THE Independent

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VOLUME LXIII, NUMBER 44 *Your Local News Source Since 1963* SERVING DUBLIN, LIVERMORE, PLEASANTON, SUNOL



Sherry Hu



Michael McCorriston



Kiran Mohammad

Three Candidates Will Compete for Dublin Mayor in November Election

Voters Weigh Competing Visions for Municipal Finance, Housing and ULL

By Kathryn Stroud

DUBLIN – The contest for mayor of Dublin features incumbent Mayor Sherry Hu facing challengers Michael McCorriston and Kiran Mohammad. as the city navigates rapid growth, commercial expansion and public safety priorities. The mayor is elected citywide for a two-year term.

Sherry Hu, the incumbent, is seeking a second term. She was elected to the City Council in 2020, served as vice mayor in 2023, and was elected mayor in 2024. A first-generation immigrant and mother, she co-founded a youth and family leadership nonprofit. She has a Ph.D. in architectural engineering, is a Certified Financial Planner, and previously worked as a University of Nevada, Las Vegas assistant professor and a PG&E project manager.

Hu's record on Dublin's Urban Limit Line (ULL) has been the subject of discussion. In July 2024, Hu voted to place what opponents termed a misleadingly worded Measure II on the ballot, allowing the council to vote on extending commercial development onto the open Crosby property in Doolan Canyon past the Urban Limit Line.

Proponents argued the revenues are needed to help close a funding gap for the Dublin Boulevard extension project.

After a judge invalidated the measure, Hu voted to appeal, but the

(See MAYOR, page 13)

District 2 and 4 Candidates for Dublin City Council

For the first time, voters in Dublin's Districts 2 and 4 will elect their council members by district, following the debut of district elections in District 1 and 3 in 2024. District 2 features a four-way race bringing a diverse mix of perspectives on neighborhood concerns and municipal direction. District 4 presents a head-to-head matchup focusing heavily on infrastructure pacing, fiscal transparency and local development impacts.

Diverse Field of Four Competes for Dublin Council District 2 Open Seat

Budget Deficits, Public Safety, Growth Management Shape Policy Priorities

By Kathryn Stroud

DUBLIN — The four candidates for District 2 are Daniel Hor, Richard Thornbury, Steven Lorey and Tejpreet Singh.

Daniel Hor is a UX (User Experience) researcher and former newspaper copy editor, with a master's in psychology and a bachelor's in computer science. Hor is secretary of the Dublin Unified Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee and treasurer of the Shamrock Hills School Parent Faculty Club. He says that his civic experience and technical background would serve the council.

Hor's focus is growth management, budget preparation for a projected operating deficit, and preserving quality of life, with an approach that is largely about continuity and keeping what works. Hor supports transit-oriented infill and wants transparent coordination with the school district. At the Oct. 13 candidate forum, hosted by the Pleasanton Weekly and the Dublin Chamber of Commerce, Hor named fear of a possible ICE

(See DISTRICT 2, page 14)

Dublin City Council District 4 Candidates to Focus on Infrastructure, Growth, Fiscal Health

Issues Involved: Public Safety, Housing Density, Community Services and ULL

By Kathryn Stroud

DUBLIN—The two candidates for District 4 are incumbent Kashef Qaadri and challenger Shivraj Singh.

Kashef Qaadri, the incumbent, was elected in 2022 and served as vice mayor in 2025. He is a life-sciences executive in cloud and data strategy who recently earned an MBA. He previously served on the Dublin Planning Commission and the Alameda County Public Health Commission.

Qaadri's priorities are thoughtful growth, traffic and infrastructure, and public safety and community wellbeing. He favors transit-oriented development with housing at more price points and wants to expand the city's public safety fair. His downtown vision emphasizes small businesses, bike and

(See DISTRICT 4, page 12)

First City-Backed 100% Affordable Housing Slated in Pleasanton

Project Introduces Innovative Funding Structure

By David Jen

PLEASANTON — The city may soon see its first 100% affordable-housing project developed with city support. City council members expressed excitement for the project on Oct. 20, welcoming the idea as the project takes its initial steps.

Developer BRIDGE Housing has proposed to replace a vacant, three-story office building at 4780 Chabot Dr. with a new, six-story apartment complex in an area zoned for higher-density transit-oriented development. The Hacienda Business Park site sits near other multi-story office buildings next to a Starbucks coffee shop and a Shell gas station, and it is located about a half mile from the multi-level Dublin/Pleasanton BART station. The project could provide up to 142 units, all deed-restricted for residents earning 30% to 70% of the area median income. It would include one parking space for every two units.

The California Department of Housing and Community Development calculated Alameda County's area median income this year at $113,950 for an individual and $162,800 for a family of four.

"We don't have a 100% affordable-housing project for anything other than seniors, so to pass on an opportunity to partner with (BRIDGE) to do that, I think would be a mistake," Vice Mayor Matt Gaidos said.

(See BRIDGE, page 12)



Pleasanton's Foothill Sewa Adesuyi-fasuyi (#10) celebrates with teammates Emily Evans (#14) and Kait Vogel (#2) after locking down a crucial point. The Falcons rallied in a thrilling five-set battle at Amador Valley — clinching the final set 15-6 against Carondelet — to capture their third East Bay Athletic League playoff championship in four years. (Photo — May Fraser) **See story on page 12.**

Seven Candidates Vie for Three LARPD Open Seats

Voters Will Decide Leadership of Livermore Parks

By David Jen

LIVERMORE — Voters will select directors for three at-large seats on the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District (LARPD) board this November election.

Formed in 1947, the district services roughly 243.5 square miles of eastern Alameda County with recreation programs and a system of parks, trails and facilities.

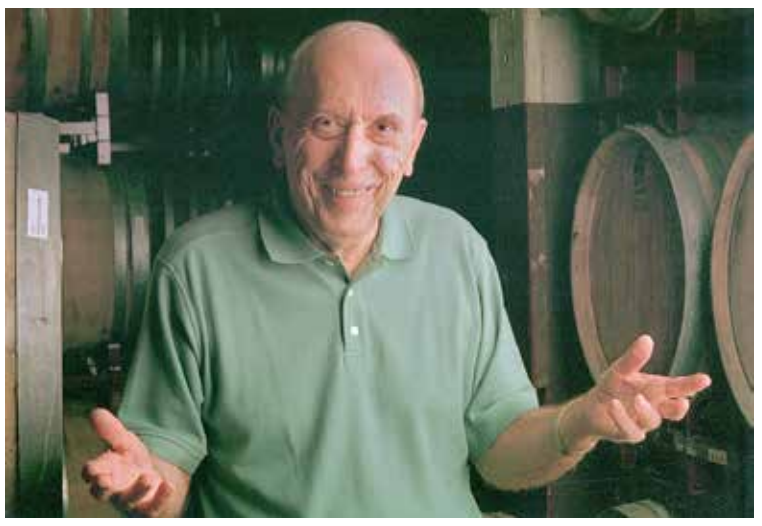
For example, LARPD, recently opened its new Sunken Gardens Pump Track in June, providing rollers and berms for riders to explore. And last year, it replaced the playground at Tex Spruiell Park with modern, accessible equipment as part of its playground replacement program.

But the district also faces fiscal challenges, having operated within tight budget margins following the pandemic to avoid insolvency. Deferred maintenance continues to exert heavy capital costs on the district, while the costs of labor, services and supplies continue to rise.

In 2025, LARPD filed a lawsuit against the East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD), asserting that EBRPD failed to invest in the east county area funds collected through a tax-sharing agreement between the two districts. LARPD has estimated the total at some $110 million since 1992, when the agreement began. EBRPD contends that its investments in various regional projects have satisfied the agreement. The dispute remains in litigation.

LARPD will also consider the adoption of a new master plan in

(See LARPD, page 12)



Third-generation vintner Jim Concannon, who passed away on Oct. 12 at age 95, will be remembered as a pioneer who shaped the legacy of California winemaking. He was the heart of hospitality at the historic Concannon Vineyard estate in Livermore. (Photo courtesy of Concannon Vineyard)

Livermore Winemaker Jim Concannon Dies

We Remember the Pioneer Who Championed California Cabernet and Petite Sirah

By Kathryn Stroud

LIVERMORE—The wine world mourned the loss of third-generation vintner Jim Concannon, who passed away Oct. 12 at age 95. The Concannon Vineyard called him one of California's great winemaking pioneers.

Jim's winemaking story starts with his grandfather, James Concannon, who established the winery in 1883, and is considered one of founding fathers of Livermore winemaking. James, born in Ireland, immigrated to Boston at 18. In Boston, he worked at a sewing company and as a bellhop before heading out west. In San Francisco, he had a brief stint as a bookseller before an archbishop convinced him to make wine for the church.

James and his wife, Ellen, moved to Livermore and began winemaking. When he passed away in 1911, his son Joseph took over. Joseph, known as Captain Joe because of his military background, kept the winery open during Prohibition by continuing to produce sacramental wines. After Prohibition ended, Captain Joe hired one of the first female winemakers in the industry, Katherine Vajda, in 1950. When he passed away in 1965, his son, Jim, took over.

Jim grew up in the business. His first job was hauling water to grape pickers, and he said he made his first wine as a young boy.

One of his career-defining moments happened in 1961, 20 years after his first attempt at winemaking, when he wanted to make a special wine to celebrate

(See CONCANNON, page 10)

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PET OF THE WEEK



ARGUS

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Livermore Unified School District Forms AI Workgroup

LIVERMORE — The Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District (LVJUSD) has established a workgroup to help shape how AI is used in the classroom.

The district's Artificial Intelligence Workgroup, formed at the start of the school year, includes teachers from all levels, students from Granada and Livermore high schools, and school counselors and district administrators.

The group also includes parents, an LVJUSD board member and AI experts from Quest Science Center and Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory.

The district said the group is charged with developing an approach to AI that supports teaching and learning while addressing academic integrity, student privacy, security and equitable access.

The group's findings will be used by the LVJUSD Board of Directors in adopting a districtwide AI policy.

"Artificial intelligence is evolving quickly, and our responsibility is not simply to react to it, but to thoughtfully determine how it can support learning while keeping students at the center of our decisions," said Chris Connor, the district's director of TK-12 Education.

Since beginning its work in September, LVJUSD said the group has focused on building a common understanding of AI, assessing district readiness and reviewing issues related to privacy and security.

As the school year progresses, the workgroup will conduct a limited AI pilot program involving educators and students.

The group will also review guidance and a model AI policy being developed by the state Department of Education and how other school districts are approaching the use of AI.

District staff, students, families and the community will have an opportunity to review and provide feedback on the workgroup findings before the LVJUSD Board of Directors considers an AI policy for implementation prior to the 2027-28 school year.

"AI presents tremendous opportunities, but it also raises important questions for schools," said Michelle Pechette, assistant superintendent for Educational Services. "The best way to answer those questions is together. Our goal is to create thoughtful guidance that prepares students for a future in which AI will be part of their world while preserving the critical thinking, creativity, relationships and human judgment that are fundamental to education."

LVJUSD is also partnering with Quest Science Center on a Workforce Development Planning Initiative to bring together Bay Area tech industry leaders, educators, higher education institutions and community leaders to develop an educational guidelines that connects STEM classroom learning with future opportunities, including the skills, knowledge and creativity to thrive in an AI-driven world.



Traditional face painting adds color and fun to Junction Avenue K-8 School's Día de los Muertos celebration on Friday, Oct. 23. The annual schoolwide celebration honored the holiday with handmade altars, food carts and live performances. (Photo — May Fraser)

Zone 7 Plans for El Nino Storms

LIVERMORE — The Zone 7 Water Agency said last week that it is preparing for an El Nino storm season that could bring extreme weather to the area.

The agency is also encouraging residents to prepare for possible flooding in the months ahead.

"We know we can't predict exactly what this winter will bring, but we can be ready for it," said Zone 7 General Manager Valerie Pryor. "We've taken what we've learned from past storms and put it into planning, preparation and stronger coordination with our partners. We want our community to do the same: prepare now, know where to find reliable information and be ready before the rain starts."

An El Nino event occurs when Pacific trade winds weaken and warmer water is pushed toward the West Coast, potentially triggering stronger than normal winter storms.

Zone 7, which manages 37 miles of streams and flood-protection channels throughout the Tri-Valley, said its preparations include maintaining flood protection channels, completing priority repairs from previous storms, and strengthening its response planning and coordination with regional partners.

Zone 7 also held its annual Flood Safety Open House for residents last Saturday, Oct. 24.

The agency is urging residents to check their flood risk using Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) maps, use Zone 7's StreamTracker program to monitor rainfall and stream levels, and sign up for emergency alerts with the Alameda County Office of Emergency Services.

Zone 7 has also expanded its sandbag program and free, fill-your-own sandbags will be available at locations throughout the Tri-Valley,

In late September, California declared an emergency to strengthen statewide preparedness and stage resources ahead of potential winter storms.

The National Weather Service is predicting a 98% chance of a strong El Niño through the fall and winter with a 75% chance of an event exceeding the strength of events dating back to 1950.

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Patriots Foundation Presents Fundraising Ball at Concannon

LIVERMORE — The Patriots Foundation of California, a nonprofit that supports military veterans and first responders, will host the 2026 Patriots Ball at Concannon Winery, 4590 Tesla Road, at 6 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 7.

Proceeds from the fundraising effort will go to the Runestone Ranch, a 102-acre retreat outside Livermore that offers law enforcement and other first responders peer-driven wellness, training and support programs to help relieve stress and prevent burnout.

The Patriots Foundation of California is a Pleasanton-based organization that provides support and recognition for first responders and veterans transitioning from military to civilian life throughout the Bay Area.

Tickets to the Patriots Ball, which will include a cocktail hour, formal dining, dancing, raffles and ceremonies to honor veterans and active and retired first responders, are available online at patriotsfoundationca.org.


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The Dublin Office of Economic Development To Host Workshop for New Business Owners

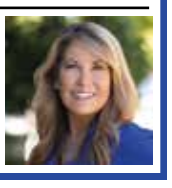
DUBLIN — The Dublin Office of Economic Development will hold a free workshop at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 27, for anyone thinking about opening a business.

The hourlong workshop, "Starting a Business: The Process and Resources for Starting a Business in Dublin," will be at the Dublin Civic Center, 100 Civic Plaza, and will cover how to get started, what to consider when choosing a business location, and how to work through city planning, building and business license requirements.

There will be time at the end of the workshop for questions and one-on-one conversations with city staff.

To register for the workshop, go to tinyurl.com/muwj2cn7.

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Alliance Announces Nonprofit Fund Grants

TRI-VALLEY — The Tri-Valley Nonprofit Alliance (TVNPA) last week announced the final 11 recipients of its Tri-Valley Nonprofit Fund grants for 2026.

Grants totaling $34,500 went to the Agape Villages Foster Family Agency, Goodness Village, Livermore Valley Arts, Fertile Groundworks, Z-Cares Foundation, Little Miracles, the Bay Area chapter of Sewa International, the Alameda County chapter of Sleep in Heavenly Peace, Spectrum Community Services, System Overload Robotics and Sunflower Hill.

"This final round of 2026 funding reaches Tri-Valley residents at every stage of life, from newborns and children in foster care to teens, adults with disabilities and seniors who count on a meal delivered to their door," said TVNPA President and CEO Kathy Young. "These organizations know their communities and know what it takes to meet the need."

The amount of individual grants was not announced.

Agape Villages Foster Family Agency is expected to use its grant to certify six new resource families, creating homes for up to 30 children in the Tri-Valley, while Goodness Village plans to provide resiliency training for 15 staff members, focusing on developing the mental, emotional and behavioral skills needed to recover from stress, adversity, or trauma.

Livermore Valley Arts will use its grant for The Great Elephant Migration, a traveling exhibit of 30 life-sized elephant sculptures now on display in Livermore through Sunday, Dec. 6 Fertile Groundworks is expected to plant winter food crops at its Garden of Grace site to distribute to community kitchens and food banks, and the Z-Cares Foundation will continue sponsoring mental-health presentations for youths and adults.

The Bay Area chapter of Sewa International will also use its grant to train 25 adult volunteers in Youth Mental Health First Aid.

Little Miracles said its grant would pay for diapers, baby formula, car seats, cribs and other supplies for families in need, while Sleep in Heavenly Peace will continue its program of building and providing beds for children.

Spectrum Community Services plans to strengthen its Meals on Wheels program through leadership development and cross-training staff, while Sunflower Hill will use its grant funding to upgrade the fitness room and makerspace at Irby Ranch, its Pleasanton community for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

System Overload Robotics, a student led FIRST Robotics Competition team in Livermore, will provide more than 60 high school students with free access to a computer-aided design software and engineering curriculum.

For 2026, TVNF, which works to strengthen other nonprofits through advocacy, collaboration and education, said it awarded a total of 34 grants totaling $100,000 to safety-net organizations in Livermore, Pleasanton, Dublin, San Ramon, Danville and Sunol.


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Zephyr Grill & Bar to Shutter After 22 Years in Downtown

By Sanestina Hunter

LIVERMORE — Zephyr Grill & Bar will close on Halloween after more than 22 years in downtown Livermore following unsuccessful efforts to sell the restaurant, its owners said.

Husband-and-wife owners Lynn and Randy Tei announced the decision in a Facebook message to customers in early October after spending several months seeking a buyer for the restaurant at 1736 First St.

"Our hope was to find a new owner who could carry the restaurant forward and allow it to remain part of the Livermore community," they wrote. "Unfortunately, that path did not come together, and after much consideration, we have made the difficult decision that it is time to close this chapter."

In the same message, the couple reflected on recent hardships.



Zephyr Grill & Bar on First Street in downtown Livermore will close its doors on Oct. 31 after more than 22 years in business. (Photo courtesy of Zephyr Grill & Bar via Instagram)

"The past year has also been especially challenging. After the fire in July 2025 forced us to close for several months, we rebuilt and reopened with tremendous hope for Zephyr's future," they wrote. "We gave it everything we had, which makes this decision that much more difficult."

Only the Livermore location is shutting down. Operations manager Jose Ferreira previously told Livermore Vine that the owners also operate Zephyr Grill & Bar in Brentwood and Smith's Landing Seafood Grill in Antioch, and both will remain open.

Zephyr opened in June 2004 and serves steaks, seafood, pasta and burgers, with dishes ranging from braised short ribs to Cajun shrimp penne.

"We have celebrated birthdays, anniversaries, first dates, weddings, holidays, business lunches, family dinners, and countless special occasions with you," they wrote. "We have watched children grow up, families expand, friendships form, and generations of guests walk through our doors."

The couple also thanked past and present employees and invited customers to return before the final service.

"Come have your favorite Zephyr dish one more time. Raise a glass with us. Bring back an old memory—or make one more new one," the message read.

Zephyr's remaining hours are 3 to 9 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday and 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Friday through Sunday. Its final day of service is Saturday, Oct. 31.

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Library Announces Free Online Author Talks

LIVERMORE — The Livermore Public Library will offer four online author talks next month, starting with "Reclaiming Your Inner Wisdom: Sacred Indigenous Teachings," with Asha Frost, best-selling author of "You are the Medicine."

Recognized as a First Nations medicine woman and healer, Frost, a member of the Ojibwe Crane Clan, is also creator of two oracle decks, "The Sacred Medicine Oracle" and "The Animal Elders Oracle," designed to support spiritual growth and self-discovery.

Her virtual presentation will be at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 3.

Other upcoming presentations will include:

"Secrets, Lies, and Unforgettable Twists: A Conversation with E. Lockhart" at 4 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 5. E. Lockhart is the pen name of Emily Jenkins, best known as author of the young-adult novels "The Disreputable History of Frankie Landau-Banks" and "We Were Liars."

"How Money Became God: Rethinking Wealth and Greed in Modern Society," with Wall Street Journal reporter Paul Vigna, at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, November 11, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. PST

"Epic Worlds and Celestial Prophecies: Exploring the Between Earth and Sky Trilogy," with award-winning fantasy author Rebecca Roanhorse, at 4 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 19.

The online talks, sponsored by the Library Speakers Consortium, are free to join online and include an opportunity for the audience to ask questions.

Archived recordings of the author talks are also available online at libraryc.org/livermore.

For more information, go to library.livermoreca.gov and click on Online Author Talks under Events & Services.

Local Choir to Celebrate Broadway Classics

PLEASANTON — The East Bay Musical Society (EBMS) will hold its fall concert, "Golden Age of Broadway," at the Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., from 7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 29.

Founded in 2019, EBMS sponsors a community choir for all ages dedicated to singing classics from the Golden Age of Broadway, from "Oklahoma" in 1943 to "Fiddler on the Roof" in 1964.

Tickets are $33, with discounts for seniors and children 13 and under, and are available at the Firehouse Arts Center box office.

For more information, go to eastbaymusicals.org.

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EDITORIAL

Dublin Mayor: Michael McCorriston

Sherry Hu is running for re-election for a second term as mayor. She's served on the council since 2020 and became vice mayor in 2023. She is claiming credit for the growth Dublin has experienced and a $36.2 million budget surplus. She says crime has fallen 21% on her watch. But while she says she advocates for "managed growth," she was one of the key council votes in 2024 to place the misleadingly worded Measure II on the ballot, which would have allowed the city council to break the city's urban limit line and develop the open Crosby property in Doolan Canyon. Even though a judge threw out the ballot measure, Hu hasn't provided a reason to believe she isn't still looking to expand development into the open space that surrounds the city.

McCorriston, has served on the council since 2020, was vice mayor in 2023 and interim mayor in 2024. He currently represents District 1. He plans to focus on funding for police and fire services, supporting local businesses, housing affordability.

McCorriston also voted against placing Measure II on the ballot, which protects Dublin's urban limit line.

He claims Hu is conflating capital and operating budgets when she boasts of budget surpluses, and says she's downplaying the impact of high-profile crime incidents in the city.

Importantly, he hasn't taken any campaign contributions from real estate developers.

Dublin Council District 2: Daniel Hor

Daniel Hor, who works in the high-tech industry, currently is secretary of the Dublin Unified Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee. His priorities include managing growth, savvy budgeting in advance of expected deficits, and preserving quality of life. He supports infill development around the transit center, and has made clear he would oppose establishing an ICE facility in the city. He also says he would have supported a hotel tax on the ballot and is open to bringing it back.

Richard Thornbury also advocates infill development, fiscal sustainability, and a hotel tax. He's also qualified, but The Independent feels Hor would be a better fit for the city because of his focus on both dealing with projected financial issues and managing growth.

Of the other candidates in the race, Steven Lorey, a retired Army veteran, has some good management and financial experience. Tejpreet Singh is an investor. Neither has civic experience. However, The Independent endorses Daniel Hor for District 2.

Dublin Council District 4: Kashef Qaadri

Kashef Qaadri was elected to the Dublin City Council in 2022 and served as vice mayor in 2025. He's also served on the Dublin Planning Commission and the Alameda County Public Health Commission. He supports "thoughtful growth," traffic and infrastructure, and public safety, alongside more transit-oriented development. His top issue is fiscal sustainability and he says he would have supported the proposed hotel tax increase. He wants to look for grants and impact fees in order to avoid a sales tax increase.

His challenger, Shivraj Singh, is a business owner who has lived in Dublin for 15 years. He prioritizes managing growth, public safety and transportation, in addition to fiscal accountability. He also supports speeding up the Dublin Boulevard extension project. He doesn't have any civic experience, however, and he's been hard to pin down on details.

Kashef Qaadri is clearly the better choice in this race.

LARPD: Larry Bird and Philip Pierpont

For the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District Board, there are seven candidates running; voters will choose three of them. The Independent is endorsing two: Larry Bird and Philip Pierpont.

Retired police sergeant Larry Bird managed the Hayward Police Department's multi-million-dollar Junior Giants Program, a sports curriculum run by more than 200 volunteers and offered free to youth. In the Tri-Valley, he founded the Tri-Valley Pickleball Club and also coaches softball at Livermore High School. Bird has met current board members and has already attended most of their meetings, including subcommittee meetings. He also comes across as accessible and open to feedback and plans to prioritize facilities, programs, fiscal responsibility and community engagement if elected.

Pierpont, a local business owner, joined the board in 2017 and is the current board chair. He has helped improve the district's finances and also volunteers for larger-scale environmental organizations outside the local community. He's experienced and capable, and has demonstrated his effectiveness on the board for almost a decade.

Additional election endorsements are available online at independentnews.com

MAILBOX

Mailbox Guidelines:

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

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

Thank You for Generous Grant!

Sue Bakalar, Livermore

I am writing to express my deepest gratitude to the Rotary Club of Livermore and Livermore Valley Education Foundation (LVEF) for their generous grant. Thanks to their support, our elementary school library was able to purchase a wonderful selection of new books, including exciting picture books, early and middle grade chapter books, and essential Social Emotional Learning resources.

School libraries play a vital role in fostering a lifelong love of reading. Having access to fresh, engaging literature is key to building strong reading proficiency and keeping our students excited about coming to the library. This investment directly impacts our transitional kindergarten through fifth grade students, ensuring they have the high-quality materials they need to thrive both academically and emotionally.

Thank you, Rotary Club of Livermore and Livermore Valley Education Foundation (LVEF), for your outstanding commitment to local education and for investing so meaningfully in the children of our community.

(Library Media Specialist, Emma C Smith Elementary, Livermore)

The Future of Downtown

Brian Bonner, Livermore

We have been extremely fortunate to benefit from wise decisions made by previous city councils that lead to the successful evolution of our downtown. Since the Presidio hotel has not been built after many years, a higher quality hotel, bordering L St., might still be possible. In addition, added open space in a Central Park, more and better affordable housing, as well as relocation of the Quest Science Center near the Bankhead, would improve downtown.

All who want the best possible future for downtown, please consider all the possibilities.

Thank You for Your Service in our Elections

Marla Kirby, Livermore

As Election Day nears, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude for the hard work and dedication of the Alameda County Registrar of Voters officials and personnel, all election workers, and others who help ensure our elections run smoothly and are secure and accessible. These individuals, whether public employees or volunteers, are the backbone of our democratic process, yet much of their herculean effort goes unnoticed.

In these times of heightened tensions around voting and elections, with more scrutiny on our electoral process, election officials and workers remain professional and continue to act with integrity, concerned above all with ensuring that every eligible voter is allowed to vote, every vote is counted, and the results are certified.

To every election official, staff and volunteer who sacrifices their time and energy each election cycle to power our democracy, I thank you. Your commitment strengthens our communities, and your service is appreciated.

Downtown

Councilmember Ben Barrientos, Livermore

Dear People of Livermore,

The following is a little story of my venture into downtown Livermore approximately seven years ago.

My wife and I were strolling down First Street, when we came upon some plans of what downtown might look like. There were a few choices, and we voted for the one with a central park. I heard that the majority of the people who took the time to cast their vote also chose the central park plan. Then the powers that be apparently didn't like the choice.

Now to the present; there is a group of folks who have not given up on the central park idea. I haven't either. They would like to make a presentation to the City Council to show you what their plan is.

It includes a park twice the size of the City's plan, with tables and benches shaded by trees, instead of flat grass.

This new option would allow more low-income units to be built, and it would save Eden Housing millions by eliminating an expensive underground garage. Instead, a much cheaper automated garage would absorb the parking needed for Eden Housing.

Also, Eden would not have to pay back any of the City's low-income funds that would be used to purchase the properties north of Railroad Avenue. The City currently requires Eden to acquire the land south of Railroad Avenue for millions. That cost would be eliminated.

At first, the community group would provide the City with the work already prepared for the staff's review, and add design specifics as the staff requested. In other words, City staff time would be limited before the City made a decision regarding its interest in the community proposal.

I would like for you, the people of Livermore, to have a chance to see this proposal. If the people of Livermore had been allowed to vote on this plan a few years ago, this entire issue would have been put to rest and not have cost both sides a lot of legal fees.

Whatever is decided to be built downtown, a central park or two massive buildings, will be there for decades to come. Each of us on the council will be known for the Downtown Cener that we voted for.

Consider the Community Coalition's Plan

Safia Hasan, Livermore

I would like to echo Glenn Stewart's letter to the editor from Sept. 10, 2026. The City Council and my fellow Livermore neighbors should strongly consider the Community Coalition's plan to maintain a vibrant downtown destination and establish ample affordable housing units near downtown.

What's Going On in Dublin – Part 2

Mike Grant, Dublin

I didn't have to look too hard to discover this one. A Sept. 15, 2026, Pleasanton Weekly article described an ongoing lawsuit between the City of Dublin and property owners at 2061 Collier Canyon Road. According to the article, the lawsuit began in 2023 and involves alleged code violations and disputes over the property.

What surprised me was something I learned from a quick glance at Mayor Sherry Hu's campaign finance records. According to her 2024 Form 460, Clifford Horner donated $250 and CHMH donated $250 to her campaign for mayor on Aug. 26, 2024. It's not about the amount of the donations. (Dublin's limits are $500 per donor.) Instead, it's about the decision making of our elected official. Horner is connected to CHMH Dublin LLC, one of the property owners involved in the lawsuit.

These donations were made while the city was involved in a legal dispute with the property owners. The timing of these donations raises some questions. Why would people involved in a lawsuit against the city donate to the campaign of someone serving on the City Council? Did Mayor Hu take part in any city decisions involving these property owners after receiving the donations? Were any possible conflicts of interest considered?

I'm not suggesting that anyone broke the law. But once again, when campaign donations and city business overlap, I believe residents have a right to ask questions.

I would hope Mayor Hu could explain whether she participated in any decisions involving this lawsuit and whether the city's conflict-of-interest rules were followed.

Science Center Should Be a Priority

Julie Wild, Livermore

While conversations have centered around a park, hotel, and affordable housing, a potential Science & Arts Center has been completely overlooked.

A Science & Arts Center should be strongly considered! Livermore is known for science, and it could be another reason for people to visit Livermore and boost our local economy.

As the wine industry struggles, Livermore needs to look to the future and invest in a center that allows us to showcase science and technology for all.

The 3-story center includes exhibit space, an auditorium that could host small to midsize concerts and lectures, classrooms that academic institutions could sponsor, a 'lab' to nurture innovation, an entire floor dedicated for the arts to replace the Bothwell Arts Center that will be closing, and much more.

Imagine driving into Livermore and seeing a beautiful Science and Arts Center. And a nearby courtyard that has a science-based musical playground. What an amazing place it could be! I'm sure that anyone reading this will likely have their own ideas to make this come to life.

Let's focus on something that we can all agree on; a Science and Arts Center in downtown Livermore that draws visitors in and builds on our reputation as a leader in science and technology innovation.

Our Downtown – A Political Hostage

Veronica Stewart Long, Livermore

Livermore has an opportunity to craft a special public space right in the heart of town. It could be strategically designed to create a positive and interest-

(See MAILBOX, page 5)

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Lisajoy Calegari is retiring after a 29-year career with the Livermore Police Department. Calegari got her start in records before transitioning to crime and intelligence analysis, where she provided support to investigations and department personnel. Joining her in retirement is her support dog, Murphy, who provided comfort and companionship to the department. (Photo courtesy of LPD)

MAILBOX

(Continued from page 4)

ing experience for all residents. Instead, the City is pushing a developer-led, low-income apartment complex – a four-story white stucco apartment complex right across the street from the other four-story white stucco apartment complex. That space would be lost to the community.

A group of dedicated Livermore residents proposed an alternative to the City's plan. City leaders ignored it and created a divisive environment where the group of citizens have been bullied, blacklisted and disparaged with claims that they are rich elites who didn't want low-income housing. This is strange because their proposal called for moving the apartments one block away and building MORE housing than the City's plan.

Ardent supporters of the City's plan have been convinced that an alternative plan is impossible, and they seem to feel they are fighting a righteous fight against evil elites. Their dedication and loyalty to their group meant they had to be ok when the City waited until after an election to present the revised plan that had been hidden for months or when community leaders gave them false, inflated numbers to create an atmosphere of an urgent housing crisis. It was also ok when the apartment complex was changed from working people like teachers and first responders to become housing for low, very low, and extremely low-income tenants from Alameda County. So instead of creating a place for all residents to enjoy, we are getting another generic apartment complex in the heart of town. The politics have become more important than the place, and our downtown is being sacrificed.

Memory Garden Cemetery

Joan May, Livermore

I am writing to express serious concerns about the condition and management of Memory Garden Cemetery in Livermore.

The cemetery appears to lack regular grounds maintenance. The sprinkler system is reportedly broken, the grass is dead, and overgrown vegetation is covering headstones. Families who have loved ones buried there deserve a clean, respectful, and properly maintained final resting place.

When I asked about these conditions, I was told there was no money available for necessary repairs. This response raises important questions. Burial plots have reportedly been sold for considerable sums, so families deserve to know how cemetery funds are managed and why basic maintenance has not been addressed.

With five members serving on the board, the community should receive clear information about the cemetery's finances, maintenance responsibilities, and plans for repairing the property. I am not alleging proven wrongdoing, but the current conditions and lack of funding raise legitimate concerns that warrant transparency and review.

I urge the appropriate authorities, cemetery leadership, and community members to investigate the situation and determine whether funds are being properly managed and used to maintain the grounds. Families should not have to accept neglected landscaping, broken irrigation, or inaccessible headstones after entrusting the cemetery with their loved ones.

Our deceased family members deserve dignity and respect, and their families deserve accountability. I hope this matter receives prompt attention so that Memory Garden Cemetery can be restored and maintained appropriately.

The City of Livermore Plans a Downtown Dystopia

Greg Scott, Livermore

Currently, the topic of Livermore's downtown future is an 'old horse' issue with most of the citizenry. We need to revive this issue with a greater vision. What's implemented in downtown Livermore will affect the character and vitality of Livermore for multiple generations.

If we want to witness the truth of the economics and feasibility of a hotel located on the southeast corner of Railroad and South Livermore Avenues, then we need to see a transparent, well-considered business plan for this hotel location. Livermore citizens especially have a right to this, if taxpayer money in the form of City of Livermore loans is to go to the project to do such things as facilitate underground

(See MAILBOX, page 6)

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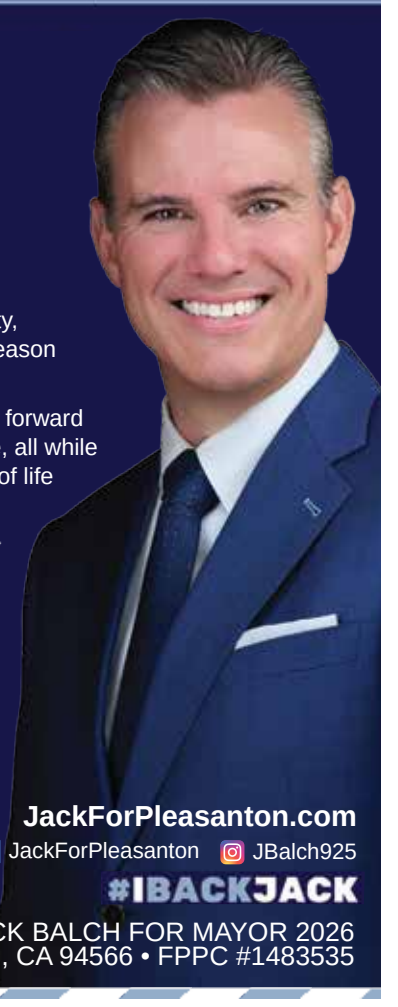
Dear Neighbor,

As your Mayor, I've been listening to our community, asking the tough questions, and being a voice of reason for Pleasanton.

I'm confident we can continue to move Pleasanton forward with continued transparency and good governance, all while watching the bottom line to deliver a better quality of life for all of us in the community we love.

Jack

MAYOR
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT
FORMER COUNCILMEMBER
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More than 5,000 people participated in the annual Trunk or Treat evening of early Halloween fun at the Civic Center last week, according to the Livermore Police Department. The evening was sponsored by the police, other city and state agencies and 30 community organizations. The California State Parks earned first-place honors with a "Jaws" themed trunk. (Photo courtesy of LPD)

MAILBOX

(Continued from page 5)

parking to ameliorate a highly contrived parking situation at this misappropriated site for a hotel.

A business plan would show how funds are to be borrowed in the current credit cycle and how they are to be repaid through marketing projections. A commercial loan at 8% annual interest is expensive financing, if it is a rate that can be found at all, considering the need for a 65% occupancy threshold for rooms that are more than $400 a night.

Who is the market? Baby Boomers who are "Thrivers" – which is to say, individuals or couples with $1 million or more in investable assets outside of the equity in their primary residence? In a nation that now has the lowest per capita wine consumption since the end of Prohibition more than 90 years ago? Not reasonable!

Then there is the prospect of a dystopian downtown Eden Housing Project, where two massive four-story buildings totaling 130 units are separated by a chasm 49 feet wide between these buildings. This is the visionary horizon to attract a regional draw to Veteran's Park? Where will the resident children play?

A Community Park Downtown

Gladys Palmer, Livermore

It is exciting to know that we might end up with a community park in our downtown after all. This is a thrilling development. Recent rumblings suggest a modified plan for the central downtown block—an area previously destined for residential buildings and spaces that would only be effectively enjoyable by the local tenants.

As a resident, I am incredibly grateful to city leadership for their hard work in making our town one of the best and most beautiful places to live in the country. However, the initial plan for the central block fell short of that standard; it was a mediocre plan. If a better plan is now possible—one that preserves open space for a community park in the heart of town—our local government has a wonderful opportunity to demonstrate its value by actively engaging with it. It is also their responsibility.

Vote Yes on Pleasanton Measure HH

Craig Eicher, Pleasanton

I urge Pleasanton voters to support Measure HH. This practical, phased proposal would update the city's hotel tax from 8% to 10% in July 2027 and to 12% in July 2028. The tax is paid by guests staying in hotels and similar short-term lodging—not through a new sales or property tax on residents.

Pleasanton's hotel tax has remained at 8% since 1983 and is among the lowest in Alameda County. Even at 12%, the city's rate would remain at or below most jurisdictions in the county. The increase is projected to generate approximately $1.4 million in its first year and $2.8 million annually once fully implemented.

That revenue will help Pleasanton maintain the services residents rely on, including police and fire protection, street and park maintenance, and recreation programs. Visitors benefit from these services while they are here, and Measure HH asks them to contribute a reasonable share of their cost.

No tax decision should be taken lightly. Along with spending cuts, operational efficiencies, economic development and fee adjustments, Measure HH offers a balanced response to rising service and infrastructure costs. It is phased in, aligns Pleasanton more closely with neighboring communities, and remains subject to repeal by voters. Please join me in voting yes on Measure HH.

(Craig Eicher is on the Pleasanton City Council – District 2)

Re-elect Ben Barrientos for City Council District 2

Dr. Gregory Holmbeck and Dr. Erika Holmbeck, Livermore

We moved to District 2 just over two years ago, and are writing to urge you and your readers to re-elect Ben Barrientos to the Livermore City Council.

Ben was one of the first to make us feel at home. He helped us get to know the Livermore area, lent us equipment whenever we needed it (most recently a very long ladder), and kept us well supplied with homemade cookies. He is warm, generous, and genuinely friendly, and he regularly invites us to community events, including charitable activities like those run by the Livermore Lion's Club. That same openness and generosity is what he brings to public service.

For his second term, we are excited about Ben's commitment to further improving quality of life in our area, including his plan to support widening N Vasco Road past Garaventa Ranch Road. This would ease heavy traffic and make the road safer for everyone who depends on it.

Ben has been a great neighbor and a dedicated representative. I hope you'll join us in voting to re-elect him.

Vote YES on Prop 40; The Billionaire Tax

Rajinder Ghatoaura, Pleasanton

I am a senior citizen on Social Security.

I pay more taxes than billionaires, as they can pay many accountants to hide their monies and pay hardly any taxes.

It's about time the billionaires contributed to the tax revenue; not just the everyday citizens.

This measure will help a lot of services in need.

The billionaires are spending millions on ads in scare tactics. If only they paid that amount in taxes, it would help.

Stay strong and vote YES on Prop 40.

Vote Larry Bird for LARPD Board Member!

Timothy and Hilde McIntyre, Livermore

Larry Bird would be an exceptional addition to the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District (LARPD) Board. His compassionate heart, genuine care for our community, and commitment to making a difference are exactly the qualities we need in a board member.

Larry is the kind of person who cares deeply about Livermore and the people who call it home. He's a get-it-done kind of guy who doesn't just talk about making a difference—he takes action to get things done.

Livermore deserves a board member who listens, cares, and follows through. Larry Bird is that person!

Julie Testa: Strong Fiscal Leadership

David Pascualy, Pleasanton

Pleasanton's financial future is an important concern for all of us, regardless of whom we support in the upcoming election. We share a desire to preserve essential services, maintain our community's quality of life, and ensure that our city remains financially strong. I believe Julie Testa brings the experience and thoughtful approach needed to help achieve these goals.

With a projected annual shortfall of approximately $7 million, Pleasanton faces difficult decisions such as costs, pension obligations, and the expense of maintaining essential services continues to rise. Reserves and pension trust funds can provide flexibility in the short term, but a lasting solution will require bringing ongoing expenses into balance with recurring revenue.

During her eight years on the City Council, Julie advocated sound financial management, carefully examined costly proposals, and supported practical alternatives. Her work to move Wayside Park forward, rather than pursue a proposed $12–14 million master plan, reflects an effort to balance community improvements with financial constraints.

She also respects the expertise of Pleasanton's finance professionals and supports clear, transparent financial reporting so residents can understand both the challenges we face and the choices available.

Reasonable people may differ on the best path forward. Julie Testa's experience, independent judgment, and commitment to stewardship make her a strong choice for mayor. I believe she can help Pleasanton address its financial challenges while protecting the services and community spaces we all value.

Recommendation for Livermore Unified School Board

Belinda Ballenger, Livermore

Integrity, transparency, respect for parental rights, concern for character development and academic proficiency; these qualities guarantee my vote for Debbie Gibson for Livermore Unified School Board. I urge you to do the same. Vote for Debbie Gibson, Area 3.

(Belinda Ballenger is a master teacher and former principal.)

No on Prop 44

Dawnell Moody, Livermore

At a time when community health centers are already navigating funding cuts, Prop 44 would deal a devastating blow to our healthcare safety net. The way this proposition is worded fails to include many of the costs of delivering health care that are necessary in this day and age: secure IT equipment and software to keep patient data safe, utilities and rent, and quality improvement staff who help track cancer screenings, to name a few. Health economists estimate that Prop 44 would cut $1.7 billion from California's community health centers in the first year alone. Most of California's medical professional societies, as well as both the California Democratic Party and the California Republican Party, have joined the coalition against Prop 44. Please help protect our state's health centers by voting no on 44, and visit noprop44.com for more information.

Vote for Tim Barry for LARPD!

Lara Webber, Livermore

Livermore is so blessed with an incredible array of beautiful public parks, open spaces, public art, and public facilities that enable communities to gather in nature, engage in sports and recreation, and the creative arts. Our Parks and Recreation department has led the way in making Livermore an incredibly wonderful place to live. Tim Barry is a driving force behind this success, and is now running for the board of LARPD. He deserves your vote!

I've known Tim Barry for years and worked closely with him as an arts leader. Tim's professional experience has prepared him deeply to serve on the LARPD Board of Directors. He knows the institution from his years of work serving this community within it. Tim's experience adds to the depth of his character as a community member and leader. I have rarely encountered someone with such skill in bringing the best out of everyone around him.

Please elect Tim to the board of LARPD, our community will be better for it!

Kathy Narum for Pleasanton City Council District 1

Richard Pugh, Pleasanton

As a resident of Pleasanton for thirty years, I urge my neighbors in District 1 to support Kathy Narum in the upcoming election for City Council. Not only is Kathy a champion for Pleasanton, but she has the detailed knowledge of local water and flood control issues that are critical as we face the risk of an intense El Niño weather system soon. As a member of the City Council, Kathy will continue to provide the hands-on leadership that residents know they can rely on. With her skill in solving complex engineering problems, she has consistently delivered results to this community for over two decades.

Kathy is the only Pleasanton City Council candidate who has been a Director of the Zone 7 Water Agency to help guide our city to get our water infrastructure back on track with quality maintenance and repairs. With Kathy's leadership experience, we can also ensure that our fire responders can be confident in having a reliable emergency water distribution system so that Pleasanton can avoid the type of damage that our neighbors in Tracy experienced with the Medline warehouse fire.

Kathy has an enviable record of dedicated public service in Pleasanton to provide thoughtful, energetic, and common-sense solutions to move Pleasanton forward. Please support Kathy Narum for City Council!

VandenHeuvel's is the Voice We Need on School Board

Kristie Wang, Livermore

Anyone who meets Christiaan VandenHeuvel immediately sees his heart, his humor, and his enthusiasm – all of which have served him well as a Livermore School Board Member. He listens, he feels, and he is guided by his dedication to improving the lives of all of our children. As a former PTA President, substitute teacher, father of children in our school district, and husband of a teacher, he has deep ties to our schools. He sees the people who are not in the room, and he is the one I want at the table when decisions are made. Re-elect VandenHeuvel to Livermore School Board!

(Kristie Wang was a Livermore School Board Member, 2020-2024)

Why Reena Gupta for District 3

Peter Miller, Pleasanton

As a 60-year resident, I have seen countless candidates run for Mayor and City Council. A recent experience with Reena Gupta set her apart from the rest. She took the time to listen, ask questions, and did not want to make assumptions about issues around town and within our neighborhoods.

What Reena did next was, "Let's go! I want to see what you see." She asked to be driven around to see and assess the situations herself. Who does that? In my life, Ken Mercer was the last person I knew, who needed to know…now!

We proceeded to drive around to the vacant Walmart neighborhood property, the possible annexation of Castlewood, Donlon and Fairlands Elementary School, the West Las Positas Blvd. renovation, Arroyo Lago/Eastlakes developments, high density housing projects, and new locations for housing in Hacienda business park. She wanted to know more about projects that have no long-term maintenance plans attached and even walked over rocks and railroad tracks to get a better vantage point. Her commitment to learn provided her with mindful images to connect the dots that would provide the best opportunities to explore the best options for Pleasanton's future.

Reena wants to be your voice; she is ready to lead and to have "due process" mean something again!

Vote Reena Gupta District 3.

Vote for Deena Kaplanis

Cathryn Villasenor, Livermore

Do you want every student in Livermore schools valued, or only a narrow slice?

A vote for Deena Kaplanis means focusing on academics, safety, and respect for all kids; not elevating one group at the expense of the rest. It also means a board member who debates ideas without name-calling in print, texts, or social media. Livermore families deserve both results and civility.

Vote for Deena Kaplanis for LVJUSD School Board in Area 5.

I Am Supporting Measure RTM

Manav Patel, Livermore

As someone who has lived in Livermore for most of my life, I know how much the Tri-Valley depends on reliable transportation. That is why I'm supporting Measure RTM.

For many Livermore residents, public transit means taking Wheels to the Dublin/Pleasanton BART station and connecting to jobs, schools, appointments, and communities across the Bay Area. Even for people who rarely ride transit, the system still matters. If BART and local bus service are cut, more people will be forced onto roads like I-580 and I-680, making already difficult commutes even worse.

The people most affected by transit cuts would include young people, working families, seniors, people with disabilities, and residents who cannot simply choose to drive everywhere. Public transit also gives people the freedom to explore the Bay Area without needing a car for every trip.

I understand why people are cautious about any new tax. I am too. But Measure RTM includes accountability and oversight provisions because taxpayers deserve to know where their money is going. The sales tax also does not apply to essentials such as groceries.

The alternative worries me much more. Major transit cuts could create a cycle of worse service, declining ridership, more traffic, and even deeper cuts. That would hurt the entire Bay Area, including communities like Livermore that already feel disconnected from much of the region's transit system.

We should be working toward better, more reliable transit and not allow the system we already have to fall apart.

That is why, as a Livermore resident, I'm voting yes on Measure RTM.

LVJUSD Trustees: Boyce for Area 2, VandenHeuvel for Area 5, Brady for Area 3

Dave Vonheeder, Livermore

Our school district needs sound leadership, now more than ever. This is why I'm voting for Tara Boyce, Area 2 and endorse Christiaan VandenHeuvel for Area 5, and Angela Brady for Area 3.

While I'm currently an Intervention Specialist and Substitute Teacher in our school district, I used to volunteer heavily in our schools and for our school district. Some of the roles I've had:

Lawrence Elementary School Site Council Member

Lawrence Elementary PTO Treasurer

Christensen Middle School Site Council President

Livermore High School PTSA President (succeeding Trustee VandenHeuvel)

Yes on Measure A Committee Member (Our elementary science teacher parcel tax)

LVJUSD Reopening Task Force Committee Member

LVJUSD LCAP (Local Control and Accountability Plan) Committee Member

LVJUSD Parent Club Information Council Chair

Secretary, Livermore Valley Education Foundation.

I was even recognized for my work in 2022 with the "Friend of Education" award from the Livermore Management Association, our school district's management group.

And this is just a partial list of the volunteer roles I've had. Through this multitude of lenses, over many years, I've watched and worked with many school site leaders and district leadership, elected or employed. Some of these leaders have been amazing; passionate about achievement, invested in safety for ALL, and committed to an operationally sound organization. Others have been disappointing, at best, or disastrous, at worst. We need a board that will exemplify our shared educational goals, rebuild and repair (relationships AND places), and hold all, including themselves, to account. It's no small task.

I know the kind of leadership our school district needs. In this election, the best people to serve as our school board trustees are Boyce for Area 2, VandenHeuvel for Area 5, Brady for Area 3.

Vote for Deena Kaplanis for Livermore School Board

Betty Ellis, Livermore

Why? She believes in safety for all your children, including no boys in girls' bathrooms, none in locker rooms, and none in sports. She has a proven record of voting for wanting the school board to be open and transparent about finances.

With her two children in the Livermore school system, she fights hard to do the right thing for all students, staff, teachers, and parents. Again, please vote for Deena Kaplanis for Livermore School Board.

Larry Bird for LARPD Board

Bill Benett, Livermore

I am happy to write this in support of Larry Bird for the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District Board of Directors.

Larry has always served the community, whether it was during his long career in law enforcement, or coaching the high school girls' softball team for more than 20 years. Larry was also a founding member of the Tri-Valley Pickleball Club. The club was started in 2022, and due in part to Larry's hard work and promotion of the club, the club now has more than 700 members.

Larry has lived in Livermore for more than 30 years and has been a leader in the community. Because of his involvement in both youth and adult sports programs in addition to other volunteer programs, he will be a great addition to the LARPD board. As part of the Tri-Valley Pickleball Club, Larry has been working with the LARPD board, attending board meetings and has an excellent overall view of recreational needs of the community.

I highly recommend that you vote for Larry Bird for Livermore Area Recreation and Park District Board of Directors.

Julie Testa: A Mayor Who Connects with People

Kash Yajnik, Pleasanton

Sometimes you learn more about a person over a friendly game of ping pong than you do listening to political speeches!

I recently had the pleasure of playing ping pong with Julie Testa, and what struck me wasn't just her generous spirit, but her warmth, enthusiasm, and genuine interest in connecting with people.

Julie is approachable, down-to-earth, and fun to be around. She listens, laughs, and makes people feel comfortable. Those qualities matter, especially in someone who wants to lead our community.

But Julie brings much more than a friendly personality.

She has dedicated decades to serving Pleasanton, including eight years on the City Council. She understands our community, cares deeply about its residents, and has demonstrated the courage to stand up for what she believes is right.

I appreciate that Julie puts people first. She believes in responsible spending, protecting our neighborhoods, supporting public safety, and preserving what makes Pleasanton such a wonderful place to call home. Pleasanton deserves a mayor who is experienced, accessible, respectful, and genuinely enjoys being part of our community.

Julie Testa is that person.

And whether it's across the ping pong table or around the City Council table, I'm confident Julie will give Pleasanton her very best.

I enthusiastically support Julie Testa for Mayor!

(See MAILBOX, page 7)



California landscape artist David Gates will be the guest speaker for a joint meeting of the Livermore Art Association and the Pleasanton Art League at the Bothwell Arts Center, 2466 Eighth St., from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 9. A former Bay Area landscape architect, Gates will demonstrate his approach to impressionist paintings of orchards, vineyards and natural environments. The session is free and open to the public. For more information, go to livermoreartassociation.org. (Photo courtesy of LAA)

MAILBOX

(Continued from page 6)

Vote No on Prop 44 to Protect Our Patients

Carolyn Siegfried, Livermore

As Board Chair of Axis Community Health, I see first-hand how our clinic dollars are spent. We serve 15,700 Tri-Valley residents, providing access to quality, affordable and compassionate primary care, mental health care, and dental services delivered by a staff of 275.

Our services to the community are now under threat. Prop 44 claims to benefit patients by requiring 90% of expenditures go to patient services, allowing just 10% for administrative and overhead costs. This margin would challenge any business—be it a non-profit like Axis or a for-profit endeavor.

As written, Prop 44 could disallow costs for crucial patient wrap-around services and business necessities, such as patient health record systems, medical equipment, patient transportation, enrollment assistance, and much more.

These expenses may not take place inside an exam room, but they make every patient visit possible. Treating them as unrelated to patient care ignores how healthcare delivery actually works.

FQHCs (federally qualified health centers) such as Axis are already transparent as per federal requirements, and are subject to intensive auditing at the federal, state and city levels. These audits ensure that dollars go to patient services, and that administrative costs are effective. SEIU-UHW, the sponsor of Prop 44, ignores this current extensive oversight. In fact, many of the services Prop 44 targets are part of federal care-delivery requirements.

Should Prop 44 pass, many clinics (already under severe pressure from federal cuts in HR1) will be forced to reduce services, lay off staff, or even close. Many patients would turn to local emergency rooms for their care.

Axis has served the Tri-Valley for nearly 55 years, ensuring everyone in need of care has access to care. Please vote no on Prop 44 to make sure we can continue our mission.

Bad Signs

David Jonas, Livermore

During her 2024 School Board campaign, Deena Kaplanis placed numerous campaign banners downtown that exceeded the maximum size allowed under Livermore's sign ordinance.

Kaplanis ignored multiple requests from the city to remove those banners.

Kaplanis continues to flip her middle finger at the sign ordinance this election cycle, as she installed one of her illegal banners at the intersection of Holmes and Portola.

Rather than ask Kaplanis to remove that banner, the city removed it for her, presumably reasoning that since she defied the city during the last election, she would likely defy it again now.

For a candidate to be uninformed about basic campaign ordinances is concerning. For a candidate to willfully and repeatedly violate the same ordinance, as Kaplanis has done, should be disqualifying.

Please vote for Christiaan VandenHeuvel for School Board Area 5.

vandenheuvelforschoolboard.com

Who's It Going to Be?

A. S. Lopez, Livermore

For all you undecided voters it comes down to this: Will you make the right choice on November 3?

I recommend you choose Ben Barrientos for City Council District 2. Ben is the incumbent and for the last 4 years he has accomplished a lot to improve District 2.

Ben got construction started on the Community Park in Springtown, which opens on November 7. He got potholes filled, sidewalks repaired, dead trees removed, more handicap parking spaces added, and much more.

By now you know that Ben is a former teacher, principal, and coach of after-school sports. Currently, he is the head coach of the Oakland High School wrestling team and the president of the Livermore Lions Club.

In his role as City Council Member, Ben serves on the board of three organizations: AVA, Stop Waste, and the Altamont Community Monitor, all of which improve the quality of the environment in and around Livermore.

When re-elected, Ben will continue to support the urban growth boundary and the Arts, advocate for more affordable housing, address the needs of the unhoused, push for the widening of N. Vasco, work to provide a safer bike path on the Vasco overpass, keep the Springtown Library open more days, put flashing lights at N. Vasco crosswalks, and more.

Ben is friendly, accessible, and committed to listening to your concerns and solving problems. Ben is here to serve YOU.

Join me in re-electing Ben Barrientos for City Council.

Vote for Larry Bird for LARPD Board

Lori Day, Livermore

I have known Larry for 5 years now and have been impressed with his community involvement in coaching girls' softball at LHS and being a co-founder of the Tri-Valley Pickleball Club. I know of his skill in law enforcement as a person who could communicate well in difficult situations. I know of his friendship and of his positive attitude he exudes to strangers and friends alike. He is a good listener and actually cares about people. He would add so much to our LARPD Board, and I urge you to vote for Larry Bird, too!

Julie Testa – She'll Be the People's Mayor of Pleasanton

Shirley Lewandowski, Dublin

It's hard to find candidates today who are authentic in their efforts to care for their community as though it were their own family. One such candidate is Julie Testa.

Pleasanton is Julie's home, and its residents her family. Like a parent, she protects the quality of residents' lives by preserving their enjoyment of historical Pleasanton downtown from unfitting multi-level housing development, maintaining open spaces, and restoring public parks cost effectively, like Wayside Park.

As Julie has guarded her family's safety, residents' safety is a priority for Julie. It's why she championed the Alternate Response Union, an award-winning effort combining mental health resources with ununiformed police on 988 calls freeing police to focus on crime issues. It's why she continually supports the police, fire fighters and first responders for the great job they do protecting the community. It's why she works closely with Zone 7 Water District to ensure drinking water is clean and safe from PFAs encroachment.

Julie's family budgeting involves careful planning and spending. As mayor, she'll bring ongoing revenues and expenses into balance to protect city services and address the structural deficit with a creative long-term plan to restore fiscal stability. She'll do it with full transparency on where and how taxpayer dollars are being used and as a firm independent thinker not subjected by nefarious influencers.

Julie's best quality is her authentic ability to really listen to people, be compassionate, understand and respect the residents' concerns. All her decisions on City Council for eight years reflect first what's in it and best for the residents; do they improve quality of life and enhance the community environment? That's what family and community is all about for Julie. That's why Julie Testa will be the People's Mayor of Pleasanton. Vote for Julie!

Marsha, You Can Vote No on Prop 44

Valerie Jonas, Livermore

This is a letter to my good friend, Marsha McInnis, that I am sharing with our community.

In the Oct. 22 edition, Marsha, who is president of NAMI-Tri-Valley, shared that she is still considering how to vote on Prop 44. Also mentioned was her desire for more transparency on revenue expenditures at FQHC clinics (federally qualified health centers), and a concern regarding future funding sources for caring for our most vulnerable residents as federal support becomes less reliable.

Let's start with changes in federal funding support. Prop 44 has nothing to do with alternative funding sources for health care services. In fact, Prop 44 would exacerbate the challenges brought by reductions to Medi-Cal funding in HR1.

Regarding transparency on revenue expenditures; Axis, an FQHC, is part of a nationwide network of 1,400 FQHCs. With origins in the 1960s, FQHCs began as a movement to create equitable access to healthcare services. For decades, FQHCs were a bipartisan effort that legislators welcomed into their districts to the benefit of the whole community.

Over time, the federal government developed extensive regulatory requirements for operations and clinical outcomes that ensure public funds for FQHCs deliver quality, affordable, accessible care. To that end, FQHCs are required to provide supportive wrap-around services and are subject to extensive fiscal oversight.

How do I know? I worked for Axis for 13 years as Chief Development Officer. The dedication of our staff, exceptional patient survey ratings, and the many national honors our clinic received made me not just proud, but honored to be part of this healthcare movement rooted in equity.

Prop 44 does not create transparency. Prop 44 threatens to eviscerate FQHCs throughout California. This should be our concern. Marsha, I urge you to vote no on Prop 44.

Building a Safer, More Connected Pleasanton

Jim Van Dyke, Pleasanton

As someone who cares deeply about bicycling, safe streets, and making Pleasanton a more connected community, I'm proud to support Mayor Jack Balch for re-election.

Whether we're biking to school, commuting to work, enjoying our trails, or simply riding through our neighborhoods, safe and accessible routes matter to all of us.

What I appreciate about Jack is his willingness to listen, engage with residents, and recognize that thoughtful transportation planning is essential to our quality of life.

Jack understands that investing in safer streets, improving bicycle connections, and creating opportunities for people to walk and bike benefits everyone, including families, seniors, and future generations.

As mayor, Jack brings a practical, balanced approach to addressing our transportation challenges while recognizing the importance of protecting what makes Pleasanton special.

We need leadership that brings people together, considers different perspectives, and works toward solutions that make our community safer and more accessible for everyone.

I believe Jack Balch is that leader, and I encourage my fellow Pleasanton residents to join me in supporting his re-election.

(See MAILBOX, page 8)



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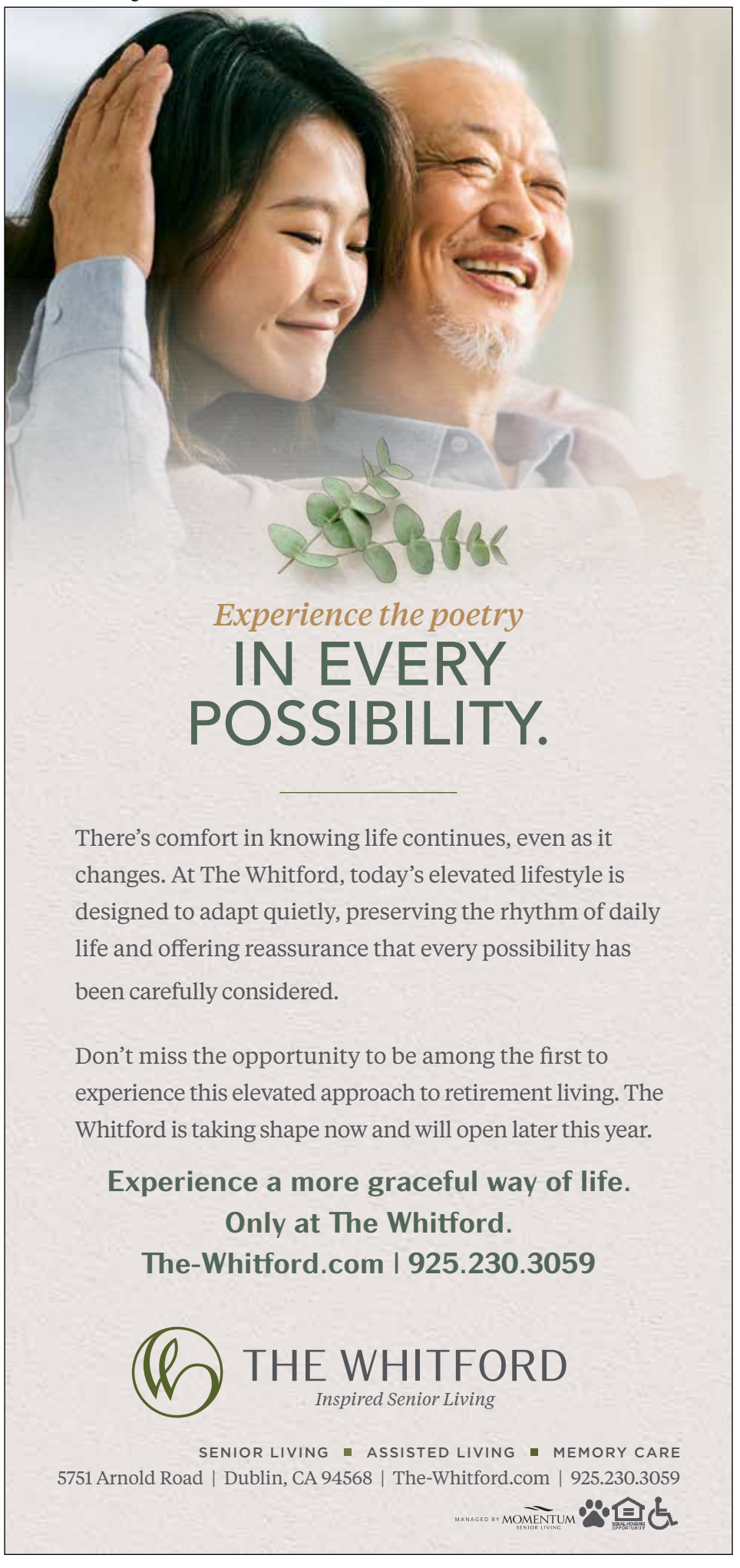
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Colorful ofrendas, marigolds and candles fill the multipurpose room at Junction Avenue K-8 School on Friday, Oct. 23, as the school community celebrated Día de los Muertos. The evening brought families together with food, music and performances to honor departed loved ones. (Photo —May Fraser)

MAILBOX

(Continued from page 7)

Justin Probert, Livermore

Kathy Narum is Who Pleasanton Needs

I first met Kathy Narum when she was on the Pleasanton Planning Commission and I was serving on the Housing Commission. At our first coffee meeting I found her to be very knowledgeable about a wide range of topics related to my hometown of Pleasanton and the broader Tri-Valley region. Equally important, she has been generous with her time over the years and inspiring in both her passion and commitment to community service.

Over the past twenty years Kathy has served on the Planning Commission, City Council, Zone 7 Regional Water Agency and many nonprofit boards including the Pleasanton Downtown Association.

Pleasanton District 1 residents have a unique and wonderful opportunity to elect a deeply committed public servant with a depth and breadth of knowledge covering a myriad of topics including water infrastructure, investment in the beautiful and historic downtown area, a focus on public safety and the redevelopment of Stoneridge Mall.

Kathy Narum's proven and experienced leadership is precisely what Pleasanton needs most.

I Recommend Larry Bird for LARPD

Lori Dorsey, Pleasanton

I'm pleased to recommend Larry Bird as a candidate for LARPD. I have known Larry for about six years. Four and a half years ago, four others and I founded the Tri-Valley Pickleball Club, a nonprofit. Larry was instrumental in getting the club off the ground, thanks to his friendly personality and willingness to make every player feel welcome, from beginners to experienced players. I have come to know him as a person of integrity, sound judgment, and genuine commitment to our community.

Larry listens carefully, treats people with respect, and follows through on his commitments. I've seen these qualities in the care he takes organizing tournaments and club events, and in his work as the board member who reaches out to people experiencing pickleball-related problems, both on and off the court. He approaches these conversations thoughtfully and works well with people who bring different perspectives.

I believe Larry would serve LARPD with care, fairness, and a strong sense of responsibility. I'm glad to offer my support and recommend him for the position.

(Lori Dorsey is Secretary of Tri-Valley Pickleball Club)

My Impressions of the Wahab-Hernandez Debate

Eric Nielsen, Dublin

My name is Eric Nielsen, and I have lived in District 14 for more than 30 years. I attended the recent Wahab-Hernandez debate and want to share what I witnessed.

What struck me most was the contrast between Ms. Wahab's supporters' calls for democracy and their behavior. Supporters interrupted the moderator, shouted during the proceedings, and called Melissa Hernandez a racist rather than allowing her to finish her remarks. Even more disturbing, I witnessed one supporter get in the face of a young female member of Hernandez's staff and aggressively challenge her for supporting Hernandez.

Disagreement is part of democracy, but intimidation and personal attacks have no place in it. What I witnessed left me concerned about the intolerance that can emerge when political ideology takes precedence over respectful debate.

I also believe the accusations of racism deserve closer scrutiny. Hernandez was attempting to address Senator Wahab's reported willingness to pursue diplomatic talks with the Taliban leadership in Afghanistan. She was interrupted before she could fully explain her position. Questioning the wisdom of engaging a regime that severely restricts women's rights is a legitimate political discussion, not automatically an act of prejudice.

I applaud Melissa Hernandez for offering voters a more moderate, practical approach to Democratic leadership. Our district needs representatives willing to listen, respect differing viewpoints, and work across party lines to get things done.

After more than 30 years in District 14, I believe we need less political hostility and more common sense, accountability, and constructive dialogue. Melissa Hernandez represents the kind of leadership I want to see: one that welcomes debate, focuses on substance, and puts effective governance ahead of ideological purity.

We Support Larry Bird

Michelle Kramar, Livermore

We are proud to support Larry Bird for the LARPD Board. As parents of a daughter who played softball at LHS, we saw firsthand the time and commitment he gave to the program over many years. He was a tough coach who held his players to high standards and expected them to work hard, stay committed, and be part of a team.

Our daughter learned a lot from her time playing for him, both on and off the field. We appreciate the years he dedicated to LHS softball and the impact he had on so many student-athletes.

His experience, dedication, and involvement in our community make him someone we are glad to support for the LARPD Board.

I Support Debbie Gibson

Bonnie Bergh, Livermore

Growing up in the Tri Valley area and a resident of Livermore for almost 35 years, I have seen a lot of growth and change in our communities. Many improvements have taken place; however, I am concerned with the direction our education system is taking. We must partner with parents to advocate for the health and well-being of our students. Every child is chosen, created for a divine purpose, and is not a mistake. I support Debbie Gibson as a LVJUSD Board of Education trustee because she will advocate for ALL within our school district, championing for academic focused curriculum, parental rights and fiscal stability.

Vote for Mike Ralph

Julie Perea, Livermore

In the upcoming Nov. 3 election, I cannot think of a better candidate for LARPD board than Mike Ralph. Mike lives, breathes, and rides bikes of all kinds; his career has been putting people on bicycles. He is knowledgeable about the current (and future) laws governing e-bikes on our streets, and believes that education and enforcement are the keys to keeping everyone safe. He has spent years working with LARPD to get the pump track built at Sunken Gardens, and I am thrilled to see people of all ages using it every time I pass by! He has also raised $2,500 this year to provide free bike helmets to the community.

His family (and mine) have taken many camping trips to Camp Shelly near Lake Tahoe over the years and have many fond memories there. Sadly the camp loses money and has permit renewals coming up. Mike wants to ensure that Camp Shelly is able to stay open for generations to come in at least a "break even" standing.

As a trustee with the LARPD foundation, he has been instrumental in raising funds to support senior programs and community scholarships for hundreds of swim lessons.

Mike Ralph believes that everyone should be able to go bike riding and enjoy the great outdoors safely. Like bikes? Vote for Mike!

Why Kathy Narum is the Clear Choice for Pleasanton City Council District 1

Anne Fox, Pleasanton

Earlier this year, Central Valley voters selected incumbent Adam Gray and former Stockton mayor Kevin Lincoln to advance to the 13th Congressional District general election, eliminating Republican Vin Kruttiventi from the race.

With a hefty $50,000 self-funded campaign war chest and a crew of Central Valley-based CD13 workers from that unsuccessful campaign, Kruttiventi has set his sights on a Pleasanton City Council seat instead.

Central Valley voters decisively rejected Kruttiventi, including his alignment with controversial figures like former Florida Representative Matt Gaetz — the subject of a multi-year House Ethics Committee probe into sexual misconduct and drug allegations—who joined Kruttiventi at a controversial rally in Merced. While accepting Gaetz's endorsement at the event, Kruttiventi firmly aligned himself with the national MAGA platform, declaring to the crowd: "We have to stand with President Trump, the greatest president in the history of the United States."

Pleasanton voters should follow the Central Valley's lead and reject Kruttiventi in favor of Kathy Narum. Zone 7 Director Narum is a dedicated advocate for our community, offering valuable experience from her previous tenures as a city councilmember and planning commissioner. She possesses the critical fiscal oversight experience needed to move Pleasanton forward. Most importantly, her focus remains squarely on us, not on distracting national political rhetoric.

Unlike her opponent, Kathy Narum doesn't need to seek endorsements from Florida politicians 3,000 miles away or rent an Airbnb for out-of-town campaign consultants from Merced. Instead, she has built a powerful coalition right here in the Tri-Valley that actually matters. Her broad local support includes leaders like Jerry McNerney, Steve Glazer, Cheryl Cook-Kallio, Jack Balch, Craig Eicher, Mary Jo Carreon, and John Marchand, as well as the definitive backing of Pleasanton's teachers, firefighters, and police officers.

For proven local leadership we can trust, vote Kathy Narum for District 1.

Jack Balch for Mayor

Todd Nelson, Pleasanton

I'm voting for Jack Balch for Mayor of Pleasanton. I believe that he values public input, prioritizes fiscal responsibility, and cares deeply about the community. Through his open calendar slots, I've shared many issues – large and small – that were important to me. He's accessible, well-prepared, and can back up his positions thoughtfully, even if we disagree.

As Pleasanton navigates economic challenges, his financial expertise is critical for our success. Beyond balancing the budget, he focuses on transparency and building trust.

But most of all, he genuinely shows that he cares about our home, Pleasanton. He knows the history, embraces the changes, and tries to build a better future for us all. I believe he's a good steward for navigating these times, and that's why I'm voting for Jack Balch.

Ralph & Bird for LARPD

Beth Wilson, Livermore

When I saw the letter published in The Independent from my good friend Trish Munro, I called her to express my great surprise at her choices for LARPD directors. She admitted that she had blown it. I was on the LARPD board myself for 13 years, so I'm somewhat familiar with the members and candidates. I believe Larry Bird and Mike Ralph are strong contenders. They have taken active roles in LARPD, attending board meetings, and even joining the LARPD Foundation. Mike worked tirelessly with the board and staff for about ten years pursuing the dream of a pump track. It was finally opened a few months ago and is incredibly popular. I was particularly enthusiastic about the pump track as it especially appealed to kids who were too old for our playgrounds but not yet interested in adult sports and activities. I would suggest that anyone who hasn't attended any board or committee meetings in the past year isn't very interested in the workings of LARPD. Vote for citizens who care about our parks and recreation facilities and programs.

Livermore School Board Recommendations

Kay Serpa, Livermore

I support Dena Kapalonis and Debbie Gibson for the Livermore School Board.

Support Ben for Livermore City Council

Carol Silva, Livermore

I support the re-election of Ben Barrientos to Livermore's City Council, District 2. He respectfully listens to constituents' ideas and concerns. He is kind, transparent, honest, and ethical.

Ben works to preserve open space. Garaventa Hill is an environmentally rare ecosystem, in northeast Livermore, which is home to some endangered and threatened wildlife and plant species. Garaventa Hill is surrounded by a rare alkali sink. However, a developer wanted to build 140 luxury homes on this 33-acre site. Although Ben worked hard attempting to prevent the development from being built, the project was substantially reduced to 40 homes built on Garaventa Hill.

Ben has worked to improve public safety, to mitigate traffic, and to initiate the City to re-visit the plans to convert the former Springtown golf course into a park. The ribbon cutting ceremony to open the park will be held at 10:00 am on Nov. 7, 2026.

If you live in District 2, please vote to re-elect Ben for Livermore City Council. Thank you for your support.

Choose Experience for Area 2

Tara Boyce, Livermore

Our Board needs five individuals with real skills to run an organization. Understanding complex facts and numbers, shifting from micro to macro issues, and keeping our students at the forefront of every decision makes a great Trustee. With my educational and professional background in Finance and Technology, I am that. I have an MBA, 26 years' experience working with large budgets, building technology to run CFO organizations, and optimizing those same organizations using the technology.

The differences between myself and Stephen Orgain are clear.

My children have been in Area 2 schools (Junction) since the day they started school five years ago. The Orgain family chose to start the education of their children at a private school in Livermore. When they came into the district for Middle school, rather than attend Junction, they chose a school outside of Area 2.

I have stood beside the teachers holding signs in front of Junction when they were fighting for compensation, I have fought beside Junction parents to get just the minimum of maintenance done on our campus, I have spoken numerous times at School Board meetings on behalf of our most vulnerable students as our former superintendent removed support after support (or tried to), and I have served as the Junction representative on the Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) committee for three years, which advises the district on supplemental services for our English Learners, Foster Youth, and socioeconomically disadvantaged students.

Stephen Orgain has done none of this. Without a stake in Area 2, and no evidence of advocacy or participation in the district, how can he step into the role of Trustee?

Compare mine and Stephen's answers from the forum via this link: www.taraboyce.com/in-the-news

Thank you – Tara No Hate in Livermore

Allie Felker, Livermore

A recent viral Facebook post from Deena Kaplanis's sister sought to promote the School Board candidate by exposing the votes on the decision to make October LGBTQ+ History Month. The poster claims Deena "stood her ground as a Christian" and questions her opponent's faith while using the "green face" emoji in reference to queer youth. The post is truly appalling, as are the poster's comments. If I were in Kaplanis's shoes, I would be embarrassed that this level of bigotry was representing my campaign. Deena's refusal to vote for the resolution and her comments regarding LGBTQ youth do not lead me to believe that she would decry the opinions represented by her sister. Livermore's youth deserve better. No child deserves to feel judged or discriminated against by authority. Christiaan VandenHeuvel has proven himself a true Christian who listens to the community. Guided by his faith, he continues to vote in favor of resolutions that accept every student. If you live in Areas 2, 3, or 5, remember your ABC's. Angela Brady, Tara Boyce, and Christiaan VandenHeuvel. For more info, visit la4pe.org.

$15,000,000,000

Geri Lonnberg, Livermore

$15 billion for a "gravy train" to nowhere with no completed tracks laid, and now the cost is projected at $126 BILLION to be finished by 2040! We pay extra if we dare run our electricity and gas for cooking and doing laundry etc. from 4:00 p.m. — 9:00 p.m.; we pay one of the highest rates at the gas pump; we pay $25,300 per child each year for education, and yet we rank 39th in ratings for education. There is so much more waste that goes on in our beautiful state! Where is our hard-earned money going? There is no accountability! We have someone that wants to stop the "gravy train", Steve Hilton; vote for him, what do you have to lose? $15 billion and counting!

Vote for Stephen Orgain

Alicia Thorpe, Livermore

Stephen is a committed father and actively supports his children's education. He strongly believes children need to excel academically.

He has extensive experience in leadership and managerial skills in the corporate sector. His skill sets will be an asset for the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District, Area 2.

Please cast your vote for Stephen Orgain. You will never regret it!

I Support Debbie Gibson

Dawn Clark, Livermore

For the past six years, I have had the privilege of knowing Debbie Gibson personally. During that time, I have come to know her as a woman of integrity, compassion, and strong character.

Debbie deeply values the importance of family and understands the vital role families play in the lives and education of our children. I have personally served alongside Debbie as a volunteer with children during Vacation Bible School. I have seen firsthand how much she cares about children, their safety, their well-being, and creating an environment where they feel valued and supported.

Debbie has willingly given her time to volunteer and support others in our community, not because she is seeking recognition, but because serving others genuinely matters to her.

One of the qualities I appreciate most about Debbie is that she is trustworthy. She listens, follows through, and genuinely cares about people. She is a strong advocate for children and wants to see every child given the opportunity to learn, grow, and succeed in a safe and supportive environment.

When choosing someone to serve on our school board, character matters. We need people who value families, care about the safety and well-being of our children, serve their community, and can be trusted with the responsibility they are given.

Based on the Debbie I have known for the past six years, these are not simply qualities she talks about. They are qualities she consistently lives out.

For these reasons, I am proud to support Debbie Gibson for our school board.

Tara Boyce Brings the Experience Our School Board Needs

T.J. Reynolds-Koonce, Livermore

As a longtime parent in the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District, I am impressed by Area 2 candidate Tara Boyce. This December, our board will lose three veteran members with decades of combined experience. Tara has the financial knowledge and background to help fill that gap.

Tara holds an MBA and has served on the district's LCAP and Budget Committees. She has also been a regular participant at school board meetings for several years, so she already understands how the district operates and the challenges it faces.

She is an active parent at Junction, and she has proven she will stand up for students and families. When restrooms at Junction were in bad shape, Tara persistently advocated on behalf of students and parents until the problem was addressed.

(See MAILBOX, page 9)

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Two Sunolians "trick" out their car in support of 4-H at the annual "Trunk or Treat" event at Sunol Glen School on Oct. 24. (Photo — May Fraser)

MAILBOX

(Continued from page 8)

At the candidate forum, Tara was the only candidate to discuss bond measures. She acknowledged the failure of Measure G in 2022 and made the case for a successful bond measure in the future. That honesty matters. California schools have no other financial path to upgrade their facilities, and our aging school buildings cannot wait forever for repairs and modernization.

Tara is a thoughtful, prepared, and dedicated candidate who will be an excellent addition to our school board. She will get the job done.

Area 2 voters, please vote for Tara Boyce for LVJUSD School Board. To learn more about her, visit www.taraboyce.com.

Vote for Deena Kaplanis

JD Clark, Livermore

What has always stood out to me about Deena Kaplanis is her genuine commitment to her family and the Livermore community.

Deena is more than a concerned and involved mom. She and her husband are local business owners who have invested in this community and truly care about the people who call Livermore home. Her commitment is not simply something she talks about but has demonstrated it through her service.

As a current school board member, Deena has selflessly given her time and energy to serve our schools, families, and children. Leadership is not always easy, especially when faced with opposition. Yet Deena has shown that she is willing to stand firm in what she believes is right, even when doing so is difficult.

I respect her commitment to preserving strong family values and maintaining a solid moral compass in the decisions that affect our schools. She understands that serving on a school board carries a tremendous responsibility and sacrifice of time because the decisions made today will impact our children for years to come.

Deena cares deeply about the betterment of our schools and the well-being of every child they serve. She recognizes that our children are not only students in our classrooms today, but the future of Livermore tomorrow.

I am grateful for Deena's willingness to faithfully continue serving our community. Her proven commitment, courage, and consistency are why I am proud to support Deena Kaplanis for school board.

Julie Testa for Mayor of Pleasanton

Jenny Pico-Moy, Pleasanton

My dad, former Pleasanton Mayor Tom Pico, strongly supported Julie Testa for Mayor. In his words: "Julie is the choice of residents who believe Pleasanton City Council needs a voice for them."

Dad was proud of Julie's courage to stand up for Pleasanton. He believed she would work to continue his legacy of protecting our city from overdevelopment, maintaining Pleasanton's small-town quality, and ensuring residents have a strong voice in its future.

His confidence in Julie means a lot to me, and I proudly share his support. Please join me in voting for Julie Testa for Pleasanton Mayor.

VandenHeuvel Has Earned a Full Term in Area 5

Joanne Morrison, Livermore

On Nov. 3, Area 5 voters will choose their first trustee under LVJUSD's new by-area system. I urge them to choose Christiaan VandenHeuvel.

As a frequent attendee of board meetings, I have watched VandenHeuvel do the hard, unglamorous work trustees are elected to do. After the superintendent's abrupt departure this year, he helped steady the district, took part in hiring Superintendent Tony Limoges, and served on two budget oversight committees that shaped the district's toughest financial decisions.

He also knows our schools from the inside. He spent three years as Livermore High PTSA president, served on school site councils at LHS and East Avenue Middle School, and has worked as a substitute teacher. His wife teaches in the district, and all three of his children have attended LVJUSD schools. When the board debates a policy, he can picture the classroom it will land in.

His priorities are the right ones: closing achievement gaps for English learners and struggling students, protecting classroom spending through honest budgeting, and communicating clearly with families. Having come from the Netherlands at 20 and learned English as an adult, he understands firsthand what language learners face.

Above all, VandenHeuvel is pragmatic. He rejects polarization, relies on data, and keeps asking how each decision will affect students. After a turbulent stretch, that steadiness is what Livermore needs.

Please vote for Christiaan VandenHeuvel for LVJUSD Area 5.

Deena Kaplanis for Livermore School Board

Alan Heckman, Livermore

Trustee Deena Kaplanis has demonstrated genuine leadership on the Livermore School Board by asking the hard questions and fearlessly voting no on decisions that harm students.

Her opponent, Christiaan VandenHeuvel, has done the opposite. VandenHeuvel is the subject of a pending Fair Political Practices Commission complaint that I filed alleging conflict-of-interest violations involving self-dealing and the creation of a small group to debate and decide cuts outside of public view. FPPC Enforcement Division Chief Kendall L.D. Bonebrake forwarded the complaint to Lozano Smith attorney Michelle Cannon, who represents VandenHeuvel. VandenHeuvel argues on social media that it is perfectly fine for him to lay off junior teachers, lay off aides for special education students, and cut programs for children to put that money in his pocket — all because his wife is in a collective bargaining union. He treats his board seat as a way to take money meant for children and put it in his own pocket.

The schools always plead financial distress (self-created) and always demand more and more from taxpayers. Imagine the hypocrisy if (and when) VandenHeuvel turns around and demands a new school parcel tax or another billion-dollar bond like the ones Livermore voters have already rejected. Christiaan will say it is "for the children" when he has shown that his own wallet matters more than Livermore's children. And this is exactly what VandenHeuvel will do if he can get away with it.

Deena Kaplanis has earned our trust through her actions. Christiaan VandenHeuvel has not. Deena fights to protect children. Christiaan VandenHeuvel does not. Please vote for Deena Kaplanis.

Larry Bird for LARPD

Linda Evans, Livermore

If you haven't voted yet, I highly recommend Larry Bird for the position of Board Member. I have had the privilege of working with Larry Bird at Hayward PD. He takes the time to learn everything about an issue and will listen to everyone about their concerns. When a decision is made, he will work to implement the program. His community service coaching the Livermore High girls' softball team was another example of his dedication to community and to future generations. Vote Larry Bird for LARPD Board.

"Each" Means Every One of Them

Vaughn Draggoo, Livermore

Livermore School District's mission statement begins with a deliberate word: "Each student will graduate with the skills needed to contribute and thrive in a changing world." It doesn't say most students, or students on average. It says each one. Christiaan VandenHeuvel, candidate for the Area 5 school board seat, takes that word seriously.

"Each" includes the student who is furthest behind. Christiaan learned English himself after arriving from the Netherlands at 20, and closing gaps for English learners is one of his priorities.

"Each" includes the child from a mixed-status family. Christiaan lived in immigration limbo before he was naturalized. He holds the district to its own policy that each child can walk onto a Livermore campus and feel safe. A child who is afraid for their family can't focus on reading or math.

"Each" includes the LGBTQIA+ student. That student deserves the same protection from bullying, the same access to support, and the same respect as any classmate.

For "each" curious reader, Christiaan trusts trained library staff to match books to readers, and the district has a clear process for parents who have concerns.

"Each" requires that money reaches classrooms. Christiaan helped the district get from a roughly $14 million shortfall to a small surplus while keeping solid reserves. He wants every possible dollar spent close to students. He also supports strong partnerships with the teachers, counselors, nurses and staff who serve kids every day, and honest explanations to families, especially when the news is hard.

Christiaan's faith guides how he treats people: with respect for every family, whatever they believe. That is what "each" of us should ask of a trustee.

Area 5, please vote Christiaan VandenHeuvel.

Thank You for Your Endorsement

Kelly Cousins, Pleasanton

Dear Independent Newspaper Editor,

Thank you for your endorsement of Pleasanton candidates Julie Testa for Mayor, Reena Gupta for City Council District 3, and Vin Kruttiventi for District 1.

Your endorsements underscore the importance of responsible growth management, addressing the City's budget challenges, and electing leaders who bring new ideas, independent thinking, energy, and a willingness to work respectfully with residents.

We also appreciate your discussion of leadership and independence. Your mayoral endorsement raised questions about Mayor Jack Balch's connection to Balch Enterprises, his family's full-service development, construction, and property-management business. By contrast, Julie Testa has stated that she refuses donations and endorsements from special or financial interests who may be seeking something in return.

Voters can review campaign finance filings through the City of Pleasanton's candidate campaign filing portal. Separately, publicly reported independent expenditures by the National Association of Realtors Fund totaled $33,682 in support of Jack Balch for mayor through mailers and digital advertising, and $19,012 in support of Kathy Narum in the City Council race. Jaime Yee reported a $1,000.00 contribution from the California Real Estate PAC.

These filings offer useful information as voters evaluate campaign funding, growth management, and the City's financial future.

Your endorsement of Vin Kruttiventi recognized his business operations and fiscal-management experience, while your endorsement of Reena Gupta cited her community involvement and business expertise for the best options for Pleasanton who would bring valuable perspectives to the Council.

Pleasanton deserves thoughtful, independent leadership focused on the community's long-term interests, sound fiscal judgment, and meaningful engagement with residents. For more information go to JulieTesta.com, Vote4Vin.com, Reena4Pleasanton.com.

(Kelly Cousins is president of Pleasanton Voters — a nonpartisan, grassroots voters education group. PleasantonVoters.com)

New Blood?

David Furst, Livermore

In last week's letters to the editor, Patricia Munro said Tim Barry and Laureen Turner will bring "new blood" to the LARPD Board. Ms. Munro does not seem to remember that Mr. Barry was the LARPD GM for 15 years. After he retired, he disappeared from the District, did not attend any meetings, did not join the LARPD Foundation or have any involvement with the District. What 'new blood' does she think he will bring? Laureen Turner was already on the LARPD Board, except after two short years she jumped to the City Council, and when she lost her bid for reelection, she too, disappeared until now. What new blood will she bring? If voters want the addition of new blood, then candidates like Larry Bird should be at the top of their list.

My Vote is Debbie Gibson

David Luna, Livermore

I stand behind the principles of educating our children and not social issues. My vote is for Debbie Gibson, District #3. I reach out for your vote for her.

I Am Proud to Support Deena Kaplanis

Cory Hudson, Livermore

I am proud to offer my wholehearted support for Deena Kaplanis for School Board Trustee Area 5.

As a chiropractor, small business owner, dedicated community volunteer, and mother of children attending our local schools, Deena brings a valuable perspective to the school board. She understands firsthand the challenges facing families, educators, and students because she is actively invested in our community.

What I admire most about Deena is her unwavering commitment to the health, safety, and protection of children. She believes our schools should be places where every child can learn, grow, and thrive in a safe and supportive environment. She recognizes the importance of listening to both parents and teachers, approaching concerns with an open mind, and making thoughtful decisions that put students first.

Deena is a woman of faith, family, and strong convictions. She doesn't simply talk about serving her community; she consistently shows up and does the work. In her current service on the school board, she has demonstrated diligence, integrity, and a genuine commitment to those she represents.

I have personally had the privilege of serving alongside Deena in multiple volunteer capacities. I have witnessed her passion, consistency, and willingness to step up when there is a need. Her commitment to serving others is not just a campaign promise; it is who she is.

Our children deserve leaders who will put their well-being above all else. Deena Kaplanis is that kind of leader. I wholeheartedly encourage voters in Trustee Area 5 to support her.

Endorsement of Larry Bird for LARPD Board

Mony Nop, Livermore

I am proud to endorse Larry Bird for the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District (LARPD) Board of Directors.

I have known Larry for over 30 years, dating back to when we were both police officers working in the DARE Program. As a young officer, I remember how kind, supportive, and helpful Larry was to me. Even then, he demonstrated the character, integrity, and willingness to help others that I continue to admire today.

Over the years, I have witnessed Larry's genuine love for Livermore and his unwavering commitment to our community. He stays actively involved, understands the issues affecting our city, and genuinely cares about the people who call Livermore home.

Larry has a unique ability to assess complex situations, listen to different perspectives, and identify practical solutions that serve the best interests of our community. His integrity, sound judgment, and collaborative leadership style are qualities that make him an outstanding candidate.

What excites me most about Larry serving on the LARPD Board is the fresh perspective, thoughtful ideas, and spirit of collaboration he will bring. He is someone who believes in working together, building relationships, and finding common ground to achieve meaningful results.

Having known Larry personally and professionally for more than three decades, I can confidently say he is the kind of leader who puts service above self.

Larry Bird has my full support, and I encourage our community to vote for him for the LARPD Board.

(See MAILBOX, page 10)

Paid Political Ad

Contrary to what Aisha Wahab believes– and we cannot fathom that this is something we must even clarify– women and children are not protected when diplomatic relations and commercial partnerships with the Taliban are being advocated by Wahab. Rather, they are more endangered.

Wahab's position is akin to arguing that the way to liberate prisoners is to enrich their jailers, empower their captors, and trust that those responsible for their imprisonment will one day grant them freedom.

That is not a strategy for liberation. It is a dangerous gamble with the freedom and future of millions of Afghan women and girls.

We categorically condemn Aisha Wahab and her deeply troubling remarks regarding Afghanistan and the Taliban. We ask Americans who live in CA-14 to vote against Aisha Wahab, who advocates for the normalization of a terrorist group, and instead vote for Melissa Hernandez. The Taliban have turned Afghanistan into a hub for international terrorism and are allowing the facilitation of another 9/11 type attack in the US. American and United Nations assessments have identified more than two dozen terrorist organizations operating there. Those include Al Qaeda, ISIS-K, and the Pakistani Taliban. A United Nations Security Council monitoring report described the Taliban's relationship with Al Qaeda as close and symbiotic, and recent assessments have kept documenting terrorist networks and their ties to Taliban authorities. This is the entity and group Aisha Wahab is advocating for.

For a woman who has herself attained elected office in the United States, it is profoundly hypocritical to advocate engagement and procurement of contracts with the Taliban for natural resources. The Taliban– an international terrorist organization that has stripped Afghan women and girls of fundamental rights, such as education, and excluded them from the ability to hold public office.

Equally disgraceful is her dismissal of Afghanistan's democratic opposition as "warlords pursuing power." The opposition includes men and women who lost everything in the collapse of Afghanistan, including people who fought alongside Americans for two decades, were trained by the United States, and refused to abandon the struggle against Taliban rule. The vast majority of the Afghan-American diaspora in the US supports the democratic opposition in Afghanistan, and Aisha Wahab's views aren't representative of their will and stance.

The October congressional debate illuminated Aisha Wahab's gross ignorance. Hernandez criticized the idea of engaging the Taliban in her closing statement and was interrupted before she could finish. Wahab responded by calling the exchange a racist dog whistle, while she herself dog-whistled other ethnic & religious groups in Afghanistan. In contrast, Hernandez demonstrated her deep and nuanced understanding of Afghanistan by her remarks. These remarks would not be used against her if she were an Afghan. Afghans throughout the United States, Europe, and in Afghanistan were contrary to Wahab's propagandists, relieved to hear that they have a champion for the women & girls of the country, while their "own" Aisha Wahab seeks to prolong their oppression & suffering by giving diplomatic & financial life to the very regime that oppresses them.

We in the Afghan American diaspora are grateful for Melissa Hernandez's principled stance in the face of the great terror that is the Taliban and their lobbyist Aisha Wahab – an allegiance that has been made blatantly clear to our community.

Ad Paid for by:
Yusuf Nazar
Afghan Americans for Melissa Hernandez
AfghanAmericansOrganized@gmail.com

Reader Snapshots

Share Your Best Shot

We are looking for local photos to feature in The Independent's Reader Snapshots section.

Whether it's a beautiful moment, a slice of Tri-Valley life or something that made you smile, we want to see it.

Email your image, full name, city of residence and a brief caption to editor@independentnews.com for a chance to be featured in an upcoming issue.



A high-tech surveying Daxbot meets human sidewalk infrastructure in this photo captured by a Pleasanton resident titled, "Sad Sidewalk Robot." (Photo courtesy of Chris Seams)

MAILBOX

(Continued from page 9)

Vote for Stephen Orgain, District School Board Area 2

Carlo Antoine, Livermore

I stand behind academia for our children and not social issues. I believe Stephen Orgain is qualified to show and perform the needed duties and abilities for our children. He truthfully stands for the values and integrity this country was built on without compromising. We need people who will be righteous in the city of Livermore standing in agreement for peace for families. With faith, I hope we all can see our children grow into loving men and women. I remain in agreement with those who also want to see children be wonderful little boys and girls. As a Trustee School Board Candidate, Stephen Orgain deserves the opportunity to hold this position in Area 2 in the city of Livermore. Thank You, Tri-Valley, California.

May God bless you all.

Vote for Angela Brady

Kathryn Tarver, Livermore

I met Angela Brady three months ago, but it feels like I've known her for years. Angela is one of the warmest, kindest people I've ever met. She reminds me of my own mom, and that is the highest compliment I can give.

I got involved in the school board race because my wife and I plan to have our own kids in the next few years, and I want to make sure they receive the best education possible. I volunteered to be Angela Brady's campaign manager because I believe that she will lead with wisdom, patience, and humility. Angela is a data analyst, which means that she will make smart, data-driven decisions to ensure district resources do the most good for our students. During the school board meetings we've attended together, she's been especially focused on the presentations of the district budget and metrics measuring student success.

While going door-to-door with Angela, I've been struck by how connected she is with the Springtown community. Everywhere we go, she'll point out houses of people she knows, saying things like "we should leave a flyer here rather than knocking. The homeowner recently had major surgery and can't walk around easily." She chats with voters about field trips she's chaperoned with their kids. Angela cares about our community, and our community respects her in return. Angela has been endorsed by members of the current school board, members of Livermore city council, the teachers' union, the classified employees' union — the list goes on.

Please join me in voting for Angela Brady for Area 3 Trustee of the LVJUSD school board on November 3!

Join Me in Voting for Larry Bird

Paula Orrell, Livermore

Please join me in voting for Larry Bird for LARPD Director. Larry has already committed many years of his time and talents towards various Livermore activities. As both a longtime Livermore High School Softball coach, to being a founding board member of the Tri-Valley Pickleball Club, he has given an abundance of time, energy and resources to improve the sports and activity opportunities in Livermore. He already works effectively with current LARPD staff as well as having outstanding skills in interacting with the public. Larry is an experienced problem solver and is committed to making our area parks and recreational facilities the best they can be. I know he would work tirelessly on our behalf to protect, and improve, one of our greatest assets; our parks and recreation department. I highly recommend him as one of our next LARPD directors.

Vote Your Power

Kyoko Takayama, Livermore

As President Obama told the audiences this weekend, voting is our superpower. Like all other rights, we use it or lose it. I often hear that voting is easy, or that everybody should be studying it on their own. I say that's true—only if you are financially stable and have time. It is a luxury many people don't have. It is also affected by where you live. In the Tri-Valley, drop boxes are available 24/7 and their locations stay the same. This is not always the case. Even in California, voting location change is quite common, and depending on which county you live, finding voting information is not so easy. Please help your friends and family members to vote without judgement. Let's trust voters. I found that if they have the information, they do alright. This is why I created a ballot measure comparison table at trivalley.rocks/2026PropsOE. You can find the recommendations of various organizations from progressive to conservative. You be the judge. For local candidates, Patch.com publishes candidates' statements, and Pleasanton Weekly hosted candidate forums. I appreciate their effort to offer information. Because each organization has different goals, every endorsement is biased. All this information is compiled in a Tri-Valley Votes doc at trivalley.rocks/TV26. I hope this will make it easier to vote. Please drop the ballot, sealed, signed and dated, at the drop box or vote center to ensure your vote gets counted. You can track your vote at WheresMyBallot.sos.ca.gov. Just a few more days until election day on November 3rd. Please vote and help others vote in any way you can.

Stand up for Democracy

Alan Marling, Livermore

I can't help but worry that our democracy is in danger. Votes are being deliberately suppressed, as they were in the racist era of Jim Crow. Proposition 39 is one such measure designed to make it harder to vote. Those with privileges such as more time, affluence, and experience will still be able to access the ballot, but this law will discriminate against those with less: the youth, the disabled, and people of color. I urge Californians to vote against Prop 39.

Politicians and judges in high offices seem to care more for power than truth, more for power than rule of law, and more for power than their Constitutional oaths. All citizens have the right to vote, without having to stand in line for hours on a workday, without being terrorized by federal agents. I fear the USA will continue to slide toward authoritarianism unless citizens stand up for our democracy.

Hopes and Fears

Frank Cannella, Livermore

Many Americans hope the midterm elections will result in a massive rejection of our current president and his national and international policies. With luck, this message of rejection will result in some sort of spinal rejuvenation in the remaining terms of those defeated so they might do work of real consequence before they must leave office in January '27.

But there are fears as well. This president thinks any election he or his minions lose is fixed, in spite of a complete lack of evidence. Is he delusional enough to call a national emergency when there is none? Will ICE agents hover around polling places to intimidate minority voters? Will the FBI be watching Americans vote? Will he instruct his handpicked congressional leaders to prevent the new Congress from being sworn in?

And what about what he has already indicated for after the midterms regardless of the results? He is moving another carrier fleet to the Iranian theater, he may have already made it too late for Ukraine to get a just peace because of his recent double-cross of them. He plans on meeting with the Russian and Chinese leaders; both of whom he idolizes because they don't need to worry about mid-terms or free elections, who, by the way, look at him with contempt.

We have lots to hope for and much to fear in the upcoming midterms.

Betraying our Allies

Ronald Minnich, Livermore

Trump's henchman, Steve Witkoff, was recently seen bowing to Vladimir Putin, the blood-stained President of Russia. Witkoff called Putin a "humanitarian"— Putin, who attacked Ukraine; who has stolen and murdered her children; who is running attacks against our allies in Europe. Trump blames Ukraine for being attacked by Russia.

And so it comes to this, our final betrayal of Ukraine, in violation of assurances we made to them in 1994, which led to them giving up their nuclear weapons — at the time, they were the third largest nuclear power. We've threatened to attack Denmark, our ally of 250 years, and steal Greenland; we are propping up a Communist government in Venezuela so we can steal their oil and gold; we are turning a cold shoulder to our ally, South Korea, while making friends with the murderous dictator of North Korea, with whom Trump said he fell in love.

Our convicted President claims we are living in a Golden Age. He sure is. Give him a worn-out jet; a fake gold trinket of a Peace Prize; or a $50 million bribe: you get weapons, a dropped prosecution, or a pardon. Our President is for sale, and the world knows it.

As for the rest of us, what Golden Age are we living in? In response to Trump's tariffs, U.S. investment in manufacturing dropped $175 billion. Meanwhile, China's trade surplus is exploding.

What is our Golden Age? It is the brilliant gold of a California sunset. The sun is setting on us, as it rises on China. Trump is making sure of it.

The U.S. has been in tough spots before. Americans have risen to the challenge to save it. Let's start by voting for those with integrity and conviction to guide us to a brighter future.

Editors' Selections

Russell Greenlaw, Livermore

With an election coming shortly, newspapers have been offering their recommendations for whom and what we should vote. I put no credence in the selections of the local daily and weekly.

Over and over they advanced recommendations for Mr. Swalwell for Congress, even after it was revealed he was literally in bed with a spy from Red China. That mendacious Congressman repeatedly said he had seen in front of him the evidence proving a certain person colluded with Russia — until Federal investigators said no such evidence ever existed.

Few local candidates are as low in character, but it shows the papers are not good judges of character. The papers often recommend one candidate over others on the basis of experience, but reelecting office holders who underperform gets us nowhere. Barak Obama said something like, "Insanity is doing the same thing over again and expecting a better result." That is a good guide for every election. In other words, "New broom sweeps clean." I plan to vote for non-incumbents and newcomers to public office, incumbents mostly having proven themselves unworthy.

On most election ballots there are tax and bond measures on which the editors make recommendations. I look at them with the same eye as did Mr. Obama. More tax money for officials who have not spent wisely is foolish. Bart made some promises 60+ years ago, including "no charge for parking" and "everyone would have a seat" (no standees); so much for promises. I'll not vote more cash for officials who don't get results and ignore promises to the public.

Some ballot measures are designed to shake up the status quo. I give these a good look regardless of the editors' selections. More of the same isn't going to make things better for anyone but the bureaucrats

Who Would Jesus Vote For

Samuel Warner, Pleasanton

To quote: Democrats don't hate Christians. Most are Christians themselves. What they hate are people who quote bible verses on Sunday, deport humans on Monday, take healthcare from the sick on Tuesday, tax the poor on Wednesday, shoot protesters on Thursday, take food from children on Friday, pollute our air, food and water on Saturday, and then act sanctimonious at church on Sunday.

Vote the Republican Congress OUT now. They are the ones who keep approving all of this.

CONCANNON

(Continued from front page)

the birth of his first child, John. Jim is called the "Father of Petite Sirah" because Concannon was the first California winery to bottle single-varietal Petite Sirah. Petite Sirah wasn't new. It had been developed in 1880 and California counted 4,400 acres of it by 1961. However, it was mostly used as an anonymous blending grape in other California wines.

Jim decided the grape should stand on its own. He put it another way in the early 1960s when championing the wine: "It's a contender, not a blender!" The wine became the flagship, and the phrase "America's First Petite Sirah" is trademarked and printed on every bottle.

His other legacy is seen in nearly every California Cabernet glass. In 1965, Jim partnered with UC Davis to develop virus-resistant vines. These vines are called the "Concannon Cabernet Clones 7, 8, and 11" and account for 80% of all Cabernet Sauvignon produced in California today.

Jim stepped back from the cellar early. His last crush as winemaker was in 1977, three years before the family sold the winery to a group headed by noted vintner Agustin Huneeus. He never really left, though. He stayed on for decades as an ambassador for the Concannon name, pouring wines and telling the family story at events, including the winery's annual Irish Winemakers Dinner.

Today, the Petite Sirah Jim bottled in 1961 is a staple of California wine, and the vines his grandfather brought from Bordeaux still grow in vineyards across the state.

OBITUARIES

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Carol Georgine

Nov. 18, 1938 — July 27, 2026



Carol Georgine "Kolb" Strom died peacefully on July 27, 2026, at the age of 87.

Carol was born Nov. 18,1938, in Livermore, California. She was a third-generation member of the Kolb pioneer family in Dublin, California. She grew up on the Kolb Ranch on Dublin Canyon Road. Her childhood home was moved to Dublin Heritage Park and Museums in 2009. Preserving and passing on her family history to future generations was one of Carol's greatest sources of pride and joy.

Carol graduated from Amador Valley High School in 1956. She lived and worked on the ranch until she met and married Eugene "Gene" Strom in 1957. In 1966, they built their home in Pleasanton, where Carol lived until 2025. It was there that they raised their three sons.

In 1967, Gene and Carol started Gene's Village Bootery in Dublin, which became known as World of Shoes in 1977. The family business continued until 2017.

Carol enjoyed travel. Taking cruises, including trips to Alaska and thru the Panama Canal were highlights. She loved genealogy, reading and working in her garden. She was also an active member of John Knox Presbyterian Church of Dublin. She also enjoyed participating in support groups such as Bosom Buddies and Swell group.

She is survived by her sons, Scott Strom and his wife, Christina Strom, of Pleasanton, Casey Strom and his wife, Carol "CG" Strom, of Angels Camp; grandchildren Jessilyn, William, Danika, Keith "KJ", and Sean, along with several great-grandchildren; nephews Craig Miller and his wife, Judy, Max Miller and his wife, Ramona; and niece Janice Thrasher and her husband, Rick.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Harold and Elsie Kolb; her sister, Donna Miller; her brother, William "Bill" Kolb; and her son, Keith Strom. In 2025, Carol moved to a memory care facility in Pleasanton, where she spent her final months.

A Celebration of Life will be held Oct. 30, 2026, at 1:00 p.m. John Knox Presbyterian Church, 7421 Amarillo Road, Dublin. Reception to follow. In Lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Carol's name to Bristol Hospice East Bay, 5820 Stoneridge Mall Rd., Suite 209, Pleasanton, CA 94588. Bristolhospicefoundationca.org

TRI-VALLEY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

EVENTS

Thursday, Oct. 29

STATE OF THE STATE WINE COUNTRY LUNCHEON

Livermore Valley Chamber of Commerce will hold State of the State, Wine Country Luncheon on Oct. 29, 11:30 a.m. — 1:30 p.m., at Robert Livermore Community Center, 4444 East Ave., Livermore, featuring State Senator Jerry McNerney, Assemblywoman Rebecca Bauer-Kahan, and District 14 representative, Congresswoman Aisha Wahab. All luncheons are $90 for members of the Livermore Valley Chamber of Commerce, $100 for not-yet-members. Seating is limited and must be pre-paid. For information on sponsorships, contact mespinoza@livermorechamber.org. Reservations and info at www.livermorechamber.org, stop by the offices at 2157 First St., or call 925-447-1606.

Thursday, Nov. 5

COPING WITH THE HOLIDAYS

If you dread the approaching holidays, and are facing heartache and loss, please join in an evening to discuss ways to cope with the holidays. It will be held at St. Elizabeth Seton, 4001 Stoneridge Dr., Pleasanton, on Nov. 5 starting at 7 p.m. All are welcome, regardless of religious affiliation. Please call Barbara at 925-846-3904 with any questions.

Thursday-Saturday, Nov. 5-7

BOUTIQUE SALE

The boutique team at Cedar Grove Community Church in Livermore has prepared another shopping experience for you. Items are created or donated by members (baby gifts, quilts, bowl cozies, table runners, aprons, doll clothes, towels, Christmas décor, vintage treasures, books, games, jewelry, gift baskets). Nov. 5, 6, and 7, from 9 a.m to 4 p.m. at Cedar Grove Community Church, 2021 College Ave. Livermore. Contact Nancy Lear, 925-455-9414 or nancylear2@gmail.com for more info.

Saturday, Nov. 7

HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE

Unique gifts for sale, such as beautiful artwork by a local artist, heirloom-quality quilts, home-canned jams, home-made chocolates, stained glass art, handwork baskets, and much more. From 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Our Savior Lutheran Ministries, 1385 S. Livermore Ave.

Thursday, Nov. 12

LIVERMORE AMADOR VALLEY GARDEN CLUB MEETING

Laura Cornett from the Horticulture Department at Las Positas Junior College and an AC Master Gardener with a passion for native plants will be the guest speaker for the night.

On Nov. 12 from 6 to 8 p.m. at Crosswinds Church, 1660 Freisman Rd., Livermore (at the red Farm Theater building).

ONGOING EVENTS

DROP-IN GENEALOGY ASSISTANCE

Assistance by members of the Livermore-Amador Genealogy Society. On the first Wednesday of each month, 10:30 — 12:30, at Livermore Public Library, Civic Center Branch, Room 135.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

To find a local meeting in person or online, visit valleyservicecenteraa.org or call the 24-hour hotline at 925-829-0666.

WINGS-WOMEN IN GOD'S SPIRIT

WINGS a faith enrichment group of intergenerational Catholic women who meet October thru May on Thursday mornings at 9:30 am at St. Charles Borromeo, 1315 Lomitas Ave., Livermore. See www.stcharleslivermore.org/wings for info.

SATURDAY PLEASANTON FARMERS MARKET

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

SUNDAY LIVERMORE DOWNTOWN FARMERS MARKET

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

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

OBITUARIES

James John Concannon
July 25, 1931 — Oct. 12, 2026

James John Concannon, a lifelong resident of Livermore and a third-generation vintner, passed away peacefully on Oct, 12, 2026, at the age of 95, surrounded by his loving family.

Born to Joseph and Nina Concannon, Jim grew up in Livermore, where winemaking was deeply rooted in his family's heritage. He attended St. Michael School and graduated from Livermore High School in 1949, where he played varsity basketball and proudly earned his letterman sweater. He later graduated from Saint Mary's College in 1953 before serving in the U.S. Army. Afterward, Jim studied winemaking and chemistry at UC Davis before returning to Concannon Vineyard.

In 1961, Jim became the first winemaker to commercially bottle Petite Sirah as a varietal wine, earning him the title "Father of Petite Sirah." He also contributed to UC Davis's Cabernet Sauvignon clonal selection program, helping propagate vines that led to Cabernet Sauvignon clones now widely planted throughout California. Jim later transitioned into marketing and traveled across the country to share the Concannon name and his family's winemaking heritage.



Beyond the vineyard, Jim devoted himself to the Livermore community. A longtime member of St. Michael Church, he served on the parish board. He was an active Rotarian, served on the Alameda County Zone 7 Water Agency Board for 25 years, and was honored to participate as the Grand Marshal of multiple Livermore Rodeos. He also served on several wine industry boards, including the Wine Advisory Board, and was a founding board member of the Tri-Valley Conservancy Land Trust in 1994.

Above all, Jim was devoted to his faith, his family, and the community he called home. Through his contributions to California winemaking and decades of community service, he leaves a lasting legacy in Livermore and beyond.

Jim is survived by his beloved wife of 66 years, Helen; his children, Mary Lessard (Scott), Anna Marie Moore (Ken), and Paul Concannon (Robin); his grandchildren, Shannon Lessard Merry (Bradley), Eric Lessard, and Kyle Moore; his sister, Nina Radisch (Jack); and many nieces, nephews, cousins, and dear friends. He was preceded in death by his eldest son, John Concannon, in 2025.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Tuesday, Oct. 27, at 11:00 a.m. at St. Michael Catholic Church in Livermore. A private family graveside interment will follow. A Celebration of Life will be held by invitation only.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to St. Michael School or St. Michael Catholic Church in Livermore.

Jim will be remembered for his pioneering contributions to California winemaking, his enduring love for his family, and his lifelong dedication to the Livermore Valley. His influence will endure in the vineyards he helped shape, the community he served, and the generations who follow.

Carol Morgan Hensley
Aug. 8, 1939 – Oct. 5, 2026

Carol Morgan Hensley, 87, of Willamina, Oregon, passed away peacefully in a Senior Nursing Facility on Oct. 5, 2026.

Carol was born at East Oakland Hospital, Oakland, California, on Aug. 8, 1939. She was raised by her father, Wayne Morgan, and mother, Roma Morgan, in Oakland. Her parents divorced, and Roma moved to Cliffside Park, New Jersey, in 1949 when Carol was 10 years old.

Carol spent her formative years in New Jersey, flying back and forth to California every two years with her sister Linda to visit their father. Carol's father, Wayne, owned Morgan's Vending Machine business in Oakland, California. Carol would spend her summers helping her father by



prepping the cigarettes, slitting the cellophane, and placing a penny and a book of matches inside because cigarettes were .25 cents a pack.

Carol met her first husband, Lawrence Valley, at Cliffside Park High School, Cliffside Park, New Jersey. They moved from New Jersey to Dublin, California, in 1967. Carol worked at LLNL from 1977 to 2001. She was part of the Supply and Distribution Department at the Lab. She loved this job because she got to help provide solutions to those seeking items for lab projects.

Carol met her second husband, Gregory Hensley, at LLNL. Together they retired, sold their home, and moved to Willimina, Oregon, where they lived until Carol passed away. Carol loved to read, work on her needlepoint projects (as there are many), and tend to their property.

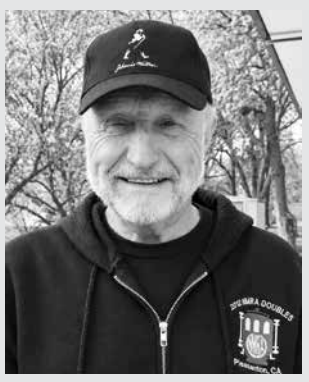
Carol is survived by her husband, Greg Hensley, her daughters Margaret Mann (Michael), Susan Valley, and Stephen Valley (Laurie). Carol had five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

CELEBRATION OF LIFE
Ken Herman
May 16, 1933 — Sept. 28, 2026

Ken Herman, beloved husband, father, musician, and friend, passed away on Sept. 28, 2026, at the age of 93.

Ken lived a full and meaningful life, filled with music, friendship, family, and the activities he loved. A lifelong jazz drummer, he played drums for many years and was proud of his connection to the world of jazz and music. He was also an avid racquetball player and enjoyed the friendships and camaraderie that came with the sport.

Ken was a devoted husband to his wife, Tina, with whom he made his home in Dublin, California. He cherished his sons, Rob (Wendy) and Greg, who live in Seattle, and took great pride in his family. He was also a loving part of the lives of



Tina's children, Lisa Soares, Don (Trish), and Cindy Galli (Eric).

Ken was a proud grandfather to Korey, Tyler, Carli, DJ, Josh, Madison (Jacob), Dominic, Anthony, and Vincent.

Ken is also survived by his two sisters in Wisconsin, Janice and Christine, along with many relatives and friends.

Ken's love of jazz, racquetball, and family were important parts of his life. He will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

Celebration of Life:

A celebration of Ken's Life will be held on Nov. 7, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. at Saint Philip Lutheran Church in Dublin, California.

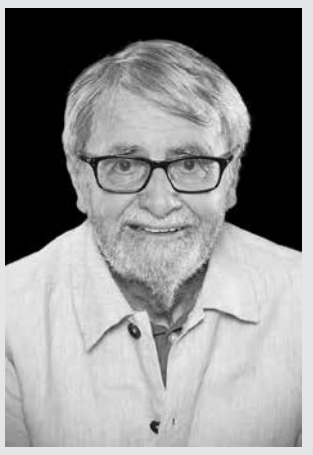
In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorial contributions to Saint Philip Lutheran Church, Tunnel to Towers, or Samaritan's Purse.

The family welcomes friends and loved ones to join them in celebrating Ken's life and sharing memories of a man who brought music, friendship, and love to those around him.

CELEBRATION OF LIFE
Thomas "Tom" Perreira Pico, Jr.
Jan. 19, 1944 — Oct. 8, 2026

Tom Pico, Jr., former Mayor and long-time Pleasanton resident, passed away peacefully, surrounded by family, on Oct. 8, 2026, at the age of 82. Tom was a loving father, exceptional grandfather, environmentalist, political activist and mentor. He served his community as a kind, thoughtful, patriotic, principled, fiercely protective, wise, introverted leader with integrity. His goal in life was to "be of value, follow my passion, have fun, and laugh more."

Tom was born on Jan. 19, 1944, in Paia Hospital on Maui, Hawaii, and lived in the Kokoma neighborhood of rural Makawao. In 1950, his family relocated from Kula on one of the first transcontinental passenger flights, settling in Eastern Contra Costa County, California. Tom graduated from Antioch High School in 1961. During summer breaks while attending college, he worked in the same paper mill that his parents worked, instilling the family values of honor, integrity and hard work.





Tom was the first in his family to graduate from a four-year college, earning a Bachelor of Arts degree from San Francisco State University. Tom was inducted into the U.S. Army on June 15, 1966, and attended Army Infantry Officer Candidate School at Fort Benning, Georgia. During the Vietnam War, he served as a 2nd Lieutenant stationed at Fort Ord, California. Among his military medals and awards, Tom received the Army Commendation Medal for meritorious service. He was honorably discharged May 8, 1969. Tom earned a Master's Degree in Business Administration in Taxation from Golden Gate University and was a Certified Public Accountant. He made a career in corporate finance and accounting and operated his own tax accounting business for 22 years, retiring in 2016.

Tom moved to Pleasanton in the 1980s. He served the City of Pleasanton for 12 consecutive years, including two terms on the City Council and two terms as Mayor from 2000 to 2004. His accomplishments include passing balanced growth measures, funding the broadcast of public meetings, restoring the Pleasanton Veteran's Memorial Building, and preserving open space in the Pleasanton Ridge, Bernal Community Park, and Callippe Preserve Golf Course. He remained active in local politics, mentoring many, and proudly serving Alameda County on the Local Area Formation Commission.

His hobbies included watching all kinds of sports, backpacking, visiting hot springs, and traveling in his motorhome across North America and extensively overseas.

Tom Pico, Jr. is survived by his children Tom Pico, III and his wife Tristan Pico, Mathew Ellis and his wife Rungnapha "Kaew" Ellis, Jennifer Pico-Moy, and Adam Ellis; sisters Audrey Van Poppel and Susan Remmich and her husband Marv Remmich; six grandchildren, and former wife Jo Ann Pico.

Tom was preceded in death by his wife of 34 years Karen Pico, his father Thomas Perreira Pico, his mother Alice Caires Pico, and his brother Rodney Pico.

A Celebration of Life and reception will be held at 4:00pm on Friday, Nov. 13, 2026, at the Pleasanton Masonic Center, 1181 Quarry Lane. Dress is Hawaiian attire/dressy casual.

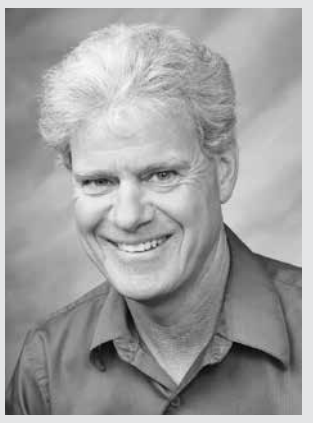
CELEBRATION OF LIFE
Gerald (Jerry) Schweickert
March 24, 1950 – Oct. 17, 2026

Gerald John Schweickert, age 76, of Livermore, died unexpectedly on Oct. 17, 2026.

Born March 24, 1950 in Ohio to Carl and Marie Schweickert. His family, which consisted of brothers Richard, Thomas, Michael, and sister Mary Therese, moved to Livermore, California in 1955, where he resided for most of his life.

Jerry attended St. Michael's school through 8th grade, Bishop O'Dowd through 10th grade, and graduated from Livermore High. Following high school, Jerry graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry from University of California, Davis, which he attended on a University of California Regents Scholarship. While at Davis, Jerry was an All-American swimmer and also played water polo for the school team. Jerry remained close friends with his water polo teammates for his entire life. Following his undergraduate education, Jerry received a Master of Science from University of California, Berkeley in Industrial Hygiene. He spent over 30 years working at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory.

He married his first wife Anne Thibeault in 1975, and she blessed Jerry with three children prior to her premature passing. Jerry later married Dianne Thompson with whom he shared 32 beautiful years. Through his marriage to Dianne he gained two more children. Both wives were dental hygienists. Jerry said he liked tooth fairies.



Jerry was a devoted father to Julie (Jason Knight), Daniel (Megan), Timothy (Erin), and stepfather to Jeremy (Angelica Thompson) and Julie (Daniel Prull). He provided unconditional love and support to all five of the children. Additionally, Jerry was blessed with seven grandchildren: JJ, Jordan, Thomas, Connor, Andie, William, and Miles.

Jerry had many interests and hobbies, and following his retirement Jerry stayed very physically active while also doing his numerous volunteer activities. He loved the outdoors, whether it be camping, hiking, swimming, skiing, snowboarding, biking, or gardening. He played international competitive water polo into his 70's, with his teams winning masters world championships multiple times. He took great pride in the trail and rock work that he did up at Mount Diablo and throughout the Sierra Nevadas. He was very involved with Kids Bike Lane where he helped put together bikes at Christmas, and throughout the year he spent much time refurbishing donated bikes to pass on to those in need. He and Dianne hiked many trails and enjoyed performing trail work in the Sierras.

Jerry led his life with a strong moral compass and a desire to help others. His steady kindness and generous spirit left a permanent mark on everyone who knew him. He will be sorely missed. Job well done. Rest in peace. Until we meet again.

There will be a private family burial at St. Michael's Cemetery. An open house celebration of his life will take place at his home on Saturday, Nov. 14, 2026, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made in Jerry's memory to California State Parks, Kids Bike Lane, or the Pacific Crest Trail Association.

Ann Faust Bailey
May 13, 1955 — Aug. 17, 2026

Ann Faust Bailey died Aug. 17, 2026, at age 71. She died at home under hospice care, with her immediate family bedside, after a sixteen-year struggle with cancer.

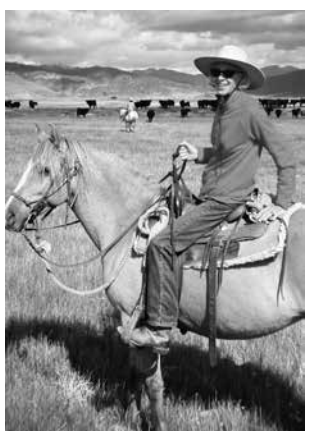
It was a life well lived. Ann was born May 13, 1955, to Don and Margaret Faust, professors of psychology at the Claremont colleges. They lived just two blocks from campus, so Ann and her sisters Katie and Marion were raised in a house with lots of teachers, grad students, and local kids around. Ann's grandparents, Clarence and Gladys Faust, retired in Claremont to live nearby. Ann was raised with a tight-knit, loving family.

Ann's grandparents purchased land at Shaver Lake, California, and in 1955 built a lakeside cabin. Ann grew up spending summers at the Shaver Lake cabin, which included loads of fun times around the lake, including water skiing in the summer, then snow skiing in the winter. Ann visited the cabin every year of her life, as this is where extended family congregated. This included Don's brothers, Dale and Lyn, and their wives Pam and Sara, and their children, the cousins, Langdon, Leslie, and Kim.

Ann's father, Don, decided that having horses would be a good learning experience for early teens, so Ann and her sister Marion learned to ride and take care of their own horses. Ann's riding skills improved to a level where she competed in barrel racing and participated in competitions up and down the state.

Ann attended Chico State for a degree in Business and Computer programming. This led her to a career spanning





the earlier days of business IT of the 1970's, evolving to the IT of the 2020's. She worked for EDS, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, TriValley Growers, Allied Signal, PeopleSoft, and retired from Oracle. At Chico State, she also got the opportunity to attend World Campus Afloat, which meant she spent much of a year on a cruise liner packed with college st\udents and professors, sailing around the world visiting ports in South America, Africa, India and Asia.

Ann met Stephen Murdoch Bailey in 1980, at the Shaver Lake cabin, during a cousin's wedding reception. Three years later they were married, and five years later started a family with the arrival of Allison Michelle Bailey. Two years later, Keith Alan Bailey was born, then two years later, Ross Murdoch Bailey. They raised their family in Modesto, California, Midlothian, Virginia, and Livermore, California. Ann's adult life centered on raising and appreciating her children, and for the last few years, her grandchildren.

When a cancer diagnosis is received, all those trips or activities that a person may want to do "someday" get reprioritized. So, when you feel good enough, you go do what is on your list. Which means during these last 16 years, Ann and her extended family went to Club Meds in Cancun and Portugal. The Hunewill Ranch, a dude ranch outside Bridgeport, California, was a place which allowed her to share her love of horses with her family for several years. However, the Shaver Lake cabin, a home away from home in the Sierras on a lake, is where Ann always liked to go. Her daughter, Allison, living in Northern Norway with her husband Fredrik Haug and granddaughters Iselin and Eva, provided another favorite and frequent destination.

For the last month, so many kind cards have arrived, and in common is the repeated memory of Ann's beaming smile, of her happy laugh, and of her gentle kindness. We miss her so.

Stephen Bailey
Ross Bailey
Keith Bailey, Meghan O'Hearn
Allison Bailey, Fredrik Haug, Iselin and Eva Haug
Katie Faust

Foothill Girls Volleyball Squad Wins EBAL Championship

By Phil Jensen

PLEASANTON — The Foothill High School girls volleyball team showed it knows how to close out a big match in the East Bay Athletic League playoff championship match on Oct. 22.

With the score tied at two sets apiece, the Falcons flew fast at the start of the final set. Foothill scored 10 of the first 11 points on their way to a 23-25, 25-18, 19-25, 25-17, 15-6 victory over Carondelet at Amador Valley.

Before the fifth set, Foothill coach Dusty Collins asked his team how they would feel about playing just one set to 15 for the EBAL championship.

"You would take it all day, right?" he recalled telling him. "So they were all kind of fired up that, yeah, we're in a good spot, we're in a place where we want to be and we deserve to be in a place like this, so take advantage of that."

The Falcons certainly took advantage of it and won their third EBAL playoff championship in four years. Foothill (25-9) earned the No. 1 seed in the North Coast Section Division I playoffs. The Falcons played No. 16 Rancho Cotate on Oct. 27 in the first round after this article's deadline. The quarterfinals are Saturday, the semifinals are Nov. 4 and the final is Nov. 7.

In the EBAL championship match, Foothill's Kait Vogel helped get Foothill off to a 3-0 lead in the fifth set with three service points, including an ace. A short time later, teammate Olivia So served for six points, including an ace, as Foothill held a 10-1 advantage.



Foothill junior outside hitter Ilayda Caglar (#16) unleashes a spike during the East Bay Athletic League playoff championship match at Amador Valley. Caglar led the Falcons with a team-high 21 kills, powering the squad to a dramatic five-set victory over Carondelet to capture the EBAL title. (Photo — May Fraser)

"We worked so hard to get in this match and we really wanted it," said the Washington State-bound Vogel, who had a team-high 12 service points and 29 digs, and also 12 kills in the match. "I'm so proud of this team. … we've come so far." Foothill started the season 1-2, but won 24 of its last 31 matches entering this week.

In that 10-1 fifth-set run, Foothill junior Ilayda Caglar had three kills. The outside hitter finished the match with a team-high 21 kills.

"I think we're just a really competitive team and our chemistry is so good together that I think it all just came together that fifth set," Caglar said.

The closest Carondelet (25-12) got to Foothill in the fifth set was 12-5 before the Falcons wrapped up their championship win with three of the next four points.

Interestingly, Foothill also had a double-digit run in the second set. Vogel served nine straight points, including four aces, for a 10-0 Falcons lead. Foothill never trailed in that set, although Carondelet narrowed the score to 18-15 before the Falcons prevailed 25-18.

Carondelet was able to capitalize on a couple of runs in the first set to take a 14-8 lead, but Foothill battled back and tied the set at 19 on a kill by Sewa Adesuyi-Fasuyi. But Carondelet then went on a 4-0 run, including three points by Natalia Markiel, and eventually won the set 25-23.

The Cougars rallied from a 14-8 deficit in the third set to win 25-19, and held an early 2-0 lead in the fourth set. But the Falcons bolted into the lead, scoring eight of the next nine points, and led the rest of the way. In that 8-1 run, Shreya Patel had four service points, including an ace. The senior also had 19 assists in the match, and Makenzie Bulaon had a team-high 24 assists for Foothill.

The Falcons weren't the only local team to be selected for the NCS playoffs.

Amador Valley is the No. 13 seed in Division I and faced No. 4 Las Lomas-Walnut Creek in a first-round match on Oct. 27. Granada is the No. 12 seed in Division II and played No. 5 Cardinal Newman-Santa Rosa in a first-round match on Oct. 28. Livermore is the No. 15 seed in Division IV and faced No. 2 College Prep-Oakland in the first round on Oct. 28.

Like Division I, the Division II and Division IV quarterfinals are Saturday, the semifinals are Nov. 4 and the final is Nov. 7.

Flag Football

Amador Valley earned the No. 1 seed in the NCS Division I playoffs and hosted No. 16 San Leandro in a first-round match on Oct. 28. Other local teams who played in Division I first-round matches on Oct. 28 included No. 9 Livermore at No. 8 College Park-Pleasant Hill, No. 13 Granada at No. 4 Castro Valley, and No. 15 Foothill at No. 2 Liberty-Brentwood.

The Division I quarterfinals are Saturday, the semifinals are Nov. 4 and the final is Nov. 7.

Falcons Offense Comes Alive in Victory

By Phil Jensen

LIVERMORE – With two minutes left in the first half of the East Bay Athletic League Valley Division football game between Foothill High School and host Livermore on Oct. 23, the Falcons trailed the Cowboys by 10 points.

But Foothill's offense scored the last touchdown of the first half, then exploded in the second half as the Falcons broke a nine-quarter scoreless streak with a 35-30 victory over Livermore.

"When the second half started, we came out and we all just had fire," said Foothill quarterback Andrew Nelson, who completed 19 of his 26 pass attempts for 299 yards, four touchdowns and no interceptions. "As soon as I started getting the ball to Max Shuga, game was over. They could not stop him."

Shuga had all eleven of his receptions for 125 yards and two touchdowns in the final three quarters. Foothill, which had a three-game losing streak entering the game and 42 days since its last win, trailed 10-0 at the beginning of the second quarter.

Foothill coach Greg Haubner said he was "really trying to encourage the kids to keep playing, and keep playing, and keep playing, and they did exactly that, so I'm super proud of them for stepping up and staying in the game." Foothill improved its record to 3-4 overall and 1-0 in the East Bay Athletic League Valley Division. Livermore fell to 4-4, 0-1.

The Cowboys took the opening drive of the game 41 yards to score on a five-yard pass from Rhett Bystrom to Chad Boskie. The junior had 10 receptions for a game-high 166 yards.

A 39-yard field goal by Elijah Delgado gave the Cowboys a 10-0 lead with 1:45 left in the first quarter. But Foothill drove 80 yards on its next possession to score on a perfectly-placed pass from Nelson to Shuga for 32 yards.

Livermore then moved quickly down the field for a touchdown on a seven-yard run by Rafael Zamora. Foothill answered back with a 70-yard drive that ended with a seven-yard touchdown pass from Nelson to Jason Bennett.

The Cowboys drove to the Foothill 30, but on the last play of the half, a high snap thwarted a field-goal attempt. Livermore had a slim 17-14 lead at halftime.

In a wild second half, Foothill drove to the Livermore 7 on the first possession of the third quarter before a fumble recovery by the Cowboys' Daiemeon Espinoza. But two plays later, the Falcons' defense recovered a Livermore fumble. Four plays after that, Foothill took the lead to stay on a 10-yard pass from Nelson to Shuga.

Livermore's next drive ended on an interception by Nelson on the Livermore 4. He then led the Falcons on a 96-yard drive, capped by a 66-yard touchdown pass from Nelson to Damian Ochoa. The junior had four receptions for 123 yards in the game.

But the Cowboys countered with a fast-scoring drive. Jack Hepner returned the kickoff 28 yards to the 50, and two plays later, Boskie scored on a 47-yard reception from Bystrom. After a failed conversion run, Livermore trailed 28-23 entering the fourth quarter.

Foothill moved the ball methodically on a 66-yard drive that ended with a two-yard TD run by Nelson with 8:02 remaining. The point-after-touchdown kick by Sasha Nazari gave Foothill a 35-23 lead.

On its final drive of the game, Livermore took the ball 65 yards on 15 plays to score on a seven-yard pass from Bystrom to Wilhite with 2:49 left. The Cowboys converted a pair of fourth-down plays, including a fourth-and-21 play on a 26-yard pass from Bystrom to Boskie.

However, Nelson converted a fourth-down play of his own on the final drive of the game. His two-yard run on the Livermore 35 with 2:18 remaining allowed the Falcons to run out the clock.

Livermore coach John Wade said, "The kids battled and we felt like we do every year, every one of these league games is going to be a battle. And Foothill played a great game. Good game plan by Greg. It's just one of those things. It comes down to a possession or two."

Foothill's Amaree Hill gained a game-high 70 yards on the ground. Livermore's Bystrom completed 15 of his 23 passing attempts for 208 yards, three touchdowns and one interception.

Foothill hosts Granada (3-5, 1-0) on Friday at 7:15 p.m., and Livermore travels to face Dublin (2-6, 0-1) on Friday, also with a 7:15 p.m. start.

Note: Foothill has only nine regular-season games scheduled this season because it did not fill the slot vacated by Dougherty Valley, which is no longer in the EBAL for football.

DISTRICT 4

(Continued from front page)

pedestrian links, and outdoor events. At the Oct. 13 candidate forum hosted by the Pleasanton Weekly and the Dublin Chamber of Commerce, Qaadri named fiscal sustainability as the district's top issue. He said he supported the hotel tax increase that failed to reach the ballot and wants to avoid a sales tax measure by pursuing grants and impact fees and prioritizing core services first. He defended the Alameda County Fire Department contract for wildfire response, called for neighborhood and business watch programs and more camera technology, and said he wants to turn the city's bicycle and pedestrian plan into connected routes to BART and improve traffic signal timing. On housing, Qaadri said Dublin has far exceeded its market-rate targets, but lags on affordable units. He backed first-time buyer assistance. He supports extending Dublin Boulevard, but opposed the 2024 annexation measure, Measure II that would have breached Dublin's Urban Growth Boundary, citing cost and environmental concerns. He attributed delays at the Dublin Arts Center to technical problems retrofitting an old building.

Qaadri is endorsed by the Sierra Club, the Tri-Valley Democratic Club, the Alameda County Democratic Party and the Alameda Labor Council, among others, as well as several local mayors, city councilmembers and public officials.

Qaadri's challenger is Shivraj Singh, a business owner and community volunteer who has lived in Dublin for more than 15 years. On his website, Singh lists priorities including managing Dublin's growth, public safety, transportation, supporting families, seniors and schools, and fiscal accountability.

Singh says every major project should come with a binding infrastructure-first agreement, a longer community comment period and a cumulative traffic analysis. On safety, Singh wants police staffing benchmarks tied to population milestones, a mental health co-responder program, and updated wildfire and earthquake preparedness. Singh supports speeding up the Dublin Boulevard extension, creating a BART last-mile shuttle program, and launching a public budget dashboard with annual independent audits and public tracking of developer fees. Singh also wants school impact assessments for major developments, stronger joint-use agreements between the city and the school district, and expanded childcare, senior transportation and youth programs.

Singh is endorsed by the Silicon Valley Chinese Association.

Singh did not attend the Oct. 13 candidate forum. Organizers said Singh was ill.

Election Day is Nov. 3.

Hindu Connect to Hold Diwali Mela

DUBLIN – Tri-Valley Hindu Connect will host its second annual Diwali Mela, celebrating the Hindu "Festival of Light," at Emerald Glen Park from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 7.

The fair will include a Rath Yatra, or grand procession, a Diwali bazaar, and traditional foods, music, dance and performances.

An inaugural Diwali Mela last year drew more than 6,500 people, according to the nonprofit Tri-Valley Hindu Connect.

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

BRIDGE

(Continued from front page)

The nonprofit BRIDGE has developed affordable-housing communities across California, Oregon and Washington, including The Parkview, the 105-unit assisted-living and memory-care senior rental-housing community in Pleasanton.

Earlier this year, BRIDGE contacted the city for help funding the new Chabot Drive project. BRIDGE reached a tentative agreement with Black Mountain Properties, the developer of a separate residential project in Pleasanton known as Positas Park, where Positas Park would serve as a donor project for BRIDGE's new, affordable-housing project. Instead of contributing to Pleasanton's lower-income housing fund, Black Mountain's affordable-housing funds requirement, estimated between $10.3 million and $10.5 million, would pass through the city to BRIDGE.

BRIDGE also plans to ask for fee waivers from the city that currently total about $8.4 million.

With development costs averaging up to $700,000 per unit, city leaders felt that a city contribution of $18.9 million — roughly $133,000 per unit — represented a good investment. BRIDGE plans to fund the remaining expenses with federal and state tax credits, a permanent mortgage, deferred city developer fees, and a loan from the California Housing Finance Agency's Mixed-Income Program.

Councilmember Craig Eicher called BRIDGE's proposal along with the funding pieces "the unicorn in the room."

"For all those variables to come together is very unique, and it's happening here for us today," Eicher said.

Councilmember Julie Testa said, "I also think this project demonstrates why we can embrace affordable housing and stand up for local control at the same time."

BRIDGE expects to ask the planning commission and city council for final approvals next spring, with construction starting as early as 2028, if approved.

LARPD

(Continued from front page)

November, which will serve as the district's strategy guiding maintenance, improvement and development for the next 10 years. The plan looks to respond to community feedback prioritizing trails and walkability with trail-gap closures and neighborhood-to-regional trail connections.

With those issues on the horizon, incumbent Directors Maryalice Summers Faltings and Philip Pierpont each look to serve another four-year term on the board. Director David Furst announced this month he will not seek reelection.

Faltings, the LARPD board vice chair, first joined the board in 1994 and has worked in parks and recreation, historic preservation and church administration. Her mission includes park access for all LARPD residents, and she leans on her long experience in the district as she asks voters for another term to face the district's upcoming issues.

Pierpont — a local business owner, backpacker, climber, skier, paddler and trail runner — joined the board in 2017, where he has advocated for trails and open space. He currently serves as board chair. He pointed to the district's expanded programs and improved finances over the past decade as reasons to continue his tenure. He has also volunteered for local environmental and community organizations outside of LARPD.

Faltings and Pierpont face five challengers who hope to join the board.

Timothy Barry served as LARPD general manager from 2003 to 2018, when he managed the completion of two district master plans, the Robertson Park Master Plan, the Springtown Open Space Master Plan and a comprehensive district asset management plan. He helped the district open Bruno Canziani, Cayetano and Holdener parks, an 84-acre expansion of Sycamore Grove Park and the Robert Livermore Community Center.

Retired police sergeant Larry Bird managed Hayward Police Department's Junior Giants Program, a free youth baseball program with roughly 200 volunteers and a multi-million dollar budget. In the Tri-Valley, he helped establish the Tri-Valley Pickleball Club and currently teaches pickleball for LARPD. He also coached softball at Livermore High School for 24 years. He lists facilities, programs, fiscal responsibility and community engagement as his priorities for the board.

Recreation manager Matthew Bogdanowicz ran previously for the LARPD board in 2024, coming in third for two open seats behind Jan Palajac and James Boswell. He hopes to bring his perspective from working in fitness and sports to the district.

Mike Ralph, a bicycle shop manager, currently serves on the LARPD Foundation Board, which helps to fund scholarships, park improvements and senior programs in the area. He supports the responsible use of e-bikes through thoughtful education and regulations, as well as the preservation of Camp Shelly, the district's foothold near the south shore of Lake Tahoe.

Laureen Turner, a nursing professor, served one year on the LARPD Board in 2011 before being elected to the Livermore City Council, where she served until 2016. If elected back to LARPD, she hopes to draw on her community knowledge and connections to continue what she started on the board.

Voters have until Nov. 3 to vote in the current election.

MAYOR

(Continued from front page)

effort failed on a 3-2 vote when the rest of the council declined to proceed—with Jean Josey siding with Hu—leaving the matter tied up in ongoing legal proceedings involving Crosby and conservation groups.Hu's first priority is public safety, including support for license plate readers and cameras with oversight. She also wants managed growth with infrastructure and school coordination. Her economic push centers on the Fallon East Economic Development Zone. She backs the Downtown Preferred Vision, the Tassajara Road and Village Parkway upgrades, and opening the Dublin Arts Center.

At the Oct. 13 candidate forum, hosted by the Pleasanton Weekly and the Dublin Chamber of Commerce, Hu said property crime fell 21% over her two years as mayor, and she cited three new parks, more than 100 new businesses, a $36.2 million operating surplus and Dublin's No. 1 ranking from U.S. News & World Report.

She said the city plans to add sheriff's deputies and a lieutenant position, has reserved $45 million for downtown, and is about 95% through planning for the roughly $150 million Dublin Boulevard extension.

She defended the council's decision not to advance a hotel tax increase to the ballot, citing the city's surplus, weaker hotel occupancy and opposition from hotel owners and the chamber of commerce. She explained that she supports the regional transit sales tax increase measure.

Hu is endorsed by Supervisors David Haubert, Nate Miley and Lena Tam, former

(See MAYOR, page 14)

LEGAL NOTICES/CLASSIFIEDS

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LEGAL NOTICES

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 626292

The following person(s) doing business as: The Knotty Knitter, 164 North L Street, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Donnamarie Fuller, 164 North L Street, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 9/27/2021. Signature of Registrant/s/: Donnamarie Fuller, Registrant. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 24, 2026. Expires September 23, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 7052. Published October 8, 15, 22, 29, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 626332

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Rodarte Designs Just For You; 2. Rodarte Disenos Solo Para Ti, 3544 Edinburgh DR, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Yolanda Rodriguez, 3544 Edinburgh DR, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 9/24/26. Signature of Registrant/s/: Yolanda Rodriguez, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 25, 2026. Expires September 24, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 7053. Published October 8, 15, 22, 29, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 625891

The following person(s) doing business as: Chix, 10812 Voltaire Ave, Oakland, CA 94603 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Oaklandchix Ltd Liability Co, 10812 Voltaire Ave, Oakland, CA 94603. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Dottie Moore, Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 9, 2026. Expires September 8, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 7054. Published October 8, 15, 22, 29, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 625755

The following person(s) doing business as: SMJ Monogram & Embroidery, 4200 Detroit Ave, Oakland, CA 94619 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Mannix Family Ventures, LLC, 4200 Detroit Ave, Oakland, CA 94619. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Shannon Mannix Johnson, Manager. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 9, 2026. Expires September 1, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 7055. Published October 8, 15, 22, 29, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 626367

The following person(s) doing business as: Integral House Cleaning Services, 22218 Montgomery ST, Hayward, CA 94541 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Yanette Margarita Mejia Valladares, 22218 Montgomery ST, Hayward, CA 94541. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Yanette Margarita Mejia Valladar, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 28, 2026. Expires September 27, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 7056. Published October 8, 15, 22, 29, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 626219

The following person(s) doing business as: Wynn Art Studio, 4031 Stanley Blvd, APT 206, Pleasanton, CA 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Michelle Wynn, 4031 Stanley Blvd, APT 206, Pleasanton, CA 94566. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Michelle Wynn, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 21, 2026. Expires September 20, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 7057. Published October 8, 15, 22, 29, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 626427

The following person(s) doing business as: Maple Street Denim, 4266 Piedmont Ave, Oakland, CA 94611 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Julia Harleman, 4266 Piedmont Ave, Oakland, CA 94611. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 8/21/2014. Signature of Registrant/s/: Julia Harleman, Managing Partner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 30, 2026. Expires September 29, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 7058. Published October 8, 15, 22, 29, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 626471

The following person(s) doing business as: KP Brown Wine Consulting & Filtration, 2166 Teagarden Common, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Kevin P. Brown, 2166 Teagarden Common, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Kevin P. Brown, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 1, 2026. Expires September 30, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 7059. Published October 8, 15, 22, 29, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 626679

The following person(s) doing business as: ZippyAssist, 74 W Neal Street #203, Pleasanton, CA 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): 6L Inc., P.O. BOX 1916 Pleasanton, CA 94566. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Neil P. Swindale, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 8, 2026. Expires October 7, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 7060. Published October 15, 22, 29, November 5, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 626577

The following person(s) doing business as: Lindstrom Media Group is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Brian Lindstrom, 1205 Cotter Way, Hayward, CA 94541. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 10/03/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Brian Lindstrom, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 6, 2026. Expires October 5, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 7061. Published October 15, 22, 29, November 5, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 626390

The following person(s) doing business as: Memorie Press, 1958 Parkside CT, Livermore,CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Thien-Anh Amanda Le Nguyen, 1958 Parkside CT, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by a General Partnership. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 7/6/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Thien-Anh Amanda Le Nguyen, Partner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 29, 2026. Expires September 28, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 7062. Published October 15, 22, 29, November 5, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 626522

The following person(s) doing business as: Well Rounded Village, 2665 Mount Dana DR, Dublin, CA 94568 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Danielle Martine Joseph. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 9/30/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Daniele Martine Joseph, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 5, 2026. Expires October 4, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 7063. Published October 15, 22, 29, November 5, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 625967

The following person(s) doing business as: Designer Vibes, 27475 Hesperian Blvd, #152, Hayward, CA 94545 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): D Roshell Jones, 27475 Hesperian Blvd, #152, Hayward, CA 94545. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: D Roshell Jones, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 11, 2026. Expires September 10, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 7064. Published October 15, 22, 29, November 5, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 626281

The following person(s) doing business as: Steven Montes Special Events, 4327 Old Dublin RD, Castro Valley, CA 94552 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): 1. Steven Montes, 4327 Old Dublin RD, Castro Valley, CA 94552; 2. Steven Weilen, 4327 Old Dublin RD, Castro Valley, CA 94552. This business is conducted by a General Partnership. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 01/01/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Steven Montes, Managing Partner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 24, 2026. Expires September 23, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 7065. Published October 15, 22, 29, November 5, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 626608

The following person(s) doing business as: Gardenia Retreat, 46 Cascata CT, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Fauzia Ahtasham, 46 Cascata CT, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Fauzia Ahtasham, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 7, 2026. Expires October 6, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 7067. Published October 22, 29, November 5, 12, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 626714

The following person(s) doing business as: Kaimo, 3055 Ridgefield Court, Dublin, CA 94568 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Lanyard, Inc., 3055 Ridgefield Court, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 8/20/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: David Amusin, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 9, 2026. Expires October 8, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 7068. Published October 22, 29, November 5, 12, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 626762

The following person(s) doing business as: Puddles Pools, 2482 Chardonnay Way, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Peter's Pools LLC, 2150 Portola Ave, Ste D PMB 2038, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Kevin C Peters, Principal. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 13, 2026. Expires October 12, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 7069. Published October 22, 29, November 5, 12, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 626759

The following person(s) doing business as: 888 One More Inc., 1413 Portola Ave, Apt 1, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): 888 One More, 1413 Portola Ave, Apt 1, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 9/17/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Olimpia De Alba Cardona, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 13, 2026. Expires October 12, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 7070. Published October 22, 29, November 5, 12, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 626463

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Absorve Arte Studio; 2. Ozell Hudson Jr., Fine Artist, 640 Oriole Avenue, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Ozell Hudson Jr., 640 Oriole Avenue, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 6/2/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Ozell Hudson Jr., Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 1, 2026. Expires September 30, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 7071. Published October 22, 29, November 5, 12, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 626648

The following person(s) doing business as: Kebab House (DBA) De Afghanan, 1550 Railroad Ave, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Kebab House LLC, 1550 Railroad Ave, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Zebi K. Imami, Manager. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 8, 2026. Expires October 7, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 7072. Published October 22, 29, November 5, 12, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 626252

The following person(s) doing business as: Ndidi Rickert, 1501 Glenn ST, Hayward, CA 94545 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Ndidi Rickert, 1501 Glenn ST, Hayward, CA 94545. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 9/15/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Nididdi Rickert, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 23, 2026. Expires September 22, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 7073. Published October 22, 29, November 5, 12, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 626656

The following person(s) doing business as: Tehama Wireless, 2431 Fifth Street, Berkeley, CA 94710 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Tehama Wireless Design Group, 2431 Fifth Street, Berkeley, CA 94710. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 10/01/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: James Orton, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 8, 2026. Expires October 7, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 7074. Published October 29, November 5, 12, 19, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 626675

The following person(s) doing business as: P & L Real Estate, 20376 Summerpark Place, Castro Valley, CA 94552 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): PNL Real Estate, LLC, 20376 Summerpark Place, Castro Valley, CA 94552. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 8/6/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Sharlyn Prakash, Manager. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 8, 2026. Expires October 7, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 7075. Published October 29, November 5, 12, 19, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 626835

The following person(s) doing business as: Tri-Valley Thursday, 1205 Cotter Way, Hayward, CA 94541 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Brian Lindstrom, 1205 Cotter Way, Hayward, CA 94541. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 10/15/26. Signature of Registrant/s/: Brian Lindstrom, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 16, 2026. Expires October 15, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 7076. Published October 29, November 5, 12, 19, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 626408

The following person(s) doing business as: Mister Badger, 3722 Laguna Ave, Oakland, CA 94602 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Trafton Kenney, 3722 Laguna Ave, Oakland, CA 94602. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Trafton J. Kenney, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 29, 2026. Expires September 28, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 7077. Published October 29, November 5, 12, 19, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 626844

The following person(s) doing business as: Moventify, 4324 Westport Way, Dublin, CA 94568 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Praneet Chaturvedi, 4324 Wesport Way, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 10/01/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Praneet Chaturvedi, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 16, 2026. Expires October 15, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 7078. Published October 29, November 5, 12, 19, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 626536

The following person(s) doing business as: Pear and Finch Press, 825 Washington Street, Suite 213, Oakland, CA 94607 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Shawn Rowland, 825 Washington Street, Suite 213, Oakland, CA 94607. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Shawn Rowland, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 5, 2026. Expires October 4, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 7079. Published October 29, November 5, 12, 19, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 626539

The following person(s) doing business as: Collected Wisdom Press, 825 Washington Street, Suite 213, Oakland, CA 94607 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Shawn Rowland, 825 Washington Street, Suite 213, Oakland, CA 94607. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Shawn Rowland, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 5, 2026. Expires October 4, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 7080. Published October 29, November 5, 12, 19, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 626853

The following person(s) doing business as: Sea Travel & Getaways, 514 Stetson Way, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Sharon Angotti, 514 Stetson Way, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Sharon Angotti, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 19, 2026. Expires October 18, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 7081. Published October 29, November 5, 12, 19, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 626837

The following person(s) doing business as: Livermore Spice Kitchen, 1536 N Vasco RD, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Bajrangi LLC, 1536 N Vasco RD, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 10/12/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Vivekanand Vennam, Manager. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 16, 2026. Expires October 15, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 7082. Published October 29, November 5, 12, 19, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 626276

The following person(s) doing business as: McD of 874, 1620 Strobridge Ave, Castro Valley, Ca 94546 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Timothy Morgan, 563 Leisure Street, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 8/20/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Timothy Morgan, Franchisee. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 23, 2026. Expires September 22, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 7083. Published October 29, November 5, 12, 19, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 626839

The following person(s) doing business as: The Bungalow on First, 2614 Old First Street, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): The bungalow on First LLC, 2614 Old First Street, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Danielle Viramontes, Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 16, 2026. Expires October 15, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 7084. Published October 29, November 5, 12, 19, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 626871

The following person(s) doing business as: Dynetix Design Company, 3268 Ridgefield Way, Dublin, CA 94568 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Terence Chan, 3268 Ridgefield Way, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Terence Chan, Principal. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 20, 2026. Expires October 19, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 7085. Published October 29, November 5, 12, 19, 2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 626909

The following person(s) doing business as: KVI Laveaga Trucking, 2481 Grove Way, Castro Valley, CA 94546 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): KVI Laveaga Trucking, 2481 Grove Way, APT 5, Castro Valley, CA 94546. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 10/21/2026. Signature of Registrant/s/: Javier Laveaga. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 21, 2026. Expires October 20, 2031. The Independent, Legal No. 7086. Published October 29, November 5, 12, 19, 2026.

CLASSIFIEDS

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NOTICES

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Pleasanton Student Creates App to Help Identify Scam Calls

By Sanestina Hunter

PLEASANTON — Aarush Sharma, a 16-year-old junior at Foothill High School in Pleasanton, founded CallVerify to help people identify spoofed calls before they answer.

The iPhone app checks whether an incoming call is coming from the person whose name or number appears on the recipient's caller ID. CallVerify is in beta testing, and Sharma hopes to launch it on the App Store in the next few months.

"I kept seeing how much money people lose to scammers pretending to be their bank, and I wanted to change that," Sharma told The Independent.



Pictured left is Foothill High School junior, Aarush Sharma, creator of the call-verification app, CallVerify, which helps users identify spoofed phone calls. Shown right is an iPhone screen display of the verification process as an incoming call is received. (Photos courtesy of Aarush Sharma and CallVerify)

The Federal Trade Commission received more than 1 million reports of imposter scams in 2025, with people reporting $3.5 billion in losses, according to the agency. Those scams can occur through phone calls and other forms of contact.

"The scary part is that caller ID can be faked to show anything, even your bank's real number," he said. "Caller ID is just a label, so I wanted to build a way for a phone to prove who's really calling."

Sharma said his interest in technology started at home. The young programmer also participates in several clubs at Foothill.

"My parents both work in tech, so I grew up around it and started building my own projects early," he said. "At school I'm in the computer science, cybersecurity and robotics clubs, and I do competitive programming through USACO. Outside of building apps, I love spending time and traveling with my family."

USA Computing Olympiad (USACO) is a free national programming competition for pre-college students.

Sharma built the app and its server himself, mostly funding the project with his own money. He tested it on two iPhones, and 20 people are now testing a beta version through Apple's TestFlight platform.

The app works when both people on a call have it installed. Each phone holds a security key that stays on the device. When a call comes in, the caller's phone uses its key to respond to a one-time challenge, and the recipient's phone checks the response, Sharma said.

The recipient then sees a notification while the phone is still ringing: "Verified," "Not verified" or "Couldn't check." If a scammer spoofs a contact's number, the real contact's phone cannot confirm the call, so the app displays "Not verified," he said.

Building CallVerify required Sharma to learn iOS development, cryptography and how calls reach an iPhone. The hardest part, he said, was getting the verification check to finish within a few seconds. He also filed a patent application for the technology.

After the iPhone launch, Sharma plans to offer an Android version. He also hopes to offer verified calls for banks and credit unions so customers can distinguish their bank from an imposter. A waitlist is open at callverify.app.

For people who receive a suspicious call, Sharma recommends hanging up and calling back using a trusted number, such as the one on a bank card or statement. He also advises people not to share one-time codes and to watch for pressure, secrecy and requests for payment by gift card, cryptocurrency or wire transfer.



MAYOR

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Mayor Melissa Hernandez, mayors of surrounding cities and Teamsters Joint Council 7.

Michael McCorriston has served on the council since 2020 and now represents District 1. He was vice mayor in 2023 and appointed interim mayor in 2024, before Hu's election. He is a longtime resident and a former finance professional; He notes that he spent about 40 years in corporate finance.

His priorities are public safety resources for police and fire, local business support, transportation and infrastructure, and housing affordability, with attention to senior services. He wants growth that is "aesthetic and sustainable," and says financial decisions should be clearly justified to residents. He has also pushed for better coordination with the Alameda County Sheriff's Office on jail releases.

At the Oct. 13 forum, McCorriston claimed crime is rising in 2026, which contrasts with Hu's figure, and called for more police and fire funding and technology. According to the most recent statistics, crime is down overall in Dublin by 33% when compared to the previous year. However, a string of recent high-profile incidents has heightened public safety concerns heading into the election.

McCorriston said the city faces a structural operating deficit, arguing that Hu's surplus figure conflates the capital and operating budgets. He called the failed hotel tax a reasonable, marginal measure meant to offset expected losses in development fees. He wants housing concentrated near transit and opposes eight-story buildings.

He said he voted against placing 2024's Measure II on the ballot—which would have allowed the city council to exceed Dublin's Urban Limit Line and develop the open Crosby property—citing misleading communication, inadequate financial information, and open space concerns. He also supports the regional transit measure. He said he accepts contributions from trade unions within the city's $500 limit and none from developers.

He is endorsed by the Alameda County Democratic Party, the Alameda Labor Council, East Bay Young Democrats, and by a number of current and former elected city leaders and community leaders.

Kiran Mohammad is a first-time candidate who has not held public office. She describes herself as an entrepreneur, writer and nonprofit leader, with a published aerospace-research background. She looks to bring her outsider perspective to city council.

Her platform includes a 100-day youth wellbeing and community connection initiative, housing near BART and transit, and "fix the basics first" maintenance, such as streetlights and sidewalks. She proposes a public dashboard linking approved housing to school and road capacity, and a walkable downtown with a plaza. She says she takes no money from developers or political factions and has no real estate interests in Dublin. She warns that the city's own forecast shows spending could outpace revenue by fiscal year 2031-32.

At the Oct. 13 forum, Mohammad criticized the city's follow-through, saying a goal of six emergency operations plans over two years produced none and that the streetlight fund runs about $120,000 a year short. She proposes using the roughly $4 million a year freed when the county's sheriff pension bonds end, plus a city-owned fiber network, before seeking new taxes. She also proposed quarterly town halls in each district and a public scorecard of city goals. Mohammad said that voters should decide on the regional transit measure and that she wants an oversight committee and a clear return for Tri-Valley riders.

Mohammad is endorsed by the Sierra Club and Moms Demand Action Gun Sense, as well as several candidates from local races, including Dublin City Council District 2 Candidate Daniel Hor.

Election Day is Nov. 3.

DISTRICT 2

(Continued from front page)

facility as the top issue in the district. If one is proposed, Hor said, a council resolution of solidarity and work with elected representatives to oppose it would follow. Hor said he would've backed sending a hotel tax increase to voters and would revisit the idea if elected, citing a resident survey showing majority support and noting that the rate has been 8% since 1984. Hor also supports the regional transit measure, the Downtown Preferred Vision, the Fallon East economic development zone and the city's 15% inclusionary housing set-aside, and wants the city to partner with nonprofit developers on 100%-affordable- projects.

Hor is endorsed by mayoral candidate Kiran Mohammad and the Green Party of California.

Richard Thornbury is a biotech research scientist with a Ph.D. from UC Berkeley. Thornbury has served on the Dublin Parks and Community Services Commission since 2021 and has chaired it for the last two years.

Thornbury warns that without a focus now on fiscal sustainability, Dublin will face the same structural budget challenges that have hit many local cities. Thornbury also backs continued investment in first responder services and wants to improve traffic safety for pedestrians, cyclists and drivers. On housing, Thornbury calls for infill development, particularly near transit. At the Oct. 13 forum, Thornbury said the hotel tax should have gone to the ballot, supported the regional transit measure and the downtown plan. Thornbury's first-year goal is to bring the Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan back to the council, with quick fixes such as stop signs and traffic calming on Central Parkway and Amador Valley Boulevard.

Thornbury is endorsed by the Alameda County Democratic Party, the Tri-Valley Democratic Club, East Bay Young Democrats, 3.14 Action, former Dublin Councilmember Shawn Kumagai, and current and former Dublin Parks and Community Services commissioners.

Steven Lorey is a retired U.S. Army combat veteran who served as an infantryman, intelligence analyst and, most recently, an executive at Camp Parks. Lorey holds master's degrees in public administration and leadership studies. Lorey has not held public office, but says that military service and professional training would carry over to the council.

Lorey's priorities are public safety, fiscal sustainability and civic engagement. In his first year in office, Lorey vows to make clear that ICE isn't welcome in the community and to educate the public on the responsible use of automated license plate readers. At the Oct. 13 forum, Lorey called the hotel tax a good measure within a broader plan, but said both revenue and spending need review. Lorey cited a $365 million reserve and a possible deficit as early as 2030, and supports community policing along with responsible use of license plate readers.

Lorey is endorsed by the Bay Area Reporter.

Tejpreet Singh is an investor in real estate and technology who is on sabbatical from law practice and holds an LL.M. from UCLA. Singh is a first-time candidate, an immigrant and a father of two who speaks five languages.

Singh's priorities are public safety, with a plan to cite crime trends in public reports, and more affordable housing. His first-year priority is a funded street and sidewalk repair plan, naming Village Parkway and Amador Valley Boulevard. Singh also wants phased, milestone-driven downtown implementation and a coordinated infrastructure plan with the school district.

Singh did not attend the Oct. 13 forum, citing a back injury, but a statement was read aloud at the start. It called for repairing aging roads and sidewalks, revitalizing downtown, supporting local business, affordable housing for working families, safer walking and biking, and protecting parks. It also promised transparent spending, clear project timelines and regular public updates, and noted daily Instagram videos.

