

Art, Community, & Education

Walk to Wellness Festival Set for Saturday



Find Out What's Happening

Check out the second section

Section II is filled with information about arts, entertainment and special events. There are education stories, a variety of features, and the arts and entertainment and bulletin board list

Jean Quan: Livermore Schools Helped Open Her Eyes

By Robert Several

Jean Quan, Oakland's new mayor, grew up in the Livermore schools. A love of learning was born there.

Quan's family owned a Chinese-American restaurant, the Yin-Yin, in downtown Livermore. She graduated from Junction Avenue Middle School and Granada High. At Granada her teachers opened her eyes to the issues of the day.

"The education I received in the Livermore schools was first-class," said the 61-year-old mayor in a recent interview.

"I was lucky to be at Granada at a time when much of the faculty was comprised of fresh young teachers who'd just graduated from colleges like Cal Berkeley. They cared about issues like Vietnam and civil rights. That's where I first became aware of these issues."

Two teachers especially influential in her education were Jack Beery and Ed Brush, who

(See QUAN, page 3)

Dublin Is Close To a Deal on Farmers' Market

The Dublin City Council has approved its part of a proposal for a Farmers' Market for Emerald Glen Park, and has sent it to the organization that would operate it.

The council unanimously approved its end of the deal at its meeting Dec. 21. Now the proposal goes to the Pacific Coast Farmers' Market Association (PCFMA), a Concord-based organization that runs many Farmers' markets in the Bay Area, including those in Livermore and Pleasanton.

"We feel good about our proposal. They'll make sure we'll have the best vendors and produce," Mayor Tim Sbranti told The Independent.

John Silveira, director of PCFMA, said that the non-profit sent a proposal to Dublin, and that was what the council voted for on Dec. 21.

The PCFMA board will meet in the middle of January to discuss Dublin's offer. The city would spend somewhere between \$15,000 and \$25,000 for the entire season, said Sbranti.

Silveira said that the fee that PCFMA would charge has not yet been negotiated. The bulk of Sbranti's estimate apparently refers to how much the city would spend on the outside groups that it would bring in for the community activities, said Silveira.

The market would be operated from May until October, starting at 4 p.m. and ending around 8 p.m. on Thursday nights.

Sbranti said that the council wants to see the Farmers' Market be part of a family night at

(See MARKET, page 4)

Lab Retirees Challenged In Effort to Regain Health Care

A superior court judge last month advised the UC Livermore Laboratory Retiree Group that it had failed to make a convincing case that the University of California has a contractual obligation to return Lab retirees to its health care programs.

Attorneys for the group were given an unspecified length of time to amend and strengthen

their arguments in response to UC's objection, called a demurrer, that the retiree claims had not been proved and were not supported by documentation.

The head of the Retiree Group, Joe Requa, estimates that the next hearing might be around January 20 with a "pass-fail" outcome, meaning the judge could rule clearly for or against the retiree

position.

"We're going to modify our rebuttal to UC, and put in more information that will hopefully persuade the judge," he said. "If we have what the judge needs, we'll continue."

He said no decision had been made about further steps to take if the decision goes against the Retiree Group.

Requa believes it will be particularly important for the court to force UC to turn over complete records of UC Regents meetings going back to the 1960s, when he believes there may have been decisions that would support the retirees' claims.

Lawrence Livermore Lab employees and retirees obtained UC group health coverage un-

der a succession of contracts that began in 1952 and ended at the beginning of 2008, when a for-profit contractor took over Laboratory management from University of California.

The new contract specified benefits "substantially equivalent" to UC's group plans. However, the contract wording was

(See RETIREES, page 4)



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Laughing it up are (from left) Sandy Guderyon, Ardis Messinger, and Claire Iglesias

Laughing Like a Fool May be Very Wise

By Ron McNicoll

Wearing a borrowed orange hat with chartreuse fake pigtails streaming down the side, Claire Iglesias told the two women with her that she felt like a fool.

"Very good! Very good!"

Yay!" said Sandy Guderyon, who was wearing her own red, blue, and yellow medieval fool's costume hat. Feeling like a fool is the whole idea, said Guderyon, who was facilitating a group

in Laughter Yoga at 10 a.m. on Monday at the Pleasanton Senior Center.

Guderyon uses various exercises, including forced laughter, to get people giggling, roaring, or

even laughing silently in a wide range of funny feelings.

The whole idea is for people to bypass their brains and the worries that settle in them.

(See LAUGHING, page 2)

Guild to Enlist City in Grant Search to Move Midway

The Livermore Heritage Guild hopes to have Livermore city government's help in obtaining grants for its project to move the historic Midway school to the Hageman Ranch.

Guild president Jeff Kaskey told The Independent that the group does not expect any money

from the city treasury. However, city government has experience in seeking grant money, and knows which sources could be tapped to obtain funds.

There is no firm budget yet. However, Kaskey estimated that it may take as much as \$225,000 to move the circa 1870s build-

ing to the Hageman Ranch. The five-acre ranch is adjacent to the seven-acre Hageman Park.

The parcels are on Olivina Avenue, near Murrieta Boulevard in a residential neighborhood. Both parcels preserve a segment of a ranch whose ownership was in the Hageman family for ap-

proximately 100 years.

Before the Hageman's acquired the ranch, it had been owned by the brother of William Mendenhall, the founder of Livermore.

Midway School is in the Altamont, on land owned by the

(See MIDWAY, page 4)

2011 Last Six Months

Firehouse Arts Center Opens; BART Route to Livermore Chosen

In the second half of 2010, the Firehouse Arts Center in Pleasanton opened its doors with three gala events. Pleasanton also voted to move forward with plans to develop the Staples Ranch on the eastern edge of the city.

A new Center for the Arts opened at Las Positas College.

In Livermore, the BART board selected a route through downtown, ending at Vasco Road as the preferred alignment for an extension to Livermore.

JULY 2010

For the fourth year, Rancho Las Positas Elementary School was named a finalist in the Governor's Fitness Challenge. The school, which won the gold medal award for elementary schools in 2009, announced it would withdraw

from this year's competition. The reason offered, "We want to allow another worthy Bay Area school to win this award." Rancho attracted nationwide attention last year when the school gave away its Governor's Fitness Challenge prize of a \$100,000 fitness center to another finalist, Tuolumne Elementary School in Modesto. Rancho representatives said the school would participate in future Governor's Challenges.

It was announced that Northern California's first Express Lane, covering 14 miles of Interstate 680 southbound from Pleasanton to Milpitas, would open in September. Solo drivers would be able to choose to use the carpool lane by paying a toll

(See 2011 ROUNDUP, page 5)



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

The First Presbyterian Church in Livermore hosted the annual New Year's Eve Labyrinth Walk on new Year's Eve. People were invited to walk the courtyard labyrinth. The walk has become a way to say good-bye to the old year and welcome the New Year with peace and intention.

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PETS OF THE WEEK

Lovable, playful, and amiable describe the "Cheese" kittens perfectly. Gouda, Romano, Swiss, Feta, Ricotta, Havarti, and Meunster are six month old kittens waiting for homes to call their own. Not only do they enjoy playing with toys and lounging in sunny windows, but they are great lap cats. To learn more about these kittens, call 925-426-8656 or visit the website www.valleyhumane.org. Valley Humane Society is located at 3670 Nevada Street in Pleasanton. Hours are Tues. - Sat. from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Chamber Adding New Programs in 2011

The Livermore Chamber of Commerce continued to make innovation its theme and mandate in 2010. New programs are planned for 2011.

"We are acutely aware that to flourish and to help our members flourish we must be innovative," says Chamber CEO, Dale Kaye.

In 2010 the Chamber helped steer Innovation Tri-Valley, a regional effort to create an ecology of innovation in the Tri-Valley. Businesses like Sybase, Chevron, Adept Technology, Wenthe and the Lawrence Livermore and Sandia Laboratories committed to turning up the heat in the Tri-Valley by creating an organization to attract businesses to the area, thereby generating jobs and retaining top talent. Supported by all Tri-Valley mayors and a working group of some 40 organizations, the Innovation Tri-Valley goal is to create an interconnected hub of innovation.

The Livermore Chamber also grew its Hispanic Business Council into one of the best in the East Bay. The Hispanic Business Council was established to teach members about how to reach out to the Hispanic market and give Hispanic business owners more of a voice in the chamber and the community.

The Livermore Chambers Livermore Valley Film Commission was again called one of the best in the state and has provided the area with an over \$600,000 economic impact. In 2010, the film commission coordinated some 90 production days. Jeanie Haigh, who heads the film office, worked hard to build relationships with city agencies, police, fire, business owners and property owners.

However, CEO Kaye says the trick to running a Chamber that continues to be a good investment for its members "is to stay ahead of the curve," so we will continue to invent and create new programs. Some of the Livermore Chamber new programs planned for 2011 include the following.

- Expanded Dreammakers and Risktakers event: This year the Chamber will not only honor the high profile entrepreneurs in the Valley, it will salute students who show the promise of being a dream maker and risk taker with special awards for K-12 students in the area's Mini Dreammakers.

- Ramp Up Education Committee The Chamber will advocate for STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) and will look at creating special educational programs in partnership with both the national labs and area businesses. The revamped Education Committee will be headed by this year's 2011

chair, Christine Wenthe.

- Member Match Program: The Chamber will create an online member match system, including product and service match. This will provide Chamber members a great opportunity to sell their products to other members.

- Entrepreneurial Networking Group: This group will meet regularly and will give entrepreneurs a unique chance to build relationships, learn from peer leaders and make valuable connections.

The 2011 Board of Directors includes 24 business leaders. Christine Wenthe of Wenthe Vineyards will serve as Chair of the board; Tim Tikalsky of Rina Accountancy, vice chair; Jay Davis of the Hertz Foundation, treasurer; and Crystal Lu of Sybase, secretary. Past Chair is Ron Vyse of Wells Fargo. All board members will be installed at the annual installation gala on February 12th at the Robert Livermore Community Center.



Photos - Doug Jorgensen
Shadow Cliffs Open Water Aquatic Team (SOWAT) held its 3rd annual New Year's Polar Bear swim at the park near Pleasanton. Some members swam across the lake and back, which is one mile. Others swam a longer distance of approximately two miles with and without wetsuits. For more information on the group, go to <http://home.pacbell.net/leeways/sowat.html>. Pictured checking the temperature of the water, both in and out of the water, was Jim Brennan. Suiting up for the swim was Dave Simons.

LAUGHING

(continued from page one)

Ardis Messinger, the third woman in the group on that day, can attest to what changes regular laughter can bring. She has been in the group for much of its two-year history.

"I'm not a good laugher. The Three Stooges don't turn me on," said Messinger, who was wearing a red, yellow and blue baseball cap with a blue propeller on top when she said it.

However, the laughter approach taken at Guderyon's meetings has been effective for Messinger. "I see humor in things. Others tell me that I've gotten more optimistic. I've had a lot of losses, but I'm happy about my life," said Messinger.

The class is a mixture of positive thinking, breathing calisthenics, and just plain laughing to generate more laughing. The yoga part of the title has nothing to do with the traditional body poses of yoga. It fits the yoga definition more in the sense of being a mind-body technique with specified procedures.

One technique that brought on a laugh in Guderyon's class was pantomiming the pouring of milk and then drinking it.

Another exercise involved silent laughter. There was some cheer in the women's eyes and a little smiling, followed by a group hug.

In yet another exercise, the women made "lion faces," and snarled and formed their hands into "claws." Guderyon said,

"We all have an inner fool. This is where it comes out."

Small, seemingly insignificant accomplishments can bring some laughter and good feeling, too. Iglesias talked about buying pineapple at \$1.99, which was greeted with "very good! Very good! Yay!" This was repeated when Iglesias added that she paid \$6 for a whole carton of pineapple.

Carrying around those good feelings are important. Guderyon's parting words to the class were, "Think about today, and give your smile away."

Laughter Yoga is part of a worldwide movement begun by Madan Kataria, a doctor in India. He started his first laughter group in 1995.

Kataria retired as a doctor. He is devoting his life to a worldwide organization with tens of thousands of people that come to meetings.

Kataria sees laughter yoga as contributing to a mood that aids world peace, because it promotes honesty, harmony, and openness. For the same reasons, Kataria also feels it offers spiritual growth, according to a profile about him in the Aug. 30, 2010, New Yorker.

Guderyon's class meets on the first and third Mondays of each month at 10 a.m. for one hour at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. There is a charge of \$1.50 for Pleasanton residents or \$2 for non-residents.

ADVANCE DIRECTIVES FREE EDUCATION SEMINAR



Date: Wednesday, January 19, 2011

Time: 6:00 pm

Location: ValleyCare Medical Plaza
5725 W. Las Positas Blvd.
2nd floor Conference Room
Pleasanton
Two blocks west of hospital

How can you be sure your wishes are known, honored and address the power of giving your loved ones the gift of knowledge so they will be prepared to make decisions on our behalf if/when the time comes? ValleyCare Health System is offering a free education seminar to discuss Advance Directives. Find out what they are, how they work, what you need to do to make them legal and more. Please attend with the person(s) you would like to designate as your agent in your power of attorney for health care. Notary publics will be available for a small fee if you wish to have your Advance Directive notarized.

We invite you to register by calling our Health Information Line at 1-800-719-9111 or visit www.valleycare.com/educationseminars.



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<p>5 Bd 3(1) Ba • 4,500+/- sq.ft., 0.56+/- Acres Formidable, elegant with private location, backing up to open space. Custom built by Jerry Soba Construction. www.3422torlano.com Uwe Maerz 925.360.8758</p>	<p>4 Bd 5.5 Ba • 8,950+/- sq.ft., 16.86+/- Acres Walls of glass, salt water aquarium, wine tasting room. Incredible setting, apartment perfect for in-law or au-pair. 9 car garage. Views and more! Peggy Cortez 925.648.5454</p>	<p>4 Bd 2.5 Ba • 2,553+/- sq.ft., 0.21+/- Acres Popular Sagewood Fir Plan. Extremely well kept home, hrdwood flrs, granite counters, beautiful landscaping, huge sideyard access & much more! Corey Green 925.899.6011</p>	<p>4 Bd 3 Ba • 2,861+/- sq.ft., 0.19+/- Acres Beautiful Home, flowing floor plan includes; vaulted ceilings, w/ huge master. Beautiful backyard perfect for entertaining. Walk to park. Corey Green 925.899.6011</p>	<p>2 Bd 2 Ba • 1,718+/- sq.ft. Upgraded cabinets, granite countertops. Huge master with walk in closet. Living room with gas fireplace. Great location! Attached 2 car garage. Bill and Vickie Keller 925.200.6764</p>	<p>3 Bd 2.5 Ba • 1,723+/- sq.ft., 0.13+/- Acres Open eat in kitchen. Master w/dual sinks & large soaking tub. Stunning hardwood flring, vaulted ceilings & wood burning fp. Lovely covered patio. Stephanie Fordham 925.788.4443</p>
<p>11 LOWER GOLF ROAD OPEN SAT & SUN 1-4 \$1,385,000 CASTLEWOOD, PLEASANTON</p> 	<p>5211 CAPARELLI CT BANK OWNED \$629,900 AVILA, PLEASANTON</p> 	<p>6645 AMBER LANE POOL! \$1,398,000 CARRIAGE GARDENS, PLEASANTON</p> 	<p>1225 LOZANO COURT NEW PRICE! \$4,299,000 RUBY HILL, PLEASANTON</p> 	<p>2818 GARDEN CREEK BANK OWNED \$622,800 STONERIDGE PL., PLEASANTON</p> 	<p>2660 CAMINO SEGURA 5 BEDROOM \$699,000 PLEASANTON</p> 
<p>4 Bd 3 Ba • 2,400+/- sq.ft., 0.33+/- Acres On the 8th fairway of the Castwood Country Club. Single story w/ separate family room, formal dining. Beautiful plank hardwood floors. Steve & Lorraine Mattos 925.251.2544</p>	<p>4 Bd 2.5 Ba • 1,929+/- sq.ft., 0.09+/- Acres Spacious floor plan w/natural lighting. Gourmet kitchen w/Tile Counter Tops, private backyard patio. Close to great schools, shopping and freeways. Joe Ledesma 925.251.2599</p>	<p>5 Bd 3 Ba • 3,475+/- sq.ft., 0.50+/- Acres Beautifully upgraded custom home features 5 spacious bd, improved 1/2 acre lot. Pool, spa, waterfall, slide, sport court and more. Weiner & McDowell Group 925.251.2585</p>	<p>6 Bd 7(2) Ba • 8,877+/- sq.ft., 0.65+/- Acres Stunning Ruby Hill Estate. Nestled in an unrivaled setting among olive trees and lush landscaping w/ mile long views of vineyards. Uwe Maerz 925.360.8758</p>	<p>4 Bd 2.5 Ba • 2,292+/- sq.ft., 0.09+/- Acres Stoneridge Place - Brand NEW appliances in kitchen. Open floor plan w/ formal living, dining & family rooms. Plenty of natural sunlight. Joe Frazzano 925.735.7653</p>	<p>3 Bd 3 Ba • 2,801+/- sq.ft., 0.16+/- Acres Originally designed as 5-bedroom home. Formal dining can be converted to office or extra bedroom. Full bath on first floor. Great opportunity. Albert Bernardo 925.997.0123</p>

Blackhawk East 4105 Blackhawk Plaza Cir. Danville, CA 94506 925.648.5300	Blackhawk West 3880 Blackhawk Rd. Danville, CA 94506 925.736.6000	Danville 15 Railroad Ave. Danville, CA 94526 925.855.4000	Lafayette 3799 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Lafayette, CA 94549 925.385.2330	Livermore 1983 Second St. Livermore, CA 94550 925.667.2100	Montclair/Piedmont 6116 La Salle Ave., Ste. 200 Oakland, CA 94611 510.339.4800	Orinda 89 Davis Rd., Ste. 100 Orinda, CA 94563 925.253.7000	Pleasanton 5075 Hopyard Rd Ste. 110 Pleasanton, CA 94588 925.251.2500	Walnut Creek 1700 N. Main St. Walnut Creek, CA 94596 925.280.8500
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VALLEY ROUNDUP

Ten Best Stories

The National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) highlighted the 10 best NNSA news stories of 2010. From promoting some of the best science and technology in the world, to enhancing global security, to finding innovative ways to drive down costs across the enterprise, NNSA's tenth year was a tremendous success.

"Without question, 2010 was a banner year for the nuclear security enterprise," said NNSA Administrator Thomas D'Agostino. "From the men and women working on the frontlines of the fight to prevent nuclear proliferation, to the scientists and engineers pushing the frontiers of discovery, to the innovators working behind the scenes to improve the way we do business, NNSA continues to play a vital role in enhancing our nation's security and making the world a safer place."

Several of those selected were about the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory:

- **CT Scans for Nuclear Weapons:** Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory scientists teamed with NNSA's Pantex Plant to develop a cutting edge new CT Scanner to image nuclear weapon components, significantly improving NNSA's ability to conduct its program to detect the impact of aging on critical components in the nation's nuclear weapons stockpile. NNSA Administrator D'Agostino called the new system "a prime example of NNSA's ability to leverage the best science and technology in the world to solve complex national security challenges."

- **NIF Milestones and Management Awards:** In addition to clearing several scientific milestones – including completing its first integrated ignition experiment and an unprecedented 1 megajoule laser shot – the National Ignition Facility received the Project of the Year Award from the Project Management Institute (PMI). PMI recognized NIF as the year's most innovative and successful project citing groundbreaking technical achievement and exemplary management.

State Taxes

The State Franchise Tax Board (FTB) is now accepting 2010 state tax returns. Following are updates on law changes and filing services.

Final filing date is Monday, April 18. Since Friday, April 15, is a legal holiday in Washington DC (Emancipation Day), the IRS has announced that taxpayers nationwide have until the following business day, Monday, April 18, to file returns and pay taxes. California will accept as timely, tax returns and payments received on April 18.

Tax booklets are no longer mass mailed. Tax booklets, which contain tax forms and instructions, are available online at ftb.ca.gov. FTB's website offers many e-file options, including FTB's free CalFile and ReadyReturn services, as well as free and fee-based services offered by private companies. Many post offices and libraries also stock tax booklets. Taxpayers who are unable to obtain a tax booklet can call FTB at 800.338.0505 to request one.

The standard deduction for single or filing separately tax statuses increased from \$3,637 to \$3,670. For joint, surviving spouse, or head of household filers, it increased from \$7,274 to \$7,340.

The personal exemption amount for single, filing separately, and head of household filers increased from \$98 to \$99. For joint or surviving spouses, it increased from \$196 to \$198. The dependent exemption credit is also \$99 per dependent.

Starting in 2009, an incentive provides a tax credit of up to \$3,000 for each added qualified full-time employee hired by a qualified small business employer. Funding is limited to \$400 million. As of January 1, \$360 million remains available. The credit must be claimed on a timely-filed original (not amended) 2010 return received before the \$400 million limit is exhausted.

For 2010 and 2011, net operating losses from prior years cannot be deducted by certain taxpayers. The net operating loss suspension rules do not apply to taxpayers with net income of less than \$300,000 or with disaster loss carryovers.

QUAN

(continued from page one)

taught social studies and English literature/drama respectively.

Beery unleashed Quan, setting her loose in the library with the freedom to make her own choices about what books to read on the civics issues they were studying. She became a voracious reader.

"I must have read 60 books that year. I was reading more than a book a week — I read for hours every day. I read a lot about Vietnam. I exposed myself to the opinions of both the right and left," she recalled.

Ed Brush exposed Quan to the world of literature. She said he made the subject live; it was more than your usual English class. She recalled that Brush had his students read a lot of Greek drama. "It was almost like an honors class," Quan said.

"With teachers like Ed Brush, Jack Beery and others, it was a really exciting time to be a student at Granada High. I was lucky to be there then."

Quan's memories of the community aren't as positive.

"Livermore is a much more multicultural community today. However, I grew up there at a time when I was often the only Asian in the class. It wasn't always easy. I spent a lot of time away from Livermore. We had family outside of Livermore and I would spend my summers with them."

Quan majored in journalism at Granada. She would often accompany Ken Tucoli, a fellow journalism student, to The Independent where Tucoli worked part-time covering high school sports. Quan would hang around, reading her books while Tucoli typed up his stories. She became friends with The Independent staff.

Little did the staff realize that this friendly Chinese girl would someday be the first woman to be mayor of Oakland and first Asian woman to be mayor of a major American city.

After graduating from Granada and later from Cal Berkeley, Quan lived awhile in New York City where she worked as a patient advocate for the NYC hospitals. She returned to this area about 30 years ago, settling in Oakland, raising a family (she



Jean Quan campaigning for mayor.

and husband Dr. Floyd Huen have two grown children, William and Lailan), and becoming a school activist. She was elected to three terms on the Oakland School board, serving from 1990-2002. She was beginning her second term on the Oakland City Council when she decided to run for mayor.

Quan upset one of the East Bay's most formidable politicians, Don Perata. Under the slogan "Taking Back Oakland Block by Block," Quan's campaign was a model of grassroots organizing.

She was inaugurated Monday morning at a ceremony at the Fox Oakland Theater. Quan's volunteers sat in the prime seats in front of the stage. Themes of family and neighborhood predominated.

Quan related that her family came to Oakland 104 years

ago, with hope in their hearts. "Oakland has always been a city of dreams for its newcomers," she said.

She revealed that her first action as mayor will be to ask the City Council to pass a measure designating children as "the heart" of Oakland's politics and

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ValleyCare Physicians Elect Chief of Staff

The ValleyCare Medical Staff recently elected Dr. Valerie Chirugi as Chief of Staff. Spine surgeon Kevin Booth, MD was elected Chief of Staff Elect, and Leena Mahandru, MD, a nephrology specialist, was chosen to be Treasurer. In addition, Dr. Gary Peer was elected as member-at-large to serve on the Credentials Committee. All of the physicians will serve a two-year term.

Dr. Chirugi joined ValleyCare in 1992 specializing in infection control. She served as Chief of Staff in 2003-2004, and as Vice Chief in 2002. She has also served on the Infection Control, Pharmacy, Credentials and Critical Care Committees and was chair of the Performance Improvement Committee.

During her tenure, Dr. Chirugi plans to work with the medical

staff, hospital staff and administrators to guarantee that quality medical care remains in the Tri-Valley.

She says, "With the changing medical arena, it is more important than ever to work as a cohesive team to maintain high quality care and ensure that ValleyCare remains a stand alone, not-for-profit, community hospital."



The Quarry Lane School OPEN HOUSE

JANUARY 9 | DUBLIN CAMPUS, K-12, 1-4 P.M.
PLEASANTON CAMPUS, K, 3-5 P.M.

- Full Day Kindergarten
- Sports, Music and Drama
- Leadership Development
- Academic Tracks Program


- International Baccalaureate (IB) High School Diploma Programme
The Gold Standard for College Admissions
- Science, Engineering & Technology Track
- College Preparatory Track

PRESCHOOL OPEN HOUSE | SUNDAY, JANUARY 9, 3-5 P.M.
3750 Boulder St. & 4444B Black Ave., Pleasanton 94566

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To RSVP, please call 925.829.8000 ext. 3 or visit our website www.QuarryLane.org.

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Community Health Education Programs


Dublin
4050 Dublin Boulevard

Lectures and Workshops
Does an Apple a Day Keep the Cardiologist Away?
Presented by Terrence Lin, M.D., PAMF Cardiology
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 6:30 to 8 p.m., 925-875-6464

Fremont
3200 Kearney Street

Lectures and Workshops
Neurological Disorders of Aging
Presented by Christopher Lock, M.D., PAMF Neurology
Wednesday, Feb. 16, 7 to 8:30 p.m., 510-498-2891

Nutrition and Diabetes Classes
Living Well with Diabetes
Thursdays of every month, 2 to 5 p.m., 510-498-2184



Nutrition and Diabetes Classes 510-498-2184

Bariatric Pre-Op
First Monday of the month, 4:30 to 6 p.m.

Bariatric Shared Medical Appointment (SMA)
Third Tuesday of the month, 10 to 11:30 a.m.

Good Nutrition for Toddlers
First Saturday of every month, 9 to 11 a.m.

Heart Smart Class
Third and fourth Monday of every other month, 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Lifesteps® Weight Management Program
Tuesdays (weekly), 6 to 7:15 p.m.

Pregnancy, Breastfeeding and Child Care Classes 650-853-2960

Preparing for Birth
Saturdays, Jan. 9 – 23, Feb 6 – 20, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Living Well with Diabetes
Tuesdays, 9 to 11:30 a.m., and Thursdays, 4:30 to 7 p.m.

Living Well with Prediabetes
Second Monday of each month, 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

New Weigh of Life
Starting Fridays, Jan. 7, 11:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Free orientation session on Friday, Nov. 19, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Sweet Success Gestational Diabetes Class
Thursdays, 2 to 4 p.m.


Breastfeeding: Secrets for Success
Thursday, Feb. 11, 7 to 9:30 p.m.

Community Health Resource Centers at Dublin and Fremont

The Health Resource Center offers information and support for those who wish to make informed decisions regarding their health and wellness. The center is open to all members of the community, and services are provided at no cost.

- Nurse health educators
- Health reference books
- Health lectures
- Health newsletters
- Informational brochures
- Educational videotapes and DVDs
- Access to health information Web sites
- Information on community resources

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EDITORIAL

Year Of The Arts

The year 2010 was a great year for the arts in our Valley.

Everywhere — concerts, readings and lectures, art shows and more — there was activity. Every venue in the Valley was in use virtually every week.

Speaking of venues, the highlights of the year was the opening of the Firehouse Arts Center in Pleasanton and the Barbara Fracisco Mertes Center for the Arts at Las Positas College. Pleasanton's historic old firehouse was beautifully restored and now houses a little theater, exhibition galleries and classrooms.

The Las Positas College facility includes a 550 seat theater and a 175 seat black box theater. A 1500 seat amphitheater is situated outdoors.

Onward and upward, the arts have really taken off here. May 2011 be another memorable year.

RETIREEES

(continued from page one)

changed to "industry standard" — a reduced level of benefits — a year later under circumstances that have never been explained to retirees. For many, the change has led to higher costs, a lower level of service and fear that coverage might someday be discontinued under future management systems that can change with shifting political or economic winds.

Those without Medicare are particularly vulnerable to high costs. The University has long provided Medicare-level support for retirees who were not part of the Medicare system. The estimated 350 Livermore retirees in that category now have to pay premiums on their own and face rising medical costs in their senior years.

While most retirees have found the new system of health care costs and reimbursements more complicated than UC's simple payroll deduction program, not all comments are negative. Many Medicare retirees receiving \$200 per month from a health reimbursement account report no out-of-pocket costs for health premiums.

UC's own health plans are under pressure because of rising medical costs and declining state support. The University has outlined plans to shift some premium costs to employees and retirees. Livermore Lab retirees who once cast an envious eye at

those remaining in the UC health system may now be wondering how secure either approach to medical care will be in the long run.

Meanwhile, the Retiree Group's effort to call wider attention to its plight scored a publicity success in catching the attention of the New York Times.

The article devoted more than 1,200 words and two photos to the subject, reflecting the importance of today's national debate over health care and how to pay for it. Another article in the same edition covered efforts to deal with the costs of public employment in New Jersey at a time of budgetary crisis.

Publicity aside, the University has many other, and larger, financial and political issues to deal with.

Some of these include the academic consequences of underfunding, such as the loss of key faculty to other universities and difficulty providing classes demanded by students. Others are more directly financial. UC's pension fund is billions of dollars underfunded; the state has failed for years to meet its obligations to provide support; unions are fighting efforts to restore employee payroll contributions to retirement programs; students, parents and some politicians are upset at steep rises in fees; and senior executives are threatening to sue for higher pensions.

MAILBOX

(Opinions voiced in letters published in Mailbox are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of The Independent. Letter Policy: The Independent will not publish anonymous letters, nor will it publish letters without names. Abusive letters may be rejected or edited. Frequent letter writers may have publication of their letters delayed.)

Regional Theater financing Clark Streeter Livermore

The idea that the City of Livermore intends to spend money from the general fund to build a Regional Theater is simply not true.

What is true is that the Livermore Performing Arts Center (LVPAC) has requested that the city underwrite the issuance of bonds, which will be issued and repaid by LVPAC. Only in the event that LVPAC proves temporarily incapable of servicing the debt will city money be used to meet the bond obligations. Even in that event, LVPAC is required to repay the city as soon as it is able.

In return for underwriting the bonds, LVPAC will pay the city a substantial fee — over a half million dollars in the first year alone. This will augment, rather than diminish, the general fund.

While it is undeniable that there is some risk involved, studies by both LVPAC and the city indicate that it is unlikely that there will ever be a need for LVPAC to draw upon city funds. I think that the risk is acceptable when weighed against the potential economic and cultural benefits of the Regional Theater.

The Regional Theater is a vital element in the continuing development of a vibrant city center. No other project, either proposed or envisioned, holds out so much promise. An investment in the Regional Theater is an investment in the future of Livermore.

Theater Funding John Stein Livermore

In response to the Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center spokesman, Len Alexander, letter regarding the Regional Theater project:

The reason that LVPAC is asking the Livermore City Council to break their promise and

commit the City's General Fund to the theater is not for convenience or to be able to pay \$11 million to the City. According to LVPAC's own report the risk of nonpayment is so great that "without the full guaranty the project cannot proceed."

The increased downtown revenue of \$20 million will give the City about \$200,000 in annual sales tax if and when completed. In contrast the payments for the Regional Theater construction range from \$2.5 to \$7.5 million dollars annually.

It is unclear what type of stress tests or contingency plans have been done particularly if the Redevelopment Agency revenue does not grow as quickly as projected. The City staff has stated that "it is certainly possible the General fund would have to contribute to debt service."

All of LVPAC's assets stand ahead of the City General Fund in the obligation to repay the theater debt. This means that there is a risk that the Bothwell Arts Center may be closed and the Bankhead Theater sold to satisfy the debt.

The City Council will certainly go down in history, but, there is a real risk they may take down LVPAC and the City's solvency with them.

Property Lien Evelyn Mitschelen Livermore

An answer to Rich Buckley's letter:

About 5 or 6 years ago, we received a letter in the mail from Waste Management (the company at that time) that it was mandatory to have garbage picked up. They were already picking up our green waste and recyclables (And everyone else's in town). My husband had to go to the dump at least once a week and took our one little grocery bag with him. When they said it was mandatory, I called the Waste Management Co. and they said this was true. I asked what happens if we do not pay. They replied, "We will put a lien on your place. It is just like an ordinance." I was very upset, but it was not worth the fight.

My thoughts were well, what about the old cars, boats and campers in the driveways - there is an ordinance governing parking. But the city has made statements that they do not have the manpower to put it in force. But if it is an ordinance, why isn't this mandatory?

A couple of years later, I went to the garbage company to pay my bill and mentioned this to the person. She said, "Whoever told you that wasn't accurate." So, who is right?

There have been articles in the paper that there is a fee the city charges the garbage company that goes to the arts and the theater.

I believe the city has had the say "so" in this lien against property. The city has a contract with the garbage companies. I agree that this is not legal.

(Editor's note: the fee mentioned in the letter is not collected from the garbage company, but from the two landfills in Livermore. The County Board of Supervisors approved the fee - which goes to recycling education, open space acquisition, and the arts, as part of a mitigation of impact from the landfills on Livermore.)

BART Route Robert Allen Treasurer, KBATF Livermore

You showed KBATF (Keep BART Along the Freeway), PO Box 2044, Livermore, CA 94551-2044, in error as PO Box 244. Other than that, you did a great job printing our recent letter. Thanks. Great job.

Bob Baltzer wrote in your December 30 issue about BART to Livermore. While he opposed our planned initiative, he raised some interesting points.

We want an Isabel station, with in-direction travel from all of Livermore, easy freeway access, and ample parking. BART fares would be about 20 cents less than from downtown ACE and about 45 cents less than from Vasco ACE. BART's turnback would be similar to that now at Dublin-Pleasanton. A train yard would come with further extension.

Housing has no place in transit oriented development. A given area can hold many more cars than homes. People can drive much further than they can walk to BART. As a station area attracts commerce, surface parking easily becomes structure, with no need to tear our housing. When MTC exempted airport rail from TOD, the same reasoning should govern BART to Isabel.

As for an intermodal, ACE now uses UP rail. BART along

the former SP Altamont line would go directly under the UP's high trestle east of Greenville Road. That would make an ideal intermodal station accessible also to motorists from Flynn Road at the Altamont crest. But perhaps intermodal with buses on the freeway should trump that with ACE.

Our initiative wants BART to Isabel. Beyond that future extension to Greenville Road should be at grade in a widened freeway median. No need to take homes, dig up streets, or build costly structures. The city and BART ignored a less costly and better alternative for BART to Livermore in their "exhaustive analysis." Hence our initiative.

Holiday Party Rosemary Almand Executive Director, CAPE Inc.

Livermore

I want to share with your readers the generous support the Rotarian Foundation of Livermore provided to needy children in our community. On December 19th the Rotarian Foundation hosted a Holiday Party for more than 150 children, from low-income families in Livermore. The Foundation worked with CAPE Inc. (Community Association for Preschool Education) to identify needy children to invite to the event. Children enrolled in CAPE's Head Start Program, and siblings up to 10 years old, were selected to participate.

The fun-filled party included quality entertainment, excellent food, and personalized gifts for each child. The children were delighted with the singing performances, face-painting and the engaging and captivating magic show. Santa Claus was also on-hand to meet with each child and distributed beautiful stuffed animals to all.

Of special significance were personalized gifts each child received. Gifts included clothing such as jackets and pajamas sized appropriately for each child and quality games and educational toys.

The event was thoroughly enjoyed by all and was a true expression of the spirit of the season.

CAPE staff and families would like to publicly express deep appreciation and sincere gratitude to the Rotarian Foundation.

MARKET

(continued from page one)

Emerald Glen park, which is near Tassajara Road and Gleason Drive. The park affords a great opportunity for picnicking. Food is also available nearby from restaurants and yogurt shops along Tassajara Road. The city might bring in some food vendors.

The experience is planned to be much more than shopping for produce. Themes such as entertainment once a month, food and wine demonstrations monthly on another Thursday, and other activities such as family sports and health fairs could be a magnet for the event.

The event would be a good opportunity for local dance groups and other community-based organizations, said Sbranti.

Dublin's proposal has been developed over the past two years. "We budgeted for it. The staff is ready to go," said Sbranti.

One reason the money is available was the cancellation this past fall of the annual fall festival event at Emerald Glen. The two-day event had been going for 10 years, but was dwindling in attendance, so the council decided to put it on hiatus, said Sbranti. It's possible that the Farmers' Market might replace the harvest festival, although there is still sentiment in Dublin to have a fall event. It could be revived, said Sbranti.

Silveira said attendance at the Livermore and Pleasanton markets goes as high as 3800 people in any given day during good weather. The events are held, rain or shine. Livermore's market operates on Sundays mornings year-round and on Thursday evenings from May 19 - October

20, 2011. The Pleasanton market is open Saturday mornings.

Pleasanton's market has a peak of 58 growers participating. In Livermore the number is in the mid 50s, said Silveira. The Pleasanton market began in 1992. Livermore hosted a Farmers' Market run by a different organization, but in the late 1990s, PCFMA was hired to operate it.

Only certified Farmers' Markets such as PCFMA can operate the markets, because of state licensing requirements. One reason the licensing is needed is that state laws govern the packaging of fruit and vegetables in certain sizes and amounts. The Farmers' Markets are empowered by the state not to have to conform to those rules, so they can sell a variety of sizes and amounts to the consumers, said Silveira.

Although some people assume that Farmers' Markets sell nothing but organic food, that is not the case. Consumers need to look at the signs on display with the produce and talk to the growers to learn whether or not the food is organic.

Virtually all of the revenue to PCFMA comes from the exhibitors, who typically pay \$30 to \$45 for a 10-foot by 10-foot space, said Silveira. At a time when local budgets are pinched, it's unrealistic to expect that cities would contribute very much, if anything, to a Farmers' Market.

The Pleasanton and Livermore markets were helped into existence and promoted by those cities' downtown merchants associations, said Silveira.

LAWS

(continued from page one)

Another bill introduced by Hayashi, AB 583, requires certification of physicians and dissemination of that information to patients. Warren said that there have been problems, sometimes in the area of cosmetic surgery, where people have not been licensed to undertake the work.

Hayashi also wrote a bill that provides a tax check-off for income tax filers interested in donating to the California Police Activities League (CalPAL). CalPAL provides for youth activities in conjunction with the police. Taxpayers can check the box, and donate whatever amount they like, which is in addition to their tax payment. It is not a deduction.

Warren said the provision is expected to raise from \$250,000 to \$800,000 per year. CalPAL is headquartered in San Leandro.

TRANSPARENCY ADDED FOR RENTERS

Sen. Ellen Corbett's 10th District includes all of Pleasanton and Sunol. Spokesperson Lynda Gledhill said that one significant piece of legislation written by

Corbett dealt with foreclosures.

SB 1149 requires that tenants living on a foreclosed property must be notified of the foreclosure. "Sometimes the eviction notice gives three days to leave. Tenants think the eviction doesn't apply to them, because they didn't default," said Gledhill.

Now banks must disclose that tenants have rights unto themselves that are different from the property owner.

A widely noted bill by Corbett went into effect in September, when the governor signed it. It bars the sale of electric cigarettes to minors. Corbett said that the different flavors of the electric cigarettes are an enticement for minors to take up smoking.

Electric cigarettes are battery-powered, nicotine-dispensing devices, usually shaped like cigarettes, cigars or pens. A heating element or atomizer vaporizes a liquid solution of nicotine in the device's mouthpiece, allowing it to be inhaled.

The "smoker" can choose the level of nicotine, including zero.

Flavors include orange, mint, coffee, vanilla and strawberry. Some try to mimic the taste of popular cigarette brands.

P.E.R.S. CANDIDATES MUST SHOW FUNDS

Sen. Loni Hancock's 9th Senate District includes all of Livermore and Dublin. With pension reform in the news so much last year, one of the bills introduced by Hancock was SB 1007.

The bill dealt with elections of the CalPERS (California Public Employees' Retirement System) board. The board invests billions of dollars, so Hancock felt that it was important to have transparency election of the board candidates' election donors, said her chief of staff, Hans Hermann.

Hancock was the lead author of SB 205, which enabled a federal stimulus jobs package that freed up \$773 million of construction bonds for schools statewide.

BUCHANAN HELPS ON PENSION REFORM

Assemblywoman Joan Buchanan's district includes all of

Livermore. Buchanan wrote AB 2650 in response to requests from law enforcement agencies and school districts.

The law bars the location of any medical marijuana dispensaries within 600 feet of a school. Not all cities have the problem. However, some have schools near medical marijuana dispensaries, said Buchanan's chief of staff, Michelle Henry.

Buchanan's AB 1592 helped to carry out an agreement that Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger reached with state personnel about pension reform. Buchanan's bill ended pension spiking. Instead, retirement pay will be based on the final year worked. It disallows counting pay increased for the purpose of spiking.

Some 11,000 state employees were affected. They include members of the forestry fire department, a union of doctors and dentists at state hospitals, and some other state employees, who are represented by the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees.

MIDWAY

(continued from page one)

pioneering Mulqueeny family. A one-room school house, it is similar to a few others that were started in the Valley so that children of ranchers could attend school nearby.

"We still have some of the students who attended Midway School the last couple of years it was open. We still have the last teacher, who was a first-year teacher when the school closed," said Kasky.

There are no deadlines to accomplish the move. However, Kasky said that five years might be a realistic time period. It would be nice to move the school in a timely way so that the former

students would be able to see it in its new setting, said Kasky.

The move itself will cost only about \$30,000, based on the city of Tracy's experience in moving a similar school from its rural area. Restoration of the building will take up most of the estimated \$225,000.

Kasky described the building as "falling over." However, the interior has managed to avoid damage, thanks to a tin roof installed by the Mulqueeny family.

Once the school is relocated and restored, it will be used by the school district as part of the local history requirement for

third-graders. The plan is to have the third-graders spend a school day there.

The students would see copies of readers used a century ago, and be able to write on slates similar to those used in the old days, said Kasky.

Tracy has found with its renovated one-room schoolhouse that children love the experience. "It helps them understand the city's rural roots in what they now see as the suburbs," said Kasky.

In the Tracy experience, the children even dress up in period costumes. Their desks are the old-fashioned kind, a combina-

tion of originals and replicas. Tracy took old iron desk sides and had molds made so they could cast more parts and put together replica desks.

The Heritage Guild includes some active and retired teachers who would be interested in playing roles as teachers in such a classroom.

"We have some books from the Livermore school system at that time, so we can show them to the children. They can also play the same games that children played during recess. We can really make the experience live for them," said Kasky.

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2011 ROUNDUP

(continued from page one)

electronically via a FasTrak® toll tag. The project's goal is to ensure that traffic is always flowing smoothly in the Express Lane by utilizing "dynamic pricing." Tolls are based on the amount of traffic traveling in the Express Lane and the general purpose lanes at any given time. During peak periods, when there is more traffic in the Express Lane, the toll will be higher to discourage too many additional solo drivers from entering and making the Express Lane congested.

The Board of Directors for the California Association for Local Economic Development (CALED) elected Rob White, Economic Development Director of the City of Livermore, to serve a full term (3 years) on the CALED board.

The BART board selected station locations in downtown Livermore and on Vasco Road for its East Alameda County extension. The board's unanimous vote certified the program EIR for the route, selected the preferred alternative, 2B, for the tracks from among 10 options, and authorized a study of facilities for train storage and repair shop needs at the end of the line. The 2B alternative would travel down I-580 from the Dublin/Pleasanton BART station to Portola Avenue where it would enter a sub-way under Portola Avenue and Junction Avenue to downtown Livermore. In the downtown, it would turn east, come back to the surface in the vicinity of the First Street overpass and follow a route along the rail-lines to Vasco Road.

Supporters of the Valley Rock Climbing Gym convinced the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District (LARPD) board to give them a chance to come up with a way to keep it open. LARPD staff had recommended eliminating the funding for the climbing gym from the 2010-2011 budget. The board voted 4 to 1 to consider continuing gym operations for another year by reviewing additional information and a business plan to be provided by a group of gym advocates working with staff. Beth Wilson was opposed to keeping the climbing gym.

The City of Livermore's \$70 million operating budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2010 was \$11 million less than the FY 2009/10 budget, and represented a 14 percent decrease. The budget reflected relative stabilization in the city's major revenue sources— property tax and retail sales tax. Although the City did use \$5.5 in economic uncertainty reserves to close fiscal year 2009/2010, the upcoming budget did not propose the use of any reserves. The city reduced operational expenses, restructured departments, decreased landscape and streetlight maintenance, slowed down recruitment for replacement of police officer positions, reduced non-sworn public safety positions and closed fire station #10 located at the airport.

Eugene Chen, a Pleasanton 13-year-old, visited the White House helping President Obama with a math problem. Chen, a Harvest Park Middle School graduate, was one of four California team members who placed first in the national MathCounts test. President Obama honored the California team as the MathCounts winners.

The Livermore Valley Education Foundation (LVEF) presented a check for \$90,636 to the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District (LVJUSD). The money would fund one full time equivalent (FTE) teacher's position for fifth grade elementary music for the 2010/2011 school year. Several community members and organizations were recognized for helping to meet the funding goal: Robert Gundrey, Wente Vineyards, Nancy Bankhead, the Livermore Cultural Arts Council, and Mike Morgan, Gene Morgan Insurance Agency, and ABC Music Source and Academy.

Tyler Heppie, a junior at Livermore High School, spent a day in Washington, D.C. talking with staffers for U.S. Senators and Representatives from California on behalf of his younger sister Tara who has cystic fibrosis (CF). Tyler and two other teen advocates talked about CF and asked for support for the Improving Access to Clinical Trials (I-ACT) Act (S.1674 and H.R.2866), a bill that would allow patients with rare diseases to participate in clinical trials without losing their eligibility for public assistance.

A group of Tri-Valley physicians dropped a lawsuit against ValleyCare Health System over ValleyCare's formation of a medical foundation. The suit, filed last year, claimed that ValleyCare did not have the required 40 physicians to form a medical foundation, and therefore was illegal. The Patient-Physicians Alliance (PPA), representing some Valley physicians, announced the end of the suit two days before a hearing was scheduled before a judge in Oakland. The with-

drawal of the suit was based on a decision that a lawsuit was no longer the best vehicle to address the issues.

Ideal Boat and Camper Storage lost its appeal to Alameda County Supervisors for an expansion of its yard at 7261 Tesla Road in rural Livermore. Supervisors voted 4-0 to deny the appeal, with Keith Carson absent. The issue appeared headed for court, as a challenge to the South Livermore Valley Area Plan and county Measure D. The East County Area Plan and Measure D both bar expansion of the facility. It would be a non-conforming use, which is specifically banned under Measure D. The Migliore family filed an expansion request a number of years ago. It, too, was rejected by the Board of Supervisors.

Pleasanton was ranked 63rd out of a 100 by Money Magazine as one of the best places to live in America. The magazine described Pleasanton as a family-oriented town an hour from both San Francisco and Monterey with one of the strongest school districts in California.

Over 418,000 fairgoers attended the 2010 Alameda County Fair. With the second highest attendance in 20 years, this number represented an approximate 19% increase over 2008, and was just 3% less than the 2009 record setting attendance. In 2009, the Alameda County Fair was the "Fastest Growing Fair in America" with a record 22% increase in attendance. Ranking 41st on the list of the Top 50 North American Fairs, the Alameda County Fair is one of the largest fairs in the State of California and is the largest event in Alameda County.

Controversy arose over the location of Tuesday Tunes concerts in downtown Livermore. Originally, the concerts were offered at Flaggpole Plaza and at the Bankhead Plaza in downtown Livermore each Tuesday evening. They were free. The series was replaced this year by Concerts on the Green in front of the Bankhead Theater. It is also free. However, new rules are in place. No outside alcohol, beverages or food are allowed into the concert venue. A petition was circulated urging the return of the original Tuesday Tunes.

The Pleasanton City Council voted 4 to 0 to move forward with a tentative agreement settlement with Urban Habitat, Public Advocates and the state Attorney General's office. Urban Habitat, represented by Public Advocates, sued the city claiming that various city policies and ordinances prevented or hindered the development of affordable housing in Pleasanton. One of the main targets of the lawsuit was the city's housing cap. The court invalidated the cap in its entirety. Rather than appeal the decision, the city entered into negotiations with Urban Habitat and their representatives from Public Advocates to come up with a settlement. The tentative agreement has been approved by Urban Habitat and Public Advocates and the State Attorney General's Office. Terms of the settlement included the following: The city would amend its general plan to remove references to the housing cap. Within one year of the settlement date, the city will submit an



Photos - Doug Jorgensen

An American flag painted on a hillside along I-680 on the Sunol Grade was removed by Caltrans. The 35-foot mural was repainted in time for the 4th of July. Caltrans later apologized for removing the flag and agreed to meet with the original artists to discuss placing another mural at a suitable location.

amended housing element to the state. Within 18 months of the settlement, the city will adopt a climate action plan, including completion of an environmental impact report that will address the allegations raised by the attorney general. The attorney general argued that having to commute to jobs in Pleasanton added to greenhouse gases.

Karla Brown, one of the co-chairmen for the Measure D campaign in Pleasanton, announced plans to run for city council in November. Councilmember Cindy McGovern announced that she would take on incumbent Mayor Jennifer Hosterman. Council candidates were incumbent Councilmembers Jerry Thorne and Cheryl Cook-Kallio and challenger Tea Party member Fred Watson.

The Pleasanton school district committed to a four-hour minimum day for its technology specialists, thanks to a guarantee by Pleasanton Partnerships in Education (PPIE). PPIE told the district that it had raised more than \$500,000 so far in a community fund-raising drive to help restore or preserve programs.

The City of Livermore was recognized as a Bay Area leader in photovoltaic (P.V.) panel installations by the Northern California Solar Energy Association during its annual City/County Solar Awards Celebration. Awards were presented to Livermore for the highest number of total watts installed, among all medium-sized cities in the Bay Area, total number of 2009 systems installed, and total watts per capita.

Potential future residents of a continuing life retirement community (CLC) planned for the Staples Ranch site protested the delays in approving the project. Seniors who had made a down payment to acquire a unit at the CLC, Stoneridge Creek, organized a rally in front of the Pleasanton city council chambers.

Livermore Fourth Street Community Garden Inc., a new Livermore-based non-profit organization, teamed with the City of Livermore to turn a vacant city-owned lot on Fourth St. into the city's first downtown community garden. Located across the street from Livermore High School, the garden was designed to provide downtown residents, many of who do not have space for a garden, with the opportunity to grow

fresh fruits and vegetables.

The Livermore City Council voted to study a merger of the city and the park district. The vote was unanimous. The study would be conducted in phases. The first would involve a feasibility study estimated to cost \$25,000. The study would look at the potential benefits and opportunities. The goal would be to determine whether combining the city and the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District (LARPD) would result in more money for parks and recreation. Mayor Marshall Kamena commented, "The potential money gained would result in more services for the district and the general fund. I would like to have the cooperation of the park district on the study."

Business and civic leaders joined elected officials and representatives of the national labs to learn about plans to bring more innovative jobs and projects to the Tri Valley. The plans include creating a formal organization called Innovation Tri-Valley, with staff and a formal non-profit business structure like that of a chamber of commerce. Marty Beard, president of Dublin's Sybase 365, spoke at a meeting where he said that the region hosts an exceptionally creative and diverse workforce that can provide technological leadership to the nation if its resources can work together and be recognized as another Silicon Valley. The meeting at Ruby Hill was the second regional innovation forum in a process that began two years ago at a Livermore Chamber of Commerce meeting.

The Livermore City Council voted to institute a ban on the use of styrofoam in Livermore restaurants. It would go into effect in July 2011. Restaurants would be required to use recyclable or compostable alternatives. The vote was 4 to 1 with Councilmember Jeff Williams opposed. He explained that although he supports the ban, now is not the time to add additional cost to operate a restaurant.

The Pleasanton City Council ratified the June 8 election results, effectively killing the current Oak Grove development proposal. Measure D, which



The Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department officially welcomed new Fire Chief Jim Miguel with a traditional pinning ceremony. He is shown receiving his badge from his wife Susan.

asked voters if they supported Oak Grove, was defeated.

AUGUST 2010

A senior day care program to replace the one that closed in Livermore in June 2008 is on the horizon. The YMCA began working with the Tri-Valley adult day care board to open the new program at Nielsen Elementary School in Dublin. The school had been closed by the district.

The State Historical Resources Commission voted unanimously to place the Niles Canyon Transcontinental Railroad Historic District on the National Register of Historic Places. The Niles Canyon Railway is a segment of the final leg of the transcontinental railroad, passing through the Diablo Range to the shore of San Francisco Bay. The nearly twelve mile district stretching from Niles in Fremont to Pleasanton

considered to be one of the best preserved portions of the original railroad still providing passenger service. The historic designation goes to Bernal Avenue, covering the railroad right-of-way owned by Alameda County and leased to the Pacific Locomotive Association.

Maintenance, food and beverage workers at Castlewood Country Club, locked out of their jobs for over 150 days, staged a protest in front of the Club on Sunday to demand the Club end the lockout and bargain in good faith with the union.

The new Lizzie Fountain Spray Grounds in Livermore were officially dedicated. The occasion was complete with music, remarks by Mayor Marshall Kamena and the reading of a poem written by Livermore Poet Laureate Cher Wollard. The fountain is located at the corner

(continued on page 7)

LIVERMORE
CALIFORNIA

Make a difference in your community

The City of Livermore invites applications for membership on the Planning Commission

The Planning Commission advises the City Council on the adoption and on-going review of the General Plan for the physical growth of the City. The Plan, in conjunction with the Development Code, guides the general location of future public facilities, private buildings and improvements.

The Commission has specific responsibilities in the administration of the Development Code, including decisions or recommendations on subdivision of lands and other development projects. The Commission is also responsible for ensuring development projects meet the City's Design Standards and Guidelines.

In addition, the Commission promotes public interest in planning and encourages citizen participation in the formulation of land use policies. The members also acquaint the public with problems and solutions relating to the local physical environment.

Prior to appointment to the Planning Commission, applicants are required to have attended at least one meeting of the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission meets at the first and third Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm, City Council Chambers, 3575 Pacific Avenue, Livermore.

Applications can be obtained at the City Clerk's Office, 1052 S. Livermore Avenue, downloaded from www.ci.livermore.ca.us, or by calling 960-4200 (TDD 960-4014).

Applications are due to the City Clerk's Office no later than Friday, January 28, 2011 at 5:00 pm.

CRAB FEED

January 15 • 4pm

RESERVATIONS: 925.456.8215

MENU

Fresh Dungeness Crab
Italian Parsley and
buttered Linguini
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Clam Chowder
Garlic Bread
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Schedule of Events

9:00-10:00am	Tracy Harding Swim Clinic
9:30-10:00am	Christy Boyd, MD Shoulder and Elbow Injuries in Youth Baseball
10:00-11:30am	Anne Moselle, RD and Ruby Guevarra "Change Challenge" Integrating Fitness and Nutrition into your Life 10:00-10:30am Ruby Guevarra, Personal Trainer Proper Form and Injury Prevention Advancing to Higher Levels of Fitness 10:30-11:00am Anne Moselle, Registered Dietitian Easy Changes to Eating Right 11:00-11:30am 30-minute exercise session
11:30am-12:00pm	Jen Schell, Pilates Instructor Pilates Reformer demo in Studio 1
12:00-12:30pm	Winter Brown, Yoga Instructor Yoga for Athletes Class in Studio 1
12:30-1:00pm	Joseph Donnelly, MD ACL Injuries

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SPORTS NOTES



Livermore High School women's basketball team started the 12th Annual Seaside Sweet 16 Girls Basketball Tournament strong with a seat in the winners bracket following a win against Notre Dame Salinas 70-30. Sixteen very competitive teams from all over California and Nevada participated in the tournament. Livermore Lady Cowboys finished 7th with a 78-37 win over Alisal. Livermore started their EBAL season this week with games against California at LHS on Tuesday. They play Foothill on Friday at Foothill 7:00pm.

Women's Soccer

The Livermore Area Recreation and Park District's Women's Soccer League is a recreational league designed for fun, experience and exercise.

Adult women of all skill levels and ages are invited to join. Players of different skill levels are distributed among the teams to keep league games competitive and fun.

Winter 2011 games will be played at 7 p.m. Tuesdays in January and February in Robertson Park, 3200 Robertson Park Road, Livermore. Games begin Jan. 4. Registration is open now. The deadline for priority registration is 5 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 29, which is available to returning fall 2010 players. Regular registration for all players ends at 5 p.m. Monday, Jan. 3. The benefits of priority registration are a reduced fee and priority in choosing a team. Priority registration is \$29; regular registration is \$34 for all new players as well as returning players

registering after Dec. 29.

Registration forms can be found on the LARPD website at www.larpd.dst.ca.us and mailed in or dropped off at the Robert Livermore Community Center, 4444 East Ave., Livermore. For more information, call 925-373-5700.

Pleasanton Seahawks

The Pleasanton Seahawks (PLS) swim team competed in Long Beach during a rainy five days, December 17 to 21 at the California-Nevada Sectional Champs. Competing in the Large Team Division this year, the Seahawks were 2nd behind a much larger team; however, PLS outscored every other team in the meet, regardless of the Division.

Highlights: 100% Lifetime Best Swims (LTB): Allison Brown - 100% LTB earning

"Female Swimmer of the Meet" Award: Nick Johnston - 100% LTB - 100 fly, 100/200 back, 100/200/500 free; Rachel Knowles - 100% LTB - 100/200 fly & 200/500/1000/1650 free

Lifetime Best Swims (LTB): Sasha Alcon - 100 fly with some HUGE relay splits to help win both the 400 & 800 free relays; Catherine Breed - 100/200 free; Marissa Brown - 200/500/1000/1650 free & 400 IM; Brandon Chandler - 500/1000/1650 free & 200 IM; Kristine Doan - swam a solid breaststroke and finished in the 100; Tony Houston - 400 IM; Celina Li - 100/200 fly & 200/1000 free; Kyle Lindsay - 100 fly, 100 back, 200 free & 200/400 IM; Tim McLaughlin - 1000 free & 200 IM; Bridget Moran - 500 free; Andrew Seitz - 200 fly & 400 IM; Nick Silverthorn - 100 free; Maggie Woods - 50 free



Pleasanton Seahawks swim team members competed in the California-Nevada Sectional Champs meet.

CYO Basketball

The St. Michael's/St. Charles (SM/SC 8th) grade girls Wolpack team came off the Winter break with nothing in their minds but winning in CYP basketball action. Leading St. Isidore the entire game, the Pack crushed them on rebounds and baskets with a 38-33 win. The Pack took the lead early with a 25-15 score at the half. Still ahead by 11 at the end of the 3rd, important free throw shooting helped seal the victory at the buzzer. A superb effort by the entire Wolpack team was necessary to stay ahead of a tough opponent. 35 rebounds and 23 steals is what the game was all about. Team Captain Sarah Partridge scored a whopping 17 points, shooting 55% from the field and 63% from the line. She wasn't alone in securing the win as teammates Ashley "Credit Card" Breyer and Alyssa "The Peanut" Gonzalez both scored 100% from the

field. Center's Kirah Van Trease and Team Captain, Jessica Elfin, and forward Elizabeth Fleming had 21 of the 35 rebounds with Kirah and Jessica also sinking 10 points. Extreme hustle by guards, Brandi Meyer and Jordan Volponi, took the opponent by surprise with a stifling defense, while Jordan had 5 steals in the game.

The SM/SC 5th grade girls Swoosh team brought home its 6th straight victory beating St. Isidore 15-10 in what proved to be their best performance yet. Down by 2 at the half for the first time this season, they reached deep down to find their will to win - and they did just that. With an undefeated season at stake, the Swoosh turned it around the second half and out-scored their opponents 13-6. Both shooting 33% from the field, Maddy Valone and Katie Gomez lead the offense with 7 points. Nicole Bartels put in another 4 points while Katie Marcel

and Chelsea Warner dropped in the final 4 points. But the key to this win was defense. Down low, Taylor Lachman, Katie Marcel, Emily March and Emma Zika blocked shots to keep St. Isidore from scoring any baskets in the 4th quarter. Katie Fournier, Maddy and Nicole, all played a tight defense up top for helping bring home the win for the Swoosh team.

The 5th Grade Boys Catholic Community of Pleasanton (CCOP) defeated SM/SC Lightning Bolts. Junior Saulovich was the high scorer with 4 points. Devin Dominick added 2 points and Francis Contariego a one point free throw. Trevor Kerby and Joey Stangl led in rebounds. All Lightning Bolt team players made attempts at scoring. CCOP player No. 45 was the high scorer with 8 points, Player No. 35 scored 6 points and player No. 34 scored 4 points.

What Our Readers Are Saying...



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David Rice

President, Tri-Valley Community Foundation, The Rotary Club of Pleasanton

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2011 ROUNDUP

(continued from page 5)

of South Livermore Avenue and First Street.

Bill Batchelor, executive director of the Tri-Valley Learning Corporation (TVLC), announced TVLC had entered into a contract on a campus that will serve as the home for both the Livermore Valley Charter School (LVCS) and the Livermore Valley Charter Preparatory High School (LVCP). TVLC administrators both LVCS and LVCP. The site is located at the corner of Constitution Drive and North Canyons Parkway (across the street from Costco). A series of small, stand-alone buildings on the west side of Constitution Drive, totaling

91,000 square feet, will serve as the LVCS campus. A building near Independence Drive, totaling 80,000 square feet, will serve as the LVCP campus. In between the buildings are 13 acres of open space that will be developed into athletic fields. The entire campus encompasses about 30 acres.

East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) President Doug Siden announced the retirement of longtime General Manager Pat O'Brien, effective at the end of this year. O'Brien's retirement comes after years of accomplishments during his twenty-two year tenure leading EBRPD, including the following: Passage

of Measure WW, a \$500 million bond, the largest park bond ever ratified in the nation to fund the next generation of open space and parkland development in the East Bay; expansion of the Park District by 33% through acquisition of 38,000 acres of new parklands, from 66,000 acres in 1988 to over 104,000 acres today, an achievement that distinguishes the East Bay Regional Park District as the largest local park and recreation agency in the United States; increase in public access to parklands by expanding the Park District from 48 to 65 parks, adding over 100 miles of new regional trails for walking, biking and alternative non-motorized transportation routes, and significantly increasing the scope and range of recreational and educational programs and services; and incorporation of the greater Livermore Area into the boundaries of the Regional Park District, thus expanding the Regional Park District to encompass fully the two counties of Alameda and Contra Costa.

The Board of Trustees of the Chabot-Las Positas Community College District named Guy F. Lease as interim president for Las Positas College. Lease replaced DeRionne Pollard who resigned this summer after accepting a position in Maryland.

The ballot was set for the November 8 election. Livermore Area Recreation and Park District (LARPD) directors David Furst and Scott Kamena did not file for re-election. Candidates for the three seats were incumbent Maryalice Faltings and newcomers Robert Coomber, David Hutchinson, April Rood, Mark Thrailkill, and Lauren Turner. Two incumbents on the Pleasanton school district did not file, Pat Kernan and Jim Ott. Joan Laursen, Sandy Piterit, and Jeff Bowser were the candidates. In the Livermore school district, incumbents Kate Runyon, Anne White and William Dunlop filed, as did former board member Tom McLaughlin. In Pleasanton, Mayor Jennifer Hosterman would face current councilmember Cindy McGovern. In the council race, incumbents Jerry Thorne and Cheryl Cook-Kallio were opposed by Karla Brown and Fred Watson. Dublin Mayor Tim Shranti faced no opposition. In the council race for two seats were incumbents Kate Ann Scholz and Don Biddle and challenger Eric Swalwell. Ayn Wieskamp was unopposed for the East Bay Regional Park District Board.

The Lin family, owners of Oak Grove, sued the City of Pleasanton in an attempt to override the voters of Pleasanton and force the city to allow a development to move forward. The Oak Grove Development proposed to build 51 custom homes in the southeast hills of Pleasanton. In June, Pleasanton voters supported a referendum of the planned unit development (PUD) proposal. This represented the third lawsuit against the City of Pleasanton concerning the Oak Grove development. The first lawsuit was aimed at invalidating the referendum with the claim that the petitions did not contain the required information. The Court of Appeal rejected the argument. The second Oak Grove lawsuit was filed to force the city manager to sign the development agreement. The court ordered the city manager to sign the agreement. The new lawsuit claimed that the development agreement approved by the city council at the same time it approved the PUD is still valid; therefore the development can move forward. The lawsuit argued that the referendum only concerned the (PUD) plan for how the lots would be placed, not the project approval. Both the PUD and the development agreement contain a "poison pill" provision, which would nullify the other document if one were overturned by the voters. The Lins, through their attorney Andrew B. Sabey of the San Francisco law firm of Cox, Castle & Nicholson LLP, argued that the poison pill language was only included in the text of the ordinances and was not "a

condition or term in the actual Development Agreement."

The Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory Retirees Group filed a formal petition in Superior Court, seeking to force the University of California to restore the retiree population to the UC health system. The petition asked the Court "to mandate that the Regents of the University of California provide retiree medical coverage to all UC retirees who retired from LLNL while UC was managing the laboratory." It also asked for damages, meaning reimbursement for excess costs and interest incurred by retirees because they were moved out of UC health programs.

The Large Synoptic Survey Telescope (LSST), in which Lawrence Livermore played a large role, was ranked by a key scientific committee as the top priority for the next large ground-based astronomical facility. In a report, New Worlds, New Horizons in Astronomy and Astrophysics, a committee convened by the National Research Council for the National Academy of Sciences, recommended that LSST be submitted immediately for NSF's Major Research Equipment and Facilities Construction (MREFC) consideration with a view to achieving first light before the end of the decade. Upon completion, the telescope would be equipped with the world's largest digital camera that could be used to survey the entire visible sky. Livermore played a pivotal role in the LSST project over the last decade, including: development of the overall optical design, leadership in the development of the operations simulator (which calculates how the telescope can be optimally scheduled for multiple scientific programs), design of the wavefront sensing and guide sensor systems (which measure the aberrations in the telescope optics and the errors in pointing, so that these can be corrected by the telescope active optics and guiding systems) and design of the camera optics and filters (drawing on expertise from the National Ignition Facility's large optics development).

A 5-0 vote to approve a variety of documents related to Staples Ranch drew whoops of joy from the audience at Tuesday's Pleasanton City Council meeting. Most of those attending the session were wearing yellow t-shirts in support of a Continuing Life Community senior housing proposed for the Staples Ranch property. The council approved a policy statement, a supplemental environmental impact report (SEIR), and a regional traffic agreement. The policy statement and SEIR were part of a negotiated settlement with Safe Streets Pleasanton and several environmental groups. The approvals would allow the development plans to go forward.

Nuclear power has to remain in the mix of future U.S. energy sources, according to a geologist and policy expert who is serving on the Obama Administration's Blue Ribbon Commission on America's Nuclear Future. "Right now we can't afford to eliminate any major source of non-carbon emitting energy," said Allison MacFarlane, an associate professor at George Mason University in Fairfax, Va. However, we do have to be "smart about disposal of nuclear wastes" and about other aspects of nuclear power, such as controlling the fuel cycle and the availability of nuclear materials that could be used in weapons, she added. MacFarlane, 46, discussed her views during a visit to Livermore. The Blue Ribbon Commission on America's Nuclear Future is responsible for examining policies and advising the Secretary of Energy on dealing with the "back end" of the nuclear fuel cycle, meaning storing, processing and disposing of "civilian and defense used nuclear fuel, high-level waste, and materials derived from nuclear activities," according to its website.

The Center for Biological Diversity and the Alameda Creek Alliance signed a mitigation agreement with the Alameda County Surplus Property Author-



The Barbara Mertes Center for the Arts at Las Positas College opened in August. Incorporated within the facility is a 550 seat theater and a 175 seat black box theater. A 1500 seat amphitheater is situated outdoors. In the backstage area are several technical theater rooms, a scene shop, a costume shop, storage for scenery and props, and a formal green room. There is a 800 square foot gallery, the first formal art gallery on the campus. There is a two story high grand lobby with an atrium.

SPORTS NOTES

Pit Bulls Home for Game with Heatwave

The East Bay Pit Bulls professional basketball team returns home to Las Positas College on Sunday, January 9 at 7:00 pm to face Sacramento Heatwave.

The Pit Bulls are looking for a repeat of their December 4th performance when they defeated the Heatwave 151-140.

The Pit Bulls have a 5-1 home record and 6-3 overall record heading into Sunday's game.

The team plays its home games in the Las Positas College gymnasium, 3000 Campus Hill Drive, Livermore.

NorCal Grizzlies Baseball

NorCal Grizzlies Baseball is currently evaluating players ages 9U thru 14U for 2011 spring tournament baseball season. Season runs through July and includes 13 local tournaments, 1 tournament in SoCal, 2x weekly practices at indoor training facility and outdoor fields, and complete uniform package. Please contact Tom Graham, Head Coach, at 925-922-5050 or tom@norcalgrizzlies.org. Schedule an evaluation at www.norcalgrizzlies.org/2011springballreg.html.

Amgen Route

AEG, presenter of the Amgen Tour of California, is partnering with Pacific Sports, a leading sports and event management company, to produce the L'Etape du California, a race that will give amateur cyclists the opportunity to test their mettle by riding Stage 7 of the 2011 Amgen Tour of California.

Taking place on Saturday, May 7, 2011, the L'Etape du California is being held in conjunction with the 2011 Amgen Tour of California professional cycling race set for May 15-22, 2011. Specific details of Stage 7 will be announced, along with details of the entire race route, in January.

Riders participating in L'Etape du California will cover the same route as the professionals on Stage 7 of the 2011 Amgen Tour of California.

Pacific Sports will be handling the race operations.

For more information about Pacific Sports, log onto www.pacificsportsllc.com.

Track & Field

St. Michael's CYO Track & Field team is holding sign ups for the Spring 2011 season on Tuesday, 1/6 and Thursday, 1/18 from 7 to 8 PM at the St. Michael Parish Hall on the corner of 3rd and Maple Streets. The program is open to boys and girls 3rd to 8th grades. Practice begins 2/1 at 4 PM on the Granada High School track. For more information www.smistrack.org.

PGSL Registration

2011 registration is now open for all divisions in the Pleasanton Phantom Girls Softball League. All girls living in Pleasanton, Dublin and Sunol are eligible to play. Two ways to register: 1) Online at www.pleasantonsoftball.org; 2) Mail-in: PGSL, P.O. Box 911, Pleasanton, CA 94566 (download a registration form from our website). Late fee of \$25 applied after 11/30/10. For more information or questions, email Christine Tanis at christine.t@pleasantonsoftball.org.

PGSL Player Evaluations and Tryouts: Players in the 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, & 8th grades, please read the following information carefully: In an effort to continue to improve players' experience, PGSL will be holding player evaluation sessions for all players in 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th grades. Attending a player evaluation session is mandatory for all players. Following those evaluations, there will be tryouts for the "Black" Divisions. The goal for these sessions is two-fold: 1) to make sure all players are assigned to the correct level of play for their skill level and experience and 2) to balance the teams in each age group to the best of our ability to balance competition and maximize everyone's enjoyment. For 7th & 8th grade players, there will be no player evaluation sessions this year. There will be Black Division tryouts for those wishing to be considered for that division. All Player Evaluation Sessions and Black Division Tryouts (all age groups) will be held in January 8 and 9, 2011. Additional information and a detailed schedule for all of these sessions is posted on the league web site (www.pleasantonsoftball.org).

January 13 - PGSL "Fun" Raiser Evening at Sweet Tomatoes: PGSL's annual fundraiser event will be held at Sweet Tomatoes in Pleasanton on Thursday, January 13th (5:00pm-8:00pm). Visit the league's website at www.pleasantonsoftball.org to download and print the flyer before attending. For each flyer handed in, Sweet Tomatoes will return 15% of the proceeds to PGSL.

SM/SC CYO 4th grade boys' team, aka Club Penguin, hosted St. Joan's and was overcome after a first-half rally 26-4. For St. Joan's, Lucas Vu was a standout on offense with four points and four assists. Alex Johnson also scored four points and had three rebounds. Defensively, Mark Belleza helped his team with six steals and four rebounds, while Thomas Ball contributed considerably with four rebounds and two steals. For Club Penguin, Jason Wigginton scored one of the team's baskets and contributed with two rebounds, while Logan Finch also scored and had three rebounds. Xavier Pelican was all over the court with three shots, a rebound and two steals, while Ben Leggat contributed defensively with two rebounds and a steal.

St. Raymond's 16 - SM/SC 4: In a fast paced game, St. Raymond's excellent shooting was the highlight. Brooke Promes, Makenna Desmore, Ava Waker and Isabella Saavedra all showed outstanding speed and teamwork. For the SMSC Lasers, Jeannie Bae and Abby Andrews proved to be offensive threats while Kami Farro challenged opponents at both ends of the court.

4th grade boys SM/SC (#46) lost to St. Raymond's (#45), 12 to 13. The SM/SC Wolverines led until the final quarter when St. Raymond's #12 Cole made a couple of quick buckets. Cole finished the game with 8 of St. Raymond's 13 points. For the Wolverines, Zach Parodi played strong at both ends of the floor. Caleb Hardesty and Zach Macintire each had 4 steals and 4 points. Noah Wiesner contributed to the effort with 4 points, 2 assists, and 2 steals.

1st/2nd grade 2BN4 Warriors vs. the 2BN7 Rebels. For the Warriors, Deven Aggarwal passed the ball around well and assisted Matthew Villarreal with his 1st basket of the season. Billy Spence also made his first basket of the season and had many strong rebounds. Brenden Paterson had an all around solid performance. For the Rebels, Sammy Morrisroe had some great steals and excellent defense. Antonio Crivello did an excellent job at bringing the ball down the court and passing the ball, and Malik Merchant had some great break away shots.

SM/SC 1st/2nd grade girls Shooting Sharks played an exciting game against The Monarchs. Top players for Shooting Sharks: Gina Molitoris (Defense), Indiana Stoneberger (Offense) and Camille Wigginton (All Around). Top players for The Monarchs: Olivia Turner (Defense), Jayden Thomas (Offense) and Jadya Lange (All Around).

Youth Basketball League

Registration is now open for Lay-Ups - a youth basketball program offering leagues for children in kindergarten through 2nd grade. The 8-week season begins Jan. 22, 2011. There are several locations available. Lay-Ups is an introductory and non-competitive basketball program. All the components of the program are geared toward making each participant feel successful. The players use smaller, age-appropriate sized basketballs. The hoops are lowered to 8'. The games are played 4-on-4 so each player has more opportunity to touch the ball. The registration fee is \$95, which includes the 8-week season, a Lay-Ups t-shirt, and a Lay-Ups basketball. Register on-line at www.Lay-Ups.com, or call (503) 799-9293 for further information.

Bocce Kits for Rent

Following the debut of two new bocce courts at the freshly renovated Bothwell Park, the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District is now making bocce ball kits available for rent to the public.

Bocce ball kits can be checked out for a week at a time from the Robert Livermore Community Center. The kits are available at the front counter from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Rental for one week is \$20, plus a \$40 refundable deposit by credit card or cash - a total of \$60. The \$40 deposit is refundable if equipment is returned in good condition. Kits are rented on a first-come, first-served basis; reservations are not available in advance. Rental of a bocce ball kit does not guarantee a bocce ball court will be available.

The Robert Livermore Community Center is located at 4444 East Ave., Livermore. Bothwell Park is located at 2466 Eighth St., Livermore. For more information, call 925-373-5700.

Lacrosse Coach

Granada High School is looking for a head varsity boys lacrosse coach. Please contact Clark Conover AD cconover@lvjhsd.k12.ca.us or call 925-606-4800.

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PhotoS - Doug Jorgensen

The annual Pleasanton Pooch Parade was held Wednesday on Main Street during the Pleasanton First Wednesday Party.

2011 ROUNDUP

(continued from page 7)

been selected as the preferred route by the Livermore City Council, Livermore Planning Commission, Rail Policy Working Group and the BART board. All of the votes were unanimous. It would travel from the Pleasanton-Dublin BART station to Portola, where it would go underground to a downtown station. It would remain underground past the First Street overpass where it would rise to grade level, and then continue to a second station at Vasco Road, near the current ACE station. Focus of questions was on the EIR, which identified 81 parcels as being impacted by the 2B extension. The EIR also shows that 29 homes would be in the path of a freeway extension to Greenville, including seven as part of an Isabel station. Livermore Mayor Marshall Kamena commented after the meeting that the goal would be to take zero homes.

In order for the American economy to succeed, products have to be made in the United States. That was the message delivered by Congressman John Garamendi (D) during a Livermore Chamber of Commerce luncheon. To achieve that, Garamendi said that he had introduced legislation that he calls "Make it in America." Among the provisions would be a requirement to purchase American made goods if stimulus money is used; three of the four waivers for offshore purchases would be eliminated; and tax breaks for renewable energy would only be available if products purchased were made in America.

The San Francisco Bay Chapter of the Sierra Club asked county supervisors to nullify a zoning board approval of a Castro Valley kennel expansion because it apparently violates the supervisors' own policy concerning kennels in rural areas. Sierra Club member Dick Schneider said that approval would set the wrong precedent in an area protected by Alameda County Measure D. Schneider said that the kennel expansion would be an urban use, not a use connected to agricultural operations, which are permitted by Measure D. It would serve the predominantly developed area of Castro Valley, which is unincorporated, but not within the Measure D boundary.

The Valley Rock Gym is to remain open for the current budget year. The Livermore Area Recreation and Park District board agreed to keep the Valley Rock Gym open during the current budget year. During a public hearing, several people spoke in favor of keeping open Valley Rock Gym, which LARPD has operated since 2007. Volunteers formed the Rock Gym Support Group. Representatives of the group gave a presentation to the Board proposing strategies for increasing revenue and decreasing expenditures.

The Pleasanton City Council voted unanimously in closed session to defend against the most recent lawsuit filed by the Lin family. The Lins are the owners of property in the southeast hills of Pleasanton where Oak Grove would have been built. The project was successfully referended. In their complaint, the Lins asked the court to declare that the city is obligated to amend the development agreement ordinance to eliminate the "poison pill" provision or take other comparable action to protect the Lins' alleged vested rights. The Lins also asked for attorneys' fees and costs of the lawsuit.

The Pleasanton City Council gave unanimous approval to a Continuing Life Community (CLC) facility, the Hendricks auto mall, and a neighborhood park as part of the 124-acre Staples Ranch development. The council approved planned unit development provisions for each project. The property is owned by Alameda County. The Hendricks project would be built on 37 acres. It would include six dealerships moving from another location in Pleasanton, and three car washes. The park, a 4.8 acre site, would include a detention basin for flood control. There would be a restroom, a path around the park, benches, picnic tables, and lighted tennis courts. Two other potential developments on the Staples Ranch are to come to the council at a future date. They are a retail center and a community park, which could include an indoor ice rink proposed by the San Jose Sharks.

It was announced that the new Firehouse Arts Center in downtown Pleasanton would open the weekend of Sept. 17-19 with a series of celebrations. They include artists demonstrations, live music, theater performances, self-guided tours of the facility, art activities for children, and refreshments. The facility at 4444 Railroad Avenue in downtown Pleasanton includes a 227-seat flexible studio theater, 2000 square feet of gallery space, two large classrooms, a lobby, and several patios. It is adjacent to Lions Wayside Park. There are two trails near the center, one a



The annual soccer parade took place on Main Street in Pleasanton. Members of teams from the Ballistic United Soccer Club and Pleasanton Rage marched in the parade.

jogging trail, the other a multi-use trail. It was announced that the premiere season would include music, drama, visual arts and literary events for all ages. Series planned included jazz, acoustic and classical. Opening weekend would feature jazz guitarist Earl Klugh followed by jazz composer Mose Allison and classical pianist Evelyne Brancart performing a Chopin Concert. Comments made during the dedication stated, "It's even better than we dreamed it would be."

Lam Research, manufacturers of machinery for computer chipmakers, announced plans to move 350 of its employees to Livermore at the end of the year. Lam is located in Fremont. It would keep 1200 employees in its other operations in Fremont.

The Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center's (LVPAC) announced that ticket sales for its 4th season of performances at Livermore's downtown Bankhead Theater were running more than 30% ahead of last season. Several reasons were provided to explain the increased sales, including a more diverse season of attractions, an increase in performances on weekends, and after three seasons of successful presentations, the development of a loyal audience of patrons willing to experience a range of performances.

World Games gold-medalist Kristin Allen and her mixed pair partner Michael Rodrigues, both of Livermore, won the mixed-pair gold medal at the 2010 World Acrobatic Gymnastics Championships in Wrocław, Poland. This was the USA's sixth straight world medal in mixed pair. They train at the West Coast Training Center in Livermore.

East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) announced it would be purchasing one square mile of ranch land in Doolan Canyon for an open space park. The EBRPD board authorized the purchase for \$6.4 million. Livermore would contribute \$2 million toward the purchase. The money comes from mitigation of two Livermore projects. One is the development of a shopping center west of the Livermore Airport, and the other is the freeway interchange for Interstate 580 and Highway 84. Another \$2 million could come from a fund for open space acquisition that was created from a settlement of a lawsuit that involved expansion of the Altamont landfill.

The Livermore City Council approved two agreements aimed at increasing regional cooperation. The first was a joint cooperative resolution between Livermore and Pleasanton concerning the Livermore Airport. The second was a policy statement regarding transportation priorities in the Tri-Valley. Both Pleasanton and Dublin had already approved the policy statement. All votes were unanimous. The policy statement approved by all three city councils describes an approach for relieving traffic congestion by prioritizing improvements to I-580, I-680 and SR 84 and requiring the phased completion of a regional arterial network. The policy statement allows a review of the regional priorities established by the Triangle Study, including widening of SR 84 to be placed higher on the priority list. Once the arterials are open, the Tri-Valley cities and the county are required to support the SR 84 project, which will then be eligible for construction funding.

Valley schools raised their districtwide scores compared



The Firehouse Arts Center in Pleasanton was dedicated in September. The photo shows the old doors to the original firehouse.

to last year on the API index. Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District saw a rise from its 815 base score in 2009/10 to 822. Pleasanton's score rose from 901 to 906. Dublin increased from 854 to 878. A press release from Livermore assistant superintendent Cindy Alba stated that the district was "especially proud" to see that Sunset Elementary School continues to exceed the 900 mark, rising to 910. It also mentions that Marilyn Avenue School has risen 140 points since 2006, to this year's score of 796, just short of the 800 that the state expects from all districts and all schools. In Pleasanton, all schools are above the state-mandated 800 score. Nine of 15 individual schools had scores over 900.

After taking a year off to allow their supporters to recover from hard economic times, The Taylor Family Foundation's (TFFF) Day in the Park Auction Fund-raiser returned to Camp Arroyo raising more than \$1 million to allow kids with life-threatening and chronic illnesses, developmental disabilities and at-risk youth to attend camp at no cost to their families.

In a week when GE stopped production of the incandescent lightbulb, Bridgelux, Inc. was poised to help launch a new industry built on solid state lighting. Bridgelux hosted an open house at its new Livermore facility to introduce its product to the local community. Bill Watkins, CEO, stated one of the goals of the company is to reduce the cost of solid state lighting. He said that currently it would cost \$2500 to retrofit a home with solid state lights. In three years, it will be close to \$200. There are 200 employees at the Livermore site, and 100 more are expected over the next year. Bridgelux's light source technology replaces traditional technologies (such as incandescent, halogen, fluorescent and high intensity discharge lighting) with integrated, solid-state lighting solutions that provide high performance and energy-efficient white light for interior and exterior lighting markets, including street lights, commercial lighting and consumer applications.

The Pleasanton City Council voted to suspend operation of an outdoor ice rink during the holidays until such time as an "ideal" location and more sponsorships could be found. The ice rink was a partnership between the San Jose Sharks and the City of Pleasanton. It operated over a 6 week period during Christmas and New Year in 2009. It was located in the library parking lot, which drew criticism from people wanting to use the library.

Pleasanton Mayor Jennifer Hosterman and schools superintendent Parvin Ahmadi were invited to be the guests of Robert Redford at the Sundance Insti-

tute in November. Hosterman was one of a dozen U.S. mayors who attended a conference on "Greening American Schools." The mayors were invited to bring their school superintendents, so that cities and school districts can implement new ideas they pick up from the gathering.

The Livermore Police Department lost personnel and the Springtown Branch Library was closed as part of the latest round of budget cuts in Livermore. The city had hoped to close a \$1.5 million shortfall through employee concessions. However, only the firefighters union agreed to participate. The closure of the Springtown Library drew the most negative comments at the council meeting. Staff pointed out that closing the branch would protect programs and activities at the Civic Center Library. The largest cuts affected the Police Department. A total of nine positions were left vacant. In addition, one captain and two sergeants were eliminated along with all temporary employees in animal control, information technology, property, and records.

The East Bay Regional Park District proposed a comprehensive East Bay Green Transportation Initiative (EBGTI) that would complete one of the nation's largest, most heavily used paved trail networks and create hundreds of new jobs. The Park District applied for a \$24.5 million Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER II) grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation. In its application, Park District planners outlined seven projects in the vicinities of Hercules, Martinez, Albany, Union City, Dublin/Pleasanton, and Antioch/Brentwood, where trail connections would complete a nearly 200-mile bicycle and pedestrian trail system serving the 2.5 million residents of Alameda and Contra Costa counties. The seven projects parallel congested roads and would provide commute alternatives for communities, including economically disadvantaged neighborhoods in both counties, to transportation centers, employment areas, schools, shops, parks and community services.

The City of Livermore Economic Development Department was the recipient of three Excellence in Economic Development Awards from the International Economic Development Council (IEDC). The awards were announced during the IEDC Annual Conference in Columbus, Ohio. The City of Livermore Economic Development Department won first place awards for both the i-GATE and iHub regional collaborative and the Livermore Valley Center. The City received an honorable mention for the Livermore Science and Technology Center Brochure.



The Livermore Police Department conducted its second annual Cop On Top event to support Special Olympics. Members of the police department sat 30 feet off the ground on aerial lifts at the corner of First Street and So. Livermore Avenue. The event raised funds for local Special Olympic athletes.



George Atkinson of Granada High School, Livermore was selected to play in the 2011 U.S. Army All-American Bowl. Those selected will play in the game on Saturday, January 8, 2011, at the Alamodome in San Antonio, Texas. The annual East vs. West match-up will be televised live on NBC at 1:00 p.m. EST.

OCTOBER 2010

The City of Livermore was selected as a stage start and finish community for the 2011 Amgen Tour of California professional cycling road race. The date for Livermore is May 18. Livermore Mayor Marshall Kamena commented, "Livermore is thrilled to have been selected by the AMGEN Tour of California as a Stage Start Host City for 2011. I am certain that our picturesque hills and vineyards, our incredible cultural arts venues and events, our beautiful neighborhoods, and the sweeping changes to our downtown will be the perfect setting for the Tour and that the enthusiastic response from the cycling community will welcome the Tour in grand fashion."

Pleasanton ranked 12th highest in the state among the more than 300 unified school districts. It still had one challenge to face: the federal No Child Left Behind Act. For the first time, the district failed to meet all of the federally mandated standards. The failure involved a small number of students in two categories out of a total of 38 categories reported by the district. No Child Left Behind sets a rising standard annually in its academic yardstick, which is called the Annual Yearly Prog-

ress (AYP) report. The two subgroups were socio-economically disadvantaged (SED) students and special education students, both on math testing.

Leaders of the Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center (LVPAC) announced that they had passed the halfway point in their effort to raise \$22 million for a 2,000-seat regional theater and have negotiated an \$18 million cut in eventual construction costs. LVPAC Executive Director Len Alexander briefed a variety of political, scientific and business leaders on the theater last weekend, stating that he was quite proud of being able to report concrete progress on the financial front. The regional theater, a joint project of LVPAC and the City of Livermore, is an outgrowth of planning that began more than 20 years ago as community leaders considered ways to improve cultural arts opportunities in Livermore and the surrounding area.

The National Ignition Facility (NIF) completed its first integrated ignition experiment. In the test, the 192-beam laser system fired 1 megajoule of laser energy into its first cryogenically layered capsule, raising the drive energy by a factor of thirty over experiments previously conducted at

(continued on page 9)

LIVERMORE CINEMAS		2490 FIRST STREET 443-SHOW	
TRUE GRIT (PG13) DLP THX	11:50	2:20	4:50 7:20 9:50
SEASON OF THE WITCH (PG13) DLP	12:00	2:30	4:45 7:00 9:15
THE KINGS SPEECH (R) DLP		12:45	4:10 6:50 9:35
GULLIVER'S TRAVELS 3D (PG) DLP	12:15	2:40	4:50 7:10 9:25
TRUE GRIT (PG13) DLP		12:35	3:15 6:10 8:40
LITTLE FOCKERS (PG13) DLP	12:05	1:00	2:25 3:30 4:55
		6:05	7:15 8:30 9:45
TRON LEGACY 3D (PG) DLP D-BOX MOTION SEATING	12:20	4:00	7:00 9:45
CHRONICLES OF NARNIA: VOYAGE OF THE DAWN TREADER 3D		(PG) DLP	12:40 4:10 6:45 9:30
TANGLED (PG) DLP		1:10	4:00 6:40 9:00
THE FIGHTER (R) DLP		12:50	4:05 7:10 9:50
THE TOURIST (PG13) DLP		12:30	4:15 6:55 9:20
YOGI BEAR (PG) DLP			12:00 2:20
HOW DO YOU KNOW (PG13) DLP		4:25	7:05 9:40

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ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW
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2011 ROUNDUP

(continued from page 8)

the Omega laser at the University of Rochester. With the completion of this test, NIF began its next phase of the campaign to culminate in fusion ignition tests. NIF is located at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. NIF, the world's largest and highest-energy laser system, is projected to be the first laser system to demonstrate reliable fusion ignition – the same force that powers the sun and the stars – in a laboratory environment.

The Pleasanton City Council approved construction of a 65,000 square foot building to house Clorox research and development operations. Clorox will occupy five other buildings on the 23-acre site at the corner of Franklin and Johnson Drive. Clorox is expected to bring between 740 and 940 jobs to Pleasanton.

Citing groundbreaking technical achievement and exemplary management, the National Ignition Facility (NIF), the first laser expected to achieve fusion ignition in a laboratory setting, was awarded the Project Management Institute's (PMI's) 2010 Project of the Year. The award, presented during a special ceremony in Washington, DC, recognized the year's most innovative and successful projects. Each year, PMI singles out three finalists from worldwide nominees to recognize the accomplishments of the projects and the involved project teams for superior performance and execution of exemplary project management.

Our Savior Lutheran School announced that it would host Livermore's first-ever FIRST LEGO League (FLL) tournament. In FLL, children ages 9-14 work in small teams to build and program robots to perform simple tasks. This year's challenge, called "Body Forward," asked participants to explore the cutting-edge world of biomedical engineering to discover new ways to repair injuries, overcome genetic predispositions, and maximize the body's potential. At the tournament, each team would demonstrate its robot's ability to complete a series of pre-designed tasks and present a research project related to the theme.

Pleasanton city government's partnership with Hacienda Business Park to produce an eco-fair broke new ground on several fronts. The eco-fair, held at CarrAmerica, marked a broad expansion of a transportation fair sponsored by Hacienda Business Park for the past 10 years. It also was the kick-off for a series of city efforts to push ahead on green consciousness. Showing off green technology and orient-



Granada High School rolled over College Park, 40 to 14 in NCS football playoffs. George Atkinson (1) led the way with 172 rushing yards and another 157 receiving yards. He scored three touchdowns and helped set up a fourth.

ing people to some of the existing ecologically sound methods for office workers to commute and just generally take care of themselves were a hallmark of the eco-fair.

The Livermore City Council reversed its decision to close the Springtown Library, voting unanimously to keep it open at least 8 hours a week. The decision came after protests from residents of the area. They pointed out that it is difficult for children and seniors living north of I-580 to travel to the main library. The library, like other city departments, had to cut 5 percent of its budget. During the eight hours the library is open, residents in North Livermore would be able to check out books and other materials. However, no programs would be offered.

The Livermore City Council approved the use of \$2 million from the Altamont open space fund to help purchase 640 acres in Doolan Canyon. The land was purchased by the East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD). The remainder of the \$6.4 million purchase price will come from Bond Measure WW and mitigation funds from the El Charro Specific Plan and Isabel Avenue/I-580 interchange projects. The land will provide the park district with the cornerstone property for development of a new regional park in Doolan Canyon.

The East Bay Regional Park District's Green Transportation Initiative was awarded \$10.2 million as part of its Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER II) grant program. The United States Department of Transportation (DOT) made the announcement.

This grant funds, in part, the extension of the trail from the Dublin/Pleasanton BART station through the Hacienda Business Park, completing the Iron Horse Trail between Dublin, Pleasanton, and Livermore.

The Pleasanton City Council approved a change in development plans for the Bernal property. The original plan called for eight office buildings on the 39 acres located near the intersection of I-680 and Bernal Avenue. The new plan includes a retail center on 12.5 acres with a Safeway Lifestyle store as the anchor store. The remainder of the site would be left for office development comprised of fewer, smaller buildings.

Zone 7 Water Agency voted to raise its water rates by 2.5 percent beginning in January 2011. The action will result in a rise of 92 cents per month for a typical household, if the Valley's four water retailers pass the increase through to their customers.

NOVEMBER 2010

Two international experts on nuclear weapons offered different conceptions of how to reduce the threat of nuclear war. Bill Perry, former Secretary of Defense, and Mike May, former director of Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, spoke on "A World Without Nuclear Weapons" as part of the Rae Dorough lecture series at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore. Perry is an engineer and mathematician by training; May a physicist. Neither man outlined a route to complete nuclear disarmament, although Perry said he would like to achieve that objective someday. May said that he thought



Photos - Doug Jorgensen

Members of Pleasanton VFW Post 6298 led the annual Veteran's Parade down Main Street. Despite the rain, a large number of people turned out to cheer the veterans.

that total disarmament would be a mistake. He believes that since World War II, nuclear weapons have inhibited the major military powers from waging war against one another as they had done previously throughout civilization. "The world has to change" before nuclear weapons can be eliminated, he stated.

Pleasanton Police Chief Mike Fraser, after more than 30 years on the job, announced his retirement effective November 12. Fraser is Pleasanton's fifth Chief of Police. He came up through the ranks of the Pleasanton Police Department.

Voters kept incumbents in their jobs in most Valley positions following voting on Nov. 2. Rep. Jerry McNerney was returned to office in the 11th Congressional District, edging Republican David Harmer in a see-saw race that wasn't decided until all the votes were counted, some four weeks after the election. Democratic Rep. John Garamendi outdistanced his opposition in the 10th Congressional District. In the 15th Assembly District, incumbent Democrat Joan Buchanan won re-election. Pleasanton mayor Jennifer Hosterman kept her seat heading off a challenge from Councilmember Cindy McGovern. Pleasanton councilmembers Jerry Thorne and Cheryl Cook-Kallio were returned to office. Pleasanton voters chose Jeff Bowser and Joan Laursen to replace school board members Jim Ott and Pat Kernan. In Livermore, voters retained school board incumbents Anne White, Kate Runyon and William Dunlop. Incumbent Maryalice Faltings led the balloting in Livermore Area Recreation and Park District; also elected were Lauren Turner and David Hutchinson. Only in the Sunol Glen School District did incumbents fail to win re-election. Trustees Guin Van Dyke and Don Ball were ousted by former board member Gerry Beemiller and the district's former superintendent/principal, Diane Everett. In the race for county superior court judge office No. 9, Victoria Kolakowski was elected.

The National Ignition Facility (NIF) set world records for neutron yield and laser energy delivered from laser-driven capsules to an inertial confinement fusion (ICF) target. NIF researchers reported on these and other recent experimental results at the annual meeting of the American Physical Society Division of Plasma Physics in Chicago. NIF is located at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. NIF researchers were conducting a series of "tuning" shots to determine the optimal target design and laser parameters for high-energy ignition experiments with fusion fuel in the coming months.

Alameda County Supervisors heeded pleas from Measure D supporters and denied a request for expansion of a rural Castro Valley kennel from its current 65 dogs to 100. The expansion requested by Eric Fabianac for his kennel on Crow Canyon Road had been approved by the

West County Zoning Board of Adjustment. Dick Schneider appealed the approval to the Board of Supervisors on behalf of the Sierra Club, contending that the expansion would violate Measure D. If the kennel expansion were approved, it would set a precedent for future boards to allow such uses, said Measure D backers.

If the Pleasanton school district wants to pass a parcel tax, the measure should ask for approximately \$98 per parcel, have a four-year time limit, and be the subject of crystal-clear communication to everyone in the community. Those recommendations came from a consultant. The board also heard a presentation about the results of a homework survey in the district, which reported a wide gap between teachers, who think the homework amount is just right, and parents and students, who say that far too much is being assigned. On the parcel tax, consultants from TBWB Strategies/Godbe Research surveyed 400 registered voters. The district area has 16,982 registered voters who are likely to vote in a mail ballot election in 2011, based on an estimated 42 percent participation.

The East Bay Regional Park District Board of Directors selected Robert E. Doyle to become the new general manager of the park district effective January 1, 2011. Doyle replaced retiring General Manager Pat O'Brien.

(continued on page 10)

OBITUARIES

Ann Beadle

Ann Beadle was born on March 26, 1940 in Spencer, Massachusetts to Helen Noel Gendreau and Royal J. Daley. She passed away peacefully on Tuesday, December 14, 2010 at her residence in Livermore, CA. She was 70 years old.

Full of life and joy, Ann was the cherished wife of Don, a wonderful mother to Scott, and a beloved friend to countless people. She loved line dancing and was an active member of both the Country Hustlers and the Cactus Corners Dance Clubs. She was a national officer of Soroptimist International, a beloved sister in the Red Hats, a key member of the Livermore Valley Winegrowers Association, a long-standing associate of the Phi Epsilon Sorority, a jewelry making teacher at Gloria's Beads, a team leader of the Dancers for a Cure American Cancer Society Relay Team, and the proud owner of three treasured cats and several much-loved llamas.

Loved by everyone she met, Ann was preceded in death in 2003 by her sweetheart and husband, Don Beadle. She is survived by her son, Scott Beadle of Livermore, her brother Bill (Pat) Daley of Massachusetts, her sister-in-law Sheri Pinnell of Arkansas, and the thousands of people whose lives are better because of her.

A Celebration of Life service

will be held on January 10, 11 a.m. at Cornerstone Fellowship Church, 348 N. Canyon Parkway, Livermore.

Donations to the American Cancer Society can be made in her memory at <http://main.acsevents.org/goto/annbeadle>.

Arrangements by Callaghan Mortuary.

Thomas Beisley

Thomas passed away at his home in Livermore on December 20, 2010. He was born to William and Marie Beisley in San Leandro, CA on April 21, 1954.

Tom spent most of his 56 years in Livermore. He graduated from Livermore High School, served in the US Army in Korea, and as a volunteer fireman for Livermore, Alameda County, and CDF. Fire fighting and fire fighting equipment were his passions. He was an enthusiastic and active member of SPAAMFAA (Society for the preservation and appreciation of antique motor fire apparatus in America).

He is survived by his fiancé Mary Sliger of Clear Lake; sister Lora Beisley of Coos Bay, Oregon; niece Jennifer Russell of Springfield, Missouri, his half sister and half brother Jenelle Cordeiro and James Bischofberger of San Leandro, and his aunt, Joyce Tolerton of San Lorenzo.

He was a very social and friendly person well known about town where he will be greatly missed.

Arrangements by Callaghan Mortuary.

Mary Lynne Eckard

Mary Lynne Eckard took her leave of us this Christmas season following a day full of celebration, presents, prime rib and an abundance of smiles. She was

surrounded by her loving family. Her spirit lives on in her daughter Debbie Lynne Smith and son David Royce Eckard, and in the heart of her adoring husband of 57 years, Royce Dean Eckard, who resides in their home in Livermore, CA.

Her memory will also be cherished in the hearts and minds of her daughter's husband, Daryl Smith, her grandsons Jason and Nathan Smith, great granddaughters Katlyn and Abigail Smith, her son's wife, Susan Eckard, and her granddaughters Denise Bowen and Ashley Eckard.

Lynne's story begins July 22, 1932 in Boise, Idaho, where she was born and raised by her parents Clara and Howard Satterlee. She achieved local fame at an early age, winning the Shirley Temple Beauty contest, thanks to her stunning looks and poise. She spent her life dedicated to family, immersing herself in school, sports and church events. Lynne was highly involved with St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church and a proud member of her community. She was an adamant supporter of her son's swimming career, proud proponent of her daughter's passions for snow skiing and social events,

and an ally to her husband's lifelong involvement in the Elk's Lodge. One of her greatest joys in life was her annual summer vacations to Tahoe with the family. A devoted mother, a loving wife, and a strong willed woman who always gave all she could, Lynne will be dearly missed, and will forever live on in our hearts.

A memorial celebration was held Thurs., Dec. 30 at St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church in Livermore. A reception followed in the parish hall. Lynne will find her final resting place once again surrounded by family, alongside her parents and grandparents, in Boise, Idaho.

Donations are welcome in Lynne's honor to be made to the Wounded Warrior Project in support of returning troops, for Lynne held great concern. Information at <http://supportwoundedwarriorproject.org>.

Lawanna Mae Bates

Lawanna Mae Bates passed away in her home in Livermore, California on Dec. 31, 2010 after a recent hospitalization and many years of failing health.

She was born in Berkeley CA, on Aug. 26, 1926 and lived most of her life in Alameda County. Lawanna was the daughter of Frank John Vukovich (who was born in Hungary) and Ollie Rosie Hussey (who was born in California).

Lawanna attended school in Oakland and worked at the Navel Air Station in Alameda until the end of World War II. Then she worked for Kilpatrick's Bakery in Oakland for eight years in the bread wrapping department feeding slicing machines. Her brother

also worked there. Her father was a baker who had worked there in previous years. Lawanna was proud that she was the first and only woman hired under the union contract with the bakery at that time. Of course she was teased by the guys, but she took it good naturedly. Lawanna left the bakery in Nov. of 1953 to marry Gilbert J. Bates; whom she met while he was in the United States Navy stationed on Treasure Island near San Francisco. The newly wed couple went to Iowa, (Gilbert's Home) while he attended college at Ames, Iowa. Gilbert went to work for IBM. They moved to New York several times, then to Virginia, where their son Wesley was born. Then they moved back to California, settling in Livermore. Tired of moving, her husband took employment with the Alameda County Sheriff's Department. They lived in their Livermore home until her death.

Lawanna took care of children during services at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Livermore on Sundays for over 25 years. She was still seeing some of the tiny tots who are now adults themselves with children of their own.

Daughter Melissa was born in 1964.

Because of her failing health, she attended classes for many years at ValleyCare Pulmonary Rehabilitation in Livermore, where she met many good friends.

Lawanna is survived by her husband of 57 years Gilbert, son Wesley L. Bates of Oakdale, daughter Melissa A. Bates of Sacramento, grandson Wesley L. Bates II of Oakdale and granddaughter Anna M. Bates of Madera, brother Albert Vukovich of Modesto and sister Ollie Hicks of Tonopah, Arizona. She is also survived by many nieces and nephews, all of whom were very dear to her.

In lieu of flowers the family respectfully requests memorial donations in Lawanna's name be made to the ValleyCare Pulmonary Rehabilitation, Livermore, CA

Lawanna will be laid to rest in the family plot in Winfield, Iowa, awaiting her loving husband.

Arrangements by Callaghan Mortuary.

Elsie K. Armstrong

Elsie K. Armstrong, 91, passed away peacefully on January 1, 2011. She was born in Bridgeport, Connecticut on November 22, 1919, married her husband, Robert, on July 25, 1942. They were married for 69 years.

She came with her family to Livermore in 1962 and lived here the remainder of her life as a home maker.

She leaves her husband, Robert, her daughter Katherine, sons Raymond and Michael, and two granddaughters, Allison and Elizabeth.

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2011 ROUNDUP

(continued from page 9)

Doyle was Assistant General Manager for Interagency and Regional Trail Planning, Land Acquisition and Environmental Review.

The completion of the second phase of a \$49 million project that constructed a new four mile car-pool lane on eastbound Interstate 580 between Hacienda Drive and Portola Road was celebrated one year ahead of schedule. In addition to being completed early, the project was built for \$23 million less than budgeted. It was funded primarily by Proposition 1B, a \$19.9 billion transportation bond supported by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and approved by voters in 2006.

Valley Humane Society selected Steve Glavan to serve as its new Executive Director. He came to Valley Humane Society from United Way Silicon Valley, where he served as Major Gifts Officer for more than three years.

High school seniors were selected to serve as new Pleasanton Poets Laureate. Vivian Tsai of Foothill High School and Mitch Grimes of Amador Valley High School were the new Teen Poets Laureate. Noelle Malindzak, also of Amador Valley High School, serves as Teen Poet Laureate-Community Programs.

Pleasanton began an update of its housing element. Some of the provisions to be included are the result of a lawsuit settlement with Urban Habitat, which requires that there be areas zoned for low income housing at a minimum of 30 units to the acre. The city must also develop a nondiscrimination policy and program with regard to housing. A task force was established to prepare the new housing element. Under the lawsuit settlement, a draft housing element must be submitted to the state by August 16, 2011. Councilmember Matt Sullivan commented, "The task force has its work cut out for it. It is important to reach out to the community and make sure there is an understanding of what the housing element update is about. We are talking about provisions that will change the face of Pleasanton with high density housing. There need to be neighborhood meetings to make sure that what we are doing is very visible."

The Livermore Area Recreation and Park District board of directors approved a six-month trial for off-leash dog training in one of its parks. The off-leash site is located in an area known as the Meadow, a grassy part of Robertson Park about 3.5 acres in size located between the field house and the arroyo. District staff will post signs notifying the public of the pilot program's guidelines. The Meadow has been used by dog trainers in the past. However, the district had begun enforcing its rule that dogs be kept on-leash except in specifically designated

areas. Members of the Livermore Pet Alliance had requested an opportunity to demonstrate that it was safe to train off-leash when a dog is under voice control.

DECEMBER 2010

Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) will begin service on Mon., Jan. 24, 2011. BRT is designed to provide fast, accessible service from the east side of Livermore starting at the two national laboratories, through downtown Livermore, to eastern Dublin, including the current East Dublin/Pleasanton BART station, and culminating at the Stoneridge Mall. The trip time is predicted to be reduced by up to 20 percent. For information or trip planning assistance, call the customer service line at 455-7000.

An agreement was reached with wind energy operators owned by NextEra Energy Resources, LLC, to expedite the replacement of old wind turbines in the Altamont Pass Wind Resource Area with new, larger wind turbines that are less likely to harm birds. Golden Gate Audubon, Santa Clara Valley Audubon, Mt. Diablo Audubon, Ohlone Audubon, and Marin Audubon joined the Attorney General's Office in negotiating the agreement that addresses the state's need for renewable wind energy and the state's obligation to protect resident and migratory birds. Attorney General Jerry Brown announced the agreement. Under the agreement, NextEra will replace some 2,400 turbines over the next four years and shut down all its existing turbines no later than 2015. The company also has agreed to erect the new turbines in environmentally friendly locations. NextEra agreed to pay \$2.5 million in mitigation fees, half to the state Energy Commission's Public Integrated Energy Research Program and half to East Bay Regional Park District and the Livermore Area Regional Park District for raptor habitat creation.

Pleasanton residents Nancy and Gary Harrington proposed a 10-year public art acquisition plan for the city. The Pleasanton City Council reviewed and approved phase one of the plan. Phase one includes the purchase of three sculptures. Funding has been provided by the Harringtons. Cost to the city would involve site preparation, installation and/or signage. Staff estimates the cost would be around \$7500 per sculpture. Funds are available in the city's public art acquisition fund.

Senator John Kerry (D-MA), Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, told the committee that the heads of the nation's three primary nuclear weapons laboratories had declared their support for President Obama's updated, 10-year plan to maintain U.S. nuclear weapons.

In their joint letter to Senator Kerry and Senator Dick Lugar, the ranking Republican on the Committee, the directors of Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (George Miller), Los Alamos National Laboratory (Michael Anastasio), and Sandia National Laboratories (Paul Hummert) wrote that the administration's plan would sustain the "science, technology and engineering base" required to maintain the nation's nuclear stockpile.

Livermore Area Recreation and Park District ranger staff observed two bull Tule elk resting in Sycamore Grove Park. Although signs of elk, including tracks and droppings, had been found in the park in the past, this was the first time photo and video documentation were obtained.

Dublin voted to proceed with a study of a proposed development of up to 1990 units on 1450 acres of Doolan Canyon. At the same time, Dublin would discuss the future of the canyon with Livermore. A 90 day time limit was placed on the talks with Livermore. Representatives of a variety of environmental groups urged Dublin to respect the urban growth boundary established by Alameda County voters under Measure D. They asked the council to accept the option suggested by staff to deny the future study, which the council rejected. There was concern that developing the land would open the potential for Dublin to continue development east into north Livermore. There would also be negative impacts on natural resources within the canyon, which East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) has designated as a future open space preserve. The study approved by the council would first look at general issues in preparation for going to LAFCO to ask that the land be placed in Dublin's sphere of influence. A more specific plan would then be prepared for the land. Dublin would ask to annex it. If the land remained in Alameda County, no development would take place on the land. The only way for development to proceed would be to annex the property to Dublin.

There was a definite lack of enthusiasm for plans to run ACE trains through the Valley at higher speeds and on a more frequent basis. A standing room only crowd heard a presentation from the California High Speed Rail Authority (CHSRA) at a meeting of the Tri-Valley Regional Rail Policy Working Group. The focus of the meeting was on the proposed Altamont Regional Rail Connection with the high speed train. Routes being considered include one that follows I-680/I-580 concluding at Greenville Road. Three alternative go through the downtowns of Livermore and Pleasanton ending at the Vasco Road ACE station. Two would go through the vineyards south of Livermore.

The Livermore City Council directed staff to conduct additional research into the impacts of changing the status of the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District (LARP). The main issue is whether money now going to the state through a property tax shift would remain in Livermore if the district's status were changed. A first phase study predicted there could be between \$1.3 million and \$3.1 million in additional revenue if the district were either merged with or made a subsidiary of the city. However, the revenue is based on all the assumptions and predictions in the study coming to fruition. LARP is an independent district. Almost 50 percent of property tax money that should go to the district is taken by the state for ERAF (Education Revenue Augmentation Fund). The ERAF shift from the city is only around 24 percent.

The Livermore Area Recreation and Park District (LARP) board tabled a decision on the future of a proposed ranger station in Sycamore Grove Park. The proposed project calls for renovation of the Denton House as a new Ranger Station for the park. Bids received were higher than anticipated, over the \$560,000 budgeted amount. The lowest bid was \$615,000, the highest over \$1.3 million. There were eleven bids in all. Approximately \$60,000 of the remaining \$560,000 will be used to pay staff time and various fees, leaving about \$500,000 for the project.

The Livermore Area Recreation and Park District (LARP) board heard a report on the success of citizens' efforts to make Camp Shelly self-sufficient. The camp is located at Lake Tahoe. Carolyn Siegfried, chairman of the group's marketing committee, explained that camp users believed low attendance was not due to lack of interest, but lack of information. "We proved that was true. Despite increasing the fee from \$25 to \$35 a night, there was a 41 percent increase in reservations. This led to an 83 percent decrease in the subsidy required from the district. Our goal is to make the camp self-sustaining. We are well on our way."

Thanks to a sponsorship gift from a local volunteer, Shakespeare's Associates will resurrect its "Bothwell Series" Spring productions in 2011 with David Mamet's "A Life in the Theatre." Due to cost, the company had decided not to produce a show in the 60-seat theater last year. Long-time volunteer, Joan Boer, approached the company about producing a show at the Bothwell in memory of her late husband, Garret Boer.

The Alameda County Airport Land Use Commission (ALUC) voted unanimously to ask the Livermore Valley Charter School to find another site for its new campus. Approval from ALUC is the last remaining step for the



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Cubs and Boy Scouts from Troop 939 took part in the annual Livermore holiday parade.

charter school to go through before going to the Livermore Planning Commission for approval of acquiring a 30-acre site north of Interstate 580 near Airway Boulevard and North Canyons Parkway. However, approval is not required by either the ALUC and Livermore Planning Commission for the charter school to move forward. The site is within the two-mile safety zone around the Livermore airport.

Trustees of the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District approved a Retirement Enhancement Package (REP). Chief Business Officer Susan Kinder projected that even if the District used all of its available reserve money, it would still be necessary to cut about \$1.75 million in ongoing spending from the budget by the 2012/13 school year. The REP will provide eligible employees a lump sum consisting of 15% of the employee's 2010-11 base salary and \$500 for each full year of actual service beyond 10 years. To be eligible, the effective date of retirement must be between July 1, 2010 and June 30, 2011. The employee must be at or above a specific place on the salary scale. The REP is being offered to all employee bargaining units.

Livermore Mayor Marshall Kamena established the Livermore Hero Award to pay tribute to those individuals who have shown exceptional courage, have overcome significant obstacles, or through exceptional acts of kindness, have made a difference in the lives of others in the community. The first award was presented to Frank Inami. Inami, a Japanese-American overcame many obstacles, including internment during World War II.

REI (Recreational Equipment, Inc.), a national retailer providing quality outdoor gear and clothing, announced plans to open a new store in Dublin at Amador Plaza in the fall of 2011. The one-story, nearly 24,000 square-foot store will provide the top brands of gear and apparel for camping, climbing, cycling, fitness, hiking, paddling, snow sports and travel

products. REI Dublin will offer a bike shop for quick assemblies and repairs, and a seasonal gear rental department for customers to test out new outdoor activities.

Save Mount Diablo (SMD) went on a buying spree. The organization, whose goal is to preserve the natural land on and around Mount Diablo, has purchased a record number of properties and set several "firsts" in a down economy. In addition to a number of large parcel acquisitions, the group purchased many small parcels, including five-acre "Dry Creek" near Brentwood. Five other parcels are in escrow at present.

Congress renewed a tax incentive for private landowners—especially working family farmers and ranchers—who protect their land with a voluntary conservation agreement. The incentive, which had expired at the end of 2009, helped many landowners to conserve acres of productive agricultural lands and natural areas between 2006 and 2009. The decision was lauded by the Tri-Valley Conservancy's Executive Director Sharon Burnham.

The outlet shopping mall slated for Livermore's side of El Charro Road will grow by 20 percent in retail space, if the Livermore City Council approves the change. The Livermore Planning Commission unanimously approved a recommendation to the council for the expansion of Paragon Outlet's retail buildings' footprint. The increase boosts the size from 452,000 square feet to 540,000. The retail expansion will be brought about by extending buildings that run from east to west and by reducing the parking area. Parking on site will be reduced from 2384 spaces to 2149. A 2.8-acre parcel owned by the city to the south of the mall's 42-acre property would provide 234 parking spaces, which is down from 245 spaces on the original proposal. Places for six highway coaches will be created in the lot, which is expected to help the parking situation.

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 445426

The following person(s) doing business as: Visiting Angels East Bay, 179 Contractors Avenue, Livermore Ca 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Care Solutions Associates, LLC., 179 Contractors Avenue, Livermore Ca 94551 This business is conducted by: a Limited liability company

The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name (s) listed above on May 2005
Signature of Registrant: /s/Keith Beck
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 30, 2010. Expires November 30, 2015. The Independent Legal No. 2906. Publish December 16, 23, 30, 2010, January 6, 2011.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 445781

The following person(s) doing business as: Dogtopia of Pleasanton, 7132 Johnson Drive, Pleasanton Ca 94588 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Barnett Enterprise, 7132 Johnson Drive, Pleasanton Ca 94588
This business is conducted by: a Limited liability company
The registrant began to

transact business under the fictitious business name (s) listed above on December 10, 2010
Signature of Registrant: /s/Debrah A Barnett
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 10, 2010. Expires December 10, 2015. The Independent Legal No. 2907. Publish December 23, 30, 2010, January 6, 13, 2011.

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME

FILE NO. 438838

The following person(s) has (have) abandoned the use of the Fictitious Business Name: My Fur and Feather Friends Pet and Home Sitting Services, 474 McLeod St Apt A, Livermore Ca 94550
The Fictitious business Name Statement for the Partnership was filed on May 21, 2010 in the County of Alameda.
The full name of Registrant: Christine L'Heureux, 474 McLeod St Apt A, Livermore Ca 94550
This business was conducted by: Christine L'Heureux
Signature of Registrant: /s/Christine L'Heureux
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 22, 2010. Expires December 22, 2015. The Independent Legal No. 2910. Publish December 30, 2010, January 6, 13, 20, 2011.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 446223

The following person(s) doing business as: Sycamore Family

Dentistry Dental Practice of Lori Ross Tijerino, DDS, Inc., 1262 Concannon Blvd. Bldg I, Livermore Ca 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Lori Ross Tijerino, DDS, Inc., 1262 Concannon Blvd. Bldg I, Livermore Ca 94550
This business is conducted by: a Corporation
The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name (s) listed above on November 2010
Signature of Registrant: /s/Lori A Tijerino
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 28, 2010. Expires December 28, 2015. The Independent Legal No. 2913. Publish January 6, 13, 20, 27, 2011.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 446120

The following person(s) doing business as: Opparel, 6911 Corte Madrid, Pleasanton Ca 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Yomi Oyesiku, 6911 Corte Madrid, Pleasanton Ca 94566
Kim Johnson - Oyesiku, 6911 Corte Madrid, Pleasanton Ca 94566
This business is conducted by: a General Partnership
Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed.
Signature of Registrant: /s/Kim Johnson - Oyesiku
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 22, 2010. Expires December 22, 2015. The Independent Legal No. 2714. Publish January 6, 13, 20, 27, 2011.

NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO SELL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

Date of Filing Application: December 14, 2010
To Whom It May Concern: The Name(s) of the Applicant(s) is/are: **BAHRAM BENJAMIN JAFARI, HOWELL KENNETH JOHNSON**
The Applicants listed above are applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control to sell alcoholic beverages at: **1770 1ST ST LIVERMORE, CA 94505-4305**
Type of license(s) Applied for: 41 - ON-SALE BEER AND WINE - EATING PLACE
Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control
1515 Clay St. Ste 2208 Oakland, Ca 94612
The Independent Legal No. 2908. Publish December 23, 30, 2010, January 6, 2011

NOTICE OF INVITING BIDS
Notice is hereby given that sealed competitive bids will be accepted in the office of the GSA-Purchasing Department, County of Alameda,

1401 Lakeside Drive, Suite 907, Oakland, CA 94612
NETWORKING/NORTH COUNTY BIDDERS CONFERENCE #900820 for Environmental Consulting Services, Wednesday, January 26, 2011, 10:00 a.m. - General Services Agency, 1401 Lakeside Drive, Room 201, 2nd floor, Oakland, CA
NETWORKING/SOUTH COUNTY BIDDERS CONFERENCE #900820 for Environmental Consulting Services, Thursday, January 27, 2011, 2:00 p.m. - Dublin Public Library, 200 Civic Plaza, The Program Room, Dublin, CA
Responses Due by 2:00 pm on March 3, 2011
County Contact: **Stefanie Taylor** at **acgov.org** Attendance at Networking Conference is Non-mandatory. Specifications regarding the above may be obtained at the Alameda County Current Contracting Opportunities Internet website at **www.acgov.org** 1/6/11
CNS-20117153#
The Independent Legal No. 2912. Publish January 6, 2011

ANIMALS

2) CATS/DOGS

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4)lost & FOUND

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What's Ahead in Real Estate for 2011?

By Cher Wollard

After three years of falling prices and erratic activity, 2011 should be the year the housing market starts climbing back – slowly, and with a few hiccups along the way. At least that's the consensus of economists and real estate professionals.

"There will be two steps forward, one step back, with sizable local market differences," predicts Lawrence Yun, chief economist for the National Association of Realtors, in this month's Realtor magazine. Yun and others foresee increased activity in the market, with sales increasing slightly.

Yun forecasts 5.2 million existing home sales in 2011, up from 4.8 million in 2010, with a modest improvement in prices of about 1 percent nationwide. This is based on modest but steady improvements in the general economy over the next few years.

The exact nature of this improvement will depend on job growth, and job growth depends on consumer confidence, which would lead businesses to be more willing to invest in growth. It's a cycle that could keep us spinning for awhile – or could break open to greater growth.

Lois Cox, a Realtor with Prudential California Realty, Pleasanton, predicts the year ahead is going to be a challenge, just like last year.

"But it's going to be a great year," she said.

Four factors will determine rebound or decline in the housing market for the coming year:

- Increased inventory
- Pressures on pricing
- Interest rates
- Consumer confidence

Increased inventory

New home starts have been rising the past few months and, in October, the National Association of Business Economics (NABE) released a survey of homebuilders that predicted a significant increase in housing starts in 2011. This will put more new homes on the market.

In addition, some homeowners with equity have decided they can't or don't want to wait to sell their homes, and so will be putting their homes on the market.

In the wake of last fall's "robo-signing" scandal, many of the nation's largest banks are in a moratorium on foreclosures and sales of homes they already have foreclosed on, but bank-owned properties will remain an important part of the market.

But pre-foreclosure homes – short sales and other distressed properties – are the segment that could rise most, especially during the first part of this year.

Christine Rosi, broker/owner of Property Plus Real Estate Services in Fremont, said she sees an increased number of short sales coming on the market.

"We're going to be coming into a time when it's not just homeowners in the lower price ranges who feel they need to move out of their homes," said Christine Rosi, broker-owner of Property Plus Real Estate Services in Fremont.

"People in every price bracket are feeling the pressure, and they are handling it in different ways. Some people will put their heads in the sand and just not pay attention to anything until they need to. Some people will stay in their homes and not make payments. Some will leave their homes.

"A third type will try to be very proactive and understand there's a way to get out of their house if they need to through short sales. They want to make it right, get out of this mess and save their credit. Of course, it depends on their circumstances.

"I think this is the majority of people I will be in contact with," Rosi said. "This year is all about educating people, helping people, explaining options."

Cox agrees, and is hopeful that those short sales – notoriously difficult to close – will become more streamlined.

"Hopefully they are going to be coming together easier, now that the banks are getting a handle on how to do them," she said. "But we Realtors are going to have to work harder probably than last year, and last year was a pretty tough year."

Pressure on pricing

All of these elements – home starts, foreclosures and short sales – will impact the inventory of homes available to purchase. And inventory directly impacts prices.

Prices on homes, both new and existing, have been flat nationwide for the past two years. Some economists predict further price drops of 3 percent to 10 percent in areas that have not yet bottomed out, while others – including Yun – expect prices to rise incrementally in 2011 between .5 and 1 percent.

According to the NABE report, prices of new homes have already hit bottom in most of the country, but increases for 2011 are likely to fall short of inflation.

"I've seen some homes that have been hugely overpriced and I think 'what are they thinking?'" Rosi said. "I guess that's always going to be out there. But buyers are very price conscious these days. Everybody wants a deal."

Interest rates

In October 2010, Freddie Mac published an economic forecast that predicted mortgage rates, currently around 5 percent for 30-year fixed conventional mortgages, will stay very low until the end of the year, inching upward in the fourth quarter. Other economists generally agree, although a few, such as Peter Flynt of Trulia.com, predict higher spikes.

So what do these historically low interest rates mean?

For homeowners who are able to lock in low rates, perhaps through refinancing, it means low mortgage payments.

For those with variable rate mortgages, it may mean being able to hold on until the economy rebounds.

For buyers, low interest rates mean increased affordability.

"It's a great opportunity for first-time homebuyers to get in the market," Cox noted.

It's also an excellent opportunity for those with equity in their current homes to move up to a more desirable home without significantly increasing their monthly payments.

"The price excesses from the housing bubble have been squeezed out, and with interest rates so low, homes are more affordable, even for first-time buyers," Yun said.

Consumer confidence

All of these elements – housing supply, prices, interest rates – are volatile. The one element that can upend or stabilize a market is consumer confidence. When buyers and sellers feel secure in their decisions, the market moves forward fluidly.

For the past few years, the nation has been fighting recession. Now, the big question mark is inflation. The Fed has elected to keep interest rates low, but should the economy seem to be heating up too much, we would likely see both prices and interest rates rise.

"Some inflation isn't a bad thing, but high inflation isn't optimal," according to Yun. "So as long as inflation can be kept in check – and business and consumer confidence restored – look for a slow return to normalcy in the months ahead."

"It's going to be a year of helping people regroup, make the best decisions," said Rosi. "Whether it's a first-time homebuyer who's scared or somebody who has to get out of a bad situation. My charter this year is to really offer help and advice to people at a level that will change their lives."

Cher Wollard is a Realtor with Prudential California Realty, Livermore.

SHORT NOTES

Help Plant Trees

Volunteers can help beautify Sycamore Grove Park with an upcoming planting project this winter.

Working with park ranger staff from the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District, volunteers are needed to help plant trees along Wetmore Road adjacent to Sycamore Grove. A number of small trees were planted along Wetmore last winter, and the new planting project will extend the lane of oaks. The hope is for the trees to grow tall and line the road to Sycamore Grove's entrance to the historic Olivina Arch.

Scheduled work days are set to begin at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Jan. 8, and Sunday, Jan. 9. Volunteers will meet at the Wetmore Road entrance to Sycamore Grove Park. Volunteers are encouraged to wear clothes that can get dirty and to bring gardening or work gloves if they have them. This volunteer project is appropriate for ages 8 and older, but children must be supervised by an adult. Work will include digging holes, planting trees and installing protective fencing.

Groups as well as individuals are invited to participate. For more information or to volunteer for this project, call the LARPD ranger office at 925-960-2400 or the volunteer program at 925-373-5765. Volunteers are required to sign up in advance. Groups may also sign up to volunteer on a day other than the scheduled dates of Jan. 8 and 9, plus volunteers will be needed for monthly upkeep assistance from January through May. Volunteer days will be canceled if raining. Please call the ranger office if interested.

Open Studios

The Second Saturdays Open Studios at the new Bothwell Arts Center's Downtown Arts Studios will be open to the public to meet artists and check out the art from 1 to 4 pm on Saturday, January 8th, at 62 So. L Street, Livermore.

Docent Training

Forest Home Farms will have a docent training session for new volunteers on Thursday, January 20, 2011, from 9:30am-12pm. The meeting will be held in the Boone House Apt. B at Forest Home Farms Historic Park. The address is 19953 San Ramon Valley Blvd., San Ramon. This training is open to the public and is for anyone who is interested in becoming a volunteer at the farm. Those attending are not required to volunteer

after attending the meeting.

There are four different areas for volunteers to choose from: Grandpa- leads tours and activities, Grandma- leads tours and activities, Garden- explains concepts of organic gardening and aids children in gardening chores, and Canning- presents a canning demonstration and leads activities.

Docents lead hands-on activities that teach the agricultural history of the San Ramon Valley and Forest Home Farms Historic Park. Public speaking experience is helpful, but not required. Education docents need to attend a three-hour training session twice per year. Volunteer commitment is 2 times per month minimum, and each tour lasts 3 hours. Volunteers must be available on weekday mornings and be fingerprinted through the San Ramon Police Dept.

Fieldtrips run Tuesday thru Friday, 9am-12pm during the school year with a short break in winter. Spring fieldtrips for 2011 begin February 2. Volunteers for this program can also participate in a variety of fun and educational networking activities and fieldtrips to areas of local interest throughout the year. For more information or to RSVP for this meeting please contact Stephanie Herscu at (925) 973-3282 or sherscu@sanramon.ca.gov.

Museum Volunteers

Volunteers are needed for the newly opened Glass House Museum. Attend an orientation on Thursday, January 27th at 6:30 p.m. to learn about the volunteer opportunities at the historic Glass House Museum located at Forest Home Farms Historic Park in San Ramon.

Built in 1877, the fully restored, Italianate style Victorian home is open to the public as a museum. Volunteers will be trained to lead a variety of tours, provide educational programs and participate in historic preservation. Forest Home Farms Historic Park and the Glass House Museum are located at 19953 San Ramon Valley Blvd., just south of Pine Valley Road. Please R.S.V.P. to 925-973-3287 or call for more information.

Toys and Coats

Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage collected more than 9,000 toys and 2,100 coats this holiday season to benefit families in need throughout Northern California.

The Toys for Tots and Operation: One Warm Coat campaigns this season marked the 24th consecutive year that Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage has supported these important holiday efforts in partnership with the United States Marine Corps Reserve and several non-profit organizations throughout Northern California.

"We received a tremendous amount of community support for the Toys for Tots and Operation: One Warm Coat campaigns this season," said Rick Turley, president of Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage. "We always expect a certain amount of generosity from agents and their clients, but this year seemed to go above and beyond. More members of our communities are in need now than in recent years, and the public really responded. The outpouring of support was truly inspiring."

In all, 50 Northern California Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage offices participated in the Toys for Tots campaign and 32 offices in the Operation: One Warm Coat drive, collecting nearly 4,000 more toys and 500 more coats than in 2009. Eight offices in the East Bay region participated in the donation drives and collected 1,228 toys and 481 coats. That included the Danville office, which collected 600 toys, the Oakland-Piedmont office, which collected 400 toys, and the Livermore office, which collected 130 coats.

DUI Warrants

Before dawn last Thursday, Dec. 30, in Dublin, Officer Traci Rebejo of the Livermore Police Dept. handed out 1100 DUI warrants to a team of 55 officers and deputies from eight law enforcement agencies in Alameda County.

Throughout the day, the team fanned out all over the county to serve warrants on convicted DUI offenders who did not follow court orders.

This was the last large DUI team in Avoid the 21's 17-day winter holiday crackdown, which began Dec. 17 and ended Jan. 2. The crackdown is named for the 21 police agencies in the county.

Last year's 51-officer team knocked on 501 doors and arrested 49 scofflaws, including one with a pair of 21-year-old warrants.

Warrants come from Contra Costa County, San Joaquin County, San Mateo County and San Francisco as well as Alameda County. Out-of-

county warrant holders were arrested for DUI in those counties but live in Alameda County, Rebejo stated.

Officers from police departments in Albany, California State University-East Bay, Dublin, Newark, Oakland, Piedmont and Union City served the warrants.

Avoid the 21 is funded by the California Office of Traffic Safety through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. The 41 Avoid campaigns in the state are the largest funded statewide crackdowns in the United States, according to NHTSA.


Diabetes Management

San Ramon Regional Medical Center is offering an educational series on Diabetes Self-Management. The classes will be held on four Thursday afternoons—February 3, February 10, February 17, and February 24. The classes will be held in the main hospital building in the Blackhawk Conference Room, located at 6001 Norris Canyon Road, from 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., except February 17 the class will be held from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Classes will present an overview of Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes, healthy eating, exercise, and complications.

A physician referral is required. Medicare and other insurances may accept payment. To enroll in the class, please call 925.275.6020, option 5. For more information, call Barbara Reis, RD, Certified Diabetes Educator, at 925.275.6018.

The Diabetes Management Program at San Ramon Regional Medical Center is recognized by the American Diabetes Association (ADA) Education Recognition Certificate as a quality diabetes self-management education program.




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'The Relativity of Albert Einstein' Topic of First Talk in Ed Kinney Lecture Series

The Museum on Main kicks off the 2011 Ed Kinney Lecture Series with a lecture on January 12.

The series will be presented this year at the Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton.

The January 12 program, which begins at 7 p.m., features Broadway and film veteran Duffy Hudson. He will present a program *The Relativity of Albert Einstein*. Hudson brings Einstein to life in this unique one-man

show, highlighting the renowned physicist's life, humor, and scientific discovery.

Tickets are available at the door on a first come first served basis.

Tickets are \$10 general admission, \$5 members and seniors, \$3 students/teachers with ID.

For more information on the Ed Kinney Lecture Series or speakers taking part in the lecture series, contact Jennifer Amiel, Director of Education at (925) 462-2766 or education@museumonmain.org.

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<p>ROSEMARY DUTRA 925.251.1111</p>  <p>Livermore 5700 Greenville Road \$3,100,000 Great full production income producing winery, 2 tasting rooms, crush pad, barrel room, panoramic views, 3bd,2ba home, too much to list! BY APPOINTMENT</p>	<p>SHERRI SOUZA 925.583.1111</p>  <p>Livermore 1539 Frederick Michael \$939,000 Large custom home new to market. 4 bed, 3 bath, 3417 sq. ft. home with large 14,378 sq. ft. lot. Gourmet kitchen, formal living & dining, kitchen open to family room. BY APPOINTMENT</p>	<p>MARK LAFFERTY 925.583.1111</p>  <p>Livermore 25 Alysia Court \$599,950 Beautiful 4bd/2.5ba home upgraded to perfection. Features include silestone counter tops, updated kitchen/baths, gorgeous pool and hot-tub. Must see! BY APPOINTMENT</p>	<p>JIM HAYNES 925.583.1111</p>  <p>San Ramon 500 S. Clovercrest Ln \$495,000 Great end unit on very private corner lot. 3bd/2ba, many upgrades inside including stone tile in entry and baths, crown molding and berber carpet. BY APPOINTMENT</p>	<p>CHESTER HALL 925.583.1111</p>  <p>Livermore 641 Jackson Avenue \$449,950 This home has 4 bedrooms, two are master suites. Oak floors, generous rooms, tons of storage. Short sale with APR Distressed Property agent. BY APPOINTMENT</p>
<p>STASIA POLESZ 925.583.1111</p>  <p>Livermore 387 Michell Street \$379,000 Over 1600+/sq. ft. home 4bd/2ba on a huge lot. Tri-level, has an updated kitchen, 2 car garage, side yard access. BY APPOINTMENT</p>	<p>EMILY BARRACLUGH 925.251.1111</p>  <p>Livermore 942 Ventura Avenue \$315,000 Updated 3bd/1ba home in South Livermore! Hardwood floors, updated kitchen. Newer dual paned windows & recessed lighting. Professionally landscaped back yard. OPEN SUN, JAN. 9TH 1:30-4:30PM</p>	<p>JENNIFER MALAKOFF 925.583.1111</p>  <p>Discovery Bay 5535 Marlin Court \$239,750 Huge lot and private dock! Spacious 4bd/2ba home on the lake. Quiet court location, peaceful backyard with views, many owner improvements. BY APPOINTMENT</p>	<p>ROBIN YOUNG 925.583.1111</p>  <p>Livermore 1791 Monterey Drive \$192,500 Great location, 3bd/1ba, single level, neutral decor, move in condition, spacious kitchen, inside laundry, plenty of storage. Appliances included. OPEN SUN, JAN. 9TH 1:30-4:30PM</p>	<p>JO ANN LUISI 925.583.1111</p>  <p>Brentwood 1804 Beachwood Cmn \$179,000 Gorgeous detached home features a downstairs master, tiled floors in main living area, and functional open loft. HOA for Pool and Spa. BY APPOINTMENT</p>

Art, Community, & Education

Walk to Wellness Festival Set for Saturday



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

World Walk to Wellness Day was December 31. Groups of walkers braved the chilly morning weather to stroll through Pleasanton Sports Park on Hopyard Road. “Walk With Me” leaders for that event included Jill Daniels, registered dietician, and Ward Belding, vocalist also known as “Uncle Sam,” who has used daily walking to recuperate from heart surgery.

A group of volunteers is hoping to change the world, one step at a time. They are the planning team members for “World Walk to Wellness,” a Pleasanton-based project to encourage people to stay healthy by taking daily walks. To

boost completion of New Year’s Resolutions, residents are invited to participate in monthly group walks in 2011, starting with the World Walk to Wellness Festival hosted by the Pleasanton Public Library on Saturday, January 8.

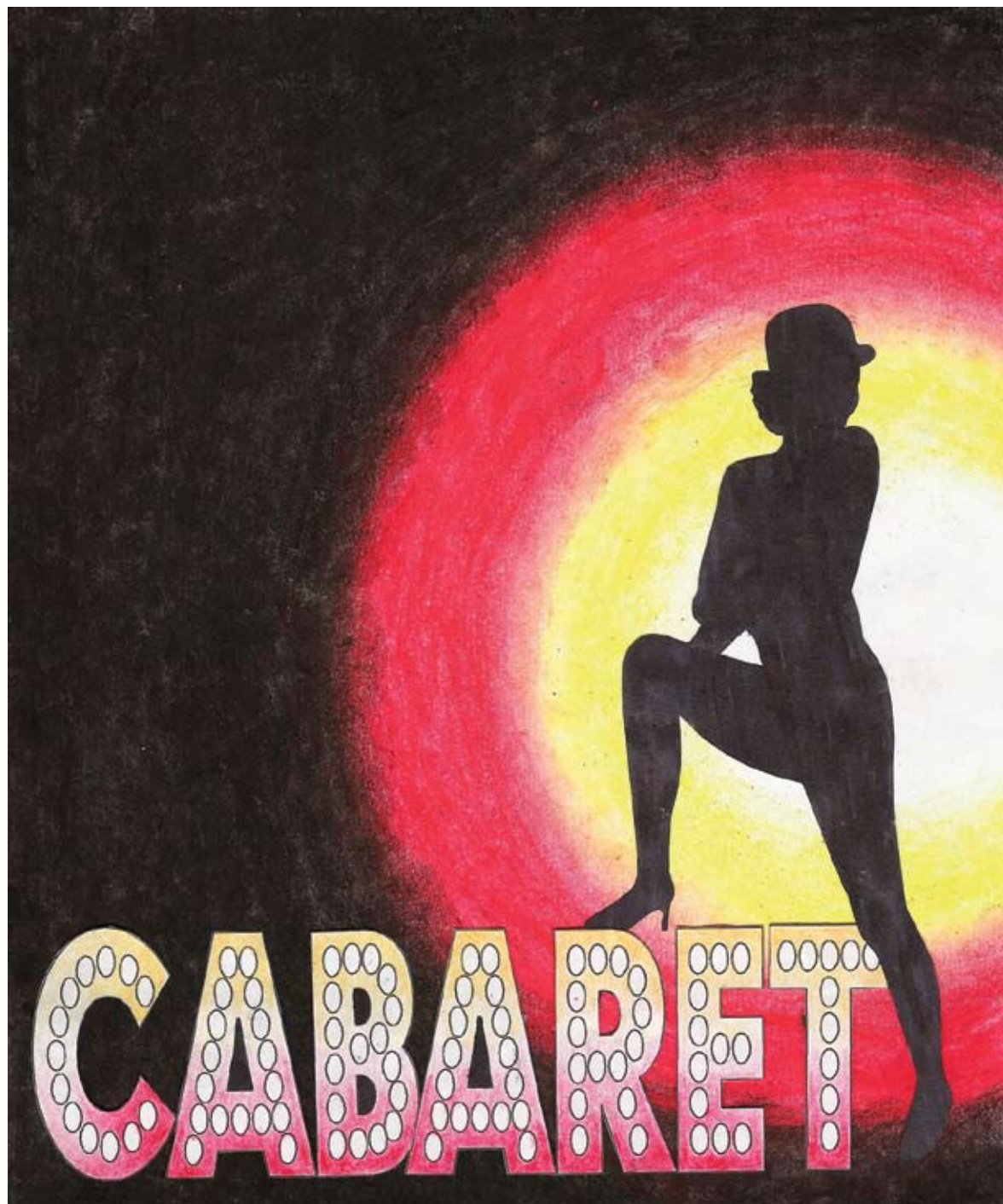
More than a dozen organizations will have informational booths at the free festival inside the library’s community room from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. This is an opportunity to ask questions of experts about dermatology, pedometers,

meditation, medical library research, podiatry, massage, medical screening, acupuncture, exercise programs, and more.

Every half hour, groups will depart for easy loop walks down Main Street. “Walk With Me”

leaders include City Councilman Jerry Thorne, School Board Member Joan Laursen, and W. Ron Sutton, known nationally as “Mr. Pedometer.”

This event will offer the sug-
(continued on page 6)



Musical 'Cabaret' Performed by Pacific Coast Repertory Theatre

The Firehouse Arts Center will be the setting for Cabaret, the musical based on the book by Joe Masteroff, weekends January 21-30, 2011. The cast of Pacific Coast Repertory Theatre will perform the familiar music by John Kander and lyrics by Fred Ebb at 8:00 p.m. on January 21, 22, 27, 28, and 29, 2011 and at 2:00 p.m. on January 23 and 30, 2011.

The Firehouse Arts Center is located at 4444 Railroad Avenue in downtown Pleasanton, Calif.

Set in 1931 Berlin as the Nazis are rising to power, Cabaret focuses on nightlife at the seedy Kit Kat Klub. The story revolves around the English cabaret performer, Sally Bowles, and her relationship with young American writer, Cliff Bradshaw. A sub-plot

involves the doomed romance between boarding house owner, Fraulein Schneider, and her suitor, Herr Schultz, a Jewish fruit vendor.

Overseeing the action is the Emcee at the Kit Kat Klub who serves as a constant metaphor for the tenuous and threatening state of the late Weimar Republic throughout the show. Best known songs include Willkommen, Don't Tell Mama, Two Ladies, Why Should I Wake Up, Tomorrow Belongs to Me, If You Could See Her and Cabaret.

"What better way to highlight the Firehouse Arts Center Cabaret Series than with Cabaret itself," says Theater Supervisor Rob Vogt. "Pacific Coast Repertory Theatre promised a top-notch professional theater



Chelsea Nenni



Zachary Francz

experience for our audiences, a wonderful way to chase away the winter chill."

Tickets are Adult-\$17, \$27 and \$32; Child and Senior-\$17, \$24 and \$28. They may be purchased online at www.firehousearts.org up to three hours prior to the performance, by phone at (925) 931-4848, or in person at the Firehouse Arts Center Box Office. Box Office hours are Wednesday-Friday, 12 noon-6:00 p.m., Saturday 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., and for two hours prior to the performance. Group discounts are available. More information is available at www.firehousearts.org. Entrance to free parking is available on Spring Street near First Street.

Rainy Christmas Bird Count Finds 144 Species in Eastern Alameda County

By Patricia Koning

A total of 86 backyard birders and ornithologists braved the rain to participate in the second annual eastern Alameda County Christmas Bird Count, sponsored by the Ohlone Audubon Society and the Alameda Creek Alliance on Dec. 17.

"Despite the bad weather, the Christmas Bird Count went really well," said Rich Cimino, Ohlone Audubon Society Conservation Chair. "We were expecting fewer volunteers. Only a few people dropped out and we found about the same variety of species as last year."

The volunteers spent the day canvassing a 15-mile radius centered at Highway 84 in Livermore that included five East Bay Regional Parks, significant San Francisco watershed lands, and birding hotspots such as lower Mines Road, Sunol Wilderness, Del Valle Reservoir, and the Springtown area in Livermore.

Cimino reported that the overall count was down slightly but the variety of species remained steady at 144. "The rain played a significant role in keeping birds 'down' protecting themselves from the foul weather and conserving energy," he explained.

The bird counters observed an increase in several species: white-tail kites, 58 compared to 41 last year; peregrine falcons, five compared with three last year; and wood ducks, 81 compared with 52 last year. Two bald eagles were spotted, an exciting find as this species, just removed from

the endangered species list, only recently began breeding in the Bay Area.

Other species appeared in smaller numbers. Only 133 magpies were seen this year, compared with 176 last year. The number of golden eagles seen was also down, just 11 compared with over 40 last year.

Two new vagrant species were added to the count. The first, a vagrant from the Great Basin/Rocky Mountain area, is a hybrid cross between a red-breasted sapsucker and a red-naped sapsucker. The other is a juvenile northern shrike seen on count day near the Lunn Open Space in Pleasanton. This vagrant is from the northern portion of our hemisphere, possibly blown in from Alaska by recent storm systems.

Cimino, Jeff Miller of the Alameda Creek Alliance, and bird watcher Dave Bouden are reviewing the results before submitting them to the Audubon state compiler. Eventually, the numbers from eastern Alameda County will be input into a database with all other bird count results. In 2009, over 2,000 count circles sited over 55 million birds.

The Audubon database is shared with the Cornell University School of Ornithology, whose staff adds it to a larger, multi-generational database, which in turn is shared with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The Christmas Bird Count, now in its 111th year, is an annual nationwide volunteer-based bird survey effort coordinated by the

Audubon Society to promote bird conservation and assess long-term trends in winter bird populations. Cimino initiated the eastern Alameda Christmas Bird Count last year, which complements 15 other existing counts in the San Francisco Bay Area.

"I want to thank East Bay Regional Parks, Zone7, and the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission management staff for assisting us with access to their protected lands for the day," said Cimino. "Tim Koppman led a bird counting group on his ranch and Livermore Area Park and Recreation District was very helpful with their support of Sycamore Grove staff."

He adds that Livermore's Sycamore Grove Park is a wonderful local birding resource with a trained staff that hosts beginning birding walks. Comprising 774 acres, Sycamore Grove is accessible from both Wetmore Road and Arroyo Road. For more information, visit http://www.larpd.dst.ca.us/open_space/sycamore.html.

In 2011, Cimino would like to add another 20 volunteers in Livermore and Pleasanton parks. In three to four years he hopes to start a special Christmas Bird Count just for kids a few days after the regular count. "I really want this to become a community-wide educational endeavor every year," he said.

For more information on the Ohlone Audubon Society, visit <http://www.ohloneaudubon.org>. For more information on the Alameda Creek Alliance, visit <http://www.alamedacreek.org>.

Claws for Paws: Benefit for Animal Rescue Group

Tri-Valley Animal Rescue's 6th Annual Claws for Paws Crabfeed Fundraiser Dinner and Auction is set for Feb. 5, 2011

Join Tri-Valley Animal Rescue (TVAR) on Sat., Feb. 5, 2011 from 6-10pm for a fun fundraising event with all the crab that you can eat plus Caesar Salad, pasta, French bread, dessert and coffee/tea. A no host bar will be available. The event is being held at the Shannon Center, 11600 Shannon Avenue, Dublin.

In addition to dinner, there will be raffle baskets, silent auction items, along with a Kindle raffle.

Net proceeds from this event stay in the community to support TVAR's mission to rescue homeless animals providing them needed medical treatment. Monies raised also support the fostering program placing animals in tem-

porary homes where they are cared for until new permanent homes are found.

Tri-Valley Animal Rescue is an all volunteer, non-profit organization that relies solely on private donations and contributions from the community. In 2009, Tri-Valley Animal Rescue saved 1,005 homeless animals from being euthanized at local animal shelters by placing them in permanent homes.

Order tickets early as the event has sold out for the past five years. Dinner tickets are \$45 prior to 1/15/11 and \$50 thereafter until tickets sell out. Dinner tickets may be ordered online at www.tvvar.org, through PayPal or by mailing a check to TVAR, P. O. 11143, Pleasanton, CA 94588.

For more information about TVAR, e-mail contact@tvvar.org.

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Faith Alpher's Funny and Moving One Woman Show



Diavolo Dance Theatre

Jan 14 & 15 8:00pm
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Dirty Rotten Scoundrels

Jan 21-Feb 6
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Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre



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January Offers a Variety of Entertainments and Events

A variety of shows, concerts and lectures are planned for the month of January at various venues throughout the Valley.

At the Bankhead Theater, the Kingston Trio will perform folk music to a sold out house on January 7.

The Ying Quartet will be featured in an 8 p.m. concert on Jan. 8. The performance is presented as part of the Del Valle Fine Arts Concert Series.

On Sun., Jan. 9 at 2 p.m. Faith Alpher will perform her moving and funny one woman show, "Through the Eyes of Faith."

Diavolo will present a cinematic experience of dance and gymnastics at 8 p.m. on both Fri., Jan. 14 and Sat., Jan. 15.

Dirty Rotten Scoundrels, Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre musical comedy production opens the weekend of January 21 and runs through Feb. 8 with performances at 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, 2 p.m. Sundays.

The Bankhead Theater is located at 2400 First St., Livermore. Information and tickets are available at the website www.livermoreperformingarts.org or call 925-373-6800.

At the Firehouse Arts Center, Jeff Bordes and Panthelion perform on Saturday, January 8, 2011, at 8:00 p.m.

The Cypress String Quartet, performs in a concert on Sun., Jan. 9, at 3 p.m.

The Museum on Main Ed Kinney Lecture Series begins with the January 12 program at 7 p.m. featuring Broadway and film veteran Duffy Hudson He will present a program *The Relativity of Albert Einstein*. Hudson brings Einstein to life in this unique one-man show, highlighting the renowned physicist's life, humor, and scientific discovery.

Tingstad & Rumbel perform their American home-style music on Fri., Jan. 14, at 8 p.m.

The next day, a presentation of Rodgers & Hammerstein with Hart, will be offered on two days, Sat., Jan. 15, 8 p.m. and Sun., Jan. 16, 2 p.m.

Pacific Coast Repertory Theatre performs the musical Cabaret on Jan. 21-22, 27-29 8 p.m. and Jan. 23 and 30, 2 p.m.

Harrington Art Gallery exhibit, Look of Jazz, opens Saturday, January 29, 2011 and runs through Tuesday, February 22, 2011. Gallery Reception is set for Saturday, January 20, 2011, 3 to 5 p.m. Bay Area artists such as Chester Elmore, Joan Finton and James Gayles will be featured in the exhibit that celebrates jazz and how it can inspire visual artists.

The Firehouse Arts Center is located at 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. For ticket information and reservations, go to www.firehousearts.org.

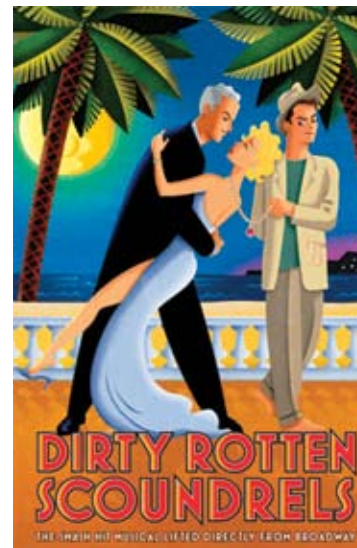
Other programs include a history lecture presented by the Livermore Heritage Guild featur-

ing John Shirley on Jan. 19 at the Livermore Library, 1188 So. Livermore Ave. Doors open 7 p.m., talk at 7:30 p.m. Suggested donation, \$2.

Role Players Ensemble Theatre will perform *The Lion in Winter*, Jan. 21-Feb. 12 at the Village Theater, 233 Front St., Danville.

2011 Livermore Reads Together will be the book "1906" by James Dalessandro. The novel centers on the 1906 San Francisco earthquake and fire. The month long celebration of the book will begin Sunday, January 23, 2011 at 2 p.m. with a presentation by the author, James Dalessandro. A reception will follow featuring famous San Francisco food treats and turn of the century music by Greg Pane. A variety of events are planned during the month of February at the Civic Center Library, 1188 So. Livermore. Information can be found at www.livermore.lib.ca.us

The Annual Burns Supper, Hosted by Pleasanton-Blairgowrie-Fergus Sister City Organization, will be held Jan. 29, Pleasanton Marriot, 11950 Dublin Canyon Rd., Pleasanton. The event includes supper, songs and poems. The group Caliban is featured. 5:30 p.m. no host bar/registration, 7 p.m. dinner. Advance reservations at \$65 per person required by Jan. 21, 2011. www.PBFSCO.org or contact Kathy Tollworthy at 462-6378 or trikenut@comcast.nut.



Performing this January are (from left, starting at top) Tingstad & Rumbel; Diavolo; Jeff Bordes and Panthelion; The Cypress String Quartet; the Ying Quartet; and Dirty Rotten Scoundrels are all on the calendar

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Keith Cariveau *Livermore resident; Retired Principal, Livermore Schools; Livermore-Granada Booster Board; Member Livermore Rotary; COANIQUEM BCF Board; and community volunteer.*

Katherine Cariveau *Livermore resident; Retired Teacher, Livermore Schools; Member Rotary Inner Wheel; COANIQUEM BCF Board; and community volunteer.*

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Applications Being Accepted for Human Services Grants

The Hindu Community and Cultural Center, Inc., (HCCC) of Livermore is accepting grants for its annual grant program. Applications are invited from non-profit, human services agencies in Livermore and the surrounding areas.

It is anticipated that a total of \$25,000 will be awarded this year. Individual grants can vary from \$500 to \$3500, depending on the needs and suitability of the applicant.

This grant program, initiated in 1987, is one of several human

services activities at the temple such as, free health screening, bone-marrow donor registration, supporting the Alameda County canned food drive, and distributing articles of clothing at the Livermore Veterans Hospital and helping the needy through local shelters, etc.

Human services agencies that meet the needs of the elderly, abused women, and youth and are primarily funded by private donations are encouraged to apply for these grants. Organizations should apply in their own format,

providing details such as: a mission statement, sample projects, a specific project for which the grant will be utilized, and any other information in support of the application. Please mail the application to reach the HCCC by the deadline of February 3th, 2011 to: HCCC, Inc., Suman Jain, Human Services, 1232 Arrowhead Avenue, Livermore, CA 94551-6963

All applicants will be informed of the grant decisions. Representatives of the selected organizations will be invited to an awards program at the temple.

WALK FESTIVAL

(continued from front page)

gested-but-not-required opportunity to donate to Pleasanton Partnerships in Education (PPIE) Foundation, to support wellness grants to local public schools. ACCUSPLIT, corporate sponsor of the events, will match each donation (up to \$20). So far, World Walk to Wellness has donated \$5,000 to PPIE.

Special guest at the World Walk to Wellness Festival will be Superintendent Parvin Ahmadi of the Pleasanton Unified School District. Community members are encouraged to stop by to talk with her. The school district booth also will be handing out information on kindergarten registration for next fall and new immunization requirements for students.

Those who register at the festival can receive e-mail updates on when and where monthly group walks will take place. During the months of February, March, and April, Dolores Bengtson will be leading walks that will include trails along our local arroyos. Before her retirement from the city's parks and community services department, Bengtson led many similar walks to introduce local residents to the great places to explore within this community. (Bengtson also was well known for her leadership of the aquatic center on Black Avenue, which has been named in her honor.)

Participants in the "walk-and-talk" sessions can ask her questions about the flora and fauna seen along the trails.

"Our goal is to encourage more people to commit to an active lifestyle for better health," said event founder Ron Sutton. "We hope that our monthly events will help our neighbors adopt a routine of taking an easy walk every day, which research has proven to make a significant difference in good health.

"We encourage participants to come with a family member or friend, since the 'buddy system' helps individuals keep their New Year's Resolutions for a whole year," Sutton noted. His company, ACCUSPLIT, will give away pedometers to the first 100 people at the festival who choose to donate to PPIE. In addition, drawing tickets will be given for each \$1 donated to PPIE. Participants will get to select for which prizes they wish their tickets to be drawn.

Walks will take place rain or shine, since Main Street offers level, paved sidewalks, suitable also for strollers or wheelchairs. Participants are encouraged to dress in layers for the weather and bring along their own bottles of water.

Upcoming walks are planned for the following Saturdays, start-

ing at 9 a.m.: February 26 (Arroyo de la Laguna and Arroyo Del Valle), March 19 (Arroyo Mocho), and April 9 (Marilyn Kane Trail). These events also will be opportunities to donate to PPIE, although donations are not required in order to participate.

Future events will be posted on the (evolving) website, www.WorldWalkToWellness.org.

A partial list of those who will host booths at the World Walk to Wellness Festival includes the following: ACCUSPLIT, Body Balance Fitness and Massage, Body in Balance Community Acupuncture, Dermatology, El Camino Hospital South Asian Heart Center, Healing Touch, Lifestyle RX, Jyoti Meditation, Natural Awakenings, Pleasanton Partnerships in Education (PPIE) Foundation, Pleasanton Unified School District, Podiatry, Spiritual Coaching, TriValleyWellness.com, Valley Care Library, and World School of Massage.

World Walk to Wellness Day was December 31, when groups of walkers braved the chilly morning weather to stroll through Pleasanton Sports Park on Hopyard Road. "Walk With Me" leaders for that event included Jill Daniels, registered dietician, and Ward Belding, vocalist also known as "Uncle Sam," who has used daily walking to recuperate from heart surgery.

Restaurants to Host First Annual Taste of Tri-Valley

Taste of Tri-Valley will be the first annual restaurant week scheduled for January 23-30, 2011. The event will give local, regional and national food lovers the opportunity to enjoy a prix-fixe meal, specialty dish or special offer at a number of participating Tri-Valley restaurants. The event is organized by the Tri-Valley Convention & Visitors Bureau.

The event will kick-off on Saturday, January 23 and finish on Sunday, January 30, 2011 allowing diners a full week to enjoy all of their favorite restaurants at a special value price and try out new restaurants as well.

Participating restaurants include Terra Mia, The Peasant and the Pear, The Restaurant at Wente Vineyards, The Farmer Restaurant at the Pleasanton Hotel, Blue Agave Grill, Eddie Papa's American Hangout, Campo Di Bocce, Swirl on the Square, and Porters Restaurant at Poppy Ridge.

The event will feature an array of well-known restaurants, casual dining establishments and local purveyors that will provide one of a kind dining experiences offered during this week only. Only establishments in one of the following cities will participate: Alamo, Danville, San Ramon, Dublin, Pleasanton, Sunol and Livermore.

No tickets or passes are required for Taste of Tri-Valley Restaurant Week. Diners simply dine out at as many participating restaurants as they like all week.

Taste of Tri-Valley is an event of the Tri-Valley Convention & Visitors Bureau - www.visittrivalleyca.com and in partnership with the Livermore Valley Winegrowers Association - www.lvwine.org

Annual Polar Bear Slide Set for Saturday

Anyone with a sense of adventure can ring in 2011 with an exhilaratingly chilly ride down the Robert Livermore Community Center's waterslide. The sixth annual Polar Bear Slide event hosted by the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District is free to participants.

Both children and adults are invited to take a ride down the 22-foot spiral waterslide and make a splash – rain or shine. All participants will receive a certificate of completion. Children must be at least 48 inches tall to use the slide.

The Polar Bear Slide event will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 8, at the Robert Livermore Community Center Pool, 4444 East Ave., Livermore. Parking is on Loyola Way. For more information, call 925-373-5751 or visit www.larpd.dst.ca.us.

Psychic Presents Program at Pleasanton Library

Psychic, Irma Slage, discusses her books, Phases of Life After Death and Psychic Encounters, A guide to having your own spirit contact, at the Pleasanton Library at 2 p.m. on Jan. 9.

"Death", she says, "is only the beginning of another portion of our existence." Her book, Phases of Life After Death, discusses the question of what happens after we die and spirits give their advice for the living.

Her new book, Psychic Encounters, A guide to having your own spirit contact, tells the different ways we have psychic encounters in her words and how to recognize them. These are stories compiled from people she has met throughout the years and how it affected their lives.

She will speak about how she knew she was psychic, how all of us are psychic and how to know when you have had a psychic experience.

Irma lectures to groups around the country and gives private psychic readings by phone or in person. Irma also advises people how to have their own spirit contact.

She will also answer a free psychic question posed by to those attending.

The Pleasanton Public Library is located at 400 Old Bernal Avenue in Pleasanton. For more information call: 925-931-3405. Admission is free. No registration is required.

Smashwords Founder to Present Program

The California Writers Club Tri-Valley Branch invites writers of all genres and experience levels to learn about their craft and share their work. The California Writers Club Tri-Valley next meeting is Saturday, January 15, 2011, 11:30 a.m., at the Oasis Grille, 780 Main Street, Pleasanton.

This month's lunch program presents Mark Coker, founder and CEO of Smashwords, an online book publisher. Located in Los Gatos, Smashwords is the world's leading ebook publishing and distribution platform for indie authors. The publisher distributes its books to Apple, Sony, Barnes & Noble, Kobo, the Diesel eBook Store, and others.

Mr. Coker's presentation will provide an information-packed primer on ebook publishing. Attendees will learn best practices to easily produce, publish, distribute, and market an ebook. The presentation draws on Mark's experience helping over 11,000 Smashwords authors publish and distribute over 25,000 ebooks.

Besides graduating from UC Berkeley with a degree in business and becoming the CEO of his company, Mark Coker is an author, writing the *Smashwords Book Marketing Guide* and *Smashwords Style Guide*, two essential



Mark Coker, Founder of Smashwords

ebooks that help writers work with Smashwords. He also co-wrote *Boob Tube* with his wife, a novel about the dark side of Hollywood celebrity.

The meeting, including lunch, costs \$21 for members, \$27 for nonmembers. Anyone curious about the program or club can attend with no obligation to join. Reservations are required. For a seat, contact Annette Langer at (925) 484-5924 or alanger2@comcast.net, by Wednesday, January 12th. For more about the California Writers Club Tri-Valley Branch, contact Vi Moore at 925-960-9834 or vimoore@sbcglobal.net or visit www.trivalleywriters.org.

Truffles, Tidbits and Wine Tasting Tickets Go On Sale

"Truffles, Tidbits and Wine Tasting" will be held on Thursday, February 3rd, 2011 from 6 to 9 p.m. at participating downtown Pleasanton businesses.

This year's event will kick off at Chase Bank, 561 Main Street. Tickets must be redeemed by 7:30pm. If there are any tickets available the day of the event, they will be sold at Chase Bank beginning at 5:45pm. Wine strollers will receive a commemorative wine glass and map.

Wineries will be pouring red and white wines, ports, dessert wines and champagnes. Each participating business will feature sweet treats and/or hors d'oeuvres to pair with the selections being poured.

Only eight hundred (800) tickets will be offered for this event and will be available for advance purchase beginning Thursday, January 6th, 2011 for \$25.00 at the following locations: Clover Creek (670 Main Street); Studio 7 Fine Arts (400 Main Street); Towne Center Books (555 Main Street); and the Rose Hotel (807 Main Street).

Complete the passport card (provided when tickets are rede-

meed) for a chance to win tickets to the Summer Wine Stroll on July 14th, 2011.

Wine tasting locations are: A Touch of Health Day Spa, 377 St. Mary Street, Aldrin A. Adamos, DDS, 219 Division Street, Alexander's Fine Art, 608 Main Street, Berry Patch, 350-A Main Street, Cazinha Portrait Studio, 551 Main Street, Clover Creek, 670 Main Street, Comerica Bank, 600 Main Street, Suite A, Divine Skin & Body Care, 87 W Neal Street, First Republic Bank, 249 Main Street, Gourmet Works, 420 Main Street, Jewelers Gallery, 614 Main Street, La Lu European Spa, 780 Main Street, Little Valley Winery, 739 Main Street, MD Laser Spa, 531 Main Street, Murphy's Paw, 410 Main Street, Pans on Fire, 310-B Main Street, Rick's Picks, 719 Main Street, RPM Mortgage, 30 W Neal Street #105, Savvy Seconds, 550 & 560 Main Street, Sincerely Yours Cards

& Gifts, 711 Main Street, Studio Seven Arts, 400 Main Street, TheCyclePros, 728 Main Street, US Bank, 749 Main Street, Valley Plumbing Home Center, 272 Rose Avenue, VisionOne Optometry, 63 W Angela Street, Yolatea, 600 Main Street #F

Food-drink (non-alcoholic): Museum on Main, 603 Main Street

Wineries: Bodegas Aguirre Winery, Crooked Vine Winery, Cuda Ridge Wines, Elliston Vineyards, Fenestra Winery, Garre Winery, Goodfellow Winery, Little Valley Winery, Longevity Wines, Marr Cellars at Tesla Vintners, Miramont Estate Vineyard at Tesla Vintners, Murrieta's Well, Page Mill Winery, Palomares Vineyard & Winery, Ryhan Estate Vineyards, Stony Ridge Winery, Tamas Estates, Wente Vineyards, Westover Winery & Vineyards, White Crane Winery

Please note this event is not recommended for children.

Author Tells Hidden Stories of Lake Tahoe

Author Scott Lankford will discuss his book *Tahoe Beneath the Surface: The Hidden Stories of America's Largest Mountain Lake* at the Livermore Library on Sun., Jan. 9 at 2 p.m.

Books will be available for sale and signing.

Tahoe Beneath the Surface brings the hidden history of America's largest mountain lake to life through the stories of its most cel-

ebrated residents and visitors over the last ten thousand years, mixing local Washoe Indian legends with tales of murderous Mafia dons, and Rat Pack tunes with Steinbeck novels. Author Scott Lankford combines human history and natural history in a way that will both inform and inspire all who would keep Tahoe blue.

There is no admission charge. The library is located at 1188 So. Livermore Avenue.

Rotary Foundation of Livermore Provides Festivities for 150 Children

Joyful noises filled Veterans Hall as more than 150 children celebrated the holiday season with the Rotarian Foundation of Livermore on Sunday, December 19. Needy families, with children ages 3 through 10, joined the festivities.

They were treated to a holiday luncheon, a magic show, caroling, and face painting. Santa Claus delivered gifts of toys, clothes, and educational or sports-related items to each child.

Students from the Livermore and Granada High Schools' Interact clubs provided a playful environment for the kids, and made sure everyone had fun. Community Association for Preschool Education (CAPE) invited the families to the holiday party.

Roy the Magician dazzled the kids with his sleight-of-hand (how



Roy the Magician entertained the children.

did he do that?). Steve Powell, the Singing Winemaker from Tesla Vintners, performed with a stellar backup group and led the party in singing carols.

Gift-giving was made possible through the donations of Livermore's Kohl's and Target stores. Community sponsorships by TopCon and Shames Construction, the Finger and Kirkewoog families and many other individual donations helped fund the holiday

party.

The party also raised funds for the Rotarian Foundation's charitable grants, such as the Dictionary Project which every year delivers dictionaries to all third graders in the Livermore School District. Since 1987, many local organizations have benefited from Foundation grants including Open Heart Kitchen, the Livermore School District, LARPD, and Operation School Bell. The single largest effort was the purchase of a Mobile Health Unit, which is operated by Valley Care Health Systems. Donations are still being accepted through PayPal at <http://rotarian-foundationlivermore.org/>, or by mail to The Rotarian Foundation of Livermore, c/o Weaver and McCartney Accountancy Corporation, 2117 Fourth Street, Livermore, CA 94550.



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ART & ENTERTAINMENT

ART/PHOTO EXHIBITS

Livermore Art Association Gallery, located in Carnegie Park, offers art classes, unusual gifts, painting rentals, art exhibits and information pertaining to the art field, 2155 Third St., Livermore. The gallery has been open since 1974 and is run as a co-op by local artists. Hours are Wed.-Sun. 11:30-4 p.m. For information call 449-9927.

Paintbrush Diplomacy, December 11, 2010–January 12, 2011, International Children's Art Exhibit Works from the permanent collection of Paintbrush Diplomacy, an organization that seeks to connect the world one paintbrush at a time. Promoting peace and understanding through the universal language of art, the organization encourages awareness of international issues through art exchanges and exhibits of works by children ages 5-18. Harrington Gallery at the Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. www.FirehouseArts.org.

Believe/Achieve Art Exhibit, Diablo/Alameda Branch of the National League of American Pen Women (NLAPW) at the John O'Laque Galleria and the Hayward City Hall Dec. 3, 2010 to Feb. 9, 2011. There is no admission charge. Hayward City Hall is located at 777 B Street. Pen Women writers will be performing original works at the reception. Music and refreshments will be provided.

Watercolors by Larry Gibson. Exhibit on display through Jan. 25, 2011. Wente Vineyards Estate Winery Tasting Room, 5565 Tesla Rd, Livermore 925.456.2305, wentevineyards.com

Harrington Art Gallery exhibit, Look of Jazz, Saturday, January 29, 2011 – Tuesday, February 22, 2011. Gallery Reception Saturday, January 20, 2011, 3 to 5pm. Bay Area artists such as Chester Elmore, Joan Finton and James Gayles will be featured in an exhibit that celebrates jazz and how it can inspire visual artists. This exhibit will be held in conjunction with our annual Campana Jazz Festival, February 17-20, 2011. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. www.firehousearts.org.

MEETINGS/CLASSES

Figure Drawing Workshop, every Friday 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Artists bring their own materials and easels. Open to all artists. Professional artist models (nude). No instructor. Students under 18 need written parental permission to attend. Cost \$20 per session. At the Bothwell Arts Center, 2466 8th St., Livermore. Coffee, tea and refreshments are available. Call or email Barbara Stanton for more info about the workshop, 925-373-9638 - microangelo@earthlink.net.

Art Critique and Coffee, every Friday, 10 a.m. at Border's Cafe, Rose Pavilion, Pleasanton. poetryoncanvas@

mac.com.

Figure Drawing and Painting Workshop taught by Livermore artist Carolyn Lord, Saturday, March 19 and Sunday March 20, 2011, 9 am to 4 pm. \$99 plus \$50 Model's fee. Students bring own art supplies Register through Las Positas Community Education. "Figure Drawing and Painting Workshop", when registering the Class' Code Number is AL478 How to register-http://www.laspositascollege.edu/communityed/index.php?

WINERY EVENTS

Tamás Estates news & events: Tamás Tuesday - January 18, 4-7 pm; Winter Barrel Weekend - January 22 & 23, 11-4:30 pm; Library Tasting Weekend - January 29 & 30, 11-4:30 pm. Tamás Estates, 5565 Tesla Road, Livermore; information at 925-456-2380. Niki DiPietro has been promoted to Tasting Room Manager at Tamás Estates. Niki has been working in the tasting room for the past three years. Lori Albani (our former Tasting Room Manager) has been promoted to Tasting Room Manager at Murrieta's Well.

Fenestra Winery, Soup & Wine "Souper" Bowl, Jan. 29, 30, noon to 5 p.m. Guest chefs prepare tasty soups to sample with award winning wines. \$12.50 glass, buffet plate, soup samples and unlimited access to recipes. 83 Vallecitos Rd., Livermore. www.fenestrawinery.com.

MUSIC/CONCERTS

Music every Saturday in the tasting room from 12 to 4; open every day if the gate is open and for sure on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays 11 to 5. Red Feather Winery, 5700 Greenville Rd., Livermore. Information at 449-1871 or www.redfeatherwinery.com

Chris Bradley's Jazz Band, plays at The Sunol Jazz Cafe (In the Center of Sunol) the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month 7:30-9:30 p.m. The band features real Jazz from the 1920's, 30's, 40's.

Blacksmith Square Saturday Concerts, Thomas Coyne Winery, John Christopher Cellars, Swirl Tapas Bar and Victorian Olive Oil present live music in the Square, 3 to 6 p.m. Wine tasting (fee waived with purchase), food at menu prices. No outside food or adult beverages. Corner of South Livermore Ave. and Railroad Ave. downtown Livermore.

The Kingston Trio, folk music, Fri., Jan. 7, 8 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.livermoreperformingarts.org or 925-373-6800.

Ying Quartet, 8 p.m., Sat., Jan. 8, Del Valle Fine Arts Concert, Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. 925-373-6800, www.livermoreperformingarts.org.

Jeff Bordes and Panthelion, Firehouse Arts Center on Saturday,

January 8, 2011, at 8:00 p.m. The Firehouse Arts Center is located at 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. Tickets are adult-\$15, \$20 and \$25; child-\$12 and senior-\$18. www.firehousearts.org.

Cypress String Quartet, Sun., Jan. 9, 3 p.m. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. www.firehousearts.org

Diavolo, cinematic experience of dance and gymnastics, Fri.-Sat., Jun. 14 and 15, 8 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.livermoreperformingarts.org or 925-373-6800.

Tingstad & Rumbel - American home-style music, Fri., Jan. 14, 8 p.m. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. www.firehousearts.org

Rodgers & Hammerstein with Hart, Sat., Jan. 15, 8 p.m. and Sun., Jan. 16, 2 p.m. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. www.firehousearts.org

Al Jarreau, 8 p.m. Jan. 28, Dougherty Valley Performing Arts Center, 10550 Albion Rd., San Ramon, 973-3343 or SanRamonPerformingArts.com.

Diablo Symphony Orchestra presents Flamenco! with Carolina Lugo's & Carolé Acuña's Brisas de España and Conductor Joyce Johnson-Hamilton. Sunday February 13, 2011 at 7:30 PM. Leshner Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek. Tickets at 925-943-7469 or http://purchase.tickets.com.

ON THE STAGE

Firehouse Kids, TBA, Sat., Jan. 8, 11 a.m. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. www.firehousearts.org

Faith Alpher One Woman Show, "Through the Eyes of Faith," at the Bankhead Theater, Sunday, January 9, 2011 at 2:00 p.m. From \$18 - \$40, with \$12 student tickets (program contains adult content) at (925) 373-6800 or www.livermoreperformingarts.org. Actress, comedian, singer and local radio personality, Faith Alpher presents a rousing celebration of the joys of diversity in her one woman show "Through the Eyes of Faith." In her portrayal of over 20 characters, including a Jewish mother, Catholic nun and a Black hip-hop dancer, Alpher takes audiences on an uplifting and entertaining autobiographical journey, as she chronicles the life of a very funny and talented Jersey girl. Stories, mixed with song and dance, reflect her struggles with race and love and send Alpher's life-affirming message of perseverance – "never giving up, never giving in" – and of renewed hope. Bankhead Theater at 2400 First St., Livermore.

Dirty Rotten Scoundrels, Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre musical comedy production. Performances weekends Jan. 21-Feb. 6, 2011, 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, 2 p.m.

Sundays. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. Call 462-2121 or go to www.trivalleyrep.com for information.

Cabaret, Pacific Coast Repertory Theatre, Jan. 21-22, 27-29 8 p.m. and Jan. 23 and 30, 2 p.m. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. www.firehousearts.org

The Lion in Winter, Jan. 21-Feb. 12, Village Theater, 233 Front St., Danville. Presented by Role Players Ensemble Theatre. www.danvilletheatre.com.

Reach for the Stars! An Evening of the Arts for the Arts, Livermore Valley Education Foundation presents a special evening fundraiser featuring arts showcase performances by elementary, middle and high school students enrolled in Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District's music, drama, dance and visual arts programs. Thurs., March 31 at 7 p.m. at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore. Tickets are \$25 for reserved seats; students tickets are \$12.50 with the purchase of a reserved seat in any section. www.livermoreperformingarts.com, or at the Bankhead box office, 2400 First St., Livermore. For additional information, contact: Victoria Schellenberger, LVEF President, vschellenberger@sbcglobal.net

Shakespeare's Associates' production of *A Life in the Theatre* by David Mamet. March 31-April 23, 2011, Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays at the Bothwell Arts Center, 2466 Eighth Street, Livermore, CA. Tickets from \$25-\$35 by calling 1-800-838-3006 or www.LivermoreShakes.org. For more information visit www.LivermoreShakes.org or call 925-443-BARD (2273).

DANCE

Friday Night Dance Parties, themed parties each Friday night from Salsa to Swing, includes a group dance lesson at 8:15. \$15 cover charge, 8:15 dance lesson, 9:00-10:30 for dance parties. It's All About Dancing, 171 So. J Street, Livermore. 925-449-9292, or studio@itsallaboutdancing.com.

AUDITIONS/VOLUNTEERS

City of Pleasanton Youth Music Festival Auditions, Jan. 11 and 13, 6 to 9 p.m. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. Youth and teen performers ages 6-18 are invited to show of their talent with musical acts that are meaningful to them. Vocal and instrumental soloists and ensembles are encouraged to audition. If chosen, youth may be asked to perform in preexisting musical acts directed by festival producers. Performance date is Saturday, February 19, 2011, at 2:00 p.m. at the Firehouse Art Center. Placement in the show is not guaranteed. Rock bands are not included in the festival. Performers are encouraged

to audition via Youtube.com this year. Youtube.com submissions/links can be sent via email to Mark Duncanson at mduncanson@ci.pleasanton.ca.us before Friday January 14, 2011. Any submissions sent after January 14 will not be considered. Those interested in auditioning in person must contact Mark Duncanson at (925) 931-3433 or mduncanson@ci.pleasanton.ca.us to schedule an appointment. A mandatory festival meeting will take place Wednesday, January 26, 2011 at 5:00 p.m. and a rehearsal is scheduled for Thursday, February 17, 2011 from 5:30-9:00 p.m.

Solo Piano Competition for young artists, sponsored by Las Positas College Music Department, open to ages 14 through 24. The winner will perform George Gershwin's, "Rhapsody in Blue" at the May 4, 2011 Orchestra Concert as part of the inaugural season for the new Barbara Fracisco Mertes Center for the Arts. The application deadline is February 10, 2011. The selection will take place in February. To request application forms and information, please contact Music instructor Mary Campbell, mcampbell@laspositascollege.edu, (925) 424-1118.

Concerto competition, Prometheus Symphony Orchestra of Oakland is sponsoring a concerto competition for Bay Area string, wind and percussion players age eighteen years or younger. The competition will be held on Tuesday evening February 1, 2011. The winner will perform with the orchestra on Sunday, May 22, 2011, and will receive a \$200.00 award. Contestants are to perform from memory a complete concerto or work for solo instrument and orchestra. The application deadline is January 25, 2011. Applications are available by calling (925) 447-3659 or online at www.prometheussymphony.org.

Singers invited, Cantabella Children's Chorus has been teaching fine vocal production and music literacy through great choral works to 206 children in grades K-12 since 1992. Children in K-5 are placed in training choirs, singers in grades 4-8 perform in Cantabella Children's Chorus, advanced choristers in grades 7-10 sing in the Chamber Choir and may audition for the Honors Choir. Rehearsals take place in Dublin, Livermore and Pleasanton. New singers are cordially invited to email Director Bee Chow, director@cantabella.org or call (925) 292-2663 for placement in the training choirs or to arrange an audition for the performing choirs. Classes resume the second week of January, 2011. Visit www.cantabella.org for more information.

Valley Concert Chorale will hold auditions by appointment for its March performances "In Remembrance of 9/11" and future concerts on Monday, January 10 and 17, at the First Presbyterian Church of

ART & ENTERTAINMENT

Livermore. The church is located at the corner of 4th and L Streets. The Chorale is seeking experienced singers with sight-reading skills who enjoy singing exciting and challenging music. The Chorale performs a wide variety of music ranging from classical to contemporary, and folk to jazz. To schedule an appointment, call (925) 462-4205. The remaining 2010-2011 concert season titled "Musical Reflections" will include the "In Remembrance" concert in March marking the upcoming 10th anniversary of the September 11, 2001 tragedy, and May's concert "If Music Be the Food of Love." More information about the Valley Concert Chorale is available at www.valleyconcertchorale.org or by calling the general information line at (925) 866-4003.

Auditions, The Sound of Music. Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre. Saturday February 19 at 11:00am or Monday, February 21 at 7:30pm. Call-backs by invitation only Feb. 22 and 24 at 7:30pm. 1048 Serpentine Lane #303, Pleasanton. Please prepare a brief song (16-32 bars). Bring sheet music; accompanist provided. Please bring a picture and resume, stapled together. No tapes; no a capella. Be prepared to dance. www.trivalleyrep.com for more information. Director: Daren A.C. Carollo, Vocal Direction: Sean Aloise, Choreographer: Todd Aragon, Producer: Kathleen Breedveld, Musical Director: JoAnn Fosselman. Performance dates: July 22, 2011 through August 7, 2011, Bankhead Theater, Livermore.

MOVIES

Afternoon charity wine and movies event. Sat., Jan. 8 from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Wente Vineyards Estate Winery in the barrel room at 5565 Tesla Rd., Livermore. Tapestries of Hope producer Ray Arthur Wang will begin the screening with his film noir short *The Profile*. Cast and crew, including producer and director will be available following a Q&A. Tickets are available at shop.rawpp.com or call 650.799.4894 Those attending should dress warmly, e.g. bring a jacket as the barrel room is kept cool. Tickets online are \$9.75 each; price goes up to \$14.75 (\$14.75 at the door). Information about the screening is available at http://www.shop.rawpp.com/index.php?main_page=product_music_info&products_id=1

Classic Film Series, Vine Cinema and Alehouse, 1722 First St., Livermore. Schedule: Jan. 13: *Star Wars*. All movies begin at 7 p.m. Information at www.VineCinema.com or 447-2545.

Going Places: A Classic Film Series, shown the first Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. in the Pleasanton Library's meeting room through June 2, 2011. The program is a partnership of Las Positas College and the Pleasanton Public Library proudly present.

Candy Klaschus, film historian and Coordinator of the Humanities Program at Las Positas College, is the host. There is no admission charge. 400 Old Bernal Ave., Pleasanton. 931-3400. No registration required.

CHORAL

Foothill Winter Choral Concert - Concert Choir, Jazz Singers, Women's Choir, Men's Ensemble, Chamber Singers on Thurs., Jan. 13, 7:30 p.m. Trinity Lutheran Church, 1225 Hopyard Road, Pleasanton. Tickets are \$7 general/\$5 students & seniors.

OPERA

Met Opera Theater-casts, 10 a.m. simultaneous viewings and 12 encore rebroadcasts of Metropolitan Opera productions at Dublin's Regal Cinema, 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays - Schedule: Jan. 8, 26: Puccini's "La Fanciulla Del West;" Feb. 12, Mar. 2: Glass's "Nixon in China;" Feb. 26, Mar. 16: Gluck's "Iphigenia in Tauride;" April 9, 27: Rossini's "Le Comte Ory;" April 23, May 11: Richard Strauss's "Capriccio;" April 30, May 18: Verdi's "Il Trovatore;" May 14, June 11: Wagner's "Die Walkure."

The Barber of Seville, Opera San José continues its 27th Season presents Rossini's comic opera, *The Barber of Seville*. Eight performances are scheduled from February 12 through 27 at the California Theatre, 345 South First Street in downtown San José. Tickets are on sale at the Opera San José Box Office, by phone at (408) 437-4450 or online at www.operasj.org. This production of *The Barber of Seville* is made possible, in part, by a Cultural Affairs Grant from the City of San José.

MISCELLANEOUS

Museum on Main, 2011 Ed Kinney Lecture Series. Wednesday, January 12, 7pm, *The Relativity of Albert Einstein*. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. No reservations are required. Tickets are available at the door on a first come first served basis. The Firehouse Arts Center is located at 4444 Railroad Avenue, Pleasanton. Tickets are \$10 general admission, \$5 members and seniors, \$3 students/teachers with ID. Information, contact Jen-

nifer Amiel, Director of Education at (925) 462-2766 or education@museumonmain.org.

History Lecture, Livermore Heritage Guild, Jan. 19, at the Civic Center Library, 1188 So. Livermore Ave. Featured will be Dr. John Shirley, veterinarian and 1960s Livermore Mayor. Doors open 7 p.m., talk starts at 7:30 p.m. Suggested donation \$2.

2011 San Ramon Art & Wind Festival Poster Art Contest, open to San Ramon middle and high school students. The winning piece of artwork will be featured on festival posters, postcards and t-shirts. It will also be framed and hung in one of the Community Centers in San Ramon. The student who created the winning art work will also receive a \$200 savings bond, second place a \$100 savings bond and third place winner a \$50 savings bond. Prizes are provided by the San Ramon Arts Foundation. All entries will be displayed in the Lindsay Dirck Brown Art Gallery located at the San Ramon Community Center during the month of May 2011. The contest entry form and info can be found online at www.artandwind.com. Entries are due by January 7, 2011. For more info, call (925) 973-3366.

Zoe Ferraris, author of *Finding Nouf* reads from her new mystery, *City of Veils* at the Pleasanton Library on Sun., Jan. 23, 2 p.m. Zoë Ferraris moved to Jeddah, Saudi Arabia in the aftermath of the first Gulf War. She lived in a conservative Muslim community with her then-husband and his family, a group of Saudi-Palestinians. No registration is required. There is no charge.

Livermore Reads Together, the 2011 book is "1906" by James Dalessandro. Novel centers on the 1906 San Francisco earthquake and fire. Month long celebration will be kicked off on Sunday, January 23, 2011 at 2 p.m. with a presentation by the author, James Dalessandro. A reception will follow featuring famous San Francisco food treats and turn of the century music by Greg Pane. Variety of events planned during the month of February at the Civic Center Library, 1188 So. Livermore. Information for to www.livermore.lib.ca.us.

11th annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Fellowship Breakfast, Mon., Jan. 24. Marriot Pleasanton Hotel from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. The Tri-Valley YMCA will co-host with Dublin Mayor Tim Sbranti and Guy Houston. Keynote speaker will be Monte Poole, longtime sportswriter and columnist

for the Bay Area Newspaper Group. Proceeds from the event benefit the Tri-Valley YMCA programs such as summer day camp, youth and government, and Model UN. For more information or to purchase tickets, contact the Tri-Valley YMCA at 475-6107 or tsier@ymcaeastbay.org.

Annual Burns Supper, Hosted by Pleasanton-Blairgowrie-Fergus Sister City Organization, Jan. 29, Pleasanton Marriot, 11950 Dublin Canyon Rd., Pleasanton. Supper includes songs and poems; Caliban featured. 5:30 p.m. no host bar/registration, 7 p.m. dinner. Advance reservations at \$65 per person required by Jan. 21, 2011. www.PBFSCO.org or contact Kathy Tollworthy at 462-6378 or trikenut@comcast.net.

6th Annual Claws for Paws crab feed fundraiser dinner and Auction is set for Feb. 5, 2011 benefits Tri-Valley Animal Rescue. 6-10pm all the crab that you can eat plus Caesar Salad, pasta, French bread, dessert and coffee/tea. A no host bar will be available. Shannon Center, 11600 Shannon Avenue, Dublin. Dinner tickets are \$45 prior to 1/15/11 and \$50 thereafter until tickets sell out.

Dinner tickets may be ordered online at www.tvvar.org, through PayPal or by mailing a check to TVAR, P. O. 11143, Pleasanton, CA 94588. For more information about TVAR, e-mail contact@tvvar.org, or call the message line at 925-803-7043. Visit TVAR on the web at TVAR.org.

Ragin' Cajun, dinner, dance and auction on Fri., Feb. 11 from 6:30 to 11 p.m. benefit for Sandra J. Wing Healing Therapies Foundation. Palm Event Center in Pleasanton. Proceeds will go towards providing funds to cancer patients so that they can experience the immediate benefit of complementary therapies to help alleviate the side effects caused by radiation and chemotherapy. Sponsors and volunteers are sought. For more information about becoming a sponsor, please ask for Ken Perine at 925-292-5936. For more information about the organization or to attend the event, call the Foundation at 866-862-7270 or go online to the website www.HealingTherapiesFoundation.org. Tickets are \$75 per person. 1-866-862-7270.

Fashion Show Benefits Taylor Family Foundation

The hottest new fashions of 2011 will head down the runway in a show that will help the children served by the Taylor Family Foundation.

Esteem Productions presents the "Charity Fashion Show" Thursday night January 20, 7 to 10 p.m. The event takes place at Sapphire Restaurant and Lounge, 2300 First Street, Livermore.

Tickets for the "Charity Fashion Show" are \$10 in advance and \$12 at the door. The price of admission includes a raffle ticket and a complimentary glass of champagne. Besides a "Catwalk Fashion Show" that will showcase local boutiques, the event will include a silent auction. Music will be provided by Amos Productions.

"It's a great way for the smaller clothing stores and local businesses to build business after the holiday rush is over and everything

slows down," said Brianna Slaven, owner of Esteem Productions. "I have not seen a fashion show like this in our area, and wanted to be the first one to create a spectacular event!" Slaven added.

The Taylor Family Foundation was founded in 1990 and provides summer camps and other activities for severely ill children. "We are so grateful that Esteem Production's compassion is reaching out to TTF. This generosity will go forward and reach so many children within all of our communities," said TTF founder Elaine Taylor.

For more information on the event and how to get tickets, email us at EsteemProductions@gmail.com or visit our website at www.EsteemProductions.net.

The Taylor Family Foundation is a nonprofit, and more information on it can be found at www.tfff.org.

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The Arts Flourished in 2010



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

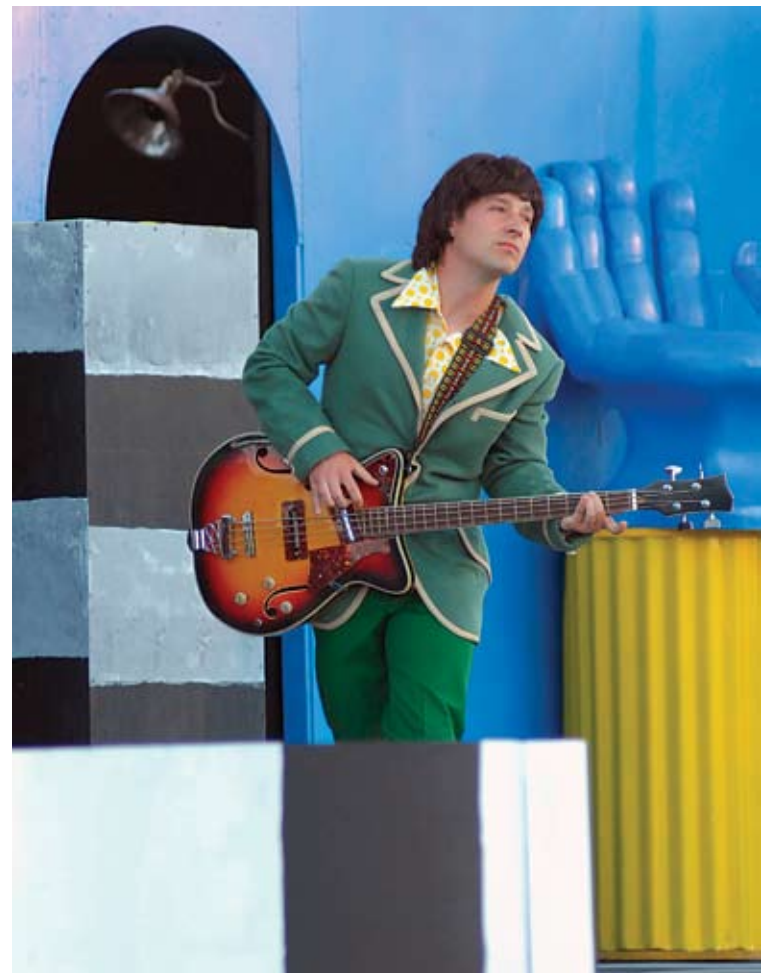
Queen Grossioso in a scene from the Pleasanton's Civic Arts Stage Company production of *The Princess and the Pea*.



Las Positas College presented a Victorian-era production of *"Much Ado about Nothing"* in the new performing arts center.



The City of Livermore's Commission for the Arts unveiled the Firehouse Mural painted on the east wall of the historic Old Firehouse/City Hall located at 2369 First Street in downtown Livermore. Artists were Vera Lowdermilk and Kean Butterfield. Pictured in front of the mural are (from left) are Kean Butterfield, retired firefighter Lynn Owens, and Vera Lowdermilk.



Alex Moggridge as Proteus in the San Francisco Shakespeare Festival production of *"Two Gentlemen of Verona."*



The Foothill High School marching band headed down Main Street during the parade competition portion of the annual Foothill Band Review.



The Bankhead Theater in Livermore was really rocking when guitar legends took to the stage. Gary Hoey was one of the performers.



Whale murals were painted at Water Reclamation Plant on Jack London Boulevard in Livermore by artist Darren Greenwood. The new murals highlight humpback whales, as well as dolphins, grey whales, and other marine life.



Dancers from Tiffany's Dance Academy (TDA) had the opportunity of a lifetime—opening for the Rockettes' Radio City Christmas Spectacular in San Jose.



At right is the Russian dance from the Valley Dance Theatre's annual full-length production of "The Nutcracker." Performances were at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore in December.

BULLETIN BOARD

(Organizations wishing to run notices in Bulletin Board, send information to PO Box 1198, Livermore, CA 94551, in care of Bulletin Board. Include name of organization, meeting date, time, place and theme or subject. Phone number and contact person should also be included. Deadline is 5 p.m. Friday.)

Livermore Amador Valley Garden Club will meet Thursday, January 13, at 7pm at the Alisal Elementary School, 1454 Santa Rita Road, Pleasanton. Kathy Echols, horticulture instructor at Diablo Valley College teaching classes on plant propagation, will speak on "Plant Genetics Made Simple." Visitors welcome. For more information visit: www.lavgc.org.

38th Crab Feed, Livermore Knights of Columbus, January 8th at the Robert Livermore Community Center, 4444 East Ave., Livermore. All you can eat crab dinner, raffles and prizes. Live music performed by Open Road. Doors open at 5 p.m. with dinner being served at 6 p.m. Tickets can be purchased for \$41 on-line by going to www.kofc4588events.org. Questions can be directed to Mark or Clare Duguid at 925-443-5873.

Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society, meets 7:30 p.m. on Tues., Jan. 11 at Congregation Beth Emek, 3400 Nevada Court, Pleasanton. Gary Myer, supervising librarian, Livermore Library, will discuss researching a heritage family and the resulting book. Myer will be speaking on the research he did in Germany and California on the heritage Kolb family of Dublin and how that research resulted in an about to be released book on the Kolb family. Learn his research techniques so you too can publish a family history book. For additional information contact: Richard Finn, program chairperson Email: program@L-AGS.org.

Tri-Valley Democratic Club, meets 7 p.m. Mon., Jan. 17 at the IBEW Jall, 6250 Village Parkway, Dublin. There will be election of officers. Speaker: Budd McKenzie - Founder & Director of Trust in Education a non-profit that provides assistance in education, healthcare, reconstruction & development programs - reports on project status and give first hand assessment called Afghanistan The War for Hearts & Minds. - Q&A discussion. Refreshments served - public invited.

Northern California Human Resources Association, program Conducting An Annual HR Audit, Wed., Jan. 12, 7:30-9:30 a.m. 4125 Hopyard Rd., Pleasanton. Registration \$35 general / NCHRA members free. www.nchra.org or email apowers@nchra.org.

Scholarship applications, The applications for Livermore students for college scholarships from the Pedrozzi Foundation are now available online at www.pedrozzi.com. The deadline for finalizing all applications will be March 1, 2010 by 5:00 pm. This is also the deadline for receipt of all sealed, official transcripts. The Pedrozzi Scholarship Foundation will be awarding many annual and multiple year scholarships to graduates of the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District.

NARFE Luncheon: Potential and active NARFE members are invited to attend the monthly luncheon and meeting of the Livermore Chapter 397 of the National Active and Retired Federal Employees (NARFE) Association on Thursday, January 13, at Emil Villa's Restaurant, 3064 Pacific Avenue in Livermore. The no host luncheon begins at 11:30 AM. Business meeting will commence at 1 PM. Look for chapter signs at the entrance. If you would like additional information, directions, or transportation to the meeting, please call 925-426-7800 for Elaine. Members are reminded to participate in the recycling fundraiser and should call Walt Weidman at 925-447-5030 to arrange for pick up. Additional recycling information is also available in the NARFE newsletter.

Retired Educators' Scholarship: Up to six scholarships, each worth \$1,500.00, are offered by the Tri-Valley Retired Educators Scholarship Foundation. The awards are offered to high-school graduating seniors and college/university students. All applicants must be planning a career in education. Requirements are: a) applicants must be residents of the Livermore, Pleasanton, Dublin or Sunol area, b) high school applicants must be seniors planning to attend a four-year college in fall, 2011, c) community college applicants must be qualified to transfer as juniors to a four-year institution in fall, 2011, d) 4-year college applicants must be sophomores who will continue as juniors

in fall, 2011. Questions about the scholarship should be sent to gregno@pacbell.net or call 925-443-6097. Application packets for the scholarships can be downloaded at the retired educators' website www.div85.caltra.org/. Application deadline is March 7, 2011.

Healing Body Balance grand opening Saturday, January 8, 2011 from 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM. Learn more about Craniosacral Therapy or meet Kate Mackinnon, Physical Therapist, at the grand opening celebration of Healing Body Balance 411 South "L" Street, Suite G in Livermore. For more information, please contact Healing Body Balance at (925) 980-2128 or by e-mail at HealingBodyBalance@gmail.com.

6th Annual Claws for Paws crab feed fundraiser dinner and Auction is set for Feb. 5, 2011 benefits Tri-Valley Animal Rescue. 6-10pm all the crab that you can eat plus Caesar Salad, pasta, French bread, dessert and coffee/tea. A no host bar will be available. Shannon Center, 11600 Shannon Avenue, Dublin. Dinner tickets are \$45 prior to 1/15/11 and \$50 thereafter until tickets sell out. Dinner tickets may be ordered online at www.tvr.org, through PayPal or by mailing a check to TVAR, P. O. 11143, Pleasanton, CA 94588. For more information about TVAR, e-mail contact@tvr.org, or call the message line at 925-803-7043. Visit TVAR on the web at TVAR.org.

Fishing with EBRPD - introduction, class offered at Del Valle, 8-10am, Saturday, January 22. 7000 Del Valle Road, Livermore. This class is designed anyone interested in getting started with the sport of fishing at East Bay Regional Parks. Participants will learn the basics including knot tying and rigging, gear and bait selection, and casting techniques. A California State Fishing License is required for participants 16yrs+. Gear provided. Parent participation is required for ages 5-15 years. 5+yrs. Registration is required. Tel. 1 (888) EBPARKS. Fee: \$19 (non-res. \$21), www.ebparks.org

Beginning German Conversation I, Las Positas College Community Education, 1/25-3/11, Mondays 7 to 9 p.m.; 4/4-5/23, Mondays 7 to 9 p.m. BBC German Steps series. Information or to register, call 424-1467; or register online at www.laspositascollege.edu/communityed.

Conversational German for Intermediate Students, Livermore Adult Community Education classes, 1/18-3/22, Tuesdays 7 to 9 p.m.; Conversational German for Advanced Students, 1/19-3/23, Wednesdays, 7 to 9 p.m. Information or to register, call 606-4722; online registration at www.livermoreadult.org.

Widowed Men and Women of Northern CA., Lunch in Dublin, Jan. 13, 11:30 a.m., RSVP by Jan. 11 to Pat, 447-7680. Friendly Bridge in Dublin, Jan. 15, 1 p.m., RSVP by Jan. 11 to Marge, 828-5124. Happy hour in Pleasanton, Jan. 20, 5 p.m., RSVP by Jan. 18 to Marge, 828-5124. Birthday champagne brunch in San Ramon, Jan. 23, 11:45 a.m. RSVP by Jan. 20 to Marsha, 830-8483. Lunch in Fremont, Jan. 26, 1 p.m., RSVP by Jan. 24 to Vickie, 510-656-1166. Crab feed dinner in Livermore, Jan. 29, 5 p.m. RSVP by Jan. 23 to Hilda, 398-8808.

Valley Spokesmen Bicycle Touring Club, Sat., Jan. 8, 15-25 miles first in weekly series of rides leading up to the Cinderella Classic, meet 9:30 a.m. at Shannon Center, Dublin, Alma Schiefer, 330-2228. Sun., Jan. 9, 35 miles, Diablo Vista Park east to rolling hills of Livermore, meet 10 a.m. Gail Blanco, 872-1001. Wed., Jan. 12, 41 miles up to the Mt. Diablo Junction, meet 10 a.m. at San Ramon Central Park, Pete Slagle, 819-6600. Anyone planning to go on a ride is asked to call the leader for details on where to meet and what to bring.

Free Diabetes Class. 7 week series will teach you how to manage Type 2 diabetes or Pre Diabetes, eat the foods you love, how and why to check blood sugar, medications, exercise and more. New series begins Saturday January 8 - March 5, 9:30-11:30 am, in Dublin. Please call the Alameda County Public Health Diabetes Program at 510-383-5185 for more information and to register.

City of Pleasanton nature programs: Wondrous Universe Series, Lunar Event, Sat., Jan. 8, 2011, 7:30 to 9 p.m.; Winter Skies, Sat., Feb. 5, 2011, 7:30 to 9 p.m. Alviso Adobe Community Park, 3465 Old Foothill Road. How big is our galaxy? How far is the nearest star? How was our solar system made? Explore the

universe as we try to answer these questions and more. Games and hands-on activities will aid us as we search for the answers. Then, if the skies are willing, we'll take a peek at the wonders above through a telescope. For all ages. Fee: \$9 for residents/\$12 for non-residents. **2nd Annual California Newt Festival**, Augustin Bernal Park, Sat., Feb. 12, 2011, 9 to 10 a.m. Learn about the natural history of amphibians, particularly the spectacular California Newt and its interesting cycle of life. In the heat of the summer they burrow deep into the earth to stay cool, and come out after the first rain of the season to make the long trek to their ancestral breeding ponds. Participants will help take a count of newts as part of an annual survey on this unique adventure for all ages. Fee: \$9 for residents/\$12 for non-residents. Call (925) 931-5340 for information or to register, or register online at www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/services/recreation.html.

Pleasantonians 4 Peace, sponsoring a candlelight Vigil in front of the Museum on Main, 603 Main Street, downtown Pleasanton, Wed., January 12, at 7 p.m. Participants will reflect on the human and monetary costs of the war, honor veterans who have sacrificed, and visualize ways of moving beyond this conflict to a more peaceful world. A Peaceful War Protest will be held on the fourth Wednesday of the month, January 26 between 5 - 6 at the corners of First and Neal Streets. Please join us if you can. Questions?? Call Cathie Norman at (925) 462-7495; Matt Sullivan at mjs7882@gmail.com; or kdowding@pacbell.net. Please see our New P4P web site www.Pleasantonians4Peace.org

San Ramon Valley Newcomers Club invites new and long-time residents to its monthly luncheon on January 20, 2011. Roberta Gonzales, award winning weather anchor for CBS5 News, will be the speaker. 11:30 to 2 p.m. at Bridges Golf Club Restaurant, 9000 So. Gale Rd., San Ramon. Luncheon is \$25. Call Susan, 925-718-5214, for reservations and information.

Disability Action Network (DAN) meeting, second Thursday of each month at 2:00 pm, Livermore CRIL office, 3311 Pacific Ave., Livermore. The Disability Action Network is a group of people with all kinds of disabilities who are working together to make changes in the community. The group works on health care, housing, access, attendant programs, transportation, and other issues affecting people with disabilities. For more information, please call Jessica Lehman at (510) 881-5743 x5937.

Community Resources for Independent Living (CRIL) offers services to help people with disabilities and supports them to live independently and participate in their community for as long as they are willing and able to do so. CRIL maintains offices in Hayward, Fremont and Livermore to provide information, support and referrals. CRIL also provides community education at senior centers and affordable housing complexes to residents of Southern Alameda County. The Tri-Valley CRIL office is located at 3311 Pacific Avenue, Livermore and can be reached by phone at (925) 371-1531, by FAX at (925) 373-5034 or by e-mail at abril.tamayo@cril-online.org. Hours are M-F 9-12:30 and 1:30PM to 5 PM. Drop in days are Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:30 to 11:30AM and 2-4 PM or by appointment. All services are free.

Senior Support Program of the Tri-Valley is looking for Volunteer Drivers to transport seniors to their medical appointments. The Senior Transportation Program supplements existing public and paratransit services by providing rides via volunteer drivers. Volunteers must have a valid driver's license, a registered vehicle, carry automobile liability insurance, and have a clear DMV record. Please contact Jennifer Cullen for more information at (925) 931-5387 or email: ja.cullen@yahoo.com. Funding for this program is provided by Alameda County Transportation Commission (Alameda CTC).

Daughters of the American Revolution, Josefa Higuera Livermore Chapter, meets 9:30 a.m. on the first Saturday of the month between Sept. and May at the Asbury United Methodist Church, 4743 East Ave., Livermore.

DAR is a women's service organization. The women are descended from a patriot of the American Revolution and are dedicated to patriotism, preservation of American history and securing America's future through education. Information, contact Maris at 443-3087.

Daughters of the American Revolution, Jose Maria Amador Chapter, Pleasanton, volunteer women's service organization descended from a patriot of the American Revolution. Dedicated to patriotism, preservation of American history and securing America's future through better education. For more information, contact anarisco@comcast.net or phone 510-507-5509.

ClutterLess Self Help Support Group. (CL) is a nonprofit, peer-based, self-help support group for people with difficulty discarding unwanted possessions. Meetings in Room 7 at 7 p.m. every Monday 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. at the St. Mary & St. John Coptic Orthodox Church, Room 7, 4300 Mirador Drive, Pleasanton. Just come or call our one of the volunteers: 925-200-1943, or go to www.ClutterLess.org.

Toastmasters, Amador Valley group meets at Mimi's Cafe, 4775 Hacienda Dr., Dublin, 7 a.m. Thursday mornings. Learn to communicate more effectively, improve presentation skills and leadership potential. Contact Hal Brown, 462-2412, for information.

Livermore Military Families is a support group for families in Livermore, who have a loved one serving in the Military. It is a safe place to come and share the joys, tears and fears they have with others who understand what they are going through. All family members are welcome to attend meetings. Meetings are held on the 3rd Thursday of each month at the home of Cindy Gavello, 2851 Tahoe Drive, Livermore from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Pleasanton Newcomers Club, open to new and established residents of the Tri-Valley. Activities include a coffee on the first Wednesday of the month, a luncheon on the second Wednesday of the month, bunco, Mah Jongg, bridge, walking and hiking groups, family activities and monthly adult socials. Information, call 215-8405 or visit www.PleasantonNewcomers.com.

Good News Bears, nonprofit with a mission to distribute stuffed animals to social services, emergency services, medical facilities and anyone who needs a hug. Based in Livermore, the group reaches around the Bay Area and the world. Volunteers needed to hold collections of gently used teddy bears and other stuffed animals, assist with fund-raising and deliver the animals to organizations supported by the group. Meetings 2nd Thursday of the month, 6:30 p.m. at the Livermore Police Station. Log on to www.goodnewsbears.org or call 373-7982 for more information.

RELIGION

First Church of Christ, Scientist, Livermore, has services at 10 a.m. every Sunday. Sunday School for students (ages 3-20) is held at 10 a.m. every Sunday. The church and reading room are located at Third and N Streets. The Reading Room, which is open to the public, features books, CDs and magazines for sale. For information, call (925) 447-2946.

Sunset Community Church, 2200 Arroyo Rd., Livermore. Sunday worship service at 10:30 a.m. Nursery and children's church provided. A "Night of Worship" first Sunday of each month at 6 p.m. Wednesday night program for all ages at 7 p.m. Information, call 447-6282.

Faith Chapel Assembly of God, 6656 Alisal St., Pleasanton, Sunday School for all ages 9:30 a.m., Worship 10:30 a.m., Children's Church 11:15 a.m. Women's Bible study Wednesdays at 10 a.m. Please call office at 846-8650 for weekly programs.

Holy Cross Lutheran Church Sunday Service 9:30 a.m. 1020 Mocho St., Livermore. Information, 447-8840.

Our Savior Lutheran Ministries, 1385 S. Livermore Avenue, Livermore. Sunday worship at 9 a.m.; Sunday School and Adult Bible Study at 10:30 a.m.; contemporary service 11 a.m. (Connected). For information, call 925-447-1246.

Asbury United Methodist Church, 4743

East Avenue, Livermore. 9 a.m. Sunday worship. Information 447-1950.

Calvary Chapel Livermore, Sunday Services 10:30 am and 6:00 p.m. 545 N. L Street Livermore. (925) 447-4357 - www.calvalrylivermore.org.

St. Matthew's Baptist Church, 1239 North Livermore Ave., Livermore. Services on Sunday at 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. Adult Sunday school 9:30 a.m., Children's Sunday school at 9:30 a.m. Prayer each Wednesday at 7 p.m. followed by Bible study at 7:30 p.m. 449-3824.

Bible Study, offered Wednesdays, 7:30 to 8:30 PM at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 6100 Paseo Santa Cruz, Pleasanton. Refreshments served at no cost. 925-305-9468.

Trinity, 557 Olivina Ave., Livermore. Services on Sunday at 8:30, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. with Sunday school or Bible study for all ages at 9:45 a.m. Bible study for adults and activities for all ages on Wednesdays at 6:45 p.m. 447-1848.

Granada Baptist Church, 945 Concanon Blvd., Livermore. Services: Sunday school 9:45 a.m., worship 11 a.m., Tuesday Bible study, 10 a.m. to noon. All are welcome. 1-888-805-7151.

Community Bible Study Class, book of Luke will be the topic of study in Pleasanton at Valley Bible Church. CBS is a non-denominational Bible study ministry open to all women, with a special children's program for ages 0-5 years old. The class meets on Thursdays from 9:30-11:30AM beginning 9/9/10 and goes until 5/12/11. More information about the CBS program and registration available by contacting Sharon at 925-399-5072, or email bobsharonmerrill@gmail.com.

Granada Baptist Church, 945 Concanon Boulevard, Livermore. Services: Sunday school - 9:45 a.m.; worship service - 11 a.m. All are welcome. 1-888-805-7151.

Seventh-day Adventist Church, 243 Scott Street, Livermore. 925-447-5462, services on Saturday: Sabbath school 9:30 a.m., worship 11 a.m. www.livermoesda.org/ All are welcome.

Stepping Stones on Grief Journey, Grief Ministry bi-monthly sessions, Catholic Community of Pleasanton, Jan. 13, 27, Feb., 10, 11 and Mar. 10, 24, 7:30 p.m. St. Elizabeth Seton, 4001 Stoneridge Dr., Pleasanton. No preregistration required. Open to all regardless of religious affiliation. Please call Mary Hagerty, 846-5377, for more information.

Human Trafficking: A Modern Day Form of Slavery, will be the L.I.F.E. (Lessons in Faith Experience) topic at St. Charles Borromeo, 1315 Lomitas Ave., in Livermore on Tuesday, January 11 at 7:30 pm in Borromeo Hall. Human trafficking is defined as anything that exploits a person either for labor or sex. Holy Family Sister, Sr. Caritas Foster will share how human trafficking is the fastest growing criminal activity throughout the world and in our own neighborhood and what it means to us and the people who are exploited. All are welcome to this evening. A \$5 donation is appreciated for speaker costs. For further information contact Julie at upcatholic@aol.com or 925-447-4549 ext 114.

A Call to Justice: Amos/Micah/Hosea, is the theme of the St. Charles/St. Michael's Bible Study for January 24-March 7. God stood by his people and did the right thing for them - the Bible calls this "justice." All are invited to join the bible study group on Monday evenings from 7:30-9:00 pm at St. Charles Borromeo, 1315 Lomitas Ave., in Livermore. To reserve materials (cost \$10) or have questions call Julie at 925-447-4549 ext 114 or at upcatholic@aol.com.

Engaging Spirituality, series sessions Monday evenings, offers daily practices for living deeply. Informational session Mon., Jan. 17, 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. Twenty-one week program starts Mon., Jan. 24, 7 to 9 p.m. St. Michael's Church, 458 Maple St., Livermore. Sponsored by St. Michael Parish Social Concerns Ministry. For more information and directions to the meeting location, call Carolyn Owens, 447-8987.

The deaf community is invited to worship at First Presbyterian Church in Livermore, where ASL translation will be provided every Sunday at 10:30 A.M. The church is located on the corner of 4th and L streets.