

\$6.6M Set Aside for Tunnel Plan

Zone 7 Recommits To Project While Other Agencies Wait

By David Jen

REGIONAL — The Zone 7 Water Agency committed another \$6.6 million through 2027 to the Delta Conveyance Project (DCP), despite concerns that other project partners might still withdraw. The funds will go toward planning, permitting and pre-construction work for the project, which is expected to be completed in 2045.

The Zone 7 board voted unanimously on Oct. 16 to provide \$6.6 million in funding. Prior to the decision, the agency, which supplies water to the Tri-Valley, had already committed \$7.6 million for the DCP.

Also known as the Delta Tunnel, the DCP proposes to build a 36-foot-diameter, 45-mile-long tunnel from the

(See TUNNEL, page 14)

Dublin

Emerald Taps New Principal Lenni Velez Replaces Former Principal Francis Rojas

By Ruth Roberts

DUBLIN — Emerald High School Assistant Principal Lenni Velez was chosen as the new principal by the Dublin Unified School District (DUSD) board in a closed session during its regular meeting on Oct. 22. Velez was approved by a 3-1 vote.

Trustee Dan Cherrier was the dissenting vote, and Trustee Gabi Blackman was absent.

Cherrier told The Independent that his decision to vote against the appointment of Velez was solely an issue of good governance.

“I have absolutely nothing against Lenni (Velez); I think she will do great in the job,” said Cherrier. “I think when you have an appointment of this magnitude you need to go through a full process and open the position up ... it’s bad to set a precedent of not doing good governance and Dublin has

(See PRINCIPAL, page 14)



Eaisley Hicks of Dublin and other young swimmers came to Dublin’s annual Floating Pumpkin Patch on Saturday, Oct. 26, at The Wave aquatic center. They decorated pumpkins, won prizes, and went home with a pumpkin of their own. (Photo — Doug Jorgensen)

The Independent’s Endorsements For the Nov. 5 General Election

Includes Local and State Races and Measures, U.S. Congress

By Independent Staff

Dublin

Mayor: Tom Evans
City Council, Position 3: Razi Hasni

Pleasanton

Mayor: Karla Brown
City Council, District 2: Valerie Arkin
City Council, District 4: Matthew Gaidos

Livermore

City Council, District 3: Jeff Kaskey
City Council, District 4: Tom Soules

Dublin Unified School District (See page 4)

Area 1: Ramnath Shanbhogue

Pleasanton Unified School District (See page 4)

Area 3: Kelly Mokashi

Area 4: Charlie Jones

Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District (Two at-large seats; see page 4)

Christiaan VandenHeuvel and Tara Boyce

Sunol Glen Unified School District (See page 4)

Erin Choin

Livermore Area Recreation and Parks District (Two at-large seats)

James Boswell and Jan Palajac

Dublin Measure II

Vote No

Dublin Measure JJ

Vote No

Pleasanton Measure PP

Vote Yes

BART Board of Directors, District 5

Melissa Hernandez

Chabot-Las Positas Community College District, Area 4

Maria Heredia

Recall District Attorney Pamela Price

Vote No

California Proposition 5

Vote Yes

California State Assembly (See page 4)

District 16: Rebecca Bauer-Kahan

District 20: Liz Ortega

California State Senate

District 5: Jerry McNerney

U.S. Congress

10th District: Mark DeSaulnier

14th District: Eric Swalwell

General Election

BART Board Draws Two Candidates Incumbent and Challenger Differ on Taxes, Ridership, Budgeting

By David Jen

REGIONAL — Former lab scientist Joseph Grcar is challenging Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) Director Melissa Hernandez for the District 5 seat, to which she was appointed in May following the abrupt resignation of Director John McPartland.

District 5 stretches from Castro Valley to the county’s eastern boundary, including the Tri-Valley. Both candidates view declining BART revenues as one of the agency’s top priorities.

Joseph Grcar

Grcar said he decided to run when he saw no one else challenging Hernandez.

“I thought it was a good idea to at least have some discussion,” said Grcar. “(Hernandez) was a city councilmember of Dublin. And then she gets selected (as) mayor. Okay, well that’s quite an accomplishment. But she was only a mayor for three and a half years, and then she up and quits to run to get appointed to the

(See BART, page 14)

New Winery Plan Draws Opposition From Residents

Avaanti Vineyards Told by County Zoning Board to Redo Proposal for Events Center

By Larry Altman

LIVERMORE — An Alameda County planning panel last week directed the architects of a proposed events center and golf course in South Livermore wine country to return to their drawing boards after residents voiced concerns about the projects’ effects on traffic, noise, groundwater supplies and the environment.

The three-member East County Board of Zoning Adjustments (ECBZA), holding its first public hearing on Avaanti Vineyards’ proposed development, heard from 17 residents, each of whom said

they opposed the project in its current form.

“I think you’ve got a little bit of homework,” ECBZA member Frank Imhof told property owner Uday Gurram and architect William Wood during the Oct. 24 meeting at the Dublin Community Library.

Avaanti is proposing to build a winery on a 113-acre vineyard near the intersection of Reuss and Tesla roads on unincorporated county land outside the urban growth boundary. The plan includes four buildings with a breezeway totaling 30,234 square feet. The buildings will include a production

(See WINERY, page 16)



James Peery, lab director at Sandia National Laboratories, and Livermore Associate Labs Director Andy McIlroy open a time capsule dating from 1999. (Photo — Doug Jorgensen)

Livermore

Sandia Lab Marks 75 Years Of Progress

Lab Advanced Computing, Climate Science, Nuclear Deterrence Alongside LLNL

By Ruth Roberts

LIVERMORE — Sandia National Laboratories celebrated the organization’s 75th anniversary with events at its New Mexico and Livermore sites this month.

In Livermore, the milestone was marked on Oct. 22, with a program that included the opening of a time capsule, and comments from local officials including Livermore Mayor John Marchand and Vice Mayor Bob Carling. Representatives from the county, state and federal offices, along with representatives

from the U.S. Department of Energy, were on hand to mark the occasion. Grants of \$20,000 each were awarded to Quest Science Center and Tri-Valley Haven.

Andy McIlroy, associate labs director for Integrated Security Solutions, and the manager of the Livermore site, praised the event and commended the staff and individuals who have made the lab a success.

“Our 75th Anniversary celebration was a marvelous event born out of a monumental history,” said McIlroy in an email to The Independent. “The Califor-

(See SANDIA, page 16)



The 50th Annual Foothill Band Review brought numerous marching bands to Pleasanton on Saturday, Oct. 26, where they marched down Main Street. They later went to Foothill High School for the field competition. Notable among the participants was the Wells Middle School band from Dublin (above). (Photo — Doug Jorgensen)

School Bands Keep On Marching Foothill Band Review Celebrates 50 Years of Tradition, Music

By Christina Cavallaro

PLEASANTON — There was a fall nip in the morning air and autumn leaves swirling on the ground as 51 teen marching bands paraded in succession down Pleasanton’s Main Street in full regalia on Saturday, Oct. 26.

There were velvets, tafetas, and plumes galore, gigantic sousaphones and miniscule piccolos. A dog paraded in a miniature puffy vest. The scene set against a patriotic red, white and blue

80-foot-long bandstand could have come straight out of a Hallmark classic movie.

Rob Reyes, president of the Foothill Band Boosters, provided a behind-the-scenes look on the eve of the Foothill Band Review that this year marked its 50th year.

“There’s this army of parents that just makes this happen. And they’re incredibly dedicated,” Reyes said from his home. “My wife has seven crock pots in (our) living room. And

then we have a bunch of yellow bins and a ton of donated fruit from parents across the organization.” And that’s just for the hospitality dinner for alumni, staff, directors, judges and volunteers before the actual event itself even begins.

In 1974, the Foothill Band Review, one of the largest band competitions in Northern California with dozens of schools competing in three different events (parade, field and concert competitions), almost didn’t get off the ground.

(See BANDS, page 16)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Classifieds	19	U.S. Rep. DeSaulnier Visits Livermore, Dublin	2
Editorial	4	Livermore Council Increases Manager, Attorney Pay	3
Mailbox	5	Pleasanton Hosts Mental Health Conference	13
Obituaries	17	Charming Fig Reopens After 2023 Fire	13
Sports	18	Granada Girls Flag Football Triumphs Over Monte Vista	18

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

PET OF THE WEEK



NACHO CHEESE

This week’s Pet of the Week is nacho best friend...yet. Nacho Cheese came to Valley Humane in September and is looking for a loving home. He’s a friendly four-month-old feline who loves to play and is a chip off the old block. He came to VHS with his mom, Dorito, and his siblings: Sweet Spicy Chili and Cool Ranch. Just like the snack he’s named after, Nacho Cheese could be a perfect staple in your home. Visit valleyhumane.org to learn more or email info@valleyhumane.org to start the adoption process. (Photo courtesy of Valley Humane)

U.S. Rep. DeSaulnier Presents Federal Funding for Livermore Transit, Dublin Public Safety

By Ruth Roberts

U.S. Rep. Mark DeSaulnier, who represents California's 10th District in Congress, presented federal funds for projects in the Tri-Valley during two stops this week in Livermore and Dublin.

The 10th Congressional District represents a large portion of Contra Costa County and most of Dublin east of I-680.

The dual event on Oct. 29 began in Livermore with the congressman handing over a \$3 million check for the Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority (LAVTA) to add an extra hydrogen fueling tank to support the authority's zero-emission buses. The funding was

secured by DeSaulnier and Rep. Eric Swalwell, who represents the rest of the Tri-Valley in the 14th Congressional District.



Mark DeSaulnier

"This is a major change for us in this country," DeSaulnier said at the Livermore Transit Center. "We are really

at the forefront here in the Tri-Valley. We have the national laboratories working on all of these issues and being able to deploy this decades of research into the community is really, really exciting."

The designation is part of a \$15.2 million federal funding package from the 2024 Consolidated Appropriations Act. The monies will help support 15 projects in Alameda and Contra Costa counties. Other local appropriations include \$3.5 million for the Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, Zone 7, for the Chain of Lakes PFAS treatment facilities project on North Canyons Parkway in Livermore.

"We are filled with gratitude to Congressman De-

Saulnier for supporting LAVTA's vision of a sustainable zero-emissions future," said Melissa Hernandez, former mayor of Dublin and current LAVTA board chair. "The Congressman has been a true leader in regard to supporting transportation. This legislation provides essential infrastructure funding to build robust hydrogen facilities that fuel our buses and provide riders with clean, zero-emission transit throughout the Tri-Valley."

Following the Livermore event, DeSaulnier stopped at Dublin's city hall to present another check for \$198,000 to help pay for "situational awareness" security cameras. Situational awareness cameras are portable camer-

as that allow users to observe a location from a safe distance. The new cameras will

be installed near parks and public schools to increase community safety.

Sign Thefts Mar Late Campaign in Pleasanton

By Ruth Roberts

Police in Pleasanton are investigating reports of the theft of campaign signs throughout the city.

"The Pleasanton Police Department can confirm recent reports of stolen political signs related to the November election, which includes both presidential and local candidates," said Teri Yan, community and public relations coordinator for the City of Pleasanton. "It remains unclear whether specific candidates are being targeted, as some instances of theft may go unreported."

At least two residents told The Independent that their signs for Brown had been stolen from their property on successive nights.

Mayor Karla Brown, who is running against Councilmember Jack Balch for another term leading the city, says she has lost dozens of her re-election yard signs to theft in the past week.

"It's definitely targeted," said Brown who has given a video of suspects taking away the signs to police. "About 50 of my signs were taken, and one Harris/Walz sign. Some were also taken from in front of Gene's Fine

Foods ... this is about trying to influence our election and that's our right."

Balch said to The Independent that he was "dismayed" to learn of the incident, adding that the community deserved better.

"I have no tolerance for such actions. My campaign team has worked hard to place our signs just as my opponent's team has done," he said. Referring to what he says are social media posts, he added: "Additionally, I am disappointed to hear that accusations are being directed at my supporters and campaign team. Casting

blame without evidence is not only irresponsible, but harms our community, our neighbors and this campaign."

Livermore Police PIO Azenith Smith said they were investigating the theft of a "Harris/Walz" sign apparently committed by juveniles. Sign theft and vandalism is common in election season and happens everywhere, she said.

Anyone with information regarding the theft of campaign signage in Pleasanton is encouraged to contact the Pleasanton Police Department at 925-931-5100.

3VCF Accepting Applications for Health Impact Grants

The Three Valleys Community Foundation (3VCF) is now accepting applications from nonprofit organizations for its 2024 Community Health Impact Grants.

Grants will range from \$5,000 to \$20,000 for single organization projects and up to \$25,000 for collaborative projects involving two or more nonprofits designed to promote positive community health outcomes, according to a 3VCF announcement.

Grants will be awarded for Mental Health and Wellness projects addressing the continuing need for mental health support in the Tri-Valley area; Health Equity and Access programs to "dismantle barriers

to health care access" for underserved groups; and Environmental Health and Sustainability efforts that address "the intersectionality of environmental health and personal wellbeing" through education, outreach, and workforce development in the green sector.

Nonprofit organizations must submit their grant applications by Tuesday, Dec. 17, to be announced at 3VCF's annual State of Giving Gathering on Feb. 26.

"This year's expanded focus reflects our deep understanding of just how profoundly these issues impact the overall health and wellbeing of our community," said 3VCF President Kelly Bowers. "We are eager to support nonprofits that can

bring forward promising new programs or deliver evidence-based strategies to address these urgent needs."

Bowers added that 3VCF believes "a healthy community starts with a vibrant and resilient ecosystem, one that ensures inclusive access to both mental and physical healthcare for all."

"At 3VCF, we are wholeheartedly committed to being part of the solution and uplifting the strength, hope, and vitality of our region," Bowers said.

Grants funds were raised from local donors and corporate sponsors during 3VCF's Power of Collaboration Corporate Challenge.

The foundation will hold an online seminar for nonprofits interested in applying

for grants at 10 a.m. on Monday, Nov. 4. A recording of the event will be posted to the 3VCF website.

For more information about the grants, go to 3vcf.org or email info@3vcf.org.

Rotary Club to Host Veterans Day Luncheon

Rotary Club of Dublin, in conjunction with the City of Dublin, is hosting a Veterans Day event open to the public on Wednesday, Nov. 6, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Shannon Community Center in Dublin.

The Hometown Heroes Veterans Day Luncheon will feature several guest speakers who will recognize and honor the men and women of the United States military, past and present.

"The Veterans Day luncheon is a wonderful opportunity for the community to come together and reflect on the value of military service and its impact on those in our own community," said Melissa Hernandez, one of the event's organizers. "This collaboration between the Rotary Club of Dublin and the city affords us a few hours out of our busy days to recognize the people

who fought and served our country."

Tickets for the event are \$45 per person and \$375 per table of eight. Veterans and active military are welcome free of charge but must RSVP at Eventbrite.

For additional information and to purchase tickets visit bit.ly/40kzQOj, or text 925-321-5319.

The Shannon Community Center is located at 11600 Shannon Ave.

SHARI'S

PET & HOUSE SITTING
(925)980-5026

Happy Halloween! Happy New Home!
1823 Paseo Laguna Seco
2 bed 1.5 bath ~982 sq ft
with backyard.
One covered and one uncovered parking, just steps from the front door.
Don't miss this great opportunity
\$638,000

Linda Diaz Futral
Broker/Realtor
925.980.3561
linda@lindafultral.com
www.lindafultral.com
License #0257805

LUXICOR
REAL ESTATE

Edward Jones Member SIPC
edwardjones.com

Compare our CD rates
Bank-issued, FDIC-insured

4.40% APY*	4.35% APY*	4.10% APY*
3-Month	6-Month	1-Year

Call or visit your local financial advisor today

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

*Annual Percentage Yield (APY) effective 10/24/24. CDs offered by Edward Jones are bank-issued and FDIC-insured up to \$250,000 (principal and interest accrued but not yet paid) per depositor, per insured depository institution, for each account ownership category. Please visit www.fdic.gov or contact your financial advisor for additional information. Subject to availability and price change. CD values are subject to interest rate risk such that when interest rates rise, the prices of CDs can decrease. If CDs are sold prior to maturity, the investor can lose principal value. FDIC insurance does not cover losses in market value. Early withdrawal may not be permitted. Yields quoted are net of all commissions. CDs require the distribution of interest and do not allow interest to compound. CDs offered through Edward Jones are issued by banks and thrifts nationwide. All CDs sold by Edward Jones are registered with the Depository Trust Corp. (DTC).
FDI-1867N-A AECSPAD 23351912

LIVERMORE VALLEY arts **Live at The Bankhead!**

A VERY SPECIAL EVENING

KARLA BONOFF
WED NOV 20 | 7:30 PM

THE DOO WOP PROJECT
SUN DEC 8 | 3PM

GET TICKETS NOW! LivermoreArts.org | 925.373.6800

GOODGUYS
America's Favorite Car Show
FUEL CURVE
MOVING THE NEEDLE

**34TH FUEL CURVE
AUTUMN
GET-TOGETHER
NOVEMBER 9&10
ALAMEDA COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS
PLEASANTON, CA**

- CPP AUTOCROSS SERIES "FALL" SHOOTOUT
- SATURDAY SMASH 4 CASH DEMO DERBY BENEFITING HAYWARD FIREFIGHTERS LOCAL 1909!
- NITRO THUNDERFEST DRAGSTER EXHIBITION
- VINTAGE CAMPER DISPLAY • INDOOR CAR SHOW
- HUGE SWAP MEET & CARS 4 SALE CORRAL
- VENDOR & MANUFACTURER EXHIBITS
- VETERANS AND ACTIVE MILITARY MEMBERS GET IN FREE ALL WEEKEND!*

REGISTER YOUR VEHICLE OR PURCHASE TICKETS AT
GOOD-GUYS.COM

Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, YouTube icons
#GOODGUYS24

*MUST PRESENT A VALID AND CURRENT ACTIVE OR RETIRED MILITARY ID
© 2024 GOODGUYS ROD & CUSTOM, INC.

Livermore City Manager, Attorney Given Pay Raises; Flat Business, Employment Growth Reported in Downtown

By Larry Altman

The Livermore City Council on Monday awarded City Manager Marianna Marysheva a 7.5% raise, bringing her base salary to nearly \$371,000 a year. Marysheva's raise — 5% plus 2.5% for cost of living, or \$27,000 — keeps her as the highest paid Tri-Valley city manager. The website, Transparent California, lists Dublin City Manager Linda Smith's base pay in 2023 as \$310,000, and Pleasanton City Manager Gerry Beaudin's base salary as about \$300,000 in 2023.

Livermore hired Marysheva in 2022 at a salary of \$305,000.

The council approved the raise unanimously without discussion. The council privately gave Marysheva a performance evaluation in October.

In addition to her raise, Marysheva will receive \$576 in deferred compensation, up from \$366. The figures do not include medical and other benefits.

The council also approved a 2.5% raise for City Attorney Jason Alcalá, bringing his annual salary to just over \$315,000. The council also raised its contribution to his deferred compensation account from \$515 to \$592 every two weeks. Alcalá also received a performance evaluation in October.

Transparent California reports Pleasanton City Attorney Daniel Sodergren

earned \$264,844 in 2023. Dublin's city attorney is not listed.

The pay increases for both Marysheva and Alcalá begin Nov. 18.

In other action, the council also formally adopted pay raises for council members serving on the panel after the November election. The mayor will receive \$1,564.50 per month. Council members will be paid \$1,123.50 monthly.

Downtown Report

A report by Livermore Downtown Inc., which promotes activities and business in the downtown core, said the area saw as many businesses open as were closed in 2023-'24.

The downtown lost 16 businesses but gained 16 new ones. Closed businesses included Buffalo Wild Wings, Security Eye Patrol, Murphy's Paw, Pennyweight Craft Brewing, PB08, Lynen Interiors, Beer Baron, Thirsty Agave, Boba & More, Bay Area BBQ Islands, Miel de Agave Azul, Fat Chance Food Hall, Roya Afghan Cuisine and First Republic Bank.

The businesses that opened included The Korean Place, Teaspoon, The Little & Brave, Savor Indian Cuisine, Board & Brush, Liv Beauty, The Fat Pigeon Bar, Fratello's Ristorante, Mornings on First, Verace Gelato, Cured Fish Bar, The Vault Hair Studio, The Black Cat, and Cafe Calamari Livermore.

Two businesses — Nottingham Cellars and Octable — opened in 2023 and closed in 2024.

The closures cost 126 jobs, but 131 jobs were created with the business openings for a net increase of five jobs.

Open Space Funding

With another unanimous vote, the council approved the Altamont Landfill Open Space Committee's (ALOSC) recommendation to spend \$56,000 from the city's Open Space Account to enable the Alameda County Resources Conservation District and the California Rangeland Trust to conduct an outreach program to educate ranchers about permanent conservation easements.

At its meeting last month, the ALOSC discussed whether to use its funding to not only purchase Tri-Valley land for preservation, but to also pay property owners to perform ecosystem services — like planting trees to reduce carbon — to protect the environment within their properties.

Jennifer Ackerman, a Livermore associate planner, said the money will be used to conduct two conservation easement education workshops in Livermore and Sunol for ranchers and rural landowners to learn the value of placing perpetual conservation easements on their properties.

Of the allocated funding, \$30,000 will establish a fund to help landowners cover upfront appraisal costs associated with assessing the value of the conservation easement, which can cost up to \$10,000, Ackerman said.

Livermore Vice Mayor Bob Carling serves on the ALOSC. The ALOSC's recommendations for land preservation require approval from the Livermore council.

Federal Funding

The council also unanimously accepted a proposal from city staff and its Housing and Human Services Commission for how the city plans to utilize federal Department of Housing and Urban Development funding in 2025-'27. Amy Walker, a Livermore management analyst, identified the priorities as providing affordable housing for low-income families, the homeless, seniors and the disabled; offering rental assistance; emergency shelter and food for the homeless; providing mental health and substance use programs, and medical and dental services for those in need; and providing food, transportation and other services.

In fiscal year 2024-'25, the city received \$380,352 in federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds and \$117,839 in HOME Investment Partnerships Program

(HOME) funds. The city provided 13 grants to nine public and nonprofit agencies for food programs for

seniors, rental assistance, and emergency shelter for people experiencing homelessness.

Paid Political Ad

MAYOR
KARLA BROWN
YOUR VOICE FOR PLEASANTON

www.Vote4Karla.com

Setting the record straight

Issue & Voting Record	Mayor Brown	Jack Balch
FULL-TIME: Employee and Part owner of a BUILDER/DEVELOPER firm www.BalchEnterprise.com (FPPC disclosures)	NO	YES
ACCEPTS: Builder/Developer Campaign Donations (FPPC forms and disclosures)	NO	YES
APPROVED: Drinking water rates To improve water quality and reliability. ALL Pleasanton Drinking Water Meets or Exceeds Federal & State SAFE Drinking Water Standards. PLUS—all drinking water is PFAS FREE. City of Pleasanton Water Quality Report (2023)	YES	NO
PUSHED: Wasting \$10-\$14 million Boondoggle to relocate a Creek at Wayside Park. (Pleasanton Council meeting 2/23)	NO	YES
STATED: He plans, "revisiting architectural standards to encourage development, and exploring other projects". The Independent (10/17/2024)	NO	YES

Paid by: Karla Brown for Mayor 2024 FPPC#1466840

Residents Urged to Sign Up for Emergency Alerts

Alameda County is urging residents to have an evacuation plan and to know their evacuation zone in case of wildfires during the dry months of autumn.

The county has partnered with Genasys to help residents stay aware of potential dangers through the San Diego-based company's Genasys Protect software program.

In addition to syncing with the county's AC Alert emergency telephone communications program, Genasys Protect provides

real-time weather, traffic and shelter information and can model traffic and fire-spreading scenarios. It can also provide residents with evacuation zone information.

Landline telephone numbers are automatically entered into the AC Alert system. However, cellular numbers and mobile devices need to be registered with the county to receive emergency alerts.

To register, or for more information, go to acalert.org.

Dublin Promotes Baker to Assistant City Manager

Jeff Baker, who had served as Dublin's director of community development since 2018, has been promoted to assistant city manager.

"Jeff has a wealth of knowledge in planning, building, and development, and has worked on many of the projects that exist in Dublin today," said City Manager Colleen Tribby. "I look forward to utilizing his skills as we move forward on a variety of important projects throughout Dublin."

Baker has a bachelor's degree in real estate and land use from California State University, Sacramento and a master's degree in business administration from San Francisco State University.

He joined Dublin as an associate planner in 2004 and was named planning manager in 2009. He was appointed assistant director of community development three years later and was named to head the department in 2018.

SPARC to Hold Trivia Night Fundraiser at Local Winery

The Shakespeare & Performing Arts Regional Company (SPARC) will hold a trivia night fundraiser at 3 Steves Winery, 5700 Greenville Road, Livermore, at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 14.

SPARC is a nonprofit theatrical arts organization that produces the annual Shakespeare in the Vineyard program and other community and school presentations.

The evening will include several rounds of trivia, hosted by Pleasanton-based Home Brew Trivia and quiz masters Jeff and Nancy Lewis, with a selection of wines from 3 Steves Winery.

Tickets are \$25 per person. Participants may form teams of up to six people.

Ten percent of all wine sales during trivia night will be donated to SPARC, according to event organizers.

"Partnering with 3 Steves Winery provides a fantastic opportunity to support a local vineyard," said Felicity Cowlin, SPARC development director. "We are proud to be a part of this initiative that brings the community together and highlights the synergy between local businesses and cultural institutions."

For tickets, go to sparc.theater.org.

Paid Political Ad

Why we need Tom Soules on City Council

He has the creativity:

- A lifelong scientist and engineer
- Holder of over 50 patents

He has the integrity

- Dedicated husband and father
- Volunteer English tutor for adults learning English

He has the vision:

- Defender of the Urban Growth Boundary that protects the surrounding open space giving Livermore its unique character
- Champion for our natural environment

Tom Soules will bring his experience and skills to shake up city hall!

Vote Tom Soules for City Council District 4

Ad paid for by Candidates That Listen FPPC# 1475128.
www.candidatesthatlisten.com
 Not authorized by a candidate or a committee controlled by a candidate.
[Funding Details at www.fppc.ca.gov](http://www.fppc.ca.gov)

Endorsements

For Livermore Valley Schools, Vote for Tara Boyce and Christiaan VandenHeuvel

For the two at-large seats on the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District board of trustees, two candidates stand out among a crowded field for offering what the district needs: Tara Boyce and Christiaan VandenHeuvel.

Tara Boyce has a background in technology and finance; she runs her own consulting company. She's a strategic thinker who identifies Livermore district's budget, scheduling and student

retention as the primary problems to solve. She also advocates for student wellness centers to address their physical and mental health needs, and has volunteered with the Bay Area Crisis Center and Tri-Valley Haven.

Christiaan Vandenheuveel is a pastor, former substitute teacher, past president of the Livermore High School PTSA and served on the Reopening Task Force during the pandemic. He's running on a

platform of inclusivity, equitable learning environments for all students, transparent decision making, and promises to embrace compromise, pragmatism and resist radicalization.

Of their opponents in the race, Deena Kaplanis does not enroll her children in the school district and did not answer when The Independent asked her where her kids were enrolled, which is disqualifying for us. Jean Paulsen

has not identified any experience working or volunteering in the school district. Amanda Pepper and Maggie Tufts have invested time and energy in Livermore schools and show promise. We encourage them to stay involved in the district.

The Independent endorses Tara Boyce and Christiaan VandenHeuvel for the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District board.

For Pleasanton Schools, Mokashi and Jones Are the Best Options

Four strong candidates are running for two seats on the Pleasanton Unified School District board of trustees. Mary Jo Carreon is also running unopposed for re-election to her Area 1 seat.

Kelly Mokashi, running for a second term to represent Area 3, wants to continue the cost-containment steps the board has already begun, such as establishing a

budgetary review committee and reevaluating contract positions. She's demonstrated leadership in budgetary issues and in finding a new superintendent for the district.

Charlie Jones, a first-time candidate running to represent Area 4, is a Pleasanton native who currently works as a teacher and department head at Tennyson High School in Hayward. He says

he would prioritize protecting the classroom from budget cuts and would work to bring back more of the students who didn't return after the pandemic shutdown was lifted. According to Jones, supporting students should include expanding services for multilingual students and ensuring counseling and student mental health services are protected.

Both Donnalyn Harris and Jen Flynn have some good ideas, such as conducting regular financial audits and seeking alternate sources of funding. Both should continue to be involved in the schools and the district.

The Independent endorses Kelly Mokashi for Area 3 and Charlie Jones for Area 4 for Pleasanton school board.

For Dublin Schools, Vote for Ramnath Shanbhogue

The open seat representing Area 1 on the Dublin Unified School District Board of Trustees is up for a vote, and has drawn two first-time candidates. Gabi Blackman is also running unopposed for re-election to her seat in Area 4.

Of the two, Ramnath Shanbhogue has actively participated in school board meetings and promises to address student safety and fiscal responsibility. Shanbhogue works in technology, and has also coached for the

Dublin United Soccer League, where his daughter plays.

Kristian Reyes points out that the district needs to take a collaborative approach in addressing its budget issues, and to maintain open commu-

nications year-round. However, he hasn't been as directly involved in issues before the school board.

The Independent endorses Ramnath Shanbhogue for Area 1 for Dublin Schools.

For Sunol Glen Schools, Erin Choin Is the Only Reasonable Choice

For election to Sunol Glen Unified School District's sole at-large Board of Trustees seat, newcomer Erin Choin faces a challenge from recalled former board president Ryan Jergensen.

Choin is a part-time substitute teacher and classroom aid instructor with a background in English and early childhood education. She says the district's greatest chal-

lenges include recovering from the dysfunction of the previous school board, especially over flying the Pride flag on campus, and rebuilding trust with the district's families.

Choin says the current policy is the right compromise, that is, allowing the flagpole to fly only the U.S. and California flags, but allowing other flags to be flown or displayed elsewhere on cam-

pus. She also says she'll work to make sure the \$10 million safety and security bond is managed in coming years.

As a former trustee, Ryan Jergensen lost the trust of the public. He would be a divisive board member. As a former board chair, he alienated LGBTQ+ students and the larger community and was recalled from his position. He says

he won't reinstate the district's flag ban, but frankly, we don't think he's shown evidence of change. If he's truly contrite and wants to win the public's trust again, he should demonstrate this with action, preferably in some other venue — not on the school board.

The Independent endorses Erin Choin wholeheartedly for Sunol Glen school board.

Bauer-Kahan, Ortega Bring Many Benefits to Assembly Districts

In the race for the 16th District in the California Assembly, incumbent Rebecca Bauer-Kahan is facing a rematch from her 2020 opponent Joseph Rubay.

Democrat Bauer-Kahan has ably served the district, authoring or co-authoring numerous bills, such as the one authorizing the 988 mental health crisis hotline as a safer alternative to 911, and another creating the Assembly's Select Committee on Reproductive Health, which she led. In addition, she has worked to keep California a

safe harbor for women's choice in a post Roe v. Wade environment. She also fought for and won the passage of a bill to protect the 3,100-acre Tesla Park as open space and parkland in perpetuity.

Republican Joseph Rubay wants to improve public safety and, as he put it, "leave politics out of schools" — which for some national and state Republicans is tantamount to suppressing teaching and political expression that doesn't comport to a right-wing Christian view of the nation. He's

not a good fit for the 16th District.

For the 20th District, incumbent Democrat Liz Ortega faces a challenge from newcomer Republican Sangeetha Shanbhogue.

Ortega has secured millions of dollars for the district for transitional and affordable housing, increasing the minimum wage, and supporting youth, family and senior services. She's authored or co-authored numerous bills to benefit the community and deserves re-election.

Republican Shanbhogue is a

Dublin homemaker who is on the ballot because she came in second place in the March 5 primary election as a write-in candidate with 284 votes. She has some good ideas, such as focusing on the root causes of homelessness and mental health crises, but she's not unique in that view, and her inexperience would handicap her effectiveness in Sacramento.

The Independent strongly endorses Rebecca Bauer-Kahan for the 16th District and Liz Ortega for the 20th in the state Assembly.

For BART, Melissa Hernandez Is the Better Choice

For the BART board of directors, appointed incumbent (and former Dublin mayor) Melissa Hernandez faces a challenge from Joseph Grear, a technology executive who is also running for three other races, including the Chabot-Las Positas Community College District board of trustees.

Melissa Hernandez, a staffer in County Supervisor David Hau-

bert's office, has political and administrative experience; she was appointed as Dublin Mayor and to her current seat on the BART board earlier this year, and has served, by virtue of her past posts, on the Alameda County Transportation Commission and the Valley Transit Authority board. No doubt her experience with transportation issues can serve BART, which

faces numerous challenges, from finances to safety.

Her opponent Joseph Grear makes a good point about Hernandez's staff position in Haubert's office, which raises questions about the independent role that is needed for her work on BART. This should be watched. Grear's solutions for BART's issues — charging businesses the cost of

their employees' commutes or passing a regional tax that excludes Alameda County — are unlikely, to say the least. He's stated he's only running to provide a contested race. We believe that he is not otherwise qualified for the seat.

The Independent endorses Melissa Hernandez for the BART board of directors.

THE Independent

INLAND VALLEY PUBLISHING CO.
PUBLISHER: Joan Kinney Seppala
EDITOR: Chris Winters

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

THE INDEPENDENT (USPS 300) is published every Thursday by Inland Valley Publishing Company, 2250 First St., Livermore, CA 94550; (925)243-8000. Mailed at Periodical Postage Prices at the Livermore Post Office and additional entry office: Pleasanton, CA 94566-9998. THE INDEPENDENT is mailed upon request. For more information or to sign up visit www.independentnews.com. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Independent, 2250 First St., Livermore, CA 94550.

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

www.independentnews.com

MAILBOX

Mailbox Guidelines:

Opinions voiced in letters published in Mailbox are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of The Independent. Anonymous letters will not be published. All letters are required to have the name(s) of the person(s) submitting them, city of residence and phone number, for verification purposes. Letters may not contain advertising. Abusive letters and letters containing ad hominem attacks may be rejected or edited. Letters are subject to verification and may be edited for clarity at the discretion of the editor. We reserve the right to decide whether or not the letter will be published. Headings for all letters may be edited at the discretion of the editor to properly reflect their content. A headline will be added to letters received without one. Frequent letter writers may have publication of their letters delayed or not run at all. Letters should be limited to 400 words or less and should be sent by email to letters@independentnews.com or submitted on our website: <https://www.independentnews.com/mailbox/>. The letters to the editor deadline is Monday at 10 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 10 a.m. on Monday must hold until the following week.

MAILBOX

Measure II Poses a Dual Threat to Our Community

Aaron Oehrle-Steele, Dublin

I'm writing to express my frustration with our city council's handling of Measure II and the dismissive, combative responses from mayoral candidates Jean Josey and Sherry Hu. When residents raised questions, concerns, and legitimate objections to this measure, they were met not with dialogue, but with evasive answers and, at times, outright rudeness. Dublin residents deserve respect and transparency on issues as consequential as Measure II, not a council more concerned with appeasing outside developers.

Measure II poses a dual threat to our community: the loss of protected open space and a greater financial burden on Dublin taxpayers. The council's claims of future tax revenue from commercial development are exaggerated, and the city's own data show that the projected financial benefits fall far short of offsetting costs. With Measure II, Dublin loses Livermore's financial contribution to the Dublin Blvd. extension, which means we, as taxpayers, must fill that gap. In reality, the anticipated tax revenue from this development will cover less than half of what the council has promoted, leaving Dublin residents to bear the extra cost.

On top of these concerns, the "Yes on II" campaign's recent mailer labeling local opponents as "Out of Town Radicals" adds insult to injury. This is a blatant misrepresentation. The opposition to Measure II comes directly from Dublin residents who care deeply about protecting our city's landscape, while support stems from out-of-town developers and even out-of-state interests who have no investment in Dublin's long-term well-being. It's clear who stands to gain from this measure, and it's not the people of Dublin.

This council seems more committed to promoting private interests than honoring the voices and concerns of its residents. In 2014, Dublin citizens voted to preserve our green belt for generations, but now, our elected officials appear ready to sacrifice that vision in favor of suburban sprawl and a weak promise of tax revenue. This isn't the leadership our community deserves.

I urge my fellow Dublin residents to reject Measure II and send a message that we will not tolerate disrespect, dishonesty, and decisions that place private profit above the welfare of our community. Let's demand transparency and accountability from our city council and ensure our open spaces and taxpayer dollars are used wisely.

Vote for Kristie Wang for Livermore City Council District 4!

Melanie Young, Livermore

I have known Kristie Wang for almost 18 years, since our children were in LARPD's Mommy and Me class at Jane Addams. Although we hadn't met in

college, we quickly discovered that we had an added connection in that we both attended University of Chicago at the same time. At University of Chicago, everyone is required to complete The Core Curriculum, where you are taught how to think critically, how to approach problems from multiple perspectives, and how to explore complex ideas and processes and discuss them with staff and peers. The goal of this intensive educational foundation is to cultivate a range of insights and encourage a lifetime pursuit of knowledge through reflection and learning. This common experience, that Kristie and I shared, created an instant bond. Over the years, as our children grew up, started kindergarten, middle school, high school and ultimately college, we have stayed in touch to talk about education, parenthood, local issues and even national political issues.

When she was considering running for School Board member, I supported her completely. I knew that her educational foundation, and the work she tackled to help combat the youth vaping epidemic by advocating for local policy to help restrict the sale of vape products, meant that she had the awareness, drive and people skills to be an excellent advocate for our children. She has been a wonderful addition to our local LVJUSD school board and has done an excellent job of serving her community through her position. I am excited that she has decided to use her experience and knowledge to serve the City of Livermore to continue to make a positive impact on our community. I invite you to join me in supporting and voting for Kristie Wang for Livermore City Council Member.

Our Shared Values

Jeff Kaskey, Livermore

Through my campaign for City Council, I have knocked on the majority of your doors in District 3 (still time to reach more!). We have talked about the things you value that you want Council to hear. We generally find that my values align with yours and my Livermore experience reflects those values. You value our Urban Growth Boundary, and I have worked to preserve it. You value Livermore's heritage, and I have been teaching Livermore history to students for years. You value a City that works with its residents and you value a downtown we can all enjoy, and I was on the Downtown Steering Commission to create a program for gathering citizen input on the downtown plan. You value effective transit and preservation of our local history, and I worked with the City to have our historic Southern Pacific Depot restored as a major transportation hub for our City. You want council members who don't use personal attacks as part of the process, and I have managed sometimes fractious non-profits and corporate teams to work together and achieve significant goals.

We also talk about our ap-

preciation for Livermore's hard to define but very real 'character.' In my 40+ years here, I get it. I am frequently in the Rodeo Parade, participate with the Livermore Cultural Arts Council in Artwalk, helped with Tuesday Tunes. I manage the City's historic Hagemann Ranch, presenting a piece of our agricultural and equestrian history. I contribute my time and resources to local organizations, from the gardens at Fertile Groundworks to the Livermore Heritage Guild to Livermore Lions to Open Heart Kitchen to Valley Humane Society. I am on the board of Livermore Valley Arts (the Bankhead Theater and Bothwell Art Center).

If you feel my values are your values, I humbly ask your vote for Livermore City Council in District 3. My website is jeff4Livermore.com. Thank you for voting.

Community of Characters

Linda Garbarino, Pleasanton

Has Pleasanton become a "community of characters" who support their candidate by breaking the law?

Two nights in a row, Mayor Karla Brown's campaign was targeted by a squad of thieves set on removing Mayor Brown's campaign signs throughout Pleasanton.

These vandals have replaced stolen Karla's signs on our street today, with a truck sporting huge photos of Karla's opponent. Who does that?

Video of some of the thieves stealing signs is with the Pleasanton police. This crime is a felony subject up to a year in prison.

Are these repeated criminal behaviors a less than subtle message to voters in Pleasanton about what we can expect from leadership change they are clearly supporting?

Time for a Change — District 4

Thomas Soules, Livermore

My positions on city issues are listed on my website. They include a park downtown to serve everyone and help preserve the character of Livermore, affordable housing at sites in need of renovation, preservation of the Urban Growth Boundary, promoting responsible economic growth, encouraging eco-tourism and creative solutions that require no new taxes. They also include making the city government completely transparent to its citizens. Although up until last week my opponent indicated no strong positions on city issues, in last week's Independent and her latest mailer, she voiced some positions similar to mine; for example, I'm "committed to preserving the character of our city." This was first on my website, but with a specific action. (TomSoules.com). I guess this is a compliment. But the difference between us is clear. Kristie will not oppose the City Plan, which would and is destroying the small-town character of Livermore or oppose the city government from which she has a long list of

endorsements. If you think we need a change and a new direction, vote for Tom. I will serve you and try to cut through the tape of bureaucracy to get things done.

I want to thank all my supporters who have made this campaign possible. As some of you know, I decided to run for Council in Livermore, District 4 only after seeing a central park in Cary, North Carolina, four days before the deadline for running. After deciding to run and having no idea whether it was still possible, people came out to make it possible. It has been a blast. Something unlike anything I had done before. People, and a lot of them, came out in support of my campaign. They became friends. They were willing to give of their time and effort without pay to help me canvass the neighborhoods, set up meet-and-greet events, put together a trifold and signs, etc. I will never forget this time or these people regardless of how the election turns out.

Pot Calls Kettle Black

Elizabeth M. Judge, Livermore

Former Mayor Bob Woerner surfaced on social media last week to vilify citizens who legally donated thousands for past candidates, as if they had reaped some personal benefit instead of the hate he and others bestow on them to this day. His concern for the current election fails to mention that the candidates he favors are supported by developers and real estate folks who would have something to gain for their donations.

With an obvious burr still under his saddle, he posted even more rhetoric to malign Joan Seppala recalling that some years ago she threatened him and former council member Spedowfski. (Was she packing heat?) And then there was this other time she said this or did that...

Mr. Woerner needs to keep the focus of blame for the downtown mess on the over-functioning publisher. He was the Chair of the Downtown Steering Committee and is responsible for its unfortunate result. He allowed the citizen process to be hijacked in the first place.

Very early in the process, the PlaceWorks' facilitator claimed publicly that putting the hotel on the east side of Livermore Avenue was a "done deal." Staff immediately corrected him, but someone in authority had given him that notion; there is no way he would have made this up. Accord-

ingly, all three of PlaceWorks' hotel experts pushed the ridiculous idea that the hotel had to be seen by tourists coming into town from 580 via Livermore Avenue!

The resulting design for downtown shocked most citizens, but one feature stood out as the only one that had gained, even expanded, when all was said and done. Featured right in the center of the plan is Blacksmith Square conveniently situated just across the street from the proposed hotel. All during the process, nothing was allowed to overshadow that property even though its owners chose not to get involved in the process overtly.

Years later, in a rare appearance before the city council, one of the owners of Blacksmith Square came to thank then Mayor Woerner profusely as he was about to leave office. He was grateful for Woerner "from the beginning." Follow the gratitude!

Mr. Woerner is a very smart man. He knows that in Livermore it is easy to keep a target on a woman's back. Sadly, he and others have infected the newer leaders with the same bad leadership philosophy: if you disagree, attack opponents personally.

Build Dublin Up, Not Out!

Eloise Hamann, Dublin

In a recent letter to the editor, I liked Dublin for many reasons. In terms of building up, I liked that Dublin leader Jean Josie understands California rules for increasing housing. This means Dublin gets to decide where and how to build, not the State.

European countries generally preserve open space between communities so people can access hiking, recreation, and wildlife easily. This is smart. That's why I oppose Prop II which is intended to empower Dublin to break the

(See MAILBOX, page 6)



Mony Nop and Sophie Mao (above), owners of Mony Nop Real Estate, are encouraging members of the Tri-Valley community to join them in the Livermore City Hall parking lot, 1052 S. Livermore Ave., from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 24, for the ninth annual Mony Nop Turkey Drop. Volunteers will be on hand to accept frozen turkeys, gift cards, and cash donations to help the nonprofit Tri-Valley Haven provide Thanksgiving meals and holiday gifts for needy families. Donations will also be accepted throughout November at Grocery Outlets in Livermore and Pleasanton. Tri-Valley Haven reported helping more than 800 families through its holiday food program last year. (Photo courtesy of Mony Nop)

MAILBOX

(Continued from page 5)

agreement with Livermore to leave space between the two communities where no building was to take place. The human race cannot survive if it takes over all the land for housing.

Vote David Farley for Livermore City Council Leslie Jones, Pleasanton

It's time for change for the residents of our Tri-Valley and California in general.

I believe David Farley will bring the needed change, expertise and love for his city of Livermore to the city council and that is why I endorse him for Livermore City Council in this very important election.

Not only do we desperately need change at every level of our society — on our school boards, our city councils, our California state assembly seats and our national Congressional seats — but we need experienced, knowledgeable and dedicated candidates to bring that change. David Farley is that candidate.

A long-time Livermore resident, David Farley is committed to working with Livermore citizens to make sure Livermore makes wise decisions for its residents going forward in order to ensure that Livermore will continue to be a wonderful city in which to live, work and raise families as he and his family have been able to do for many years. Mr. Farley owns a high-tech business locally, worked at Lawrence Livermore and Sandia National Labs as a physicist and has been involved in his community as a Livermore Airport commissioner and volunteer coach for girls' lacrosse.

He has the leadership skills, the depth of knowledge and the commitment to Livermore to be an asset on the Livermore City Council. I believe he would be an outstanding leader and a city council representative who would bring a knowledgeable and fresh approach to existing and future issues that will face Livermore. Please vote for David Farley for Livermore City Council!

Dublin City Council Owes Livermore an Apology

Shirley Lewandowski, Dublin

Talk about breaking good faith with your neighbor city. Despite letters

from the mayor and city manager of Livermore to the mayor and city manager of Dublin on July 15, 2024, stating that Dublin's Measure II was ill-worded and misleading to Dublin voters, three Dublin City Councilmembers (Jean Josey, Sherry Hu and Janine Thalblum) forged ahead the next day, July 16 during the Dublin City Council meeting to vote and approve to put Measure II on the November ballot. This was done while both cities are still having ongoing discussions regarding the Dublin Blvd. roadway extension in Livermore. This is no way to treat a neighboring city partner on an important situation that affects both cities. It is shameful. Bottom line: Measure II is telling Dublin voters to ignore Livermore and give the city council FULL authority to decide on what happens and what goes on the roadway. In essence, Measure II is deceptively asking Dublin voters to GIVE UP their voting rights to the council on any further decisions on the roadway. This should never happen; it's called voter suppression in my book. Dublin voters are smart and see through this disingenuous maneuver by three councilmembers. These three councilmembers owe the city of Livermore an apology, as well as to their Dublin constituents.

I Support Jeff Kaskey for City Council Nile Runge, Livermore

I was having breakfast with Jeff a couple of months ago. He said, "I've decided to run for city council." I wonder why? I (this writer) have been to council meetings before, only occasionally, and found them to be boring, contentious, and something I would never want to do. Achhh! So, Jeff, why would you want to be a councilman? After a pause he said "I want to be a councilman who listens. That's my commitment." He got my vote.

I've known Jeff for some years and am impressed with how he listens to me and others, how he weighs both sides, makes up his own mind, and votes according to his principles. He's a really good guy, honest, and very capable man. Easy to get along with, friendly, thoughtful, . . . and the list goes on.

Your Vote for Dublin: John Morada for Dublin City Council District 3 Melissa Picache and Ian Aniszewski, Dublin

Dear Dublin Residents,

Our family of five are proud 14-year residents of Dublin. We are active and vested members in our community, and it is our privilege to endorse John Morada as our representative for Dublin City Council District 3.

John and Patty Morada have put one child through our school district, with two more to go, and are witness to the problems caused by the lack of collaboration between the city council and the school board, whether it be the city's disinclination to push for appropriate developer fees, school overcrowding, or our crowded city roads. John is vehemently opposing Measure II because, cynically, it takes the decisions over that land use way away from Dublin voters and he has many other concerns about its consequences. Dubliners recognize that rapid development without thoughtful planning and strategic budgeting has caused fiscal problems, particularly to our school district, and consequently a myriad of traffic and safety concerns. John Morada has the hometown experience, a vested concern for community well-being, and a proven commitment to affect positive change.

John Morada is a seasoned entrepreneur with over 17 years of commercial, fiscal, and managerial experience, with a diverse ethnic and international background. John Morada has contributed to the community not only as a soccer coach, but also as a board member for Dublin United Soccer League, directly positively affecting youth sports and experiences amongst our Dublin families. John Morada served as VP of Dublin High School's PFSO, helping raise money for our students through numerous fundraising activities. John is deeply vested in our developing community, with solid support for Dublin's balanced economic growth amidst rapid expansion, and hand-in-hand with a balanced budget, solidly grounded in Dublin's well-being and public safety.

As a coach and mentor in DUSL, John Morada was "that" coach; encouraging

and mentoring our young daughter (yes parents, the one picking daisies on the field during the game). Through his inspiration and creative efforts in those early years, our daughter has risen to play competitive club soccer in high school for DUSL. John Morada also served on the DUSL Board as Field Director, ensuring our fields and signage were ready for games and tournaments. . . . Kudos to John's ethos, "however I can help to get it done" attitude, because for Dublin, we are "ALL IN".

We are proud to support John Morada as our Dublin District 3 Council Member.

Be Careful What You Wish For

Kyoko Takayama, Livermore

"Be careful what you wish for", my grandpa used to tell me. Both on a national and local level change is called for, but do we really want "change"?

President Biden took office in the middle of the worst pandemic, passed multiple legislations to help American people, and brought us an amazing economic recovery. Our 401K/IRA are doing great. Despite crazy PG&E rates hike, we are doing fine. It is getting easier to charge our electric car thanks to Inflation Reduction Act installing more charging stations. My husband and I contacted COVID for the first time, but thanks to vaccinations our symptoms were minor and recovered quickly. No, I don't want to go back to the previous administration and their crazy daily press conference. Overall, my life is better than four years ago.

Locally, I like how Livermore downtown looks like, and all the events featuring many cultures and diverse community members. Livermore is growing and building new houses and neighborhoods, and promoting new businesses, but it is well thought out and not out of control. Despite the remark Mr. Farley made at the Mark Your Ballot event hosted by Granada High School IB students (he said that crime is climbing, and Livermore is no exception), the crime rate in Livermore is stable and our police department is doing a good job. It means that Livermore City Council and staff are doing a great job running our city. I appreciate their hard work.

Governing is choosing the best option presented within the constraint of laws, regulations and limited budget just like every family does. Not everybody wants the same thing, but we evaluate options and make decisions by our priority and budget. City council members have to go through the same process. I like what they have done, and I agree with their endorsements on this election: Steven Dunbar for District 3 and Kristie Wang for District 4.

Making a wish a reality requires hard work, and sometime costs more than we can afford. Then we need to let it go. I do not agree with everything our city council does, but we all ought to know that nobody gets everything we wish for. So which candidates do you think are best for our city and will get things done? The choice is ours. Go vote.

My Recommendations Brad Hirst, Pleasanton

At several requests, here are my suggestions for the local election:
Mayor — Jack Balch.
City Council District 2 — Craig Eicher.
PP — sales tax increase — NO.
Recall DA Pamela Price — YES.
BART Board — no recommendation.
Chabot-Las Positas College Board — no recommendation.

Vote for More Lifesaving Resources

Hasan Hasan, Livermore

I just read the recent news story titled, "Airport Plan

for Ambulance, Fire Service Stalled". Apparently, East Bay Regional Parks District, CalFire and California Highway Patrol need space at Livermore Airport for their helicopters that provide emergency services. An application for their plan was filed Aug. 2023, but so far, 14 months later, the city has not taken action to move their project forward. I realized that this is yet another reason why we must secure new leadership on the Livermore City Council.

We could be in danger of losing the opportunity to secure these critical lifesaving services. The nearest trauma center is in Castro Valley, and getting there by ambulance isn't what saves lives, it jeopardizes lives. Fire risks are increasing. Not having adequate firefighting resources in our community is what contributes to our home insurance policies to be denied or rates to rise.

If we elect candidates to the council who join with current council members, we'll get more delays and lose this opportunity. The current City Council stalled this process to the point that other cities will now be considered, and we will miss out on having these lifesaving resources in our own backyard.

What we must do as voters is elect new voices to the city council, ones that will prioritize our safety over other interests. Jeff Kaskey and Tom Soules are the kind of leaders who would seriously question the holdup and work to move the city forward with a process that will benefit all of us.

Join Me in Voting Yes on Measure PP

Sandra Gray, Pleasanton

There's a lot of misinformation floating around about Pleasanton's Section 115 Fund and Retiree Medical Trust Fund. Opponents to Measure PP argue that these are reserve funds that can be used to address our city's projected \$13 million annual deficit over the next eight years. It needs to be emphasized that these are investments which will help pay for Pleasanton's future financial obligations. The longer we leave these investments intact, the longer they will grow. To advocate tapping into these funds before necessary is to argue for increasing Pleasanton's long-term borrowing costs. This would be short-term gain for long-term pain.

Opponents to Measure PP argue that City Manager Beaudin's projections for future property tax revenue growth is a "low-balled figure." The last four years of explosive growth in home property values in Pleasanton is not a sustainable trend. One only needs to look at home listings on Zillow to see price cuts across the Bay Area. I cite the recent example of a house which was sold this month in the Vintage Hills neighborhood to illustrate a broader cooling trend: A buyer purchased this particular house for \$1.725 million in May of 2022. This house was then listed for sale in May of 2024 at \$1.82 million. After seven months of sitting on and off the market, and a series of price reductions, this house sold for \$1.68 million at a loss.

If you've listened to our City Director of Finance, Susan Hsieh, you will know that Pleasanton management uses financially conservative forecast models to predict future revenue growth. Director Hsieh, and other experts, have been transparent with residents in explaining that increasing city revenues is an absolute imperative. On numerous occasions our city management staff have gone to great lengths to be forthcoming with information that point to a persistent budget deficit. Let's stop with assigning who is to blame. If we as a community wish to keep the high-quality public safety and city services, we must vote Yes on Measure PP. I hope other Pleasanton read-

ers join me in voting Yes on Measure PP this election.

Following the Money Bob Woerner, Livermore

As documented in public records, Joan Seppala, who owns the Independent, her husband Lynn Seppala and Jean King have spent millions of dollars through a variety of local PACs to get their way in Livermore. An analysis of the FPPC Forms 460 for PACs funded by the Seppalas and King since 2018 shows that they contribute on average 88% of the total collected by their PACs.

Their money supported their preferred council candidates and promoted their multiple initiatives and referendums to rezone the downtown. Of particular note is the more than \$482,000 spent on paid signature gatherers that harassed many of us over the years. Their PACs are by no means "grass roots" as they claim.

Current council member Ben Barrientos benefited from the financial support of their Take Back Livermore PAC in the 2022 election. The final Form 460 filed in June of 2023 shows that the Seppalas and Jean King supplied \$328,000, or 85% of the total \$386,000 spent by TBL on the election. By comparison, when I first ran for council, my total campaign budget was about \$7,000.

Their latest PAC, Candidates That Listen, has already reported spending over \$76,000 supporting Jeff Kaskey and Tom Soules. With history as a guide, I expect the final tally to again be in the hundreds of thousands of dollars. It is no secret that if those two candidates win, Joan Seppala will have control of the council and the city's checkbook. Perhaps the real name of their latest PAC should be "Candidates that Listen to Joan."

I urge everyone to pay attention before voting. Livermore's future should not be placed in the hands of a couple of wealthy individuals focused on their personal agendas. In stark contrast, Kristie Wang, Steven Dunbar and David Farley are beholden to no one if they get elected.

Dirty Politics

Barbara Comstock,
Pleasanton

This is what dirty politics looks like: ALL the signs for just one mayoral candidate in Pleasanton being stolen in the middle of the night. For at least three nights in a row, someone has been stealing Karla Brown signs from all over Pleasanton. Our house has been hit three times. One morning, every Karla Brown sign in our neighborhood was stolen, while none of the Jack Balch signs were. Not lost on me is the irony that this is Jack's city council district. Even if this is a bunch of teenagers, this is exactly why people get turned off from politics and voting. If you remove signs, it looks like a candidate has no support and maybe they'll vote for the other guy. This is anti-Democratic. I support Karla Brown because I believe she has shown the leadership and temperament to guide Pleasanton, and someone stealing my sign does not change my vote, nor will it intimidate me. We have video and police reports have been filed. This is property theft. Each sign is worth \$20-30. When 30+ signs have been stolen, that adds up. Local campaigns have limited resources and when a candidate is forced to replace and distribute signs, it takes from the time they need to talk directly with voters about what matters most. Beyond that, it fuels an already incendiary political environment. If you have teenagers, please talk with them about the fact that this is illegal. I hope it's not adults taking the signs, because adults should know better. Either way, Pleasanton

(See MAILBOX, page 8)

Ophthalmology care that's minutes away. And light-years ahead.

With the Byers Eye Institute in Livermore, advanced ophthalmological services are closer than ever. From innovative corneal and eye disease treatments to vision-saving surgery, our highly skilled team of experts offers world-class ophthalmology care, all at one convenient Tri-Valley location.



Stanford
MEDICINE

Health Care
Tri-Valley

stanfordhealthcare.org/whatshere



Henry Williams, a member of Troop 998 in Pleasanton, has earned his Eagle badge, the highest rank in the traditional Scouts BSA program. For his Eagle project, Williams designed, organized and led a team of six other Scouts in creating two garden beds for native plants at Sycamore Grove Park in Livermore. (Photo courtesy of George Williams)

MAILBOX

(Continued from page 6)

ton deserves a respectful and honest mayoral race. We should be better than this.

I Endorse Jeff Kaskey for City Council

Celeste Garamendi, Tracy

From my years of work in community advocacy in Alameda and San Joaquin Counties, I know that effective leaders can accomplish great things for their communities. City Council District 3 candidate Jeff Kaskey is exactly the type of leader that every city needs.

I met Jeff nearly 15 years ago when the effort to permanently protect Livermore's Tesla Park land was forming. Jeff, then president of the Livermore Heritage Guild, immediately stepped up to first learn and then support the work to preserve the Tesla Park land. He helped build the coalition and community support that ultimately led to state legislation. Jeff saw how protecting Tesla would not only preserve its exceptional natural and cultural resources, but also give generations of Livermore residents an open space park to experience and enjoy nature.

Jeff brings to the city council his deep connections with the Livermore community, but also the insight and vision to see the immediate needs that need to be addressed, and the opportunities that advance the interests of the community long into the future.

It is an honor to endorse Jeff Kaskey for Livermore City Council, District 3. Although my family has a long history with the city, my only regret is that I do not reside in Livermore to cast my own vote for Jeff Kaskey for Livermore City Council.

Statement on Public Safety

Craig Eicher, Pleasanton

As a retired Police Captain with more than 30 years of service to my community, the issue of public safety is of paramount importance to all of us. The best relationships between law enforcement and the community are grounded in trust — that we'll show up when you need us and that we'll get there as quickly as possible. But our emergency response times in Pleasanton have been heading the wrong direction, as have property crimes. We used to respond to emergencies in under three minutes; now it takes up more than five. We can and must do better.

I support:

- Improving our emergency response times

- Ensuring our Public Safety responders are properly staffed and have the equipment and training to

serve our community.

- Fostering trusted and lasting relationships between the police department and our community

- Transparency and accountability within law enforcement to build bridges in the community. For more, please visit my website at www.eicherforpleasanton.com.

Follow the \$\$\$\$\$ Livermore Election

Vic Avila, Livermore

Where your heart goes, that's where your money goes.....that's where your interest lies. So where have Steve Dunbar and Kristie Wang received substantial contributions to their campaigns?

Developers and California real estate organizations have filled these candidates' coffers with greenbacks, Jacksons, Lincolns, and Washingtons. Why do these organizations back Dunbar and Wang.....because with these two candidates sitting on city council, they KNOW that their development wishes will be granted by these Johnny-come-lately residents of Livermore.

Definition of "Johnny-come-lately" is those people who do not recognize or appreciate Livermore's legacy of ranching, agriculture, grape growing, open spaces, and no URBAN SPRAWL, and therefore will not protect Livermore from becoming urban sprawl.

On the other hand, many Livermarians have contributed to Tom Soules and Jeff Kaskey campaigns. These contributors value Livermore's heritage and spaciousness, because if it's gone, you can't get it back; i.e. Dublin CA. Joan Seppala is one of the many protectors of Livermore, a contributor to Soules and Kaskey campaigns like many Livermore residents--but she and other like contributors do not benefit in any way personally from backing these candidates—other than maintaining the "uniqueness" of Livermore. Joan in The Independent prints letters to the editor that support all opinions regarding the election, all candidate letters of support and in opposition.

Your money and your interest follow your heart. If you have a heart for Livermore and want to maintain your current level of enjoyment living here, vote for Kaskey and Soules, and contribute to their campaigns. Your heart will feel better and the community we enjoy will be maintained.

Pleasanton Needs New Leadership

Brian Black, Pleasanton

Recently we learned

that Pleasanton's financial health fell to the 14th percentile; 61st from the bottom out of 430 California cities as measured in fiscal 2020–21. Of those same California cities, only eight have a higher sales tax rate than Pleasanton's current 10.25%. Raising our rate to 10.75% as proposed by ballot measure PP would put us at the top. I would suggest that the problem is not that our sales tax rate is too low.

Our per capita assessed home property value is in the top 20% of all California cities. The tax burden for Pleasanton residents is already very high compared with other cities.

Pleasanton needs new leadership — a mayor and council whose first inclination is not to go to residents to ask for more money. Rather, we need a council with experience looking closely at budget details, balancing spending and resources, and who will encourage responsible growth and economic development. I invite you to join me in supporting Craig Eicher and Vivek Mohan for Pleasanton City Council and Jack Balch for Mayor.

Vote Yes and Recall Pamela Price

Simon Li, Dublin

On Nov. 5, Alameda County voters should vote yes and recall Pam Price as District Attorney.

When Price was voted into office, her position was for a six-year term. Now, only two years into that term, the Alameda County DA has turned into the public defender protecting criminals, not victims. Our communities cannot afford four more years of her incompetency.

When Governor Newsom offered state resources to address rampant crime in our county, Price refused his aid. U.S. Representative Eric Swalwell, a former deputy district attorney in Alameda County, called for Price's recall saying she gives "bad guys a green light to hurt people." The DA of San Francisco Brooke Jenkins said Price's policies have only led to an increase in crime. In response to her incompetence, Price's own lawyers voted overwhelmingly to recall her. And all 14 police unions in our county have also demanded her recall.

Price has stopped charging cases. In a recent article, the San Francisco Chronicle revealed 1,000 misdemeanor criminal cases were dropped under Price because the statute of limitations expired before her office could review them. These cases include repeat DUI offenders, thieves stealing from our homes, local businesses and department stores, and those armed with

weapons to name a few. Why? Because Price has zero criminal prosecution experience, and over 30 experienced prosecutors left the office due to her incompetence. She replaced them with lawyers who have no criminal experience and don't have the skills to review or charge cases.

Price issued a directive to her lawyers preventing them from charging common criminal enhancements that increase prison sentences without her express permission. The results? It gave a quadruple murderer 15 years in state prison. It will let Shawn Killian, the Alameda man charged with executing his family of five, be eligible for parole in 20 years after conviction. It reduced sheriff deputy Derrick Williams' prison sentence in half after he was convicted of murdering his girlfriend and her husband in front of her family. It allowed Krishan Sharma, a man charged with attempted murder, to post bail because Price refused to charge a common gun enhancement that would have increased his bail. Horrifically, just a few short weeks later, he was back on the streets and shot his girlfriend to death.

Vote yes and recall Pam

Price from the position of District Attorney on Nov. 5.

PUSD School Board Members Endorse Craig Eicher for City Council

Kenneth Mano, Pleasanton

Four of the five current school board members of the Pleasanton Unified School District are united in their support for Craig Eicher, current candidate for the Pleasanton City Council.

Mary Jo Carreon, president of the board, and trustees, Steve Maher, Laurie Walker and Justin Brown have all endorsed Craig as their choice for the council.

Craig Eicher is a 32-year veteran of the Pleasanton Police Department, beginning as a volunteer officer and moving up the ranks, retiring as Captain, serving six months as Interim Police Chief during Covid.

He has served the community over the years, volunteering with many nonprofits, as Board chairman of Hope Hospice for six years, he was instrumental in bringing them out of a budget deficit of a million dollars to solvency.

Vote for Craig Eicher for City Council on Nov. 6.

It's Now or Never, Vote for Tom Soules District 4

Donna Cabanne, Livermore

It's now or never...With less than a week until the election, it's time to decide. If you haven't voted yet, please vote for Tom Soules, Livermore City Council, District 4.

Tom will support the Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) and keep development within city limits. He will vote against urban encroachment on agricultural lands and open space. Tom will work to stabilize Livermore as a livable town with defined limits, NOT the ever expanding dreams of developers. He has NOT taken any contributions from developers or PACs representing out-of-town realtors.

In contrast, Kristie Wang, sent out mailers financed by Realtor Associations and PACS based in Pleasanton. With her mailers paid for by out-of-town special interests, do you think Kristie will safeguard our UGB? Or will she be influenced by and behold to those large real estate contributors? Additionally, Kristie's digital advertising was paid for by the 2024 re-election campaign for Mayor Marchand. With this contribution from the mayor's campaign, do you think Kristie will be an independent voice on the city council? Do we need a council member who is one of the mayor's personally picked replacement candidates?

Consider the importance of fiscal solvency. Tom will provide fiscal responsibility while working on challenging city budgets. He vows no new taxes; he will question how city funds are used, keeping a close watch on taxpayers' dollars. Tom's experience in manufacturing and work at LLNL gives him the needed experience to implement the city's budget without wasting tax dollars. In contrast, Kristie Wang, has demonstrated poor fiscal responsibility. As a member of the school board, she approved "spending more than the district's annual operating budget." The school district's 2024-25 adopted budget "poses a financial risk" and could trigger fiscal restraints imposed by the county. Why should we trust Kristie with the city budget??

Tom invites communication and questions from residents. He strongly believes in bringing major decisions to the voters—unlike the current city council who made major decisions without allowing the community to vote, even after referendums were legally submitted. We need new city council members who listen, respect residents' rights, and govern with civility.

Want a change of direction? Tom brings fiscal solvency, transparency, honesty and integrity. Clearly,

Tom is the best candidate for District 4. Choose wisely... Vote for Tom Soules.

Who is Stealing Karla Brown's signs?

Brian and Christine Bourg

We live on Second Street in Pleasanton. On Friday night, Oct. 25, someone stole our two Karla Brown signs. We have a corner lot with other campaign signs, but only Karla's signs were stolen. Talking with Karla and her team at the Farmer's Market on Saturday, we found out that many of her signs were stolen from yards and public spots all over town.

A replacement Karla sign was put inside our fence and it was stolen on Saturday night!

It's obvious that some Jack Balch supporters are committing crimes by stealing Karla's signs. We and others reported these thefts to the Pleasanton Police and they interviewed some of us at our homes about the incidents.

Neighbors up the street caught the thieves on video tape. They drove a black SUV and one of them wore red sweatpants. The police have the video.

Jack Balch should put word out to his supporters to stop committing these crimes to try to get him elected. These tactics are not only unethical, they're illegal. We've worked closely on political campaigns since the 80s, but we've never seen anything this nasty in Pleasanton!

Dave Farley for City Council District 3

Lisa Lewis, Livermore

I met Dave during his campaign, and he is a solid gentleman with great ideas. He's original and brings fresh and fair ideas for city council. We're excited to vote for him. His career tells it all!

Jeff Kaskey & Tom Soules, Champions for Livermore

Denise Leddon, Danville

I have known Jeff Kaskey and Tom Soules for many, many years. Among other things, Jeff and Tom support protecting the Urban Growth Boundary and a legitimate green space in Livermore downtown.

Both men have also volunteered for years. This October, Jeff Kaskey set up and monitored his extensive sound system for my Livermore Cultural Arts Council ArtWalk booth, where we provided free music all afternoon. He has done this for years for our booth! Every time I'm at Hagemann Ranch events, I see Tom Soules pitching in to drive our elderly from the parking lot into the ranch. They have done so much more.

I thought Livermore was different, but it's not. Having followed Livermore politics by attending city council meetings and meetings on the public downtown space, I have seen that the city council does not listen to the public. Get educated: jeff4livermore.com, tom-soules.com. For Livermore to be different and not beholden to developers, vote for Jeff Kaskey for District 3 and Tom Soules for District 4 for responsible decision-making appropriate for Livermore.

Kristie Wang for City Council

Margaret Katzen, Livermore

Kristie Wang has all of the important qualities needed for an effective City Council member, including:

- The proven ability to build relationships with the other council members, with staff, and with the community. Good relationships and sound policy serve our community and city council members must work together as a team. We have already seen Kristie do this for years on our School Board.

- The ability to advocate for one's own position while remaining curious and open-minded about the

position of others. Their role is to debate and vote as individuals but then respect and support the decision of the majority. They must be able to set aside personal interests and influences for the common good of the city, by listening carefully to others with a desire to understand concerns, ideas, and perspectives. I have seen Kristie do this many times over the dozen years I have been friends with her.

- Effective elected officials must be committed to doing their homework. They come prepared to participate in discussions by researching and reading background materials prior to attending meetings. Kristie is a very conscientious and inquisitive person who has always taken her roles very seriously.

- City Council members need to understand basic financial information and be able to evaluate budgets and financial statements. Kristie is especially qualified with extensive background and training in this area. She has bachelor's and master's degrees in public policy! In fact, her career was as a public policy professional.

Being a good leader is not just about one's stance on an issue. Rather, it is about all of these vital attributes, characteristics, and qualities that contribute to the short-term and long-term well-being of our city. This is probably why Kristie has received endorsements from so many people — check out wang4livermore.com. Please join me and vote for Kristie Wang in District 4.

Jack Balch for Mayor and Jen Flynn for School Trustee

Kathy Narum, Pleasanton

Pleasanton has long valued its schools along with public safety as the two top reasons that make Pleasanton a wonderful place to live. Jack Balch for Mayor and Jen Flynn, District 4 for School Trustee understand the importance of having an excellent school district. Even more important, four out of the five current trustees agree and have endorsed both their candidacies.

The trustees recognize Jack's commitment, as a city councilmember, to collaborate with the district to leverage resources for the good of both agencies. He also supported recently enacted bond measures to bring much needed improvements to citywide schools, and his CPA background will be an asset as both agencies deal with their budget challenges.

Jen Flynn has been an active community member, from PTA president, PPIE board member to vice chair of the district Budget Advisory Committee. She will use her experiences to keep our school district in the top five in the Bay Area.

Please join me in voting to maintain our excellent schools by voting for Jack Balch for Mayor and Jen Flynn District 4 for School Board Trustee. For more information, visit jackforpleasanton.com or votefjenflynn.com.

I Disagree with the Independent

Philip La Scola, Livermore

I disagree with the Independent opposing the recall of Pamela Price.

The issues raised by the Independent to oppose this recall require further scrutiny. It is stated this is purely a political recall; no, it is a performance recall. When a DA runs on change, change has to be defined. Price says she believes in restitution, rehabilitation and alternatives to incarceration. I can agree with that. The issue is to identify who is most likely to respond to those alternatives.

It is stated Price believes in reducing rather than increasing mass incarceration, incarceration which disproportionately affects minorities and poor people.

Previously, I attended an

(See MAILBOX, page 9)



Singer-songwriter Karla Bonhoff, who has written hits for such American music icons as Bonnie Raitt, Linda Ronstadt and Wynonna Judd, will perform at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore on Wednesday, Nov. 20. Born in Southern California, Bonhoff was a founding member of the Los Angeles-based rock band Bryndle and continues to tour as a solo artist. Tickets for her 7:30 p.m. performance at the Bankhead Theater start at \$35. (Photo courtesy of Karla Bonhoff)

MAILBOX

(Continued from page 8)

event where Price spoke; I almost walked out. The first thing out of her mouth was a comment about Blacks being only 13% of the population, but 70% of those being incarcerated. Is it because of discrimination? No, it's because they are the ones committing the crimes. The implication for me was police should have a quota around arresting individuals and then stop arresting Blacks after reaching 13%, which makes no sense.

We all realize that poverty, home environment, lack of education, and the need to be accepted i.e. joining gangs can lead individuals to a life of crime. Criminal behavior does require consequences; but at the same time society should work to fix the root causes of crime.

The Independent then resorts to a cheap shot, saying this is a racist recall; nothing could be further from the truth. It just shows, when you have nothing to support your position, calling it racist is the only fallback available.

Issues and Trust

Carol Silva, Livermore

The Independent's Oct. 17 edition contains the viewpoints of the candidates running for Livermore City Council. I noticed how similar the viewpoints are with the candidates in District 3 and 4. So who should a voter trust to keep their words when voting as a city council member on issues, such as not breaking the Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) east of Greenville and fighting Dublin's effort to break its own urban limit to develop land that separates the two cities? My suggestion is to vote for the candidate who showed support of the issues early on during their candidacy, because showing such support when it is based on facts is a reflection of a leader and someone who is more willing to keep their promises.

In District 3, Jeff Kaskey was part of the pushback when Livermore's General Plan Advisory Committee (GPAC) was close to recommending breaking the UGB to annex the land east of Greenville. Jeff attended city meetings to voice his concerns that Livermore's population is declining and that there is currently space within Livermore's boundaries for industrial and commercial development. Also, Jeff is not supported by Livermore Forward, which is a PAC mostly funded by developers. (jeff4livermore.com).

In District 4, up until last ten days, Kristie Wang indicated no strong positions on city issues. However, in last week's Independent and in Kristie's latest mailer, she seemed to copy from Tom Soules' campaign. For example, she copied that she is "committed to preserving the character of our city." I suppose that is a compliment, but is that a leader? But whether Kristie now believes in the importance of the character of our city or not, the difference between

Tom and Kristie is clear. Kristie will not oppose the City Plan, which would and is destroying the small town character of Livermore with high-rise residential buildings. How will Kristie vote on issues when she is supported by California Real Estate Action Committee PAC? If you think we need a change and a new direction, vote for Tom. Tom will offer specific recommendations, and he will try to cut through the bureaucracy to get things done. (TomSoules.com)

Vote for Dave Farley

Carolyn Trinta, Livermore

I have known Dave Farley for many years and consider him a friend, so I of course agreed to help his campaign when he asked. Dave has always been willing to help causes important to me, including our schools and my family's high-tech company. He brings depth and dedication to all he does. I believe he is the best qualified for City Council and has the most to offer Livermore. Where Dave truly shines is his integrity and his honesty.

I have been canvassing for Dave in District 3 and can tell you that the voters I meet prefer Dave over his two opponents, once they meet and compare all three individuals. This does not surprise me at all.

However, I am surprised at the tactics of the Dunbar and Kaskey campaigns. First of all, I know Dave's campaign manager Chung, who ran for City Council about a decade ago. She was told by the very same supporters of Dunbar that it was "not her turn" to be on council, despite her deep credentials. Apparently, they have identified Dunbar as "his turn" to be the next "yes man" on council. Did you know Dunbar missed the August 9 deadline to run for council? Why is he on the ballot? Dave submitted his final paperwork as required the morning of August 9, but Dunbar was given another five days due to a caveat that if the incumbent (Brittini Kiick) does not file her paperwork by 4:59 p.m. of August 9, then the deadline is delayed. Why was Dunbar given privileged, non-public information that he could simply skip the deadline that applied to Dave? BTW, unpopular Kiick has endorsed Dunbar to take her seat on council. Such self-assuredness and nepotism is unacceptable and unhealthy for Livermore. The point is that rules should be applied across the board and the vote should be up to the people for what the people of Livermore want.

It's no secret that Kaskey has been aligned with, and now supported by, the same people who file all the lawsuits against the city. While it's okay to disagree with the actions of the city, unending litigation only benefits lawyers. We do not need a "no man" on council either. Despite pledging positive campaigns, Dunbar and Kaskey are attacking each

other with costly mailers and accusations. Dave Farley is the most qualified, staying above the negativity. Vote for Dave Farley.

Kristie Wang for Livermore City Council District 4

Yanira Guzman, Livermore

I have worked closely with Kristie Wang for four years as fellow trustees on the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District. During our time together, Kristie has consistently demonstrated her advocacy for not only the students and their families within our school district, but for the larger Livermore community. More than once, during board member report outs, Kristie informed the school community of city-sponsored or city-partnered happenings and events within Livermore, such as events at the local libraries, downtown, and opportunities to provide input for city initiatives. Kristie Wang strongly believes in getting city news out to the community as well as seeks input and differing perspectives to influence city decisions. Because of this, I endorse Kristie Wang for District 4 councilmember.

Jeff Kaskey is a Hypocrite! Vote Steven Dunbar

Asa Strout, Livermore

It is almost comical that I am writing this letter today. If you recall, Jeff Kaskey, and his panicked supporters, were the first to complain about negative ads run against Jeff, and if I am being honest, I agree. Negative ads have no place in Livermore politics.

Which is why I called him out when he was completely silent when a competing negative ad was run against his opponent but also supporting him and also using an image of himself. Clearly exhibiting a double standard for negative ads.

As of last week, we know exactly why he was silent when a negative ad ran against Steven Dunbar. It is because he ran a negative ad against Steven Dunbar from his own personal campaign.

Lets recap, Jeff Kaskey feigned anger and disgust when a group of wealthy Livermore residents run negative ads against him, but when a different group of wealthy Livermore residents run a negative ad supporting his campaign and when his own campaign runs a negative ad, it is perfectly okay. I don't know about you but that is the textbook definition of a hypocrite.

With this negative ad, Jeff Kaskey has become the first candidate for city council to run a negative ad themselves for as long as I can remember. He doesn't want to run on the issues that are important to him, and the merit of his positions. Instead, he wants to run a campaign tearing down his opponents with negativity and lies.

Does this sound like someone you want to rep-

resent you on the City Council?

It gets even worse when actually looking at the content of the negative ad from Jeff Kaskey. In it he questions Steven Dunbar's character by putting a question mark under community character and values.

Well Jeff, let me inform you on Steven's character and values. Steven Dunbar is someone full of compassion with some of the highest integrity in public service today, honest beyond measure, completely genuine, and actually willing to listen to the community. With your willingness to run a negative it is clear these are characteristics missing from your campaign.

That is why your vote should be for Steven Dunbar for Council. A vote for Steven Dunbar is a vote for lifting our communities up, instead of trying to tear down the parts we do not like.

No on PP and Yes on Jack Balch

Bob Watson, Pleasanton

Measure PP is basically an admission that our current city council, with the exception of Jack Balch, does not have the fiscal responsibility that is required of their jobs. I have been a Pleasanton resident for 46 years and can't remember a city council that has made so many decisions that are not in concert with the majority of Pleasanton citizens. You only need to think of the skate park and Heritage House renovation over the park downtown to know this council does not care what the rest of us think. This tax increase will tie the city of Pleasanton for the highest sales tax rate in the country [[county? Please ask the letter writer, if you run his letter. (the other six are also in Alameda County). Please vote no on PP.

Dunbar for City Council

Cate Sarraille, Livermore

When I analyzed the platforms of the three candidates for District 3, it was (and still is) clear to me that Steven Dunbar is the most qualified candidate. As a retired civics teacher, I read campaign literature and analyze candidate websites as "job applications." So, what do I look for? Education, job experience, clearly defined goals, and a commitment to the people they represent.

Experience? He is the only candidate who knows firsthand how the council and city staff work with the community to balance the conflicting concerns of different subgroups.

Clearly defined goals? Dunbar's website and campaign materials state he is working today to ensure Livermore's residents have a thriving tomorrow. His platform spells out what needs to be addressed to protect our past and prepare for our future. It advocates for a safer and stronger community and responsible fiscal management, which will create a bright, balanced future. What concrete examples does he provide? Decreasing traffic congestion, ensuring every tax \$ works to improve essential services and community safety while expanding affordable housing and preserving/protecting our agricultural heritage.

Commitment to voters? Dunbar promises to be accessible, approachable and accountable not only to District 3 voters, but to all members of the Livermore community.

Unlike one of his opponents, he is not receiving support from "the group of many names" When Mr. Kaskey canvassed our neighborhood, he spoke to my husband about his goals. Asked about his perspective on housing, specifically low-income Eden Housing, Mr. Kaskey tried to dodge his question. When pressed, Kaskey stated "Livermore doesn't need low-income housing."

If you live in District 3, vote for Steven Dunbar. If

you live in District 4, vote for Kirstie Wong. Be sure to vote — every vote matters.

I Am Voting for Jeff Kaskey

David M Rounds, Livermore

The national political landscape continues to be the nightmare it was four years ago, with divisive distorted statements by candidates toward each other now being the norm. In a non-political setting what some state and national candidates are saying would be considered slanderous at best. Unfortunately, this same nightmare has been trickling down to local politics. You can see it every day in local social media groups, in the mail and in the newspapers.

Fortunately, and unlike in the state or national political scene, it is actually possible to personally know and to have worked with those running for office. I know Jeff Kaskey and have worked with him over the past eight years on various projects and committees. Sometimes we agree on issues and methods; sometimes we do not; sometimes he would change my mind on an issue and sometimes I could change his mind. He listens and takes the time to have a conversation and sometimes a debate. The one certainty is that he is always engaged and is thoughtful, polite and definitely informed. That is why I am voting for Jeff Kaskey. He is also willing to challenge the status quo while being able to consider others' views, which is something that can be lacking in the local political discourse. This city has a lot on its plate for the next several years and Jeff is exactly the type of councilperson I want to help Livermore move forward. He will be an awesome member of the Livermore City Council. I am voting for him and encourage you to do so too.

Pleasanton Creating Potential Environmental Risk

Joe Milelli, Pleasanton

The City of Pleasanton is creating a potential environmental risk to our water supplies and the health of athletes participating in sports activities at the Stanford Medicine Sports Complex. If you have driven by the open fields, masked by fencing, adjacent to the Complex and Case Ave., you have surely noticed the thousand(s?) of tons of reclaimed asphalt pavement (RAP) spread over the vacant land. Incidentally, this also borders Pleasanton Middle School. This is a result of road work being conducted by the city.

"Some state agencies such as New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) have prevented the use of RAP materials as unbound base materials, stabilized base materials, shoulder materials, or in parking lots due to the potential toxic pollutants mentioned above that might leach from RAP used in these applications."

In addition, "Recent studies have also revealed the potential environmental risk of recycling or storing recycled materials or debris due to the release of trace elements such as heavy metals (cadmium, chromium, copper, nickel, lead and zinc) and organic compounds such as polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) into groundwater and soil."

The second issue is the significant hazards associated with inhaling dust from RAP sources. I quote from the Material Data Sheet for "Reclaimed Asphalt Pavement": "RAP varies in size and shape, and when cold it is as solid material that is black in color. When hardened asphalt pavement is subject to mechanical forces, such as demolition or asphalt recycling, dust particles will be generated." Further, "This product contains crystalline silica. Cutting, crushing or grinding hardened asphalt or other

crystalline silica-bearing materials will release respirable crystalline silica. Prolonged or repeated inhalation of respirable crystalline silica from this product can cause silicosis, a seriously disabling and fatal lung disease."

These concerns were forwarded to the Pleasanton City Council. Minimal response, stated RAP was temporary, no comment on silica concerns. My response to the mayor's comments:

First, I don't believe the people managing the overall effort recognized the hazards associated with the project. Second, I think dumping the RAP on the land is a penny-wise, pound-foolish decision. The material, ultimately, will need to be moved at far greater additional expense. Third, why wasn't the RAP recycled as part of the project, since over 90% of RAP in the country is recycled anyway? Especially with the hot plant on our border?

Action/clarification is urgently required.

Check for Yourself

Sharon Piekarski, Pleasanton

Many people are rightly concerned about large money donors trying to influence our elections and gain favor with elected officials. If you are concerned or hear candidates saying their opponents are supported by interests you don't support, please check for yourself.

In California, every campaign, by law, must report all campaign contributions over \$100 by individual contributor, including their occupation and employer. In Pleasanton it is every individual contribution over \$25. This information is easily available to us all.

In Pleasanton, you can see these disclosure statements at <https://public.netfile.com/pub2/?AID=cop>.

In Livermore they can be seen at <https://public.netfile.com/pub2/?aid=liv>.

For other races, you can find these statements on the California Secretary of State's website at <https://cal-access.sos.ca.gov/campaign/>

Confidence in our elected officials is important, so please be an informed voter. Check for yourself.

Dublin Candidate Qualifications

John Morada, Dublin

In response to an editorial written on Oct. 17, I am correcting the misstatement of my public service qualifications written as "he does not appear to have served in the community before." This is ironic and unacceptable considering The Independent's very own journalist Michael Wittner specifically calls out my time serving the DHS PFSO in an Oct. 15 article.

For the record, allow me to share my service to our beloved Dublin community:

Served as Vice President for Dublin High School PFSO, and held the operational position of Chair for the fireworks booster

Served as Board member of Dublin United Soccer League, and performed the operational duties of Head of Field Operations

Served on the Board of Lucca Sorrento HOA

Volunteered as a parent at James Dougherty Elementary for boosters and parent-faculty events

And most recently, I am in the Inside Dublin program serving as a feeder for City Council and Commissions

By the way, all of the current Councilmembers graduated from Inside Dublin or served on a Task Force or Commission, or both. I am the only candidate in Dublin's District 3 following this tradition. Candidacy does not require this precedence but it's a huge head start to understanding City operations.

The Independent has since corrected the misstatement as of Oct. 19.

(See MAILBOX, page 10)



The City of Livermore hosted its 3rd Annual Trunk or Treat at Civic Center Plaza on Oct. 23. Thousands of people attended, and more than 25 vehicles were decorated and stocked with candy. California State Parks "Pirates" trunk was voted Best Trunk, and the City of Livermore Planning Department's "Minions" trunk came in second place. (Photo courtesy of the Livermore Police Department)

MAILBOX

(Continued from page 9)

Vote NO on Measure PP Douglas Miller, Pleasanton

I don't doubt Pleasanton faces budget challenges. It seems to have been coming for a while based upon what we've been hearing.

Why is the City Council in a panic about it all of a sudden? Wouldn't it have been smart to begin to make spending cuts and looking at various fees and other revenues starting all the way back to when the warning signs started? Now, Pleasanton taxpayers are being asked to bail out the council because they didn't make budget adjustments sooner.

What the city has done for the past year is promote the sales tax increase in Measure PP. The surveys and town hall meetings were not really meant to gauge our opinions about how to balance the city budget. Instead, they were marketing an effort, based on fear, to convince us things are really bad, and the only way out is to raise our taxes—but who's responsible for things getting this bad? Certainly, not the taxpayers.

It's easy to see the council believes if they threaten to cut the priorities identified in their community surveys that we'll panic and approve Measure PP. Not so fast. Let's take a step back, have an honest conversation about what can be saved (short of eliminating what we value most), what our revenues will actually be, and, if we agree that additional funds are required, first look to be sure we're adequately charging for the services the city provides.

I'm voting No on Measure PP.

I Enthusiastically Endorse Jeff Kaskey Brenda Kusler Livermore

Many of you may have just met Jeff Kaskey during his door-to-door walks through District 3. I feel honored to have known Jeff for a couple decades. One of the things I admire most about Jeff is that when it comes to his love of and commitment for Livermore, Jeff has always walked his talk. Stepping up to serve his community wherever he could, Jeff has represented the views of his neighbors and others to city leaders for years now. Jeff is one of those rare souls, who when he asks for your thoughts on an issue, actually listens and takes what you say to heart. I am so happy that he decided to run for City Council. His honesty and strong work ethic, coupled with his ability to develop consensus solutions that include all the views he has heard from interested parties, will make him a great advocate for all of you lucky enough to live in District 3. I enthusiastically endorse Jeff Kaskey to become the Council member who will serve District 3 and all of Livermore with honor and distinction.

Carefully Consider Who You Are Voting For Dwight Lang, Livermore

I won't presume to tell

you who to vote for in the upcoming election for President of the United States of America. I leave that to your better judgement.

But I do ask you to carefully consider who you are voting for. In this election each of us will be voting for a person to hold the presidential office. We will not be voting for a political party, or that party's list of what that party stands for; we will be voting for and electing a person. The person that occupies this office is often referred to as the most powerful person in the world. This person will be the commander-in-chief of our military forces, nuclear missiles, nuclear bombers, and all the other weapons. Their job will be to defend us in whatever the situation is, relying on all of our capabilities and expert members of our government and military.

I ask you to carefully consider the values of the person, their beliefs, their morals and what they have done in the past. Are they honest and truthful? Are they trustworthy? Does that person believe in the rule of law, and follow the law? Are you willing to put your trust in them for the future of your children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, as well as your own?

Also think about and evaluate what the people that have worked with and for that person in the past say about their performance, judgement, and reactions to stressful situations. Do they have the skills, knowledge, intelligence, and capabilities to handle this job?

Please be careful about how and where you get information. Is it from a source that has shown their honesty, reliability and truthfulness in the past?

Our vote is the most powerful thing that most of us exercise in participating in our government. Your vote is needed and essential for our democracy to function and to be "that government of the people, by the people, for the people" as Abraham Lincoln once said. Please vote in a well-informed and considered way. Our future depends on it.

Vote Jeff Kaskey for District 3!

Rick Nordyke

With Jeff Kaskey's 40 years of experience in and around the city of Livermore in many different facets, committees and general presence, I firmly believe his election would be a breath of fresh air for the Livermore City Council. His intelligence and general leadership skills are sorely needed and would be quite an asset as District 3's representative. Vote Jeff Kaskey for District 3!

Dunbar Has My Vote Mary Perner, Livermore

As a 20-year District 3 resident, I have developed strong opinions about what I'd like to see happen in my district, and to that end, have been researching Dis-

trict 3 Council candidates... Steven Dunbar, David Farley, and Jeff Kaskey.

Kaskey's been around for a while, so has name recognition and monied backers. However, his Historical Society work doesn't seem (at least in my opinion) to have much application to city council work.

At the City Council candidate forum, I listened to what each candidate had to say. I've reviewed candidate campaign materials, social media posts, and endorsers.

Candidate Kaskey stresses dealing with The East Avenue Corridor project and the old Nob Hill Center, however his opponent, Steven Dunbar, shares the same concerns and has the appropriate commission experience to effectively address these challenges.

Mr. Dunbar and I are periodically in touch. Recently, we walked through the old Nob Hill together, noting its many problems. We have also discussed the East Ave. situation. Steven Dunbar is well aware of the safety issues there and has the problem solving and collaborative skills the city needs to tackle big jobs like these.

Candidate David Farley was someone new to me. Although he has many credentials and varied experience, my friends and I left the candidate forum in unanimous agreement that his ability to collaborate with other council members would be minimal.

Finally, I am always concerned by candidates funded by, and beholden to, just a few, wealthy individuals. Unlike his opponents, Steven Dunbar is not in that category. He's a good listener and considers various points of view. I strongly believe Steven Dunbar will use his independent judgment and experience from Livermore Commissions (Asset Management and Planning) to serve Livermore well.

Cast Your Vote for Jeff Kaskey and Tom Soules Carol Wahrer, Livermore

I have had the privilege of working closely with both Tom Soules and Jeff Kaskey over the past few years. I would like to say how both of these candidates share their views, listen, and are both active and committed to our community. Livermore would be lucky to have such a council representing the entire city. Please consider casting your vote for Jeff Kaskey and Tom Soules. Thank you.

Support for Boyce and VandenHeuvel for Livermore School Board Noah and Carol King, Livermore

As elementary school teachers with a combined 60 years of experience in the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District (LVJUSD), we are proud to support Tara Boyce and Christiaan VandenHeuvel for Livermore School Board. Both candidates are endorsed by the Livermore Education Association

and represent a vision for our district that prioritizes student success, teacher support, and fiscal responsibility.

Tara Boyce brings exceptional expertise in finance, which is crucial as we face a \$4.5 million structural deficit. Her professional experience in identifying budget efficiencies and managing large financial plans will be instrumental in keeping budget cuts out of the classroom. Her dedication to students, including her own two children who attend Junction, reinforces her commitment to ensuring quality educational experiences for all.

Christiaan VandenHeuvel's skills in communication and community-building will help strengthen the transparency and engagement that our district needs. As a parent of current and former Livermore High students, Christiaan understands the importance of clear, open communication to bridge connections between the district and our community.

Both Tara and Christiaan prioritize programs for English Learners and students with special needs, embodying a vision where every student has the opportunity to excel. Their support of student-centered, data-driven decision-making reflects a commitment to preparing our students for college and career success.

We encourage Livermore residents to elect Tara Boyce and Christiaan VandenHeuvel to the LVJUSD School Board. Their combined skills, dedication, and community support will be invaluable assets for our district's future.

Imagine!

Geri Lonnberg, Livermore

Not long ago, there was a time when you could actually send your children to school and be assured that they would receive the proper common sense education that would prepare them to be good productive educated American citizens, capable of using the skills that were encouraged by their parents and taught the proper academics by their teachers to guide them to be successful. Deena Kaplanis is the person who will represent you and your children to achieve that goal. She has my vote and I encourage you to do the same.

Boyce & VandenHeuvel for School Board

Justin Enright, Livermore

I am writing to express my strong support for the candidates endorsed by the teachers of Livermore for Livermore School Board—Tara Boyce and Christiaan VandenHeuvel. As we approach the upcoming election, it is vital to recognize the qualities and values these candidates bring to our educational community.

Both Tara and Christiaan are compassionate listeners and advocates for all students. Their experience and commitment to education, supported by current school board members, reflect a deep understanding of the needs of our diverse student population. They are rational thinkers and problem solvers who will diligently seek out financial redundancies and ensure our resources are allocated effectively.

Importantly, they prioritize the support of programs for English Learners and students with special needs, ensuring that every child has the opportunity to thrive. Their appreciation for teachers in the classroom shows their commitment to fostering a supportive environment for educators, which is crucial for student success.

Tara and Christiaan believe in preparing students to be college and career ready and will bring that mindset when reviewing curriculums and state mandates. Their open-minded and inclusive approach will foster an educational atmosphere within our Liver-

more school district where all students feel valued and empowered to reach their potential.

I encourage our community to elect Tara Boyce and Christiaan VandenHeuvel to the Livermore School Board. Their vision for our schools aligns with the values of our community, as staff that work alongside our students and their families.

I'm Supporting Deena Kaplanis

Joanne Duncan, Livermore

I'm supporting Deena Kaplanis for school board. She listens to the majority of what parents want for their children. She will make the necessary changes to support our students and bring down the deficit. Our test scores need to improve as well as making campuses more secure.

You Can't Get Any More Un-American

Patrick Weidhaas, Dublin

In five days, American voters will choose the next President of the United States. One of the candidates is Donald Trump. And given the deeply rooted patriotism of this country, the love for its flag, the respect for its constitution and for its democratic values, the admiration of its men and women in uniform, I simply do not comprehend why Trump would even muster 1% of the votes.

I cannot accept the claim that it is about the economy and about immigration.

In my mind, this election is ultimately about something far more important: it is about our American values.

In 2020, Donald Trump stole from Americans their cherished faith in our elections. He tried to convince the voters that the election is only fair if he wins. This is absolutely ludicrous — it goes against America's pride in its elections. Given Trump's logic, why even have elections? Just hand him the win! This attempt to only count votes in his favor is completely un-American!

Repeatedly, Trump has voiced his disrespect, his disdain for our men and women in uniform. He did not respect the late Senator John McCain, who was a brave POW — he referred to fallen soldiers as "suckers and losers", and he asked "what was in there for them?" How could any Americans with their deep respect for our military vote for this man?

For Trump, the military should simply be a tool to round up and defeat (by force) all those who disagree with his politics. He calls them "the enemy within". He clearly wants to get rid of the two-party system. His enemies are Adam Schiff and Nancy Pelosi — not Vladimir Putin or Kim Jong Un! Any military leader will tell you that it is unconstitutional to ask the military to fight American civilians. Why would any patriotic American voter give this man the opportunity to trample on our constitution?

Trump's clear intentions to turn our constitution upside down, to rid us of free and fair elections, to go after his political opponents (the "Democrats"), but side with the true enemies like Putin — all of this should give voters pause and make them think long and hard before casting their vote for Trump.

But if they do, if they want to place a man, so Un-American, in the White House, they should at least be honest with themselves and never again wave an American flag!

Vote Deena Kaplanis for LVJUSD School Board Alan Heckman, Livermore

Deena Kaplanis has a lot of support from people all around Livermore, and it's easy to see why. She's been involved in our schools for a long time and has worked hard to raise money to help students and teachers. Deena cares deeply about mak-

ing sure our kids come first in every decision. Right now, our schools are facing serious financial problems because the current leaders haven't managed the money well, and polling done by the school district shows that our community no longer trusts them to handle finances responsibly. Livermore schools are ranked near the bottom in our county, only doing better than Oakland and Hayward, and it's clear we need change to turn this around. Deena knows how important it is to use money wisely and improve our schools so they're safe and strong places to learn. With Deena on the school board, we have the chance to make Livermore schools better for our kids and their future. It's time for new leadership, and Deena Kaplanis is ready to bring that change.

Consider Voting for Jen Flynn

Laurie Walker, Pleasanton

I am writing to express my strongest support for Jen Flynn in her campaign for Pleasanton Unified School District's School Board, Area 4. As a former administrative secretary for our school district, Jen brings a wealth of experience and insight into the workings of our educational system. Her current roles as a board member for Pleasanton Partnerships in Education and as the Vice President for the Superintendent's Budget Advisory Committee demonstrate her dedication to our schools and her commitment to fiscal responsibility.

As a mother of three children currently enrolled in our district, Jen understands the challenges faced by families and students. Her firsthand experience as PTA President at two schools showcases her leadership abilities and her passion for fostering a supportive educational environment.

Throughout her tenure, Jen has proven to be an effective problem solver, serving on various committees to address issues and implement positive changes. Her deep-rooted commitment to our community and her proactive approach to education make her an ideal candidate for the school board.

I encourage everyone to consider voting for Jen Flynn. She has the vision, dedication, and experience needed to help our schools thrive. For more information, please visit: www.votejenflynn.com.

I Recommend Dr. Deena Kaplanis

Cathryn Villasenor, Livermore

Do you want someone who bullies special needs people to be on the school board? Or do you want a person who is compassionate and able to work with people from all walks of life? Dr. Deena Kaplanis is who I believe would benefit the LVJUSD School Board this Nov. 5. Your vote for her will keep Livermore desirable for families. As a former teacher, I recommend Dr. Deena Kaplanis for the LVJUSD School Board. Let's vote for all students' safety and academic performance. Thank you.

Donalyn Harris for Pleasanton School Board Area 3

Christina Nystrom, Dublin

I have been a Tri-Valley resident for over 30 years. I support Donalyn Harris for School Board Area 3 because she is straight-forward, respectful, empathetic towards all of our students, and cares about the long-term financial status of our school district.

Donalyn does not crave drama. She asks questions that need to be asked, but not just for the sake of asking and hearing her own voice. She doesn't mess around or play politics.

She is a champion for all students. She sees our students as wonderful developing humans and has an appreciation for all of the

(See MAILBOX, page 11)



Local historian Steve Minniear will discuss "Alameda County Sheriff's Office," his latest book, at the Museum on Main in Pleasanton from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 7. Above, former Alameda County Sheriff Frank Madigan posts a reward sign on the historic Old St. Raymond's Church in Dublin. For more visit museumonmain.org. (Photo courtesy of Museum on Main)

MAILBOX

(Continued from page 10)

amazing things that make us unique.

She may not be an incumbent, but she has far more experience than is needed to be effective. She has had a positive financial impact on every organization she has been involved in. Parents have chosen her to be the president of school PTAs and music boosters five times. She's been elected five times to lead.

She is collaborative, and even if she doesn't agree with you, she will respectfully engage in conversation, and... she will consider other viewpoints.

She is an Amador grad (class of '93) - but there are a lot of us (I'm '96). What sets her apart is that she is still incredibly involved in our schools through band, PTA, PPIE, volunteering for random tasks and classrooms... she is everywhere.

Not only do I respect her, I adore her. And if you knew her, I know you'd feel the same.

Donalyn Harris for School Board!

Flynn for the Win!

Paul Stone, Dublin

As a resident of Dublin, I cannot vote in the Pleasanton elections, but I can recommend Jen Flynn for PUSD Trustee Area 4.

I've known Jen for some years and can say that she would make a great choice. She is eminently qualified, ultra-energetic, and genuinely cares.

I commend Jen for Area 4.

Deena Kaplanis is the Number One Choice

Gina Tavares, Livermore

I will be voting for Deena Kaplanis. She is the best candidate for Livermore Valley School District School Board. Deena is a personal friend, fellow neighbor and local business owner. She is dedicated to our city and knows that a good city starts with the education of its children. She is a team leader and critical thinker, and a people person. As an outstanding member of our Livermore community, Deena has supported multiple sports teams, been a part of the Parent Teacher Association and a participant and donor to a plethora of community events. Deena is a truly gifted leader who will do what is best for our children and work with the other members of the board in a professional way. Deena Kaplanis is the number one choice for Livermore School Board for our children!

Kelly Mokashi for School Board

Sam Weaver, Pleasanton

I am writing in support of Kelly Mokashi for Pleasanton Unified School Board. I am a 36-year Pleasanton resident and 17-year teacher at Amador Valley. We teach our students to be critical thinkers and to not accept

whatever is told them. Kelly has consistently asked the tough questions and advocated for student-centered decisions. She has made it a priority to reach out to members and leadership, building a collaborative relationship based on mutual respect. Kelly's dedication to improving educational outcomes has ensured that Pleasanton students benefit from having the best teachers and support staff. Vote Kelly Mokashi for PUSD District 3!

Vote for Dr. Deena Kaplanis

Jackie Cota, Livermore

Livermore voters, don't be misled by Joanne Morrison and the Marxist organization Livermore Indivisible's latest attempts to distort and discredit Dr. Deena Kaplanis. Dr. Kaplanis has dedicated years to serving our community, advocating for education that equips students for life's challenges, and creating spaces where students feel both challenged and supported.

Dr. Kaplanis's record speaks for itself. As a business owner, an experienced medical professional, and a compassionate mother, she brings a unique perspective that combines financial acumen, genuine community involvement, and an unwavering commitment to student achievement. Her career as a chiropractor is rooted in helping people thrive academically, emotionally, physically, and socially — a reflection of her vision for Livermore schools. Dr. Kaplanis isn't just talking about mental health; she's actively working to address it, along with pressing issues like student safety and academic performance in essential subjects like reading and math.

The personal attacks from Morrison and her supporters are a distraction from what really matters: the future of our children. Dr. Kaplanis respects every student and seeks to foster an environment where students of all backgrounds can excel. In contrast, Morrison and her organization seem fixated on ideological battles that have little to do with educational quality or student success. Nowhere in their rhetoric do they address Livermore's real educational needs, such as improving proficiency rates or retaining dedicated teachers. Instead, they try to divide our community with fear and mischaracterizations.

Dr. Kaplanis believes in a balanced, responsible approach to budgeting and policy, ensuring that every dollar goes towards supporting student achievement. Her own experience in the public education system is proof of its potential to transform lives, and she's running for school board to help all students in Liver-

more access that same opportunity.

Vote for a candidate who is truly focused on education, who listens to parents, teachers, and students, and who believes in preparing our youth for a successful future. Vote for Dr. Deena Kaplanis—a candidate who will lead with integrity, respect, and a commitment to every student's success.

The Palestinian Great March of Thaw Renaissance

Greg Scott, Livermore

From Kalamazoo, Michelle Obama recently stated about Harris, "This is somebody who understands you, all of you." Does Harris understand "WCNSF" ("Wounded Child No Surviving Family") printed with a blood soaked finger on a Gazan child's forehead? Are the screams muffled, diminished by crashing New England tides, to an ensconced Democratic Party elite, Michelle Obama, from a plush mansion on Martha's Vineyard? Harris's callousness, by power drunkenness, is empathy for the Arab Americans and Muslim American voters - diaspora or not - and the non-Zionist people of apartheid Palestine? As has the Nazi Holocaust oppression and repression, the Israeli and West's genocidal oppression and repression of Palestinians ceases to rain on the continuum of all human spirits.

"Everything I thought I knew about Israel was wrong." (Lani Lancaster, "Learning to Listen to Palestine: A Personal Quest," 2024.) This is also true for most of the rest of us, with the accentuation of our ignorance by the heinous, brutal Hamas attacks of October 7, 2023, and the continuing Israeli genocide on Gaza, the West Bank, and Lebanon. The "war" didn't start with the October 7th attacks. It began with more than a century of oppression and repression of the Palestinians by the Zionists. Zionism is a political ideology, not a religion. (Ilan Pappé, "The Ethnic Cleansing of Palestine," 2006.)

The fear and resulting hatred morphs from a lack of understanding and the pursuit and maintenance of power. The pro-Israeli, pro-Zionist lobbies in the U.S., like AIPAC (American Israel Public Affairs Committee), have huge influence and control over the Democratic and Republican parties and our elections. (Ilan Pappé, "Lobbying for Zionism on Both Sides of the Atlantic," 2024.) Why doesn't AIPAC have to register as a foreign agent?

A vote for Harris or Trump is a vote for genocide. Voters have three anti-genocide alternatives: Dr. Jill Stein (Green Party), Dr. Cornel West (Independent), and Chase Oliver (Libertarian Party).

After Palestinians exist through four stages: Few in the world are going to help them; to fight against a vastly more powerful foe; flee to a Palestinian diaspora; and thaw from being frozen by the failure of the previous three stages: Palestinians will rise through the renaissance of love, faiths, dance, song, art, and poetry of their culture. (Credit: Gabor Mate) This will never be extinguished! Listen to Palestine!

"Olive Trees Do Not Bend, Cedar Trees Do Not Break." (Middle Eastern and North African proverb)

Core Values for Education

Alicia Thorpe, Livermore

Dr. Deena Kaplanis has been a staunch supporter of children excelling in academia. Her overall commitment to parents and teachers has been demonstrated without question. I fervently encourage Livermore residents to vote for Dr. Deena Kaplanis.

I Endorse Christiaan VandenHeuvel

Amie Miller, Livermore

I am writing to endorse Christiaan VandenHeuvel for LVJUSD School Board. I have known Christiaan for many years, and I cannot say enough good things about who he is as a person, his character, and how much he has done for our family and the community.

Christiaan was the first person that we met walking into to Cornerstone Church almost 20 years ago. He was all smiles and a wealth of knowledge, helping us navigate a new church as a young married couple, introducing us to many people and shepherding our journey through the Church.

In later years, our children went to Livermore schools together. Again, there was Christiaan showing up in the schools, helping others, being present and making a difference. He helped us navigate many situations in the schools and was always there as support. He was a camp counselor for our son and spent a lot of time getting to know him. He is such a positive role model, and my son still looks up to him today and remembers how he positively impacted his life.

Christiaan takes time to get to know people and invests in their stories and will help guide and shape them as they need direction.

As he takes this step into civic duty, I cannot think of a better person to represent us and our children while taking a seat on the school board.

Christiaan is an amazing communicator and an incredible connector, and he is not afraid to face challenges head on. You would not know it from talking to him, but English is not his first language. He has personal experience navigating the education system as a non-native speaker. I think this will serve him and the school board very well. Christiaan is a passionate friend, a loving father and husband, and is an amazing cheerleader for many children and families in the Livermore area. I feel confident that Christiaan VandenHeuvel will be an amazing addition to the LVJUSD School Board. He has my vote!

Jen Flynn is a Good Servant

Carol Lee, Pleasanton

What is servanthood? Good servants serve their purposes, but more importantly, they influence others to serve and make a difference. They bring high spirits and family values to their work while building great relationships that transform the community. Good servants invest their time in helping each other to achieve the same goals without hesitation or complaint. They work hard and they laugh harder together.

These are the characteristics that I witnessed while I was volunteering with Jen Flynn. She is an assertive person who brings the collective good of others. The level of her commitment to our children's education highlights how she advocates for all parents. Jen has worked in PUSD previously before joining the PPIE Board and the Superintendent Budget Advisory Committee. On top of raising three kids and actively volunteering, she has earned the support of teachers and Steve Maher, the retiring school board member.

Jen is what I call a good servant.

My Choice: Boyce and VandenHeuvel

Jan Bennett, Livermore

As a financial consultant and a parent of two students in the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District, Tara Boyce understands firsthand the financial challenges our district faces. With degrees in economics and political science, she recognizes that achieving financial stability requires a realistic and actionable budget.

Tara believes it is crucial that our district not only address its financial health, but also prioritizes the creation of quality programs in every school. Equity among our schools is vital for ensuring that all students have access to the resources and opportunities they deserve.

Tara views her potential role as a district leader as a way to help our school district take a comprehensive approach in developing a budget that supports both fiscal responsibility and the enhancement of educational programs.

Christiaan VandenHeuvel is married to a Livermore Special Education teacher, and a parent of a student in LVJUSD. Christiaan emphasizes the importance of transparency and equity in our district's decision-making processes.

He has been actively involved in our schools as a substitute teacher, volunteer, and a member of the Livermore High School PTSA and Reopening Task Force. This variety of experience has given him a unique perspective on the challenges our students face, particularly those who are in Special Education or English learners.

Christiaan believes it is crucial that we create equitable learning environments for all students, and is committed to supporting decisions that prioritize accessibility and inclusivity within our educational system and will do so by actively listening to the members of our community.

I urge our community to vote for Tara Boyce and Christiaan VandenHeuvel for Livermore School Board. By doing so, we can foster trust within our community and empower parents, educators, and students to engage more fully in shaping the future of our schools.

Vote for Deena Kaplanis for LVJUSD School Board!

Kendall Lawson, Livermore

My name is Kendall Lawson and I am a mother of two young boys in LVJUSD. I was born and raised in Livermore and went to Livermore schools all throughout my school years. Now that I have my own children, I know how important it is that we have committed and competent people on our school board, which is why I'm giving my vote to Deena Kaplanis. Deena cares about all children in our district and has vowed to do what is right by all students and their parents to make sure every student has access to the best education possible. I know Deena will go above and beyond to make sure all of the students of Livermore have a pleasant and successful learning experience at each of their schools. So please if you feel the same way, vote Deena Kaplanis for LVJUSD school board.

Vote Boyce and VandenHeuvel for School Board

Kristina Wooten, Livermore

I wholeheartedly endorse Tara Boyce and Christiaan VandenHeuvel for the Livermore School Board. Their unwavering dedication to our students and their commitment to educational excellence make them the ideal candidates to shape the future of our district.

As educators, we know firsthand the challenges and opportunities facing our students today. Tara and Christiaan possess the empathy, understanding, and experience necessary to address these challenges and capitalize on these opportunities. They are passionate advocates for all students, particularly those with special needs and English learners. Their commitment to ensuring that every child has the opportunity to thrive is truly inspiring.

Moreover, Tara and Christiaan are proven problem-solvers who will prioritize fiscal responsibility and

ensure that our district's resources are used effectively. They understand the importance of financial stewardship and will work diligently to identify and eliminate redundancies, ensuring that every dollar is invested wisely in our students' education.

By supporting our teachers and fostering a positive learning environment, Tara and Christiaan will empower our students to reach their full potential. Their forward-thinking approach will prepare our students for a bright future, making them college and career ready. They will advocate for innovative educational programs, cutting-edge technology, and rigorous academic standards that will challenge and inspire our students.

I urge you to vote for Tara Boyce and Christiaan VandenHeuvel. Together, they will build a stronger, more inclusive Livermore School District where every student has the opportunity to succeed. Let's work together to elect leaders who share our vision for a brighter future for our children.

McDonald's Quarter Pounder

Lucas Nelson, Livermore

There is a problem with our food systems. The recent E. coli outbreak linked to McDonald's Quarter Pounder hamburgers has led to illness, hospitalization, and even death. The CDC, FDA, and other health agencies are investigating, with fresh slivered onions and quarter pound beef patties as the suspected sources of contamination. This isn't the first time we've seen outbreaks linked to meat-based products, and it underscores a larger issue with food safety in animal agriculture.

There is a better way. By embracing a plant-based diet, we can avoid these risks and enjoy delicious foods that are not only safe but also optimum for human health, the planet, and the animals. Now is the time to explore plant-based alternatives and make compassionate choices for a better future.

Boyce and VandenHeuvel Have the Essential Qualities of School Board Trustees

Kathleen Jones, Livermore

As our community reflects on the role of school board trustees, it is imperative to highlight the qualities that truly matter in this position. Listening, considering differing perspectives, and collaborating are fundamental traits that every trustee should possess. Tara Boyce and Christiaan VandenHeuvel possess these traits.

A school board member does not operate in isolation; rather, they are part of a team that deliberates on new ideas, problem-solves, and strives for the common goal of improving conditions for every child in our district. The ability to analyze extensive data and proposals, discern what is truly important, and articulate these insights clearly to a diverse group of professionals is vital. Tara Boyce and Christiaan VandenHeuvel have these abilities.

Trustees must make informed decisions on what initiatives to support and how to ask the right questions to foster efficient progress for the students of the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District (LVJUSD). Tara Boyce and Christiaan VandenHeuvel are capable of this as well.

Let's elect candidates who embody these qualities, ensuring that our students receive the best possible education, by voting for Tara Boyce and Christiaan VandenHeuvel for Livermore School Board.

Deena Kaplanis for School Board

Erik Cushman, Livermore

Deena Kaplanis is running for school board be-

(See MAILBOX, page 12)



Kidz Town Halloween Hay Day, sponsored by Downtown Livermore Inc., brought kids and families to Stockmen's Park for trick-or-treating, costume contests and other games on Saturday, Oct. 26. (Photo — Doug Jorgensen)

MAILBOX

(Continued from page 11)

because she deeply cares about our students and their future. Her biggest concern is that our students are graduating without meeting standards of proficiency in basic core subjects such as reading and math. She believes in promoting educational excellence, addressing the mental health crisis afflicting our students, improving school safety, and advocating for students, families, and faculty.

Cultural Day at Ashbury
Jan Villott, Pleasanton

On Saturday, a beautiful celebration of the Palestinian culture took place at Asbury Methodist Church in Livermore. It was wonderful to see Muslim, Christian and Jewish voices all coming together to celebrate life and love and to pray for peace. The Soul of my Soul art exhibit was so very moving with drawings and paintings by children in memory of Palestinian children who aren't with us anymore. As sad and somber as that was, we also enjoyed music, dance and food that seemed to me to be a symbol of the resilience of the Palestinian people. I am so glad I was able to go.

Deena for LVJUSD School Board
Chantel Antoine, Livermore

As a Livermore resident, I appreciate our community having the opportunity to vote for someone who has the best interest for our children and their families, someone who believes that parents should be involved in their children's lives and education. I appreciate her, making certain to keep the schools safe while supporting the teachers, students and the staff. This is why we should vote for Deena Kaplanis.

Thank you and God bless America

Why I Am the Right Choice
Christiaan VandenHeuvel, Livermore

As we enter the final stretch of this campaign, I want to take a moment to

thank the people of Livermore for the amazing conversations I've had with so many of you over the last few months. I love this community even more today than when I began this journey. And as the election draws near, I want to share with you why I believe I'm uniquely prepared to serve on our school board.

I've spent years connected to our schools—not just as a parent of children in this district, but also as a frequent volunteer in classrooms, as PTSA president, and as a substitute teacher. I know firsthand what it's like to stand in front of a room full of students, and to experience the joys and challenges that teachers face every day. It's not easy work, but it's deeply rewarding, and those experiences have given me a clear perspective on what's needed in our schools.

No other candidate has been in the staff room, hearing the concerns of teachers day in and day out as much as I have. And as the spouse of a Special Education teacher, I live those concerns at home, too. I know the challenges teachers face—whether it's the pressure of large class sizes, limited resources, or the unique needs of students that too often go unmet. This firsthand connection to both the classroom and the broader community is what drives me to ensure that every student in our district gets the opportunity to succeed.

I'm running because I believe in protecting our most vulnerable students—whether they are English learners, Special Education students, or part of our LGBTQ+ community. Every student deserves a safe, inclusive environment where they can thrive.

Our district faces real challenges: managing our budget shortfall, upgrading aging facilities, and holding the line against the politicization of our school boards. I'm committed to tackling these issues head-on, ensuring that we stay focused on what matters

most — our students' education and well-being.

Livermore is my home, and I've been deeply invested in its schools for years. If elected, I will bring my full experience, energy, and commitment to help our district and its students reach their highest potential. Thank you for your time, your trust, and I hope I can count on your vote this week!

Who is the Real Deena Kaplanis?

Gail Sayers, Livermore

In last week's Independent, Erik Kushman referenced the responses Mrs. Kaplanis made to a survey sent out to candidates by realimpact.us. I hadn't heard of this organization, so I went to their website. Their election resources page states the following: "Our goal is to educate, equip, and encourage Christians to make well-informed decisions when voting. We offer non-partisan voter resources that can be used by an individual or a church."

Mrs. Kaplanis advocates for the mental health of students on her website, "We also must proactively address the mental health crisis affecting our students." But when asked a similar question by the realimpact.us survey she said she supports "Parental notification when their child uses school-based health care facilities". School based health care facilities provide on-site mental health care to students.

She claims to support LGBTQ+ students but opposes "Students being allowed to access restrooms, locker rooms and showers based on their gender identity/expression." She opposes schools flying the rainbow flag.

She states this position is not for activists, but rather for unifying the community for the betterment of all students, but her comments at school board meetings indicate the opposite.

On Feb. 28, 2022, Mrs. Kaplanis wrote an email to the board: "No More Mandates. Please drop the mandates immediately. They are unscientific and are obviously kept for alternative reasons beyond just keeping are (sic) children safe. This should be a parents(sic) choice about how we should go about our child's health & well-being."

On April 18, 2023, Kaplanis asked the board to adopt a policy requiring school staff to inform parents if the student identifies with a gender that doesn't align with their biological sex. If the board had followed her advice, they would have violated the School Success and Opportunity Act enacted in 2013.

Both actions reflect Mrs. Kaplanis' disregard for California statutes trustees must follow. But what is more problematic is the text that was sent to Livermore voters: "I'm Deena Kaplanis ... Your vote for me will keep the children of Livermore under the protection of their parents and not schools(sic) bureaucrats ..." The clear inference is that Mrs. Kaplanis doesn't trust educators and administrators to prioritize students' success.

Be sure to vote on Nov. 5. Vote for Boyce and Vandenheuvel, who will advocate for and support the success of all students.

I Endorse Jen Flynn
Carla Henderson, Oakland (Pleasanton Principal)

I am writing to express my strong endorsement for Jen Flynn as the best candidate for Pleasanton School Board Area 4. Having the privilege of working alongside Jen during her tenure as our administrative secretary, I can confidently say she embodies qualities we need on our school board — qualities encapsulating a passion for education, emotional intelligence, financial skills, community connection, open mindedness and many more.

Jen possesses a perfect balance of organization, compassion, and fiscal responsibility. She consistently and effortlessly tackled challenges with a clear focus on what was best for our students, teachers, and staff. Whether it was managing complex schedules, addressing parent concerns, or facilitating communication among staff, Jen approached each situation thoughtfully and effectively. Her ability to collaborate and implement a systems thinking problem solving approach is unmatched. Jen recognizes the interconnectedness and interdependencies within relationships, organizations, and situations. Her holistic approach makes her a trusted resource in our community.

One of Jen's most commendable traits is her commitment to fiscal transparency. She worked diligently to ensure our budget was not only balanced, but also clearly communicated to stakeholders. Jen's willingness to simplify complex financial systems and to ask questions led to Jen developing updated practices to address budgetary needs. In an era where financial accountability is crucial, we need someone like Jen who understands the importance of making informed decisions that serve both our students and the community.

As we head toward the election, I urge everyone to consider Jen Flynn's qualifications and her unwavering dedication to our schools. She has consistently demonstrated her passion for education and her commitment to our children's futures. Jen is not just a candidate; she is a proven leader who will advocate for our students and our community.

For more information about her vision and goals for Pleasanton schools, please visit Jen Flynn's campaign website at www.votejenflynn.com. Let's support the right choice for our children's education.

Boyce & VandenHeuvel
Emily Waffer, Livermore

I strongly support Tara Boyce as a candidate for the Livermore School Board. As a financial consultant with a proven ability to analyze and manage multi-mil-

lion dollar budgets, Tara brings a level of expertise that is crucial for making informed decisions about our schools' financial health.

Tara is not only highly communicative, conveying complex information in an accessible manner, but she is also deeply invested in our community, with two young children enrolled in LVJUSD. Her commitment to advocating for her children is matched by her awareness that not every child shares the same advantages. This perspective drives her dedication to supporting early literacy and promoting programs that address diverse learning styles and challenges.

What sets Tara apart is her integrity. She practices what she preaches by being earth-conscious and viewing each student holistically. Tara understands that education goes beyond academics, and she is committed to fostering an environment where every child can thrive.

I also strongly support Christiaan VandenHeuvel for Livermore School Board, a remarkable candidate whose unique background and experience make him an ideal representative for our community. As a father of three students in the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District, with one currently enrolled and two who have graduated, Christiaan has a personal stake in the success of our schools.

Christiaan is not only an inspiring communicator and charismatic leader, he is also a compassionate listener. His extensive experience as a substitute teacher has allowed him to connect deeply with our high school students, understanding their challenges and aspirations. His marriage to a special education teacher has equipped him with valuable insights into the demands and intricacies of educational roles, fostering his commitment to supporting both students and educators.

Moreover, as an English language learner and immigrant to the United States, Christiaan has firsthand knowledge of the difficulties many students face when adapting to a new environment. His ability to bridge gaps between diverse perspectives will be invaluable in fostering collaboration and problem-solving within our school community. Christiaan VandenHeuvel is dedicated to creating an inclusive and supportive atmosphere for all students, along with Tara Boyce's ex-

pertise and compassionate approach, in a time when our schools face numerous challenges; I, without a doubt, believe this makes them BOTH the right choice for our district. Let's support candidates who not only have the skills to navigate complex issues, but also genuinely care for ALL.

Teachers Union Controlling School Board?

Tracy Heskett, Livermore

Today the Independent newspaper will endorse two Livermore School Board candidates who are both endorsed and financially supported by the teachers' union.

Ask yourself if that is what you want? The teachers' union already represents the teachers during union contract negotiations. They go to battle for teachers every day to help them keep their jobs. That is their purpose.

Is it fair negotiations if the teachers' union is also controlling the school board? If they can control both sides at the negotiating table, is that in the best interest of our children?

We need independent representatives on the school board to enable unbiased conversation and negotiation. Only this way will we get the best solutions for teachers and our students.

Vote for Deena Kaplanis!

Kamala is Not My Choice for the Presidency!

Daniella Karo, Pleasanton

I am an Independent and over time I voted for candidates for office from either side of the aisle, assured that they were the best choices at the time. In 2016, Hillary Clinton lost my vote with her dreadful comment of "deplorables" that resonated the wrong way. I voted for Donald Trump and never regretted it!

This time I will also vote for Donald Trump as I surely was better off four years ago than I am today!

(See MAILBOX, page 14)

Creek Hill Farm
Horseback Riding Lessons, Training, Boarding, Breeding, Sales
925.337.5375
creekhillfarms.com

RETZLAFF Estate Wines
WINE TASTING AND PICNIC TABLE RESERVATIONS
WINE DOWN FRIDAY 12-8 SATURDAY, SUNDAY AND MONDAY 12-4
LIVE MUSIC MOST WEEKENDS
CATERER ON SITE MOST WEEKENDS
Make your online reservation at RetzlaffVineyards.com

Dr. Chirag Pandya, board certified in Pulmonology, Critical Care and Sleep Medicine, has moved to a new location.

He has been serving the patients in the Tri-Valley area for the last 15 years and has held several leadership roles at Stanford Tri-Valley (ValleyCare) hospital.

Dr. Pandya specializes in asthma, emphysema/COPD, trouble breathing, lung infections, lung cancer, interstitial lung disease, snoring, sleep apnea, trouble sleeping (insomnia), narcolepsy and restless leg syndrome.

Dr. Pandya is happy to help existing and new patients by providing care at **two new locations!**

1393 Santa Rita Rd., Ste. A, Pleasanton
87 Fenton St., Suite 210, Livermore
Offering: Lung function testing | Sleep studies (home and in-lab) | Actigraphy | Video visits

For appointments and questions, please call **925-434-5144** or visit **www.AdvancedSNP.com**
Accepting most insurances and Medicare.

Your local news source is delivered free to readers in the Tri-Valley.

We are asking readers, who are able, to make a voluntary contribution of \$10 a month, or \$100 a year. You can sign up online at www.independentnews.com/contribute/ or mail a check to 2250 First St., Livermore, CA 94550

THE Independent
independentnews.com | 925.243.8000 Follow us on

After a Long Delay, Local Favorite Charming Fig Reopens

By Christina Cavallaro

Julia Steinman's business was spared from a fire on Oct. 15, 2023, that destroyed three abandoned commercial buildings next door on Holmes Street and Concannon Bou-

levard in Livermore.

But what began as a silver lining quickly turned into a 12-month-long dark cloud of delays that hung over Steinman's beloved local business, the Charming Fig, a catering company and restaurant in

Livermore located at 1510 Holmes Street.

"There was very minimal damage to the restaurant," said Steinman. "I mean, it should have taken, maybe six weeks to get everything repaired."

The Charming Fig has now reopened one year to the date after its closure, as a bright white, airy space. At one point the rain was pouring inside through holes in the roof left improperly covered by the building's owners, Mana Investments of Carlsbad, Calif., and Hunter Street Partners of Minneapolis, Minn.

The fire charred the roof of the Fig's building while destroying three other buildings in the small commercial center. The roof bore the brunt of the damage when every on-duty firefighter from the Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department, along with crews from the Alameda County Fire Department, ascended to battle the flames.

"They had to saw out holes in the roof to catch the fire so it didn't get at the Fig, which was great," she recalled. But after all their valiant efforts, events took a negative turn. "After the fire,

what happened was basically, in my personal opinion, neglect from the owners of the building. Honestly, they just took so long."

The Fig's building also sustained smoke and water damage, and ultimately required a new roof, ceiling, floors and bathroom.

They didn't start working on the roof until February. "It should have honestly taken no more than two months to get fixed. The roof itself — I watched them do it — it took them two weeks."

Before that, from November to February it was raining inside the restaurant. Steinman, who has over 10,000 followers on Instagram, shared videos with a shocked community who wondered what was taking so long. She also shared the videos with the building owners, imploring them to help. Their response indicated no sense of urgency.

Then one month after the fire, someone broke into the restaurant's electrical room on Thanksgiving weekend and ripped out all its copper wiring, which can take months to source and replace. Steinman discovered the owners didn't order replace-

ment wiring until five months later, delaying the reopening process even more.

"It was so bad," she said, "I was just paralyzed." Everyone told her to get a lawyer, but she just wanted to reopen her business. "I just kept having faith that they would do the right thing."

The owners urged her to stop being "so emotional" since she was, after all, "being taken care of by insurance," she said. The owners eventually stopped communicating with her altogether.

She said she does have great insurance, but that doesn't nearly make up for a whole year out of business, nor does it take care of the lost wages for her staff who were out of work and not getting compensated. On top of that her \$1,000 a month policy shot up to \$1,600 because of her huge claim.

"It just sucks, I thought they were such good guys. And it just feels like, wow, they really didn't care." The investment group has since sold off most of the building, which Steinman believes was likely their intention from the start. "So they were probably like, we've got three feet out the door."

In fact, the Charming Fig's building is the last one still owned by the group. At one point she thought she would buy it herself, but not now. "It's like, I'm way behind, so we'll see." Her savings has fallen by hundreds of thousands of dollars.

"It was really painful because I had a nice nest egg to get this (restaurant) business going because I took so many years (to build the catering business). I wanted to be safe and I feel like that was stripped from me."

Before the fire, Steinman, who opened the Charming Fig 14 years ago as a catering company, had been enjoying her first year in her newly opened brick-and-mortar restaurant. She lost a lot of money during the closure, but it didn't diminish her desire to keep the restaurant running. "It was horrible, but that's the negative part of it, you know, we're very excited to be back," she said.

She said it almost feels like the restaurant hasn't skipped a beat. More than 60% of her staff came back and the new hires she has made are fitting right in.

"It's all like the great little family again."



Family and friends celebrated during the restaurant's Grand Opening party in October 2023, shortly before it closed due to fire. (Photo courtesy of Melanie Sammis Creative)

Mental Health Practitioners Discuss Solutions to Crisis

By Ruth Roberts

Mental health issues locally and throughout the state have begun to look like COVID-19 in terms of a public health crisis, and this new pandemic is not being adequately addressed.

That was one of the messages delivered by Dr. Thomas Insel, former director of the National Institute of Mental Health, during the "Mental Health Matters" forum hosted by the Tri-Valley Nonprofit Alliance in Pleasanton on Oct. 24.

The half-day conference featured several panels of nonprofit professionals, mental health practitioners and community leaders who addressed a wide range of topics, including mental health services for individuals who often fall through the cracks in terms of diagnosis and treatment. They include the unhoused, veterans, those impacted by substance abuse and the criminal justice system and children.

Axis Community Health, Pleasanton ARU, La Familia, and Mental Health Connections were a few of the groups invited to participate in the panel and forum.

"We are in a crisis and that crisis has to do with youth mental health and the failure of people with serious mental illness who have become our kind of 'untouchables' in our society," said Insel. "And it also has to do with substance use disorders that are killing more than 100,000 people a year."

When it comes to finding crossover solutions in terms of mental health issues, the conversation, Insel added, has to be about more than one protocol.

"You have to look more broadly," he said. "While that is not true for cancer, heart disease and diabetes, it is very true here."

That includes examining the criminal justice system, education, labor and housing, all the elements and pockets of society that are affected by mental illness but not always addressed. And one of the ways of doing that is to shift the way patients pay for care and the way the state spends its money.

"We have the nation's largest Medicaid program and by any standard measure among the worst for children," said one of the speakers, Alex Briscoe, co-founder of the California Children's Trust and former director of Alameda County Health Care Services. "Literally half of all kids in California qualify for Medicaid and less than 5% are on it and less than 3% are on welfare ... I think the clinical diagnosis is we suck."

Still, the news is not all bad, Briscoe added.

Recent changes in state laws mean patients no longer need a diagnosis to access care in California and all schools from elementary through to colleges and universities are now automatically in the network for all managed care. Healthcare services now fall under the same criteria as traditional physical care, meaning that all mental health patients are to be treated where and when needed.

And yet, more work is needed, especially when it comes to children. Young children today, Briscoe and Insel agreed, bear the brunt of social media chaos, cell phone overuse and school shootings.

"What young people are

telling us is they don't feel safe," said Briscoe.

Insel agreed, adding that while the unrealistic expectations of success and glamour and wealth have always been present in society, modern technology has enhanced the pressure to achieve the unachievable.

Collaborative care, wrap-around services for all at-risk groups not just children and a continued commitment to doing more were some of the solutions discussed during the forum.

For many of the attendees including Mary Hekl, the CEO of Hively, a child and

family support nonprofit in Pleasanton, the forum was a chance to share similar experiences and concerns.

"I have five years of lived experience (with mental health issues)," Hekl said. "And what I am concerned with is continuity of care. The system is so fragmented ... as

a parent, it is exhausting to tell the story over and over. So how do we have a continuity of care for when clients, severe or even just mild, are seeing different providers and it's a big problem."

A video of the full event will soon be available online at <https://tvnpa.org>.

Paid Political Ad

Jeff Kaskey

With over 40 years in Livermore, Jeff brings the breadth of experience our community needs on the City Council.

Jeff is/has been:

- ▶ Leader of the relocation and rehabilitation of the historic Southern Pacific Train Depot
- ▶ City Historic Preservation Commissioner
- ▶ Technologist and Engineer at the Lawrence Livermore National Lab
- ▶ Livermore Cultural Arts Council VP
- ▶ Key participant in 10 startups
- ▶ Livermore Heritage Guild president, and manager of Hagemann Ranch
- ▶ Small Business Owner
- ▶ Livermore Valley Arts Board Member
- ▶ Asbury Church homeless services volunteer
- ▶ Livermore Lions Club Board Member



As a collaborative and creative leader, Jeff has the determination to:



Defend the Urban Growth Boundary that protects the surrounding open space that gives Livermore its unique character.



Catch up on Livermore's infrastructure projects to keep everyone safe, and address deteriorating roads and sidewalks.



Tackle housing and food insecurity, to ensure that all our neighbors can reach their full potential.

Vote Jeff Kaskey for City Council District 3

Ad paid for by Candidates That Listen FPPC# 1475128.
www.candidateshatlisten.com

Not authorized by a candidate or a committee controlled by a candidate.
Funding Details at www.fppc.ca.gov

iPhone Android

independentnews.com

Follow us on



Not just humans enjoyed the annual Pleasanton Halloween Brew Crawl on Saturday, Oct. 26. The event, sponsored by the Pleasanton Downtown Association, gave participants a chance to show off their costuming skills and sample local beers. (Photo — Doug Jorgensen)

MAILBOX

(Continued from page 12)

The Biden/Harris administration has tanked our economy, national security, parenting, schooling, etc... Kamala promises some changes, but her values have not changed! I don't trust her promises if she gets elected. She was in charge as VP to secure the integrity of our southern border, and she failed miserably. She also does not display qualities associated with a trustworthy, strong leader, that this country needs at a time when enemies abroad are menacing the world's stability. Donald Trump kept the country safe, and promises to do the same if re-elected. He talks the talk and walks the walk! He keeps his promises! He also keeps his friends close and his enemies even closer! He is my candidate for the presidency.

Vote for Deena

Sydney Cushman, Livermore

Deena will work tirelessly to enhance the experience of all students in our school system. She brings a multi-cultural lens, is a devoted mother and aunt to school-age kids, and also brings experience and knowledge from owning multiple small businesses, a career in the medical field, collegiate sports and sports medicine, philanthropic work, and handling large budgets. She is passionate about education and serving our students, faculty, parents, and community. Deena is a strong believer in, and living proof of, how the public education system can set a student on a path for success. With your vote, she knows that together we can strengthen and advance our district to ensure a bright future for our students.

I Would Be Honored to Represent You

Amanda Pepper, Livermore

I'm Amanda Pepper, and I'm running for LVJUSD Board of Trustees. As a 12-year resident of Livermore who has had three students in the District, I have been deeply involved in our schools as a classroom volunteer, PTA board member, guest lecturer, site council president, member of the committee to reopen the schools during the pandemic, and most recently Vice-Chair of the Community Bond Oversight Committee.

Additionally, I have been: a theatre mom, a track-and-field mom, a band mom, a Science Olympiad mom, a choir mom, an International Baccalaureate mom, and an Advanced Placement mom. I also have extensive background in textbook publishing with insight

into curricula and standards. I've taught summer classes on Shakespeare and creative writing as well.

As a parent, I have successfully partnered with school administrators to support my students'

needs; I would like to put that experience to good use for other parents so that they and their students feel seen, heard, and supported. Schools are in the business of knowledge and education, and I want to support and further that objective.

I am not a politician, and the role of trustee is not a political one. As a member of the Board of Trustees, I would be beholden only to the students, parents, teachers, and staff of the district; not to any third-parties, partisan organizations, or special interest groups. In fact, my one endorsement has been from GoodParty.org, which recognizes me as a nonpartisan, people-powered, grassroots candidate with no political agenda outside of my desire to be of service to the district and its constituents. I would be honored to represent you.

I encourage you to learn more about my experience and goals at amandapepper4livermoreschools.org or via my Facebook page [facebook.com/amandapepper4livermoreschools](https://www.facebook.com/amandapepper4livermoreschools) or to reach out directly with any questions at pepper4livermore@gmail.com.

Deena Kaplanis is Not a Politician

Jacquelyn Sousa, Livermore

Deena Kaplanis is not a politician. She is kind, genuine and honest. She cares about the people, not just the policies. Even if she doesn't agree with everything you believe, she is willing to listen to you with an open mind. If you don't personally know her, I recommend getting to know her. She is extremely approachable and attends most Livermore community events. It's not shocking that the people that are saying and writing such terrible things about her don't even know her. Anyone who actually knows her will tell you what a caring and hard-working human being she is. Her intentions are pure and she truly wants to support Livermore families and do what's best for our students. She wants our schools to be a safe place for our children. She wants to make sure our hard-earned money is being allocated most appropriately and effectively. She aims to ensure academic excellence that reaches all children, regardless of their abilities, disabilities, gender or background. As a mom and teacher who knows Deena,

she is willing to listen to you with an open mind. If you don't personally know her, I recommend getting to know her. She is extremely approachable and attends most Livermore community events. It's not shocking that the people that are saying and writing such terrible things about her don't even know her. Anyone who actually knows her will tell you what a caring and hard-working human being she is. Her intentions are pure and she truly wants to support Livermore families and do what's best for our students. She wants our schools to be a safe place for our children. She wants to make sure our hard-earned money is being allocated most appropriately and effectively. She aims to ensure academic excellence that reaches all children, regardless of their abilities, disabilities, gender or background. As a mom and teacher who knows Deena,

I can tell you that I trust her decision making for my children and for yours.

Compare Harris and Trump

Ward Kanowsky, Pleasanton

I voted early for Kamala Harris for President, not the guy who thinks Hitler had some good ideas, focuses on Arnold Palmer's genitalia, wants to shoot protestors in the legs, advocated bleach as a treatment for COVID, and who would characterize me as the "enemy within" for writing this letter.

But if you're still an undecided voter and the economy is the issue that moves you vs. saving our democracy, I'm not here to argue with you, but to inform you. So, let's compare Harris and Trump on the economy.

Let's start with Trump, where past is prologue. He wants to extend his 2017 tax cut for the wealthiest and big corporations and lower the tax rate even further. He has also proposed a "beautiful" 20% tariff (another word for tax) on all imports, which will cost the typical American household almost \$4,000 per year. On healthcare, he unsuccessfully tried to repeal the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare) in his first term, and he will do it again in a second term, resulting in over 20 million Americans losing their coverage. Medicare benefits would also be cut, and that \$35 cap on insulin we got under the Biden/Harris administration — gone. And please ignore what he says on these issues when his mouth is moving — just go to the blueprint for Trump 2.0: Project 2025.

As for Harris, she wants to reduce taxes for middle-class families by expanding the Child Tax Credit, which will put money back in the pocket of middle-class families. She also wants to crack down on big corporations that jack up prices, including passing a law against grocery price gouging. Other big-ticket items in her economic agenda include expanding Medicare to cover in-home care, providing a \$25,000 tax credit for first-time home-buyers, and building 3 million new homes to address the housing shortage. And if you think the current administration hasn't done anything on the economy post-pandemic, please Google American Rescue Plan and Inflation Reduction Act.

And if you think Trump won't be a dictator the second time around because he wasn't a dictator in his first term, remember that he still hasn't accepted the results of the 2020 election, called January 6 "a day of love," and those who worked closest with him during his first term (John Kelly, Mark Milley, Mike Pence) have either called him a fascist or refused to endorse him.

Deena for LVJUSD School Board

Chantel Antoine, Livermore

As a Livermore resident, I appreciate our community having the opportunity to vote for someone who has the best interest for our children and their families, someone who believes that parents should be involved in their children's lives and education. I appreciate her, making certain to keep the schools safe while supporting the teachers, students and the staff. This is why we should vote for Deena Kaplanis.

Thank you and God bless America

Vote for Tara Boyce and Christiaan VandenHeuvel

Jacob Anderson, Livermore

As a community member, teacher, and parent, I'm writing to express my enthusiastic support for Tara Boyce and Christiaan VandenHeuvel for the LVJUSD school board. Their endorsements by the Livermore Education Association (LEA) reflect their strong commitment to

Art League Holding Annual Members Show

The Pleasanton Art League is holding its 17th annual Fall Members Show now through Saturday, Dec. 21, in the Firehouse Arts Center's Harrington Gallery.

More than 50 works in varying media are on display.

The gallery, 4444 Railroad Ave. in Pleasanton, is open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Wednesday through Friday, and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturdays.

There will be a reception and awards ceremony from

1 p.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 26.

There will also be artist demonstrations on Saturdays during the exhibition. For a schedule of demonstrations, click on "Current Exhibit" at firehousearts.org.

TUNNEL

(Continued from front page)

Sacramento River near Sacramento to the Bethany Reservoir near Mountain House.

Zone 7 estimated that its 2.2% share of the \$20.1 billion project will total \$443 million in capital costs, plus another \$1.2 million per year for operations and maintenance.

Proponents describe the tunnel as a response to changing weather patterns that deliver longer droughts punctuated by bigger and wetter storms. With the added transfer capacity of the tunnel, the California Department of Water Resources hopes to capture more water from these storms for storage.

"We used to have a wonderful snowpack reservoir in the sky, which no longer exists and will no longer exist," said Director Sarah Palmer, referring to the Sierra Nevada mountains, which supplies Sacramento River flows when its snow melts. "We have to be able to capture the water when it comes. ... It's not more water; it's more reliable water."

Zone 7 depends on water from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta for 70 to 90 percent of its supply.

But some Zone 7 board members still had another infrastructure project — the Los Vaqueros Reservoir expansion — fresh on their minds as they mulled the Delta Tunnel investment.

Last month, plans to expand Los Vaqueros fell through when the Contra Costa Water District decided that the project had become too expensive. The district had been among seven agency partners, including Zone 7, that had planned to add another 115,000 acre-feet of storage capacity to the reservoir.

Zone 7 had spent about \$800,000 on the project, estimated to cost \$1.6 billion if built, in hopes of improving its supply resiliency.

Referring to the reservoir's recent fate, Directors Kathy Narum and Laurene Green hesitated on the Delta Tunnel decision. About half of the DCP's 18 member agencies, including the lead agency, the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD), have yet to support this phase of the project.

"I want a seat at the table; I haven't seen anything yet to

say, 'Get out,' but at the same time, I don't want to commit us," said Narum. "What's the safety net if other people don't want to put their money in?"

Resident Kelly Abreu also urged the Zone 7 board to wait and see what the other partners do before committing its money.

"(MWD) are the leaders," said Abreu. "Let them put their money in and see if you want to follow."

Palmer, however, viewed the project as necessary.

"Zone 7 has always been on the forefront of doing things that are innovative and forward looking," she said.

"And when we look back at them, we say, 'Gee, that was a really good thing that we did that.' I think that we are just continuing on with that legacy."

Board President Dennis Gamba viewed the DCP investment as even more important now that Los Vaqueros was off the table.

Zone 7 staff expect the DCP's other agency partners to decide on their continued participation before the end of the year.

PRINCIPAL

(Continued from front page)

a history of making some decisions over the past that may not have been in everybody's best interest."

Velez's promotion comes shortly after former principal Francis Rojas abruptly resigned several weeks ago just two months after the new school's opening. Rojas told The Independent that he is unable to comment on his exit at this time based on the advice of his legal counsel.

The announcement of Rojas' departure was made by Chris Funk, DUSD's superintendent, in a statement to the district's families on Oct. 17.

"Principal Rojas has resigned from his position at Emerald High School," said Funk. "This change is effective immediately."

Rojas led the student body at Dublin High School for two years while con-

struction of the \$374 million high school, the first comprehensive high school to be built in Alameda County since 1974, was under way.



Lenni Velez

According to a press release from the district, Velez began her teaching career at Dublin High in 2005 as a math teacher and was later named to the assistant principal role. Velez served as an assistant principal at Dublin High School for six years before transitioning to

the same role at the recently opened Emerald High.

"Being able to reward the hard work and dedication of a staff member who has been with us for nearly two decades, is extremely gratifying," Funk said in a statement. "Lenni's dedication, experience, and deep understanding of our school district, and the Emerald High community, make her the ideal candidate for this position ... We are confident that her leadership will continue to elevate Emerald High and foster a positive and supportive learning environment."

Velez thanked the board for her appointment at the Oct. 22 meeting.

"I am looking forward to leading with pride and integrity and to continuing the work that has already been started there" at Emerald, she said.

BART

(Continued from front page)



Joseph Grcar

BART board. I can't understand that. Is she going to quit being a BART director in three and a half years?"

Grcar also questioned Hernandez's position on Alameda County Supervisor David Haubert's staff both during her time as mayor and as a BART director.

"(Haubert) wanted a vote on the BART board, and he wanted to continue running the city of Dublin back when he left," said Grcar. "I mean, that is corruption and he's doing it."

Haubert served as Dublin's mayor from 2014 to 2020.

Grcar believes that a system to gradually furlough non-essential (BART) employees when revenues fall should have been implemented "a long time ago."

"I think there's a lot of room that they could reduce staff in these times when revenue is down, and it wouldn't really hurt the

service," said Grcar. "I don't want to cut service at all."

He has also proposed charging corporations the cost of their employees' commutes on BART.

"What those companies in San Francisco are doing is they're taking advantage of the people in Alameda County, who pay this tax money to keep the BART system going," said Grcar.

Grcar said he would welcome a regional tax as long as the increase did not apply to Alameda County.

"Alameda has been paying more than our fair share for BART for a long time and I'm not willing to do anymore," he said.

Grcar is also running for three more positions in the general election: Chabot-Las Positas Community College District Board of Trustees, Castro Valley Sanitary District Board of Directors, and the Hayward Area Recreation and Park Board of Directors.

Melissa Hernandez

Hernandez, who did not respond to requests for an interview, said on her website that part of the system's ridership declines can be attributed to a lack of a sense of safety.

"Creating a safe environment requires a combination of solutions," Hernandez



Melissa Hernandez

wrote. "We need well deployed uniformed personnel, including those in the Ambassador program. We also need to be smarter about deploying mental health resources."

In addition, she lists stronger fiscal management and accountability, and a diversified revenue stream as other ways to shore up the agency's finances.

"Focusing our resources on reliability and affordability and being strategic on appropriate, community-serving smart growth around transit stations can accomplish these goals," she continued.

Hernandez pointed to her time on the Alameda County Transportation Commission as an example of her oversight of tax funds.

"I will continue to be a fiscal watchdog in making decisions on the BART budget," said Hernandez.



People were given a chance to spread their creative wings during the annual Pleasanton Halloween Brew Crawl, which occurred Saturday evening, Oct. 26. Participants sampled more than 30 local brews and flitted from one participating bar or restaurant to another, enjoying live music and other Halloween activities. The event was sponsored by the Pleasanton Downtown Association. (Photo — Doug Jorgensen)

MAILBOX

(Continued from page 14)

both students and teachers. Both Tara and Christiaan have demonstrated a focus on creating the best learning environment for all.

Tara Boyce's deep understanding of the challenges facing teachers comes from her years of experience in education. Her advocacy for innovative learning solutions and collaboration with students, parents, and educators will help ensure Livermore schools remain spaces where students thrive.

Christiaan VandenHeuvel brings a wealth of experience as a substitute teacher and PTSA president, paired with a strong dedication to giving students the education they deserve. Many in our community have spoken with Christiaan, and he has assured us that his personal faith will not influence his responsibilities on the school board. He is committed to supporting all students and fostering an inclusive environment.

Both Tara and Christiaan are passionate about supporting teachers and students alike. I encourage my fellow community members to vote for these candidates who prioritize the well-being of our schools and community.

Do Not Let Us Return to the Dark Ages of Book Banning

B.J. Reynolds-Koonce, Livermore

Deena Kaplanis, a candidate for the LVJUSD School Board, expresses her views on her website:

What is your stance on book banning?

"...Recently, it has come to my attention that some schools have included explicit material, which raises concerns. This content should be carefully reviewed, and it is essential for parents to engage in open conversations with their children at home to guide them on what is appropriate to view..."

However, in a questionnaire from Real Impact, distributed exclusively to her Christian supporters, Kaplanis went further:

Do you support a policy to enforce the removal of books and materials that contain sexually explicit content? Kaplanis: Support

On her website, Kaplanis also addressed her connection with Moms for Liberty:

Are you a Member of Mom's [sic] For Liberty?

"No and what exactly is that? Isn't that an east cost [sic] thing?"

Despite her claim of unfamiliarity with the group, Kaplanis shares similar

objectives with Moms for Liberty.

This raises important questions for voters:

1. Why is Kaplanis engaging in a covert campaign with Christian supporters?

2. Is she aware that District Policy 6163.1 already ensures that school libraries only provide age-appropriate materials? <https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/Policy/ViewPolicy.aspx?S=36030508&rev-id=EKjC88paKNSlshN6ifV9BQ9Rw=&ptid=amIgTZiB9plushNjI6WXhfiOQ=&se-cid=ruE8yj8gaZHBkLjNHWmKZw=&P-G=6&IRP=0&isPndg=false>

"Complaints regarding the appropriateness of library materials shall be addressed using the district's procedures for complaints regarding instructional materials."

3. Is Kaplanis aware of the implications of California's AB 1078 law, which prohibits book bans in schools and allows penalties for districts that fail to provide inclusive instructional materials? <https://www.gov.ca.gov/2023/09/25/california-bans-book-bans-and-textbook-censorship-in-schools/>

"AB 1078 provides the Superintendent of Public Instruction the authority to...assess a financial pen-

alty if a school board willfully chooses to not provide sufficient standards-aligned instructional materials for students. The law also prohibits school boards from banning instructional materials or library books on the basis that they provide inclusive and diverse perspectives in compliance with state law."

4. Do voters understand the potential legal risks Kaplanis might introduce to the district if elected?

Age-appropriate books from eighth grade onward are important for educating students about healthy relationships, consent, and the complexities of human development. These topics help young people navigate real-life situations, promote understanding, and foster open communication. Banning such books limits access to valuable, diverse perspectives, stifles intellectual growth, and prevents students from learning about topics critical to their emotional and social well-being in a safe, guided environment.

Do not let us return to the dark ages of book banning — vote for Tara Boyce and Christiaan VandenHeuvel!

Before You Vote for Anything

Jan Brovont, Livermore

Take some time and do some good research.

Remember whether it is City Council, or the President of the United States, this is going to have an effect on you, your children and grandchildren, maybe a huge effect. Don't worry about what they wear or how they look. Like I said before, it is not a beauty pageant. Look at what they have done, what they have tried to do, and what they say they are going to do. Do they stick with their decisions or change their minds? Not what sex they are or hair or skin color. Those don't make a difference in how someone thinks and what they believe and do. We need to stop illegals from entering for many reasons; why do they want to come here? A better life? Because they are a terrorist? Fleeing legal issues in their country? Being paid to come here?

To keep out of prison in their own country? Best to close our borders and send the illegals back and require them to come to our country the correct way. (That must make people who came legally really upset that we are letting in so many illegal people.)

We need to get our country safe and get the economy in better shape; locally and nationally. Prices of things are going to break our country's back. Think smart when you vote.

Kaplanis for All Students

Jack McCubbin, Livermore

As 30+ year residents of Livermore, our family has seen significant change in the district, some positive and some not. Our three adult children who each are products of LVUSD have varying experiences, yet moved on to achieve advanced degrees and meaningful careers. However, the district has changed and needs new leaders. Too many fear-based opinions posted herein are just that — opinions without merit. The fact is, LVUSD needs leaders who put the entire student body first. Deena will put all children first. A vote for Deena is a vote for every child and the community as a whole.

Vote for Christiaan VandenHeuvel

Mickey Kundert, Livermore

In support of Christiaan VandenHeuvel's candidacy for the Livermore School Board and partially in response to Jeff Saragusa's letter of Oct. 24, I'd like to offer my experience and support of Christiaan.

My husband, myself and our two children and daughter-in-law, as well as siblings and other relatives, are products of Livermore Schools and particularly, Livermore High. My husband and I continue to live in Livermore, and we all have a special interest in the function and success of the school board.

I worked for the school district, primarily at the district office from 1970 to 1979 and substituted occasionally thereafter. I feel I have a good sense of what a good board member should represent. Christiaan Van-

denHeuvel would be an excellent addition to the board.

I had the pleasure of working with him for about 10 years at Cornerstone Fellowship and was able to observe and experience his concern and care for everyone — staff and congregation members. He consistently made time to counsel and advise anyone who needed him. His management skills were direct, effective and always respectful. He and his wife Kristina and their family, as a team, offered positivity and support to everyone

Christiaan is a man of integrity, intelligence, caring and open communication. His position at Cornerstone and the general nature of his job gives him constant contact with parents and students, as well as ongoing interaction with staff and management. Working in an environment that requires transparency can be challenging — he never failed to be open and reliable and available for any type of discussion. I have never once heard of his mistreatment or disrespect of anyone at any time. If such an incident ever occurred, I'm sure it was a one-time event, an aberration.

Education has always been of great value to our family and to our community. We are still a community of laboratories, vineyards and farms. We need the skills, talents and transparency of a representative like Christiaan. He will be studied and well informed of the situations and agendas before him. He'll make certain to be available to hear the concerns of parents, students and staff. When the time comes for decisions, he will do so with honorable intent to do the right thing to continue providing the quality level of education our community demands and deserves from the School Board.

I encourage you to vote for Christiaan VandenHeuvel.

HAPPY HALLOWEEN
Reed Plumbing Company
 Livermore, CA
(925) 371-5671
 davidreed@dareedplumbing.com
 Lic #601931

Christian Youth Theater to Present 'Sound of Music'

The Tri-Valley chapter of Christian Youth Theater (CYT) will present the "The Sound of Music" at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore the first two weekends in November.

Christian Youth Theater is a nationwide after-school theater arts program for students ages 4-18 and the largest youth theater program in the country.

CYT Tri-Valley is the resi-

dent youth theater program at the Bankhead Theater.

"The Sound of Music," the Tony Award-winning musical by Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein, debuted on Broadway in 1959, with Mary Martin in the role of Maria, a young woman who takes a job as governess to the von Trapp family in Austria on the eve of World War II.

Julie Andrews portrayed Maria in the 1965 mov-

ie version, which earned five Academy Awards and remains one of the highest-grossing musicals ever, best known for such melodies as "Do-Re-Mi," "My Favorite Things," and "Climb Ev'ry Mountain."

Both the movie and the musical were based on "The Story of the Trapp Family Singers," a 1949 memoir written by Maria von Trapp, who married the children's

widowed naval commander father.

Two separate casts of local youths will split the eight performances at the Bankhead, with Paige Panfilio and Rosie Gilles portraying Maria.

Evening shows are scheduled for 7 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 1, Saturday, Nov. 2, Friday, Nov. 8, and Saturday, Nov. 9, with matinees scheduled for 2 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 2, Sunday, Nov. 3, Saturday,

Nov. 9, and Sunday, Nov. 10.

Tickets are \$30 and are available online at livermorearts.org.

Entries Sought for Hometown Holiday Parade

Pleasanton is inviting community groups to submit entries for the 2024 Hometown Holiday Celebration parade, to be held at 5 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 7.

Parade entry applications can be submitted online at hometownholiday.com and must be submitted by Monday, Dec. 2.

The city is also accepting applications for volunteers.

Volunteers must be at least 14 and will be involved in setting up, decorating, and taking down stages and

as parade marshals.

In addition, the city will hold auditions for parade announcers from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 7, and Wednesday, Nov. 13, at the Firehouse Arts Center. Announcers must be at least 16.

To request an audition, go to hometownholiday.com.

MILLER'S
AIR CONDITIONING and HEATING
WE SERVICE ALL MAJOR BRANDS!
 Residential & Commercial
BEST IN EAST BAY 2024
READERS' CHOICE AWARDS

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

Specializing in Fireplaces that beautify your home for over 40 years!

Gas & Wood Fireplaces Gas, Wood & Pellet Inserts Free-Standing Stoves
Sales & Installation of our Products Only

UP TO \$1,000 OFF*
*On select units. Must present this ad. Call for details. Limited time offer!

JERRY'S FIREPLACES
Tired of no burn days? Call us today!

23385 Connecticut Street, Unit 15, Hayward M-F 9-5, Sat 10-4 510 471-5601 JerrysFireplaces.com

HEAT & GLO
No one builds a better fire

LIVERMORE VALLEY arts cultural celebrations

11.03.2024
DIWALI: FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS
 11AM-3PM
 BANKHEAD PLAZA 2400 FIRST STREET LIVERMORE
 FREE FAMILY FRIENDLY

Learn more LivermoreArts.org | 925.373.6800

Sponsored in part by:

Foothill DECA Hosts Minicon Competition

More than 200 first-year competitors from six high schools participated in the annual Tri Valley Minicon, hosted by the Foothill High School DECA program in Pleasanton on Thursday, Oct. 17.

DECA is a program for high school and college students who are interested in careers in marketing, finance, hospitality and management.

The student-led Foothill DECA program is one of

nearly 4,000 high school chapters nationwide whose members participate in local, state and national competitions.

The Minicon competition for new members included a 50-question exam and a role-playing task to pitch a new business concept. This was the first time that Foothill DECA expanded Minicon to include students from Amador Valley, Granada, Dublin, and Quarry Lane high schools.



The annual Tri-Valley Minicon, hosted by the Foothill High School DECA chapter, drew more than 200 first-year competitors. DECA supports students interested in finance and marketing. (Photo courtesy of Foothill DECA)

WINERY

(Continued from front page)



Avaanti Vineyards is looking to develop a new winery in the center of an existing vineyard near Reuss and Tesla roads. (Image courtesy of Avaanti Vineyards)

winery, a tasting room and shop, a restaurant, and a 200-person event center for corporate and social events.

The plan also includes an eight-acre, 242-space parking lot, a nine-hole golf course and putting green, and a nearly 9,500-square-foot, two-story, 10-bedroom single-family home with a pool that will be rented out during events.

"This is a massive project with buses busing people into our neighborhood," resident Chip Anderson told the panel. "We are all neighbors here. We all know each other. And now we're going to be looking at this monstrosity outside the front of our houses."

The site is located within Alameda County's East

County Area Plan (ECAP), designated as Large Parcel Agriculture. The proposal, a county report said, meets ECAP requirements for the sizes of the buildings and floor-area ratio, but residents argued the 10-bedroom residence was actually a commercial hotel being dropped into their neighborhood.

The ECAP, part of the county's general plan, includes caps on commercial development in the unincorporated parts of the county. Those limits, last updated in 2019, include 154 hotel rooms in a maximum of 25 bed-and-breakfast establishments (which are defined as having no more than 14 guest rooms). Commercial space is likewise capped at 180,000

square feet for the planning area, of which no more than 100,000 square feet may be used for purposes ancillary to wine production. The ECAP allows for larger destination attractions, such as a wine museum or a resort hotel, but they would still be bound by the upper limits for the entire area.

The ECBZA board hasn't determined if or how much of those totals the Avaanti Winery project — either guest rooms, restaurant space, or non-winery usage such as the golf course — would use.

"I'm opposed to a project of this scale," said Marilyn Russell, a 50-year-resident. "This is enormous. It just really changes the whole at-

mosphere of where we are."

Cheryl Perry told the panel that residents raised the concern about groundwater supplies for a site expected to draw 180,000 visitors a year.

"For those of you who may not know, we all live on well water," Perry said. "I feel like they're putting everybody out there at risk for a water shortage."

Perry and others also cited concern over the millions of gallons of wastewater the site will create that must be pumped into the septic system, along with increased traffic on the already-busy Tesla Road.

"I think the residents on that street don't deserve to have their rural agriculture lifestyle driven by this type of development," Perry said. "We truly don't know how many toilets, sinks and water items there are on the plan. It just says restroom."

Several residents demanded the county conduct an environmental impact report according to the California Environmental Quality Act to determine the project's effect on the surrounding area, as well as on wildlife. In an email to The Independent, resident Alison Nakagawa noted that to

at this point, no environmental review is being required by the county.

"This is not just about one project, while personally important to me, but more about the disruption of balance between urban growth or expansion and upholding our agricultural history, preservation of land, values and quality of life for all of Livermore residents, rural and all," Nakagawa wrote.

During the board's discussion, ECBZA Vice Chair Lori Souza said she wanted to know more about the size of the house, which she said appeared to be for commercial and not residential use, as required by the area plans. Souza also questioned whether there were adequate water supplies to support the facility following a seven-year drought, and whether the proposal met ECAP requirements to primarily be a wine operation, because of its golf course and events center. The 1993 South Livermore Valley Area Plan (SLVAP), she said, requires 60% of the project to be a wine operation.

"You'd have to have a lot of wine production in order for this event center to be subordinate to the wine production," Souza said.

Imhof questioned the traffic predicted for Tesla Road and the proprietors' plan to bus people into the site. He likened buses to increased trucking on the route. Imhof also said he doubted whether the project met Measure D's floor-area ratio requirements for the size of the buildings and golf course, and suggested the developers redo their math.

The architect, Wood, said he hoped the project will be supported because the area's wineries are struggling. He was open to making changes.

"We don't want to alienate the neighbors," Wood said. "I know that this sounds like an overwhelming project for the neighbors. It may be finding the right balance in terms of being a good neighbor."

Board Chair Derek Eddy asked the developers to return with responses to residents' and panelists' concerns at the ECBZA meeting in January.

"I think that we are a little ahead of ourselves," Eddy said. "Whether it's a good product or a bad product is not really the issue. It's the feasibility of this project. And there's a lot of questions and answers that we all need to hear."

SANDIA

(Continued from front page)

nia site has evolved over 75 years to include groundbreaking achievements in computing, automobile efficiency, climate change and cybersecurity, in addition to our focus on nuclear deterrence that has made the world safer year after year. Our senior staff who worked on many of these efforts, as well as the 40% of our staff who have been here less than five years, deserve recognition for the depth and breadth of Sandia's work for which they are responsible."

A time capsule, which was buried on the site in 1999 on the lab's 50th anniversary, was opened during the celebration. According to Michael Langley, corporate communications specialist for Sandia National Laboratories, California, items uncovered included a site staff photo; video recordings of a town hall from 1999; a spark plug

outfitted with fiber optic cables designed to see what was happening during automobile engine firing; a Motorola flip phone and a Palm Pilot; a motherboard developed by Sandia that turned out to be safe from feared damage from the Y2K bug; plans for Sandia's Livermore site; various articles of clothing with 50th Anniversary branding; and newspapers and magazines from that year.

Sandia National Laboratories was first established in Albuquerque, New Mexico, in 1949. The California lab was founded a few years later in 1956 with just 15 employees on the previous site of Naval Air Station Livermore, directly across East Avenue from the University of California Radiation Laboratory — known today as the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory.

Led by then-President

James W. McRae, personnel from Albuquerque, New Mexico, were brought to Livermore to work alongside their colleagues at Lawrence Livermore Lab to develop nuclear weapons that employed hydrogen fusion in their detonation, according to Sandia's website. That work continues to this day. Sandia's primary mission to ensure the safety, security and reliability of the U.S. nuclear arsenal — and support the nation's deterrence policy — relies on its close work with Lawrence Livermore.

McIlroy reflected on Sandia's impact as a national security and engineering laboratory with a unique place in history: "The nation counts on us to address its most difficult security challenges by applying the latest science to produce fully engineered, fieldable systems that can help protect our

national interests," he said. "The nation faces multiple challenges, including two peer nuclear adversaries and the issues of mitigating and

adapting to climate change. Sandia scientists and engineers create solutions to these and other challenges that will be realized both in

the near term and in coming decades — solutions that also help maintain the economic strength of the nation."



Staff at Sandia National Labs in Livermore view the contents of a time capsule opened to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the lab. (Photo — Doug Jorgensen)

BANDS

(Continued from front page)

Reyes explained that it was the incredible vision of Foothill High School's first band director, Bob Moorefield, who held the position for 41 years before retiring

in 2009. Moorefield was this year's Grand Marshal.

"But he had a difficult challenge because it was such a new concept," Reyes said. It took the police and

the city council a while to understand what the review would entail. "There was some understandable pushback, like, 'What is this? What does this mean for our

town? What's the impact?' And all that."

It has become one of the few true downtown parades left in the Bay Area, Reyes said, which is part of the draw for the spectators and participants.

But in those early days they couldn't even have the field competition at Foothill High, where it is now, because the football field hadn't been completed yet. Everything had to be done at the Pleasanton Fairgrounds. And parents would go out to pick up garbage downtown at 2 a.m. because they didn't want anyone to have a negative perception of the parade or the band review.

"So we're very grateful to all those parents back in the day that were part of that vision, but also now it's just incredible to be a part of a parent community

like that, and as humble stewards of that tradition."

They say it takes a village, and in 2024, these passionate parents practically built one for a day that started before sunrise for some and ended as late as 10:30 p.m.

The parking lots of Amador Valley and Foothill High Schools were transformed into small communities with little pup tents, food vendors and parents with makeshift kitchens set up to serve hordes of hungry teens. The expanse of asphalt was crammed with Penske trailers, flatbeds, and school buses with kids from cities like Antioch, Santa Cruz, American Canyon and, in previous years, as far away as Nevada and Oregon. Local Tri-Valley schools included Dublin's Wells Middle School, who are so good they compete at a very high level along-

side the high school bands and have a loyal following. Each band had their own army of parents helping with uniforms, instruments and nourishment.

"There's all these little, tiny details that every single parent is mindful of," Reyes said. "It's all about creating an incredible experience for our kids, whatever it may be."

One parent was seen darting in and out of a row of sweaty uniform-clad teens with a squeeze-bottle of water like a football coach.

Reyes said of the 50-year-old band review, "It's one of those traditions that goes well beyond Pleasanton because a lot of schools remember it and look forward to it and are part of it and there's alumni who have loved it and have the memory of being here."



The 50th Annual Foothill Band Review brought dozens of marching bands to Pleasanton on Saturday, Oct. 26, where they marched down Main Street. Field shows were held at Foothill High later that day and into the evening. (Photo — Doug Jorgensen)

Livermore Youth Counseling Program Receives Award for Excellence

Horizons Family Counseling, a division of the Livermore Police Department, has received the Helen Putnam Award for Excellence in Intergovernmental Collaboration from the League of California Cities for its work with the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District.

Established in 1973, Horizons Family Coun-

seling offers on campus counseling for students and their families from elementary school through high school. The program also offers mental health workshops and support services and operates as a diversion program for youths arrested for minor offenses.

"Horizons Family Counseling is a beacon of

hope for our community, providing critical mental health support to our youth and families at a time when it is most needed," said Livermore Mayor John Marchand.

Marchand added that the League of California Cities award "underscores the power of collaboration in addressing mental health challenges

and demonstrates how partnerships with schools and local government can lead to meaningful, lasting change."

The counseling program serves hundreds of students annually, according to the city, and works closely with school staff and law enforcement to "foster resilience among youth and reduce the stig-

ma surrounding mental health."

The Helen Putnam Awards for Excellence recognize cities for innovative and effective programs. The Intergovernmental Collaboration award specifically recognizes programs that demonstrate cooperation among cities, counties, schools, and special districts to serve chil-

dren and families.

The award was announced at the League of California Cities' Annual Conference and Expo in Long Beach earlier this month and presented to the Livermore City Council this week.

To view a video about the Horizons Family Council program, go to tinyurl.com/yra4kh3p.

OBITUARIES

Celebration of Life

George Edward Madden
May 21, 1946 – Sept. 23, 2024



George Edward Madden, born May 21, 1946, in Oak Harbor, Washington, passed away on Sept. 23, 2024. He moved to Livermore in 1963 and graduated from Livermore High School in 1965. In 1966, he married his high school sweetheart, and together they had two daughters.

George was a proud member of the NRA, Good Guys, NHRA, and West Coast Pro Gas. He had a deep love for cars, particularly hot rods and drag racing, with his pride and joy being his 1966 Nova race car. Known for his extensive knowledge of cars, George was admired and respected in the car community.

Family was everything to George, and he shared an amazing bond with his grandchildren. He will be deeply missed by his family and friends. George is survived by his wife

of 58 years, Kathy Madden, his children Shelley Brooks (Lonnie) and Jenny Madden (John), and his grandchildren Amanda Hughes (Travis), Brandon Brooks (Kayla), Brittany Brooks (Daylan), Blaine Brooks (Aidan), Chance Brooks, and Avery Silva. He also leaves behind great-grandchildren Ryland, Graysen, River, Haidyn, and Brynlee, and his brother Mike Madden. He was preceded in death by his parents, Eddie and Sally Madden, and his sister Becky.

A celebration of George's life will be held on Nov. 2 at 1 p.m. at the Elks Lodge, 940 Larkspur Dr., Livermore, California, 94551.

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

Judith Fisher Dailey
July 28, 1930 – July 26, 2024



Judith Fisher Dailey—Judy to her family and friends—died July 26 of heart failure at her apartment in the Hyde Park neighborhood of Chicago, Illinois. She was two days short of her 94th birthday.

Proud to be a third-generation Californian, she was born in the Southern California suburb of Lennox and grew up in the small San Joaquin Valley town of Coalinga, midway between San Francisco and Los Angeles. She attended the Coalinga public schools and graduated in 1948 from Coalinga High School, where her academic achievements earned her life membership in the California Scholarship Federation.

During her childhood and teenage years, she enjoyed camping and fishing in the Sierra with her parents, Lyle and Dolly Fisher, and worked summers as a housekeeper and a table and soda fountain server for The Pines resort at Bass Lake, near Yosemite National Park. An outstanding young pianist, she led her own swing-era dance combo and also played the cello in her high school orchestra.

In 1952, she earned a bachelor's degree in education from Stanford Universi-

ty, where she met her future husband, Bill Dailey. They were married later that year and remained so until Bill's death in 2016. Living first in San Francisco and Hayward, they eventually settled in Livermore, where the Dailey family operated a Chevrolet and Buick dealership. She and her husband raised three children, Scott Dailey of Kent, Washington; Laura Dailey Hanley of Torrance, California; and Jane Dailey of Chicago.

While in Livermore, Judy was a homemaker and active community volunteer, especially for the Mulberry Branch fundraising auxiliary of Children's Hospital Medical Center of Northern California (now part of UCSF Be-

nihoff Children's Hospitals). She also loved to entertain. Every summer, she and Bill threw a big band dance party, where they cut the carpet (more often, the back deck) in elegant fashion. She and Bill retired to Kihei, Maui, for 16 years before moving in 2014 to assisted living near their daughter, Jane. Before leaving the mainland, the couple endowed a scholarship for women's athletics at Stanford, where Bill spent the second half of his career as a development officer.

Judy was an enthusiastic all-around sports fan, and her tailgate fare at Stanford football games was legendary. Football, baseball, basketball, tennis, golf: she loved them all. After moving to Chicago in her mid-80s, she mastered the ins and outs of hockey and became a dedicated fan of the Chicago Blackhawks of the NHL.

Survivors include her children, five grandchildren, three step-grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Donations in Judy's memory may be made to the Judy and Bill Dailey Athletic Scholarship at Stanford University and UCSF Benioff Children's Hospitals. A private memorial is planned.

Rebecca Lynn Rogers
Aug. 13, 1967 – Oct. 17, 2024



Rebecca "Becky" Rogers, beloved wife, mother, sister, and friend, passed away on Oct. 17, 2024, after a courageous battle with pancreatic cancer. She faced her illness with the same spirit and determination that characterized her vibrant life.

Born to Louise and Patrick Gray in 1967, Becky grew up in Livermore, California, where she attended Granada High School. She lived in Livermore for most of her life before moving to Idaho, where she enjoyed her early retirement on a charming farm, nurturing her love for animals and the outdoors.

Becky was known for her boisterous laugh and infectious sense of humor that could light up any room. She cherished her family, leaving behind her husband, Dan Rogers, with whom she shared 42 beautiful years, and her two children, Jessica

Thibault and Dakota Rogers. A wonderful mother and wife, she was also a loving sister to Melissa Gray and Andrew Roberts-Gray, and a beloved aunt to many nieces and nephews, who will carry her memory in their hearts forever. Becky also cherished her two dogs, Hazel and Gretchen, who brought her much joy and companionship.

Her passion for adventure drove her to explore life to the

fullest, traveling to places like Alaska, Costa Rica, Mexico, and various parts of the U.S., with a special fondness for her favorite destination, Hawaii. Alongside her love for travel, she embraced motorcycle/dirt bike riding, hiking, caring for animals, and crafting, all of which allowed her to express her vibrant spirit. Whether she was traversing a scenic trail or making something beautiful, her enthusiasm for life inspired everyone around her.

Becky's legacy will live on through her family and the countless lives she touched with her laughter and love. She will be deeply missed by all who knew her.

An intimate celebration of her life will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to Colorado Animal Rescue — Glenwood Springs, Colorado, in Becky's honor.

Eva Jean Walker Farmer
Dec. 31, 1934 – Oct. 25, 2024



Eva Jean Walker Farmer, beloved mother, grandmother, sister, and friend, passed away on October 25, 2024, at the age of 89. Born on Dec. 31, 1934, in Cheatham County, Tennessee, she was a radiant source of love and strength throughout her life. Eva Jean dedicated herself to her family, raising her two sons, Harry Farmer Jr. and Anthony Farmer, while lovingly caring for her late husband, Harry Farmer. Known for her unwavering support and nurturing spirit, she created a warm and loving home. A savvy investor, Eva Jean expertly managed her finances to ensure her family's security. She was also an avid collector and a devoted volunteer in her community. She is survived by her brother, James Murriel Walker; her sons, Harry and

Anthony; her six grandchildren — Brenna Jean, Kirsten, Andrew, William, Matthew, and Lucien — and her 11 great-grandchildren, who brought her immense joy and pride. Family gatherings were filled with laughter and love as she reveled in watching the children play. Eva Jean devoted 47 years to vol-

unteering at the Valley Memorial Auxiliary Thrift Shop, where she formed lasting connections and positively impacted her community. Her compassion and willingness to help others were evident as she organized events to bring people together.

A celebration of Eva Jean's life will be held on Nov. 1, 2024, at 2 p.m. at Asbury Methodist Church, where she was an active member. Her legacy will be honored and cherished by all who knew her. Eva Jean Farmer will be deeply missed, but her spirit and determination will live on in the hearts of those she touched, a testament to a life well lived. Callaghan Mortuary is honored to be serving the Farmer family. An online guestbook is available for condolences at www.callaghanmortuary.com.

Celebration of Life

Donald Lew Seilhymmer
March 16, 1935 – Oct. 11, 2024



Donald "Don" Lew Seilhymmer, 89, passed away at his home in Goodyear, Arizona, on Oct. 11, 2024. He is in the loving arms of his Lord and Savior, Jesus. Don was born on March 16, 1935, in San Francisco, California, to Charles and Frances (Martinis) Seilhymmer and was the eldest brother to three siblings.

While he was still very young, the family moved to Danville, Illinois, where he spent several years of his childhood. They later moved back to California in 1947 and eventually settled in Emeryville where his parents owned and operated Nell's Café. He attended Emeryville High School and graduated in June 1953.

After high school, he enlisted in the Army and attended basic training in Fort Ord, California in July 1954. Don served as a Military Policeman, assigned to duty in Austria and France. While assigned to the Military Police Detachment in Paris, he met his future wife Judith (Judy) Arlene Derbin whose father was also stationed in Paris as a Warrant Officer in the Army. Don and Judy became acquainted through friends, and then one night while on a hayride in Paris their relationship blossomed into romance and the rest is history. Judy's father was reassigned to the Presidio Army base in San Francisco, but Don and Judy remained committed romantic pen pals.

When Don's enlistment ended in June 1957, he moved back to the Bay Area to be near family and Judy. On May 29, 1958, he and Judy married. They lived for a short time in Oakland and then bought a home in the fledgling community of Dublin, California, in 1961. He was employed at Golden Plastics Fabrication in Oakland where he would become the shop foreman and work for 40 years until his retirement in 2000. Don and Judy raised four children in Dublin and lived there until September 2021 when they sold their home of 60 years and moved to Goodyear, Arizona.

Don volunteered his time in Dublin Little League Baseball as both a team manager and an umpire. He was deeply committed and involved in Scouting as a Cub Scout

Pack Leader and a Boy Scout Master for Troop 427 in Dublin. He had a deep love and appreciation for the outdoors and nature and enjoyed sharing this with his Scouts and with his family through many hikes and backpacking trips in the mountains of California. Don was also an avid bowler and spent many years in league bowling at Earl Anthony's Dublin Bowl where he and Judy developed many friendships. He attended Parkway Baptist Church in Dublin for many

years where he dedicated his service to various ministries and discipleship. He also committed many years to the genealogical studies of the Seilhymmer family and other connected families. He was an amazingly gifted artist and produced many beautiful drawings and paintings that he shared with family and friends. Additionally, he was a skilled carpenter and was always handy at any project that needed doing. Don was an amazing dad and a big kid at heart; he greatly loved spending time with his children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren. He always had a kind word for a stranger, was quick with a joke and loved to laugh. However, his greatest attribute was his faith in God and the Gospel which he shared with his family and anyone else that he encountered.

Don joins his beloved wife Judy who passed away in July 2023. He is survived by his sister Frances (Piddy) Barron of Junction City, Oregon, and his sister Diana (Peaches) Haddy and her husband Al of Junction City, Oregon. He is also survived by his four children; Pete Seilhymmer and his wife Sharon of Buckeye, Arizona, Julie Laughery and husband Gene of Mesa, Arizona, Steve Seilhymmer and wife Carol of Bigfork, Montana, and James Seilhymmer and wife Julie of Sparks, Nevada. He also has eight grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren.

There will be a memorial service at Sacramento Valley Veterans Cemetery in Dixon, California, on December 2, 2024, at 1:30 p.m. followed by a celebration of life at the Veterans Hall in Dixon, California.

Dorothy Jean Cooper
June 2, 1955 – Oct. 15, 2024



Dorothy was born in Napa, California, and moved to Livermore in 1964. She graduated from Livermore High School, class of 1973. She was a stockholder for the Livermore Rodeo Association. Dorothy was an active member of the Livermore Eagles Aerie #609. She worked many years at the Valley Inn as well as the Sports

Page. She was a member of the Laborers Union Local #304.

Dorothy is survived by her mother Cleta Jean Egbert, her two sons Quint and Cole Brundage, and her grandchildren Tyler, Eliana, Cole II and David (Tai) Brundage.

Dorothy will be greatly missed by her family and many friends.

Strong Defense Lifts Granada Flag Football Team to Win

By Phil Jensen

The Granada High School girls flag football team's defense delivered a standout performance in the

Matadors' comeback 14-12 victory over visiting Monte Vista on Oct. 23.

Granada produced four interceptions, including a game-ending one by senior

Kayla Clarin, and stopped the Mustangs four times on their side of the field, including once inside the 5-yard-line.

"Defensively, we've been

pretty stout," said Granada coach Jared Muela, who gave kudos to his team's secondary and front line. "They're ballhawks. They go after it all the time, so we expect to get turnovers. It doesn't always go our way, but tonight, they rose to the occasion for sure."

It was a nonleague game with Monte Vista, since the two teams already played an East Bay Athletic League game against each other this season (Granada won 26-14 on Oct. 8). The Matadors improved to 11-4 overall with the Oct. 23 victory. Granada also had a 5-2 EBAL record entering this week. Monte Vista fell to 9-8 overall with the loss.

"That was a tight game on their senior night," said Muela about his squad. "There's always a lot of ceremonial stuff that goes with it, but for them to lock in and be able to finish the game that strong on a drive like that, it's pretty special."

Monte Vista was 75 yards away from a touchdown with less than two minutes, 30 seconds to play, but drove 60 yards. On the final play of the game, Granada junior Marin Lnenicka deflected a Monte Vista pass to Clarin to end the game.

"I was just trying to make sure the other team didn't get it," Lnenicka said. "It

was perfect that Kayla was like right behind me to get it."

Granada scored first when it took the opening possession 60 yards to score. Quarterback Kathryn Vail passed for a one-yard touchdown to senior Sophia Bertolo, then connected with Lnenicka on a two-point conversion pass for an 8-0 lead with 19:25 left in the first half. There were two 24-minute halves in the game.

Monte Vista's first drive stopped two yards short of a touchdown when Granada's Ashley Tucker knocked a pass out of a receiver's hands on a fourth-down play. But after a Matadors three-and-out, the Mustangs narrowed Granada's lead to 8-6 on a three-yard TD pass from Grace Fan to Lily Parikh. However, the two-point conversion pass failed.

The Mustangs took a 12-8 lead into halftime on a five-yard touchdown reception by Hannah Duffield on a pass from Fan with 1:24 left in the first half. Again, the two-point conversion pass failed.

An interception by Lnenicka with 16:45 left in the game led to the eventual winning score. Lnenicka returned her interception to the 50-yard-line and three

plays later, caught a low pass from Vail for a 21-yard reception to the Monte Vista 1-yard-line. "Katie likes to throw low to me, and I can get down easily, so we just do that a lot so it's harder to slap down," Lnenicka said.

On the next play, Vail passed to Clarin for a touchdown and a 14-12 lead with 14:46 left. The two-point conversion pass failed. Vail, a junior, completed passes to eight receivers in the game and finished with 17 completions in 29 attempts for 146 yards, two touchdowns and one interception. Caitlyn Nguyen-Schertzer caught a team-high four passes for 43 yards. Lnenicka had three receptions for a team-high 57 yards. Clarin led the Matadors in rushing with 42 yards on six carries.

Defensively, Granada had interceptions by Giana Pritchard and Rowan Weiss in addition to the ones by Clarin and Lnenicka, all in the second half. Pritchard, a senior, also knocked the ball out of a receiver's hands on a fourth-down play early in the second half.

Granada ended the regular season on Oct. 29 with a game at Livermore at 7:15 p.m. and will next compete in the three-day EBAL Tournament. The North Coast Section seeding meeting is Nov. 8.



Granada senior Kayla Clarin's flag is taken by Monte Vista's Riley Archuleta during the Matadors' 14-12 win over visiting Mustangs on Wednesday, Oct. 23. Clarin scored the final points in the game and intercepted a pass on the final play to cement Granada's victory. (Photo — Doug Jorgensen)

Robinson's Rushing Powers Livermore Past Dublin High

By Phil Jensen

With one minute to go in the first quarter of the Oct. 25 game between Livermore High School and host Dublin, Cow-

boys football star Kamarri Robinson had rushed just 10 yards.

He finished the game with 212. The 5-foot-8 senior ran for a pair of 56-yard touchdowns and also caught a seven-yard touchdown pass in the Cowboys' 28-23 victory over the Gaels.

"The safety was spying on me, so when we did the dive, it would work, so that's what changed for us," said Robinson about the difference between the

first and second quarters offensively for Livermore. The Cowboys entered the second quarter trailing 7-0, but led 21-7 by half-time.

Dublin coach Napoleon Kaufman knows what makes an outstanding running back. The former Oakland Raider rushed for 4,792 yards in his NFL career and was a second-team All-American his senior year at the University of Washington.

"He's tough, he's physical, he's got great speed," said Kaufman about Robinson. "I like his game."

Livermore improved to 5-3 overall and 2-0 in the East Bay Athletic League Valley Division with the

win. The Cowboys next host Foothill (4-5, 1-2) on Nov. 1 at 7:15 p.m. Dublin fell to 2-7, 1-2. The Gaels have a bye this week.

"This is like Playoff A and every week is a playoff game, not that we are ending our season on that game, but it changes drastically what we're thinking," said Livermore coach John Wade about the EBAL Valley Division season. "No room for a slipup."

Dublin took a 7-0 lead on Oct. 25 with a 60-yard drive that culminated with a well-placed 22-yard pass by senior quarterback Jojo Haubrich to Anthony Pickens in the end zone. Aydin Kwan provided



Livermore senior Kamarri Robinson rushed for 212 yards in the Oct. 25 game at Dublin. Robinson scored three of the team's four touchdowns. (Photo — Doug Jorgensen)



Dublin sophomore Rome Raymore rushes in the Oct. 25 matchup against visiting Livermore. Livermore won 28-23. (Photo — Doug Jorgensen)

the point-after-touchdown kick at the two minute, eight second mark of the opening quarter.

But two plays into the second quarter, Livermore tied the score. Matteo Lortie found Robinson for a seven-yard touchdown pass, and Elijah Delgado produced the first of his four successful PAT kicks.

The Cowboys scored twice more in the second quarter. An interception by Luke Anderson set up Robinson's first 56-yard touchdown, a burst through a big hole on the right side. Another Anderson interception led to Livermore's final touchdown of the quarter. The senior returned the ball 15 yards to the Dublin 41, and three plays later, Lortie connected with Chad Harper for a 29-yard touchdown pass.

Dublin tacked three

more points on the scoreboard when its opening second-half possession led to a 20-yard Kwan field goal. But on the next play from scrimmage, Robinson bolted up the middle for another 56-yard touchdown run.

However, Dublin battled back to cut the Livermore lead to single digits. First, there was a great catch by Pickens on a 46-yard touchdown pass by Haubrich with 2:34 left in the third quarter. A long Robinson touchdown run was called back due to a Livermore holding penalty on the next Cowboys series, then in the fourth quarter, Dublin narrowed the Cowboys' lead to 28-23 with 3:18 left on a seven-yard TD pass from Haubrich to Andre Armendariz. Livermore's Daiemnon Espinoza produced a huge sack

on a two-point conversion attempt to keep the Cowboys' lead at five points. Livermore then held possession in the final 3:12 of the game, running out the clock.

"We definitely are still a little bit of a work in progress in spots," said Wade, pointing to more than 50 yards in penalties. "We've got to clean some things up, but I feel good overall."

Jayden Altizer added a fourth-quarter interception by Livermore that helped keep Dublin at bay.

Dublin's Armendariz rushed for a team-high 116 yards. Teammate Rome Raymore led all receivers with seven catches for 116 yards.

"They fought hard, they fought back, they didn't cave," said Kaufman about his team. "I was proud of the guys."

LEGAL NOTICES/CLASSIFIEDS

www.independentnews.com



LEGAL NOTICES

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 609603

The following person(s) doing business as: Purple Ghost Media LLC, 876 Geraldine ST, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Purple Ghost Media LLC, 876 Geraldine ST, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability

Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Austin Slayton, Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 27, 2024. Expires September 26, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6139. Published October 10, 17, 24, 31, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS

NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 609136

The following person(s) doing business as: Covet Travel, 1937 Fourth ST, Apt 4, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Kitera Dent, 1937 Fourth ST, Apt 4, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Reg-

istrant/s/: Kitera Dent, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 6, 2024. Expires September 5, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6140. Published October 10, 17, 24, 31, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 609559

The following person(s) doing business as: Ariba Healthcare Group, 37553 Fremont Blvd,

CA 94536 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Ariba healthcare Group, Inc., 37553 Fremont Blvd, CA 94536. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 4/15/2024. Signature of Registrant/s/: Tariq Mirza, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 26, 2024. Expires September 25,

2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6141. Published October 10, 17, 24, 31, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 609217

The following person(s) doing business as: Jessica Builds, 1452 North Vasco Road #347, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Jessica Banks, 1452 North Vasco Road 3347, Livermore, CA 94551. This business

is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 5/3/2024. Signature of Registrant/s/: Jessica Banks, CEO/Founder. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 10, 2024. Expires September 9, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6142. Published October 10, 17, 24, 31, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 609645

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Cellcore Solutions; 2. CCBS, 4400 Keller Ave, Suite 189, Oakland, CA 94605 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Coco Business Solutions, 4400 Keller Ave, Suite 189, Oakland, CA 94605. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced

LEGAL NOTICES/CLASSIFIEDS

www.independentnews.com



to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 9/30/2024. Signature of Registrant/s/: Iorhaim Baaqee, Owner/Principal. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 30, 2024. Expires September 29, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6144. Published October 10, 17, 24, 31, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 609360

The following person(s) doing business as: Teds Dent Works, 57 California Ave, Suite H, Pleasanton, CA 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Edward Martelle, 57 California Ave, Suite H, Pleasanton, CA 94566. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 1/16/16. Signature of Registrant/s/: Edward Martelle, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 18, 2024. Expires September 17, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6145. Published October 10, 17, 24, 31, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 609658

The following person(s) doing business as: Infinite Blue Chip, 22725 7th St, Hayward, CA 94541 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Infinite Blue Chip 22725 7th St, Hayward, CA 94541. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Xiaodan Chen, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 1, 2024. Expires September 30, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6146. Published October 10, 17, 24, 31, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 609366

The following person(s) doing business as: Eri Rose, 852 Division St, APT 3, Pleasanton, CA 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Erica Honesto, 4300 Black Ave #74, Pleasanton, CA 94566. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Erica Honesto, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 18, 2024. Expires September 17, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6147. Published October 10, 17, 24, 31, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 609829

The following person(s) doing business as: Crazy Lady Creations, 22457 Linden Street, Hayward, CA 94541 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Jennifer Ferria-Vantley, 22457 Linden Street, Hayward, CA 94541. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Jennifer Ferria-Vantley, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 9, 2024. Expires October 8, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6148. Published October 17, 24, 31, November 7, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 609761

The following person(s) doing business as: BW Consulting, 3911 Stanford Way, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Brandon Todd Williams, 3911 Stanford Way, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Brandon Todd Williams, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 4, 2024. Expires October 3, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6149. Published October 17, 24, 31, November 7, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 609613

The following person(s) doing business as: Healing Perspectives, 11740 Dublin Blvd., Ste. 206 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Helen Rozanski Savin, 11740 Dublin Blvd, Ste. 206, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 3/4/2022. Signature of Registrant/s/: Helen Rozanski Savin, LCSW, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 30, 2024. Expires September 29, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6150. Published October 17, 24, 31, November 7, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 609329

The following person(s) doing business as: Gundy Pet Services, 2497 College Ave, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Ethan Gundersen, 2497 College Ave, Livermore, CA 94550; Jacob Gundersen, 2497 College Ave, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by a General Partnership. The date on which the registrant first commenced

to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Ethan Gundersen, General Partner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 17, 2024. Expires September 16, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6151. Published October 17, 24, 31, November 7, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 609782

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Dunder First Street Partnership; 2. Civic Center Station, 4725 First St., Pleasanton, CA 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Vera Revelli, 2 Krohn Lane, Oakland, CA 94611; Jennifer Stenrose, 2 Krohn Lane, Oakland, CA 94611; Scott Revelli, 2 Krohn Lane, Oakland, CA 94611. This business is conducted by a Limited Partnership. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 9/5/1998. Signature of Registrant/s/: Vera Revello, General Partner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 7, 2024. Expires October 6, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6152. Published October 17, 24, 31, November 7, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 609829

The following person(s) doing business as: Crazy Lady Creations, 22457 Linden Street, Hayward, CA 94541 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Jennifer Ferria-Vantley, 22457 Linden Street, Hayward, CA 94541. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Jennifer Ferria-Vantley, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 9, 2024. Expires October 8, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6148. Published October 17, 24, 31, November 7, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 609789

The following person(s) doing business as: The Art of Home, 318 Capricorn Ave, Oakland, CA 94611 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Mochita S Corp, 318 Capricorn Ave, Oakland, CA 94611. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 1/1/2021. Signature of Registrant/s/: Jennifer Ferria-Vantley, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 7, 2024. Expires October 6, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6154. Published October 17, 24, 31, November 7, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 609754

The following person(s) doing business as: East Alameda Tutoring, 3020 Bernal Ave, Ste. 100 2016, Pleasanton, CA 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Sybil De Clark, 3020 Bernal Ave Ste. 110 2016, Pleasanton, CA 94566. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 9/1/2024. Signature of Registrant/s/: Sybil De Clark, Dr. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 4, 2024. Expires October 3, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6155. Published October 17, 24, 31, November 7, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 609616

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Imperial Star Empire Incorporated; 2. Emperor; 3. Empress; 4. Emprix; 5. Incorporated, 4075 Compton Ct, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Imperial Star Empire, Inc, 4075 Compton Ct, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: John Marques, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September

30, 2024. Expires September 31, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6156. Published October 17, 24, 31, November 7, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 609884

The following person(s) doing business as: Cruz Construction, 8212 Birch St, Oakland, CA 94621 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Jesus Wilfredo Cruz Abrego, 8212 Birch St., Oakland, CA 94621. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Jesus Wilfredo Cruz Abrego, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 11, 2024. Expires October 10, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6157. Published October 17, 24, 31, November 7, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 609825

The following person(s) doing business as: Dokb Studio, LLC, 5667 Beale Ave, Dublin, CA 94568 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Dokb Studio, LLC, 5667 Beale Ave, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Jason Shin, Managing Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 9, 2024. Expires October 8, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6158. Published October 24, 31, November 7, 14, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 609983

The following person(s) doing business as: Ouris, 3020 Bernal Ave, Ste 110 #2016, Pleasanton, CA 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Sybil Gertrude De Clark, 3020 Bernal Ave, Ste 110 #2016, Pleasanton, CA 94566. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Sybil Gertrude De Clark, Dr. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 16, 2024. Expires October 15, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6159. Published October 24, 31, November 7, 14, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 609908

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Steven Kent Winery; 2. Lineage Wine Company; 3. L'Autre Cote; 4. Out from land Wine Group, 2245 South Vasco Road, Suite C, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Out From Land Investor Group LLC, 2245 South Vasco Road, Suite C, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Jason Shin, Managing Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 5, 2024. Expires October 4, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6160. Published October 24, 31, November 7, 14, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 609911

The following person(s) doing business as: Claudia's Family Child Care, 438 W Sunset Blvd, Hayward, CA 94541 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Claudia Hernandez Santos, 438 W. Sunset Blvd., Hayward, CA 94541. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Claudia Hernandez Santos, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 14, 2024. Expires October 13, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6161. Published October 24, 31, November 7, 14, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 609954

The following person(s) doing business as: Surf Thru Express Car Wash, 3598 Stanley Blvd,

business as: Klap Capital Ventures, 3957 Scottfield Street, Dublin, CA 94568 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Abhishek Shende, 3957 Scottfield Street, Dublin, 94568. This business is conducted by a Married Couple. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Abhishek Shende. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 15, 2024. Expires October 14, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6162. Published October 24, 31, November 7, 14, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 609952

The following person(s) doing business as: The Sacred Healing Well, 1807 Santa Rita Rd H-224, Pleasanton, CA 94588 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Loraine Van Tuyt, 1807 Santa Rita Rd H-224, Pleasanton, CA 94588. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 5/9/2019. Signature of Registrant/s/: Loraine Van Tuyt, PHD. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 15, 2024. Expires October 14, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6163. Published October 24, 31, November 7, 14, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 610009

The following person(s) doing business as: Solid Design Solutions, 2491 Allegro Street, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Jerrel Kent Antolik, 2491 Allegro Street, Livermore, CA 94550; Ilona Maria Anolik, 2491 Allegro Street, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by a Married Couple. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 4/15/1998. Signature of Registrant/s/: Jerrel Kent Antolik, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 17, 2024. Expires October 16, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6164. Published October 24, 31, November 7, 14, 2024.

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME ORIGINAL FILE NO. 566613

The person(s) listed below have abandoned the use of the following fictitious business name(s). Bluejay Cannabis, 4937 Omar St, Fremont, CA 94538. Registered by the following owner(s): Taran Khara, 795 Shard Court, Fremont, CA 94539; Adam Ahmed 4937 Omar St, Fremont, CA 94538; Essam Abugeth, 4875 Mowry Ave, Bldg 1- Apt#245, Fremont, CA 94538. The fictitious business name statement was filed on 12/18/2019 in the County of Alameda. This business was conducted by a General Partnership. Signature of Registrants: /s/ Taran Khara, General Partner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 7, 2024. The Independent, Legal No. 6164. Published October 24, 31, November 7, 14, 2024.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to section 21707 of chapter 10 to division of 8 of the business and professions code, notice is hereby given by the undersigned that a public lien sale of the following described personal property will be held at the hour of 9:00 am PST on November 20th, 2024. The sale will be conducted by John Carozza, auctioneer, (209)667-5797, bond number 5860870, located at:

UNITS East Bay
6011 Las Positas Rd,
Livermore, CA 94550
The items to be sold are generally described as follows:

Household/Miscellaneous goods
B489 Meidy Imelda
B524 Peggy Logan
B589 Peggy Logan
B505 Lisa Vigil
B223 Tracey Taylor
B386 Sheila Burton

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 609956

The following person(s) doing business as: Surf Thru Express Car Wash, 3598 Stanley Blvd,

Pleasanton, CA 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Surf Thru Inc, 11837 Bothouse Dr, Suite 400, Bakersfield, CA 93311. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 12/16/2019. Signature of Registrant/s/: Todd Gall, Secretary. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 31, November 7, 14, 21, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 610035

The following person(s) doing business as: LW Construction, 3446 Baylis St, Fremont, CA 94538-3745 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Liyu Wu, 3346 Baylis St, Fremont, CA 94538. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 10/16/2024. Signature of Registrant/s/: Liyu Wu, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 16, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6167. Published October 31, November 7, 14, 21, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 609874

The following person(s) doing business as: DC Construction, 1068 44th Ave, Oakland, CA 94601 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Donny Chu Construction, Inc, 1068 44th Ave, Oakland, CA 94601. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 6/14/2007. Signature of Registrant/s/: Donny Chu, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 10, 2024. Expires October 9, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6168. Published October 31, November 7, 14, 21, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 609685

The following person(s) doing business as: Rivers Plumbing Heating & Air, 3958 Valley Ave, Ste G, Pleasanton, CA 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Z Home Services, 3958 Valley Ave Ste G, Pleasanton, CA 94566. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 10/1/2024. Signature of Registrant/s/: Elizabeth A. Rivers, Director. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 2, 2024. Expires October 1, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6169. Published October 31, November 7, 14, 21, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 609964

The following person(s) doing business as: Dante Robert Vineyards & Winery, 1200 Wetmore Rd, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): A3 Winery LLC, 6198 Massara St., Danville, CA 94506. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the

fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Raveet Singh, Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 15, 2024. Expires October 14, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6170. Published October 31, November 7, 14, 21, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 609730

The following person(s) doing business as: Wittmsel, 2693 Stoneridge Dr, Ste 101, Pleasanton, CA 94588 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Simin Wang, 2693 Stoneridge Dr, Ste 101, Pleasanton, CA 94588. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Simin Wang, Managing Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 3, 2024. Expires October 2, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6171. Published October 31, November 7, 14, 21, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 610083

The following person(s) doing business as: Worlwide Signs, 2021 Las Positas Ct, #161, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Robert Kocik, 2021 Las Positas Ct, #161, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 7/1/2003. Signature of Registrant/s/: Robert Kocik, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 21, 2024. Expires October 20, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6172. Published October 31, November 7, 14, 21, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 609906

The following person(s) doing business as: Deharo Construction, Inc, 4361 Technology Dr., Unit 1, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Deharo Construction Inc, 4361 Technology Dr, Unit 1, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 1/1/2003. Signature of Registrant/s/: Dustin Prusso, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 14, 2024. Expires October 13, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6173. Published October 31, November 7, 14, 21, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 610161

The following person(s) doing business as: C.A Heating and Air Conditioning, 3867 California Way, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Chad Richards, 3867 California Way, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 10/22/2024. Signature of Registrant/s/: Chad Richards, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 23, 2024. Expires October 22, 2029. The Independent,

Legal No. 6174. Published October 31, November 7, 14, 21, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 610233

The following person(s) doing business as: Deena Lynn Reiki, 755 N N St, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Deena Kennedy, 755 N N St, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Deena Kennedy, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 23, 2024. Expires October 23, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6175. Published October 31, November 7, 14, 21, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 610040

The following person(s) doing business as: A&L Financial Services, 53 Wright Brothers Ave, Suite E, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): DMRZ Wright Brothers Ave Suite E, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 10/3/2024. Signature of Registrant/s/: Daniel Hollenback, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 17, 2024. Expires October 16, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6176. Published October 31, November 7, 14, 21, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 610086

The following person(s) doing business as: The Dogfather Tattoo Company, 120 J. St, Fremont, CA 94536 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Dogfather tattoo company LLC, 120 J St, Fremont, CA 94536. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Carlo Rodriguez, Manager. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 20, 2024. Expires October 20, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6177. Published October 31, November 7, 14, 21, 2024.

C L A S S I F I E D S

ANIMALS



Adopt a New Best Friend
TVAR
Tri-Valley Animal Rescue

Our current weekly adoption events include:
Saturdays — Dogs & Puppies at:
Dublin PetSmart
6960 Adador Plaza Rd. Hours: 10:00am to 1:00pm.
Visit our website:
WWW.TVAR.ORG, to see adoptable animals, volunteer opportunities, and how to donate.
Follow:
TRI-VALLEY ANIMAL RESCUE on Facebook, and Instagram

EMPLOYMENT

Tailored Shared Services
Dublin, CA

seeks Software Engineer, Java to work end-to-end microservices built using Java/J2EE-based technologies and develop scalable, available, and reliable microservices based applications. Bachelor's in CS, IT, Comp Eng or related & 5 yrs exp. Salary \$206,315/yr. EOE. Send CV to: Shabnam.Jolly@tailoredbrands.com. Ref Job No: DP1024.

Sr. Accountant
Bachelor's in Accounting, Business Administration, Finance, or related field plus 2 yrs. wk. exp. req'd. Wage: \$61,526-\$102,000 /yr. Send resume to: Striking Distance Studios, Inc. 6111 Bollinger Canyon Rd. Ste. 150 San Ramon, CA 94583 Attn: J. Yosenick.

HELP WANTED

SERVICES

BE WARY of out of area companies. Check with the local Better Business Bureau before you send money or fees. Read and understand any contracts before you sign. Shop around for rates.

TO PLACE CLASSIFIED ADS go to

bit.ly/Indy-Classifieds or call (925)243-8000

MERCHANDISE

FOR SALE

ESTATE/ GARAGE/ YARD SALES

FREE SECTION

LOST/ FOUND

NOTICES /ANNOUNCEMENTS

NOTICES

"NOTICE TO READERS: California law requires that contractors taking jobs that total \$500 or more (labor and/or materials) be licensed by the Contractors State License Board. State law also requires that contractors include their license numbers on all advertising. Check your contractor's status at www.cslb.ca.gov or (800)321-CSLB (2752). Unlicensed persons taking jobs less than \$500 must state in their advertisements that they are not licensed by the Contractors State License Board."

REAL ESTATE

Swalwell Threatens DA Price with Defamation Lawsuit

U.S. Rep. Eric Swalwell (D-CA) is threatening to sue Alameda County District Attorney Pamela Price for defamation over comments she posted to social media after he publicly endorsed a recall effort targeting her.

After Price reportedly ignored an earlier request from Swalwell to retract

her comments, which implied he may have acted unethically when he was an assistant district attorney in the same office, Swalwell retained attorney Charles Stone, with Goethals & Stone, to draft a formal demand.

“We are writing in one final effort to see if an appropriate retraction can

be achieved in lieu of the inevitable and certain pursuit of a formal claim followed by a substantial lawsuit for defamation,” Stone wrote. “Accordingly, you may treat this as a final attempt at seeking the retraction remedy to restore, at least in part, my client’s personal and professional reputation. If

a retraction is not issued within seven days of the date of this letter, we will be forced to move forward with next steps.”

The letter was dated Oct. 19.

The effort to recall Price was launched by a group called Save Alameda for Everyone (SAFE), which contends the district attorney, a former civil rights and defense attorney who was elected in 2022, is soft on crime, specifically refusing to file charges that could result in lengthy prison sentences for convicted criminals.

Several law enforcement agencies and former Alameda County District Attorney Nancy O’Malley

have also endorsed the recall effort.

In his letter to Price, Stone called her comments on social media “false and scurrilous,” adding that they “were widely disseminated and almost certainly made in retaliation for (Swalwell’s) support of the recall campaign against you.”



Artist and Livermore resident Carolyn Lord has a solo show entitled, “Valley Vernacular,” at the Firehouse Arts Center now through Dec. 21. Shown above is her painting, “Specialty Swamp Coolers.” (Photo courtesy of The Harrington Gallery)

Firehouse Arts Center to Display Carolyn Lord Tri-Valley Landscapes

The Firehouse Arts Center in Pleasanton is hosting a solo exhibit of landscapes by longtime Livermore resident Carolyn Lord now through Saturday, Dec. 21.

The exhibit, “Valley Vernacular,” includes 20 landscapes, botanical images and architectural studies depicting the “visual vernacular” of the Tri-Valley area.

A Southern California native, Lord received a bachelor’s degree in studio arts from Principia College in Illinois in 1978. She has lived in Livermore since 1980 and now focuses on plein air landscapes and architectural paintings in oils and watercolors.

The Harrington Gallery at the Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave.,

is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Wednesday through Friday, and from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday. “Valley Vernacular” is on display in the ground floor lobby.

There will also be a reception for the artist from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 16, and a “gallery talk” about the exhibit from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 21.

Alameda County Fairgrounds To Simulcast Breeders’ Cup Races

Breeders’ Cup races at the Del Mar Fairgrounds this weekend will be simulcast at the Alameda County Fairgrounds in Pleasanton, according to Golden State Racing, which has brought live horse racing back to Alameda County.

Golden State Racing, created by the California Authority of Racing Fairs, said more than 1,500 spectators turned out for the inaugural weekend

of racing at the Alameda County Fairgrounds two weeks ago.

Golden State Racing will also hold live racing this weekend – Friday, Nov. 1, through Sunday, Nov. 3 – in addition to simulcasting the Breeders’ Cup races on Friday and Saturday.

There will also be a Breeders’ Brunch at 10 a.m. on Friday and Saturday in the Sky Lounge and Track-

side Terrace at the Alameda County Fairgrounds and a Wine Fest from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday.

Racing fans 21 and older will receive unlimited wine pours and a take-home tasting glass with the purchase of Wine Fest tickets, according to Golden State Racing.

Admission to watch racing from the Stella Artois grandstand is free. Parking at the fairgrounds is \$15.

Library to Exhibit Ofrendas for Day Of the Dead Traditional Celebration

The Pleasanton Library is seeking help from the community in creating ofrendas for its Dia de Los Muertos celebration.

Ofrendas, the Spanish word for “offering,” are colorful displays of food and cultural decorations to share with the community and remember departed family members.

Dia de Los Muertos, or Day of the Dead, is a traditional two-day Mesoamerican celebration to honor a family’s ancestors. In Mexico, neighbors gather in local cemeteries to share

food, music, and fun with the living and the dead.

Reservation forms are available online at tinyurl.com/bdzcwuzd. Space will be reserved on a first-come, first-served basis.

The Dia de Los Muertos exhibits will be on display at the library, 400 Old Bernal Ave., from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 2. The library will also host a bilingual story time at 11 a.m.

The Dia de Los Muertos

exhibits and story time are free and open to the public.

ARROYO
CELLARS

Tasting Room Open:
Saturday: 12 - 5pm,
Sunday: 12 - 5pm,
or by appointment

2270 Research Drive,
Livermore
(925) 292-9157

LPCC Student Presents Research Findings on Islamic Food’s Molecular Content at U.S. National Conference

Raza Ali, a student at Las Positas College in Livermore, recently presented his research into “Bioactive Molecules in Islamically Recommended Foods” at the inaugural student-run National Research Conference at the University of Pennsylvania.

The two-day conference earlier this month in Phil-

adelphia was designed to promote communication and interdisciplinary collaboration among undergraduate researchers.

Ali, whose research at Las Positas combines his interests in Muslim cultural heritage and biology, was one of only two community college students invited to the conference.

“I was honored to present my research at the National Research Conference,” Ali said. “As the first in my family to engage in research and pursue medicine in the U.S., I strive to transform academic inquiry from an ivory tower institution into a societal service. This opportunity allowed me to share my work with

a broader audience and connect with leading researchers in my field.”

Ali, who attended California High School in San Ramon, is enrolled in the Transfer Honors Program at Las Positas, which is designed to prepare highly motivated students to attend a four-year college or university.

3VCF Nonprofit Organization Adds Three Board Members

Gerry Beemiller, Alex Mehran Jr., and Denise Watkins have been named to the 12-member board of directors for the Three Valleys Community Foundation (3VCF), which helps connect donors and nonprofit organizations.

Beemiller is the founder of Nella Terra Cellars, a winery and event center in the Sunol highlands.

He is former vice president of sales at Pericom, vice president of sales and marketing for Sony Semiconductor Solutions Group in North America, and chief executive officer of Infant Advantage, a company that

developed environmental systems for newborn infants, according to a 3VCF announcement.

Beemiller also serves on the Alameda County Agricultural Advisory Committee and previously served on the Sunol Citizens Advisory Council and the Sunol Glen School Board.

Mehran is president and chief executive officer at Sunset Development, the business founded by his grandfather in 1951 that developed and continues to manage the Bishop Ranch business, entertainment, and residential complex in San Ramon.

Mehran also serves on the board of the Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs at his alma mater, Brown University, where he received a bachelor’s degree in international relations. He is a former analyst at the investment banking firm of Goldman Sachs.

Watkins is a former software system engineer who developed network management and control systems for satellite and wireless communications.

Now retired, Watkins also serves on the University of California, Merced Foundation board of trust-

Specializing in the search for
Runaway Youth, Suicidal Persons
& Missing/Wandering Adults
with Dementia/Alzheimer’s.

**KNOWN STRANGER
INVESTIGATIONS, LLC**
CA LICENSE #PI 23821

11501 Dublin Blvd, #200
Dublin, CA 94568

1-833-GO-LOOK-4
1-833-465-6654

GAY NINETIES

Pizza & Pasta Co.

gayninetiespizza.com

HAPPY
HALLOWEEN

OPENED FOR INSIDE AND
OUTSIDE DINING!

288 Main Street, Pleasanton | (925) 846-2520
Hours: Sun-Thu 11am-7pm, Fri & Sat 11am-8pm

Your local news source is delivered
free to readers in the Tri-Valley.

We are asking readers, who are able, to make a voluntary contribution of \$10 a month, or \$100 a year.
You can sign up online at www.independentnews.com/contribute/ or mail a check to 2250 First St., Livermore, CA 94550

THE Independent

independentnews.com | 925.243.8000

Follow us on

WE MOVE THE STUFF
YOU LOVE AND
GET RID OF THE
STUFF YOU DON'T

COLLEGEHUNKS.COM

Call 925-505-1504
519 Leisure St. Livermore CA

Full Service Moving
Eco-Friendly Junk Removal
Hourly Labor
Packing Services