



Large crowds lined Dublin Boulevard and Amador Plaza Road on Saturday, March 14, for the 42nd annual Dublin St. Patrick's Day Parade. Among the highlights was a procession of vintage tractors from the San Ramon Historical Foundation, which maintains an impressive collection of antique agricultural machinery. (Photo — Jacob Clouser)

LLNL Experts Brief California Leaders on Rapid Evolution of Artificial Intelligence

Aligning Advanced AI Research with Ethics, Public Policy and Governance

By Jeff Garberson

A small team from Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) has been briefing state legislators and business leaders on the promise and peril of artificial computer intelligence — AI, as it is widely known.

AI is “spreading throughout society, throughout the economy,” said Caspar Donnison, an LLNL economist and member of the team.

“Both its capabilities and its risks have been accelerating at a rapid pace. You can’t ignore it.”

The briefings were prompted by interest from the Sacramento-based California Foundation for Commerce and Education (CFCE)

and supported by the Livermore Lab Foundation (LLF).

CFCE is a nonprofit research organization associated with the California Chamber of Commerce. LLF is the nonprofit partner to LLNL, supporting science education and scientific research.

CFCE’s goal was to “find scientists to help provide objective, neutral information” for legislators who have to consider legislation on complex topics, Donnison said in an interview with The Independent.

LLNL is seen as an honest information broker, he added. “People who are listening to these briefings know that there is no sort of agenda here.”

To date the team has briefed

the Governor’s office, seven state legislators, a group of industry representatives and the Tri Valley business community.

The team developed a document to summarize its briefing: “AI in Eight Pages.” It is available online at: data-science.llnl.gov/sites/data_science/files/2026-01/ai-in-8-final-report_for_web.pdf.

In use, AI is varied and complex, but in general it can be described as a technology that allows computers to perform tasks that normally require human intelligence.

Instead of being programmed for every task, AI computers recognize patterns in data that let them make independent decisions or predictions.

(See AI, page 7)

Dublin Council Considers Potential Hotel Tax Increase for November 2026 Ballot

Aligning with Neighboring Pleasanton, Officials Weigh Proposal

By Sanestina Hunter

DUBLIN — Dublin City Council is considering a ballot measure that would increase the city’s Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT), a hotel tax, from 8% to 12% in the November 2026 election.

If approved by voters, the increase could generate an estimated \$700,000 in additional annual revenue — or roughly \$7 million over the next decade, according to a city staff report.

Dublin’s six hotels include Aloft, Extended Stay America, Holiday Inn, Hyatt Place, La Quinta Inn & Suites and the IHG Army Hotel at Camp Parks.

City officials said exemptions to certain federal employees staying at the IHG Army Hotel at Camp Parks would continue regardless of the tax rate increase. Officials added that communications with the installation commander indicated the change would not impact soldiers.

“The city directed staff to prepare a ballot measure that would increase the TOT to 10% beginning July 1, 2027, and to 12% beginning July 1, 2028,” Felicia Escover, Dublin’s economic development manager and interim public information officer, told The Independent.

She added that the council has not yet adopted the resolution that

would formally submit the ordinance amending the municipal code to voters.

Escover said the city is currently gathering feedback from local hotel operators and industry partners as part of the ongoing evaluation process.

Dublin’s hotel tax rate has remained unchanged since 1984, when the City Council adopted an ordinance establishing the TOT at 8%.

The Tri-Valley region has some of the lowest hotel tax rates in Alameda County and the East Bay, with most jurisdictions maintaining rates between 6.5% and 8%.

By comparison, the median hotel

(See TAX, page 7)

New General Plan Exhibits UGB and BART Uncertainty

Urban Growth Boundary Commitment Indefinite

By David Jen

LIVERMORE — The city’s next general plan, the overarching policy document intended to guide city decisions through 2045, has reached its final stages prior to its expected adoption this summer.

Land Use

The latest draft, released in February, sets into policy urban-expansion limitations voiced by residents during numerous planning meetings over the past several years. The plan establishes as a goal “a coherent and

logical pattern of urban uses that protects and enhances open space and agricultural uses by providing a clear and permanent boundary for urban uses within the city’s planning area.”

Toward that end, the plan includes policies to discourage and oppose urban uses outside city limits and to only extend urban services within the city’s urban growth boundary (UGB). Additional policies call for the city to influence land-use decisions along its edge “through annexation, provision of services, governmental interaction and land acquisition.”

(See GPAC, page 6)



Shown here in an aerial view, the bottling plant at the northwest corner of the Concannon Vineyard estate was the property’s last major addition in 2012. Its closure at the end of 2024 ended years of heavy industrial truck traffic, clearing the way for the Lemmons and Kent families to reimagine the estate as an artisan-focused destination. The transition begins this month with the replanting of 50 acres of Cabernet Franc and Sauvignon Blanc, Livermore’s heralded signature varietals. (Photo courtesy of David Kent)

Dublin’s Teachers Return After a Four-Day Strike

Deal Improves Salary, Healthcare and Class Size

By Sanestina Hunter

DUBLIN — Dublin teachers returned to classrooms Monday, March 16 after the union and school district reached a tentative agreement late Thursday night on a new contract that includes salary increases, smaller class sizes and expanded student support.

Leaders of the Dublin Teachers Association (DTA) had been on strike for four days before the deal was reached.

The tentative agreement must still be approved by DTA members and ratified by the Dublin Unified School District Board of Trustees before it takes effect.

The contract sets terms for salaries, health care benefits, class sizes and working conditions through the 2027–28 school year.

“This fight would not have been possible without your support,” the

DTA bargaining team said Thursday night in an email to members. “Our students are the center of everything we do, and they deserve the individualized support they need to thrive.”

District officials acknowledged the difficulty of the negotiations, but said the agreement represents compromise on both sides. Matt Campbell, assistant superintendent of business services for the Dublin Unified School District, said the agreement reflects a “balanced path forward” that supports educators while protecting the long-term stability of the schools.

The final agreement strikes a compromise where the union achieved significant improvements in working conditions and long-term benefits, while the district protected its immediate budget by phasing in the most expensive healthcare costs over several years.

(See STRIKE, page 7)



Viviana Garibay (left) and Rae Lane star in a scene from Chris De Pretis’s “East Bay Confidential” filmed on location at Cinco Tacobar in Livermore. De Pretis, a local filmmaker, used familiar Tri-Valley spots to bring his microbudget noir to life. (Photo courtesy of Chris De Pretis)

Local Filmmaker Debuts Tri-Valley Movie

‘East Bay Confidential’ Turns Familiar Landmarks into a Hometown Thriller

By Kathryn Stroud

TRI-VALLEY — For fans of noir and indie films, Tri-Valley filmmaker Chris De Pretis released his latest film, “East Bay Confidential,” on Prime Video last month.

De Pretis, raised in Pleasanton and now living in Livermore, shot the film entirely in the Tri-Valley in early 2023, with an all-local cast and crew. It took 17 days and the budget was \$3,600.

“Most of that was spent on food,” De Pretis said.

The story follows an Iraq War

veteran struggling to assimilate back into civilian life who gets framed for a crime and drawn into a larger criminal conspiracy rooted in the Tri-Valley. De Pretis, a veteran himself, drew on his own post-deployment experience while writing the character.

“While I’ve never been framed for a crime, I took my own experience of being a veteran and what it’s like to struggle with your identity after you’ve gotten out,” he says.

Filming locations span Livermore and Pleasanton, including

John’s Char-Burger, Cinco Tacobar, The Good Time Tavern, and others. The reception from local businesses was enthusiastic, De Pretis said, a contrast to his experience trying to film in Los Angeles.

“That’s one of the great things about shooting here versus in L.A. In L.A., you’d go into a business and you’d say, ‘Hey, we’d like to shoot something here’ and they’re like, ‘Okay, here is our day rate.’ But here, we go into a place and tell them we’re filming a small movie, and everybody was really excited,” De Pretis said.

(See MOVIE, page 12)

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PET OF THE WEEK



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Tri-Valley Spared in Proposed Health System Layoff Plan

By Sanestina Hunter

ALAMEDA — A plan to lay off nearly 200 workers and eliminate several health programs within Alameda Health System (AHS) is under review after the Alameda County Board of Supervisors stepped in to examine the hospital network's financial situation.

In a unanimous vote on March 3, supervisors directed county staff to work with AHS to explore options that could help avoid the proposed layoffs while address-

ing the system's estimated \$91.7 million budget deficit.

The working group will include Supervisors Nate Miley and Nikki Fortunato Bas, along with representatives from AHS administration and the labor union representing health care workers. The group is expected to weigh how these cuts would impact geographic equity between the county's urban core and the growing Tri-Valley region.

Those proposed layoffs and service changes raised concerns among workers

and patients, who said the cuts could reduce access to specialized care.

County supervisors said the newly formed working group will explore options such as improving revenue collection, identifying additional funding sources and evaluating operational changes that could help stabilize the health system's finances.

At the center of the financial concerns are anticipated reductions in federal health care funding tied to House Resolution 1, a federal bud-

get bill passed last year that is expected to reduce Medicaid reimbursements for hospitals that rely heavily on the program.

The measure is projected to reduce Medicaid funding by roughly \$1 trillion over the next decade while limiting reimbursement rates for hospitals that serve a large number of low-income patients.

Programs initially identified for potential cuts are primarily based at AHS facilities in Oakland and San Leandro, including High-

land Hospital, Fairmont Hospital and John George Psychiatric Hospital.

No Tri-Valley facilities, such as those serving the Dublin and Pleasanton areas, were included in the list of proposed reductions. This geographic exemption ensures that East County residents maintain their existing access points to the AHS network despite the broader system-wide crisis.

AHS serves a large number of low-income patients who rely on Medicaid.

At the meeting, health system leaders warned that the anticipated federal cuts could significantly affect the system's primary revenue stream.

As a result, officials iden-

tified several programs for potential closure or reduction, including outpatient behavioral health services and patient support programs for individuals with complex medical or mental health needs. While these specific programs are currently centered in Oakland, Tri-Valley patients who travel for these specialized services could still face increased wait times or reduced availability.

Officials say AHS must address its long-term financial challenges before federal Medicaid cuts are expected to take effect in 2026.

County staff are scheduled to report back to supervisors on progress made during a March 17 meeting.



Runners are all smiles at this year's Shamrock 5K Fun Run in Dublin on March 15. Residents hit the streets in a sea of green to celebrate the annual tradition, which combined fitness, community spirit and a wee bit of Irish luck. (Photo — Leah Silveira)

Local Winery Hosts Australian Blues Singer

LIVERMORE — Las Positas Vineyards, 1828 Wetmore Road, will host Anni Piper, known as Australia's First Lady of the Blues, in a free concert at 6 p.m. on Friday, March 27.

The sultry voiced singer-songwriter, who now makes her home in Portland, Oregon, is also known

for her on-stage banter.

Piper, who says she was inspired by the late Texas guitar great, Stevie Ray Vaughan, has released seven albums, including "Jailbait," which earned her "Best New Talent" recognition at the 2005 Australian Blues Music Awards, "Texas Hold 'Em"

(2007), "More Guitars Than Friends" (2016) and "Blow Up Doll" (2020).

Her lyrics are considered sassy and fun, often poking fun at romance and relationships and how men and women interact.

Piper's latest full-length album, "Men Are Like Potato Chips," will be re-

leased this spring.

To make reservations for the indoor Evening in the Vineyards, call 925-449-9463 or go to laspositasvineyards.com.

Tapas, dessert plate and wine by the glass or bottle will be available for purchase in the winery's tasting room.

Science@Play Productions Set to Explore AI-Enhanced Brain Implants, Neural Interfaces

LIVERMORE — "The Moon is Always Full," the second of two Science@Play productions this spring from the Shakespeare & Performing Arts Regional Company (SPARC), will be presented in a dramatic reading at the SPARC Theater Studio, 2172 Railroad Ave., on Friday, March 27, through Sunday, March 29.

The play by Berkeley City College instructor Cleavon Smith explores the possibilities and potential liabilities of brain implants enhanced by artificial intelligence (AI).

Brain implants are already used in various medical applications, especially to restore motor function in

patients with paralysis or physical disabilities. But what comes next, and what are the ethical implications as technology advances?

In Smith's "The Moon is Always Full," a "good-for-nothing son consorts with a whistleblower within his mother's company to expose how their clinical trial for AI-enhanced neuro-modulation to treat anxiety is also a Trojan horse for gaining unlimited access to personal data," according to a summary provided by SPARC, which said the play is suitable for patrons 12 and older.

The play is being sponsored by the Livermore Lab Foundation (LLF), the

nonprofit philanthropic arm of Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, which is already researching AI-driven medical innovation.

"The Foundation wanted to support "The Moon Is Always Full" because its theme relates to the work we're funding at LLNL, where researchers are applying the lab's unique capabilities to model the human brain and tackle neurodegenerative diseases like ALS and Parkinson's," said LLF Executive Director Sally Allen. "By bringing these complex scientific concepts to the stage, we hope to build more understanding and dialogue around the poten-

tial of AI-driven medical innovation and the transformative impact it can have on human health and cognitive research."

Dramatic readings of the play will be at 7:30 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, and at 4 p.m. on Sunday. Tickets are \$35 and available online at sparctheater.org.

Last week, SPARC presented a dramatic reading of a play developed by Science@Play program director Michael Wayne Rice using material generated by AI, followed by discussions with the audience about the quality of the writing and the existential threat to playwrights of using AI in the creative process.

Dublin Accepting Applications to Sell Fireworks

DUBLIN — Nonprofits planning to sell "safe and sane" fireworks in Dublin this summer can apply online at tinyurl.com/4wzyrdr9.

The deadline to apply is Friday, April 24.

Safe and sane fire-

works are consumer fireworks that don't explode or launch into the air, including sparklers and fountains.

The city allows nonprofit groups to sell safe and sane fireworks between June 28 and July 5.

Safe and sane fireworks can be used at the city's Emerald Glen Park, Alamo Creek Park, Dublin Sports Grounds and Shannon Park between 10 a.m. and

10 p.m. on July 4.

No fireworks are allowed at multi-unit housing complexes, school or city facilities, or any other parks.

Master Gardeners Hold Plant Sale in Pleasanton

PLEASANTON — The UC Master Gardeners of Alameda County will host a plant sale and free, 30-minute gardening classes at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd., from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, April 11, and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Sunday, April 12.

The plant sale will include a variety of vegetable starts, herbs and edible flowers, with all plants priced at \$4.

Classes will be taught by Master Gardeners and will include "How to Grow

Tomatoes" at 10 a.m., "Vermiculture" (worm composting) at 11 a.m., "Pleasanton Educational Garden: What It Means to Our Community" at noon and "Integrated Pest Management" at 1 p.m.

Master Gardeners is sponsored by the University of California Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources, which offers research-based gardening education through community workshops, demonstration gardens and school programs.

Library to Present Teen Art Exposition

LIVERMORE — The Livermore Public Library is encouraging students in sixth grade through high school to enter this year's Teen Art Exposition, which will be held Wednesday, April 1, through Thursday, April 30, at the Civic Center Library, 1188 S. Livermore Ave.

The Teen Art Exposition is open to all middle and high school students enrolled in the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District and Livermore residents who are home-schooled or attending school elsewhere.

Entries must be original artwork and are limited to 2-D visual media.

There are four catego-

ries, including painting (watercolor or acrylics), drawing (pencil, pen, ink or pastels), photography (digital or film) and mixed media.

There will be two levels of judging: for students in sixth, seventh and eighth grades, and for students in ninth through 12th grades.

This year's theme is "Adventure."

Students are limited to one submission, whether as an individual or part of a team. All artwork must be framed or matted.

Entries will be accepted at the Civic Center Library through Sunday, March 22.

For more information and entry forms, go to library.livermoreca.gov.




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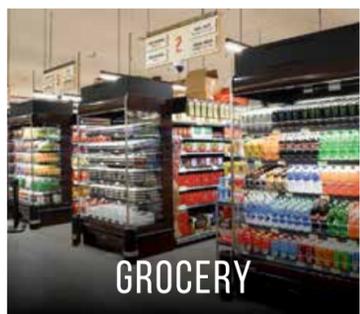
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EDITORIAL

Whether We Want It or Not, AI Is Here, and Our Leaders Need to Understand It

Our state legislators have lately been receiving briefings on artificial intelligence software from a group at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. The belief is that the scientists at the lab would be more objective and neutral than... well, anyone else.

Good. We're being drowned in messaging pushed by big tech companies that AI is the future, it's inevitable, and we should be using it for everything. Our political leaders need all the help they can get to avoid getting taken in by the nonstop messaging coming out of Silicon Valley.

The push by Big Tech to adopt AI for everything has an air of desperation about it, however, because the giants in this field — Google, Anthropic, OpenAI, xAI and others — are now embedding AI into all of their products, whether people want them or not, and regardless if the technology is even ready. They don't want us to stop and ask questions about reliability, safety and environmental damage.

We've seen this movie before. The current AI push has all the hallmarks of a tech bubble — a dot-com land rush for the 2020s, a stampede of me-tooism

that businesses are all too eager to join lest they be considered behind the times. The early investors are trying to get more people to join so they can get out before the bubble pops. That's how the venture capital-driven tech industry works.

But we've seen plenty of examples that the technology just isn't ready for prime time, and that the rush to have it replace human agency in a multitude of fields is premature, to say the least. The most visible element has been the Large Language Model (LLM) chatbots, which people have used to compose emails and reports, write school papers, and even serve as virtual companions.

The spread of LLMs has raised all sorts of concerns, ranging from their tendency to "hallucinate" (i.e. make up) falsehoods, to situations where, for example, OpenAI was sued last August after a 16-year-old boy died by suicide, presumably with ChatGPT's encouragement, according to the suit.

There are also multiple lawsuits in progress against chatbot companies accusing them of stealing intellectual property to train their software. One of them, Anthropic, recently reached

a \$1.5 billion settlement with authors whose work was plagiarized by their bot.

And of course, as every teacher is aware, students are increasingly using AI to write their papers for them, including at Las Positas College, a new iteration on the perennial problem of student cheating. One company, Perplexity, specifically marketed itself to students as a "24/7 sidekick, study buddy and tutor," and recently made its software free to use for all students.

This is just the chatbots. Specialized AI software is being integrated into a multitude of processes that the average person would never see. The carmaker Tesla, for example, whose self-driving technology has drawn lawsuits over safety issues, has announced it's working with CEO Elon Musk's own xAI company to develop chips for future models. AI is now being used for medical note-taking, automated help lines and call centers, streaming algorithms, traffic navigation, facial recognition and more. Even the military is using AI in some applications, although a recent accusation — that AI was behind target selection in the bombing of a

girls' school in Iran last month — so far is without evidence and the military insists humans make the final decisions about when and how to fire weapons.

It's highly unlikely we're going to put the AI genie back in the bottle. That's why it's vitally important that our policy makers not just get familiar with AI and its multiple iterations, but become knowledgeable enough to resist the siren song of big donations from the tech industry asking them to go easy on regulations.

It's long been a joke that politicians making laws regulating technology are often the least tech-savvy people out there. The old comment from the former U.S. Senator from Alaska, Ted Stevens, who said the internet was a "series of tubes" was one of the more visible examples of this.

But we need to make sure that our political leadership is prepared for a technology revolution already here and threatening to inundate us. We can thank the scientists at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory if they can help our representatives become true advocates for us.

MAILBOX

A Message from the Managing Editor

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

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

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

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

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

Mailbox Guidelines:

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

The Science of Reality

Michael Austin, Pleasanton
The science of reality sits at the intersection of physics, philosophy, and cognitive science, and each field approaches the question from a different angle. At its core, it asks what the world is like, independent of our perceptions and how we can know anything about it.

Scientific realism: reality exists independently of us. Scientific realism argues that the universe described by science — both of what we can see and what we can't — exist whether we perceive it. Well, support-

ed scientific theories are considered true descriptions of the world, and the unobservable entities they describe like (electrons or quarks) are treated as real. This view is grounded in the idea that the success of science would be miraculous if it didn't latch onto something true about the world.

Perception and the brain: reality as a constructed experience. Another angle focuses on how much of what we call "reality" is shaped by the brain. Our senses filter information, and the brain interprets it — meaning what we experienced is

a processed version of the external world. This raises the possibility that aspects of reality might be illusions created by neural mechanisms rather than direct reflections of the world.

Philosophical debates: realism versus antirealism. Philosophers debate whether science truly reveals the world as it really is. Realists believe well-confined theories are likely to be true and describe real entities. Antirealists argue that theories are useful tools for prediction, but may not reflect the underlying nature of reality. This debate has shaped philosophy of science for decades, especially around unobservable entities.

Can we ever know reality objectively: Some scientists and philosophers question whether humans can assess the objective reality at all. Our observations are always mediated by perception, instruments, and conceptual frameworks. This doesn't mean reality doesn't exist — only our access to it may always be partial or theory laden.

A broader view: reality as a layered concept. Across these perspectives reality can be thought of as layered. Physical reality — the universe and its laws. Perceptual reality — what our senses and brains construct. Conceptual reality — the models and theories we use to explain the world. The "science of reality" is really the study of how these layers interact and how close our models come to describing the underlying world.

Celebrating Freedom and Unity

Patricia Munro, Livermore

Last week was a very bad week for the Jews. In San Jose, two men were dragged from their lunch table and beaten simply because they were speaking Hebrew. In a suburb just north of Detroit, a man attempted to drive a truck full of explosives into a synagogue where preschool was in full session. Antisemitism—or, more accurately, anti-Jewish hate—continues to rise, sometimes excused by "well, Israel did..." as though the actions of a country (and one too often expected to disappear off the map) excuse attacks on Jewish people and spaces. I ended this week

feeling angry and alone.

That changed on Sunday, when I attended the 30th annual JCRC Freedom Seder, along with around 400 Jews and non-Jews from across the Bay Area and beyond.

The Seder is the highly ritualized dinner that begins the Jewish holiday of Passover. Passover celebrates the Exodus from Egypt. It is a Jewish holiday that tells a story that is both particular—how the Hebrews become a people—and universal—making the hard journey from slavery to freedom.

This year, Passover begins on April 1. The Freedom Seder was a prelude — a time to share common themes of courage and liberation, unity and hope with all who strive for a better world, a time to recognize community leaders who speak and act on behalf of those suffering from the many forms that hate takes today.

A traditional Haggadah, the book that guides the Seder, includes four cups of wine or grape juice, representing the four times God promised redemption to the Hebrews. The Freedom Seder attributes four themes to the four cups. The themes this year were welcoming guests and/or strangers, standing in solidarity to protect each other, celebrating diverse Jewish identities, and the overarching value of saving lives. Throughout the evening community members — Jewish and non-Jewish — spoke to those themes. They shared personal stories of Jewish experiences, shared experiences of both welcome and oppression, and the underlying values of working together to make a better world for all of us.

Their words and their commitment, in so many different ways, to healing our broken world was a reminder that together we can make that better world a reality for all. May it be so.

Annual Good Friday Worship and Witness at Livermore Lab

Felicia Ziomek, Livermore
On Friday, April 3, the Ecumenical Peace Institute, with Tri-Valley CARES, will gather at the Livermore and Sandia Laboratories.

For more than 35 years, people of faith and others

concerned about the ongoing proliferation of nuclear weapons have gathered here for a multi-faith service on Good Friday.

We strive for the healing of all nations. We pray, envision and work for repair, reconciliation, restoration, and transformation: toward the abolition of war, and, most especially, nuclear weapons, worldwide.

The Gathering time is 8:15 a.m. with the Worship and Witness from 8:30 to 10 a.m. The location is at the East Avenue entrance to the Labs, just east of Vasco Road in the publicly accessible parking lot. All people of good will are welcome.

As EPI writes: In these times, as communities of faith and spiritual commitment, we must stand together. There is an urgent need to pray for and to call out for peace and the transformation of all human hearts into hearts of compassion, and to prevent further suffering in our world that could result from the use of nuclear weapons and further acts of violence and war.

Livermore Lab has been the site of the annual Good Friday Interfaith prayerful and peaceful witness, since 1983. It includes readings from Christian, Muslim, Jewish, and other faith traditions, song, reflection and updates in the campaign to end nuclear weapons proliferation with a focus on what we can do locally in this effort for true and lasting peace.

This is a call to refuse to believe that more sophisticated nuclear weapons or ongoing violent struggles are the answer needed to protect our people and our planet. It is a call to live as a "Beloved Community," in the words of Dr. King, in the face of whatever appears to threaten peace and goodness.

Chai with Pete Hegseth

Abdul Awwal, Pleasanton

Sometimes, I find myself wishing I could share a cup of Dekkan Morsel Irani chai with Peter Hegseth, just to enjoy a genuine conversation and bridge worlds over something as simple yet meaningful as tea. With that spirit, I would like to invite Peter to join us at the Islamic Center of Livermore for an upcoming iftar dinner. Each year, our community gathers for an in-

terfaith iftar. On March 15, we welcomed neighbors from all backgrounds—including Mayor Marchand, Police Lieutenant Marc Plute, and friends from the interfaith community. It is a heartfelt tradition where we break fast together, enjoy conversation, listen, and learn from one another.

Dr. Ali Ataie (<https://zaytuna.edu/faculty-details/Ali-Ataie>) spoke about Ramadan and started with the five pillars of Islam. He emphasized how the concept of God—called Allah in Islam, but recognized across Judaism, Christianity, and Islam—is something we all share in the Abrahamic traditions. Dr. Ataie made the pillars accessible, describing the testimony of faith, which is that there is no God (worthy of worship) except God, and Muhammad is the messenger and servant of God; five daily prayers, giving charity, fasting during Ramadan, and the pilgrimage to Mecca. These pillars are simple yet profound, helping us build common ground and understanding with others.

The program started with recitation from the Quran by Hafiz Ibrahim (Quran, 3:64); Say, 'O Prophet, 'O People of the Book! Let us come to common terms: that we will worship none but God, associate none with Him, nor take one another as lords instead of God.' But if they turn away, then say, "Bear witness that we have submitted 'to God alone.'" A verse which became foundation of a movement "A common word between us and you"; see www.acommonword.com/the-acw-document/.

Pete Hegseth has recently stated that he is championing the cause of a Christian God in the context of ongoing U.S. military action against Iran. An encounter between Hegseth and Muslim community members during dinner could provide a meaningful opportunity for reflection.

During the medieval period, similar arguments were invoked by crusaders to justify acts of extreme violence, including cannibalism. One striking example can be found in the accounts of the Siege of Ma'arra, where Christian chroniclers themselves recorded acts of cruelty con-

(See MAILBOX, page 5)

THE Independent

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The cult-favorite Marufuku Ramen officially opened its newest outpost at 4288 Dublin Blvd. on March 11. Originally founded in San Francisco's Japantown in 2017, the shop is renowned for its authentic Hakata-style ramen, featuring a rich, 20-hour slow-simmered tonkotsu broth and ultra-thin artisanal noodles. The Dublin location is open daily for both quick-service lunches and leisurely dinners. (Photo — Christina Cavallaro)

MAILBOX

(Continued from page 4)

ducted in the name of faith. How many wars have we fought in the Middle East based on this and other lies and massacred millions?

I Support President Trump

John Lahommedieu, Dublin

America is our home. We have a president who loves his country and her people. I support President Trump and our military. We have to do whatever it takes to protect our country, our cities, our people. I urge you to support our president who wants to see a world of peace instead of constant conflict. Iran is the #1 in terror around the world. It's time we had a leader stand up to the regime and that is exactly what President Trump has done. God bless our President, God bless our military, shame on the Democrats who refuse to accept

and acknowledge President Trump and his attempt to bring stability to the Middle East and the world. In the end, President Trump and the right will come out victorious while the left licks its wounds once again with their nonsense, rhetoric and anti-American campaign. From Lyndon Johnson to Joe Biden, we have had no one stand up to Iran until now, and thank God we do. Support America, don't crap on her, and maybe one day when peace reigns supreme we can start deporting America-hating democrats. That day is coming faster than they can imagine!

168 Richard Andrews, Livermore

The above is the minimum number of innocent school girls and their teachers who were murdered on the orders of our POTUS

and his Secretary of Defense. (Note that an illegal, unauthorized by Congress war is illegal and therefore all casualties are crimes by default.)

This, and the fact it was the third such illegal war instigated by the POTUS in this term, is all a citizen needs to know that the Constitution and decency no longer are used to run America.

It makes one think that the famous statement of Richard Rowland in 1919 regarding the founding of United Artists: "The lunatics have taken over the asylum" now applies to the Administrative Branch of the Federal Government. If ever that has been a worse cabal in control, I cannot recall. Now, after already attacking and claiming to have "Totally destroyed Iran's nuclear capability" in 2025 with a bombing

raid, he yet again attacks to do (supposedly) it again. Children? Civilians? Never mind. As the 5-time draft dodger says, "When you have a war, people get killed". Such empathy, such application of Christian beliefs!

One can only wonder what unconstitutional horror will be unleashed upon the world by the Felon in Charge. I pray we get a solution from above, as our Federal leaders are only talking and not stopping this insanity.

ICE Went Too Far
Kyoko Takayama, Livermore

The majority of us agree that ICE operations went too far. Unidentifiable ICE and Border Patrol agents racially profiling and targeting people of color don't make our communities safe. The number of deportations is up, but so are the rates of non-criminal immigrants getting deported. Deporting our neighbors without due process is un-American. Separating families apart is un-American. So we all are fighting back like our U.S. Senators Padilla and Schiff. Our congress members are helping immigrant families in their districts. California Attorney General Bonta has been suing the administration's illegal conduct. State Senators Wahab and Wiener passed a bill unmasking ICE last year, and after the unfavorable court ruling, they put a bill to make it right, and another to make suing ICE easier for the people. So many creative bills to protect immigrants are proposed in California. Alameda County designated its facilities ICE-free zones, the City of Dublin declared that ICE is not welcome at the closed Dublin FCI prison. Businesses are putting the signs of solidarity

"We stand with Immigrant families." Faith leaders are standing up against ICE violence and injustice. Many of us donated to support immigrant families whose members got deported, or killed by ICE. I recognize the courage, love and generosity of these actions and thank everybody who took actions. Please thank elected officials who stand for us, immigrants since we are all immigrants unless you are a native American. Ask cities and school districts to make their facilities ICE-free zones. Thank leaders standing up for our values, and businesses with the signs. Join No Kings on March 28 in Livermore at 10 a.m., and in Pleasanton at 1:30 p.m. (Find details at mobilize.us/nokings.) America had no kings since 1776, and nobody is above law. I would like to keep it that way, and I hope you agree.

On Anti-Zionism, Anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, and the Iran War
Greg Scott, Livermore

"The action of some of our United States Zionists will eventually prejudice everyone against what they are trying to get done. I fear very much that the Jews are like all under dogs — when they get on top they are just as intolerant and as cruel as the people were to them when they were underneath. I regret this situation very much because my sympathy has always been on their side." (Excerpt from letter by Democratic President Harry Truman to former First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt, August 23, 1947)

Here, President Truman construed Zionism — an ideology — with a religion

(See MAILBOX, page 6)

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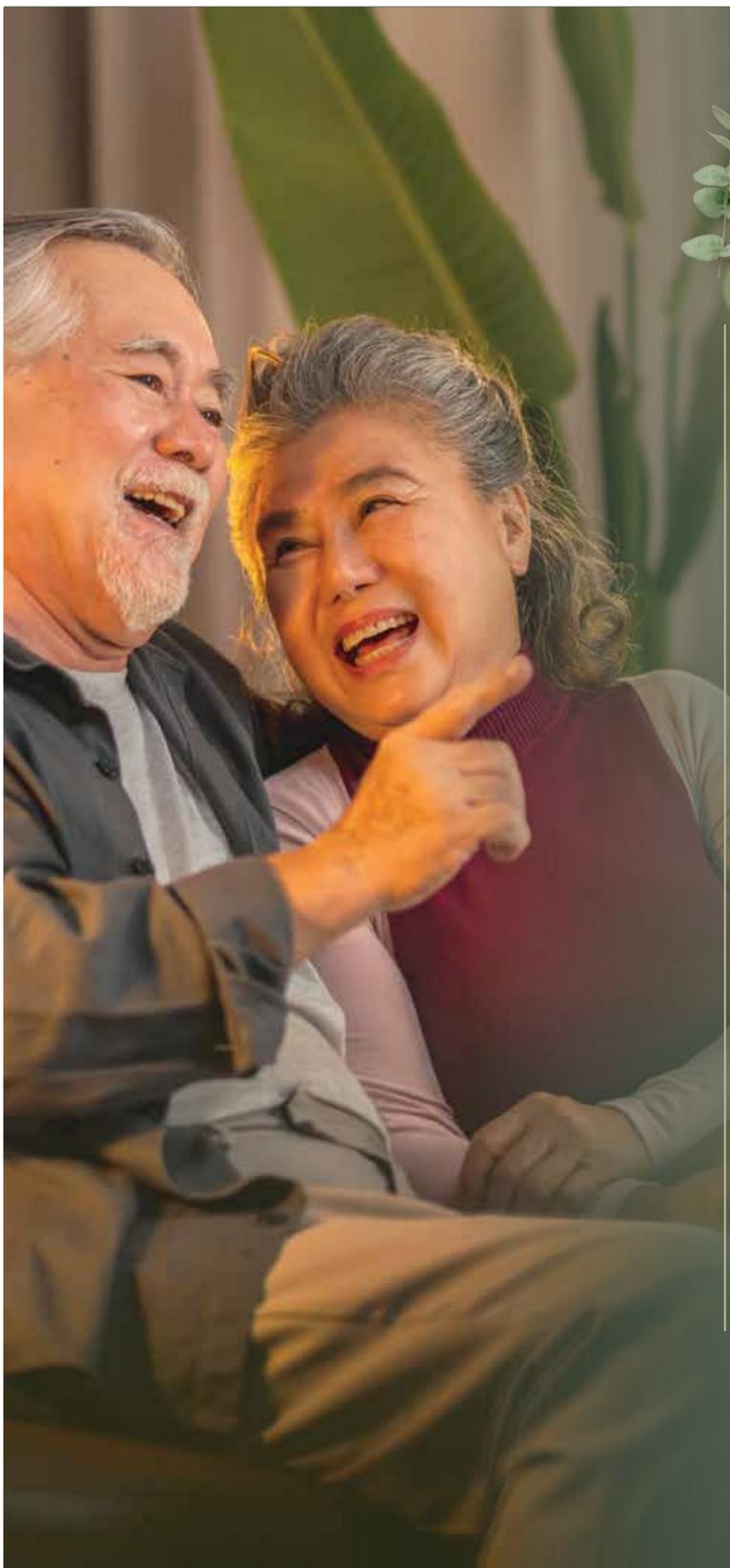
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Not a pinch in site to ruin this past Saturday, March 14 and its Irish vibe. Just two lucky charms hunting for the pot of gold at the bottom of a pint during the Pleasanton Downtown Association's annual St. Patrick's Day pub crawl. (Photo — Leah Silveira)

MAILBOX

(Continued from page 5)

and ethnicity — Judaism. Not all Jews are Zionists! Criticizing Zionism is not necessarily anti-Semitic.

(Sidebar: I omit the hyphen in anti-Semitism in deference to the late Yehuda Bauer, Israeli historian and scholar. I capitalize Semitic in respect to a demographic. I counter Bauer in the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of criticism of Zionism as anti-Semitic. Are Jews that aren't Zionists and/or criticize Zionism anti-Semitic?)

Hitler became Chancellor of Germany in January 1933. Globally, Jews, and notably U.S. Jews, were rightly horrified. A huge number of Jews in the U.S. met at the Madison Square Garden protest in March 1933 and implemented a boycott against Nazi Germany. German exports were cut by 30%. The fledgling Nazi govern-

ment would have collapsed if this boycott remained in place.

The Nazis needed a miracle and they got one from the most ironic of groups — the Zionist Jewish Agency in British-mandated Palestine (now Israel). These Zionists needed money and immigrants and the Nazis needed money. The Nazis allowed some wealthy Jews to emigrate from Germany for a 25% wealth tax. The Zionists accepted these immigrants for a 39% wealth tax. It should be pointed out that one of the Zionist negotiators with the Nazis was murdered as a traitor by a Jew when he returned to British-mandated Palestine. The Zionists ending the boycott allowed Nazi regime survival.

The first crime charged in the Nuremberg trial of the Nazis was that of the "War of Aggression." Israel and the U.S. attack Iran and

this isn't a War of Aggression?

Part of the reason for Israel's wars seems messianic. It is odd to think of Iran not only having mosques, but synagogues and Christian churches.

Where in the Jewish Torah are the justifications for genocide, war of aggression, and such abhorrent cruelty?

DOJ is Beyond Broken

Barry Brynjulson, Pleasanton

The DOJ is beyond broken. During Attorney General Pam Bondi's recent testy non-responses to U.S. legislators, she indicated that going after the suspected pedophiles listed in the Epstein files "would cause the whole system to collapse". It's so comforting to learn that large numbers of wealthy suspected child rapists can go free because it's too much work for our Department of Justice.

They seem to have plenty of resources to go after the people Trump feels slighted him.

Also, at the House hearing with Bondi, were 8-10 victims of the Epstein pedophile ring. When asked to stand and indicate if ANY of them had EVER been interviewed by the the FBI or anyone in the DOJ, none had. However, many of their names had been revealed in the release of the files. when theirs were the only names that were supposed to be redacted.

The Department of Justice, led by Attorney General Pam Bondi, overwhelmingly serves one party and one individual in particular...DJT. The DOJ has been filled with Trump sycophants and is beyond broken. It is corrupt. We as a nation have joined the lowest of lows around the world.

Silence is compliance. Numbers matter. Participate peacefully in No Kings Day 3 on March 28 in Livermore 10-12 noon, or Pleasanton 1:30-3:00 p.m...or at thousands of other locations.

Who Are We?

Lani Longshore, Livermore

I'm starting to hear hate speech about the latest U.S. war. Blaming Israeli influence for U.S. aggression against Iran, and in terms that insinuate the nation of Israel has no right to exist, repeats a lie that must not be allowed to continue.

The U.S. involvement in this war is the responsibility of the current Republican regime. Terms like "Zionist control" push the blame to a shadowy conspiracy that does not exist.

The current occupant of the White House has made it clear he will do what he wants, when he wants, and expects neither opposition nor consequences. He has in the past created chaos to deflect attention from his crimes so that he can continue to do what he wants, when he wants, with no opposition or consequences. That is why the U.S. is spending billions of tax-payer dollars to further destabilize the Middle East, without even a concept of an idea of a strategy for this war. Please resist the rhetoric that would imply some evil other is responsible. That only leads to violence against the American Jewish community, as we have seen most recently in Michigan, aimed at children. We

have already seen what vicious rhetoric has done to Americans of color. Let's hold our elected officials accountable for the crimes they have committed, and demand the U.S. immediately halt its aggression.

What Happened in Iran? David Marco, Livermore

For 47 years, the Iranian Ayatollahs have been chanting "Death to America" and "Death to Israel." Thousands of Americans, Israelis, and others have been killed by Iranian backed terrorists. For those 47 years, the U.S. and other leaders have tried continually to negotiate peace in the region, including Palestine. Every president since Carter said we have to stop Iran's nuclear efforts. Nothing has changed Iran's ambitions or their goals. Last month, Iranian officials admitted to having enough uranium to produce 11 nuclear bombs. Iranian officials made the statements directly to Witkoff, as the Trump administration pushed for a deal to eliminate Iran's nuclear ability. The regime said they had an "inalienable right" to enrich uranium and turned down a U.S. offer for zero enrichment, even though America would pay for their civilian fuel needs. "They were proud of it." Iran's projected time to produce enough enriched uranium for multiple bombs was days or weeks.

This is an incredible threat to the world as Iran has also pushed hard to buy or build missiles that could reach anywhere on earth, including the U.S. Could we deny that they would freely use those nukes?

The 2015 Obama-Biden nuclear deal (JCPOA) allowed Iran to keep its uranium infrastructure and knowledge base. After Trump withdrew from that agreement in 2018 and reimposed maximum-pressure sanctions, Iran sped up its program in violation of international commitments (source: Christine Agao News). We also know that Obama and Biden allowed billions of dollars to flow to Iran, which funded their terrorist and nuclear efforts.

Days after Witkoff's talks collapsed, the United States and Israel launched strikes targeting Iran's military infrastructure. After the Ayatollah's death, Iranian protestors rejoiced in the streets even though up to 50,000 were killed by the

military regime. Recently Iran started firing missiles into its nearby Arab neighbors and increased targeting Israeli cities. Even if the U.S./Israeli airstrikes mistakenly hit a school, thousands of other strikes did not, whereas Iran's missiles, especially into Israel, were specifically targeting civilian populations. In addition, I take no pleasure in the thousands of Iranian soldiers that have perished. Sadly, their government pushes on.

This pattern of aggression proves that the U.S. and Israel were correct in using military force to dismantle Iran's military. Clearly, Iran would use nuclear weapons if they had them. This is self-defense after decades of negotiations failed.

Not Another War

Keith Jackson, Dublin

War is not a game. It is a horrible thing that brings death and destruction, mostly to innocent bystanders. It is something that should only be used as a last resort, when all other options have failed. In the middle of negotiations to prevent a war, Trump just decided to do it. This administration does consider it a game that shows how brave they are. They think that it will improve their image. They use cartoons and sports clips to promote their cruel, uncaring, unnecessary, and poorly planned war. Iranian civilians who have suffered the oppression of their own government for years are now dying and having their lives ruined IN OUR NAME. There is no respect shown for our military troops either; those who are doing the actual dying and suffering for our nation. Even the troops who are not injured or killed will suffer the effects of having to participate in a war for the rest of their lives. They do not have enough respect for the voters to even try to present a rational explanation as to why this war had to be started at this time—something that Trump has promised repeatedly he would not do. The war is costing a lot of money; money which could be spent to help people in this country pay for health care, food and shelter. All of us, Republican, Democrat, and everyone else, need to come together, rise up, and say "ENOUGH IS ENOUGH".

GPAC

(Continued from front page)

Livermore voters established the South Livermore UGB in 2000 to protect the agricultural land and open space there. Two years later, they adopted a similar measure to create the North Livermore UGB.

"Planning for the next twenty years is a daunting and necessary task," Livermore resident David Rounds told The Independent. "Livermore has done well in the past, particularly around maintaining the urban growth boundary, planning for infill development, while maintaining and improving the quality of life in Livermore."

Despite its infill goals, the draft plan retains a planning area outside the city's UGB. Known as East of Greenville, the 1,100-acre open space sits between Greenville Road and the South Bay Aqueduct.

The plan identifies East of Greenville as a future study area "to balance housing needs with job-generating land uses in the event that the city is unable to meet these objectives within the current city limits." It calls for the city to track housing and job metrics to possibly trigger

future study of annexation and development in the area that is outside Livermore's UGB.

During previous GPAC meetings, residents asked the city to consider varying degrees of population growth given a 6% decline between 2019 and 2023, especially given the possibility of development in the East of Greenville area.

The accuracy of population projections, Rounds said, will be key to the plan's commitment to infill development.

"The draft (environmental impact report) and general plan assume a population of 131,000 in 2045, which is an increase of 43,000 residents over the next twenty years," Rounds continued. "This would be the biggest increase in housing numbers in Livermore's history. In the current era of flat and declining population growth, it seems problematic to project a 50% increase in population in the next 20 years."

The U.S. Census Bureau estimated Livermore's population at 84,867 in July 2024.

Livermore's open-space advocates may also soon

meet development pressure at the county level.

The Alameda County Community Development Agency last month began soliciting bids for campaign analysis services, investigating a new ballot measure to change how decisions on the county's UGB are made. The measure, according to the agency's request for proposal, would ask voters to transfer authority currently held by voters to the county board of supervisors.

Because the county UGB coincides with Livermore's, such a change could conflict with Livermore's UGB and possibly allow development in the areas protected by Livermore's UGB without a public vote.

Transit/Mobility

At its March 4 meeting, members of the General Plan Advisory Committee (GPAC) asked whether revisions to Livermore's transit-oriented Midtown neighborhood were needed given recent news around the Valley Link Rail Project and the Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) agency.

Located south of Inter-

state 580 roughly between First Street and South Vasco Road, the area contains a planned Valley Link station on Southfront Road.

In June 2025, the Valley Link board approved a strategy that divides the first round of construction into two phases, delaying construction of the Southfront station. As a result of costs more than doubling between 2022 and 2024, the new timeline aims to first connect the Dublin/Pleasanton BART station to the Vasco Road Alameda Corridor Express station, pushing Southfront to a later phase.

Within BART, staff shared a plan last month to drastically reduce train service if a regional tax measure to rescue the transit agency fails. Among other closures throughout its system, BART would close its Castro Valley and West Dublin/Pleasanton stations in January 2027 and then close its Dublin/Pleasanton station, ending BART access entirely to and from the Tri-Valley, in July 2027.

Hampered by reduced post-pandemic ridership and accusations of fi-

nancial mismanagement, BART expects to operate at a \$376 million annual deficit beginning this July.

This November, a regional tax measure known as Connect Bay Area will ask Bay Area voters to raise their sales taxes in support of public transit. The funds would go toward preserving service on BART, Muni, Caltrain, AC Transit and other smaller transit agencies.

With the existence of the 53-year-old transit agency in limbo, transit-dependent and transit-oriented projects must reevaluate their own viability projections.

GPAC Member Paul Halvorsen asked about the future of Midtown if Valley Link's planned Southfront Road station fails to come to fruition at all.

Principal planner Andy Ross said that the city envisioned a neighborhood of mixed uses with or without the station. Paraphrasing the city council, Ross said, "We should pursue this complete neighborhood, but we need to do so in a manner that's supportive of, but independent of, a regional rail station, because we just don't know what the

future holds for that."

Brandon Cardwell, Livermore's innovation & economic development director, added that such plans were not dependent on the Valley Link station and the general plan could respond to changing developer markets.

"It's incumbent on us on the city side and people who will come after us not just to say, 'Here's the plan; do your best,'" Cardwell said. "These are living documents as long as we're able to gather intelligence from people who are trying to build these things and figure out how much we need to be responsive versus maintain the spirit of whatever that policy document was."

GPAC, which began meeting in October 2021, plans to meet for its last meeting as a committee on April 8, when staff will ask the committee for a recommendation to adopt the new general plan. The planning commission will also provide its feedback in April, and the city council will give its direction in May, followed by adoption hearings scheduled for July.

STRIKE

(Continued from front page)

"I am personally committed to doing the work necessary to rebuild relationships, restore trust and move toward a renewed sense of unity as we focus together on serving our students," Campbell said.

Salary and Health Care

Under the tentative agreement, teachers would receive a 2.3% ongoing salary increase retroactive to July 1, which the union has described as a cost-of-living adjustment.

The contract also sets a timeline for the district to gradually increase its contribution toward employee health care until it fully covers the Kaiser Permanente single premium by 2028.

The district's maximum contribution toward employee health care premiums would increase over the next three years: 85% effective July 1, 2026; 90% effective Jan. 1, 2027; 100% effective Jan. 1, 2028.

Class Size Reductions

Several provisions in the deal address class sizes and staffing levels.

Elementary class limits would be reduced as follows: Kindergarten: 24 to 23 students; First Grade: 25 to 24 students; Second & Third Grades: 26 to 24 students; Fourth & Fifth Grades: 28 to 26 students.

At the secondary level, high school physical education classes would be capped at 45 students.

Caseloads for certain special education staff would also be reduced. Speech and language pathologist caseloads would decrease from 55 students to 50, while educational specialist caseloads in secondary schools would drop from 28 students to 23.

Board of Trustees President Kristin Speck also acknowledged the strain the negotiations placed on the

community.

"We recognize that the past several weeks have been frustrating and uncertain for many, and we deeply appreciate the resilience our community has shown," Speck said. "While no negotiated agreement fully reflects everything either party hoped to achieve; we believe the tentative agreement reached represents the compromise necessary to move forward together," she said.

Background of Dispute

The tentative deal follows months of negotiations over salaries, health care benefits and classroom conditions.

Union leaders argued the district needed to invest more in student support staff, while district officials cited financial pressures including more than \$6.6 million in previously approved spending reductions.

Negotiations reached an impasse in November before teachers walked out earlier this month.

Prior to the tentative agreement reached March 12, a state-appointed fact-finding panel proposed a 2.1% salary increase and a path toward fully paid Kaiser single-premium health coverage by 2028.

Union leaders rejected the panel's proposal and began a strike on Monday, March 9, picketing outside school campuses, while the district kept schools open with administrators, substitute teachers and retirees helping fill classroom roles.

DTA members are expected to vote on the contract soon, although the exact date has not yet been announced.

If no agreement is reached by March 27, the district's proposed calendar will take effect, aligning spring break with neighboring districts and adding a half-day before the break.

Grants Available for Clean Water Projects

TRI-VALLEY — Community groups, including students, neighborhood associations and other non-profit organizations, have until Monday, May 4, to apply for 2026 Community Stewardship Grants for water quality projects from the Alameda Countywide Clean Water program.

The Clean Water program will award grants up to \$6,000 per project, ranging from litter cleanups, creek restoration and wildlife habitat enhancement projects to art

and multimedia projects and community outreach events.

For more information, or to download application materials, go to cleanwaterprogram.org/grants.

The Alameda Countywide Clean Water program is a joint effort involving Alameda County, the Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, Zone 7 Water Agency and several cities, including Livermore, Pleasanton and Dublin.



Creek restoration and public education are among the community-based projects funded by grants from the Alameda Countywide Clean Water Program. (Photo courtesy of Yon Hardisty)

AI

(Continued from front page)

Will that rapidly growing capability be a boon to society or a curse? There are many possible answers, which is why LLNL was asked to create a briefing to give legislators a deeper and impartial understanding of the subject, as they approach decisions about legislation.

Last week, Donnison and another team member, Cindy Gonzales, a data scientist, described their briefing efforts to LLNL's Retirees Association.

They showed sequences of real and AI-generated photos and videos and, to laughter from the audience, asked whether the group could distinguish real images from AI-generated ones. To an onlooker, it was difficult if not impossible to tell which were which.

Because their briefings are aimed at informing state legislators and business leaders, they emphasized AI's actual and potential importance to the California economy sector by sector, estimating which parts of the economy face the greatest benefits and highest risks.

"AI in Eight Pages" has a chart of nine economic sectors, from finance to agriculture, summarizing current and future AI applications for each and suggesting their potential benefits and risks.

Benefits come especially in the form of improved efficiency — faster and more accurate work with less repetition, fewer accidents and lower costs.

Less obvious benefits may be improved patient outcomes, smoother integration of renewable energy sources and earlier and more personalized intervention in education programs.

Sectors with a constant need for information that engage in knowledge-based transactions stand to benefit most from AI, according to the briefing. These tend to generate the largest fractions of the state's gross domestic product (GDP) and employ higher salaried workers whose replacement by AI can reduce costs.

Financial activities,

which generate 20% of California's GDP, leads this list, followed by the entertainment and information industry (15% of state GDP) and professional and technical services (13%).

The briefing suggests that companies relying on manual labor are less likely to benefit from AI. As a result, agriculture, which generates only 2% of state GDP and offers relatively low paying jobs, will probably benefit relatively little.

AI may also be less influential in education, which typically offers lower paying jobs and where a human presence is in demand.

"We're not at the point where kids in the classroom are going to accept being told what to do by some AI robot," Donnison said.

"People prefer to have a human face, and someone who's got compassion and empathy."

Risks common to all AI start with the heavy use of resources, especially electrical energy and purified water for cooling data centers. Risks also include loss of privacy, data insecurity, labor concerns as humans are no longer needed for some jobs, overreliance on AI in decision making, and lack of accountability in the case of accident or error.

In discussing labor issues, Donnison said he was personally skeptical of doomsday predictions that the rapid advance of AI over the next two or three years will lead to it dominating the workplace and causing a massive loss of jobs.

For example, in an online posting that has been much discussed in the AI community, the investment strategy firm Citrini Research imagined such a sequence leading to widespread unemployment by 2028. (On its web page, Citrini emphasizes that this was not a prediction, but a hypothetical scenario for investors to be aware of.)

To Donnison, companies are generally proceeding cautiously with AI, engaging in pilot projects but not often jumping ahead to full scale use of a complex new

system with an uncertain future.

In pilot efforts, "You can give AI very clear (precisely chosen) data. You can give it very simple challenges, and you can monitor it. You can help train it... That's very different to deploying it across the whole company where you're having to deal with multiple users and the data is not as clean."

He said companies are also cautious "because there are legal implications of using AI tools and giving them autonomy. There may also be ethical questions. For example, will an AI program that processes massive amounts of data recognize the need for privacy in the

special case of personal health information?

"They don't want to be jumping into giving AI tools control when there's still some legal ambiguities around them. That's something that will also take years to resolve."

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Families gathered along Dublin Boulevard on Saturday, March 14 to catch a glimpse of the procession during the 42nd annual St. Patrick's Day Parade. The event continues to draw generations of Tri-Valley residents each year. (Photo — Jacob Clouser)

TAX

(Continued from front page)

tax rate across Alameda County is 12%, with some cities charging as much as 14%.

Within that regional context, Dublin's discussion is in alignment with recent actions in Pleasanton, Escondido said.

On Feb. 3, 2026, the Pleasanton City Council directed staff to develop a ballot measure that would increase its 8% TOT to 10% beginning July 1, 2027, and to 12% beginning July 1, 2028.

While Dublin considers an increase, neighboring Livermore and Danville are not moving forward with hotel tax hikes, maintaining their current rates of 8% and 10% respectively.

A 2025 community survey conducted by Dublin found that 52% of respondents supported a potential increase to the TOT as part of budget-balancing strategies.

During public comment, Inge Houston, president and

CEO of the Dublin Chamber of Commerce, spoke in opposition to placing the tax increase on the ballot.

Houston said the chamber surveyed its hotel members and board of directors and found unanimous opposition to the proposal.

She argued that Pleasanton is considering a tax increase because of financial pressures, while Dublin has maintained a balanced budget and reported surpluses in recent years.

"A 50% tax increase is not warranted," Houston said, adding that businesses are already facing operational pressures.

Longtime community member Mike Grant, owner of Guns Unlimited Firearms Training in Dublin, supported placing the measure on the ballot so voters could decide.

Grant said hotel guests benefit from city services, such as police protection,

while staying in Dublin, but do not contribute to the local tax base in the same way as residents.

Councilmember Michael McCarriston raised concerns about whether increasing the tax could lead to Dublin hotels losing business.

Escover said hotel choices are often influenced by factors such as business travel needs, location and price preferences.

City staff also noted that many Dublin hotel guests are corporate travelers who stay during the week, while weekend demand tends to be slower.

The average hotel room rate across the Tri-Valley is approximately \$135, according to city staff.

If the council decides to proceed, officials will return with draft ballot language ahead of the August filing deadline required for placement on the upcoming November ballot.

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PLEASE HELP BRING MIGUEL HOME



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

Livermore Wentz Winery worker, married father of three and grandfather

Miguel Lopez

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

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

Livermore Welcomes Yotsukaido Sister City Students

By Vivien Wenneker

LIVERMORE—The Spring 2026 Livermore Yotsukaido Sister City Organization (LYSCO) program is officially underway, following the arrival of 20 Japanese middle school students on March 13.

The LYSCO organization, which coordinates the exchange program, is preparing to initiate the selection process for Livermore seventh graders who will go to Japan in the fall.

The middle school exchange program between sister cities Livermore and Yotsukaido began in 2001, with LYSCO overseeing the program since its inception. However, the shared history between the two cities goes back even further to 1977.

“Our cities have shared and nurtured this special relationship for almost 50 years,” said Livermore Mayor John Marchand at the program’s reception on March 14. “By sharing our time and our cultures together, we can develop understanding. From understanding, grow friendships. We have learned that these friendships can transcend thousands of miles and last a lifetime.”

Now in its 49th year, the sister city program has helped cultivate strong bonds, and intercultural connections that have inspired many of its participants to keep in touch with their host families and continue seeking opportunities to involve themselves with the organization.

Leah, a participant in the 2024 exchange whose family later opened their home in 2025 to host students from Japan, now volunteers as a lead student representative for LYSCO.

“I love how people want to come back and experience being together with people from different communities to share their cultures,” she said.

“I’m really excited for the Japanese students to see

how there’s so many different sides of Livermore,” Leah said. “Usually when people come to California, they think of its beaches and major cities, but there’s

language barriers they might face.”

Vora said that so far, they’ve taken the girls to visit the Google and Apple campuses and Computer History

making several stops to local food spots, such as Meadowlark Dairy and First Street Alehouse.

For Vora and many host parents, hosting means so

improve their own lives.

One aspect of Japanese culture that stood out to her, both as a delegate and now as a host parent, is the emphasis on respect, and concern for

cultural opportunities and gaining a second family, the program was invaluable for self-development and building confidence.

“My experience was something that I don’t think most people will ever get to experience,” said Hritvi. “For most people in this program, it was their first time traveling outside of the country. Along with that was the extended language barrier and culture shock, which made it feel like you were on a constant roller coaster, but I just loved the blast of having one billion new things being thrown at me.”

For Livermore seventh graders who are considering applying for the LYSCO program this spring, Hritvi said that it is truly a once in a lifetime opportunity. “And whatever happens, you’ll never regret trying something new,” she said.

For those interested in applying, LYSCO will hold a mandatory informational meeting on March 25 at 7 p.m. at the Livermore City Council Building, 1016 S. Livermore Ave. More details on applications and the program can be found at: <https://lysco.org.wordpress.com/applications/>.



Japanese exchange students from Yotsukaido, Japan arrive at the San Francisco International Airport on March 13. The group is visiting as part of a weeklong program hosted by the Livermore Yotsukaido Sister City Organization. (Photo courtesy of LYSCO)

a lot in Livermore, like the downtown, farmer’s market and ranches that they might not be used to in Japan.”

She added that although the program is relatively short—roughly a week, it is unique in that it allows participants to share the everyday aspects of life with people from other cultures.

While being a participant and traveling to Japan offers countless opportunities for intercultural exchange, acting as a host family can also be equally enriching.

“The girls I have are only here for a short time, but their aim is to study and come back to be an exchange student for at least a year,” said Rima Vora, a first-time host and a former delegate for the fall 2025 exchange.

“This is a very good window for them to understand how Americans live and what our way of life is like—what school means and what

Museum in Mountain View to learn more about the Silicon Valley tech industry. She also plans on taking them to the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and

much more than showing why Livermore is a hidden gem. It is also a chance to learn about some of the cultural values and customs of Japan, and how those might

cleanliness that American culture could learn from.

Vora’s daughter, Hritvi, who was a participant during the fall 2025 exchange, added that beyond the inter-

TRI-VALLEY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Thursday, March 19

AN EVENING WITH MURIEL JOHNSON: STORIES FOR ADULTS AND TEENS

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

Thursday, March 26

GRIEF SUPPORT

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

Saturday, March 28

PICKLEBALL FUNDRAISING TOURNAMENT

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

Saturday, March 28

CELEBRATE EASTER AT HACIENDA CROSSINGS

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

Sunday, March 29

CHILDREN’S DAY AT HAGEMANN RANCH

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

Saturday, April 4

DRESS A GIRL AROUND THE WORLD

Make simple dresses for girls in Third World countries! The next monthly Sew-Fest is on April 4, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 1020 Mocho St., Livermore. Bring your sewing machine or serger, iron, ironing board, scissors, along with your helping hands. Come for an hour or all day! (Please bring a bag lunch if you plan to stay all day.) Cheerful cotton fabric donations are always welcome. Contact Suzanne Beck, 925-352-8447, or suzbeck@yahoo.com for questions or kits that you can sew from home.

Saturday, April 18

8TH ANNUAL TRI-VALLEY INNOVATION FAIR

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

ONGOING OPPORTUNITIES

FOOD RELIEF SERVICES

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

ONGOING EVENTS

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

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

SATURDAY PLEASANTON FARMERS MARKET

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

SUNDAY LIVERMORE DOWNTOWN FARMERS MARKET

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

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

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OBITUARIES

Fay J. (Lundberg) Thomas
Resident of Pleasanton, CA
Feb. 3, 1929 — Nov. 17, 2025



Grass never grew under mom’s feet. Over her 96 years she worked as a bookkeeper, a real estate agent and a notary. She loved working and “retired” three separate times.

Her social activities over the years included Foothill’s first Athletic Booster’s and band clubs; a member of the Senior Players through Pleasanton’s theater; a volunteer at the Firehouse Theater; a Senior Volunteer at the Dublin CHP office; a member of Country

Hustler’s country dance group. She belonged to Pleasanton Military Families for many years; was an active member of Blankets for Kids. Mom was a charter member of Pleasanton’s Club 56 where she enjoyed creating displays in her home and in the windows along Main Street.

Even though mom was highly active in a large variety of groups, she enjoyed all the kids that came to her house from the time she moved in, to the day she passed. She opened her home to three generations and enjoyed everyone that passed through her doors. She genuinely loved life.

Fay is survived by her two daughters, Sandy and Susan; two grandsons, and two great-grandchildren.

A private burial was held in December 2025 followed by her home filled with loved ones and friends from all stages of life.

Bowman “Bo” Wong
March 15, 1929 — Feb. 26, 2026



Bowman “Bo” Wong was born March 15, 1929, in San Francisco, California. He lived a good life, defined by always doing the right thing and helping others before himself. From 1946 to 1947, Bo served his country in the United States Army, assigned to the 25th Infantry Division “Tropic Lightning” during the post-World War II occupation of Japan. He returned to San Francisco, working for several high-end department stores. Always a 49er Faithful, Bo was a 60-year season ticket holder. In 1972, he moved his family to Livermore. Bo worked hard to provide for them, sending his two sons to USC, and long after their graduation, he continued helping at countless USC East Bay Alumni Club events. Somehow, Bo also found time to be active in many other groups, including the Independent Order of Odd

planning suggestions but always showed up to lend a hand. He especially looked forward to being at the VFW’s Memorial Day weekend fundraising table at the Livermore Walmart and was honored to ride in the Willys jeep in the annual Livermore Rodeo Parade. Bo was never one to want the spotlight on himself or his achievements, but they deserve recognition. He received the World War II Victory Medal and the Army of Occupation Medal for service in the United States Army. In 2021, Bo received the highest civilian award bestowed by Congress, the Congressional Gold Medal — honoring Chinese American Veterans. He passed away Feb. 26, 2026, at age 96. Bo is survived by his wife of 61 years, Marilyn; his sons, Jeff (Cynthia) and Brad (Joyce); and wonderful grandsons, Bryce and Ethan.

OBITUARIES

Alva Deborah (Debbie) Yamin Oct. 30, 1954 — Jan. 31, 2026

Alva Deborah “Debbie” Yamin passed away peacefully at her home in Pleasanton on the morning of Saturday, Jan. 31, 2026.

Born in Southern California to Jim and Earlene Taylor, Debbie was raised in a loving and close-knit family. She cherished her parents, grandparents, extended family and lifelong friends. From an early age, she developed a deep appreciation for the importance of family — a value that shaped her life and the beautiful home she later created. Debbie loved animals, basketball, tennis, crafts, and most of all, spending time with those she loved.

In 1977, she married the love of her life, Tony. In 1979, they moved to Bishop in Northern California, where they began building their family and raising their three wonderful children. Career opportunities later brought the family back to Southern California for several years before a new opportunity in 1993 led them to settle in Pleasanton in



the Bay Area, where they made their lasting home.

At age 47, Debbie was diagnosed with Multiple Myeloma — a life-changing moment that she faced with extraordinary courage and determination. Rather than allowing cancer to define her, she set her sights on remission and on witnessing the milestones she dreamed of; seeing her children marry and becoming a grandmother. Her unwavering positivity and strength carried her through 24 years of countless tests, drug trials, treatments and

chemotherapy.

Throughout her long battle, Debbie continued to live life fully. She traveled to Europe, Mexico, and throughout the United States, hosted joyful gatherings for family and friends, and maintained a warm and welcoming home — all while undergoing treatments. When she became a grandmother, she embraced the role with boundless love and enthusiasm. She treasured reading stories, playing with dolls and trucks, teaching new lessons and helping to shape her grandchildren’s young lives.

Even during her most difficult days, Debbie kept her home filled with warmth and order and carried herself with grace and dignity. Her resilience, optimism, and steadfast love for her family were hallmarks of her life.

Debbie is survived by Tony, her devoted husband of 49 years; her children, Joseph, Kristina, and Tammie; and her beloved grandchildren.

A celebration of Debbie’s life will be held soon.

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Susan Bormolini April 2, 1940 — Feb. 14, 2026

Susan Claire Johnson Bormolini, 85, of Wallingford, Connecticut, passed away peacefully on Saturday, Feb. 14, 2026, after two years of health challenges, surrounded by the care and love of her family. She was born on April 2, 1940, in Waterbury, Connecticut, daughter of the late Wallace and Marion (Wiseburn) Johnson, and grew up in nearby Naugatuck, and also called New York, Vermont and California home throughout her life.

Susan was known above all for her kindness, generosity, and deep commitment to caring for others. A lifelong registered nurse (R.N.), she devoted her professional life to healthcare and education, touching countless lives through her work, leadership and mentorship.

She began her nursing career at St. Luke’s Hospital in New York City, followed by positions at Massapequa Nursing Home in Massapequa, New York, and Fieldston Lodge Nursing Home in Riverdale, New York. She later returned to her beloved Naugatuck, where she taught nursing and became Assistant Director of the School of Nursing at St. Mary’s Hospital in Waterbury, Connecticut.

She then moved to Vermont, where she served in hospital administration at Rutland Regional Medical Center and Middlebury Hospital. After returning to Connecticut, her final leadership role before retirement was at Middlebury Convalescent Home in Middlebury, where she continued her lifelong mission of advocating for compassionate, high-quality care.

Susan earned her B.S. in Nursing from Wagner College and later received a master’s degree from Fairfield University, with a focus on education and leadership. She took great pride in being a nurse and believed deeply in honoring the sacrifices of those who care for others. Beyond her formal roles, she was a trusted mentor to nursing students and young healthcare professionals, offering guidance, encouragement,



and unwavering support.

She had a remarkable gift for connection. Susan made friends everywhere she went, even while standing in line or chatting with someone at the next table in a restaurant. She was a patient and attentive listener who made people feel seen, heard and valued. Friends, neighbors, colleagues and family members remember her as someone they could always count on.

Susan also found joy in creating beauty and comfort. She loved baking (especially cookies, which she always had ready to share), painting, drawing, crafts and creating a warm and welcoming home. Her humor, storytelling and meticulousness were part of her everyday grace.

Faith was an important part of Susan’s life. A devoted Lutheran, she served her churches as a Parish Nurse and lived her faith through acts of compassion and service. In her later years, she was a member of Bethesda Lutheran Church in New Haven.

Even in her later years, Susan’s leadership and commitment to community remained strong. Just months after moving back to Connecticut in 2022, she was elected President of the Resident Council at Ashlar Village, Masonicare. Her ability to thoughtfully bridge understanding between residents and administration earned her the Connecticut Assisted Living Association’s Outstanding Resident Accomplishment Award, a

recognition that once again reflected her lifelong dedication to advocacy, empathy and service.

She was married for nearly fifty years to her beloved husband, William A. Bormolini, who preceded her in death in 2017. Susan is survived by her daughter, Heidi Christine Lorenzen; her brother, Eric Johnson (Priscilla); her stepchildren Stephen Bormolini (Diane), Deborah Newsome (Curt), and Joan Christian (Scott); her grandchildren Amanda Wu, Maximilian Wu, Danelle Newsome, and Sarah Bormolini; and her great-granddaughter Jocelyn Dumaine. She is also survived by her cousin Lenore Rossi (Raymond), other extended family members, numerous dear friends, former colleagues, fellow parishioners and countless nurses and students whose lives she shaped.

Even as her health declined, Susan continued to show kindness and gratitude to those who cared for her, bringing warmth and humor even in difficult moments. She received hospice care in her final days in Wallingford, Connecticut.

A memorial service and celebration of Susan’s life will be held Thursday, April 9, 2026 (a week after what would have been her birthday) at 11 a.m. at Hartog Auditorium at Ashlar Village (Masonicare), 74 Cheshire Road, Wallingford, CT 06492. (Directions: after coming in the main entrance at 74 Cheshire Rd., go to the second stop sign, take a left, then quick right into Parking Lot 3. The building is called Bridgehouse, and the Auditorium is inside.) A light lunch will immediately follow.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Susan’s memory to the Connecticut Nurses Honor Guard or to an organization of one’s choice.

The Alderson-Ford Funeral Home has been entrusted with her care. To leave online condolences for her family, please visit www.fordfh.com.

Judy Diane Lussie Feb. 2, 1943 — March 8, 2026

Judy Lussie passed away peacefully on March 8, 2026, at the age of 83.

She was born in 1943 in Chicago, Illinois, to Bing Song Leong and Mary Chin Moy. She grew up in Chicago, with her mother, stepfather Gene, stepsister Lillian and stepbrother Tracy. At 16, she attended the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign, where she earned her master’s degree and met her husband, William Lussie, PhD. She started work as a high school teacher.

In the late 1960s, Judy and her family moved to Idaho Falls, where Bill worked at the Idaho National Engineering Laboratory. While living in Idaho, Judy was an activist for Women’s Rights, the Equal Rights Amendment and The League of Women Voters. In the late 1970s, Judy and her family moved to Japan as Bill was invited to work with the Japan Atomic Energy Commission.



Upon returning to Idaho, Judy started work in drafting and then later in technical publications at the Westinghouse Idaho Nuclear Corporation. She was also active in starting the Idaho Falls Ethnic Heritage Festival and establishing a Sister City with Tokai-mura Japan.

In the late 1990s, Judy and Bill moved to Dublin, California, where Judy worked at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory as a department head in technical publications. She

was also active in the Dublin Arts Commission and helped get the murals on Dublin Blvd under the 680 overpass.

Judy was active in the Tri-Valley Writer’s club and self-published three fiction books: “Lake Biwa Wishes”, “Second Time Around” and “Bought Daughter”. She was very active in the Presbyterian Church, helping with the Presbyterian Publishing Company and with the Synod.

We will miss Judy. She was extremely caring, had a wonderful sense of humor and loved fine dining and traveling. She was preceded in death by her husband Bill. She is survived by her sons, Steven and Kevin, and grandchildren Alexandra and Nikolas.

Judy’s memorial service will be held on Sunday, April 12, at 2 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church in Livermore. For more information on the service, see <https://fpcl.online.church>.

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

John Alexander Despotakis Sept. 9, 1936 — Feb. 15, 2026

In Loving Memory of John Alexander Despotakis

It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of John Alexander Despotakis on Feb. 15, 2026.

Born on Sept. 9, 1936, in San Francisco, California, John lived a life defined by devotion, integrity and unwavering love for his family. He was preceded in death by his beloved wife of 69 years, Peggy, and his oldest son, Paul. He leaves behind a legacy cherished by their remaining five children, seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

A proud graduate of Washington High School, John continued his academic journey at City College of San Francisco and UC Berkeley. John met Peggy, the love of his life, while he was attending City College of San Francisco. They married on Peggy’s 20th birthday — Jan. 13, 1956 — beginning nearly



seven decades of partnership, adventure and enduring devotion. Their Christian faith was a cornerstone of their relationship.

During John’s service in the United States Marine Corps, he and Peggy lived throughout the country before ultimately returning to the Bay Area. They built their home first in Pleasanton and Danville, later settling in

Livermore, where they lived for the past 25 years.

Professionally, John made a lasting impact in the technology industry, working first with Daconics, then joining Tandem Computers as Employee #13 and contributing significantly throughout his career. An inventive and dedicated problem-solver, he earned 13 patents, a testament to his brilliance and drive.

John will be remembered for his warmth, strength, and steadfast love — qualities that shaped the lives of everyone who had the privilege of knowing him.

Please join us as we gather to honor and celebrate John’s life.

Saturday, Aug. 8, 2026
First Presbyterian Church
Livermore, 2020 5th St.,
Livermore, CA 94550

Bonnie Marie Avila June 16, 1940 — Feb. 1, 2026

Bonnie Marie Avila passed away peacefully on Feb. 1, 2026, at the age of 85. She is now reunited in heaven with her beloved husband Lionel Avila.

Bonnie was born on June 16, 1940, in Grass Valley, California. She later moved to Albany, California, but always cherished her summers spent in Grass Valley at her grandparents’ home. She was the daughter of Antony Bertino and Fern Trezise and grew up alongside her two sisters Gail and Lila, all of whom have since passed.

In 1960, Bonnie married the love of her life, Lionel. Soon after their marriage, they purchased their first home in Livermore where Lionel worked at Lawrence Livermore Lab and where they together raised their four children. Bonnie and Lionel shared a beautiful life together and celebrated 60 years of marriage before Lionel’s passing in 2020.

Bonnie is lovingly survived by her four children: Steven Avila (Wendy), Brian Avila (Kenna), Carla Kessler (Tom) and Kevin Avila (Leslie). She was a proud grandmother to 13 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren and many beloved nieces and nephews.



Bonnie was a woman of deep faith, compassion and service who devoted her life to God, her family and her community. She was a devoted wife, loving mother, cherished grandmother, and loyal friend to so many. Those who knew her will always remember her strength, warmth and the kindness she showed to everyone she met.

For many decades, Bonnie faithfully served the parish community at Saint Michael’s Church in Livermore. She volunteered at the parish school, worked in the church office, and served as the Wedding Director for 35 years, helping countless couples begin their married lives with grace and joy. Serving others was not simply something she did — it was truly the heart of who she was. Bonnie was also active

in many parish ministries and proudly served as President of Los Domas and Golden Friends.

Her greatest pride and joy was her family. She was always there for them — offering love, wisdom, encouragement, and unwavering support through every season of life.

Bonnie leaves behind a lasting legacy of faith, love, and generosity that will live on in the many lives she touched. Her memory will forever remain in the hearts of her family and friends. She will be deeply missed and lovingly remembered always.

A funeral mass will be held on March 30, 2026, at Saint Michael’s Church, 458 Maple St., Livermore, CA 94550. A burial will follow at Saint Michael’s Cemetery and reception at Saint Michael’s Hall.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St. Michael’s School or UCF Benioff Oakland Children’s Hospital in Bonnie’s memory.

“Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her. May her soul, and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.”

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Randy Spalasso June 26, 1957 — Feb. 15, 2026

Randall (Randy) Spalasso, a man of unwavering courage and love, he passed away peacefully at his home surrounded by his loving family on Feb. 15, 2026, at the age of 68. Randy was a beloved husband, father, proud Nonno, brother, uncle and friend.

Born in Oakland on June 26, 1957, to John and Carla Spalasso, Randy was a lifelong Bay Area resident. He married the love of his life, Anne, in 1989 and together they built a beautiful life and home in Livermore where they shared 36 years.

He is preceded in death by his parents, John and Carla Spalasso, and his son, Adam Randall Spalasso. He is survived by his spouse, Anne, his sons Joshua (Jody) and Michael (Alexandria), his daughter, Kristina, and his cherished grandchildren: Annalia, Adam, Emily and Ryann. He is also survived by his sister, Pam (Gary) Badarello, his brother, David (Dolores), his nephews: Jeff (Andrea), Joe (Lindsay), Anthony, Jason (Vanessa), Kevin and seven great-nephews and nieces.

Randy was a proud student of Sacred Heart School, St. Mary’s College High School, and Cal State East Bay. His professional life reflected his love for his community and his hands-on approach to work. His variety of skills were appreciated by



many during his 29+ years at Toscana, Colombo, and Parisian Bakeries, which became the San Francisco French Bread Company. After retiring from SFFB, he owned and operated California Covers Automotive Upholstery in Oakland for 20 years, showcasing his business acuity, craftsmanship and attention to detail.

Randy was affectionately known by the neighbors as the “Toolman”; he loved working with wood, building cabinets, bookcases, toy boxes, and often helping neighbors with their projects. He was a dedicated fan of the “Oakland” Raiders and enjoyed watching and discussing various forms of racing, including NASCAR, Indy Car and Formula 1.

In 2018, Randy was diagnosed with Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis. His determination and resilience were evident as he navigated through his journey with the

disease, losing 60 lbs. and enduring a multitude of tests to qualify for a double-lung transplant at Stanford Medical Center in 2020. His involvement in the Pulmonary Rehabilitation group in Livermore was a testament to his strength; he attended Monday to Friday, unless he was sick, and as much as he received from the program, he provided support and counsel to others facing similar health challenges.

Randy’s love for his family was fierce and all-encompassing. His extended family, though not bound by blood, was just as important to him. He will be remembered for his unwavering love, his vibrant and sometimes spicy spirit, and his ceaseless courage.

A Memorial Mass will be held on March 27, 2026, at 11 a.m. at the Transfiguration Catholic Church in Castro Valley, followed by a celebration of life at the Fratellanza Club in Oakland at 12:45 p.m. If you are not attending Mass, you may go directly to the club.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests donations to The Active Joint, 4738 Chestnut Court, Dublin, CA 94568, in honor of Randy’s life and legacy.

Randy’s spirit will continue to live on in the hearts of those who loved him.

You will Forever be my Always!

Softball Talent Remains Strong in Tri-Valley Teams

By Mitch Stephens

As strong as baseball reigns in the Tri-Valley, the softball prowess in the East Bay Athletic League may be even greater.

In all, the five schools have combined to win 15 North Coast Section titles, broken down like this: Foothill six titles (1994, '96, '98, 2007, '17, '19); Amador Valley five (2011, '14, '15, '18, '24), Granada two (1995, '97), Livermore one (2009) and Dublin one (1999).

The following are thumbnail looks at how the area softball teams fared

last season, along with top returning players, how they fared in the first three weeks of the season, and upcoming games.

All records and statistics this season are current as of Saturday, March 14.

Amador Valley

Head coach: Courtney Henning

Last season: 11-13 overall, 5-8 EBAL (149 runs scored, 135 allowed)

Top returning players: INF Mai Falcone (.469 average in 2025, first team All-EBAL), OF Ava Davis (.474 average, nine hits), UTL Katie Barhite (.333

BA, one HR)

Current season: 3-2-1 (34 runs scored, 24 allowed)

NCS rank (MaxPreps computer): No. 9

Briefly: Falcone is off to a torrid start, already having blasted five home runs with 10 RBIs, nine runs and a crazy 1.923 slugging percentage. ... The Dons, the 2024 Northern California Division 1 champions, have had a mixed bag in the early going with impressive wins over perennial NCS powers Benicia (16-5), Heritage-Brentwood (6-4) and James Logan-Union City (8-3), but a convincing 7-0 loss at Tracy along with a

4-3 defeat to Castro Valley. ... Freshman pitcher Cori Schreiber has looked good in the early going with a 2-0 record, 2.01 ERA and 18 strikeouts compared with five walks in 24.1 innings.

Next: Tuesday (March 24) vs. Livermore)

Dublin

Head coach: Kylie Crandall

Last season: 2-17 (0-13), 111 runs scored, 213 allowed

Top returning players: SS Sydney Salazar (2nd team All-EBAL), 3B Sara Miller, 1B/INF Lola Villalobos, OF Gabby Freyler

Current season: 4-3, 52 runs scored, 57 allowed

NCS rank (MaxPreps computer): No.19

Briefly: The Gaels have already doubled their win total with wins over Moreau Catholic-Hayward (11-7), Miramonte-Orinda (11-3) and Campolindo-Moraga (14-4), earning a top-20 NCS ranking. ... With two new freshman pitchers, Bailey Lowell (3-1, 4.00 ERA, 22 strikeouts, 21 innings) and Alana Ha, the Gaels have been much more competitive. ... Cat Ramirez is hitting .478 with two home runs, eight runs, nine RBIs

Kennedy-Fremont and Arroyo-San Lorenzo as sophomore Galzie (6-0, 1.47 ERA) fired a no-hitter with 14 strikeouts and then a two-hitter with 11 strikeouts. She has 50 strikeouts and 15 walks in 52.1 innings this season. ... Freshman Genevieve Duncalf is the team's leading hitter at .462 with 12 hits in 26 at-bats including three doubles. ... Braham has a double, a triple, five home runs and 14 RBIs while hitting .385 through eight games. ... The Falcons are hitting .297 as a team with 12 doubles, two triples and six RBIs. ... Sponcel not only has a team-best four doubles, but also five stolen bases.

Next: Thursday (March 19) at Granada; Tuesday at Dublin

Granada

Head coach: Johnny Heinz

Last season: 13-11, 7-6 (115 runs scored, 103 allowed)

Top returning players: C Maddie Bittman (All-EBAL, first team), P-INF Kamryn Brannon (All-EBAL, second team), OF-INF Kallie Brannon, INF Madison Trindade, P

(8-4) and Liberty-Brentwood (6-0). ... Freshman catcher Leah Ueese has hit the diamond running, hitting a team-best .600, with six runs, nine hits and seven runs batted in. ... Ingram is also hitting .600 (9 for 15, three doubles, five RBIs). ... Kamryn Brannon (1-0, 1.31 ERA) shares pitching duties with Gamache.

Next: Thursday (March 19) vs. Foothill, Tuesday (March 24) at San Ramon Valley

Livermore

Head coach: Andy Paulazzo

Last season: 19-10 (9-5), 194 runs scored, 133 allowed

Top returning players: SS Laine Macosky (All-EBAL, first team), 1B-P Kaci Norton (All-EBAL, second team), 2B Gianna Willes, OF Payten Williams, OF-INF Isabella Kelton

Current season: 3-1 (17 runs scored, seven allowed)

NCS rank (MaxPreps computer): None because teams must play five games to qualify

Briefly: The Cowboys hope to improve on last year's No. 2 seed in the NCS Division 1 playoffs and semifinal exit follow-



Dublin Distance Fiesta Parties On

By Mitch Stephens

Part party, music fest, jamboree and elite running event, the Dublin Distance Fiesta, in its 17th year, is surely one of a kind.

It's the largest high school distance event in the country, according to organizers, with more than 240 schools from California and Nevada, and more than 4,000 athletes, all showcased under the lights at Dublin High School Friday and Saturday (March 20-21).

Think Bay to Breakers around a quarter-mile track, with song, dance, winning T-shirts, winning gift bags and even sombreros.

"It's nonstop," said Dublin track and field, and cross-country coach Chris Williams, the meet director and founder. "It's nonstop fun, nonstop work, nonstop excellence."

All reflect Williams himself.

The upbeat, energetic, innovative leader brought the event to the Tri-Valley when he switched jobs from Skyline High School in Oakland to lead the Gaels in 2009. He's turned Dublin into a Northern California running force.

In the fall, he led the boys cross-country team to its third straight North Coast Section Division 1 title and eighth in nine seasons.

The Dublin Distance Fiesta started humbly with a mere 39 teams and an emphasis on music — Williams himself was once a DJ and now he hires a DJ service. Instead of the simple pitter-patter of feet, and the grunting and groaning of the runners, fans and competitors alike will jam to a wide variety of tunes cranked through the crystal clear Dublin Stadium sound system.

All will crank during the meet's five competitions (for both genders) in the open 800 meters, 1600 and individual 3200 races, along with two relay events, the 4x800 and 4000, the latter known as the distance medley relay.

Beyond the music, there are also special bells for runners to bang when they break personal bests, which are set by the dozens upon hundreds.

"Distance runners are different," Christopher-Gilroy High School coach Chris Rivers wrote in the meet's introductory letter to participants. "We learn early that improvement is personal, that leadership is quiet and that the real competition is with the version of ourselves we were yesterday. We celebrate personal bests with the same pride as victories, and we support each other in ways that go far beyond uniforms or finish times."

"It's a special tribe, one that stays with you long after high school."

Rivers was Williams' coach at St. Joseph-Alameda in the mid-1990s.

He has always appreciated Williams

"courage, heart and drive," especially in the winter of 2024, when the Dublin coach was diagnosed with colon cancer and endured a lengthy surgery that forced him to miss the 2025 track and field season, along with the 16th Distance Fiesta.

Williams returned to coach during the fall, leading the Gaels to another championship cross-country season.

"He was not the most naturally gifted runner (in high school) but he was the glue that held our team together," Rivers wrote. "I have watched him build a championship program at Dublin and mentor thousands of athletes. I admire his courage. ... returning with the same heart and commitment he has always shown. He is a respected figure in California high school track and field, and this event reflects his belief that every athlete deserves a place to compete, grow and be celebrated."

There's so much to celebrate.

Over the years, the 3200- and 1600-meter winners at this event have often gone on to win the CIF State Meet a couple of months later, including Cooper Teare (St. Joseph), Callum Bolger (San Luis Obispo), Liam Anderson (Redwood-Larkspur) and last year Hanne Thompson (Montgomery-Santa Rosa), who is now a freshman at Stanford.

Last season's meet actually broke two world records, according to organizers, with the most girls (371) breaking 6 minutes in the 1600 and most boys (591) breaking 5 minutes in the 1600. Both records broke the records set in 2024 at the Dublin Distance Fiesta.

Many local headliners figure to compete for best marks this weekend, including Foothill sophomore Macy Mullins, who ranks seventh among NCS runners this season in the 1600 (5:07.33) and third in the 3200 (10:58.69), Livermore senior Lanie Hempel in the 800 (2nd best NCS time of 2:16.01) and Granada junior Sade Bumpus (800, fifth, 2:18.50).

Among the local boys, Amador Valley senior Thomas Hekl (800, first in NCS, 1:54.45), Granada senior Nicolai Barron (800, third, 1:55.69) and Dublin junior Jeremy Imbo (800, sixth, 1:56.45) figure to compete for top marks.

In the 1600, Granada sophomore Alex van Veen is fourth among NCS runners in 4:19.59 and Dublin's Imbo is sixth (4:22.82).

Among 3200 runners, Dublin junior Lucas Lipman is third (9:39.19) and teammate Shiva Prem is 10th (9:47.27). All marks and rankings are according to the website athletic.net.

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



Granada freshman Riley Moyles takes a big rip in 2026 game versus Tracy. (Photo courtesy of KL/Livermore-Granada Boosters)

and 11 hits, all team bests. ... Miller (.400), Freyler (.444 on base percentage) and Villalobos (five hits, five RBIs) are all swingings hot bats.

Next: Saturday (March 21) at Berkeley, Tuesday vs. Foothill

Foothill

Head coach: Greg Chandler

Last season: 16-10-1, 8-6 (183 runs scored, 118 allowed)

Top returning players: P-UTL Myra Galzie, C-OF Naima Braham, INF Brea Olsen, UTL Alexa Sponcel, INF Addison Chandler

Current season: 6-2 (48 runs scored, 28 allowed)

NCS rank (MaxPreps computer): #13

Briefly: The Falcons opened with back-to-back 4-0 shutouts of

Ella Vonbergen, INF Alicia Mitre, INF Aubrey Ingram

Current season: 3-2 (30 runs scored, 16 allowed)

NCS rank (MaxPreps computer): No. 6

Briefly: The Matadors are trying to replace San Francisco Chronicle Metro Player of the Year Delaney Aumua, the NCS single-season and career home run queen. She's a freshman at Auburn. ... Bella Gamache, up from the JV team, has pitched in three games, going 2-1 with a 2.33 ERA. She's struck out 15 in 15 innings. ... The Matadors have impressive wins over NCS powers Freedom-Oakley (5-1) and James Logan-Union City (10-0), not to mention an 11-1 romp over Rodriguez-Fairfield, which is 5-1 in other games. ... But the Mats have taken their lumps against Tracy

ing a disappointing 9-0 loss to Casa Grande-Petaluma.

... After three crisp wins over Castro Valley (11-3), Freedom (1-0) and College Park-Pleasanton Hill (2-0), the Cowboys dropped a tough 4-3 game to Alameda on Thursday (March 12). ... Macosky is off to a .400 start with a .538 on-base percentage. ... Williams and Macosky have provided home runs in the early going. ... Norton, a senior, is 2-1 with a 1.75 ERA while freshman Payton Rohe pitched a three-hit gem with nine strikeouts in the win over Freedom. ... Paulazzo has been the team's head coach since 2017 and has piled up a 143-56 record.

Next: Thursday (March 19) at Newark Memorial, Saturday (March 21) vs. Capuchino, Tuesday (March 24) at Amador Valley

Patelco Employees Donate Blood

DUBLIN — Patelco Credit Union employees donated 15 units of blood last week to the Stanford Blood Center (SBC).

The mobile blood drive was held at the credit union's

Dublin headquarters.

"Hosting regular blood drives gives our team members the opportunity to donate and help ensure patients in our community have ac-

cess to lifesaving blood when they need it," said Patelco spokesperson Cara Houck.

SBC is an independent center that provides blood to Bay Area hospitals.

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620721

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

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 620553

The following person(s) doing business as: Scented Stories Studio LLC, 5216 Modena Court, Pleasanton, CA 94588 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Scented Stories Studio LLC, 5216 Modena Court, Pleasanton, CA 94588. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 01/22/2026. Signature of Registrant/s: Vanessa Harris, Manager. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 20, 2026. Expires January 29, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6724. Published February 26, March 5, 12, 19, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620800

The following person(s) doing business as: Kitty Hawk Dental Care Office, 53 Wright Brothers Ave, St C, Livermore, CA

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

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620715

The following person(s) doing business as: Age in Wellness, 1048 Sherry Way, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Deborah Chestnut, 1048 Sherry Way, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced

to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s: Deborah Chestnut. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 9, 2026. Expires February 8, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6726. Published February 26, March 5, 12, 19, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620582

The following person(s) doing business as: Melody Academy of Music, 1972 Driscoll Road, Fremont, CA 94539 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Melody Music Academy LLC, 9450 SW Gemini Dr, PMB 50196 Beaverton, OR 97008. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 06/11/2021. Signature of Registrant/s: Alan Wong, Secretary. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on

February 2, 2026. Expires February 1, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6727. Published February 26, March 5, 12, 19, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620206

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

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620287

The following person(s) doing business as: Simbongsa, 6999 Dublin Blvd #B, Dublin, CA 94568 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Daebock Inc, 6999 Dublin Blvd #B, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s: Erin Suh, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 20, 2026. Expires January 20, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6729. Published February 26, March 5, 12, 19, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620832

The following person(s) doing business as: Fox and Belle Salon, 911 University Ave, Berkeley, CA 94710 is hereby

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

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620829

The following person(s) doing business as: Pillars Home Health Services, 7567 Amador Valley Blvd, Suite 306, Dublin, CA 94568 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Pillars Home Health Services LLC, 7567 Amador Valley Blvd, Suite 306, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The

registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s: Armida Fajardo, Manager. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 13, 2026. Expires February 12, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6731. Published February 26, March 5, 12, 19, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 620748

The following person(s) doing business as: 334 Dutton Ave, LLC, 334 Dutton Ave, San Leandro, CA 94577 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): 334 Dutton Avenue, LLC, 334 Dutton Ave, San Leandro, CA 94577. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 01/01/2021. Signature of Registrant/s: Michael Siu, President. This statement was filed with

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the County Clerk of Alameda on February 10, 2026. Expires February 9, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6732. Published February 26, March 5, 12, 19, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 620739

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

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 620863

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

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 620878

The following person(s) doing business as: Water Wise Landscaping, 6138 Shattuck Ave, Oakland, CA 94609 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Sarah Clark, 6138 Shattuck Ave, Oakland, CA 94609. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 06/2010. Signature of Registrant/s/: Sarah Clark, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 17, 2026. Expires February 16, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6735. Published February 26, March 5, 12, 19, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 620661

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

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 620648

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

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 620780

The following person(s) doing business as: Sleep Apnea

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

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 620924

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

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 620512

The following person(s) doing business as: Pillowcrave, 1050 Larkspur Drive, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Pillowcrave LLC, 1050 Larkspur Drive, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 6/6/2022. Signature of Registrant/s/: Shawn Renee Robinson, Founder, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 26, 2026. Expires January 25, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6747. Published March 12, 19, 26, April 2, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 620972

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

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 621086

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

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 621088

The following person(s) doing business as: Okaya Insurance Agency LLC, 783 Falcon Way, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant com-

menced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Simrat K. Pabla, Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 25, 2026. Expires February 24, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6745. Published March 5, 12, 19, 26, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 621182

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

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 620414

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

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 621126

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

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 621154

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

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 621178

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Pleasanton Auto Repair, 2. Pleasanton Auto Repair and Service; 3. Pleasanton Auto Service, 3880 Old Santa Rita Road, Pleasanton, CA 94588 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Pleasanton Auto Repair Inc., 3880 Old Santa Rita Road, Pleasanton, CA 94588. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 1/1/1991. Signature of Regis-

trant/s/: James Bowen, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 27, 2026. Expires February 26, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6750. Published March 12, 19, 26, April 2, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 621030

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

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 621197

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

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 621279

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. East Bay New Parenthood Consultation and Therapy; 2. New Parenthood Consultation and Therapy; 3. Bay Area New Parents; 4. EBCAT, 220 S Livermore Ave, #7, Livermore, CA 94550-9998 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Vanessa Hernandez, 220 S Livermore Ave, #7, Livermore, CA 94550-9998. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Vanessa Hernandez, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 11, 2026. Expires February 10, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6758. Published March 19, 26, April 2, 9, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 621097

The following person(s) doing business as: Happy Body Connections, 1152 Farmington Way, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Lindi LaBine, 1152 Farmington Way, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 1/1/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Lindi LaBine, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 25, 2026. Expires February 24, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6754. Published March 12, 19, 26, April 2, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 621102

The following person(s) doing business as: All Creatures Veterinary Hospital, 6612 Dublin Blvd, Dublin, CA 94568 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Dublin Veterinary Services Inc., 6612 Dublin Blvd, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 2/1/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Harinder Judge, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 25, 2026. Expires February 24, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6755. Published March 19, 26, April 2, 9, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 620663

The following person(s) doing business as: Beahcomber Studio, 154 Jensen Way, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Loren C. Olk, 154 Jensen Way, Livermore, CA 94550; Elizabeth L. Olk, 154 Jensen Way, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by a Married Couple. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 2/29/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Loren C. Olk, Co-Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 5, 2026. Expires February 4, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6756. Published March 19, 26, April 2, 9, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 621397

The following person(s) doing business as: Maia Energetics, 1278 Asti CT, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Rain Shine and Rainbows, LLC, 1278 Asti CT, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 3/9/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Corey Vadurro, Manager. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 9, 2026. Expires March 8, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6757. Published March 19, 26, April 2, 9, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 620788

The following person(s) doing business as: Desserts and Doughs by Dana, 452 Windermere Cir, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Dana Youngblood, 452 Windermere Cir, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 1/16/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Dana Youngblood, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 11, 2026. Expires February 10, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6758. Published March 19, 26, April 2, 9, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 621300

The following person(s) doing business as: My Profit Gurus, Inc., 6436 Tiffany Common, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): My profit Gurus, Inc., 6436 Tiffany Common, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 2/13/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Harshavardhan Jadhav, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 5, 2026. Expires March 4, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6759. Published March 19, 26, April 2, 9, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 621185

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Yesu Healthcare Transportation; 2. Yesu Medical

Courier; 3. Yesu Healthcare Logistics; 4. Yesu Transportation; 5. Yesu Transportation Service, 5648 Bay Street, APT 421, Emeryville, CA 94562 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Yesu Nemt LLC, PO Box 8511 Emeryville, CA 94662. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 3/2/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Surafel Tensai, Managing Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 2, 2026. Expires March 1, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 6760. Published March 19, 26, April 2, 9, 2026.

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME ORIGINAL FILE NO. 611134

The person(s) listed below have abandoned the use of the following fictitious business name(s): Diabitos Tree Service, 66 Franklin ST, Suite 300, Oakland, CA 94607. Registered by the following owner(s): Carlos Heriberto Berumen Ornelas, 66 Franklin ST, Suite 300, Oakland, CA 94607. The fictitious business name statement was filed on 12/11/2024 in the County of Alameda. This business was conducted by an Individual. Signature of Registrants: /s/: Carlos Heriberto Berumen Ornelas, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 3, 2026. The Independent, Legal No. 6761. Published March 19, 26, April 2, 9, 2026.

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PROPOSAL SUBMITTAL RETURN Attn: Sarah Ramler, Executive Director
3203 Leahy Way, Livermore, CA 94550
PROPOSAL SUBMITTAL DEADLINE Wednesday, April 22, 2026, 3:00 PM PT

[SECTION 3, MINORITY- AND/OR WOMEN-OWNED BUSINESSES ARE ENCOURAGED TO RESPOND]

Susanna Harris Creates Art Out of Light and Paper

By Christina Cavallaro

LIVERMORE — Immersing oneself in the work of Susanna Harris feels like swimming deep beneath the ocean's surface. Her sculptural installations in paper evoke an etherealness by design. Shapes in paper are cut, pressed and layered, then backlit with colored lights, which all

nue, Harris's "Fluorescent Dreamland" represents a departure from largely landscape paintings on display at the gallery since its inception last May. Her landscapes — in paper — are viewable to the public from 6 to 8 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays through April 25.

"I am excited to have Susanna present her work as an

installations. Through hand cutting, embossing and layers of ink, Harris sculpts organic forms that breathe with light and shadow. The dimensionality makes it hard to believe the works are derived from paper. The overlapping layers seem to tangibly represent the layers of grief, resilience and hope that merge her personal experience with the collective.

"I think as an artist, I never feel like I can separate experience from work," Harris said. "It's always going to be intertwined."

Harris's mother passed away in 2021. "Part of my work is about the human condition," she said, and added that she has noticed that Western culture is not always as adept at handling grieving and loss as other cultures.

"We are here for a certain amount of time. And it does come to an end and considering that, and also just my experience, I think it's made me appreciate being alive more," Harris said.

The Ohio native and recent Livermore transplant has much to celebrate. Following the conclusion of her exhibition at The Independent Art Gallery on April 25, her work will move the very next day to a second solo show. Titled "A Changing World," this exhibition will be held at the Robert Livermore Community Center,

where she has been named the Livermore Art Association's Featured Artist for April 2026.

"Pursuing being an artist is tough, but I think (my experiences) kind of pushed me further in that direction because, I just know it will all end and I don't know when that will happen."

Livermore Valley Arts and The Independent will host a reception for Harris on April 3, from 6 to 8 p.m. featuring musician Maddie Smotzer on piano. Admission is free and open to the public.



Through hand cutting and deep embossing, artist Susanna Harris transforms paper into luminous, dimensional landscapes. Harris's paper sculptures are on display now through April 25 at The Independent Art Gallery. (Photo courtesy of LVA)

combine to give a sensation of movement.

Harris's art blends aspects of traditional printmaking with contemporary innovation, exploring themes of resilience through environmental destruction and the human condition.

Now on display at The Independent Art Gallery on the corner of First Street and South Livermore Ave-

emerging young artist with a fresh and vibrant modern feel," Livermore Valley Arts Visual Arts and Education Manager Anne Giancola said. "The art has an interesting and tactile look to the paper sculptures, and you can see immediately that the forms are organic."

Beyond exploring themes of grief and personal loss, Harris's work

"They (environmentalists) have now started talking about how coral turn this range of bright fluorescent neon colors in a last-ditch effort to attract different organisms back into the ecosystem, back into their coral reef," she said.

As an artist and an environmentalist, Harris was inspired by the idea of that

world.

"I was feeling like there was this collective grief amongst everyone globally," she said, which mixed with her personal sadness and work around the climate crisis.

Those feelings created a visual voice in the colors, textures and lighting she uses to create an intimate, immersive feeling in her

LPC Is Now Accepting Scholars Program 2026-27 Applications

LIVERMORE — Las Positas College (LPC) is accepting applications for its President's Scholars Program for the 2026-2027 school year.

Now in its fifth year, the needs-based program provides students with financial and academic support while also encouraging personal growth and engaging with the community as college ambassadors.

"The President's Scholars Program reflects Las Positas College's commitment to supporting students with both financial resources and leadership opportunities," said LPC President Dyrell Foster. "We encourage eligi-

ble students to apply and take advantage of this opportunity to pursue their academic goals while representing our college and community."

The program is open to graduating high school seniors from the Livermore, Dublin, Castro Valley, Pleasanton, San Ramon, Lambersville and Tracy school districts.

Students in the President's Scholars program participate in monthly enrichment activities over a two-year period and represent the college at campus and community events.

They receive full tuition and fees for up to two years,

plus an annual \$1,000 stipend for textbooks. They also get use of a new laptop computer, free campus parking, letters of recommendations from the college president and recognition at LPC commencement ceremonies.

LPC said up to 20 students will be selected to begin the program the next school year.

The deadline to apply is Sunday, March 29. To apply, or for more information, go to tinyurl.com/372p9zjk.

LPC was ranked second-best community college in California in the online 2026 niche.com rankings and fourth-best in the U.S.

MOVIE

(Continued from front page)

"East Bay Confidential" won Best Feature Film at the 2025 Oakland Film Festival and the Best Film and Audience Choice awards at the 2025 LA Neo Noir Novel, Film, & Script Online Festival.

Unlike the high-volume production world of L.A., the Tri-Valley offers a different kind of appeal for De Pretis.

"Movies still have magic in a way they don't really have down south," he said.

One example of this, De Pretis said, was at the Good Time Tavern, where the crew filmed early in the morning to avoid disrupting the business. When customers began arriving and saw production underway, they were so captivated that De Pretis invited them to do the clacker — the black-and-white clapperboard that marks the start of each take.

"East Bay Confidential" is not De Pretis's first film set in the Tri-Valley. In 2019, he shot "Death Blood 4: Revenge of the Killer Nano-Robotic Blood Virus" in Pleasanton, at locations

including Inklings Coffee & Tea and downtown Pleasanton. Despite the title, the film is actually a mock sequel to a fictitious horror franchise that doesn't exist.

"There are no other 'Death Bloods,'" De Pretis explains. "People have found 'Death Blood 4' and not watched it because they couldn't find the other three. But it's kind of like we're deep in this franchise and the movies have gone off the rails." By jumping straight to part four, De Pretis is leaning into a common horror trope where late-stage sequels abandon their scary roots to become absurd parodies of themselves.

Fans of "comfort horror" — films more silly than scary — will find plenty to enjoy, including space aliens and a Bigfoot living on the Pleasanton Ridge.

De Pretis is already working on his next project, "American Compost," which he plans to shoot in Livermore. The film centers on microbudget filmmaking and content creators.

"The movie is not auto-

biographical, but it feels that way," he said with a laugh. "I just want to romanticize the place I live."

For De Pretis, that is the point of microbudget filmmaking, after all. It carries a rawness that big-budget productions can't replicate.

"Microbudget films have a roughness to them that gives them a realism because everything is close to home. It's special when you can film in your own town, and attempt to communicate how special your hometown is," he says.

For viewers looking for a point of reference, "East Bay Confidential" shares the gritty tone of modern noirs like Ryan Gosling's 2011 film "Drive" and Robert Pattinson's 2017 "Good Time." De Pretis said the movie also tips its hat to classic noirs like Humphrey Bogart's 1941 masterpiece, "The Maltese Falcon."

"East Bay Confidential" and "Death Blood 4" are both available to rent or own on Amazon Prime Video.

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