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# Marin Independent Journal

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## NOVATO DISTRICT 5

# Newcomers seek supervisorial seat

### Five candidates differ on issues in race for open spot on board

By Richard Halstead  
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With no incumbent in the race, five candidates are competing for the Novato seat on the Marin County Board of Supervisors.

Eric Lucan, who was elected to the seat in 2022, is running for the state Assembly in the June 2 primary. The contenders to succeed him need a simple majority of votes to avoid a runoff election in November.

The seat represents District 5, which stretches from the Sonoma County line to San Rafael and from the edge of western Marin to the Petaluma River and San Pablo Bay. The district has about 46,000 residents living within Novato city limits and more than 5,700 in the incorporated areas of Bel Marin Keys, Black Point, Green Point, Indian Valley, Loma Verde and Rush Creek.

The supervisor prospects are Chris Carpiello, a housing contractor; Curtis Aikens, a former television chef; Magali Limeta, president of the Novato Unified School District board; Andy Podshadley, owner of Trek Winery in Novato; and Marc Hunter Lewis, a community policy advocate.

"I'm running because Marin has to change how it governs if it wants real progress," said Lewis,

who earned bachelor's degrees in political science and economics at the University of Arkansas before getting his law degree at Emory University in Atlanta.

Lewis said the county should treat deferred maintenance and known climate risks as public debt, and recognize it alongside pensions and bonds.

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## MARIN, SOLANO COUNTIES

# Highway 37 project wins permit from bay conservation agency



Eastbound traffic on Highway 37 reaches Mare Island in Vallejo. A permit was authorized for the first leg of a three-phase construction project on a 10-mile segment of the highway. PHOTOS BY ALAN DEP — MARIN INDEPENDENT JOURNAL, FILE

### First leg of plan to cut gridlock, stop flooding gets key approval

By Adrian Rodriguez  
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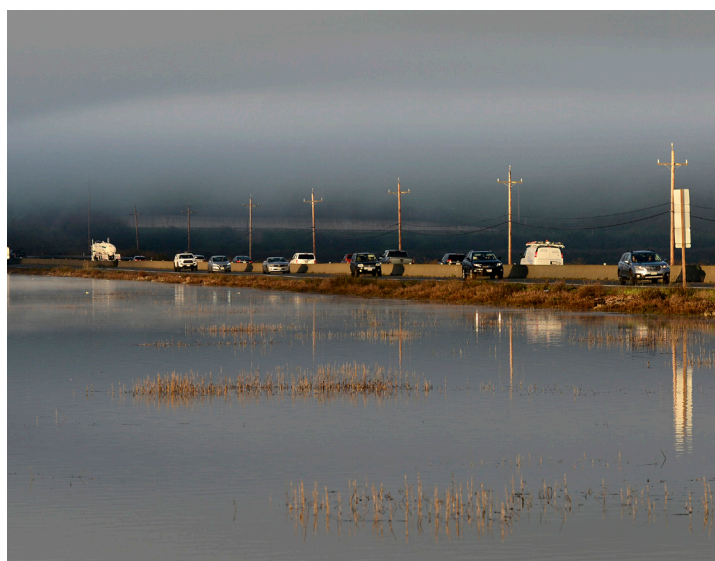
A multimillion-dollar project to reduce gridlock and protect against flooding on Highway 37 between Marin and Solano counties has secured a key approval after more than 10 years of regional planning.

The San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission voted unanimously to authorize a permit for the first leg of a three-phase construction project on a 10-mile segment of the highway from Sears Point to Mare Island.

The project, which also is intended to fortify a portion of the San Pablo Baylands, is an interim solution while planners work toward what they call the "ultimate project" to raise the entire 21-mile corridor. The undertaking is years away and expected to cost billions of dollars.

The first phase involves replacing the Tolay Creek Bridge at Sears Point with a longer and wider bridge, and widening the highway to four lanes east through Tubbs Island.

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Traffic passes Sears Point on Highway 37 in Sonoma.

## APRIL DATA

# Price of gas due to war fuels surge in inflation

By Paul Wiseman  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — U.S. consumer prices climbed sharply again last month as the 10-week war with Iran delivered higher gasoline prices and more pain for Americans.

The Labor Department's consumer price index rose 3.8% from April 2025, the biggest jump in three years, and up from a 3.3% year-over-year gain in March. On a month-to-month basis, April prices rose 0.6% from March as gasoline prices rose 5.4%, according to the data released Tuesday. The month-over-month gain was down from 0.9% increase in overall prices from February to March, when the initial shock of the war hit the U.S. economy.

Labor Department figures showed that gasoline prices are up more than 28% compared with a year ago. However, the AAA motor club listed the average regular gallon of gasoline above \$4.50 on Tuesday, about 44% more than it cost last year at this time.

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## OAKLAND TRIAL

# OpenAI chief fights back in legal war with Musk

By Barbara Ortutay and Matt O'Brien  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

OAKLAND — OpenAI CEO Sam Altman took the witness stand Tuesday to defend his business record in a trial pitting him against Elon Musk, rebutting testimony that disparaged his leadership at a pivotal time for the ChatGPT maker.

Musk, the world's richest man, is seeking Altman's ouster from the company leadership as part of a civil lawsuit accusing him of betraying their shared vision for OpenAI. Since its start as a nonprofit funded primarily by Musk, OpenAI has evolved into a capitalistic venture now valued at \$852 billion.

In the third week of the trial in a federal courthouse in Oakland, neither of the tech titans has emerged as an overly sympathetic character. But nobody has more to lose than Altman.

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## RACE FOR GOVERNOR

# Porter's brusque style a plus and minus

By Nicole Nixon  
LOS ANGELES TIMES

SACRAMENTO — In Congress, Katie Porter's blunt, combative style helped rocket her to progressive stardom. It has also become her biggest vulnerability as she campaigns to be California's next governor.

Her brusque approach, prosecutorial instincts and subur-

ban mom appeal fueled Porter's rise during her three terms in the U.S. House of Representatives, where she rattled CEOs and Trump administration leaders and batted away GOP challengers in a competitive Orange County district.

Her tack, however, made her a polarizing force within her own party, where fidelity remains an essential currency of success

and power. In Congress, Porter clashed with then-House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and L.A.'s Rep. Maxine Waters.

The same rough edges that endeared Porter to many voters have also alienated some Democratic insiders and interest groups whose support could prove critical in the race to replace outgoing Gov. Gavin Newsom.

"She came in (to the governor's

race) as an outsider, as a mom, as a fighter. She wasn't pulled into the establishment," said Lorena Gonzalez, president of the California Federation of Labor Unions. "I think that's why she's popular with voters, because they want somebody who's going to fight, and sometimes that ruffles feathers."

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