by Congress for New York infrastructure IF the senator could arrange to rename Dulles airport and Penn Central Station after Donald Trump. Mind you, the money was already authorized by Congress; Trump is just arbitrarily holding it hostage to his requested name changes. How is it possible such an egocentric person can be so completely lacking in character? I can only imagine what will be next.

Face Yourself

Evelyn Mitschelen, Livermore

I feel sorry for those people who call out and hate. You know, if our whole country does that, our country will fall.

Usually, these people do not like themselves, and have no identity. Our identity is not in our job, etc. Our identity is how we act, love and care for others. The hate is eating you; you do not respect yourself. Jesus is our identity. He changes our lives and gives us love we don't deserve. Jesus enters our life and changes us, not we ourselves. Take the time to look at yourself, let go of all the hate. You will feel good and serve others. Seek the life that will change you.

We respond to God's kindness, not a big stick. We love God because He first loved us.

The Wrong Way to Enforce the Law

Keith Jackson, Dublin

ICE is losing public support. In last week's paper, along with the editorial from the Independent titled "The Tide is Turning Against ICE and Trump", and the article about 2,000 students protesting ICE in Livermore, (thanks to everyone involved,) there were also letters from a couple of Trump supporters of ICE. One attacked a letter I previously sent, accusing me of "errors, lies and misconceptions." He even mentioned me by name nine times. A new record for me. He stated that Trump was doing what the majority of Americans want him to do. Every poll says otherwise, is that a lie? He said that protesters are not peaceful. You can watch the protests and see what is happening yourself. Believe your eyes and not the Trump supporters' lies. Another writer in the same paper stated that protesters in Minneapolis over the killing of unarmed protesters were just "temper tantrums" because they were not getting their way, and were "unbecoming". All this because his mommy never got him the go-kart he wanted. Now that is just sad...and dumb.

Obama and Biden both deported many people; but there is a right way and a wrong way to do anything, even immigration enforcement. Most people agree that violent criminals need to be arrested. Most people also know that this is not what is being done. You will not find these violent criminals working at the local fast-food restaurant or car washes. You can see with your own eyes that immigrants, who may or may not be here illegally (which is a misdemeanor) are being abused. Enforcing the law does not necessitate

deploying masked, heavily armed gangs of agents who use cruelty, gang violence and unnecessary aggression against immigrants and protesters without any fear of being held to account for their actions. It does not require snatching people off the streets or from asylum hearings and sending them out of state before the courts can make a ruling. With the violations of the law, ignoring court orders, and killing unarmed protesters, this is clearly the wrong way to enforce the law. Even Trump supporters must see this. Or do they? Do they even care? Do you?

A Cheat is A Liar, Part 2

Patricia Thorstad, Livermore

I declare: In a village, putting your garage-stuff out in the driveway, to sort it out, during a pandemic, is a political act.

Why? I realize it now but couldn't figure it out then: I am "putting my stuff" out there for people to see while I am trying to carve out a little space and make a cherry Man-Cave for myself. Think "Pimp Your Garage". I live in a duet.

It started out small. The washer-dryer makes a good desktop, but I keep the washer top clear. I use a tray and have meals out there when the hubby or others are watching media I am not interested in. My Man-Cave swivel large-screen smart T.V. is great. I call out Pandora, find a musical genre, and listen to Art Farmer or Nick Cave or Trombone Shorty while folding clothes. Different paces, you see.

The washer-dryer combo makes a pretty good "bongo" device. It toughens up my hands, and it's fun.

I need this privacy, because, as I say, I am out there.

Another thing Arthur Miller taught me. When a long career takes its toll, Linda, the wife, says to Willie Loman, "There is a natural casting off..."

If, in your village, someone acts differently these days, towards you and yours, maybe they are just not "into you" anymore. That is what a pandemic can do to a village.

And what does an insurrection do to a village? Oh, please. That's why I do my eavesdropping with noise-cancelling headphones on, not to Trombone Shorty, but jazz, instrumentals, like, I say, Art Farmer, a regular.

Hey: Answer me a riddle...

"Why is a raven like a writing-desk?"

"Why is a small green rake like a curb-feeler on a 1950 Oldsmobile Rocket-88 (my first car)?"

The answers can be found where the child with the unfurrowed brow lives.

Rotary Club is Offering Music Scholarships

LIVERMORE — The Rotary Club of Livermore is accepting applications for its 2026 music scholarships.

Middle school and high school students are eligible to apply for scholarships of \$100 to \$500 that can be used for lessons, camps, instrument rentals or other music-related needs. One graduating high

school senior who plans to study music in college will receive a \$1,000 scholarship.

The scholarships are open to students who live or study music in Livermore.

Applications can be downloaded online at tinyurl.com/39mwsmy8.

The deadline to apply is Monday, Feb. 23.

VHS Lowers Adoption Fee To \$14 for Adult Cats

PLEASANTON — The Valley Humane Society (VHS) is offering cats five months and older for a reduced adoption fee of \$14 through Valentine's Day.

VHS said older cats are often overshadowed by "kitten cuteness" but adult cats can be just as playful, frisky, affectionate, snuggly or shy.

All the cats available for adoption have been spayed or neutered, microchipped and given age-appropriate vacci-

nations, according to VHS, which is also providing those who adopt during the "adults only" special a take-home bag with goodies such as a fleece blanket, catnip pillow, playthings and pet-store coupons.

The VHS adoption center, 3670 Nevada St., open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday.

For more information, call 925-426-8656 or go to valleyhumane.org to view pets available for adoption.

MEASURE II

(Continued from front page)

"After extensive deliberations, the city council decided not to appeal Judge Markman's decision," Wetherford said. "While the city council continues to believe that its July 2024 decision to place Measure II on the ballot did not constitute a project under CEQA (the California Environmental Quality Act), the city council determined that pursuing an appeal would involve significant cost, time, and uncertainty and would not be in the City of Dublin's best interest."

After the council's decision, the petitioning groups thanked Councilmembers Michael McCorriston, John Morada and Kashef Qaadri for voting against an appeal. Mayor Sherry Hu and Vice Mayor Jean Josey voted in favor of appealing.

"Friends of Livermore is elated that the Dublin City Council voted not to appeal Judge Markman's decision invalidating Measure II," Friends of Livermore member Dick Schneider said in a

statement. "FOL and Save Mount Diablo advised the Dublin council on July 16, 2024, that it was settled law under the California Environmental Quality Act that environmental review was required before placing the measure on the ballot. The council ignored our advice; the voters of Dublin were denied critical information before casting their ballots; and the judge ruled in our favor. Appealing would have been futile and a further waste of taxpayer dollars. We are gratified that the 2026 Dublin City Council has better judgment than the one in place in 2024."

Property owner Livbor-Manning LLC, which represents the Crosby properties, has until Feb. 23 to file an appeal, if it chooses.

The Dublin Boulevard Extension project proposes to build 1.5 miles of new roadway, spanning four to six travel lanes, from Dublin Boulevard at Fallon Road in Dublin to North Canyons Parkway at Dool-

an Road in Livermore.

At a current estimate of \$154 million, the Dublin City Council voted in July 2024 to ask voters for authorization to develop commercial uses along the proposed extension within the acreage outside the city's urban limit line, known as the Crosby properties. A 2023 analysis by Keyser Marston Associates Inc. estimated that such development could yield almost \$16 million in one-time construction-related revenues plus an additional \$1.1 million per year in tax revenues. Keyser Marston estimated that the Crosby properties could support 1.2 million square feet of industrial park development.

Then-Mayor Michael McCorriston and Councilmember Kashef Qaadri voted against placing the measure — known as Measure II, or the Open Space Initiative Amendment — while then-councilmembers Sherry Hu, Jean Josey and Janine Thalblum voted to place it.

Following the decision,

community groups Save Mount Diablo and Friends of Livermore attempted to remove the measure from the ballot, arguing that, under CEQA, an environmental review was required before allowing commercial development, and that voters deserved to understand the environmental impacts of the measure before deciding.

Markman denied that request to avoid interfering with the election, and Measure II passed with 53.11% of the vote in November 2024.

The two groups then filed a lawsuit asking to undo the measure in April 2025, and Markman ruled in favor of the petitioners that November, compelling the city to repeal the measure.

Wetherford said that the Measure II decision will not impact the Dublin Boulevard extension project, and the city will continue its project planning and coordination with the City of Livermore and other regional stakeholders.

Library Schedules Livermore Reads

LIVERMORE — The Livermore Public Library has announced a series of events in March as part of its 20th annual Livermore Reads Together program, which this year features a novel by a Livermore author.

“Silver Lies,” set in an 1879 Colorado mining town, was the first book in the Silver Rush Mysteries series by Ann Parker.

Published in 2003, the historical novel won the Willa Literary Award for Historical Fiction and the Colorado Gold Award.

The novel was chosen for the Livermore Reads Together program by the community last November in online and in-person voting from six Western-themed titles suggested by library. It is the first novel by a local author to be selected for the program.

In support of the community reading program, and in collaboration with the Livermore Art Association, the Civic Center Library, 1188 S. Livermore Ave., will host a “Light of the West” art exhibit throughout March.

Artists are encouraged to submit artwork that explores

the themes of discovery, resilience, mystery and the spirit of innovation across the American West.

For more information, go to livermoreartassociation.org. The deadline to submit entries is Monday, February 24. There will be a reception for the artists at 2 p.m. on Saturday, March 7.

There will also be a monthlong “Cattle Round-up” at all three Livermore public libraries, including the Rincon and Springtown branches, with youngsters who find stuffed cows eligible to enter a raffle drawing. The Springtown Library, 998 Bluebell Dr., will also offer a “Take & Make” craft project during March to learn about Livermore’s ranching history.

Other events include:

- Family-friendly Ranching Trivia with the East Bay Regional Park District at the Civic Center Library at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, March 4.
- A Trailblazers of the West by the Encore Players at the Civic Center Library at 2 p.m. on Sunday, March 8.
- Cowboy Bingo open to all ages at the Rincon

Library, 725 Rincon Ave., at 6 p.m. on Monday, March 9, and at the Springtown library at 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 10.

- A Zoom-based presentation by Marianne Monson, author of “Frontier Grit: The Unlikely True Stories of Daring Pioneer Women,” at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, March 10. The Zoom address is us02web.zoom.us/j/88064438285.
- Cowgirl Tricks by Karen Quest, including trick roping, whip cracking, music and magic, at the Civic Center Library plaza at 1 p.m. on Saturday, March 14. The Civic Center Library will also host an hour of quiet reading for all ages at 3 p.m.
- “Voices from the Range,” a Vine Poetry Reading for teens and adults, at the Civic Center Library at 3 p.m. on Sunday, March 15.
- “The History of Ranching at Sycamore Grove Park,” a presentation by Livermore Area Recreation and Park District (LARP) Ranger Eric Whiteside at the Civic Center Library at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, March 18. The presentation is part of the Then & Now

Livermore Stories program sponsored by the Livermore Public Library and the Livermore Heritage Guild.

- Book signing and talk by Ann Parker, author of this year’s Livermore Reads Together selection, “Silver Lies,” at the Civic Center Library at 7 p.m., on Thursday, March 19.
- “Make Your Own Cowpoke” crafts program at the Rincon Library at 3:30 p.m. on Friday, March 30. Kids will use colored paper to create a representation of themselves in Western wear.
- Concert by the Vivants, a bluegrass band from San Francisco, at the Civic Center Library at 2 p.m. on Sunday, March 22.
- “Western Paint Night,” hosted by Pinot’s Palette, for teens and adults at the Rincon Library at 6 p.m. on Monday, March 23, and at the Civic Center Library at 2 p.m. on Saturday, March 28. To register for the hands-on painting program, call 925-373-5505.

All Livermore Reads Together events are free and open to the public. For more information, call the number above or go to library.livermoreca.gov.



Maria Muldaur and her Jazzabelle Quintet will take the stage on Feb. 13 in Pleasanton. (Photo courtesy of Firehouse Arts Center)

Maria Muldaur to Perform ‘Music for Lovers’ Show

PLEASANTON — Maria Muldaur and her Jazzabelle Quintet will feature “Music for Lovers” in a special Valentine’s Day performance at the Firehouse Arts Center on Friday, Feb. 13.

Muldaur is a folk and blues singer who recorded the hit “Midnight at the Oasis”

in 1973. She has released 43 albums over a career that has spanned six decades.

Tickets to the 7:30 p.m. performance start at \$38 and are available online at firehousearts.org.

Free Color Consultation!

\$500 Off!

925-577-6864
bobspropainting.com Lic # 88025

LVJUSD

(Continued from front page)

lines the terms for Gibson’s departure, stipulating that she will receive a year’s salary of \$364,000 and medical benefits, along with the promise of a positive reference if a prospective employer contacts the district. This is in exchange for voluntarily resigning and ceding the remaining three years on her four-year contract.

Additionally, within the settlement is an agreement between both parties (the board and Gibson) to not sue each other or speak openly about the other in such a way that could lead to litigation.

The LVJUSD board has extended its thanks and appreciation to Gibson for her leadership, professionalism, and dedication to the Livermore community, acknowledging that her contributions have helped shape key initiatives and conversations that will continue to inform the district’s work going forward.

“We thank Dr. Gibson for her service and leadership during her tenure with the district,” LVJUSD Board President Steven Drouin said. “Her commitment to understanding and addressing both day-to-day

and long-term structural challenges within the district is commendable. We wish her every success in her future professional endeavors.”

The board is expected to appoint an acting superintendent in the coming weeks. A discussion item has been added to the Feb. 10 regular board meeting agenda for the “employment of an interim superintendent.”

With regard to when the board will begin recruitment for a permanent superintendent, the timeline remains unclear. Additionally, the

board has not yet announced whether that will be in time for the 2026-27 school term, or later during the 2027-28 hiring cycle.

In the meantime, the board has underscored its commitment to ensuring a smooth and thoughtful transition of leadership. A district press release will provide additional information regarding interim leadership and next steps in the coming days.

“LVJUSD appreciates the support and partnership of its staff, families, and community during this transition,” according to the re-

lease. “The district remains focused on maintaining stability, supporting students and staff, and continuing its mission of educational excellence.”

RETZLAFF Estate Wines

WINE TASTING AND PICNIC TABLE RESERVATIONS
FRI 12pm - 6pm, SAT, SUN & MON 12pm - 4:30pm

LIVE MUSIC AND FOOD VENDORS
SATURDAY & SUNDAY 12pm - 4:30pm

WINE DAY FRIDAY - HAPPY HOUR ALL DAY 12pm - 6pm
\$10 GLASS, \$20 FLIGHTS, \$10 SPIRITZER & WINE SPECIALS

Make your online reservations at
RetzlaffVineyards.com

ELECTIONS

(Continued from front page)

ple behind me should do something about it,” Trump told CNN’s Kaitlan Collins during a Feb. 3 Oval Office signing ceremony attended by Republican legislators.

California State Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan, whose district includes the Tri-Valley, said that nationalized elections would run counter to the Constitution.

“Elections aren’t a federal issue; they’re a state responsibility, granted by Article I, Section 4 of the Constitution,” Bauer-Kahan told The Independent. “Cali-

fornia will not hand over our voters’ private information or cede our authority to run elections. The federal government doesn’t run elections. States do. That’s what’s in the Constitution, and we will defend it.”

California Senator Adam Schiff, posting on the social media platform X, wrote, “In his first term, Donald Trump pressured and threatened and coerced and incited — all in (an) attempt to rig an election and overturn its result to cling to power. We cannot miss the signs that he is going to try again.

Don’t take my word for it. Take his.”

The U.S. Constitution grants the states the power to manage and hold congressional elections. In its interpretations, the Supreme Court has gone further, explicitly enabling states in 1932, for example, “to provide a complete code for congressional elections, not only as to times and places, but in relation to notices, registration, supervision of voting, protection of voters, prevention of fraud and corrupt practices, counting of votes, duties of inspectors and canvassers,

and making and publication of election returns.”

This year’s midterm elections will decide the representatives for all 435 districts in the House of Representatives and 33 of the Senate’s 100 seats. Republicans currently hold a narrow 218-214 majority in the House and a 53-45 majority in the Senate, where two independent senators caucus with the Democrats.

Trump said, during a Fox News interview last month, that he would likely face impeachment if the Democrats win Congress this year.

TAX

(Continued from front page)

operate our hotels, to employ our locals (and) to pay our bills.”

Although not in opposition to an increase, he asked for further conversation between hoteliers and the city.

In response, Mayor Jack Balch agreed to keep communication channels open as the ballot measure progresses.

“I’m trying to signal to our stakeholders that the listening and trying to figure this out and see if this is the right path is still upon us,” Balch said. “It has not passed with the action tonight.”

City staff expect to return to council with draft ballot language for approval by June, in time for the county’s ballot measure deadline in August.

Councilmembers hoped that the new revenue could help cover the city’s growing expenses, driven largely by pension and retiree medical liabilities and the costs of aging infrastructure.

“The city has not touched (the TOT) in over 40 years,” Councilmember Craig Eichler said. “And, having some of the lowest tax rates for (the) occupancy tax, I think it’s time that we look at this and address that.”

Last June, the city coun-

cil unanimously adopted a budget that balanced a \$10 million annual deficit by cutting some \$7 million per year worth of city services and almost \$5 million in transfers from the city’s pension-trust and retiree-benefits funds over two years.

“This doesn’t solve the problem, but \$2.8 million certainly helps us,” said City Manager Gerry Beaudin on

the TOT increase.

Councilmember Julie Testa, referring to a failed 2024 ballot measure to increase the city’s sales tax from 10.25% to 10.75%, said, “I think that we really have no choice. We know we have serious deficit issues that remain given that we did not pass the half-cent sales tax.”

A citywide election would cost between \$242,000 and

\$339,000, although the TOT ballot measure could “piggyback” off this year’s citywide mayoral election if a challenger to Balch emerges. City staff does not plan to poll for the measure.

GAY NINETIES
Pizza & Pasta Co.
gayninetiepizza.com

Delicious Pizza Made Fresh For You!

288 Main Street, Pleasanton | (925) 846-2520
Hours: Sun-Thu 11am-9pm, Fri & Sat 11am-10pm

LIVERMORE, CALIFORNIA
LIONS CLUB
EST. 1924

LIVERMORE LIONS CLUB

Annual Seafood Event

Cioppino
Take home and enjoy

Saturday, March 7

Tickets: Ann (805) 405-8742 or Ben (805) 405-8743

Order now through March 4: \$75 dinner for 4 for 64 oz container
Drive by pick up from 10:30am-1pm on Saturday, March 7
at The Singing Wine Maker, 5143 Tesla Rd., Livermore.
Delicious seafood stew chock-full of shellfish with tomatoes, wine, spices, and herbs. Each order comes with a sourdough bread round.

Proceeds benefit Livermore Lions Club charities.

For Daily Online Local News Visit

independentnews.com

Follow us on

Heart of the Valley



Brain and Heart

By Christina Cavallaro

TRI-VALLEY — I've been thinking a lot about perspective lately, and the power in seeing a situation in a different way. Last month in this column, I was lamenting trees that were vandalized at Dublin High School at the end of last year. I've since learned that while there is no update on the tree replanting, according to DUSD Director of Communications Chip Dehert, the community has been amazing in offering support, including nurseries volunteering to help with labor and tree donations when the time comes.

Last month at the Pleasanton Library, I reported on a virtual conversation with former NASA astronaut and retired U.S. Air Force Colonel Cady Coleman. The packed event was hosted by Pareena Gupta, teen founder of The Sustainability Lens. Coleman shared her personal images from space and of her crew floating around inside their spaceship. She pointed out that in zero gravity, what is up may appear down. At one point, she had the entire room tilting their heads to adapt to the physical shift in perspective.

"A view can tell you many things if you just look. It's not just about the window and the view. It's our perspective on that," she said.

Michelle Borrero, co-founder of Well-Soul Women's Day Retreats, shared with me recently her thoughts on perspective and shifting narratives in a world that's so divided — "and everybody right now is just focusing on the things that are not helping each other." Instead, she hoped for more occasions to come together and connect through our hearts and get back to a tribe mentality of support for each other.

And honestly, no one has been doing that better lately than our community's youth. On Jan. 30, over 2000 Livermore students walked out of their classes to join legions of others across the Bay Area and the country to protest against ICE and use their voices to protect our nation's civil rights.

The peaceful demonstration was entirely organized by students from Livermore and Granada high schools — primarily by Livermore High School senior Greta Fick-Furlotte in partnership with Indivisible Tri Valley, Livermore Indivisible and Livermore Advocates for Public Education. More recently, other Tri-Valley students have joined the movement, walking out of their schools in Pleasanton and Dublin, too.

Sadly, the strength of our community's youth is changing our perspective of what it means to be a young person in today's society. Their childhood is now wrapped up in activism for the hope of a bright future tomorrow.

In light of all the weight they shoulder, my recent personal grappling feels so minor.

But for purposes of extending the study in perspectives, I exercised some shifting recently on myself.

Recently you missed it, I was offered a promotion at The Independent a few weeks ago. In a matter of days, I went from my supportive role working in the editorial department and as a freelance writer to managing editor of the entire newsroom.

The night before I accepted the offer, I was feverishly lobbing questions at AI like, "How does a managing editor behave?" "Can a managing editor have a personality?" And I wondered at 3, 4 and 5 a.m. would I have to buy new clothes, tame my hair, stop drinking wine in public...?

And would I have to stop writing this column? You see where I'm headed.

For a brief moment, I got sucked into thinking the job, like a hat I would put on in the morning, would somehow allow me to adopt a persona in a way that matched the expectations I was placing upon myself in the dark of night. And I, like many people, am already in the habit of wearing a lot of hats.

And then I received a gift in an email exchange with another member of our community who also wears a lot of hats, both public and private. "You write with your brain and your heart, and it's evident in every article," she said.

And then suddenly I knew who I had to try and be. Myself. I'm already used to that role.

Seeing a different perspective doesn't remove any inherent difficulty or challenge; but tilting one's head or changing one's view, I think, allows for new ideas and new ways of observing life from another angle.

Happy Valentine's Day everyone. See you here next month.

Do you have tidbits about the Tri-Valley or know of interesting people, places, events or unique perspectives that should be featured in the Heart of the Valley monthly column or podcast? If so, we want to hear from you. Please email me at christina@independentnews.com.

Tickets to Sunol Repertory Production Now on Sale

SUNOL — Tickets for the Sunol Repertory Theatre production of "Too Many Ghosts" are now on sale, with all proceeds going to support the Sunol Glen School.

In the "spirit" of the hit TV comedy "Ghosts," the play by Todd Wallinger involves a woman who dreams of turning an abandoned house she inherits in Salem, Massachusetts, into a bed and breakfast, only to discover it's already inhabited by five ghosts who aren't particularly keen on sharing it with an endless parade of guests.

The ghost of Roland, a cobbler from the 1700s, chases off the inn's very first guest, who, unfortunately, turns out to be a

popular travel blogger who labels it "the most haunted B&B in New England."

Within days, the place is mobbed by thrill-loving tourists seeking their own ghostly encounters. It also attracts the attention of the town's largest hotel owner, who decides the only way to put the new B&B out of business is to hire a trio of ghostbusters.

Eventually, to stop the Weary Inn from being bulldozed, the living and the dead must team up.

"This play is exactly the kind of show community theatre does best," said director Mike Telang. "It brings families together for a night of shared laughter. It's fast, funny and accessible for all ages, with humor

that works just as well for kids as it does for adults."

"Too Many Ghosts" will be performed at the Sunol Glen School Theatre, 11601 Main St., at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 7, Saturday, March 14, Saturday, March 21, and Saturday, March 28. There will also be a 7:30 p.m. performance on Friday, March 20, and Sunday matinees at 2:30 p.m. on March 15 and March 29.

Tickets start at \$22 and are available online at sunol.net/srt.

The Sunol Repertory Theater was formed in the 1980s to help support the 100-year-old Sunol Glen School, with about 250 students in kindergarten through eighth grade.

ILLEAGLES

(Continued from front page)

the band, who made John feel special from the start and dedicated "Life in the Fast Lane" to him from the stage.

"We've been following them for three years and each time they do more and more," Daly said. They've given him a tambourine to play and even invited him to participate in soundchecks.

Daly now sees the Illegals as a band of long lost brothers, and uncles to her son. And what makes her heart feel so much love for them, she said, is their outreach and caring.

"We need more of that, because my son, he gets left out of everything. It's hard to make friends. He gets ostracized from his peers. People don't include him, you know? And he's very smart, has a high IQ, and is sweet," Daly said.

"And it's like no one gives him a chance. So these guys reached out."

And even though she tries to tell them how much they mean to her, "they don't understand how deep it goes," she said. "It's just really deep. I would do anything for these guys."

Daly has gotten particularly close to Jesse Brewster, a songwriter, producer,

bandleader — and vocalist and guitarist in the Illegals.

"I think Jesse wrote some songs for that show, 'The Farmer Wants a Wife,'" Daly said. "All these guys do a bunch of stuff individually." Some have other careers and other bands, too. "They're amazing humans," she said.

Brewster, who is a career musician, responded to Daly's praise.

"The world needs more of that right now, so amen," he said.

"Music is powerful. I think anybody who doesn't recognize it, is either not paying attention or they're dead inside," Brewster added.

The Illegals have been entertaining crowds throughout the Bay Area and in the Tri-Valley at events such as the Wente Vineyards concert series in Livermore and Dublin's Splatter festival.

Daly, who grew up in Livermore, credits venues like Almost Famous for making the healing powers of live music available to the community and for providing a space and opportunities for connection as her family has made with the Illegals.

"They're our family

band," Daly said. "And I found an outlet...something we can do as a family."

And that, she said, means more than they will ever fully know.

"No matter what I tell them, they can't understand the impact, because we special needs moms don't get out. We never get out. I'm with my son 24/7 and there's limits on where we can go and what we can do."

As for Brewster and the Illegals, they have continued to bestow the gift of music and healing onto this Pleasanton family who keeps showing up in support of them.

"He's got his headphones on in case it's too loud," Brewster said, referring to John. The band has invited him to join in pre-show sound checks before but at this last show at Almost Famous, they held off on that for something even better.

"This time we just yanked him up during the middle of a song. He wasn't plugged in or anything," Brewster said. "Joey, the bass player, was still playing the actual bass line and John was playing along and having the time of his life."

Wente Chardonnay Named Top 10 Value

LIVERMORE — Wine Spectator magazine has named Wente Family Vineyards' 2023 Morning Fog Chardonnay as one of the nation's best wine buys.

The wine was fifth on this year's Top 10 Values list in the magazine's February issue.

The magazine said all 10 wines on the list rated 90 points or higher on its 100-point scale, cost less than \$40 per bottle, and were made in large enough quantities to be widely available.

Senior editor MaryAnn Worobiec described Morning Fog as a "Goldilocks Chardonnay, with half the wine fermented in neutral American oak barrels and half in stainless steel tanks, striking a balance between freshness, complexity and creaminess."

The 2022 vintage of the Livermore winery's Morning Fog was number 40 on Wine Spectator's Top 100 wine list last year.

TRI-VALLEY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Thursday, Feb. 12

LIVERMORE AMADOR VALLEY GARDEN CLUB MEETING

On Feb. 12 from 6 to 8 p.m., Karla from Beeline Blooms will offer a presentation on dahlias. Tubers will be on sale. At Crosswinds Church, 1660 Freisman Rd., Livermore at the red Farm Theater Building.

Friday, Feb. 13

MARIA MULDAUR & HER JAZZABELLE QUINTET; MUSIC FOR LOVERS

Maria Muldaur & her Jazzabelle Quintet will be performing their special "Music for Lovers" shows on Feb. 13 at 7:30 p.m. at the Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., in Pleasanton. See firehousearts.org for details. Tickets: \$38-43. Be inspired to fall in love all over again!

Sunday, Feb. 22

SUNDAYS AT HAGEMANN RANCH

Come celebrate everything Spring at 'Hello Spring' on Feb. 22, from 1-5 p.m. at Hagemann Ranch. The kids can fly a kite in the big arena and watch a portrayal of the 'Ox Cart Man'. Parents can bring a plant and take one at the plant exchange and enjoy the Plain Gold Band. Culinary Angels and Sunflower Hill will have displays. Always free and family friendly. 455 Olivina Ave., Livermore.

Friday, Feb. 27

TOMMY CASTRO & THE PAINKILLERS

Tommy Castro is the guitar slinging, soul-singing leader of the tight and raucous Tommy Castro & The Painkillers. Performing live at Almost Famous Wine Company, 2271 S. Vasco Rd., Livermore. Showtime is 7:30 p.m., tickets are \$39.19-71.21. See www.almostfamous.wine for complete performance information.

Saturday, Feb. 28

RONNIE BAKER BROOKS

Firmly rooted in the blues, Ronnie Baker Brooks incorporates his own brand of rock, funk and soul to the mix. Performing live at Almost Famous Wine Company, 2271 S. Vasco Rd., Livermore. Showtime is 7:30 p.m., tickets are \$44.52-65.87. See www.almostfamous.wine for complete performance information.

Saturday, Feb. 28

DRESS A GIRL AROUND THE WORLD

Make simple dresses for girls in Third World countries! The next monthly Sew-Fest is on Feb. 28, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 1020 Mocho St., Livermore. Bring your sewing machine or serger, iron, ironing board, scissors, along with your helping hands. Come for an hour or all day! (Please bring a bag lunch if you plan to stay all day.) Cheerful cotton fabric donations are always welcome. Contact Suzanne Beck, 925-352-8447, or suzbeck@yahoo.com for questions or kits that you can sew from home.

Saturday, March 14

14th ANNUAL LIVERMORE HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION CRAB FEED

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

Saturday, April 18

8TH ANNUAL TRI-VALLEY INNOVATION FAIR

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

ONGOING OPPORTUNITIES

FOOD RELIEF SERVICES

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

ONGOING EVENTS

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

In AA, we don't tell anyone to do anything. We talk about our own drinking, the trouble we got into, and how we stopped. To find a local meeting in person or online, visit valleysservicecenteraa.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.

DOWNLOAD OUR APP
AND NEVER MISS
YOUR LOCAL NEWS



Follow us on

independentnews.com

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

OBITUARIES

Sabine A. Mallen

April 1, 1940 — Dec. 28, 2025

Sabine ("Bini") Mallen passed away under hospice care at home in the presence of her husband, Tom, and her two sons, Marquis and Peter. She suffered from Alzheimer's and was bedridden for many years. Her husband of 60 years cared for her. A final stroke in November caused a rapid decline in her condition.

She was born in Germany and survived WWII with her mother and sister. They fled to then East

Germany, eventually able to go to West Germany. She trained as a Pediatric Nurse, worked in Germany and England. She married her GI husband and moved to suburban Chicago in 1966 and moved to Livermore, California, in 1972. She was a soccer mom, a Girl Scout den mother, foster parent, and volunteered at Rancho School, eventually working there and Marylin School in the "Kid Connection" program until

her retirement.

Most of all, she loved children, classical music, good books, and gardening.

She is survived by her husband, Thomas; son Peter of Kentucky, son Marquis of Livermore, daughter Veronika in Ohio, and daughter Ann in Germany.

Callaghan Mortuary did the cremation, and her ashes will be scattered at sea.

Norman Allen Feighner

Dec. 18, 1925 — Jan. 31, 2026



Norman Allen Feighner, 100, passed away on Jan. 31, 2026, peacefully and unexpectedly in Lodi, California. A previous resident of Livermore, California, he was born on Dec. 18, 1925, in Fremont, Ohio, and was the eldest and last surviving of three children. He graduated from Fremont Ross High School in Fremont, Ohio, in 1944, and served in the Air Force from 1944 to 1952 (tail gunner). He was stationed in Japan after the war and toured the devastated city of Hiroshima in Dec. 1945. He crossed the International Date Line heading west on his 20th birthday, the shortest birthday he had ever had. He met his future wife, Norma (yes, Norma) at a skating rink in Tiffin, Ohio, and married on July 20, 1947, in Fremont, Ohio. In 1954, Norman got several job offers in California while visiting family there. He accepted a

position as a machinist at Lockheed in Burbank, California. They moved with their first child, a son, Michael, to California in 1954, and worked as a machinist for nearly 45 years at Lockheed in Palo Alto and then later in Sunnyvale, California. In 1994, Norman and Norma moved to Livermore, California. Before retiring, Norman spent several years in the

US Army Reserves. Norman lost his wife, Norma, to Parkinson's disease in December 2013. Norman has outlived his parents and siblings. His three children are Michael, Charlene, and Keith; three granddaughters, Susan, Tiffany and Zoey; two great-granddaughters, Haley and Taylor.

Mr. Feighner's talents included carpentry, electrical, automotive maintenance and bricklaying; his hobbies were hunting and fishing, and "at 100" still enjoyed going to the casino.

Norman spent his final days at Arbor Place in Lodi, California.

The funeral will take place at Oak Hill Funeral Home and Memorial Park, Chapel of Roses, 300 Curtner Ave., San Jose, CA 95125 (408)-287-2447 on Feb. 26, 2026.

Visitation 9:30 a.m.; Funeral Service 10 a.m.; Burial 11 a.m.

Gary James Devine

Feb. 18, 1939 — Jan. 11, 2026



Gary James Devine, a devoted husband, father, grandfather, and man of deep faith, passed away on Jan. 11, 2026, at his home in Livermore, California, surrounded by his family. He was 86 years old.

Gary was born on Feb. 18, 1939, in Oakland, California, to William James Devine and Frances Bernice Estey Devine. He grew up in the Bay Area and went on to build a life defined by dedication, service, and quiet leadership.

Gary proudly served in the United States Air Force from Jan. 3, 1958, to Jan. 2, 1962, stationed at McChord Air Force Base in Tacoma, Washington. He worked as a Personal Equipment (P.E.) specialist, responsible for critical safety systems including oxygen equipment, parachutes, and survival gear. He later became a survival school instructor, training aircrews in emergency procedures and life-saving skills.

After his military service, Gary worked at the San Francisco Naval Shipyard (Hunters Point) as a machine tool repairman, where he completed his apprenticeship and received advanced training in precision machining and tool-and-die work. He later worked as a machinist at Alameda Naval Air Station in the 1960s, further developing the technical skills that would define

his career.

On April 4, 1964, Gary married the love of his life, Susan Clair Devine, in Oakland. Together, they shared over six decades of marriage and built a loving home in Livermore, where they raised their two children and created countless family memories rooted in faith, hard work, and love.

Gary dedicated 41 years of his professional life to Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, where he began as a mechanical technician and eventually became a stockpile engineer. During his tenure, he also contributed to the Laser Program, supporting advanced research in laser and fusion technologies. Known for his technical skill, precision, and integrity, Gary took pride in his work and in mentoring others.

Gary had a lifelong love of cars and mechanics and still owned his

cherished 1939 Chevy Coupe — the very car he took Susan out in on their first date.

A lifelong Catholic, Gary was a constant presence in the church and a trusted spiritual guide to many. He led prayer meetings, taught others how to pray, and lived his faith through action rather than words.

Gary is survived by his children, Stacey Devine and Steven Devine; his grandchildren, Tyler Marciel, Cameron Marciel, and Grace Marciel; and his brother, Brian Devine. He was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Susan; his parents, William and Frances Devine; and his siblings, Billy Devine, Patricia Devine, and Richard Devine.

A Rosary will be held on Thursday, March 12, 2026, at 6 p.m. at Callahan's Mortuary in Livermore. A Funeral Mass will be celebrated on Saturday, March 14, 2026, at 11 a.m. at St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church in Livermore.

Gary will be remembered for his steady presence, strong faith, commitment to family, and lifelong example of humility, service, and love.

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

Hiroko Tokushima Kretz

Jan. 13, 1933 — January 30, 2026



Hiroko, 93, of Abilene, Texas, passed away peacefully surrounded by her loved ones, on Friday, Jan. 30, 2026.

Hiroko was born on Jan. 13, 1933, in Pusan, Korea. She grew up in Fukuoka, Japan in a loving family with her father, mother, and six siblings. In Fukuoka, she worked for the U.S. army as a translator during the Korean War where she met and married John Mondragon in 1953. They moved to the mountains of northern New Mexico where she learned Spanish and became trilingual. Hiroko embraced her new family and raised her two children, Thomas and Tina Mondragon, in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Family and friends regularly enjoyed her New Mexico style enchiladas (flat not rolled!) and her signature Japanese sukiyaki meals. A dedicated mother and wife, she also was an active Bible school teacher, presented community talks on Japanese culture, worked as an elementary school teacher's aide, and received her bachelor's degree in art education from the University of New Mexico.

In 1977, Hiroko bravely started a new chapter of her life in Los Angeles, California. She was a talented artist and taught art classes in LA before going on to work as a technical illustrator at the corporate headquarters of Hughes Aircraft and Toyota North America. She leaves behind many paintings and other artwork that we will continue to treasure. Hiroko married Robert Kretz in 1980. He passed away with lung cancer in 1989.

After the birth of her second grandchild, she retired and moved to Livermore, California, where she spent time with her grandchildren, Brian and Beth, and their parents. She was an active leader in the senior community. She led aerobics and dance classes and made sure everyone knew how to do the macarena.

Whether she was moving away from Japan at a young age, taking trips around the country with her family, or taking a cruise with her friends in her 70s, she was always joyfully adventurous. She met John Waite on one of her adventures. He asked her to dance on a cruise, the QE2, and they spent the next twenty-five years happily married. They enjoyed traveling, bowling, ballroom dancing, golfing, cooking and hosting their annual July 4th and New Year's Eve parties in addition to regular get-togethers with their close circle of friends and neighbors. They both cared deeply for their families and traveled to Japan and England on a regular basis to stay connected despite the distance. Although she left Japan when she was very young, she remained close to her family her entire life and has helped all of us stay connected to our family in Japan to this day.

In the last season of John and Hiroko's life together, they embraced change as they moved to Abilene, Texas to be near family in 2023. They moved into assisted living and enjoyed meeting new people and participating in activities. They loved live music and always had songs to request for The Piano Man on Tuesdays. Even after John passed, Hiroko was resilient and continued finding joy and happiness in her daily life.

In every season of life, she cultivated many friendships. Hiroko will be remembered for her spunky, fun

spirit, and ability to make everyday moments special. She was very generous to everyone in her life, including her family, friends, and workers at her favorite restaurants. She was faithful to the end and loved singing hymns with her family and fellow residents. We will miss her singing to us on our birthdays and Valentine's Day. We will cherish our memories of traveling, playing the tile game, eating her homemade sushi, and enjoying special tempura and other Japanese meals together. We can easily say there will never be anyone quite like her. We are thankful for her life and her love so freely given to us all. Phone calls and visits with family often ended with her declaring, "Love you, love you, love you."

We are grateful for all the care given to Hiroko in her last years at Chisholm Court. The community embraced Hiroko, providing numerous days of enjoyment. She greatly appreciated the care she received, as was heard in her cheerful "I Thank you!" The staff's hard work, talent, teamwork, dedication, and genuine kindness blessed Hiroko and her family. We are also grateful for Dr. William Shudde, nurse Ruby, and the Hendrick Hospice staff for their excellent care.

Hiroko's life will be celebrated by a small gathering of family in Abilene, Texas. She is survived by her children Tina and Tim Johnston, Thomas Mondragon and David Evans, grandchildren Beth Johnston, Brian Johnston and Mary Caldwell, sister Mitsuko Kitahara, brother Keizo and Midori Tokushima, sister-in-law Keiko Tokushima, and numerous nephews, nieces, and great-nephews and great-nieces. She was preceded in death by her husband John Waite, parents Shizuko and Tamio Tokushima, sister Reiko Koide, brothers Masahito, Yoshihito, and Seiji Tokushima.

Dino R. Ciarlo

Dec. 15, 1938 — Dec. 29, 2025



Dino passed away peacefully at his home in Livermore.

Born in Niles, California, to Severino and Emilia (Armanini) Ciarlo, Dino was raised in Fremont and attended Alviso Elementary School and Washington High School, Class of 1956. He grew up working on his family's 40-acre farm. Dino cherished time on the property throughout his life, happily riding his tractor well into his later years.

A talented musician, Dino played the clarinet and saxophone in his youth. He performed Mozart's Clarinet Concerto in A Major, Adagio, with a local symphony.

Dino earned his bachelor's degree from Santa Clara University in 1960 and later completed a master's degree in electronic engineering at UC Berkeley. He spent most of his career at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory from 1965 to 2001, finding great satisfaction

in his work.

At the Newman Center in Berkeley, Dino met Barbara (Rieger), whom he married on July 18, 1970. They raised their daughter, Dina, and son, Michael, in Livermore and celebrated 55 years of marriage in 2025.

Dino loved learning and mastering new skills, from woodworking, welding, and home repairs to

working on cars and tractors. He also mastered his mother's focaccia bread, and in his later life, delighted in helping his grandsons with math homework.

A longtime member of St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church since 1971, he served as a Lector and Eucharistic Minister.

Dino is survived by his wife, Barbara; daughter Dina, her husband Jon Fritzingler, and sons Lewis and Miles; son Michael; and sister Rina Ciarlo.

The family would like to thank the dedicated nurses from Hallway Healthcare for the compassionate care they provided over the past several years.

A celebration of life will be held Feb. 28 at 10 a.m. at St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church in Livermore, with a reception to follow. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Hope Hospice or a charity of choice.

Nicholas Tugangui

January 1995 — Jan 2026

Beloved son, brother, and friend Nicholas (Nick) Tugangui passed away on Jan. 29, 2026 at the age of 31. In his brief time, Nick greatly enriched the lives of the countless people who were lucky enough to know him.

He grew up in Livermore and attended Livermore High, surrounded by a strong group of friends. His easy-going nature and sense of mischievous humor drew everyone to him.

In 2016, he joined the US Army. During his six years of service, he performed repair service on Apache helicopters, and completed deployments to Afghanistan and South Korea. It was there in the Army that his innate qualities of hard work and

perseverance were on full display and earned him respect among his fellow soldiers.

Upon his discharge, Nick became a dedicated mechanical engineering student. He earned his associate's degree from Mission College, where he was a valued member of the veteran community. He continued on to San Jose State University, where he was on track to earn his bachelor's degree.

Beyond being a student, Nick had a rich personal life full of hobbies. He was a martial artist, boxer, and avid motorcyclist who loved taking in the views of the Santa Cruz mountains. He also felt right at home in Hilo, Hawaii, where he could ride bikes, swim, and relax in nature.

Especially after the death of his mother and father in 2021 and 2025 respectively, Nick was deeply committed to his surviving family and creating a loving home with his girlfriend Bryanna and her son Zeppelin. He worked hard every day to be the best man he could be, and he will live on in the hearts and memories of everyone who knew and loved him.

He is preceded in death by his parents Irene Maxwell and Perry Tugangui. He is survived by his sisters Elizabeth and Amanda, his girlfriend Bryanna and her son Zeppelin.

We invite you to join the vigil and flag-lowering ceremony in Nick's honor at Mission College on Thursday, Feb. 12 at 8 a.m.

Carl G. Bates

1938 — 2026



Carl G. Bates, age 87, of Pleasanton, California, died at home on Jan. 28, 2026. Carl was fortunate enough to have traveled the world during his lifetime, but his favorite place was home.

Carl was born in Colorado Springs, in 1938 to Carlos and Jeanne Bates. He was the oldest of eight children. He grew up in Denver and attended East High School. He graduated from Denver University with a degree in accounting, but his real passion since childhood was airplanes and flying. His favorite pastime was to ride his bicycle to the Denver airport and watch airplanes for hours. Carl began flying lessons in his teen years and paid for them by mowing lawns and working at Clinton Aviation fueling airplanes. He completed his first solo flight in a Cessna on his 16th birthday, even before receiving his driver's license.

On Oct. 20, 1956, at age 18, he met the love of his life, Judy, on a blind date arranged by a family member. Carl escorted Judy to her homecoming dance. Prior to the dance, he called her to inform her that he didn't know how to dance, a skill that he never quite developed. After a 3-1/2-year courtship, they married in January 1960 at Saint Therese Catholic Church in Aurora, Colorado. Their first home was in Aurora. Over the next several years, Carl and Judy were blessed with four children. After several moves, the family settled in Pleasanton in 1968 and bought a home where they

raised their family. Carl immersed himself in his children's activities. He enjoyed camping trips and traveling. Carl's flexible schedule allowed him to be a very hands-on dad. He spent time in his workshop and was a skilled craftsman, able to fix or repair most anything.

His four children blessed him with nine grandchildren and seven great grandchildren. He treasured his time with them and together they built wonderful memories.

His aviation career spanned several decades and included time as a flight instructor, air traffic controller, and pilot for Conoco Oil in Houston. In 1965, he was hired with Pan-American World Airways based in San Francisco. After 20 years, he joined United Airlines for another 14 years. Before retiring, Carl was based in Honolulu where he and Judy made lifelong friends. He flew his final flight to Hawaii with his entire family as passengers. After retirement, Carl and Judy

traveled to 47 states with their RV, cruised and visited other countries. They spent several winters in Palm Desert, where they enjoyed the warm weather, golf and meeting new friends.

Carl's faith guided his life. As a member of St. Augustine's Church, he volunteered in various capacities. Carl will always be remembered for his integrity, kindness, generosity, humility, and sense of humor. His family is comforted that he is now at peace in his eternal home.

Carl was preceded in death by his parents, Carlos and Jeanne Bates; brother, John Bates; son-in-law, Paul Gennaro; and grandson, Christian Mathiesen. He is survived by his beloved wife of 66 years, Judy; children, Janet, Diane (Kurt), Barbara, and Allen; nine cherished grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; one brother and five sisters; and many nieces and nephews.

A funeral Mass will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 17 at 10 a.m., at Saint Augustine, Catholic Church, 3999 Bernal Ave., Pleasanton.

In lieu of flowers the family requests donations in Carl's memory be made to Catholic Charities East Bay, CCEB.org or Catholic Relief Services, CRS.org

Callaghan Mortuary is honored to be serving the Bates Family. An online guest book is available for condolences at www.callaghanmortuary.com.

Diane Marie Heinitz

June 22, 1936 — Jan. 29, 2026



Diane Heinitz passed away peacefully at her home in Livermore on Jan. 29, 2026. Raised in Gustine, Stockton, and Oroville, California, she moved to Livermore in 1956 and had been in the same Sunset home since 1965. Born to Harry McCoy and Ethel Ross, she loved boating and skiing in the Delta and cherished her teen years as an usherette for the Stockton Ports Baseball Club, where her uncle was player-manager Harry Clements (Mr. California League of 1954.)

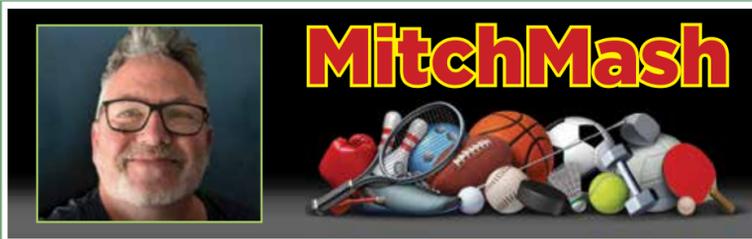
Diane worked at the Bank of America in Livermore in the 1960s and 70s and later in Pleasanton. Then 20 years at AAA throughout the Tri-Valley in the touring department, where she enthusiastically helped people plan their road trips and travel adventures. She had a master's degree in talking. Her favorite job was volunteering at Valley

Humane Society where she loved and nurtured critters and their owners and found her best friend of her last dozen years in a little brown dog she named Mister Bogey. They spent many hours walking and talking to strangers and fellow dog lovers around town and on their many trips.

She was a life-long Santa Cruz visitor (riding The Giant Dipper long after she should

have) and even completed the Wharf to Wharf Run in her eighties. Half Moon Bay, Avila Beach, and Capitola all held magic for her. She sculpted a beautiful backyard garden and loved adding artsy treasures to the walls of her home whether found at a flea market, funky shop, thrift store or actual art gallery. She also painted her house. A lot.

She is survived by her former husband R.C. Heinitz of Ione, California, sister Kitty Tucker of Ft. Walton Beach, Florida, daughter Penny Gardner (Robert), son Eric Heinitz (Lisa Garcia), grandchildren Sabrina, Evan, Anthony Heinitz, and many loving nieces and nephews, her beloved Mister Bogey and his cousins Rocky and Archie. Friends and family are invited to a celebration of life at her home in Livermore on Saturday, March 28 at 1 p.m.



Postseason Hits Full Tilt This Week

By Mitch Stephens

The girls soccer teams at Amador Valley and California-San Ramon have a score to settle. Matter of fact, both squads are just looking to score.

The North Coast Section powers face off in an East Bay Athletic League semifinal playoff game Thursday (Feb. 12) at Amador Valley after having played to a scoreless match on Feb. 3 at California.

The host Dons (6-1-3 overall) finished second in the league's round-robin schedule at 6-1-2, just ahead of California (12-1-4, 6-2-1). Round-robin champion Carondelet-Concord (13-1-3, 9-0) hosts fourth-place San Ramon Valley-Danville (9-2-2, 5-2-2) in the other semifinal match.

Both semifinals start at 6 p.m., with the winners facing off Saturday (Feb. 14) at the higher seed. The NCS soccer championships begin Tuesday and Wednesday (Feb. 17-18) with pairings announced Sunday (Feb. 15). Granada (14-3-2, 5-3-1) will surely advance to the NCS playoffs, but because of the EBAL's new four-team-only playoff, the Matadors will have to weeks off between matches.

"We're right where we want to be," Amador Valley coach Grant Matsumoto said. "We want to be peaking on both the final days of the league, NCS and NorCal playoffs. We've played extremely well thus far, but there's room for improvement."

Matsumoto acknowledges that Amador Valley's defense, led by Julia Wanis, Kailee Walker, Hailey Morec and Maylen Montoya, has been next to flawless. The Dons have allowed only three goals all season. Wanis and Mira Garuda scored goals in Amador Valley's 2-0 regular-season ending win over rival Foothill on Feb. 5.

Granada (14-3-2, 5-3-1) will surely advance to the NCS playoffs but because of EBAL's new four-team-only playoff, the Matadors will have nearly two weeks off between matches.

Granada closed the regular season with a 4-0 home win over Livermore as senior Elle Eichenberger scored three goals and Jazmine Angel added one. Megan Silva and Marin Lnenicka shared the shutout in goal.

Boys Soccer: The EBAL playoff semifinals also take place Thursday at 6 p.m. as fourth-place Amador Valley (12-6, 5-4) travels to De La Salle-Concord (13-3-1, 8-1), which beat the Dons 3-0 on Jan. 20 in Pleasanton. The winner plays the winner of No. 3 Monte Vista (12-3-3, 7-1-1) at No. 2 San Ramon Valley (14-3-5, 7-0-2) on Saturday for the championship.

Dublin (10-8-2, 3-6), Foothill (7-6-3, 2-5-2), Granada (9-6-2, 3-5-1) and Livermore (12-7, 5-4) will almost assuredly reach the NCS playoffs next week.

EBAL Wrestling: It was a Granada sweep at the EBAL wrestling championships at Livermore High School on Saturday (Feb. 7). Four of the five Tri-Valley boys and girls teams all advance to Newark Memorial Friday and Saturday for the NCS Division 1 tournament, while Livermore — just under

the enrollment cutoff — will compete at Benicia High School.

Granada (258.5 points) edged Amador Valley (234.5) for the boys team title, followed by in order De La Salle-Concord (206), Monte Vista-Danville (182), Dublin (115.5), Livermore (114), San Ramon Valley-Danville (88.5), California-San Ramon (61), Dougherty Valley (60.5) and Foothill (58).

Granada (181), led by five individual champions, just edged Dougherty Valley (178.5) in the girls, followed by California (178), Monte Vista (121), Dublin (110), Foothill (82), San Ramon Valley (53.5), Amador Valley (40) and Livermore (33).

Individual boys champions from the Tri-Valley were Elham Hashimi (Livermore, 108 pounds), Lytning Hazen (Dublin, 122), Isaiah Peterson-Moore (Granada, 128), Jack Baker (Granada, 134), Jack Bronte (Granada, 140), Evan Johnson (Amador Valley, 159), William Chandler (Amador Valley, 192) and Jack Schwabenland (Granada, 217).

Individual girls champions from the Tri-Valley were Ellana Caro (Amador Valley, 102), SJ Martin (Granada, 122), Maile Nguyen (Granada, 127), Piper Anderson (Granada, 132), Elena Nguyen-Schertzer (Granada, 147) and Isabella Tovar (Granada, 172).

EBAL Basketball: They had to turn fans away from Granada's convincing 64-56 home win over Livermore on Friday (Feb. 6) as Brandon Hahn finished off his potential league MVP season with 18 points and 19 rebounds. Damien Miles added 16 points and Quaran Johnson Jr. scored 14. It helped offset a massive 27-point outing by Livermore's Amare Chandler, who led a late comeback after the Matadors (18-7, 5-4) built a 20-point lead in the third quarter en route to their 24th straight win in the series.

Neither team made the EBAL's new four-team playoff format but each figure to be high NCS Division 1 seeds. Livermore dropped to 17-9, 3-6. A ferocious dunk down the stretch by Cordell Taylor sealed it.

"It was loud and intense," Hahn said of the win over Livermore. "I love that the freshman and JV teams had a chance to play in front of a packed house. ... We knew this rivalry game would be different from the past because (Livermore) plays hard and coached well. Let's be real. Anything can happen in a rivalry game. We were ready and our coaches prepped us well."

Amador Valley's boys (16-10), one of five teams to finish 5-4 in league play, opened the league playoffs Wednesday (Feb. 11) at Dougherty Valley (18-8, 6-3), while De La Salle (21-5, 7-2) hosted Monte Vista (16-10, 5-4). The winners will play Friday at the higher seed.

In EBAL girls playoffs on Wednesday, third-seed Dublin (20-6, 7-2) played at No. 2 Carondelet (22-4, 8-1) and top seed San Ramon Valley (22-3, 9-0) hosted California (17-9, 6-3). The winners play Friday at the higher seed.

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

Year of the Cowboys Continues in Livermore

By Mitch Stephens

In a school year of celebration at Livermore High School, this was another doozy, even if there was only a 4-minute buildup.

For the second time in about a month — and the third time since November — a giddy, celebratory chunk of the Livermore student body stormed the playing field/court at Maple Street on Feb. 4 following the final horn of the boys basketball team's 51-45 win over Concord private school power De La Salle.

It is believed to be the first-ever win over the Spartans, who had won 24 straight games over the Cowboys from 2009 to now. No one believed the two programs even played before the turn of the century.

"I think they came to our tournament in the mid-90s, but I don't remember even playing them," said Livermore coach Mike Tripp, in his 40th year of coaching and second stint with the Cowboys. "This is a huge win for our program."

De La Salle (21-5 overall, 8-2 East Bay Athletic League) had already clinched the EBAL title and has a strong Bay Area regional and state reputation.

That's why beating the Spartans was such a big deal. And the fact the Livermore stands, especially the student body section, were filled meant so much to the Cowboys (17-9, 3-6).

The game was a continuation of a suspended game from Jan. 27 that was halted due to a major brawl in the gym's foyer. Up to a dozen students were involved, some from Livermore High School and others from a "neighboring high school," said Livermore athletic director James Petersdorf.

Livermore led 44-41 at the time of the suspension, so the game was totally up for grabs.

The Cowboys' sensational sophomore Amare Chandler literally went up and snatched it, to the delight of the Livermore faithful.

The do-everything 6-foot-6 front-liner scored five of the seven points in the final 4:04 to finish with a game-high 29 points overall. His spinning left-handed (he's right-handed) bank shot in the key over three defenders was the key bucket, and that had the cheering section in a frenzy.

"What a shot," Tripp said. "The kid never ceases to amaze me."

Said Petersdorf, a 2000 Livermore graduate who played for Tripp then coached the Cowboys' basketball team for

20 years, 13 seasons as the head varsity coach: "Sky is the limit for Amare. He's such a young kid with so much room to grow. It will be fun to see him as an 18-year-old."

"He works so hard. He's such a good kid. A really nice young man. It's fun to see him succeed. You want to cheer for him. You want to root for him."

Tripp and the Cowboys were so glad the fans showed out so enthusiastically. There was talk that the final 4:04 would be played without (fans in the) stands, in an empty gym. That's what they decided at Piedmont last week after a full-scale brawl took place in their gym Jan. 30 in a game with San Leandro.

Piedmont's next home game, also on Feb. 4 — the same night as Livermore-De La Salle — was played with no fans and the home team, like Livermore, pulled off a major upset over rival Bishop O'Dowd-Oakland.

their fans." Though Chandler, regarded as one of the top sophomores in Northern California if not the state, did most of the damage offensively, the Cowboys got great all-around performances from point guard CT Harper, Zach Linger and Dylan Wherry, who combined for 26 points and stellar defense. The Cowboys didn't allow a basket — only four free throws — in the final 4:04.

That should bode well in North Coast Section playoff action, which will begin Feb. 17. The Cowboys, who concluded the season with a 64-56 loss at Granada on Feb. 6 despite 27 more points by Chandler, will have 11 days off between games.

Not ideal.

Last season, Livermore won its first NCS home playoff game in more than 20 years with a 71-61 win over San Marin-Novato. That was at



Livermore's CT Harper (left) and Caden Kinney (right, in white) defending De La Salle's Davit Pachulia shooting the ball. (Photo courtesy of Adam J. Clark/Livermore-Granada Boosters)

Petersdorf said that administrators from both sides debated whether to allow fans, but ultimately Livermore principal Roxana Mohammed made the call.

"She made the right call," Petersdorf said the night of the game. "We have three administrators here tonight. They're all working together to make sure everyone behaves. And, honestly, the problem last week wasn't between (De La Salle and Livermore) or even the fans in the gym."

Tripp has been gushing over the school's support all season, especially after the Cowboys broke a 121-game EBAL losing streak to start the league season with a 74-63 win over Amador Valley.

"Our student body is spectacular," Tripp said. "I'm speechless because that's probably one of the biggest wins we've ever had at the school in any sport. I'm so glad the players got to celebrate it with

the Division 3 level. Because of so many quality wins, the Cowboys will likely be lifted to the Division 1 tournament this season.

"This much time off isn't the best," Tripp said. "But a win like this will definitely be a big confidence booster no matter who we play. If you can beat De La Salle, on any given night, we can beat just about anyone."

Especially if they play in front of their home crowd. That's part of the reason reserve Matteo Lortie even joined the team. The school's All-Bay Area quarterback, who led the Cowboys to their first EBAL title in more than 30 years during the fall, knew he wasn't going to play much on the loaded Livermore basketball squad.

"I wanted to be a part of it," he said. "I wanted to be part of not just one but two lasting legacies. Our student body and all the fans have made it so much fun."

LEGAL NOTICES/CLASSIFIEDS

www.independentnews.com



LEGAL NOTICES

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620068

The following person(s) doing business as: Allen Concrete Resurfacing, 772 Tanager Rd, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Nicolas David Leighman Allen V, 2150 Portola Ave, Suite D #259, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Nicolas David Leighman Allen V, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 12, 2026. Expires January 11, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6676. Published January 22, 29, February 5, 12, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620104

The following person(s) doing business as: Vela Design House, 1056 Serpentine Lane, Suite C, Pleasanton, CA 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Gar-Cal Corporation, PO Box 24, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Angel Garcia, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 13, 2026. Expires January 12, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6677. Published January 22, 29, February 5, 12, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620105

The following person(s) doing business as: Luma Foundation, 653 Buckeye DR., Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered

by the following owner(s): Angel Garcia, 653 Buckeye DR., Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Angel Garcia, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 13, 2026. Expires January 12, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6678. Published January 22, 29, February 5, 12, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620014

The following person(s) doing business as: Barrel Down Wine Services, 2356 Palm Avenue, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Meredith Sarbariora, 2356 Palm Avenue, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 2/15/2021. Signature of Registrant/s/: Meredith Sarbariora, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 8, 2026. Expires January 7, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6679. Published January 22, 29, February 5, 12, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 619999

The following person(s) doing business as: Becca Sews, 125 Northwood Commons, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Rebecca Okurowski, 125 Northwood Commons, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 5/6/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Rebecca Okurowski,

Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 8, 2026. Expires January 7, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6680. Published January 22, 29, February 5, 12, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620155

The following person(s) doing business as: Golden Pacific Realty, 7161 Amador Valley Blvd, Dublin, CA 94568 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Yadira Estrada Reza, 7161 Amador Valley Blvd, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 1/04/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Yadira Estrada Reza, Broker. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 14, 2026. Expires January 13, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6681. Published January 22, 29, February 5, 12, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620188

The following person(s) doing business as: Level Five Design, Inc., 362 Henry ST, Oakland, CA 94607 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Level Five Design Inc., 362 Henry ST, Oakland, CA 94607. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Rye Hudak, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 15, 2026. Expires January 14, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6682. Published January 22, 29, February 5, 12, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620197

The following person(s) doing business as: Calcoast - ITL, 683 Thornton ST, San Leandro, CA 94577-2627 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Cummins Lighting Laboratory, Inc., 683 Thornton ST, San Leandro, CA 94577. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 1/2/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Douglas G. Cummins, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 15, 2026. Expires January 14, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6682. Published January 22, 29, February 5, 12, 2026.

The following person(s) doing business as: Calcoast - ITL, 683 Thornton ST, San Leandro, CA 94577-2627 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Cummins Lighting Laboratory, Inc., 683 Thornton ST, San Leandro, CA 94577. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 1/2/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Douglas G. Cummins, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 15, 2026. Expires January 14, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6682. Published January 22, 29, February 5, 12, 2026.

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No. 23CV057551 SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF ALAMEDA TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

Petitioner: Jaeden Tyler Ilano-Suva 8265 Wexford Court Dublin, CA 94568 filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
Present Names: Jaeden Tyler Ilano-Suva
Proposed Name: Jaeden Tyler Ilano
THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause

why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.

NOTICE OF HEARING
Date: 03/06/2026
Time: 9:00 AM
Dept: 514
The address of the court is:
Superior Court of Alameda County 24405 Amador Street Hayward, CA 94544 Oakland, CA 94612

A copy of this Order To Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation printed in this county: The Independent Newspaper 2250 First Street, Livermore, CA 94550 Dated: 01/12/2026 /s/: Thomas Nixon, Judge. The Independent, Legal No. 6683. Published January 29, February 5, 12, 19, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620327

The following person(s) doing business as: TLL Investigations and Consulting, 304 Avondale Lane, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Tobias Lay 304 Avondale Lane, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Tobias Lay, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 22, 2026. Expires January 21, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6684. Published January 29, February 5, 12, 19, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620106

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Lynch Auditing; 2. Lynch Advisory, 695 Brighton Way, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): 695 Lynch LLC, 695 Brighton Way, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by a Limited Liabil-

FILE NO. 620299

The following person(s) doing business as: Piazza for Hair, 157 South J Street, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): 023 Patterson LLC, 1374 Chelsea Way, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 1/1/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Julie Liskey-Patterson, Owner/Manager. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 21, 2026. Expires January 20, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6685. Published January 29, February 5, 12, 19, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 619917

The following person(s) doing business as: Warnings Wellness, 4314 Allendale Ave, Oakland, CA 94619 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Warnings Wattanadumrong, 4314 Allendale Ave, Oakland, CA 94619. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 1/6/26. Signature of Registrant/s/: Warnings Wattanadumrong, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 6, 2026. Expires January 5, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6686. Published January 29, February 5, 12, 19, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620106

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Lynch Auditing; 2. Lynch Advisory, 695 Brighton Way, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): 695 Lynch LLC, 695 Brighton Way, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by a Limited Liabil-

FILE NO. 620299

The following person(s) doing business as: Piazza for Hair, 157 South J Street, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): 023 Patterson LLC, 1374 Chelsea Way, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 1/1/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Andrew Lynch, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 13, 2026. Expires January 12, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6687. Published January 29, February 5, 12, 19, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620208

The following person(s) doing business as: Loanova, 3049 Independence Drive, Suite A, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Cubus Solutions, Inc., 1300 SW 5th Avenue, Portland, OR 97201. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 1/1/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: John-Ashley Paul, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 15, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6688. Published January 29, February 5, 12, 19, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620258

The following person(s) doing business as: Aging in the Bay Dublin, 7875 Ironwood Drive, Dublin, CA 94568 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Bahay Kubo 2 LLC, 7875 Ironwood Drive, Dublin CA 94568. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 1/20/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Michael Mendaras, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 20, 2026. Expires January 19, 2031. The Independent, Legal

No. 6689. Published January 29, February 5, 12, 19, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620018

The following person(s) doing business as: Smart Shield Insurance Agency, 3041 Victoria Loop, Dublin, CA 94568 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Cutting Chai LLC, 3041 Victoria Loop, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Dhwanit purohit, Manager. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 8, 2026. Expires January 7, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6690. Published January 29, February 5, 12, 19, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620057

The following person(s) doing business as: Meant for More Coaching, 2121 Filbert ST, Oakland, CA 94607. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 1/1/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Rachael Gingery, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 9, 2026. Expires January 8, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6691. Published January 29, February 5, 12, 19, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620355

The following person(s) doing business as: Brisket Chips Co., 2297 American Avenue, Hayward, CA 94545 is hereby registered by the following

LEGAL NOTICES/CLASSIFIEDS

www.independentnews.com



owner(s): NGO Big LLC, 2297 American Avenue, Hayward, CA 94545. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 6/1/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Trung Viet Tran. Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 22, 2026. Expires January 21, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6692. Published January 29, February 5, 12, 19, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 619521

The following person(s) doing business as: Whitelaw Glass and Aluminum, 145 Barber Street, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Michael Whitelaw, 145 Barber Street, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 12/1/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Michael Whitelaw, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January December 16, 2025. Expires December 15, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6693. Published January 29, February 5, 12, 19, 2026.

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (EIR) (SCH# 2023020424)

Date: January 16, 2026
To: California State Clearinghouse, state Responsible and Trustee Agencies, federal agencies, county clerks, local jurisdictions and interested individuals and organizations

Subject: Notice of Availability of Draft EIR for public review to receive comments on the California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR), Carnegie State Vehicular Recreation Area Resource Management Area Program Draft EIR

Lead Agency: DPR is the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for the Draft EIR. Applicant: DPR, Diablo Range District, 15751 Tesla Road, Livermore, CA 94550

Project Location: Diablo Range mountains of unincorporated eastern Alameda and western San Joaquin counties, California
Project Description: Carnegie State Vehicular Recreation Area (SVRA) is a 1,533-acre off-highway vehicle (OHV) park in eastern Alameda and western San Joaquin counties. The park is operated by the Diablo Range District of California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR). The SVRA is divided into Management Units to provide a structure for implementing natural resource management activities. Some of these Management Units have been further subdivided into smaller resource management zones (Resource Management Areas; RMAs) to actively manage the road and trail system through recontouring, erosion control, revegetation, and use control in order to meet the Soil Conservation Standard and regulatory requirements of stormwater runoff. Currently, the SVRA has 14 RMAs. The Diablo Range District proposes to establish RMAs throughout the hillside riding areas of the park as part of its ongoing effort to manage soil erosion and the water quality of storm water runoff. The proposed project would progressively establish new RMAs to provide ongoing sustainable OHV recreation management through reducing trail density, increasing vegetation cover, creating sustainable trails, enforcing trails-only riding, and implementing loss and erosion control measures that disperse storm water runoff to prevent accelerated erosion, and rehabilitate damaged soil surfaces.

ANTICIPATED SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS:

The Draft EIR identifies potentially significant biological and geological impacts associated with the proposed new project activities. All impacts can be reduced to less than significant through mitigation measures.

REQUEST FOR COMMENTS: The Draft EIR is available for public review and comment, beginning January 21, 2026. Your response must be sent at the earliest possible date, but no later than 5PM, March 9, 2026. Pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines

Section 15088.S(f)(2), CDPR is recirculating the entire Draft EIR and requests that reviewers submit new comments. The Final EIR will only provide responses to comments submitted on the Draft EIR. Please send your comments to comment@carnegierra.com. You may also send written comments to April Mason, Altamont Sector Manager, California Department Parks and Recreation, Diablo Range District, 15751 Tesla Road, Livermore, CA 94550. Emailed comments are preferred.

DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY: The Draft EIR and all documents referenced in the EIR are available for review at the address shown above. Draft EIR documents may also be reviewed or downloaded from the following address: www.oceanoduneshcp.com. The Independent, Legal No. 6694. Published February 5, 2026.

Superior Court of the State of California
Case No.: 25FL03171
Companion Case: 24AD00093

For the County of SACRAMENTO. IN THE MATTER OF NOVA RAE EDMONDS A.K.A. OCEAN NOVA GARDENAS. A minor person who should be declared free from the custody and control of her presumed father). CITATION RE HEARING ON PE-

TITION FOR FREEDOM FROM PARENTAL CUSTODY AND CONTROL PURSUANT TO FAMILY CODE SECTION 7822.
TO: Ward Allen Keck: PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that it is alleged that you are the presumed biological father of Baby Girl Keller a.k.a. Baby Girl Edmonds a.k.a. Nova Rae Edmonds a.k.a. Ocean Nova Cardenas ("Minor") born May 24, 2024, in San Francisco, California, a child who was placed for adoption. BY ORDER of this Court you are hereby cited and required to appear before the Judge Presiding in Department 125 of the above-entitled court, located at the William R. Ridgeway Family Relations Courthouse, 3341 Power Inn Road, Sacramento, California 95826, on March 10, 2026 at 1:30 p.m. of that day, then and there to show cause why the court should not make an order terminating your parental rights to the Minor child on the grounds of abandonment pursuant to Family Code Section 7822. The Independent, Legal No. 6695. Published February 5, 12, 19, 26, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620397

The following person(s) doing business as: Fairfield By Marriott Livermore, 220 N Greenville Road, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Blue Diamond Management Inc., 3446 Zaccaria Way, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 1/22/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Novedep K. Sanghera, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 26, 2026. Expires January 25, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6696. Published February 5, 12, 19, 26, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620397

The following person(s) doing business as: AFFS, 350 S0nic Avenue, Suite 101, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Consumer Credit Counseling Foundation, Inc., 350 S0nic Ave, Suite 101, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 12/15/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Porus Engineer, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 7, 2026. Expires January 6, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6637. Published February 5, 12, 19, 26, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 619968

The following person(s) doing business as: AFSS, 350 S0nic Avenue, Suite 101, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Consumer Credit Counseling Foundation, Inc., 350 S0nic Ave, Suite 101, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 12/15/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Porus Engineer, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 7, 2026. Expires January 6, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6637. Published February 5, 12, 19, 26, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620459

The following person(s) doing business as: Stoic Rebel Financial, 3245 Bayo Vista Avenue, Alameda, CA 94501 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Daniel Heller, 3245 Bayo Vista Ave, Alameda, CA 94501. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Daniel Heller. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 27, 2026. Expires January 26, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6698. Published February 5, 12, 19, 26, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620472

The following person(s) doing business as: GI Specialists, 15035 E 14th St, San Leandro, CA 94578 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): GI Ghevariya, PC, 15035 E 14th St, San Leandro, CA 94578. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Vishal Ghevariya, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 27, 2026. Expires January 26, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6699. Published February 5, 12, 19, 26, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620469

The following person(s) doing business as: Reeds Logistics Ride, 1601 165th Ave, APT 107, San Leandro, CA 94578 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Moufeed M. Ismail, 1601 165th Ave #107, San Leandro, CA 94578. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 5/7/2021. Signature of Registrant/s/: Moufeed M. Ismail, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 27, 2026. Expires January 26, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6700. Published February 5, 12, 19, 26, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620469

The following person(s) doing business as: Sentinel Skills Systems, 1445 34th Ave #7891, Oakland, CA 94601 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Sentinel Skills Systems, 1445 34th Ave #7891, Oakland, CA 94601. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Ronald Rivers, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 28, 2026. Expires January 27, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6701. Published February 5, 12, 19, 26, 2026.

1601 165th Ave #107, San Leandro, CA 94578. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 5/7/2021. Signature of Registrant/s/: Moufeed M. Ismail, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 27, 2026. Expires January 26, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6700. Published February 5, 12, 19, 26, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620477

The following person(s) doing business as: Sentinel Skills Systems, 1445 34th Ave #7891, Oakland, CA 94601 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Sentinel Skills Systems, 1445 34th Ave #7891, Oakland, CA 94601. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Ronald Rivers, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 28, 2026. Expires January 27, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6701. Published February 5, 12, 19, 26, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620259

The following person(s) doing business as: Ollie and The Court LLC, 1361 Park Street STE 218, Alameda, CA 94501 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Ollie and The Court LLC, 1361 Park Street Ste 218, Alameda, CA 94501. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 1/20/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Everett Alfonso Herbert, Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 20, 2026. Expires January 19, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6702. Published February 5, 12, 19, 26, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620405

The following person(s) doing business as: Redwood Creative Therapy, 4133 Mohr Ave, Suite 1, Pleasanton, CA 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Brittany Tachkov, 2295 Camino Brazos, Pleasanton, CA 94566. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 4/1/2024. Signature of Registrant/s/: Brittany Tachkov, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 26, 2026. Expires January 26, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6708. Published February 12, 19, 26, March 5, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620572

The following person(s) doing business as: Covenant Assembly of Churches World - Wide, 230 Crolls Garden CT, Alameda, CA 94501 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Goshen Faith Assembly MBC, Inc, 1740 yth Ave, Oakland, CA 94606. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 12/2/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Jose R. Mendia, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 16, 2026. Expires January 15, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6703. Published February 5, 12, 19, 26, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620497

The following person(s) doing business as: Biryani Bliss, 1536 N Vasco Rd, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Bajrangji LLC, 1536 N Vasco Rd, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 1/21/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Vivekanand Vennam, Manager. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 28, 2026. Expires January 27, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6704. Published February 5, 12, 19, 26, 2026.

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME ORIGINAL FILE NO. 605794

The person(s) listed below have abandoned the use of the following fictitious business name(s), Jet Restoration, 24547 Amador ST #7, Hayward, CA 94544. Registered by the following owner(s): Melanie Dominguez, 24547 Amador #7, Hayward, CA 94544. The fictitious business name statement was filed on 04/24/24 in the County of Alameda. This business was conducted by an individual. Signature of Registrants: /s/: Melanie Dominguez, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on Jan 2, 2026. The Independent, Legal No. 6705. Published February 5, 12, 19, 26, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 619853

The following person(s) doing business as: Alameda Perio and Implant Center, 2238 Santa Clara Ave, Ste C, Alameda, CA 94501 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): DU Dental Group, Inc, 2238 Santa Clara Ave, STE C, Alameda, CA 94501. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 1/1/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Rick Lahkar, Managing Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 26, 2026. Expires January 25, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6710. Published February 12, 19, 26, March 5, 2026.

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME ORIGINAL FILE NO. 586914

The person(s) listed below have abandoned the use of the following fictitious business name(s), Valley Brokers on Main, 855 Main Street #204, Pleasanton, CA 94566. Registered by the following owner(s): Gerald Smith, 1761 Schantz Way, Tracy, CA 95376. The fictitious business name statement was filed on 03/03/2022 in the County of Alameda. This business was conducted by an individual. Signature of Registrants: /s/: Pam Dew-Smith, Executor. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on Jan 14, 2026. The Independent, Legal No. 6706. Published February 5, 12, 19, 26, 2026.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to section 21707 of chapter 10 to division of 8 of the business and professions code, notice is hereby given by the undersigned that a public lien sale of the following described personal property will be held at the hour of 9:00 am PST on March 5th, 2026. The sale will be conducted by John Cardoza, auctioneer, (209)667-5797, bond number 5860870, located at: **UNITS East Bay 6011 Las Positas Rd, Livermore, CA. 94550** The items to be sold are generally described as follows: Household/Miscellaneous goods Unit B0524 Elaine Salmassian Unit R0117 Ronnie Collier Unit B0518 Debra Powers The Independent, Legal No. 6707. Published February 12, 19, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620629

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Youngwinks; 2. Worksknow; 3. Young Winks; 4. Prowinks; 5. Edoptin; 6. Ed Optim; 7. Vinterview; 8. College Dev; 9. Testwatch, 6920 Koll Center Pkwy, Ste 219, Pleasanton, CA 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Worksknow LLC, 6920 Koll Center Pkwy, Ste 219, Pleasanton, CA 94566. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 1/13/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Cindy Lu, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 14, 2026. Expires January 13, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6717. Published February 12, 19, 26, March 5, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620611

The following person(s) doing business as: Salon Du Monde, 37627 Niles Blvd, Fremont, CA 94536 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Minh Chau Vo, 37627 Niles Blvd, CA 94536. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 1/26/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Maghe Premmanisakul, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 29, 2026. Expires January 28, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6714. Published February 12, 19, 26, March 5, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620611

The following person(s) doing business as: Wam Digital, 1050 Larkspur Drive, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Wam Digital LLC, 1050 Larkspur Drive, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Roy Solario, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 29, 2026. Expires January 28, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6714. Published February 12, 19, 26, March 5, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620428

The following person(s) doing business as: CRE Shoppe, 4198 Rennelwood Way, Pleasanton, CA 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Lahkar RE Shoppe LLC, 4198 Rennelwood Way, Pleasanton, CA 94566. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 1/1/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Rick Lahkar, Managing Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 26, 2026. Expires January 25, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6710. Published February 12, 19, 26, March 5, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 619853

The following person(s) doing business as: Alameda Perio and Implant Center, 2238 Santa Clara Ave, Ste C, Alameda, CA 94501 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): DU Dental Group, Inc, 2238 Santa Clara Ave, STE C, Alameda, CA 94501. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 1/1/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Rick Lahkar, Managing Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 26, 2026. Expires January 25, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6710. Published February 12, 19, 26, March 5, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 619853

The following person(s) doing business as: Alameda Perio and Implant Center, 2238 Santa Clara Ave, Ste C, Alameda, CA 94501 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): DU Dental Group, Inc, 2238 Santa Clara Ave, STE C, Alameda, CA 94501. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 1/1/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Rick Lahkar, Managing Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 26, 2026. Expires January 25, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6710. Published February 12, 19, 26, March 5, 2026.

to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 6/1/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: David Du, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 5, 2026. Expires January 4, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6711. Published February 12, 19, 26, March 5, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620597

The following person(s) doing business as: Hawaiiki Industries, 321 Clay Street, Oakland, CA 94607 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Contance McComb, 321 Clay's street, Oakland, CA 94607. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 1/28/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Contance McComb, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 2, 2026. Expires February 1, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6712. Published February 12, 19, 26, March 5, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620629

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Youngwinks; 2. Worksknow; 3. Young Winks; 4. Prowinks; 5. Edoptin; 6. Ed Optim; 7. Vinterview; 8. College Dev; 9. Testwatch, 6920 Koll Center Pkwy, Ste 219, Pleasanton, CA 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Worksknow LLC, 6920 Koll Center Pkwy, Ste 219, Pleasanton, CA 94566. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 1/13/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Cindy Lu, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 14, 2026. Expires January 13, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6717. Published February 12, 19, 26, March 5, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620611

The following person(s) doing business as: Salon Du Monde, 37627 Niles Blvd, Fremont, CA 94536 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Minh Chau Vo, 37627 Niles Blvd, CA 94536. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 1/26/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Maghe Premmanisakul, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 29, 2026. Expires January 28, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6714. Published February 12, 19, 26, March 5, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620513

The following person(s) doing business as: Wam Digital, 1050 Larkspur Drive, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Wam Digital LLC, 1050 Larkspur Drive, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Roy Solario, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 29, 2026. Expires January 28, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6714. Published February 12, 19, 26, March 5, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620425

The following person(s) doing business as: New Learning Grove Academy, 6680 Sierra LN, Dublin, CA 94568 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Shining Starz, LLC, 6680 Sierrall LN, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 1/26/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Maghe Premmanisakul, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 29, 2026. Expires January 28, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6714. Published February 12, 19, 26, March 5, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620611

The following person(s) doing business as: Salon Du Monde, 37627 Niles Blvd, Fremont, CA 94536 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Minh Chau Vo, 37627 Niles Blvd, CA 94536. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 1/26/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Maghe Premmanisakul, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 29, 2026. Expires January 28, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6714. Published February 12, 19, 26, March 5, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620611

The following person(s) doing business as: Salon Du Monde, 37627 Niles Blvd, Fremont, CA 94536 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Minh Chau Vo, 37627 Niles Blvd, CA 94536. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 1/26/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Maghe Premmanisakul, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 29, 2026. Expires January 28, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6714. Published February 12, 19, 26, March 5, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620611

The following person(s) doing business as: Salon Du Monde, 37627 Niles Blvd, Fremont, CA 94536 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Minh Chau Vo, 37627 Niles Blvd, CA 94536. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 1/26/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Maghe Premmanisakul, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 29, 2026. Expires January 28, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6714. Published February 12, 19, 26, March 5, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620611

The following person(s) doing business as: Salon Du Monde, 37627 Niles Blvd, Fremont, CA 94536 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Minh Chau Vo, 37627 Niles Blvd, CA 94536. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 1/26/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Maghe Premmanisakul, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 29, 2026. Expires January 28, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6714. Published February 12, 19, 26, March 5, 2026.

business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 4/5/2016. Signature of Registrant/s/: Minh Chau Vo, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 3, 2026. Expires February 2, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6715. Published February 12, 19, 26, March 5, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620405

The following person(s) doing business as: Volvo Construction Equipment & Services, 1944 Marina Boulevard, San Leandro, CA 94577 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): SABA Holding Company LLC, PO Box 60577 Fort Myers, FL 33906. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 1/1/2014. Signature of Registrant/s/: Sherry Lowe Johnson, Manager. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 22, 2026. Expires January 21, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6716. Published February 12, 19, 26, March 5, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620145

The following person(s) doing business as: Echo Esthetics, 2690 5th St, Unit A, Alameda, CA 94501 is hereby registered by the following owner(s):

“Forbidden Love” Performed by Symphony

By Jessica Zimmer

LIVERMORE — The Livermore-Amador Symphony will perform a Valentine’s Day concert emphasizing drama, passion, and the romance behind “Romeo and Juliet.” The event will take place at 8 p.m. on Feb. 14 at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore.

Before the concert, conductor Lara Webber will give a brief “Inside the Music” talk. The concert will feature “The Walk to the Paradise Garden” by Frederick Delius, “Romeo and Juliet Suite No. 2” by Sergei Prokofiev, and “Salut d’Amour” by Edward Elgar. Teen jazz band Element 116 will play Valentine’s Day jazz tunes at intermission. After the concert, the Livermore-Amador Symphony Guild will host a wine and chocolate pairing reception featuring local wines.

The concert will showcase Donghu Kim and Cara Wang, two of the winners of the Livermore-Amador Symphony’s 53rd annual competition for young musicians. Both Kim and Wang are cellists. Kim will perform as a soloist for “Rococo Variations” by Pyotr Tchaikovsky. Wang will perform as a soloist in the “1st Movement of the Cello Concerto” by Antonin Dvořák.

“This is a love-themed con-

cert with a great deal of variety,” Webber said. “There’s something for everyone. “The Walk to the Paradise Garden” was composed to reflect a rare moment of peace for Romeo and Juliet. It shows how much they love each other. This piece is ethereal, deeply emotive, and relaxing.” Prokofiev’s Suite is from his full-length ballet “Romeo and Juliet.” Prokofiev’s music is based on Shake-



Cara Wang and Donghu Kim
(Photos courtesy of Livermore Amador Symphony)

“This concert will have all the ups and downs and twists and turns of star-crossed lovers. Romeo and Juliet themselves will be in attendance, courtesy of SPARC,” Webber said.

Anne Anaya, a second violinist in the Livermore-Amador Symphony, said she sees it as a treat to play music with gifted young artists.

“I’m in awe of the expertise and talent of this year’s



speare’s play of the same name.

“Each character in the story is represented by a musical theme,” Webber said. “You definitely hear the conflict between the Montagues and the Capulets. Juliet’s theme begins as a very childlike and playful melody. It deepens romantically over time.” She described Elgar’s piece as a “musical bon bon,” very passionate and sentimental.

winners,” said Anaya, who is also the president of the Livermore-Amador Symphony Association.

This year, the orchestra rehearsed for its February concert for five to six weeks, rather than within its usual six to eight weeks.

“The meticulous planning required a lot of strategy,” Webber said. “I must have a clear understanding of how

much time each piece requires to play through and rehearse, and adapt constantly,” Webber said it helps that the musicians are well attuned to working with her and playing together.

“That happens when you’ve been together for years,” Webber said.

Anaya said another factor in this concert’s success is that some musicians play frequently in small groups, in addition to attending all-member rehearsals.

The Livermore-Amador Symphony Guild, a 75-member group that supports the symphony, will contribute to the Valentine’s Day concert in multiple ways. Guild members will set up a photo station with props and a background in the lobby at intermission and offer guests chocolate and selected wines during a post-concert reception.

“We think of ways to add to every concert,” said PJ Wells, president of the Livermore-Amador Symphony Guild. “We work on achieving our goals throughout the concert season. This helps deliver fun and unique experiences for concert-goers.” Wells said she and other guild members are excited about the upcoming concert because the group is composed of classical music lovers.

ARROYO CELLARS

Tasting Room Open:
Saturday: 12 - 5pm,
Sunday: 12 - 5pm,
or by appointment
2270 Research Drive,
Livermore
(925) 292-9157

MILLER'S
AIR CONDITIONING and HEATING
WE SERVICE ALL MAJOR BRANDS!
Residential & Commercial

WINNER
LAST YEAR THE BEST IN EAST BAY 2024
READER'S CHOICE AWARDS

Serving The Tri-Valley Since 1960
925.447.3000
www.CallMillers.com Lic. #253756

Peace of Mind through Planning

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

Law Offices of Jennifer E. Ramirez, A.P.C.
(925) 724-9190 | lawofficejer.com

BOYZ II Men Joins Alameda County Fair Summer Concert Series Lineup

By Sanestina Hunter

PLEASANTON — Boyz II Men, the multi-platinum, Grammy Award-winning R&B group behind some of the most recognizable songs of the 1990s, is headed to the Alameda County Fair this summer.

The group will take the stage as part of the fair’s Big O Tires Concert Series with an 8 p.m. performance Friday, July 10, at the Pleasanton fairgrounds.

Known for their smooth harmonies, Boyz II Men became a fixture on radio in the 1990s with songs like “On Bended

More than three decades into the group’s career, Boyz II Men continue to tour internationally, performing as a trio while keeping the authentic sound that made them household names.

The fair performance is expected to feature a mix of the group’s best-known songs, with an emphasis on live harmonies and crowd favorite hits that have remained popular decades after their release.

While many fans associate the group with ‘90s R&B, Boyz II Men has continued to reach new audiences through

lineup designed to offer a mix of nostalgia, pop, R&B and high-energy performances. Flo Rida will perform Wednesday, July 8, bringing party-ready songs to the fairgrounds.

The Grammy-nominated rapper broke into the mainstream in the late 2000s with tracks like “Low,” “Right Round,” and “My House,” and continues to tour at festivals and large outdoor venues.

Other scheduled performers include Twist on Taylor, a Taylor Swift tribute act, on Saturday, June 20; the Beach Boys on Wednesday, July 1; Damage Inc., a Metallica tribute band, on Saturday, July 11; and electronic pop group Cheat Codes on Sunday, July 12. Additional artists are expected to be announced.

The Alameda County Fair runs from June 19 through July 12 in Pleasanton, offering live music, entertainment, carnival rides, and family-friendly attractions. Fair hours are noon to 11 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday.

Concerts are held from 8 p.m. to 9:15 p.m., except July 4, when no concert is scheduled. Bleacher seating is included with fair admission, while reserved seating is sold separately and varies by artist and availability.

General gate admission is \$19.80 for ages 13 to 61, \$16.50 for seniors ages 62 and older, and \$16.50 for children ages 6 to 12. Children ages 5 and younger are admitted for free.

Fair officials advise guests to purchase tickets only through the official Alameda County Fair ticketing platform, Saffire, noting that tickets purchased

through third-party resale sites are not guaranteed.

For ticket information, concert schedules, and fair hours, visit alamedacountyfair.com.



Boyz II Men will be at the Alameda County Fair on July 10. (Photo courtesy of the Alameda County Fair)

Knee,” “Water Runs Dry” and “It’s So Hard to Say Goodbye.”

Their success helped bring R&B vocal groups into the pop mainstream. “End of the Road” spent a then-record 13 weeks at No. 1 on the Billboard Hot 100.

“Boyz II Men deliver strong nostalgic appeal for one of the fair’s top demographics — millennials who grew up with their iconic hits,” said Kayla Lueck, admissions and project supervisor for the Alameda County Fair. “Their music bridges generations and reinforces the fair as a summer tradition rooted in memorable, high-quality performances.”

touring and recent pop-culture appearances.

The group is experiencing renewed momentum, with projects that include an upcoming biopic and documentary, a feature tied to Disneyland’s 70th anniversary, and the 2026 New Edition Tour featuring Toni Braxton, fair officials said.

The trio also recently recorded the opening serenade and closing credits for the latest season of “The Simpsons.”

Tickets for Boyz II Men went on sale to the general public at 9 a.m. Friday, Feb. 6.

The July 10 show is part of a broader summer concert

THE INDEPENDENT GALLERY

Featuring Photographer **BILL OWENS**
SUBURBIA

FREE and OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
GALLERY OPEN
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13TH 6 – 8PM
and
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14TH 6 – 8PM

BILL OWENS – Photographer for The Independent from 1968–1984, during which time he produced Suburbia (published in 1972) and The Legacy of Suburbia: Photographs 1964–2022 (published in 2022). Bill also worked as a photojournalist for Life Magazine and Newsweek, published multiple photography books, authored and published additional works, and even established one of the nation’s first brew pubs. You won’t want to miss his photography exhibition.

Art Gallery Sponsored by
LIVERMORE VALLEY arts &
THE Independent
2250 First St., Livermore

PLEASE HELP BRING MIGUEL HOME

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

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