



"Downtown Pleasanton"

Artist Ask for Paintings to Be Returned

Three paintings belonging to artist Charlotte Severin were stolen from the Pleasanton Hotel.

There were watercolors of local scenes. The missing paintings are a 18x24 of the "Old Game Warden's Home" valued at \$850; a 15x22 of the "Old Cavestri Ranch" valued at \$650; and a 12x16 scene of Koln Hardware under the Pleasanton sign entitled, "Downtown Pleasanton" valued at \$495. All were painted on location.

Severin commented, with the Pleasanton Hotel closing its doors, "I think someone took the opportunity to grab a souvenir."

(See PAINTINGS, page 3)



Gossamer Albatross

'Flight of Imagination' Next in Series

The Rae Dorough Speakers Series at the Bankhead Theater continues with "Flight of Imagination" on Thursday, January 15th at 7:30 p.m. featuring engineer and venture capitalist, Morton Grosser.

In 1978 Grosser was recruited by Paul MacCreedy to the team which won the two largest prizes in the history of aviation.

Grosser helped design and build components for three human-powered airplanes including the Gossamer Albatross, which flew successfully across the English Channel. This engineer and scientist has written eight books and more than a hundred papers, and has eleven patents issued or pending. He is currently President of a technology consulting company and a venture capital investor in Menlo Park.

The program, "Flight of Imagination," begins with a quick historical scan of human-powered flight through the 1959 Kremer Prize. It then goes on to

(See FLIGHT, page 3)

Lab to Present Science Chats

Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory will host a "Science Chat" series this year.

The first chat on Tues., Jan. 13 will feature Lab scientist John Knezovich discussing "Carbon Dating, Anthrax and Forensic Science."

The talk will highlight the principles of carbon dating and will include examples of how this approach is being used to provide insights useful for forensic investigations.

Each talk will be presented by a Lab scientist and open to the public. There is no admission charge.

The program begins at 7 p.m. at the Livermore Civic Center Library, 1188 S. Livermore Ave., Community rooms A and B.

This year, the world celebrates the 200th anniversary of Darwin's birth, the 150th anniversary of his publication of *On the Origin of Species*, the 400th anniversary of Galileo's first use of a telescope to study the skies and the 400th anniversary of the publication of Kepler's first two laws of planetary motion.

To mark these significant events, the American Institute of Biological Sciences, the National Academy of Sciences, and more than 150 other organizations have declared Year of Science 2009, a national year of engaging the public and enhancing the understanding of science, why it matters and who scientists are.

Law Change Could Pose Threat To TV 30

By Ron McNicoll

A state law provision, which went into effect Jan. 1, requires cable TV firms to switch the city governance of their franchise agreements to state governance.

The change has the potential to radically alter the funding picture for operation of PEG, which is the acronym for public access, education and government stations.

In the Valley, the cities of Livermore, Pleasanton, Dublin and San Ramon operate Tri-Valley Community Television. Its production arm is TV 30, which carries the education and govern-

ment program parts of PEG.

Livermore Mayor Marshall Kamena said, "The outlook is bleak. I was very nervous when the state became involved, and plunked local control of TV into the state (jurisdiction). They can't even come up with a budget."

"Local programming and origination will suffer. Some 55 percent of our Livermore residents watch TV 30. It's a valuable resource. It's close to my heart. I was involved in it at the beginning (in the 1970s, the first time he was mayor). I don't think it has to stop. However, we need

to reorder our priorities," said Kamena.

The channels show city council and school board meetings, and interviews with residents in the arts and community organizations. The programs are broadcast on channels 28, 29 and 30.

Separately, the "P" part of PEG is provided by Comcast with channel 26, the public access channel. It broadcasts videos produced by residents.

"Grassroots Issues," which has been on Channel 26 for 10 years, is an example of a public access program. It is created weekly by Bob and Barbara Hickman. Bob

uses his own video camera. Barbara interviews local community activists about issues.

LOCAL AGREEMENTS GO AWAY

The new law, the Digital Infrastructure and Video Competition Act (DIVCA), was passed by the Legislature in 2006. It took time to for the state Public Utilities Commission (PUC) to get up to speed to administer it.

On Jan. 1, a provision went into effect that allows cable TV firms to dissolve their local franchise agreements. The cable TV firms would then switch over to DIVCA, which created a one-

size-fits-all franchise agreement, and requires all cities to use it. Even if a cable firm were to stick with the life of its contract, cities can't negotiate a renewal agreement. The firm must switch over to the state-mandated franchise conditions when the current local franchise agreement expires.

Comcast's franchise agreement with Tri-Valley Community Television expires in 2011, so it must switch then. Comcast is free to switch to the state agreement at any time before then, if it wishes.

The firm hasn't said it will terminate (See LOCAL ACCESS, page 4)



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Cold water and cold weather greeted those brave enough to take part in Livermore Area Recreation and Park District's annual Polar Bear Slide held last Saturday. The swift ride down the 22-foot spiral waterslide at the Robert Livermore Community Center ended abruptly in 42 degree water. Hot chocolate was served to warm up participants. They also received a certificate of completion.

Lab Retirees Upset over Health Care Changes

Retirees of the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory are caught up in the latest trend in medical coverage, "defined contributions."

Under the new program, the Lab is moving retirees from a group policy to individual policies.

Several retirees, who preferred not to be quoted, noted they are seeking legal advice. In addition, they are exploring other options, such as contacting Congressional representatives, in an effort to have questions and concerns answered.

Those covered by Medicare or Blue Cross type plans say that they are finding that they will have to spend more out of pocket for the same coverage they received last year.

Others, who have been part of Kaiser, find themselves up in the air. The latest information is that Kaiser may or may not be available in 2009 to retirees.

At an open forum where the changes were discussed, Lab spokesman Paul Rosenkoetter was asked why retirees couldn't

just be reinstated into the plans enjoyed by the other U. C. retirees. He answered, "It would cost \$13,000,000. That is an unacceptable expense."

Retiree Bob Schock is one of those impacted by Kaiser. Schock said one of the concerns is the lack of information with regard to what is happening with health care plans. He noted that at meetings where health plans were discussed, those with Kaiser plans were led to believe they shouldn't worry. Now, they are hearing

(See HEALTH CARE, page 4)

Election Highlights 2nd Six Months of 2008

The last six months of 2008 saw most incumbents returned to office in the November election. Arts facilities continued to be in the news.

JULY 2008

Livermore turned to Sacramento in an attempt to regain sales tax transferred to Fillmore, a small town in Ventura County. Livermore officials estimated that a company's decision to switch sales tax away from Livermore had left a \$2 million annual shortfall. Owens & Minor owns a warehouse in Livermore. A site designated as a sales office was set up in Fillmore so that Fillmore could receive the sales tax revenues that otherwise would have gone to Livermore. Livermore representatives appealed to the state board of equalization, which oversees sales tax distribution, and also testified before Sacramento lawmakers.

The Pleasanton City Council voted to place two hillside protection measures on the November ballot. One qualified for the ballot through the initiative process. It provided specific requirements for hillside development. The second was sponsored by a council majority of Jennifer Hos-

terman, Cheryl Cook-Kallio and Jerry Thorne. The council measure set up a process to establish a hillside development ordinance.

The Pleasanton Library received a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts to host "The Big Read" in Pleasanton. The book, "The Great Gatsby" by F. Scott Fitzgerald, was selected for the program.

The Pleasanton school board decided not to place a parcel tax on the November ballot. The decision came after Superintendent John Casey told the board that the budget, with cuts already approved, would be sufficient to carry the district into the coming school year with all important priorities retained.

The Department of Energy expanded the research role of its National Nuclear Security Administration laboratories. Among them are the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and Sandia National Laboratories California. Rather than a complete focus on nuclear weapons, the research would encompass a full spectrum of national security interests, which include

(See HIGHLIGHTS, page 5)

Recession Affects Fido And Tabby, Too

By Ron McNicoll

The national economic recession is having yet another effect on people: more of them find it necessary to put their pets up for adoption.

Animal adoption sources told The Independent they are seeing an increase in the number of people who have lost jobs, and can no longer afford the food and care needed by animals.

Since summer, there has been an estimated 20 percent increase in the number of pets put up for adoption at the Valley Humane Society, which operates a shelter in Pleasanton.

The Alameda County animal shelter at Santa Rita has also noticed an increase, although no numbers were available, said

Sheriff Sgt. Herb Walters. "Our secretary mentioned at a (staff) meeting that a couple of owners came in, and were saddened they had to give up their pets," said Walters.

There has been a small, silver lining. The Valley Humane Society came up with a program of making donations of pet food to both Meals On Wheels and the Tri-Valley Haven Food Pantry. "Meals on Wheels drivers found that some seniors would leave their plates on the floor so their pets could eat, too. This wasn't good for the pets, or the seniors," said Natalie Giordano, operations manager for the Valley Humane Society (VHS).

VHS sends pet food with (See PETS, page 4)

New Book Highlights Marylin Avenue's Success

By Patricia Koning

The year 2008 was a good one for Marylin Avenue Elementary School in Livermore. The school increased its API by 37 points, from 705 to 742 and met all criteria for Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) as defined by No Child Left Behind. This fall a new book, *Data, Data Everywhere* by Victoria Bernhardt, Ph.D., documented Marylin's gains and how they were accomplished.

Marilyn Avenue Principal Jeff Keller and other staff members first met Bernhardt in the summer of 2006 at a data analysis workshop offered by the Education for the Future Initiative, of which she is the executive director. "We realized we needed to use multiple sources of data, be-

come more focused and really bring the entire staff together," says Keller. "We really liked Victoria's process because it looks beyond student achievement."

After attending the workshop, Keller's office was filled with flip charts and post-it notes, outlining the school's vision and site plan. The staff developed essential standards to focus on and began common frequent assessments. The results from assessments helped teachers collaboratively plan and target instruction for all students, and informed the effectiveness of their teaching practices.

The Marylin staff also gathered data on perceptions about (See BOOK, page 4)



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Bill Laube (at left) hosted a sale of the Pleasanton Hotel's antiques and memorabilia last Sunday. In the photo, Laube discusses some of the history behind items to be sold with potential buyers. On Jan. 14, there will be a furniture and fixtures auction, beginning at 11 a.m. The Pleasanton Hotel was first built in 1864 by early settler John Kottinger. The original hotel burned to the ground March 18, 1898. It was rebuilt. At right is one of the items that will be sold on January 14.



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PET OF THE WEEK

Saffron is a stunning Siamese with piercing blue eyes. She is sweet and snuggly and has a friendly disposition. She is young (about 1 year) and will be available for adoption after her spay surgery. As the song goes, "I'm just wild about Saffron..." To meet Saffron, come to Valley Humane Society's Kitty City at 3670 Nevada St in Pleasanton. Open Tues-Sat from 11AM to 5PM. Visit the web site www.valleyhumane.org or call 925-426-8656 for more information.

Funds Available to Pay for Most of Livestock Pond Restoration or Repair



Local stockpond.

The Alameda County Conservation Partnership comprised of the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Alameda County Resource Conservation District (ACRCD), are offering technical assistance and up to 90% funding to private landowners and managers who are interested in repairing and restoring their failing livestock ponds.

The funding is part of the Wildlife-Friendly Pond Program, a program that aims to restore existing livestock ponds specifically to benefit native wildlife. Through the program, participants receive assistance with pond design, permitting, construction, and protection from endangered species regulations. Types of projects funded under the program include repair of existing spillways, pond de-sedimentation, partial pond fencing and native vegetation plantings.

Those interested in repairing and restoring their livestock ponds are invited to sign up through NRCS' Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP). Sign-ups for FY 2009 run through Friday, January 23, 2009. The NRCS' WHIP program provides 75% of the cost of pond repair and other approved practices undertaken to benefit wildlife. The program was reauthorized last year under the new 2008 Farm Bill. In addition, ACRCD with support from federal, state and local sources, has a separate pool of \$250,000 in funding allocated to the pond program. This funding, combined with the WHIP program dollars, allows ACRCD and NRCS to fund 90% of each pond project, leaving the landowner with only a 10% cost.

Rancher Connie Jess, one of the first landowners to enroll in the program, stated, "It would have been a long time before we could have afforded the repair on our own. And as farmers and ranchers, we don't know how to

fix the salamanders, the frogs. And the ducks are back after being gone for years. I don't know if we could be any happier."

To be eligible for funding assistance applicants must be agricultural producers in Alameda County. The program is competitive. Projects will be ranked based on their natural resource benefits. The current available funding for the pond program does have a 10-year restriction on any development and easement acquisitions for the footprint of the restored pond.

To find out more information about pond repair opportunities or to sign up for the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program, contact Jackie Charbonneau, NRCS Ecologist, at (925) 371-0154 ext. 114 or jackie.charbonneau@ca.usda.gov. Also visit www.acrcd.org to learn more about the Conservation Partnership.

Police Officers Arrest 49 on Outstanding Warrants

Fifty-three police officers from Avoid the 21's DUI warrant sweep knocked on 501 doors in Alameda County yesterday and arrested 49.

The operation was the third and last major team effort for the three-week winter holiday crackdown, following a 125-officer countywide DUI team on Dec. 12 and a 60-officer effort at the Oakland Raiders football game on Dec. 21.

Avoid the 21 ended its holiday run at midnight Jan. 1. It is a multi-jurisdictional police crackdown on impaired driving. Officer Traci Rebiejo of the Livermore police, warrant team coordinator, served two 21-year-old warrants on a 44-year-old woman from that city. "See what happens? It will come around to bite you no matter what," she told the woman before arresting her.

Rebiejo credits cooperation among counties neighboring Alameda County, extensive news

coverage and cooperation among the police departments in the county for the warrant sweep's success.

"Our high contact numbers will bring in even more in the coming weeks because we talked to a lot of neighbors who filled us in on information of where the person we were looking for lives and works and when he or she comes home every night. We



The annual New Year's Eve labyrinth was held at the First Presbyterian Church of Livermore on Dec. 31. The walk provides an opportunity to say good-bye to the old year and welcome the New Year with peace and intention. First Presbyterian's courtyard labyrinth is an 11-circuit, Chartres-style labyrinth and measures 42 feet in diameter. A Harmony Walk using hand bells ushered in the New Year.

Photo - Doug Jorgensen

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BANKHEAD THEATER
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Gleusteen-Ordroneau Duo, Violin and Piano
Del Valle Fine Arts
 Since 1999 when they first began to work together, Kai Gleusteen and Catherine Ordroneau have established themselves as one of the most important duos in the interpretation of sonatas for violin and piano. Their repertoire encompasses a myriad of short pieces representing the countries where they perform.
 Jan 9 • 8pm \$29/\$24/\$19/\$11 students

Masked Marvels and Wondertales
LVPAC's Family Fun Series
 Michael Cooper's one-man extravaganza features his original stories of courage and wonder, breathtaking handcrafted masks, outlandish still dancing, and a physical repertoire that ranges from the madcap to the sublime. This true Renaissance Man is an eye-popping visual artist and a virtuoso mime whose exquisite performances both dazzle and inspire his audience.
 Jan 11 • 2pm \$30/\$25/\$20/\$12 students

The Longevity of the Short Piece
Keyboard Conversations with Jeffrey Siegel
 Distinguished concert pianist and conductor Jeffrey Siegel creates a unique learning experience, providing lively commentary about the music before performing each work in its entirety. Byte-size musical jewels and gems—masterpieces in miniature. Mendelssohn's Songs Without Words, Grieg's Lyric Pieces, Brahms' Rhapsodies, Schubert's Impromptus, and Tchaikovsky's Nocturnes.
 Jan 13 • 8pm \$45/\$40/\$35/\$30/\$12 students

Flight of Imagination
Dr. Morton Grosser, Speakers Series
 Jan 15 • 7:30pm \$40/\$30/\$20/\$15

Standford Woodwind Quintet
Del Valle Fine Arts
 Jan 17 • 8pm \$29/\$24/\$19/\$11

Guys and Dolls
Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre
 Jan 23-Feb 8 • 2/8pm \$36/\$34/\$26

Tickets 925.373.6800
www.bankheadtheater.org

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<p>LIVERMORE REAL ESTATE FOR SALE 1001 Murrieta Blvd. Unit 16 \$145,000 Condo, 2 Bed 1.5 Bath, Built 1972, 947 +/- SQFT. PENNY CHRISTENSEN 925.730.5262 263 MARTIN AVE \$294,900 Single Family, Great Value! 1,400 +/- SQFT, 3 Bed 2 Bath. MAX DE VRIES 925.525.0116 2271 WALNUT ST \$349,950 Residential Income, Built 1952, Excellent Income property. ELIA VALENCIA 925.784.0667 4368 ARABIAN RD \$369,950 Single Family, Home was up-dated 4 years ago, 4 Bed 2 Bath. CAROLYN FORSBERG 925.447.9062 1986 CORNFLOWER CMM \$399,000 Single Family, Walk to community Pool, 3 Bed 2 Bath. DENISE IVALDI 925.845.7997 146 ESTATES ST \$399,000 Single Family, Possible in Law unit, 1,550 +/- SQFT, 3 Bed 2 Bath. VICKIE KELLER 925.371.0771 2155 SHELTER RD \$399,950 Single Family, 3 Bed 2 Bath, 1,470 +/- SQFT, Built 1968. LINDA E. SMITH 925.998.5112 243 COVELLITE LN \$400,000 Single Family, 3 Bed 2 Bath, 1,271 +/- SQFT, Built 1971. MADELINE WALKER 1.800.319.8991 126 SCHERMAN CT \$474,950 Single Family, Highly desirable neighborhood & school district. CAROLYN FORSBERG 925.447.9062</p>	<p>LIVERMORE REAL ESTATE FOR SALE 4290 CORNELL WAY \$505,000 Single Family, 3 Bed 2 Bath, 1,580 +/- SQFT, Built 1958. LINDA F. SMITH 925.998.5112 937 VIA SEVILLE \$529,000 Single Family, Summit, 5 Bed 3 Bath, 1,846 +/- SQFT, Built 1959. MADELINE WALKER 1.800.319.8991 564 ANDREA CIR \$675,000 Single Family, Brookmeadow, 4 Bed 2 Bath w/ Pool, 1,980 +/- SQFT. TOM E. CHANCE 925.487.6360 2816 WAVERLY \$695,000 Single Family, Lot Acres Ape +/- 2.40, 5 Bed 3 Bath, TR, Pool, Built 1969. VICKIE KELLER 925.371.0771 2752 CHABLIS WAY \$855,000 Single Family, Just a 10 min. walk to town, 4 Bed 2.5 Bath. ANGELA ADAMS 925.580.4513 2599 COWAN WAY \$869,500 Single Family, Livermore, BEO, 5 Bed 4 Bath, 4,600 +/- SQFT. MAX DE VRIES 925.525.0116 1817 BUENA VISTA AVE \$995,000 Single Family & Land, 2.4 +/- Acres, 1,300 +/- SQFT, 2 Bed 1 Bath home. VICKIE KELLER 925.371.0771 302 ALDEN LN \$1,100,000 Single Family, 5 Bed 3.5 Bath, 3,439 +/- SQFT, Built 2000. MADELINE WALKER 1.800.319.8991 5665 VICTORIA LN \$1,299,950 Single Family, Sharp horse property located on a private road. REBECCA LYNN EVANS 925.784.2870</p>	<p>PLEASANTON / SUNOL REAL ESTATE FOR SALE 464 DEL SOL AVE Pleasanton \$910,000 Single Family, Spacious 4 bed, 2 1/2 bath home with a 3 car garage. STACI ARMARIO 925.251.2526 3748 SELVANTE ST Pleasanton \$998,000 Land, Ridge Hill, Incredible Views of Mt. Diablo and Pleasanton Hills. COREY GREEN 925.899.6011</p> <p>S.F. EAST BAY REAL ESTATE FOR SALE 20115 REDWOOD RD Unit 24 Castro Valley \$349,999 Condo, Two Master Suits, 2 Bed 2.5 Bath, 860 +/- SQFT. MAX DE VRIES 925.251.2511 4988 KATHLEEN AVE Castro Valley \$469,999 Single Family & Land, 5.2 +/- Acres, 2,400 +/- SQFT, 3 Bed 2 Bath Home. MICHAEL TESSARO 925.519.9099 0 PALOMARES ROAD Castro Valley \$980,000 Home & Land, 3.59 +/- Acres, 1,754 +/- SQFT, 2 Bed 1 Bath Home. KRISTY PEIXOTO 925.251.2536 32777 PALOMARES ROAD Castro Valley \$1,157,000 Single Family & Land, 5.2 +/- Acres, 2,400 +/- SQFT, 3 Bed 2 Bath Home. KRISTY PEIXOTO 925.251.2536 7100 CROW CANYON ROAD Castro Valley \$3,500,000 Single Family & Land, Working Horse Boarding Facility, Lot Acres +/- 73. ROBIN DICKSON 925.251.2501 537 SILVER OAK LN DANVILLE \$629,888 Townhouse, The view is OUTSTANDING! 3 Bed 2.5 Bath. SHARON WILLIAMS 925.583.2181</p>	<p>EAST BAY REAL ESTATE FOR SALE 11601 ALEGRE DR Dublin \$675,000 Single Family, Silvergate, Fantastic Home, Court, 2,400 +/- SQFT. JOHN MITCHELL 925.251.2534 34655 BAHAMA CMM Fremont \$335,000 Townhouse, Updated, 4 Bed 2.5 Bath, 1,470 +/- SQFT. MICHAEL SWIFT \$10,414,8224 42200 VARGAS ROAD Fremont \$2,700,000 Single Family & Land, Horse Ranch, 55 +/- Acres, 4 Bed 1 Bath Home. KRISTY PEIXOTO 925.251.2536 44763 AGUILA TER Fremont \$3,499,999 Single Family, 5 Bdrms, 5 Bath, 5,660 +/- SQFT, Mission San Jose. DENISE IVALDI 925.846.7997 515 FREEMAN WAY Mountain House \$349,950 Single Family, Comfort, Convenience and Energy Efficiency! CAROLYN FORSBERG 925.447.9062 1153 FETZER LN Oakley \$229,900 Single Family, 4 Bed 2 Bath, 2,000 +/- SQFT, LOT SQFT 6,400 +/- MAX DE VRIES 925.525.0116 2024 FEATHERMINT DR San Ramon \$1,299,999 Single Family, 4 Bed 3.5 Bath, 4,558 +/- SQFT, Built 2003. DAVID AZIMI 925.251.2580 160 W BEVERLY TRACY \$299,000 Single Family, OVER 1/3 ACRE LOT, 2 Bed 2 Bath, Built 1946. EMILY HUNTER 925.785.3795 2144 W ALBERT DRIVE Tracy \$469,950 Single Family, Horse lovers dream, 3 Bed 2 Bath, 2-2 Stalls, 1.6 +/- Acres. CAROLYN FORSBERG 925.447.9062</p>
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<p>Blackhawk 4105 Blackhawk Plaza Cir. Danville, CA 94506 925.648.5300</p>	<p>Blackhawk West 3880 Blackhawk Road Danville, CA 94506 925.736.6000</p>	<p>Danville 15 Railroad Ave. Danville, CA 94526 925.855.4000</p>	<p>Lafayette 3799 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Ste. 100 Lafayette, CA 94549 925.253.7001</p>	<p>Livermore 1983 Second St. Livermore, CA 94550 925.667.2100</p>	<p>Orinda 89 Davis Rd., Ste. 100 Orinda, CA 94563 925.253.7000</p>	<p>Pleasanton 5075 Hopyard Rd., Ste. 110 Pleasanton, CA 94588 925.251.2500</p>	<p>Walnut Creek 1700 N. Main St. Walnut Creek, CA 94596 925.280.8500</p>
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FLIGHT

(continued from page one)

describe the Gossamer team's adventures from 1976 through 1981. It is illustrated with slides and a short version of the Emmy Award Winning film of the 1979 Gossamer Albatross flight across the English Channel. After the receipt of the £100,000 Kremer Prize from H.R.H. Prince Charles, the story continues with the Solar Challenger's 1981 sun-powered flight from France to England, and concludes with a look at some of its new electric-powered descendants.

Grosser is an Associate Fellow of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics and a

Fellow of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers. He learned to fly at 16, received two engineering degrees from M.I.T., a Ph.D. from Stanford University, and was a National Institutes of Health Postdoctoral Fellow at U.C.L.A. Medical Center.

He has lectured at venues including M.I.T., Stanford University, and the 2008 Symposium on the Electric Airplane, and gave a keynote address at EAA AirVenture 2008 (Oshkosh).

The Bankhead Theater is located at 2400 First Street in Downtown Livermore. The ticket office is open Tuesday through Saturday from noon to 6 p.m. On

performance days the ticket office remains open through intermission. To purchase tickets call 925-373-6800, or visit www.bankheadtheater.org.

The Rae Dorrough Speakers Series, named for long-time Livermore resident and community activist Rae Dorrough.

Additional programs in the series include: Bob Borchers, "Innovation: The Search for New Ideas" Thursday, March 5, 7:30 p.m. David M. Kennedy, "A Tale of Three Cities: How the United States Won World War II" Thursday, April 2, 7:30 p.m. Amory Lovins, "Oil Solutions" Thursday, April 30, 7:30 p.m.

PAINTINGS

(continued from page one)

The paintings are owned by me. I would like to have them returned. If anyone knows where they are, please bring them back."

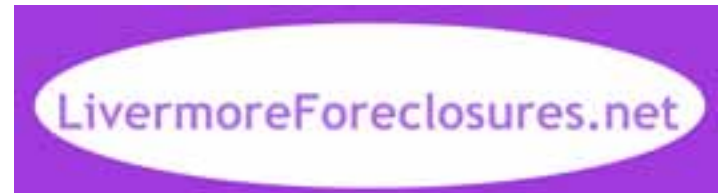
Severin is an award-winning Bay area Plein Air artist whose works are displayed in public and private collections in the United States and many foreign countries, including Japan, Guatemala, France, Germany and Mexico, as well as the foreign consulates and embassies in San Francisco.

On the Pleasanton Art League website, Severin declares, "Paint-

ing is for me a celebration of life, an opportunity to express my joy and awareness of the beauty and fascination of life all around. Nature abounds with color and form. When I paint old buildings full of history, I feel I am a part of that time."

Severin said anyone with information with regard to the whereabouts of the paintings can contact Bill Laube at the Pleasanton Hotel, 846-8106, to arrange for the return of the paintings "no questions asked."

The police case# is 09-0089.



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HIGHLIGHTS of 2008

(continued from page one)

sensor and detection technology, high performance computing, microsystems, chemical and biological technology and explosives science.

TV 30's afternoon live news show went off the air after 20 years of continual broadcasting. The funding was not available to continue the program.

The Livermore Valley Performance Arts Center (LVPAC) announced its second season of attractions at the Bankhead Theater. Among the programs are The Smothers Brothers, Tango Fire, and Arlo Guthrie, as well as a performance by the national touring company of the Broadway Musical, "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee."

An agreement between Tri-Valley Artists Guild and the Bothwell Arts Center meant that the annual ArtWalk would be held in 2008. The event became a fund-raising for the Arts Center.

Axis Community Health began registering patients in the Alameda County Excellence (ACE) program. The program was designed to meet the needs of patients with chronic health problems, such as diabetes, congestive heart failure and hypertension.

The California State Board of Education voted to extend the Livermore Valley Charter School's operations through 2013. Both the Livermore School Board and Alameda County Board of Education had voted to reject the extension of the charter because of concerns about funding.

Pleasanton asked the State Supreme Court to review a decision that reinstated a lawsuit brought by affordable housing advocates against the city. The original lawsuit was dismissed after a judge ruled the statute of limitations had lapsed to contest city policies such as the housing cap and growth management. A Court of Appeal ruled the lawsuit had been improperly dismissed.

Construction began on the Firehouse Arts Center in downtown Pleasanton. The center will include a theater with flexible seating for 240, an art gallery, two arts classrooms, a grand lobby and offices. The cost is \$12.8 million with projected opening sometime in 2010.

The Livermore City Council heard a report from Economic Development Director Rob White that included information that the Bankhead Theater had been "dramatically successful" during its first year. There were 204 performances and 53 rehearsal dates at the theater, well above projections.

Livermore proposed adding a fee on development that would fund more facilities for social services. The fee of \$1600 per single family home would be offset by a \$3000 dip in the current in-lieu affordable housing fee, which is currently \$36,000.

The Las Positas College wine program won awards at the Alameda County Fair. One was for its first vintage, the 2005 Las Positas College Cellars Cabernet Sauvignon and one for the label designed by students in the college's design shop.

Steve Brozovsky announced plans to run for Pleasanton mayor, taking on incumbent Jennifer Hosterman. Brozovsky had run in 2006, losing in a close vote to Hosterman.

The Livermore Area Recreation and Park District unveiled its new master plan. Open space parks, trails and a sports park were among the facilities listed as desirable in the plan.

A new study found that bird deaths had increased in the Altamont Wind Power corridor. The increase came despite some partial shutdowns of towers and replacement of some of the older towers.

AUGUST 2008

Alameda County Supervisor Scott Haggerty said the county would pay for the Stoneridge Drive extension in Pleasanton. He made the statement during a State of the County talk hosted

by the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce. The extension is controversial, with residents living near the road opposed to it because of the traffic that would travel along it. Others want it open to help with traffic circulation in other parts of Pleasanton and the entire Valley.

Following the close of filing for the November election, the Livermore school district kicked off its effort to renew the district's parcel tax. The district asked voters to extend the tax for five years at an annual rate of \$138 per parcel. In Pleasanton, incumbent Jennifer Hosterman and Steve Brozovsky found themselves in a rematch for mayor. Council incumbents Cindy McGovern and Matt Sullivan and challengers Jerry Pentin and Howard Neely filed for the two council seats. (Neely would eventually drop out of the race.) Two candidates, John McPartland and Linda Jeffery Sailors, sought the District 5 BART Board seat. There were six candidates for the three Pleasanton school board seats, Valerie Arkin, Jeff Bowser, Jamie Yee Hintske, Prasad Rallipalli, Stephen Page, and incumbent Chris Grant. The Livermore school board attracted four candidates, incumbents Tom McLaughlin and Bill Morrison, and challengers Stewart Gary and Charles Rogge, Jr. Incumbents Steve Goodman and Beth Wilson faced one challenger, Barbara Kraybill for the two Livermore Area Recreation and Park District board positions.

The Board of Directors of the Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center voted to pursue a change in the proposed site for the 2000 seat regional theater. The new site would be within the old Lucky Shopping Center complex at Livermore and Railroad Avenues. The theater would face Livermore Avenue.

The Tri-Valley Business Council created a task force geared to form a partnership among educators, business people and government officials to expand options for people wanting to enter the growing field of sustainable business. One of the main tasks would be to provide education for workers to take jobs in green technology and energy fields. The effort is being led by Jim Caldwell.

The City of Livermore was happy with a recommendation made by the State Board of Equalization, which oversees sales tax distribution. The board withheld the first quarter sales tax from Fillmore, pending a final resolution of the issue of whether Livermore or Fillmore should receive revenues.

The Livermore Area Recreation and Park District voted to prohibit alcohol from being served at events attended mainly by youth.

The Livermore Valley Charter School proposed purchase of 13.5 acres of property just south of Robertson Park. The plan was to build facilities to house the current school and a proposed Livermore Valley Charter Prep. Neighbors weren't happy with the plan, pointing to increased traffic as a major concern. They also said the site was too small to house the charter school facilities.

Work began on a new arts center at Las Positas College. The

54,000 square foot theater would seat 500 with a 1500 seat outdoor amphitheater. The cost is \$35 million.

The Wentz Family Estates' 125th harvest got underway with the harvest of Sauvignon Blanc in the family's Ruby Hill Vineyard.

The Livermore Chamber of Commerce was the first area chamber to enroll in a program that makes the business office officially a "carbon neutral" workplace.

The City of Pleasanton launched its mandatory campaign finance e-filing system on the city's website.

Issues raised during the first debate among Pleasanton mayoral and council candidates included the two hillside protection measures, the Stoneridge Drive extension, and affordable housing.

SEPTEMBER 2008

The Livermore Area Recreation and Park District heard a plan for the recovery of trees at Sycamore Grove Park. Board members learned that Zone 7 summer water releases were not the cause of the decline of the sycamore trees. Rather, a study found that trees became conditioned to the releases and suffered when water was not available, such as during drought years. The recovery plan included planting new trees in areas where water would be available during the summer.

Joe Michell Elementary School in Livermore was expanded to include sixth graders for the first time.

Zone 7 Water District predicted that water rates could increase by as much as 30 percent in 2009. There are fixed costs the district needs to cover. Conservation has resulted in less use of water, which means the district needs to raise its rates to provide the needed funds.

Proponents of the Oak Grove referendum filed an official appeal of a Superior Court decision that declared the referendum to be invalid. The court ruled that petition gatherers did not carry the proper information. The referendum seeks to overturn the approval of development on the property in the southeast hills of Pleasanton. The plan includes 497 acres of public open space and 51 custom lots.

A report presented to the Livermore City Council found that a proposed regional theater in downtown Livermore continued to be a viable project. Revised financial figures indicated that moving the theater to the Old Lucky site would reduce both the construction and operating costs.

The Pleasanton City Council endorsed plans to build an ice rink within the 17-acre park site on the proposed Staples Ranch development.

BART to Livermore topped the Livermore Chamber of Commerce survey amenities wish list. Business people in Livermore were surveyed. Closely following BART was redevelopment of aging retail centers.

The Livermore school district and Livermore Education Association continued to be at odds over salary increases. Teachers held a rally to gather support for their demand for a 3.75 percent increase. The district had offered a 1.5 percent increase for salary and health care benefits.

The Livermore Valley Per-

forming Arts Center board announced that David Dial would replace Len Alexander as executive director on October 1. Dial had been the general manager for over a year.

The Livermore City Council approved a social services fee on new development. At the same time, the council supported moving forward to consider making the fee citywide, possibly through a parcel tax or a bond measure. The fee on new development would be used to build or rehabilitate existing facilities where services are provided.

A blessing of the grapes began Concannon Vineyard's 125th harvest.

The Livermore City Council approved staff plans to move forward with planning for several major projects in the downtown, including a regional theater and upscale hotel. Staff was directed to interview five potential mixed use developers for the former Lucky site between Livermore Avenue and L Street.

The Pleasanton City Council approved a plan to build 350 apartments near the West BART station. Matt Sullivan was opposed, stating he believed it to be the wrong project because it was too small to be a true transit oriented development. Twenty percent of the units are affordable to very low income residents.

OCTOBER 2008

The Livermore Education Association, the teachers' union, rejected an offer by the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District for a 3 percent salary increase. The two sides had been negotiating the salary increase and other issues for nearly 16 months. A mediator called a close to mediation and certified both parties for fact finding.

A report prepared for the Livermore City Council recommended that the Springtown Golf Course remain as it is. The city should look for a new operator and look for ways to increase play and revenue at the course. The council voted to seek new management.

The Tri-Valley Adolescent Youth Initiative received two statewide awards. The program involves a partnership that includes the Alameda County Health Care Services Agency, the Board of Supervisors, and the cities of Dublin, Livermore and Pleasanton. Awards presented were the League of California Cities Ruth Vreeland Award for Engaging Youth in Local Government and the City, County and Schools Partnership Award for 2008.

The Lab was announced that radiation detection technology developed by the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory scientists was being used by state and local governments to monitor for nuclear materials.

A study found that noise from operations at the Livermore Airport had not increased over the last seven years. The report indicated that noise levels were less than anticipated. At the same time, the study found that single aircraft events, mainly jets, exceeded the recommended noise threshold.

Festivities marked the long awaited opening of the new Alviso Adobe Community Park in Pleasanton. The historic adobe is the centerpiece of the seven acre park that tells the story of how one piece of land has been inhabited and used in different ways.

A summit was held to form an action plan to help fill jobs in the medical profession. To provide workers, it was noted that educational institutions must respond to devise a curriculum to keep pace with changes in the profession. Jim Caldwell organized the summit.

The Pleasanton school district reported that state budget woes could bring mid-year school cuts. The district would await the outcome of budget discussions in Sacramento to learn how great the drop in funding would be.

Developers gave over \$30,000 to help gain voter approval of Measure QQ, the council sponsored hillside development measure on the November ballot.

Granada High School science teacher Frankie Tate was named Alameda County teacher of the year.

A reward that eventually

topped \$20,000 was posted to catch the unknown person or persons who killed two horses and a cow on Collier Canyon Road.

The Livermore Valley Charter School dropped plans to build a K-12 complex south of Robertson Park. The tight bond market was cited as the reason.

Improvements to Highway 84 were completed three years ahead of schedule. The project included realignment of the road, climbing lanes and a median buffer to separate traffic.

The Pleasanton City Council reversed previous support of an increase in the Tri-Valley Transportation Committee traffic impact fee. The move followed a recommendation by Livermore, Dublin and Alameda County to add wording asking that Highway 84 improvements be dropped from the funding priority list. Improvements to Highway 84 are a top priority for Pleasanton.

NOVEMBER 2008

Open Heart Kitchen said it would have to close its doors unless additional funding were provided. The community responded, and by the end of December had raised enough money to keep the kitchen open until at least the end of March. Fund-raising efforts continued.

Election results showed that incumbents fared well at the polls, as did measures asking voters to provide funding for schools and parks. In Pleasanton city races, Jennifer Hosterman was reelected mayor and Cindy McGovern and Matt Sullivan were returned to the council. The lone incumbent running for the Pleasanton school board, Chris Grant, was elected along with newcomers Valerie Arkin and Jamie Yee Hintske. Both hillside protection measures were ap-

(continued on page 12)

SHORT NOTES

Volunteers in Action

The Volunteers in Action program with the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District will hold a Leadership-in-Training Experience school-year session to teach teens how to become involved.

"Martin Luther King Jr. Day: Appreciating the Diversity Within Us" is a program to promote King's vision of building broad and diverse coalitions, breaking down barriers and making the community the best it can be.

The program will begin with sharing information about how teenagers can volunteer and what they will gain from it in return. LARPD's volunteer program will be discussed, along with future opportunities, why volunteering is important from both a personal and community standpoint and how each person can make a difference.

In addition to learning how to give back to the Livermore community, those who attend will join in a canned food scavenger hunt and then donate the findings to the St. Vincent de Paul food bank.



Gurbaksh Chahal

'G' Will Talk about 'The Dream' at Library Program

Gurbaksh Chahal, known as "G," will present "The Dream" at a January 18 program at the Pleasanton Library.

This young entrepreneur dropped out of school to form his first company, ClickAgents, becoming a multi-millionaire at age 18.

G is featured on the new prime-time network show The Secret Millionaire. He has appeared on The Oprah Winfrey Show, FOX Business Network's Cavuto, among others, and has been profiled in such publications as The New York Times, Entrepreneur magazine, and The San Francisco Chronicle. His memoir, "The Dream" is the story of his road to success.

The program is at 2 p.m. in the meeting room, 400 Old Bernal Ave., Pleasanton. The program is free and open to all. No registration required.

Towne Center Books will sell The Dream at the event. Call 846-8826 for pre-sale information.

For more information, call Penny Johnson, 925/931-3405.

The training will be held at 10 a.m. Monday, Jan. 26, at the Robert Livermore Community Center, 4444 East Ave., Livermore. This program is geared toward youth in sixth through 12th grade. The fee to participate is \$5 per person. Pre-registration is required. Registration can be completed online at www.larpd.dst.ca.us or by phone at 925-373-5700.

New Year Birds

New Year Birds is the theme of a Sun., Jan. 11 nature program presented by the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District ranger staff.

Meet Ranger Pat Sotelo at 8 a.m. at the Nature Area entrance to Sycamore Grove Park. Come check out the new 2009 bird models and see what they have to offer. Take a look at the eye-catching colors and sleek lines, and come see if you can spot any sporty new models to add to your bird lists. The group may even get some special things such as bird songs and calls thrown in at no extra charge. Don't forget binoculars and field guides. There will be a few to lend. This bird walk will last about two hours. Cancelled if raining.

There is a \$3 per vehicle parking fee. A \$2 donation is requested to help support the programs. Participants may call 925-960-2400 for more information.

ZooMobile at Library

The Oakland Zoo's ZooMobile will bring an array of small animals to the Pleasanton Library on Saturday, January 24.

Children from Pre-K through 1st grade learn about appropriate behavior around animals, are introduced to simple facts about animal classes and physical structures, and learn to observe similarities and differences in the appearance and behavior of various animals. An underlying theme is that of appreciating and respecting animals and nature.

No registration is required for this 30 minute program, which will be offered at 10:30 and 11:30 a.m. Free tickets will be distributed at the Children's Desk 30 minutes prior to each show. Attendance will be limited to 100 per session. Doors will be closed to late arrivals once the program begins. For more information about library programs and events check the library's website at www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/services or call the Children's Desk at (925) 931-3400 ext. 8.

Court Volunteers

Adult volunteers needed for the Tri-Valley Youth Court (TVYC), a youth driven justice program for first time offenders. The court meets the first Tuesday evening of each month at the Gale/Schenone courthouse in Pleasanton from 5:30 - 7:45 pm. For more information, visit our website at www.trivalleyyouthcourt.com or call Tonya at (925) 337-7175.

Teen Volunteers Needed for new Tri-Valley Youth Court (TVYC) to serve as Advocates (youth attorneys) and jurors. Advocates prepare and present the case for the Defendant. Jurors are needed one evening per month - the first Tuesday from 5:30 pm - 8:00 pm at the Gale/Schenone courthouse in Pleasanton. TVYC is a youth driven adjunct to the traditional juvenile justice system for first time teen offenders. For more information, visit our website at www.trivalleyyouthcourt.com or call Tonya at (925) 337-7175.

Shot Clinic

Axis Community Health has scheduled free immunization clinics for children on January 10, February 7, and March 7, 2009 from 9:00-11:00 a.m. The clinics will take place at Axis' Pleasanton Clinic only, 4361 Railroad

Avenue, between Main and First Streets in downtown Pleasanton.

Saturday Immunization clinics are open to all Tri-Valley families who are low income or uninsured, including those enrolled in Medi-Cal and Medi-Cal Managed Care. Parents should bring child's immunization records and information about family income and medical insurance. There is a fee for some immunizations.

Immunizations by appointment are also available at (925) 462-1755.

Child Care Programs

Child Care Links provides free workshops to employers in Livermore, Pleasanton and Dublin.

Workshop facilitators will provide valuable information on important issues to parents at their work site. Workshops are available on a variety of topics and can be tailored to the needs of employees. The length of each workshop can range from 45 minutes to 2 hours. Workshops can be during the lunch hour, or at another time arranged by the employer. Child Care Links can also provide a series of workshops.

Training Topics include: Choosing Child Care, Parenting Skills, Child Development, and Work/Family Balance.

A Child Care Links facilitator will present the curriculum, related handouts, resource materials and answer questions. Child Care Links' staff is available during business hours to answer further questions, provide free child care referrals and community resources.

Employers or employees are encouraged to call for further information on this free service. For more information contact Shauna Brown at (925) 249-3925. There is no charge for this service.

Arithmetickles

"Math + Fun = Arithmetickles" - that's the educational idea behind a unique in-school assembly program that's coming to Northern California's K-8 schools in January.

Arithmetickles is a one-of-a-kind, interactive touring show that for 12 years has taken the fear out of numbers at elementary and middle schools in 26 states nationwide.

Livermore's Marilyn Avenue Elementary (800 Marilyn Avenue; 925-606-4724) will host daytime assemblies of this acclaimed math show on Tuesday, January 20 at 9 and 10 a.m.

Arithmetickles takes math "off the page and onto the stage" by blending fast-paced theater games, audience participation, improvisation, mime, puzzles, skits, and stand-up comedy to capture the attention of school children ages six to fourteen.

Produced by ArtsEcho (a national nonprofit arts organization founded in 1987), Arithmetickles demonstrates that numbers, shapes, percentages, fractions, and logic are a vital part of our everyday lives. The performance shows kids how to creatively explore and solve math problems in real life situations.

LeapFish Search Engine

LeapFish, a multi-dimensional search aggregator, launched its beta search engine, LeapFish.com, that promises to conveniently surprise users with new-found search information as it combines the best of the web in a single search.

Type in a search term and LeapFish instantly delivers a plethora of relevant results from Google, Yahoo, and MSN, along with blogs, news, Q&A, videos, images and shopping results from major online destinations including Ebay and YouTube, all conveniently organized in a single, easy to use interface.

"The growing complexity and variety of the Internet has naturally fragmented data accessibility online. Today's users are driven to utilize more than one online destination to find the data they seek," said Behnam Behrouzi, President and CEO. "LeapFish offers a

one-stop convenient solution for more complex searches by querying the web's most sought-after destinations and rendering the results to users in a surprisingly easy-to-use format."

LeapFish features a clean interface with search widgets that display up-to-the-minute news, images, videos and more, on every search term. Click "see more" under a search widget and view a complete list of relevant results.

Behrouzi points out that LeapFish does not intend to race alongside Google or Yahoo, but instead seeks to leverage what is already working and wanted online. "LeapFish utilizes what already works to capture the breadth and variety of the web and lends more accessibility to what is already valuable to us in the vastness of the Internet," he says.

LeapFish utilizes proprietary hyper-threading technology to communicate with all major online portals simultaneously to deliver the various search results from across the web to users in a single search query. The beta search platform has been under development since early 2008 and is geared for considerable advancements over the coming months.

'Invention of Air'

Bestselling author Steven Johnson will be featured in a Thurs., Jan. 15 program at the Pleasanton Library.

In his book, "The Invention of Air," Johnson recounts the story of the Joseph Priestley, a man who embodied the relationship between science, religion and politics for America's Founding Fathers.

The program will begin at 7 p.m. in the library's meeting room, 400 Old Bernal Ave.

Johnson is also the author of the national bestsellers The Ghost Map, Everything Bad Is Good for You, and Mind Wide Open, as well as Emergence and Interface Culture. He was the co-founder of the online magazine FEED and is a contributing editor to Wired.

Towne Center Books will sell "The Invention of Air" at the event. For presale information call 925/846-8826.

This program is free and open to everyone. For more information about the library program call 931-3405.

Garden Docents

The City of San Ramon is looking for adults interested in becoming garden docents for the school tour programs at Crow Canyon Gardens.

The school tour programs run in the fall and spring seasons, September to November and March to May. The programs consist of age-appropriate, 1-hour tours in the gardens for students, grades K-5. The programs run weekday mornings. Training sessions will be held by appointment.

Crow Canyon Gardens is located at 105 Park Place in San Ramon, behind Mudd's Restaurant, just off of Crow Canyon Road. Crow Canyon Gardens is an organic 7-acre garden site that is dedicated to educating the public about organic gardening practices in a beautiful natural setting. There is a demonstration garden, community garden plots and a natural riparian area. Students will learn about natural science, including organic gardening concepts in a peaceful setting.

Those interested in becoming a garden docent, please contact Jessica Palacios at (925) 973-3213 or (925) 314-0362 or email her at jpacios@sanramon.ca.gov.



The Go Green Environmental Club of Christensen Middle School (students in photo) in Livermore did their part this fall to clean up local waterways. With the help of Leslie Koenig from the Alameda County Conservation Partnership's Hands-on-Conservation Program and the City of Livermore, students collected trash along the Arroyo Las Positas on September 20th to support Coastal Clean-up Day. The garbage pulled from the creek and banks filled a dump truck to the top. The Conservation Partnership, City of Livermore, and LARPD organized a second clean-up along Altamont Creek, with students from Altamont Creek Elementary School joining the middle school students. During both activities, students noticed a high amount of pet waste near the water. "I wish people would clean up after their pets and pick up their trash," commented one student. "The water in this creek is part of our drinking supply!" Pet waste is a neighborhood nuisance and a carrier of potential illness into our streams and rivers. To prevent this from occurring in local creeks, take a plastic bag or pooper scooper along and pick up your pet's waste. Once you pick up the waste, put it in the trash. For more information on the Conservation Partnerships Hands-on-Conservation Program, please visit www.acrcd.org and click on youth education.

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Pleasanton to Provide Help for Consumers

Pleasanton residents can ring in the New Year by learning about their consumer rights at a new Consumer Affairs Clinic offered through the Pleasanton Senior Center, located at 5353 Sunol Boulevard. Hosted by the Department of Consumer Affairs, the clinic will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon on the first Tuesday of each month, beginning on Tuesday, February 3.

Residents can call (925) 931-5365 to make an appointment with a Consumer Affairs counselor who will assist in resolving consumer specific issues. The type of disputes typically handled through the program relate to refunds, repair/rework, service, product exchange, electronic and appliance service contracts and warranty issues.

This free Complaint Resolution Program is part of the Consumer and Community Empowerment Division of the Department of Consumer Affairs.

ment of Consumer Affairs. The program is responsible for resolving consumer complaints that pertain to the following industries: automotive repair, home furnishings, electronic and appliance repair, private investigator, private security, burglar alarm, repossession, locksmith, security guard, baton and firearm training, hearing aid dispenser, and cemetery and funeral.

ance repair, private investigator, private security, burglar alarm, repossession, locksmith, security guard, baton and firearm training, hearing aid dispenser, and cemetery and funeral.

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LIVERMORE CALIFORNIA

PUBLIC WORKSHOP

For the City of Livermore Zoning Code Update
Robert Livermore Community Center - Cresta Blanca Ballroom, 4444 East Avenue

Monday, January 12, 2009: Opening Presentation 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Tuesday and Wednesday, January 13 and 14, 2009:

- Open Door Studio 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- Design Proposals and Form-Based Code Creation - 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- Brown Bag Lunch Topics: Building types and density (Tuesday); Pedestrian-oriented street design (Wednesday) 12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m.

Thursday, January 15, 2009: Closing Presentation 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

At the Charrette, we will solicit community input on how to apply Form-Based Codes to two designated Focus Areas - South of Downtown and North of Downtown - to emphasize the traditional patterns and character found in these older Livermore neighborhoods. One goal is to increase the walkability and transit ridership in these areas. The Charrette will allow participants to collaborate with planners, engineers, and architects to create a vision for the Focus Areas, including the character and scale of future development.

For more information, please call Christine Rodrigues in the Planning Division, at (925) 960-4450, or email her at cnrodrigues@ci.livermore.ca.us.

Palo Alto Medical Foundation
A Sutter Health Affiliate
THE CURE FOR COMMON MEDICINE

Dublin Center
4050 Dublin Boulevard
(corner of Dublin Blvd. and Tassajara Rd.)
Second Floor Conference Room
pamf.org

Community Education Programs

January 2009

Featured Lecture

Anthony Dobson, M.D., Ph.D.
FPMF Reproductive Endocrinology and Fertility

Understanding Your Body: Fertility and Pregnancy Planning
Wednesday, January 14, 6:30 - 8 p.m.

Join us to learn more about the female and male reproductive systems, as well as factors that impact fertility, including fibroids, PCOS (polycystic ovary syndrome), endometriosis and much more. The speakers will also discuss treatment options that may help you achieve pregnancy.

Sunny Jun, M.D.
FPMF Reproductive Endocrinology and Fertility

Upcoming Lecture

Narayan Karnik, M.D., Ph.D.
FPMF Psychiatry and Behavioral Health

The Teen Brain
Wednesday, February 18, 6:30 - 8 p.m.

Ever wonder why your teenager sleeps so much? Why do teens argue and fight about everything? Dr. Karnik will discuss recent findings from neuroscience, psychology and sociological research that shed some light on how teenage brains work (or fail to work).

Palo Alto Medical Foundation, Dublin Center
4050 Dublin Boulevard, 2nd Floor Conference Room
Register today at 925-875-6464. No fee.

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Livermore Marketing group ready for New Year

By Cher Wollard The Livermore Marketing group is starting 2009 with new ideas, a new venue and a new board of directors.

"The marketing groups are great networking opportunities for Realtors and other professionals," said Jo Ann Luisi, a Realtor with Alain Pinel of Livermore and the incoming president of the board of the directors. "We also want to provide education about our community and the industry."

Even before Luisi and the rest of the new board had taken office, the group was challenged with an immediate need to find a new venue for the meetings.

"The Carvery - new neighbors to the community - offered to let us rent their space," she said. "They have been very gracious and we really appreciate that."

The start of the new year usually attracts large crowds to the Thursday morning meetings. Luisi hopes to capture that first-of-the-year enthusiasm to grow the organization.

"Our board this year is definitely going to be putting efforts into building membership," she said, adding that they hope to increase attendance with great programs.

The first speakers in 2009 will include a member of the Livermore Chamber of Commerce, who will talk about plans for the new outlet mall that will be built off of Isabel Avenue, and a tax accountant, who will bring valuable information for consumers involved in short sale and bank-owned transactions.

The new board also plans to continue offering panel discussions, like those pioneered by the 2008 board, with experts on such topics as "changes in financing," "short sales," "the importance of staging" and "appraisals in a down market."

"I think the past boards have done a wonderful job of attracting really good speakers, and also setting up panels," Luisi said. "We'll certainly continue the use of panel discussions to cover issues that are relevant for our members."

The group has been drawing 60-70 people to its weekly meetings. The new board hopes to encourage more agents and real estate affiliates to attend. The Livermore group will be working more closely with other area marketing groups and working on improving its web presence.

"We'll be cooperating with the marketing groups in Pleasanton, Central County and the Tri-Cities to find out about their communities as well. And also to share what works at our meetings," she said.

She said she hopes the marketing group will be able to attract Realtors from other areas as well as Livermore agents who have not been attending the meetings regularly.

Luisi especially sees opportunities for agents with new listings to present the information about those properties to the group.

"A good portion of our meeting is dedicated to agents talking about their new listings and inviting others to visit them on tour. Their listings receive exposure."

"Tour" is the weekly Broker's Tour, in which homes are held open for agents to preview. These tours are held after the Thursday early morning marketing meetings, from about 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Luisi said she has been a member of Livermore Marketing group since she became a Realtor in 2003.

"It has really benefited my career," she said. "It has given me a chance to get to know people I would not have otherwise gotten to know. And I've received information that has been valuable in my business and for my clients. I really do believe in it. I'm hoping that, as president, I can give back."

"The way the industry is now - not just real estate, but all businesses are becoming more more-customer focused. It used to be that you walked into a business and they ignored you, because there was someone else walking in right behind you. We have to learn more so we can serve our clients better. Livermore Marketing can help agents do that."

Part of the value of the group in the past couple of years has been in sharing market statistics. The group's Tour Director produces tour sheets - which offer a list of properties open for viewing that week, along with maps and other information - that now include data about Livermore market trends. Tour Director Holly Bruce of Windermere Welcome Home will continue in the role she has had since 2007.

"The market statistics are so important, because there is so much information given out in the media that is nationally based," Luisi said. "This market is really a local market, even a neighborhood market."

She noted that much of the broadly disseminated, mostly negative market information pertains more to the Central Valley than to the Tri-Valley.

"We need to educate ourselves and our clients," she said. "Our market is still strong. The inventory of bank-owned properties is really dropping."

"Prices are down from the high point, but houses are selling."

In addition to serving its members, Livermore Marketing group traditionally gives back to the community in various ways. In 2008, the group raised funds for Open Heart Kitchen, played "Santa" to four local families and contributed to Members Helping Members, a fund for Bay East Association of Realtors members in emergency situations.

One of the more popular fund-raisers was a weekly raffle. But Bay East's attorney has cautioned that such raffles may not meet the state's legal guidelines, so Livermore Marketing is looking for other means to raise money for these charitable causes.

Incoming Vice President Jeff Repine, also with Alain Pinel, is making this his mission for the year.

One possibility is to implement a program he wants to call Realtors for Change, something that is more based on giving back monetarily, but include other ways that don't come from the pocket book.

"Save your change during the week. Then take that money out of your pocket and bring it in to donate," he explained. "Everybody's probably good for two or three or five dollars per week that they wouldn't miss. If you do the numbers, we probably will replace the raffle."

At the end of the year, the group will decide where to donate the funds raised. Repine said they may partner with the Pleasanton marketing group in this effort.

In addition to Luisi, Repine and Bruce, the 2009 Board of Directors includes: Rick Benitez of Residential Pacific Mortgage, treasurer; Leslie Faught of Alain Pinel and Carolyn Thomas of Cherry Creek Mortgage, correspondence officers; Karen Long of Wells Fargo Home Mortgage, affiliate liaison; Gary Koehmstedt of Legacy Real Estate and Associates and Carla Winter of Re/Max Accord as sergeants-at-arms; Randi DeHollander of Vintage Mortgage and Francine Bauer of Placer Title Company, public relations officers; and Sasha Markham of MSR Value, communications officer.

"I think they are a really good group of people," Luisi said. "They are really dedicated and we're committed to helping each other. I'm optimistic we'll make this a really good year for marketing association members."

The Livermore Marketing group meets Thursdays at 8:30 a.m. at The Carvery, 2491 First Street.

Cher Wollard is a Realtor with Windermere Welcome Home, Livermore.

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NOTICES/ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Axis Health Center 4361 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. Serves Valley residents with emphasis on those with low income. The center has general medical services, family planning, well baby, prenatal and maternity programs, social services, blood pressure checks, WIC food supplement programs, premarital blood test, sports/camp physicals, TB screening, free transportation available. 925 462-1755

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Role Players Ensemble Opens 2009 with Comedy

Steve Martin's funny adaptation of Carl Sternheim's 1910 comedy, *The Underpants*, opens January 16th as the second play in Danville Role Players Ensemble's 25th season.

The Underpants is described as a laugh-out-loud satire on bourgeois manners and customs with a sharp focus on hypocrisy. Area theatergoers can't afford to miss this hilarious production.

Performances are at 8 p.m. on Thursdays through Saturdays and at 2 p.m. on Sundays through February 7th at the Village Theatre, 233 Front Street in Danville.

Directed by RPE artistic director Sue Trigg, the play starts with an embarrassing domestic accident, when a young wife's undergarments fall down while she is waving to the royal entourage. The impact on her husband and her marriage is nearly catastrophic as he fears that his career and, more importantly, his social reputation have been damaged beyond repair. "Don't underestimate the power of a glimpse of lingerie," says Theo Maske in *The Underpants*.

The consequences as the action unfolds are both wonderfully funny and sharply satirical.

"Steve Martin's career as a writer, stand-up comedian, actor and sometime Grammy-winning musician has been extraordinary" said Sue Trigg, the play's director. "Had he concentrated on playwriting, with works like *Picasso at the Lapin Agile* and *The Underpants*, he would have been among our greatest writers for the theatre. *The Underpants* is theatrical comedy at its very best."

This is Sue Trigg's third show as a director after becoming RPE Artistic Director in 2006.

Martin has always believed in the seriousness of comedy and has been winning writing awards since his 1969 writing Emmy for *The Smothers Brothers Comedy Hour*. His writing career has included 1990s pieces for *The New Yorker*, later published in a collection called *Pure Drivel*. He is also the author of two novellas,



Xanadu Bruggers as Louise Maske

Photo - Patrick Tracy

The Shopgirl (later a movie) and *The Pleasure of My Company*. His 2007 memoir, *Born Standing Up*, was critically acclaimed.

Sue Trigg has assembled an excellent cast for *The Underpants*. Bonnie DeChant was last seen in RPE's outstanding production of *Bus Stop*. John Blytt played an unforgettable Sylvia in RPE's *Ruthless, The Musical* and also appeared in RPE's *The School for Scandal* along with Xanadu Bruggers and Craig Eychner. Michael Sally has appeared in productions at theatres throughout the Bay Area, including Hillbarn, Hapgood, Chanticleers, Bus Barn, Ross Valley Players, Dragon Productions, Theatre-in-the Woods, and Actors Ensemble of Berkeley. Eddie Peabody showed his comedy skills as an ugly sister in RPE's 2005 production of *Thinderella*.

The Underpants will be staged at Danville's Village Theatre, 233 Front St., Danville. It runs January 16th through February 7th, Thurs. - Sat. at 8 p.m., Sun. at 2 p.m. Tickets for \$22-25, \$15 for students with ID and groups of 10 or more available at www.villageattheatre.com, the Danville Community Center, 420 Front St. Danville, or call (925)314-3400. For information visit www.danvilletheatre.com or call (925) 820-1278.

Award Winning Artist Featured Guest at Artists' Meeting

The Livermore Art Association (LAA) and Pleasanton Art League (PAL) hold their joint monthly meeting, featuring an art demonstration by Bryan Mark Taylor on Jan. 12.

Taylor was the featured in Artist's Magazine's 2007 "25 Under 40" article, which recognizes emerging artists on a national scale, and was a finalist in their 2008 national competition. He is an accomplished landscape painter and active in the plein air movement Taylor will demonstrate techniques in oil painting at the meeting.

This is a free event. The public is welcome to attend. The meeting is on Monday, January



Bryan Mark Taylor work titled "Lakeside Rockfall."

12, 7:30-9:00 pm at the Almond Avenue School, 1401 Almond Avenue in Livermore. Additional parking is at the rear of the school.

For more information visit the LAA website www.livermoreartassociation.org.

ART & ENTERTAINME

(continued from page 8)

Livermore. 925-373-6800, www.livermoreperformingarts.org
An Artist Way Group is forming in Livermore. Meeting on Wednesdays starting January 14th from 7-8:30 p.m. at UCC 1886 College Ave. Sign up to join the group by emailing jjlock080103@yahoo.com or calling 925-449-6820. Meetings are January 14, 21, 28; February 4, 11, 18; March 4, 11, 18, 25; April 1, 8, 15. The Artist's Way is a spiritual path to higher creativity.

Punch Brothers featuring Chris Thile of Nickel Creek fame, Sun., Feb. 15, 8 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First Street, Downtown Livermore. The acoustic bluegrass Punch Brothers formed by mandolin player Chris Thile of Nickel Creek fame, serve up bluegrass with modern classical composition. The quintet includes Thile, Gabe Witcher on fiddle, Noam Pikelny on banjo, guitarist Chris Eldridge and bassist Greg Garrison. \$55/\$40/\$35/\$30/\$12 students. 925.373.6800 or online at www.livermoreperformingarts.org.
Tango Fire, Wed., Feb. 18, 8 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First Street, Downtown Livermore. Featuring a

quintet of brilliant young musicians, ten torrid dancers and one of Argentina's finest singers, Tango Fire traces the history of Tango, from its origins in the red light district of Buenos Aires to the glamour of the Roaring Twenties, and its evolution to the world of contemporary ballroom, accompanied by the music of Astor Piazzolla and many others. 925.373.6800 or online at www.livermoreperformingarts.org.

Tribute to Glenn Miller and Gene Krupa featuring the Tex Beneke Orchestra, Sat., Feb. 21, 8 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First Street, Downtown Livermore. Experience the 13-piece Tex Beneke Orchestra's showcase of big band classics from Glenn Miller's "In The Mood" and "Tuxedo Junction" to Gene Krupa's "Sing Sing Sing" and "Don't Be That Way." The evening also stars Mary Lou Metzger, a featured singer and dancer on the Lawrence Welk television series and the recent host of several music specials on PBS. The award winning String of Pearls group rounds out the. Tickets available at 373.6800 or online at www.livermoreperformingarts.org.

O'Neill Foundation to Honor Paul Robeson; Others

Actor, singer and social activist Paul Robeson will be honored Jan. 21 along with two individuals and an institution for work that has embraced and supported the legacy of American playwright Eugene O'Neill and the Danville based foundation that bears his name.

The Eugene O'Neill Foundation in partnership with the National Park Service will present awards at a dinner, open to the public, on Jan. 21 at 6:30 p.m. at the Crow Canyon Country Club in Danville. Reservations at \$80 per person may be made at 820-1818.

The event will feature a musical tribute to Robeson by bass baritone Lawrence Beamen. Beamen will sing Robeson's trademark song, "Old Man River," and other selections.

Robeson's son, Paul Robeson Jr., and his wife, will be present at the dinner to accept the award posthumously in honor of his fa-

ther who starred in O'Neill plays, including "The Emperor Jones" and "All God's Chillun Got Wings."

Two longtime foundation leaders, Diane Schinnerer of San Ramon and Carol Sherrill of Danville will receive the foundation's "Open Gate Award." The award, which Sherrill helped establish during her 18 years on the foundation's board, is given to individuals who have worked to preserve O'Neill's Tao House estate in Danville, and the playwright's legacy.

A special "Partnership Award" will be presented to the Museum of the San Ramon Valley in Danville, "in recognition of working together through exhibits and special community projects to perpetuate the life and literary legacy" of O'Neill.

He is the only American playwright to receive the Nobel Prize in Literature and four Pulitzer Prizes.

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HIGHLIGHTS of 2008

(continued from page 5)

proved by Pleasanton voters. The one race where incumbents were not favored was the Livermore school board where newcomers Stewart Gary and Chuck Rogge were elected. The Livermore school parcel tax was approved by 76 percent of the voters. Steve Goodman and Beth Wilson were returned to the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District Board. Measure WW, the EBPRD park bond was approved. Democrats won the various Congressional and Assembly races. Joan Buchanan was chosen to represent the 15th Assembly District; incumbents Ellen Tauscher was re-elected to the 10th Congressional District and Jerry McNerney to the 11th Congressional District. John McPartland won the BART District 5 director's seat. Democrat Loni Hancock was elected to the fill the State Senate District 9 seat.

California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger visited the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory to learn more about a plan to use nuclear waste and lasers to provide clean, abundant energy. The research program aims to produce a demonstration hybrid nuclear power plant by the year 2020.

Rancho Las Positas School in Livermore received a check for \$5000 to purchase physical fitness equipment and \$1000 worth of gift cards for school supplies. The school was the winner of the 2008 Governor's Physical Fitness Challenge Competition for the Bay Area region.

Passage of Proposition 1A on the November ballot meant that the Valley remained in the running for the high speed train proposed to run from southern to northern California. The Valley could see a spur built through the central valley through the Altamont.

Superior Court Judge Frank

Roesch granted a request by Jennifer and Frederic Lin ordering Pleasanton City Manager Nelson Fialho to sign the Oak Grove development agreement. The Lins are the landowners of the property that is the subject of a referendum now making its way through the courts.

The Olivina Gate, Olivina Winery home site and a tree-lined alley that connects the sites were designated as a California Point of Historic Interest by the State.

Livermore took steps to establish plan lines to allow for the widening of I-580. The widening is needed to accommodate the construction of high occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes and a possible BART extension to Livermore.

Sutter Health purchased 45 acres east of Collier Canyon Road in Livermore. It was the latest medical group to buy land in the Valley. Earlier Kaiser Permanente purchased a site in Dublin.

Alameda County received the 2008 Governor's Environmental and Economic Leadership Award for its Juvenile Justice Center, an innovative green building.

The Livermore City Council selected two developers, Federal Development LLC and Holliday Development for further consideration to redevelop the former Lucky Shopping Center in downtown Livermore. The city would conduct a comparative study to create more detailed proposals to be used in selecting a final developer.

DECEMBER 2008

New cable TV 30 executive director Melissa Tench-Stevens said she hoped to expand programming.

The downturn in the economy lowered the estimated cost of building a regional theater in

downtown Livermore. The total project cost to build the theater was reduced from \$74.3 million to \$70.8 million. LVPAC announced that it had received a new \$2 million commitment to the project, particularly noteworthy, they believe, because of the economy. LVPAC has secured approximately \$9 million toward the five year \$20 million capital and annual fund-raising goal.

The Livermore City Council voted to combine the functions of the Planning Commission and Design Review Committee. All current members of both would serve on the new Planning Commission. The number of commission members would decrease through attrition. Final size is to be determined. There would be either 5 or 7 members.

The Pleasanton City Council adopted both hillside protection measures approved by voters in November. Measure PP, which qualified for the ballot through the initiative process, received the most votes, so its provisions would prevail if there were any conflict between the two measures.

The Livermore School District and Livermore Education Association reached agreement on a new contract that would run through the 2010/11 school year. The agreement covered salary increases and health benefits. The raise is 2 percent retroactive to July 1, 2008, with another 2

percent raise Jan. 1, 2009 and a third increase of 0.53 percent on July 1, 2009.

The Pleasanton Cultural Arts Foundation delivered a check to the city for \$275,000, bringing the total donated by the Foundation towards the construction of the Firehouse Arts Center to \$500,000.

Maryalice Faltings was elected president of the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District board.

The Pleasanton City Council approved a proposal to sell new burial sites at the city's Pioneer Cemetery. There would be 200 two person plots and 200 niches. Pleasanton residents would be given preference to purchase the sites for the first six months they were available.

The Pleasanton Hotel restaurant announced that it would close its doors on January 1, 2009. The restaurant had been at the site for twenty five and a half years. Future plans for the historic building were not announced.

Livermore is to take part in a national survey of homeless people on January 27. Volunteers are to be trained on January 20 at UC Berkeley.

The Livermore Library announced selection of the book, "In Defense of Food," for the annual Livermore Reads Together program.

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Valley Montessori

SCHOOL

OPEN HOUSE: Tuesday, January 13 • 9:30am

INFORMATION NIGHTS

Wednesday, January 14th	7pm	3 years-5 years
Thursday, January 15th	7pm	Grades 1-3
Tuesday, January 20th	7pm	Grades 4-5
Thursday, January 22nd	7pm	Grades 6-8
Tuesday, January 27th	7pm	18mos. - 3 years
Thursday, January 29th	5pm	Kindergarten

Toddler • Primary • Elementary • Middle School

Serving Tri-Valley families for over 30 years

1273 N. Livermore Avenue, Livermore, CA

(925) 455-8021

www.valleymontessorischool.com

Fully Accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) & the American Montessori Society (AMS)

"We love coming to swim class..."

It's smiles all around at American Swim Academy where kids and adults of all ages and abilities come to improve their swim skills. Classes are available year-round, 7 days a week, in comfortable indoor pools where the water's a cozy 92 degrees.



Our Aqua Babies program for infants 6 months and older is a fun parent-participation class designed to make your child comfortable in the water and safe at pool-side.



From beginners to competitive swimmers, there's a perfect class for any ability.



We keep class sizes small -- usually no more than 4 students per class -- so every student receives personal attention. And our instructors are all fully trained and CPR certified!




Call or log-on today for more information!

New customers! Bring in this ad for a

FREE TRIAL CLASS

Some restrictions apply. Expires 1/31/09.

FREMONT SWIM SCHOOL IS NOW AMERICAN SWIM ACADEMY!



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www.AmericanSwimAcademy.com

