



The City of Pleasanton has initiated annexation of 30 acres of Alameda County land next to the Ironwood neighborhood and Lake I. The Arroyo Lago project plans to build 237 new homes on the parcel, adding to the city's east side expansion. (Photo — David Jen) See story on page 2.

Livermore Mayor John Marchand Files For Seventh Term in Office, Unopposed

Longest-Serving City Leader to Build on History of Groundbreaking Projects

By Christina Cavallaro

LIVERMORE — John Marchand, the longest serving mayor in Livermore history, has filed for reelection this November. No one has filed to run against Marchand as he seeks his seventh two-year term in office as mayor.

Marchand, who was elected to the Livermore City Council in 2005, made the jump to mayor in 2011. Previously, he was elected to six years as a councilman.

After serving four mayoral terms, he was ineligible to run in 2020, due to term limits. Following a two-year break, Marchand was

again elected in 2022 and 2024.

Looking back at key accomplishments under his leadership, Marchand said in an emailed statement to The Independent, “In 2015, (former councilmember) Bob Woerner and I implemented the city’s first robust asset management plan. As other cities around us are grappling with multi-million-dollar deficits, Livermore is reinvesting its surplus into our infrastructure.”

Marchand highlighted that plans for Stockmen’s Park were originally agreed to in 1962.

“After 57 years and dozens of mayors later, we got the first phase completed under my tenure,” he

said.

Earlier decades also included council meetings held in a triple-wide trailer, he recalled.

“I am proud that our residents now have a modern council chamber and a state-of-the-art emergency operations center, which will serve our community for generations to come.”

In recent years, Marchand has been at the helm of several other major community projects, including the Vineyard Resource Center and Livermorium Plaza. Livermorium Plaza, Marchand said, “acts like a kid magnet.” He added, “My hope is that it inspires children to

(See MARCHAND, page 8)

Strict New Federal Earnings Rule Puts Aid at Risk for Colleges Nationwide

The Full Las Positas College Impact Remains to Be Seen Across Programs

By David Jen

LIVERMORE — A new federal rule requires that colleges, including Las Positas College (LPC), a 2-year community college, show the earnings benefits of their programs or else lose federal loan and grant eligibility.

Under the Earnings Accountability rule, a provision of the Working Families Tax Cuts Act, undergraduate programs, including the associates programs at LPC, must demonstrate that their graduates earn more than the typical high school graduate. Similarly, graduate programs must show that their graduates earn more than a typical bachelor’s degree holder.

If a program cannot show a “modest financial return” for two out of

three consecutive award years, it will lose eligibility to participate in the federal Direct Loan program, according to the U.S. Department of Education. Three failing years could disqualify the program from the broader financial assistance of the Higher Education Act, including Pell Grants.

The changes took effect on July 1. Rajinder Samra, LPC director of research, planning, and institutional effectiveness, said that the college was still assessing the rule’s implications.

“Earnings are an important measure of student outcomes, particularly for students who borrow,” Samra said. “However, salary should not be the sole factor guiding college program decisions. Community colleges must also consider transfer preparation,

workforce demand, completion, affordability, educational access and the broader benefits of higher education.”

Student borrowing at LPC is relatively limited, he continued, with less than 0.4% of students during the 2024-25 school year receiving federal Direct Loans.

And while the department has yet to release program-level data, Samra said that LPC data at the institution level looked encouraging.

Beginning in December 2025, Federal Student Aid began flagging some colleges as “lower earnings” to student-aid applicants, a stigma that LPC has avoided. According to March 2026 data, the department reported LPC’s inflation-adjusted undergraduate earnings four years after

(See LPC, page 9)

County Weighs \$364.5M Multiuse Tri-Valley Mega Event Center

Pleasanton Pushback Threatens Regional Support

By Sanestina Hunter

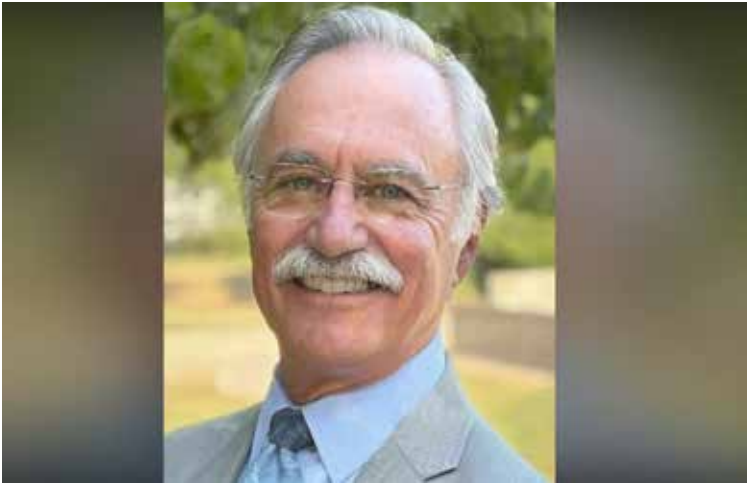
ALAMEDA COUNTY — Alameda County supervisors are weighing plans for a \$364.5 million multiuse event center in Dublin that would host youth sports tournaments, entertainment, performing arts and conferences. Supporters say the venue would boost the Tri Valley economy and surrounding businesses.

Visit Tri-Valley (VTV) presented the proposal to the Alameda County Board of Supervisors’ Transportation and Planning Committee on Aug. 3.

The proposal identifies a site spanning 12.18 acres near Martinelli Way and Arnold Road as the preferred location. The Surplus Property Authority of Alameda County, a separate legal entity that manages excess county property, owns the site, which is within the Urban Growth Boundary (UGB).

If the project moves forward, the site would accommodate a building of at least 160,000 square feet, including 100,000 square feet of flexible floor space. That would provide enough room for 12 to 16 basketball courts

(See LAND, page 9)



Mayor John Marchand

Sherry Hu Will Seek Second Term as City of Dublin Mayor

Highlights Commercial Growth, Top California Ranking

By Christina Cavallaro

DUBLIN — Mayor Sherry Hu has filed for re-election and will seek a second two-year term in the November general election.

“Dublin is my home, and I am honored to serve this community,” Hu said in a statement. “Over the last two years, Dublin has continued to rise. We opened three new parks, welcomed over 100 new businesses, strengthened public safety, expanded

community programs and maintained a strong budget surplus, while many cities face fiscal pressure.”

Just last week, U.S. News & World Report ranked Dublin as the No. 1 Best Place to Live in California.

“That recognition belongs to the people of Dublin,” Hu said. “It reflects our residents, businesses, schools, city staff, public safety partners and community organizations. My job is to keep that momentum

(See HU, page 8)



Mayor Sherry Hu



Players on the Granada Livermore baseball team rush toward the stands to celebrate with their fans at Max Baer Park in Livermore following a 5-3 comeback victory over Bollinger Canyon (San Ramon) to capture the Little League Intermediate World Series United States Championship on Saturday, Aug. 8. The team ultimately fell to South Korea in the World Series Championship final game the following day. (Photo — May Fraser) See story on page 10.

Granada Livermore Wins U.S. Championship

Local Team Claims National Title Before Advancing to World Series Final

By Phil Jensen

LIVERMORE – The Granada Livermore baseball team trailed Bollinger Canyon (San Ramon) by two runs at the end of five innings of an historic Little League Intermediate World Series United States Championship game last Saturday.

But Granada Livermore knew there was plenty of time left. The team scored three runs in the top of the sixth inning and didn’t look back to win 5-3, vaulting the squad

into the overall championship game against South Korea this past Sunday. Last Saturday’s game marked first time that a pair of Tri-Valley teams has reached the U.S. championship game in this tournament, according to tournament director Bill Aboumrad.

Granada Livermore fought its way through 18 games across four tournaments to win the U.S. title.

“It’s surreal,” said Granada Livermore manager Mike Civello, whose squad had to win the NorCal state and West Regional

tournaments just to reach the World Series. Bollinger Canyon was able to bypass those tournaments because it was the District 57 champion — the tournament where it beat Granada Livermore twice in the championship round. District 57 was the host of this World Series and received an automatic bid.

“These boys earned it and they deserve every bit of it. They’re battle-tested through the district ... and state and West Region tournament, and here they come back

(See GAME, page 10)

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PET OF THE WEEK



MARY

Affectionate Mary loves making biscuits and will keep your hands petting night and day.Wait until you hear this gorgeous three-year-old “sing.” And she’s playful! Whether she’s pouncing on toys or working her scratcher. Don’t worry about the way things might have been...proudly bring Mary home today! Call (925) 426-8656 or email info@valleyhumane.org to start the adoption process today.

Pleasanton Approves Arroyo Lago Annexation Deal

By David Jen

PLEASANTON — City councilmembers acknowledged the upper hand of housing developer 330 Land Company last week during the city’s decision to annex the 237-home Arroyo Lago Residential Project. In a 3-2 vote on July 27, with Councilmembers Jeff Nibert and Julie Testa opposed, the council accepted a \$3 million contribution from 330 Land toward the improvement of El Charro Road, short of the \$8 million fair share calculated by city staff and recommended by the Pleasanton Planning Commission.

As the city builds out its east side with new housing, city analyses predict traffic-service levels will fall below city standards, notably where Santa Rita Road intersects Valley Avenue and Stoneridge Drive. Without an estimated \$110 million

upgrade to El Charro Road, the increased traffic could lead to more collisions and traffic violations.

The council’s acceptance of the Arroyo Lago contribution stemmed from a parallel proposal made by the developer for a similar project on the same parcel, approved by Alameda County in February, that 330 Land can still pursue if it walks away from the city project.

The 30-acre project parcel, owned by USL Pleasanton LP, currently sits just outside Pleasanton’s border in unincorporated Alameda County. It is within the city’s sphere of influence, urban growth boundary and general plan planning area.

City staff concluded that if 330 Land developed the project with the county instead of the city, the new residents would exert costs on the city through their use of city services without

commensurate developer fees and property taxes. The county proposal also includes spray fields of treated sewage that raised concerns among existing residents and the Zone 7 Water Agency, which manages the area’s groundwater.

The city alternative would connect the new development to city water and sewer infrastructure.

Pleasanton Director of Community and Economic Development Ellen Clark viewed the development agreement negotiated with the city as the lesser of two evils, whereas under the county, Arroyo Lago would pay no property taxes, make no contribution to El Charro Road or other infrastructure.

“It’s not ideal in many ways, but we believe this is a more ideal outcome than the alternative,” Clark said.

The Arroyo Lago project plans to build 189 single-family houses and 48

junior accessory dwelling units along Busch Road immediately east of the Ironwood neighborhood. The agreement between the city and 330 Land also requires the construction of a publicly accessible park, a trail to Mohr Avenue, improvements along Busch Road and downstream improvements to the city’s water and sewer system.

While Nibert and Testa tried to convince 330 Land that the in-Pleasanton route was worth more than \$3 million, the other councilmembers traced their predicament back to the development of the city’s current housing element, adopted in 2023.

In February 2022, the city council at the time voted to remove from its housing element inventory the East Pleasanton parcel known as Steelwave. Those supporting the removal raised concerns of added traffic

and water-infrastructure impacts. Then-Councilmembers Jack Balch and Kathy Narum voted against the removal.

At last week’s meeting, Vice Mayor Matt Gaidos said that, had Steelwave remained on the list, the city could have zoned for fewer units elsewhere in the city.

“This has been the elephant in the room the whole time,” Gaidos said. “By not

putting it in the housing element and not annexing (to) the City of Pleasanton, we essentially lost negotiating power.”

The annexation still requires the approval of the Alameda County Local Area Formation Commission. The city will also have to negotiate with the county over how to share Arroyo Lago property taxes and state-housing credits.



“Brighter than the Sun,” an oil painting by Tuan Karsevar, is featured in the fourth annual “Flora in Focus” art show at the Livermore Civic Center Library. A free public reception will be held on Saturday, August 29, from 2 to 4 p.m. (Photo courtesy of Meghana Mitragotri)

Library Hosts Event For Floral Artists

LIVERMORE – The Livermore Civic Center Library, 1188 S. Livermore Ave., will host a reception for the artists whose work is on display for the fourth annual “Flora in Focus” art show from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 29.

The reception is free and open to the public.

The art show, on display now through Monday, Aug. 31, is designed to celebrate both the artistry of flowers and the “meaningful friendships that have blossomed among a small group of local floral artists,” according to show organizer and watercolor artist Meghana Mitragotri.

“Flowers remind us that beauty comes in many forms, and our group is

much the same,” Mitragotri added. “Over the years, our shared love for flowers and art has grown into a beautiful friendship. We celebrate each other’s creativity, encourage one another and continue to flourish together.”

In addition to Mitragotri, the show includes work by Monique Makepeace, Wei-Ting Chuang, Charlotte Severin, Jenna Hobbs, Helene Roylance, Tejal Shah, Lynda Briggs, Peggy Kervin, Usha Shukla, Tuan Karsevar, Rekha Joshi and Ranjini Venkatachari.

The reception will include refreshments, raffle prizes and an opportunity to meet the artists.

Roadrunner Run Fundraiser Is in October

LIVERMORE — Marylin Avenue STEAM Academy will hold its fourth annual Roadrunner Run on Friday, Oct. 16, with a goal of raising \$30,000.

The annual fundraiser brings together students from the TK through fifth-grade magnet school for a day of “activity, color and community spirit,” according to school administrators.

“The Roadrunner Run is one of our favorite school traditions,” said Principal Joe Meunier. “It’s not just about fundraising; it’s about creating unity, movement and showing our students that their education is worth celebrating.”

The elementary school, part of the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District, stresses teaching science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics (STEAM) and emphasizes personalized learning through small-group instruction.

The Roadrunner Run is sponsored by the school’s Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) to help fund enrichment programs and classroom activities.

PTO President Rachael Prentiss said last year’s event raised enough to “give every teacher a classroom stipend, create a field-trip fund for each grade level

and build a contingency account.”

The PTO is asking local businesses to sponsor the event, while students are also soliciting individual pledges.

In addition, the PTO said contributions made through the Community Health and Education Foundation (CHEF) online Giving Community platform during August will be matched at 50%.

Students participating in the untimed color run, where they get dusted with colorful powder at stations along the route, will receive an event t-shirt, snacks and prizes.

SPARC Offers Improv Classes for Adults

LIVERMORE — The Shakespeare & Performing Arts Regional Company (SPARC) has introduced an Adult Improv Program taught by Mark Duncan.

SPARC said the program will offer classes for beginners and experienced actors designed to build confidence, strengthen communication skills and “experience the joy of collaborative storytelling.”

Duncan is a graduate of the BATS School of Improv in Marina, California, and creator of the Pleasanton-based award-winning teen improv troupe Creatures of Impulse.

The year-round program will include a progression of structured classes at the SPARC Studio at 2172 Railroad Ave. in Livermore, starting with a two-session “Intro to Improv” designed for newcomers.

Future sessions will include classes in “Short-Form Play,” “Short-Form Performance,” “Long-Form Lab” and Long-Form Performance.”

SPARC said students can enroll in the full sequence of classes or in individual sessions. Tuition

starts at \$75. For schedules, class descriptions and registration, go to sparctheater.org.





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Supervisors Block Minimum Wage Measure from Ballot

By David Jen

TRI-VALLEY — Alameda County voters will have to wait until March 2028 to decide on the minimum wage for the unincorporated areas of the county.

Earlier this year, the Living Wage For All coalition circulated a petition to place on this November’s ballot a measure to raise the county’s minimum wage from \$16.90 per hour to \$30 per hour.

Although the Registrar of Voters’ Office verified that the petition gathered 49,370 valid signatures, enough to qualify the initiative for the ballot, the Alameda County Board of Supervisors decided in a 3-2 vote last week that such a ballot measure required further study. Because the requested study will not be completed with enough lead time before this year’s election, per the California Elections Code, the board decision effectively barred the measure from the November ballot.

“Our next step is to keep organizing,” said Saru Jayaraman, president of One Fair Wage, which leads the coalition. “We will continue meeting with workers and communities across Alameda County, sup-

porting workers in this fight, and building toward the election when Living Wage For All reaches the ballot. Tens of thousands of residents have already shown that the public demand is there, and workers need these raises now. We will keep building the support needed to win a living wage for every worker in Alameda County.”

Supervisors in favor of the study looked for a ballot placement in 2028.

“I do think the voters have a chance to vote on this, just not in November,” Supervisor Nate Miley said at the Aug. 4 meeting. “It’s going to be March of 2028 because we need to do a study. I think that’s the prudent thing to do.”

Miley was joined by Board President David Haubert and Board Vice President Lena Tam in calling for the study of economic impacts on the county brought by the wage increase. Business owners from around the county also asked for more fiscal details, worried that the added expense of the increased wages could prompt layoffs and business closures, hurting business owners and employees alike.

“We have no idea what this measure would do to local busi-

nesses like mine,” said Conrad Freeman, a county business owner.

Supervisor Nikki Fortunato Bas, who voted against delaying the ballot measure, felt a duty to follow the initiative process and hear the will of the voters.

“I do believe that everyone deserves a living wage, and a living wage from just one job, not two or three jobs,” Fortunato Bas said. “I also believe that everyone deserves to have a safe and affordable home, to be in the community that they desire to be, and not be pushed out.”

Living Wage For All calculated the living wage in Alameda County, or the income needed to cover basic expenses, at \$42.22 per hour. Tri-Valley cities Dublin, Livermore and Pleasanton follow the county minimum wage of \$16.90 per hour.

“Right now, it’s hard for working people to afford to live,” said one speaker identified only as Bradley. “Too many families are working full time and still can’t keep up with the rising costs of living.”

The ballot initiative would have raised the minimum wage of unincorporated Alameda County to \$30 per hour by July 1, 2030 for large employers, by July 1, 2035 for medium employers, and by July 1, 2037 for small employers.

County supervisors asked for the upcoming study to investigate fiscal impacts on both the unincorporated areas and the county as a whole, with a focus on minority business owners, the job market and inflation.

“Will the wealth gap increase or not as a result of this wage increase?” Haubert asked.

The study will also detail compliance methods, impacts on existing county contracts and budget, and any foreseen legal challenges stemming from conflicts with state law. County staff estimated 30 days to complete the report, with it available for board discussion in September at the earliest.



Officer Jarrett Powell has completed the Livermore Police Department’s field training program and is now serving the community as a patrol officer. Powell is a Livermore native and earned a bachelor’s degree in advertising from the University of Alabama. He was a graduate of the 184th Alameda County Sheriff’s Office Police Academy. (Photo courtesy of LPD)



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EDITORIAL

New Student Loan Rules Are Bad for Education

If you’re a future college student who will need to take out student loans, or the parent of one, the federal government has something to say about what you’re going to study.

Under the Earnings Accountability rule, passed as part of President Donald Trump’s budget (the Working Families Tax Cuts Act, a.k.a. “One Big Beautiful Bill”), undergraduate programs will need to show that graduates with bachelor’s degrees have higher income than those with just a high school diploma. Also, graduate programs will have to show their alumni make more than those with just a bachelor’s. If they fail to meet those targets for two out of three years, the programs will lose their ability to participate in the Federal Direct Loan program.

Like many of this administration’s initiatives, what looks somewhat reasonable on the surface — many of us go to college to get a good job — hides a Trojan horse of social engineering that will most likely make things harder for everyone but the already-rich.

The key distinction is how those post-graduation earnings are measured: It’s not the average of all a college’s graduates that is considered, but the earnings from each individual college program that needs to meet that standard. So, while some programs, such as computer engineering, might have no problem demonstrating their alumni’s earning power, arts and humanities programs (especially graduate programs in fine arts or social work) would have a tougher time meeting that bar.

School departments already compete with each other for a share of the total financial resources a college or university has. This rule will only accentuate that competition.

This is bad policy for several reasons, but the main one is that schools,

colleges and universities have no control over the labor market and the salaries companies pay new college graduates.

The marketplace for high school and college graduates also varies significantly by profession and may reveal some surprising outliers. While it’s easy to foresee that a graphic designer with a college degree (average salary of \$27.81 per hour in California, or \$57,845 per year, according to Indeed) would have a hard time making more than, say, a journeyman plumber with a high school

diploma (average salary of \$74,943), other professions are not immune.

One potential quirk is that newly-minted M.D.s, contrary to popular belief, don’t immediately start out earning six or seven figures; they need to train anywhere from three to seven years in a residency, depending on their specialty. And residencies are notorious for the 80+ hour workweeks and relatively low pay (an average of \$75,000), especially when compared to the cost of the resident doctor’s education: \$234,792 for an M.D. from an average U.S. medical school for the class of 2025, not counting the cost of the doctor’s undergraduate degrees.

But it’s not doctors who will be hurt most; those who don’t drop out in residency (anywhere from less than 1% to up to 20%, depending on specialization) do, in fact, stand to make very good salaries. As always, the poorest students and communities will bear a disproportionate share of the pain.

One metric to keep an eye on is the student loan default rate. Most people don’t default on their loans by choice; the consequences of default are especially punitive, including the entire loan with interest coming due at once, preventing the debtor from buying a home, and significant damage to credit scores, for example.

Community colleges, such as Las Positas College, may be in a unique position. Las Positas already has a very low student loan default rate: Just one student out of 12,137 in the 2020 cohort was in default three years later and only about 100 took out federal loans in the first place. California also has one of the lowest default rates in the nation. And there were no defaults in the 2021 and 2022 cohorts. Part of that has to do with affordable tuition at the community college level, where institutions by definition are trying to give a leg up to students who, among other reasons, are priced out of a four-year college, at least initially.

But a community college degree is just one step up the education and economic ladder. Only 18% of California students who began community college in 2019-2020 transferred to a four-year school within four years, according to EdSource.

The United States is on the verge of a crisis: student debt totals \$1.67 trillion in 2026,

with an average borrower owing \$29,000, according to U.S. Department of Education figures. The federal government holds 92.8% of student debt, and 10.3% of all students default on their loans within the first three years of repayment.

Coupled with high inflation and a tight employment market, new college graduates are entering the workforce without much optimism about building a foundation for future prosperity. They’ll be lucky if they don’t need to have roommates to split the rent.

The default rate could be seen as an indicator of a number of economic factors, including the tightness of the job market (the official unemployment rate is 4.1%, but when you include those who are part-time or who have simply stopped looking for work, the rate is 7.9%), the cost of housing (expensive and getting more so), or the cost of an under- or uninsured medical emergency.

Many families may be forced to choose between making a loan payment and putting food on the table. During times of high unemployment and underemployment, high inflation, rising interest rates, the economic pressures build most significantly on those least able to afford it.

Unfortunately, these are also the populations who would most benefit economically from student loans. A general drying up of the federal loan pool for many college programs would serve as a disincentive for colleges to offer them, and by extension for students to enter them.

And it’s not that arts students will all be flocking to STEM programs. Some kids are artistically gifted. Some are good at math. Few are both, and some students who simply aren’t cut out for a demanding engineering program will find fewer opportunities to advance their education.

There’s an old line that says people from lower-class families go to college to get better jobs, students from middle-class families go to college to get a good education, and students from upper-class families go to college to make future business contacts.

However, we’re living in a time when those better jobs are harder to find and obtain. It’s a buyer’s market for employers in many fields, and they’ll try to get away with offering as low pay for a position as they can.

This new rule will similarly undercut the education market for those who go to school simply to get an education: To improve their job prospects, sure, but also to become more well-rounded citizens. A liberal arts education is one of the best methods of developing skills in critical thinking and creative problem-solving, no matter what profession those graduates later enter.

What’s left if these current trends continue? College educations will be only for those who can already afford them, and the government won’t be helping students unless they’re enrolling in programs leading to big salaries — STEM programs, law, banking and finance, and so on.

Like many other programs being pushed by the Trump administration, it’s helping those who already are well-positioned to earning high salaries, while penalizing everyone else.

Of course, it doesn’t matter if a student in a profitable program is a genius computer engineer or a lazy trust-fund M.B.A. student. They’re equal in this administration’s eyes.

Our ability to reverse this policy is entirely dependent on electing a Congress that will change the law, and ultimately replacing Trump with one who is competent and understands the educational environment.

Indeed: The new Earnings Accountability rule presents a compelling case for free college education across the board, because some degree programs are simply not about the promise of big future salaries.

That could happen, but what is more in our control now is right here in California: We can maintain and boost financial support for California students through existing grants and new loan or grant programs. And similarly, work to keep tuition lower for in-state students at all state schools, and require college admissions to prioritize students from California.

California schools, including Las Positas College, may emerge from this rule change relatively unscathed, but it’s not a guarantee — certainly if we don’t change course soon, we’ll all feel the pinch. But like many other federal government programs now in full retreat, it’s clear we’re being left to fend for ourselves, so we’d better be thinking about how we’re going to do that.

MAILBOX

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Subsidizing a Broken System

Lex Manwill, Livermore

Congress continues to spend billions subsidizing industrial meat and dairy production, even as these industries contribute significantly to climate change, water pollution, and other environmental problems (Euronews, Feb. 23, 2026). Instead of addressing the root causes of these impacts, policymakers are investing even more in a system that increasingly relies

on technological fixes rather than meaningful reform.

Americans are encouraged to recycle, drive less, and reduce their carbon footprints, yet taxpayer dollars continue to prop up industries that undermine those same climate goals. Imagine if even a fraction of those funds were redirected toward plant-based innovation, sustainable agriculture, conservation, or helping farmers transition to more resilient food systems.

Real climate leadership

means aligning public policy with the future we want to build — not spending billions to preserve a system that is costly for our environment, our communities, and taxpayers.

Generative Artificial Intelligence Meeting United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals?

Greg Scott, Livermore

There are 17 United Nations’ (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 3 categories: environmental, social, and economics — to be met by 2030. We are on the pathway of meeting none of the UN’s SDGs and generative artificial intelligence (GenAI), as presently envisioned, is accelerating us away from these goals. For the most part, humanity doesn’t seem to care.

It is the young who will bear the consequences of our myopia on this for the longest. The “Thriver” class will be the best off, generally having more than \$1 million in invest-able assets, though “Thriver” numbers and thus their relative percentage are diminishing to the “Pivoting middle” class, the “Striver” class, and death. Not a cheery legacy all in all.

(For definitions of “Thriver,” “Pivoting middle,” and “Striver” classes, please see Equifax’s report on the Market Pulse Index. The first UN SDG is “No poverty,” the eighth is “Decent Work and Economic Growth,” and the tenth is “Reduced Inequalities.”)

GenAI is a miraculous and revolutionary technology. We are not adequately planning for it — politically, socially, economically, environmental-

ly, scientifically, and militarily. Artificial viruses currently being crafted with the help of GenAI at Stanford University would be one example.

In MIT professor and physicist Max Tegmark’s book, “Life 3.0: Being Human in the Age of Artificial Intelligence,” (2017), twelve future scenarios are depicted for GenAI and artificial general intelligence (AGI — super-intelligence). Only two scenarios could be called “good.” No one will be immune to the consequences of not meeting the UN’s SDGs and the majority of resulting scenarios of GenAI and AGI.

I would say we need to change our planning and policies immediately to avoid a dire, degrading future; however, it is doubtful we will.

(John Michael Greer, “The Long Descent: A User’s Guide to the End of the Industrial Age,” (2008))

East Pleasanton Annexation Opinion

Sandra Yamaoda, Pleasanton

On July 27, 2026, 4:15:43, TriValley Community TV, Ch. 30, I came before Pleasanton’s City Council to express an opinion on the proposed annexation of land and construction of approximately 189 single-family homes in East Pleasanton. After many years following the East Pleasanton Specific Plan issues as a board member of Pleasantonvoters.com, I was aware of many serious problems that this development would cause our city. That night, I expected to be treated with the same respect as other speakers, but Mayor Balch yelled at me, slammed down his gavel, and rudely questioned my understanding of the issue. He did not allow me

to complete my closing sentence. In contrast, his supporters and the developer were allowed to speak well over their allotted time, but it was clear that didn’t apply to me.

A City Council meeting is a public meeting held in part for the residents to express their opinion, whether the mayor agrees or not. Either way, I deserved to be heard.

In summary, I thought we lived in a Community of Character filled with respect. Perhaps that does not apply to everyone.

No Brainers and Then Some

Thomas Soules, Livermore

Some elements of the Community Coalition’s proposal for downtown revealed in last week’s Independent are no-brainers. Since Presidio will no longer develop the parcel of land next to the Bankhead for a hotel, building a community center there to house Quest, the Black Box Theatre, and other city arts non-profits is a no-brainer. Together with the Bankhead, this would create a cultural center for the city and eliminate the need for new standalone buildings for each nonprofit. IF a four-star hotel would build a hotel on L Street, that would also be a no-brainer, with the parking garage already built next to it. I will not pretend to know if the EIFD funds discussed in the article could be used or would be enough to convince the hotelier to build, but even if not, the park could be expanded to include land all the way to L Street, and it would be a positive addition to the city. Finally, moving Eden housing north across Railroad, while perhaps not a no-brainer, would likely be

favorable, even by the owners of the land, since it would revitalize an area that needs it. And then with plenty of parking in the new garage, what if we made First Street a walking street, removing the present congestion? Why not make our downtown something exciting that everyone could agree on?

Anti-Hate Speech Legislation

Sunil Wijeyesekera, Pleasanton

Two bills before the California State Legislature would require employers to offer anti-hate speech training. AB 1803 applies to private employers, while AB1578 covers state and local officials.

The Foundation for Individual Rights in Expression (FIRE) highlighted the problems with this legislation. According to FIRE, “Since hate speech has no clear definition, these laws risk giving the state authority to suppress views it doesn’t like”. This concern is not just theoretical. A broad range of organizations, representing religious conservatives, gender critical feminists, and advocates for lesbians, gays and bisexuals, testified against these bills. All have been labeled hate groups because they hold views contrary to the majority opinion within the state legislature, particularly on issues related to gender and women’s rights.

FIRE also pointed out that employers uncertain about how to comply with the law are likely to err on the side of caution by discouraging or restricting lawful speech in the workplace. This applies to a broad range of contro-

(See MAILBOX, page 6)

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Singer/songwriter Matt Axton and his Badmoon band will take the outdoor Shea Homes Stage in Bankhead Plaza for a free Tuesday Tunes concert from 6:45 p.m. to 8:15 p.m. on Aug. 18. Axton is known for his finger-picking guitar style, and storytelling music encompassing country, folk, rock ‘n roll and rhythm and blues. Tuesday Tunes is presented by the Livermore Cultural Arts Council. (Photo courtesy of Matt Axton)

MAILBOX

(Continued from page 5)

versial topics, including the Israel-Palestine conflict, affirmative action, DEI training and the definition of the word “woman”. According to FIRE, “Requiring employers to promote specific points of view on such topics risks infringing the First Amendment rights of both employers and employees”.

I support legislation that defends the rights of individuals targeted on account of their race, religion, or other protected characteristics. However, I do not believe that anti-hate speech legislation is an appropriate solution. There are better solutions to reduce divisiveness, including civil discourse techniques promoted by nonprofit organizations that work across the political aisle.

(Reference: www.fire.org/news/lawmakers-want-force-californians-take-anti-hate-speech-training)

Endless Litigation and Delaying Tactics
Steven Goods, Livermore

I read with dismay yet another proposal attempting to derail Livermore’s affordable housing plan. Published without attribution, any resident that has had a pulse for the last decade understands who the author(ess) is. The proposal purports to come from “Community Coalition” an anonymous group of “Livermore leaders”.

Let’s look at two of the most egregious ideas.

1. Difficulties in financing a four-star hotel, a centerpiece of the “Coalition’s” concept, is described. The solution?... establish a ‘District’ to raise revenue from “INCREASED PROPERTY TAXES AND BOND SALES” (my emphasis). So, proponents of a downtown hotel want to increase taxes and obligate the city to bond payments so a private, for-profit hotel can succeed? Thanks, no.

2. Housing is mostly relocated to between Railroad Ave. and the train tracks, because of “concern about the design and location of Eden Housing’s buildings”. No, only a small, persistent, well-funded group of individuals express concerns. The routine re-election of mayors and councilmembers who have supported the well-established housing proposals speaks to the contrary.

Importantly, this is privately held property. The cost of acquisition and the likely delays involved with eminent domain litigation, if even one owner declines to sell, is brushed aside, and the city is simply obliged to pay for all of this. Lastly, the design jams residences up against the railroad tracks, a location that most Coalition members would eschew.

There is much more to critique re: robot garages and more land purchases by the city, but I’m out of space.

In summary, most of the people I know just want to see two things; the end of the decade-long fight over this patch of ground, and that decent housing is built so that hard-working people can afford to live in Livermore and

raise their families. Please stop the endless litigation and delaying tactics.

Dublin’s Disappearing Dough
Paul Stone, Dublin

Several times over the years, Dublin City Council members have touted significant surpluses in the city’s reserves to the tune of millions of dollars.

Now they’re crying poor-mouth and that we need to raise hotel taxes to beef up the budget. (See “Dublin Hotel-Tax Increase...” Mailbox 08-06-26)

Where did all that money go, inquiring minds would like to know? This is such a scam. And voters keep falling for it, just like they will fall for the BART bailout in the November election.

This is financial prestidigitation at its finest.

School Board Elections; What’s Changed and Why So Critical?
Tara Boyce, Livermore

In the fall of 2024, former Superintendent Torie Gibson championed the conversion from At Large to Area elections for our School Board. Areas 2, 3, and 5 are up for election, and Areas 4 and 1 will come up for election in 2028. Finding out which Area you are in is your first step, and can be done by navigating to the school district website at www.livermoreschools.org/board-of-education/elections where the interactive map can confirm your Area.

Three School Board members will depart in December: Steven Drouin, Emily Prusso, and Craig Bueno. Steven Drouin and Emily Prusso have elected to not run in this cycle, and Craig Bueno is a resident of a District not up for election in this cycle. Deena Kaplanis and Christiaan VandenHeuvel will remain in their At Large seats, each with only two years’ experience.

The last two years in our District have been tumultuous. After Gibson’s departure, the Board hired a new Superintendent, Dr. Anthony Limoges, making him our third in the last three years. Dr. Limoges has an impressive resume, but this is his first turn at Superintendent, thus will need a strong Board to guide him, and right the wrongs done by our former Superintendent.

School Board Trustees need skills to succeed in their role. Leading organizations, financial acumen, strategic planning, and community organizing are a start, but not an exhaustive list. Dig into your Area’s candidates to see what skills they actually possess, and understand if they are truly pro Public Education.

Please vote! In 2024, 30% of Livermore voters that did vote skipped the School Board races. We are proud of our neighborhood schools. Even if your children are not in them, the humans they produce could be your future neighbors!

Political Wack-A-Mole
John Lawrence, Livermore

Once again, Livermore’s Wack-A-Mole special interest group is popping its annoy-

ing head up, this time calling themselves the “Community Coalition”. So far, Livermore voters and elected officials have done a great job of whacking these name-changing heads, stopping them from forcing their demands on the community’s downtown development. This well-funded group of elitists play their persistent and frustrating game with their own newspaper and an unlimited supply of deceptive names. Their efforts have already cost the Livermore taxpayers millions of dollars in legal, staff, special election, and construction delay costs. Please Joan... Make it stop!

The Aug. 18 Election, AIPAC, and Anti-Jewish Hate
Patricia Munro, Livermore

The Aug. 18 election for CD 14 (the seat previously held by Eric Swalwell) has gotten very nasty indeed. I cast my vote for Wahab — I believe that she has demonstrated effective, bipartisan, and pragmatic action in the California Senate, and that will enable her to (as much as is possible) build across party lines in Washington. And that applies to her thinking on Israel/Gaza as well. But that endorsement is not what this letter is about. Rather it is about negative ads run by PACS and singling out AIPAC.

A number of PACS have run very negative ads that misrepresent Wahab’s actions and positions. Some of the money for those ads comes from AIPAC. Some doesn’t. I am grateful for those people who are careful to talk about “dark money” without singling out AIPAC. Nevertheless, taking money from AIPAC has become the litmus test question of the day.

Citizens United enabled PACs of all kinds. It was a terrible decision and has made our political world much worse. Nevertheless, here we are: PACs exist. Many explicitly promote national heritage: US-India PAC, Korean American PAC, Irish American Democrats PAC, and AIPAC. Some advocate for political positions or economic interests, both domestic and international.

Those who highlight AIPAC and only AIPAC are, whether intentionally or not, using the ancient anti-Jewish libel that says Jews are some shadowy demonic force controlling the puppet strings of, well, everyone. That Jews have too much money and power. The point is not AIPAC’s positions, but singling out the organization advocating for the single majority Jewish state in the world as uniquely evil. The libel, in its many forms, has been used for millennia to distract from deep societal problems. Don’t fall for it now.

Attack Campaign Info
Carol Silva, Livermore

On the “Mayor David Haubert for Supervisor” website (yes, the site is old, before he got elected Mayor), Haubert lists three things he’ll focus on if elected. He said he would focus to “balance the county budget, make it more transparent, and prevent higher taxes.” How ironic it is; possibly unallowable, according to the county’s policies and procedures, and definitely unethical it is for Haubert, using county resources, to attack Dr. Aisha Wahab for introducing SB1193 for transparency of the district’s discretionary funds.

Also, Haubert’s good friend, Melissa Hernandez, has campaign flyers and TV commercials that aggressively attack Wahab with lies. Granted that most of these ads are paid for by very well-funded PACs, Hernandez has plenty of campaign funds to address these lies, if she wanted to, and run a better campaign. All these ads attacking Wahab are despicable. Please visit Wahab’s campaign website and review what Wahab states under the

section titled “The Truth on the Attack Ads.”

I was a member from one of the two SF Bay Sierra Club Groups that considered candidates running for District CA-14, for endorsement by the Sierra Club. Wahab’s responses to our questionnaire that was sent to all candidates were excellent. Her responses were thoughtful, knowledgeable, and impressive. She didn’t disappoint the Sierra Club panel during the follow-up interview. She didn’t need notes when responding to our questions. Her responses were fantastic. Everyone on the panel was very impressed by Wahab. Therefore, Wahab was endorsed by the Sierra Club. Wahab is very intelligent, articulate, experienced, and impressive.

She wants to fight for you! Please vote for Aisha Wahab for U.S. Congress.

Missing Children
David Marco, Livermore

A story has gone viral in the last few days. As Biden opened up the border, his HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra, now California gubernatorial candidate, had custody of 479,000 children between 2021 and 2025. Now 130,000 are still missing. Apparently, the children were trafficked across the border. Interestingly, the problem no longer exists because Trump sealed the border. But the story of these kids who were trafficked and were abused is horrifying. Five years ago, Becerra was slammed again over missing migrant children. There are other stories. So we seem to have strong evidence Becerra horribly mismanaged HHS and now wants to be governor? Currently Becerra is dodging questions as hard as he can. Becerra’s opponent Steve Hilton has posted a number of the stories of these children, and it seems like it was known that these children would be trafficked. Hilton has a solid plan to be

governor. Becerra does not. Did Becerra know that he was going to benefit financially from “losing” these children? As people investigate this story, sadly, that’s the only thing that makes sense.

Aisha Wahab For District 14
Robert Lechner, Livermore

AISHA WAHAB for District 14. This has to be a landslide victory, Aisha Wahab vs. Melissa Hernandez. Hernandez, whose current job is President of the Bart Board of Directors. Do we really want her representing us in District 14? Come on people, vote common sense and vote for Aisha Wahab. I haven’t seen her strong-arm us with reduced services unless we vote for a tax increase, as Ms. Hernandez and her crew have done.

The Death of Integrity
Frank Cannella, Livermore

Todd Blanche was approved by the U.S. Senate as the Attorney General for the United States. This approval was possible only because one Senator changed his vote from no to yes. Senator Cas-

(See MAILBOX, page 7)

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Bikes, blooms and baked goods — the owners of these decorative rides made a pit stop at Wingen Bakery recently. Life is sweet in Livermore. (Photo — Virginia Hoato)

MAILBOX

(Continued from page 6)

sidy of Louisiana switched because he felt Blanche as Attorney General could better resist Trump’s retribution campaign than as acting AG. Cassidy’s initial reservations about approving Blanche were Blanche’s ridiculous agreement to set up a 1.8 billion dollar taxpayer paid hedge fund to the January 6th rioters AND prohibit IRS audits against Trump, his family, and his business interests. Blanche finally rescinded this settlement in writing. I would suggest Blanche might re-issue a similar settlement once he is confirmed, but no one bothered to ask. The second concern Cassidy held about confirmation was he felt Blanche was acting only as Trumps’ lawyer, not the lawyer for all Americans. I would suggest the real reason Cassidy (a lame duck senator who lost his primary bid to a Trump backed candidate) switched his vote to yes was because he feared his golden opportunity to earn huge amounts of money as

a lobbyist would disappear if his MAGA colleagues in Congress perceived him to be against the will of Trump. Former congressmen have personal relations with current congressmen, which give them access to powerful people, and that access becomes a financial asset in the marketplace. The integrity of Cassidy, and all of the MAGA faithful, will rest in the ash heap of history when this nightmare finally ends. **VOTE THEM OUT!** **Keith Jackson, Livermore** It is getting closer to voting time, so we are sure to see many more large American flags flown by Republicans to show that they are more patriotic than anyone else. Republicans have done this for years. But this brand of MAGA people thinks that letting other people die for their political beliefs makes them brave and patriotic. Exactly the opposite is true. Letting our troops suffer for no good

reason and killing innocent civilians for an unnecessary war is cowardly, wrong, and everyone knows it. All this to appease a demented 80-year-old incompetent lia, who only cares about himself. And it does not stop with killing people overseas. He is also cutting aid to the needy in this country. Letting Americans suffer and die so that he can line his own pockets with our tax dollars. The Republicans in congress will never do anything to try and stop Trump. All they ever do is obey and make up excuses for his behavior. They are the worst cowards and most un-American of all the low-lives who allow Trump to hurt and kill our own people, as well as many innocent civilians overseas by refusing to do anything to stop him. All of the Republicans need to be voted out of office. Let’s vote out as many of them as possible this November. I would like to hear what MAGA man thinks about this. Are we still winning the war? Is Trump still as wonderful as always? Do facts and reality matter anymore? **Destroying U.S. Science Leadership** **Ronald Minnich, Livermore** China now produces more scientific papers, 28% of total, than the U.S., Japan, Germany, and the UK, combined. As recently as a few years ago, the leading position was held by the U.S., and had been for over 70 years. How did the U.S., with just 5% of the world’s population, win science leadership, producing as much as 40% of the science papers? Why are we losing leadership? What are the consequences? Where did the scientists come from? The U.S. does not have a large enough population to provide all the scientists we need, but we did have a strong immigration policy (See MAILBOX, page 8)



Caring for Aging Parents

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



Pleasanton resident Anne Zimmerman did a double take after shopping at the Santa Rita Road Safeway when she spotted this furry “driver” holding down the steering wheel, patiently waiting to chauffeur its owner home. (Photo courtesy of Anne Zimmerman)

MARCHAND

(Continued from front page)

think big as we grow the next generation of scientists and technicians.”

Following community input on local priorities, the city also completed under Marchand’s leadership, the L Street parking garage, featuring smart parking technology and electric vehicle charging stations.

As for priorities carrying into the next term: “The downtown hotel next to the Bankhead (Theater) remains critically important to our wine country economy,” Marchand said. “It was approved by the council, but delayed by an ill-timed referendum.”

While the referendum was resolved, Marchand noted, the COVID-19 pandemic wreaked havoc on the hospitality industry, from which it has not fully recovered.

“The city continues to work with the developer on a concept which will be successful,” Marchand said.

Future initiatives accord-

ing to Marchand include balancing jobs, traffic and workforce housing.

“At the same time,” he said, “we need to protect our urban growth boundary, which helps to maintain our remarkable quality of life.”

In an effort to clear up any confusion, he said, “The urban growth boundary is so important that any change must be approved by the voters. There has been a great deal of disinformation in regular and social media. However, the city council does not have the authority to move the urban growth boundary. That can only be changed by the voters.”

As Livermore’s most tenured mayor, Marchand said he has not seen a change in the community’s overall needs.

“People still need water and sustainable infrastructure. People want a safe community in which to live.”

“Public safety is our top priority and with our strate-

gic investments, I am proud that Livermore has been ranked as one of the safest communities in California. I believe in leading by example and being accessible to our community. That is why I try to be everywhere, and I can talk with the people who make Livermore a remarkable place to live, work and raise a family.

“I am humbled and honored to continue serving our community as mayor,” Marchand said. “I’m grateful for the continued vote of confidence from Livermore residents.”

Marchand is a retired water chemist.

Before being elected to the City Council, he served on the Zone 7 Water Agency Board of Directors.

Marchand and his wife have lived in Livermore since 1985, and raised two sons.

According to his campaign website, quality of life, strengthening public safety, expanding housing security, and investing in infrastructure remain his top four priorities.

Additional information about Marchand’s campaign is available at MarchandforMayor.com

MAILBOX

(Continued from page 7)

that made the U.S. a desirable place to live.

An attraction was our globally respected culture of scientific integrity, free of political interference. Senators did not threaten to arrest scientists because of their research results.

Why are we losing our leadership? Trump has attacked our leadership on all fronts. NSF has seen 60% cuts, to 1973 levels. Foreign scientists, including Nobel Prize winners, are leaving for other, more welcoming countries. The U.S. is no longer attractive to foreign scientists. The administration is imposing political oversight on sci-

ence, corrupting the culture of integrity required for science to work.

What are the consequences of losing our leadership? Our advanced weapons, from aircraft, to tanks, to rockets, all depend on science sponsored by the U.S. Government, as does our leadership in AI, software, computers, and medicine. Science forms the foundation of our prosperity and economic leadership. Scientific work today leads to benefits in the future. Losing our leadership will result in a poorer future for our children and grandchildren.

Trump is destroying U.S. science leadership. In years to

come, we will regret the de-

struction of U.S. leadership in

science. We must tell our pol-

iticians to save U.S. science

from Trump.

Library Announces Author Presentations for September

LIVERMORE — Historian David O. Stewart will lead off the Livermore Public Library’s series of free online author talks for September with “The Democracy We Must Keep: Why the Ideas that Built America Still Matter” at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 1.

Steward, a Yale Law School graduate, is the author of numerous narrative histories, including “George Washington: The Political Rise of America’s Founding Father,”; “The Summer of 1787: The Men Who Invented the Constitution” and “The Democracy We Must Keep: Seven Founders, Nine Documents, and the Ideas That Shaped America.”

He has also written several historical novels, including the three-book series “The Lincoln Deception,” “The Wilson Deception” and “The Babe Ruth Deception.”

Steward will be followed

by Daniel Kraus, whose World War I novel “Angel Down,” told in a single sentence, won the 2026 Pulitzer Prize for fiction, at 4 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 8.

Known for blending horror, science fiction and fantasy, Stewart has published more than 20 novels, including “Whalefall” and “Rot- ters,” and completed George Romero’s “The Living Dead,” after Romero’s death in 2017.

He has received the Bram Stoker, Scribe, and Odyssey Awards.

Steward’s presentation, “Writing the Nightmare: A Ship Called Sickness and One Unforgettable Space Crew,” is about his latest novel, “The Sixth Nik,” about a deep-space ship called “The Sickness,” made from biomatter and capable of reacting to every need of its human crew, and Sisilla, a nine-year-old with an enhanced brain sent to investigate a plague-riddled

planet.

Closing out the series for September will be Latin Grammy award-winning musician and children’s author Lucky Diaz talking about “Where the Paletero Man Goes: A Journey of Neighborhood, Music, and Art.”

Published in 2021, “Paletero Man” tells the story of a young boy in Los Angeles looking for his friend, Jose, who sell paletas, an iced Mexican treat made from fruit and milk.

The story is told in English and Spanish rhymes.

Diaz will give his presentation in English at 4 p.m. and in Spanish at 5 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 24.

Each of the virtual presentations allows viewers to ask questions afterwards.

For more information, go to libraryc.org/livermoreca.

Past author presentations are also available for viewing on the library website.

HU

(Continued from front page)

moving forward.”

Hu said she is running on a platform of keeping Dublin safe, strong and sustainable, with a continued focus on public safety, responsible fiscal management, parks and infrastructure, school partnerships, local businesses, and quality of life.

At the recent Tri-Valley Mayors luncheon at Garre Vineyard and Winery, Hu noted that after decades of residential expansion, Dublin’s primary focus has shifted toward commercial growth and creating local jobs — highlighting recent arrivals such as the popular Asian specialty grocer H Mart and the addition of nine acres of

commercial space in the city’s east economic development zone.

Addressing regional fiscal pressures at the summit, Hu credited past leadership with keeping Dublin in a strong financial position, pointing out that the city maintains a budget surplus and opted against putting a local sales tax measure on the ballot, keeping tax rates competitive with neighboring communities.

Hu has a doctorate in architectural engineering from the University of Nebraska and is cofounder and technical engineer at Archimedes Controls Corp. She is also founder and president of Peace and Mind

Finance, a financial services provider in Fremont.

A longtime resident of Dublin, she is the mother of two children who attended Dublin schools.

Hu was elected to the Dublin City Council in 2020 with the highest vote total in city history and was elected mayor in 2024.

“My guiding question is simple,” Hu said. “Will this make life better for the people who call Dublin home?”

The Independent reached out to Hu for additional comment, but did not receive a response before press time.

To learn more about Mayor Sherry Hu’s campaign, visit SherryHu.com.

TRI-VALLEY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

August 1–31

ART RECEPTION AND EXHIBITION

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

Wednesdays, August 12 & 19

SPARC ADULT IMPROV PROGRAM

Led by award-winning Mark Duncanson, SPARC’s Adult Improv Program includes Intro to Improv, Short-Form Play, Short-Form Performance, Long-Form Lab, and Long-Form Performance—with classes designed for all levels. The series begins with Intro to Improv on Wednesdays, Aug. 12 & 19, 6:30–8:30 p.m. Tuition starts at \$75, with additional classes offered throughout the year, ranging from \$125–\$205. Class sizes are limited. Held at the SPARC Studio, 2172 Railroad Ave., Livermore. View the complete class schedule and register at sparctheater.org/adult-education/.

Friday, August 14

WALK THE LABYRINTH AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

First Presbyterian Church’s lovely labyrinth will be open to the public on Friday night, Aug. 14 from 7-8:30 p.m. Come enjoy a peaceful, meditative experience. Everyone is welcome. Located at 2020 Fifth St., Livermore.

Sunday, August 16

ART IN THE PARK 2026

Shop original artwork, meet local artists, and enjoy a day of creativity in the park. From 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Carnegie Park, 2155 3rd Street, Livermore. See livermoreartassociation.org/art-in-the-park. Interested in exhibiting? Artist registration is now open for this outdoor art show, open to LAA members and non-members alike.

Sunday, August 16

DUARTE GARAGE OPEN HOUSE

Come to the free Duarte Garage open house, on Aug. 16 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., located at North L and Pine on former Lincoln Highway 50 (Portola Ave). With vintage fire trucks, a machine shop, and interactive

displays. Car of the month: TBA. Free parking on Pine. South half wheelchair accessible; tiny restrooms (not ADA).

ONGOING EVENTS

UNDERSTANDING ISLAM

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

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

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

SATURDAY PLEASANTON FARMERS MARKET

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

SUNDAY LIVERMORE DOWNTOWN FARMERS MARKET

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

FOOD RELIEF SERVICES

Local residents can access vital food-assistance services to help meet basic needs. Food relief services can be found at: St. Vincent De Paul Food locker, 458 Maple St., Livermore (behind St. Michaels Church); Mon/Tues: 7-8 p.m., Wed/Thu: 4-5 p.m.

Children’s Emergency Food Bank; 7421 Amarillo Rd., Dublin; appointments M-F, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; 925-828-5363; St. Raymond Catholic Church, 11555 Shannon Ave., Dublin; third Sat. of the month, 8 to 11 a.m.; Open Heart Kitchen; M-F, noon to 5 p.m.; 450 N. Livermore Ave., Livermore; Tri-Valley Haven Food Pantry, 150 N. “L” Street, Livermore; 925-449-1664 – M-Th, 1 to 5 p.m.; Fri/Sat 12 to 4 p.m.; Alameda County Community Food Bank; 510-635-3663; M-F, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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

THE
INDEPENDENT
GALLERY

NEW ART EXHIBIT
IN FORMING FIGURES
Figures, Fragments,
and Connections
by **Thom See**



Spanning years of artistic exploration, these figurative works bring together observation, memory, and imagination. Moving between realism and abstraction, the exhibition reflects an ongoing search for the connections that unite the many fragments of a life.

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Gallery Hours

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&

SATURDAY, AUGUST 15TH 6 - 8 PM

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THE *Independent*

2250 First St., Livermore

LAND
(Continued from front page)



Shown above is an architectural rendering of the proposed \$364.5 million, 160,000-square-foot Tri-Valley Event Center near Martinelli Way and Arnold Road in Dublin, designed to host major youth sports tournaments, entertainment, and corporate conventions. (Image courtesy of Visit Tri-Valley)

or 20 to 24 volleyball courts, along with seating for 3,000 to 5,000 people.

VTV is asking the Board of Supervisors to declare the property exempt surplus land and advance plans for a 99-year ground lease with a future joint powers authority.

The organization is also requesting reimbursable pre-development funding. It wants the board to authorize county staff to negotiate a funding agreement and begin regional discussions to form a Joint Powers Authority (JPA).

Dan Fenton, managing director with JLL's Hotels & Hospitality Group and a consultant on the proposed event center, presented the plan alongside Tracy Farhad, president and CEO of VTV.

"The idea derived from a yearlong process of discovering where there were opportunities in the region to take advantage of the demand that we were seeing as part of our strategic planning process," he said.

Fenton said the center would address regional demand that existing smaller venues cannot accommodate. According to VTV, sports and entertainment events have attracted more than 133,500 attendees and generated over 41,000 room nights in the Tri Valley since 2018.

VTV estimates that approximately 40% of potential major events have been dispersed among smaller venues because the region lacks a centralized facility. The organization said this limits the Tri-Valley's ability to compete for national youth tournaments and corporate conventions.

Fenton explained that the project team evaluated more than 25 sites before selecting the vacant property because of its size, walkability and proximity to BART, Interstate 580, hotels and an existing county parking garage.

As part of its strategic planning, VTV used a Tourism Economics model that draws on spending patterns from more than 500,000 events nationwide.

The model projects the venue would attract about 318,500 new attendees, generate more than \$120 million in annual economic activity and support approximately 500 jobs each year. Fenton also projected about 60,000 additional overnight stays annually.

Even if the county approves the initial requests, the project must clear several legal, financial and governance hurdles before construction can begin.

County staff clarified during the meeting that approximately half of the site had previously been under contract for a hotel project that did not move forward. That portion has already cleared the state's surplus land process, leaving roughly 7 acres that still re-

quire formal action.

The Surplus Land Act generally requires public agencies to make surplus property available to affordable housing developers and negotiate in good faith, although the agencies do not have to complete a sale.

The exempt surplus designation would allow the Surplus Property Authority to lease the land directly to a future JPA for public use. County staff recommended that the Board of Supervisors, acting as the Surplus Property Authority, consider the remaining 7 acres on Sept. 15.

"We have talked through a lot of models," Fenton said in regard to securing the property.

Under the preferred model, the landowner would lease the property to the future JPA for 99 years while retaining ownership. The proposed lease calls for nominal rent of \$1 per year.

Fenton said the long-term lease would provide the security needed to attract public and private investment while allowing the county to count the property's estimated value of \$20 million to \$24 million as its contribution to the project.

To determine the project's design and financial feasibility, VTV is requesting \$350,000 in reimbursable seed funding for a property survey, civil site viability review, schematic design work and cost estimates.

VTV has already invested \$381,000 in early planning. If financing for the proposed event center successfully closes, the county would recover its \$350,000 contribution from the proceeds.

Another financing component would create a tax increment financing district that directs part of the new property tax revenue generated by development toward the venue. The county's existing tax base would remain available for public services.

Preliminary estimates show the county's share could average over 30 years about \$4.9 million annually from the Dublin area and \$5 million from the Pleasanton area. The financial district would require further study and approval from participating jurisdictions.

A joint powers authority would oversee and help finance the venue, with VTV serving as executive director and a private company managing daily operations.

Additionally, the county and participating cities would have to negotiate voting authority, financial contributions and liability protections before forming the JPA.

VTV projects \$2.27 million in net operating income by the venue's third year, compared with \$18.2 million in annual debt service. To close the gap, the plan relies on tax increment financing, hotel fees, naming rights, ground rent, private

investment, a concert ticket surcharge and an assessment on certain businesses.

The nonprofit estimates the business assessment could generate about \$15 million annually across Dublin, Pleasanton, Livermore and Danville.

Supervisor David Haubert expressed cautious optimism about the venue, describing the proposal as ambitious, but worthy of continued discussion.

"The land has been sitting here for at least 30 years vacant, sitting there and not generating much of anything," Haubert said. "We don't give up the land; we lease it for 99 years. Taxes and increments only happen when you generate something."

Haubert cited the county's success generating revenue from former Camp Parks property and described Dublin as a strong partner on affordable housing and other surplus land projects. He also highlighted that the county would not operate the venue, but could participate through the land lease and joint powers authority.

"We're not taking from the general fund; we're adding to it," Haubert said. "This plan has to work for everyone."

He noted that the project could benefit the Tri Valley, the surrounding region and Alameda County, but stressed that it requires further staff, committee and public review.

Local business leaders backed the venue during public comment, while Pleasanton's interim city manager questioned its positive financial impact on the city.

Jim McDonnell, owner of Sabio on Main and Pivot Craft Kitchen in Pleasanton and a former VTV board member, said he could attest to the organization's work.

"I think that if there is anyone that can get this done, it's certainly them," McDonnell said. "I'm excited about the multiuse aspect, the sports, entertainment and corporate events, and the broad range of people it will bring to the region."

McDonnell said the increased activity would benefit his restaurants and other small businesses throughout the Tri-Valley.

Bill Wheeler, founder and CEO of Pleasanton-based Black Tie Transportation, also spoke in support of the center. He serves on several boards, including VTV and the Alameda County Fair Association. Wheeler said regional events create jobs, increase local spending and advance economic development.

Pleasanton Interim City Manager Joe Calabrigo raised concerns about the proposed financing. He said the plan could capture about \$1.6 million annually from Pleasanton's share of future property tax growth, while the city is operating with a structural budget deficit.

Calabrigo said financing a roughly \$365 million event center operated by a private entity is not currently a city priority. Pleasanton is instead focused on a transient occupancy tax increase expected to appear on the November ballot.

"Our City Council hasn't had the opportunity to discuss, support or endorse this plan," Calabrigo said.

County staff will continue reviewing the land, financing and governance proposals before presenting them to county committees, participating cities and other regional stakeholders.

underwritten by federal taxpayers," Kent said in a statement.

The effects of the eligibility changes will begin to surface in about a year. The new rule requires institutions to submit their first round of student data by Oct. 1 this year. The department will then calculate its first earnings test in early 2027, with the results applying to the 2027-28 award year.

If a program fails the test, its institution must terminate the program and not reestablish the program for at least two years to regain Direct Loan eligibility.

The Livermore Rotary Club to Host Annual Community BBQ

LIVERMORE — The Livermore Valley Rotary Club will hold its second annual Community BBQ & Fundraiser at Carnegie Park, 2155 Third St., from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 12.

The event will include live cultural presentations, a vendors' market, and a Kid Zone with bounce houses,

in addition to barbecue and other refreshments available for purchase.

Proceeds from the fundraiser will support Rotary activities, including youth programs, scholarships, community service projects and charitable efforts throughout the Tri-Valley.

"Our Community BBQ & Fundraiser is more than

just a great day of food and entertainment," said Rotary Club President Mony Nop, "it's an opportunity to bring people together, celebrate the incredible diversity that makes the Tri-Valley such a special place, and raise vital funds that enable Rotary to serve those in need throughout our community."

OBITUARIES

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Rosemarie Elizabeth Daley
Feb. 27, 1935 — June 27, 2026



Rosemarie Elizabeth Daley (née Heinlein) passed at peace in her Livermore home June 27, 2026.

She is survived by her eight children, Suzanne (Tripp) Sickler, John (Lysa) Daley, Kathleen (Gil) Livni, James (Dana) Daley, Patricia (Bryan) Daley, Arlene (Bill) Sommer, Karen (Jody) Cail, and Michael (Amy) Daley.

Thirteen (+) grandchildren: James Gordon, Ashley Sommer, Kristen Rose (Jeffrey) Swager, Laurel (Veli) Akman, Danielle Halprin, Allie Rose Halprin, Justin M. (Brian) Daley, Joseph Livni, Gabriele Rose (Tom) Livni, Maya Livni, Samantha Wollard, Teaghan Rose Knox, Ainslie Knox, and Skye Knox.

Great-grandchildren: Jacob & Ethan Daley, Ayla Rose Akman, Addison Rose Murphy, Amari Rose Swager, and Jaelyn Sommer-Swager.

Married in 1956 to Michael C. Daley, she is survived by her brother George Heinlein and preceded in death by her sister Louise (Ardini), brother, Herman Heinlein, and her parents Augustine and Adelbert Heinlein.

She travelled the world and made loving and lasting connection with families in Germany, New Zealand, Florida, New York, Colorado, Kentucky, Texas, North Carolina, Mary-

land/DC, Arizona, Oklahoma, and Oregon. She will be in our hearts and minds forever.

A funeral Mass will be held at St. Charles Borromeo in Livermore, California, on Sept. 5, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. A reception and celebration of life will follow at the parish hall.

In lieu of flowers, the family prefers donations to St. Jude's Children's Hospital.

She will be missed by many. Her love and memory will live with us forevermore. She takes a wee bit of our hearts with her to Heaven, and we are so grateful for all she gave us.

Rose was born on Long Island, New York. She became a professional typist and worked for Union Carbide in New York City. Her beloved, Mike Daley, went to Chaminade High School with her brother and worked for her father. He pro-

posed on Jones Beach.

They were married Sept. 1, 1956, at Our Lady of Loretto Church in Hempstead, New York. Mike attended graduate school at Cornell University, and they started a family in 1957. Rose and Mike took a cross-country drive to Santa Monica, California.

Karen was born in 1959, followed by Arlene and Patti (1960 and 1962). In 1964, Rose and Mike travelled around Germany in a new VW bug. They brought it home and James was born in the autumn. Kathleen was born in 1966, a few months before the family moved to California.

John and Suzanne were born in 1968 and 1971. All eight graduated from Granada High School. Rose managed to work outside the home and also stayed busy with swimming, scouting, soccer, and snow skiing.

Good fortune led to two travel businesses with her friends, Sarah and Nancy. In addition, Rose and Mike ventured into real estate (1979). This kept her interest for over 40 years.

Traveling all over the globe with Mike and many other friends and relatives gave Rose a life she had never imagined. She is a blessed example of a life "completely and wholly true" to her hopes and dreams.

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Randy Bob Wilson
July 23, 1947 — Jan. 1, 2026

A celebration of life will be held Aug. 22 at 2:30 p.m. at Cornerstone Fellowship Church in Livermore for Randy Bob Wilson. Randy was born in Haskell, Texas, to Randolph and Nan

Wilson. He enlisted in the Navy when he was 17, and served on aircraft carriers Ticonderoga and Enterprise as an aircraft electrician. He married Sharon Henderson on his 21st birth-

day. He is survived by his wife, Sharon; son, Michael; daughter, Dannette; granddaughter, Kayla; and three great-grandchildren. Also, a brother, Jon, and sister, Jen in Texas.

Ludy V. Vidal
Oct. 2, 1934 — July 27, 2026



With profound love and sadness, we announce the peaceful passing of Ludy Vidal, who entered eternal rest on July 27, 2026, at the age of 91.

Ludy was born on Oct. 2, 1934, in Cebu, Philippines and immigrated to Livermore in August 1963. A loving wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and devout Catholic whose deep faith guided her every step. Her playful spirit and sharp humor remained bright and quick until her final days. She lived a long and joyful life filled with family, and in her early years, dancing, cooking, and singing.

A longtime fan of the SF 49ers, SF Giants, and Golden State Warriors, Ludy rarely missed a game, and wore her team

colors with pride.

Ludy is survived by her son, Giovanni (Judy) and daughter Karen (Steve). She also leaves behind grandchildren, Joshua (Jessica), Mary-Ellen, David-Brett (Kayla), and Nicholas; and great-grandchildren, Evan, Levi, and Kaden. She is preceded in death by her husband, Raymond and son, Ray.

She was a member of St. Michael's Catholic Church and St. Michael's Golden Friends. In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests donations be made to St. Michael's Golden Friends, 458 Maple St., Livermore, CA 94550.

LPC
(Continued from front page)

graduation at \$55,498, well above the \$36,565 of similarly adjusted median high-school earnings.

"Based on these data, we believe LPC is well positioned under the new requirements, while recognizing that each program will ultimately be evaluated separately," Samra said.

The department flagged about 20% of colleges nationwide with lower earnings in the same report.

The Direct Loan program began in 1994 as an attempt to save taxpayers money by

removing middleman banks from the student-loan process. The low-interest loan program, funded directly by the U.S. Department of Education, made about \$135 billion in new loans to 14 million borrowers in fiscal year 2025.

However, rising rates of defaults and delinquencies have continued to weigh on taxpayers, according to Under Secretary of Education Nicholas Kent.

"If a program cannot show that it leaves its graduates financially better off than if they had never enrolled, it should not be

Granada Livermore Falls in World Series Championship

By Phil Jensen

LIVERMORE – Granada Livermore faced a team it couldn't overcome in the Little League Intermediate World Series championship game last Sunday at Max Baer Park.

Seoul-South Korea, the Asia-Pacific representative in the tournament, scored runs in the first four innings on its way to an 11-4 victory in front of a standing-room-only crowd that lined the field.

It was Granada Livermore's 19th game across the four tournaments in a suc-

And we want to thank the Livermore community for everything they've done for us."

Granada Livermore won NorCal state and West Regional titles to reach the World Series, then became U.S. champions when it defeated Bollinger Canyon (San Ramon) 5-3 on Saturday. Bollinger Canyon beat Granada Livermore twice by one run in the championship round of the California District 57 tournament in June, therefore getting an automatic bid to this tournament as the host team.

single by Ji Hoon Shin, then the squad produced four runs in the third inning and three in the fourth for a 10-1 lead.

Granada Livermore answered with three runs in the fifth inning. With one out, Aiden Chaney singled to left field. Kruz Charbonneau walked and Merlin Newton III drove both runners home with a double off the fence in left-center field. Juan then sent an RBI single to the right-center field gap.

The eventual final run of the 6 ½-inning game was driven in by South



Granada Livermore's Amaury Salomon races to first base past Bollinger Canyon's Kaleb Juan during Saturday's U.S. Championship game at Max Baer Park. Granada Livermore won 5-3 to advance to the World Series final. (Photo — May Fraser)

GAME

(Continued from front page)

... just so proud of them," Civello said.

This is the first year since 2018 that Granada Livermore has reached the overall championship game of this tournament, said Aboumrad. It faced South Korea on Sunday, the same opponent it faced in 2018 in a loss.

Bollinger Canyon and Granada Livermore also met in the second round of the World Series this year, with Granada Livermore winning 16-6 on Aug. 3. Two days later, Granada Livermore shut out Fargo, North Dakota, 17-0 to qualify for the U.S. championship game in this 13-and-under division.

Saturday, Granada Livermore took a 1-0 lead in the top of the third inning at Max Baer Park. With one out, Bowen Mar walked,

stole second and scored on a double down the left-field line by Kruz Charbonneau.

But Bollinger Canyon scored three runs in the fifth inning. The big hit was an RBI double by Jaxon Manos.

Granada Livermore, however, immediately took back the lead.

Mar reached on an error to lead off the top of the sixth. Aiden Chaney was then hit by a pitch and Charbonneau followed with another RBI double to cut Bollinger Canyon's lead to one run. Then Merlin Newton III roped a two-run double down the left field line to give Granada Livermore the lead for good.

"We always have confidence," said Charbonneau, the team's leadoff hitter who was 2 for 3 in the game with

two RBI and a run scored. "It's just a special team. My teammates are the best."

The final run of the seven-inning game was produced by Collin Kinney when he launched a solo home run over the deep center field fence in that last inning.

"I felt amazing, just saw a fastball right down the middle, crushed it. Been waiting for that pitch for a while," Kinney said. "I struggled earlier in the game, but today worked through it and hit a bomb."

Kaleb Juan was 2 for 3 in the game with a double and a triple for Granada Livermore, and also pitched two innings of one-hit relief for the save, retiring six of the seven batters he faced. Mar added two runs scored in the victory.



The Seoul-South Korea team erupts in joy at Max Baer Park after defeating Granada Livermore 11-4 to claim the Little League Intermediate World Series Championship title on Sunday, Aug. 9. (Photo — May Fraser)

cessful journey. It was the first Granada Livermore team to reach the championship game of this World Series since 2018, said tournament director Bill Aboumrad.

"These boys on our team had a wonderful, wonderful journey. Of course you go into a game like this and you hope to win. ... We lost this game, but our hearts are full," said Granada Livermore manager Mike Civello. "We had a big, long journey. It's very emotional for these boys. We're so proud of what they've put together and even though we got the loss in this last game, these guys are winners and the community knows it.

"We took the long road and we got all the way to the end," Civello said.

In the World Series championship game last Sunday, Granada Livermore took a 1-0 lead. In the top of the first inning, Kaleb Juan walked with two outs. He then stole second base and moved to third on a single by Mateo Duterte. Grant Sorkin then followed with an RBI single to the left-center field gap.

But South Korea took the lead for good at 2-1 in the bottom of the inning on a sacrifice fly by Ji Han Lee and an RBI single by Min Soo Kim. South Korea tallied a run in the second inning on a run-scoring

Korea's Kangyui Kim on a groundout in the team's last at-bat. Leadoff hitter Seo Ha Kim hit a two-run home run in the fourth inning and scored three times in the game. He also pitched the first three innings, then re-entered as a pitcher after Newton's double in the fifth inning. Seo Ha Kim finished with one run allowed in 5 2/3 innings pitched. Shin led the team with two hits in three at-bats.

For Granada Livermore, Juan was 1 for 1 in the game with two walks and a run scored. Nine Granada Livermore players collected hits in the game.

Tri-Valley Students Eligible for Free Bus and Discounted Transit Passes

TRI-VALLEY — Students in sixth grade through high school in Livermore, Pleasanton and Dublin can now apply for free bus passes through the Alameda County Transportation Commission (Alameda CTC).

The unlimited passes are also good for discounted fares on Bart Area Rapid Transit (BART) routes.

"Every student deserves reliable transportation to get to school, jobs and the opportunities that help them succeed," said Alameda County Supervisor David Haubert, who also chairs the Alameda CTC and the Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority, which operates the Wheels bus program.

The Student Transit Pass Program (STPP) is open to all middle school and high school students in the Livermore Joint United School District.

The program is open to students in the Pleasanton and Dublin school districts whose families meet the California Department of Education's income guidelines for free or reduced-priced meals.

Students can use their STPP passes on all three Alameda County bus

transit agencies, including AC Transit, Wheels and Union City Transit. Their personalized Clipper cards are also good for 50% off for BART and other regional transit providers.

Once a student is approved, their pass is good through high school.

The program is administered by the schools.

To apply, go to alamedaactc.org and click on

"Programs."

School administrators also have temporary passes available for students while their applications are processed.

Alameda CTC said more than 32,000 students at 160 schools across the county took advantage of the program during the 2024-2025 school year, totaling more than 2.1 million free bus rides.

LHS Class of 1971 to Hold Reunion

LIVERMORE — The Livermore High School Class of 1971 will hold its 55-year reunion at Interbitzen Ranch, 6030 Dagnino Road, from 5 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 19.

Tickets are \$75 per per-

son if purchased before Saturday, Aug. 22, when the cost goes up to \$85.

Dinner will include BBQ Tri-tip and chicken, roasted red potatoes and rice, green and pasta salads, and dessert, with

coffee, tea or soft drinks. There will also be a no-host cash bar.

To purchase tickets or for more information, go to LHS71.org or email LivermoreHighClassOf1971@gmail.com.

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Tri-Valley Coaching Legend Mark Anger Beats Cancer

By Matt Schwab

TRI-VALLEY ---- Mark Anger was excited to share the news: The longtime Chabot College women’s basketball coach recently had a PET scan and learned that he is cancer-free.

The milestone comes after undergoing seven months of aggressive chemotherapy for Hodgkin’s lymphoma.

“I’m feeling pretty lucky,” said Anger, who lives in Livermore with his wife, Sarah.

The highly successful coach officially retired from Chabot on June 30 after being on sick leave since December.

Anger, 70, has many fond memories of helping dedicated young women drive toward their goals at Chabot over the past 15 years. He is a Chabot Gladiator at heart.

“I love Chabot. I love working there, I love being around the school. It’s been a great run and I will certainly miss being around there every day,” Anger said of the Hayward school in the Chabot-Las Positas Community College District.

Anger, who also coached at Deer Valley and Miramonte high schools, along with Holy Names College, compiled a 242-140 career record at Chabot after being hired in 2011. His tenure was highlighted by a state championship in 2015, the first in women’s basketball at Chabot. He earned two conference championships, in 2014-15 and 2019-20, and made the playoffs every season.

The Gladiators also advanced to the state quarter-finals, or Elite 8, in 2019-20, and the ‘Sweet 16,’ in 2017-18. Granada High School graduate Lex Pletschette, a

Livermore standout, starred on Anger’s 2024-25 team and now competes for NCAA Division I University of Denver.

In Chabot’s 2025-26 season, during Anger’s chemotherapy at the Kaiser Permanente Cancer Center in Dublin, he sat out the season but stayed in contact with new head coach Zakiya Mahoney, a former star player for Anger.

It was quite an ordeal for him off the court, suffering from Hodgkin’s lymphoma, a disease in which cancer cells form in the lymphatic system.

“They did a really aggressive chemotherapy, very aggressive,” Anger said, referencing the use of the drug Adriamycin. “I had that for



Mark Anger pictured with Chabot coaches Zakiya Mahoney (on right) and Kayla Tahaafe. (Credit: Chabot athletics.)

seven months, basically. It kicks your butt.”

When asked what gave him the most satisfaction as a coach, Anger pointed to consistency and student-athlete success.

“The fact that we made the playoffs every single year is one,” he said, “winning a state championship in my fourth year there, developing all the kids who have gone on. I really enjoy the kids from Chabot, and I’m definitely going to miss them. I enjoyed seeing them every day. We have a lot of really good kids who helped and performed and got an education and got scholarships that helped pay for their education. I think that’s really the most rewarding thing.”

Back in 2015, Anger’s team stunned previously unbeaten Mt. San Antonio College, 63-58, in the state championship game in Norwalk. Morgan Green, a freshman sensation point guard, led the way with 26 points and was named State tournament MVP. Fellow Chabot stars Michelle Townsend and Alana Simon also made the All-State Tournament team.

Green led the conference in minutes, points, assists, and steals, and was named Chabot Female Athlete of the Year. Anger’s team was recognized by the district board, receiving framed Awards of Excellence, medallions and letters of recommendation.

The team’s run seemed worthy of a Hollywood script.

“We had seven players at that point in the year, but we had the right seven, as I tell people,” Anger recalled of the state tournament. “We had Morgan Green who’s playing elite level in Europe still. She was an incredible player, went on to Michigan State and UC Irvine. Alana Simon went on to Oklahoma State, and Michelle Townsend hit 98 threes that year including the one that won the state championship. She ended up at Chico State.

“Those three were all inducted into the Hall of Fame at Chabot two or three years ago. It was a great team,” he continued.

Anger was the founder

and longtime director of the powerful East Bay Xplosion (EBX) AAU club. In 2002, Alexis Gray-Lawson, a future Cal Berkeley star and WNBA player, and the heralded Paris twins, Ashley and Courtney, led EBX to the Under-14 national championship. His AAU teams were consistently among the best in the country.

Anger’s extensive connections helped him recruit top players for Chabot.

“You have to get the best players you can get. I had a very successful club, and I was lucky to be pretty well-connected, so I was able to get good players,” Anger said. “... You try and maximize their talents.”

Napa Valley College women’s basketball coach Paul DeBolt, who coached for 30 years at Contra Costa College (San Pablo), has had a close relationship with Anger over the past 25 years. The two are about the same age and well respected in the region.

“Mark does not have a big ego; he’s really about kids. He’s matter-of-fact, I love that about him,” DeBolt said. “He just knows basketball. He knows how to coach. He knows how to evaluate talent. He can look at a group of kids and go, ‘OK, we’re going to do this or we’re going to do this.’ He’s ready-made for the JUCO (junior college) level.”

It all came together during the glorious Chabot run in 2014-15, to complete a 31-3 season.

“He was masterful,” DeBolt said. “It’s where his experience coaching high-level players in AAU really paid off. He just did a great job with them. A lot of coaches wouldn’t have been able to get through that year and kept everything together with seven kids, but he did things like ... he played a two-three zone the whole year. Never pressed....He wins the whole thing. I was front and center in that tournament, and it was fun to watch.”

Anger gives high praise

to college administrators for giving him a chance to shine.

“I want to thank (athletic director) Jeff Drouin and (former Chabot Vice President) Dale Wagoner; they gave me an opportunity. It fit for both of us,” Anger said. “They needed a coach, and I really needed a change of scenery from the club basketball situation, and I think it worked out real well.”

He has coached numerous top players at Chabot, and is known for helping them move on to four-year programs.

Some of his former stars include Mahoney; De’Zire Hall; Foothill High School graduate Savannah Montini of Pleasanton; Tylore Bell, an attorney in Washington; Cal High graduate Kelly Tumlin of San Ramon, now at Cal State Northridge; Olivia Vezaldenos, who works for the Golden State Warriors; and Alana Simon.

For Anger, it’s mission accomplished. Now it’s on to the next chapter.



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CITY CLERK CERTIFICATION PURSUANT TO CALIFORNIA ELECTIONS CODE § 10229 THAT THERE ARE NOT MORE CANDIDATES THAN OFFICES TO BE ELECTED FOR THE AT-LARGE SEAT OF MAYOR AND IN DISTRICT 1 I, Olivia Nashed, City Clerk of the City of Livermore, do hereby certify that pursuant to California Elections Code § 10229, to the following facts relating to the General Municipal Election in the City of Livermore to be held on November 3, 2026: As of the close of the nomination period on August 7, 2026, there are not more candidates than offices to be elected for the at-large seat of Mayor and in District 1. There is one seat available for at-large Mayor and one candidate qualified for the election for at-large Mayor. There is one seat available in District 1 and one candidate qualified for the election in District 1. The person nominated for the at-large seat of Mayor is: John Marchand The person nominated for District 1 is: Evan Branning § 10229 of the Elections Code allows one of the following courses of action to be taken by the Livermore City Council for each the at-large Mayor seat and District 1: 1) Appoint to the office the person who has been nominated. 2) Appoint to the office any eligible voter if no one has been nominated. 3) Hold the election if either no one or only one person has been nominated. Option 2 above is not applicable as John Marchand and Evan Branning have been nominated and qualify for the at-large Mayor seat and District 1 seat, respectively. Notice of these facts will be published on August 13, 2026, in a newspaper of general circulation pursuant to Section 6061 of the Government Code. After the fifth day following the date of publication, the Livermore City Council will meet to either make an appointment or direct an election to be held for each the at-large Mayor seat and District 1. The person appointed for the at-large Mayor seat and the person appointed for District 1, if any, shall qualify and take office and serve exactly as if elected at a municipal election for the office. If by the 75th day before the election, August 20, 2026, no person has been appointed to the office for the at-large Mayor seat and District 1, the election shall be held for each of these offices. If the City Council makes an appointment(s) pursuant to California Elections Code § 10229, the City Clerk shall not accept for filing any statement of write in candidacy, which is submitted after the appointment is made.	
市書記官證明 依據《加州選舉法》第 10229 條證明 市長全席席位和第 1 選區的候選人人數不超過應選職位名額 本人奧利維亞·納謝德 (Olivia Nashed), 利弗莫爾市市書記官, 特此證明, 根據《加州選舉法》第 10229 條, 關於將於 2026 年 11 月 3 日在利弗莫爾市舉行的一般市政選舉的以下事實: 截至 2026 年 8 月 7 日提名期截止時, 市長全席市選區席位及第 1 選區的候選人人數均未超過應選職位名額。市長 (全市選區) 席位有一個空缺, 且有一名符合資格的候選人參選市長 (全市選區) 職位。第 1 選區有一個空缺席位, 且有一名符合資格的候選人參選第 1 選區職位。 獲提名競選市長 (全市選區) 席位者為: 約翰·馬尚德 (John Marchand) 獲提名競選第 1 選區席位者為: 埃文·布蘭寧 (Evan Branning) 《加州選舉法》第 10229 條允許利弗莫爾市議會針對全市直選市長席位及第 1 選區, 採取以下任一行動: 1) 任命已獲提名之候選人擔任該職位。 2) 若無人獲提名, 則任命任何符合資格的選民擔任該職位。 3) 若無人獲提名或僅有一人獲提名, 則舉行選舉。 由於約翰·馬尚德與埃文·布蘭寧已分別獲提名並符合資格, 分別競選全市市長席位及第 1 選區席位, 因此上述第 2 項選項不適用。 根據《政府法典》第 6061 條規定, 相關事實公告將於 2026 年 8 月 13 日刊載於一般流通的報紙上。自公告刊載之日起第五日之後, 利弗莫爾市議會將召開會議, 就全市直選市長席位及第 1 選區席位, 決定進行任命或指示舉行選舉。獲任命擔任全市市長席位的, 以及第 1 選區席位獲任命者 (如有), 其資格認定、就職及任期, 均應與在市政選舉中當選該職位者完全相同。 若在選舉前第 75 天 (2026 年 8 月 20 日) 之前, 尚未有人獲任命擔任全市市長席位及第 1 選區席位, 則應就上述各職位分別舉行選舉。 若市議會依據《加州選舉法》第 10229 條進行任命, 市書記官不得受理任何以寫入候選人方式提交的候選人聲明書。	
CERTIFICACIÓN DE LA SECRETARÍA MUNICIPAL, DE CONFORMIDAD CON LA SECCIÓN 10229 DEL CÓDIGO ELECTORAL DE CALIFORNIA, DE QUE EL NÚMERO DE CANDIDATOS NO SUPERA EL DE CARGOS A ELEGIR PARA EL ESCAÑO DE ALCALDE DE LA CIUDAD EN GENERAL Y EN EL DISTRITO 1 Yo, Olivia Nashed, secretaria municipal de la Ciudad de Livermore, por la presente certifico, de conformidad con la Sección 10229 del Código Electoral de California, los siguientes hechos relacionados con la Elección Municipal General de la Ciudad de Livermore que se celebrará el 3 de noviembre de 2026: Al cierre del plazo de nominación de candidatos el 7 de agosto de 2026, el número de candidatos no supera el número de cargos a elegir para el escaño de alcalde de la ciudad en general y en el Distrito 1. Hay un escaño disponible para el cargo de alcalde de la ciudad en general y un solo candidato que cumple con los requisitos para la elección a dicho cargo. Hay un escaño disponible en el Distrito 1 y un solo candidato que cumple con los requisitos para la elección en el Distrito 1. La persona nominada para el escaño de alcalde de la ciudad en general es: John Marchand La persona nominada para el Distrito 1 es: Evan Branning La Sección 10229 del Código Electoral permite que el Concejo Municipal de Livermore adopte una de las siguientes medidas tanto para el escaño de alcalde de la ciudad en general como para el Distrito 1: 1) Nombrar para el cargo a la persona que ha sido nominada. 2) Nombrar para el cargo a cualquier votante elegible si no se ha nominado a nadie. 3) Celebrar la elección si no se ha nominado a nadie o si se ha nominado a solo una persona. La opción 2 anterior no es aplicable, ya que John Marchand y Evan Branning han sido nominados y cumplen con los requisitos para el cargo de alcalde de la ciudad en general y para el escaño del Distrito 1, respectivamente. La notificación de estos hechos se publicará el 13 de agosto de 2026 en un periódico de circulación general, de conformidad con la Sección 6061 del Código de Gobierno. Transcurridos cinco días a partir de la fecha de publicación, el Concejo Municipal de Livermore se reunirá para realizar un nombramiento, o bien para ordenar que se celebre una elección tanto para el escaño de alcalde de la ciudad en general como para el Distrito 1. La persona nombrada para el escaño de alcalde de la ciudad en general y la persona nombrada para el Distrito 1, si la hubiera, cumplirán con los requisitos, asumirán el cargo y desempeñarán sus funciones exactamente como si hubieran sido elegidos en una elección municipal para el cargo. En caso de que, a más tardar el 75º día antes de la elección, es decir, el 20 de agosto de 2026, no se haya nombrado a ninguna persona para el cargo de alcalde de la ciudad en general y del Distrito 1, se celebrará la elección para cada uno de estos cargos. Si el Concejo Municipal realiza uno o más nombramientos de conformidad con la Sección 10229 del Código Electoral de California, la secretaria municipal no aceptará registrar ninguna declaración de candidatura por voto en blanco que se presente después de que se haya realizado el nombramiento.	
SERTIPIKASYON NG KLERK NG LUNGSOD ALINSUNOD SA § 10229 NG KODIGO SA MGA HALALAN NG CALIFORNIA NA HINDI MAS MARAMI ANG MGA KANDIDATO KAYSA SA MGA KATUNGKULAN NA IHAHALAL PARA SA PANLAHAT NA PUWESTO NG ALCALDE AT SA DISTRITO 1 Ako, si Olivia Nashed, Klerk ng Lungsod ng Lungsod hg Livermore, ay nagsesertipika sa pamamagitan nito na alinsunod sa § 10229 ng Kodigo sa mga Halalan ng California, ang mga sumusunod na katotohanan na may kaugnayan sa Pangkalahatang Halalang Munisipal sa Lungsod ng Livermore na gaganapin sa Nobyembre 3, 2026: Sa pagasara ng panahon ng nominasyon sa Agosto 7, 2026, hindi mas marami ang mga kandidato kaysa sa katungkulan na ihalahal para panlahat na puwesto ng Alkalde at sa Distrito 1. May isang puwesto para sa panlahat na Alkalde at isang kandidato na kwalipikado para sa halalan para sa panlahat na Alkalde. May isang puwesto para sa Distrito 1 at isang kandidato na kwalipikado para sa halalan sa Distrito 1. Ang taong iminungkahi para sa panlahat na puwesto ng Alkalde ay si: John Marchand Ang taong iminungkahi para sa Distrito 1 ay si: Evan Branning Ang § 10229 ng Kodigo sa mga Halalan ay nagpapahtintulot sa isa ng mga sumusunod na kurso ng aksyon na gagawin sa Konseho ng Lungsod ng Livermore para sa bawat panlahat na puwesto ng Alkalde at Distrito 1: 1) Hirangin sa katungkulan ang tao na iminungkahi. 2) Hirangin sa katungkulan ang sinumang karapat-dapat na botante kung walang iminungkahi. 3) Ganapin ang halalan kung wala o itaag ang isang tao lamang ang iminungkahi. Ang Opsyon 2 sa itaas ay hindi mailalapat dahil si John Marchand at Evan Branning ay iminungkahi at kwalipikado para sa puwesto ng panlahat na Alkalde at puwesto sa Distrito 1, ayon sa pagkakasunod-sunod. Ang paunawa ng mga katotohanang ito ay ilalathala sa Agosto 13, 2026, sa isang pahayagan na may pangkalahatang sirkulasyon alinsunod sa Seksyon 6061 ng Kodigo ng Pamahalaan. Pagkaraan ng ikalimang araw kasunod ng petsa ng publikasyon, ang Konseho ng Lungsod ng Livermore ay maggupulong upang gawin ang paghiling ng mga pang-utos na gagawin ang isang halalan para sa puwesto ng panlahat na Alkalde at Distrito 1. Ang taong hihirangin para sa puwesto ng panlahat na Alkalde at ang taong hihirangin para sa Distrito 1, kung mayroon, ay dapat na kwalipikado at kukunin ang katungkulan at maglilingkod nang waring eksaktong inihalal sa isang halalang munisipal para sa katungkulan. Kung bago lumampas ang ika-75 araw bago ang halalan, Agosto 20, 2026, walang taong hinirang sa katungkulan para sa puwesto ng panlahat na Alkalde at Distrito 1, ang halalan ay dapat ganapin para sa bawat isa ng mga katungkulang ito. Kung ang Konseho ng Lungsod ay gumawa ng (mga) paghirang alinsunod sa § 10229 ng Kodigo sa mga Halalan, ang Klerk ng Lungsod ay hindi dapat tumanggap ng paghaharap ng anumang pahayag ng isinuulat na kandidatura, na isinusumite pagkatapos gawin ang paghirang.	
CHUNG NHAN CỦA LỤC SỰ THÀNH PHỐ CĂN CỨ ĐIỀU 10229 CỦA BỘ LUẬT BẦU CỬ CALIFORNIA RÀNG SỐ LƯỢNG ỨNG VIÊN KHÔNG VƯỢT QUÁ SỐ LƯỢNG CHỨC VỤ CÁN BẦU ĐỐI VỚI CHỨC THỊ TRƯỞNG ĐƯỢC BẦU TOÀN THÀNH PHỐ VÀ GHÉ ĐẠI DIỆN KHU VỰC 1. Tôi, Olivia Nashed, Lục sự Thành phố Livermore, xin xác nhận rằng theo Điều 10229 của Bộ luật Bầu cử California, các thông tin sau đây liên quan đến cuộc Tổng tuyển cử Thành phố Livermore sẽ được tổ chức vào ngày 3 tháng 11 năm 2026: Chỉ đến thời điểm kết thúc thời hạn để cử vào ngày 7 tháng 8 năm 2026, số lượng ứng cử viên cho chức Thị trưởng toàn thành phố và ghế đại diện Khu vực 1 không vượt quá số lượng chức vụ cần bầu. Có một ghế Thị trưởng toàn thành phố và một ứng cử viên hội đủ tiêu chuẩn tham gia bầu cử cho chức Thị trưởng được bầu toàn thành phố. Người được đề cử cho chức Thị trưởng được bầu toàn thành phố là: John Marchand Người được đề cử cho ghế đại diện Khu vực 1 là: Evan Branning Điều 10229 của Bộ luật Bầu cử cho phép Hội đồng Thành phố Livermore thực hiện một trong các hành động sau đây đối với từng chức vụ: chức Thị trưởng được bầu toàn thành phố và ghế đại diện Khu vực 1: 1) Bổ nhiệm người được đề cử vào chức vụ. 2) Bổ nhiệm bất kỳ cử tri hội đủ điều kiện nào vào chức vụ nếu không có ai được đề cử. 3) Tổ chức bầu cử nếu không có ai hoặc chỉ có một người được đề cử. Phương án 2 nêu trên không áp dụng vì John Marchand và Evan Branning đã được đề cử và hội đủ tiêu chuẩn cho chức Thị trưởng được bầu toàn thành phố và ghế đại diện Khu vực 1, tương ứng. Thông báo về những sự việc nêu trên sẽ được đăng tải trên một tờ báo có phạm vi phát hành rộng rãi vào ngày 13 tháng 8 năm 2026 theo Điều 6061 của Bộ luật Chính phủ. Sau ngày tờ năm kế từ ngày đăng tải, Hội đồng Thành phố Livermore sẽ họp để thực hiện việc bổ nhiệm hoặc chỉ đạo tổ chức bầu cử đối với từng chức vụ: chức Thị trưởng được bầu toàn thành phố và ghế đại diện Khu vực 1. Người được bổ nhiệm vào chức Thị trưởng được bầu toàn thành phố và người được bổ nhiệm vào ghế đại diện Khu vực 1, nếu có, sẽ hội đủ điều kiện và nhậm chức, phục vụ đúng như thể đã được bầu trong một cuộc bầu cử thành phố cho chức vụ đó. Nếu đến ngày thứ 75 trước ngày bầu cử, tức ngày 20 tháng 8 năm 2026, không có người nào được bổ nhiệm vào chức Thị trưởng được bầu toàn thành phố và ghế đại diện Khu vực 1, thì cuộc bầu cử sẽ được tổ chức cho từng chức vụ này. Nếu Hội đồng Thành phố thực hiện việc bổ nhiệm theo Điều 10229 của Bộ luật Bầu cử California, Lục sự Thành phố sẽ không tiếp nhận đề lưu hồ sơ bất kỳ bản tuyên bố làm ứng cử viên ghi thêm tên vào lá phiếu nào được nộp sau khi việc bổ nhiệm đã được thực hiện.	